July 10, 2013



Attn: Fred Ferguson Rep. Bishop's Office 123 Cannon Building Washington, DC 20515 Fred.Ferguson@mail.house.gov Submitted via email

Re: Utah Rivers Council Comments Regarding Public Land Management of Areas of Common Interest in Six Eastern Utah Counties

Dear Mr. Ferguson:

On behalf of Utah Rivers Council, its members, staff, board and volunteers, I respectfully submit the following comments regarding areas of common interest in six eastern Utah counties, as requested in the June 3, 2013 letter from your office.

Utah Rivers Council (URC) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) grassroots community-based organization that advocates for sound water policy and protection and conservation of Utah's rivers, streams, and clean water sources for today's citizens, future generations, and wildlife. The URC has a long history of involvement with Utah's publically managed lands and I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on this process and sincerely appreciate the efforts of Representatives Bishop, Chaffetz and Stewart to include the public in this process. After a brief introduction, the following comments include a table specifying the areas of common interest, their outstanding values for the public, recommended classification, area size, county jurisdiction and managing agency. Comments are supplemented with more specific explanations taken from one of our organization's past publications, *A Citizen's Proposal to Protect the Wild Rivers of Utah*, and include coordinates, maps, etc. I would be more than happy to provide a copy of the complete 163 page proposal at your request.

I. Introduction

Since the National Wild and Scenic River System was created in 1968, over 165 rivers in 38 states have been included in the system and are now protected in their free flowing state. Although Utah has many remarkably beautiful rivers many of which are internationally known, other than a token designation offering no real protection on the Virgin River, not one inch of Utah's rivers are permanently protected as Wild and Scenic, subjecting many streams and publically managed areas of common interest to constant threats.

Once designated a Wild and Scenic River, the river is more or less protected from new dams and diversions. A river corridor of ¹/₄ mile on each side of the river is protected from activities that would harm the river's outstanding common values. Most human uses of the river and the river corridor are allowed to continue, as long as those uses do not damage the values for which the river was protected.

However, it is important to note that the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is also extremely flexible. Rivers are granted varying types of protection based on the extent of existing development along the river. A river-specific plan is then developed to protect the existing outstandingly remarkable values of the river. Most uses are allowed, as long as they do not harm the river's value. For example, some existing Wild and Scenic Rivers have roads, farmland, intense recreational uses, mineral extraction and more – this is not a cookie cutter approach to conservation.

In the following comments, I highlight just a handful of Utah's outstanding rivers running through federally managed public lands within the six specified counties. I have tried to clarify why these areas of common interest connected to river and riparian areas are extremely important for a variety of reasons and are therefore deserving of Wild and Scenic protection. This will in turn provide the greatest benefit and value to the public.

River	Outstanding Values	Classification	Miles	County	Managing
	for the Public				Agency
Green River	Fish and Wildlife, Scenic and Geologic, Historic, Cultural and Recreational	Wild, Scenic & Recreational	408	Daggett, Uintah, Carbon, Emery & Wayne	Ashley NF, BLM, NPS
White River	Fish and Wildlife, Scenic and Geologic, Historic and Recreational	Wild & Recreational	44	Uintah	BLM
Whiterocks River	Fish and Wildlife, Scenic and Recreational	Wild & Scenic	32	Duchesne & Uintah	Ashley NF
Ashley Creek	Fish and Wildlife, Scenic and Geologic	Wild	24	Uintah	Ashley NF
Price River	Fish and Wildlife, Geologic, Cultural and Historic and Recreational	Wild and Scenic	23	Carbon, Emery	Wasatch-Cache NF
Fish & Gooseberry Creeks	Fish and Wildlife, Geologic, Cultural and Recreational	Scenic & Recreational	22	Utah, Carbon & San Pete	Manti NF
Range Creek	Wildlife & Archaeological	Wild, Scenic and Recreational	34	Emery	BLM
San Rafael River	Fish and Wildlife, Scenic, Geologic, Cultural and Recreational	Wild & Scenic	81	Emery	BLM
Barrier Creek	Fish and Wildlife, Geologic, Cultural and Recreational	Wild	45	Emery, Wayne	BLM, NPS
Huntington Creek	Fish and Wildlife and Scenic	Recreational Scenic	24	Emery	Manti
Muddy Creek	Fish and Wildlife, Geologic and Recreational	Wild & Scenic	71	Emery & Wayne	BLM
Freemont River	Fish and Wildlife, Scenic, Geologic, Aquatic and Recreational	Wild, Scenic & Recreational	43	Wayne	BLM, NPS
Dirty Devil River	Fish and Wildlife, Scenic and Geologic, Cultural and Recreational	Wild	64	Wayne & Garfield	BLM, Glen Canyon NRA
Robbers Roost		Wild	19	Wayne	BLM

Colorado	Fish and Wildlife, Geologic,	Wild, Scenic &	206.5	Grand, Wayne,	Wasatch-Cache
River	Scenic, Historic and Recreational	Recreational		Garfield & San Juan	& Uinta
Dolores River	Fish and Wildlife, Scenic and Geologic, Cultural and Historic and Recreational	Wild & Scenic	23	Grand	BLM
San Juan River	Fish and Wildlife, Geologic, Cultural and Historic and Recreational	Wild, Scenic & Recreational	92	San Juan	BLM, Glen Canyon NRA
Arch Canyon Creek	Fish and Wildlife, Archaeological, Scenic and Geologic,	Wild	8	San Juan	BLM
Hammond Canyon	Scenic, Geologic and Cultural	Wild & Scenic	10	San Juan	Manti-La Sal
Dark Canyon	Scenic, Geologic and Cultural	Wild & Recreational	67	San Juan	Manti-La Sal
Mule Canyon Creek	Fish and Wildlife, Archaeological, Scenic and Geologic,	Wild	10	San Juan	BLM

II. Carbon County

The Forest Service has found 13.25 miles of Fish Creek and 9.75 miles of Gooseberry Creek eligible for Wild and Scenic Rivers status. These rivers are unique for their incredible riparian habitat, fish and wildlife values, and importance in maintaining water quality for Scofield Reservoir, located just downstream.

Gooseberry and Fish creeks are headwater tributaries to the Price River, which is a tributary to the Green River in Utah. The two creeks begin high on the Wasatch Plateau and flow through broad canyons with slopes lined with aspen and spruce. The creeks meander, creating broad meadows dotted with healthy wetlands. Recreational uses include fishing, hunting, hiking and camping. The uniqueness and popularity of the area has led the trail that parallels the creeks to be named a National Recreation Trail. Guidebooks describe the hike as a gentle walk along a mountain stream. This hike is the author's favorite in the entire state – so good that an overnight backpack is an annual event.

Fish and Gooseberry creeks are prized destinations for anglers. Upper Fish Creek is described as a pleasant stream to fish, especially if you favor beaver dams. Upper Fish Creek holds mostly 12- to 20-inch wild cutthroats, and a few rainbows, while Gooseberry Creek has wild cutthroats that average 9-12 inches. The Creeks are particularly beloved because they are accessible to anglers of all ages and abilities. Because of the densely vegetated stream banks and the cover they provide, large fish are abundant.

The creeks' riparian habitat is very healthy and supports a diverse variety of birds and wildlife, providing high-quality summer and fall habitat for mule deer and elk, including habitat for fawning, calving and rearing. Hunting in the area is very popular, especially due to the abundance of deer and elk.

Designating Fish and Gooseberry creeks as Wild and Scenic would provide a priceless benefit to Carbon County – source water protection for their primary drinking water supply, Scofield Reservoir. By protecting the creeks and associated corridor land from future development, the county can ensure their water supply remains clean and healthy.

Wild and Scenic protection for Fish and Gooseberry creek would protect one of the most outstanding pieces of riparian habitat remaining in our state. As the Forest Service itself stated in their 2003 Final Eligability Determination: "... good riparian habitat, as found in the Upper Fish Creek drainage, is important ... Riparian habitat, especially 'good riparian habitat,' is one of the rarest habitat types in Utah and currently occupies less than 1 percent of the state's land cover."

The lower Price River is virtually untouched by human civilization and provides habitat for rare fish and wildlife species like the endangered Colorado River pikeminnow. The Price River Gorge, comprising the lower 35-40 miles of the Price River above its confluence with the Green River, is a nearly-40,000 acre roadless Wilderness Study Area. The temperature of the free-flowing Price River becomes quite warm as it makes its way through the desert, and the warm water provides a rare suitable spawning ground for the endangered pikeminnow and other native fish species. Likewise, the riparian corridor through the gorge hosts scores of species, and though currently a WSA the area also is proposed for wilderness designation.

III. Emery County

Wild and Scenic protection of the Green River throughout all of Utah is critical to protection of the outstanding resources of the river. Protecting the Green River will also protect local economies that have grown dependent on the recreational draw of the river and the fish and wildlife who have depended on the Green for thousands of years. The Utah Rivers Council is advocating for permanent protection of the Green River under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

On a river as long and diverse as the Green, the list of common interests and outstanding values associated with the water and places is equally long and diverse. For example, on its journey throughout the state the Green River is a world renowned blue-ribbon trout fishery, and endangered native fish sanctuary, a lifeline to migrating wildlife, and provides a wealth of recreational opportunities, historic and cultural treasures, scenic views, unmatched geologic diversity and more.

The Green River supports an amazing fishery and a diverse array of wildlife. The section below Flaming Gorge is known as a world-class fishery, and is designated as a state "blue-ribbon" fishery. The river is also home to endangered native Utah fish species such as the bony-tail chub, humpback chub, razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow. Wildlife species in the Green River corridor include bighorn sheep, black bear, river otter, mountain lion, deer, elk, many raptor species, beaver, bobcats, and more. National Wildlife Refuges, State Waterfowl Refuges, and several other special designations along the river provide wonderful habitat for many species.

Recreational opportunities along the Green river draw people from around Utah, and around the world. The river offers a tremendous diversity of boating options – from the challenging rapids of Desolation and Gray canyons to the placid flows of Labyrinth and Stillwater canyons. Angling opportunities are world-class, especially in the clear, cold flows of Red Canyon. Birders enjoy spotting countless species of waterfowl and the birds that rely on the river corridor for habitat. Hiking, biking, and other activities are popular throughout the river corridor. Camping opportunities range from extreme backcountry to developed state parks with recreational vehicle sites.

The historic and cultural values of the Green River corridor are truly outstanding. A multitude of petroglyphs, pictographs, and domiciles provide evidence of ancient occupation of the river corridor. Paleo-Indian, archaic, Fremont, Ute, late-prehistoric and historic cultures are all in evidence. John Wesley Powell's journeys down the Green are the subject of much research and popular interest, and the subsequent history of white settlement is evident in historic homesteads.

The scenic and geologic values of the Green River defy written description. A trip down the Green provides dramatic instruction in geologic processes. The erosive power of water is demonstrated vividly at Split Mountain, where the river has cut a swath through the mountain that stood in the way. Massive abandoned oxbows and meanders such as Horseshoe and balanced rocks, arches, and more. Dense stands of fir, pine and juniper cling to cliffs and terraces, and contrast with riparian forests of towering cottonwood. The diversity of scenic views and geologic drama along the Green is second to none.

