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***Addendum to the Cody Field Office Review of  
Potential Wild and Scenic Rivers in the Cody RMP  
Planning Area***

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***Appendix B***

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Detailed Description and Tentative Classification of BLM-  
Administered Lands Meeting the Wild and Scenic Rivers  
Eligibility Criteria

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The following sections provide descriptions of the river-related outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) associated with each waterway determined to possess these values. Each section also lists and provides a basic explanation for the tentative classification assigned to each eligible waterway. The Cody Field Office (CYFO) Interdisciplinary team reviewed waterways in the CYFO section of the Bighorn Basin Planning Area. The portions of waterways reviewed for this Addendum Report were on public land only. Maps of all the waterway segments are located in Appendix A.

## B.1 Meeteetse Creek

### B.1.1 Location and Segment Boundaries

Map 1 provides a graphical representation of the reviewed segment of Meeteetse Creek. Table B-1 lists the land ownership along this segment of Meeteetse Creek.

**Table B-1. Meeteetse Creek Segment Land Ownership**

Land Ownership	Length of Segment (feet) <sup>1</sup>
BLM	14,770
State of Wyoming	2,700
Private	—
Other Federal	—
<b>Total Length</b>	<b>17,470</b>

Source: BLM 2008

— waterway segment does not cross an area with this land ownership

<sup>1</sup> Approximate length based on available GIS data; all lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10 feet, so Total Length may not equal sum of lengths by land ownership.

### B.1.2 Outstandingly Remarkable Values

#### *Scenic*

The public lands surrounding the Meeteetse Creek study area contain varied and remarkable scenery, ranging from alpine tundra to prominent mountain views. The area, which is rated as Class A for scenic quality by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has a varied topography of wide open expanses and a steep, rocky canyon. Scenic quality is the relative worth of a landscape in terms of visual perception and is measured on a scale from Class A (high quality) to Class C (low quality). Vegetation along this waterway adds to the visual interest and includes broad expanses of grasses and riparian vegetation within the river canyon.

#### *Geology*

The area along the waterway includes outstandingly remarkable geology, including Absaroka volcanic strata and a number of dramatic erosive geologic features.

#### *Wildlife*

The lands along the Meeteetse Creek provide important wildlife habitat for a number of species. The area provides big game winter, transition, and parturition ranges, as well as

serving as a big game migration corridor. The area is also important grizzly bear and gray wolf habitat, and greater sage-grouse brood rearing habitat. The grizzly bear, gray wolf, and greater sage-grouse are BLM sensitive species. In addition, the waterway corridor is potential Canada lynx habitat. The Canada lynx is a federally-designated threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

Important vegetation communities along this waterway corridor include alpine tundra, white bark pine and limber pine stands, mixed conifer and aspen stands, and riparian willow and shrub communities.

**Historic**

Two historic cabins representative of early settlement of the area are located along the river corridor. These cabins are associated with prominent local historical figures and are representative of the early agricultural history of the area.

**Other Similar Values**

The Meeteetse Creek area contains a large variety of important plant species and vegetation communities. The area has outstanding riparian willow and shrub communities, as well as areas of alpine tundra vegetation. Several endemic, rare and BLM sensitive plant species adapted to the unique volcanic soils also occur adjacent to the creek.

**B.1.3 Tentative Classification – Wild**

The reviewed portion of Meeteetse Creek meets the definition of a Wild waterway under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA). The area along the waterway is primitive and remote.

**B.2 Cow Creek – Segment 1**

**B.2.1 Location and Segment Boundaries**

Map 2 provides a graphical representation of the reviewed segment of Cow Creek – Segment 1. Table B-2 lists the land ownership along this segment of Cow Creek.

**Table B-2. Cow Creek – Segment 1 Land Ownership**

Land Ownership	Length of Segment (feet) <sup>1</sup>
BLM	6,380
State of Wyoming	10
Private	20
Other Federal	—
<b>Total Length</b>	<b>6,410</b>

Source: BLM 2008

— waterway segment does not cross an area with this land ownership

<sup>1</sup> Approximate length based on available GIS data; all lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10 feet, so Total Length may not equal sum of lengths by land ownership.

