



USDA Forest Service
Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

Wild and Scenic River Inventory and Evaluation Process UPDATE

Updated March 20, 2006

The LAW ~

The 1968 *Wild and Scenic Rivers Act* provides specific direction in Section 5(d)(1) regarding the identification of potential wild and scenic rivers in federal agency planning processes:

“In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas, and all river basin and project plan reports submitted to the Congress shall consider and discuss any such potentials.”

The LAWSUITS ~

Throughout the Forest Service, a number of initial forest plans were successfully appealed on the wild and scenic river assessment process. The principal appeal issue related to the adequacy of the assessment. For example, were rivers assigned an appropriate management prescription? Many national forests agreed or were directed to conduct additional river studies as part of settlement agreements or forest plan appeal decisions, respectively.

The settlement direction from the appeal of the existing Blue Mountains forest plans is:

Malheur National Forest - “Appeal Remand”:

“...with respect to the eligibility of certain rivers, we direct the Regional Forester to document and discuss their eligibility review in accordance with Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12 Chapter 8, Section 8.14. We also direct the Regional Forester to review rivers for eligibility that have been identified in the Pacific Northwest Rivers Study.

“In regard to suitability, we direct the Regional Forester to protect eligible segments of the Middle Fork John Day, Murderer’s Creek, and Little Malheur River, pending a suitability analysis consistent with FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8, Section 8.23.”

Umatilla National Forest Settlement Agreement:

“...a schedule of 14 rivers, including the Tucannon River, identified to be studied for eligibility and, if eligibility is confirmed, for classification and suitability as Wild and Scenic Rivers.”

“...the forest recognizes that additional rivers currently in wilderness or in protected management areas are not excluded from eligibility but have lower priority.”

“...interim protection and management will be according to the Forest Plan and FSH 1909.12 Chapter 8, Section 8.2.”

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Settlement Agreement:

“...eligibility and suitability (if eligibility is confirmed) will be studied in the following priority by 9/94 [list of 4 rivers]; eligibility and suitability (if eligibility is confirmed) will be studied separately by 9/97 or as part of forest plan revision process [5 rivers listed here]; ...parties agree to defer to the Forest Plan Revision the study of [2 rivers]. “the parties acknowledge that the tentative eligibility of other wilderness rivers has not been fully analyzed as those rivers are also largely protected from change under current wilderness management practices. The parties recognize that other wilderness rivers are not excluded from eligibility; rather, the priority for study is lower. The streams will be considered for eligibility during Forest Plan Revision.”

The CRITERIA for ELIGIBILITY ~

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act specifies that in order to be eligible, a river must have two characteristics:

- (1) it must be free-flowing,
- (2) and it must possess one or more Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

These resource values include, but are not limited to the scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, and cultural values of the river and its corridor. River segments that are found eligible are classified as either 'Wild', 'Scenic', or 'Recreational', based on the level of development and access in the study corridor.

A finding that a river is eligible for designation does not lead to a determination of whether the river is an appropriate addition to the system. Instead, the eligibility determination simply determines whether the river should be carried into the suitability phase of the study.

Free Flowing Character - The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Section 15b) defines free flowing as: "... existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures ... shall not automatically bar its consideration for inclusion: Provided, that this shall not be construed to authorize, intend, or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the national wild and scenic rivers system."

Outstandingly Remarkable Values Criteria - The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and federal guidelines do not specify how this determination should be made; only that it should be based on professional judgment.

The Forest Service in the Pacific Northwest Region uses a standardized approach for both designated Wild and Scenic Rivers and rivers proposed for designation. Although the determination of value significance is a matter of informed professional judgment and interpretation, the standardized process used in Oregon and Washington includes the following steps or verification techniques:

- ~ The use of an interdisciplinary team approach
- ~ Consideration of uniqueness and rarity at a regional and national level
- ~ Values must be river-related in that they owe their existence or contribute to the functioning of the river system and its environment.
- ~ The use of qualitative guidelines to help determine significance

Resource specialists on the local ranger districts provided current information on river-related resources in the corridors. The resource value categories that have been considered include: Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Fisheries, Wildlife, Cultural (Historic and Prehistoric), Traditional Use/Cultural

The Process for Plan Revision ~

The process used to revise the Blue Mountains forest plans takes into account the rivers from previous study processes, and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as well as the Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12 Chapter 80). During the revision process interdisciplinary teams reviewed conditions of the rivers named in the settlement agreements and updated the eligibility information. The teams also applied eligibility criteria to all perennial streams on the three national forests. The revised forest plans, will have guidelines for interim protection of the outstandingly remarkable values until such time as an in depth suitability study can be completed.