IV. Grand County

The Utah Rivers Council strongly recommends the Colorado River be endorsed for wild and scenic status. The Colorado River is the prime water source 30 million people downstream as well as a myriad of wildlife that depend on its flows for their survival. Some of the large mammals that rely on the Colorado include mule deer, coyote, cougar, bobcat, and desert bighorn sheep. In addition, the Colorado serves as a migration stopover, provides riparian habitat, and is a migration corridor for migrating birds.

Similar to the Green River, the Colorado River is habitat for four species of endangered fish, including the pikeminnow, humpback chub, bonytail chub, and razorback sucker. The Utah portion of the Colorado River harbors more critical habitat for the four Colorado River endangered fish than any other state in the basin. The Colorado River is critically important for its role in providing prime riparian habitat for fish and wildlife. Especially significant is the fact that the Colorado River is the fifth longest river system in the nation and drains about 240,000 square miles of land. The river corridor provides important habitat for migrating birds and the vegetative islands are important for wildlife.

The Colorado River holds an important place in history and of the discovery of the Western United States of America. Over one hundred years ago John Wesley Powell led perhaps the most perilous river trip in history, traveling on four wooden dories through the raging Colorado River in Cataract Canyon and then through the Grand Canyon. This and another exploration by Powell is responsible for putting much of Utah and this part of the country on the map.

The Colorado River is a boating paradise and is one of the premiere locations to float a river in the United States and the World. The Colorado offers some truly adventurous whitewater boating for the brave souls in Westwater Canyon and Cataract Canyon. The mere mention of Cataract or Westwater makes a person's heart beat a little faster as the name conjures up images of thrilling whitewater and an opportunity to visit this spectacular river. Tens of thousands of visitors from around the world visit this river. At high water, Cataract Canyon creates some of the largest waves in North America.

The geology and scenery of the Colorado River attract visitors from around the world. After making its way into Utah from Colorado the river cuts its way through the infamous Westwater Canyon. In Westwater Canyon, bands of white quartz and dark granite that have been injected into this strata can be seen. Downstream of the town of Moab the Colorado River passes through the amazing Cataract Canyon. In Cataract Canyon the river is flanked by the towering cliffs of the Paradox and Honaker Trail formations and has exposed a spectacular and ancient geology that dates back more than 300 million years. All of the above geologic features exemplify the spectacular scenery of the entire Colorado River. The State of Utah has recognized the outstanding scenery of the corridor and has designated state highway 128 a Scenic Byway.

V. San Juan County

The Utah Rivers Council recommends that all segments of the San Juan River be found suitable for wild and scenic status. The San Juan River is not just one of the top rivers in Utah, but is one of the most outstanding rivers in the entire United States of America. The San Juan River in southeastern Utah perfectly exemplifies the type of river that Congress had in mind when they passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

The San Juan contains a myriad of outstandingly remarkable values. The area contains some of the most concentrated historical sites in the country – the canyons are filled with rock art, kivas, granaries, and other ruins. The river is home to numerous endangered fish species, fox, bald eagles, and others. Additionally, the geologic values are out of this world and include the world famous goosenecks. Preserving the entire San Juan River as a Wild and Scenic River would be a huge addition to the portfolio of rivers protected as Wild and Scenic Rivers.

The creeks flowing through Butts, Arch, and Texas canyons are a prime example of the most outstanding canyon creeks in southern Utah. These canyons represent the best of a small group of rivers unique to southern Utah, with their dramatic scenery and geology and rich archeological history. The Forest Service has found 18.65 miles of creeks in these canyons eligible for Wild and Scenic status. These canyon creeks flow through the dramatic arid lands of southeastern Utah to Comb Wash, which then flows on to the San Juan River. In this harsh landscape, intermittent or ephemeral creeks and rivers are critical to the survival of wildlife and the scenic values of the area. Butts, Arch, and Texas canyons, with their intermittent flows, are incredibly important for the entire area. The water that flows is vital for the survival of the vegetation and the local wildlife.

The canyons are more than a locally important cultural resource. They are part of the Cedar Mesa archaeological phenomenon, which is recognized throughout the nation by the general public and by professionals as a significant national resource. The prehistoric properties in the Cedar Mesa and adjacent higher drainages originating in the Abajo Mountains have long been recognized by visitors from throughout the nation for their spectacular architectural integrity.

The canyons are also an important wildlife area. Nesting Mexican spotted owls have been documented on the Forest in Texas Canyon and foraging in Arch Canyon. In February of 2001 critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl was designated for an area including Arch Canyon. In addition, the BLM portion of Arch Canyon just downstream from the eligible Forest Service stretches provides habitat for the flannelmouth sucker, listed as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Utah.

The scenic and geologic values of the canyons are incredible. Two large arches (Angel Arch and Cathedral Arch) are located within ¼ mile of the river. In addition, hikers can easily access dramatic vistas by climbing within the canyon. Trails.com describes the area as offering outstanding scenery and numerous ruins. Vertical cliff walls, rim rock, outcrops, spires, alcoves, arches, deep gorges and narrow valley floors are located in the canyons. Arch and Texas Canyons are listed as a geologic point of interest for the Forest, and are described as having sculptured sandstone pinnacles.

The Forest Service has found 79 miles of creeks throughout the Dark Canyon complex eligible for Wild and Scenic status, including: Upper Peavine, Kigalia and Horse Pasture canyons in Upper Dark Canyon; and Poison, Deadman, Woodensho and Cherry canyons in Lower Dark Canyon. Protecting these creeks will preserve an incredible geologic and scenic resource, as well as a rich trove of cultural sites.

Much of the Dark Canyon complex of creeks lies within the Dark Canyon Wilderness Area in southeastern Utah. Many rivers in the area are intermittent or ephemeral, which makes the Dark Canyon complex of creeks with their stable flows incredibly important for the entire area. The water that flows in these canyons is vital for the survival of vegetation and local wildlife. Evidence of the importance of the water in the rivers is the presence of numerous cultural sites in the canyons.

VI. Uintah County

The Forest Service has found 34 miles of the Whiterocks River system eligible for Wild and Scenic protection. Although not as well known as some of its neighbor rivers such as the Uinta and the Green, the Whiterocks basin is outstanding for its scenic and recreational values. The Forest Service describes the basin as having beautiful views, particularly of the high peaks and ridgelines of the Uinta Mountains. The basin also has an excellent diversity of vegetation types due to the elevation contrasts of peaks and ridges and meadows, ranging from noble conifers to dense riparian growth to meadows and bogs.

Recreational use of the Whiterocks system is widely varied. The Whiterocks is special because visitors can reach the upper basin by car (unlike many of the surrounding Wilderness rivers) and easily attain access to the wild backcountry. Visitors fish, hunt, horseback ride, hike and camp throughout the system between late June and mid October. Hundreds of visitors a year use the Upper Whiterocks River stretch alone for these activities. In addition, the basin is used by snowmobilers in the winter months – making the recreational season quite long for the Uinta Mountain area. The Forest Service has noted the basin's "… outstanding backcountry scenery, solitude and fishing" and visitors seem to agree.

In addition to the basin's recreational and scenic values, the river system supports a diverse mix of fish and wildlife. The basin provides summer range for deer and elk, and important migration corridors for mountain goats. The system is home to boreal and great grey owls, which are both State Sensitive Species. In addition, the basin provides good habitat for less rare – but no less important – species such as ptarmigan, neotropical migratory bird species, beaver and more. The Forest Service states that all of the eligible stretches have good habitat for fish, particularly due to the stretches' deep pools which provide over-wintering habitat. The stretches are home to brook and rainbow trout, and have the potential to support Colorado River Cuthroat Trout.

VII. Wayne County

The Freemont River in Wayne County offers a tremendous diversity of recreational opportunities including hiking, hunting, fishing, kayaking, and in the lower sections, sightseeing by car. The unique geology of the Waterpocket Fold provides refuge for native fish and wildlife species that depend on the uniquely clean and consistent flows of the river. In the pristine upper gorge the river corridor remains in the same condition today as it was when Colonel John Fremont came upon it in 1853.

Another gem of the state and county beginning in the high Wasatch plateau, Muddy Creek is one of the few perennial streams in the San Rafael Swell providing valuable riparian habitat for mammals, plants, birds and aquatic species in the area. At high water the Muddy is a remarkable whitewater river plunging through the so called Chute and unmatched scenic cliffs of Coconino sandstone also accessible to hikers.

VIII. Summary

The Utah Rivers Council looks forward to working with Utah's Representatives and other stakeholders to address the ideas presented in these comments and to moving the Wild and Scenic process forward with new public input regarding these areas of common interest. Thank you again for your work on improving public land management and for your consideration of our comments. If you have any questions about the information provided in these comments, please feel free to call me at 801-486-4776 or send an email to <u>nick@utahrivers.org</u>. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

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Nick Schou Water Outreach Manager

GREEN RIVER



46 miles from Flaming Gorge Dam
to Lodore Ranger Station SCENIC
44 miles to Split Mountain Campground WILD
79 miles to downstream boundary of
Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation RECREATIONAL
25 miles to Sand Wash Ranger Station SCENIC
76 miles to Nefertiti Rock WILD
8 miles to Swasey's Rapid SCENIC
12 miles to Green River RECREATIONAL
23 miles to Ruby Ranch SCENIC
40 miles to Hell Roaring Canyon WILD
21 miles to Beaver Bottom SCENIC
34 miles to Colorado River confluence WILD

Private Land: 47 miles

Managing Agencies: Ashley National Forest, Diamond Mountain BLM, Dinosaur National Monument, Book Cliffs BLM, Price River BLM, Grand BLM

From the splits, faults, and fractures of the upper Green River in Lodore Canyon to the thick sedimentary strata of Canyonlands in Stillwater Canyon, the diversity of topography along the Green River provides a spectacular 300 million year old geologic classroom. Class III -IV rapids in Lodore Canyon are followed downstream by the more than 60 rapids in Desolation and Gray Canyons. Over 25 river outfitters guide trips down four sections of the river. Desolation Canyon alone experiences more than 60,000 rafting days annually. Once it enters Desolation Canyon, the Green River flows through the largest block of federal wild land in the lower 48 states not designated as a park or wilderness area. A wild and scenic river designation is a must for the Green River throughout all of Utah.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

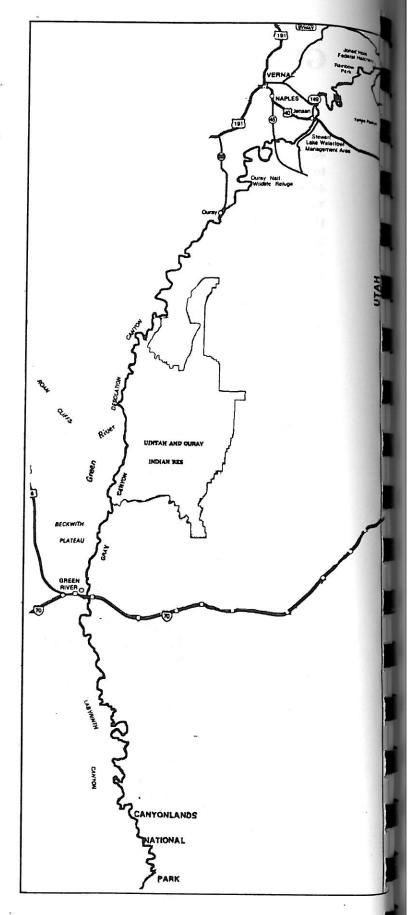
Fish and Wildlife: Some of the many species of wildlife dependant upon the flows and riparian zones of the Green River include bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, mountain lion, black bear, river otter, moose, black-footed ferret, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, golden eagle, prairie falcon, Cooper's hawk, goshawk, American kestrel, redtail hawk, Canadian geese, brown bullhead, rainbow trout, brown trout, and the rare Colorado River cutthroat trout. Endangered species include bald eagle, peregrine falcon, bony-tail chub, humpback chub, Colorado squawfish, and razorback sucker. Countless songbirds, shorebirds, and migratory waterfowl depend upon the river as a stopover point in their long journeys north and south.

