

**FINAL
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY REPORT
BILLINGS FIELD OFFICE, MONTANA**



April 2009

Prepared for:

US Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management

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For

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Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.....	ES-1
1.0 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project Area	1
1.2 Why Conduct an Eligibility Study and Why Now?	1
1.3 Steps in the Wild and Scenic Study Process	3
1.3.1 Eligibility Phase	3
1.3.2 Suitability Phase	5
2.0 IDENTIFICATION METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS	6
2.1 Methods and Criteria Used to Identify River and Stream Segments	6
2.1.1 Geographic Information Systems.....	6
2.1.2 BLM Resource Interdisciplinary Team.....	6
2.1.3 Informational Sources.....	6
2.1.4 Other Agencies	7
2.1.5 Public Input	7
2.2 Identification Results.....	8
3.0 ELIGIBILITY.....	9
3.1 Initial Screening	9
3.2 Further Evaluation	9
3.3 Eligibility Findings.....	10
4.0 LIST OF PREPARERS.....	27
5.0 REFERENCES	28

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A	33
Appendix B	34
Appendix C	35
Appendix D	36

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1 – Planning Area Map	2
Figure 2 - Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Process Flow Chart.....	4

ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENT MAPS

Map 1 – Bad Canyon Creek	20
Map 2 – Bear Canyon Creek	21
Map 3 – Crooked Creek – Above Fish Barrier	22
Map 4 – Crooked Creek – Below Fish Barrier	23
Map 5 – Gyp Springs	24
Map 6 – Piney Creek	25
Map 7 – Yellowstone River – Pompeys Pillar	26

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The United States Department of the Interior (USDI), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Billings Field Office (BiFO) has completed the eligibility phase of a wild and scenic rivers (WSR) study as part of its Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision process. This study looked only at BLM-administered public surface lands along streams and rivers. Private, State and other federally administered lands were not part of this study. All streams containing BLM shoreline were reviewed to determine if they were free-flowing and contained sufficient values to be studied. Once the initial segments were identified, standard criteria were applied to determine the eligibility of each segment. This report describes the methodology and process used to identify river segments, assess their eligibility, and for eligible segments, assign a preliminary classification.

Key Findings

Out of the 78 segments identified and evaluated, 14 segments were identified for intensive study. From these, seven segments were determined eligible for suitability study because they were free-flowing and possessed one or more outstandingly remarkable values:

- Bad Canyon Creek
- Bear Canyon Creek
- Crooked Creek – Above Fish Barrier
- Crooked Creek – Below Fish Barrier
- Gyp Spring
- Piney Creek
- Yellowstone River – Pompeys Pillar

Next Step

This report presents the final eligibility determinations. The next step in the WSR process is to determine suitability of the eligible segments. The BLM will be completing the suitability phase during the RMP revision process.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Billings Field Office (BiFO) has completed the eligibility phase of a wild and scenic rivers (WSR) study as part of their Resource Management Plan (RMP) revision process. The BLM examined river and stream segments within the BiFO planning area. Only those segments that either pass through or are bordered by BLM-administered public lands were evaluated. Private, State and other federally administered lands were not part of this study.

All streams containing BLM shoreline were reviewed to determine if they were free-flowing and contained sufficient values to be studied. Once the initial segments were identified, standard criteria were applied to determine the eligibility of each segment. This report describes the methodology and process used to identify river segments, assess their eligibility, and for eligible segments, assign a preliminary classification.

1.1 PROJECT AREA

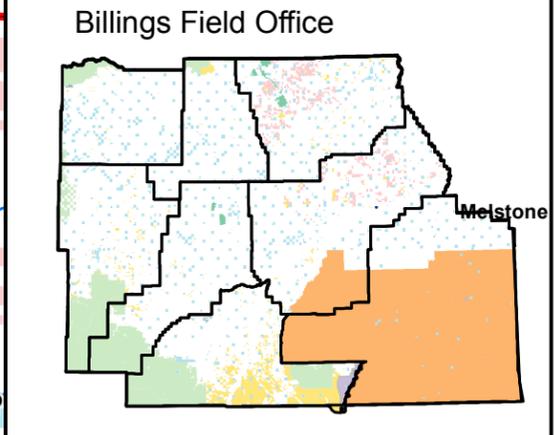
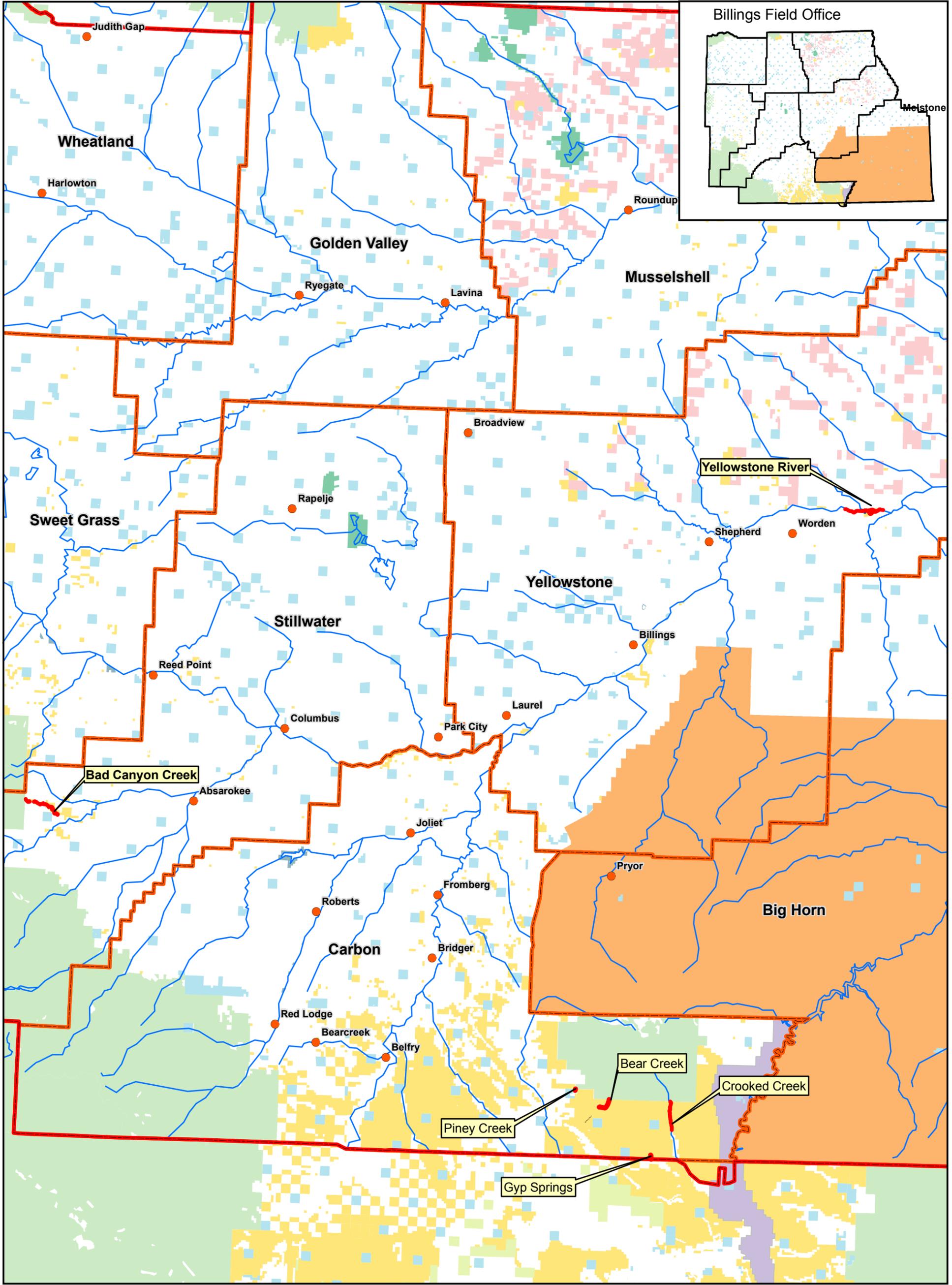
The project area for this study included all BLM public lands in south-central Montana and northern Wyoming administered by the BiFO (**Figure 1**). The BiFO has not previously conducted a comprehensive eligibility study, so all lands within the BiFO planning boundary were included.

1.2 WHY CONDUCT AN ELIGIBILITY STUDY AND WHY NOW?

Congress enacted the Wild and Scenic River Act (WSR Act) on October 2, 1968 to provide a national policy for preserving and protecting selected rivers and river segments in their free-flowing condition for the benefit of present and future generations. Section 5(d)(1) of the WSR Act) (Public Law 90-542; 16 US Code 12711287) directs federal agencies to consider potential wild and scenic rivers in their planning processes. To fulfill this requirement, the BLM inventories and evaluates rivers when it develops or revises an RMP for public lands in a specified area.

A WSR study process is composed of two main components: the eligibility phase and the suitability phase. The eligibility phase is conducted during the data gathering stage of the RMP and the suitability phase is done during the formulation of the draft and proposed RMP.

In May 2008 the BiFO issued a notice of intent to revise its RMP for the BLM-administered public lands within the BiFO under an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This WSR eligibility study is being conducted as part of the RMP revision.



Cities and Towns	DOD	BLM WA
Stream Segments Containing ORVs	FWS	BNKHD J
Perennial Streams	FWS NWR	LOCAL
Billings Field Office	OTHER	NPS
Land Status	BLM	PRI
BIA	BLM MON	STATE
BOR	BLM NCA	USFS

Source: BLM Land Status Map
6 April 2009
SLL

N
W — E
S

1:600,500

0 37,500 75,000 Feet

1.3 STEPS IN THE WILD AND SCENIC STUDY PROCESS

1.3.1 Eligibility Phase

River and Stream Identification

At this point, the BiFO has only conducted the eligibility phase of the WSR process. The eligibility phase was conducted in accordance with BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers—Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management (BLM 1992) and The Wild and Scenic River Study Process technical report (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council 1999). An overview of the WSR eligibility process is shown in **Figure 2**.

The purpose of the eligibility phase is to identify eligible river and stream segments and assign tentative classifications. The agency is directed to consider a wide variety of internal and external sources to identify potentially eligible rivers. The goal is to avoid overlooking river segments which have potential for inclusion in the national system. Once river segments are identified, the BLM applies standard criteria to determine eligibility. To be eligible a river segment must be free-flowing and possess at least one river-related value considered outstandingly remarkable. Free-flowing is defined by the WSR Act as “existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.” The existence of small dams, diversion works or other minor structures at time the river segment is being considered shall not automatically disqualify it for consideration. The specific criteria for outstandingly remarkable values (ORV) are listed in **Appendix A**.

