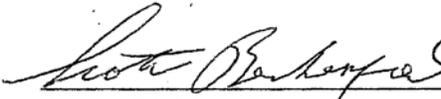


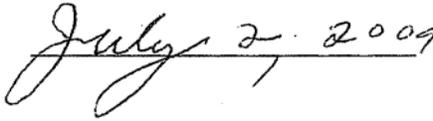
Eligible Rivers for Suitability Study
In the Wild and Scenic Process

BLM Monticello Field Office

Responsible Official:


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**PRELIMINARY WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS
ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION
BLM MONTICELLO FIELD OFFICE**

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PRELIMINARY WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS
ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION
BLM MONTICELLO FIELD OFFICE

1.0 Introduction – Wild and Scenic Rivers

Through the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA) of 1968, Congress established legislation to protect and preserve designated rivers throughout the United States in their free-flowing condition. Section 5(d) of the WSRA directs federal agencies to consider the potential for national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas in all planning. A Wild and Scenic River review is, therefore, being conducted as part of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Monticello (Utah) Field Office, as mandated by the State of Utah BLM.

1.1 Wild and Scenic River Act (WSRA)

The Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968 (Section 5(d)) specifies that an evaluation of the current status of watercourses within federal jurisdictions be completed by federal agencies to determine eligibility for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System NWSRS. The process requires, first, an inventory of all river areas, a determination of free-flowing nature, and consideration of any Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) that are river-related and regionally and/or nationally significant. A Tentative Classification of each river/segment found eligible is then made based on the current level of human development associated with the river/segment.

Public input is solicited at specific points in the eligibility process and incorporated into the study. Finally, when eligible sections have been determined, analyzed and tentatively classified Wild, Scenic or Recreational, the evaluation passes to the second, Suitability, phase for continued study and public involvement. The Suitability phase is embedded within the RMP process Environmental Impact Statement (EIS); ‘suitability’ determinations will be made in the Record of Decision (ROD) for the EIS within the Resource Management Plan process.

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).

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 Congress or the Secretary of the Interior, upon request by the State, can designate a river in to the NWSRS.

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

On January, 25, 1991, an Addendum to the San Juan [Resource Area] 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:

“At the time the San Juan 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”. (These original findings are available at the Monticello Field Office, Wild and Scenic River References).

“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.”

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 Wild and Scenic Rivers System. (RMP, March 1991, pp. 98-1)

On May 24, 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,

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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 Monticello Field Office (then identified as the San Juan Resource Area) completed its preliminary inventory and assessment of the rivers within its jurisdiction, the San Juan Resource Area of southeastern Utah. The WSR inventory, eligibility determination, and tentative classification process included public input suggestions, Utah rivers listed in Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI), American Rivers List, USDA/USDI lists, and professional input from subject matter specialists in the Monticello Field Office. Of the 164 studied watercourses, 16 were recommended for eligibility and further consideration for wild and scenic river designation. (See Appendix 7.1, Table WS).

Following the completion of the WSR eligibility and tentative classification phase, the State BLM office indicated that any then current or future wild and scenic river planning would have to be included within 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. (Instructions Memorandum No. UT 91-315, Wild and Scenic River Suitability Determination in RMPs.)

The Notice of Intent (NOI) for the current RMP was published June 4, 2003 in the Federal Register Vol. 68, No. 107. [UT 060-1610-DO-016J, UT 090-1610-DO-017J]. 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 (2003) WSR eligibility determination process begins where the 1991-1992 process stopped. The April 1992 WS Table (See Appendix 7.1) provided the starting point for current evaluation of river(s)/segments based on current guidelines described herein. The Monticello Field Office drainages are mapped at a 1:100,000 scale with the 16 river(s)/segments found eligible in 1992 delineated on five overlapping area resource maps. These were used as the basis for the current wild and scenic river evaluation process.

2.0 Authorities and Guidelines

The following documents were utilized in guiding the wild and scenic river 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:

1. All values assessed should be directly RIVER RELATED
2. Resources should be at least REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT to be deemed outstandingly remarkable
3. Features that are regionally exemplary, as well as those that are RARE OR UNIQUE should be considered.

3.0 Eligibility Determination by BLM Interdisciplinary Team

The process for determining eligibility for the Monticello Field Office is contained in the Wild and Scenic River Review in the State of Utah, Process and Criteria for Interagency Use, July 1996, frequently referred to as the Utah Wild and Scenic River “Blue Book”. These interagency guidelines, signed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), National Park Service (NPS), United States Forest Service (USFS), and the State of Utah, serve as the reference and basis for the current process.

An interdisciplinary (ID) team was established with professional subject material specialists representing the following disciplines archeology, wildlife biology, range management, solid minerals, recreation, lands-realty, visual resource management, GIS, NEPA planning, and field personnel from the San Juan River Unit and Kane Gulch (Grand Gulch) Ranger Station. (See Section 5.2)

The starting point for the 2003 Monticello Field Office WSR evaluation process was the 1992 list of 164. The ID team reviewed each river/segment for eligibility determination, using the most up-to-date guidelines. Through discussion, the ID Team initially increased the number of watercourses being evaluated by three to 167, adding Step Canyon, Hammond Canyon, and Hart’s Draw. From this list, 21 river(s)/ segments were initially identified as potentially eligible.

In the following round of discussion and evaluation, the 21 river(s)/segments initially found eligible were reduced to 16 with three segments being dropped (Lake Canyon, South Cottonwood Canyon, and Montezuma Creek) due to the lack of combined significant ORVs and regional or national significance. Three river/segments were then combined into a single segment: Fish Creek Canyon, Owl Creek Canyon, and McLeod Canyon are within the same drainage system and exhibit the same Outstandingly Remarkable Values and levels of significance, and are within the Fish Creek Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

The following considerations outline current requirements necessary for a river/segment to be determined worthy of inclusion in the first, eligibility, phase of the wild and scenic river determination process, and are the steps followed in the Interdisciplinary Team’s evaluation process.

3.1 Reason for Consideration

Suggestions for inclusion in a listing of potentially eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers were gathered from the following sources:

- 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 scooping
- f. Identified by Federal Agencies, State of Utah, Native American Tribes, local governments, and professional specialists within the BLM Monticello Field Office

References to the above (a-f) are listed on the Eligibility Table under Reason for Consideration. (See Section 3.7, Table 2). When multiple groups suggested a river/segment for consideration, each group is referenced in the table.

3.2 Inventory

The Monticello ID Team used the 1992 San Juan Resource Area Eligibility Assessment, Table WS (Appendix 7.1) as the beginning point for the current 2003 inventory of major drainages. Three major rivers, Colorado, San Juan, and Delores, and their drainage systems are located within the Monticello Field Office area, and listed below in Table 1. These comprise the 167 individual drainage areas whose current status is being evaluated in the wild and scenic river eligibility process, including three watercourses added to the original 1992 list: Step Canyon, Hammond Canyon, and Hart's Draw.

Table 1: River(s)/Segments Inventoried and Evaluated, Drainages by River System, Monticello Field Office

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

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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’S DRAW – Source to mouth
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

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- River mile 23-28 (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

The Monticello Field Office area, a desert, semi-desert region, has a multitude of watercourses, washes, and canyons. Each of the three major river drainages and their tributaries were assessed and listed. Drainages were segmented where there were areas necessitating differentiation due to differing character, and combined, in one instance, Fish Creek Canyon, where three drainages contain similar values and significance. Otherwise, all listed entities are separate watercourses occurring on BLM land.

3.3 Free - Flowing

All rivers in Monticello Field Office area are considered free-flowing. The river(s)/segments evaluated

- Exist in their Natural Condition
- Flow in Natural Condition

- Have few Impoundments (See Section 3.6))
- Have few Diversions (See Section 3.6)
- Have no Straightening
- Have no Rip-Rapping
- Have no Modifications such as channelization

3.4 Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)

For a river to be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System, it must possess one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). Each value must be directly river-related, considered “Outstandingly Remarkable” as it exhibits rare/unique and/or exemplary values within the geographic region, and must be determined to be regionally or nationally significant by the ID Team.

