# Wild and Scenic River Eligibility and Classification Determination

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# APPENDIX D

# WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY AND CLASSIFICATION DETERMINATION

**for the**

# SOUTH PLATTE RIVER

**and the**

# NORTH FORK OF THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER

**PIKE AND SAN ISABEL NATIONAL FORESTS**
**COMANCHE AND CIMARRON NATIONAL GRASSLANDS**

**SOUTH PLATTE AND SOUTH PARK RANGER DISTRICTS**

**Douglas, Jefferson, Park, and Teller Counties, Colorado**

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# I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and Cimarron National Grasslands is conducting a study to determine the eligibility and classification of the North Fork of the South Platte River and segments of the South Platte River for potential designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

This document is a revision of the Preliminary Wild and Scenic River Eligibility and Classification Report that was released on July 28, 1995. The revision incorporated comments received during the public scoping process which closed May 31, 1996.

The purpose of this report is to document determinations concerning:

1. The eligibility of these segments for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

2. Potential classification of these segments as a "Recreational," "Scenic," or "Wild" river.

This study includes an area 1/4 mile each side of the ordinary high water mark of the entire 50.1-mile mainstem of the North Fork of the South Platte River from its headwaters to its confluence with the South Platte River (Segments F, G, H), and 22.6-mile portion of the South Platte River from below Cheesman Dam to the high water line of Strontia Springs Reservoir (Segments D & E).

The eligibility of these river segments for Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) designation is being determined under the provisions found in Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 (P.L 90-542 et *seq).*

To be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System a river must meet both of the following criteria:

1. It must be free-flowing, and;

2. possess one or more Outstandingly Remarkable Values (OR Values).

The 22.9-mile portion of the North Fork of the South Platte River from the upstream boundary of the Berger property, near Insmont, downstream to within 1/4 mile of Its confluence with the South Platte River (Segment H) and the 22.6-mile portion of the South Platte River downstream from the stream gage below Cheesman Dam to the high water line of Strontia Springs Reservoir (Segments D & E) meet both eligibility requirements. They are free-flowing and possess the following Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

1. Recreational (Segments D, E, H)

2. Fisheries (Segments D & E)

3. Wildlife (Segments D, E, H)

4. Cultural (Historic) Resources (Segment H)

Classification as a "Wild", "Scenic', or "Recreational" river area is determined by the level of water resource development, shoreline development, accessibility, and water quality."Wild" rivers are the most primitive rivers in the W&SR system, 'Scenic" rivers are largely primitive but somewhat developed, and "Recreational" rivers are the most developed rivers in the W&SR system.

The 3.1-mile section (Segment D) of the South Platte River, downstream from the stream gage below Cheesman Dam downstream to the upstream boundary of the Wigwam Club property (NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 Section 29, Township 9 South, Range 70 West), is classified as a potential "Wild' river.

The 4.9-mile portion of Segment H, from the downstream side of the stone house near Estabrook to the Section line between Sections 29 and 30, downstream from Cliffdale, is classified as a potential 'Scenic" river.

The remainder of Segment H as well as the other 64.3 miles of eligible segments are classified as potential "Recreational' river segments.

A comprehensive river study will be conducted in the future, including a suitability report and accompanying legislative environmental impact statement, to determine if the eligible segments are suitable for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. If the recommendation is to include all or part of these river segments in the W&SR System, the suitability study and legislative environmental impact statement will be submitted to Congress for a final decision. In the interim, the Forest Service is required to maintain the eligibility and classification of the eligible segments until a final determination is made (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8).

## II. INTRODUCTION

Section 5(d)(1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, P.L 90-542 *et seq,* requires all Federal agencies to consider potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas in all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources. FSM 1924 states "consideration of the potential wild and scenic rivers is an inherent part of the ongoing land and resource management planning process." The North Fork of the South Platte River (Segments F, G, H) and two segments of the South Platte River (Segments D & E) are being considered for potential Wild and Scenic River designation under the provisions of Section 5(d)(1) of the W&SR Act and as per direction given in the following documents:

Federal Register, National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas, (Guidelines), September 1982 (47 FR 39454-39461).

