Appendix 2- Wild and Scenic River Eligibility and Preliminary Classification Report for Streams within the Cache Creek Natural Area

Introduction

The BLM is mandated to identify and evaluate all river and stream segments on Bureau administered public lands to determine if they are appropriate additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). Direction for this process is contained in section 5(D) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (the Act), the Final Revised USDA-USDI Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas (published in the Federal Register, 47 FR 39454, 1982), BLM Manual 8351, and several agency policy memoranda.

This report describes an assessment of streams and rivers in the Cache Creek Natural Area for the purposes of the Act. A total of nine stream or river segments were identified and analyzed for eligibility. Four of the nine were determined to be eligible. Several sources were consulted in identifying which segments to study, including the 1970 USDA/USDI Rivers List, the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, input from BLM public scoping meetings and from BLM resource specialists.

Background

The Act was passed in 1968 during an era when many of the Nation's rivers and streams were being dammed and diverted for flood control and irrigation. Its primary purpose was to provide a balance by protecting the resource values of certain outstanding rivers, and to retain these river segments in their free-flowing undammed or undiverted condition.

The National Wild and Scenic River study process has three distinct steps for evaluating identified river segments including:

1. A **determination of eligibility** for designation under the Act.

2. A **tentative classification** of each eligible segment as wild, scenic or recreational (each class having different management criteria).

3. Completion of a **Suitability Study/Environmental Impact Statement** to determine if an eligible river segment is suitable for designation under the Act.

Each of the steps is described in more detail below, although only steps one and two have been to date. The third step in this process, the completion of the suitability Study/EIS, can be initiated through the passage of specific legislation such as Senator Boxer's California Wild Heritage Act of 2003, or through the BLM Planning Process in the development of a Resource Management Plan (RMP).

To be considered as eligible for designation under the Act, a river or river segment must currently be free-flowing and, within its immediate environment, the segment must have one or more outstandingly remarkable values (orv's) including scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, cultural, historic, or other similar values. There is no minimum length or flow requirements for the stream to be designated under the Act, as long as it meets the above two

criteria. In fact, several intermittent rivers are already designated as wild or scenic rivers.

The boundaries of any river studied for potential addition to the NW&SRS, as specified in section 4(d) of the Act, are usually limited to that area measured within one-quarter mile of the ordinary high watermark on each side of the river. Within the CCNA, our analysis has been limited to that boundary on all stream segments.

After determining that a river is eligible for inclusion in the NW&SRS, each river segment must be tentatively classified into one of the three categories contained in the Act (wild, scenic, or recreational). Classification is based only on the degree of naturalness and the extent of development of the river and adjacent lands as they exist at the time of the study, and not on the specific values. Therefore, a "scenic" river may be designated for reasons other than scenery, and a recreational river may not necessarily have outstandingly remarkable recreational resources. At this time the river is also placed under interim management status, and the BLM is required to protect the free-flowing and outstandingly remarkable values of the entire corridor under its jurisdiction.

If Congress designates a river or river segment, allowable land uses and management actions would be based on the classification. Congress may classify a river segment at or below the highest level for which it qualifies. Specific management strategies may vary according to classification, but would be designed to protect and enhance the outstandingly remarkable values of the river area. These specific management strategies are formulated during development of the management plan, which is required within 3 years of designation (Section 3(d) (1) of the Act).

The third step of the process, the suitability study, is an in-depth planning determination based on an Environmental Impact Statement to provide a basis for recommending legislation. The study looks at issues and tradeoffs associated with W&SR designation including such factors as management feasibility, impacts to existing rights, landownership, impacts on other uses of the land, and state and local interest in designation. The W&SR Suitability Study/Environmental Impact Statement for the CCNA has been deferred until specific funding is earmarked for the effort. Public lands along eligible stream segments will remain under interim management protection until the suitability analysis is completed, or designation occurs.

