

## ***2.D.2. Scenic and Back Country Byways***

### **Profile**

The BLM Byway program was developed as a component of the National Scenic Byway Program. These byways highlight the spectacular nature of the western landscapes. BLM byways vary from narrow, graded roads, passable during only a few months of the year, to two-lane, paved highways providing year-round access. BLM Scenic Byways complement the National Scenic Byway Program by focusing on scenic corridors along major primary and secondary highways. A scenic byway has roadside corridors of special aesthetic, cultural, or historic value. BLM Back Country Byways are also a component of the National Scenic Byway Program, focusing primarily on corridors along back country roads with high scenic, historic, archaeological, or other public interest values. The road may vary from a single-track bike trail to a low speed, paved road that traverses back country areas. There are no scenic or back country byways in the planning area.

The Thousand Springs Scenic Byway begins at Interstate 84 near Bliss, Idaho, and follows US 30 southeast through Twin Falls, Idaho. The Idaho Department of Transportation administers this highway, and contact with small parcels of land administered by the Jarbidge FO occurs near the Thousand Springs area. This byway is a State byway and not a component of the BLM scenic byway program.

In order to designate a BLM byway, routes must go through a nomination and designation process. During the nomination process, proposals for BLM byway designations should be encouraged from all sources including citizen organizations, State and local government, and private individuals. Only those nominations consistent with BLM, State, local, and other agency land use plans should be forwarded to the BLM State Director for approval. The designation of byways is normally done through an RMP or RMP amendment. A site-specific EA must be completed for each byway proposal not done as part of an RMP or RMP amendment. Byways should be approved through State coordinating organizations before designation. Ideally, the State and BLM would designate byways jointly and concurrently.

### **Current Management**

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP did not contain objectives or management actions related to scenic or back country byways. Scenic and backcountry byways are managed according to BLM policy.

### **Management Opportunities**

Several areas could be considered as potential byways:

- Oregon Trail Back Country Byway: A route traveling northwest from Thousand Springs, Idaho, to Glens Ferry, Idaho. Historic and interpretation relevance associated with Oregon NHT.
- Jarbidge Foothills Scenic Byway: A route traveling west of Rogerson, Idaho to Jarbidge, Nevada. Scenic and historic relevance.

## 2.D.3. National Trails

### Profile

On November 10, 1978, Public Law 95-625 amended the National Trails System Act (NTSA) and designated the Oregon Trail as a NHT. The Oregon NHT follows the primary route of the Oregon Trail based upon travel that occurred between 1841 and 1848. The Trail enters the planning area where Salmon Falls Creek meets the Snake River leaves the planning area when it enters the Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area. In all, there are approximately 47 miles of the Oregon NHT managed by the Jarbidge FO (Figure 33).

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, portions of the Oregon Trail in the planning area were destroyed by agricultural development and highway construction projects. Prior to the passage of the NTSA, FLPMA, and NEPA, the visual corridor of the trail was altered in portions of the Jarbidge FO by the construction of major overhead transmission lines between Hagerman and Glenns Ferry. Measures have been put in place to protect the Trail from destruction and trail conditions are good in more remote, undeveloped settings. Trail and visual corridor conditions are deteriorating in areas where unrestricted OHV use overlaps with the historic route. Trail segments located southeast of Glenns Ferry are currently threatened by heavy OHV use. Livestock salting adjacent to the trail has also caused physical and visual impacts in a few areas. Wildfire and fire line construction continue to affect the Trail and its visual landscape.

### Current Management

In 1981, the NPS completed a comprehensive management and use plan for the Oregon NHT that identified the significant resources to be preserved, measures needed for their protection, interpretation, and management and the method for marking the route (NPS, 1981). Based on that plan, BLM produced an *Oregon Trail Management Plan* (BLM, 1984) for southwestern Idaho. This document provides more detailed management direction for Trail segments within the planning area.

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP provided for protection and management of the Oregon NHT to preserve all remaining ruts and trail features and to develop an interpretive marker program for the trail. Trail markers have been installed and maintained. Trail protection is addressed during NEPA analysis and documentation for project proposals and permit applications.

