

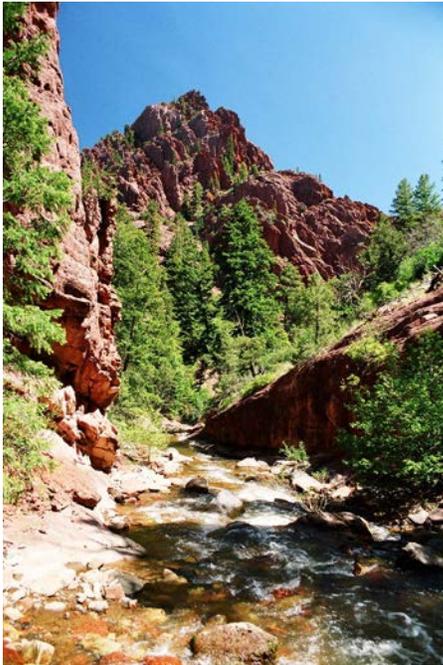
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**APPENDIX C**  
**WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY REPORT**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



# DRAFT WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY REPORT

## FOR KREMMLING AND COLORADO RIVER VALLEY FIELD OFFICES AND WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST, COLORADO



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# WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY REPORT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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### ***Introduction***

In March 2007, the US Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Kremmling Field Office (KFO) and the Colorado River Valley Field Office (formerly the Glenwood Springs Field Office; CRVFO) completed the eligibility phase of a Wild and Scenic River (WSR) evaluation as part of the resource management plan (RMP) revision process (BLM 2007a). In addition to the segments evaluated as part of the March 2007 study, 15 other segments were previously determined eligible in other studies. River segments within the Roan Plateau planning area were assessed as part of the Roan Plateau RMP process, which includes lands administered by the BLM's CRVFO and White River Field Office in Garfield and Rio Blanco Counties, Colorado (BLM 2002). Additionally, Deep Creek was jointly analyzed by the BLM and the US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service), the WRNF in 1995 (Forest Service and BLM 1995). The cumulative result of these three studies is 41 segments have been identified as eligible river segments in the KFO and CRVFO. One additional segment along the Blue River (Blue River Segment 1) was originally identified as eligible (BLM 2007a). A reexamination of the landownership and management status revealed that Segment 1 occurs on Forest Service land rather than on BLM land. As a result it has been dropped from consideration by BLM and was not studied for suitability in this report.

In addition to the above studies of river segments on BLM land the Forest Service, WRNF has completed similar studies on its lands. In 2002 the Forest Service, WRNF completed the eligibility phase of a WSR evaluation as part of the Land and Resource Management Plan revision process (Forest Service 2002). In 1995 Deep Creek was jointly analyzed by the BLM and the WRNF (Forest Service and BLM 1995). Four of the eligible stream Forest Service segments either are next to or are part of the same river as the BLM segments being studied. Manual 8351.33A8.B(1) Coordinated Studies and Other Planning Efforts states: "...*The BLM shall invite and encourage other agencies to participate and/or provide technical assistance in a joint study concurrently with the BLM's RMP process.*" This study assesses the suitability of two Colorado River and two Deep Creek WRNF eligible segments.

The original intent of the RMP revision planning process was to revise the respective land use plans for the BLM KFO and CRVFO in a single, joint RMP/EIS document. The scoping process and much of the 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. This Suitability Report was completed prior to the splitting of the RMP, and thus it is presented in summary form here including both BLM field offices and the Forest Service.

## **Project Area**

### **Bureau of Land Management**

The project area for this suitability study includes all BLM-managed river segments in the KFO and CRVFO RMP planning areas that have been determined to meet the eligibility criteria for WSRs. This WSR suitability study also includes the eligible segments occurring in the Roan Plateau area of the CRVFO. All other aspects of the Roan Plateau management were evaluated in the Roan Plateau RMP and are not considered as part of this RMP revision process.

### **Forest Service**

The Forest Service project area for this suitability study is limited to four WRNF-managed river segments that have been determined to meet the eligibility criteria for WSRs. These include the rivers and their associated WSR study corridors for two Colorado River segments, and two Deep Creek segments.

## **Suitability Phase**

The purpose of the suitability phase of the study process is to determine whether eligible rivers would be appropriate additions to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS) by considering tradeoffs between corridor development and river protection. The suitability evaluation does not result in actual designation but only a suitability determination for designation. The BLM cannot administratively designate a stream via a planning decision or other agency decision into the NWSRS, and no segment studied is designated or will be automatically designated as part of the NWSRS. Rivers found not suitable by the managing agency conducting the suitability study would be dropped from further consideration and managed according to the objectives and specific management prescriptions outlined in the RMP.