Criteria Descriptions for Outstandingly Remarkable Rating -

Scenery

The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions within the geographic 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 and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment length and not common to other rivers in the geographic region.

Recreation

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 resource for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities would include, but not be limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observations, 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.

Geology

The river or the area within the study corridor contains example(s) of a geologic or hydrologic feature, process, or phenomena that is rare, unusual, one-of-a-kind, or unique to the geographic region. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a "textbook" example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic or hydrologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, and other geologic or hydrologic structures.)

Fisheries

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of fish populations, habitat, or Native American cultural use or, a combination of these river-related conditions. Considerations shall be given for 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 and/or federal- or state-listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

Habitat: The river provides or has the potential to provide exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federally- or state-listed or candidate threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

Wildlife

Wildlife values shall be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat or Native American cultural use or a combination of these conditions.

Populations: The river or area within the study corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique or populations of candidate or federally- or state-listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could in itself lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

Habitat: The river or area within the study 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 candidate or federally- or state-listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.

Traditional Use/Cultural Values

The river or area within the study corridor contains regionally unique location(s) of importance to Indian tribes (religious activities, fishing, hunting, and gathering). Locations may have unusual characteristics or exceptional cultural value being integral to continued pursuit of such activities. Locations may have been associated with treaty rights on ceded lands or activities unprotected by treaty on ceded lands or in traditional territories outside ceded lands.

Cultural

Of particular significance are sites or features listed or eligible for inclusion in National Register of Historic Places.

Historic: The river or area within the study corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare, unusual or one-of-a-kind in the region. A historic site(s) and/or feature(s) in most cases are 50 years old or older.

Prehistoric: The river or area within the study corridor contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare, one-of-a-kind, have unusual characteristics or exceptional human-interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and 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.

The CLASSIFICATION ~

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that eligible rivers be classified as one of the following:

- ~ **Wild river areas** - Those river 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.
- ~ **Scenic river areas** - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- ~ **Recreational river areas** - Those rivers or sections of rivers 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.

The appropriate classification will be assessed from the perspective of each attribute/topic defined below. Individual determinations will then be considered as a whole to determine classification as a Wild, Scenic, or Recreational River. This is then conducted using the framework suggested by the 1982 guidelines developed jointly by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior.

This framework is best displayed by the following table from the September 7, 1982 Federal Register, which published the *National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas*. Table 1 provides a summary of the more full narrative in the *Final Guidelines*. It is not intended to stand alone and is applied in classification process in the context of the full narrative material and in context with applicable wild and scenic rivers legislation.

Four Major Topics Addressed In the Classification Definitions Of Wild, Scenic, And Recreational Rivers			
Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
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 of 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 are 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 of 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 are acceptable.
Water Quality	Meets or exceed 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 prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States are 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.	

Some of the study rivers previously listed for the UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST were found to not meet the minimum eligibility criteria:

Clear Creek was not found to be free-flowing.

North Fork Umatilla River, South Fork Umatilla River, Shimmiehorn Creek, South Fork Cable Creek, North Fork Meacham Creek, and South Fork Walla Walla River were free-flowing but not found to have outstandingly remarkable values as defined by the criteria outlined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

These are not listed in the tables below.

UMATILLA NATIONAL FOREST
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES SUMMARY

