

Green River, Segment 2



ESSENTIAL FACTS

Length: 8 miles

Corridor Acres: Approx. 1,475

Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Cultural, Historic, Recreation, Scenic, Geology, Fish, Wildlife, Ecological

LOCATION

Nefertiti Boat Ramp to Swasey's Boat Ramp

Moab and Price Field Offices

Canyon Country District

Grand and Emery Counties, Utah

2nd Congressional District



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General Description

This segment of the Green River is often called “The Green River Daily”, and is a very popular and accessible float trip for many people, especially youth groups. The Green River Daily has introduced many a young person to whitewater rafting. The Green River Daily supports 20 outfitters, and is important to the economy of the town of Green River. The BLM maintains a primitive boat ramp at the Nefertiti Beach put-in and a more developed boat ramp at Swasey’s Beach, which is the take-out site for Desolation Canyon trips. Visitors enjoy the wide sand beach at Swasey’s, as well as the small campground located there. Swasey’s Beach is the last take-out for Desolation Canyon float trips.

The scenery along this section of the river is outstanding, with the green riparian corridor contrasting with the gray cliffs above. An historic cabin site (“Stone Cabin”) is located along the river, and Fremont culture rock art sites are abundant. Wildlife is present as well; visitors frequently see Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep coming down to the river to drink. This river segment is home to four Federally listed fish species, including designated critical habitat for one of them, the Colorado pikeminnow. The river corridor is also important habitat for many avian and terrestrial wildlife populations, including Federally listed species.

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 The segment is withdrawn from mineral entry under the 1872 Mining Law by Secretarial Order.

There are no anticipated negative effects from designation because there are no competing resource considerations. Grand County supports the designation of this segment, and sees the economic benefits provided by the rafting industry in the county. Portions of the area are within the Desolation Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA), and are managed as closed to oil and gas leasing. All surface disturbing activities in the WSA are managed according to the *Interim Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review*. The remainder of the area is managed as no surface occupancy for oil and gas and all other surface disturbing activities in the 2008 Moab Approved Resource Management Plan. Finally, the segment upstream on has been found suitable by the BLM and together these segments represent a significant contribution to the integrity of the Green River system.

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

Contact: Bunny Sterin
Phone: (801) 539-4053
E-mail: Bernice_Sterin@blm.gov
Utah BLM State Office