The ORVs are listed in the WSR Review in the State of Utah (Blue Book) as follows:

- S - SCENIC** – Diversity of view, Special Features, Seasonal Variations, Cultural Modifications
- F - FISH** – Habitat Quality, Diversity of Species, Value of Species, Abundance of fish, Natural Reproduction, Size and Vigor of Fish, Cultural/Historic Importance, Recreational Importance, Access
- R - RECREATION – WATER ORIENTED AND GENERAL** – Length of Season, Flow, Diversity of Use, Experience Quality, Scenery/Naturalness, Access, Level of Use, Associated Opportunities, Attraction, Sites and Facilities
- W - WILDLIFE** – Habitat Quality, Diversity of Species, Abundance of Species, Natural Reproduction, Size and Vigor of Species, Cultural/Historic Importance Recreational Importance, Access
- G - GEOLOGIC** – Feature Abundance, Diversity of Features, Educational/Scientific
- H - HISTORIC** – Significance, Education/Interpretation, Listing/Eligibility, Site Integrity
- C - CULTURAL** – Significance, Current Uses, Number of Cultures, Site Integrity, Education / Interpretation, Listing / Eligibility
- E - ECOLOGICAL** – Species Diversity, Ecological Function, Rare Communities, Education / Scientific

The Interdisciplinary (ID) Team subject matter specialists evaluated the ORVs for each of the 167 river(s)/segments. The preliminary list (See Section 3.7, Table 2) of 16 recommended eligible river(s)/segments have specific ORV descriptions prepared by the ID team specialists. (See Section 5.0, Table 3).

The ID Team found the remaining 149 river segments to have insufficient outstandingly remarkable values when compared regionally and nationally, and were, therefore, dropped from further consideration within the eligibility process.

3.5 Region of Comparison / Level of Significance

The planning process for wild and scenic rivers prescribes that resources under review be compared at a minimum regionally, and be found significant either regionally and/or nationally. A previously suggested method, not chosen in this study, for regional comparison was based on Hydrologic Regions within the State of Utah. However, The Wild and Scenic River Review in the State of Utah, p.5, (the Blue Book) noted that “the determination of the appropriate region of comparison is left to the individuals involved in the ongoing planning effort”, and, “that an appropriate region(s) [be] explicitly defined and that the methodology herein described [be] applied within that region(s).”

Ecological Subregions of the United States, produced by the US Forest Service in 1993, lists Subregions and Sections based on Ecological Units. The framework provides a systematic method for classifying and mapping areas of the Earth based on associations of ecological factors that change at different spatial scales. (WO ECOMAP TEAM, 1993). Ecological types and Ecological Units are developed at various scales by integrating multiple components including climate, physiography, geology, soils, water, and potential natural vegetation (FSM2060, FSH 2090.11). The primary purpose for delineating Ecological Units is to identify land and water areas at different hierarchical levels that have similar capabilities and potentials for management.

A discussion among WSR planners in BLM Utah and Forest Service in May, 2002, resulted in a summary of that discussion being e-mailed to statewide, federal agency Utah wild and scenic river planners, noting that the use of Ecological Units at the Section level of hierarchy was the best choice for region of comparison .

Subregions within the Ecological Units are characterized by combinations of climate, geomorphic process, topography, and stratigraphy. Within Subregions, Sections are broad areas of similar regional climate, geomorphic process, stratigraphy, geologic origin, and drainage networks (WO ECOMAP TEAM, 1993).

As suggested in the above referenced Utah email, “ecological sections are the best choice for regions of comparison. [They] define distinct breaks in major ecological systems defined by geology, geomorphology, climate, etc. They are the breaks that are most visible on the landscape, and provide an excellent context for relative consistency in scenic and other resource values for a region of comparison.”

The following is a list of the Subregions/Sections initially considered as region(s) of comparison by the Monticello Field Office Interdisciplinary Team in their 2003 evaluation of the area’s watercourses for potential eligibility as wild and scenic rivers. (See composite map, Appendix 7.2.)

- Subregion: Colorado Semi-Desert / Chapter 36
 - Sections:
 - Grand Canyon (313A)
 - Navajo Canyonlands (313B)
 - Painted Desert (313D)

- Subregion: Arizona-New Mexico Mountains Semi-Desert – Open Woodland – Coniferous Forest – Alpine Meadow / Chapter 38
 - Section:
 - White Mountain-San Francisco Peaks-Mogollon Rim (M313A)

- Subregion: Southern Rocky Mountain Steppe – Open Woodland – Coniferous Forest – Alpine Meadow / Chapter 43
 - Sections:
 - Overthrust Mountains (M331D)
 - Uinta Mountains (M332E)
 - South Central Highlands ((M331G)
 - Northern-Central Highland and Rocky Mountains (M331H)

- Subregion: Intermountain Semi-Desert and Desert / Chapter 47
 - Sections:
 - Bonneville Basin (341A)
 - Northern Canyon Lands (341B)

- Subregion: Nevada-Utah Mountains Semi-Desert – Coniferous Forest – Alpine Meadow / Chapter 49
 - Sections:
 - Tavaputs Plateau (M341B)
 - Utah High Plateaus Mountains (M341C)

The above mentioned Subregions and Sections for Region of Comparison were further defined by the ID Team during the evaluation process. This list was narrowed (see list below) to the specific Sections utilized for final comparison by the ID Team for each outstandingly remarkable value (ORV). (See Appendix 2, Composite Map of Regions, and Individual ORV(s) maps).

SCENIC AND RECREATION:

- Grand Canyon Lands Section (313A)
- Navajo Canyon Lands Section (313B)
- Northern Canyonlands Section (341B)

FISH / WILDLIFE / ECOLOGY:

- Grand Canyon Lands Section(313A)
- Navajo Canyon Lands Section(313B)
- Bonneville Basin Section (341A)
- Northern Canyonlands Section (341B)
- Tavaputs Plateau Section (M341B)

GEOLOGY:

- Grand Canyon Lands Section (313A)
- Navajo Canyon Lands Section (313B)

HISTORIC / CULTURAL:

- Grand Canyon Lands Section (313A)
- Navajo Canyon Lands Section (313B)
- White Mountain-San Francisco Peaks-Mogollon Rim Section (M313A)

Each outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) was considered first within the specific set of regions for comparison (noted above). The Interdisciplinary Team then determined if the ORV was regionally and/or nationally significant, that is showing exemplary and/or rare and unique qualities.

Those river/segments with outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) deemed to have insufficient value compared regionally or nationally were dropped from further consideration.

3.6 Tentative Classification

A tentative classification of Wild, Scenic, or Recreational is determined for each eligible river/segment. Tentative classifications are based on the type and degree of human development associated with the river and adjacent lands, as they exist at the time of the evaluation.

During tentative classification evaluation, it was noted that 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 notations contributed to the segment's tentative classification as Recreational. (See Appendix 7.4, Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic or Recreational river areas, and Section 5.0, Preliminary Determination - Individual Eligible Rivers(s)/Segments).

The four key elements in evaluating tentative classification are:

1. Water Resources Development
2. Shoreline Development
3. Accessibility
4. Water Quality

Eligible rivers are classified Wild, Scenic, or Recreational based on man’s activities.

- A Wild river is free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds essentially primitive, and 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.

