

Appendix D

Wild and Scenic River (WSR) and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) Justification

A. Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Matrix Ranking

SUMMARY

The three phases of a Wild and Scenic River (WSR) Study are the eligibility determination, classification analysis, and suitability assessment. In this report the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) evaluates the eligibility of 44 waterways within the Bay Resource Management Planning Area for designation as Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSRs). Forty two waterways have been determined to be ineligible and are dropped from further study. Three waterways have met the criteria for eligibility, and tentative classifications of wild, scenic, or recreational have been assigned.

BLM does not manage any of the rivers for the three eligible and tentatively classified waterways. All of the eligible waterways analyzed are lands that are State or Native Priority Selected, and long-term retention of the parcels in Federal ownership is unlikely. None of the three eligible and tentatively classified rivers are considered manageable waterways under BLM, and they are found to be unsuitable for inclusion in the National WSR System.

The purpose of this Eligibility/Suitability study is to provide an analysis for the basis of recommendations for the Bay Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS).

1. Introduction

Planning guidance for BLM suggests that WSR studies be completed for all waterways within the scope of a planning area. This study considers the following 44 waterways for inclusion in the WSR system:

Alagnak River, Alagnak tributary, Arolik River South Fork, Bear Creek, Ben Courtney Creek, Canyon Creek, Chekok Creek, Coffee Creek, Copenhagen Creek, Cranberry Creek, Cripple Creek, Dome Mountain Creek, Faro Creek, Goodnews River, Goodnews River Middle Fork, Goodnews River South Fork, Granite Creek, Graveyard Creek, Iliamna River, Indian River South, Jacksmith Creek, Kashanak Creek, King Salmon Creek, Klutuk Creek, Koggiling Creek, Kvichak tributary, Levelock Creek, Lower Klutuk Creek, Mulchatna River tributary, Nanachuak tributary, Napotoli Creek, Nautilus Creek, Nushagak River tributary, Nushigak tributary, Ole Creek, Paul's Creek, Pile River, Portage Creek, Puyulik Creek, Squaw Creek, Tivyagak Creek, Upper Talarik Creek, Velvet Creek, and Yellow Creek.

This analysis excludes the Kvichak River because the BLM does not have administrative interest in the water, the submerged lands (Determination of Navigability, 1985), nor the lands immediately adjacent to this water body, due to conveyance of lands. Additionally, a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest finding was issued by the Bureau of Land Management for the Kvichak River. This Disclaimer clarifies that the Federal government does not have a competing interest (with the State of Alaska) in the submerged lands.

The BLM does not have jurisdiction of rivers and submerged lands determined to be navigable. In some instances these water bodies may flow across BLM managed lands. In these cases BLM jurisdiction is that of lands located above the mean-high water elevation.

After land conveyances are completed by around 2010, it is expected that the surface land ownership in the planning area will be approximately 5% BLM-managed public land.

This report is a record of the WSR study process associated with waterways within the Bay planning area. It is not meant to be an environmental impact analysis, but rather an examination of the river segments in relationship to the WSR eligibility/classification/suitability criteria. The environmental analysis is discussed in Chapter IV of the Draft RMP/EIS.

Land use controls on private land are a matter of state and local zoning. Although the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 includes provisions encouraging protection of river values through state and Federal land use planning, these provisions are not binding on local governments.

The Federal government is responsible for ensuring that management of designated rivers meets the intent of the Act. In the absence of local or state river protection provisions, the Federal government could ensure compliance through acquisition of private lands or interest in lands.

The basic objective of WSR designation is to maintain the existing condition of a river. If a land use or development clearly threatens the outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) that resulted in designation of the river, efforts would be made to remove the threat through such actions as local zoning, land exchanges, or purchases from willing sellers. Agricultural and livestock grazing activities occurring at the time of designation would generally not be affected.

2. Overview of the Three Phases of the WSR Study Process

The first phase of a WSR study is the eligibility determination, an analysis to see whether the river is eligible to be tentatively considered for WSR designation. To be eligible, the river must meet the criteria of being free-flowing and possessing one or more ORV.

The second phase of the study is the classification analysis, which determines whether the river should be tentatively classified as wild, scenic, or recreational if it were designated by Congress. This tentative BLM classification is based on the level of development present in the river corridor.