A river study area extends the length of the identified river segment and includes the river area, its immediate environment, and shall include (or total) an average of no more than 320 acres per mile from the ordinary high-water mark on both sides of the river. The planning team should outline a preliminary or proposed boundary, usually 0.25-mile on either side of the river.

Assign Tentative Classification

If the eligibility phase determines segments to be eligible, the BLM shall assign a tentative classification and management measures needed to ensure appropriate protection of the values supporting the eligibility and classification determinations. **Appendix B** displays the tentative classification criteria. There are three classes for rivers designated under the WSR Act: Wild, Scenic, and Recreational. Classes are based on the type and degree of human development and access associated with the river and adjacent lands at the time of the eligibility determination. The classification does not reflect the types of values present along a river segment. The classification assigned during the eligibility phase is tentative. Final classification is a congressional legislative determination, along with designation of a river segment as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS).

Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Process Flow Chart

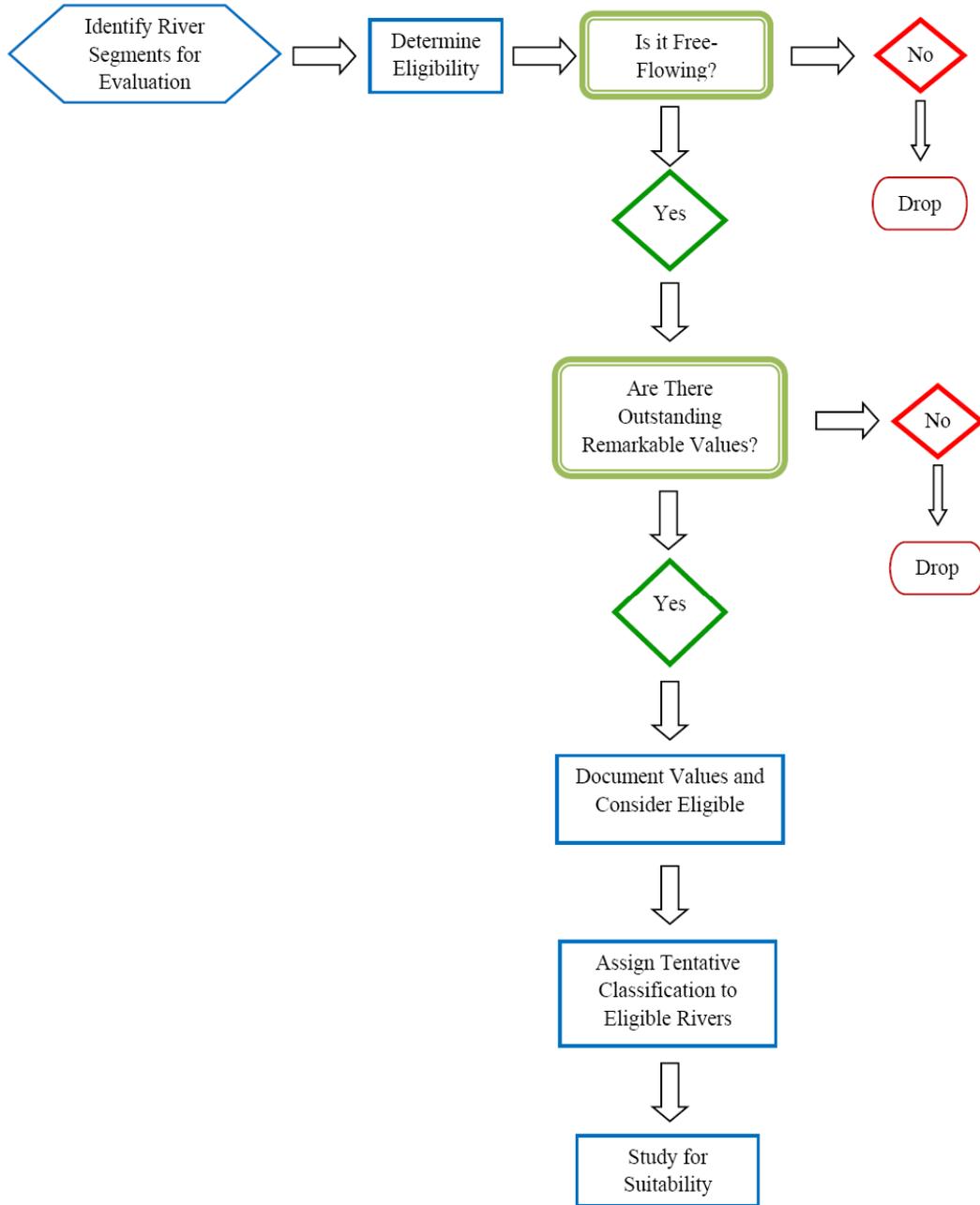


Figure 2

Protective Management

River segments determined to be eligible are afforded interim protective management until a suitability study is completed. **Appendix C** describes the interim protection standards for eligible segments. As stated in Washington Office Instructional Memorandum WO-IM 2004-196, Clarification of Policy in the BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers, with respect to Eligibility Criteria and Protective Management, the BLM's policy is to protect any ORVs identified in the eligibility determination process to assure a decision on suitability can be made (BLM 2004). The BLM has broad discretionary authority to not impact river values or make decisions that might lead to a determination of eligibility. It is the BLM's policy to manage and protect the free-flowing character, tentative classification, and identified ORVs of eligible rivers according to the decisions in the associated RMP. This protection occurs at the point of eligibility determination, so as not to adversely constrain the suitability assessment or subsequent recommendation to Congress.

1.3.2 Suitability Phase

The purpose of the suitability phase is to determine whether eligible river segments are suitable or not for inclusion in the NWSRS per the criteria of the WSR Act. 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 or will be automatically designated as part of the NWSRS. Only Congress can designate a wild and scenic river. In some instances, the Secretary of Interior may designate a wild and scenic river when the governor of a state, under certain conditions, petitions for a river to be designated. Members of Congress will ultimately choose the legislative language if any suitable segments are presented to them. Water-protection strategies and measures to meet the purposes of the WSR Act will be the responsibility of Congress in any legislation proposed. Rivers found not suitable would be dropped from further consideration and managed according to the objectives outlined in the RMP. The suitability phase has not been conducted and is not part of this report. The BLM will be completing the suitability phase for all streams determined to be eligible, during the RMP revision process.

2.0 IDENTIFICATION METHODOLOGY AND RESULTS

This section describes the methodology implemented to identify river and stream segments to be evaluated for eligibility. The methods used to identify river and stream segments are those described in BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers—Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management (BLM 1992).

2.1 METHODS AND CRITERIA USED TO IDENTIFY RIVER AND STREAM SEGMENTS

All rivers that may have potential for WSR designation were identified and evaluated. Care was taken to avoid overlooking any river segment located on BLM-administered lands. To accomplish this, the BLM relied on several sources, including geographic information systems data, BiFO resource specialists, informational sources, other agencies, and public input. The result was a comprehensive list of river and stream segments to be considered. Below is a description of the methods used to gather information from the aforementioned sources.

2.1.1 Geographic Information System

The geographic information system (GIS) used for this study integrated BLM and United States Geological Survey (USGS) data to compile and analyze stream information. Stream data was intersected with land ownership to generate a list of streams that contain shoreline administered by BLM. The BLM and USGS stream databases were compared to assure the study considered all segments within the planning area. The GIS was also used measure segment distances and prepare report maps.

2.1.2 BLM Resource Specialist Team

The BLM resource specialist team consisted of eight resource specialists from the field office and five resource specialists from Ecosystem Management, Inc (contractor). The team reviewed the initial geographic information systems table with the purpose of identifying all the segments that potentially contained ORVs (described in Section 3). These segments were then further evaluated for eligibility.

2.1.3 Informational Sources

The BLM used a number of informational sources and publications to identify potential river and stream segments. These sources included:

- Nationwide Rivers Inventory (National Park Service 2006);
- Outstanding Rivers List (American Rivers 1991);
- Published guidebooks, regional guides, and inventories; and
- River segments identified in other management plans.

2.1.4 Other Agencies

Additional information was gathered from other federal and state agencies from scoping letters, existing documents, and applicable rivers lists on the Internet. The following other sources were used to identify potentially eligible rivers:

- Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks databases;
- Forest Management Plans and Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Assessments from the Custer and Gallatin National Forests.

The planning area adjoins both the Gallatin and Custer National Forests. Both forests were contacted and the most current information from their Forest Plans was reviewed. Between the two forests there is currently only one river segment that was determined eligible that flows from the National Forest onto BLM-administered land. On the Custer National Forest, Crooked Creek in the Pryor Mountains was determined eligible in a 1992 forest plan amendment.

2.1.5 Public Input

A Notice of Intent to prepare the RMPs for the BiFO and Pompeys Pillar National Monument was published in the Federal Register on May 15, 2008. This notice served as the beginning of BLM's formal scoping process.

The notice was followed by a news release announcing scoping. In addition, over 1,200 scoping packages were mailed to potential stakeholders, agencies, organizations and tribes. A website for the BiFO and Pompeys Pillar National Monument RMPs was launched that provides the public access to planning documents, calendars, information on the planning process, as well as a photo gallery of the planning area. The website will continue to be updated throughout the planning process. Another news release was issued and postcards distributed to the mailing list in July 2008 announcing the dates, locations and times of seven public scoping open house meetings across the planning area. All of these outreach tools conveyed information about the planning process, preliminary planning issues, special designations and an overview of the planning area.

The BLM hosted scoping open houses providing the public with opportunities to become involved, learn about the planning process, meet the RMP team members and submit comments and input on the plans. The open houses were held across the planning area in seven communities in the following locations:

August 11 Pompeys Pillar NM 7 - 9 pm
August 12 Bridger 7 - 9 pm
August 13 Big Timber 7 - 9 pm
August 14 Red Lodge 7 - 9 pm
August 18 Lovell, WY 7 - 9 pm

August 19 Roundup 7 – 9 pm
August 20 Billings 7 – 9 pm

About 90 participants attended the open houses and visited with resource specialists, reviewed maps or asked questions about the planning process or specific concerns. BLM extended the formal scoping comment period to September 19, 2008. Submissions received after this date will be considered in alternative formulation and project planning. A total of 129 written submissions and e mails were received by September 19, 2008.

