

ATTACHMENT C

**WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SUITABILITY REVIEW:
WASHAKIE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN PLANNING AREA**

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SUITABILITY REVIEW: WASHAKIE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN PLANNING AREA

Of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM)-administered public land surfaces (public lands) along the nine waterways or waterway units in the Washakie Resource Management Plan (RMP) planning area determined to meet the Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) eligibility criteria (see Table C1), public lands along Canyon Creek and Kirby Creek were found not to meet the suitability factors and were dropped from further consideration. Public lands along the upstream-most segment of Laddie Creek in the Paint Rock Creek unit and three upstream-most segments of White Creek were also not considered suitable, while public lands along Deep Creek, Dry Medicine Lodge Creek, Medicine Lodge Creek, Middle Fork of the Powder River, Trapper Creek, most of the Paint Rock Creek unit, and the downstream-most segment of White Creek were found to meet the suitability factors. Summaries of the suitability determinations of all nine waterways or waterway units are presented below in Section II.

I. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT DURING THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SUITABILITY REVIEW.

On March 25, 2002, BLM planning team members for the Washakie RMP made preliminary WSR suitability determinations for public lands along waterways within the Washakie RMP planning area determined eligible for WSR designation. Table C2 provides the names and contact information for those individuals who attended the WSR suitability review in the Worland Field Office on that date. At this time, these determinations have not been submitted to the public for review. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the suitability review results during the normal scoping process and throughout the environmental analysis and planning process for the Washakie RMP planning effort. Any comments made by the public concerning the determinations made in this review will be taken into consideration and documented in the RMP planning process. This WSR suitability review may be modified if deemed necessary as a result of public comment.

II. RESULTS OF THE WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS SUITABILITY REVIEW OF PUBLIC LANDS ALONG WATERWAYS IN THE WASHAKIE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN PLANNING AREA.

Canyon Creek

It was determined that the one public land parcel along the Canyon Creek review segment does not meet the WSR suitability factors and will be given no further consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. The non-suitable determination is based on the following:

- The potential for activities to occur on the adjacent, upstream, and/or downstream state and private lands that BLM has no jurisdiction or control over. Such activities could come into

conflict with WSR management prescriptions. For instance, there exists the potential for development on upstream private lands that could impact water quality, which would be incompatible with a WSR designation.

- A WSR designation is deemed unnecessary or inappropriate as other existing mechanisms sufficiently protect identified cultural values. A WSR designation would provide no foreseeable additional protection.

The land and resource values on public lands involved can and will continue to be appropriately managed under all other applicable BLM mandates and regulations for multiple use, sustained yield, and environmental integrity and should suffer no adverse effects for lack of a WSR designation.

Deep Creek

It was determined that the one public land parcel along the Deep Creek review segment meets the WSR suitability factors and should be managed to maintain or enhance its outstandingly remarkable values for any possible future consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. This suitable determination is based on the unique qualities of the diverse public land resources and their regional and national significance, making them worthy of future consideration for addition to the NWSRS.

The outstanding scenic and recreational values associated with the public lands involved make this a uniquely diverse waterway segment in the region. Within the review segment, the recreational qualities are of particular high value as anglers are attracted from outside the area to fish for brown, rainbow, and cutthroat trout in a wilderness-like setting. The scenic values are also notable and include a steep canyon with nearly 1,000-foot high cliffs and colorful formations.

Making up 100 percent of the lands along the review segment, the public lands are manageable by the BLM under the provisions of the WSR Act. Other factors that compliment and enhance this manageability determination include (1) no incompatible upstream uses on private and state lands have been identified. The BLM planning team acknowledges the need to investigate acquiring better public access to the review segment through private land. Apart from this, the BLM planning team did not identify any significant factors that would prevent them from managing the reviewed waterway segment as part of the NWSRS.

Dry Medicine Lodge Creek

It was determined that the one public land parcel along the Dry Medicine Lodge Creek review segment meets the WSR suitability factors and should be managed to maintain or enhance its outstandingly remarkable values for any possible future consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. This suitable determination is based on the unique qualities of the diverse public land resources and their regional and national significance, making them worthy of future consideration for addition to the NWSRS.