## **B.2.2 Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

### ***Scenic***

The public lands surrounding the Cow Creek – Segment 1 study area contain varied and remarkable scenery. The topography along the waterway corridor includes wide-open expanses and a steep, rocky canyon. The canyon contains rimrock, vibrant foliage, and a variety of colors that add to the area's visual interest. The area is primitive in nature and remote, and is located in the Little Mountain area, which is known for its scenic qualities. In addition to the topographic and vegetative variety, excellent views of near and distant mountains and the Bighorn Basin add visual interest.

### ***Wildlife***

The lands along Cow Creek – Segment 1 provide important wildlife habitat for a number of species. Important features include special bighorn sheep populations and big game winter, transition, and parturition ranges. The area also serves as a big game migration corridor and provides greater sage-grouse brood rearing, nesting, and winter range habitat. In addition, the waterway corridor is potential Canada lynx habitat. The Canada lynx is federally-designated as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

A number of BLM sensitive species occur in the area, including: bats, greater sage-grouse, Brewer's sparrow, song sparrow, and sage thrasher (BLM 2002). There are four plant species in the Five Springs Campground area and throughout the nearby Little Mountain Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) that are regionally endemic including Big Horn fleabane, Cary's beardtongue, hairy prince's plume, and Hapeman's coolwort. Of these four species, Cary's beardtongue and Hapeman's coolwort are also considered sensitive by the United States Forest Service (USFS) Region 2. In addition, all of these plant species are listed in the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (University of Wyoming 2009) as species of potential concern.

Important vegetation communities along the waterway corridor include Douglas-fir forests, limber pine stands, mixed conifer and aspen stands, riparian willow and shrub communities, and sagebrush steppe. The area also contains a significant portion of the only curl-leaf mountain mahogany population in Wyoming.

### ***Historic***

A historic cabin representing early settlement of the area is located along the waterway. This cabin is thought to be associated with prominent local historical figures and is representative of the early agriculture history of the area.

### ***Cultural***

Several cultural resource sites are located on public lands along Cow Creek canyon and associated tributary canyons. Cultural sites include open sites and rock shelters, which are potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The area is of interest to Native American groups, particularly because of the area's geographic relationship with the important Medicine Wheel and Spirit Mountain areas. Physical evidence shows that the area has been frequented or occupied by humans for close to 11,000 years.

**Other Similar Values**

Other important features of the area include big aspen stands unusual in the CYFO and unique to the Bighorn Basin. Additional features include spring fed riparian areas containing endemic and rare plants from the Big Horn Mountains.

**B.2.3 Tentative Classification – Wild**

The area is primitive in nature and remote along the entire length of the segment and meets the definition of a Wild waterway under the WSRA. It is unusual for the reasons described above and remains relatively unknown to the public.

**B.3 Cow Creek – Segment 2**

**B.3.1 Location and Segment Boundaries**

Map 2 provides a graphical representation of the reviewed segment of Cow Creek – Segment 2. Table B-3 lists the land ownership along this segment of Cow Creek.

**Table B-3. Cow Creek – Segment 2 Land Ownership**

<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Length of Segment (feet)<sup>1</sup></b>
BLM	4,180
State of Wyoming	< 10
Private	—
Other Federal	—
<b>Total Length</b>	<b>4,180</b>

Source: BLM 2008

— waterway segment does not cross an area with this land ownership; < : less than

<sup>1</sup> Approximate length based on available GIS data; all lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10 feet, so Total Length may not equal sum of lengths by land ownership.

**B.3.2 Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

**Geologic**

The outstandingly remarkable geology along the waterway includes an exceptional river canyon and erosional features. The area also contains paleokarst resources and important invertebrate paleontological values.

**Wildlife**

The area around the waterway contains important greater sage-grouse, a BLM sensitive species, habitat.