The third phase of the study, the suitability assessment, consists of comparing alternative ways of managing the river. The suitability of a river for designation depends on the managing agency's ability to resolve key issues such as public access, long-term protection of resources and traditional resource uses.

a) Phase One: The Eligibility Determination

The purpose of an eligibility study is to determine whether a river meets the minimum requirements for addition to the national system. According to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, eligible river segments must be free flowing and, with their immediate environment, possess one or more ORV, such as scenic, recreational, wildlife, fish habitat, cultural (potential), historic, and subsistence resource values. "Free flowing" is defined as "existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping or other modification of the waterway that would encourage future construction of such structures." (Free flowing should not be confused with naturally flowing, a state in which a river flows without any upstream manipulation except by nature). "Outstandingly remarkable values" are defined as natural and cultural resources that are either unique at a regional level or exemplary at the national level.

A determination that a river is eligible for designation does not lead immediately to a recommendation that it should be added to the system. The eligibility study simply determines whether the river should be carried into the classification and suitability phases of the study.

Tables D.1 and D.2 summarize descriptions and the comparative analysis of the scenic, recreational, wildlife, fish habitat, cultural (potential), historic, and subsistence resource values for the rivers within the planning area. In the analysis, BLM compared resource values of the rivers under study to similar features on other rivers in the region and identified values that are unique or exemplary. To be "unique," a resource or combination of resources must be one of a kind within a region. To be "exemplary," a resource must be one of the better examples of that type of resource at a national level.

Table D.1. Summary Description of River Segments

River Segment	Miles (total)	Miles BLM	Comments
*Alagnak River	98.4	0.0	River not under BLM jurisdiction. Originating in Katmai National Preserve's Kukaklek Lake, has abundant wildlife, including brown bear, moose, beaver, river otter, bald eagle, and osprey. Visitors enjoy the fishing along this clear, braided river, as well as the striking changes in landscape, large undeveloped lakes, boreal forest, wet sedge tundra, shrubby islands, and Class I-III rapids. Much of the headwaters are currently a designated Wild component of the National Wild & Scenic River System, managed by NPS. Approximately 0.10 river miles cross through BLM-managed uplands.
Alagnak tributary	32.2	24.9	Moderate BLM jurisdiction. Common recreation resources found in the regional area.

River Segment	Miles (total)	Miles BLM	Comments
Arolik River South Fork	36.9	13.5	The river has a high quality of several resource values. The upper river has moderate current, but the river is shallow throughout its length. Downstream from the lake the channel is braided for a short duration and a single channel is present. The lower 20 miles of the river has very few exposed banks and gravel bars for camping. The lower ten miles of Arolik is under tidal influence and the banks are comprised of tall grass. Campsites on State lands in the lower third of the river are very difficult to find. This makes the trip complicated and requires close coordination with your air charter service for pick up. Rafts with a rowing frame are recommended. Float Duration: 3-4 days from Arolik Lake to the mouth. Attributes: Seasonally excellent angling opportunities for salmon and Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, and rainbow trout.
Bear Creek	46.2	20.6	Fisheries, scenic, and recreation resources are common compared to the region.
Ben Courtney Creek	33.2	7.4	Minimum BLM jurisdiction. Common fish habit and scenic resource values to the region.
Canyon Creek	17.7	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. High quality resource values compared to the region.
Chekok Creek	14.8	2.0	Minimum BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries, scenic, and recreation resources are common to the region.
Coffee Creek	35.9	27.0	Most resource values are common to the region.
Copenhagen Creek	24.2	9.2	Moderate BLM jurisdiction. Most resource values are common to the region.
Cranberry Creek	36.0	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction.
Cripple Creek	27.6	24.5	Most resources are high quality compared to the region.
Dome Mountain Creek	11.5	5.9	Fisheries and recreational resource values are common to the region.
Faro Creek	13.4	11.0	Fisheries, subsistence, and wildlife resource values are common to the region.
Goodnews River	15.1	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. Unique fisheries and subsistence resource values in the regional area. A popular float trip of intermediate duration for the experienced or novice rafter. The upper river has a slow current; the current increases in the middle section, with no obstructions to navigate. Most of the shoreline vegetation is tundra with a few stands of cottonwood and willows. Tidal influence is noticeable 10 miles from the mouth in the multiple channels and sloughs. Watercraft: raft with a rowing frame is recommended. Float Duration: 5-6 days from Goodnews Lake to mouth. Attributes: Seasonally excellent angling opportunities for salmon and Dolly Varden, rainbow trout and grayling. Un-baited single-hook artificial lures in all flowing waters. Access: Aircraft charter services are available from Bethel or Dillingham. Land Mangers: State of Alaska, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and private ownership.
Goodnews River Middle Fork	38.6	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. Unique fisheries resource values compared to the regional area. The Middle Fork is the main tributary and parallels the mainstem of the Goodnews River for its entire length and joins near the mouth.
Goodnews River South Fork	33.3	9.3	Moderate BLM jurisdiction. High quality of several resource values compared to the region.
Granite Creek	4.6	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. High quality of wildlife resource values compared to the region
Graveyard Creek	18.8	1.8	Minimum BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries, subsistence, and wildlife resource values are common/unknown in the region.
Iliamna River	32.1	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. High quality of several resource values compared to the regional area. Large size Rainbow Trout and Arctic Char and exceptional brown bear viewing.