3.7 Eligibility of River(s)/Segments Evaluated

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) 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 2: Preliminary Determination - Eligible Wild and Scenic River(s)/Segments and Tentative Classification, Monticello Field Office

River Segment Name Designation, if any	Segment Description and River Miles	Reason For Consideration (1)	Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	Level of Significance R - Regional N - National	Tentative Classification: - Wild - Scenic - Recreational
<u>COLORADO RIVER</u>	State lands near River Mile 44 to Canyonlands NP near River Mile 31 13 miles	a, b, d, e	Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	- National - National - National - National	Wild
White Canyon Within Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC	Forest Boundary to Glen Canyon Nat'l Rec Area. Passes through Natural Bridges NM. 30 miles	a, b, d, e, f	Scenic Recreation	- National - National	Scenic

Preliminary Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – BLM Monticello Field Office August 2003

Indian Creek Within Indian Creek ACEC & Canyon Basins SRMA Forest boundary to Donnelly Canyon 5 miles	e, f	Cultural	- Regional	Recreational
Fable Valley Within Dark Canyon WSA & Canyon Basins ACEC Source to mouth 11 miles	e, f	Wildlife	- Regional	Wild
Dark Canyon Dark Canyon WSA and ACEC & within Canyon Basins ACEC Forest boundary to Glen Canyon NRS 13 miles	b, e, f	Scenic Recreation Wildlife	- National - National - National	Wild
SAN JUAN RIVER North side – MFO, San Juan River SRMA; South side – Navajo Nation. W .Montezuma Creek to River Mile 9 24 miles	a, b, e	Fish Recreation Wildlife Historic Cultural	- National - National - National - Regional - National	Recreational
SAN JUAN RIVER North side – MFO, San Juan River SRMA; South side – Navajo Nation. River Mile 9 to River Mile 23 above Mexican Hat formation 14 miles	a, b, d, e	Scenic Fish Recreation Geology Wildlife	- Regional - National - National - Regional - National	Wild
SAN JUAN RIVER North side – MFO, San Juan River SRMA; South side – Navajo Nation. River Mile 23 to River Mile 28 5 miles	a, b, d, e	Scenic Fish Recreation Wildlife	- Regional - National - National - National	Recreational
SAN JUAN RIVER North side – MFO, San Juan River SRMA & Cedar Mesa ACEC; South side–Navajo Nation. Mile 28 to Glen Canyon NRA River mile 45 17 miles	a, b, d, e	Scenic Fish Recreation Geologic Wildlife	- National - National - National - National - National	Wild
Grand Gulch Grand Gulch Instant Study Area, Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch SRMA Gulch and Tributaries inside Instant Study Area 52 miles	e, f,	Scenic Recreation Wildlife Historic Cultural	- Regional - National - Regional - National - National	Wild

Preliminary Eligibility of Wild and Scenic Rivers – BLM Monticello Field Office August 2003

Slickhorn Canyon Within Grand Gulch Instant Study Area, Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch SRMA <p align="right">8 miles</p>	Source to Glen Canyon NRA	e, f	Scenic Recreation Wildlife Cultural	- Regional - Regional - Regional - Regional	Wild
Lime Creek-East & West Forks Within Road Canyon Wilderness Study Area, Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch SRMA <p align="right">31 miles</p>	Sources East & West forks to confluence with main stream to mouth.	e, f	Recreation Cultural	- Regional - Regional	Scenic
Comb Wash Within Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch SRMA <p align="right">24 miles</p>	Source to mouth	e, f	Cultural	- National	Recreational
Mule Canyon Mule Canyon WSA, Cedar Mesa & Grand Gulch SRMA <p align="right">10 miles</p>	North & south forks to east of County Rd 263 & State 95	d, e, f	Recreation Cultural	- Regional - Regional	Recreational
Arch Canyon Within Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch SRMA <p align="right">8 miles</p>	Forest boundary to mouth	d, e, f	Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological	- Regional - Regional - Regional - Regional - Regional	Recreational
Fish Creek Canyon, Owl Creek Canyon, McLeod Canyon (lower 5 miles). Fish Creek Canyon WSA, within Cedar Mesa ACEC & Grand Gulch SRMA <p align="right">30 miles</p>	Source to mouths	e, f	Scenic Recreation Wildlife Cultural	- Regional - National - National - Regional	Wild

- (1) **Legend:**
- 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 scooping
 - f. Identified by Federal Agencies, State of Utah, Indian Tribes, local governments, and professional specialists within the BLM Monticello Field Office

4.0 Input from Governments, Agencies, Native American Tribes, Organizations, and the Public

Coordination through the State of Utah Governor's Office representative initiates contact on the wild and scenic river process with local county governments. A wild and scenic river presentation was made by the governor's representative to the San Juan County Commissioners in 2002 in conjunction with the Manti-LaSal WSR eligibility process. Preliminary discussions were held concerning the Monticello Field Office wild and scenic river eligibility determination process with the San Juan County Public Lands Council May 20, 2003 and June 17, 2003. A meeting is scheduled August 20, 2003 to present this preliminary eligibility report to the Public Lands Council and further discuss the WSR process.

Preliminary findings of eligible wild and scenic rivers for the Monticello Field Office area are hereby provided for review, with input invited from State and local governments, Native American Tribes, organizations, cooperating federal agencies, and the public. Each is asked to review and identify any concurring or differing opinions regarding the preliminary Interdisciplinary Team findings, and, further, to offer suggestions for additional potentially eligible rivers they think should be considered.

Input from all sources will be evaluated further before a Final Determination of Eligible wild and scenic rivers document is issued for the BLM Monticello Field Office.

5.0 Preliminary Determination - Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

Table 3 defines each of the 16 individual river(s)/segments determined eligible during the Monticello Field Office’s wild and scenic river preliminary eligibility evaluation. Level of Significance and Tentative Classification levels are included in the table, as well as descriptions of the Outstandingly Remarkable Values for each river/segment.

Maps of the river/segments are located in Appendix 7.2, with some maps showing multiple river segments where they are in geographical proximity.

Table 3: Preliminary Determination – Individual Eligible Wild and Scenic River(s)/Segments, Monticello Field Office

<u>COLORADO RIVER*</u>			
State land near River Mile 44 to Canyonlands National Park near River Mile 31			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish • Recreation • Wildlife • Cultural • Ecological 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National • National • National • National • National 	Wild

* The North/west side of this section of the Colorado River is managed by the BLM Moab Field Office, the South/east side of the same section of river is managed by the BLM Monticello Office. The boundary of the two resource areas is the centerline of the Colorado River.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Fish** – The Colorado River has a unique resident fish population for more than two-thirds of the native fish are endemic. This river contains designated critical habitat for the endangered Bonytail chub, Humpback chub, Colorado squawfish and the Razorback sucker. These endangered species are also listed as “protected” in Utah under state laws. The first three species are found nowhere else in the world besides the Colorado River system. The Colorado River is also home to the Bluehead sucker and Flannelmouth sucker, which are listed as Species of Special Concern (any wildlife species or subspecies that has experienced a substantial decrease in population, distribution and/or habitat availability) for the state of Utah.

- **Recreation** – Downstream from the town of Moab, the Colorado River provides a popular year round float opportunity for boaters, motorized and non-motorized. Approximately 12,000 visitors per year boat on this section of the river. Locals and visitors from all over the world use this section to fish, raft, powerboat, canoe, hike, camp, and enjoy the spectacular scenery. Outfitters market their trips both nationally and internationally.

This section of the river provides the most common method of approach for boaters entering Cataract Canyon, a world renowned white water adventure. Outfitter stops for boaters occur along this BLM segment of the Colorado River offering points to get onto or off the river. Jet boats shuttle canoe trips from the confluence of the Green River and Colorado in Canyonlands National Park back to Moab using this stretch. There is a petrified forest on the banks, a fossil point of interest with brachiopods, horned corral, and two forms of primitive sharkline fish teeth

- **Wildlife** – The Colorado River provides or is potential habitat for the following threatened or endangered species: Bald eagle, Southwestern willow flycatcher, Mexican spotted owl, and the Yellow-billed cuckoo (candidate species). The river provides critical habitat for desert bighorn sheep, peregrine falcons and other raptors, migrating and nesting neo-tropical birds, and the Northern river otter, which is a Species of Special Concern for Utah.
- **Cultural** – The Colorado River has evidence of significant occupation and use by both prehistoric and historic peoples. Native Americans consider the Colorado River and its major flowing tributaries as sacred spaces. The variety and number of archeological and historical sites adjacent to the river embrace the occupation of these prehistoric and historic peoples. Sites include alcoves, rock shelters, lithic scatters, rock art, and open camp sites, as well as European homesteads.

