

CHAPTER 18 – WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS REVIEW

18.1 INTRODUCTION AND RESOURCE OVERVIEW

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, 1968 established legislation for a National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) to protect and preserve designated rivers throughout the nation in their free-flowing condition, as well as their immediate environments. The Act contains policy for managing designated rivers, and created processes for designating additional rivers into the National System. Section 5(d) of the Act directs federal agencies to consider the potential for national wild, scenic and recreational river areas in all planning, for the use and development of water and related land resources. A wild and scenic river review is being conducted as part of the current BLM Monticello Field Office Resource Management Plan (RMP) process.

The first phase of the wild and scenic river (WSR) review is to inventory all potentially eligible rivers within the FO area to determine which of those rivers are eligible for consideration in the NWSRS. In order to be eligible, rivers must be free-flowing and possess at least one (1) outstandingly remarkable value (ORV). The ORVs are evaluated in the context of regional and/or national significance, and must be river-related. A tentative classification of each river/segment found eligible is then made based on the current level of human development associated with that river/segment.

The second phase of the WSR review occurs as all eligible rivers are taken through the land use planning process of the RMP to determine their "suitability" for designation into the NWSRS. One RMP planning alternative will consider all eligible river(s)/segments as suitable, another alternative will consider no eligible river(s)/segments as suitable, and other alternatives will consider some river(s)/segments as suitable and other river(s)/ segments not suitable. "Suitability" determinations will be made in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Resource Management Plan.

Those river(s)/segments found suitable are then managed under specified guidelines to protect the free-flowing nature of the river(s)/segment, and to protect the identified outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) and tentative classification.

Finally, the "suitable" river/segment determinations are reported to Congress. There is no specific time requirement for the completion of this phase; however, it is assumed that reporting will be done some time following completion of the Resource Management Plan. Only the U.S. Congress or the Secretary of the Interior, upon request by the State, can designate a river into the NWSRS.

18.2 AUTHORITIES AND GUIDELINES

The following documents were utilized in guiding the WSR planning process through the Eligibility/Tentative Classification phase:

- Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordination Council, 1982. Contains various technical papers relating to evaluation of Wild and Scenic Rivers. (See website at: www.nps.gov/rivers/publications.html).
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Governor (State of Utah), Regional Forester (Intermountain Region B, U.S. Forest Service), State Director (BLM), Regional Director (Rocky Mountain Region B, National Park Service), 1997. Defines coordination between Federal and State agency and local government for planning efforts, public education and outreach, and conducting studies.

- USDI-USDA Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas. September 7, 1982. Until 1988 this was the only guidance available to the BLM.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, P.L. 90-542, as amended. Congressional legislative direction for Wild and Scenic River planning.
- Wild and Scenic Rivers – Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation and Management, Bureau of Land Management Manual - 8351, 1992 and changes as of 1993. (Sections 1601.03, I; 1623.41A 2d). Establishes BLM policy, program direction, and procedural standards for fulfilling requirements of the Wild and Scenic Act (WSRA).
- Wild and Scenic River Review in the State of Utah, Process and Criteria for Interagency Use, July, 1996. The published document outlines the process and criteria for achieving consistency within the BLM, NPS, and Forest Service planning efforts for WSR inventory methodologies, subsequent eligibility determinations and reviews, and public involvement and local government coordination. The following key points regarding the nature of Outstandingly Remarkable Values as outlined in the WSRA of 1968 are addressed specifically:
 - All values assessed should be directly river related.
 - Resources should be at least regionally significant to be deemed outstandingly remarkable.
 - Features that are regionally exemplary, as well as those that are rare or unique, should be considered.

18.3 CURRENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION

18.3.1 Management for River Segments Found Eligible in the 1991 RMP

The Resource Management Plan Record of Decision, dated March 1991, included interim management guidelines for “portions of the San Juan and Colorado Rivers, and the White Canyon drainage” under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (RMP, March 1991, p. 98-100) Also see Appendix A, for Map "River Segments Found Eligible in the 1991 RMP".

Management prescriptions for eligible river segments should provide protection in the following ways: (*Wild and Scenic Rivers Assessment*, San Juan Resource Area, 1991, WSR MFO office file).

1. Free-flowing values. The free-flowing characteristics of identified river segments cannot be modified to allow stream impoundments, diversions, channelization, and/or rip-rapping to the extent the BLM is authorized under law.
2. River Values. Each component will be managed to protect the outstandingly remarkable values of the identified river segment or area, subject to valid existing rights, to the extent practicable.
3. Classification Impacts. Management and development of the identified river and its corridor cannot be modified, subject to existing rights, to the degree that its eligibility or classification would be affected (i.e., its classification cannot be changed from wild to scenic or scenic to recreational).

A. The San Juan River - Eligible (45 miles) on BLM land from the bridge at US 191 to the boundary of Glen Canyon NRA.

Management prescriptions include:

- ROS-P class conditions for the San Juan River
- Excluded from private and commercial use of woodland products, except for onsite collection of dead wood for campfires
- Available for livestock use
- Excluded from new land treatments

- Managed to allow cultural resources to remain subject to natural forces
- Managed as VRM I class, with only those projects that meet class I objectives allowed
- Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment

Within the [San Juan River] SRMA:

- ROS-SPM class would allow motorized boat use on the San Juan
- Managed to maintain an environment of isolation insofar as allowed by river permit and patrol system
- Management aimed at maintaining safety and the riverine ecosystem
- Withdrawn from mineral entry
- Surface disturbance from mining activities on existing claims would be limited to the extent possible without curtailing valid existing rights.
- The area above the rim in the vicinity of the Bluff airport lease would be available for mineral materials disposal
- No vehicle access would be allowed from Comb Wash downstream to Lime Creek and below Mexican Hat Bridge (except for motorized boat use on the river)
- On an area closed to OHV use, a plan of operations is required for any mining – related activity other than casual use.
- Vehicle access in other areas within the SRMA would be limited to designated roads and trails
- Subject to fire suppression to protect riparian habitat

B. The Colorado River - Eligible (13 miles) on BLM land from State lands near river mile 44 to the boundary of Canyonlands NP.

Management prescriptions include:

- Floodplains and riparian/aquatic areas would be open for mineral leasing with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy within actual floodplains or riparian/aquatic areas [category 3]
- Available for geophysical work
- Available for disposal of mineral materials with an approved plan of operations
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated or withdrawn from entry
- Excluded from private and commercial use of woodland products except for limited onsite collection of dead fuelwood for campfires
- OHV use limited to designated roads and trails
- Subject to fire suppression to protect riparian habitat in ROS, SPNM, SPM and RN class areas , and to conditional suppression elsewhere
- Excluded from surface disturbance by mechanized or motorized equipment (except as allowed above) and from structural development (unless there is no practical alternative or the development would enhance riparian/aquatic values) within actual floodplains or riparian/aquatic areas
- ROS-SPNM class areas would be managed to provide a predominantly natural environment with limited evidence of human use and restrictions and, where possible, to provide an environment with some opportunity for isolation (not more than 10 group encounters per day.)