River Segment	Miles (total)	Miles BLM	Comments
Indian River South Fork	13.8	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. High to common resource values compared to the region.
Jacksmith Creek	23.5	20.5	Fish habitat common compared to the region.
Kashanak Creek	92.4	69.2	Fish habitat common compared to the region.
King Salmon Creek	28.7	12.4	Fish habitat common compared to the region.
Klutuk Creek	73.9	29.3	Fish habitat, scenic, and recreation resource values are common compared to the region.
Koggiling Creek	82.3	49.4	Fish habitat, scenic, and recreation resource values are common compared to the region.
**Kvichak tributary	104.0	20.4	Common scenic and recreation resource values compared to the region.
Levelock Creek	28.8	7.3	Moderate BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries resource values are unknown in the area.
Lower Klutuk Creek	54.0	12.0	Minimum BLM jurisdiction. Fish habitat unknown. Scenic and Recreation resource values common in the local and regional area.
Mulchatna River tributary	9.3	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries resource values are unknown in the area.
Nanachuak tributary	67.0	29.6	Moderate BLM jurisdiction. Fish habitat unknown. Scenic resource values common in the region.
Napotoli Creek	36.0	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries, scenic, and recreation resource values are common compared to the region.
Nautilus Creek	7.9	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries resource values are unknown in the area.
Nushagak River tributary	8.2	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries resource values are unknown in the area.
Nushigak tributary	58.7	42.2	Common scenic resource values as compared to the region.
Ole Creek	34.9	24.8	Fisheries resource values are unknown in the area.
Paul's Creek	47.8	3.2	Minimum BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries, scenic, and recreation resource values common as compared to the region.
Pile River	29.3	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries resource values are unknown in the area.
Portage Creek	11.3	2.9	Minimum BLM jurisdiction. Common to unknown resource values in the area and region.
Puyulik Creek	9.9	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries resource values are unknown in the area.
Squaw Creek	8.0	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. Common to unknown resource values in the local area and region.
Tivyagak Creek	30.0	24.1	Fisheries and recreation resource values common compared to the region.
Upper Talarik Creek	34.3	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. High quality of several resources values compared to the region.
Velvet Creek	4.1	0.0	Not under BLM jurisdiction. Fisheries resource values are unknown in the area.
Yellow Creek	30.5	7.3	Moderate BLM jurisdiction. Common fisheries, scenic, and recreation resource values as compared to the region.
<p>* Much of the headwaters of the Alagnak are a designated national wild & scenic river. (Note): All river waterways identified above have high quality cultural resource values in their respective regional areas. The <u>potential</u> for the discovery of cultural resources is based on the extent and number of known cultural sites in the area and the type of resources found in the region (e.g. a corridor providing important access and fishery resources, traditional game hunting area, native village, etc.). This would increase the likelihood of a discovery if a survey were conducted. To date, approximately 5% of Alaska has been surveyed for historic or pre-historic sites.</p>			

Fisheries

The ranking to evaluate the fisheries and subsistence values of the rivers to determine WSR eligibility was based on a numerical value ranging from 1 to 5.

1. a stream with fisheries populations that are examples of the best habitat and populations in the nation, and are regionally and locally important for subsistence, commercial, and recreational fishing.
2. a stream with unique concentrations of fisheries populations in the region and is highly important regionally and locally for subsistence, commercial, and recreational fishing.
3. a stream with high quality fisheries habitat and population concentrations at a regional and local level and are moderately important for subsistence, commercial, and recreational fishing.
4. a stream with common fisheries habitat and population concentrations at local or regional level or no subsistence or recreational fishing.
5. a stream in which fisheries habitat values, population concentrations, and subsistence values are unknown.