River Name	Description of Segment	Potential Classification	Findings: Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Bear Creek	From the headwaters to confluence with Tucannon River	Wild - 3 miles	<u>FISHERIES</u> - Bear Creek contains native Chinook, bull trout and steelhead, which are federally listed as threatened under ESA. Bull trout populations in the Tucannon River are considered isolated and unique. Habitat is limited but pristine. <i>The assessment finds the fisheries habitat and populations to be outstandingly remarkable values.</i>
Butte Creek	From headwaters to confluence with the mainstem Wenaha River	Wild - 8 miles	<u>SCENERY</u> - The Wenaha River and surrounding Wenaha -Tucannon Wilderness, including Butte Creek, is recognized nationally for its scenic qualities. The mosaic of vegetation and stark ruggedness of the landscape contribute to an exceptional scenic quality. <i>Scenery qualifies as an outstandingly remarkable value.</i> <u>FISHERIES</u> - Butte Creek contains native Chinook, which have been identified as unique, bull trout and steelhead, which are also listed as threatened under ESA. Bull trout populations are considered as one of the healthiest in the Grande Ronde subbasin. The habitat is pristine. <i>The assessment finds the fisheries habitat and populations to be outstandingly remarkable values.</i>
Desolation Creek	The mainstem of Desolation Creek from the confluence of the north and south forks to the confluence with the North Fork John Day River.	Recreational - 21.5 miles (<u>RECREATION</u> - Combined amenities of a large big game population, good roaded access to trailhead locations, adjacency to large, remote backcountry areas and desirable campsites within the river corridor make this a desirable destination. <i>Conditions of the river-related setting make recreation an outstandingly remarkable value.</i> <u>BOTANICAL/ECOLOGICAL</u> - Regionally unique and rare plant species have been identified in Desolation Meadow. The stream corridor displays a broad range of botanic diversity due to its size and broad change in elevation. <i>The ecological diversity is exceptional and exhibits outstandingly remarkable values for botany and plant ecology.</i>
Granite Creek	From the confluence with Clear Creek to the confluence with North Fork John Day River	Recreational – 7.9	<u>FISHERIES</u> - Granite Creek supports four bull trout, steelhead, Chinook Salmon, and redband trout and is one of the few high quality spawning habitats for Chinook Salmon.). The fisheries resources are important to the health of the ecosystem and to bolster the populations of Chinook salmon within the John Day Basin. This stream is one of the few high quality spawning habitats for Chinook Salmon. <i>The assessment finds the fisheries habitat and populations to be outstandingly remarkable values.</i>
Lookingglass Creek	From the (unnamed tributary in section 3 near bald mountain lookout) to the Umatill National Forest Boundary.	Wild – 7 miles	<u>FISHERIES</u> - Lookingglass Creek contains wild stocks of three federally listed species, provides exceptionally high quality habitat for indigenous fish species, and is designated critical habitat for bull trout, the fisheries resource in Lookingglass. <i>The assessment finds the fisheries habitat and populations to be outstandingly remarkable values.</i> <u>HYDROLOGIC</u> - The impact that the springs near Summer Creek have on the water quantity and quality is rare in the Blue Mountains. The temperature and condition of the water that enters the stream course from this source provides the foundation for fisheries resources in the creek. Lookingglass Springs are visually impressive with the flow of the springs gushing from the bank and streambed growing forty-fold over a distance of a couple of hundred yards. <i>The hydrology of Lookingglass is an outstandingly remarkable value.</i>
North Fork Asotin	From the confluence with Cougar Creek to the mainstem Asotin Creek	Scenic - 18 miles	<u>FISHERIES</u> - Contains native Chinook, bull trout, and steelhead which are listed as threatened under ESA. Bull trout populations are considered isolated and unique. The habitat is pristine. <i>The assessment finds the fisheries habitat and populations to be outstandingly remarkable values.</i>