- Activities within ROS-SPNM class areas would be approved only with special conditions to maintain primitive recreation opportunities.
- Surface disturbance would be limited to that for which revegetation could be successfully established within 5 years after project completion
- New access routes would be completely revegetated after project completion, except that certain routes may be left for continued access at the request of BLM
- ROS-SPNM class areas would be open for mineral leasing with special conditions requiring revegetation (as stated above) within 5 years after project completion
- [category 2]
- Available for geophysical work
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry
- Available for private and commercial use of woodland products in designated areas, except that onsite collection of dead fuelwood from campfires would be allowed throughout the area
- Available for livestock use
- Available for construction of range improvements and new land treatments as long as they are made to blend with the natural character of the land
- Managed to allow cultural resource management activities that blend with the natural character of the land
- OHV use is limited to designated roads and trails, and in SRMAs limited to existing roads and trails
- Subject to conditional fire suppression, with motorized suppression methods allowed on designated roads and trails, except that fire in riparian areas would be suppressed
- Managed to allow construction of development projects that blend with the natural character of the land

C. The White Canyon – Eligible (30 miles) on BLM land from the USFS boundary to the boundary of Glen Canyon NRS.

Management prescriptions include:

- Through the area designated Scenic Highway Corridor, surface disturbance would be limited to that for which revegetation could be successfully established within 5 years after project completion
- All revegetation must be with native species naturally occurring in the area
- Open for mineral leasing with stipulations to prevent surface occupancy [category 3]; however, the area manager would grant an exception to the no surface occupancy stipulation in the event it is determined, through an EIS, if necessary, with the adoption and use of appropriate mitigation measures, that the project would meet visual quality standards for the area
- Available for geophysical work
- Open to mineral entry with an approved plan of operations
- Available for disposal of mineral materials subject to visual quality considerations
- Retained in public ownership and not classified, segregated, or withdrawn from entry

- Available for private and commercial use of woodland products in designated areas except that onsite collection of dead fuelwood for campfires would be allowed throughout the area
- Available for livestock use
- OHV use is limited to existing roads and trails
- Managed to limit recreation use if scenic values are being damaged
- Managed as VRM I class, with projects that meet these visual quality standards allowed (those recreation development projects proposed in the 4333 section of this plan would not have to meet the VRM class standards)
- Subject to conditional fire suppression

18.3.2 History of Wild and Scenic River Process – BLM Monticello Field Office

On January, 25, 1991, an Addendum to the San Juan Management Situation Analysis, 4333 Recreation Management, clarifying the status of the Monticello Field Office's wild and scenic river planning process, was written by the Monticello Field Office. It states:

At the time the San Juan [Resource Area] Management Situation Analysis (MSA) was written (1984-1985), BLM guidance for wild and scenic river eligibility was to consider only those rivers identified in the 1982 Nationwide Rivers Inventory. These included the Colorado River, San Juan River, and White Canyon. These three river segments were the only rivers considered for eligibility and [were] included in the RMP process. The analysis of these rivers was printed in Appendix DD of the September 1987 Proposed Resource Management Plan.

The 1970 USDA/USDI list of rivers did not list any rivers in Utah. Neither the public nor the State of Utah identified any river as potentially eligible for Wild and Scenic designation during the planning process up until the protest period. During the protest period on the RMP, American Rivers suggested several other rivers as candidates for study as potential wild and scenic rivers. These included Indian Creek, Dark Canyon, Red Canyon, Cedar Canyon, Moki Canyon, Grand Gulch, Comb Wash, and Montezuma Canyon.

After the San Juan FEIS was completed, new BLM guidance stated all rivers in San Juan Resource Area would be evaluated for wild and scenic river status in the RMP. Since the RMP was already in the final stages of completion, it was decided to finalize the RMP without consideration of additional rivers. It was recognized that additional planning would be needed to evaluate the other rivers under the wild and scenic rivers program. Suitability of the original three eligible river segments, as well as any additional rivers determined eligible, will be considered in a future plan amendment.

On May 24, 1991, after the RMP was signed in March, 1991, a Notice of Intent (NOI) to plan was published in the Federal Register (Vol. 56, No. 101): "[UT-062-4333-12] San Juan and San Rafael Resource Areas, Utah; Intent to Conduct Further Planning. AGENCY: BLM, Interior. ACTION: Notice of Intent to do further planning within the San Juan and San Rafael Resource Areas, Utah, for consideration of potential additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and call for public nomination of eligible river segments."

In April 1992 the San Juan Resource Area, now the Monticello Field Office completed its preliminary inventory and assessment of the rivers within its jurisdiction. The WSR inventory, eligibility

determination, and tentative classification process included suggestions and input from the public and from professional subject matter specialists in the MFO, as well as from Utah rivers listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI), American Rivers List, USDA/USDI lists. Of the 164 watercourses studied in 1992, 16 were determined eligible and further considered in the Wild and Scenic River designation process. (See Appendix 7.1, *Table WS - Preliminary WSR Eligibility Determination 1992*, located in the Preliminary Eligibility WSR document, MFO, August, 2003.)

Following the completion of the WSR eligibility and classification phase, the BLM Utah State Office indicated that any current or future wild and scenic river planning would have to be included within the context of the next scheduled Resource Management Plan. "In the future all Districts in the State [Utah] are to make suitability determinations in the RMPs." Therefore, a hold was placed on further WSR evaluation or processing (IM No. UT 91-315).

The Notice of Intent (NOI) for the current RMP was published June 4, 2003 in the Federal Register (Vol. 68, No. 107). A news release, specifically stating intent to include wild and scenic rivers in the planning process, was published in the local newspaper, the San Juan Record, June 25, 2003.

The current (2004) wild and scenic river determination process begins where the 1991-1992 process stopped. The April 1992 WS Table provides the starting point for current evaluation of river(s)/segments based on current guidelines described below. The Monticello Field Office water drainages are mapped at a 1:100,000 scale with the original (1992) 16 eligible rivers delineated on five overlapping area resource maps.

18.4 IDENTIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE RIVERS BY THE INTERDISCIPLINARY (ID) TEAM

The BLM Monticello Field Office Interdisciplinary (ID) Team is responsible for conducting an inventory of all potentially eligible rivers within the Monticello Field Office area. This includes determining that all rivers considered are free-flowing, and that each river/segment has at least one (1) outstandingly remarkable value when compared regionally and/or nationally, and that each ORV that is within ¼ mile of the high water mark is river-related. The size of a river is not a criterion of eligibility; flow must simply be sufficient to sustain the outstandingly remarkable value that makes a river eligible for consideration.

The ID Team found that all river(s)/segments within the SJRA were free-flowing. That is, all were in their natural condition, the flow was in a natural condition, there was no straightening, rip-rapping, or modifications, and there were few impoundments and diversions. Indian Creek has a diversion on BLM land; the South Fork of Mule Canyon has some low dams, and Arch Canyon has an historic irrigation dike. These historic variations are allowed under the tentative classification, *Recreational*.

The ID Team subject matter specialists determined which ORV applied to each river/segment: scenic, recreation, fish, wildlife, geologic, historic, cultural, and/or ecological, and compared each ORV to regional and/or national areas for a level of significance, based on U.S. Forest Service Ecological Subregions of the United States, WO Ecomap Team, 1993).

A tentative classification of *Wild*, *Scenic*, or *Recreational* was determined for each eligible river/segment based on the level of human development associated with each river/segment.

- A *Wild* river is free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds essentially primitive, and with unpolluted waters.
- A *Scenic* river may have some development, and may be accessible in places by roads.