Scenery/ Recreation

The ratings provided were based on recreational and scenic qualities within the following rivers, creeks, and tributaries.

Scenery

1. At the national level, the areas landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors, which are directly river-related, result in exemplary visual features and/or attractions. The scenic values, such as seasonal variations in vegetation are extremely high and the scale of cultural modifications is very low. The length of time negative intrusions are viewed by visitors is highly minimal. Scenery and visual attractions is extremely diverse over the majority of the river.
2. The areas landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors, which are directly river-related, result in unique visual features and/or attractions are one of a kind at a regional level. Scenic values, such as seasonal variations in vegetation are unique and the scale of cultural modifications is low. The length of time negative intrusions are viewed by visitors is minimal. Scenery and visual attractions is uniquely diverse over the majority of the river.
3. At a regional or local level, the areas landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors, which are directly river-related, result in high visual features and/or attractions. Scenic values, such as seasonal variations in vegetation are also high and the scale of cultural modifications is low to moderate. The length of time negative intrusions are viewed by visitors is low to moderate. Scenery and visual attractions is highly diverse over the majority of the river.

4. The areas landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color and related factors, which are directly river-related, demonstrate common visual features and/or attractions at the regional or local level. Scenic values, such as seasonal variations in vegetation are also ordinary and the scale of cultural modifications may be frequent. The length of time negative intrusions are viewed by visitors is moderate. The diversity of scenery and visual attractions is common over the majority of the river.
5. The areas scenery and visual resources in the area are unknown.

Recreation

1. Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison or are exemplary or rare at a national level. Visitors are willing to travel extremely long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities include rare sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating. Interpretive opportunities are highly exceptional and 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 usage, such as competitive or commercial events.
2. 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 and one of a kind at a regional level. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities include unique sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating. Interpretive opportunities are exceptional and 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 regional usage, such as competitive or commercial events.
3. Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to attract visitors from the regional and/or local level. Visitors are willing to travel moderate to local distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities include high quality sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating. Interpretive opportunities are also high and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from the region or local area. The river may provide, or have the potential to provide, settings for regional or local usage, such as competitive or commercial events.
4. Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, popular enough to some visitors from the regional and/or local level. Visitors are willing to travel moderate to local distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities include common sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating. Interpretive opportunities are also common and attract, or have the potential to attract, visitors from the region or local area. Common recreation resources in the same regional area may not attract local usage, such as competitive or commercial events.
5. The recreation opportunities in the area are unknown.

Wildlife/Subsistence

Both Subsistence and Wildlife were grouped together for the purpose of this evaluation since chapter 3 discussion was referenced in the same manner. Subsistence is unique to Alaska and cannot be considered a National level exemplary of resource management Nationwide and is unique to Alaska. The ranking to evaluate the wildlife and subsistence values of the rivers to determine WSR eligibility was based on a numerical value ranging from 1 to 5:

1. a stream with the existence of wildlife populations that are examples of the best habitat and populations in the nation, and is regionally and locally important for subsistence hunting
2. a stream with unique concentrations of wildlife populations that is one of a kind in the region and is regionally important for subsistence hunting
3. a stream with high quality wildlife habitat and population concentrations at a regional and local level and is important for subsistence hunting
4. a stream with common wildlife habitat and population concentrations at local or regional level or is important for subsistence hunting
5. a stream in which wildlife habitat values, population concentrations and subsistence values are unknown.

Cultural/Historic

The ranking system used for these rivers, creeks, and tributaries was based on a numerical value ranging from 1 to 5. The criteria for evaluation of cultural resources on proposed wild & scenic rivers within the Bay RMP are listed below.

1. there is an observable settlement pattern of cultural sites (either eligible for listing on National Register of Historic Places individually or as a group), and/or sites exhibiting evidence of two or more cultures using the area, and/or an area of religious or cultural significance for local population (TCP eligible)
2. there is at least one site eligible for listing and high potential for more
3. no cultural resources are known for this segment, but there is high potential for cultural resources. High potential for cultural resources in this area includes: well drained areas adjacent to salmon streams/rivers, inlets/outlets to lakes that do not freeze to bottom in the winter; overlooks where game herds would funnel through a natural constriction such as a valley
4. no cultural resources are known within such segments, but there is medium potential for cultural resources
5. no cultural resources are known within such segments, and there is low potential for cultural resources. Low potential for cultural resources in this area includes: poorly drained areas, areas not adjacent to trout or salmon streams, streams draining from lakes that freeze to the bottom in winter, steep slopes of over 30 degrees

After comparative ranking the river resources, the miles of stream on unencumbered BLM land was determined. This determination was added to the matrix in order to prevent biasness toward BLM managed rivers during the ranking process. Rivers that did not receive a ranking of 1 or 2 were immediately removed from the eligibility determination process due to no ORV. Rivers receiving a ranking of 1 or 2 that do not flow through unencumbered BLM managed lands were removed from the eligibility determination process. Rivers that are free flowing, determined to have an ORV(s), and flowed through unencumbered BLM managed lands were determined to be eligible as per the Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968.