**Historic**

The NRHP-eligible Elizabeth Gervay Homestead Number 2, known locally as Pete’s Draw Cabin, is located along this waterway. The cabin is representative of a compelling story which is exemplary of the pioneering spirit and fortitude of local historical figures. The site is eligible for listing on the NRHP due to its association with unique events related to the early 20th Century homesteading and livestock industry.

**Cultural**

Several cultural resource sites are located on public lands along Cow Creek canyon and associated tributary canyons. These cultural sites include open sites and rock shelters, which are potentially eligible for listing on the NRHP. The area is of interest to Native American groups, particularly because of the area’s geographic relationship with the important Medicine Wheel and Spirit Mountain areas. Physical evidence shows the area has been frequented or occupied by humans for close to 11,000 years.

**B.3.3 Tentative Classification – Wild**

The area is primitive in nature and remote along the entire length of the segment and meets the definition of a Wild waterway under the WSRA.

**B.4 Cottonwood Creek – Segment 2**

**B.4.1 Location and Segment Boundaries**

Map 2 provides a graphical representation of the Cottonwood Creek – Segment 2. Table B-4 lists the land ownership along this segment of Cottonwood Creek.

**Table B-4. Cottonwood Creek – Segment 2 Land Ownership**

Land Ownership	Length of Segment (feet) <sup>1</sup>
BLM	20,170
State of Wyoming	—
Private	—
Other Federal	—
<b>Total Length</b>	<b>20,170</b>

Source: BLM 2008

— waterway segment does not cross an area with this land ownership

<sup>1</sup> Approximate length based on available GIS data; all lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10 feet, so Total Length may not equal sum of lengths by land ownership.

**B.4.2 Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

**Scenic**

The public lands surrounding Cottonwood Creek – Segment 2 contain remarkable scenic values. Cottonwood Canyon contains dramatic topographic features, including steep vertical cliffs with rock outcrops. The elevation along the waterway varies from 7,200 feet at the top of the canyon wall to 4,800 feet at the mouth of the canyon. Near the boundary between BLM-administered and USFS lands, the elevation of the creek itself is about 7,000 feet and the canyon wall is 7,900 feet. Vegetation in Cottonwood Canyon includes narrowleaf cottonwood, willow, waterbirch, red-osier dogwood, basin big sagebrush, juniper, mountain mahogany, Rocky Mountain maple, Indian ricegrass, ninebark, limber pine, Douglas-fir, aspen, and bluebunch wheatgrass. The combination of rugged topography; diverse vegetation; a variety of colors to the soil, rocks, and vegetation; a nearby waterfall, springs, and running water provide a high quality visual experience.

***Geologic***

The outstandingly remarkable geology of the waterway includes an exceptional river canyon and other erosional features. The area also contains important paleontological resources in the form of rare Devonian fossil fish and plants in the strata along the canyon walls. Additional important features include karst and paleokarst resources.

***Wildlife***

The lands along Cottonwood Creek – Segment 2 provide important wildlife habitat for a number of species. Important features include special bighorn sheep populations and big game winter, transition, and parturition ranges. The area also serves as a big game migration corridor and provides greater sage-grouse brood rearing, nesting and winter range habitat. In addition, the waterway corridor is potential Canada lynx habitat. The Canada lynx is a federally-designated threatened species under the Endangered Species Act.

A number of BLM sensitive species occur in the area, including: bats, greater sage-grouse, Brewer’s sparrow, song sparrow, and sage thrasher (BLM 2002). There are four plant species in the Five Springs Campground area and throughout the nearby Little Mountain ACEC that are regionally endemic including Big Horn fleabane, Cary’s beardtongue, hairy prince’s plume, and Hapeman’s coolwort. Of these four species, Cary’s beardtongue and Hapeman’s coolwort are also considered sensitive by the USFS Region 2. In addition, all of these plant species are listed in the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database (University of Wyoming 2009) as species of potential concern.