The 9 stream segments within the CCNA include:

1. North Fork: Indian Valley Dam to confluence with Cache Creek.

2. Cache Creek Segment 1: Cache Creek Dam to North Fork.

3. Cache Creek Segment 2: North Fork to Bear Creek.

4. Cache Creek Segment 3: Bear Creek to Rumsey Bridge.

5. Bear Creek: Highway 20 bridge to confluence with Cache Creek.

6. Rocky Creek: BLM land boundary to confluence with Cache Creek.

7. Petrified Canyon: entire length.

8. Trout Creek: entire length.

9. Davis Creek: Davis Creek below Davis Creek Reservoir to confluence with Cache Creek.

The following two criteria were used to determine the eligibility of the study segments:

1. **Free-Flowing**

Free-flowing, as defined in section 16 (b) of the Act, means "existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip rapping, or other modification of the waterway."

Free-flowing should not be confused with naturally flowing (i.e., flowing without any upstream human-influenced manipulation). The presence of impoundments above and below the segment, including impoundments that influence the flow through the study segment, and existing minor dams and diversion structures within the study reach will not by themselves render a river ineligible. There are many segments within the NWSRS downstream from a major dam, such as the Rogue River in Oregon and the lower Klamath River in California, or between dams, such as the Tuolumne River in California or the Rio Chama in New Mexico. Some components of the system, such as the Clackamas, Deschutes, and Snake Rivers in Oregon and the Trinity River in California even derive their recreational values, at least in part, from the flow manipulation from upstream dams.

2. **Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

The second criteria a river must meet to be eligible for inclusion in the NWSRS is the presence of one or more outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values. The term "outstandingly remarkable" is not precisely defined in the Act. Consequently, the determination of whether or not a river area contains outstandingly remarkable values is based on professional judgment of the planning team. The values must be river-related. For example, the presence of a nationally significant geologic feature within the river corridor does not automatically make the river eligible. The feature needs to be related to the presence of the river. Values are considered outstandingly remarkable if they are unique (rare, one-of-a-kind) or exemplary (best example of a more common value) compared to similar values in river corridors in the region. The region considered for comparison in this analysis was Northern California.

On stream segments with mixed ownership, the BLM's policy is to assess eligibility based only on outstandingly remarkable values found on public land portions of the corridor. Affects of landownership on manageability of the river as part of the W&SRS are not considered until the suitability phase of the analysis.

The three classification categories for eligible rivers are defined in section 2(b) of the Act as:

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **Recreational** river areas:
Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shoreline and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

A **wild** river would be a much undeveloped river with limited access. A **scenic** classification would be applied to a 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 where a river runs parallel to roads or railroads with adjacent lands that have agricultural forestry, commercial or other developments provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.

Water quality, water resources development, shoreline development, and accessibility are the criteria considered when determining classification. Each criterion is important, but the collective significance is more important. Each classification permits existing development. New developments compatible with designation are allowed, provided they are accomplished in an environmentally sound manner.

All river segments found to be eligible are placed under interim management protection until Congress designates them as wild or scenic, or they are found unsuitable and dropped from further consideration under the Act. Appropriate management guidelines, consistent with the provisions of the Act, will be adopted for interim management. More information about interim management guidelines can be obtained at the BLM office.

Where the (eligible) Wild and Scenic River and Wilderness Study Area designations overlap, the more stringent interim management guidelines will be followed. The interim management guidelines only affect lands under the BLM's jurisdiction, and certain projects where the Federal Government is a participant. They do not apply to private lands along the river corridors.

SUMMARY OF CACHE CREEK CRMP ELIGIBILITY/TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION

1. North Fork: Indian Valley Dam to confluence with Cache Creek.

Conclusion: Eligible, based on wildlife and cultural values

Land Status Summary:

Management	Corridor Acreage
BLM	620
State	320
Private/Other	3,214
Total	4,154

Free-Flowing Determination: Yes.

There are several areas of fill and rip-rap along State Highway 20, and along the Spring Valley-Long Valley Road. Overall, these areas are set back from the stream, have minimal impacts on the channel, and are mostly screened by riparian vegetation. They are considered to be minor intrusions and do not impact the overall free-flowing condition of the segment.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Yes, wildlife and cultural values.