Table D.2. Comparison of Relative Resource Values of River Segments

River Segment	Cultural (potential)	Historic	Fish Habitat	Scenic	Recreation	Sub-sistence	Wildlife
*Alagnak River	3	3	2	3	2	4	3
*Alagnak tributary	3	3	3	3	4	3	3
Arolik River South Fork	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Bear Creek	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
Ben Courtny Creek	3	3	4	4	3	3	3
Canyon Creek	3	3	5	3	3	3	3
Chekok Creek	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
Coffee Creek	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
Copenhagen Creek	3	3	4	4	4	4	4
Cranberry Creek	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
Cripple Creek	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
Dome Mountain Creek	3	3	4	3	4	3	3
Faro Creek	3	3	4	3	3	4	4
Goodnews River	3	3	2	3	3	2	3
Goodnews R. Middle Fork	3	3	2	3	3	3	3
Goodnews R. South Fork	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Granite Creek	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
Graveyard Creek	3	3	5	3	3	4	4
Iliamna River	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Indian River South Fork	3	3	4	3	4	3	3

River Segment	Cultural (potential)	Historic	Fish Habitat	Scenic	Recreation	Sub-sistence	Wildlife
Jacksmith Creek	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
Kashanak Creek	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
King Salmon Creek	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
Klutuk Creek	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
Koggiling Creek	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
Kvichak tributary	3	3	3	4	4	3	3
Levelock Creek	3	3	5	4	3	3	3
Lower Klutuk Creek	3	3	5	4	4	3	3
Mulchatna R. tributary	3	3	5	3	3	3	3
Nanachuak tributary	3	3	5	4	3	3	3
Napotoli Creek	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
Nautilus Creek	3	3	5	3	3	3	3
Nushagak River tributary	3	3	5	4	3	3	3
Nushagak tributary	3	3	3	4	3	3	3
Ole Creek	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
Paul's Creek	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
Pile River	3	3	4	3	3	3	3
Portage Creek	3	3	5	4	4	4	4
Puyulik Creek	3	3	5	3	3	3	3
Squaw Creek	3	3	5	4	4	4	4
Tivyagak Creek	3	3	4	3	4	3	3
Upper Talarik Creek	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Velvet Creek	3	3	5	3	3	3	3
Yellow Creek	3	3	4	4	4	3	3
<p>Key to Ratings: 1 – Exemplary, one of the better examples of that type at a national level. 2 – Unique, a resource or combination of resources that is one of a kind at a regional level. 3 – High quality at a regional and/or local level. 4 – A common resource at the regional and/or local level. 5 – Unknown.</p> <p>* Much of the Alagnak headwaters are a designated national wild & scenic river.</p>							

The resource evaluations conducted and documented within Table D-2 were accomplished by the following BLM resource specialists:

Donna Redding-Archeologist
Mike Scott-Fisheries Biologist
Tim Sundlov-Fisheries Biologist
Jeff Kowalczyk-Recreation Planner
Doug Ballou-Recreation Planner
Bruce Seppi-Wildlife Biologist
Jeff Denton Subsistence Coordinator

In order to be eligible for designation as a component of the National Wild & Scenic River System, a river must be both free-flowing and possess one or more “outstandingly remarkable” characteristics described below. An Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) is defined as a unique, rare or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. Thus, those rivers receiving a score of “1” or “2” contain ORVs.

While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, ORVs must be directly river-related. That is, they should:

1. Be located in the river or on its immediate shore lands (within ½ mile on either side of the river);
2. Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; and/or
3. Owe their location or existence to the presence of the river

Eligibility Evaluations of the 44 Waterways

Table D.3 summarizes the eligibility determinations of the 44 waterways that were screened during the eligibility study. Though all forty four rivers are free flowing, forty one waterways were found ineligible and dropped from further study, lacking a requisite ORV. Three waterways were found eligible and were assigned a tentative classification of wild, scenic, or recreational. The table is followed by narrative descriptions providing detailed explanations of the eligibility determinations. The tentative classifications are described in the next section.