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP directed the Trail to be designated as a NHT, SRMA, and placed on the National Register. The Oregon NHT has been determined eligible for the National Register, but segments within the planning area have not been formally nominated. Oregon Trail guidebooks, brochures, and maps were developed to serve trail users. A cultural plan and resource activity management plan were completed as components of the *Oregon Trail Management Plan* in 1984.

### Management Opportunities

The Oregon NHT is a resource of national significance. Its protection is required under the NTSA and the NHPA. The Trail is currently marked and the markers are actively maintained. More resources could be dedicated to proactive management of the Trail segments. Management measures may include more intensive monitoring, data recovery and site stabilization at

threatened sites, increased public outreach and interpretation, and rehabilitation projects to mitigate the effects of wildfires and OHV activity within the Trail's visual corridor.

The *Oregon Trail Management* plan could be updated to reflect changes in recreation use and OHV management.

The continuation of the SRMA designation could help with future Trail management and would complement management strategies in adjacent FOs.

## ***2.D.4. Wild and Scenic Rivers***

### **Profile**

There are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers within the Jarbidge FO. Previous studies evaluated a few rivers at varying levels of eligibility, classification, and suitability according to the requirements of the 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA; Table 61).

Section 5(a) of the WSRA listed the Bruneau River as one of 27 rivers to be considered for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). In 1973, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation led a seven-member Federal-State Bruneau River study team which included representatives from the Idaho Governor's Office, IDFG, IDWR, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, BLM, and USFS. The Act named the entire main stem of the Bruneau River in Idaho for study. The study was enlarged to include major tributaries after initial field reconnaissance revealed their outstanding qualities. Based on this study, 100 miles of the Bruneau River and tributaries in the planning area were found to be suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: 71 miles of the Bruneau River from Blackrock Crossing downstream to Hot Creek, and 29 miles of the Jarbidge River from the East Fork of the Jarbidge River confluence downstream to the Bruneau River confluence. These segments were tentatively classified as "wild", except for the upper 11 miles of the Bruneau River, which was tentatively classified as "scenic."

The Bruneau River upstream from Blackrock crossing, the East Fork of the Bruneau, the East Fork of the Jarbidge River, and the Jarbidge River above the East Fork confluence did not qualify during this study. These segments were noted as lacking sufficient scenic and recreational interest and having insufficient volume of water to permit the full enjoyment of water-related recreational activities during most of the recreation season. The Bruneau River from Hot Creek downstream to C.J. Strike reservoir also failed to qualify because of shoreline developments, irrigation diversions, and bridge and fence crossings.

WSR eligibility and tentative classifications for Snake River segments were initiated in 1991 by the Shoshone District Office for consideration within the Bennett Hills RMP. Two of these eligible segments of the Snake River are shared with the Jarbidge FO. The eight miles of the Snake River from Lower Salmon Falls Dam downstream to Bliss Dam Reservoir (the Hagerman Reach) and the thirteen miles of the river from Bliss Dam downstream to the King Hill Bridge (the King Hill Reach) were both found to be eligible and were tentatively classified as "recreational." Suitability studies were deferred to the implementation of the Bennett Hills RMP, which was not completed.

WSR eligibility and tentative classifications for Idaho segments of Salmon Falls Creek were initiated in 1992 by the Burley District Office for the Burley RMP. These segments of Salmon Falls Creek form the majority of the eastern boundary of the Jarbidge FO. Nine miles of Salmon Falls Creek from the Nevada border downstream to Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir and the 44 miles of Salmon Falls Creek from Salmon Falls Dam downstream to the Snake River confluence were identified as eligible. The upper segment was tentatively classified as "recreational" and the lower segment as "scenic." The lower 14 miles of Salmon Falls Creek, from Balanced Rock Park downstream, was re-examined and was deemed ineligible because of the lack of free-flowing character. A suitability study for Salmon Falls Creek was never completed, as the Burley RMP

was started, but not finished.

