

## Reader's Guide

This report presents final suitability determinations for eligible river segments that were evaluated as part of the BLM's land use plan revision. The evaluation was performed pursuant to procedures specified in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, in BLM's Wild and Scenic Rivers Manual, and in the U.S. Forest Service Land Management Planning Handbook, Wild and Scenic Rivers Evaluation. The subject river sections are in the planning areas for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Kremmling Field Office (KFO) and the Colorado River Valley Field Office (CRVFO, formerly the Glenwood Springs Field Office), and the Forest Service's White River National Forest (WRNF).

The original intent of the resource management plan (RMP) revision planning process was to revise the respective land use plans for the BLM KFO and CRVFO in a single, joint RMP/ environmental impact statement *BLM Final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (BLM Final RMP/EIS) document. The scoping process and much of the *BLM Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (BLM Draft RMP/EIS) preparation process took place with the idea of preparing a combined document. However, the BLM decided to separate the land use plans for these two field offices based on consideration of public comments as well as understanding that the decision process would benefit from separating these RMPs by field office. Therefore, a large amount of the public outreach and agency coordination that has taken place to date was undertaken with a combined document in mind. The *Draft WSR Suitability Report* was completed prior to the splitting of the RMP, and the Final Suitability Report is presented here, including both BLM field offices and the Forest Service - (WRNF).

This Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Report serves as Appendix T to the *Final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement - BLM Kremmling Field Office*. This document also serves as Appendix C to the *Final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement - BLM Colorado River Valley Field Office*. This document contains Wild and Scenic Rivers suitability determinations that will take effect when the following actions occur:

The BLM will publish a Notice of Availability for both of the aforementioned planning documents. When the planning documents are available, the public will have a 30-day opportunity to file protests with the BLM. Second, the BLM State Director will sign a separate Record of Decision for each plan after BLM has responded to all protests.

Any suitability analysis contained in this document for streams located within BLM's Roan Plateau planning area (East Middle Fork Parachute Creek Complex and East Fork Parachute Creek Complex) should be considered as draft analysis. These draft analyses will become final suitability determinations when the BLM State Director signs a Record of Decision (ROD) for the Roan Plateau Resource Management Plan. The U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado has remanded the 2008 Roan Plateau Plan back to the BLM for further analysis that will appear in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. The Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement could contain additional analysis and information that may modify the draft Wild and Scenic Rivers analysis contained in this document.

*White River National Forest.*

This document will serve as the final study document for WRNF Wild and Scenic River determinations on the USFS Colorado River and Deep Creek segments. The WRNF suitability determinations will be documented in a separate ROD. The responsible official, Scott Fitzwilliams, Forest Supervisor, has prepared a Draft ROD for the WRNF WSR Suitability Study. The WRNF, Wild and Scenic Rivers Study for the Colorado River and Deep Creek draft ROD is subject to an objection process pursuant to 36 CFR 218, subparts A and B. Once prepared and posted, objections must be submitted within 45 calendar days following publication of the legal notice in the Glenwood Post Independent. Objections can only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments during scoping or other public comment period. Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted, timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project. If no objection is filed a final ROD will be published. If an objection is filed the Reviewing Official will issue a response. Once the objection process is completed a final ROD may be signed. Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail, fax, email, hand-delivery, express delivery, or messenger service to: Objection Reviewing Officer, Dan Jirón, Regional Forester, 740 Simms Street, Golden, CO 80401; FAX: 303-275-5134; or email: [objections-rocky-mountainwhiteriver@fs.fed.us](mailto:objections-rocky-mountainwhiteriver@fs.fed.us).

This reader's guide describes the report sections and guidance for locating particular river segments.

The Executive Summary presents the suitability determinations for both the BLM and the WRNF.

The report is divided into Part I for the BLM segments and Part II for the Forest Service segments.

An electronic copy of this report is available on the following websites:

[http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM\\_Programs/land\\_use\\_planning/rmp/kfo-gsfo/documents.html](http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/land_use_planning/rmp/kfo-gsfo/documents.html)

<http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/fs-usda-pop.php/?project=43846>

## Part I—BLM-Managed Segments

Chapter 1 Introduction, describes the Wild and Scenic Rivers process and planning area;

Chapter 2 Methodology, describes the BLM's study process for assessing river segments for suitability;

Chapter 3 Suitability Criteria-Based Data and Determinations, presents the data used to assess each segment using the BLM's suitability criteria and presents draft suitability determinations. River segments are presented in the following order:

- KFO Planning area,
- CRVFO Planning Area,
- Roan Plateau segments (CRVFO and White River Field Office jurisdiction);

Chapter 4 List of Preparers, lists the individuals who conducted this study; and

Chapter 5 References, lists the reference works used in preparing this study.

## Part II—Forest Service-Managed Segments

Chapter 6 Introduction – WRNF, describes the planning area and Wild and Scenic Rivers process, where it differs from the BLM process described in Part I;

Chapter 7 Methodology – WRNF, describes the Forest Service study process for assessing river segments for suitability;

Chapter 8 Suitability Criteria-based Data and Determinations – WRNF, presents the data used to assess each segment, using the USFS suitability criteria, and presents draft suitability determinations;

Chapter 9 List of Preparers – WRNF, lists the individuals who conducted this study; and

Chapter 10 References – WRNF, lists the references used in preparing this study.

## Colorado River and Deep Creek Segments

Because this study is based on agency jurisdictions and planning areas, the Colorado River and Deep Creek segments are divided into different sections. The following describes where to find them.

## Colorado River

- Colorado River BLM Segments 1 through 5, from Windy Gap downstream to State Bridge, are presented in Part I, Chapter 3, in the KFO planning area (Sections 3.2.3 through 3.2.7);
- Colorado River BLM Segments 6 and 7, from State Bridge downstream to approximately one mile east of No Name Creek, are presented in Part I, Chapter 3, in the CRVFO planning area (Sections 3.3.3 and 3.3.4);
- Colorado River WRNF Segments 1 and 2 are presented in Part II, Section 8.1, from the WRNF boundary on the east end of Glenwood Canyon downstream to the WRNF boundary on the west end of Glenwood Canyon (except for the portion around Shoshone Dam). Note that these segments are geographically in the upstream and downstream extent of BLM Colorado River Segment 7.

## Deep Creek

- Deep Creek Segments 1 and 2a (Forest Service), from the Deep Lake outlet downstream to the WRNF boundary with the BLM-managed land, are presented in Part II, Section 3.2;
- Deep Creek Segments 2b and 3 (BLM) are presented in Part I, Chapter 3 within the CRVFO planning area (Sections 3.3.5 and 3.3.6), from the BLM boundary with Forest Service land, downstream to the BLM boundary with a private landowner.