APPENDIX C
FINAL WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SUITABILITY REPORT

Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Report

BLM: Kremmling and Colorado River Valley Field Offices, Colorado
USFS: White River National Forest, Colorado

February 2014

U.S. Department of Interior
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Report – February 2014
BLM: Kremmling and Colorado River Valley Field Offices, Colorado
USFS: White River National Forest, Colorado

Prepared for:

U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management

Kremmling Field Office
2103 East Park Avenue, PO Box 68
Kremmling, Colorado 80459

Colorado River Valley Field Office
2300 River Frontage Road
Silt, Colorado 81652

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service

White River National Forest
900 Grand Avenue
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601

Table of Contents

Reader's Guide **RG-1**

Part I—BLM-Managed Segments RG-3

Part II—Forest Service-Managed Segments RG-3

Colorado River and Deep Creek Segments RG-3

Executive Summary **ES-1**

Introduction ES-1

Project Area ES-2

Suitability Phase ES-2

Upper Colorado River Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group Management Plan ES-3

Suitability Determinations ES-3

Chapter 1 Introduction **1-1**

1.1 Project Area 1-2

1.2 Why Conduct a Suitability Study and Why Now? 1-2

1.3 What is a Wild and Scenic River? 1-4

1.4 Steps in the Wild and Scenic Study Process 1-4

1.5 Eligibility Phase 1-4

1.5.1 Steps in the Eligibility Phase 1-5

1.5.2 Results of Eligibility Phase 1-6

1.6 Suitability Phase 1-7

Chapter 2 Methodology **2-1**

2.1 Suitability Criteria Used to Evaluate River and Stream Segments 2-1

2.1.1 Data Sources and Methodology 2-3

2.1.2 Geographic Information Systems 2-3

2.1.3 BLM Resource Interdisciplinary Team 2-3

2.1.4 Informational Sources 2-4

2.1.5 Other Agencies 2-4

2.1.6 Public Input 2-5

2.2 Suitability Determinations 2-6

2.3 Interim Management of Suitable Segments 2-6

Chapter 3 Suitability Criteria-Based Data and Determinations **3-1**

3.1 Introduction 3-1

3.2 Kremmling Field Office Suitability Data and Determinations 3-2

3.2.1 Segment Name: Blue River (Segment 2) 3-3
3.2.2 Segment Name: Blue River (Segment 3) 3-11
3.2.3 Segment Name: Colorado River—Windy Gap to Hot Sulphur Springs (Segment 1) 3-18
3.2.4 Segment Name: Colorado River-Byers Canyon (Segment 2) 3-26
3.2.5 Segment Name: Colorado River—Below Byers Canyon to the Mouth of Gore Canyon (Segment 3) 3-34
3.2.6 Segment Name: Colorado River Gore Canyon (Segment 4) 3-45
3.2.7 Segment Name: Colorado River—Pumphouse to State Bridge (Segment 5) 3-58
3.2.8 Segment Name: Kinney Creek 3-71
3.2.9 Segment Name: Muddy Creek 3-75
3.2.10 Segment Name: North Platte River 3-80
3.2.11 Segment Name: Piney River 3-83
3.2.12 Segment Name: Rabbit Ears Creek 3-86
3.2.13 Segment Name: Spruce Creek 3-90
3.2.14 Segment Name: Sulphur Gulch 3-94
3.2.15 Segment Name: Troublesome Creek 3-97

3.3 Colorado River Valley Field Office Suitability Data and Determinations 3-100

3.3.1 Segment Name: Abrams Creek 3-102
3.3.2 Segment Name: Battlement Creek 3-106
3.3.3 Segment Name: Colorado River—State Bridge to Dotsero (Segment 6) 3-110
3.3.4 Segment Name: Colorado River—Glenwood Canyon to Approximately One Mile East of No Name Creek (Segment 7) 3-123
3.3.5 Segment Name: Deep Creek—From the BLM/Forest Service Land Boundary to the Deep Creek Ditch Diversion (Segment 2b) 3-136
3.3.6 Segment Name: Deep Creek—From the Deep Creek Ditch Diversion to the BLM/Private Land Boundary (Segment 3) 3-144
3.3.7 Segment Name: Eagle River 3-149
3.3.8 Segment Name: Egeria Creek 3-155
3.3.9 Segment Name: Hack Creek 3-158
3.3.10 Segment Name: Mitchell Creek 3-161
3.3.11 Segment Name: No Name Creek 3-165
3.3.12 Segment Name: Rock Creek 3-167
3.3.13 Segment Name: Thompson Creek 3-170
3.3.14 East Middle Fork Parachute Creek Complex 3-175
3.3.15 East Fork Parachute Creek Complex 3-182