Only one comment was received on wild and scenic rivers. The commenter requested that no rivers be designated.

The Draft Wild and Scenic Eligibility Report was reviewed by cooperating agencies. Comments were received from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP), the Yellowstone Conservation District and the Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC).

MFWP concurred with BLM's findings regarding fish values. They also suggested that the entire Yellowstone River segment through the planning area met the criteria for outstandingly remarkable recreational values. BLM has no authority to determine eligibility of river segments that adjoin private, state or other federally administered lands.

The Yellowstone Conservation District requested clarification on whether eligibility findings affect other lands. BLM clarified that the agency only considers values on segments adjacent to BLM-administered lands.

The Eastern Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC) appointed several members to serve as liaisons to the planning process. The RAC liaison input with regard to the Bear Canyon Creek segment involved additional research and site visits. Through this process, it was determined that the Bear Canyon Creek segment length would be 1.6 miles (instead of ¼ mile in the preliminary findings) to include the furthest extent of the intermittent cottonwood riparian zone.

2.2 IDENTIFICATION RESULTS

The identification of river and stream segments evaluated for potential eligibility included 14 individual river segments within the BiFO planning area. **Appendix D – Billings Field Office Rivers and Streams Analyzed for Eligibility** presents the results from the identification effort. Rivers and streams not listed in **Appendix D** were determined not to contain any ORVs.

3.0 ELIGIBILITY

3.1 Initial Screening and Identification

Initial screening and identification efforts resulted in a list of 14 river segments that were carried forward for further consideration in the eligibility study process.

- Bad Canyon Creek
- Bear Canyon Creek
- Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone – Sundance
- Crooked Creek, Segment 1
- Crooked Creek, Segment 2
- Grove Creek, North Fork
- Grove Creek, South Fork
- Gyp Springs
- Musselshell River – Asparagus Point
- Piney Creek
- Unnamed Creek flowing through Pompeys Pillar
- Yellowstone River, Segment 1 – Young’s Point
- Yellowstone River, Segment 2 – Four Dances
- Yellowstone River, Segment 3 – Pompeys Pillar

3.2 Further Evaluation

The segments above were plotted on BLM 1:100,000 Surface Management Maps and measured. Based on the eight ORV categories, a list of potential values was developed for each segment. For each value of each segment, information was developed then compared with similar values outside the general region and evaluated against the ORV criteria (**Appendix A**). The BLM resource specialists conducted this review for each of their areas of expertise using their knowledge, available inventory information and publications. A team review for all segments was conducted on three separate occasions to assure the information was accurate and met the criteria of the study. Seven of the 14 segments evaluated were determined eligible because they contained one or more ORVs. A complete list of all segments and the resource values that were evaluated is found in Appendix D. This appendix displays all the resource values that were evaluated, whether they did or did not meet the ORV criteria and the rationale for the determination.

3.3 Eligibility Findings

The resource specialists identified seven river segments (from the list shown in Section 3.1 above) that contain one or more ORVs and are determined eligible for study:

- Bad Canyon Creek
- Bear Canyon Creek
- Crooked Creek – Above Fish Barrier
- Crooked Creek – Below Fish Barrier
- Gyp Spring
- Piney Creek
- Yellowstone River – Pompeys Pillar

Bad Canyon Creek

Free Flowing	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Tentative Classification			Total Segment Length (Miles)	BLM Segment Length (Miles)
	Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	Wild	Scenic	Recreational		
Yes				X						X		5.0	4.5

River Segment Location and General Description: The Bad Canyon Creek segment (Map1, page 20) is located on the east side of the Beartooth Mountains in Stillwater County approximately 34 miles northwest of Red Lodge, Montana. This stream originates in the Custer National Forest and flows easterly to its confluence with the Stillwater River. Access to the segment is limited by private land. Although there is a road to the segment, the private landowner does not grant motorized public access. Public access to Bad Canyon Creek is limited to walk-in access.

Reasons for Tentative Classification: This segment has been tentatively classified as scenic. It is free of impoundments although in the upper portion of the segment there is a small natural barrier that was reinforced to serve as a fish barrier. The shoreline is mostly undeveloped and mostly primitive in nature. There are a few visible livestock fences that cross the segment and an ATV trail used by the local rancher for livestock management. There is one access road that follows the creek a short distance near the upper end of the segment.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Fish Values: Bad Canyon Creek supports a population of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT) (*Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri*) that has been designated a “core population” by the Interstate YCT Coordination Team. A core population is one that exhibits no hybridization and is essentially a genetically pure strain. These pure strain YCT are very valuable in that they can be used to enhance other YCT populations or establish new populations in suitable waters. These fish values are recognized nationally by the fisheries community. The ecological and sociological impact of losing a pure strain species is significant in itself. YCT are also listed as a Species of Concern by the MFWP and a federally sensitive species by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The BLM, MFWP and USFS reinforced a significant natural barrier to upstream migration of non-native species in 2003. This barrier is located approximately five miles upstream from the lower BLM boundary, therefore most of the segment is not safe from the potential for non-native hybridization. Access to the canyon is difficult resulting in little impact from adjacent land uses. High canyon walls, rock armoring and limited access combine to provide excellent fish habitat and a setting that is primitive in nature. The presence of the core population of YCT in Bad Canyon Creek combined with the isolated, primitive setting of the canyon meets the criteria of an outstandingly remarkable value.

Bear Canyon Creek

Free Flowing	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Tentative Classification			Total Segment Length (Miles)	BLM Segment Length (Miles)
	Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	Wild	Scenic	Recreational		
Yes		X			X		X				X	1.62	1.62

River Segment Location and General Description: The Bear Canyon Creek segment (Map 2, page 21) is located at the south end of the Pryor Mountains in Carbon County approximately seven miles east of Warren, Montana. Water for this segment originates from a spring at the BLM-National Forest boundary. The length of flowing water in the canyon varies from ¼ mile to over a mile depending upon moisture conditions and time of year. Originally, the segment length was ¼ mile. However, public comments during review of the draft report suggested the segment should be longer. After an on-site evaluation, the segment was lengthened to include the lower extent of the cottonwood intermittent riparian zone

Reasons for Tentative Classification: This segment has been tentatively classified as recreational. It is free of impoundments. Livestock grazing is readily evident throughout the entire corridor. Public access is through a two-track road that parallels the entire segment, often within several hundred feet. The road also crosses the segment near the upper end.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreation Values: Visitors to Montana who want to see Blue-gray Gnatcatchers (*Poliioptila caerulea*) and Black-throated Gray Warblers (*Dendroica nigrescens*) visit Bear Canyon because this is only place in Montana where these birds can be seen. This opportunity receives international attention through the National Audubon Society via their website (<http://mtaudubon.org/birds/areas.html>).

Wildlife Values: Listed by the National Audubon Society as an IBA (important bird area), Bear Canyon supports breeding populations of more than a dozen species on the Montana Priority Bird Species List. In particular, Bear Canyon has the highest known number of nesting Blue-gray gnatcatcher in Montana. Bear Canyon and a few nearby foothill canyons at the base of the Pryor Mountains constitute the entire range in Montana of this bird species. The State of Montana ranks this species as S1 or at high risk due to extremely limited and potentially declining numbers. BLM and the Forest Service also consider the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher a sensitive species. The riparian area and adjacent uplands of Bear Canyon also support other State Sensitive bird species such as the Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Sage Thrasher (*Oreoscoptes montanus*), Common Poorwill (*Phalaenoptilos nuttallii*) and Pinyon Jay (*Gymnorhinus cyanocephalus*).

Cultural Values: Cultural elements in the landscape include a vision quest site, a buffalo kill site, tipi ring sites, petroglyphs and habitation sites. The vision quest site was noted at the time of recording to have a vision quest structure on top of a rock formation. The evidence of occupation and use, especially for sacred purposes, meets the criteria for being outstandingly remarkable.

Crooked Creek – Above Fish Barrier

Free Flowing	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Tentative Classification			Total Segment Length (Miles)	BLM Segment Length (Miles)
	Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	Wild	Scenic	Recreational		
Yes	X	X		X			X		X			1.59	1.59

River Segment Location and General Description: Located in Carbon County, Crooked Creek originates in the southern portion of the Pryor Mountains within the Custer National Forest. In a 1992 Forest Plan amendment, the Custer National Forest determined Crooked Creek as eligible for WSR study with cultural, fisheries, geologic and scenic values being outstandingly remarkable. At the forest boundary Crooked Creek flows onto BLM-administered lands for three miles before entering private lands. This three-mile reach on BLM was

segmented at a fish barrier which is located close to the middle of the reach. The Crooked Creek – Above Fish Barrier segment is shown on Map 3, page 22.

Reasons for Tentative Classification: This segment has been tentatively classified as wild. This segment is entirely within the Burnt Timber Canyon WSA and has motorized public access to within less than ¼ mile of the canyon rim. It is free of impoundments and the shoreline is undeveloped and primitive. There is little evidence of livestock grazing. There are no improvements or evidence of man.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic Values: This segment flows through the Burnt Timber Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and is rated as Class I for visual resource management. The current management objective is to maintain the existing character of the landscape. The deeply incised Crooked Creek Canyon cuts through several hundred feet of the Pryor Mountain limestone strata. The combination of the dense riparian vegetation along Crooked Creek and the steep talus slopes of the canyon walls offer unique and outstandingly remarkable scenery.

Recreational Values: The Pryor Mountains offer a unique combination of resource values that attract local, regional and national visitors. This segment offers access to opportunities including fishing for a genetically pure strain of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout, hiking in a pristine riparian canyon, viewing Pryor Mountain wild horses at one of their limited watering sources and exploring for caves and bats in the canyon’s limestone walls.

Fish Values: The Crooked Creek – Above Fish Barrier segment supports a population of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT) (*Oncorhynchus clarkii bowleri*) that has been designated a “core population” by the Interstate YCT Coordination Team. A core population is one that exhibits no hybridization and is essentially a genetically pure strain. These pure strain YCT are very valuable in that they can be used to enhance other YCT populations or establish new populations in suitable waters. These fish values are recognized nationally by the fisheries community. The ecological and sociological impact of losing a pure strain species is significant in itself. YCT are listed as a Species of Concern by the MFWP and a federally sensitive species by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service. The fish barrier at the downstream end of the segment will maintain the genetic purity of this YCT population. Adjacent land uses have had little effect on this segment because the segment is within the WSA. The fish habitat is in good condition. High canyon walls, rock armoring and limited access combine to provide a setting that is primitive in nature. Although there is public motorized to within ¼ mile of the canyon bottom, visitors must hike in. The presence of the core population of YCT in Crooked Creek combined with the isolated, primitive setting of the canyon meets the criteria of an outstandingly remarkable value.

