

## APPENDIX K—[FINAL DRAFT](#) WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY AND SUITABILITY STUDY

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## ELIGIBILITY STUDY

### Introduction

Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542; 16 USC 1271-1287) (WSR Act) directs federal agencies to consider potential Wild and Scenic rivers in their land and water 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”). To fulfill this requirement, whenever the United States (US) Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) undertakes a land use planning effort (e.g., a resource management plan [RMP]), it analyzes river and stream segments that might be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System).

The BLM, Coeur d’Alene District, CFO, is preparing an RMP for its planning area, which is the CFO boundary. This area was previously recognized as the Chief Joseph Planning Unit in the Chief Joseph Management Framework Plan, which was approved in 1981 and directs current management of BLM-administered lands in the CFO (BLM 1981a). The RMP will provide a single, comprehensive land use plan that will guide future management of public land administered by the CFO. The draft and proposed RMPs will be supported by a National Environmental Policy Act analysis, an environmental impact statement (EIS), which analyzes the environmental effects that could result from implementing different management alternatives.

This report is a record of the Wild and Scenic rivers study that is being conducted concurrently with the Cottonwood RMP. This report documents the BLM’s examination of CFO river segments as they relate to eligibility and classification criteria in the WSR Act.

### Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Congress enacted the WSR Act on October 2, 1968, to address the need for a national system of river protection. As an outgrowth of a national conservation agenda in the 1950s and 1960s, the WSR Act was in response to the dams, diversions, and water resource development projects that occurred on America’s rivers between the 1930s and 1960s. The WSR Act stipulated that selected rivers should be preserved in a free-flowing condition and be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Since 1968, the WSR Act has been amended many times, primarily to designate additional rivers and to authorize the study of other rivers for possible inclusion.

As of November 2004, some 165 river segments, comprising 11,372 miles, have been protected in the National System. These nationally recognized rivers comprise a valuable network of natural and cultural resources, scenic beauty, and recreational opportunities.

Five designated river segments lie within the CFO, including the Selway, Middle Fork Clearwater, Main Salmon, and Rapid Rivers and the Snake River through Hells Canyon, but none are under BLM jurisdiction. In addition, the Lower Salmon River has been found eligible and suitable under the Recreational classification for inclusion in the National System, has been recommended to

Congress for designation, and is managed under interim management guidelines until congressional action is taken.

### *Intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act*

The WSR Act seeks to protect and enhance a river's natural and cultural values and to provide for public use consistent with its free-flowing character, its water quality, and its outstandingly remarkable values. Designation affords certain legal protection from development. For instance, new dams cannot be constructed, and federally assisted water resource development projects that might negatively affect the designated river values are not permitted. Where private lands are involved, the federal managing agency works with local governments and owners to develop protective measures.

The two ways by which rivers are designated for inclusion in the National System are by an act of Congress or by the Secretary of the Interior, if the river has first been designated for inclusion in a valid state river protective system by state law, and the appropriate state governor has applied for a National System designation. To be eligible for designation, a river must be free flowing and contain at least one outstandingly remarkable value that is scenic, recreational, geological, fish related, wildlife related, historic, cultural, botanical, hydrological, paleontological, or scientific. Eligibility criteria are included in **Appendix K-1**.

There are two ways rivers can be identified for study as potential additions to the National System: by an act of Congress under Section 5(a) or through an agency-initiated study under Section 5(d)(1) of the WSR Act, which requires that “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 wild, scenic, and recreational areas.”

Through Section 5(d)(1), the BLM is required to assess rivers under its management jurisdiction and to determine whether these rivers are eligible by applying standardized criteria through a documented evaluation process. River areas that are found to be eligible are then classified as wild, scenic, or recreational based on the development of shoreline, watercourse, and access. The criteria for classification are defined in Section 2(b) of the WSR Act and are described in **Appendix K-2**.

Proposed boundaries and/or river areas and protective management requirements are developed at the time of eligibility determination. For river segments on federal lands determined to be eligible under Section 5(d)(1) of the WSR Act, direction to protect the river as a potential addition to the National System is in effect until such a time as a suitability evaluation and subsequent decision is made. A suitability analysis involves determining the best use of the eligible river and the best method to protect the outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor. Rivers subsequently determined suitable are protected as potential additions to the National System. Protective management of federal lands in the river area begins at the time the river segment is found eligible. Management guidelines to protect eligible candidate rivers are detailed in **Appendix K-3**. Specific management prescriptions for eligible river segments provide protection, pending a suitability determination, in the following ways:

- **Free-flowing values.** The free-flowing characteristics of eligible river segments cannot be modified to allow stream impoundments, diversions, channelization, or riprapping to the extent authorized under law;
- **River-related values.** Each segment is managed to protect outstandingly remarkable values (subject to valid existing rights) and, to the extent practicable, such values are enhanced; and
- **Classification impacts.** Management and development of the eligible river and its corridor cannot be modified, subject to valid existing rights, to the degree that its eligibility or classification would be affected.

## Eligibility Methodology

The WSR Act states that, in order to be found eligible, a river segment must be free-flowing and contain at least one outstandingly remarkable value. The BLM determined rivers eligible for inclusion into the National System through a process of elimination. That is, if a river was not free flowing or did not have a potential outstandingly remarkable value in at least one resource, it was not evaluated further. The steps used for this inventory are to determine and document the following:

- Potential outstandingly remarkable values;
- Outstandingly remarkable values and free-flowing status;
- Drainage segmentation; and
- River classification(s).

The eligibility process is depicted in **Figure K-1 (Appendix K-5)**.

### *Criteria for Inclusion in the Eligibility Inventory*

The BLM applies standard criteria to identified river segments to determine eligibility. To be eligible, a river segment must be free-flowing and must possess at least one river-related value considered outstandingly remarkable. The specific criteria for free-flowing and outstandingly remarkable values are listed in **Appendix K-1**.

The following sources were used to identify potentially eligible rivers:

- All rivers included in the Pacific Northwest Rivers Study or the Northwest Power Planning Council Protected Rivers list. These rivers were also first evaluated for potential outstandingly remarkable values.
- All rivers included in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service 2004) or the State of Idaho Comprehensive Water Plan.

- All rivers currently eligible for inclusion into the National System. These rivers were updated during the eligibility process for new information and changed conditions since the previous inventory.
- The US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service), Payette National Forest Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Study (Payette National Forest 2003). The Payette National Forest conducted eligibility studies on some streams that also flow through BLM lands. Segments of four streams located on Payette National Forest-administered lands were determined eligible: portions of Hard Creek, Hazard Creek, French Creek, and Lake Creek.
- The Nez Perce National Forest and the Clearwater National Forest completed eligibility studies in 1987 and found portions of two streams that also flow through BLM lands (South Fork Clearwater River and Salmon River) eligible (Nez Perce National Forest 1987).
- River segments identified in public scoping for the RMP. No river segments were identified by the public during the scoping process.

A river's inclusion on any of these source lists does not represent an official determination of eligibility, and a river's absence from these source lists does not indicate its noneligibility.

Two major elements contribute to whether a river is found eligible for further study:

**1. Are there any outstandingly remarkable values within the river corridor?** In order for a river to become eligible for further study as a possible wild, scenic, or recreational river, it must have one or more outstandingly remarkable resource values on BLM lands. The outstandingly remarkable values fall into categories that are defined in Section 1(b) of the WSR Act as “scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values.” “Other similar values” include, but are not limited to, hydrologic, ecological/biological diversity, paleontological, botanical, and scientific study opportunities. A region of comparison was used as context to assess the uniqueness or rarity of the outstandingly remarkable values (**Appendix K-1**).

**2. Is the river free flowing?** In order for a river to become eligible for further study, it must be free flowing. To be considered free flowing, the river or river segment must be free of impoundments or diversions.

### **Inventory Phase for the CFO**

Various resource personnel from the BLM's CFO were consulted to conduct the Wild and Scenic Rivers inventory in support of the RMP process. BLM staff specialists in geographic information systems (GIS), wildlife/fisheries/riparian biology, recreation, visual resources, minerals, and geology participated in the review of eligible rivers.

Using the Northwest Rivers Study, the Northwest Power Planning Council Protected Rivers database, the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service 2004), the State of Idaho Comprehensive Water Plan, and forest plans from the Payette and Nez Perce National Forests, the BLM compiled an inventory of all rivers on BLM-administered

surface lands in the CFO area. The BLM limited the inventory to the lands it administers, per recent changes to BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers—Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management. The manual revision states that “In cases where a particular river segment is predominantly non-federal in ownership and contains interspersed BLM-administered lands, the BLM shall evaluate only its segment as to eligibility and defer to the State or to the private landowners’ discretion as to their determination of eligibility” (BLM 2003). Initial screening resulted in a list of 51 river segments on BLM-administered lands for further consideration. These rivers or river segments include those listed in **Appendix K-4, Table K-4-1**.

Additional review focused on whether any of these 51 segments met free-flowing criteria and contained any outstandingly remarkable values, as defined in the WSR Act. The BLM staff conducted this review for each of their areas of expertise, using their knowledge of the area and consulting available inventory information. This information was considered against the outstandingly remarkable values criteria provided in **Appendix K-1**. Based on its findings, the BLM proposed six rivers and river segments as eligible for further study because they contain outstandingly remarkable values and are free flowing (**Table K-1** and **Figure K-2 [Appendix K-5]**). **Table K-1** also shows the tentative classification of each of the six segments. Following the table is a description of outstandingly remarkable values for each candidate river segment. The proposed boundary for each of the segments listed in the table is 0.25-mile on each side of the river or stream.

**Table K-1  
Eligible Rivers and River Segments in the Planning Area**

River Name	River Segment	Outstandingly Remarkable Values							Tentative Classification			Total Segment Length (Miles)	BLM Segment Length (Miles)	
		Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other Values	Wild	Scenic			Recreational
Lake Creek	Beginning at the headwaters of Lake Creek in Section 33, T24N, R5E, ending where Lake Creek enters National Forest Land in Section 36, T24N, R4E.				X							X	2.18	2.18
French Creek	Beginning at the Forest Service boundary in Section 1, T23N, R3E to the confluence with the Salmon River in Section 18, T24N, R3E.	X			X							X	4.18	1.38
Hazard Creek	Beginning at the Forest Service boundary in Section 31, T22N, R2E, to the confluence with the Little Salmon River in Section 2, T21N, R1E.	X		X								X	16.39	1.52

**Table K-1**  
**Eligible Rivers and River Segments in the Planning Area** *(continued)*

River Name	River Segment	Outstandingly Remarkable Values							Tentative Classification			Total Segment Length (Miles)	BLM Segment Length (Miles)	
		Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other Values	Wild	Scenic			Recreational
Hard Creek	Beginning at the Forest Service boundary in Section 18, T21N, R2E, to the confluence with Hazard Creek in Section 1, T21N, R1E.	X		X								X	12.3	1.64
Lolo Creek	Beginning at the Forest Service boundary in Section 24, T34N, R5E, to the confluence with the Clearwater River in Section 14, T35N, R2E.	X	X		X		X					X	47	14.3
Clearwater River	Mainstem Clearwater River, from its beginning at the confluence of the Middle Fork and South Fork in Kooskia to its confluence with the Snake River in Lewiston.		X		X		X						74.8	15.7

### *Outstandingly Remarkable Values for Eligible Segments*

#### ***Lake Creek***

The Payette National Forest studied Lake Creek from the BLM boundary to its mouth and found it both eligible and suitable for inclusion in the National System. The 2.18-mile segment on BLM lands represents the headwaters of the drainage, and the eligibility of this segment means that the entire length of Lake Creek is eligible and worthy of further study (**Figure K-3 [Appendix K-5]**). Its tentative classification is Recreational.

Considering Lake Creek in its entirety, from the headwaters to its mouth (both BLM and [FS Forest Service](#) segments), the outstandingly remarkable value is fisheries, particularly the anadromous fish habitat. The fisheries value of Lake Creek is considered outstandingly remarkable based on the diversity of populations, excellent spawning and rearing habitat, and listed threatened and endangered fish species (bull trout [*Salvelinus confluentus*], steelhead [*Oncorhynchus mykiss*], Chinook salmon [*O. tshawytscha*]) and BLM sensitive westslope cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki lewisi*). .

The 2.18-mile BLM segment contains only a fraction of the Lake Creek anadromous fish habitat, due to a natural barrier located approximately 0.25 river mile upstream of the Forest Service and

BLM boundary. However, outstandingly remarkable fisheries values are present both downstream and upstream of the barrier within the BLM segment. For anadromous steelhead and Chinook salmon this represents the upstream limit of their spawning habitat. The BLM land contains approximately 0.25-mile of Lake Creek open to spawning and rearing for anadromous fish species. This segment downstream of the barrier also provides important spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout and westslope cutthroat trout. Upstream of the natural barrier is Marshall Lake and approximately 1.43 miles of the Lake Creek headwaters. This portion of the creek provides excellent spawning, rearing, and year-round habitat for westslope cutthroat trout. Bull trout do not occur upstream of the barrier.

### ***French Creek***

The Payette National Forest studied French Creek from its headwaters to the National Forest boundary and found it eligible for inclusion in the National System. The 4.18-mile segment being considered in this document constitutes the remainder of French Creek to its confluence with the Salmon River. See **Figure K-4 (Appendix K-5)**. Its tentative classification is Recreational.

There are two outstandingly remarkable values for French Creek: scenic and fisheries. French Creek is a highly scenic visual resource, flowing through a deeply dissected canyon with meadows and a distinctive riffle/pool effect.

The French Creek fisheries' outstandingly remarkable value is due to its importance to anadromous fish. French Creek supports wild Chinook salmon, wild steelhead, and bull trout spawning and rearing.

### ***Hazard Creek***

The Payette National Forest studied Hazard Creek and identified it as eligible for inclusion in the National System. The segment being considered in this document represents the remainder of Hazard Creek from the National Forest boundary to its confluence with the Little Salmon River. See **Figure K-5 (Appendix K-5)**. Its tentative classification is Recreational.

There are two outstandingly remarkable values identified for Hazard Creek: Scenic and Geologic/Hydrologic. The Scenic outstandingly remarkable value is due to the river basin that contains very scenic cascades and rock forms and offers outstanding views. Fall colors highlight the scenic beauty of the area.

The Geologic/Hydrologic value is found in the combination and extent of several outstanding hydrologic and geologic features that are found within this drainage. The landform within the lower half of Hazard Creek dominantly consists of steep to extremely steep mountain headlands and deeply entrenched canyon walls that are adjacent to a major stream. The volume and steep gradient of the stream contribute to a continual downcutting action which creates the cascading flows and incised canyons.