The outstanding scenic, recreational, cultural, and geological values associated with the public lands involved make this a uniquely diverse waterway segment in the region. Within the review segment, the scenic and recreational values are of particular high value area as they attract visitors from outside the region to view the deep, steep-walled canyon with colorful formations, including a unique stone arch. Visitors are also drawn to the area for hiking, horseback riding, caving, and off-road vehicle opportunities. The cultural and geological values are also notable and include rock shelters, rock art, and unique caves. The area is also important as part of the main water-recharge area for the Madison Formation.

Making up 100 percent of the lands along the review segment, the public lands are manageable by the BLM under the provisions of the WSR Act. Other factors that compliment and enhance this manageability include (1) the available public access; (2) most of the review segment is located within the Spanish Point Karst Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC; meant specifically to protect the aquifer recharge zone) and is thus currently managed in a fashion compatible with a WSA designation; (3) no incompatible upstream uses have been identified along the headwaters section of the waterway located in the Bighorn Horn National Forest; and (4) the BLM planning team did not identify any obstacles that would prevent them from managing the reviewed waterway segment as part of the NWSRS.

Kirby Creek

It was determined that the three public land parcels along the Kirby Creek review segment do not meet the WSR suitability factors and will be given no further consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. The non-suitable determination is based on the following:

- The BLM would be unable to manage the small amount of public lands involved (0.14 miles along the review segment) in the context of a WSR.
- The BLM would be unable to manage the public lands involved in the context of a WSR because of the interspersed parcels of private land. Only 6.6 percent of the total length of the waterway segment reviewed flows through public lands.
- The potential for activities to occur on the adjacent, upstream, and/or downstream state and private lands that BLM has no jurisdiction or control over. Such activities could come into conflict with WSR management prescriptions. For instance, there exists the potential for development on upstream private lands that could impact water quality, which would be incompatible with a WSR designation.
- A WSR designation is deemed unnecessary or inappropriate as other existing mechanisms sufficiently protect identified historical values. A WSR designation would provide no foreseeable additional protection.

The land and resource values on public lands involved can and will continue to be appropriately managed under all other applicable BLM mandates and regulations for multiple use, sustained yield, and environmental integrity, and should suffer no adverse effects for lack of a WSR designation.

Medicine Lodge Creek

It was determined that the one public land parcel along the Medicine Lodge Creek review segment meets the WSR suitability factors and should be managed to maintain or enhance its outstandingly remarkable values for any possible future consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. This suitable determination is based on the unique qualities of the diverse public land resources and their regional and national significance, making them worthy of future consideration for addition to the NWSRS.

The outstanding scenic, recreational, cultural, and geological values associated with the public lands involved make this a uniquely diverse waterway segment in the region. Within the review segment, the scenic and recreational values are of particular high value as the creek flows through one of the most scenic canyons along the Western Slope of the Bighorn Range, including 1,000 foot walls with spires and other colorful formations. The available opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing, big game hunting, and trout fishing in a wilderness-like setting attract recreationists from outside the area. The cultural and geological values are also notable and include rock shelters, rock art, and unique caves. The area is also important as part of the main water recharge area for the Madison Formation.

Making up 100 percent of the lands along the review segment, the public lands are manageable by the BLM under the provisions of the WSR Act. Other factors that compliment and enhance this manageability include (1) the available public access; (2) the review segment is located within the Medicine Lodge WSA and the Spanish Point Karst ACEC (meant specifically to protect the aquifer recharge zone) and is thus currently managed in a fashion compatible with a WSA designation; (3) no incompatible upstream uses have been identified along the headwaters section of the waterway located in the Bighorn Horn National Forest; and (4) the BLM planning team did not identify any obstacles that would prevent them from managing the reviewed waterway segment as part of the NWSRS.

Middle Fork of the Powder River

It was determined that the one public land parcel along the Middle Fork of the Powder River review segment meets the WSR suitability factors and should be managed to maintain or enhance its outstandingly remarkable values for any possible future consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. The suitable determination is based on the uniqueness of the diverse public land resources and their regional and national significance, making them worthy of future consideration for addition to the NWSRS.

The outstanding recreational values associated with the public lands involved make this a uniquely diverse waterway segment in the region. The review segment is one of only two waterway segments

located along the entire Big Horn Mountain Range classified as a Class 1 fishery, attracting anglers both regionally and nationally to fish in the premium trout waters.