Scenic & Geologic: A trip down the erosive Green River provides the curious student with a breathtaking geologic education. The inundation by ancient seas that occurred 12 times across the land has been recorded in alternating geologic The Morrison Formation of Lodore strata. Canyon brandishes fossilized dinosaur remains that are 150 million years old. The awesome erosive power of water is demonstrated at Split Mountain, where the Green River has cut a steep swath through the mountain rather than flowing Massive abandoned oxbows and around it. meanders such as Horseshoe Bend, Trin Alcove, and Bowknot Bend demonstrate the migrating nature of rivers. Canyon walls that tower 5,000 feet above the river are peppered by fantastic spires, pinnacles, balanced rocks, arches, fins, overhangs, and buttresses. Dense stands of Douglas fir, pinyon pine, and juniper cling to cliffs and terraces, and riparian forests of towering Fremont cottonwood create an outstanding scenic marvel.

Historic: The Green River was first successfully navigated by John Wesley Powell in a historic voyage widely considered as the most perilous river exploration in history. In 1869, the Powell Geographic Expedition set out to explore the Green and Colorado rivers. Armed with four wooden dories, army rations, and almost no river running experience, the group floated the high spring runoff of the Green River and named many of its canyons and tributaries. Powell named the canyon near the Uintas Flaming Gorge after the magnificent red hues of sandstone. Desolation and Coal canvons were named for their remoteness and the strata of coal seen from the river. The Powell expeditions of the 1870's represents an important milestone in U.S. history; this region was one of the last mapping mysteries of the 19th century.

Cultural: A multitude of petroglyphs, pictographs, and domiciles provide evidence of both Fremont and Ute occupation that can be seen at many places along the banks of the Green River as well as up many of its tributary canyons. More than 23 rock art sites, 15 rock shelters, and uncounted lithic scatters dot the Green River corridor.

Recreation: The. Green River offers a tremendous diversity of whitewater boating. From the challenging rapids of Lodore, Desolation, and Gray canyons to the placid flows of Labyrinth and Stillwater canyons, the Green offers floaters months of rafting exploration. Fishermen from all over the continent fish the clear, cold flows of Red Canyon, one of the foremost blue-ribbon trout fisheries. Further downstream the river enters two National Wildlife Refuges: Ouray and Browns Park. Here birders are delighted by countless species of waterfowl.



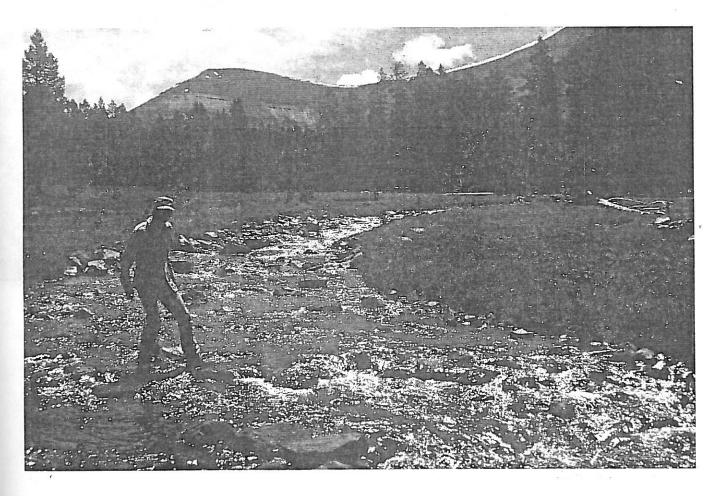
ASHLEY CREEK

14 miles of the South Fork Ashley Creek	
from Wilde Lake to North Fork confluence	WILD
10 miles of Ashley Creek from confluence of	
South Fork and North Fork to water treatment plant	WILD

Private Land: None

Managing Agency: Ashley National Forest

Beginning in a high glacial cirque above picturesque Lakeshore Basin in the eastern Uintas, the South Fork of Ashley Creek descends through one of the most beautiful sub-alpine drainages in the Uintas. Ashley Creek has carved a spectacular 1,400-foot-deep canyon into the Weber Sandstone called Ashley Gorge. Turrets, spires, and fins line the canyon walls, giving myriad facets and visual novelty to the gorge. Aspen groves, towering pine, Douglas fir, and juniper can be found from top to bottom in the canyon. In the steep upper reaches of the gorge the creek cascades in stairstep fashion around huge boulders, plunging into deep pools found even in late summer and autumn. The cool shaded depths of the canyon provide a secretive intimacy that contrasts with the broader, highwalled sunlit gorge a short way downstream. Since the bottom of the canyon has neither roads nor trails, and only three relatively obscure trails descend into the head of the gorge, the startling beauty of this canyon is little known.

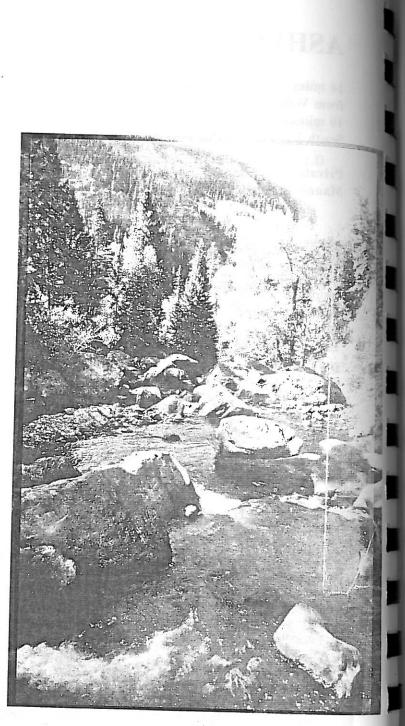


OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: The South Fork of the Ashley flows through the Sims Peak Potholes, designated a Research Natural Area (RNA) by the Forest Service to preserve its pristine nature. The Ashley National Forest also intends to designate the Ashley Gorge an RNA.

Scenic: Undammed and undiverted for its entire 24 mile length, both the South Fork and mainstem of Ashley Creek represent one of the most picturesque and yet-undeveloped drainages in the Uintas. The headwaters of the South Fork begin in glacially-scoured terrain and descend a broad U-shaped valley, where the creek meanders lazily through lush meadows with an incredible array of wildflowers. Mountain ridges span heights of 12,400 feet and completely rim the upper basin creating an alpine grandeur. Farther downstream, the South Fork flows through stands of Douglas fir and lodgepole pine, some of which represent an aesthetic pinnacle for that species. Old growth lodgepole pine are unusually large, well-spaced, and healthy. The nearby Sims Peak Potholes are a marvelous array of hundreds of water-containing divots left behind by the Ashley Glacier of the last great Ice Age.

Geologic: The South Fork drainage illustrates the work of the Ashley Glacier which laid within the Lakeshore Basin during the last Ice Age. The broad glacial moraine can be seen distinctly in the heavily forested area southeast of the basin and in the Sims Peak Pothole country. Much of Ashley Gorge is carved in Weber Sandstone, but in the steep upper reaches of the gorge, the creek has carved through the much older Black Shale unit of the Pennsylvanian epoch. The upper Morgan, Hells Canyon, and Tound Valley layers of the Morgan Formation can also be seen here and throughout the lower reaches of the canyon.

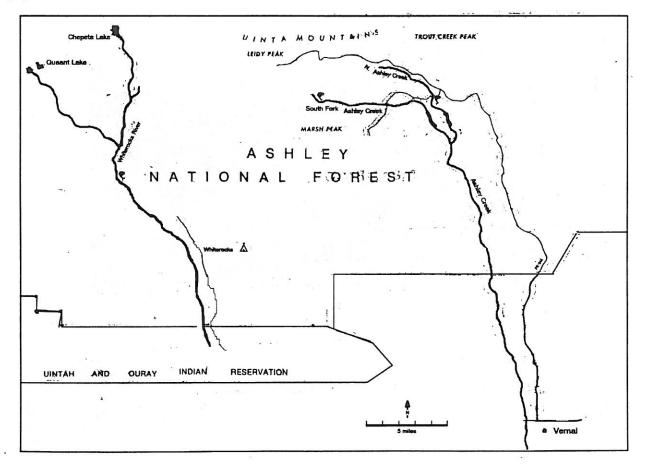


WHITEROCKS RIVER

2 miles of East Fork from Whiterocks Lake to T.4N.,R.1W.,Sec.10 SCENIC 2 miles to confluence with main Whiterocks WILD
5 miles of Whiterocks River from Chepeta Lake to T.4N.R.1W.,Sec.16 9 miles to Campground 7 miles to Uintah and Ouray Reservation
5 miles to Unitan and Ouray Reservation

Private Land: 2 miles Managing Agency: Ashley National Forest

Every habitat present in the Ashley National Forest is present on the Whiterocks River. From alpine headwaters adorned with towering lodgepole and ponderosa pine forests, to sagebrush terraces in the lower floodplains, the Whiterocks River offers something for everyone. Backcountry hiking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting, birding, and even spelunking are popular along the Whiterocks River. The river has carved several beautiful gorges through deposits of Mississippian Limestone. The beauty of Whiterocks Canyon merits its popularity among several guides who lead horseback and hiking trips at its headwaters. In the upper headwaters of the Whiterocks River lives a genetically pure population of Colorado cutthroat trout, separated from non-native populations by a natural barrier.



OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: The Whiterocks River Canyon provides habitat for bighorn sheep, black bear, moose, elk, mule deer, mountain goat, pine marten, sculpin, mountain sucker, speckled dace, longnosed dace, brook trout, brown trout, cutthroat trout, rainbow trout, mountain whitefish, beaver, muskrat, mink, many migratory birds, golden eagle, goshawk, Cooper's hawk, redtail hawk, great horned owl, prairie falcon, three-toed woodpecker, sage grouse, piliated woodpecker, and ptarmigan. Many other species are believed to inhabit the Whiterocks River Basin such as peregrine falcon, bald eagle, and flammulated owl. The upper river is home to a genetically pure population of Colorado River cutthroat trout. Whiterocks Canyon also serves as an important migration corridor for black bear and other large mammals.

Scenic: The Whiterocks River has an enormous diversity of habitats and viewsheds which offer something for everyone. The river begins its steep descent in forests of giant Englemann spruce and subalpine fir punctuated by alpine meadows offering open vistas of the towering Mississippian Limestone cliffs of Whiterocks Canyon.

