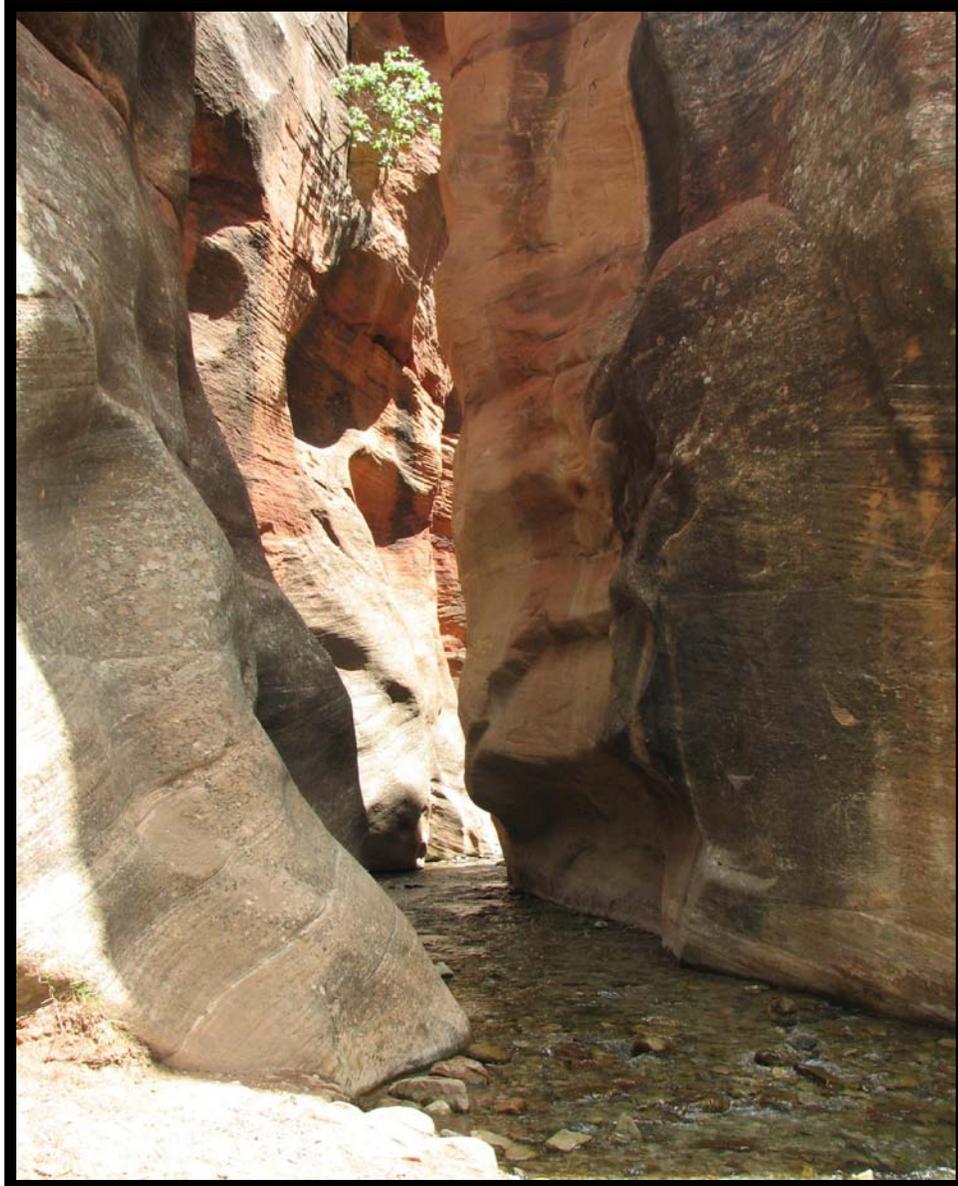


**DRAFT EVALUATION REPORT
Wild and Scenic River Eligibility
Cedar City Resource Management Plan**



**Cedar City Field Office
Bureau of Land Management
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EVALUATION REPORT— WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY—CEDAR CITY RMP

This report documents the process used to evaluate the rivers, streams, and creeks of the Cedar City Field Office to determine their eligibility for Congressional designation into the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS). This review is in conjunction with developing the Cedar City Resource Management Plan (RMP). This report also documents preliminary findings of eligibility. These preliminary findings will be made available for public review and comment before final findings of eligibility are made.