### ***Hard Creek***

The Payette National Forest studied Hard Creek and identified it as eligible for inclusion in the National System. The segment being considered in this document represents the remainder of Hard

Creek from the National Forest boundary to its confluence with Hazard Creek. See **Figure K-6 (Appendix K-5)**. Its tentative classification is Recreational.

There are two outstandingly remarkable values identified for Hard Creek: Scenic and Geologic/Hydrologic. The Scenic outstandingly remarkable value is due to the river basin that contains very scenic cascades and rock forms and offers outstanding views. Fall colors highlight the scenic beauty of the area.

The Geologic/Hydrologic value is found in the combination and extent of several outstanding hydrologic and geologic features that are found within this drainage. The landform within the lower half of the Hard Creek dominantly consists of steep to extremely steep mountain headlands and deeply entrenched canyon walls that are adjacent to a major stream. The volume and steep gradient of the stream contribute to a continual downcutting action that creates the cascading flows and incised canyons.

### ***Lolo Creek***

The segment being considered in this document is the 24-mile segment of Lolo Creek from the Clearwater National Forest boundary to the confluence with the Clearwater River near the town of Greer. Within this 24-mile segment, the BLM administers 14.3 miles of land. Per changes to BLM Manual 8351 (BLM 2003), this eligibility study evaluates only the portions of the river (14.3 miles) on BLM-administered land. See **Figure K-7 (Appendix K-5)**. The BLM defers to the other landowners for eligibility determinations on their lands. The BLM recommends that a parallel or concurrent study be undertaken on the section of Lolo Creek on the Clearwater National Forest to the east of the 24-mile segment.

Four outstandingly remarkable values were identified for Lolo Creek: scenic, recreational, fisheries, and historic, as detailed below. Its tentative classification is Scenic.

**Scenic Outstandingly Remarkable Value:** The upper part of Lolo Creek flows through mostly forested headlands, with scenic meadows and diverse riparian vegetation providing pleasing visual contrasts. The river channel is often boulder strewn, creating pleasing pool and drop hydrologic scenery. The lower ten miles of Lolo Creek flow through an extremely steep, deeply incised canyon, remarkable for its depth and narrow construction. Vegetative texture ranges from lush green mosses and forested banks to stark, bare canyon walls and semiarid canyon grasslands. The river has a near constant gradient, providing numerous small falls and cascades for pleasing visual effect.

**Recreation Outstandingly Remarkable Value:** Opportunities for a pristine and wild whitewater kayaking experience is especially unique to Lolo Creek. The lower ten miles of the creek are considered one of the best whitewater runs in Idaho, and have been described as an isolated, challenging Class IV to Class V run. The upper section of the Lolo Creek whitewater runs has a lower gradient and less difficult but still challenging rapids. The feeling of isolation in the Lolo Creek canyon is profound, and the knowledge that the only way to truly view this canyon is by boat greatly enriches the adventure and the recreation experience.

**Fisheries Outstandingly Remarkable Value:** Lolo Creek provides a variety of habitats for threatened anadromous species and resident fish populations. These habitats are found primarily in

the A-type and B-type channels that make up the greatest portion of Lolo Creek. Pools, riffles, glides, pocket water, and side channels/alcoves occur in varying proportions in the steep high-gradient reaches, as well as low gradient reaches. Lolo Creek is one of the major producers of anadromous fish for the lower Clearwater River. Wild summer steelhead and spring Chinook salmon use Lolo Creek for spawning and rearing, and a recovering population of Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) has been reintroduced to the system. Other species present in Lolo Creek include threatened bull trout and BLM sensitive redband trout, Pacific lamprey, and westslope cutthroat trout.

**Historic Outstandingly Remarkable Value:** The Nee-Mee-Poo, or Lolo Trail, crosses Lolo Creek in several locations. A portion of the Lolo Trail crosses Lolo Creek near the Woodland bridge crossing. The Nez Perce Tribe led the Lewis and Clark expedition from the Weippe Prairie to the Clearwater River over this trail.

### ***Clearwater River***

The segment of the Clearwater River being considered in this document is the entire main stem of the river, from the confluence of the Middle and South Forks of the Clearwater at the town of Kooskia to the confluence with the Snake River in the city of Lewiston. The BLM administers 15.7 miles of this 75-mile segment. Per changes to BLM Manual 8351 (BLM 2003), this eligibility study evaluates only these 15.7 miles of the river on BLM-administered land. See **Figure K-8 (Appendix K-5)**. The BLM defers to the other landowners for eligibility determinations on their lands. Three outstandingly remarkable values were identified for this segment of river: recreation, fisheries, and historic, as detailed below. Its tentative classification is Recreational.

**Recreation Outstandingly Remarkable Value:** The Clearwater River is internationally known for its steelhead fishing. Steelhead returning to the Clearwater River are much larger than those found elsewhere in the US, with an average size of 12 to 14 pounds, and fish in the 18- to 20-plus-pound range are not uncommon. With the return of both spring/summer Chinook and fall Chinook salmon, recreational fishing for anadromous species occurs throughout most of the year.

**Fisheries Outstandingly Remarkable Value:** The Clearwater River provides important spawning habitat for fall Chinook salmon and important rearing habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon and steelhead. The anadromous fish runs in the Clearwater River are some of the most important and unique runs in the Columbia River Basin.

**Historic Outstandingly Remarkable Value:** The Clearwater River is the historic home to the Nez Perce Tribe. The Clearwater River is also an important segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The Clearwater River was the first westward-flowing river used by the expedition and was the place where they returned to water travel after crossing the Continental Divide.

### **Interim Management**

Rivers or river segments determined eligible must be managed to protect the free flow, outstandingly remarkable values, and tentative classification. This protective management is in place until a river or river segment is determined suitable or unsuitable during the study phase. Management guidelines to protect eligible candidate rivers are detailed in **Appendix K-3**.

## Suitability

The following Suitability Study section of this report evaluates each eligible river segment for suitability or nonsuitability to assess whether or not it is a potential candidate for inclusion in the National System. The [Cottonwood](#) Draft RMP incorporates ~~s~~ each of the eligible rivers into one or more alternatives. The BLM ~~will~~ then [soughtseek](#) public review and comment on the [Draft draft](#) RMP. The Draft EIS ~~was~~~~will be~~ an assessment of potential impacts from recommending each river as either suitable or nonsuitable. The [Proposed RMP](#) ~~/-and-f~~ Final EIS ~~will~~ includes final suitability determinations on the eligible rivers. Congressional legislative action is required for actual designation and final classification of suitable river segments.

## SUITABILITY STUDY

### Introduction

The purpose of the study phase is to determine whether eligible river segments are suitable or nonsuitable for inclusion in the National System, per the criteria of the WSR Act. The suitability evaluation does not result in actual designation but only a suitability determination for designation. The BLM does not recommend any stream segments for designation into the National System, and no stream segment studied is or will be automatically designated as part of the National System. Only Congress can designate a wild and scenic river. In some instances, the Secretary of the Interior may designate a wild and scenic river when the governor of a state, under certain conditions, petitions for a river to be designated. Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any suitable segments are presented to them. Water protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Act will be the responsibility of Congress in any legislation proposed. Rivers found nonsuitable will be dropped from further consideration and managed according to the objectives outlined in the RMP.

Impacts that would occur from designating or not designating the eligible and suitable river segments ~~are~~~~will be~~ analyzed in the EIS associated with the RMP. Public review and comment on suitability determinations included in the Draft RMP ~~were~~~~are~~ considered before the BLM ~~made~~~~makes~~ final suitability determinations [in the Proposed RMP](#).

The following eight factors, identified in BLM Manual Section 8351 (BLM 1992), are applied to each eligible river segment when completing the suitability study:

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System;
2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses;
3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated;
4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river;

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands and interests in lands and administering the area, if designated;
6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a wild and scenic river or other means to protect the identified values other than wild and scenic river designation;
7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation; and
8. Other.

### **Interim Management of Suitable Segments**

BLM guidance requires that interim management be developed and followed to protect the free-flowing nature, outstandingly remarkable values, and recommended classification of suitable segments until congressional action regarding designation is taken.

### **Suitability Determinations for the CFO**

This section contains a discussion of eight suitability factors in relationship to each of the six segments determined to be eligible. These factors were described above.

#### ***Segment 1: Lake Creek—Headwaters to National Forest Boundary***

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

The outstandingly remarkable values that qualify this river segment as eligible for inclusion in the National System are fisheries. The free-flowing nature of the creek is crucial to maintaining the excellent quality fish habitat. The naturally occurring Marshall Lake does not impede the river's free-flowing nature.

In addition, it provides high-quality fish spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, Chinook salmon, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat trout. The segment downstream of Marshall Lake is the upstream extent of anadromous fish migration into the Lake Creek watershed; it is 715 river miles inland and at an elevation of approximately 7,000 feet.

A dirt road parallels the river segment a little over 0.25-mile away, outside the potential designation corridor. The road is approximately 1,000 feet above the river channel.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

Mineral potential within the river corridor has been identified for gold placer, gold lode, and black-sand. There is low potential for mineral resources to have accumulated. The level of certainty for this resource is classified as B, meaning that the available data provide indirect evidence to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources. As a result, it is unlikely that mineral resource uses would be affected by designation.

Mineral potential near the Lake Creek segment but outside the designation corridor is identified for all minerals. This area appears to be in the adjacent watersheds, but portions may overlap some areas within the Lake Creek watershed near the headwaters. The potential mineral commodities are gold placer, gold lode, and black-sand. Mineral potential is low, and level of certainty is B.

The BLM manages all the land immediately adjacent to this segment beginning at the headwaters and continuing downstream to the National Forest boundary. This segment, including a 0.25-mile buffer, contains 612 acres of BLM land. Downstream of this segment, the Forest Service manages the majority of lands along Lake Creek.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

Potential uses for the BLM lands surrounding this segment include timber harvest and livestock grazing. It is estimated that 160 acres of forested habitat occur adjacent to the creek and upslope of the BLM segment. The forest types in this area are spruce/fir and lodgepole pine and are of moderate productivity. Fires have historically occurred in the area. In 1994, the area from Marshall Lake up through the headwaters burned, and a mixed-severity burn occurred in the lower portion of the watershed to approximately the BLM boundary. Designation of this segment in the National System would result in timber harvest restrictions adjacent to and upslope of the Lake Creek segment, to ensure that sedimentation from erosion following timber harvests would degrade fish spawning habitat. However, VRM restrictions already exist on the entire 612 acres of BLM land within the Lake Creek watershed. Consequently, additional restrictions to timber harvest would be minimal.

The BLM permits the Marshall Mountain allotment for sheep grazing along the entire river corridor. The season of use can be any time between July 1 and September 30. Designation of this segment would result in limiting grazing to the current levels. Additionally, evaluation of grazing conditions would consider potential erosion and sedimentation of Lake Creek. If grazing is determined to have negative impacts on fish spawning habitat, adjustments to the grazing permit could result.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

The Payette National Forest conducted an eligibility and suitability study on the Upper Secesh River, including the Lake Creek tributary. The result of this study was a finding that Lake Creek, from the BLM boundary downstream to its confluence with the Upper Secesh River, was suitable for inclusion in the National System with a Recreational classification. Designation of the BLM portion of Lake Creek as a Recreational class Wild and Scenic River would be consistent with the Forest Service finding and could result in the entire Lake Creek being designated, depending on congressional action.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

Designation as a Recreational river segment would not require the acquisition of any property because ~~of~~ the lands are federal lands managed by the BLM. No additional costs are anticipated from the management of the area as a Recreational river segment.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a wild and scenic river, or other means to protect the identified values other than Wild and Scenic River designation:

It would be relatively simple for the BLM to incorporate considerations to maintain or protect values into current management. Most management would not change. The area within the potential designation corridor is primitive, containing no frequent use camping areas. Future proposals for projects, including potential timber harvests in this area, would require review for compliance with the WSR Act if the segment were to become designated. Overall, the BLM would be able to manage and protect the river area with minimal effort.

Other means to protect the identified values include compliance with the Endangered Species Act, BLM sensitive species management, and VRM class designations. The Endangered Species Act restricts land uses that could degrade fisheries habitat or impact fish populations for the federally listed species present downstream of the barrier. Similar land use restrictions exist for the protection of the BLM sensitive westslope cutthroat trout population present upstream of the barrier. The specific restrictions imposed on land uses would be considered on a case by case basis through consultation with USFWS.

Manageability of this segment is dependent upon similar management of the Forest Service segment downstream. Many of the fisheries values depend on the fish passage and aquatic habitats downstream of BLM-managed lands. If the Forest Service segment is not designated, it would not be reasonable to designate the BLM segment. Both the BLM and Forest Service segments must be considered together.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

The Nez Perce continue to use places and to apply their knowledge of the natural resources of the streams and rivers of the CFO area, just as they have for thousands of years. Tribal treaty rights pursued on public lands outside the boundaries of the reservation include fishing for resident game fish species and anadromous fish, hunting both large and small game, and gathering various natural resources for both subsistence and medicinal purposes. In addition, traditional social and religious activities continue to be practiced.

The BLM has a trust responsibility to provide the conditions necessary for tribal members to satisfy their treaty rights and to maintain cultural practices. There is no inventory of locations used by Native Americans in exercising their treaty rights, but the Nez Perce Tribe has expressed concerns over natural resource management, especially as it pertains to water quality and its relation to fisheries management actions.

Designation is not likely to negatively affect or impair activities traditionally pursued by the Nez Perce in exercising treaty rights and cultural practices. Uses do not require the

construction of permanent dams, water conduits, reservoirs, or electric generating or distribution infrastructure. Actions to protect segments of riparian corridors would likely preclude some incompatible activities and be beneficial to water quality, fisheries and other resources used by the Nez Perce. Government-to-government consultation as part of the RMP process and the development of management actions in the corridor segments is necessary to ensure that rights to access and use resources and places important to Native Americans are not affected.

There are no water rights that would be affected by designating this segment as a Recreational river. The segment includes the headwaters, so there can be no upstream water users. The area downstream of the BLM segment is predominantly National Forest land.

8. Other:

No other major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

***Segment 2: French Creek—National Forest Boundary to Confluence with Salmon River***

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable scenic and fisheries values. The scenic values are dependent on the free flow of the river through granitic and metamorphic rocks of the Idaho Batholith. The canyon is steep and characterized by stringers of timber and open grasslands. This segment of river provides high quality spawning and rearing habitat for spring/summer Chinook salmon, steelhead, and resident bull trout populations.