- A *Recreational* river is considered as a river or segment of river accessible by road (or railroad), may have more extensive development along its shoreline, and may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

18.5 DOCUMENTATION PROCESS–DATA SOURCES

- Map(s) of the Monticello Field Office area at 1:100,000 scale
- National Rivers Inventory (NPS 1995)
- American Rivers Outstanding List, May 1991
- A Citizen’s Proposal to Protect the Wild Rivers of Utah, 1997
- Rivers identified in public scoping
- Rivers identified by Federal Agencies, State of Utah, Indian Tribes, local governments, and professional specialists
- Ecological Subregions of the United States, U.S. Forest Service, 1993
- www.fs.fed.us/land/pubs/ecoregions

18.6 CONSISTENCY WITH NON-BUREAU PLANS

The BLM Monticello FO coordinated with the Price and Moab Field Offices, the BLM Canyon of the Ancients National Monument (COANM), the Manti-LaSal National Forest, and with the National Park Service units in Utah, including Canyonlands National Park (CNP), Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (GCNRA), and the Southeastern Utah Group which works with Natural Bridges National Monument (NBNM) and Hovenweep National Monument (HNM).

Opportunities to provide input in the form of invited review and comment on river eligibility was available through the public scoping and comment period to the State of Utah, Native American Tribes, local governments, agencies, organizations, and to interested members of the public. This comment period began at the time the Notice of Intent to Plan was published in the Federal Register, June 4, 2003 and ended January 31, 2004, after being extended a month from December 30, 2003 due to the response to the RMP public scoping process. Comments concerning wild and scenic rivers eligibility are recorded in the Comment Analysis Table included in the WSR Administrative Record.

BLM Moab Field Office

Two eligible segments of the Colorado River flow through the BLM lands administered jointly by the Monticello (MFO) and Moab Field Offices. The Moab FO administers the north or west side, and the MFO administers the south or east side of the segments. The boundary between field offices along the Colorado River is the centerline of the river.

Monticello FO has jurisdiction over a 2.2 mile segment that runs from the northern most Monticello Field Office boundary at the Colorado River south to private lands. The 12.2 mile Colorado River segment runs between State lands near River mile 44 to the boundary of Canyonlands National Park near River mile 31, with approximately 3.5 miles of state and private lands occurring between the two BLM evaluated segments. The Moab FO found the Colorado River eligible and the contiguous and overlapping segment to be “Recreational” classification in the northern (2.2 mile) segment and “Wild” on the southern (12.2 mile) segment, matching the MFO determinations.

USFS - Manti-LaSal National Forest

The Manti-LaSal's *Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers* (March 2003) includes two eligible segments that flow onto BLM MFO managed lands. The Forest Service's eligible segments of Lower Dark Canyon and Arch Canyon are contiguous with BLM Monticello Field Office eligible rivers/segments of the same names. The Forest Service found their segment of Dark Canyon to be "Wild" as did the MFO. In Arch Canyon, the Forest Service determined their segment to be classified at the level of "Scenic", while MFO found its segment to be "Recreational" due to the route along and through the MFO segment length.

National Park Service

Continuing contact with the National Park Service (NPS) units with contiguous boundaries to the Monticello Field Office is part of the ongoing planning process. Glen Canyon National Recreation (GCNRA) has not begun their wild and scenic river evaluation; the GCNRA General Management Plan is not scheduled for revision for a number of years. Thus, the MFO contiguous river/segments which run onto GCNRA lands, have not yet been evaluated by NPS on their lands. The contiguous segments include: the lower reaches of White Canyon and Dark Canyon, which run into the Colorado River on GCNRA lands; Grand Gulch and Slickhorn Creek, both part of the San Juan River drainage system, and the San Juan River, all of which run from BLM land onto GCNRA lands

The National Park Service has previously found eligible and suitable the White Canyon Creek, and its tributary Armstrong Canyon Creek as they flow through Natural Bridges National Monument, with a "wild" classification. MFO has found White Canyon eligible with a "Scenic" classification. Armstrong Canyon was found not eligible on BLM lands. NPS has also found eligible the length of the Colorado River as it flows through Canyonlands National Park with a "wild" classification, the same classification as found for the Colorado River just north of the park service boundary by the BLM Moab and Monticello Field Offices.

Canyon of the Ancients National Monument

The Canyon of the Ancients National Monument (COANM) located in southwestern Colorado is currently writing their management plan and conducting wild and scenic inventories. Monticello FO has found no eligible river(s)/segments along the mutual boundary of MFO and COANM.

The Navajo Nation

The Navajo Nation has jurisdiction over and administers the south side of the San Juan River between the town of Montezuma Creek on the east to the MFO boundary of Glen Canyon National Recreation Area on the west. The MFO administers the north side of the San Juan River through this area except in the proximity of St. Christopher's Mission, which is an "avulsion" on the north side of the San Juan River and is Navajo land. Contacts with the Navajo Nation and their administrative departments (EPA, Water Resources, Fish and Wildlife) are ongoing, and will continue through out the suitability / DEIS study.

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

Information on the MFO's wild and scenic river eligibility process and determination has been provided to the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe for comment and invited participation.

San Juan County

San Juan County has participated in the wild and scenic river evaluation process as Cooperators, established through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) April 21, 2003, for the RMP process. Representatives of the San Juan County government as well as the San Juan County Public Lands Council

have participated in the MFO wild and scenic evaluation process. “San Juan County will be actively involved in the Wild and Scenic Rivers review and designation process.” [From the San Juan County Master Plan, page 19].

Comments by San Juan County on the MFO Wild and Scenic River eligibility determination indicate that there are conflict(s) with the 1996 San Juan County Master Plan. These specific management concerns are appropriately addressed in the Suitability phase of the WSR process. For instance, “The county feels that private water rights should be protected from Federal and State encroachment and/or coerced acquisition” [Page 9]. “San Juan County opposes the movement to nationalize or federally control water resources and water rights” [Page 30]. San Juan County is actively involved in both the current eligibility process, and the upcoming suitability study, which is incorporated within the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) RMP revision process.

The State of Utah - Department of Natural Resources

The State of Utah is a Cooperator with the BLM in the RMP process. Comments on the preliminary WSR document have been received and incorporated into the eligibility process. Conversations with the Public Lands Policy Analyst concerning the wild and scenic river eligibility and suitability evaluation process are held on a continuing basis.

BLM Utah State Office

At the end of January 2004, the BLM State Office of the BLM issued the following statement:

As a cooperating agency involved with the development of the Monticello Draft RMP/EIS, the State of Utah has proposed that a statewide wild and scenic river review be completed. In accordance with Section 5(d) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, BLM will continue to make wild and scenic river considerations through the land use planning process. Additionally, BLM would consider further statewide review at a later date.

18.7 SUMMARY OF RIVER INVENTORIES AND ELIGIBLE RIVER(S)/SEGMENTS

Monticello Field Office river(s)/segment inventory numbered 167 during the 2003-2004 eligibility process (See Table below). Drainages inventoried for Wild and Scenic River eligibility determination, Monticello FO area are as follows:

- COLORADO RIVER – State lands near river mile 44 to Canyonlands NP, near river mile 31
- WHITE CANYON – Forest boundary to GCNRA
- BURCH CANYON – Forest boundary to Natural Bridges
- DEER CANYON – Source to Natural Bridges
- K AND L CANYON – Source to White Canyon
- HIDEOUT CANYON – Source to White Canyon
- CHEESEBOX CANYON – Source to White Canyon
- GRAVEL CANYON – Source to White Canyon
- LONG CANYON – Source to White Canyon
- SHORT CANYON – Source to White Canyon
- FORTKNOCKER CANYON – Source to White Canyon