The BLM determined that 9 river segments (14 river miles) crossing public lands managed by the Cedar City Field Office are free-flowing and possess one or more Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), making them eligible for further consideration in the Cedar City RMP for their suitability for Congressional designation into the NWSRS.

BACKGROUND

The NWSRS was created by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (the Act), which states:

It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreation, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Section 5(d)(1) of the Act directs the BLM and other federal agencies to consider the potential for national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas during planning.

PROCESS OVERVIEW

Only Congress or the Secretary of Interior upon request of a state can add rivers to the NWSRS. The role of Federal land management agencies is to review rivers under their jurisdictions to determine their eligibility, tentative classification, and suitability for Congressional designation. "River" means a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.

BLM is addressing this task as part of its resource management planning. The Cedar City RMP Interdisciplinary Team reviewed and evaluated potential wild and scenic rivers as described below.

- Reviewed drainages and identified those with potential ORVs.
- Evaluated the ORVs and determined a preliminary list of eligible rivers.
- Tentatively classified the eligible rivers as wild, scenic or recreational.

Tasks remaining include:

- Determining final eligibility. The BLM interdisciplinary team will review public comments received on the preliminary findings of eligibility and make a final determination of eligible river segments.
- Determining suitability. All eligible rivers will be carried into the Draft Cedar City EIS/RMP for further consideration as to their suitability. A decision as to the suitability of each eligible river segment will be made in the RMP Record of Decision (ROD).

The evaluation process that was used to determine eligibility is explained in more detail below.

IDENTIFICATION OF POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE RIVERS

The evaluation process began with the solicitation of public nominations for eligible rivers. During that process, two nominations were received; Spring Creek and Kanarra Creek. In order to determine what other streams and rivers to evaluate, the Cedar City Field Office reviewed its local stream inventory together with the National Hydrologic Dataset (NHD). Ephemeral reaches were not considered in this process per Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2004-196. There are no rivers in the Cedar City Field office found in the National River Inventory. (See <http://www.nps.gov/ncrc/programs/rtca/nri/index.html>).

The resulting dataset was reviewed to determine if the streams/rivers were (1) free-flowing and (2) contained any potential ORVs as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Free-flowing means "...existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modifications of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the national wild and scenic river system shall not bar its consideration for such inclusion...(Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Section 16[b])". It was found that the Cedar City Field Office contains 9 free-flowing river segments. Of these, 9 river segments were identified as both free-flowing and possessing one or more ORV, making them eligible for Congressional designation.

EVALUATING OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly river-related. They should:

- Be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands, generally within 1/4 mile on either side of the river,
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem and/or owe their location or existence to the presence of the river,
- Be at least regionally significant, and
- Be examples of regionally exemplary rare and unique features.

Additional guidance for determining the outstandingly remarkable values was drawn from the *Wild and Scenic River Review in the State of Utah, Process and Criteria for Interagency Use*, July 1996, also known as the Utah Wild and Scenic River "Blue Book". The ORV standards taken from the Blue Book are shown in Attachment 1 of this document.

Interdisciplinary Team (ID Team) members and Cooperating Agencies relied on professional expertise, personal knowledge of the river segments and field visits to determine if values were outstandingly remarkable. The region of comparison varied depending on the ORV. The ID Team

included specialists in archeology, geology, forestry, wildlife biology, rangeland management, riparian resources, realty, wild horses, soil, water, air quality, planning and Geographic Information Systems. Cooperating agencies were also invited to participate in eligibility determinations with the ID Team. The ID Team considered each free-flowing segment. The team determined that 9 river segments were preliminarily eligible for Congressional designation as wild and scenic rivers.

TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION

The Wild and Scenic River Act identifies three classes of rivers:

Wild Rivers - Wild river areas are those rivers or sections of river that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America. Wild means undeveloped; roads, dams, or diversion works are generally absent within a quarter mile corridor on both sides of the river.

Scenic Rivers - Scenic river areas are those rivers or sections of river that are generally free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads. Scenic does not necessarily mean the river corridor has scenery as an outstandingly remarkable value, however it means the river segment may contain more development (except for major dams or diversion works) than a wild segment and less development than a recreational segment. For example, roads may cross the river in places but generally do not run parallel to it. In certain cases, however, if a parallel road is unpaved and well screened from the river by vegetation, it could qualify for scenic river area classification.

Recreational Rivers - Recreational river areas are those rivers or sections of river that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. Parallel roads or railroads, existence of small dams or diversions can be allowed in this classification. A recreational river area classification does not imply that the river will be managed or prioritized for recreational use or development.

Each of the 9 eligible river segments was assigned a tentative classification based on the amount of development in the river corridor and its accessibility. The classifications can be changed in the RMP alternatives and by Congress if and when it adds these river segments to the NWSRS.

MANAGING ELIGIBLE RIVERS

This report will be available for a 30-day public and cooperating agency comment period. Following a review of public comments and discussions with cooperators, the Cedar City Field Office Manager will determine the final Wild and Scenic River eligibility list for river corridors crossing public lands within the Cedar City Field Office. Those river corridors will be managed to protect their ORVs and tentative classification until a suitability determination is made in the RMP. The management protection will recognize decisions in the existing land use plans and valid existing rights (including water rights), but will evaluate new proposals in light of the ORVs and tentative classification.

REACHING A DECISION ON SUITABILITY

Each identified river segment must be evaluated to determine whether or not it is *eligible* for inclusion as a component of the NWSRS. To be eligible, a river segment must be "free-flowing" and must possess at least one river-related value considered to be "outstandingly remarkable." No other factors are considered in determining the eligibility of a river segment. All other relevant factors are

considered in determining suitability. *Suitability* is the process of determining if eligible river segments should be recommended to Congress as additions to the NWSRS. Suitability will be addressed in the RMP alternatives and in the Suitability Appendix to the RMP. Each eligible river segment must be addressed as suitable with protective management in at least one alternative. Likewise, in at least one alternative, each eligible river segment must be addressed as not suitable and without protective management. Thus, the effects of managing or not managing the river segments in a protective manner and recommending or not recommending river segments to Congress for designation into the NWSRS will be disclosed in the environmental impact statement.

The decision on suitability will be a part of the Record of Decision (ROD) for the RMP. Following the signing of the ROD, river segments determined suitable will be managed to protect their ORVs and tentative classification until acted upon by Congress or reconsidered in a future RMP. Eligible river segment not found suitable will be managed according to the RMP.

RIVERS NOT CONSIDERED FURTHER

Most of the rivers found in lands managed by the Cedar City Field Office were not considered potentially eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS because they were ephemeral, were not free-flowing or did not contain ORVs. These rivers are listed in Attachment 2.

RIVERS FOUND TO BE POTENTIALLY ELIGIBLE

The following river segments were found to be potentially eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS. All of the segments were found to be free-flowing. A map of these segments can be seen in Attachment 3.

Segment Description	County	Drainage Type(1)	Evaluation Region	Potential ORVs	Tentative Classification
Birch Creek	Beaver	Perennial (portions are intermittent)	Southern Utah:	Fish: This creek contains a relic native population of Bonneville Cutthroat trout – a BLM and State of Utah sensitive species that is covered under a Conservation Agreement. This is also an isolated population, which may contain important genetic information for this species.	Recreation
Braffits Creek	Iron	Perennial	SW Utah	Cultural: Petroglyphs and historic inscriptions are found adjacent to the creek.	Recreation