A gravel road parallels the segment for approximately 3.1 miles, and a trail parallels the creek from the road upstream, not downstream. There are two road bridges crossing the river within this segment, but these bridges do not affect the free-flowing nature of the river. There was formerly a foot bridge upstream beyond the road bridge, but it has washed out.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

French Creek is predominantly federal ownership with the majority of the creek occurring on Forest Service land upstream of the BLM portion. The segment being studied in this report is 4.18 miles long and flows through 1.7 miles of private land, 1.38 miles of BLM land, and 1.1 miles of state land. The preliminary corridor considered is 0.25-mile on each side of the river. This would result in 1,338 acres along the 4.18 miles being considered for inclusion in the National System. Within the corridor being considered, the BLM manages 441.6 acres (33 percent), private land includes 544 acres (41 percent), and Idaho State manages 352 acres (26 percent). The Forest Service manages land upstream of this segment.

The private land includes a residence adjacent to the creek approximately 0.25-mile upstream from the confluence with the Salmon River. The residence is visible from the river channel

and occurs within the 0.25-mile corridor. There is also a residence approximately two miles upstream of the confluence within the study corridor. The Boy Scouts of America have a camping area located within these private land holdings, at the confluence of French Creek with the Salmon River on one side of the creek. Boy Scout camping areas are located away from the creek channel outside the 0.25-mile buffer area. Private land uses could affect the scenic and fisheries outstandingly remarkable values.

No potential for minerals has been identified along the proposed segment of French Creek, but valid existing mining claims would be honored. Mine operators and miners would need to ensure that river corridor values could be maintained.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

The French Creek segments contain forested vegetation, dominated by ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). If these segments were designated as Recreational, restrictions for timber harvest would be placed on approximately 100 acres to ensure that sedimentation from erosion would not affect fisheries outstandingly remarkable values. Currently, there are some timber harvest restrictions on 591 acres of land in this area, both within and outside of the study corridor, including the 100 acres due to VRM standards and RHCA guidelines. These restrictions would be complimentary to any restrictions that would result from designation.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

The Forest Service determined the upper portions of French Creek to be eligible, beginning approximately 4.18 miles upstream from the confluence with the Salmon River and continuing upstream through the Payette National Forest. The Forest Service has not completed a suitability study on this segment. The Forest Service found the upstream segment of French Creek nonsuitable for designation in the National System. Although designation of the 4.18-mile study segment would not significantly affect Forest Service management of French Creek upstream, it would not be complimentary to their determination. [Other state, tribal, local, and public organizations are expected to review and provide comments on this draft report, at which time their interest will be determined.](#)

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

The BLM would not pursue or consider the acquisition of the private land parcel unless it became available from a willing seller. The BLM does not anticipate this happening in the foreseeable future.

The cost of administering the BLM segments as a Recreational river would not be significant. Management of this segment already includes measures that help protect the river-related values for scenic and fisheries outstandingly remarkable values.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a Wild and Scenic River, or other means to protect the identified values other than Wild and Scenic River designation:

It would be relatively simple for the BLM to manage the federal portions of this segment. The BLM does not manage the land uses on the private land occurring along 1.7 miles of this 4.18-mile segment. Management along this segment would predominantly rely on local, county, and state zoning laws. The State of Idaho manages a 1.1-mile section of this river segment. It is likely that the state would be amenable to managing in a manner that would protect the scenic, fisheries, and free-flowing values of this segment.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

Existing private property rights would not be affected. Land purchases, exchanges, or easement acquisitions would be carried out only with willing sellers.

The Nez Perce continue to use places and to apply their knowledge of the natural resources of the streams and rivers of the CFO area, just as they have for thousands of years. Tribal treaty rights pursued on public lands outside the boundaries of the reservation include fishing for resident game fish species and anadromous fish, hunting both large and small game, and gathering various natural resources for both subsistence and medicinal purposes. In addition, traditional social and religious activities continue to be practiced.

The BLM has a trust responsibility to provide the conditions necessary for tribal members to satisfy their treaty rights and to maintain cultural practices. There is no inventory of locations used by Native Americans in exercising their treaty rights, but the Nez Perce Tribe has expressed concerns over natural resource management, especially as it pertains to water quality and its relation to fisheries management actions.

Designation is not likely to negatively affect or impair activities traditionally pursued by the Nez Perce in exercising treaty rights and cultural practices. Uses do not require the construction of permanent dams, water conduits, reservoirs, or electric generating or distribution infrastructure. Actions to protect segments of riparian corridors would likely preclude some incompatible activities and be beneficial to water quality, fisheries and other resources used by the Nez Perce. Government-to-government consultation as part of the RMP process and the development of management actions in the corridor segments is necessary to ensure that rights to access and use resources and places important to Native Americans are not affected.

8. Other:

No other major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

**Segment 3: Hazard Creek—National Forest Boundary to Confluence with Little Salmon River**

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

There is a popular camping spot at the confluence of Hazard Creek and Hard Creek. A small road spur off the main Forest Service road provides vehicle parking for this camping area, which is primitive and consists of a small flat open area surrounded by several large trees. Some of the trees have been scarred by axes and saws. The BLM maintains this small road and periodically cleans up the campsite.

A road parallels the creek from the confluence with the Little Salmon River upstream, crossing Hazard Creek via a small bridge upstream of the confluence with Hard Creek. The Forest Service maintains this road. The main road continues up Hazard Creek and forks again with a road and motorized trail paralleling Hazard Creek to the BLM boundary.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership use in the area and associated or incompatible uses:

The BLM manages the land adjacent to Hazard Creek, from approximately one-half-mile upstream of the confluence with the Little Salmon River to the National Forest boundary. The downstream half-mile is privately owned and contains a residence along the bank near the mouth of the creek.

No potential for minerals has been identified along the proposed segment of Hazard Creek, but valid existing mining claims would be honored. Mine operators and miners would need to ensure that river corridor values could be maintained.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

Hazard Creek is forested with grand fir, ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir and western larch. An estimated 40 percent of the BLM land in this area is forested.

If the Hazard Creek segment were nominated, restrictions for timber harvest would be placed on an estimated 45 acres in order to ensure that timber removal would not affect the scenic outstandingly remarkable values. However, the entire 210 acres (inside and outside of study corridor) of forested lands under BLM jurisdiction has restrictions to maintain VRM standards.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

The Payette National Forest conducted a wild and scenic rivers eligibility study as part of its resource management plan and found Hazard Creek eligible for wild and scenic designation. The Forest Service evaluated two segments, first from the headwaters downstream to the confluence with Vance Creek and second from the confluence with Vance Creek

downstream to the National Forest boundary with BLM land. The BLM is considering the segment from this boundary downstream to the confluence with the Little Salmon River. The Forest Service found both segments to be free flowing and to contain Scenic, Geologic, and Hydrologic outstandingly remarkable values. The Forest Service descriptions of outstandingly remarkable values are as follows (Payette National Forest 2003):

- Scenic—The river area contains very scenic cascading waterfalls, cirque basins, high mountain lakes, and rock forms and offers outstanding views. Fall colors highlight the scenic beauty of the area.
- Geologic/Hydrologic—A combination and extent of several outstanding Hydrologic and Geologic features are found within this drainage. The landform within the lower half of the Hazard Creek dominantly consists of steep to extremely steep mountain headlands and deeply entrenched canyon walls that are adjacent to a major stream. The landforms within the upper half dominantly consist of glacial headlands, uplands, troughs, and cirque basins.

The segment of Hazard Creek being considered by the BLM is immediately downstream of the lower segment considered by the Forest Service. The Forest Service has not completed a suitability study of these segments of Hazard Creek, so it is uncertain whether the Forest Service will find them suitable or unsuitable for designation. Consequently, it is uncertain whether designation of the BLM segment being considered would be compatible with the Forest Service portion of the creek.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

The BLM would not pursue or consider the acquisition of the private land located on the 0.50-mile segment of Hazard Creek, from the BLM boundary to the confluence with the Little Salmon River.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a Wild and Scenic River or other means to protect the identified values, other than Wild and Scenic River designation:

Because the land upstream of the BLM segment is federally managed land (Forest Service), management of this segment for Scenic, Geologic, and Hydrologic outstandingly remarkable values would be relatively simple.

If this segment were designated, the Forest Service would need to consider potential impacts on outstandingly remarkable values when maintaining roads on the section that parallels the creek, including the bridge.

Manageability of this segment is dependent upon similar management of the Forest Service segment downstream. If the Forest Service segment is not designated, it would not be

reasonable to designate the BLM segment. Both the BLM and Forest Service segments must be considered together.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

The Nez Perce continue to use places and to apply their knowledge of the natural resources of the streams and rivers of the CFO area, just as they have for thousands of years. Tribal treaty rights pursued on public lands outside the boundaries of the reservation include fishing for resident game fish species and anadromous fish, hunting both large and small game, and gathering various natural resources for both subsistence and medicinal purposes. In addition, traditional social and religious activities continue to be practiced.

The BLM has a trust responsibility to provide the conditions necessary for tribal members to satisfy their treaty rights and to maintain cultural practices. There is no inventory of locations used by Native Americans in exercising their treaty rights, but the Nez Perce Tribe has expressed concerns over natural resource management, especially as it pertains to water quality and its relation to fisheries management actions.

Designation is not likely to negatively affect or impair activities traditionally pursued by the Nez Perce in exercising treaty rights and cultural practices. Uses do not require the construction of permanent dams, water conduits, reservoirs, or electric generating or distribution infrastructure. Actions to protect segments of riparian corridors would likely preclude some incompatible activities and be beneficial to water quality, fisheries and other resources used by the Nez Perce. Government-to-government consultation as part of the RMP process and the development of management actions in the corridor segments is necessary to ensure that rights to access and use resources and places important to Native Americans are not affected.

8. Other:

The lower portion of BLM lands adjoin private lands and is designated WUI in the Idaho County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan. Scenic criteria that prevent a noticeable change from occurring to vegetation could prevent attainment of WUI fuel-reduction goals and make the designation contrary to the Idaho County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plan.

***Segment 4: Hard Creek—National Forest Boundary to Confluence with Hazard Creek***

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

There is a popular camping spot at the confluence of Hazard Creek and Hard Creek. A small road spur off the main Forest Service road provides vehicle parking for this camping area, which is primitive and consists of a small flat open area surrounded by several large trees. Some of the trees have been scarred by axes and saws. The BLM maintains this small road and periodically cleans up the campsite.

A Forest Service road parallels Hard Creek, from the bridge crossing Hazard Creek upstream for the entire segment being considered. The road is visible from within the proposed corridor in some locations. There also are roads that access Hard Creek from the west (over the Little Salmon River divide) and cutting units (from the 1960s) that also are visible.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

The BLM manages all lands within the river corridor being considered. The Forest Service maintains a road that crosses BLM land along the creek, from Highway 95 onto the Payette National Forest.

No potential for minerals has been identified along the proposed segment of Hard Creek, but valid existing mining claims would be honored. Mine operators and miners would need to ensure that river corridor values could be maintained.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

Hard Creek is forested with ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir, with some areas of grand fir, and western larch. An estimated 60 percent of the BLM land in this area is forested. If the Hard Creek segment is nominated, restrictions for timber harvest would be placed on 72 acres in order to ensure timber removal would not affect the scenic outstandingly remarkable values. However, 330 acres (inside and outside the study corridor) of forested land under BLM jurisdiction would have restrictions to maintain VRM standards suitable to its VRM class.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

The Payette National Forest conducted a Wild and Scenic Rivers eligibility study as part of its resource management plan and found Hard Creek eligible for Wild and Scenic designation. The Forest Service evaluated the creek from the headwaters at Hard Creek Lake downstream to the confluence to the Forest Service boundary with BLM land. The BLM is considering the segment from this boundary downstream to the confluence with Hazard Creek. Hard Creek was found to be free flowing and to contain Scenic, Geologic, and Hydrologic outstandingly remarkable values by the Forest Service for the portions within the Payette National Forest. The Forest Service descriptions of outstandingly remarkable values are as follows (Payette National Forest 2003):

- Scenic—The river area contains very scenic cascading waterfalls, cirque basins, high mountain lakes, rock forms, and offers outstanding views. Fall colors highlight the scenic beauty of the area.
- Geologic/Hydrologic—A combination and extent of several outstanding hydrologic and geologic features are found within this drainage. The landform within the lower half of

the Hard Creek dominantly consists of steep to extremely steep mountain headlands and deeply entrenched canyon walls that are adjacent to a major stream. The landforms within the upper half dominantly consist of glacial headlands, uplands, troughs, and cirque basins.

The segment of Hard Creek being considered by the BLM is immediately downstream of the segment considered by the Forest Service. The Forest Service has not completed a suitability study of these segments of Hard Creek, so it is uncertain whether the Forest Service will find them suitable or unsuitable for designation. Consequently, it is uncertain whether designating the BLM segment being considered would be compatible with the Forest Service portion of the creek.

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

The BLM manages all lands within the proposed corridor, no land acquisition would be necessary.

6. Ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a Wild and Scenic River or other means to protect the identified values:

Because the land upstream of the BLM segment is federally managed land (Forest Service), management of this segment for Scenic, Geologic, and Hydrologic outstandingly remarkable values would be relatively simple.

If it were to designate this section, the Forest Service would need to consider potential impacts on outstandingly remarkable values when maintaining the section of the road that parallels the creek.

Manageability of this segment is dependent upon similar management of the Forest Service segment downstream. If the Forest Service segment is not designated, it would not be reasonable to designate the BLM segment. Both the BLM and Forest Service segments must be considered together.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

The Nez Perce continue to use places and to apply their knowledge of the natural resources of the streams and rivers of the CFO area, just as they have for thousands of years. Tribal treaty rights pursued on public lands outside the boundaries of the reservation include fishing for resident game fish species and anadromous fish, hunting both large and small game, and gathering various natural resources for both subsistence and medicinal purposes. In addition, traditional social and religious activities continue to be practiced.

The BLM has a trust responsibility to provide the conditions necessary for tribal members to satisfy their treaty rights and to maintain cultural practices. There is no inventory of locations used by Native Americans in exercising their treaty rights, but the Nez Perce Tribe has

expressed concerns over natural resource management, especially as it pertains to water quality and its relation to fisheries management actions.