- FRY CANYON –Source to White Canyon
- WHITE CANYON Unnamed Tributaries – Sources to mouths
- RED CANYON – Source to GCRNA
 - BLUE CANYON – Source to Red Canyon
 - PIUTE CANYON – Source to Red Canyon
 - RAINBO CANYON – Source to Red Canyon
 - MAHON CANYON – Source to GCNRA
 - WILSON CANYON – Source to GCNRA
 - HIDDEN VALLEY – Source to GCNRA
 - BLUE NOTCH CANYON – Source to GCNRA
 - RED CANYON Unnamed Tributaries – Sources to mouths
- MANCOS CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
- CEDAR CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
- KNOWLES CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
- FORGOTTEN CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
- NORTH GULCH – Source to GCNRA
- MOKI CANYON – Source to “Crack” Road-“Crack” Road to GCNRA boundary
- LAKE CANYON – Sources E & W forks to GCNRA boundary
- INDIAN CREEK – Forest boundary to Donnelly Canyon
- TITUS CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
- SHAY CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
- HOG CANYON – Source to mouth
- DONNELLY CANYON – Source to mouth
- INDIAN CREEK – Donnelly Canyon to Falls 2 miles below mouth of Hart Canyon
- HART DRAW – Source to Donnelly Canyon
 - INDIAN CREEK – Falls 2 miles below Hart Canyon to NPS boundary
 - LAVENDER CANYON – NPS boundary to mouth
 - DAVIS CANYON – NPS boundary to mouth
- HATCH WASH
 - TANK WASH – Source to mouth
 - MAIL STATION WASH – Source to mouth
 - WIND WHISTLE DRAW – Source to mouth
- HATCH WASH / EAST CANYON
 - BIG INDIAN WASH – Source to resource area boundary
 - DRY WASH – Source to mouth
 - EAST CANYON – Source to resource area boundary
 - SOUTH CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
 - IRON SPRING CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
 - BRIDGE CANYON – BLM land to mouth

- PETERS CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
- HART DRAW
 - TURNERWATER CANYON – Source to mouth
 - LONE CEDAR CANYON – Source to mouth
 - HART SPRING CANYON – Source to mouth
 - BOBBYS HOLD CANYON – Source to mouth
 - HART CANYON Tributaries from Hart Point – Sources to mouths
 - NORTH COTTONWOOD – BLM lands to mouth
 - STEVENS CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
 - RUSTLER CANYON – Source to mouth
 - HORSETHIEF CANYON – Source to NPS boundary
 - LOCKHART CANYON – Source to NPS boundary
 - DRIPPING CANYON – Source to NPS boundary
 - SALT CREEK – BLM land to NPS boundary
 - BUTLER WASH – Source to NPS boundary
 - CROSS CANYON – Source to NPS boundary
 - BEEF BASIN WASH – Forest boundary to mouth
 - RUIN CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
 - GYPSUM CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
 - SWEET ALICE CANYON – Source to mouth
 - SOUTH CANYON – Source to mouth
 - FABLE VALLEY – Source to mouth
 - BOWDIE CANYON – Source to GCNRA
- DARK CANYON – Forest Boundary to GCNRA
 - LEANTO CANYON – Source to GCNRA
 - YOUNGS CANYON – Source to mouth
 - BLACK STEER CANYON – Source to mouth
 - LOST CANYON – Source to mouth
- SAN JUAN RIVER – W. Montezuma Creek to mile 9
 - River mile 9 to river mile 23
 - River mile 3-28 (above boat ramp to town of Mexican Hat)
 - River mile 28 to GCNRA boundary
- LOWER SAN JUAN Tributaries – Sources to mouths
- JOHNIES HOLE CANYON – Entire length
- CASTLE CREEK – Source to Rock Spring - Rock Spring to GCNRA boundary
 - MIKE'S CANYON – East & West main forks, Sources to GCNRA
 - CLAY HILLS DRAW – Source to GCNRA boundary
 - WHIRLWIND DRAW – Source to GCNRA boundary
 - STEER GULCH – Source to GCNRA boundary
 - EAST STEER GULCH – Source to GCNRA boundary

- POINT LOOKOUT Drainages – Source to GCNRA boundary
- JOHNS CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
- MEXICAN HAT NORTH Drainages – Sources to San Juan River
- GRAND GULCH
 - Gulch and Tributaries inside Instant Study Area
 - Gulch and Tributaries outside Instant Study Area
- DRIPPING CANYON – Source to Grand Gulch Instant Study Area
 - COW TANK CANYON– Source to Dripping Canyon
 - STEP CANYON – Source to Pine Canyon
 - PINE CANYON – Source to Grand Gulch Instant Study Area
 - SLICKHORN CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
- SLICKHORN PASTURE CANYON – Source to GCNRA boundary
- LIME CREEK, East and West Forks – Sources East and West Forks to confluence with main stream to mouth
- COMB WASH – Source to mouth
- MULE CANYON – Forest boundary to No & So forks convergence east of County Rd 263 and St 95 – Texas Flat Road to mouth
- ARCH CANYON – Forest boundary to mouth
- DRY WASH – Source to mouth
- FISH CREEK – Source to mouth
- OWL Creek – Source to mouth
- McLEOD CANYON – Upper end
 - Lower 5 miles to mouth
 - ROAD CANYON (all forks) – Sources to mouth
 - BARTON RANGE CANYON – Source to mouth
 - BUTLER WASH – Source to mouth
 - STEVENS CANYON – Source to Butler Wash
 - SOUTH COTTONWOOD – Forest boundary to mouth
 - HAMMOND CANYON – Forest Boundary to South Cottonwood
 - WHISKERS DRAW – Source to mouth
 - BRUSHY BASIN WASH – Source to mouth
 - ZEKE'S HOLE Drainage – Source to mouth
 - WESTWATER CANYON – Source to mouth
 - RIGHTHAND FORK – Ute lands to mouth
 - BLACK ROCK CANYON – Source to mouth
 - RECAPTURE CANYON – Forest boundary to mouth
 - JOHNSON CREEK – Forest boundary to mouth
 - BULLDOG CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
 - BULLPUP CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
 - BROWN CANYON – BLM lands to mouth

- CORRAL CREEK – BLM lands to mouth
- UTE CANYON – Source to mouth
- ROAD CANYON – Source to mouth
- HORSE CANYON – Source to Navajo Reservation
- JENNYS CANYON – Source to mouth
- ALKALI CANYON – Source to Navajo Reservation
- BULLPEN SWALE – Source to mouth
- McCRACKEN WASH – BLM lands to mouth
- BUCKET CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
- MONTEZUMA CREEK – BLM lands to Navajo Reservation
- VERDURE CREEK – Lower 2 miles
- BOULDER CREEK – Lower 2 miles
- PEARSON CANYON – Source to mouth
- HORSEHEAD CANYON – Source to mouth
- BIGWATER CANYON – Source to mouth
- COALBED CANYON – Stateline (CO) to mouth
- TANK CANYON – Source to mouth
- MONUMENT CANYON – Stateline (CO) to mouth
- LAKE CANYON – Source to mouth
- BULL CANYON – Source to mouth
- BUG CANYON – Source to private land
- BLACK STEER CANYON – BLM lands
- DODGE CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
- LONG CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
- DEVIL CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
- BRADFORD CANYON – Source to mouth
- DEADMAN CANYON – Source to mouth
- CAVE CANYON – Source to mouth
- McELMO Drainage
- CAJON LAKE – T.39S., R26 E., S.10, NWNW
- LITTLE RUIN CANYON – Hovenweep NM. To Navajo Reservation
- KEELEY CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
- DELORES RIVER
 - SUMMIT CANYON – BLM lands to Stateline (CO)
 - RUSTLER CANYON – BLM land to mouth
 - WILDHORSE CANYON – BLM lands to mouth
 - CROSS CANYON – Stateline (CO) to mouth
 - LITTLE NANCY CANYON – Source to mouth
 - NANCY PATTERSON CANYON – Source to mouth
 - SQUAW CANYON – Stateline (CO) to mouth
 - PAPOOSE CANYON – Stateline (CO) to mouth

- CROSS CANYON POND – T.38S, R.25E, S.35, SENW

18.8 ELIGIBILITY PROCESS

18.8.1 River Inventories

A table listing the 167 river segments evaluated in 2003-2004 by the ID Team for potential Wild and Scenic River eligibility is available in the *Preliminary Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers*, BLM MFO, August 2003, pp 8-11.