Forest Service Manual, FSM 2354.

Forest Service Handbook, FSH 1909.12, Chapter 8.

Revision Desk Guide, Rocky Mountain Region, (Revision Guide), Chapter 8, September 1993.

For the purposes of this analysis, the Forest Service has established a study area 1/4-mile wide from either side of the ordinary high water mark of the study rivers. The maps included in Appendix A show the area being considered.

## National Wild and Scenic River System

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System currently includes a total of 10,744 miles of river on 151 river segments throughout the United States. These designated rivers are managed under the provisions of the W&SR Act to preserve or enhance their Outstandingly Remarkable Values in the future. The Act encourages a cooperative management relationship between the various levels of government and private organizations or landowners along designated river corridors.

## Previous Studies

Several major Federal reports have been written regarding National Wild and Scenic Rivers eligibility status for portions of the South Platte and the North Fork of the South Platte Rivers. These studies concluded that portions of the rivers meet eligibility standards for Wild and Scenic River designation.

In 1972 the “Western U.S. Water Plan, Streams and Stream Systems, Working Document,’ a multi-agency report, said that the South Platte River has “free-flowing values” and “should be appropriately considered and evaluated in Federal planning.”

In 1974, ‘A Conceptual Proposal for a South Platte Canyons Free-Flowing Recreational River’ published by the Bureau of Recreation, found that the river was eligible for Wild and Scenic river protection.

In 1977, the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation’s ‘Water and Land Resources Management Study for Metropolitan Denver and South Platte River and Tributaries, Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska’ lists the South Platte as “free-flowing” and “potential regional park”, "general park", or “recreation area’.

The National Rivers Inventory (NRI), published by the National Park Service in 1982, included the South Platte River from below Elevenmile Dam to the high water line of Cheesman Reservoir (upstream from Segments D and E in this study). It concluded that these segments (A, B, and C) have outstanding values which make them potentially eligible for consideration for addition into the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The NRI did not however, include any of the segments under consideration in this eligibility analysis.

In 1984, the eligibility and classification of Segments A, B, and C was analyzed as part of the Forest planning process for the Pike and San Isabel National Forests and Comanche and

Cimarron National Grasslands. The Forest Plan determined that all three segments were eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System. Each segment is considered free-flowing, with outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, and wildlife values. Additional information can be found in Appendix F of the FEIS for the Forest Plan. Because these river segments were identified through the forest planning process, they are recognized as study rivers under the provisions of Section 5(d) (1) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L 90-542 et seq). No further evaluation is included in this eligibility document for these segments of the river.

In May 1988, the Rocky Mountain Regional Office of the National Park Service evaluated the South Platte River from below Cheesman Dam to its confluence with the North Fork of the Platte River (Segments D & E) for possible inclusion in the NRI. In their letter to the Director of the National Park Service they found that the river "possesses outstandingly remarkable recreational, fish, historic, and other (endangered species) values.' Furthermore, their field inspection "disclosed no characteristics which would cause the stream to be considered ineligible as a Recreational component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.' This was not however, an official Eligibility Study, and the finding was later withdrawn by the National Park Service at the request of Rocky Mountain Regional Forester Gary Cargill.

## Purpose

This document presents the methods and results of the eligibility and classification analyses.

The purpose of this analysis is to determine whether the North Fork of the South Platte River and Segments D and E of the South Platte River meet the minimum requirements for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Although there have been other studies, opinions, or findings concerning the eligibility of the river segments under study here, none constituted an official eligibility study under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This document is the official eligibility study and constitutes the final eligibility and classification determination for these study segments.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act specifies that to be eligible, a river must have two characteristics: it must be free-flowing, and it must possess one or more OR values. These resources include, but are not limited to the scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, and cultural values of the river and its corridor.