North Fork Desolation Creek	Headwaters to confluence with Main Desolation Creek	Scenic - 7 miles	<p><u>BOTANICAL/ECOLOGICAL</u> - Regionally unique and rare plant species have been identified in the meadows along the stream corridor which displays a broad range of botanic diversity due to its size and broad change in elevation.</p> <p><i>The ecological diversity is exceptional and exhibits outstandingly remarkable values for botany and plant ecology.</i></p>
North Fork Wenaha and South Fork Wenaha River	North Fork Wenaha from headwaters to confluence with mainstem Wenaha River, and South Fork Wenaha from headwaters to confluence with mainstem Wenaha River	Wild - 18 miles	<p><u>SCENERY</u> - The Wenaha River and surrounding Wenaha -Tucannon Wilderness is recognized nationally for its scenic qualities. The mosaic of vegetation and stark ruggedness of the landscape contribute to an exceptional scenic quality.</p> <p><i>Scenery qualifies as an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p><u>FISHERIES</u> - The Wenaha River system contains native Chinook, bull trout, and steelhead which are listed as threatened under Endangered Species Act (ESA). Bull trout populations are considered as one of the healthiest in the Grande Ronde subbasin. The habitat is pristine.</p> <p><i>The assessment finds the fisheries habitat and populations to be outstandingly remarkable values.</i></p> <p><u>BOTANICAL/ECOLOGICAL</u> - The large elevational range, little disturbance to bank vegetation, and presence of old growth habitat are special attributes. High likelihood of sensitive or threatened species located within the corridor.</p> <p><i>The area contains outstandingly remarkable botanic resources.</i></p>
Sheep Creek (In Washington)	Upstream from the confluence with Tucannon River	Recreation - ½ mile	<p><u>SCENERY</u> - Sheep Creek Falls is a scenic location that specifically attracts visitors to this area and has been long noted for its unusual vegetation. Flora accompanied by rock walls of overhanging moss and spring water creates an aesthetic environment and scenery within the corridor is special and is unique.</p> <p><i>Scenery qualifies as an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p><u>FISHERIES</u> - Sheep Creek contains native Chinook, bull trout, and steelhead, which are federally listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Bull trout populations in Tucannon River are considered isolated and unique. Habitat is limited but pristine</p> <p><i>The assessment finds the fisheries habitat and populations to be outstandingly remarkable values.</i></p> <p><u>BOTANICAL/ECOLOGICAL</u> - The plant communities are unusually diverse and represent some uncommon species. The Sheep Creek Falls refugia is the basis for a botanical special interest area in the Forest Plan and is a recreation attraction.</p> <p><i>The area contains outstandingly remarkable botanic resources.</i></p>
South Fork Desolation Creek	Headwaters to confluence with main Desolation Creek	Scenic - 9 miles	<p><u>FISHERIES</u> - Isolated fish populations in the upper portion have significance as a genetic resource and the lower portion provides spawning habitat for steelhead, Chinook, redband trout, and Columbia River bull trout. The diversity of habitat is unique to the region.</p> <p><i>The populations along with the habitat comprise an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.</i></p> <p><u>BOTANICAL/ECOLOGICAL</u> - Regionally unique and rare plant species have been identified in the high elevation meadows along the stream corridor. The stream corridor displays a broad range of botanic diversity due to the fire-dependant ecosystems.</p> <p><i>The ecological diversity is exceptional and exhibits outstandingly remarkable values for botany and plant ecology.</i></p>

<p>Tucannon River</p>	<p>From headwaters to Umatilla National Forest boundary at the Tucannon Guard Station.</p>	<p>Wild - 9.1 miles Scenic - 4.6 miles Recreation - 8.6 miles</p>	<p>RECREATION - Because of this river setting, most use originates outside the local area. The river-related environment is the focal attraction, particularly attractive to visitors seeking sightseeing, camping, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, hiking, and other outdoor activities in a natural appearing landscape. Camp Wooten instills a lifelong allegiance to the corridor for many youth. Potential interpretive opportunities are varied and could reach a wide audience. <i>Conditions of the river-related setting make recreation an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>FISHERIES - Each drainage has some distinct genetic traits. Endangered and sensitive listed fish are present and the complex habitat is exemplary. <i>The populations along with the habitat comprise an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.</i></p> <p>CULTURAL/HISTORIC - The Tucannon River corridor has a long history of settlement, resource use, and recreation and some historic evidence exists. Early maps show homesteads, a sawmill, schoolhouse, trail system, roads, telephone lines, camps, and a ranger station. Interpretation may enhance the value of recognized heritage resources. <i>The presence of old structures, along with the likelihood of other historic finds, make the historic resource an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>BOTANY/ECOLOGY - The general condition, health, and stability of the riparian vegetation is among the highest in the Blue Mountains. The plant community is unusually diverse representing some uncommon species. Sheep Creek Falls is the basis for a botanical special interest area. The complex riparian habitat is critical for survival of endangered and sensitive fish species. <i>The area contains outstandingly remarkable botanic resources.</i></p>
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WALLOWA-WHITMAN NATIONAL FOREST
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES SUMMARY