Segment Description	County	Drainage Type(1)	Evaluation Region	Potential ORVs	Tentative Classification
Duncan Creek	Iron	Perennial	SW Utah	Wildlife: The drainage contains habitat for the southwestern willow flycatcher, listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.	Recreation
Kanarra Creek – East of State Section	Iron	Perennial	SW Utah	Recreation: The canyon is heavily used by groups and individuals for hiking. Scenic: This segment is a beautiful narrow canyon with waterfalls. Wildlife: The segment contains critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, a federally threatened species.	Wild
Kanarra Creek – West of State Section	Iron	Perennial	SW Utah	Recreation: This segment is heavily used for picnicking and hiking.	Recreation
Little Creek	Iron	Perennial	SW Utah	Cultural: the congressionally designated Old Spanish National Historic Trail and historic swales are located next to Little Creek. Fish: Bonneville cutthroat habitat – a state sensitive species.	Recreation
Little Pinto Creek	Iron	Perennial		Wildlife: The drainage contains southwestern willow flycatcher, listed as Endangered under the Endangered Species Act.	Recreation

Segment Description	County	Drainage Type(1)	Evaluation Region	Potential ORVs	Tentative Classification
Sand Cliff Spring			Southern Utah	Cultural: Historic pioneer inscriptions are found near the spring. This site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places	Recreation
Spring Creek – Upstream from State Section	Iron	Intermittent	SW Utah	Recreation: This segment is a popular slot canyon. Scenic: This is a beautiful slot canyon. Wildlife: The segment contains critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, a federally threatened species. It is within the Protected Activity Center (PAC) for a breeding pair.	Wild

- (1) Perennial— A stream that flows continuously. Perennial streams are generally associated with a water table in the localities through which they flow.
Intermittent— a stream that flows only at certain times of the year when it receives water from springs or from some surface source such as melting snow in mountainous areas.
Ephemeral— a stream that flows only in direct response to precipitation, and whose channel is above the water table at all times.

ATTACHMENT 1

Outstandingly Remarkable Value Standards¹

The BLM and Forest Service manuals include verbal descriptions of the nature of outstandingly remarkable values. These descriptions are meant to indicate minimum thresholds for Outstandingly Remarkable Values and are meant to be illustrative, not definitive or all-inclusive.

Scenic: The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions within the region. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed may be considered. Scenery or visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment. Existing agency procedures for evaluating scenery may be used to identify rivers with outstandingly remarkable values.

Recreational: Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, unique enough to attract visitors from outside of the geographic region. Visitors would be willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating. Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from outside the geographic region. The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events. Consider evaluating specific, high-use recreation activities (e.g., whitewater boating) separately.

Geologic: The river corridor contains an example of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is rare or unique to the geographic region, or an outstanding example of a commonly occurring feature. The feature may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example and/or represent a rare or unique combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, etc.).

Fish: Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of fish populations, habitat, Native American cultural use, or a combination of these factors. Consideration shall be given to potential as well as existing values.

- **Populations:** The river is internationally, nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks or rare species (Federally-listed, state-listed or candidate threatened or endangered species). Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.
- **Habitat:** The river produces exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks or rare species (Federally-listed, state-listed or candidate threatened or endangered species). Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

¹ from the Wild and Scenic River Review in the State of Utah, Process and Criteria for Interagency Use, July 1996, frequently referred to as the Wild and Scenic Rivers "Blue Book"

Wildlife: Wildlife values shall be judged on the relative merits of populations, habitat, Native American cultural use, or a combination of these factors.

- **Populations:** The river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique or rare species (Federally-listed, state-listed or candidate threatened or endangered species). Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.
- **Habitat:** The river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for rare species (Federally-listed, state-listed or candidate threatened or endangered species). Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

Historic: The river corridor contains a site or feature associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare, unusual or unique in the region. An historic site and/or feature in most cases is 50 years or older. Of particular significance are National Historic Landmarks, or sites or features listed in, or eligible for inclusion on, the National Register of Historic Places.

Cultural: The river corridor contains a site where there is evidence of occupation or use by American Indians. Sites must have unusual characteristics or exceptional human interest values. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare or represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups; or may have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes. Of particular significance are sites or features listed in, or eligible for inclusion on, the National Register of Historic Places.