River segments found eligible are classified as either "Wild', "Scenic', or "Recreational", based on the level of development and access in the study corridor.

The sole purpose of this document is to make and eligibility determination and to classify the eligible segments. If any segments are found eligible, a comprehensive river study and suitability determination will be completed at a later date under the provisions of the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA). The river study and environmental impact statement would include public involvement and take into consideration the social and economic trade-offs of designating the study corridor as a wild and scenic river, as well as alternative methods of managing the river corridor.

# ILL. ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS

The South Platte River and the lower portion of the North Fork of the South Platte River have been intensively studied in the past. These studies, listed in Appendix B, range from recreational to developmental analyses, and include previous attempts to secure permits to build dams and previous attempts to determine the eligibility of these study segments for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The most recent study is the Metropolitan Denver Water Supply EIS (Two Forks EIS) published in 1988 by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This included a proposal for a dam just below the confluence of the South Platte and North Fork of the South Platte Rivers and other associated projects. The Two Forks EIS was used as a primary source of data for this eligibility and classification analysis. Additional studies and discussions relevant to the analysis were also used to determine the eligibility and classification of the river segments.

To be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System a river must meet both of the following criteria:

1. It must be free-flowing, and;
2. possess one or more OR values.

## Free-Flowing Character

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Section 16(b)) defines free-flowing as:

> "...existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works, and other minor structures ... shall not automatically bar its consideration for inclusion: *Provided*, that this shall not be construed to authorize, intend, or encourage future construction of such structures within components of the national wild and scenic rivers system."

The Federal Register Guidelines relating to free-flow state:

> 'There may be some existing impoundments, diversions and other modifications of the waterway having an impact on the river area Existing low dams, diversion works, rip-rap and other minor structures will not bar recreational classification, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.'

Four major reservoirs are located above the South Platte River section currently under analysis in this study. They are Antero, Spinney Mountain, Elevenmile, and Cheesman. Two reservoirs are also situated immediately below the sections currently under analysis. These include Strontia Springs and Chatfield. Operational flows of the South Platte River between Cheesman Dam and Strontia Springs Reservoir fluctuate tremendously, from a minimum of 1.6 cubic feet per second (cfs) to a maximum of 4,580 cfs.

The Federal Register Guidelines state:

> 'The fact that a river segment may flow between large impoundments will not necessarily preclude its designation. Such segments may qualify if conditions within the segments meet the criteria.'

There are no major reservoirs or impoundments on North Fork of the South Platte River, but free-flowing conditions are affected in its central portion due to human-caused dams, diversions, impoundments, and modifications for municipal, residential, and agricultural use, and to protect the channel from additional flows from the Roberts Tunnel. Flows of the North Fork are heavily augmented with western slope waters which are brought to the river via this tunnel from Dillon Reservoir.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers System currently includes a number of rivers which are regulated by reservoirs or have augmented flows. One of these rivers is the Cache La Poudre in northern Colorado. The Cache La Poudre has similar regulated flow conditions as segments of the South Platte River and North Fork of the South Platte River under study here.

**Segments Studied**

In accordance with the procedures specified in the Revision Desk Guide for the Rocky Mountain Region, the rivers were divided into segments for analysis purposes. These segments include:

Segment D - The 3.1-mile section of the South Platte River downstream from the stream gage below Cheesman Dam downstream to the upstream boundary of the Wigwam Club property (NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4 Section 29, Township 9 South, Range 70 West).

Segment E - The South Platte River from the upstream boundary of the Wigwam Club property downstream to the high water line of Strontia Springs Reservoir (6029 foot contour) (19.5 miles).

Segment F - The North Fork of the South Platte River from the headwaters downstream to its confluence with Kenosha Gulch (9.7 miles).