Cultural Values: The Crooked Creek – Above Fish Barrier segment has a landscape with significant archaeological properties. The Demijohn Flat Archaeological District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1974 as District # 74001092 (24CB478).

The Demijohn Flat Archaeological District retains archaeologically intact remnants of proto-historic period Crow tipi habitation. The size and relatively pristine nature of the site warrants protection. Beyond the registered archaeological district other sites include the petroglyphs (24CB205) and other nearby sites (additional tipi rings) possibly could be considered elements in a broad landscape associated with the archaeological district. Studies and evaluations for nearby sites are needed to extend the district to a landscape designation. This district should be redefined, avoided and protected. This segment of the Crooked Creek Demijohn Flat Archaeological District retains unique qualities of outstanding scientific value on at least a regional level.

Crooked Creek – Below Fish Barrier

Free Flowing	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Tentative Classification			Total Segment Length (Miles)	BLM Segment Length (Miles)
	Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	Wild	Scenic	Recreational		
Yes	X	X					X			X		1.56	1.56

River Segment Location and General Description: Located in Carbon County, Montana, Crooked Creek originates in the southern portion of the Pryor Mountains within the Custer National Forest. The creek flows out of the national forest onto BLM-administered lands for approximately three miles before entering private lands. This three-mile reach on BLM was segmented above and below an existing fish barrier. Segment 1 is upstream of the fish barrier and segment 2 is below the fish barrier. Crooked Creek – Below Fish Barrier is shown on Map 4, page 23.

Reasons for Tentative Classification: This segment has been tentatively classified as scenic. This segment is entirely within the Burnt Timber Canyon WSA and has motorized public access to within less than ¼ mile of the canyon rim. It is free of impoundments, although there is a man-made fish barrier at the beginning of the segment. The shoreline is undeveloped and primitive. There is little evidence of livestock grazing. There are no improvements or evidence of man.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic Values: This segment flows through the Burnt Timber Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and is rated as Class I for visual resource management. The current management objective is to maintain the existing character of the landscape. The deeply incised Crooked Creek Canyon cuts through several hundred feet of the Pryor Mountain limestone strata. The combination of the dense riparian vegetation along Crooked Creek and the steep talus slopes of the canyon walls offers unique and outstandingly remarkable scenery.

Recreational Values: The Pryor Mountains offer a unique combination of resource values that attract local, regional and national visitors. This segment offers access to opportunities including hiking in a pristine riparian canyon, viewing Pryor Mountain wild horses at one of their limited watering sources and exploring for caves and bats in canyon’s limestone canyon walls.

Cultural Values: The Crooked Creek – Below Fish Barrier segment has a landscape with significant archaeological properties. The Demijohn Flat Archaeological District was listed on the NRHP in 1974 as District # 74001092 (24CB478). The Demijohn Flat Archaeological District retains archaeologically intact remnants of proto-historic period Crow tipi habitation. The size and relatively pristine nature of the site warrants protection. Beyond the registered district other sites include the petroglyphs (24CB205) and other nearby sites (additional tipi rings) possibly could be considered elements in a broad landscape associated with the district area. Studies and evaluations for nearby sites are needed to extend the district to a landscape designation. This district should be redefined, avoided and protected. This segment of the Crooked Creek Demijohn Flat Archaeological District retains unique qualities of outstanding scientific value on at least a regional level.

Gyp Springs

Free Flowing	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Tentative Classification			Total Segment Length (Miles)	BLM Segment Length (Miles)
	Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	Wild	Scenic	Recreational		
Yes						X	X				X	0.46	0.46

River Segment Location and General Description: The Gyp Springs segment (Map 5, page 24) is located in Carbon County, approximately 12 miles southeast of Warren, Montana. This segment originates from Gyp Springs, an important source of livestock water. Access to segment is through well maintained county and BLM graveled roads.

Reasons for Tentative Classification: This segment has been tentatively classified as recreational. It is free of impoundments. Livestock grazing, livestock fences and the adjacent access road are readily evident along much of this short segment.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Historic Values: In 1864, Jim Bridger, famed early trapper and mountain man, and later guide for the Captain William Reynolds Exploration military and emigrant parties, blazed what would become known as Bridger Cutoff, an alternative route for a section of the Bozeman Trail

emigrant route. The Bozeman Trail extended from Fort Casper, Wyoming to Virginia City through the territories of the Sioux and Northern Cheyenne and Northern Arapaho, who, at the time were hostile. The Bridger Cutoff extended west from Fort Casper, where it left the Bozeman Trail passing through relatively friendly Shoshone and Crow territory and then north to Edgar, Montana, where it then connected again with the Bozeman Trail. The Bridger Cutoff became the main emigrant trail through the region, particularly after the section of the Bozeman Trail through the hostile territory was abandoned in 1868. The Bridger Cutoff in some sections was used through the 1920s. The present day Gyp Springs Road (still in-use) follows generally along the Bridger Cutoff through the Gyp Springs area. The trail passes directly through and continues west of Gyp Springs. The spring was likely used historically as a watering and camp site and was an integral part of Bridger Cutoff of the Bozeman Trail. The trail was designated as site number 24CB1242 within the Montana portion in 1991 (Taylor 1991) beginning below Gyp Springs following Gyp Springs Creek north from the border with Wyoming and continuing along the creek, through the springs, and then continuing to the northwest. The Bridger Cutoff was determined eligible for inclusion to the NRHP on a state level. The trail has at least regional significance because it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history and it is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Cultural Values: Gyp Springs and the immediate vicinity retain archaeological evidence of both historic and prehistoric use and is documented as site 24CB604. Confirmed substantial surface and subsurface cultural remains indicate possible long, intensive and continued use of the springs in prehistoric through historic periods. The prehistoric component is comprised of artifact scatter and intact subsurface deposits indicative of a habitation site. Diagnostic materials indicate an occupation or occupations as early as late Paleolithic/archaic period up to late prehistoric period. A Recreation Site Inventory and Evaluation Form completed by BLM before 1969 indicates a consideration of Gyp Springs and “Tipi Rings Area nearby” as contributing to the recreational attraction for the Crooked Creek Program Area. The “Tipi Rings Area” was recorded as 24CB604 in 1967. The combination of the historic and prehistoric values makes the cultural values outstandingly remarkable.

Piney Creek

Free Flowing	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Tentative Classification			Total Segment Length (Miles)	BLM Segment Length (Miles)
	Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	Wild	Scenic	Recreational		
Yes				X							X	0.16	0.16

River Segment Location and General Description: The Piney Creek segment (Map 6, page 25) is located in the southern Pryor Mountains in Carbon County approximately four miles northeast of Warren, Montana. Piney Creek flows for about ¼ mile on the Custer National Forest before entering BLM-administered land at the upper end of the segment. Although there is vehicle access to and along (within ¼ mile) the segment, there is no legal public access.

Reasons for Tentative Classification: This segment has been tentatively classified as recreational. It is free of impoundments. Livestock grazing is readily evident along the entire segment. An improved dirt road parallels the entire segment within ¼ mile.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Fish Values: The Piney Creek segment supports a population of Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT) (*Oncorhynchus clarkii bouvieri*) that has been designated a “core population” by the Interstate YCT Coordination Team. A core population is one that exhibits no hybridization and is essentially a genetically pure strain. YCT are listed as a Species of Concern by the MFWP and a federally sensitive species by the BLM and U.S. Forest Service. These pure strain YCT are very valuable in that they can be used to enhance other YCT populations or establish new populations in suitable waters. These fish values are recognized nationally by the fisheries community. The ecological and sociological impact of losing a pure strain species is significant in itself. These unique fish are recognized nationally within the fisheries community. The creek is accessible by road and the habitat is in fair condition. The threats to this population are the small size of the population, the irrigation diversion immediately downstream of the segment and the fact that it is an isolated stream. The presence of the core population of YCT meets the criteria of an outstandingly remarkable value.

Yellowstone River - Pompeys Pillar

Free Flowing	Outstandingly Remarkable Values								Tentative Classification			Total Segment Length (Miles)	BLM Segment Length (Miles)
	Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	Wild	Scenic	Recreational		
Yes		X	X			X	X				X	4.46	4.19

River Segment Location and General Description: The Yellowstone River – Pompeys Pillar segment (Map 7, page 26) is located in Yellowstone County approximated 25 miles northeast of Billings, Montana. The Yellowstone River flows over 500 miles through Montana from the Montana-Wyoming border near Gardiner, northeasterly to the Montana-North Dakota boundary northeast of Sidney. About 180 miles of the river flows through the BiFO planning area. Within this 180-mile river reach BLM administers approximately 30 miles of shoreline and islands, most of which are small, scattered parcels. The Pompeys Pillar segment is accessible by road and the river. Development along the segment is confined to the area near the Pillar which includes a large visitor center and associated administrative facilities and two bridges.

Reasons for Tentative Classification: This segment has been tentatively classified as recreational. It is free of impoundments. Although most of the shoreline is undeveloped, the facilities associated with the Pompeys Pillar National Monument constitute substantial evidence of human activity. There is active farming on some of the public lands within the corridor. There are two bridge crossings. One provides northbound motorized travel and the other is an abandoned highway bridge converted to foot traffic.

Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

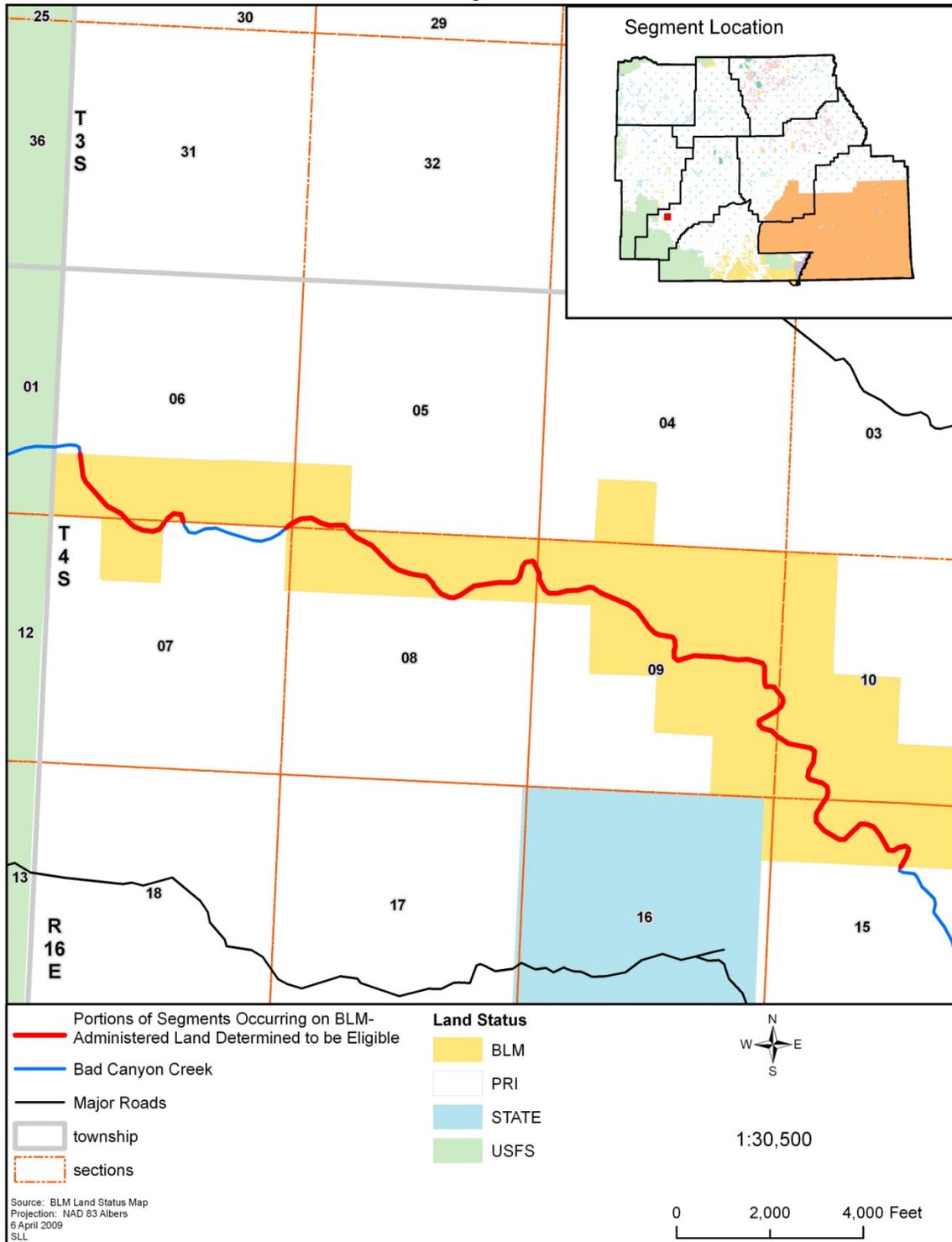
Recreation Values: Recreational opportunities attract local, regional, national and international visitors. In addition to being part of the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (NHT), this segment includes the Pompeys Pillar National Monument which provides visitors the unique and rare opportunity to view one of the most important landmarks along the entire Lewis and Clark NHT - Captain William Clark’s signature and date of passage carved in the soft sandstone. Wildlife viewing, especially birding, is exceptional and attracts local and regional visitors.

Geological Values: The Pillar is a unique, massive sandstone outcrop that has withstood thousands of years of erosion. No other similar geologic features are found along Yellowstone River between Livingston, Montana and the confluence with the Missouri River.

Historic Values: Pompeys Pillar National Monument, designated in 2001, and registered as a National Historic Landmark in 1996, is a geologic formation of a massive sandstone outcrop, generally pillar shaped, where both historic and prehistoric events are commemorated both in the physical place and a place noted in story. Native Americans of prehistoric and historic periods considered Pompeys Pillar a place notable for its placement on the river, as an outlook and a camping area, as well as ritual location. The Pillar is marked with over 5,000 inscriptions which include petroglyphs, pictographs and historic graffiti. Euro-American explorers, trappers and militaries used the area which held similar attractions as a convenient stopping place on the river, a beacon in the landscape, a camp where marks were left on the sandstone pillar in the form of names and dates. Described in diaries by those who passed first by Francois Antoine Larocque, followed by Lewis and Clark and members of their expedition, James P. Beckwourth and others, the rock becomes the focus of a variety of historic events. Native Americans considered the rock a lookout, landmark, and the location is known to have been a Crow encampment according to the diaries and memoirs and stories of both the Crow people and the Euro-Americans. Pompeys Pillar is recorded as archaeological site 24YL0176. A rock shelter at the pillar may have been a burial area. The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, passing by and a part of this location and landscape near Pompeys Pillar, is documented here with Clarks name and date of July 25, 1806 carved on the pillar during his return trip from the west. Clark's name and date carved on the pillar represents the only remaining on-site physical evidence of one of this nation's most important historical events.

Cultural Values: Pompeys Pillar has been a natural landmark for the native people of the northern plains through the region's more than 11,000 years of occupation. Most recently it was acknowledged as the homeland of the Crow people. There is archaeological evidence the Pillar was used for religious and burial activities and there are more than 5000 petroglyphs and pictographs marked on the Pillar.

