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To: Regional Foresters

The Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) Act provides specific direction to identify potential WSR's in federal agency planning processes. Forest Land and Resource Management Plan revision is one avenue for evaluating the status of WSR designation on a Forest. Treatment of potential WSR's during plan revision will vary dependent on regional and forest-specific issues and opportunities. If the issue of WSR management (i.e., eligibility, classification, suitability) is identified as a planning concern, then conducting appropriate analysis should be considered. For those forests intending additional evaluation of potential WSR's at forest plan revision, the enclosed guidance paper is presented to save staff time through increased understanding of the process and final products.

Importantly, it relies on existing agency policy expressed in the Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook, "WSR Evaluation" (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8) with expanded explanation of the process steps. As a basis for your consideration of WSR treatment in forest plan revisions, the introduction includes rationale for completing both eligibility and suitability in the revision process. The process portion of the document contains a discussion of each step necessary to determine which rivers to recommend to Congress as worthy additions to the National WSR System.

The guidance paper was developed as a step-wise approach for the evaluation and assessment of potential WSR's in the forest plan revision process. It has been coordinated with Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff and is also to be adapted for interagency use through the Interagency WSR Coordinating Council. If you have any questions, please contact Jerry Stokes, Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources (202-205-0925) or Jonathan Stephens, Ecosystem Management Coordination (202-205-09948).

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Enclosure



WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ASSESSMENT AND THE FOREST PLAN REVISION  
PROCESS  
November 1996

Introduction

Current forest plans treat potential wild and scenic rivers (WSR's) in a variety of ways, from a well-documented process that systematically evaluated rivers on a forest-wide basis to a less comprehensive review based on rivers identified in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI), other listings and/or public comment. Throughout the Forest Service, a number of forest plans have been successfully appealed on the WSR assessment process. The principal appeal issue relates to the adequacy of the assessment, i.e., were rivers assigned an appropriate management prescription? Many National Forests agreed or were directed to conduct additional river study as part of settlement agreements or forest plan appeal decisions, respectively.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act provides specific direction in Section 5(d)(1) regarding the identification of potential WSR's in federal agency planning processes:

“In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all Federal Agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas, and all river basin and project plan reports submitted to the Congress shall consider and discuss any such potentials.”

Agency policy related to WSR assessment in the land management planning process is defined in the Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8, “WSR Evaluation”). It requires that rivers identified as potential WSR's be evaluated as to their eligibility/noneligibility with the finding documented in the forest plan. Latitude is provided as to conducting suitability, i.e., the determination of which rivers the agency will recommend to Congress as additions to the National WSR System. Specifically:

“The preferred process is to proceed with determining suitability by completing a river study in the draft forest plan. An alternative is to delay the suitability determination on eligible rivers until a subsequent separate study is carried out. If this latter alternative is used, the forest plan must provide for protection of the river area until a decision is made as to the future use of the river and adjacent lands. Unless the study process would be unduly delayed, subsequent study of eligible rivers may be coordinated with a general revision of the forest plan” (FSH 1909.12, Section 8.14).

Existing National Forest Management Act (NFMA) regulations outline the agency's general authority to conduct forest plan revision. While revised NFMA regulations for forest plan revision are not yet available, they are likely to retain a flexible approach to WSR assessment.

The following guidelines are offered to assist forests in evaluating and conducting assessment of WSR's in forest plan revision. Importantly, these guidelines outline a Forest Service approach that is consistent with that of other river-administering agencies and satisfy the requirements of the WSR's Act. Though treatment of potential WSR's will vary dependent on regional and forest-specific issues and opportunities, the following rationale for conducting both eligibility and suitability during the revision process is provided for your consideration:

### Rationale

1. Cost Effectiveness – Conducting eligibility and suitability in the forest planning (revision) process is typically a lower cost alternative as compared to conducting a separate study. Within forest planning, the river assessment process is able to utilize the forest plan NEPA process including description (affected environment), alternatives, analysis (environmental consequences), and public review and comment.
2. Efficiency – Forest plan alternatives provide an excellent basis for arraying river recommendations. It is more difficult to create and evaluate river management alternatives in a “stand alone document”, without considering the effects of, or contributions to, the larger eco-unit that is dealt with in the forest plan. The most complete approach to address protection of river values as part of a larger ecosystem is to consider management direction for the entire area.
3. Customer Service – Including the WSR assessment in forest plan revision, presents the public a more comprehensive treatment of river and other resource management strategies. This approach offers the public an appropriate context for meaningful comment on the forest plan revision.
4. Appeals – If the WSR assessment process follows agency direction and is visible and well-documented, challenge to the forest plan on this issue should be commensurately reduced. Information compiled during the assessment process enables an efficient response to WSR issues raised.
5. Defines Protection – Resolving the question of which rivers to recommend as additions to the National WSR System (suitability) results in a level of certainty at the river and forest plan level. Deferring suitability requires the agency to apply management direction and monitoring to the river corridor that will, to the extent of agency authority, protect the river's free-flowing character and identified outstandingly remarkable values (ORV's), i.e., its eligibility. Subsequent completion of the study process (suitability) will require a separate river study NEPA process or conducting the assessment in concert with project level analysis. The latter situation may occur with proposed projects such as hydroelectric licensing/relicensing or major recreation developments for which a decision is needed prior to a separate forest-wide river study process.
6. Settles the Question – Deferring suitability postpones satisfying the intent of the WSR's Act for some uncertain date; public interest and concern regarding river protection is not likely to lessen over time.

## THE WILD & SCENIC RIVER ASSESSMENT PROCESS

### Getting Started in the Revision of the Forest Plan

Wild and scenic river assessment is often an issue identified early in the planning process, by internal review and through public scoping. Within the forest plan revision process, an individual should be assigned the responsibility of coordinating the WSR assessment process. Though clearly a collateral duty, the WSR assessment coordinator should be supported by appropriate interdisciplinary team (IDT) members in subject areas such as fisheries, wildlife, recreation, scenery, cultural, geologic/hydrologic, and botanic/ecologic. The amount of time necessary to assemble data, complete the eligibility determination (evaluate free-flow and identify the ORV's), determine the potential classification, and conduct suitability varies by forest, with eligibility and classification typically requiring less time than suitability. In addition to IDT participation in the river assessment process, IDT members are responsible for integrating the effects of WSR eligibility and/or suitability for their specific resource area into the affected environment and environmental consequences portions of the forest plan.

It is essential that a process be used whereby rivers on the unit are considered (refer to Step 2) and, importantly, that each step of the assessment process be well documented in the planning files.

Step 1. Evaluate the status of WSR assessment in the current forest plan. Beginning with the extent forest plan, determine which of the following scenarios best describes how WSR's were treated.

- a. Did not address potential WSR assessment in forest plan.  
Recommended Action: Complete WSR assessment process steps 2-4 in forest plan revision; consider completing suitability (Step 5).
- b. Addressed eligibility of select rivers, but no systematic forest-wide review.  
Recommended Action: Complete and document an eligibility process based on a systematic evaluation (Steps 2-4); consider completing suitability on those river segments determined to be eligible (Step 5).
- c. Completed and documented eligibility on forest-wide basis.  
Recommended Action: As appropriate, consider new information/changed condition for eligibility (revisit Steps 3 and 4); consider completing suitability (Step 5).
- d. Completed entire river assessment process.  
Recommended Action: As appropriate, consider new information/changes condition for eligibility/suitability (revisit Steps 3-5); if there is no reason to change a recommendation, incorporate into revised forest plan.

The evaluation should include identification and review of commitments made as individual forest plan settlement agreement or appeal decision.

## Step 2. Identify Potential Rivers.

A river is defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542, as amended) as, “a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.” The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System: Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas” (FR vol. 47, no. 173, 9/7/1982, Interagency Guidelines), also allows the consideration of intermittent rivers as eligible, if the volume of flow is sufficient enough to sustain or complement the ORV’s identified within a river segment.

The WSR Act direction in Section 5(d)(1) has been interpreted as requiring a comprehensive evaluation of the potential for rivers in an administrative unit to be included in the National WSR System. This evaluation should be based on a systematic, but not lengthy, analysis. More specifically, this step involves an evaluation of free-flow and identification and sorting of rivers based on professional judgment of the existence of potential outstandingly remarkable values. Some states, other agencies, and organizations maintain lists of rivers with special attributes that may be helpful in completing this step.