Recreation: The Whiterocks is a favorite among hunters, backcountry hikers, anglers, and horseback riders. Because the river lies outside the High Uinta Wilderness boundary, visitors can reach the upper basin by car and attain access to many roadless areas from Whiterocks River trailheads.

Comments: This incredible mountain river will be flooded behind a 105-foot-high dam as part of the Central Utah Project. Wild and scenic designation is critical for this precious river.



WHITE RIVER

23 miles from Colorado Border to

T.15S.,R.23E.,Sec.24	
21 miles to Uintah and Ouray Reservation	 WILD

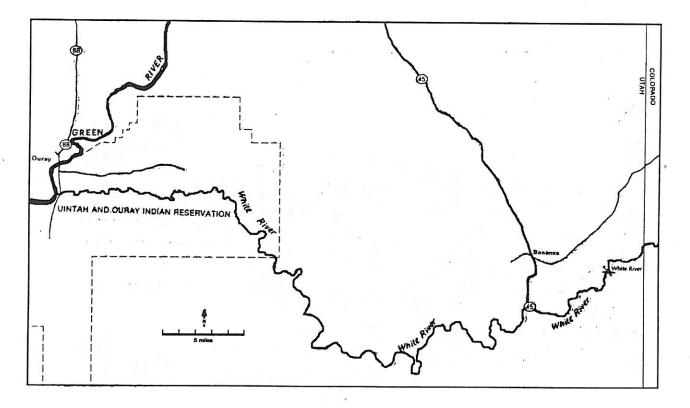
Private Land: 16 miles Managing Agency: Book Cliffs BLM

The White River flows through a 1,000foot-deep canyon that delights flatwater canoers and offers a peaceful refuge for many terrestrial species. This wild river provides solitude for primitive backcountry enthusiasts. When the National Park Service identified the White River for wild and scenic river protection, it noted that the river is "one of the few canoeable rivers in remote areas of Utah; habitat for the Colorado River squawfish, bonytail chub, humpback chub, razorback sucker, and Colorado River cutthroat trout."

Perhaps the most unique value of the White River is its lack of dams. Beginning in the Flattops Wilderness of Colorado, the White River is one of the few large rivers in the United States that does not have regulated flows.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: The White River provides critical habitat for the endangered Colorado squawfish. Other threatened, endangered, and sensitive species in the river corridor include razorback sucker, flannel mouth sucker, roundtail chub, yellow-billed cuckoo, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle. This wild river is also home to mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, cougar, wild horses, beaver, muskrat, porcupine, bobcat, coyote, grey fox, red fox, and resident and migratory birds such as golden eagle, Canadian goose, mallard, flycatchers, meadowlark, warbler, pintail, snowy egret, great blue heron, and Western tanager.



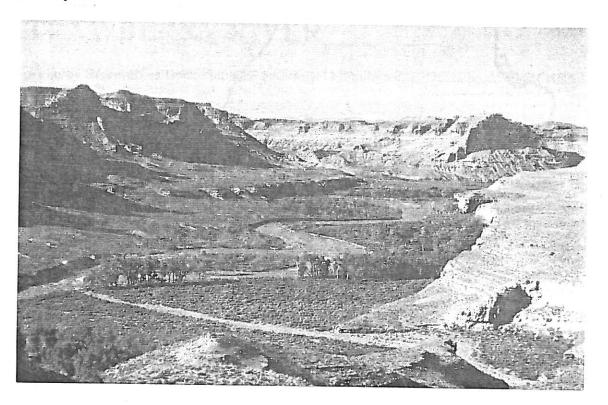
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Scenic and Geologic: Towering 800-foot-high sandstone cliffs line the White River. Broad, sloping terraces, sandstone walls, buttes, pinnacles, and eroded towers create a delightful panorama of fascinating shapes and textures. The river's fossil beds display a unique variety of ancient life forms. The steep geologic relief of White River Canyon creates one of the deeper canyon tributaries to the Colorado River in Utah.

Historic: Many pivotal historic events occurred in the White River Canyon. Chronicles of early explorers such as Friar Velez de Escalante, John Wesley Powell, Frederick Dellenbaugh, and Kit Carson described the unique topography of the White River. In 1871, Dellenbaugh and several companions hiked up the White River in search of the famed "Goblin City" -- a portion of the White River which, when seen from a distance, supposedly resembled a fanciful fairy tale city. Having satisfied themselves that they had indeed gazed upon Goblin City, the men built a raft of cottonwood logs and floated back to their camp at the confluence of the Green River. Goblin City is an extraordinary visual superposition of buttes and spires produced by the many successive side canyons along the south rim of the river canyon.

Recreation: The White River is a favorite canoeing destination for people from all over the state and beyond. The river's Class II rapids are exciting enough to attract advanced kayakers, yet gentle enough to bring novice canoers and families to float through remarkable solitude. The placid waters of the White River are high enough to run year round and at times when flows on many other small rivers are just a trickle. Due to its relatively high perennial flow, the river attracts many migratory birds, providing ample birding opportunities.

Comments: In 1990, the Uinta Mountain Club nominated the lands around the White River, from the Colorado border to Bitter Creek, for designation as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. This river is a ribbon of life in the high desert, contributing extremely important riparian and biologic values to an otherwise arid landscape. White River was also the proposed location of a diversion dam for oil shale extraction. Although that proposal was later dropped, such threats underscore the importance of attaining permanent protection for this wild river ecosystem.



RANGE CREEK

5 miles from North Spring to	
T.14S.,R.14E.,Sec.36	SCENIC
20 miles to Turtle Canyon RECREA	TIONAL
2 miles to T.17S., R.16E., Sec.35	SCENIC
7 miles to confluence Green River	. WILD

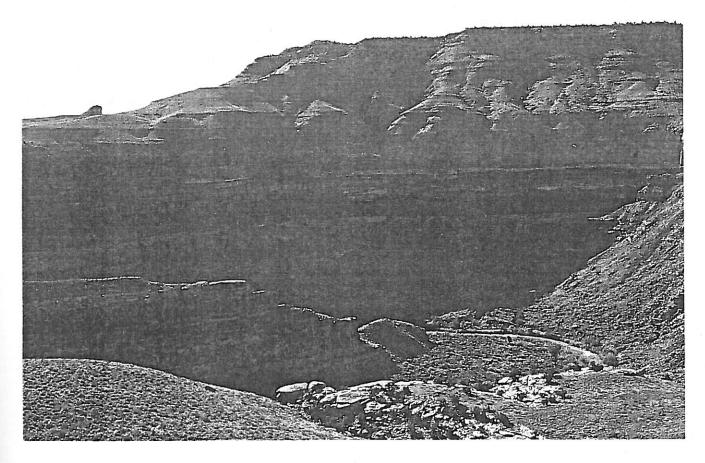
Private Land: 17 miles Managing Agency: Price River BLM

Range Creek was first identified for wild and scenic river inclusion by the National Park Service. This remote perennial stream drains the heart of the Book Cliffs, an area that supports an estimated 375 vertebrates species -- half the total number of species found in the State of Utah.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Wildlife: Many large mammals roam the Range Creek corridor, including Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, mountain lion, and black bear. Avian fauna include blue grouse, rugged grouse, golden eagle, and prairie falcon. Other birds thought to be present include peregrine falcon, bald eagle, ferruginous hawk, western snowy plover, white-faced ibis, and long-billed curlew.

Archaeologic: The Pillings Collection of Fremont figurines were collected along Range Creek. This remarkable collection is now maintained at the College of Eastern Utah. The BLM estimates that as many as 30 historical sites could still exist in the area.



PRICE RIVER

8 miles from gaging station at Woodside	
to roadhead at T.18S., R.15E., Sec.22	SCENIC
15 miles to confluence with Green River	WILD

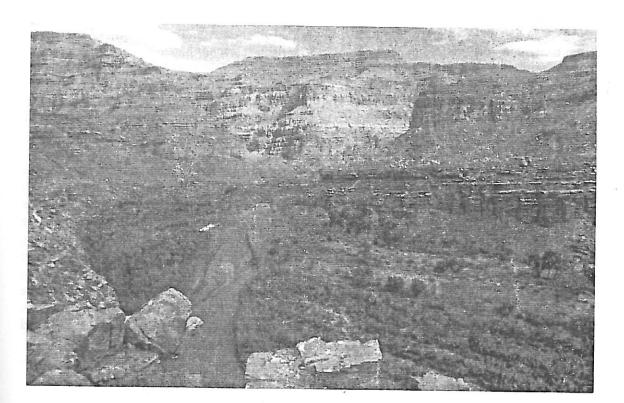
Private Land: 3 miles Managing Agency: Price River BLM.

After leaving the headwater streams of the Wasatch Plateau, the Price River flows through 1,000-foot-deep canyons of Castlegate Sandstone in Price Canyon. Motorists driving along Highway 6 stop to photographs these rugged cliff walls. Few people driving down Price Canyon realize this wild river flows into the Green River through a primitive roadless gorge offering scenic vistas like those of Price Canyon. First identified for Wild and Scenic designation by the National Park Service in 1979, the Price River offers boaters, hikers, equestrians, hunters, and anglers an opportunity to explore the canyons of the Beckwith Plateau only two hours from the Wasatch Front.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: As one of the largest tributaries of the Green River, the Price River could provide critical spring spawning habitat for the Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, and bony-tail chub. The Price River Canyon provides important watering habitat for large mammals like desert bighorn sheep, mountain lion, black bear, and mule deer. Sightings of black-footed ferret have occurred along this section of the Price.

Geology: The Price River has carved a narrow canyon through the Book Cliffs to create a unique geologic feature, the Beckwith Plateau.



For this reason the National Park Service has identified the 1,000-foot-tall exposed formations of the plateau as a potential National Natural Landmark. Flowing through nearly 2,000-footdeep canyons, the Price River offers incredible views of the same Castlegate Sandstone and Price River formations that motorists driving along Highway 6 stop to ponder. The river has created a deep canyon of unique sandstone gorges and pinnacles not present in other areas of the Book Cliffs.

Cultural/Historic: Several petroglyph panels are present on this section of the Price River. These panels have not been vandalized, probably because of the lack of road access into the canyon. Butch Cassidy and the Wild Bunch often traveled the Price River canyon as a route between Green River and Salt Lake City.

Recreation: Each spring the Price River offers kayakers and canoers the opportunity to float a pristine roadless gorge that is only two hours from the Wasatch Front. The Price River provides beginning and advanced boaters the opportunity to explore the 1,500-foot-deep canyons of the Beckwith Plateau. During summer and fall the Price River is cherished by hikers and horseback riders for its roadless solitude.

COTTONWOOD WASH

4 miles from T.20 S., R.13 E., Sec. 18 to	
T.20 S.,R.13 E.,Sec.14	WILD
9 miles from T.20 S.,R.13 E.,Sec.11 to	
T.20 S.,R.14 E.,Sec.34	WILD

Private Land: None Managing Agency: San Rafael BLM

Most of the streams in the northeast corner of the San Rafael Swell do not access Mexican Mountain because of the 1,500-foot-high barrier it imposes. Cottonwood Wash, however, serves as a conduit from Big Flat to the canyons surrounding Mexican Mountain. This wash combines a deep valley of healthy riparian habitat with a steep, narrowed, sheer-walled canyon. Springs, hanging gardens, huge potholes, pinnacles, domes, and views of the 1,500-foot-high escarpment of Cedar Mountain greet every visitor to Cottonwood Wash.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Wildlife: Perennial springs support several riparian areas along the lower end of the canyon,

which is home to a variety of large and small mammals. Mule deer are often seen browsing the canyon meadows and are prey for the upper canyon's population of mountain lion. Coyote and bighorn sheep are abundant in the wash.