**Table 61. Existing Eligible and Suitable River Segments**

River	Segment Description	Length (miles)	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Tentative Classification	Current Status	Previous Study
Salmon Falls Creek	Nevada border to Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir	9	Recreational	Recreational	Eligible <sup>A</sup>	Burley RMP (1993)
Salmon Falls Creek	Salmon Falls Dam to Balanced Rock Park	30	Scenic, Recreational, Geological	Scenic	Eligible <sup>A</sup>	Burley RMP (1993)
Snake River, Hagerman Reach	Lower Salmon Falls Dam to Bliss Dam Reservoir	8	Recreational, Geological, Fish, Wildlife, Historical	Recreational	Eligible <sup>A</sup>	Bennett Hills RMP (1991)
Snake River, King Hill Reach	Bliss Dam to the King Hill Bridge	13	Recreational, Geological, Fish, Wildlife	Recreational	Eligible <sup>A</sup>	Bennett Hills RMP (1991)
Bruneau River	Blackrock Crossing to 11 miles downstream	11	Scenic, Recreational, Geological, Fish, Wildlife, Cultural, Vegetation <sup>B</sup>	Scenic	Suitable	Bruneau WSR Study Report (1976)
Bruneau River	11 miles downstream from Blackrock Crossing to Hot Creek	60	Scenic, Recreational, Geological, Fish, Wildlife, Cultural, Vegetation <sup>B</sup>	Wild	Suitable	Bruneau WSR Study Report (1976)
Jarbidge River	East Fork, Jarbidge River confluence to Bruneau River confluence	29	Scenic, Recreational, Geological, Fish, Wildlife, Cultural, Vegetation <sup>B</sup>	Wild	Suitable	Bruneau WSR Study Report (1976)
<b>Total</b>		<b>160</b>				
<sup>A</sup> The Bennett Hills and Burley RMPs were never completed; thus, suitability studies for these segments have not been conducted. <sup>B</sup> Outstandingly remarkable values for Bruneau and Jarbidge River segments were inferred from the narrative in the Bruneau WSR Study Report (1976).						

As part of the current Jarbidge RMP planning effort, all river segments in the interior of the planning area, as well as those river segments forming the planning area boundary that were previously considered ineligible, are being inventoried for eligibility for inclusion in the NWSRS, in accordance with BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and BLM Handbook H-1601-1, Land Use Planning. River segments are deemed eligible if they are free-flowing and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable value, including scenic, recreational, geological, fish and wildlife, historical, cultural, or other river-related values.

After identifying the 42 river segments to be included in the inventory, the ID Team conducted a preliminary evaluation of each segment's free-flowing character, as well as whether the segment may possess any outstandingly remarkable values, in November 2006. As a result of that review, 8 rivers were determined not to be free-flowing, and 24 additional rivers were determined not to possess any potential outstandingly remarkable values. The potential outstandingly remarkable values on the remaining 11 river segments were examined once again by the ID Team in April 2007; four rivers and river segments were found to not possess an outstandingly remarkable value when evaluated in the larger regional context. The remaining seven river segments will undergo further study, evaluation, and review prior to making a final determination of their eligibility and tentative classification. These potentially eligible river segments are shown in Table 62.

**Table 62. Potentially Eligible River Segments**

River	Segment Description	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Length (miles)
Cougar Point Creek	Jarbidge FO boundary to East Fork, Jarbidge River confluence	Scenic	1.0
Dave Creek	Private boundary to East Fork, Jarbidge River confluence	Fish	2.7
Jarbidge River, East Fork	Jarbidge FO boundary to Murphy Hot Springs	Fish	7.4
Jarbidge River, East Fork	Murphy Hot Springs to Jarbidge River confluence	Fish	2.2
Jarbidge River	Jarbidge FO boundary to East Fork, Jarbidge River confluence	Scenic, Fish	10.2
Rocky Canyon Creek	Headwaters to North Fork, Salmon Falls Creek confluence	Wildlife	1.5
Snake River, Three Island Reach	King Hill Bridge to Hwy 51 Bridge	Recreational, Fish, Historical, Cultural	25.0
<b>Total</b>			<b>50.0</b>
These segments are potentially eligible pending further study, evaluation, and review.			

## Current Management

The 1987 Jarbidge RMP did not contain any decisions or guidelines specific to management of eligible and suitable river segments. BLM policy for management of eligible and suitable river segments can be found in BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Eligible rivers and their corridors on Federal lands are provided interim protection until the suitability phase is complete. Rivers recommended as suitable are protected as potential additions to the NWSRS until Congress or the Secretary of the Interior determines whether the suitable river will be included in the NWSRS. The characteristics of eligible and suitable

segments are managed as described below:

- **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; to the extent practicable, such values are enhanced.
- **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.