Along with the remainder of the Cache Creek corridor, this segment is considered to have exemplary wildlife values. The North Fork Segment is a major use area for the Cache Creek tule elk Herd. This herd is one of only a few free-roaming tule elk herds. In addition, the corridor is used as a wintering area for bald eagles, although not to the extent of downstream segments. The BLM-Sensitive yellow-legged frog also occurs in this river segment. River otters and beaver are also found along the segment.

The lower 2¼ miles of this segment are part of the Cache Creek Archaeological District which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The cultural values are considered nationally significant, and are directly river related. The Hill Patwin group used the rich resources from Cache Creek and the riparian corridor including fish, waterfowl, pond turtles and willow (for basket weaving).

Other Significant Values: The North Fork has a cold water fishery of brown and rainbow trout along its entire length. Although this provides for recreational fishing, other areas in the region offer similar opportunities. The segment also offers floating and tubing opportunities that attracts mainly local visitors. Its primary significance is the lower 2¼ miles which offer access from the Redbud Trailhead put in to the popular run through the

Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area.

Tentative Classification: Scenic.

There are no impoundments on the segment. Only one bridge (Hwy. 20) crosses the North Fork. The upper and lower parts of the segment are unroaded, while the middle portion is paralleled by a county road and State Highway 20. However, the roads are not visible from the stream for the most part, and for much of their length are one-eighth to one-quarter mile from the creek. Water quality is good.

2. Cache Creek Segment 1: Cache Creek Dam to confluence with the North Fork.

Conclusion: Eligible, based on wildlife and cultural values.

Land Status Summary:

Management	Corridor Acreage
BLM	1,697
State	240
Private/Other	760
Total	2,697

Free Flowing Determination: Yes.

The entire segment has no diversions or channelization below the Cache Creek Dam.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Yes, wildlife and cultural values.

Along with the remainder of the Cache Creek corridor, this segment is considered to have exemplary wildlife values. This area is used by the Cache Creek tule elk herd. This herd is one of just a few free-roaming tule elk herds. In addition, the corridor is used as a wintering area for bald eagles. The BLM-Sensitive yellow-legged frog also occurs in this river segment. River otters and beaver are also found along the segment.

The lower 4.4 miles of this segment are part of the Cache Creek Archaeological District which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The cultural values are considered nationally significant, and are directly river related. The Hill Patwin group used the rich resources from Cache Creek and the riparian corridor including fish, waterfowl, pond turtles and willow (for basket weaving).

Other Significant Values:

This segment has the potential to be a quality recreational whitewater boating resource for expert paddlers. Lack of public access is the current limiting factor, and is addressed elsewhere in the CRMP.

Tentative Classification: Wild.

No bridges, major access roads or other developments are located in this segment. Several firebreaks and two-track roads (ways) are visible from the stream, but are considered to be very minor intrusions. Much of the segment traverses the Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area, and contains outstanding natural and primitive recreation qualities. Overall, the level of development in this segment fits well within the parameters for wild classification.

Agricultural releases from Clear Lake impacts the water quality throughout this segment. Algae blooms, turbidity and unpleasant odors regularly occur, especially during the later part of summer. Past cinnabar mining in the watershed has also resulted in mercury deposits in Clear Lake. The effects of this mining are unknown on Cache Creek itself. There are currently no known water quality based restrictions on swimming or fishing in this segment. Further data on water quality may preclude classification of this segment as wild. However, until this data is available, the BLM will base interim management on "wild" classification criteria.

3. Cache Creek Segment 2: North Fork to Bear Creek.

Conclusion: Eligible, based on wildlife, cultural, and recreational values.

Land Status Summary:

Management	Corridor Acreage
BLM	4,410
State	500
Yolo Co.	25
Private/Other	420
Total	5,355

Free Flowing Determination: Yes.
The entire segment has no diversions or channelization.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Yes, wildlife, cultural, recreational, scenic, and geological values.