Scenic and Geologic: Cottonwood Wash is the longest canyon cutting through the northern section of the San Rafael Reef. Huge cottonwood trees provide sharp contrast to the red 400-foot-tall Wingate walls that rise overhead. Rather than cutting through the Eastern portion of the San Rafael Swell, Cottonwood Wash follows the contours of the anticline as it makes its way upwards. The wash flows through Chinle, Wingate, Kayenta, and Navajo formations.

BARRIER CREEK

32 miles of Barrier Creek from T.29S., R.16E., Sec. 18	
to the Green River	Wild
2 miles of Trail Spring from T.29S., R.15E., Sec.14	
to Horseshoe Canyon	Wild
11 miles of Spur Fork from T.29S.,R.16E.,Sec.16	
to Horseshoe Canyon	Wild

Private Land: None

Managing Agencies: Henry Mountain BLM, Canyonlands National Park, San Rafael BLM

Barrier Creek hosts one of the most spectacular pictograph panels in the Western Hemisphere. In addition to the life-size figures drawn on "the Great Panel," countless pictographs were etched throughout the canyon walls before either the Anasazi or the Fremont Indian cultures evolved. In 1972, Congress acknowledged the uniqueness of the area and incorporated a segment of Horseshoe Canyon into Canyonlands National Park. Unfortunately, the many other cultural ruins found upstream of the Park are being trampled under the hooves of cows and wild burros.

Cows have also altered the ecosystem of Barrier Creek by overgrazing the intermittent pools above the Park. Riparian zones have been trampled, destroying seedling cottonwoods, and fecal matter has deteriorated the water quality of springs once suitable for drinking without treatment. Wild and scenic river designation could protect these aquatic ecosystems from overgrazing while also protecting the many archaeological sites throughout the canyon.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: Barrier Creek supports populations of coyote, bobcat, kit fox, gray fox, antelope, bat, mule deer, American kestrel, redtailed hawk, and desert bighorn. As the largest sidecanyon of Labyrinth Canyon and the only roadless stream running between the San Rafael Swell and the Monument Upwarp, Horseshoe Canyon could serve as an important migration corridor to the Green River for terrestrial mammals. Unfortunately, detailed wildlife studies have not been completed in this area. **Geologic:** The canyons of Barrier Creek reach depths of up to 600 feet and are characterized by a wide range of colors, sheet rock faces, and overhangs forming large caves. Buttes, mesas, spurs, elevated plateaus, cliff scarps, rounded slickrock domes, entrenched canyons, and arroyos make this canyon an outstanding microcosm of Colorado Plateau geology.

Cultural: Many believe that Barrier Creek served as a major migratory route for prehistoric peoples between the Green River and Dirty Devil Rivers. In their travels along this stream, archaic peoples left behind an abundance of detailed petroglyphs. Several of the tributaries of Barrier Creek served as homes for many of these Native Americans. Cowboy Cave contains some of the richest and oldest paleontological remains in the state of Utah. Cultural relics found in this cave are exact replicas of the figures present on the Great Panel of Horseshoe Canyon. These relics overlay 13,000-year-old remains of mammoth, bison, horse, camel, and sloth.

Recreation: The Horseshoe Canyon unit of Canyonlands National Park is a popular destination for visitors seeking escape from the crowds. Hikers traveling the length of the stream discover an abundance of cultural sites, lush intermittent springs and side canyons, and 600-foot-sheer walls of Navajo sandstone in a pristine desert environment. Rafters floating down Labyrinth Canyon enjoy the verdant wetlands, towering cottonwoods, and perennial waters of Barrier Creek as they flow into the Green River.

COLORADO RIVER



35.5 miles from Utah-Colorado border	
to Westwater	RECREATIONAL
15 miles to Rose Ranch	WILD
16 miles to Dewey Bridge	SCENIC
48 miles to Potash	RECREATIONAL
92 miles to Lake Powell	WILD

Private Land: 23 miles

Managing Agencies: Grand BLM, Canyonlands National Park, Glen Canyon NRA

As the state's aquatic crown jewel, over 15,000 visitors float the Colorado River through Westwater, Cataract Canyon, and the Moab daily sections every year. The innumerable pinnacles, alcoves, arches, and canyons that the Colorado River has created present a rich geologic history that is both a visual paradise and a geologist's dream.

The river is a vital core for a multitude of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals in the canyonlands area, serving as a water source, migration stopover, riparian refuge, prey habitat, and migration corridor. The Utah portion of the Colorado River harbors more critical habitat for the four Colorado River endangered fish than any other state in the basin. The razorback sucker, bonytail chub, humpback chub, and Colorado squawfish once inhabited the entire length of the Colorado River but have now been reduced to a mere fraction of their historic distribution.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

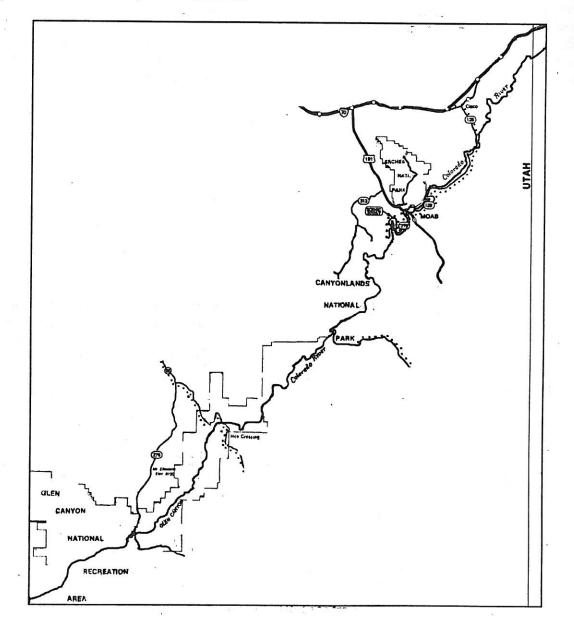
Fish and Wildlife: The Colorado River is an important water source for a variety of large mammals including mule deer, coyote, cougar, bobcat, pronghorn antelope, and desert bighorn. Birds such as great blue heron, peregrine falcon, bald eagle, mallards, blue-winged teal, merganser, shoveler, and Canadian goose winter along the river. Navajo Sandstone cliffs provide excellent nesting sites for species like canyon wren, rock wren, killdeer, rock dove, red-tailed hawk, marsh hawk, kestrel, southwest willow flycatcher, and golden eagle. Other fish species include flannelmouth sucker, catfish, bluegill, and speckled dace. Endangered fish such as Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, bonytail chub, and razorback sucker depend upon the warm silty waters of the river and its tributaries. Red-spotted toads, bullfrogs, side-blotched lizards, stripped whipsnakes, and gopher snakes are abundant throughout the riparian zones of the Colorado.

Geologic: From the dramatic Fisher Towers that loom above the river near Moab to the inspiring 2,000-foot-gorge carved below Dead Horse Point to the towering cliffs of the ancient Paradox and Honaker Trail formations in Cataract Canyon, the river has exposed a spectacular and ancient geology that dates back more than 300 million years. Pre-Cambrian black gneissic rock, formed 1.7 billion years ago, is one of the most ancient rocks in Utah. Bands of white quartz and dark granite that have been injected into this strata can be seen throughout Westwater Canyon. The red Jurassic-Triassic sandstones (Morrison, Wingate, and Chinle) Kaventa. Entrada. characterize much of the rock north and south of Westwater through Cataract Canyon.

Scenic: The Colorado River flows around three sides of the Uncompanyere Uplift, cutting deep canyons that expose a myriad of ancient rocks and offer spectacular sightseeing and a myriad of photographic opportunities. Quiet open meadows are interrupted by tumultuous rapids counterpointed by shaggy pinion-juniper forests, smooth red fractures, and jagged sandstone spires. The Colorado River's splendor was not lost on the State of Utah, which designated Highway 128 a Scenic Byway.

Historic: One hundred years ago, the Colorado River was the site of the epic passage of John Wesley Powell, perhaps the most perilous river trip in history. Powell and eight others rode four wooden dories down the raging Colorado River through Westwater, Cataract, and the Grand Canyon with no hope of rescue should disaster occur. The one-arm Powell rode the entire trip strapped to a wooden chair, often without the luxury of being able to scout the horrendous predam rapids. The Colorado River explorations led by Powell in the 1870's were some of the very last, major mapping surveys conducted in the United States.

Recreation: From the gentle eddies of the remote lower Westwater Canyon to the violent whitewater gushing through Cataract Canyon, the Colorado River is a boating paradise that accommodates all river enthusiasts. Tens of thousands of visitors from around the world flock to this whitewater mecca to experience the challenging cataracts and gentle currents of the Colorado River. At high water Cataract Canyon creates some of the largest waves in North America.



DOLORES RIVER

6 miles from Colorado Border to

Fisher Creek	SCENIC
7 miles to T.236R.25E.,Sec.20	
10 miles to Colorado River	SCENIC

Private Land: 4 miles Managing Agency: Grand BLM

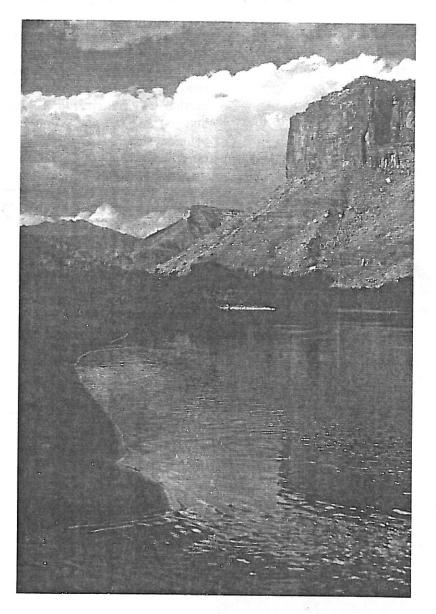
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The National Park Service has called the area adjacent to the Dolores River a healthy and relatively undisturbed ecosystem with outstanding wildlife values. The Dolores River nourishes a lush riparian floodplain of cottonwood, cedar, squawberry, shadscale, sagebrush, juniper, and willow that stretches nearly an entire mile in width at its confluence with the Colorado River. The Dolores was part of the historical distribution of all four species of Colorado River endangered fish. As a sidechannel of the Colorado, it is possible that the lower Dolores still provides spawning habitat for these remarkable fish.