Making up 100 percent of the lands along this portion of the review segment, the public lands are manageable by BLM as a WSR under the provisions of the WSRA. Other factors that compliment and enhance this manageability include (1) the existing public access to and along the review segment; (2) the existing State of Wyoming instream flow reservation for fisheries management through the review segment; and (3) the suitability determinations made by the Buffalo Field Office for four additional segments (9.5 miles) along the Middle Fork of the Powder River, located directly downstream from the reviewed segment and within the Buffalo RMP planning area. The BLM planning team did not identify any significant factors that would prevent them from managing the reviewed waterway segment as part of the NWSRS.

Paint Rock Creek unit (includes Paint Rock Creek, South Fork of Paint Rock Creek, and Laddie Creek)

It was determined that two public land parcels along Paint Rock Creek, the two public land parcels along the South Fork of Paint Rock Creek, and the one downstream public land parcel along Laddie Creek (all within the Paint Rock Creek unit review segment) meet the WSR suitability factors and should be managed to maintain or enhance their outstandingly remarkable values for any possible future consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. The suitable determination is based on the uniqueness of the diverse public land resources and their regional and national significance, making them worthy of future consideration for addition to the NWSRS.

The outstanding scenic, recreational, cultural, and fishery values associated with the public lands involved make this a uniquely diverse waterway segment in the region. Within this portion of the review segment, the recreational opportunities are of particular importance as visitors come to the area from across the nation for the available fishing, hiking, and horseback riding opportunities. The scenic values are also notable as the waterway unit cuts through a deep and colorful canyon with walls nearly 1,000-feet high. The public lands also include the first "archaeological landscape" eligible for inclusion in the National Registry of Historic Places (NRHP), with especially important sites along the one segment of Laddie Creek. The South Fork of Paint Rock Creek is also a brood-stock source for the Yellowstone cutthroat trout used by Wyoming Game and Fish.

Making up more than 92 percent of the lands along this portion of the review segment, the public lands are manageable by BLM as a WSR under the provisions of the WSRA. Other factors that compliment and enhance this manageability include (1) there are no anticipated conflicts with the management objectives on the intermingled private and National Forest lands within the review segment and the intermingled private and National Forest lands are not large or extensive parcels as with ownership patterns along other waterways in the Washakie RMP planning area and (2) no incompatible upstream uses on private or National Forest lands have been identified. While private land owners currently allow the public to access the review segment through their lands, the BLM planning team recognizes the need to investigate acquiring legal public access. Apart from this, the

BLM planning team did not identify any significant factors that would prevent them from managing the reviewed waterway segments as part of the NWSRS.

It was determined that the remaining upstream public land parcel along Laddie Creek within the Paint Rock Creek unit review segment does not meet the WSR suitability factors and will be given no further consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. The non-suitable determination is based on the following:

- The potential for activities to occur on the adjacent, upstream, and/or downstream state and private lands that BLM has no jurisdiction or control over. Such activities could come into conflict with WSR management prescriptions.
- A WSR designation is deemed unnecessary or inappropriate as other existing mechanisms sufficiently protect identified cultural values. A WSR designation would provide no foreseeable additional protection.

The land and resource values on public lands involved can and will continue to be appropriately managed under all other applicable BLM mandates and regulations for multiple use, sustained yield, and environmental integrity and should suffer no adverse effects for lack of a WSR designation.

Trapper Creek

It was determined that the one public land parcel along the Trapper Creek review segment meets the WSR suitability factors and should be managed to maintain or enhance its outstandingly remarkable values for any possible future consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. This suitable determination is based on the unique qualities of the diverse public land resources and their regional and national significance, making them worthy of future consideration for addition to the NWSRS.

The outstanding scenic, recreational, cultural, and geological values associated with the public lands involved make this a uniquely diverse waterway segment in the region. Within the review segment, the geological and recreational values are of particular high value as it includes the fourth deepest cave in the United States that attracts cavers from outside the region for recreational purposes. The scenic and cultural values are also noteworthy as Trapper Creek winds through a steep-walled canyon with colorful formations, with scattered rock shelters eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Making up 100 percent of the lands along the review segment, the public lands are manageable by the BLM under the provisions of the WSR Act. Other factors that compliment and enhance this manageability include (1) the review segment is located within the Trapper Creek WSA and is thus currently managed in a fashion compatible with a WSA designation; (2) no incompatible upstream uses on private and National Forest lands have been identified; (3) the existing public access; and (4) the BLM planning team did not identify any obstacles that would prevent them from managing the reviewed waterway segment as part of the NWSRS.