Designation is not likely to negatively affect or impair activities traditionally pursued by the Nez Perce in exercising treaty rights and cultural practices. Uses do not require the construction of permanent dams, water conduits, reservoirs, or electric generating or distribution infrastructure. Actions to protect segments of riparian corridors would likely preclude some incompatible activities and be beneficial to water quality, fisheries and other resources used by the Nez Perce. Government-to-government consultation as part of the RMP process and the development of management actions in the corridor segments is necessary to ensure that rights to access and use resources and places important to Native Americans are not affected.

8. Other:

No major issues or concerns regarding suitability of this segment have been identified in the land use planning process.

***Segment 5: Lolo Creek—National Forest Boundary in Section 24, T34N, R5E to Confluence with Clearwater River***

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

Lolo Creek contains scenic, recreational, fisheries, and historic outstandingly remarkable values that make the segment a worthy addition to the National System. Development along Lolo Creek is very limited due to the steep canyon walls and limited access.

A gravel road provides access to Lolo Creek running approximately perpendicular to the creek and crosses Woodland Bridge, approximately ten miles upstream from the confluence with the Clearwater River. The single-lane bridge is on BLM-managed land. There also is a bridge that crosses Lolo Creek at Rock Creek, approximately two miles downstream from the National Forest boundary.

An automobile bridge crosses Lolo Creek approximately 0.50-mile upstream of the confluence with the Clearwater River. There is also a railroad bridge near the confluence with the Clearwater River. The railroad tracks parallel the Clearwater River.

The Nez Perce Tribe operates a fish trap on a barge just upstream of Woodland Bridge. The purpose of the trap is for tagging smolt (outmigrating anadromous fish) and collecting population data. The trap is seasonal and not a permanent structure. The trap, when present, adversely affects the scenic quality of the creek in this area. Downstream of Woodland Bridge, the Nez Perce Tribe constructs and operates a weir and fish trap for capturing upmigrating anadromous fish. This structure is also removed each year after use. During operation, the weir does not affect the amount of water passing downstream but constricts flow to allow operation of the trap.

The area approximately 0.13-mile upstream of Woodland Bridge is a popular swimming hole, which is sometimes enhanced by swimmers creating a small weir. The BLM periodically removes the weir to restore river flow.

Lolo Creek, from Eldorado Creek (located upstream of the segment) down to the confluence with the Clearwater River, is listed on the US EPA 303(d) list for having water quality issues. The pollutants of concern are bacteria, dissolved oxygen, flow alteration, habitat alteration, nutrients, oil/gas, sediment, and temperature. For river segments being considered for Scenic designation, the WSR Act does not list water quality criteria. 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. A water quality improvement plan (total maximum daily load) is under development for Lolo Creek (IDEQ 2005, Lewiston office).

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

Lolo Creek flows from its headwaters in the Clearwater National Forest at Hemlock Butte and terminates at the Clearwater River (river mile 0). The section being considered in this suitability study begins at the downstream end of the National Forest boundary and continues to the confluence with the Clearwater River. Landownership is very segmented, with portions being owned/managed by the BLM, Forest Service, State of Idaho, and private landowners. **Table K-2** shows land ownership adjacent to the creek in this segment.

**Table K-2**  
**Land Ownership Adjacent to Lolo Creek by Shoreline Miles and Percent below National Forest Boundary**

Ownership	Miles	Proportion
BLM	12.4	52%
Forest Service	0.5	2%
State	2.5	10%
Private	8.6	36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>24.0</b>	<b>100%</b>

Mineral potential within the river corridor has been identified for gold placer, gold lode, and black-sand. The mineral potential for gold placer is classified as moderate. The level of certainty for gold placer is C (the available data provide abundant direct and indirect

evidence to support or refute this possible existence of mineral resources). The mineral potential for gold lode and black sand is classified as low for accumulation of mineral resources. The level of certainty for this gold lode and black-sand is classified as B (the available data provide indirect evidence to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources). Designation could affect future mineral resources development because any mining activities would be required to protect the outstandingly remarkable values.

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System, and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

Lolo Creek segment has ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir timber types along the lower portions of Lolo Creek. In the mid- to upper reaches on BLM lands, grand fir forest types are common, with incidental occurrences of cedar. Stands of cottonwoods are not uncommon in the riparian area. The BLM lands in this area are intermingled with other ownership, making it difficult to estimate the percent of BLM lands that are forested. Judging by aerial photos, approximately 50 percent of the acres managed by the BLM are forested. If the Lolo Creek segment is nominated, restrictions for timber harvest would be placed on 520 acres of forested BLM land in order to ensure that sedimentation from erosion would not degrade the fisheries outstandingly remarkable values. However, approximately 4,230 acres of forested land under BLM jurisdiction would have some sort of restriction to maintain VRM standards.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

As stated previously, BLM-managed lands along Lolo Creek are not continuous. The other sections of the creek are owned/managed by private landowners, the Forest Service, or the State of Idaho. This suitability study is assessing only those sections of Lolo Creek that occur on BLM land. Successful management for the protection of wild and scenic outstandingly remarkable values would depend on cooperation with these other landowners. The interest of the Forest Service in designating or not designating the segment will be determined when the Forest Service's suitability study is completed. ~~Other state, tribal, local, and public organizations are expected to review and provide comments on this draft report.~~

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands, interests in lands, and administering the area if designated:

The BLM would not pursue or consider acquiring the private land parcel unless it becomes available from a willing seller. The BLM does not anticipate this happening in the foreseeable future.

The BLM has a 20-year lease along the north bank near the confluence with the Clearwater River to provide recreational access to the public. The lease is renewable with an option to buy. This lease assists the BLM in maintaining the Recreational outstandingly remarkable values by providing an area for kayakers to pull out.

6. The ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a Wild and Scenic River, or other means to protect the identified values other than Wild and Scenic River designation:

Minimal effort would be required for the BLM to ensure that land uses on BLM-managed parcels would protect the outstandingly remarkable values. Management measures on BLM parcels would include ensuring that land use activities do not result in significant erosion or sedimentation, which could adversely affect fisheries habitat. Other measures would include limiting development, ensuring recreational access, and protecting historical values. However, the land status is segmented with various private landowners, state, and Forest Service land, interspersed with the BLM parcels. The BLM does not have management control over potential land use activities (such as timber harvest and mining) on private and state land parcels upstream of BLM parcels. These activities could adversely affect fisheries habitat and Scenic outstandingly remarkable values in the BLM-managed sections. Consequently, coordination and cooperation with other landowners and managers would be required to ensure the protection of outstandingly remarkable values.

Other means to protect the identified values include compliance with the Endangered Species Act, BLM sensitive species management, and VRM class designations. The Endangered Species Act restricts land uses that could degrade fisheries habitat or impact fish populations for federally listed species. The specific restrictions imposed on land uses would be considered on a case-by-case basis through consultation with USFWS.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

The Nez Perce continue to use places and to apply their knowledge of the natural resources of the streams and rivers of the CFO area, just as they have for thousands of years. Tribal treaty rights pursued on public lands outside the boundaries of the reservation include fishing for resident game fish species and anadromous fish, hunting both large and small game, and gathering various natural resources for both subsistence and medicinal purposes. In addition, traditional social and religious activities continue to be practiced.

The BLM has a trust responsibility to provide the conditions necessary for tribal members to satisfy their treaty rights and to maintain cultural practices. There is no inventory of locations used by Native Americans in exercising their treaty rights, but the Nez Perce Tribe has expressed concerns over natural resource management, especially as it pertains to water quality and its relation to fisheries management actions.

Designation is not likely to negatively affect or impair activities traditionally pursued by the Nez Perce in exercising treaty rights and cultural practices. Uses do not require the construction of permanent dams, water conduits, reservoirs, or electric generating or distribution infrastructure. Actions to protect segments of riparian corridors would likely preclude some incompatible activities and be beneficial to water quality, fisheries and other resources used by the Nez Perce. Government-to-government consultation as part of the RMP process and the development of management actions in the corridor segments is

necessary to ensure that rights to access and use resources and places important to Native Americans are not affected.

The Lolo Creek drainage was host to the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1805 and was a common travel route for Nez Perce Indians and other expeditions. Lewis and Clark camped near Lolo Creek at Pheasant Camp on September 21, 1805. From this point they headed to the Weippe Prairie, where they had their first encounter with the Nez Perce Indians. Twisted Hair and his band welcomed the foreigners, who stayed with them for three weeks (Wilfong 1990). The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail crosses Lolo Creek in Clearwater National Forest near Lolo Campground at river mile 25.5 (Clearwater and Lolo National Forests 2004). The Nee-Mee-Poo or Nez Perce National Historic Trail crosses Lolo Creek in that approximate location. (Note: the names of the trails are commonly used interchangeably and also referred to as the Lolo Trail.) The historic integrity of these trails would not be affected by designation.

8. Other:

The lower reaches of Lolo Creek are categorized as WUI in the Clearwater and Idaho County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans. The BLM lands are on steep slopes with residences at the top of these slopes. Fuels-reduction projects to prevent stand-replacing fire from reaching private lands is a priority in both County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans. Visual restrictions limiting noticeable change from occurring to vegetation could prevent attainment of WUI fuel-reduction goals and make the designation contrary to the County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans. This will be more evident on the south side of Lolo creek because, being a north slope, the vegetation density is much higher and will more readily result in a noticeable change. Also, in the upper reaches of Lolo Creek, there is substantial interspersing of BLM lands with private lands. These are typically being managed for timber production, but there has been an increasing level of development of these sites for residences. Again, these changes through time could result in conflicts between WUI fuels and wild and scenic rivers goals and objectives.

***Segment 6: Clearwater River—Mainstem from Confluence with Middle Fork and South Fork Clearwater River in Kooskia to Confluence with the Snake River in Lewiston***

1. Characteristics that do or do not make the river a worthy addition to the National System:

The US Environmental Protection Agency has classified the Clearwater, from the confluence with the North Fork Clearwater River to the Washington state line, as a 303(d) water body. The pollutant of concern for this segment is total dissolved gas. For river segments being considered for Recreational designation, the WSR Act does not list water quality criteria. 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. A Water Quality

Improvement Plan (total maximum daily load) has been completed for this stretch of the Clearwater River (Settlement Agreement 2002).

Highway 12 parallels the river segment for its entire length. From the confluence with the Middle Fork and South Fork Clearwater Rivers downstream to approximately the town of Kamiah, the road follows the eastern shoreline. For the rest of the segment the road follows the southern and western shoreline.

The railroad parallels this segment of the Clearwater River on the northern and eastern shore (opposite Highway 12) from Lewiston to Kamiah. The railroad crosses the river in Kamiah and continues a short distance along the other shoreline before ending in Kamiah.

Associated with the adjacent highway and railroad are numerous areas where riprap has been placed along the shore to prevent the river from eroding the road and railroad bases. There are also a number of culverts and pullouts associated with the highway. Although the river has been channelized in sections, the outstandingly remarkable values for fisheries and recreation remain sufficiently protected.

2. The status of land and mineral ownership, use in the area, and associated or incompatible uses:

An initial river corridor of 0.25-mile on either side of the river was included when suitability was considered. Within this corridor, the BLM manages 2,428 acres, or ten percent of the land for the entire 74.8-mile segment being considered.

Although the BLM manages only a small percentage of the adjacent lands along the entire 74.8-mile segment, it does manage a significant portion of adjacent lands for the subsegment between the mouth of Lolo Creek and the Pardee townsite (5.9 miles). The BLM manages 781 acres (41 percent) of the 1,888 acres of corridor being considered for designation.

Three areas along the Clearwater River were identified as containing mineral potential. Beginning upstream near Pardee, the first area is around the mouth of Lolo Creek; mineral potential in this area within the river corridor has been identified for gold placer, gold lode, and black-sand. The mineral potential for gold placer is classified as moderate. The level of certainty for gold placer is C (the available data provide abundant direct and indirect evidence to support or refute this possible existence of mineral resources).

The second area of mineral potential is from approximately the mouth of Lolo Creek downstream to where the Clearwater River turns west. Mineral potential in this area has been identified as high for limestone and the level of certainty is C.

The third area is near Riverside. Mineral potential in this area has been identified for gold placer and black sand. Mineral potential in this area is low, and potential for certainty is B (the available data provide indirect evidence to support or refute the possible existence of mineral resources).

3. Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the National System and values that would be foreclosed or diminished if the area were not designated:

The Clearwater River segment has scattered ponderosa pine/Douglas-fir forest types on the west and south slopes and dense grand fir, Douglas-fir, and ponderosa pine forest types on the north and east slopes. If the Clearwater River segment were nominated, timber harvest could be restricted.

Future mining activities on BLM land could be restricted as a result of designation. Approval of mining activities would need to consider the potential impacts on fish habitat in the Clearwater River. Steps would be required to ensure that the fish habitat would not be adversely affected.

4. Federal, state, tribal, local, public, or other interest in designating or not designating the river:

The Idaho Transportation Department is responsible for maintaining Highway 12 and would be affected by designation of this segment in the National System. Highway 12 is a US highway receiving federal funding. If designated, highway maintenance and construction activities would need to ensure the protection of the outstandingly remarkable values. ~~Other state, tribal, local, and public organizations are expected to review and provide comments on this draft report, at which time their interest in designating or not designating the segment will be determined.~~

5. Estimated cost of acquiring necessary lands and interests in lands and of administering the area if designated:

The cost of acquiring all necessary lands adjacent to the Clearwater River for the entire 74.8 miles would be prohibitive. This segment would have to be designated in concurrence with the majority of the other federal, state, and private landowners.

6. The ability of the agency to manage and protect the river area or segment as a Wild and Scenic River or other means to protect the identified values other than Wild and Scenic River designation:

The ability of the BLM to manage outstandingly remarkable value for the entire 74.8-mile segment is limited due to the small amount of land within the corridor under the BLM's control.

However, the BLM could manage 5.9 miles, from the mouth of Lolo Creek to the Pardee townsite, with minimal effort. The BLM currently manages these lands in a manner that protects the fisheries, historic, and recreational outstandingly remarkable values of the river. Should major changes be proposed either to the railroad or Highway 12 for this segment, management could become challenging because these activities would be beyond the BLM's control.

7. Historical or existing rights that could be adversely affected with designation:

The Nez Perce continue to use places and to apply their knowledge of the natural resources of the streams and rivers of the CFO area, just as they have for thousands of years. Tribal treaty rights pursued on public lands outside the boundaries of the reservation include fishing for resident game fish species and anadromous fish, hunting both large and small game, and gathering various natural resources for both subsistence and medicinal purposes. In addition, traditional social and religious activities continue to be practiced.