Ecologic: The river corridor constitutes an important element of a regional plan to conserve biological diversity or other specific ecologic resources. Examples of important elements include rare communities or ecosystems, watersheds with special values or that are the focus of special management, essential corridors for species migration and genetic interactions, and other values of importance.

ATTACHMENT 2

Ineligible Segments

The following rivers were considered as potentially eligible in the initial review of the decision area. However, they were not considered further for the reasons shown below.

Name	Not Free Flowing	No ORVs
Atchison Creek		X
Atchison Creek I		X
Atchison Creek II		X
Atchison Creek Lower Exclosure		X
Baffits Creek		X
Bailer Station Spring, exclosure		X
Bailey Spring		X
Bailey Spring Creek		X
Bailey Spring, Upper		X
Bear Creek		X
Bear Creek Middle		X
Bearskin Creek		X
Beaver River		X
Beaver River I		X
Beaver River II		X
Beaver River III		X
Benson Creek		X
Bettie Spring Creek		X
Big Maple Spring		X
Big Twist Creek		X
Blackner Spring Creek		X
Blawn Wash		X
Blue Star Mine Spring		X
Bluebell Spring		X
Bob Leroy Spring		X
Bone Hollow Spring I		X
Bone Hollow Spring II		X
Boulder/Granite Rock Spring		X
Bowery Creek		X
Brush Patch Seep		X
Brush Spring Creek		X
Bull Spring		X

Name	Not Free Flowing	No ORVs
Bull Spring Wash		X
Bumblebee Seep		X
Burnt Spring		X
Cabbage Valley		X
Center Creek		X
Cherry Creek		X
Chokecherry Spring Creek		X
Coal Creek		X
Coal Creek Nichols I		X
Coal Creek Nichols II		X
Coal Creek Nichols III		X
Commissary Creek I		X
Commissary Creek II		X
Cottonwood Canyon		X
Cottonwood Canyon Spring 2		X
Cottonwood Canyon Spring 4		X
Cottonwood Creek BH I		X
Cottonwood Creek BH II		X
Cottonwood Creek I SPV		X
Cottonwood Creek NPV		X
Cottonwood Creek P. Cattle I		X
Cottonwood Seep		X
Cottonwood Seep I SPV		X
Cottonwood Spring		X
Cottonwood Wash MH		X
Creole Mine Ponds I		X
Creole Mine Ponds II		X
Decker Spring		X
Deer Creek		X
Deer Spring		X
Douglas Spring	X	
Dry Canyon Creek I		X
Dry Canyon Creek II		X
Dry Lakes Creek		X
East Fork Braffits Creek		X
Ellies Canyon		X
Fiddlers Creek		X
Fiddlers Creek 2		X

Name	Not Free Flowing	No ORVs
Forgotten Spring		X
Gold Spring Wash I		X
Gold Spring Wash II		X
Granite Spring		X
Guyo Spring		X
Hicks Creek		X
Hicks Creek, Lower		X
Hicks Creek, Upper		X
Hidden Spring HS		X
High Rock Spring		X
Holtz Creek		X
Indian Creek		X
Indian Creek PCIC		X
Irrigation Canal	X	
Jackrabbit Spring, Lower II		X
Jackson Wash		X
Jackson Wash I		X
Johnny Canyon		X
Johnny Canyon Creek		X
Jumbo Mine Spring		X
Kane Spring Creek		X
Kane Spring LS		X
Kane Spring Wash		X
Last Chance Canal I		X
Last Chance Canal II		X
Last Chance Spring		X
Levee01	X	
Levee02	X	
Limestone Spring Creek I		X
Limestone Spring Creek II		X
Limestone Spring Creek III		X
Lincoln Gulch		X
Little North Creek		X
Mackleprang Spring, West Fork		X
Maple Canyon		X
Maple Spring		X
Maple Spring NH		X