In conducting this step, you may consider the eligibility criteria defined in the following section. The product can be a list or table; an example is found in Appendix A.

## Step 3. Eligibility

Eligibility is an inventory as to whether a river is free-flowing and possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable value(s). There are a variety of methods to determine that certain values are so rare or unique as to make them outstandingly remarkable. The determination that a river area contains outstandingly remarkable values is a professional judgment on the part of the interdisciplinary study team. Input from organizations and individuals familiar with specific river resources should be sought and documented as part of the process.

In order to be assessed as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. Dictionary definitions of the words rare and unique would indicate that such value would be one that is a conspicuous example of a value from among a number of similar values that are themselves uncommon or extraordinary. One possible procedure would be to list all of the special values of the river and then to assess whether they are rare, unique, or exemplary within the State, physiographic province, ecoregion, or other area of comparison. Only one such value is needed for eligibility.

The area, region or scale of comparison is not fixed, but should be defined as that which serves as a basis for meaningful comparative analysis; it may vary depending on the value being

considered. Typically, a “region” is defined on the scale of an administrative unit, i.e., forest, portion of a state or on an appropriately scaled physiographic or hydrologic unit.

Although several rivers on a National Forest may possess values that are similar to each other, each river’s values may be outstandingly remarkable when considered in the context of a larger scale such as the State or Nation. For example, where a value such as an anadromous fishery would be considered common in a region of comparison but is significant at another scale, the study team may identify one or more rivers that best represents the values or combination of values in that area of comparison and assess its suitability for designation.

While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all features considered should be directly river-related. That is, they should either:

- a. be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (within ¼ mile on either side of the river);
- b. contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; or,
- c. owe their location or existence to the presence of the river.

The following eligibility criteria are offered to foster greater consistency within the agency and amongst the other federal river-administering agencies. They are intended to set minimum thresholds to establish outstandingly remarkable values and are illustrative and not all-inclusive. If utilized in a forest’s planning process, these criteria may be modified to make them more meaningful in the area of comparison, and additional criteria may be included.

1. Scenic: The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.
2. Recreational: Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, unique enough to attract visitors from outside of the region of comparison. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating/rafting.
  - Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the region of comparison.
  - The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.
3. Geological: The river or the area within the river corridor contains an example(s) of a geologic feature, process, or phenomena that is rare, unusual,

or unique to the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a “textbook” example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial and other geologic structures).

4. Fish: Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat - - or a combination of these river-related conditions.
  - Populations The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.
  - Habitat The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Of particular significance is habitat for wild stocks and/or federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.
5. Wildlife: Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat - - or a combination of these conditions.
  - Populations The river or area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique or populations of federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Diversity of species is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.
  - Habitat The river or area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for federal or state listed or candidate threatened, endangered and sensitive species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met. Diversity of habitats is an important consideration and could, in itself, lead to a determination of outstandingly remarkable.
6. Pre-historic: The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must have rare or unusual characteristics or exceptional human interest value(s). Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory; may be rare and represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more

cultural groups; or may have been used by cultural groups for rare or sacred purposes.

7. Historic: The river or area within the river corridor contains a site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare, unusual or one-of-kind in the region. A historic site(s) and/or feature(s) in most cases are 50 years old or older.
8. Other Values: While no specific national evaluation guidelines have been developed for the “other similar values” category, assessments of additional river-related values consistent with the foregoing guidance may be developed - - including, but not limited to, hydrologic, paleontologic, ecologic and botanic resources.

For each river for which eligibility is determined, document the findings in the Summary Information Document (as outlined in Appendix B to this document). For each river on the forest, place information about the WSR eligibility/classification assessment process in planning files. This background information should contain a map indicating the river/river segments that were evaluated and/or the process used to determine which rivers are eligible.