Bad Canyon Creek

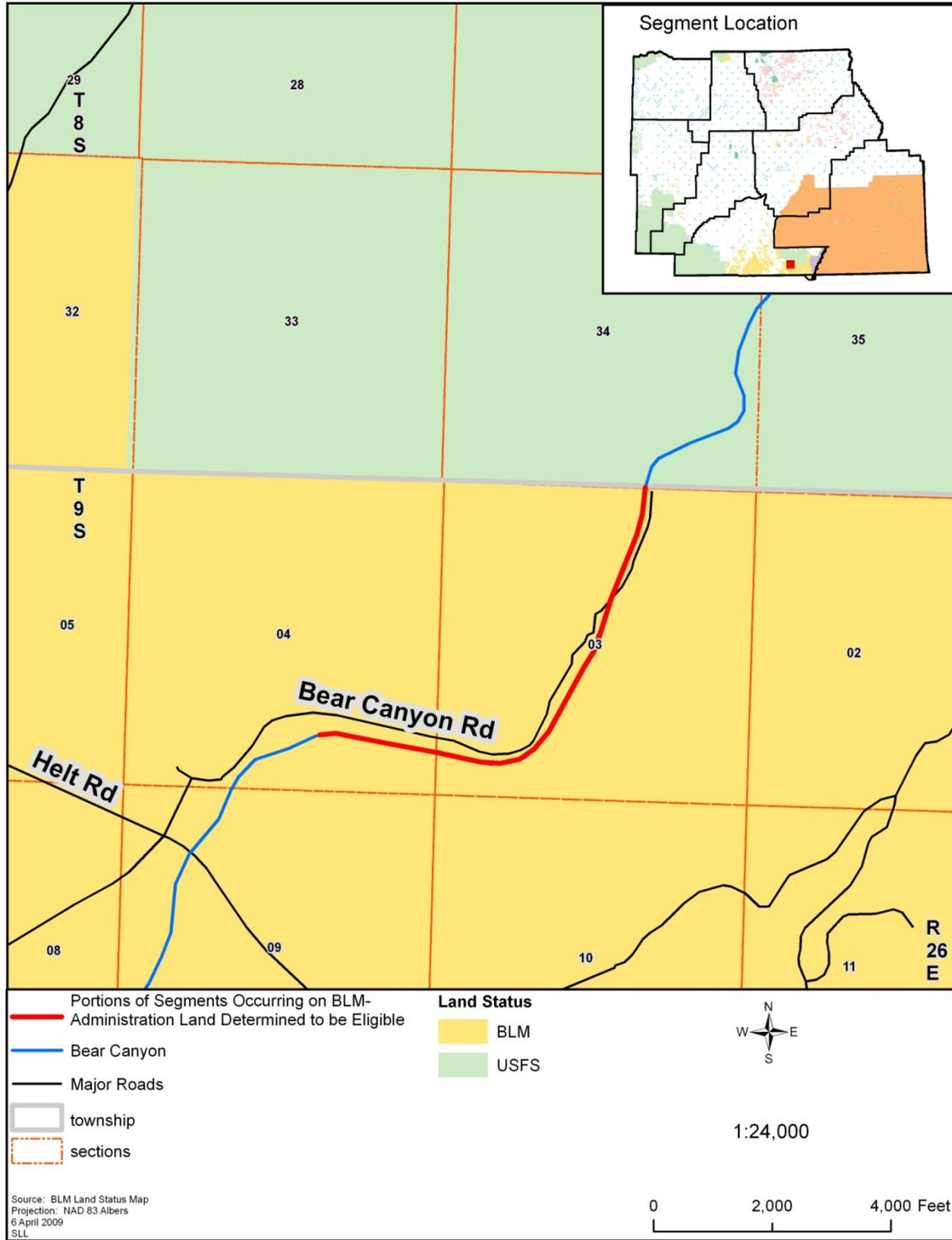


Total Segment Length:
5.0 miles
Length on BLM Land:
4.5 miles

Tentative Classification:
Scenic

Bad Canyon Creek
Outstandingly Remarkable Values:
Fish

Bear Canyon Creek

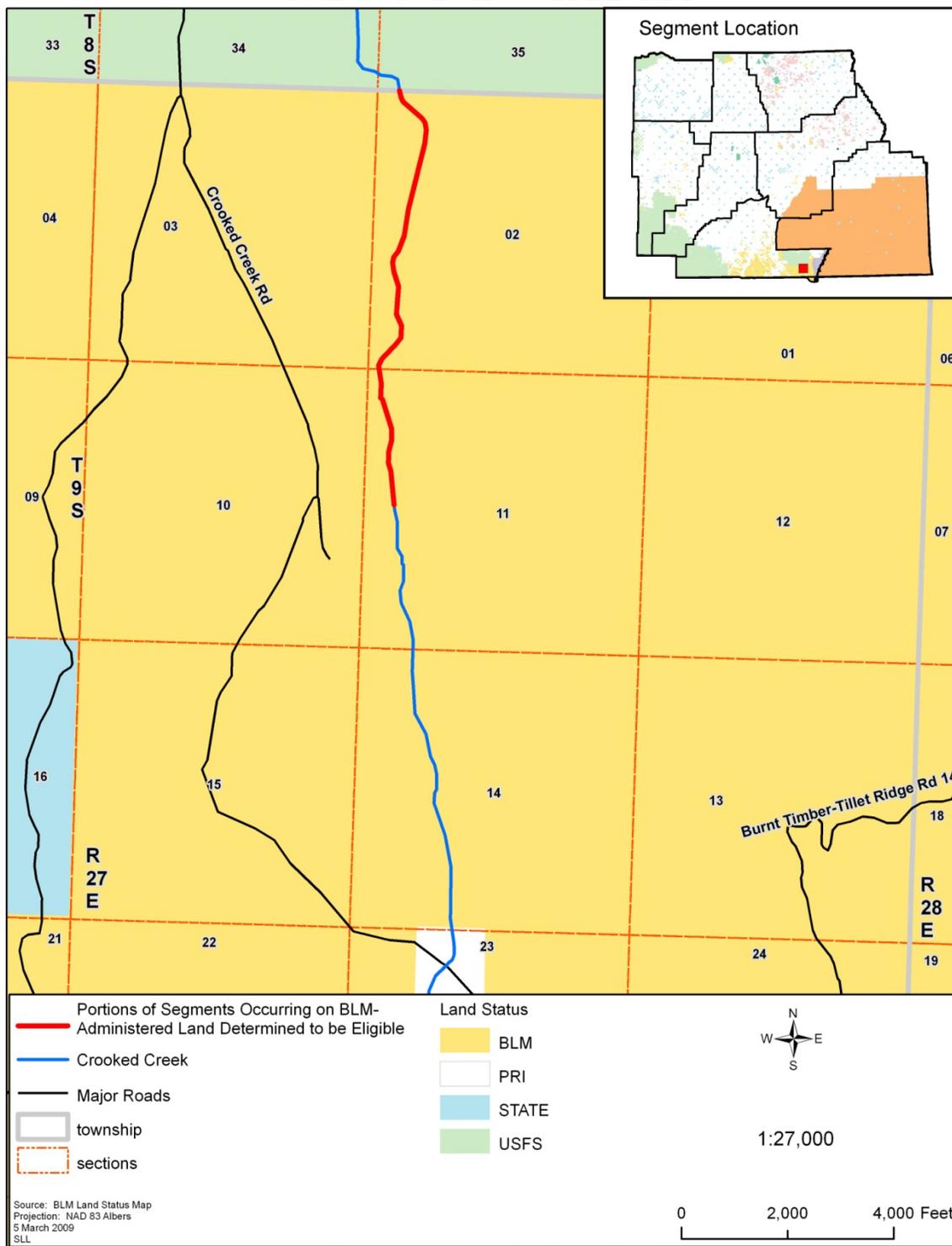


Total Segment Length:
1.62 miles
Length on BLM Land:
1.62 miles

Tentative Classification:
Recreational

Bear Canyon Creek
Outstandingly Remarkable Values:
Recreation, Wildlife, Cultural

Crooked Creek – Above Fish Barrier



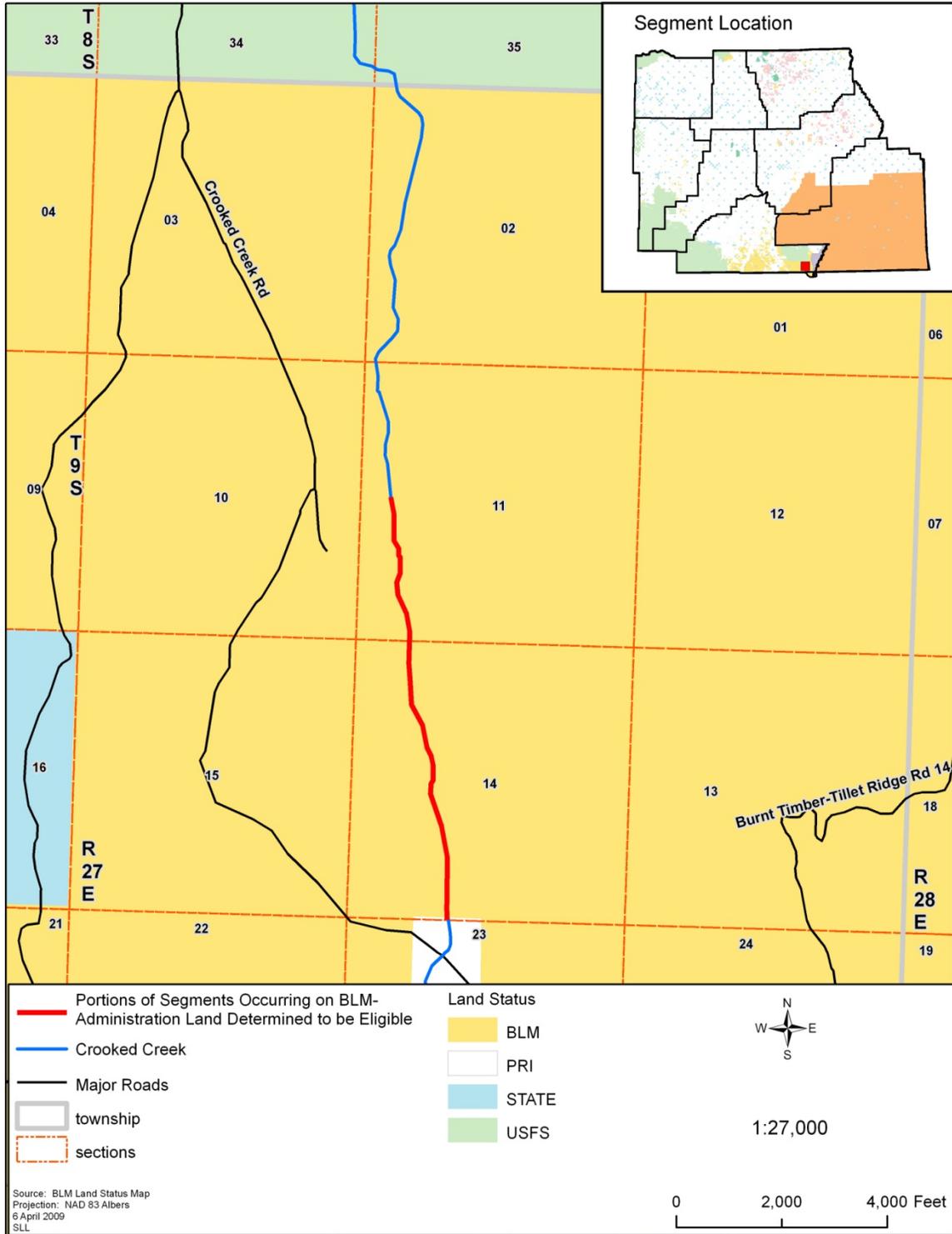
Total Segment Length:
1.59 miles

Length on BLM Land:
1.59 miles

Tentative Classification:
Wild

Outstandingly Remarkable Values:
Scenic, Recreation, Fish, Cultural

Crooked Creek – Below Fish Barrier

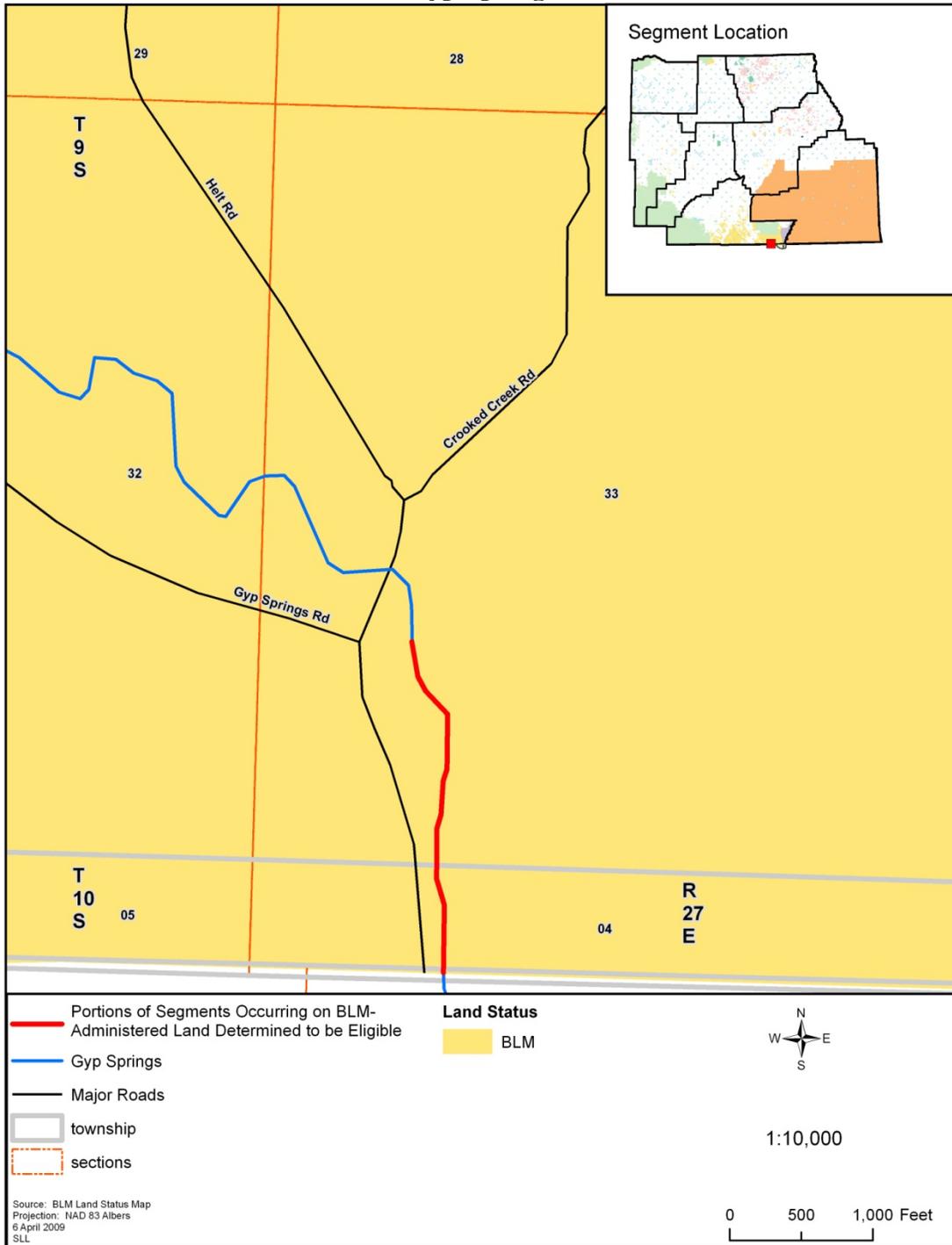


Total Segment Length:
1.56 miles
Length on BLM Land:
1.56 miles

Tentative Classification:
Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values:
Scenic, Recreation, Cultural