The BLM has a trust responsibility to provide the conditions necessary for tribal members to satisfy their treaty rights and to maintain cultural practices. There is no inventory of locations used by Native Americans in exercising their treaty rights, but the Nez Perce Tribe has expressed concerns over natural resource management, especially as it pertains to water quality and its relation to fisheries management actions.

Designation is not likely to negatively affect or impair activities traditionally pursued by the Nez Perce in exercising treaty rights and cultural practices. Uses do not require the construction of permanent dams, water conduits, reservoirs, or electric generating or distribution infrastructure. Actions to protect segments of riparian corridors would likely preclude some incompatible activities and be beneficial to water quality, fisheries and other resources used by the Nez Perce. Government-to-government consultation as part of the RMP process and the development of management actions in the corridor segments is necessary to ensure that rights to access and use resources and places important to Native Americans are not affected.

8. Other:

Portions of the Clearwater River are categorized as WUI in the Clearwater and Idaho County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans. Fuels-reduction projects to prevent stand-replacing fire from reaching the private lands are a priority in both County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans. Visual restrictions limiting noticeable change from occurring to vegetation could prevent attainment of WUI fuel-reduction goals and make the designation contrary to the County Wildland Fire Mitigation Plans.

### **Suitability Determination Summary**

Three of the six eligible segments were determined to be suitable for inclusion in the National System. Below is a summary of each of the six segments.

#### ***Segment 1: Lake Creek—Headwaters to National Forest Boundary***

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable fisheries values, including excellent spawning and rearing habitat for a variety of species, such as federally listed threatened bull trout, Chinook salmon, steelhead, and BLM sensitive westslope cutthroat trout. The segment meets classification criteria as Recreational because a dirt road parallels the segment approximately 0.25-mile away from the river channel. Access to most of the segment from this road would involve a 0.25-mile hike down

approximately 1,000 feet in elevation. Designation of this segment would result in minimal changes to existing management but would provide an additional layer of protection for this river segment. Consistent with the Forest Service determination for the remainder of Lake Creek, this segment has been determined **suitable** for designation as a **Recreational** river within the National System.

### *Segment 2: French Creek—National Forest Boundary to Confluence with Salmon River*

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable scenic and fisheries values. French Creek is a highly scenic visual resource, flowing through a deeply dissected canyon with meadows, with a distinctive riffle/pool effect. The French Creek fisheries outstandingly remarkable value is due to its importance to anadromous wild Chinook salmon, wild steelhead, and bull trout spawning and rearing. The segment would meet the tentative classification criteria as Recreational. Development in addition to the two bridges includes a residence located along the stream on private land. Designation of this segment would result in several management challenges because the BLM manages only 30 percent of the land and this portion is segmented. Managing this segment to protect outstandingly remarkable values would require minimal changes to existing management, provided the BLM has the cooperation of the adjacent private landowners and the State of Idaho. This segment has been determined to be **nonsuitable** for designation as a Recreational river within the National System until such time as the adjacent private landowners and State of Idaho provide a determination of eligibility and suitability for segments under their control.

### *Segment 3: Hazard Creek—National Forest Boundary to Confluence with Little Salmon River*

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable Scenic and Geologic/Hydrologic values. The river basin contains very scenic cascading waterfalls, cirque basins, and rock forms and offers outstanding views. Fall colors highlight the scenic beauty of the area. The Geologic/Hydrologic value is found in the combination and extent of several outstanding hydrologic and geologic features that are found within this drainage. The landform within the lower half of Hazard Creek dominantly consists of steep to extremely steep mountain headlands and deeply entrenched canyon walls that are adjacent to a major stream. The Forest Service has studied the upstream portions of Hazard Creek and has determined them to be eligible, but it has not completed a suitability study. Landownership along this segment is predominantly BLM, with private land holdings along the lower 0.50-mile segment. Development along this segment includes the Forest Service road that parallels the segment and a residence on the lower 0.50 mile. Per changes to BLM Manual 8351 (BLM 2003), the BLM shall evaluate only its segment as to eligibility and shall defer to the state or private landowner's discretion as to their determination of eligibility. Consequently, this suitability determination is restricted to the portion of the segment upstream of the private landholdings to the boundary of the BLM land with the Forest Service. Designation of this segment would result in minimal changes to existing management but would provide an additional layer of protection for this river segment. As a result, this segment from the boundary with private land to the National Forest boundary has been determined to be **suitable** as a **Recreational** river within the National System. A final suitability determination should be coordinated with the Forest Service and the private landowners along this segment to determine if additional portions of Hazard Creek should be included. Manageability of this segment is dependent upon similar management of the Forest Service segment downstream. If the Forest Service segment is not designated, it would not be reasonable to designate the BLM segment. Both the BLM and Forest Service segments must be considered together.

#### *Segment 4: Hard Creek—National Forest Boundary to Confluence with Hazard Creek*

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable Scenic and Geologic/Hydrologic values. The river basin contains very scenic cascading waterfalls, cirque basins, and rock forms and offers outstanding views. Fall colors highlight the scenic beauty of the area. The Geologic/Hydrologic value is found in the combination and extent of several outstanding hydrologic and geologic features that are found within this drainage. The landform within the lower half of the Hard Creek dominantly consists of steep to extremely steep mountain headlands and deeply entrenched canyon walls that are adjacent to a major stream. The Forest Service has studied the upstream portions of Hazard Creek and has determined them to be eligible, but it has not completed a suitability study. The BLM manages all the land within the proposed corridor. Development within the river corridor consists of the Forest Service road that parallels the segment. Designation of this segment would result in minimal changes to existing management but would provide an additional layer of protection for this river segment. As a result, this segment has been determined **suitable** for designation as a **Recreational** river within the National System. Manageability of this segment is dependent upon similar management of the Forest Service segment downstream. If the Forest Service segment is not designated, it would not be reasonable to designate the BLM segment. Both the BLM and Forest Service segments must be considered together.

#### *Segment 5: Lolo Creek—National Forest Boundary in Section 24, T34N, R5E to Confluence with Clearwater River*

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, fisheries, and historic values. The upper part of Lolo Creek flows through mostly forested headlands, with scenic meadows and diverse riparian vegetation providing pleasing visual contrasts. The river channel is often boulder strewn, creating pleasing pool and drop hydrologic scenery. The lower ten miles of Lolo Creek flow through an extremely steep, deeply incised canyon, remarkable for its depth and narrow construction. Vegetative texture ranges from lush green mosses and forested banks to stark, bare canyon walls and semiarid canyon grasslands. The river has a near constant gradient, providing numerous small falls and cascades for pleasing visual effect.

Opportunities for a pristine and wild whitewater kayaking experience are especially unique to Lolo Creek. The lower ten miles of the creek is considered one of the best whitewater runs in Idaho and have been described as an isolated, challenging Class IV to Class V run. The upper section of the Lolo Creek whitewater runs have a lower gradient and less difficult but still challenging rapids.

Lolo Creek provides a variety of habitats for threatened anadromous steelhead and BLM sensitive anadromous and resident fish populations and is one of the major producers of anadromous fish for the lower Clearwater River. In addition to wild summer steelhead, spring Chinook salmon use Lolo Creek for spawning and rearing, and a recovering population of Coho salmon has been reintroduced to the system.

The Nee-Mee-Poo (Lolo Trail) crosses Lolo Creek in several locations. The Nez Perce led the Lewis and Clark expedition from the Weippe Prairie to the Clearwater River over this trail.

Designation of this segment would result in several management challenges due to the scattered land status pattern along the creek. The BLM manages 52 percent of the segment being considered, and managing these portions would require minimal changes to existing management, provided the BLM has the cooperation of the adjacent private landowners, the Forest Service, and the State of Idaho. Without the cooperation and support of the adjacent landowners and managers, the BLM would have a difficult time controlling outstandingly remarkable values that could be affected by activities upstream or downstream of their portions. However, current management actions both on BLM lands and adjacent landowners are compatible with the protection of the outstandingly remarkable values.

This segment is listed on the US Environmental Protection Agency 303(d) list. The WSR Act allows for river segments to be designated as Scenic or Recreational provided there is a plan in place or being developed to address water quality issues. A Water Quality Improvement Plan (total maximum daily load) is under development for Lolo Creek (IDEQ 2005).

This segment has been determined to be **suitable** for designation as a **Scenic** river within the National System.

***Segment 6: Clearwater River—Mainstem from confluence with Middle Fork and South Fork Clearwater River in Kooskia to its confluence with the Snake River in Lewiston***

This segment contains outstandingly remarkable recreational, fisheries, and historic values. The Clearwater River is internationally known for its steelhead fishing and attracts fisherman from all over the world. Steelhead returning to the Clearwater River are much larger than those found elsewhere in the US, with an average size of 12 to 14 pounds, and fish in the 18- to over 20-pound range are not uncommon. With the return of both spring/summer Chinook and fall Chinook salmon, recreational fishing for anadromous species occurs throughout most of the year. The Clearwater River provides important spawning habitat for fall Chinook salmon and important rearing habitat for spring/summer Chinook and steelhead.

The Clearwater River is the historic home to the Nez Perce Tribe. The Clearwater River is also an important segment of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. The Clearwater was the first westward flowing river used by the expedition and was the place where they returned to water travel after crossing the Continental Divide.

Development along this 74.8-mile segment of the Clearwater River includes Highway 12 and a railroad track, both of which follow the river on opposite banks. This segment of river also passes through several towns and cities, including Kamiah and Lewiston. The BLM manages ten percent of the adjacent land (within 0.25-mile of the river) for this segment. Per changes to BLM Manual 8351 (BLM 2003), the BLM shall evaluate only its segment as to eligibility and shall defer to the state's or private landowner's discretion as to their determination of eligibility. Consequently, this suitability determination is restricted to the sections of river where the BLM manages the adjacent lands.

Designation of this segment would result in several management challenges due to the scattered land status pattern along the creek. The BLM manages ten percent of the segment being considered, and its management would require minimal changes, provided the BLM has the cooperation of the

adjacent private landowners, the Forest Service, and the State of Idaho and any other agencies with landholdings. Without the cooperation and support of the adjacent landowners and managers, the BLM would have a difficult time controlling outstandingly remarkable values that could be affected by activities upstream or downstream of its managed lands.

This segment is listed on the US Environmental Protection Agency 303(d) list. The WSR Act allows for river segments to be designated as Scenic or Recreational provided there is a plan in place or being developed to address water quality issues. A Water Quality Improvement Plan (total maximum daily load) has been completed for this stretch of the Clearwater River (Settlement Agreement 2002).

This segment has been determined to be **nonsuitable** for designation as a Scenic river within the National System until such time as the adjacent private landowners, the Forest Service, and the State of Idaho provide a determination of eligibility and suitability for segments under their control and a plan is developed to address water quality issues.

The BLM also considered the suitability of the segment from the mouth of Lolo Creek to the Pardee townsite. In this 5.9-mile segment, the BLM manages 41 percent of the lands. Consequently, managing this area for the protection of the outstandingly remarkable values would be simpler than considering the entire Clearwater River. This separate segment was also determined to be **nonsuitable** due to the amount of channelizing that has occurred in the past in association with Highway 12 and the railroad.

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## APPENDIX K-1: ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

### Introduction

For the purpose of classification, a river area may be divided into segments. For example, changes in river character, such as the presence of dams and reservoirs, significant changes in types or amounts of development, significant changes in physiographic character, tributaries, or features, and/or significant changes in land status should be considered in identifying river segments for evaluation. Management strategies necessary to administer the entire river area should also be taken into account. As such, excessive segmentation should be avoided. Each segment, considered as a whole, needs to conform to either the Wild, Scenic, or Recreational classification. There are no specific requirements for segment length. Congress has designated a segment to be as short as four miles. A river segment is of sufficient length if a specific outstandingly remarkable value or values can be protected (a factor in the suitability determination, not eligibility determination), should the segment be designated. An entire stream could be one segment.

Each identified river segment in the RMP planning area must be evaluated to determine whether or not it is eligible for inclusion in the National System. To be eligible, a river segment must be free flowing and must possess at least one outstandingly remarkable value. Free-flowing means “existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, riprapping, or other modification of the water.” Please note the following:

- A river below a dam or impoundment is still eligible;
- A river need not be navigable by watercraft in order to be eligible; and
- There are no specific requirements concerning the flow of an eligible river segment. Flows are sufficient if they sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable values for which the segment would be designated. As such, intermittent and ephemeral streams are eligible.

### Outstandingly Remarkable Values

The determination of whether a river area contains outstandingly remarkable values is a professional judgment and needs to be documented in the study report. In order to be considered as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all values should be directly river related; that is, they should have the following characteristics:

- Be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands (for the purposes of this study, the preliminary boundary is 0.25-mile on either side of the river);
- Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; or
- Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

The following are general guidelines for the outstandingly remarkable values for which river segments can be eligible. Only one such value is needed for eligibility.

### *Scenic*

The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions. 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 most of the river or river segment.

### *Recreational*

Recreational opportunities are or have the potential to be popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are unique or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreation. River-related opportunities include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, and boating.

- Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and may attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the region of comparison.
- The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.

### *Geological*

The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that are unique or rare within the region of comparison. The features may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a textbook example, or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

### *Fish*

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat or a combination of the following river-related conditions:

- **Populations.** The river is nationally or regionally one of the top producers of resident, indigenous, or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance may be the presence of wild or unique stocks or populations of state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.
- **Habitat.** The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.

### *Wildlife*

Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat or on a combination of the following conditions:

- **Populations.** The river or area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of resident or indigenous wildlife species depending on the river environment. Of particular significance may be species considered to be unique or populations of state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.
- **Habitat.** The river or area within 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 state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

### *Cultural*

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site or sites where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare or must have unusual characteristics or exceptional human interest values. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare; may represent an area where culture or a 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.

### *Historic*

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site or sites or feature or features associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the region. A historic site or feature in most cases is 50 years old or older. Sites or features listed on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places may be of particular significance.

### *Other Similar Values*

While no specific evaluation guidelines have been developed for the other similar values category, additional values deemed relevant to the eligibility of the river segment should be considered in a manner consistent with the foregoing guidance, including, but not limited to, hydrologic, ecologic/biologic diversity, paleontologic, botanic, and scientific study opportunities.

**APPENDIX K-2: CLASSIFICATION CRITERIA FOR WILD, SCENIC, AND RECREATIONAL RIVER AREAS**

**Table K-2-1**  
**Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational River Areas**

<b>Attribute</b>	<b>Wild</b>	<b>Scenic</b>	<b>Recreational</b>
Water Resources Development (impoundments, diversions, etc.)	Free of impoundment	Free of impoundment	Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions, riprap, 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 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 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, including fords, 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 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 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.	