After careful review of the 167 river segments using a systematic, interdisciplinary approach, 18 preliminary river(s)/segments within the MFO area were determined to be eligible based on criteria from the WSRA and Utah BLM policy: free-flowing, and with at least one river-related outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) of at least regional significance. (See Map # 2, Appendix A).

The current (2003) 18 river/segments are not the all the same as the 16 segments determined eligible in 1992. A number of the originally determined eligible river/segments have been deleted or combined and three have been added.

Dropped from the original 1992 list are Lake Canyon, and the Falls section of Indian Creek.

Lake Canyon was listed in the 1992 determination with an Historic ORV. The Hole-in-the-Rock trail, an original pioneer route to SE Utah, crossed the Lake Canyon area. The lake that was present during the early settlement period dried up sometime between 1910 and 1915.

The Falls section of Indian Creek was listed in 1992 as a popular area for undeveloped camping, wading and ATV use, with outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. In the past 12 years, the area around the falls has seen increasing motorized and ATV use. The lower portion of Indian Creek follows a canyon to the boundary of Canyonlands NP. In the current ID Team evaluation this area was determined not eligible.

Based on re-evaluation of the resource area, the ID Team recommended:

- Adding four river/segments:
 - A 2.2 mile segment of the Colorado River was evaluated during this review process and added to the list of eligible segments. This portion of the river was not previously evaluated; it lies at the northern most MFO boundary and on the east side at the Colorado River across from the Potash facility. The ID Team found the same ORVs present as listed for the lower segment of the river and determined it to be classified “Recreational”.
 - Fable Valley, Slickhorn Canyon, and Mule Canyon were added based on current ORVs as determined by the ID Team.
- The ID Team also re-segmented the San Juan River resulting in five segments, rather than the original three in 1992, due to the change in character and level of human use and development in the Mexican Hat area, and due to private “accreted” and Navajo “avulsed” lands in the Bluff, UT area.
- Segments combined by the ID Team include Fish Creek Canyon, Owl Canyon, and McLeod Canyon, all of which are within the same drainage system, were determined to possess the same outstandingly remarkable values and the same tentative classifications.

- To be consistent with classification criteria, the ID team changed the Tentative Classification of Fable Valley from “Wild” to ”Scenic” due to the existence of a jeep route within the drainage. For the Fish, Owl and McLeod Canyon system the classification was changed from “Wild” to “Scenic” due to three dirt roads that cross the Fish Creek area.
- Upon re-evaluation, an Ecological ORV was added to Fable Valley and to four of the five segments of the San Juan River (1b-4).

18.8.2 Eligible River(s)/Segments

The following table identifies the 16 preliminary river(s)/segments within the Monticello Field Office area determined to be eligible (free-flowing, and with at least one (1) river-related outstandingly remarkable value [ORV]). The current (2003-2004) 16 river/segments are not the same as the 16 segments determined in 1992; a number of the originally determined eligible river/segments have been deleted or combined, and three added.

Added river/segments include Fable Valley, Slickhorn Canyon, Mule Canyon, and a re-segmentation of the San Juan River resulting in four segments rather than the original three. Combined areas include Fish Creek Canyon, Owl Canyon and McLeod Canyon, all of which are within the same drainage, possess the same outstandingly remarkable values, and have the same tentative classification. Dropped from the original 1992 list are Lake Canyon, and the Falls section of Indian Creek.

Table 18.1: Final Eligibility Determination - Wild and Scenic River(s) / Segments and Tentative Classification, Monticello Field Office

River Segment Name Other Types of Designation, if any	Segment Description and Length in River Miles (BLM River Miles)	Reason For Consideration ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Tentative Classification: -Wild - Scenic - Recreational
Colorado River				
Segment 1:	Northern most MFO boundary east side of Colorado River (1 mile north of Potash land) south to private land 2.2 miles	a, b, d, e	Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	Recreational
Segment 2:	State lands near River Mile 44 to boundary of Canyonlands NP near River Mile 31 12.2 miles		Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	Wild

Table 18.1: Final Eligibility Determination - Wild and Scenic River(s) / Segments and Tentative Classification, Monticello Field Office

River Segment Name Other Types of Designation, if any	Segment Description and Length in River Miles (BLM River Miles)	Reason For Consideration ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Tentative Classification: -Wild - Scenic - Recreational
White Canyon White Canyon from west boundary of NBNM lies within Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC	Forest Boundary to Glen Canyon NRA (Passes through Natural Bridges NM) 32.7 miles	a, b, d, e, f	Scenic Recreation	Scenic
Indian Creek In Shay Canyon ACEC & Canyon Basins SRMA	Forest boundary to Donnelly Canyon 4.8 miles	e, f	Cultural	Recreational
Fable Valley Within Dark Canyon WSA & Canyon Basins ACEC	Source to mouth at Gypsum Creek 6.8 miles	e, f	Wildlife Ecological	Scenic
Dark Canyon Dark Canyon WSA and partially within the Dark Canyon ACEC and within Canyon Basins ACEC	Forest boundary to Glen Canyon NRS below Youngs Canyon 13.6 miles	b, e, f	Scenic Recreation Wildlife	Wild
San Juan River Segment #1: North side – MFO, portions are within San Juan River SRMA South side – Navajo Nation. [approximately 5 miles are private “avulsed” to Navajo Nation, or “accreted” to private lands in Bluff, UT]	W. Montezuma Creek to River Mile (minus) -1 to private land east of Bluff, UT 8.5 miles	a, b, e	Fish Wildlife Historic Cultural	Recreational
Segment # 1b: North side – MFO, portions are within San Juan River SRMA; South side – Navajo Nation	One mile above Sand Island (River Mile minus -1) to River Mile 9 10 miles		Fish Recreation Wildlife Historic Cultural Ecological	Recreational

Table 18.1: Final Eligibility Determination - Wild and Scenic River(s) / Segments and Tentative Classification, Monticello Field Office

River Segment Name Other Types of Designation, if any	Segment Description and Length in River Miles (BLM River Miles)	Reason For Consideration ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Tentative Classification: -Wild - Scenic - Recreational
San Juan River				
(continued)				
North side – MFO, San Juan River SRMA; South side – Navajo Nation.	River Mile 9 to River Mile 23 above Mexican Hat formation 13.3 miles	a, b, d, e	Scenic Fish Recreation Geology Wildlife Ecological	Wild
North side – MFO; South side – Navajo Nation.	River Mile 23 to River Mile 4.2 miles	a, b, d, e	Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Ecological	Recreational
North side – MFO, San Juan River SRMA & Cedar Mesa ACEC; South side–Navajo Nation.	Mile 28 to Glen Canyon NRA River mile 45 17.3 miles	a, b, d, e	Scenic Fish Recreation Geologic Wildlife Ecological	Wild
Grand Gulch Grand Gulch Instant Study Area, Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch Plateau SRMA	From National Forest boundary to Glen Canyon NRA 38.6 miles	e, f,	Scenic Recreation Wildlife Historic Cultural	Wild
Slickhorn Canyon Within Grand Gulch Instant Study Area, Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch Plateau SRMA	Source to Glen Canyon NRA 3.9 miles	e, f	Scenic Recreation Wildlife Cultural	Wild
Comb Wash Within Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch Plateau SRMA	Source to mouth at the San Juan River 32.7 miles	e, f	Cultural	Recreational
Lime Creek-East and West Forks Within Road Canyon WSA, Cedar Mesa ACEC, Grand Gulch Plateau SRMA	Source north and south forks to the east of County Rd 263 & North of State Rte 95 11.6 miles	e, f	Recreation Cultural	Recreational