Name	Not Free Flowing	No ORVs
Meadow Spring Creek		X
Meadow Spring Creek II		X
Meadow Spring MS		X
Mineral Creek		X
Mineral Creek Seep		X
Modena Canyon I		X
Modena Canyon II		X
Modena Canyon III		X
Mormon Gulch		X
Mountain Spring Creek I		X
Mountain Spring Creek II		X
Mullien Spring Creek		X
Murie Creek I		X
Murie Creek II		X
Nego Liza Wash III		X
Negro Liza Wash I		X
Negro Liza Wash II		X
Negro Liza Wash IV		X
Newell Spring Creek		X
North Fork North Creek		X
North Kane Spring		X
North Sulphur Complex		X
North Wildcat Creek		X
Paradise Spring		X
Parowan Creek		X
Parowan Creek I, Lower		X
Parowan Creek II, Upper		X
Parowan Creek III Lower		X
Pickering Creek		X
Pine Creek		X
Pine Grove		X
Pine Grove Creek I		X
Pine Grove Creek II		X
Pinto Creek		X
Pinto Spring Creek		X
Plunge Spring		X
Pollywog Spring		X
Porcupine Spring		X
Prout Wash		X
Quartz Creek I		X
Quartz Creek II		X

Name	Not Free Flowing	No ORVs
Quichapa Creek I		X
Quichapa Creek II		X
Ranch Canyon I, Right Fork		X
Ranch Canyon II, Right Fork		X
Ranch Canyon II, Right fork		X
Ranch Canyon III, Main Canyon		X
Ranch Canyon IV, Main Canyon		X
Red Creek I	X	
Red Creek, South Fork		X
Rice Canyon Creek		X
Rice Canyon Creek		X
Rice Canyon Creek I		X
Rice Canyon Creek II		X
Rice Canyon Creek III		X
Right Hand Canyon		X
Right Quichapa Canyon		X
Roadside Spring		X
Rock Corral North Fork		X
Rock Corral Stream I		X
Rock Corral Stream II		X
Rock Spring		X
Rosebud Spring		X
Salt Cabin Spring		X
Salt Cabin Wash		X
Sawmill Canyon		X
Sawmill Spring		X
Service Berry Spring		X
Serviceberry Spring		X
Shag Hollow II		X
Shag Hollow I		X
Shag Hollow South		X
Shearing Corral		X
Sheep Creek I		X
Sheep Creek II		X
Sheep Creek II- Out		X
Sheep Creek III		X
Shirts Creek		X

Name	Not Free Flowing	No ORVs
Shoal Creek		X
Shurtz Creek, Lower		X
Shurtz Creek, South Fork		X
Shurtz Creek, Upper		X
South Creek		X
South Creek I		X
South Creek II		X
South Fork North Creek		X
South Spring Creek I		X
South Spring Creek II		X
South Spring Creek III		X
South Spring Creek IV		X
Spring Branch Canyon		X
Spring Creek I, Lower		X
Squaw Hollow		X
Stringies Canyon		X
Summit Creek		X
Summit Creek I		X
Summit Creek II		X
Talus Spring		X
The Big Wash		X
The Seeps		X
The Seeps M#1		X
Tilly Creek	X	
Trail Draw		X
Trough Spring		X
Trough Spring I, Upper		X
Un-named Spring		X
Unnamed Creek		X
Unnamed Spring A - EM		X
Unnamed02		X
Unnamed03		X
Unnamed04		X
Unnamed05		X
Unnamed06		X
Unnamed07		X
Unnamed08		X
Upper Beaver River, above diversion		X
Upper Beaver River, below diversion		X

Name	Not Free Flowing	No ORVs
Upper Desert Spring I		X
Upper Indian Springs		X
Wallow Spring		X
Water Canyon		X
Webb Canyon		X
West Park Spring		X
West Spring Creek I		X
West Spring Creek II		X
Wildcat Creek		X
Willow Creek		X
Willow Creek I		X
Willow Creek II		X
Willow Creek Spring		X
Wilson Canyon		X
Wycroft Spring		X
Yellow Mountain Spring		X

ATTACHMENT 3

Maps of Eligible Segments

1. All Segments
2. Birch Creek
3. Braffits Creek
4. Duncan Creek
5. Kanarra Creek East
6. Kanarra Creek West
7. Little Creek
8. Little Pinto Creek
9. Sand Cliff Springs
10. Spring Creek