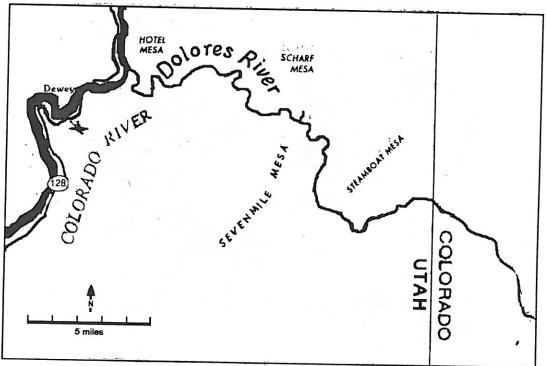
OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: The Dolores River supports an enormous diversity of aquatic, terrestrial, and avian species. Bighorn sheep, mountain lion, mule deer, and elk roam the river corridor. Reptiles and amphibians present include the redspotted toad, bullfrog, side blotched lizard, striped whipsnake, gopher snake, and collared lizard. In addition to waterfowl, bird species include great blue heron, bald eagle, golden eagle, songbirds, and peregrine falcon. Four native endangered plant species are found in the Astragalus area: eastwoodiae, Astragalus abulosus, Psoralea aromatic, and Aquilegia micrantha. Deeper stretches of the river create ideal habitat for the flannel mouth and bluehead suckers, speckled dace, roundtail chub, and mottled sculpin.

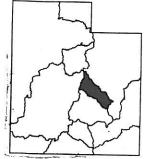
Scenic and Geologic: The unearthing of the Morrison Formation along the Dolores has exposed many fossilized dinosaur bones. Eight other strata can be seen along the river including the Summerville, Entrada Sandstone, Navajo, Kayenta, Wingate, Chinle, Moenkopi, and Cutler Formations. The purple ledges, red cliffs, and mauve overhangs of Navajo sandstone that contrast the snowcapped La Sal mountains create an incredible backdrop to the Dolores River. The abundant avian and terrestrial fauna of this pristine river provide a vast array of photographic opportunities.

Cultural/Historic: One of the first documented explorers to the region, Father Escalante traveled along part of the length of the Dolores River. After a long and exhausting journey, Escalante christened the river Rio de Nuestra Senora de los Dolores -- River of Our Lady of Sorrows. Remnants of temporary Ute Indian shelters called wickiups exist along the Dolores. Uncounted Native American ruins from the Fremont culture are also present along the river corridor. Other than these known sites, no archaeological studies have been completed on the Dolores River.

Recreation: During spring runoff, canoers, kayakers, and rafters challenge themselves on the Class IV rapids of the upper section while relaxing amid the dramatic scenery of the lower portion of the river. Hikers, backpackers, hunters, anglers, and photographers enjoy the solitude afforded adjacent to this large desert river.



SAN RAFAEL RIVER



8 miles from confluence of Ferron and	
Cottonwood creeks to Fuller Bottom	SCENIC
14 miles to Johansen Cabin	. WILD
6 miles to T.20S.,R.11E.,Sec.14	SCENIC
35 miles to Tidwell Bottom	. WILD
18 miles from T.24S.,R.15E.,Sec.8 to Green River	SCENIC

Private Land: Less than 3 miles Managing Agency: San Rafael BLM

The San Rafael River flows through one of the most remarkable uplifts of the Colorado Plateau, the San Rafael Swell. This asymmetrical anticline, measuring 40 by 60 miles and covering 1.2 million acres, was formed when pressures deep within the earth forced the various strata upwards, causing the edge of the "Swell" to tilt up, forming the "reefs" that surround it. This uplifting caused an anomaly in the strata: the highest elevations contain some of the oldest rock in the Swell while the outer perimeter, though several thousand feet lower, is composed of the youngest rocks.

The San Rafael River dissects this geologic anomaly. From the ancient ocean beaches of the 100 million-year-old Mancos Shale in the exterior, to the fossilized sand dunes of the 250 million-year-old Coconino Sandstone of the exterior, the San Rafael River is a walk backwards through time. Hikers, canyoneers, boaters, and equestrians enjoy the sheer cliffs and towering pinnacles created by the river in the "Little Grand Canyon." As the largest stream in the Swell, the river provides essential watering habitat for many species of wildlife. The BLM has stated that "there are only a few canyons in Utah that can be compared to the entrenched, very narrow gorges of the Black Boxes of the San Rafael River."

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: The San Rafael River

provides important habitat for both aquatic and terrestrial animal species. Populations of desert bighorn, coyote, Great Plains toad, bobcat, gray fox, bat, cougar, mule deer, and striped whipsnake roam the river corridor. The river supports large riparian forests which provide nesting and prey habitat for avian fauna such as golden eagle, prairie falcon, American kestrel, peregrine falcon, and bald eagle. At least six fish species swim the San Rafael including round-tail chub, speckled dace, flat head minnow, red shiner, flannel mouth sucker, and bullhead sucker.

Scenic: Called the Little Grand Canyon, the San Rafael flows through Wingate and Chinle formations nearly 500 meters thick. In evaluating the splendor of the San Rafael River country, the BLM classified the area as "Class A scenery due to the vertical relief, massive rock outcrops, unusual surface features, presence of the river, and vivid, rich color combinations."

Geologic: The San Rafael River has exposed many layers of geology out of the San Rafael Swell. Carmel, Navajo, Kayenta, Wingate, Chinle, Moenkopi, Sinbad, Kaibab, and Coconino strata have been eroded to create a massive canyon nearly 1,500 feet deep that narrows to nine feet in width. Both the Lower and Upper Black Box sections demonstrate the extreme susceptibility of the Coconino Sandstone to water erosion. **Cultural:** Paleo-Indian sites (13,000 B.C. to 5500 B.C.) have been found near the San Rafael River just outside the San Rafael Swell. The first definitive use of the San Rafael River was by Desert Archaic Indians (5,500 B.C. to 500 A.D.). They left behind a legacy of Barrier Canyon Style pictographs, some of the oldest in the United States. Fremont Indians arrived from the north in A.D. 500 and stayed until A.D. 1300. Cliff dwellings, pictograph and petroglyph panels, lithic scatters, and kill sites provide evidence of their residence in the area.

Recreation: At high water the San Rafael River offers river runners a tremendous diversity of

whitewater boating. The "Little Grand Canyon" section offers a relaxing float amid towering cliffs of Wingate and Kayenta sandstone. The upper Black Box section flows through the heart of the San Rafael Swell and offers kayakers one of the most difficult whitewater runs in all of Utah. At low water the river provides hikers and canyoneers opportunities for solitude amid the towering cliffs and pinnacles of the upper Swell. Further downstream, the lower Black Box section provides deep narrow canyons that can be visited even in the sweltering heat of midsummer.

CANE WASH

5 miles from springs at T.21S., R.10E., Sec. 36 to		
T.21S.,R.10E.,Sec.13		WILD
7 miles to confluence with San Rafael River	• •	WILD

Private Land: None Managing Agency: San Rafael BLM

Cane Wash drains the top of the San Rafael Swell at the Head of Sinbad. As it runs along the east side of Sids Mountain, the wash enters an enchanting Navajo and Wingate Sandstone walled canyon. Many unique features of Cane Wash merit its protection through wild and scenic river designation. One of its rare qualities is the presence of the mineral dexterium, not believed to occur anywhere else in the world.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: Cane Wash provides habitat for coyote, bobcat, cottontail rabbit, blacktail jackrabbit, woodrat, ringtail cat, badger, Ord kangaroo rat, gray fox, white-tail antelope, ground squirrel, chipmunk, rock squirrel, bats, mice, voles, shrews, striped skunk, weasels, and red fox. Several raptor species such as golden eagle, prairie falcon, American kestrel, redtailed hawk, ferruginous hawk, and rough-legged hawk may also inhabit this canyon.

Scenic and Geologic: Cane Wash possesses a fascinating set of dinosaur foot prints and fossilized bones. The dramatic cliffs of Navajo and Wingate Sandstone create a canyon that reaches depths of nearly 1,000 feet.

Archaeologic: Although a detailed archaeologic inventory has not been completed, Cane Wash has several petroglyph panels etched along its walls. Further inventory work should be completed for this region.

Recreation: Cane Wash is a popular recreational area due to its proximity to the San Rafael Campground. Horseback riders and hikers walk down its length to the San Rafael River. The lower portion of Cane Wash provides an important shortcut for hikers walking up the San Rafael River.

DIRTY DEVIL RIVER



WILD

64 miles from Highway 24 bridge to Lake Powell

Private Land: None

Managing Agencies: Henry Mountain BLM, Glen Canyon NRA.

In the last 15 years, the Dirty Devil River has been recommended for Wild and Scenic River protection by the National Park Service, American Rivers, the Sierra Club, and the American Whitewater Affiliation. In spite of these nominations, the river is seldom visited and offers unlimited opportunities for solitude amid the towering Navajo cliffs and deep, wellwatered canyons of the Burr Desert. As one of the few perennial streams in the region, the Dirty Devil River provides watering habitat for mule deer, antelope, and bighorn. Pronghorn antelope require up to 1.2 gallons of water per day per individual during the peak of summer. The distribution of water is also the greatest limiting factor for desert bighorh. Wild and scenic river designation can protect this essential water source.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: An intermittent riparian community of cottonwood, willow, cattail, and common reed support populations of fox, coyote, badger, mule deer, and an abundance of bird species. Many hanging gardens proliferate along the river and in the side canyons. Containing monkey flower, maidenhair fern, columbine, and phacelias, these hardy gardens cling to weaknesses in the sheer sandstone walls. Some sensitive species such as golden eagle, Bell's vireo, and peregrine falcon have been sighted on the steep cliffs adjacent to the river.

Scenic: The Bureau of Land Management ranks the Dirty Devil River corridor Class A scenic quality due to its sheer Navajo Sandstone cliffs, narrow 1,500-foot-deep canyons, ephemeral waterfalls, and picturesque high plateaus. Several viewpoints accessed by Highway 95 allow visitors to peer down into the Dirty Devil River gorge.

Geologic: The Dirty Devil has created a microcosm of the Colorado Plateau itself, unearthing eight separate geological strata and exposing layers as far down as the Cedar Mesa Sandstone. The Dirty Devil River has also exposed The Block, a unique, 1,000-foot-tall mesa of Wingate and Kayenta Sandstones that stands east of the river. Its 5,000 acre crown supports a pristine, near-relict pinyon-juniper and sagebrush-grassland community that is rarely visited.

Cultural: The northern part of the Dirty Devil was inhabited by Desert Archaic Indians from 5000 B.C. to A.D. 500. They left Barrier Canyon-style pictograph panels adjacent to the river. Fremont Indians lived in the canyons of the Dirty Devil from A.D. 500 to A.D. 1300. Signs of their passage can be found in the rock art panels in most of the tributary canyons and in the rows of Moqui steps chiseled on sandstone walls. The lower part of the Dirty Devil was a transitional area between the Fremont and Anasazi cultures and evidence of both cultures have been found there. Three petroglyph panels resembling figures found in nearby Horseshoe Canyon indicate that Native Americans probably used the Dirty Devil River corridor in their travels to and from Horseshoe Canvon. Several middens and tool-making sites indicate that dwellings along the river corridor could have

been inhabited by a separate Native American culture.