## **Suitability Determinations**

Table ES-1 shows the preliminary suitability determination for each segment. Of the 41 stream segments determined to be eligible in the CRVFO and KFO planning areas, the BLM determined that six segments are suitable for WSR designation, while 35 segments are not suitable. Of the four WRNF eligible segments, all four were determined to be suitable for WSR designation (Figure ES-1).

- Six segments on the Colorado River are determined to be suitable (four BLM and two WRNF). These segments contain multiple ORVs that the BLM and Forest Service believe could be managed as a Wild and Scenic River. The BLM and Forest Service concluded that because they manage a very high percentage of the land in these six segments, they can successfully protect and manage for the ORVs. The BLM and Forest Service also concluded that these segments lack any instream flow

protection and cooperative flow management, so designation, which comes with a federal reserved water right, would help protect the flows necessary to support the ORVs.

- Four segments on Deep Creek are determined to be suitable (two BLM and two WRNF). The BLM and Forest Service concluded that the multiple ORVs within these segments can be successfully managed as a WSR with very little conflict with other uses because most of the land is federal, and the likelihood of development is small. The BLM and Forest Service also concluded that a federal reserved water right would help protect the high number of water-dependent values in the streams.
- The BLM concluded that several major stream segments, including the Colorado River between Windy Gap and upstream of Gore Canyon, Eagle River, Blue River, and Muddy Creek, are not suitable. The BLM based its determination on the fact that it manages only a small fraction of the lands in the stream corridor, and local governments have not indicated an interest in managing lands under their jurisdiction as WSRs.
- The BLM concluded that several stream segments with multiple and pristine ORVs would be adequately managed under protective designations proposed in the RMP. These streams are Thompson Creek, East Middle Fork Parachute Creek complex, and East Fork Parachute Creek complex.
- A high number of the eligible stream segments have only one ORV. The BLM determined that existing protective laws and management prescriptions in the proposed plan are the best tools for managing these values. Streams in this category are those with paleontological, sensitive fish, and historical/cultural values.

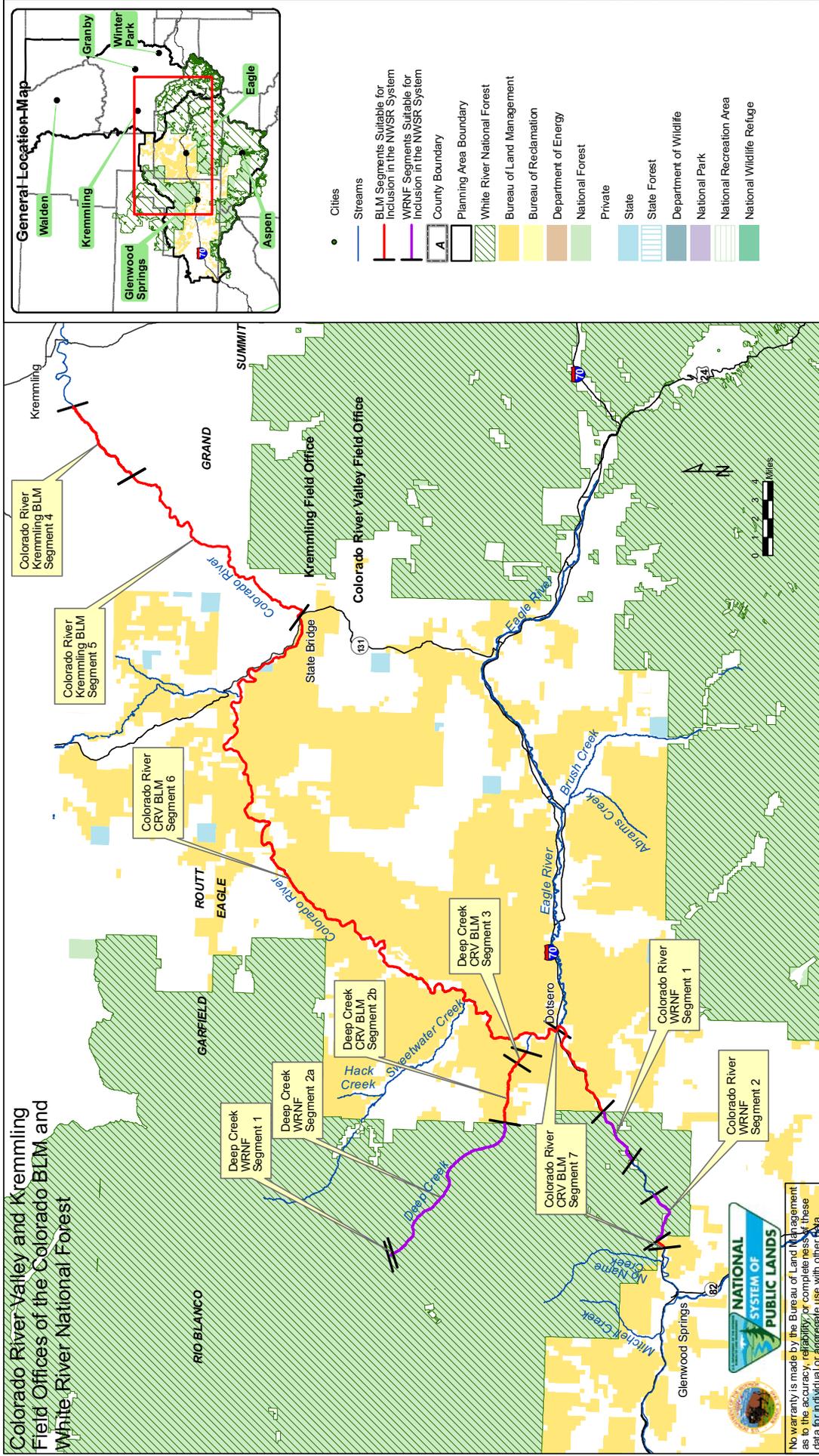
**Table ES-1**  
**Summary of Suitability Determinations**