Important vegetation communities along the waterway corridor include Douglas-fir forests, limber pine stands, mixed conifer and aspen stands, riparian willow, and shrub communities, sagebrush steppe. The area also contains a large portion of the only curl-leaf mountain mahogany population in Wyoming.

***Historic***

Joseph Bischoff Homestead Number 2 is located along this waterway. This cabin is eligible for listing on the NRHP due to its distinctive architectural characteristics, which include a chimney design constructed with material recycled from a historic glass factory, and due to its association with unique events related to early 20th Century homesteading and the livestock industry. A distinctively engineered wooden culvert on an irrigation ditch associated with the property adds to the sites historic character.

***Other similar values***

The area contains outstanding riparian areas associated with the waterway, as well as high quality aspen stands.

**B.4.3 Tentative Classification – Scenic**

The area meets the criteria of a Scenic waterway. A road from a nearby highway currently provides access to the mouth of the canyon. However, from the canyon mouth upstream to the border with USFS land, access is only possible by foot or horseback; no unauthorized motor vehicles are allowed under current management.

## B.5 North Fork of the Shoshone River

### B.5.1 Location and Segment Boundaries

Map 8 provides a graphical representation of the reviewed segment of the North Fork of the Shoshone River. Table B-5 lists the land ownership along this segment of the North Fork of the Shoshone River.

**Table B-5. North Fork of the Shoshone River  
Segment Land Ownership**

Land Ownership	Length of Segment (feet) <sup>1</sup>
BLM	4,480
State of Wyoming	—
Private	21,260
Other Federal	—
<b>Total Length</b>	<b>25, 730</b>

Source: BLM 2008

— waterway segment does not cross an area with this land ownership

<sup>1</sup> Approximate length based on available GIS data; all lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10 feet, so Total Length may not equal sum of lengths by land ownership.

### B.5.2 Outstandingly Remarkable Values

#### *Scenic*

The combination of dramatic topography, diverse vegetation, and a variety of colors provide outstanding scenery. The North Fork Shoshone River valley is a highly scenic area, with views of steep rugged mountains as one travels on the highway to the east entrance of Yellowstone National Park. The varied vegetation along the waterway includes hay fields, sagebrush and grasses, riparian vegetation, and forested slopes. The rocky terrain, soils, and vegetation provide a variety of colors that add visual interest.

#### *Recreational*

Tourists from all over the United States and other countries travel on the highway that lies along the North Fork of the Shoshone River to Yellowstone National Park. Some visitors spend time in Cody and participate in various outdoor recreational activities. A number of businesses in the area offer commercial trips floating and/or fishing on the river. A local business also provides interpretive tours of northern Wyoming, including several tours of the Yellowstone area that also include the North Fork of the Shoshone River valley. In addition to tourists, residents of the Bighorn Basin and surrounding region visit this river for fishing, floating, and wildlife viewing. The existing Cody RMP designated the North Fork of the Shoshone River as part of the Rivers Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA).

#### *Geologic*

The outstandingly remarkable geology along the waterway includes exceptional erosional and volcanic features. Additionally, the fluvial geomorphology and paleontological values of the area are outstanding.

***Fish***

The North Fork of the Shoshone River includes important naturally reproducing (not stocked) fisheries. The river provides cold water fish habitat and supports Yellowstone cutthroat trout (a BLM sensitive species and Wyoming Game and Fish Department species of special concern).

***Wildlife***

The lands along the North Fork of the Shoshone River provide important wildlife habitat for a number of species. Important features include special bighorn sheep populations and big game migration corridor and winter, transition, and parturition ranges. The area is also important grizzly bear and gray wolf habitat, and potential Canada lynx habitats. Important greater sage-grouse brood and rearing habitat, and migratory bird nesting habitat can also be found in the area. The grizzly bear, gray wolf, and greater sage-grouse are BLM sensitive species.