River Name	Description of Segment	Potential Classification	Findings: Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Big Sheep Creek	From the headwaters (and including) the North Fork, Middle Fork and South Fork to the Imnaha Wild and Scenic River boundary.	Wild - 9.5 miles Recreation - 38.5 miles	<p>RECREATION - The quality, variety, and year-round recreation opportunities available along middle and upper Big Sheep Creek make it a popular area with local and regional visitors. The stream corridor is an excellent area for viewing wildlife. <i>Conditions of the river-related setting make recreation an outstandingly remarkable value upstream from Carrol Creek.</i></p> <p>FISHERIES – Populations of Chinook salmon; steelhead; native rainbow trout; and established bull trout are present. Big Sheep Creek supports populations of fish species that are regionally and nationally important, and has a great potential for high-quality fisheries habitat for indigenous stocks. <i>The populations along with the habitat comprise an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.</i></p> <p>CULTURAL/PREHISTORIC – There are known sites that are either named to the National Register of Historic Places or are eligible and the stream corridor contains a unique concentration of prehistoric sites. <i>The presence of old structures and historical human interest make the historic resource an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p>
Dutch Flat/Van Patton Creek	From the Headwaters of Dutch Flat Creek to the forest boundary including Van Patton Creek from Van Patton Lake to its confluence with Dutch Flat Creek.	Wild - 9.1 miles	<p>SCENERY - Plant diversity, mountain meadows, and mountain vistas of rugged Elkhorn Ridge provide yearlong, high-quality scenic values in the stream corridor. Natural patterns created by topography and natural processes such as lightning fires, avalanches, and rock slides, dominate the landscape character. <i>The scenic diversity in landform, color, and vegetation qualifies as an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>RECREATION - The Dutch Flat Creek system offers a diversity of remote, semi-primitive recreation opportunities including hunting, fishing, hiking, mountain biking, sightseeing and horseback riding. <i>The variety and remoteness of opportunities in the corridor provide an outstandingly remarkable recreation value.</i></p> <p>GEOLOGIC - Excellent examples of glacial plucking, striation, and polish, and exfoliation features that in some locations rival features preserved in Yosemite National Park. <i>Dutch Flat Creek and Van Patten Creek are determined to contain outstandingly remarkable geologic features.</i></p> <p>HYDROLOGY - The high gradient reaches below Dutch Flat Lake are characterized by steep riffles and water cascading over boulders. Dutch Flat Creek provides excellent examples of several distinct types of distinctive stream channels not represented by other established northeastern Oregon Wild and Scenic Rivers. <i>The hydrology of Dutch Flat Creek was considered to be outstandingly remarkable from its confluence with Van Patten Creek to its headwaters.</i></p> <p>BOTANICAL/ECOLOGICAL – Sensitive plants species occur in the upper reaches of Dutch Flat Creek including <i>Allium madidum</i> and <i>Lycopodium annotinum</i>. <i>The ecological diversity is exceptional and exhibits outstandingly remarkable values for botany and plant ecology in the upper reaches of Dutch Flat Creek.</i></p>

<p>East Eagle Creek</p>	<p>Headwaters in the Eagle Cap Wilderness to the confluence of Eagle and East Eagle Creeks.</p>	<p>Scenic - 2.0 miles Wild - 9.0 miles Recreation - 4.5 Miles</p>	<p>SCENERY - Attractions that combine to create East Eagle Creek’s scenic beauty are the glaciated landscape; the steep, forested canyon with numerous waterfalls, rapids, and deep pools; and the views of Granite Cliff and Krag Peak. Vegetation diversity includes lush meadows; subalpine fir and spruce; larch, fir, and ponderosa pine forests; and grassy openings. East Eagle Creek has been a focus of human interest since the turn of the century, however visual impacts remain relatively minor and the drainage presents an overall natural landscape. <i>The scenic diversity in landform, water, color, and vegetation qualifies as an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>RECREATION - The quality and diversity of dispersed recreation opportunities available along the East Eagle Creek make it a popular area almost year-round. There are exceptional opportunities to develop interpretive sites or tours to explain the area's unique natural and cultural history. Interpretation of the area’s gold mining history could be developed to compliment the other nearby historic sites such as the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, potentially attracting visitors from outside the geographic region. <i>Conditions of the river-related setting make recreation an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>FISHERIES - East Eagle Creek is known for its excellent trout fishing and supports significant fishing activity throughout the season. The importance of the existing good-to-high-quality habitat which supports native trout, possibly including bull trout is notable. <i>The populations along with the habitat comprise an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.</i></p> <p>HYDROLOGIC – East Eagle Creek’s excellent water quality and near-natural hydrologic regime are important factors. <i>The water quality is determined to be an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>GEOLOGIC - The variety of rare and exemplary geologic features in the corridor, particularly in the middle and lower reaches of East Eagle Creek merit the recognition. <i>The quality, variety, and importance of the geology qualify as outstandingly remarkable geologic values.</i></p> <p>CULTURAL/HISTORIC - The settlement of Northeast Oregon is tied to the discovery of gold and East Eagle Creek still has much evidence of this history. Outstanding opportunities exist to interpret a number of features located in fairly close proximity within the corridor. <i>The presence of old structures and historical human interest make the historic resource an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p>
<p>Five Points Creek</p>	<p>Headwaters north of the confluence with the Middle Fork of Five Points Creek to the national forest boundary about ¼-mile southwest of Blacksmith Canyon.</p>	<p>Wild - 12 miles</p>	<p>SCENERY - The combination of distinctive landscape elements, lack of cultural modifications, and the primitive and undisturbed nature of the viewshed are notable. <i>Scenery qualifies as an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>FISHERIES - The presence of summer steelhead and native rainbow trout populations and the existing “high quality” of fisheries habitat (specifically water quality, low temperatures, low turbidity) for indigenous stocks and for spring/summer Chinook salmon in the Grande Ronde River. <i>The populations along with the habitat comprise an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.</i></p> <p>WILDLIFE – The existing habitat is significant and the presence of wildlife species of interest, including the American bald eagle and a significant population of elk are notable. <i>The quality, variety, and importance of existing wildlife habitat, comprise outstandingly remarkable for wildlife values.</i></p>