River or Creek	Segment	Segment Length (miles)	Preliminary Suitability Determination	Classification
<b><i>Kremmling Field Office</i></b>				
Blue River	Total of two segments	4.60 (total)		
	Segment 2	2.55	Not Suitable	
	Segment 3	2.05	Not Suitable	
Colorado River	Total of five segments	54.74 (total)		
	Segment 1	7.32	Not Suitable	
	Segment 2	2.44	Not Suitable	
	Segment 3	24.36	Not Suitable	
	Segment 4	5.36	Suitable	Recreational
	Segment 5	15.26	Suitable	Recreational
Kinney Creek	one segment	2.35	Not Suitable	
Muddy Creek	one segment	8.93	Not Suitable	
North Platte River	one segment	0.07	Not Suitable	
Piney River	one segment	2.30	Not Suitable	
Rabbit Ears Creek	one segment	4.24	Not Suitable	
Spruce Creek	one segment	0.97	Not Suitable	
Sulphur Gulch	one segment	3.04	Not Suitable	
Troublesome Creek	one segment	6.14	Not Suitable	

**Table ES-1**  
**Summary of Suitability Determinations**

River or Creek	Segment	Segment Length (miles)	Preliminary Suitability Determination	Classification
<b>Colorado River Valley Field Office (excluding Roan Plateau)</b>				
Abrams Creek	one segment	3.44	Not Suitable	
Battlement Creek	one segment	2.88	Not Suitable	
Colorado River	Total of two segments	71.38 (total)		
	Segment 6	45.38	Suitable	Recreational
	Segment 7	15.70 <sup>1</sup>	Suitable	Recreational
Deep Creek	Total of two segments	4.46 (total)		
	Segment 2b	3.60	Suitable	Wild
	Segment 3	0.86	Suitable	Recreational
Eagle River	one segment	25.69	Not Suitable	
Egeria Creek	one segment	8.31	Not Suitable	
Hack Creek	one segment	2.42	Not Suitable	
Mitchell Creek	one segment	0.89	Not Suitable	
No Name Creek	one segment	0.08	Not Suitable	
Rock Creek	one segment	4.78	Not Suitable	
Thompson Creek	one segment	4.76	Not Suitable	
<b>Roan Plateau</b>				
<i>East Middle Fork Parachute Creek complex</i>	Total of five segments	10.28 (total)	Not Suitable	
	East Middle Fork Parachute Creek (one segment)	1.10		
	Northwater Creek (one segment)	3.20		
	Trapper Creek Segment 1	0.78		
	Trapper Creek Segment 2	3.40		
	Trapper Creek Segment 3	1.80		
<i>East Fork Parachute Creek complex</i>	Total of eight segments	13.78 (total)	Not Suitable	
	East Fork Parachute Creek Segment 1	5.36		
	East Fork Parachute Creek Segment 2	2.21		
	First Anvil Creek Segment 1	0.60		
	First Anvil Creek Segment 2	1.65		
	Golden Castle Creek (1 segment)	1.05		
	JQS Gulch (1 segment)	1.14		
	Second Anvil Creek Segment 1	1.46		
	Second Anvil Creek Segment 3	0.31		
<b>White River National Forest</b>				
Colorado River	Total of two segments	6.48 (total)		
	WRNF Segment 1	3.35	Suitable	Recreational
	WRNF Segment 2	3.13	Suitable	Recreational
Deep Creek	Total of two segments	10.77 (total)		
	Segment 1	0.24	Suitable	Scenic
	Segment 2a	10.53	Suitable	Wild

<sup>1</sup>The length of Colorado River Segment #7 includes the two WRNF Colorado River Segments (6.48 miles); the BLM manages 3.4 miles of this segment.



**Suitable Segments and Project Region**  
**Colorado River Valley and Kremmling Field Offices and White River National Forest, Colorado**

**Figure ES-1**