Important vegetation communities along the waterway corridor include mixed conifer and aspen stands, riparian willow stands, and sagebrush and mountain shrub communities. The habitat along the river is unique because it contains volcanic soils, and Precambrian limestone soils associated with the Laramide Orogeny. These unique uplifted limestone relics provide habitat for rare and BLM sensitive plant species including Shoshonea, Absaroka beardtongue, and Wyoming tansymustard. The watersheds in this area drain into the North Fork of the Shoshone River.

***Historic***

The Wapiti Lodge, which has served at various junctures as a homestead, a school house, and a local social gathering spot (known as the Green Lantern) is located along the waterway. This lodge is associated with the early settlement of the area and unique events related to early 20th Century homesteading and livestock industries.

***Cultural***

The North Fork of the Shoshone River contains a site used for ceremonial and sacred purposes proximate to Sheep Mountain. This site also contains a unique eagle trap. The Sheep Mountain area contains a site that produced a perishable animal trapping net dated to the Paleo-Indian time period. The NRHP listed Mummy Cave, a rockshelter which lies along the river upstream and displays evidence of 38 cultural strata representing cultures ranging from late Paleo-Indian to the Late Prehistoric period, is in the area.

**B.5.3 Tentative Classification – Recreational**

The area meets the criteria of a Recreational waterway. This area is heavily used for recreation and sightseeing. Many private homes are located along the river corridor.

## B.6 South Fork of the Shoshone River

### B.6.1 Location and Segment Boundaries

Map 9 provides a graphical representation of the reviewed segment of the South Fork of the Shoshone River. Table B-6 lists the land ownership along this segment of the South Fork of the Shoshone River.

**Table B-6. South Fork of the Shoshone River Segment Land Ownership**

Land Ownership	Length of Segment (feet) <sup>1</sup>
BLM	10,530
State of Wyoming	—
Private	90,560
Other Federal	—
<b>Total Length</b>	<b>101,090</b>

Source: BLM 2008

— waterway segment does not cross an area with this land ownership

<sup>1</sup> Approximate length based on available GIS data; all lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10 feet, so Total Length may not equal sum of lengths by land ownership.

### B.6.2 Outstandingly Remarkable Values

#### *Scenic*

The South Fork of the Shoshone River valley is scenic primarily due to views of nearby, rugged mountains. The immediate river valley scenery is pastoral in nature, containing rural subdivisions, hayfields, and ranches.

#### *Recreational*

Recreational opportunities on the South Fork of the Shoshone River include fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, horseback riding, and some floating. Two trailheads and several river access sites are located along the river. Some visitors to the Yellowstone area spend time in Cody, often participating in various outdoor recreational activities. A number of businesses in the area offer commercial trips floating and/or fishing on the river. A local business also provides interpretive tours of northern Wyoming, including several tours of the Yellowstone area that also include the South Fork of the Shoshone River valley. In addition to tourists, residents of the Bighorn Basin and surrounding regions are drawn to this waterway for fishing, floating, and wildlife viewing. The existing Cody RMP designated the South Fork of the Shoshone River as part of the Rivers SRMA.

#### *Geologic*

The outstandingly remarkable geology along the waterway includes fluvial geomorphological features with active geomorphological changes. The Southfork Thrust Fault is exposed along portions of the river corridor, which also includes outstanding exposures showing regional stratigraphic features.

***Fish***

The South Fork of the Shoshone River includes important naturally reproducing (not stocked) fisheries. The river provides cold water fish habitat and supports Yellowstone cutthroat trout (a BLM sensitive species and Wyoming Game and Fish Department species of special concern).

***Wildlife***

The lands along the South Fork of the Shoshone River provide important wildlife habitat for a number of species. Important features include a big game migration corridor and winter, transition, and parturition ranges. The area is also important grizzly bear and gray wolf habitat, and potential Canada lynx habitat. The area includes important greater sage-grouse brood and rearing habitat, and migratory bird nesting habitat. The grizzly bear, gray wolf, and greater sage-grouse are BLM sensitive species.

