

Colorado River, Segment 4(a)



ESSENTIAL FACTS

Length: 32.6 miles

Corridor Acres: Approx. 13,956

Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenery, Recreation, Wildlife, Fish, Cultural, Geology, Ecological

LOCATION

Beginning at the River Mile 96.5 and ending at River Mile 49 (Confluence of Dolores River to Potash Plant)

Moab Field Office

Canyon Country District

Grand County, Utah

2nd Congressional District



Colorado River, Segment 4(a)

General Description

The Colorado River from its confluence with the Dolores River to Mile 49 near the Potash Plant is very heavily utilized river for recreational purposes. Segment 4 includes the “Colorado River Daily”, which is the most popular whitewater rafting river in the state of Utah. Over 60,000 people raft this portion of the river annually; BLM has limited commercial use to 22 outfitters. Approximately 500,000 people drive along the river on two Utah Scenic Byways, primarily to view the scenic river corridor. In some portions of this segment, the river and highways are in close proximity; however, other stretches of the river are physically separated from the highway as the river meanders through its canyon. Boating, camping, fishing, climbing and hiking are popular activities in the river corridor, supported by numerous BLM facilities. The scenic features are shaped by the rock formations along the river, including Fisher Towers and Castle Rock.

The diverse display of outstanding geology is one of the most remarkable in the entire world; its scenery is internationally recognized. In addition to its scenic and recreational values, Segment 4 of the Colorado River is important to a great number of avian and terrestrial species, and to four endangered fish species.

Segment 4 of the Colorado River offers outstanding scenery, unique geology and outstanding recreational experiences. It is accessible by large numbers of people who come to enjoy its beauty and opportunities. It is classified as “Recreational”.

Summary

This segment has regionally and nationally significant Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) and designation of this segment would provide a unique scenic, geological and recreation experience to the National System. Future congressional designation would protect free flow and ORVs. The segment is withdrawn from mineral entry under the 1872 Mining Law by Secretarial Order.

Grand County supports the designation of this segment, and sees the economic benefits provided by the rafting and recreational businesses in the county. This section of the Colorado River directly supports 22 rafting companies in the county. There are no anticipated negative effects from designation because there are no competing resource considerations. The entire corridor is managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas and all other surface disturbing activities in the 2008 Moab Resource Management Plan. Finally, the segments upstream and downstream on the Moab BLM have been found suitable by the BLM and together these segments represent a significant contribution to the integrity of the Colorado River system.

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

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