Prehistoric sites have the potential to provide information concerning the use of the river corridors by Archaic, Fremont, and Pre-Puebloan Cultures, as well as the Numic speaking peoples. Early travelers and traders also utilized the Colorado River as fords; crossings developed with the advent of increased travel between the Southwest and the Pacific coast.

- **Ecological** – The Colorado River is adjacent to the Pacific Flyway and provides important habitat for many migrating neo-tropical, shorebird, and waterfowl species. The aquatic, wetland and riparian habitats provide respite and survival for the existence of many wildlife species. The river corridor contains vegetative islands that serve as important refuge and nesting habitats for many migrant waterfowl species, including the Canada goose and plovers.

The river corridor contains some the last remnant populations of river otters, as well as nesting and forage habitat for endangered Bald eagle, endangered Mexican spotted owl, endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher, endangered bats, and four species of endangered native fish endemic only to the Colorado River system, Bonytail chub, Humpback chub, Colorado squawfish, and Razorback sucker.

WHITE CANYON *			
Forest Boundary to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area			
Length in Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Recreation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National • National 	Scenic

* White Canyon passes through Natural Bridges National Monument, and is within Scenic Highway Corridor ACEC

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Scenic** – VRM Class I with Class A scenic quality. The canyon has narrow, winding sandstone walls 100-200 ft. high, and is a destination for hiking, camping and backpacking. The canyon bottom provides scenery of dramatic rugged terrain, deep sheer walled canyons, and ancient Puebloan cultural sites, which are well preserved due to their remote location. A section of White Canyon passes through Natural Bridges National Monument, designated a national monument for among other values its scenic quality.

The “Black Hole” is a rare and unique canyon feature consisting of 800-1000 ft. deeply incised walls, in spots only three feet wide. The twisted, winding, deep, narrow, colorful sandstone walls carved by long sections of deep moving water, create a unique canyon section providing outstanding opportunity for canyoneering.

- **Recreation** – White Canyon is limited to foot traffic only. There are several locations where orienteering and canyoneering skills are required to gain entry from the canyon rim. Outdoor recreation, photography, natural history, canyoneering, and archeological sites are features contributing to the lure of White Canyon, as well as canyon bottom hiking trails within Natural Bridges National Monument. The “Black Hole” attracts recreational visitors from all over the world. It has a national reputation for challenging any canyoneer. This deep, narrow slot section of White Canyon, requires some sort of flotation device to gain access through the deep, water filled potholes. Due to the narrowness of the canyon, it is not uncommon to find debris anchored 30 ft. above the canyon floor after seasonal flash floods.

INDIAN CREEK *			
Forest Boundary to Donnelley Canyon			
Length of Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
5	• Cultural	• Regional	Recreational

* Within Indian Creek ACEC and within Canyon Basins SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Cultural** – Rock art sites are the significant cultural resources along Indian Creek. Newspaper Rock, the best-known site along the Creek, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Native Americans, who have visited these sites, recognize images that relate to their migration history. Cultural resources represent the interface between two prehistoric cultural groups: Anasazi and Fremont. This interface is represented in unique motifs in the rock art in this area as well as within site features and artifacts such as ceramics and baskets.

FABLE VALLEY *			
Source to Mouth			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
11	• Wildlife	• Regional	Wild

* Within Dark Canyon Wilderness Study Area and ACEC, and within Canyon Basins SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

Wildlife – Fable Valley is a narrow, discontinuous riparian corridor characterized by appropriate willow-dominated riparian vegetation, which is prime habitat for the Southwestern willow flycatcher. The extreme north end of the canyon is a deep, narrow slick rock-dominated zone that is prime habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, and is designated as critical habitat for Mexican spotted owls.

Surveys for both of these species have been conducted in Fable Valley with both of these endangered species present. This is the only canyon in the field office area that provides habitat for both endangered species. This area is also important for other neo-tropical birds that migrate into Utah. Fable Valley has perennial water, and an abundance of native riparian vegetation, and sagebrush benches. The valley is a very important area for wildlife.

DARK CANYON *			
Forest boundary to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Recreation • Wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National • National • National 	Wild

* Dark canyon Wilderness Study Area and Dark Canyon ACEC, and within Canyon Basins SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Scenic** – The Dark Canyon area is roadless, primitive and undeveloped. The remote location, dramatic rugged terrain, deep walled canyon, and naturalness of the area create a high scenic value. It has unobstructed and expansive diversity of views including 1200 foot vertical cliff walls, rimrock, outcrops and spires, and a visual contrast from soil and rock color, flowing water, potholes, pour offs, and diverse vegetation located throughout the canyon and tributaries. Dark Canyon is one of the deepest canyon systems in the region.

The BLM portion of Dark Canyon watershed is contiguous with Glen Canyon National Recreation Area where it drains into the Colorado River, and with the Manti-LaSal National Forest where Dark Canyon is a designated wilderness area. Within the National Forest planning process, the Manti-LaSal NF found its portion of Dark Canyon to be eligible for Wild and Scenic River status with Lower Dark Canyon ORVs of Scenic, Geologic/Hydrologic, and Cultural found nationally significant. The Manti-LaSal National Forest section’s Tentative Classification is listed Wild.

- **Recreation** – Dark canyon has a high rating of diversity including outstanding natural, historical, and cultural features offering recreational, educational, and scientific opportunities for visitors. A wide variety of opportunities for recreation are available, including backpacking, camping, photography, wildlife viewing, canyoneering and orienteering, and viewing prehistoric archeological sites. The Ancestral Puebloans used this canyon area leaving behind cliff dwellings, rock shelters, rock art, and storage areas, which can be viewed within the corridors of the Dark Canyon water sources. The canyon attracts visitors internationally.
- **Wildlife** – Dark Canyon is within designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. Surveys have been conducted in this canyon and there have been owls using this area. Dark Canyon and its drainages also contain the only two protected activity center(s) (PAC) for the Mexican spotted owl within the Monticello Field

Office area. PACs are nest areas occupied at least once since 1989. The habitat in this canyon is also critical for peregrine falcon and other raptors, as well as desert bighorn sheep.

<u>SAN JUAN RIVER</u> *			
West Montezuma Creek to River Mile 9			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish • Recreation • Wildlife • Historic • Cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National • National • National • Regional • National 	Recreational

* The North side of the San Juan is under BLM Monticello Field Office management, San Juan SRMA. The South side falls under the jurisdiction and administration of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation and Monticello Field Office area boundary is located at the centerline of the San Juan River.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Fish** - The San Juan River, which is part of the Upper Colorado River system, has a unique resident fish population for more than two-thirds of the native fish are endemic. This river contains designated critical habitat for the endangered Bonytail chub, Humpback chub, Colorado squawfish and the Razorback sucker. These endangered species are also listed as “protected” in Utah under state laws. The first three species are found no where else in the world besides the Colorado River system. The San Juan River is also home to the Bluehead sucker and Flannelmouth sucker, which are listed as Species of Special Concern (any wildlife species or subspecies that has experienced a substantial decrease in population, distribution and/or habitat availability) for the state of Utah.
- **Recreation** – Montezuma Creek is the put-in for one or two-day, flat water float trips to Sand Island. The San Juan is a braided river in this section and flows from open countryside into towering sandstone formations, with archeological sites and rock art. Seven miles down river from Sand Island, the most popular put-in for the San Juan, the river cuts through Comb Ridge, a prominent 90 mile long uplift that stretches from the Abajo Mountains near Monticello to Kayenta, in northern Arizona. Camping along the northern side of the river and hiking to prehistoric archeological and rock art sites are among the recreation opportunities that draw thousands of visitors annually.