Important vegetation communities along the waterway corridor include mixed conifer and aspen stands, riparian willow stands, and sagebrush and mountain shrub communities. The habitat along the river is unique because it contains volcanic and limestone soils. These unique uplifted limestone relics provide habitat for rare and BLM sensitive plant species including Shoshonea, Absaroka beardtongue, and Wyoming tansymustard. The watersheds in this area drain into the South Fork of the Shoshone River.

***Historic***

The South Fork of the Shoshone River contains a site listed on the NRHP, the TE Ranch. This ranch was associated with unique events related to early 20th Century homesteading and the livestock industry.

***Cultural***

The area along the South Fork of the Shoshone River contains a prehistoric site. The site was used in a hunting strategy which utilized topography and man-made prehistoric driveline cairns to create a buffalo corral and kill site.

**B.6.3 Tentative Classification – Recreational**

The area meets the criteria of a Recreational waterway. This area is currently heavily used for recreation. Many private homes and subdivisions are located along the river corridor.

**B.7 Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River – Segment 2**

**B.7.1 Location and Segment Boundaries**

Map 10 provides a graphical representation of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River – Segment 2. Table B-7 lists the land ownership along this segment of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River.

**Table B-7. Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River – Segment 2 Land Ownership**

Land Ownership	Length of Segment (feet) <sup>1</sup>
BLM	19,680
State of Wyoming	3,740
Private	13,110
Other Federal	—
<b>Total Length</b>	<b>36,540</b>

Source: BLM 2008

— waterway segment does not cross an area with this land ownership

<sup>1</sup> Approximate length based on available GIS data; all lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10 feet, so Total Length may not equal sum of lengths by land ownership.

## **B.7.2 Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

### ***Scenic***

Scenery along the upper reach of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River – Segment 2 is dramatic as the river exits the Clarks Fork Canyon. Here, the river is in an area of steep uplifted rocks highlighted by unusual “flatiron” ridges, with vegetation in various shapes and densities. The colors of red, tan, and gray rocks contrast with the light green or tan grasses and dark green conifers. Gradually, the dramatic topographic relief lessens and the river becomes characterized by open spaces and low tan colored terraces and bluffs.

High vertical relief is expressed in prominent cliffs, and massive rock outcrops. The vegetation offers a variety of types. Of particular interest is the form and texture of the riparian vegetation, especially the juniper krummholz along the river. The water is clear and clean, offering flat and cascading white water. Along the river and within the viewshed, rich color combinations offer pleasing contrasts provided by rocks, vegetation, and water. The influence of adjacent scenery, especially Bald Ridge and the Beartooth Plateau, greatly enhances the visual experience. Evidence of man (cultural modification) adds little or no visual variety and it is secondary to the overall viewshed.

### ***Recreational***

The public land parcels in this segment of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River contain recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, floating, picnicking, historical/geologic investigations, camping, and scenic viewing. The existing Cody RMP has designated the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River as part of the Rivers SRMA. Several businesses offer floating and/or fishing trips on this river to tourists visiting from all over the United States and from other countries. A local business provides interpretive tours of northern Wyoming, including the Yellowstone area, and some of the trips include the Clarks Fork area. In addition to tourists, residents of the Bighorn Basin and surrounding region visit this river for fishing, floating, and wildlife viewing.

### ***Geologic***

Exceptional geologic features include deep scenic canyons, erosional features exposing Precambrian rocks and Paleozoic strata, world class geologic structures including an exceptional anticlinal fold exposed in the canyon walls and mountain front, glacial features including

terminal and lateral moraines, and outstanding fluvial geomorphic features along the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River and its floodplain/terrace complexes.

**Wildlife**

Important wildlife resources in the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River area include peregrine falcon nesting areas, bald and golden eagle nesting and winter range, big game winter range, one of two mountain goat ranges in the state, the big game winter and parturition Bald Ridge Seasonal Closure Area, and bat hibernacula and roost sites. The Yellowstone cutthroat trout and white fish occur in the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. The area also contains habitat for the following BLM sensitive species: greater sage-grouse, mountain plover, long-billed curlew, sage thrasher, Brewer’s sparrow, Baird’s sparrow, and loggerhead shrike.