Table 18.1: Final Eligibility Determination - Wild and Scenic River(s) / Segments and Tentative Classification, Monticello Field Office

River Segment Name Other Types of Designation, if any	Segment Description and Length in River Miles (BLM River Miles)	Reason For Consideration ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Tentative Classification: -Wild - Scenic - Recreational
Mule Canyon Mule Canyon WSA, and a portion within Scenic Highway ACEC, within Cedar Mesa & Grand Gulch Plateau SRMA	Source of north & south forks to east of County Rd 263 & North of State Rte 95 11.6 miles	d, e, f	Recreation Cultural	Recreational
Arch Canyon Within Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch Plateau SRMA	Forest boundary to ½ mile west of its confluence with Comb Wash 6.9 miles	d, e, f	Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	Recreational
Fish Creek Canyon, Owl Creek Canyon, McLeod Canyon (lower 5 miles). Fish Creek Canyon WSA, within Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch Plateau SRMA	Sources to mouth at Comb Wash [Fish 15.8 Owl 9.4 McLeod 6.7] 31.9 miles		Scenic Recreation Wildlife Cultural	Scenic

¹ Legend: Reasons for Consideration, (See 18.3.1)

- a. Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) list, NPS 1995, (Utah modified Oct 5, 2001)
- b. American Rivers Outstanding List, May 1991
- c. 1970 USDA/USDI list, and 1972 list
- d. A Citizen’s Proposal to Protect the Wild Rivers of Utah, 1997
- e. Identified in public scoping
- f. Identified by Federal Agencies, State of Utah, Indian Tribes, local governments, and professional specialists within the BLM Monticello Field Office

18.9 SUMMARY

The BLM Monticello Field Office ID Team evaluated the water courses within the Monticello Field Office resource area. Of the 167 river(s)/segments inventoried and determined to be free-flowing, each was evaluated on the basis of having at least one river-related (within ¼ mile of the high water mark) outstandingly remarkable value that was rare, unique and/or exemplary, and of at least regional significance. The ID Team found 18 river(s)/segments eligible.

As directed by the Utah BLM State Office, the next phase, the suitability of eligible river(s)/ segments for the National Wild and Scenic River System, will occur within the framework of the Resource Management Plan through the DEIS process.

18.10 REFERENCES

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American Rivers, Inc., American Rivers Outstanding List, May 1991

BLM, Instruction Memorandum No. UT 91-315, 1991. Wild and Scenic River Suitability Determination in RMPs.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM). 1984-1985. Original three reports on Colorado River, San Juan River and White Canyon Eligibility studies, San Juan Resource Area. (Located in WSR Reference materials, Monticello Field Office)

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Federal Register, Vol 68, No. 107, Wednesday, June 4, 2003. Moab and Monticello Field Offices, Utah; Intent to Prepare Two Resource Management Plan Revisions for Public Lands and Resources Managed by the Moab and Monticello Field Office, [UT 090-1610-DO-017J]

Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordination Council, 1982 (www.nps.gov/rivers/publications.html)

Manti-LaSal National Forest, USDA, Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers, March 2003

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), Governor (State of Utah), Regional Forester (Intermountain Region B, U.S. Forest Service), State Director (BLM), Regional Director (Rocky Mountain Region B, National Park Service), 1997

National Park Service, National Rivers Inventory (NRI) List, 1995, (Utah list modified October 5, 2001)

San Juan Record, BLM announces revision of the Resource Management Plans – Public is encouraged to participate in the planning process, (including Wild and Scenic Rivers), June 25, 2003

Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, A Citizen's Proposal to Protect the Wild Rivers of Utah, 1997

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, P.L. 90-542, as amended

WO ECOMAP Team, USDA Forest Service, National Hierarchical Framework of Terrestrial Ecological Units, Washington, DC, 1993

Ecological Subregions of the United States

Chapter 36, Colorado Plateau Semi-Desert

Chapter 38, AZ-NM Mountain Semi-Desert

Chapter 43, Southern Rocky Mountain Steppe

Chapter 47, Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert

Chapter 49, NV-UT Mountains Semi-Desert

APPENDIX 18-A: ADDENDUM TO WILD AND SCENIC RIVER AMS

ELIGIBLE WSR SEGMENTS, MONTICELLO FIELD OFFICE JUNE, 2004

Clarification of BLM Policy

On April 12, 2004, the Monticello Field Office received a memorandum dated April 8, 2004 from the BLM Washington Office providing clarification of “policy contained in the BLM Manual Section 8351 with respect to the eligibility criteria for potential wild and scenic rivers (WSRs) and protective management of identified river segments.” The memorandum indicates that although intermittent streams may be eligible, as a general rule, ephemeral streams are not.

... The first issue involves the interpretation of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) with respect to whether intermittent or seasonal water sources meet or qualify for designation as WSRs. ... A great deal of judgment is required in determining eligibility of water courses that are both free-flowing and have associated outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). This same judgment is required in the inventory of intermittent (non-perennial or seasonal) or interrupted flow regimes within segments. Caution is advised in applying the free-flow criterion to water courses which only flow during flash floods or circumstances caused by unpredictable events. As a general rule, the identified segment should not be ephemeral (flow lasting only a few days out of a year) and should contain regular and predictable flows (even though intermittent, seasonal, or interrupted) in order to sustain or complement any associated ORVs.

This flow should derive from naturally occurring circumstances, e.g., aquifer recharge, seasonal melting from snow or ice, normal precipitation, instream flow from spillways or upstream hydro or irrigation facilities. Evaluation of flows should be focused on normal water years, with consideration of drought or wet years during the inventory period. Most importantly, the BLM must be consistent within states, field offices and with other river-administering agencies in regard to this issue. [WO Memorandum, April 8, 2004. *Clarification of Policy in the BLM Manual Section 8351 Related to Eligibility of River Segments Evaluated Pursuant to Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and Their Protection Afforded under the NEPA and Section 202 and 302 of the FLPMA.*]

Final Eligibility – Changes Made from the Preliminary Eligibility Findings

Based on the updated guidance from the BLM Washington Office, the ID Team, in consultation with the field managers of the Moab and Monticello Field Offices, chose to drop streams from WSR eligibility consideration that were identified as ephemeral. As a result, the 6 rivers (12 segments) that are eligible and will be further studied as to their suitability for Congressional designation, are all either perennial or intermittent. (See *Wild and Scenic Rivers Review Eligibility Determination, Bureau of Land Management, Monticello Field Office, June 2004*)

Other changes to the preliminary eligibility findings were made as well. The changes to the preliminary eligibility findings include the following:

Colorado River – An additional segment was made from the northern-most boundary of the Monticello Field Office at approximately river mile 50.5 to private land south of the Potash facility near river mile 48.5. This length of river had been identified as wild in the original 1992 evaluation, which only considered the river corridor on the Monticello side of the river. This approximately 2-mile segment is managed by the Moab Field Office on one side of the river and Monticello on the other side. It is free-flowing and has the following ORVs: fish, recreation, wildlife, cultural and ecological. It was given a tentative classification of “recreational” due to development and roads on the Moab side of the river.