Table D.3. Summary of River Segment Eligibility and Tentative Classification

River Segment	Percent BLM	Comments
*Alagnak River	0.0	Found eligible for its fish habitat and recreation resource values; tentatively classified as Wild
Alagnak tributary	77.3	Not eligible-no ORV found
Arolik River South Fork	36.6	Not eligible-no ORV found
Bear Creek	44.6	Not eligible-no ORV found
Ben Courtney Creek	22.1	Not eligible-no ORV found
Canyon Creek	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Chekok Creek	13.5	Not eligible-no ORV found
Coffee Creek	75.2	Not eligible-no ORV found
Copenhagen Creek	38.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Cranberry Creek	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Cripple Creek	88.9	Not eligible-no ORV found
Dome Mountain Creek	51.3	Not eligible-no ORV found
Faro Creek	81.8	Not eligible-no ORV found
Goodnews River	0.0	Found eligible for its fish habitat and subsistence resource values; tentatively classified as Wild
Goodnews River Middle Fork	0.0	Found eligible for its fish habitat resource values; tentatively classified as Wild
Goodnews River South Fork	27.9	Not eligible-no ORV found
Granite Creek	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Graveyard Creek	9.6	Not eligible-no ORV found
Iliamna River	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Indian River South Fork	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Jacksmith Creek	87.2	Not eligible-no ORV found
Kashanak Creek	74.9	Not eligible-no ORV found
King Salmon Creek	43.2	Not eligible-no ORV found
Klutuk Creek	39.6	Not eligible-no ORV found
Koggiling Creek	34.6	Not eligible-no ORV found
Kvichak tributary	19.6	Not eligible-no ORV found
Levelock Creek	25.3	Not eligible-no ORV found
Lower Klutuk Creek	22.2	Not eligible-no ORV found
Mulchatna River tributary	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Nanachuak tributary	44.2	Not eligible-no ORV found
Napotoli Creek	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Nautilus Creek	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Nushagak River tributary	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Nushigak tributary	71.9	Not eligible-no ORV found
Ole Creek	71.2	Not eligible-no ORV found
Paul's Creek	6.7	Not eligible-no ORV found
Pile River	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Portage Creek	25.7	Not eligible-no ORV found
Puyulik Creek	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Squaw Creek	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Tivyagak Creek	80.3	Not eligible-no ORV found
Upper Talarik Creek	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Velvet Creek	0.0	Not eligible-no ORV found
Yellow Creek	23.9	Not eligible-no ORV found
* Much of the headwaters of the Alagnak are a designated national wild & scenic river.		

Alagnak River

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish Habitat and Recreation

Classification: Wild

Land status of uplands: Native Selected Priority 1, State-selected Priority 1 or 2

BLM's administrative jurisdiction applies to 0.0 miles of this 98.4 mile waterway. Approximately 0.10 river miles (determined navigable) passes through BLM-managed/Native-selected uplands. The Alaganak River earned a 2 value for fish habitat because of the quality of anadromous and resident fish including fish habitat. Recreation received a 2 value, which is described by the National Park Service as one of the most popular fly-in fisheries in southwest Alaska. The river supported 2133 visitor days of fishing and floating in the NPS managed upper 56 miles of river alone. Originating in Katmai National Preserve's Kukaklek Lake, has abundant wildlife, including brown bear, moose, beaver, river otter, bald eagle, and osprey. Visitors enjoy the fishing along this clear, braided river, as well as the striking changes in landscape, large undeveloped lakes, boreal forest, wet sedge tundra, shrubby islands, and Class I-III rapids. Much of the headwaters are currently a designated Wild component of the National Wild & Scenic River System, managed by NPS.

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) sites have not been identified in the area. This area has not been surveyed for historic or prehistoric sites, however the river corridor which appears to provide important access and fishery resources suggest a moderate to high potential for the discovery of cultural resources.

Goodnews River (mainstem)

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish Habitat and Subsistence

Classification: Wild

Land status of uplands: Native-selected Priority 1, State-selected Priority 1 or 2

BLM's administrative jurisdiction applies to 0.0 miles of this 15.1 mile river. Unique fisheries and subsistence resource values in the regional area. The Goodnews River earned a 2 value because of the quality of anadromous and resident fish including fish habitat. The Goodnews River earned a 2 value for subsistence, exhibiting a crucial salmon fishery for supporting an entire region for subsistence uses. It is the major regional resource in extreme Southwest Alaska and also includes a portion of Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and is a part of the Federal Subsistence Program. The Goodnews River is a crucial Bering Sea fishery because of its large anadromous fish populations, sport and commercial fishing, and subsistence dependence of international, national, and in-state importance. The fish provide a large part of sustaining the terrestrial wildlife ecosystem as well.