One BLM sensitive plant species, *Shoshonea*, occurs in the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River area.

**Historic**

The public lands proximate to the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River may be bisected by the Chief Joseph/Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail. Some evidence suggests that the trail may have entered the river corridor and continued along the river on its path to the grasslands of Montana. The significance of this portion of the trail is detailed in The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Comprehensive Plan (USFS 1990). The Fort Washakie to Red Lodge Trail also occurs in this area.

**Cultural**

On public lands throughout the reviewed segment, there are important cultural resource sites adjacent to the river, including stone rings that may be eligible for listing on the NRHP. Because of the geographic location of the river and the velocity of winter winds which kept the area free of snow, this area was important to Native Americans during winter occupancy.

**Other Values**

The waterway is undammed and unchecked when snow melt occurs, creating whitewater conditions.

**B.7.3 Tentative Classification – Scenic**

The area meets the criteria for a Scenic waterway. The Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River is a very important waterway to the area; however, there are few areas to access the river along this segment. The river canyon is popular for fishing, floating, kayaking. The parcels of public land are interspersed with private land.

**B.8 Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River – Segment 3**

**B.8.1 Location and Segment Boundaries**

Map 10 provides a graphical representation of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River – Segment 3. Table B-8 lists the land ownership along this segment of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River.

**Table B-8. Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River –  
Segment 3 Land Ownership**

<b>Land Ownership</b>	<b>Length of Segment (feet)<sup>1</sup></b>
BLM	24,450
State of Wyoming	2,570
Private	10,770
Other Federal	—
<b>Total Length</b>	<b>37,780</b>

Source: BLM 2008

— waterway segment does not cross an area with this land ownership

<sup>1</sup> Approximate length based on available GIS data; all lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10 feet, so Total Length may not equal sum of lengths by land ownership.

## **B.8.2 Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

### ***Scenic***

Scenery along the upper reach of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River – Segment 3 is dramatic as the river exits the Clarks Fork Canyon. Here, the river is in an area of steep uplifted rocks highlighted by unusual “flatiron” ridges, with vegetation in various shapes and densities. The colors of red, tan, and gray rocks contrast with the light green or tan grasses and dark green conifers. Gradually, the dramatic topographic relief lessens and the river becomes characterized by open spaces and low tan colored terraces and bluffs.

High vertical relief is expressed in prominent cliffs, and massive rock outcrops. The vegetation offers a variety of types. Of particular interest is the form and texture of the riparian vegetation, especially the juniper krummholz along the river. The water is clear and clean, offering flat and cascading white water. Along the river and within the viewshed, rich color combinations offer pleasing contrasts provided by rocks, vegetation, and water. The influence of adjacent scenery, especially Bald Ridge and the Beartooth Plateau, greatly enhances the visual experience. Evidence of man (cultural modification) adds little or no visual variety and it is secondary to the overall viewshed. Scenic values are determined to be outstandingly remarkable. The land is relatively remote. Upstream, a portion of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River on USFS land is a designated WSR (Clarks Fork Canyon National Wild River).

### ***Recreational***

The public land parcels in this segment of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River contain recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, floating, picnicking, historical/geologic investigations, camping, and scenic viewing. The Cody RMP designated the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone as part of the Rivers SRMA. Several businesses offer floating and/or fishing trips on this river to tourists visiting from all over the United States and from other countries. A local business provides interpretive tours of northern Wyoming, including the Yellowstone area, and some of the trips include the Clarks Fork area. In addition to tourists, residents of the Bighorn Basin and surrounding region visit this river for fishing, floating, and wildlife viewing. A Special Recreation Permit was issued in the recent past for a fly fishing competition that was used in the process of identifying members for the United States Fly Fishing Team.