These interim management measures are applicable to the previously determined eligible and suitable segments of the Bruneau, Jarbidge, and Snake Rivers and Salmon Falls Creek, as well as any river segments determined to be eligible through the current inventory and evaluation process. These measures would be discontinued if subsequent suitability studies determine an eligible segment to be unsuitable or if Congress decides not to designate a suitable segment for inclusion in the NWSRS.

## **Management Opportunities**

The decision to designate river segments for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System is outside the scope of the RMP, as these designations can be made only by Congress or the Secretary of the Interior.

BLM's policy, as stated in BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers, is to protect and, where possible, enhance any identified outstandingly remarkable river values pending a subsequent suitability determination and/or designation decision by Congress. Management guidelines to attain this goal may include limiting or providing special stipulations for developments such as dams, diversions, recreational improvements and use, roads, pipelines, fences, and mineral extractions.

## ***2.D.5. Wilderness***

### **Profile**

The Wilderness Act of 1964 established a national system of lands for the purpose of preserving a representative sample of ecosystems in a natural condition for the benefit of future generations. With the passage of FLPMA in 1976, Congress directed BLM to inventory, study, and recommend which public lands under its administration should be designated wilderness. Currently, there is no designated Wilderness in the Jarbidge FO, although there are three WSAs pending Congressional action (see Wilderness Study Areas).

### **Current Management**

There are no Wilderness Areas within the planning area.

### **Management Opportunities**

Decisions concerning Wilderness can only be made after Congress has designated Wilderness.

## ***2.D.6. Wilderness Study Areas***

### **Profile**

The wilderness review required by Section 603 of FLPMA focuses on roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more and roadless islands. The BLM used its general management authority under Sections 302 and 202 of FLPMA to include other roadless areas in the wilderness review including:

- Areas smaller than 5,000 acres that are not islands,
- Areas less than 5,000 acres that have wilderness characteristics in association with contiguous roadless lands managed by another agency, and
- Lands placed under BLM administration after the wilderness inventory was conducted in 1978-80.

WSA is the term given to land under wilderness review identified by one of the following three methods: wilderness review required by FLPMA, Congressional legislation, or the land use planning process in Section 202 of FLPMA.

There are currently three WSAs within the Jarbidge FO (Figure 40). The Jarbidge River WSA is located in Owyhee County, Idaho. The Jarbidge River and lower West Fork of the Bruneau River are encompassed within this area. The Jarbidge River WSA contains lands managed by the Jarbidge FO and the Bruneau FO, including 64,112 acres of BLM-managed land in the Jarbidge FO.

The Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA is located in Owyhee County, Idaho. The Bruneau River mainstem and Sheep Creek are contained within this WSA. The Bruneau River-Sheep Creek WSA contains lands managed by the Jarbidge FO and the Bruneau FO, including 28,161 of BLM-managed land in the Jarbidge FO.