Running the San Juan from Montezuma Creek to the Mexican Hat take out and/or to the Clay Hills take-out is a permitted activity due to the immense demand (three year average 2000-2002 is slightly over 40,000 user days/year). Camping or hiking on the southern side, the Navajo Reservation, is by permit through the Navajo Tribe.

Sand Waves – Sand waves form in response to the cyclic accumulation of the sandy ripples long the river bottom. The river's steep gradient or slope of approximately 8 feet per mile, the highest gradient of any major southwestern river, and the high load of sand and silt, contributes to the creation of sand waves. The waves can grow to several feet, yet are relatively safe because they don't hide underlying rocks. The waves migrate upstream and increase in size until they become so large they are washed out. Occurrence is most common along the first nine miles downstream from Sand Island and in the Goosenecks.

- **Wildlife** – This portion of the San Juan River provides or is potential habitat for the following threatened or endangered species: Bald eagle, Southwestern willow flycatcher, and the Yellow-billed cuckoo (candidate species). The river also provides critical habitat for peregrine falcon, cooper's hawk, and other raptors, migrating and nesting neo-tropical birds, and the Northern river otter, which is a species of special concern for Utah. The San Juan River provides habitat for Lucy's warbler and Broad-tailed hummingbird, which are species on the Utah Partners in Flight Priority Species.
- **Historic** – The segment contains historic sites associated with the settlement and development of Southeastern Utah. Some of the most critical events in that settlement process took place in the vicinity of the convergence of Comb Ridge and the San Juan River. These include the epic "Hole in the Rock" journey, the construction and abandonment of Barton's Trading Post, and the early attempts at irrigation from the San Juan River. The San Juan River was designated as the northern boundary of the Navajo Reservation from just west of Montezuma Creek to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area..
- **Cultural** – There is no doubt that the San Juan River Valley was heavily populated in prehistoric times. The riverbank has washed much of the evidence of that occupation away. What does remain is rock art that is unsurpassed on the Colorado Plateau. Several of the rock art sites are recognized as "Type Sites" for specific rock art motifs, because they are so wonderfully expressed and are so well preserved.

<u>SAN JUAN RIVER</u> *			
River Mile 9 to River Mile 23			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Fish • Recreation • Geologic • Wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional • National • National • Regional • National 	Wild

* The North side of the San Juan is under BLM Monticello Field Office management, San Juan SRMA. The South side falls under the jurisdiction and administration of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation and Monticello Field Office area boundary is located at the centerline of the San Juan River.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Scenic** – VRM Class I. This segment begins at the base of the Lime Ridge Anticline, where spectacular variations in color are created by the interbedded layers of gray limestone and red sandstones, contrasting with riparian vegetation at the water’s edge. Within the canyon, the views are steep vertical cliff walls nearly 900 feet high with unobstructed views to the rims, and views of abandoned river meanders perched high above the current water level.
- **Fish** – The San Juan River, which is part of the Upper Colorado River system, has a unique resident fish population for more than two-thirds of the native fish are endemic. This river contains designated critical habitat for the endangered Bonytail chub, Humpback chub, Colorado squawfish and the Razorback sucker. These endangered species are also listed as “protected” in Utah under state laws. The first three species are found nowhere else in the world besides the Colorado River system. The San Juan River is also home to the Bluehead sucker and Flannelmouth sucker which are listed as Species of Special Concern (any wildlife species or subspecies that has experienced a substantial decrease in population, distribution and/or habitat availability) for the state of Utah.
- **Recreation** – This section of the San Juan River becomes narrower, swifter, and rockier with white water rapids and many riffles (some challenging at low water due to rocks) to negotiate, ever changing geological formations, historical mining sites, abundant wildlife, and towering multi-colored cliff formations. This section of the San Juan River (from the Sand Island put-in to north of the Mexican Hat take-out) draws the highest number of boaters every year (three year average of 13,500 user days/year). Permits are required due to the large demand for day and multi-day use.

- **Geologic** – The deeply incised San Juan canyon cuts across the broad anticlinal structure of the Monument upwarp, making it a textbook example of a transverse canyon. Whether the San Juan canyon was formed through geomorphic processes of antecedence or superposition is the subject of great interest and debate among geologists. The San Juan River is somewhat famous for its sandwaves or antidunes, and Algal Banks.

Sand Waves – Sand waves form in response to the cyclic accumulation of the sandy ripples long the river bottom. The river's steep gradient or slope of approximately 8 feet per mile, and the high load of sand and silt, contributes to the creation of sand waves. The waves can grow to several feet, yet are relatively safe because they don't hide underlying rocks. The waves migrate upstream and increase in size until they become so large they are washed out. Occurrence is most common along the first nine miles downstream from Sand Island and in the Goosenecks.

Algal Banks – Algal bioherms or mounds occur in the Desert Creek and Ismay stages of the Pennsylvanian Paradox Formation. These mounds consist of fragments of alga, which resemble beds of fossilized corn flakes. Similar algal mounds are major producers of oil and gas in the Paradox Basin of Utah, Colorado, and Arizona. Algal banks exposed along the San Juan River afford geologists a rare opportunity to study the reservoir-facies characteristics and geometry of these stratigraphic oil traps in outcrops. They provide a production-scale analogue for reservoir modeling and design and implementation of enhanced hydrocarbon recovery programs in the Paradox Basin.

- **Wildlife** – This portion of the San Juan River provides or is potential habitat for the following threatened or endangered species: bald eagle, Southwestern willow flycatcher, and the Yellow-billed cuckoo (candidate species). The river also provides critical habitat for peregrine falcon, cooper's hawk, and other raptors, migrating and nesting neo-tropical birds, and the Northern river otter, which is a species of special concern for Utah. The San Juan River provides habitat for Lucy's warbler and Broad-tailed hummingbird, which are species on the Utah Partners in Flight Priority Species.

<u>SAN JUAN RIVER</u> *			
River Mile 23 to River Mile 28			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVS	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Fish • Recreation • Wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional • National • National • National 	Recreational

* The North side of the San Juan is under BLM Monticello Field Office management, San Juan SRMA. The South side falls under the jurisdiction and administration of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation and Monticello Field Office area boundary is located at the centerline of the San Juan River.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values ORVs:

- **Scenic** – This segment begins in a river float that parallels the base of the Raplee Anticline, a spectacular section of contrasting color caused by the interbedded sandstone and limestone, which have been tilted and eroded, forming the unique “Navajo Rug” formation of zigzag lines of colored rock, as well as the nationally recognized “Mexican Hat” formation. Next in view are the variously carved spires of the Cedar Mesa Sandstone, and an excellent view of the exposed volcanic neck called “Alhambra”.
- **Fish** – Designated critical habitat for Colorado pikeminnow and Razorback sucker (N) found nowhere else in the world besides the Colorado River and its tributaries.
- **Recreation** – This short section of the San Juan River fills the river runner’s experience with spectacular views (described above) of the many differing geological formations surrounding the river.
- **Wildlife** – The San Juan River provides abitat for wintering eagles and nesting peregrine falcons (N). It is a major migration route for neo-tropical birds (N), and habitat for Northern river otter, which is a Species of Special Concern for Utah, and desert bighorn sheep (R). The San Juan River provides habitat for Lucy’s warbler and Broad-tailed hummingbird, which are species on the Utah Partners in Flight Priority Species.