***Geologic***

Exceptional geologic features include deep scenic canyons, erosional features exposing Precambrian rocks and Paleozoic strata, world class geologic structures including an exceptional anticlinal fold exposed in the canyon walls and mountain front, glacial features including terminal and lateral moraines, and outstanding fluvial geomorphic features along the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River and its floodplain/terrace complexes. A breached terminal moraine just beyond the mouth of the canyon marks the furthest downstream advance of a late Bull Lake age glacier on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River.

***Fish***

Class 1 outstanding fisheries occur on USFS land in this area. The Yellowstone cutthroat trout and white fish occur in the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River.

***Wildlife***

Important wildlife resources in the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River area include peregrine falcon nesting areas, bald and golden eagle nesting and winter range, big game winter range, one of two mountain goat ranges in the state, the big game winter and parturition Bald Ridge Seasonal Closure Area, and bat hibernacula and roost sites. The area also contains habitat for the following BLM sensitive species: greater sage-grouse, mountain plover, long-billed curlew, sage thrasher, Brewer's sparrow, Baird's sparrow, and loggerhead shrike.

One BLM sensitive plant species, *Shoshonea*, occurs in the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River area.

***Historic***

The public lands proximate to the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River may be bisected by the Chief Joseph/Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo), National Historic Trail. Some evidence suggests that the trail may have entered the river corridor and continued along the river on its path to the grasslands of Montana. The significance of this portion of the trail is detailed in The Nez Perce (Nee-Me-Poo) National Historic Trail Comprehensive Plan (USFS 1990). The Fort Washakie to Red Lodge Trail also occurs in this area.

***Cultural***

On public lands throughout the reviewed segment, there are important cultural resource sites adjacent to the river, including stone rings that may be eligible for listing on the NRHP. The densities of this occupational site type are unique from surrounding areas. Because of the geographic location of the river and the velocity of winter winds which kept the area free of snow, this area was important to Native Americans during winter occupancy. Additionally, the area is known to contain a series of Native American trails. Typically, trails associated with the prehistoric era would have been associated with hunting and gathering groups migrating into the region on a seasonal basis to either exploit game or other resources. This practice would have likely increased contact with other groups living in the region and consequently created an exchange pattern.

**B.8.3 Tentative Classification – Scenic**

The area meets the criteria for a Scenic waterway. This segment is approximately 0.25 miles from the currently designated Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River, a Wild river managed by the USFS Shoshone National Forest.

**B.9 Pat O'Hara Creek**

**B.9.1 Location and Segment Boundaries**

Map 10 provides a graphical representation of the reviewed segment of Pat O'Hara Creek. Table B-9 lists the land ownership along this segment of Pat O'Hara Creek.

**Table B-9. Pat O'Hara Creek  
Segment Land Ownership**

Land Ownership	Length of Segment (feet) <sup>1</sup>
BLM	10,600
State of Wyoming	3,490
Private	26,230
Other Federal	—
<b>Total Length</b>	<b>40,310</b>

Source: BLM 2008

— waterway segment does not cross an area with this land ownership

<sup>1</sup> Approximate length based on available GIS data; all lengths have been rounded to the nearest 10 feet, so Total Length may not equal sum of lengths by land ownership.

**B.9.2 Outstandingly Remarkable Values**

**Historic**

The area around Pat O'Hara Creek is known to contain remnants of historic bootlegging activity, the illegal production of alcohol, from the time of the area’s settlement. The technologies employed in this activity were imported from established distilling centers in the southeast United States.

**Cultural**

On public lands throughout the reviewed segment, there are important cultural resource sites adjacent to the waterway. These sites include stone rings that may be eligible for listing on the NRHP. The densities of this occupational site type are unique compared to the surrounding areas. A buffalo jump, a cliff or ledge used by Native Americans to kill buffalo by driving them over the edge, is also purported to lie proximate to the river. Presence of this site type in foothill/mountain terrain is unique for the area.

**B.9.3 Tentative Classification – Scenic**

The area meets the criteria of a Scenic waterway. There are a limited number of two-track roads into the area, and it remains relatively remote and unknown.