Segment G - The North Fork of the South Platte River from its confluence with Kenosha Gulch downstream to the upstream boundary of the Berger property (NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 72 West), near Insmont (17.5 miles).

Segment H - The North Fork of the South Platte River from the upstream boundary of the Berger property, near Insmont, downstream to within 1/4 mile of its confluence with the South Platte River (22.9 miles).

There are existing impoundments, diversions, and other modifications in all of the river segments that have some impact on the river area These include existing diversion dams, check dams, rip-rap, stream monitoring gages, jetties, channel relocation, tire and rock walls, bridges, pipes, and culverts. For example, in Segment H, there are six diversion dams, numerous check dams, and evidence of bank stabilization associated with the historic railroad grade and from the County gravel road (Survey of Man-Made Alterations - Denver Water). In Segments D, E, F, and H these developments do not affect the natural or riverine appearance of the area.

Segment G, below the Roberts Tunnel, was found not to be 'free-flowing' as defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Although there are no major impoundments or reservoirs within this segment, the river has been principally altered by human activities leaving the majority of the segment no longer in a natural riverine appearance.

These activities include three major activities designed to control the flow and potential flooding of the river and affect its free-flowing characteristics. These activities affect the river bed, the river's appearance, resources associated with the river, and other values located in this segment of the river corridor.

The first is associated with the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) which conducts numerous road improvements along the US Highway 285 transportation corridor. Between the towns of Webster and Bailey, CDOT has relocated the bed of the North Fork in at least 20 locations. In 1988, between the towns of Grant and Webster, approximately 30% of the channel was relocated. In addition to the channel relocation work, extensive bank shoring (rip-rapping), channel clearing, small islands and meanders removal, rock and earthen dams construction, and thousands of cubic yards of wetland and riparian zones have been backfilled or removed. River banks have been steepened, vegetation has been removed, shoulders have been gravelled or paved, and in some areas the banks have been built up so that the river appears more like a canal.

The second major activity affecting the North Fork's free-flowing characteristic within this segment is administered by the Denver Water Department. Approximately 16 miles of the river channel between the town of Grant to the National Forest boundary near Estabrook have been channelized. Most of this activity has occurred from Grant through the property owned by the National Farmers Union below Bailey (upstream from Segment H). The river channelization (done primarily to deepen the underwater canyon called a 'thalweg") was conducted to accommodate the increased water flows from the Dillon Reservoir to the North Fork via the Roberts Tunnel. Much of the natural material normally found in this type of river such as woody debris, large rocks and boulders, or river plants, are absent. Constant maintenance of the channel is necessary because the river valley gradient is low. The deepening of the thalweg combined with the increased flow velocity and volume, and the colder water temperatures of the imported waters have affected the historical fisheries value of the North Fork and have altered the outward appearance of the river by producing a 'manicured' effect.

Both projects have rip-rapped or otherwise stabilized the river bed and banks in many locations. Natural occurring features of a river such as logs, rocks and vegetation have been removed. Tributary streams have been re-routed, and numerous culverts and bridges installed. With all the changes and modifications to portions of Segment G downstream from the Robert's Tunnel, it has lost its natural appearance and is more of an artificial channel.

A third impact to the natural appearance and affecting the free-flowing characteristics of the North Fork between the Roberts Tunnel and the start of Segment H, near Insmont, is the result of local residents, agriculturalists, tourist facilities, and ranching outfits. To support this developed environment, there are small reservoirs, numerous stock ponds, canals, and other water diversion sites. This overall impact, when considered by itself, is relatively minor and would not necessarily remove this portion of Segment G from eligibility consideration. When combined with the other two activities, the overall effect leads to the not free-flowing determination.

There are a few locations within this of the North Fork that appear natural or are otherwise unaffected as a result of these three activities. To attempt to list these few locales as components of the Wild and Scenic River System, would result in excessive segmentation.