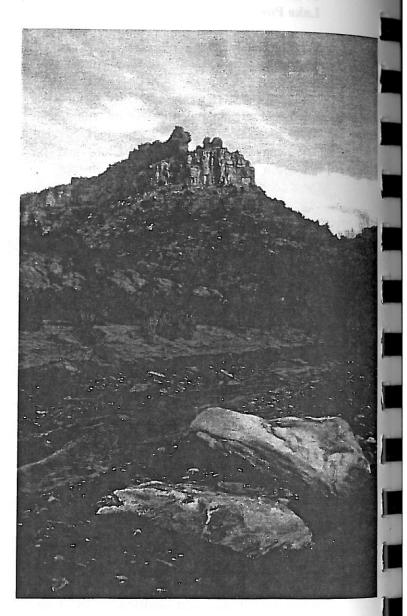
Recreation: Spring runoff draws kayakers and canoers from all over the nation seeking to float this pristine river as it winds through a 1,500-foot-deep sandstone gorge. Hikers, backpackers, and equestrians explore this wilderness river and its brilliant side canyons throughout most of the year. Unlike the often visited Canyonlands National Park to the north, the Dirty Devil provides the opportunity for solace and solitude.

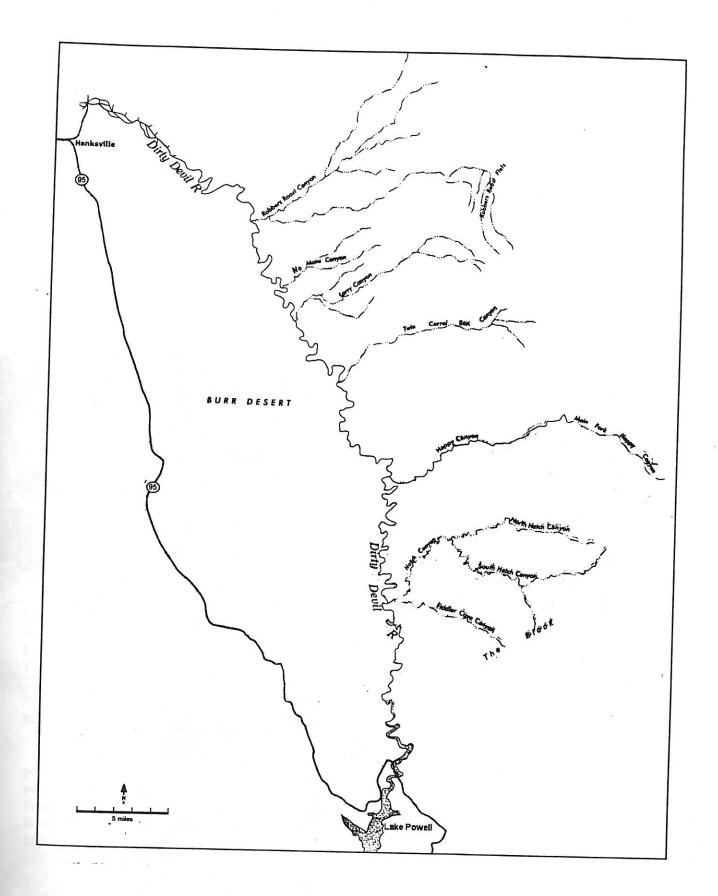
Comments: The Henry Mountain Bureau of Land Management asserted that an abandoned mining road at Poison Spring altered the wild character of the Dirty Devil River. After a day of field work, SUWA's volunteers could find only one abandoned water gauging station next to the river. The abandoned road has been naturally reclaimed and evidence of human intrusion is minimal. The Dirty Devil River is WILD for its entire length.

SIDE CANYON TRIBUTARIES

In describing the merits of the tributaries of the Dirty Devil River, guidebook author Steve Allen wrote: "While the main canyon is stunning, it is the side canyons that are the real attraction. Each is distinctive, not only in ambience, but in geologic aspect as well. Starting in the north, sand-floored Buck, Pasture, and Robbers Roost canyons, with their many slot-like tributaries, cut through Navajo Sandstone. Continuing south, the walls of No Mans Canyon are dominated by the Kayenta Formation, dark red and sullen overhead. Larry Canyon contains an artist's fantasy of whimsically-carved designs on its Wingate walls. As one moves south again, Twin Corral Box and Sams Mesa Box canyons are also dominated by Wingate Sandstone, with the Chinle Formation forming the canyon floors. Happy Canyon, with its White Rim-walled narrows, is certainly one of the most powerful gorges in canyon country. Hatch and Fiddler Cove canyons contain a

wonderland of arches, pinnacles, and towers molded from Organ Rock Shale crowned with White Rim Sandstone."





FREMONT RIVER

9 miles from Highway 12 to	
irrigation reservoir WI	(LD
2 miles from reservoir to	
Fruita Bridge SCE	NIC
32 miles from Fruita Bridge to	
Highway 24 Crossing at Hanksville RECREATION	IAL

Private Land: 13 miles of private land downstream of Capitol Reef National Park Managing Agencies: Henry Mountain BLM, Capitol Reef National Park

The Fremont River begins its rapid descent into the Waterpocket Fold of the Colorado Plateau five miles upstream of Capitol Reef The river has carved two National Park. cavernous gorges, which reach depths of nearly 2,000 feet, through this crest in the earth's crust. A National Park Service study of the river found that due to the remoteness of the upper gorge, the Fremont River probably serves as a refuge for various plant and animal communities now extirpated from much of southern Utah. No livestock grazing has occurred in the upper gorge, meriting its consideration by the Nature Conservancy as an Outstanding Natural Research Area.

The river offers a tremendous diversity of recreational opportunities including hiking, hunting, fishing, kayaking, and in the lower sections, sightseeing by car. The unique geology of the Waterpocket Fold provides refuge for indigenous fish and wildlife species that depend upon the uniquely clean water flows of the Fremont River.

The stream is named after explorer Colonel John Fremont, who passed through the area in 1853 and stashed a cache of supplies near the river. Several years later John Wesley Powell uncovered Fremont's cache and gave the river its name. In the pristine upper gorge, the river remains in the same condition as it was when Fremont discovered it, more than a century ago.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: The Fremont River provides

habitat for brown and rainbow trout, Utah chub, sculpin, and redside shiner. It is also breeding habitat for large numbers of neotropical migrant songbirds which comprise 35 percent of the bird fauna of Capitol Reef. The Fremont River provides critical deer wintering habitat and is home to several species of raptors including golden eagle and the endangered bald eagle and peregrine falcon. Three endangered species of plants live along the Fremont: *Erigeron abajensis*; *Schoenocrambe argillacea*; and *Schoenocrambe barnebyi*, which grows in only two known locations.

Scenic: The Fremont River offers visitors driving through Capitol Reef an excellent opportunity to explore the geology of the Waterpocket Fold. Giant Fremont cottonwoods lining the riverbank provide beautiful green contrast to the brown Kayenta cliffs of the lower gorge, adorned with waterfalls and cataracts. The State of Utah recognized the beauty of this viewshed by designating Highway 24 a Scenic Byway.

Geologic: The erosive processes of the Fremont have carved two gorges, exposing the oldest rocks in the Waterpocket Fold. A walk down the river offers a trip backwards in geologic time: Kaibab Limestone and Cutler Formations overlay Navajo, Wingate, and Kayenta sandstones, exposing spires and domes fluted by water erosion.

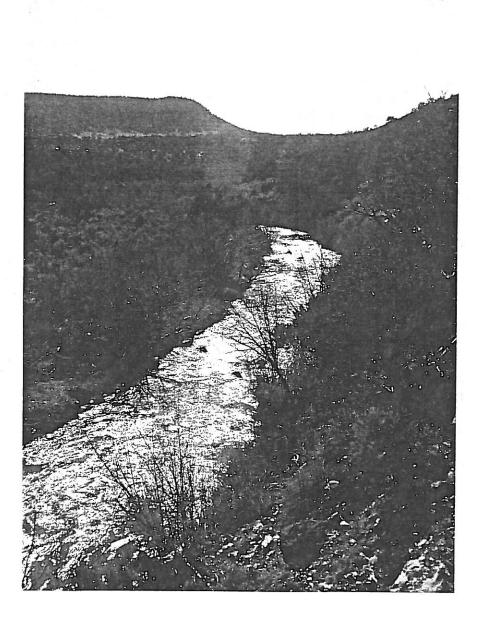
Aquatic: Flowing from an aquifer north of

Boulder Mountain, the waters of the Fremont River are so clean that the State of Utah considers it to be some of the highest quality water in the state. This makes the Fremont River an enigma for the Colorado Plateau as most other rivers contain very high salt concentrations. The Fremont River is one of the few, large pristine rivers that is allowed to flood its floodplain and thus nourish the many macroinvertebrates and plants that inhabit the river corridor.

Recreation: The Fremont hosts some of the most challenging whitewater kayaking in Utah. The upper section is a nine mile stretch of Class

III-VI whitewater, plunging at a rate of 130 feet per mile. A lower section offers intermediate kayakers a more gradual gradient as it flows through beautiful Navajo, Wingate, and Kayenta sandstone cliffs. The Fremont River also offers solitude for hikers, and fishing waters for anglers.

Comments: SUWA volunteers hiked the entire Fremont River Gorge in search of evidence of modern human intrusion. The only evidence of development in the Gorge was an abandoned telephone pole and the trail itself. The Fremont Gorge should be protected in this condition: absolutely wild.



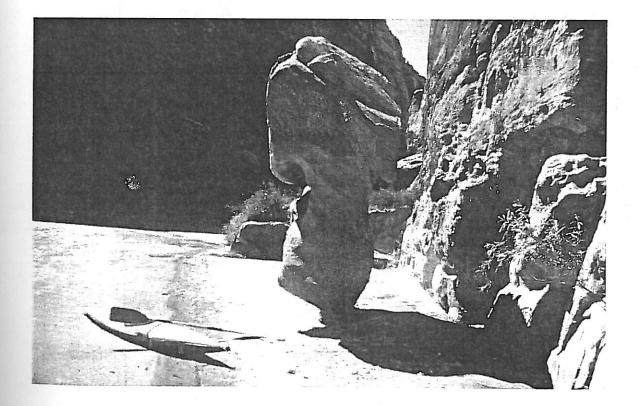
MUDDY CREEK

11 miles from I-70 to Lone Tree Crossing	WILD
19 miles to Tomsich Butte	WILD
4 miles to Penitentiary Canyon SO	CENIC
12 miles to T.26S., R.9E., Sec.8	WILD
7 miles to T.26S.,R.9E.,Sec.22 SC	CENIC
18 miles to Dirty Devil River	WILD
(A 0.25 mile scenic section should be designated	
adjacent to the Fremont River confluence)	

Private Land: None

Managing Agency: San Rafael BLM, Henry Mountain BLM

Beginning high on the Wasatch Plateau, Muddy Creek twists through an open landscape of badland clays and cliff-forming sandstones in the Coal Cliffs before its descent into the San Rafael Swell. Once entering the Swell, the stream exposes 1,000-foot-tall cliffs that have been uplifted against the downgrading action of Muddy Creek. This grinding action has eroded through eight separate geologic strata forming several narrow gorges. Further downstream a 400-foot-deep defile called "The Chute" has been scoured by huge floods that help to prevent plant growth. The waters of this roadless stream offer important watering habitat and refuge for many species of terrestrial and aquatic wildlife. Muddy Creek is one of the most popular hikes in the San Rafael Swell.