#### Step 4. Classification

As a basis for interim protection, determine the potential classification for all rivers found eligible. The WSR’s Act specifies three classification categories for eligible rivers: wild rivers, scenic rivers, and recreational rivers. Section 2(b) of the WSR’s Act defines each category. The potential classification of an eligible river is based on the condition of the river and the adjacent lands as they exist at the time of the assessment. The following table from the Interagency Guidelines provides criteria for classification of each river segment:

Classification Criteria for Wild, Scenic and Recreational River Areas

ATTRIBUTE	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATIONAL
Water Resource Development	Free of impoundment.	Free of impoundment.	Some existing impoundment or diversion.  The existence of low dams, diversions or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverline in appearance.

Shoreline Development	Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.	Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.	Some development. Substantial evidence of activity.
	The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable.	The presence of small communities or or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.	The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable.
	A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable.	The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable.	Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses.
	Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing Timber harvest.	Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.	May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.
Accessibility	Generally inaccessible except by trail.	Accessible in places by road.	Readily accessible by road or railroad.
	No roads, railroads or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area is acceptable.	Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.	The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.
Water Quality	Meets or exceeds Federal criteria or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact	No criteria prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States be made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.	

recreation (swimming)  
except where exceeded  
by natural conditions.

#### Step 5. Suitability

The final step in the river assessment process is the determination of suitability. This step provides the basis for the determination of which rivers to recommend as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Suitability basically answers two questions:

- 1) What is the best use of the river corridor? Should the outstanding values be fully protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant not maintaining the river's free-flow or fully protecting identified values?
- 2) Assuming the values are to be protected, what is the best method to protect the river corridor? Wild and Scenic River designation is one approach. In answering this question, the benefits and impacts of WSR designation must be evaluated and alternative protection methods considered.

As provided in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Sections 4(a) and 5(c), the following factors should be considered and, as appropriate, documented as a basis for the suitability determination for each river:

- 1) Characteristics, which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the National System.
- 2) The current status of land ownership and use in the area.
- 3) The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the System.
- 4) The federal agency that will administer the area, should it be added to the System.
- 5) The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies.
- 6) The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands and interests in land and of administering the area, should it be added to the System.
- 7) A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Additional suitability factors that may be considered include:

- 8) State/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands
- 9) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies.
- 10) Support or opposition to designation.
- 11) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.
- 12) Potential for water resources development.
- 13) Contribution to other regional objectives/needs.

The suitability of a river for designation as a Wild and Scenic River involves considerable judgment on the part of the study team. While guidelines are available, the suitability determination is influenced by the individuals making the recommendations, as well as the unique characteristics and conditions associated with each particular river. Controversial issues may influence the suitability recommendation for a river; however, there are typically a number of facets to any issue, and eliminating a river from consideration due to controversy usually does not resolve the issue. The needs and desires of private landowners, small communities, and river users is an important component of the recommendation.

It may be advantageous to carry the river assessment through the suitability determination. If a recommendation is deferred on those rivers where the Forest Service has primary responsibility, the forest plan must also provide management direction for protection of the outstanding values until a suitability recommendation is reached. To provide realistic protection, the appropriate classification for each segment of the river must be established in the forest plan revision process.

#### Treatment in the Forest Plan Revision

The final product is appropriate incorporation of the river assessment into the forest plan and forest plan WSR appendix (which includes the "summary information documents"). It is the role of the WSR assessment coordinator and the IDT members to integrate the river assessment into the forest plan. The following discussion assumes completion of both eligibility and suitability in the revision process.

#### DEIS/FEIS

##### Chapter I: Purpose and Need

- While this chapter primarily deals with the purpose and need of the Land and Resource Management Plan, include a sentence or two about providing a basis for recommending to Congress what river segments should be added to the National WSR's System.

##### Chapter II: Alternatives

- Make alternative recommendations for eligible river corridors compatible with management emphasis of the forest plan alternatives.
- Display alternative methods of protecting the river values, including alternative classification as appropriate, and protection from other than addition of the river to the National WSR's System.

#### Chapter III: Affected Environment

- This Chapter contains a section briefly describing the eligible WSR's and referring to more detailed appended summary information documents.

#### Chapter IV: Environmental Consequences

- The effects of managing eligible rivers corridors as part of the WSR System on the forest environment are discussed in this Chapter. For example, in the fisheries discussion, the potential consequences of WSR alternative proposals should be briefly identified. Another example would be the effects of WSR alternatives on scenery management (i.e., the potential classification of a river as wild may necessitate retention visual quality objective).