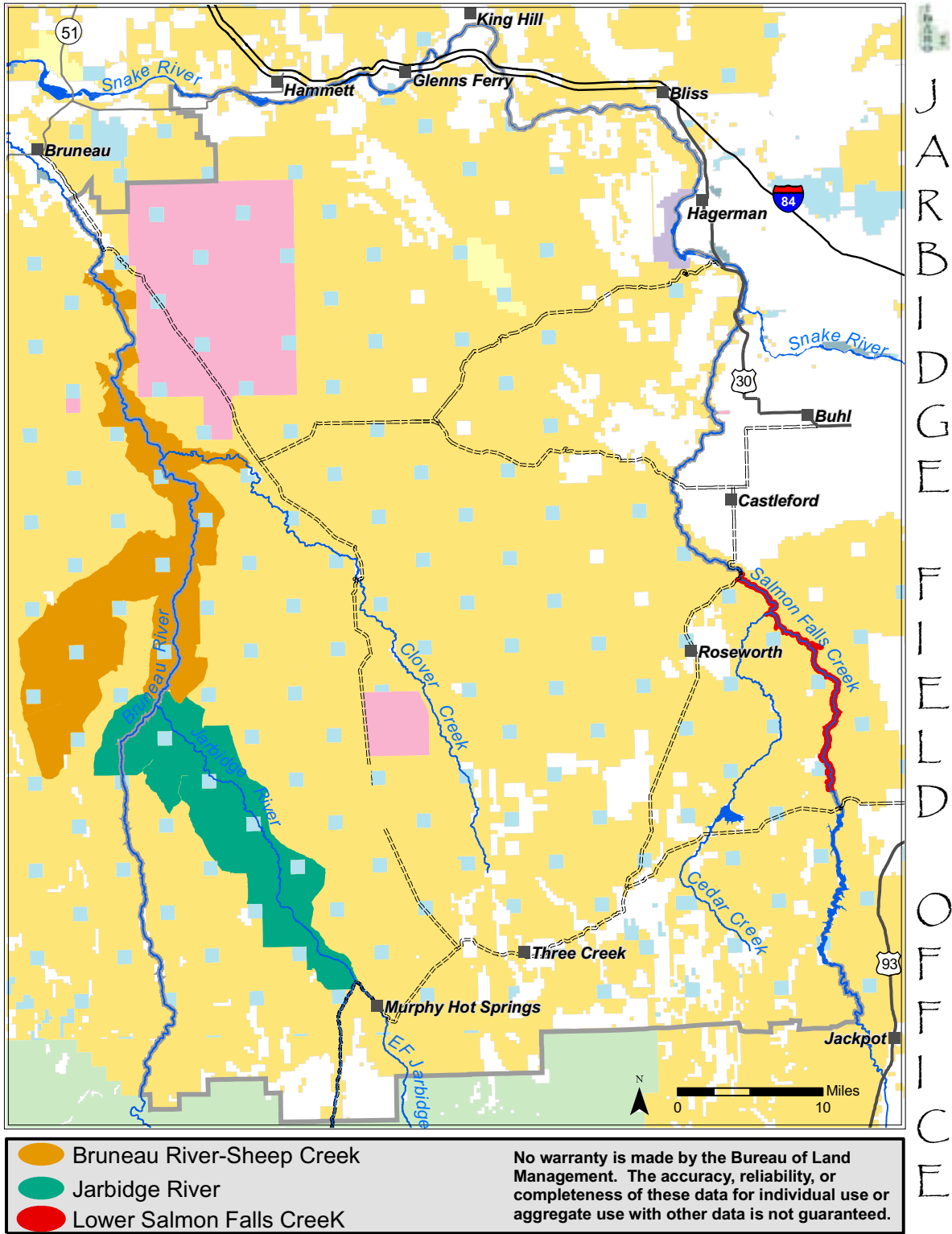
The Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA is located in Twin Falls County, Idaho. This WSA includes Salmon Falls Creek from Salmon Dam downstream to Lily Grade crossing. Lands of the Lower Salmon Falls Creek WSA are located in the Jarbidge and Burley FOs, including 1,681 acres of BLM-managed land in the Jarbidge FO.

Once Congress acts on these wilderness recommendations, the Jarbidge FO WSAs are subject to specific release direction as stated in the 1987 Jarbidge Wilderness Final EIS, the 1987 Jarbidge RMP, and any accompanying legislative language.

### **Current Management**

WSAs are managed according to BLM Handbook 8550-1, Interim Management Policy (IMP) for Lands under Wilderness Review until Congress acts on the wilderness recommendations. The 1987 Jarbidge RMP called for the creation of a Wilderness Management Plan for designated wilderness the Jarbidge River WSA; however, this has not been completed because it is not required until the WSA is designated as wilderness by Congress. The Jarbidge Wilderness EIS contains guidance for any lands within WSAs released by Congress.

Figure 40. Wilderness Study Areas



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## **Management Opportunities**

Attention could be given to developing a WSA management and monitoring plan in coordination with the Bruneau and Burley FOs to minimize incursions within these boundaries. Uses such as roads, recreation, OHVs, grazing, pipeline and trough use, energy development, and minerals extraction could potentially impacts these lands. Development of a WSA management plan would be inherently ineffective without a consistent monitoring program to enforce the Wilderness IMP. Release guidance within the Jarbidge Wilderness EIS could be re-evaluated in the context of changes in resource conditions and uses.