White Creek

It was determined that the one downstream-most public land parcel along the White Creek review segment meets the WSR suitability factors and should be managed to maintain or enhance its outstandingly remarkable values for any possible future consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. The suitable determination is based on the uniqueness of the diverse public land resources and their regional and national significance, making them worthy of future consideration for addition to the NWSRS.

The outstanding scenic and cultural values associated with the public lands involved make this a uniquely diverse waterway segment in the region. Within this portion of the review segment, the scenic values are of particular high value and include a deep, brilliant colored canyon that becomes even more spectacular during the autumn. The cultural values are also notable and include a number of rock shelters and open prehistoric camps.

Making up 100 percent of the lands along this portion of the review segment, the public lands are manageable by BLM as a WSR under the provisions of the WSRA. Other factors that compliment and enhance this manageability include (1) no incompatible upstream uses on private lands have been identified, and (2) the BLM planning team did not identify any significant factors that would prevent them from managing the reviewed waterway segment as part of the NWSRS.

It was determined that the remaining three upstream public land parcels along the White Creek review segment do not meet the WSR suitability factors and will be given no further consideration for inclusion in the NWSRS. The non-suitable determination is based on the following:

- The BLM would be unable to manage the small amount of public lands involved (1.27 miles along the review segment) in the context of a WSR.
- The BLM would be unable to manage the public lands involved in the context of a WSR because of the interspersed parcels of private land. Only 61.7 percent of the total length of the waterway segment reviewed flows through public lands.

The land and resource values on public lands involved can and will continue to be appropriately managed under all other applicable BLM mandates and regulations for multiple use, sustained yield, and environmental integrity and should suffer no adverse effects for lack of a WSR designation.

<i>Waterway Reviewed</i>	<i>Determination</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Canyon Creek	Public lands not suitable	Land ownership conflicts; manageability; WSR designation is inappropriate
Deep Creek	Public lands suitable	Scenic and recreational values; unique land and resource diversity
Dry Medicine Lodge Creek	Public lands suitable	Scenic, recreational, cultural, and geological values; unique land and resource diversity
Kirby Creek	Public lands not suitable	Land ownership conflicts; manageability; WSR designation is inappropriate
Medicine Lodge Creek	Public lands suitable	Scenic, recreational, cultural, and geological values; unique land and resource diversity
Middle Fork of the Powder River	Public lands suitable	Recreational values; unique land and resource diversity
Paint Rock Creek unit (includes South Fork of Paint Rock Creek and downstream segment of Laddie Creek)	Public lands suitable	Scenic, recreational, cultural, and fisheries values; unique land and resource diversity.
Paint Rock Creek unit (upstream segment of Laddie Creek)	One public land parcel not suitable	Land ownership conflicts; manageability; WSR designation is inappropriate
Trapper Creek	Public lands suitable	Scenic, recreational, cultural, and geological values; unique land and resource diversity
White Creek (downstream-most segment)	One public land parcel suitable	Scenic, fisheries, and wildlife values; unique land and resource diversity
White Creek (upstream segments)	Three public land parcels not suitable	Land ownership conflicts; manageability

<i>Name</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>	<i>Resource Area</i>
Lilian Jonas	Jonas Consulting	928-774-6451	IDT Leader/Consultant
Jim Roseberry	BLM/Worland Field Office	307-347-5295	BLM Team Leader
David Baker	BLM/Worland Field Office	307-347-5133	Recreational/Scenic
Mike Bies	BLM/Worland Field Office	307-347-5154	Cultural/Historic
Brendan Cain	BLM/Worland Field Office	307-347-5117	Hydrology
Chet Wheelless	BLM/Worland Field Office	307-347-5149	Fisheries
Dallas Heller	BLM/Worland Field Office	307-347-5102	Range
Tom Ball	BLM/Worland Field Office	307-347-5172	Wildlife
Bill Glover	BLM/Worland Field Office	307-347-5266	Geology
Karen Hepp	BLM/Worland Field Office	307-347-5138	Range
Roger Inmann	BLM/Worland Field Office	307-347-5292	Resources