Colorado River – The southern-most 12.2-mile reach of the river before it enters Canyonlands National Park, has been divided into two segments. One runs from State lands near river mile 44 to approximately river mile 38.5 at another State section. This segment’s tentative classification is changed to “scenic” (from “wild”) due to the presence of roads on the shore, which are visible from the river itself. The lower segment runs from near river mile 37.5 on the west side of a state section to the boundary of Canyonlands National Park near river mile 31. The tentative classification is “wild”, as determined in the preliminary findings. There are no roads accessing this segment of the Colorado River though there are roads in the vicinity that run above the rim outside of the ¼ mile river-related corridor and hundreds of feet above the water level.

A scenic ORV has been assigned to the entire length of this river corridor from the northern-most MFO boundary to that of Canyonlands NP, reflecting the breathtaking vistas seen from the river itself. The findings of the Monticello Field Office ID Team are consistent with the finding of the Moab Field Office ID Team. The centerline of the Colorado River is the boundary for these two field offices, each having jurisdiction on one side of the river corridor.

Fable Valley – The tentative classification was “wild” in the preliminary findings. On re-evaluation of the immediate area, the MFO ID Team determined that an old jeep route along some of the valley necessitated reclassifying this stream as “scenic” to meet the classification criteria. Upon reevaluation by the ID Team of wildlife, vegetation and riparian specialists, an ecological ORV has been assigned to Fable Valley.

Dark Canyon – The upper approximately 6-mile reach of Dark Canyon that runs from the Manti-LaSal National Forest boundary to just above Youngs Canyon is an ephemeral stream. This section of the canyon was dropped from eligibility consideration due to the lack of either perennial or intermittent flow per the new guidance from the BLM Washington Office [April 8, 2004]. The lower portion of Dark Canyon remains eligible as determined in the preliminary findings.

San Juan River – In the preliminary findings, the San Juan River was divided into four segments.

After information was brought forward on land ownership changes, the ID Team chose to divide the river into five segments indicating the river character changes of different ORVs between segments 1 and 2. The “avulsed” land area on the north side of the river that belongs to the Navajo Nation, and the “accreted” land on the north side of the river south of the Town of Bluff, Utah with its riparian areas accreted to private land ownership, occur between segments 1 and 2.

[Avulsion is defined as “a sudden and perceptible loss or addition to land by the action of water, or a sudden change in the bed or course of a stream” (Blacks Law Dictionary) The land on the north side of the San Juan River around St Christopher's Mission is an avulsion that is legally in Navajo land ownership. The course and reach of the San Juan River when the Navajo Nation Treaty was signed was at the northern edge of what is now the avulsed land. Before the up-river Navajo Dam was built, the San Juan was a typically braided river in this open lowland area. The river flow could change yearly and create

different channels depending on its flow dynamics. At the time of the treaty, the river flowed at what is now the northern boundary of the avulsed area. This old boundary was legally assigned to the Navajo Nation because of their appeal that the land was theirs by treaty, even though the modern course of the river is now in a distinct channel well south of that original boundary.]

A new segmentation reflects the ORVs found in the preliminary eligibility findings except for the following. Recreation and ecological values are not ORVs in new segment #1, although they were identified in the preliminary findings for the lower portion of what was the original first segment. They are still ORVs for new Segment #2. The ID Team determined that recreation is minimal within new Segment #1, although new Segment #2 provides a strong draw for visitors.

After the preliminary eligibility findings went out for public review and comment, the ID Team specialists representing wildlife, vegetation, and riparian values, and the river rangers reviewed additional information and continued their discussion about whether or not adding an ecological ORV is appropriate for the San Juan River. As a result, ecology was added as an ORV to the four segments of the river from river mile minus one, east of Sand Island, to the boundary of Glen Canyon NRA. The habitat integrity is not as present in Segment #1 and does not have the comparative significance on this segment due to the uses and development along the river corridor.

The following rivers/segments were dropped from eligibility consideration based on the guidance (see above) from the BLM Washington Office concerning ephemeral water flow and an on-the-ground evaluation conducted in April/May 2004 with no moving water found in these river/segments: White Canyon, Upper reach of Dark Canyon, Grand Gulch, Slickhorn, Lime Creek, Comb Wash, Mule Canyon, and Fish / Owl / McLeod Canyons.

ELIGIBLE RIVER(S)/SEGMENTS

The following table identifies the 6 rivers (12 segments) within the Monticello Field Office area determined to be eligible, i.e., free-flowing with at least one river-related ORV. (Maps, Appendix)

Eligible River/Segments and Their Tentative Classification, Monticello Field Office

River Segment Name	Segment Description and Length in River Miles: (BLM River Miles [BLMRM], and Total River Miles [TRM])	Reason For Consideration ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Tentative Classification: -Wild - Scenic - Recreational
Colorado River Segment 1:	Northern most MFO boundary on east side of Colorado River (1 mile north of Potash land) south to private land BLMRM: 2.2 miles TRM: 6.2 miles	a, b, d, e	Yes	Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological

Eligible River/Segments and Their Tentative Classification, Monticello Field Office

River Segment Name	Segment Description and Length in River Miles: (BLM River Miles [BLMRM], and Total River Miles [TRM]))	Reason For Consideration ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Tentative Classification: -Wild - Scenic - Recreational
<p>Colorado River Segment 2:</p>	<p>State lands near River Mile 44 to approx. River Mile 38.5 BLMRM: 5.5 miles TRM: 6.8 miles</p>	<p>a, b, d, e</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological</p>
<p>Colorado River Segment 3:</p>	<p>From approximately River Mile 37.5 at State land to boundary of Canyonlands NP near River Mile 31 BLMRM: 6.5 miles TRM: 6.5 miles</p>	<p>a, b, d, e</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological</p>
<p>Indian Creek</p>	<p>Forest boundary to Donnelly Canyon BLMRM: 4.8 miles</p>	<p>e, f</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Cultural</p>
<p>Fable Valley</p>	<p>Source to mouth at Gypsum Creek BLMRM: 6.8 miles TRM: 6.8miles</p>	<p>e, f</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Wildlife Ecological</p>
<p>Dark Canyon</p>	<p>Youngs Canyon to GCNRA BLMRM: 6.4 miles TRM: 13.6 miles</p>	<p>b, e, f</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Scenic Recreation Wildlife</p>
<p>San Juan River (#1) North side – MFO, portions are within San Juan River SRMA; South side – Navajo Nation.</p>	<p>W. Montezuma Creek to private land just before “avulsed” parcel of Navajo Nation land at St. Christopher’s Mission BLMRM: 8.5 miles TRM: 15.3 miles</p>	<p>a, b, e</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Fish Wildlife Historic Cultural</p>

Eligible River/Segments and Their Tentative Classification, Monticello Field Office