Source: *Federal Register*. National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas. Section 1(3), Vol. 47, No. 173, page 39461. September 7, 1982.

**APPENDIX K-3: INTERIM PROTECTION FOR CANDIDATE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS**

**Table K-3-1  
Interim Protection for Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers**

<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 5(d)(1)<sup>1</sup></b>		
<b>Issue/Action</b>	<b>Eligible<sup>2</sup></b>	<b>Suitable</b>
Study Boundary	Minimum of 0.25-mile from ordinary high-water mark.  Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values.	Minimum of 0.25-mile from ordinary high-water mark.  Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values.
Preliminary Classification	Section 2(b): 3 classes: Wild, Scenic, Recreational, defined by statute.  Criteria for classification described in Interagency Guidelines.  Manage at preliminary classification.	Section 2(b): 3 classes: Wild, Scenic, Recreational, defined by statute.  Criteria for classification described in Interagency Guidelines.  Manage at preliminary classification.
Study Report Review Procedures		Notice of study report/draft EA <sup>3</sup> published in <i>Federal Register</i> .  Comments/response from federal, state, and local agencies and the public included in the study report/final EA <sup>4</sup> transmitted to the President and Congress.
Private Land *Administration *Acquisition	Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners.  No regulatory authority.  No ability to acquire interest in land under the act's authority prior to designation.	Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners.  No regulatory authority.  No ability to acquire interest in land under the act's authority prior to designation.  Typically an evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and land use controls is a component of suitability determination <sup>5</sup> .

**Table K-3-1**  
**Interim Protection for Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers** *(continued)*

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 5(d)(1) <sup>1</sup>		
Issue/Action	Eligible <sup>2</sup>	Suitable
Water Resources Project	River's free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities; not protected under the act.	River's free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities; not protected under the act.
Land Disposition	Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership.	Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership.
Mining and Mineral Leasing	Protect free flow, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values through other agency authorities.	Protect free flow, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values through other agency authorities.
Actions of Other Agencies	Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnership.	Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnership.
Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values	No regulatory authority conferred by the act; agency protects through other authorities.  Section 11(b) 1: Limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources <sup>6</sup> .	No regulatory authority conferred by the act; agency protects through other authorities.  Section 11(b) 1: Limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources <sup>6</sup> .

<sup>1</sup> Agency-identified study rivers as directed by Section 5(d)(1) of the act.

<sup>2</sup> A number of sources are available for identifying rivers under Section 5(d)(1). Under a Presidential Directive issued in 1979, each federal agency, as part of its normal planning and environmental review processes, is required to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on rivers in the National Rivers Inventory.

<sup>3</sup> Draft environmental assessment

<sup>4</sup> Final environmental assessment

<sup>5</sup> For an agency-identified study river that includes private lands, there is often the need to evaluate existing state and local land use controls and, if necessary, to assess the willingness of state and local governments to protect river values.

<sup>6</sup> Section 11(b)1 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture or the head of any other federal agency to provide for "limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources." This authority "applies within or outside a federally administered area and applies to rivers which are components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and to other rivers." The recipients of federal assistance include states or their political subdivisions, landowners, private organizations, or individuals. Some examples of assistance under this section include, but are not limited to, riparian restoration, riparian fencing to protect water quality and riparian vegetation, of vegetative screening to enhance scenery/recreation experience.

**APPENDIX K-4: RIVER SEGMENTS FROM INITIAL IDENTIFICATION EFFORTS**

**Table K-4-1** lists the Planning Area river and stream segments considered during initial identification efforts for the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process.

**Table K-4-1**  
**River Segments from Initial Identification Efforts**

River Segment	Total Segment Length (miles)	Length on BLM-Administered Lands (miles)	Free Flowing	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Determination	
				Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	Not Eligible	Eligible
Boulder Creek (Little Salmon)	18.1	.11	Y									X	
Little Salmon River	39.4	3.58	Y									X	
Trail Creek (Little Salmon)	3.25	1.44	Y									X	
Hard Creek	12.3	1.64	Y	X		X							X
Hazard Creek	16.39	1.52	Y	X		X							X
Rattlesnake Creek (Little Salmon)	3.5	1.58	N									X	
Sheep Creek (Little Salmon)	3.6	2.43	Y									X	
Lake Creek (Secesh)	15.82	2.18	Y				X						X
Carey Creek	7.48	3.12	Y									X	
French Creek	22.3	1.38	Y	X			X						X
Elkhorn Creek	11.0	1.03	Y									X	
Partridge Creek	11.52	1.87	Y									X	
Lake Creek (Salmon River)	8.75	1.78	Y									X	
Race Creek	2.2	.43	Y									X	
Fiddle Creek	6.44	1.85	Y									X	
Sheep Creek (Salmon River)	12.6	1.44	Y									X	
John Day Creek	8.72	1.61	Y									X	

**Table K-4-1**  
**River Segments from Initial Identification Efforts** *(continued)*

River Segment	Total Segment Length (miles)	Length on BLM-Administered Lands (miles)	Free Flowing	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Determination	
				Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	Not Eligible	Eligible
McKinzie Creek	7.0	1.87	Y									X	
Slate Creek	22.35	.14	Y									X	
Skookumchuck Creek	5.2	.57	Y									X	
Sotin Creek	4.38	1.05	Y									X	
Rock Creek	8.0	.06	Y									X	
Rice Creek	14.7	2.45	Y									X	
Telcher Creek	8.2	1.84	Y									X	
Round Springs Creek	5.4	1.58	Y									X	
Burnt Creek	4.0	2.08	Y									X	
Billy Creek	3.3	2.16	Y									X	
Cottonwood Creek	10.6	1.09	Y									X	
Deer Creek	17.1	2.19	Y									X	
Eagle Creek	14.9	2.0	Y									X	
China Creek	8.6	.6	Y									X	
Wapshilla Creek	4.5	.1	Y									X	
Cave Gulch	4.5	4.0	Y									X	
Corral Creek	6.3	5.8	Y									X	
Divide Creek	16.2	1.75	Y									X	
Getta Creek	5.8	1.85	Y									X	
Wolf Creek	12.4	.57	Y									X	
American River	22.4	7.0	N*									X	
Big Elk Creek	10.0	1.38	Y									X	
Little Elk Creek	11.0	.85	Y									X	
Kirks Fork (American River)	6.0	.55	Y									X	
Buffalo Gulch Creek	6.4	3.44	N*									X	

**Table K-4-1**  
**River Segments from Initial Identification Efforts** *(continued)*

River Segment	Total Segment Length (miles)	Length on BLM-Administered Lands (miles)	Free Flowing	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Determination		
				Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	Not Eligible	Eligible	
Maurice Creek	2.8	2.55	Y										X	
Whiskey Creek	4.2	2.43	Y										X	
South Fork Clearwater River	62.8	5.9	Y*										X	
Clearwater River	74.8	15.7	Y		X		X		X					X
Lawyer Creek	40.5	1.78	Y										X	
Lolo Creek	47.0	14.3	Y	X	X		X		X					X
Little Canyon Creek	18.8	2.75	Y										X	
Big Canyon Creek	33.77	6.95	Y										X	

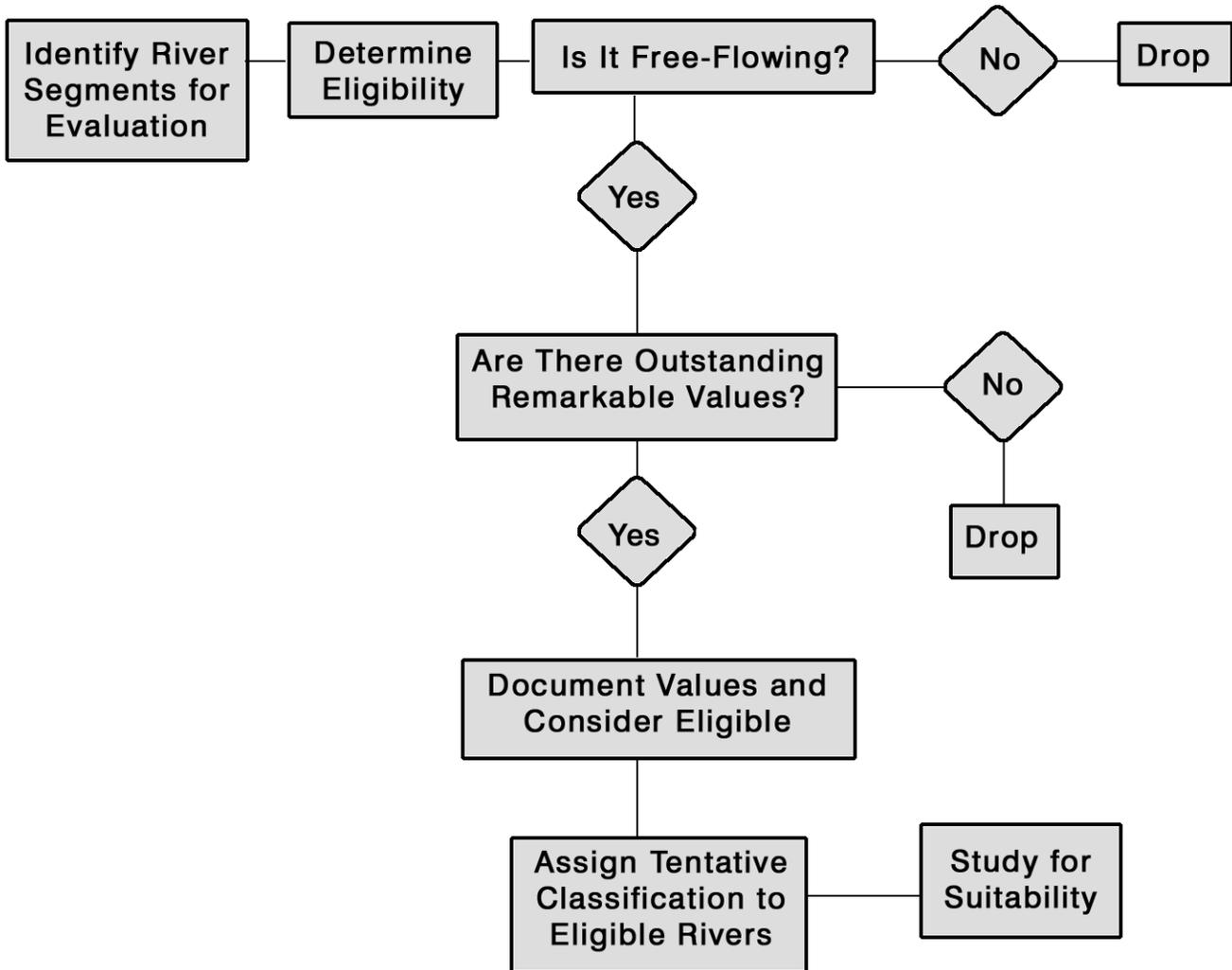
\* Free flowing, but segments on BLM channelized by mining activity

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**APPENDIX K-5: MAPS AND FIGURES**

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# WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ELIGIBILITY PROCESS



BLM 2002p.

The BLM inventories and evaluates rivers when it develops a RMP. The inventory is conducted during the data gathering stage of RMP development, and the study phase is done during the formulation of the Draft and Proposed RMP.

**Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Process Flow Chart**

**Figure 1**

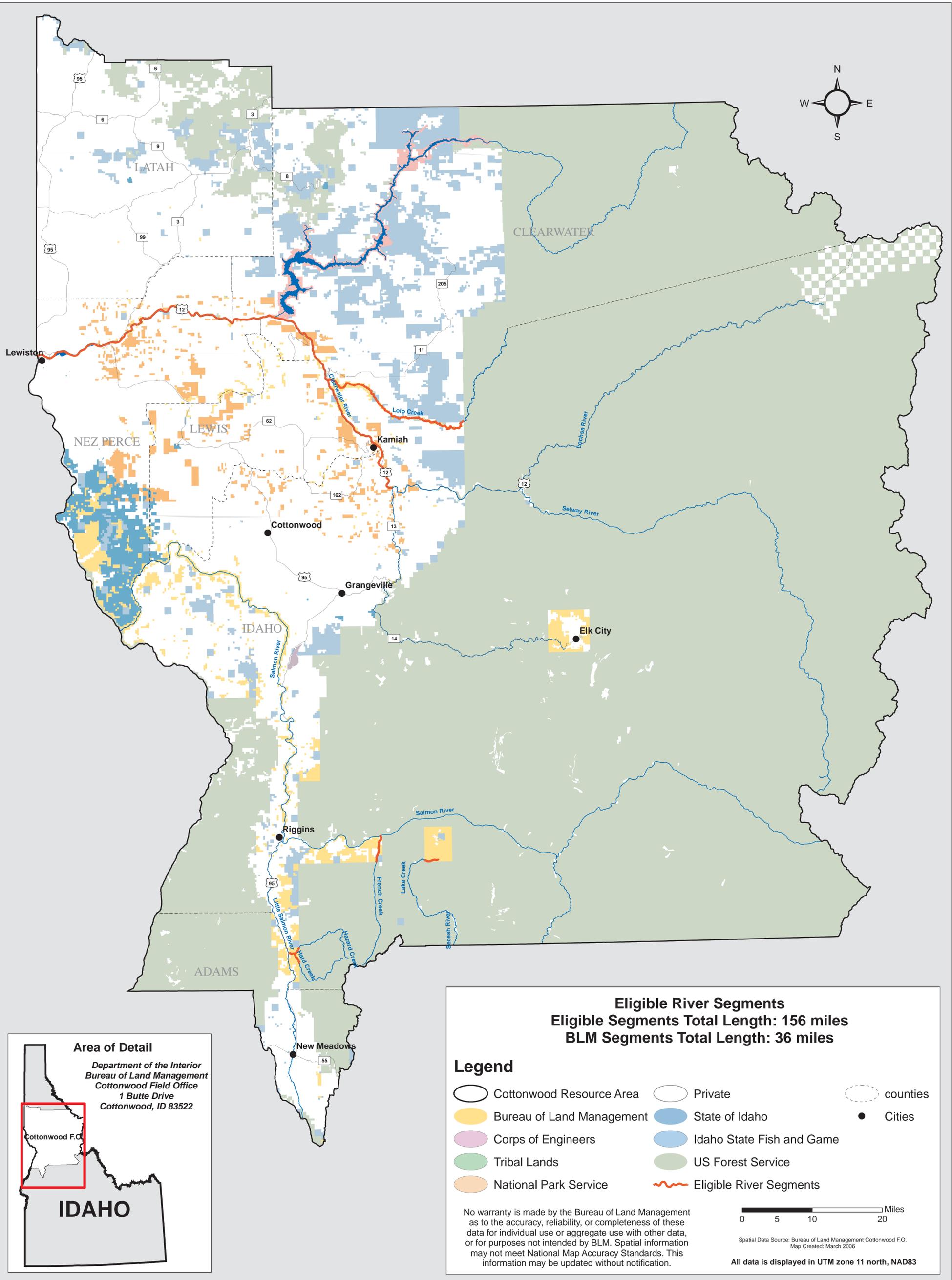
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# Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office Draft Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement

## Proposed Wild & Scenic Eligible Segments

Figure 2



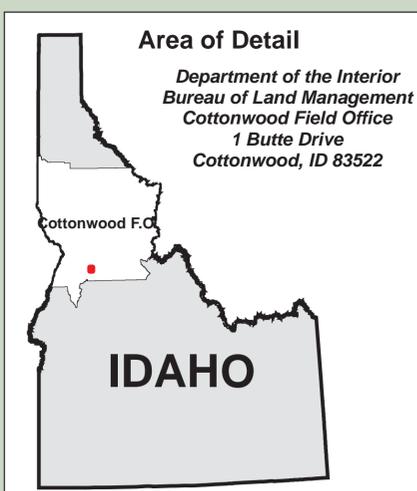
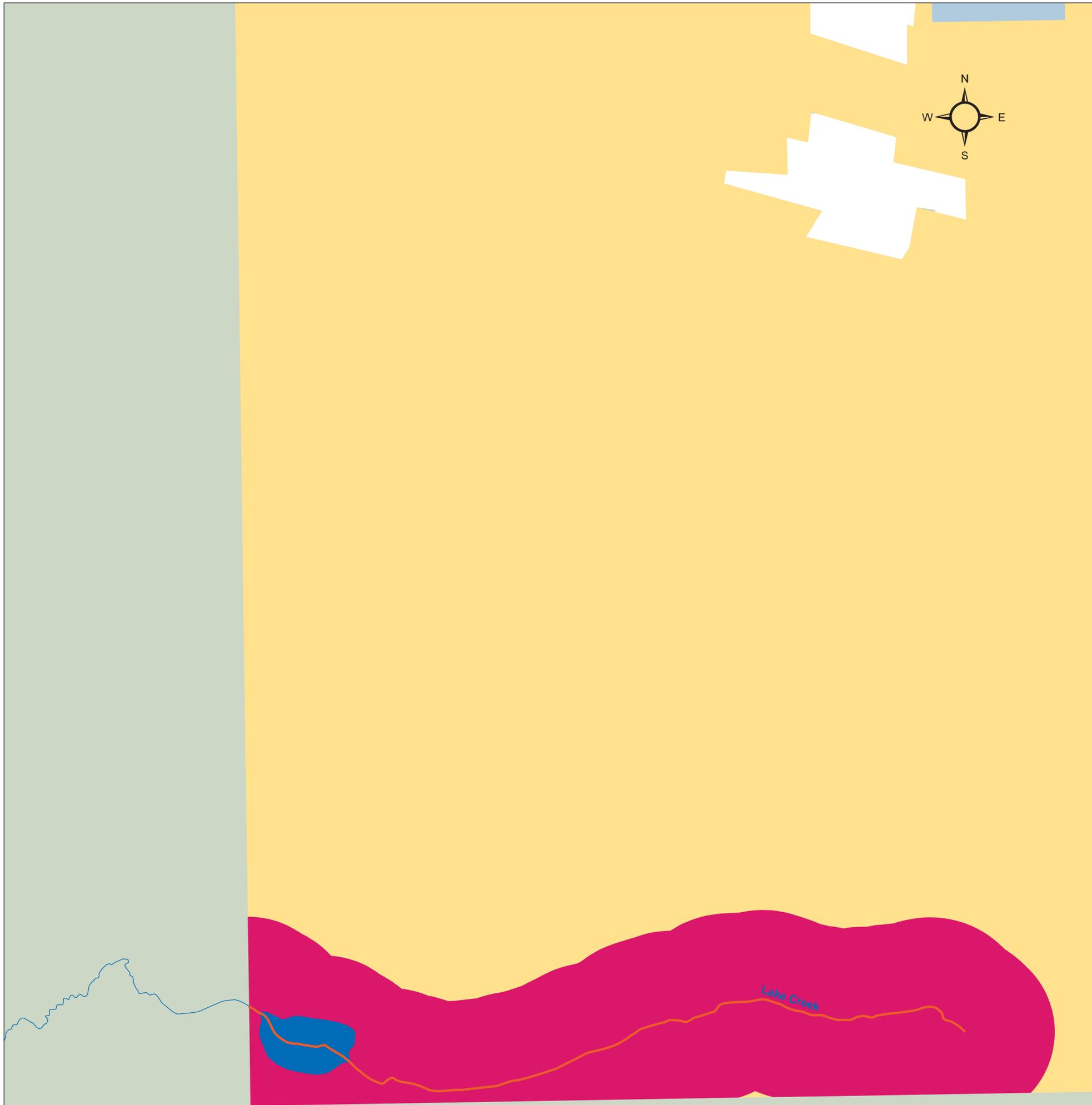
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Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood Field Office  
Draft Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement

Figure 3

# Lake Creek Eligible Segment



**Lake Creek**  
**Eligible Segment Total Length: 2.18 miles**  
**BLM Segment Total Length: 2.18 miles**  
**Corridor Width: 0.25 Linear miles on either side**  
**Tentative Classification: Recreational**

**Legend**

Cottonwood Resource Area	State of Idaho	Marshall Lake
Bureau of Land Management	US Forest Service	Eligible Wild and Scenic Corridor
Private	Eligible River Segments	

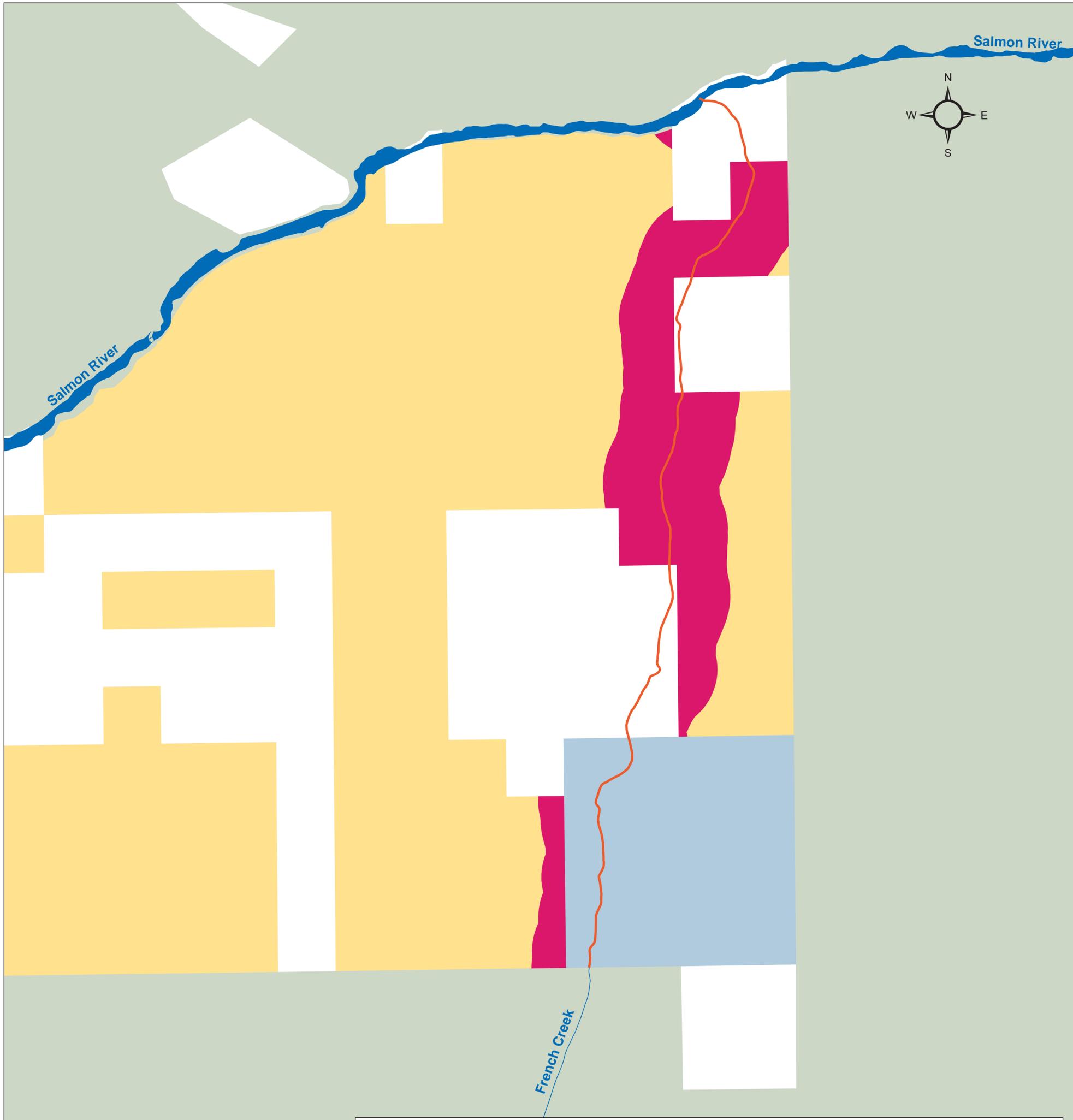
No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

Spatial Data Source: Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.  
 Map Created: March 2006  
**All data is displayed in UTM zone 11 north, NAD83**

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# French Creek Eligible Segment



**French Creek**  
**Eligible Segment Total Length: 4.18 miles**  
**BLM Segment Total Length: 1.38 miles**  
**Corridor Width: 0.25 Linear miles on either side**  
**Tentative Classification: Recreational**

**Legend**

Cottonwood Resource Area	State of Idaho	Eligible Wild and Scenic Corridor
Bureau of Land Management	US Forest Service	
Private	Eligible River Segments	

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual use or aggregate use with other data, or for purposes not intended by BLM. Spatial information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This information may be updated without notification.

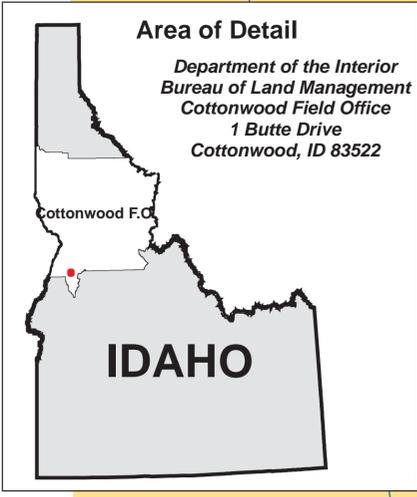
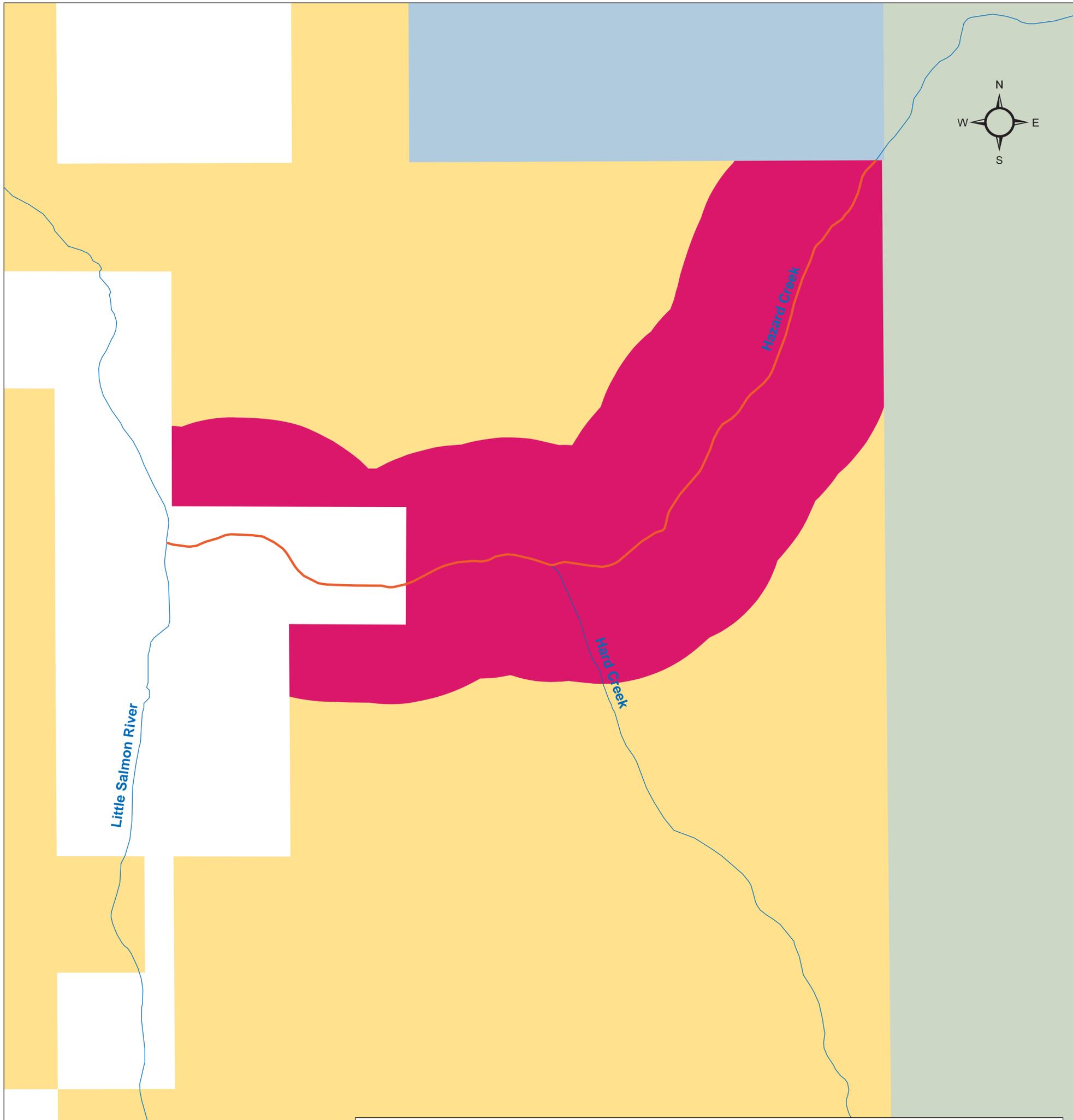
0 0.2 0.4 0.8 Miles  
Spatial Data Source: Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.  
Map Created: March 2006