Along with the remainder of the Cache Creek corridor, this segment is considered to have exemplary wildlife values. This segment is a major use area for the Cache Creek tule elk herd. This herd is one of just a few free- roaming tule elk herds. In addition, this section of the Cache Creek corridor hosts a breeding population and one of the largest wintering populations of bald eagles in California**.** The BLM-Sensitive yellow-legged frog is also found here. A portion of this segment has been designated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a “core restoration area” for the federally-threatened red-legged frog.

The upper four miles of this segment (from the confluence with the North Fork to the lower part of Wilson Valley) are part of the Cache Creek Archaeological District which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The cultural values are considered nationally significant, and are directly river related. The Hill Patwin tribe used the rich resources from Cache Creek and the riparian corridor including fish, waterfowl, pond turtles and willow (for basket weaving). The District may be extended downstream to include an even greater part of this segment, once further archaeological assessments can be completed.

This segment of Cache Creek has several recreational attributes of regional significance. First, the bald eagles, elk and other wildlife along the corridor attract visitors from the Bay Area and beyond to view them. The corridor is also a popular wilderness float run, and is one of only a few whitewater rivers in northern California that normally has adequate flows to allow for boating throughout the summer. This is based on Cache Creek flows being augmented by irrigation releases from Clear Lake/Indian Valley

Reservoir for downstream agricultural uses. The lower five miles of this segment (downstream from Buck Island) receives substantial boating use, and is currently used by two commercial outfitters. Many popular recreational activities occur on this river segment including camping, picnicking, tubing, fishing, swimming, and wading. Cache Creek above the Bear Creek confluence provides some of the only primitive recreational opportunities available on low elevation public lands in the region.

Cache Creek's scenic value is viewed as a premier attraction of the area. Fascinating geological features, lush riparian habitat, oak and chaparral covered canyon slopes, and expansive vistas all combine to provide a high quality scenic back-drop to the stream.

Extensive exposed, folded, and highly eroded rock formations of the Great Valley Sequence and Cache Formation add to the scenic quality and provide excellent geological interpretive opportunities along this segment.

Tentative Classification: Wild.

No bridges or other developments are located in this segment. One 4WD road, the Langs Peak Road to Buck Island, does provide vehicular access to a ¼-mile stretch of the creek. This road is used by the rafting concessionaires, as well as hunters, and private parties camping in this area. Several firebreaks and two-track roads (ways) are visible from the stream, but are considered to be very minor intrusions. A private inholding at New Cacheville has a few abandoned trailers visible from the river, but overall these are a minor impact on the naturalness of the canyon. Much of the segment traverses the Cache Creek Wilderness Study Area, and contains outstanding natural and primitive recreation qualities. Overall, the level of development in this segment fits well within the parameters for wild classification.

Agricultural releases from Clear Lake impact the water quality throughout this segment. Algae blooms, turbidity and unpleasant odors regularly occur, especially during the summer months. These impacts are less noticeable here than in Cache Creek Segment 1, and progressively lessen as one moves downstream. Past cinnabar mining in the watershed has also resulted in mercury deposits in Clear Lake. The effects of this mining are unknown on Cache Creek itself. There are currently no known water quality based restrictions on swimming or fishing in this segment. Further data on water quality may preclude classification of this segment as wild. However, until this data is available, BLM will base interim management on "wild" classification criteria.

4. Cache Creek Segment 3: Bear Creek confluence to Rumsey Bridge.

Conclusion: Eligible, based on recreational values.

Land Status Summary:

Management	Corridor Acreage
BLM	240
State	80
Yolo Co.	600
Pvt/Other	1,816
Total	2,736

Free-Flowing Determination: Yes.

This segment contains numerous stretches of fill and rip-rap along State Highway 16. However, these areas are limited to one side of the stream, and only impact the channel through a small percentage of its overall length. No dams or major diversions exist on this segment.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Yes**,** wildlife, recreational, scenic, and geological values.

