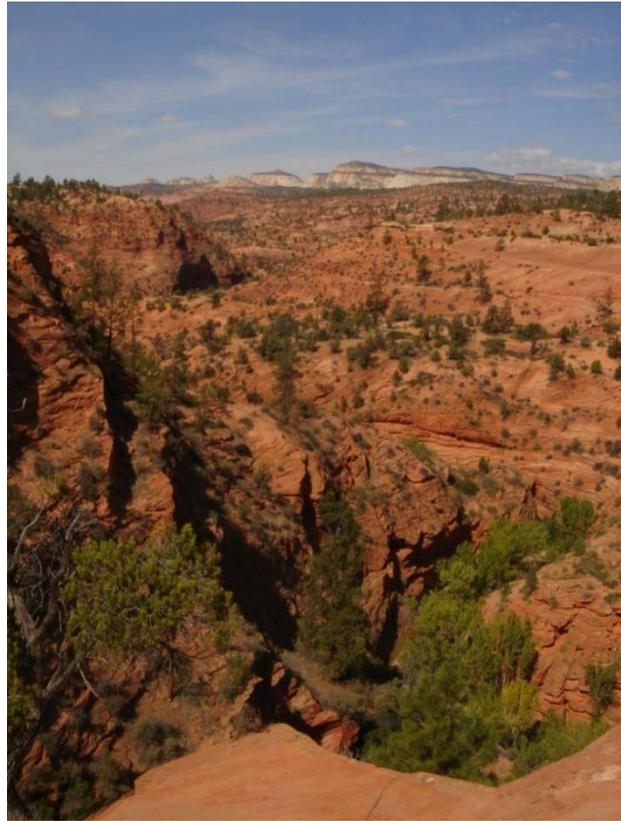
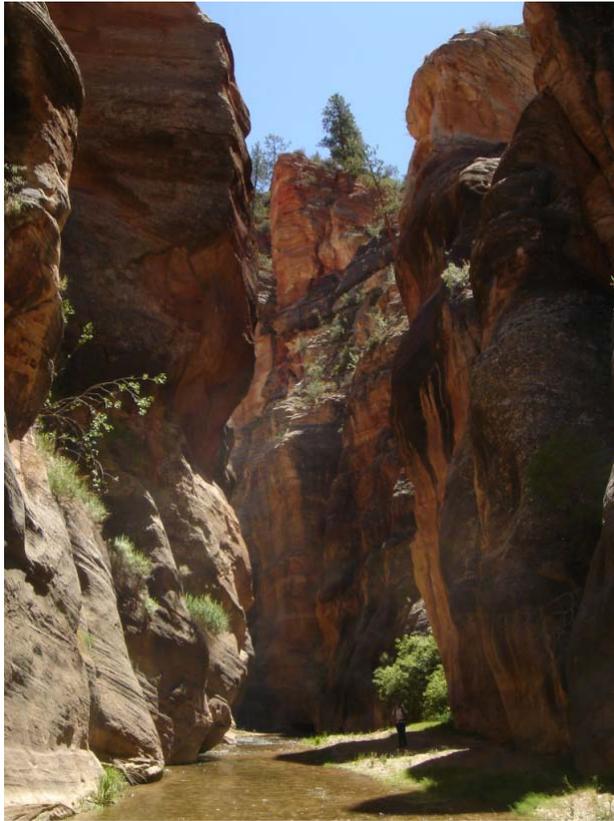


East Fork Virgin River (Wild)



ESSENTIAL FACTS

Length: 5.2 Miles

Corridor Acres: Approx. 1,050

Classification: Wild

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife, Fish, Cultural, Historical, Ecologic

LOCATION

Beginning at NESW Sec. 11, T 42 S, R 9 W, SLM, and extending westward to Zion National Park boundary at SWSW Sec. 4, T 42 S, R 9 W, SLM

Kanab Field Office

Color Country District

Kane County, Utah

2nd Congressional District

Utah State Office



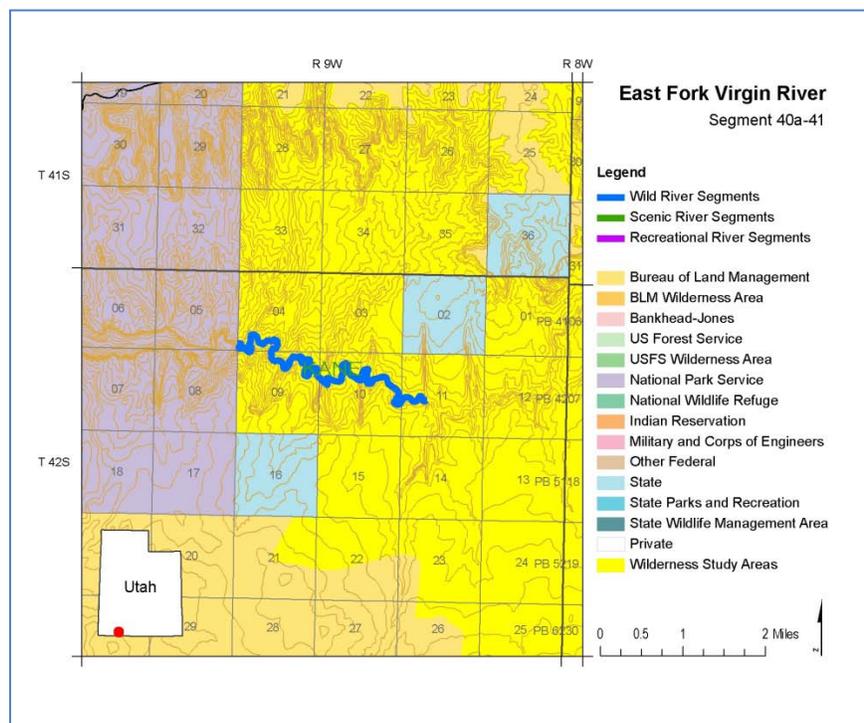
East Fork Virgin River (Wild)

General Description

The river flows next to riparian vegetation. Signs of human occupation or disturbance along the river segment are rare. The scenery is heavily primitive, wild, and natural in appearance. The East Fork Virgin River flows directly into the southeastern portion of Zion NP in an area recently designated as Wilderness, and the scenery is similar to that portion of the Park. Typical recreation use consists of backpackers conducting multi-day trips from the upper reach of the river within the Parunuweap WSA to the exit route near Checkerboard Mesa in the Park. Day hikes to various portions of the river segment are also common. Wildlife viewing, hunting and nature study are frequent attractions to visitors. There are numerous cultural resource sites considered eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places within the river canyon, and there are dense concentrations of Virgin Anasazi sites situated on the benches above the canyon. Older and younger sites are present as well. These sites, especially those within the narrow confines of the canyon, are an important scientific resource that contributes to the ORVs of this river segment.

Summary

This segment has nationally significant Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) and designation of this segment would provide an exceptionally scenic and colorful addition to the National System. Future congressional designation would protect free flow and ORVs and complement the intent of wilderness and WSA management strategies. While Kane County does not support the designation of this segment, since it is located within an existing WSA and is downstream of any motorized access points the county's opposition to this segment has not been as strong as to other segments outside of WSAs. There are no anticipated negative effects from designation because there are no competing resource considerations. Still, local and state agencies and water users oppose designation primarily over their concerns that current and potential water use could be affected. Finally, the segment downstream in Zion NP has recently been designated as a WSR, and together these segments represent a significant contribution to the integrity of the Virgin River system.



Rivers Suitable for WSR Designation on Bureau of Land Management Lands in Utah

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