Gyp Springs



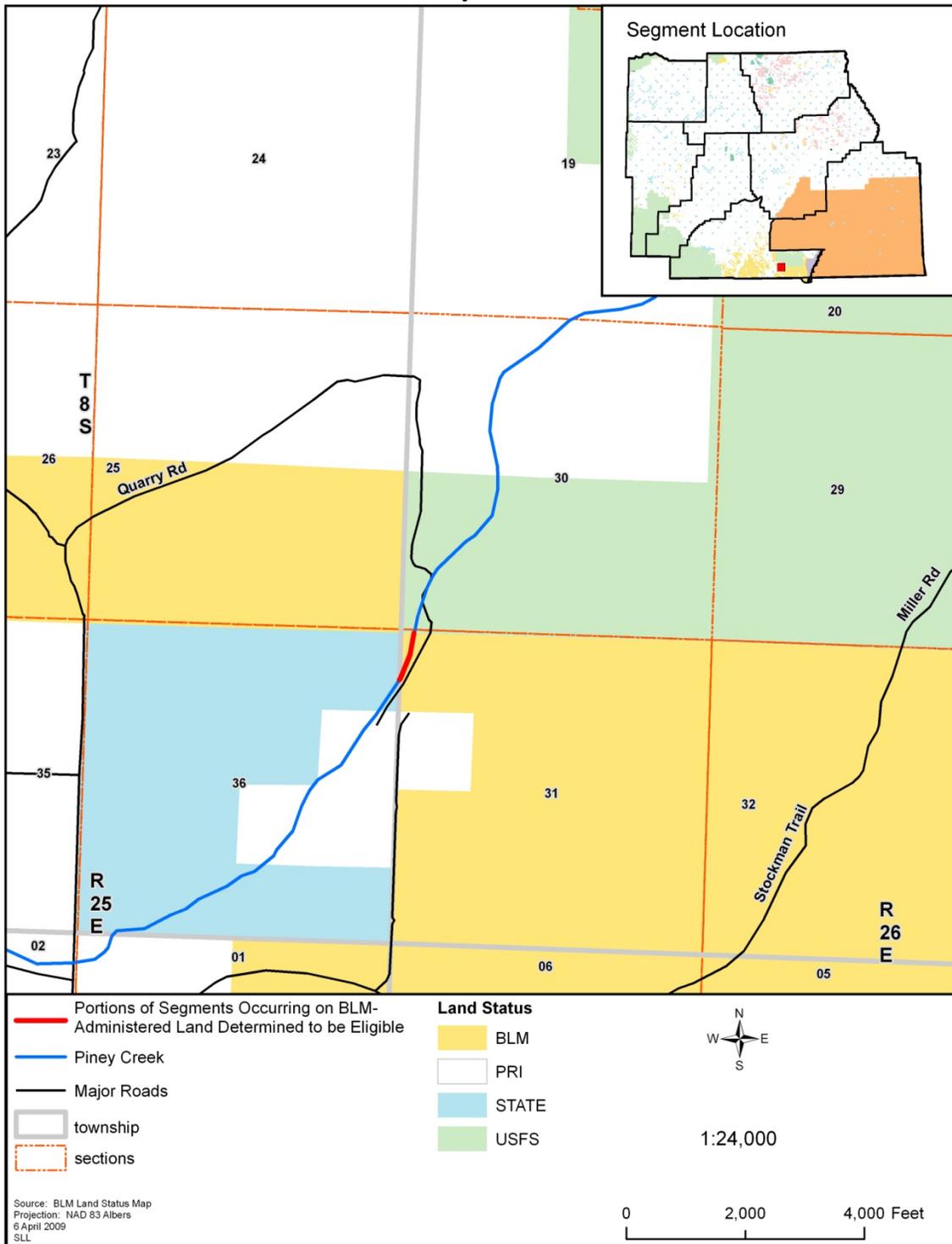
Total Segment Length:
0.46 miles

Length on BLM Land:
0.46 miles

Tentative Classification:
Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values:
Historic, Cultural

Piney Creek

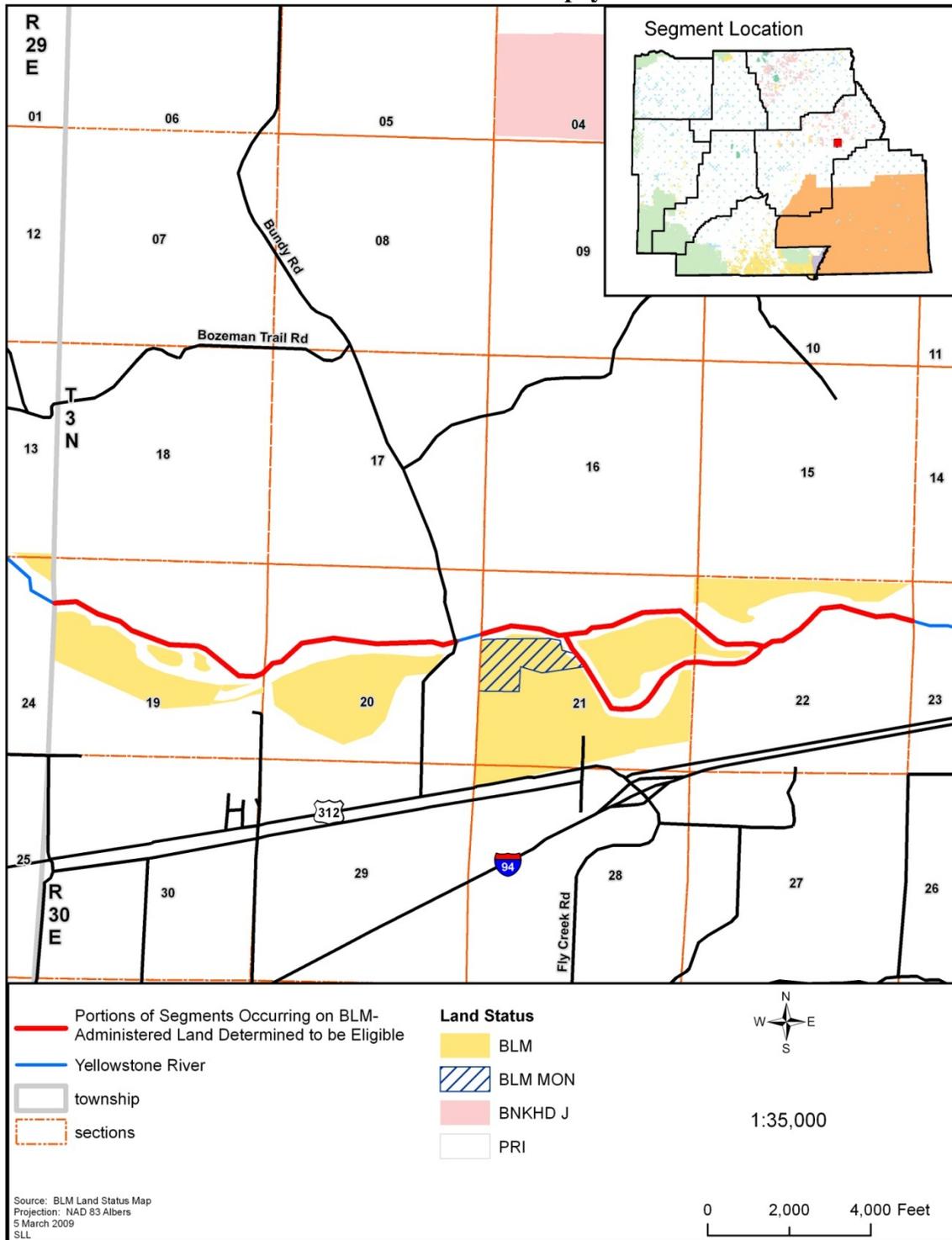


Total Segment Length:
 0.16 miles
Length on BLM Land:
 0.16 miles

Tentative Classification:
 Recreational

Piney Creek
Outstandingly Remarkable Values:
 Fish

Yellowstone River – Pompeys Pillar



Total Segment Length:
4.46 miles

Length on BLM Land:
4.19 miles

Tentative Classification:
Recreational

Yellowstone River – Pompeys Pillar
Outstandingly Remarkable Values:
Recreation, Geologic, Historic, Cultural

4.0 List of Preparers

An interdisciplinary team of BLM and Ecosystem Management, Inc. resource specialists prepared this eligibility report.

Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Report Preparers

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Appendices

Appendix A

Outstandingly Remarkable Criteria

The following are guidelines for the ORVs for which river segments can be eligible, as well as the comparative region, that are considered in this report. Only one ORV is needed for eligibility. These guidelines are based on the guidelines described in BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers—Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management (BLM 1992).

Scenic Values

Criteria

The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. The BLM Visual Resource Inventory handbook (H8410-1) (BLM 2006) may be used in addressing visual quality and in evaluating the extent of development upon scenic values. The rating must be a scenic quality “A” as defined in the BLM Visual Resource Inventory Handbook. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors – such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed – may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.

Region of Comparison

The region of comparison is the state of Montana.

Recreational Values

Criteria

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 or rare within the region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreation. River-related opportunities include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, and floatboating.

- Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and may attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the region of comparison; and
- The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.

Region of Comparison

The region of comparison is people’s willingness to travel long distances to access and recreate on a particular segment (e.g., tourism markets internationally, nationwide, and within the state of Montana).

Geological Values

Criteria

The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that are unique or rare within the region of comparison. The features may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a textbook example, or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).

Region of Comparison

The region of comparison is areas of state or regional geologic importance.

Fish Values

Criteria

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat or a combination of the following river-related conditions:

- Populations. The river is nationally or regionally one of the top producers of resident, indigenous, or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance may be the presence of wild or unique stocks or populations of state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.
- Habitat. The river provides exceptionally high-quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.

Region of Comparison

The region of comparison is based on each species and the state threatened, endangered, and sensitive species lists.

Wildlife Values

Criteria

Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat or on a combination of the following conditions:

- Populations. The river or area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of resident or indigenous wildlife species depending on the river environment. Of particular significance may be species considered unique or populations of state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.
- Habitat. The river or area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high-quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for state- or US-listed or candidate threatened and endangered species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Region of Comparison

The region of comparison is based on each species and the state threatened, endangered, and sensitive species lists.