This segment of Cache Creek is one of Northern California's more popular whitewater floats, and is considered to be an exemplary regional recreation resource. It is the closest whitewater stream to many of the Bay Area's 5 million residents. The outstanding scenery in Cache Creek Canyon combined with easy access, dependable summer flows, and moderate whitewater (class II-III) combine to make it an outstanding recreational boating area.

Other values:

This segment of Cache Creek also provides some habitat for breeding and wintering bald eagles, and for tule elk, but not to the extent of the remote upstream segments.

Cache Creek’s scenic value is viewed as a premier attraction of the area. Fascinating geological features, lush riparian habitat, oak and chaparral covered canyon slopes, and expansive vistas all combine to provide a high quality scenic back-drop to the stream.

Extensive exposed, folded, and highly eroded rock formations of the Great Valley Sequence and Cache Formation add to the scenic quality and provide excellent geological interpretive opportunities along this segment.

Tentative Classification: Recreational**.**

This is by far the most easily accessible and highly developed of the Cache Creek segments in the study area. State Highway 16 parallels and is often visible from the creek from Cache Creek Canyon upstream. Several bridges cross the creek including a low water crossing on Yolo County Road 40. Cache Creek Canyon Regional Park provides facilities for intensive recreation use including camping and picnicking. Downstream from Cache Creek Canyon, the stream enters the agricultural lands of the Capay valley.

5. Bear Creek: Highway 20 bridge to confluence with Cache Creek.

Conclusion: Ineligible.

Land Status Summary:

Management	Corridor Acreage
BLM	2034
Private/Other	500
Total	2,534

Free Flowing: Yes.

Most of the Bear Creek corridor is paralleled on one side by State Highway 16. Although rip-rap and fill slopes impact the channel in numerous locations, the overall character of the stream is still considered to be free-flowing.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: No**.**

Bear Creek reportedly had a quality warm-water fishery in the past, but overgrazing and the introduction of non-native saltcedar has greatly impacted the naturalness and fishery quality. The creek corridor provides a scenic backdrop for State Highway 16, but the scenery is not exemplary when compared to other stream corridors in the Coast Range.

6. Rocky Creek: BLM land boundary to confluence with Cache Creek.

Conclusion: Ineligible.

Land Status Summary:

Management	Corridor Acreage
BLM	1586
State	80
Pvt/Other	30
Total	1696

Free Flowing: Yes.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: No.

Rocky Creek contains native populations of rainbow trout. This fishery is only locally significant in that numerous streams in the Coast Range contain more substantial trout populations. As the name implies, the stream corridor is extremely rocky, with large rounded boulders covering the channel. Although scenic, this is not considered unique or exemplary.

7. Petrified Canyon: Entire length.

Conclusion: Ineligible.

Land Status Summary:

Management	Corridor Acreage
BLM	910
State	30
Pvt/Other	0
Total	940

Free Flowing: Yes.
No diversions, impoundments or channelization.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: No.
Petrified wood has been found in this canyon. Although this is not common in the region, it is not considered to be a stream related value. The petrified wood and other mineral values will be managed through the BLM Wilderness Study Area interim management policy.

8. Trout Creek: Entire length.

Conclusion: Ineligible.

Land Status Summary:

Management	Corridor Acreage
BLM	523
State	45
Pvt/Other	0
Total	568

Free Flowing: Yes.

No diversions, impoundments or channelization.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: No**.**

Trout Creek contains a resident population of trout and perennial flows. These values are only considered to be locally significant.

9. Davis Creek: Davis Creek Reservoir to confluence with Cache Creek.

Conclusion: Ineligible

Land Status Summary:

Management	Corridor Acreage
BLM	902
State	0
PVT/Other	1,150
Total	2,052

Free Flowing: Yes.
No diversions, impoundments or channelization.

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: No.
The stream has perennial flows, and provides quality wildlife habitat, especially for blacktail deer. These values are only considered to be locally significant.