All data is displayed in UTM zone 11 north, NAD83

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# Hazard Creek Eligible Segment



**Hazard Creek**  
**Eligible Segment Total Length: 2.02 miles**  
**BLM Segment Total Length: 1.52 miles**  
**Corridor Width: 0.25 Linear miles on either side**  
**Tentative Classification: Recreational**

**Legend**

Cottonwood Resource Area	State of Idaho	Eligible Wild and Scenic Corridor
Bureau of Land Management	US Forest Service	
Private	Hazard Creek Eligible Segment	

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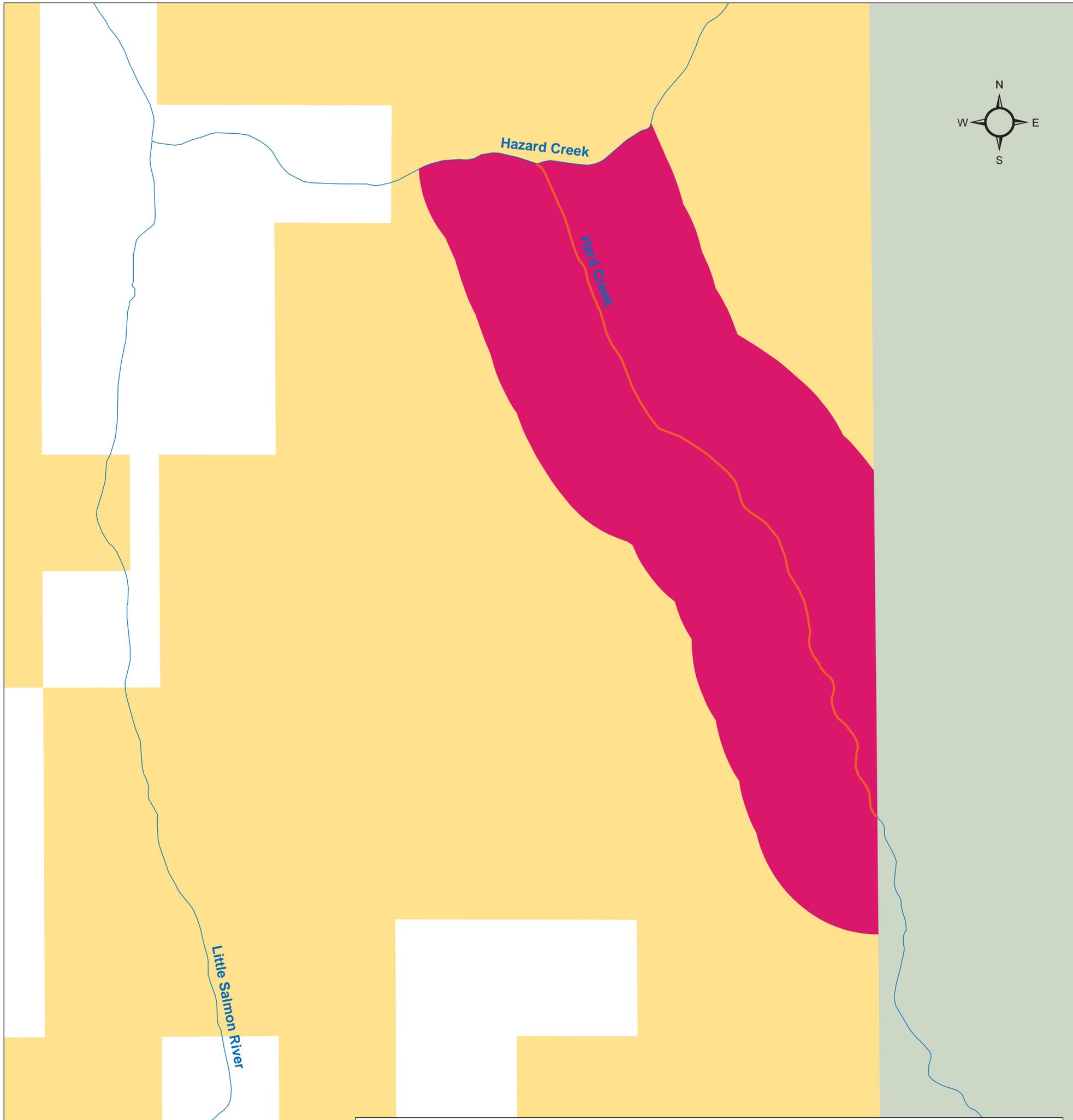
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Spatial Data Source: Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.  
Map Created: March 2006

All data is displayed in UTM zone 11 north, NAD83

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# Hard Creek Eligible Segment



**Hard Creek**  
**Eligible Segment Total Length: 1.64 miles**  
**BLM Segment Total Length: 1.64 miles**  
**Corridor Width: 0.25 Linear miles on either side**  
**Tentative Classification: Recreational**

**Legend**

Cottonwood Resource Area	State of Idaho	Eligible Wild and Scenic Corridor
Bureau of Land Management	US Forest Service	
Private	Hard Creek Eligible Segment	

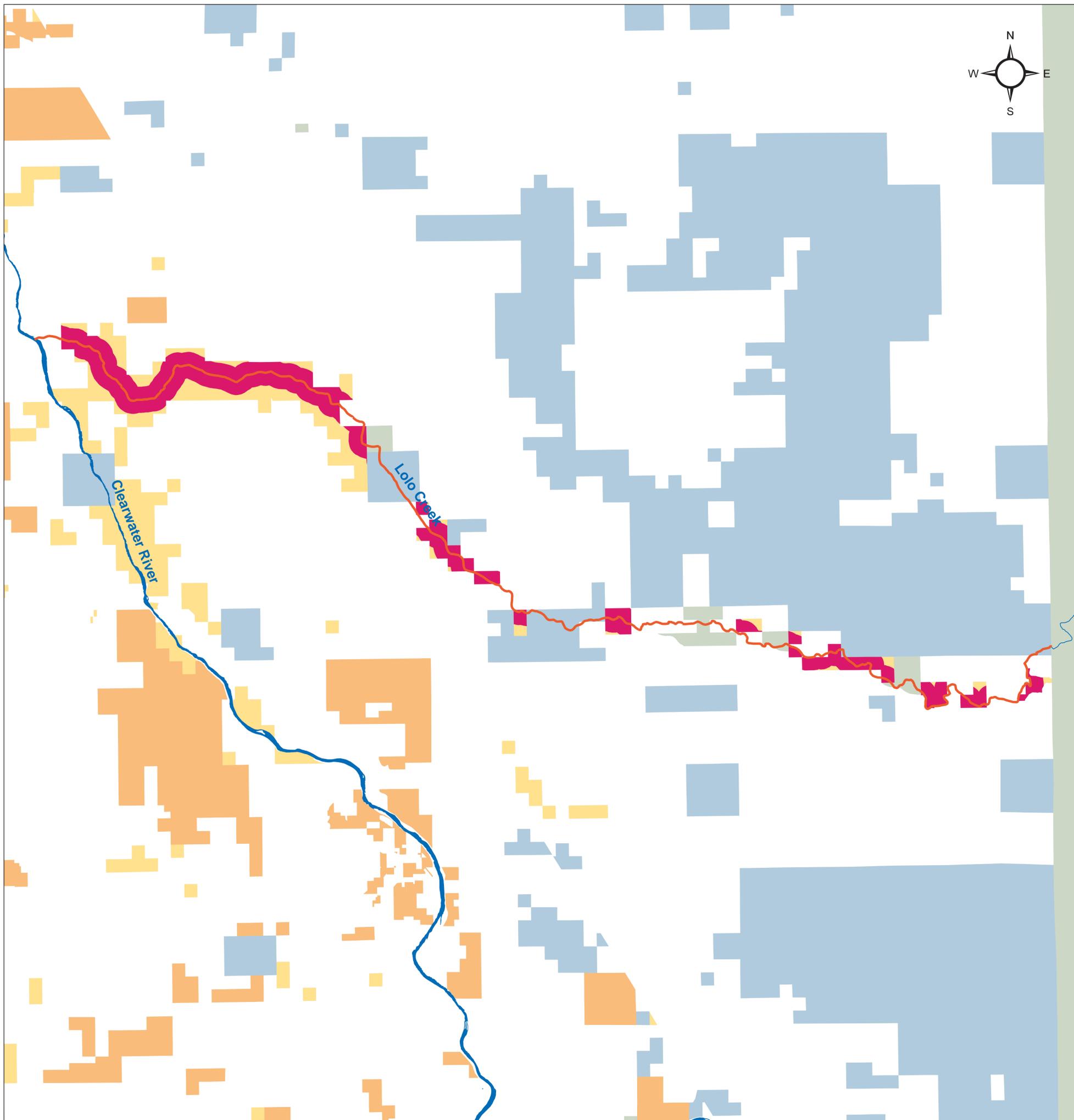
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0 0.1 0.2 0.4 Miles  
 Spatial Data Source: Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.  
 Map Created: March 2006  
**All data is displayed in UTM zone 11 north, NAD83**

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# Lolo Creek Eligible Segment



**Lolo Creek**  
Eligible Segment Total Length: 24 miles  
BLM Segment Total Length: 14.3 miles  
Corridor Width: 0.25 Linear miles on either side  
Tentative Classification: Recreational

**Legend**

Cottonwood Resource Area	State of Idaho	Eligible Wild and Scenic Corridor
Bureau of Land Management	US Forest Service	
Private	Lolo Creek Eligible Segment	

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0 1 2 4 Miles

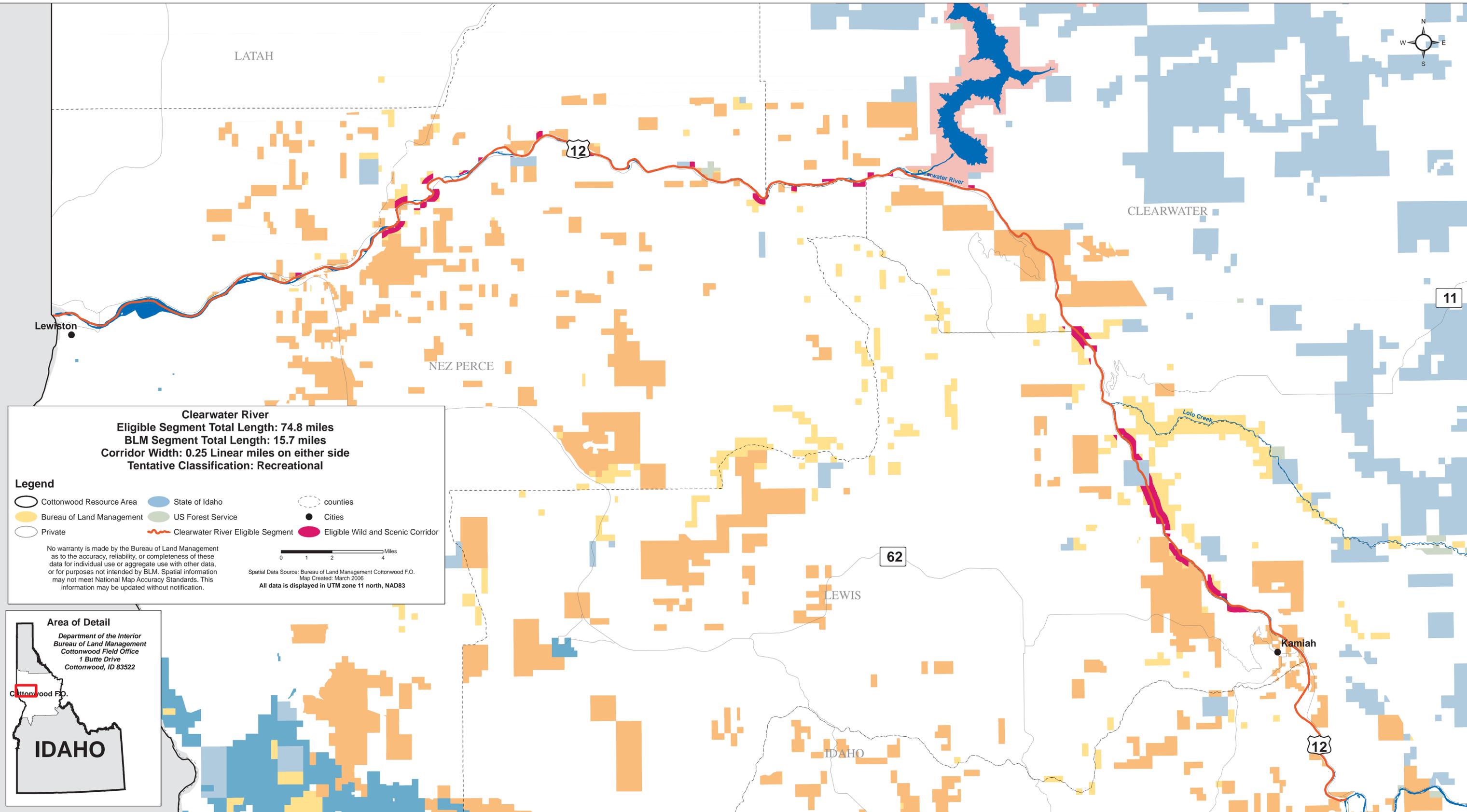
Spatial Data Source: Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.  
Map Created: March 2006

All data is displayed in UTM zone 11 north, NAD83

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# Clearwater River Eligible Segment



**Clearwater River**  
 Eligible Segment Total Length: 74.8 miles  
 BLM Segment Total Length: 15.7 miles  
 Corridor Width: 0.25 Linear miles on either side  
 Tentative Classification: Recreational

**Legend**

- Cottonwood Resource Area
- Bureau of Land Management
- Private
- State of Idaho
- US Forest Service
- Clearwater River Eligible Segment
- Counties
- Cities
- Eligible Wild and Scenic Corridor

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Spatial Data Source: Bureau of Land Management Cottonwood F.O.  
 Map Created: March 2006  
 All data is displayed in UTM zone 11 north, NAD83

**Area of Detail**  
 Department of the Interior  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 Cottonwood Field Office  
 1 Butte Drive  
 Cottonwood, ID 83522

Cottonwood F.O.

IDAHO

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