<p>Granite Creek (in IDAHO)</p>	<p>Headwaters in the Seven Devils Mountains to the Snake Wild and Scenic River boundary.</p>	<p>Wild - 12.5 miles</p>	<p>SCENERY - The variety in the landscape in Granite Creek is dramatic and memorable. Transcending from glaciated landscape to steep forested canyon to dry bunchgrass canyon and then to green riparian vegetation. The contrast between the lush green meadows, subalpine forests of the upper portion and the grass-covered slopes with prickly pear and greenbush in the lower portion is notable. The entire drainage, for its whole length from rim to rim, is essentially undeveloped, presenting a vestige of primitive America. <i>The scenic diversity in landform, water, color, and vegetation qualifies as an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>FISHERIES - The presence of spring Chinook, steelhead, and native rainbow trout along with the possibility of native cutthroat and bull trout populations are notable. In addition, Granite Creek supports populations of fish species that are regionally and nationally important, and has a high quality fisheries habitat for indigenous stocks. <i>The populations along with the habitat comprise an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.</i></p> <p>WILDLIFE - The diversity of habitat, inaccessibility, and quality of the habitat as well as the present and potential use of the area by threatened and endangered species including peregrine falcon, wolf, and grizzly bear. <i>The quality, variety, and importance of existing wildlife habitat, comprise outstandingly remarkable for wildlife values.</i></p> <p>BOTANICAL/ECOLOGICAL - Unique to Granite Creek is the diversity of plant species and the number of plant communities found in the corridor, which encompass at least four major habitat types. And the potential habitat for six potential threatened and endangered plant species exists. – A portion of a potential Research Natural Area is also located in the corridor. <i>The ecological diversity is exceptional and exhibits outstandingly remarkable values for botany and plant ecology.</i></p>
<p>Killamacue/Rock Creek</p>	<p>Killamacue Creek from its headwaters to the diversion ditch near the confluence with Rock Creek, and Rock Creek from below the outlet of Rock Creek Dam to the forest boundary including North Fork and South Fork Rock Creek.</p>	<p>Wild - 11.9 mile Scenic - 7.0 miles</p>	<p>SCENERY - High-quality scenic values include plant diversity, mountain meadows, and mountain vistas of the Elkhorns, a rocky and rugged range with aspen groves scattered among granite outcroppings. Other outstanding scenery associated with rock forms, timber stands and open alpine and subalpine vistas an overall natural and undeveloped character. <i>Scenery in these drainages qualifies as an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>RECREATION - The Rock Creek corridor offers a unique opportunity in northeast Oregon to access a relatively primitive setting by four-wheel drive vehicle. The amount of semi-primitive roads in an area this large makes it unique to the region and important for semi-primitive motorized travel recreational opportunities with easy access from Interstate 84 and the Baker Valley. The Killamacue and Rock Creek system offer a diversity of semi-primitive recreation opportunities in a remote relatively primitive setting with low use. <i>The variety and remoteness of opportunities in the corridor provide an outstandingly remarkable recreation value.</i></p> <p>GEOLOGIC - The upper drainages of the North Fork of Rock Creek and of Killamacue Creek contain exposures of a rare rock type called lamprophyre. Study of these rocks will provide outstanding and critical contributions to understanding the tectonic history of northeast Oregon. Killamacue Creek drainage contains a narrow glacial hanging valley and the polished outcrops and rounded glacial forms are easily visible, easy to access, and major in scope. <i>The quality, variety, and importance of the geology qualify as outstandingly remarkable geologic values.</i></p> <p>BOTANICAL/ECOLOGICAL - Killamacue Creek has nine different wetland types along the relatively short study reach and the number and diversity of wetland types is unique in such a small area. Because the plants, meadows, riparian areas, and plant associations are common in northeast Oregon, Rock Creek does not contain ecological/botanical outstandingly remarkable values, although some sensitive plant species are present. <i>Killamacue Creek exhibits outstandingly remarkable ecological and botanical values.</i></p>