<u>SAN JUAN RIVER</u> *			
River Mile 28 to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area at River Mile 45			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values – ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Fish • Recreation • Geologic • Wildlife 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National • National • National • National • National 	Wild

* The North side of the San Juan is under BLM Monticello Field Office management, San Juan SRMA for portion and Cedar Mesa SRMA for a portion. The South side falls under the jurisdiction and administration of the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation and Monticello Field Office area boundary is located at the centerline of the San Juan River.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Scenic** – This San Juan River segment is one of the deepest in the entire Navajo Canyonlands Ecological Section with canyon walls over 1200 feet high. This spectacular Goosenecks section is one of the finest examples of entrenched river meanders in the United States and is significant nationally. A float through this section allows unique views across the low “necks” of the meander loops to the canyon walls of the opposite side of the loop. There is extreme visual contrast between the limestone walls of the inner gorge and views of the red Cedar Mesa Sandstone, towering an additional 800 feet on the terraces above.
- **Fish** – The San Juan River, which is part of the Upper Colorado River system, has a unique resident fish population, for more than two-thirds of the native fish are endemic. This river contains designated critical habitat for the endangered Bonytail chub, Humpback chub, Colorado squawfish and the Razorback sucker. These endangered species are also listed as “protected” in Utah under state laws. The first three species are found no where else in the world besides the Colorado River system. The San Juan River is also home to the Bluehead sucker and Flannelmouth sucker which are listed as Species of Special Concern (any wildlife species or subspecies that has experienced a substantial decrease in population, distribution and/or habitat availability) for the state of Utah.
- **Recreation** – Below the town of Mexican Hat the boater winds through high walled, entrenched meanders in a remote area with very limited access. Solitude, spectacular geology, historical mining sites, and opportunities for remarkable side canyon hiking surround the visitor. Class II and one Class III rapid (Government) make this an exciting multi-day river run. Camping is in specific permitted

campsites due to the high use demand and the few appropriate sites available along the high cliff walls.

- **Geologic** - – The deeply incised San Juan canyon cuts across the broad anticlinal structure of the Monument upwarp, making it a textbook example of a transverse canyon. Whether the San Juan canyon was formed through geomorphic processes of antecedence or superposition is the subject of great interest and debate among geologists. The San Juan River is somewhat famous for its sandwaves or antidunes. Exposed fossil algal banks in the Desert Creek and Ismay stages of the Pennsylvanian Paradox Formation afford geologists a rare opportunity to study, in outcrop sections, the facies relationships of these stratigraphic oil traps found in the Paradox basin and other evaporite basins.

Sand Waves – Sand waves form in response to the cyclic accumulation of the sandy ripples long the river bottom. The river’s steep gradient or slope of approximately 8 feet per mile, and the high load of sand and silt, contributes to the creation of sand waves. The waves can grow to several feet, yet are relatively safe because they don’t hide underlying rocks. The waves migrate upstream and increase in size until they become so large they are washed out. Occurrence is most common along the first nine miles downstream from Sand Island and in the Goosenecks.

Algal Banks – Algal bioherms or mounds occur in the Desert Creek and Ismay stages of the Pennsylvanian Paradox Formation. These mounds consist of fragments of alga, which resemble beds of fossilized corn flakes. Similar algal mounds are major producers of oil and gas in the Paradox Basin of Utah, Colorado, and Arizona. Algal banks exposed along the San Juan River afford geologists a rare opportunity to study the reservoir-facies characteristics and geometry of these stratigraphic oil traps in outcrops. They provide a production-scale analogue for reservoir modeling and design and implementation of enhanced hydrocarbon recovery programs in the Paradox Basin.

Goosenecks - The Goosenecks of the San Juan River are possibly the best known entrenched meanders in North America. The remarkable view from the top of the cliffs above this section of the San Juna River prompted Utah to designate the area Gooseneck State Park

- **Wildlife** – The San Juan River, which is part of the Upper Colorado River system, has a unique resident fish population for more than two-thirds of the native fish are endemic. This river contains designated critical habitat for the endangered Bonytail chub, Humpback chub, Colorado squawfish and the Razorback sucker. These endangered species are also listed as “protected” in Utah under state laws. The first three species are found nowhere else in the world besides the Colorado River system. The San Juan River is also home to the

Bluehead sucker and Flannelmouth sucker, which are listed as Species of Special Concern (any wildlife species or subspecies that has experienced a substantial decrease in population, distribution and/or habitat availability) for the state of Utah. The San Juan River provides habitat for Lucy’s warbler and Broad-tailed hummingbird, which are species on the Utah Partners in Flight Priority Species.

GRAND GULCH *			
Grand Gulch and Tributaries in Instant Study Area			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Recreation • Wildlife • Historic • Cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional • National • Regional • National • National 	Wild

* Grand Gulch Instant Study Area and ACEC, and within Cedar Mesa SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Scenic** – VRM Class 1 with Class A scenic quality. Grand Gulch is a steep walled, meandering canyon with walls up to 800 feet high, pinnacles, rock outcrops, alcoves, benches, spires, pour offs, and rincons. The colorful Cedar Mesa Sandstone walls, combined with one of the most important prehistoric archeological localities in the world, mark the canyon bottoms and are associated with the canyon’s water sources. Spring and fall seasons offer the visual treat of snow and ice on rims and canyon floors. As the snow melts, small waterfalls, and swiftly running water throughout the canyon offer an outstanding visual contrast with the diverse vegetation and red rock walls outlining alcoves filled with prehistoric cultural sites.
- **Recreation** – Outstanding opportunities for both solitude and unconfined recreation attract the visitor to a diversity of natural, historical, geological, and cultural features in conjunction with the Grand Gulch watershed. Uses include back packing, day hiking, horseback riding, photography, wildlife viewing, orienteering and canyoneering, and viewing of prehistoric archeological sites. Scientific research is ongoing and includes archeological site documentation, wildlife observations, geological surveys, and plant studies. Numerous guidebooks have been written on the recreational opportunities in Grand Gulch.

Access to Grand Gulch is limited to four main trailhead entries at the top of the tributary canyons, or by traveling upstream through the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area via boat on the San Juan River. Due to the increasing popularity of Grand Gulch and its tributaries, there is an allocated visitor permit system currently in place limiting the number of backpackers at any one time. Stock is allowed but on a limited basis.

Hiking and Archeology – The combination of backpacking and exploring within the proximity of a large number of prehistoric archeological sites is a rare and unique opportunity found in few areas, and attracts visitors from the world over.

- **Wildlife** - Grand Gulch is within designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. Surveys have been conducted in this canyon and there have been owls using the area. The habitat in this canyon is also critical for peregrine falcon and other raptors, as well as neo-tropical birds.
- **Historic** – The Grand Gulch has national historic significance as the location where Richard Wetherill was finally able to demonstrate that a cultural group he identified as the Basketmakers predated the prehistoric Pueblo people. This concept has become a basic underpinning of Southwestern Archeology, and is one of the significant discoveries in North American Archeology.
- **Cultural** – Recent research has demonstrated that Grand Gulch has been occupied for over 7,000 years. Most of the occupation has taken place in the large, dry alcoves found there, but some sites are also located on the benches at the bottom of the Gulch. Grand Gulch has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of the importance of the archeological sites found there, and their role in the history of North American Archeology. The best known cultural remains are prehistoric Puebloan habitation, but the older Basketmaker sites and the numerous rock art sites may have more scientific importance.

SLICKHORN CANYON *			
Source to Glen Canyon National Recreation Area			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values – ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Recreation • Wildlife • Cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional 	Wild

* Within Grand Gulch Instant Study Area and ACEC, and within Cedar Mesa SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Scenic** – Slickhorn Canyon has unobstructed and expansive views including 600 foot vertical cliff walls, rimrock, outcrops, spires, a visual contrast from soil and rock color, and alcoves containing key archeological sites, which can be viewed from within the canyon bottom. Canyon water flows over pour offs into deep pools and eventually drains into the San Juan River on National Park Service lands at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

- **Recreation** – The popularity of Slickhorn Canyon created a need for an allocated permit system, which is in place, allowing a limited number of backpackers at any one time. Day hiking, backpacking, canyoneering, photography, wildlife observation, natural history, and historical and cultural site exploration amongst the colorful sandstone walls, makes the canyon a popular destination for primitive and unconfined recreation. Access is from six side canyons and by floating the San Juan River and hiking upstream. Visitors from around the globe are attracted to this area.