#### Wild and Scenic River Appendix

- In addition to presenting WSR information throughout the Forest Plan EIS, construct a separate WSR appendix. This appended material includes, at a minimum, individual summary information documents (refer to Appendix B of this paper for detail). The summary information document contains a detailed river narrative and a river map, a brief synopsis of the information pertinent to eligibility, and suitability determination for a specific river. The appendix should be self-contained so that appropriate parts may be extracted and forwarded to Congress as the Forest Service's recommendations.

#### Record of Decision (ROD)

- The ROD should describe how rivers were evaluated as potential WSR's in the forest planning process. It should identify which, if any, of the rivers evaluated are recommended to Congress as additions to the National WSR System and make reference to the additional detail included in the WSR Appendix. If rivers are determined suitable, the ROD should contain the qualifying language of FSH 1909.12, Section 8.41(2):

“This recommendation is a preliminary administrative recommendation that will receive further review and possible modification by the Chief of the Forest Service, Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. The Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on designation of rivers as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.”

#### Step 6. Legislation

The WSR appendix includes the majority of the material that will be utilized to forward proposed legislation. Typically, a state or regional WSR bill is prepared which will include summary materials: map, listing of recommended rivers, landownership summary table, alternatives evaluated in the forest planning process, and individual river narratives (summary information document).

#### Step 7. Appeal

This assessment results in a recommendation to Congress as to which river segments the Forest Service supports for addition to the National WSR System. The decision to add the river segments to the National System is reserved for Congress. As such, the recommendation is not appealable. The decision to assign a management prescription for a specific river segment is appealable.

APPENDIX A  
 Identification of Rivers on the XYZ National Forest with  
 Potentially Outstandingly Remarkable Values

River/Segment	Length	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	Remarks
Kelly Creek	24.0	x	x		x					
White Sand Creek	12.7	x	x		x					
Moose Creek	10.6									No potential ORV's
Rosebud Creek	21.2	x	x	x						Natural Bridge
Rock Creek	27.3									No potential ORV's
Boulder River	27.4						x			
Lost Cow Creek	6.3		x	x			x			
W. Fk. Clear Cr.	12.6									No potential ORV's
Lake River	13.4		x							Class IV-V rapids
Coal Creek	8.4									No potential ORV's
Beaver River	11.0	x						X		
Danaher Creek	13.5	x							x	Rare plants

ORV

- a - Scenic
- b - Recreational
- c - Geological
- d - Fish
- e - Wildlife
- f - Historic
- g - Cultural
- h - Other Values

Document the criteria and identification of which values are potentially outstandingly remarkable in the planning files. Include the minutes of the team meetings at which river values were discussed and evaluated in the planning files.

Appendix B  
Summary Information Document

The following text describes the organization and content for the “summary information document”, an essential element of the WSR Forest Plan appendix. This detailed river narrative is a brief synopsis of the pertinent information related to eligibility and suitability determination for a specific river evaluated in the forest plan EIS.

STUDY AREA SUMMARY – Provides locational information and should include a map.

Name of River:           XXXX

Location: Describe the entire length studied, e.g., from its headwaters to confluence with xx. Additionally, describe each segment, such as:

Segment x – Define termini (including legal description, as necessary). Indicate river miles.

River Mileage: Indicate the entire miles of river studied and portion determined to be eligible.

Studied:	xx miles
Eligible	xx miles

ELIGIBILITY - Includes determination of river’s free-flow and whether or not it possesses one or more outstandingly remarkable value.

Determination of Free-flow: Describe the assessment of the river’s free-flow (by segment, if necessary).

Determination of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Utilize the guidelines detailed in Step 3 to evaluate specific river resource values and determine which are outstandingly remarkable. Include the criteria, the description of the particular resource value, and a finding.

Summary of Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Summarize the individual resource findings by listing the values identified as an outstandingly remarkable value with a one or two sentence rationale.

CLASSIFICATION – Details the inventoried classification.

Describe the basis for the classification of each river segment, i.e., the level of development as described in Step 4.