3.4 Summary of Suitability and Eligibility Determinations 3-191

Chapter 4 List of Preparers 4-1

Chapter 5 References 5-1

Chapter 6 Introduction – WRNF 6-1

6.1 Project Area 6-1

6.2 Why Conduct a Suitability Study and Why Now? 6-1

6.3 Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Process 6-2

6.3.1 Eligibility Phase 6-3

Chapter 7 Methodology – WRNF 7-1

7.1 Suitability Criteria Used to Evaluate River and Stream Segments 7-1

7.2 Data Sources and Methodology 7-2

7.2.1 Geographic Information Systems 7-2

7.3 Public Input 7-4

7.4 Suitability Determinations 7-6

7.5 Interim Management of Suitable Segments 7-7

Chapter 8 Suitability Criteria-based Data and Determinations – WRNF 8-1

8.1 Colorado River 8-1

8.1.1 Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values 8-3

8.1.2 Description of Attributes of the River Corridor 8-5

8.1.3 WRNF Colorado River Segment 1 8-11

8.1.4 WRNF Colorado River Segment 2 8-23

8.2 Deep Creek 8-35

8.2.1 Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values 8-35

8.2.2 Description of Attributes of the Stream Corridor 8-39

8.2.3 WRNF Deep Creek Segment 1 8-42

8.2.4 WRNF Deep Creek Segment 2a 8-46

8.3 Summary of Final Suitability Determinations 8-51

Chapter 9 List of Preparers – WRNF 9-1

Chapter 10 References – WRNF 10-1

Chapter 11 BLM and Forest Service Responses to Public Comments on Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Analysis 11-1

Reader's Guide to Responses to Public Comments on Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Analysis . 11-1

Appendix A: Stakeholder Outreach A-1

Appendix B: White River National Forest – WSR Descriptions and Management Standards and Guidelines B-1

Part 1 1

Introduction B-1

Part 2 10

Introduction B-10

Colorado River B-10

Deep Creek B-12

Appendix C: List of Acronyms C-1

List of Tables

Table ES-1 Summary of Suitability Determinations ES-8

Table 1-1 BLM Eligible Segments Studied for Suitability 1-8

Table 2-1 Interim Protection for Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers 2-7

Table 3-1 Summary of Suitability and Eligibility Determinations 3-191

Table 4-1 Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Report Preparers 4-1

Table 6-1 White River National Forest Eligible Segments Studied for Suitability 6-3

Table 7-1 Open House Schedule and Attendance 7-5

Table 8-1 Summary of Suitability Determinations 8-51

Table 9-1 Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Report Preparers 9-1

Table 11-1 Stakeholder Plan Comments 11-3

Table 11-2 KFO Streams Comments 11-22

Table 11-3 CRVFO Streams Comments 11-27

Table A-1 Suitability Study Stakeholder Outreach Mailing List A-1

Table A-2 Suitability Comments Received on Each Eligible Segment A-9

Table A-3 Public Comments on and BLM Response to Eligibility A-11

This page is intentionally left blank.

List of Figures

Figure ES-1 WSR Suitable and Eligible Segments and Project Area ES-5

Figure 1-1 Project Location 1-3

Figure 1-2 Kremmling Field Office Eligible Segments, Map 1 1-13

Figure 1-3 Kremmling Field Office Eligible Segments, Map 2 1-14

Figure 1-4 Kremmling Field Office Eligible Segments, Map 3 1-15

Figure 1-5 Colorado River Valley Field Office Eligible Segments, Map 1 1-16

Figure 1-6 Colorado River Valley Field Office Eligible Segments, Map 2 1-17

Figure 1-7 Colorado River Valley Field Office Eligible Segments, Map 3 1-18

Figure 3.2-1 Colorado River Segment 4 3-46

Figure 3.2-2 Colorado River Segment 5 3-59

Figure 3.3-1 Colorado River Segment 6 3-111

Figure 3.3-2 Colorado River Segment 7 3-124

Figure 3.3-3 Deep Creek Segments 2b and 3 3-137

Figure 3.3-4 East Middle Fork Parachute Creek Complex 3-177

Figure 3.3-5 East Fork Parachute Creek Complex 3-185

Figure 8-1 WRNF Colorado River Segments 1 and 2 8-2

Figure 8-2 WRNF Deep Creek Segments 1 and 2a 8-36

This page is intentionally left blank.