- **Wildlife** – Grand Gulch is within designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl. Surveys have been conducted in this canyon and there have been owls using the area. The habitat in this canyon is also critical for peregrine falcon and other raptors, as well as neo-tropical birds.

- **Cultural** – The cultural resources located here are well preserved prehistoric occupations, special activity locations, and rock art. They are usually located in alcoves, but are sometimes found on the benches along the bottom of the canyon. They are of regional significance because of the scientific information they contain, the fact that they are well preserved, and for their recreational attraction.

LIME CREEK – EAST AND WEST FORKS *			
Sources East and West forks to confluence with main stream to mouth			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values - ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreation • Cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional • Regional 	Scenic

* Within Road Canyon Wilderness Study Area, Cedar Mesa ACEC, and Grand Gulch SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Recreation** – The undeveloped Lime Creek offers scenic beauty and diversity of view due to the expansive and contrasting colors seen from the canyon floor. The colorful reds and browns of the sandstone walls, the diverse vegetation and the viewing of cultural sites associated with the intermittent water flow, creates a destination for backpackers and day hikers from the world over. Lime Creek offers visitors with opportunities to hike or make use of pack stock through a roadless, primitive, rugged Road Canyon Wilderness Study Area. The allocated permit system, which is in place to limit back country overnight use, provides commercial outfitters, educational organizations, and private parties the opportunity for solitude and unconfined recreation in one of the areas’ most dramatic canyon systems.

- **Cultural** – The cultural resources located here are well preserved prehistoric occupations, special activity locations, and rock art. They are usually located in alcoves, but are sometimes found on the benches along the bottom of the canyon. They are of regional significance because of scientific information they contain, the fact that they are well preserved, and for their recreational attraction.

COMB WASH *			
Source to Mouth			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values – ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
24	• Cultural	• National	Recreational

* Within Cedar Mesa ACEC, and Grand Gulch SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Cultural** – There are strong associations between the archeological sites in parts of Comb Wash and the well-known Chaco Culture of Northwestern New Mexico. The kinds of prehistoric sites found around Chaco, including great houses, great kivas, and prehistoric roads, are also found along Comb Wash. Regionally, this is significant because the Comb Wash sites may be the best evidence available for long distance connections with Chaco Canyon.

MULE CANYON *			
North and South forks to east of County Road 263 and north of State Road 95			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values – ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
10	• Recreation • Cultural	• Regional • Regional	Recreational

* Mule Canyon Wilderness Study Area , Cedar Mesa ACEC, and Grand Gulch SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Recreation** – Mule Canyon is renowned for its outstanding canyon features and opportunities for historical and cultural site exploration associated with its watershed. Springs and large pools of water with 500 foot sheer vertical sandstone cliff walls, lush vegetation in the upper wetter reaches, combined with the large number of prehistoric archeological sites, create an ideal setting for outstanding opportunities for primitive and unconfined recreation.

The undeveloped, roadless, primitive canyon is limited to foot travel only and is accessible year round by two trailhead locations. The canyon offers visitor opportunities for hiking, camping, photography, wildlife viewing, studying natural history, and viewing prehistoric archeological sites. Due to the high use

demand, there is an allocated permit system in place, which limits backcountry, overnight use, thereby providing the visitor with solitude and more of a wilderness experience.

- **Cultural** – The cultural resources located here are well preserved prehistoric occupations, special activity locations, and rock art. They are usually located in alcoves, but are sometimes found on the benches along the bottom of the canyon. They are of regional significance because of the scientific information they contain, the fact that they are well preserved, and for their recreation attraction.

ARCH CANYON *			
Forest Boundary to Mouth			
Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values – ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish • Recreation • Wildlife • Cultural • Ecological 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional • Regional 	Recreational

* Within Cedar Mesa ACEC, and Grand Gulch SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Fish** – Arch Canyon contains aquatic habitat for the Bluehead sucker, Flannelmouth sucker, and Speckled dace. The first two species are listed as Species of Special Concern (any wildlife species or subspecies that has experienced a substantial decrease in population, distribution and/or habitat availability) for the state of Utah.
- **Recreation** – The intermittent flowing water in the 8-mile stretch of Arch Canyon with its red rock walls, arches, pinnacles, rock outcrops, alcoves and numerous prehistoric ruins and rock art, is a popular recreation destination. The VRM Class II with Class A scenic quality, the steep walled, meandering canyons with a variety of vegetation types attract 3,000 – 5,000 visitors annually for horseback riding, hiking, primitive camping, and OHV use. The non-allocated Arch Canyon is also popular with commercial, educational, research groups, and private parties.

- **Wildlife** – Arch Canyon provides habitat to several wildlife species. There is designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owls in the upper reaches of the canyon. Through surveys, it has been determined that owls use this canyon for forage while nesting in nearby canyons. There is also potential habitat for the Southwestern willow flycatcher.
- **Cultural** – The cultural resources located here are well preserved prehistoric occupations, special activity locations, and rock art. They are usually located in alcoves, but are sometimes found on the benches along the bottom of the canyon. They are of regional significance because of the scientific information they contain, the fact that they are well preserved, and for their recreational attraction.
- **Ecological** – Unique, rich riparian vegetation. Unique for this area are grasses and shrubs, usually common to the mid-western United States, which appear along the creek. Important for fish and wildlife species.

**FISH CREEK CANYON and its Tributaries of
OWL CREEK CANYON and McLEOD CANYON***

Fish and Owl: Source to Mouths, and Lower 5 miles of McLeod

Length In Miles	Outstandingly Remarkable Values -ORVs	Level of Significance	Tentative Classification
30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenic • Recreation • Wildlife • Cultural 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional • National • Regional • Regional 	Wild

* Fish Creek Canyon Wilderness Study Area, Cedar Mesa ACEC, and Grand Gulch SRMA

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs):

- **Scenic** – Fish Creek Canyon Wilderness Study Area is a VRM Class II with Class A scenic quality. Fish Creek is roadless, primitive and undeveloped. The unobstructed and expansive diversity of views including the 600 foot high Cedar Mesa Sandstone walls, rim rock, outcrops, spires, pour offs, diverse vegetation, and deep springs with hanging gardens containing the threatened, endangered and sensitive species Kachina Daisy, pools, and flowing water creating good habitat for dace and killifish, are superb.

Owl Creek's high rugged, serpentine, colorful sandstone canyon walls viewed against the diverse vegetation, large springs, hanging gardens, and deep pools of water, create spectacular scenery. The large Nevells' Arch protruding high on the canyon wall, and prehistoric archeological sites viewed from the canyon bottom, add to the outstanding scenic value.

The prehistoric archeological sites associated with the permanent and intermittent flowing water in the canyon bottom, and the large water filled potholes on the canyon rim, add to Fish Creek Canyon's exceptional beauty

- **Recreation** – The ruggedly remote, roadless, primitive Fish Creek Canyon is world renowned for its solitude and opportunities for unconfined recreation. The canyon offers year round visitors the opportunity to hike, camp, and horseback ride through one of Cedar Mesa's most impressive canyons. Fish Creek's high diversity of features including but not limited to outstanding natural history, geological interest, wildlife observations, year round flowing water and large pools, along with historical and cultural site exploration, are key values that attract the recreational user.

The Wilderness Study Area access is limited to foot travel from two trailhead entries, and to limited horse travel from the mouth to the mid reaches of the canyon. Due to high demand, there is an allocated permit system in place, which limits backcountry overnight use, thereby providing the visitor with more of a wilderness experience.