<p>North Fork Catherine Creek</p>	<p>from its headwaters in the Eagle Cap Wilderness to the National Forest boundary near its confluence with South Fork Catherine Creek</p>	<p>Wild- 10.5 miles from headwaters to Catherine Creek Campground</p> <p>Recreation – 2.5 miles from Catherine creek campground to forest boundary</p>	<p>SCENERY - The North Fork Catherine Creek drainage possesses scenic features notable in the geographic region. Some of the attributes that contribute to the scenic value of the area include the diversity of landforms from the glaciated headwaters to the dissected basalt uplands found lower in the corridor, the free-flowing river, and the diversity of vegetation. <i>The scenery of the area qualifies as outstandingly remarkable.</i></p> <p>RECREATION - The quality and diversity of recreational opportunities available in the North Fork Catherine Creek corridor makes it a popular area with local residents and draws a substantial number of visitors from outside the region. <i>Conditions of the river-related setting make recreation an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>FISHERIES - The presence of stable habitat supporting four salmonid species, including three federally listed species, is highly significant regionally. Critical spring/summer chinook salmon spawning habitat is found in this portion of the river. <i>The populations along with the habitat comprise an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value. .</i></p> <p>WILDLIFE - The presence of high-quality wildlife habitat; the number of kinds of habitat; the presence of unique habitat; the juxtapositions of habitats; the contiguous nature of riparian corridors; all contribute to an ecosystem component unmatched in diversity and importance throughout the entire district. The diversity of vegetation, number of natural edges utilized by big-game and non-game species, and presence of old-growth mixed conifer stands in the corridor, provide important habitat for a variety of wildlife species. <i>The diversity of habitat found in the corridor supports a finding of outstandingly remarkable.</i></p>
<p>Sheep Creek (in IDAHO)</p>	<p>Headwaters in the Seven Devils Mountains to the Snake Wild and Scenic River boundary.</p>	<p>Wild - 15.6 miles</p>	<p>SCENERY - The corridor possesses a great deal of diversity in landform, water, color, and vegetation, notable in the geographic region which combine to create Sheep Creek's scenic beauty. Scenic attributes include glaciated landscapes, numerous waterfalls, steep forested canyons, and dominant views of the Seven-Devils as well as an abrupt change to grass-covered slopes with prickly pear. The variety of rapids, waterfalls, and deep pools is adds scenic diversity to the area. The beauty of Sheep Creek is viewed from the trails within the drainage as well as from the Heavens Gate Scenic Overlook. <i>The scenic diversity in landform, water, color, and vegetation qualifies as an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>BOTANICAL/ECOLOGICAL - Unique to Sheep Creek is the diversity of plant species and the number of plant communities found in the corridor encompassing at least four major habitat types. In addition, habitat for six potential threatened and endangered plant species exists. <i>The ecological diversity is exceptional and exhibits outstandingly remarkable values for botany and plant ecology.</i></p> <p>FISHERIES - Sheep Creek supports populations of fish species that are regionally and nationally important including Chinook Salmon and steelhead, and high-quality fisheries habitat for indigenous stocks such as native rainbow and bull trout. <i>The populations along with the habitat comprise an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.</i></p> <p>WILDLIFE – The area's inaccessibility as well as the diversity and quality of the habitat, potential use of the area by threatened and endangered species such as peregrine falcon, wolf, and grizzly bear provide excellent wildlife values in the Sheep Creek corridor. <i>The quality, variety, and importance of existing wildlife habitat, comprise outstandingly remarkable for wildlife values.</i></p> <p>CULTURAL/PREHISTORIC - The Sheep Creek corridor contains a unique concentration of prehistoric sites including a large village and other known significant sites. <i>Known cultural resources present in the corridor and potential of future discoveries, make the cultural and historic resource an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p>