A popular float trip of intermediate duration for the experienced or novice rafter, the upper river has a slow current; the current increases in the middle section, with no obstructions to navigate. Most of the shoreline vegetation is tundra with a few stands of cottonwood and willows. Tidal influence is noticeable 10 miles from the mouth in the multiple channels and sloughs. Watercraft: raft with a rowing frame is recommended. Float Duration: 5-6 days from Goodnews Lake to mouth. Attributes: Seasonally excellent angling opportunities for salmon and Dolly Varden, rainbow trout and grayling. Un-baited single-hook artificial lures in all flowing waters. Access: Aircraft charter services are available from Bethel or Dillingham. Land Mangers: State of Alaska, Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and private ownership. Fish habitat was identified as the outstandingly remarkable value and the region was tentatively classified as Wild.

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) sites have not been identified in the area. This area has not been surveyed for historic or prehistoric sites. However, the river corridor, which appears to provide important access and fishery resources, suggests a moderate to high potential for the discovery of cultural resources.

Goodnews River Middle Fork

Outstandingly Remarkable Value: Fish Habitat
Classification: Wild
Land status of uplands: Native-selected Priority 1

BLM manages 0.0 miles of this 38.1 mile river. There are unique fisheries resource values as compared to other rivers in the regional area. The Goodnews River earned a 2 value because of the quality of anadromous and resident fish including fish habitat. The Middle Fork is the main tributary and parallels the mainstem of the Goodnews River for its entire length and joins near the mouth.

Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRs) sites have not been identified in the area. This area has not been surveyed for historic or prehistoric sites. However, the river corridor, which appears to provide important access and fishery resources, suggests a moderate to high potential for the discovery of cultural resources.

b) Phase Two: The Classification Analysis

The classification analysis determines whether a river should be tentatively classified as recreational, scenic, or wild. This determination is based on the level of development present in the river corridor as it exists at the time of the study. The determining factors include waterway development, shoreline modification and vehicular access.

The three classification categories for eligible rivers are defined as follows.

Wild River Areas

Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic River Areas

Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational River Areas

Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

A wild river would be an undeveloped river with very limited access. A scenic classification would be applied to a river or river segment that is more developed than a wild river and less developed than a recreational river. A recreational classification would be appropriate in

developed areas, such as a river running parallel to roads or railroads with adjacent lands that have agricultural, forestry, commercial or other developments, provided that the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance. Attributes of each category are listed in Table D.4.

It is a common misunderstanding that rivers designated as scenic are managed primarily for scenery, and that recreational rivers are managed to promote recreation use. These labels can be misleading. Regardless of the classification, management is designed to maintain or enhance the river-related values and character of the river.

The Goodnews River mainstem, Goodnews River Middle Fork and Alagnak River best match the classification category of Wild, compared to the classification of other designated Wild, Scenic, and Recreational river segments in Alaska. Refer to Table D.4, which relates attributes of the three river classifications under the national Wild and Scenic River system.

Table D.4. Attributes of the Three River Classifications for Inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System

Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Free flowing. Low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures that do not cause flooding of the natural riverbank may not bar consideration. Future construction is restricted.	Free flowing. Low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures that do not cause flooding of the natural riverbank may not bar consideration. Future construction is restricted.	May have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past. Water should not have characteristics of an impoundment for any significant distance. Future construction is restricted.
Generally inaccessible by road. One or two inconspicuous roads to the area may be permissible.	Accessible by roads that may occasionally bridge the river area. Short stretches of inconspicuous and well-screened roads or railroads paralleling the river area may be permitted.	Readily accessible with likelihood of paralleling roads or railroads along riverbanks and bridge crossings.
Shoreline is essentially primitive. One or two inconspicuous dwellings and land devoted to production of hay may be permitted. Watershed is natural in appearance.	Shoreline is largely primitive. Small communities are limited to short reaches of the total area. Agricultural practices that do not adversely affect the river area may be permitted.	Shoreline may be extensively developed.
Water quality meets minimum criteria for primary contact recreation, except where such criteria would be exceeded by natural background conditions and esthetics. Capable of supporting propagation of aquatic life normally adapted to the habitat of the stream.	Water quality meets minimum criteria for primary contact recreation, except where such criteria would be exceeded by natural background conditions and esthetics. Capable of supporting propagation of aquatic life normally adapted to the habitat of the stream, or capable of being restored to that quality.	Water quality meets minimum criteria for primary contact recreation, except where such criteria would be exceeded by natural background conditions and esthetics. Capable of supporting propagation of aquatic life normally adapted to the habitat of the stream, or capable of being restored to that quality.

