PRINEVILLE DISTRICT OFFICE ELIGIBILITY INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS IN THE JOHN DAY BASIN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN PLANNING AREA

I. INTRODUCTION

As part of the planning effort for development of the John Day Basin Resource Management Plan (RMP), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Interdisciplinary (ID) Team initiated a Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) inventory of approximately 1,400 miles of waterways within the John Day Basin RMP planning area. This inventory was to determine if any of these waterways that flow through public lands meet the WSR eligibility criteria as identified in the WSR Act of 1968, as amended.

A. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND COORDINATION

The results of this WSR eligibility inventory will be included in the Prineville RMP planning effort. The public will be given the opportunity to comment on the WSR eligibility inventory results during the normal planning process for the RMP planning effort. Concerns voiced by the public will be included in deciding if those waterways recommended eligible in this report are also suitable to be recommended to Congress for inclusion into the WSR National System.

II. PROCESS

The following definitions apply to key terms used in the WSR eligibility inventory process.

- **River (or waterway)**: A flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes. For purposes of this review, a river is not required to have water in it year-round as long as flows are regular and predictable, even though intermittent, seasonal, or interrupted (BLM 2004).

- **Public lands**: The BLM-administered public land surface along waterways within a planning area. Those "split estate lands," where the land surface is state or privately owned and the federal mineral estate is administered by the BLM, are not involved with these reviews. This study involves the review of public lands; data on segments, parcels, corridors, rivers, and waterways were collected on public lands only, and are the basis for this review.

This WSR eligibility inventory of waterways in the John Day RMP planning area entails a three-step process:

1. Evaluate each river segment in the study area to recommend whether or not it is eligible for inclusion into the national WSR system;