- **Wildlife** – Fish Creek, Owl Creek, and McLoed Canyon all provide excellent habitat for several wildlife species. These canyons provide prime breeding habitat for Mexican spotted owl and potential habitat for Southwestern willow flycatcher. Peregrine falcons are known to nest in these canyons and black bear are commonly seen throughout the area. These canyons also provide habitat for migratory neo-tropical birds.
- **Cultural** – The cultural resources located here are well preserved prehistoric occupations, special activity locations, and rock art. They are usually located in alcoves, but are sometimes found on the benches along the bottom of the canyon. They are of regional significance because of the scientific information they contain, the fact that they are well preserved, and for their recreations attraction.

5.1 Summary

The BLM Monticello Field Office Interdisciplinary Team has established preliminary wild and scenic river eligibility determinations for 16 river/segments. The 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 outstandingly remarkable value of regional and/or national significance (rare, unique and/or exemplary) within a ¼ mile reach of the high water mark. As indicated on Table 3.7 and 5.0, sixteen river(s)/ segments were so determined.

This document presents the results of the wild and scenic river determination preliminary process, and is currently being distributed to all interested parties for review, recommendations for additional river(s)/segments to be considered as eligible, as well as a request for comments on all river/segments presented.

Following the comment period, (August and September, 2003), input will be reviewed, evaluated, and considered for incorporation into the Final Eligibility document. Final Eligibility Determination of Wild and Scenic Rivers for the BLM Monticello Field Office area will become the basis for the second phase of this process, suitability determination.

As directed by the State of Utah, the suitability phase 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 EIS process. (See Appendix 7.5, Suitability)

5.2 List of Interdisciplinary Team Members

Scott Berkenfield	Supv. Recreation Planner	Co-Lead WSR, Scenic, Recreation
Todd Berkenfield	WSR Specialist	Co-Lead WSR
Andy Boone	GIS Specialist	Recreation, Maps
Rick Boretti	San Juan River Ranger	Recreation, Wildlife/Birds
Paul Curtis	Range	Ecology, Riparian
Dale Davidson	Archeologist	Historic, Cultural
Ted McDougall	Solid Minerals	Geology
Maxine Deeter	Realty, VRM	Scenic, Lands
Scott Edwards	Kane Gulch Ranger	Scenic, Recreation
Laura Edwards	Kane Gulch Ranger	Scenic, Recreation
Linda Richmond	San Juan River Ranger	Scenic, Recreation
Nick Sandberg	Assistant Field Manager	Historic WSR Process
Nancy Shearin	Archeologist	Historic, Cultural
Gary Torres	NEPA Planner	NEPA
Tammy Wallace	Wildlife Biologist	Fish, Wildlife

6.0 Interface with Agencies with Contiguous Boundaries

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

6.1 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 drains into 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
- Notch Canyon - does not flow as named on BLM lands
- Posey Canyon - does not flow as named on BLM lands
- 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, determined eligible by Monticello FO ID Team evaluation
- Upper Dark Canyon - does not flow as named on BLM lands
- *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 wild and scenic river eligibility process.

The ORVs and Tentative Classification of river(s)/segments in different jurisdictions can be the same or different. Similar characteristics may result in the same or different evaluations; likewise, differing characteristics based on change in terrain, altitude and, therefore, ecological basis, may result in the same or differing evaluations. The LaSal National Forest is a forest terrain; the BLM lands are primarily desert, semi-desert. An interface comparison of ORVs and Tentative Classifications is outlined in the table below.

Table 4: Eligible Wild and Scenic River/Segments Contiguous Boundaries, Manti-LaSal National Forest and BLM Monticello Field Office

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

See following page for maps.

6.2 Moab Field office – BLM

The Preliminary Determination of Eligible Rivers on Lands Administered by the Moab BLM Field Office (as of June 12, 2003) lists 22 drainages with 44 river(s)/segments identified. Of these, the Colorado River, from private property near the Potash plant to Canyonlands NP, is the only segment that is contiguous with the Monticello FO administered area. In fact, this 13 mile segment of the Colorado is administered by both Field Offices, 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 are noted in the table below.

Table 5: Eligible Wild and Scenic River/Segment Contiguous Boundary, BLM Moab and Monticello Field Offices

River - Drainage Name	Outstandingly Remarkable Values		Tentative Classification	
	BLM Moab Field Office	BLM Monticello FO	BLM Moab Field Office	BLM Monticello FO
<u>Colorado River</u> – Potash to Canyonlands NP - Moab	Scenic Recreation Fish Wildlife Geologic Cultural Ecological		WILD	
<u>Colorado River</u> – State lands to Canyonlands NP /- Monticello		Fish Recreation Wildlife Cultural Ecological		WILD

See following page for map.

6.3 National Park Service

The BLM Monticello Field Office has entered into discussion with the National Park Service's Colorado River Coordinator concerning the river(s)/segments contiguous to both agency jurisdictions. During the comment period on this preliminary document, work will be on-going to establish possible river recommendations from the following National Park Service units.

- 6.3.1 Canyonlands National Park
- 6.3.2 Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
- 6.3.3 Howenweep National Monument
- 6.3.4 Natural Bridges National Monument

6.4 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 over the South side of the San Juan River as it runs through the Monticello Field Office area (on the east from the town of Montezuma Creek to the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area boundary on the west).

7.0 Appendices

7.1 TABLE WS (See end of document)

San Juan Resource Area, Eligibility Assessment and Classification of Drainages as the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, April 1992

7.2 MAPS (See end of document)

- Monticello Field Office,
- Region of Comparison: Composite Map of Sections and Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)

Maps of Eligible River(s)/Segments

- Colorado River
- White Canyon
- Indian Creek
- Fable Valley
- Dark Canyon
- San Juan River
- Grand Gulch and Slickhorn Canyon
- Arch Canyon, Fish Creek Canyon, Owl Creek Canyon, McLeod Canyon, Mule Canyon, Lime Creek, Comb Wash

7.3 AGENCIES/GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATING IN ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION REVIEW

San Juan County:

Commissioners
Public Lands Council

Native American Tribes

Bureau of Land Management:

State Office – Salt Lake City
Moab Field Office
Monticello Field Office
Price Field Office
Vernal Field Office

National Park Service:

Colorado River Coordinator
Canyonlands National Park
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
Howenweep National Monument
Natural Bridges National Monument

US Forest Service:

Manti-LaSal National Forest

7.4 TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION TABLE

Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Areas

River / Segment:

ATTRIBUTE	WILD	Y / N	SCENIC	Y / N	RECREATIONAL	Y / N
Water Resource Development	Free of Impoundment		Free of Impoundment		Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.	
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity. The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable. A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. Little or no evidence or past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.		Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable. The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable. Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.		Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable. Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.	
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail. No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area is acceptable.		Accessible in places by road. Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches on inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.		Readily accessible by road or railroad. The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.	
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds Federal criteria or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except where exceeded by natural conditions.		No criteria by WSRA. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the US be made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from Scenic or Recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.		Ditto - Scenic	

7.5 SUITABILITY GUIDELINES

Wild and Scenic River Review in the State of Utah, July 1996, p. 23

The suitability phase of the (WSR) study evaluates whether designation into the national system would be the best way to manage eligible rivers. As directed by the (WSR) Act, federal guidelines, and agency policy manuals, the following items should be addressed while considering whether a river is suitable for inclusion in the national system.

- Characteristics which or do not make the area a worthy addition to the national system
- Landownership and current uses
- Resources and uses enhanced, curtailed and foreclosed
- Existing resource protection
- Other federal agency, local, tribal and state government, and general public support for acting to protect and manage the river
- Alternatives and impacts (on resources, uses, valid existing rights, etc.)
- Manageability to protect outstandingly remarkable values
- Feasibility and timeliness of designation
- Costs required for land/easement acquisition and corridor management
- Extent to which administration costs will be shared by local and state governments
- Other issues identified in the planning process

8.0 References

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