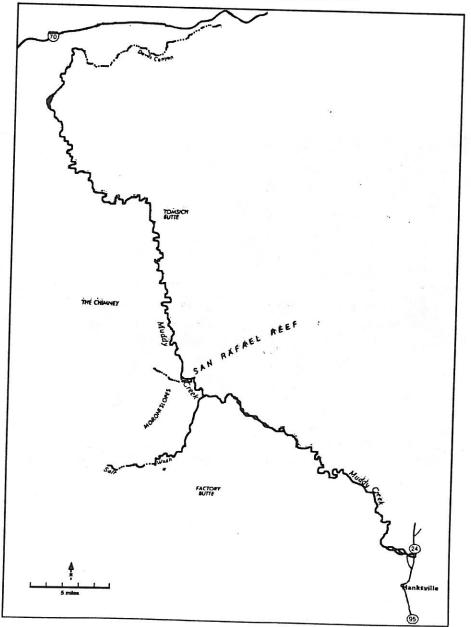


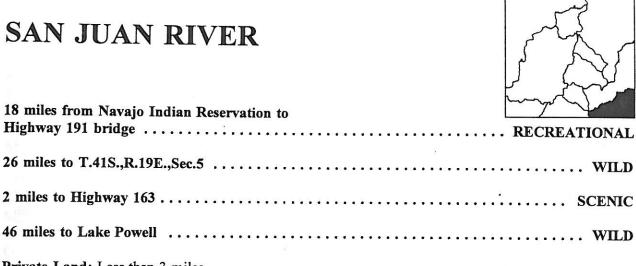
OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: Muddy Creek is one of the few perennial streams in the San Rafael Swell. It provides valuable riparian habitat for many of the area's terrestrial species, which include: gray fox, kit fox, bobcat, coyote, ringtail cat, badger, golden eagle, prairie falcon, American kestrel, red-tailed hawk, ferruginous hawk, and roughlegged hawk. The waters of Muddy Creek also support populations of Woodhouse's toad, Great Plains toad, speckled dace, flannel mouth sucker, bluehead sucker, and roundtail chub.

Geologic: Muddy Creek has cut a narrow swath through the San Rafael Swell exposing many separate layers of geologic events. Carmel, Navajo, Wingate, Chinle, Moenkopi, Kaibab Limestone, and Coconino formations have been exposed to create an excellent study of the geology of the San Rafael uplift. Water has eroded the Coconino Sandstone to create a narrow and winding gorge. This "Chute" is a classic hydrologic example of a desert narrows.

Recreational: At high water Muddy Creek is a superb whitewater river. Guidebook author Gary Nichols describes the Muddy Creek as "...a truly outstanding desert river. The river is well named; it's extremely muddy. But the incredible scenery, isolation, and numerous rapids make up for all this." At low water Muddy Creek offers hikers excellent opportunities for solitude amid the heart of the San Rafael Swell. Flowing through a narrow Coconino Sandstone canyon, this section of the Muddy Creek offers hikers one of the most accessible, narrows hikes in the San Rafael Reef.





Private Land: Less than 3 miles Managing Agency: San Juan BLM, Glen Canyon NRA

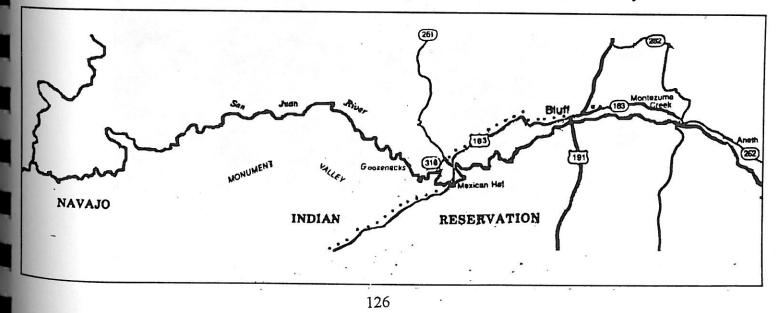
The Anasazi found the San Juan floodplain a fertile land for crops. Remains of an extensive civilization that occupied the area from 1000 B.C. to nearly A.D. 1300 are scattered throughout the San Juan and its tributaries. The San Juan provides visitors with a spectacular flat water float through the serpentine canyons of the Goosenecks. Eleven commercial river-running guides run trips on this relaxing river. Rafters leave the San Juan River with crooked necks, aching from staring up at the towering cliffs consisting of 16 separate geologic layers.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: Seventeen species of fish are believed to exist in the San Juan River, including the endangered Colorado squawfish and razorback sucker. Comb Ridge provides prime

raptor habitat while affording a valuable prey base along the river corridor. Fox, covote, mountain lion, and bald eagle hunt for prey in the area. Other species inhabiting the river corridor include sparrow hawk, mourning dove, Southwest willow flycatcher, kingbird, oriole, warbler, Bell's vireo, house finch, killdeer, great blue heron, snowy egret, canyon wren, Canadian goose, and bat.

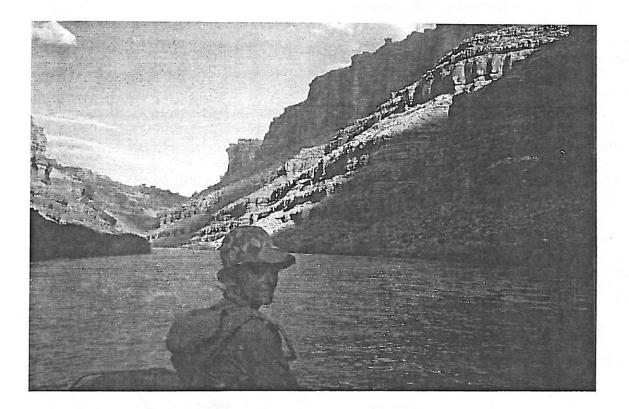
Geologic: In its 25 million-year-old scouring of the earth's crust, the San Juan River has exposed 16 separate layers of geology dating back 320 million years. In addition to some of the oldest rocks in Utah, several unique events have occurred on the San Juan River. Twenty million years ago the San Juan entrenched its meanders into the buried rock of the Monument Upwarp creating oxbows, or goosenecks. Some of these goosenecks were abandoned and today remain



perched high above the riverbed. Ancient mudbanks, or bioherms, contain dense concentrations of algae, corral, brachiopods, and other fossils which can be found along the base of the canyon. The 25 million-year-old San Juan River is also the only stream that bisects Comb Ridge, a 600-foot-high sandstone monocline that runs for nearly 100 miles north to south.

Cultural: Remnants of two separate cultures abound along the San Juan River. Semi-nomadic archaic Indians and Anasazi cultures probably used river water for agriculture. This allowed a large, sedentary Anasazi population to inhabit the river corridor. Mud and stone rockshelters, living terraces, granaries, circular kivas, stone towers, pictographs, petroglyphs, and other extensive ruins make the San Juan River an enchanting study of the history of the Anasazi. Historic: In 1859, a U.S. exploring party camped on the river in search of a supply route between the Rio Grande Valley and the southern settlements of Utah. After some settlement of the San Juan area, the LDS Church feared encroachment, and organized a caravan of 83 wagons to colonize the river. Following six months of brutal travel from Salt Lake and the creation of the Hole-in-the-Rock Road, the San Juan River was permanently settled in Bluff, Utah.

Recreation: Spectacular red rock scenery and easy access to Anasazi ruins entice a variety of recreationalists, from rafters to rock hounds. Several commercial outfitters offer guided trips through this unique and majestic country. The San Juan River also offers access to many Anasazi ruins contained within the narrow canyons along its path.



ARCH CANYON CREEK

8 miles from confluence of Texas and Butts canyons to Comb Wash

Private Land: None Managing Agency: San Juan BLM

The National Park Service recommended designating Arch Canyon as a National Monument in 1937. Then again, in the 1970's, the BLM proposed designating Arch Canyon an Outstanding Natural Area. Both of these recommendations attest to the incredible uniqueness of Arch Canyon. With its diverse riparian habitat, abundant archaeological treasures, and rich geologic anomalies, Arch Canyon Creek should be permanently protected for future generations.

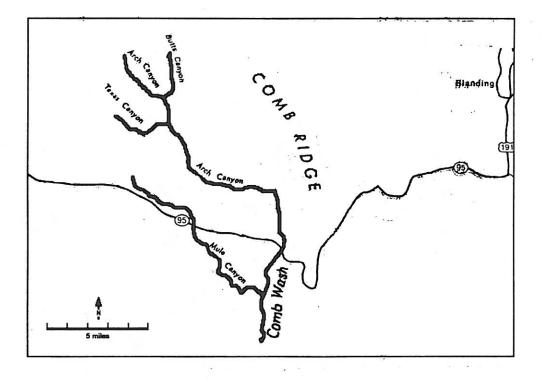
OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: Mule deer, bighorn sheep, bobcat, mountain lion, coyote, ringtail cat, and many bird species roam this wild canyon. A healthy riparian community flourishes along the waters of Arch Canyon Creek. Fremont cottonwood, aspen, ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, Gambel oak, maple, and the sensitive milkvetch thrive along the waters of this desert stream.

WILD

Archaeologic: More than 50 prehistoric sites exist throughout the canyon, attesting to the ancient cultures that inhabited Arch Canyon and its tributaries. Cliff dwellings, granaries, kivas, and multi-storied habitations provide visitors a unique glimpse into an ancient culture.

Scenic and Geologic: A plethora of arches, fins, spires, and alcoves attest to the unique geology of Arch Canyon. This 1,000-foot-deep gorge provides views of both the Abajos and the Comb Wash uplift. Striated red and white limestone faces provide bold backdrop to the perennial flows of Arch Canyon Creek.



MULE CANYON CREEK

5 miles from T.37S., R.19E., Sec.10 to	
Texas Flat Road Crossing	
5 miles to Comb Wash	WILD
	WIID

Private Land: None Managing Agency: San Juan BLM

Mule Canyon Creek supports an important wild ecosystem amid the ancient ruins and towering buttes of a deep desert canyon. Many terrestrial and avian species depend upon the untrammeled nature of this pristine gorge. Wild and scenic river protection would provide ecosystem continuity for both forks of Mule Canyon Creek.

OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

Fish and Wildlife: Mule Canyon is an important migration route for mule deer. Many bird species also rest in Mule Canyon during their seasonal migrations. The BLM has identified nine sensitive, threatened, and endangered animal species and two plant species that may inhabit Mule Canyon. Mule deer, cougar, white-tailed antelope, squirrel, chipmunk, deer mice, and several bat species inhabit this rugged canyon system. Resident bird species include great horned owl, Cooper's hawk, hairy woodpecker, ash-throated flycatcher, violet-green swallow, and rock wren. More than 13 miles of productive riparian zones provide important habitat for these species.

Scenic and Geologic: An abundance of buttes, arches, plateaus, and steep-walled canyons create an exhilarating surface geology on top of the Cedar Mesa Sandstone. The abundance of archaeological ruins juxtaposed within this pristine steep-walled canyon provide unlimited photographic opportunities.

Archaeological: The BLM has also identified more than 35 remnants of Anasazi habitations along Mule Creek, including many cliff dwellings. Other sites are almost certainly present.



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