<p>Snake River</p>	<p>North end of designated waterway to forest boundary near cache creek.</p>	<p>4.29 miles scenic</p>	<p>SCENERY: The river corridor is recognized nationally for its scenic qualities. Great contrasts in landform, vegetation, color, climate and sound are found. <i>The scenery within view of the Snake River is an outstandingly remarkable value</i></p> <p>RECREATION: The wide range of available recreation activities, the unique backcountry river setting, and the diversity of users combine to make <i>recreation an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>GEOLOGIC: The geological research potential of the river corridor and adjacent canyon is significant. The canyon has been the source of numerous research projects. <i>Based on these factors, the geology is an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>WILDLIFE: The number and diversity of wildlife species that inhabit the corridor establishes its importance as wildlife habitat. The area incorporates significant migration, wintering, and year-round habitat for numerous wildlife species and provides opportunities for human interactions with these creatures. <i>Wildlife and wildlife habitat are outstandingly remarkable values of the river corridor.</i></p> <p>FISHERIES: The diverse fish stocks are important internationally, nationally, and regionally for their sport fishing, commercial, historic values, and contribution to river ecology. The anadromous fisheries are important as producers for high seas commercial fish harvest. Nationally and regionally, the river is known for its abundant, unique, and diverse sport fishery. The Snake River supports stocks of anadromous fish as well as resident species of native fish. Federally listed threatened, endangered, and sensitive species occur throughout the segment. <i>Fisheries is an outstandingly remarkable value of the Snake River.</i></p> <p>CULTURAL/HISTORIC and PREHISTORIC: The river corridor contains one of the richest accumulations of riverine archaeological resources in western North America. Historic site types include the remnants of subsistence homesteads, mining sites, shipwrecks, and steamboat landings. Prehistoric site types include pithouse village sites, rock shelters, and rock art sites. The research potential of the river corridor is unlimited and has been the basis for numerous professional publications. <i>The historic and prehistoric cultural resources within the Snake River corridor represent an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>VEGETATION/BOTANICAL: Few locations in the Pacific Northwest, or western North America, equal the Snake River canyon in the concentration and number of rare or endemic plant species. <i>The vegetation/botanical resource of the Snake River corridor is an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>ECOLOGICAL: The special river environment that reflects the values inherent in the scenic, geologic, fisheries and wildlife resources indicate the uniqueness and importance of the river corridor. <i>Unusual and specific relationships in the flora and fauna of the river corridor make ecological aspects of the Snake River an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p>
<p>Swamp Creek</p>	<p>From the national forest boundary near Elk Mountain to the Wild and Scenic Joseph Creek boundary.</p>	<p>Wild - 8.5 miles Recreation - 9.5 miles</p>	<p>FISHERIES - In addition, Swamp Creek supports a wild summer steelhead population that is regionally important, and has potential for high-quality fisheries habitat for indigenous stocks including native rainbow trout populations. <i>The populations along with the habitat comprise an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.</i></p> <p>WILDLIFE - The inaccessibility, diversity, and significance of the wildlife populations in Swamp Creek along with the presence of bald eagles and the large stretch of riparian habitat make the area important. <i>The quality, variety, and importance of existing wildlife habitat, comprise outstandingly remarkable for wildlife values.</i></p> <p>CULTURAL/HISTORIC - The Swamp Creek stream corridor plays a vital role in Nez Perce tribal history. Most important is the proximity to the gathering place for Chief Joseph and his band at the confluence of the Grande Ronde River and Joseph Creek. In addition, the old homesteads and evidence of railroad logging add to the interpretive potential of the area. <i>Important cultural resources along with the presence of old structures and historical human interest make the cultural and historic resource an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p>

<p>Upper Grande Ronde River</p>	<p>Headwaters to the national forest boundary near the mouth of Fly Creek</p>	<p>Wild - 11 miles Recreation -19 miles</p>	<p>RECREATION - The quality and variety of recreation opportunities available along the Upper Grande Ronde River makes it a popular area with local and regional visitors. The river corridor is an excellent area for viewing wildlife and is one of the heaviest used areas in the state during the fall big game hunting seasons. <i>Conditions of the river-related setting make recreation an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p> <p>FISHERIES - The presence of spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout and this reach is considered critical spawning habitat for these species <i>The populations along with the habitat comprise an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.</i></p> <p>WILDLIFE - The presence of suitable habitat for American Bald Eagles and their use of the river corridor; high quality and quantity of wildlife habitat; the presence of unique habitat; the juxtapositions of habitats; the contiguous nature of riparian corridors; all contribute to an uncommon ecosystem. <i>The quality, variety, and importance of existing wildlife habitat, comprise outstandingly remarkable for wildlife values.</i></p> <p>CULTURAL/HISTORIC- There are several features of historical human interest in the corridor. The splash dam in Vey Meadows is a relatively unique feature for Northeast Oregon as well as the Camp Carson historic mining district which is potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Interpretive opportunities are excellent. <i>The presence of old structures and historical human interest make the historic resource an outstandingly remarkable value.</i></p>
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