Historic Values

Criteria

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site or sites or feature or features associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or unusual in the region. A historic site or feature in most cases is 50 years old or older. Sites or features listed on or eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) may be of particular significance.

Region of Comparison

A multi-level region of comparison includes Montana and the west-central Rocky Mountains.

Cultural Values

Criteria

The river or area within the river corridor contains a site or sites where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare or must have unusual characteristics or exceptional human interest values. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory, be rare, represent an area where culture or a cultural period was first identified and described, have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups, or have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes.

Region of Comparison

The region of comparison includes regional sites that would be eligible for the NRHP.

Other Similar Values

Criteria

While no specific evaluation guidelines have been developed for the other similar values category, additional values deemed relevant to the eligibility of the river segment should be considered in a manner consistent with the foregoing guidance, including, but not limited to, hydrologic, ecologic/biologic diversity, paleontologic, botanic, and scientific study opportunities.

Region of Comparison

The region of comparison depends upon the specific other value.

Appendix B

Criteria for Tentative Classification

Attribute	River Classification		
	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Water Resources Development (impoundments, Diversions, etc.)	Free of impoundment	Free of impoundment	Some existing impoundment or diversion The existence of low dams, diversions, riprap, or (impoundments, other modifications of the waterway is diversions, etc.) acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance
Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable. A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable. Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable. The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable. Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank	Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity. The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable. Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses. May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail. No roads, railroads, or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area is acceptable	Accessible in places by road. Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable	Readily accessible by road or railroad. The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks, as well as bridge crossings and other river access points, including fords, is acceptable
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds Federal criteria or Federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming), except where exceeded by natural conditions	No criteria prescribed by the WSR Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the US be made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable federal and state laws.	

Source: Federal Register. NWSRS; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas. Section 1(3), Vol. 47, No. 173, page 39461. September 7, 1982.

Appendix C

Interim Protection for Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Section 5(d)(1)¹	
Issue/Action	Eligible²
Study Boundary	Study boundary Minimum of 0.25-mile from ordinary high-water mark Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values
Preliminary classification Section	2(b): 3 classes: Wild, Scenic, Recreational, defined by statute. Criteria for classification described in interagency guidelines. Manage at preliminary classification
Study report review procedures	
Private land	Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners
*administration	No regulatory authority.
*acquisition	No ability to acquire interest in land under the WSR Act's authority prior to designation
Water resources project	River's free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities; not protected under the WSR Act.
Land disposition	Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership
Mining and mineral leasing	Protect free flow, water quality, and ORVs through other agency authorities
Actions of other agencies	Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnership
Protect ORVs	No regulatory authority conferred by the WSR Act; agency protects through other authorities. Section 11(b) 1: Limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources ⁶

¹ Agency-identified study rivers, as directed by Section 5(d)(1) of the WSR Act.

² A number of sources are available for identifying rivers under Section 5(d)(1). Under a presidential directive issued in 1979, each federal agency, as part of its normal planning and environmental review processes, is required to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on rivers in the National Rivers Inventory.

Appendix D - Billings Field Office Rivers and Streams Analyzed For Eligibility

River or Creek Name ¹	Total Segment Length Including Non-BLM Lands (miles)	Portion of Segment Occurring On BLM Lands (miles)	Free Flowing Determination	Outstandingly Remarkable Values ²								Notes	
				Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other		
Bad Canyon - beginning in S. 6, T.4S., R.16E. downstream to S. 15, T.4S., R.16E.	5	4.5	Y	C	C		X	C					Canyon is scenic, but only rates as Class B scenery. Does not attract visitors outside region. Wildlife is locally unique in the BiFO but not for Montana. Stream contains genetically pure YCT that are designated a core population.
Bear Canyon– beginning in S. 3, T.9S., R.26E. ending approx ¼ mile downstream	1.6	1.6	Y	C	X			X		X			Canyon has spectacular scenery but is only Class B scenic quality. The area draws visitors from outside the region for birding. Canyon is the only known nesting site in Montana for the blue-gray gnatcatcher which is a state sensitive species.

¹ Shading = Segment determined Eligible

² X = Value determined to meet ORV criteria, C = Value initially considered, but further analysis determine value did not meet criteria

Appendix D - Billings Field Office Rivers and Streams Analyzed For Eligibility

River or Creek Name ¹	Total Segment Length Including Non-BLM Lands (miles)	Portion of Segment Occurring On BLM Lands (miles)	Free Flowing Determination	Outstandingly Remarkable Values ²							Notes	
				Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural		Other
Clarks Fork Yellowstone—beginning in S. 22, T.2S., R.24E. downstream to S.24, T.2S., R.24E. (3.3 miles). Also includes 0.6 miles of the adjacent Yellowstone River in S. 13, T2S., R.24 E.)	3.9	3.2	Y		C				C	C		Most of segment adjoins the Sundance Lodge Recreation Area but area is does not provide critically important regional river-related recreational opportunities. Lewis & Clark NHT and Nez Perce NHT are adjacent, but no unique occurrences on BLM land. Sundance lodge reference in Clark's journal not necessarily on BLM land. No mentionable cultural resources.
Crooked Creek #1-split into 2 segments	3.1	3.1	Y									Segment flows through WSA with Class A scenery. Recreation opportunities include fishing, hiking, nature photography. Attracts visitors outside the region. Area supports core population of YCT. Within the Demi-John Arch. District. Significant cultural values include tipi ring sites and rock art.
-Above Fish Barrier -S. 2, T.9S., R.27E., downstream to fish barrier.	1.59	1.59	Y	X	X		X			X		
-Below Fish Barrier – from fish barrier to S.14 , T9S., R27E.	1.56	1.56	Y	X	X					X		

¹ Shading = Segment determined Eligible

² X = Value determined to meet ORV criteria, C = Value initially considered, but further analysis determine value did not meet criteria

Appendix D - Billings Field Office Rivers and Streams Analyzed For Eligibility

River or Creek Name ¹	Total Segment Length Including Non-BLM Lands (miles)	Portion of Segment Occurring On BLM Lands (miles)	Free Flowing Determination	Outstandingly Remarkable Values ²								Notes
				Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural	Other	
Crooked Creek #2 - Beginning in S.20 where it enters BLM, downstream to Section 33, T.58N., R. 95W	5.0	3 small parcels totaling 0.27 miles	Y	C	C			C		C	C	This portion of the creek clips three BLM parcels (438 ft, 149 ft and 800 ft). It is mostly hay meadows on nearby private land. Does not capture enough public land and nearby values to provide river related values.
Grove Creek, North Fork - beginning in S.26,T.8S., R.20E. downstream to S.30, T.8S., R.21E.	3.2	2.7	Y	C		C		C				Upper canyon is picturesque but not Class A scenery. Within the Meeteetse Spires ACEC but formation common throughout Bighorn Basin.
Grove Creek, South Fork - beginning in S.35, T.8S., R.20E. downstream to S. 32, T8S., R21E.	2.7	2.2	Y	C		C						Same comments as above
Gyp Springs – S.33, T.9S., R33E downstream to the MT-WY state line	0.46	0.46	Y						X	X	C	Long history of habitation from prehistoric to historic times and a stop along the Bridger Cutoff Trail. Spring is important resource but not rare or unique.

¹ Shading = Segment determined Eligible

² X = Value determined to meet ORV criteria, C = Value initially considered, but further analysis determine value did not meet criteria

Appendix D - Billings Field Office Rivers and Streams Analyzed For Eligibility

River or Creek Name ¹	Total Segment Length Including Non-BLM Lands (miles)	Portion of Segment Occurring On BLM Lands (miles)	Free Flowing Determination	Outstandingly Remarkable Values ²							Notes	
				Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural		Other
Musselshell River – Asparagus Point -- S.2, T.8N., R.27E.	1.3	0.8	Y		C		C					Local recreation and fishing values but none are outstandingly remarkable
Piney Creek - S.31, T.8S, R.26E.	0.16	0.16	Y	C			X	C			C	No Class A scenery. Core population of YCT. Artesian spring is limited in region but not rare or unique.
Unnamed creek at Pompeys Pillar - beginning in S.21, T.3N., R.30E. downstream to S.22, T.3N., R30E.	0.8	0.8	N		C		C	C				Original streambed was re-channelized so stream does not meet free-flowing criteria.
Yellowstone River, Young's Point - beginning in S.5, T.3S., R22.E. downstream to S.35 , T.2S, R.22E. (south shore)	3.9	3.9	Y	C		C		C	C			Prominent point along river but is not Class A scenery nor rare or unique. Nesting peregrine falcons but bird is de-listed. Site was one of many Clark campsites along the L&C Trail.
Yellowstone River - Four Dances Natural Area - beginning in S.2, T.1S., R.26E. downstream to S.34, T.1N, R.27E.	1.9	1.9	Y	C	C		C	C	C	C		Scenic cliffs but not Class A scenery. Recreation opportunities are not unique and use is local. No unique or T&E fish species in river. (cont)

¹ Shading = Segment determined Eligible

² X = Value determined to meet ORV criteria, C = Value initially considered, but further analysis determine value did not meet criteria

Appendix D - Billings Field Office Rivers and Streams Analyzed For Eligibility

River or Creek Name ¹	Total Segment Length Including Non-BLM Lands (miles)	Portion of Segment Occurring On BLM Lands (miles)	Free Flowing Determination	Outstandingly Remarkable Values ²							Notes	
				Scenic	Recreation	Geological	Fish	Wildlife	Historic	Cultural		Other
Yellowstone River - Four Dances Natural Area (cont)												Peregrine falcons nest in cliffs but species has been de-listed. Cultural and historic values may be significant but are not river-related
Yellowstone River, Pompeys Pillar - beginning in S.19, T.3N., R.30E. downstream to S.22, T.3N, R.30E. (includes the north shore in S.22)	4.46	4.19	Y	C	X	X	C	C	X	X		None of scenery is Class A. Recreational, geological, fish, historic and cultural values are outstandingly remarkable. Site attracts international visitors. The sandstone pillar is a unique formation not found elsewhere along the 550+ miles of the river. Pallid sturgeon released nearby, but no documented occurrence and segment not within historic habitat. Site contains the only remaining on-site evidence of the Lewis & Clark expedition. Area is a Native American early occupation site.

¹ Shading = Segment determined Eligible

² X = Value determined to meet ORV criteria, C = Value initially considered, but further analysis determine value did not meet criteria