c) Phase Three: The Suitability Assessment

The third component of a WSR study is the suitability assessment. It is designed to identify the impacts of designation and manageability of eligible rivers. The portion of the suitability assessment contained in this report identifies issues to be considered in the environmental consequences section (Chapter IV). In addition, the willingness of county, state and local landowners to participate in river corridor management is considered. These aspects of the suitability assessment are also considered in Chapter IV.

Criteria for Determining Suitability

In considering suitability, the criteria specified in Section 4a of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (listed below) provide a basis for assessment.

- Characteristics that do or do not make the river corridor a worthy addition to the WSR system
- Current status of land ownership and uses in the area
- Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed or curtailed if the river were designated
- Public, state, local or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river
- Estimated costs of acquiring necessary lands and interests in lands, and of administering the river if designated
- Ability of the agency to manage the river and protect identified values
- Historical or existing rights that would be adversely affected by designation
- Other issues and concerns identified in the land-use planning process

Suitability Findings

Alagnak River: Unsuitable. The 98.4 mile Alagnak River travels through approximately 0.10 miles of BLM selected lands. The BLM does not have administrative jurisdiction of the water, submerged lands, and terrestrial lands adjacent to the river. The BLM-managed uplands are both Native and State priority selected so long-term retention of federal ownership and management of the ORVs by BLM is unlikely. Administrative jurisdiction of the Alagnak River belongs to the State of Alaska who has expressed disinterest in WSR designation, though local support for WSR designation was expressed. Due to expected land conveyance and the lack of jurisdiction, the BLM would not have the ability to manage the river for protection of identified values. Segments of the Alagnak River are currently designated as a national wild and scenic river.

Goodnews River (mainstem): Unsuitable. BLM manages 0.0 miles of this 15.1 mile river. The BLM does not have administrative jurisdiction of the water and submerged lands, and terrestrial lands adjacent to the river. The BLM managed terrestrial lands adjacent to the Goodnews River are both Native and State priority selected so long-term retention of federal ownership and management is unlikely. Administrative jurisdiction of the Goodnews River belongs to the State of Alaska who has expressed disinterest in WSR designation, though local support for WSR designation was expressed. Due to expected land conveyance and the lack of jurisdiction, the BLM would not have the ability to manage the river for protection of identified values.

Goodnews River Middle Fork: Unsuitable. BLM manages 0.0 miles of this 38.6 mile river. The BLM does not have administrative jurisdiction of the water and submerged lands, and terrestrial lands adjacent to the river. The BLM managed terrestrial lands adjacent to the Goodnews River middle fork are both Native and State priority selected so long-term retention of federal ownership and management is unlikely. Administrative jurisdiction of the Goodnews River middle fork belongs to the State of Alaska who has expressed disinterest in WSR designation, though local support for WSR designation was expressed. Due to expected land conveyance and the lack of jurisdiction, the BLM would not have the ability to manage the river for protection of identified values.

The above analyses of river suitability criteria are based on current and future land ownership, foreseeable land conveyance priorities, resource issues and public involvement. Chapter II of the Proposed Plan provides suitability recommendations. Comments on the Draft Plan and protests from the Final Plan were considered in arriving at a recommendation on whether these river segments are suitable for inclusion in the National WSR System. Classification categories for various river segments were completed as per direction of the BLM Manual 8351.

Suitability Summary

BLM does not have administrative jurisdiction for any portions of the three eligible rivers and tentatively classified waterways. The majority of the waterways analyzed are not managed by BLM or are State- or Native-selected and long-term retention of the parcels in federal ownership and management of the ORVs by BLM is unlikely. None of the three eligible and tentatively classified rivers are considered manageable waterways under BLM jurisdiction. Each of the eligible rivers are found unsuitable for inclusion in the National WSR System due to current status of land ownership, the State of Alaska's interests in non-designation, and the BLM's inability to manage the river and protect identified values.