SUITABILITY REPORT – Comprised of two parts: an objective description of attributes of the river corridor and a subjective evaluation of “suitability factors”.

Description: Provide narrative that objectively describes the following aspects of the river corridor.

Landownership and Land Uses – This section should include the estimated number of acres in the river corridor by ownership. The accompanying narrative should also provide relevant detail regarding the ownership pattern. For a complicated ownership pattern, it may be useful to include a description of ownership by river mile, such as:

<u>River Mile</u>	<u>Ownership</u>
0 - 1	State Parks Campground
1 - 3	Private land south (20 acres lot size) NFS north
3 - 5	Pine Meadows Subdivision (1 acre lot size)

Describe existing and potential land uses based on County zoning/State regulation, as applicable.

Mineral and Energy Resource Activities - Indicate existing locatable and leasable mineral and energy resources development. In addition, the narrative should include an evaluation of the potential for locatable and leasable mineral and energy resources.

Water Resources Development - Describe the existing constructions that affect the river's free-flowing condition (e.g., diversions, riprap, etc.). Importantly, this section should also describe the potential of the river area to be used for hydroelectric power production (as evidenced by historical and current preliminary Federal Energy Regulatory Commission permits, or license applications).

Transportation, Facilities and Other Developments - Provide a description of the transportation system within the river corridor. This should include the jurisdiction/ownership of roads. The trail system should also be described. Describe federal (developed sites such as campgrounds, day-use sites—parking areas, boat ramps, etc.) and private (residential development, commercial development) facilities.

Recreation Activities - Describe existing and potential recreation uses. Consider developed, dispersed, and trail use on federal and other ownerships.

Other Resource Activities (timber harvest, livestock grazing, etc.) - Describe the existing and potential other than recreation uses of the river corridor. This section may include, but is not limited to, timber harvest, livestock grazing, farming, etc., across all ownerships.

Special Designations - Discuss any special congressional or administrative designations within the river corridor. Examples include, wilderness, national recreation area,

administratively-designated special interest area, research natural area, state-designated waterway, etc. Enough detail should be provided for the reader to understand the intent and authorities associated with a particular designation.

Socio-Economic Environment – Describe the general socio-economic setting of the river corridor. This section might include reference local communities’ population structure and economic base.

Current Administration and Funding Needs if Designated - List the current administering agencies (e.g., USFS, xx County, etc.). Also, complete the following table and estimate the general administration and operation and maintenance costs on an annual basis:

	<u>Expenses Independent Of Designation</u>	<u>Additional Expenses with Designation</u>
General Administration		
Development of River Mgt. Plan		
Development Costs		
Operation and Maintenance Costs		
 Total – First Five Years		

General administration and operation and maintenance costs are estimated to continue at \$xxxx annually.

Suitability Factor Assessment: As provided in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Sections 4(a) and 5(c), the following factors should be considered and, as appropriate, documented as a basis for the suitability determination for each river:

- (1) Characteristics that do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the National system.
- (2) The current status of land ownership and use in the area.
- (3) The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed, or curtailed if the area were included in the System.
- (4) The federal agency that will administer the area, should it be added to the System.
- (5) The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by State and local agencies.
- (6) The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands and interests in land and of administering the area, should it be added to the System.
- (7) A determination of the degree to which the State or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river, should it be proposed for inclusion in the System.

Additional suitability factors that may be considered include:

- (8) State/local government's ability to manage and protect the outstandingly remarkable values on non-federal lands.
- (9) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies.
- (10) Support or opposition to designation.
- (11) Contribution to river system or basin integrity.
- (12) Potential for water resources development.
- (13) Contribution to other regional objectives/needs.

FOREST PLAN ALTERNATIVES - Briefly describe how a particular river was treated in each of the Forest Plan alternatives:

Alternative A	No special designation, entire corridor to be managed as Streamside management unit
Alternative B	No special designation, upper one-half to be managed as Scenic Travel Corridor, lower one-half as a Special Scenic Area
Alternative C	Entire eligible river recommended with Segment 1 – Wild, Segment 2 – Scenic classification
ETC.	

SUITABILITY DETERMINATION FOR THE SELECTED ALTERNATIVE - Describe the rationale for the suitability determination of the selected alternative.