River Segment Name	Segment Description and Length in River Miles: (BLM River Miles [BLMRM], and Total River Miles [TRM]))	Reason For Consideration ¹	Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Tentative Classification: -Wild - Scenic - Recreational
<p>San Juan River (#2) North side – MFO, portions are within San Juan River SRMA; South side – Navajo Nation</p>	<p>West of “accreted” land at town of Bluff, UT at River Mile (minus) -1 to River Mile 9 BLMRM: 10 miles TRM: 9.5 miles</p>	<p>a, b, e</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Fish Recreation Wildlife Historic Cultural Ecological</p>
<p>San Juan River (#3) North side – MFO, San Juan River SRMA; South side – Navajo Nation.</p>	<p>River Mile 9 to River Mile 23 above Mexican Hat formation BLMRM: 13.3 miles TRM: 13.3 miles</p>	<p>a, b, d, e</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Scenic Fish Recreation Geology Wildlife Ecological</p>
<p>San Juan River (#4) North side – MFO; South side – Navajo Nation.</p>	<p>River Mile 23 to River Mile 28 BLMRM: 4.2 miles TRM: 5.3 miles</p>	<p>a, b, d, e</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Ecological</p>
<p>San Juan River (#5) North side – MFO, San Juan River SRMA & Cedar Mesa ACEC; South side– Navajo Nation.</p>	<p>Mile 28 to Glen Canyon NRA River mile 45 BLMRM: 17.3 miles TRM: 17.3 miles</p>	<p>a, b, d, e</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Scenic Fish Recreation Geologic Wildlife Ecological</p>
<p>Arch Canyon</p>	<p>Forest boundary to ½ mile west of its confluence with Comb Wash BLMRM: 6.9 miles TRM: 7.7 miles</p>	<p>d, e, f</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological</p>

¹ Reasons for Consideration, (See 3.1)
a. Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) list, NPS 1995, (Utah modified Oct 5, 2001)
b. American Rivers Outstanding List, May 1991
c. 1970 USDA/USDI list, and 1972 list
d. A Citizen’s Proposal to Protect the Wild Rivers of Utah, 1995 (Utah River Council)
e. Identified in public scoping
f. Identified by Federal Agencies, State of Utah, Indian Tribes, local governments, and professional specialists within the BLM Monticello Field Office

INTERFACE WITH AGENCIES WITH CONTIGUOUS BOUNDARIES

The Monticello Field Office has worked closely with the BLM Moab, and with the Manti-LaSal National Forest in the coordination of the wild and scenic river eligibility process.

Manti-LaSal National Forest

The Manti-LaSal National Forest Final Eligibility Determination of Wild & Scenic Rivers was completed March 2003. The LaSal Division of the forest bounds BLM lands both within the Moab and Monticello Field Office areas.

River(s)/segments found eligible (underlined below) by the Manti-LaSal National Forest, and those connecting from the LaSal NF boundaries to the BLM Monticello Field Office boundaries include:

- North Fork of Whiskers including Whiskers Draw - determined not eligible on BLM lands by Monticello FO ID Team evaluation
- Hammond Canyon - determined not eligible on BLM lands by Monticello FO ID Team evaluation
- Chippean Canyon & Allen Canyon - determined not eligible on BLM lands by Monticello FO ID Team evaluation
- Butts Canyon, Arch Canyon & Texas Canyon - to their confluence where Arch Canyon flows onto BLM lands; Arch Canyon was determined eligible by Monticello FO ID Team evaluation
- Lower Dark Canyon - flows onto BLM lands, determined eligible by Monticello FO ID Team

Arch Canyon, and *Lower Dark Canyon* are drainages determined eligible for Wild and Scenic River status by both The Manti-LaSal National Forest and the BLM Monticello Field Office.

The ORVs and tentative classification of these rivers with both the FS and BLM areas are shown in Table 4.

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers Involving Both the Manti-La Sal National Forest and BLM Monticello Field Office Area

River-Drainage Name	Outstandingly Remarkable Values		Tentative Classification	
	LaSal NF	Monticello FO - BLM	LaSal NF	Monticello FO - BLM
(Lower) Dark Canyon	Scenic Geologic Cultural	Scenic Recreation Wildlife	Wild	Wild
Arch Canyon	Scenic Geologic Cultural	Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	Scenic	Recreational

Moab Field office – BLM

The Colorado River from north of the Potash plant to Canyonlands NP is administered by both Field Offices with the boundary between resource areas being the centerline of the river. The Moab FO has administrative jurisdiction over the north/west side of this segment, the Monticello FO has administrative jurisdiction over the south/east side. Comparisons of eligibility findings are noted in the table below, and are consistent between field offices.

Eligible Colorado River Segments, Contiguous Boundary, BLM Moab and Monticello Field Offices

Colorado River Segment	Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)		Tentative Classification	
	BLM Moab FO	BLM Monticello FO	BLM Moab F O	BLM Monticello FO
North of Potash facility South to private land	Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	Recreational	Recreational
State lands near river mile 44 to approximately river mile 38.5	Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	Scenic	Scenic
From approximately river mile 37.5 to boundary of Canyonlands NP at river mile 31	Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	Wild	Wild

National Park Service

The BLM Monticello Field Office coordinated with the National Park Service’s Colorado River Coordinator, Canyonlands National Park, and the Southeastern Utah Group (NPS) concerning the river(s)/segments that flow through both agency jurisdictions. The following table identifies the eligibility findings, ORVs and tentative classifications that have been made to date by the National Park Service units and BLM for shared drainages.

Findings on Shared Rivers, BLM Monticello Field Office (MFO) and NPS

River Name / Agency ²	Segment Description	ORVs ¹	Tentative Classification
Colorado River: - <u>BLM MFO</u> , 14.2 miles - <u>NPS CNP</u> – 10 miles	- River Mile 44 to CNP boundary - Upper 10 miles within CNP	S, F, R, W, C, E S, F, W, C, G, Riparian	Wild Wild
White Canyon: - <u>BLM MFO</u> , - <u>NPS NBNM</u> , 7 miles - <u>NPS GCNRA</u> , as it flows to Colo R	-[non eligible/ephemeral stream] - within Natural Bridges NM - [has not yet been evaluated for WSR]	S, G, C, Riparian	Wild
Dark Canyon: - <u>BLM MFO</u> , 6.4 miles - <u>GCNRA</u> as it flows to San Juan R	- Youngs Canyon to GCNRA - [has not yet been evaluated for WSR]	S, R, W	Wild

¹ F – Fish

S – Scenic
 R – Recreation
 G – Geologic
 W – Wildlife
 H – Historical
 C – Cultural;

² MFO – Monticello Field Office

CNP – Canyonlands National Park
 NBNM – Natural Bridges National Monument
 GCNRA – Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Navajo Nation Boundary on the San Juan River

The boundary between the Navajo Nation and the Monticello Field Office resource area is the centerline of the San Juan River. The Navajo Nation has jurisdiction and administrative authority on the south side of the San Juan River and the Monticello Field Office has jurisdiction on the north side of the San Juan River, as it flows from the town of Montezuma Creek to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area boundary.

The Monticello FO and the Navajo Nation share a resource boundary of approximately 65 miles along the San Juan River. The Navajo Endangered Species List Update (July, 2000) is included in the Monticello FO June 2004 final wild and scenic rivers eligibility document, Appendix H.

Summary

Approximately 1,300 miles of watercourses within the Monticello Field Office resource area were inventoried and determined to be free-flowing. Each river/segment was evaluated on the basis of having at least one river-related outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) considered rare, unique and/or

exemplary, with each ORV being at least regionally significant. Within the Monticello FO area, 6 rivers (12 segments) of approximately 93 miles were found to meet these criteria.

The suitability phase of review will occur within the framework of the Resource Management Plan through the EIS process. In addition to the impact analysis addressed by alternative, the following suitability considerations are applied to each eligible river segment.

Suitability Considerations	Consideration Applied to Eligible River
	River - segment
Characteristics which would or would not make it suitable	
Land ownership status and current use of the area.	
Uses, including reasonably foreseeable uses, that would be enhanced or curtailed if designated; and values that would be diminished if not designated.	
Interest of federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other public entity in designation of non-designation, including administration sharing.	
Manageability of the river if designated, and other means of protecting values.	
The estimated costs of administering the river, including costs for acquiring lands.	
The extent to which administration costs will be shared by local and state governments.	