### Finding

All the study segments are considered free-flowing except for Segment G, downstream from the Roberts Tunnel. Channel modifications and diversions are present, particularly on Segment H and the lower portion of Segment D, but they are not considered significant enough to affect the free-flowing nature of the river. Segment G has undergone extensive alteration by human activities downstream from the Roberts Tunnel and Includes over 20 diversion dams, numerous check dams, the outlet for the Roberts Tunnel, channel relocations, and countless other human-made Intrusions and modifications to the river bed, channel, banks, and vegetation (Survey of Manmade Alterations - Denver Water), leaving a majority of the segments no longer In a natural riverine condition.

## Outstandingly Remarkable Value Analysis

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act specifies that the eligibility for the Wild and Scenic River System shall be based on "outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values" of the river or its immediate environment. Although a river or river segment may contain multiple outstandingly remarkable values, only one remarkable outstanding value is necessary to qualify the river or river segment as eligible." Some values were determined to be important or "significant" to the river corridor or local area, but were not found to be outstandingly remarkable when viewed at a national or regional level. The regional level defined for this study is the Front Range which includes the Colorado portions of the South Platte and Laramie River watersheds in Colorado (USDA Forest Service, Revision Desk Guide, Rocky Mountain Region).

Although the determination of value significance is a matter of informed judgment and interpretation, the process used by the Forest Service has been standardized to provide consistency. This process includes the following analysis and verification techniques:

- The use of an interdisciplinary team with technical expertise related to each of the values being analyzed.

- Consideration of uniqueness and rarity at a regional and national level.

- Values must be river related in that they owe their existence or contribute to the functioning of the river system and its environment.

- The use of qualitative guidelines to help determine significance

- Verification by other experts in the subject area.

The analysis of OR values followed the Forest Service's approach. These findings will be subject to external review when the river study is completed.

Forest Service specialists provided current information on river-related values in the corridor. The categories that have been considered include:

Scenic
Recreational
Geologic
Vegetation/Ecological
Fisheries
Wildlife
Cultural
Other Resource Values

## IV. CRITERIA FOR RATING OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

### 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 length and not common to other rivers in the geographic region.

### Recreational

Recreational opportunities are, or have the potential to be, unique enough to attract visitors from outside the geographic region. Visitors would be willing to travel long distances to use the resource for recreational purposes. River-related opportunities could include, but are not limited to: sightseeing, wildlife observations, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. Other criteria include diversity**,** level of use, quality, uniqueness, naturalness, and length of seasonal use.

Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the geographic region.

The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events.

## Geologic

The river or the area within the study corridor contains an example(s) of a geologic or hydrologic feature, process, or phenomena that is rare, unusual, one-of-a-kind, or unique to the geographic region. 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 or hydrologic features such as erosional, volcanic, glacial, and other geologic, or hydrologic structures.

## Vegetation/Ecological

The river or area within the study corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous plant species. Of particular significance are species considered to be unique or populations of federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species. When analyzing vegetation, additional factors such as diversity of species, number of plant communities, and cultural importance of plants may be considered.

## Fisheries

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations and/or habitat - or a combination of these river-related conditions.

### Populations

The river is internationally, nationally or regionally an important producer of fish species. Of particular significance is the presence of wild stocks and/or federally 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 or has the potential to provide exceptionally high quality fish habitat. Of particular significance is habitat for naturally producing stocks and/or federally 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.

## Wildlife

Wildlife values shall 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 study 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 study 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.

## Cultural

The river or area within the study 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, has exceptional human interest value(s), or is one-of-a-kind in the geographic region. A historic site(s) and/or feature(s) in most cases are 50 years old or older; a prehistoric site is older than recorded history. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting cultural history; 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.

Of particular significance are sites or features listed by the Colorado State Historic Preservation Office to be eligible for inclusion in the National or State Register of Historic Places on a regional, state, or national level of significance.

## Other Resource Values

The goal of this eligibility analysis is to determine whether the rivers or river segments meet the minimum requirements to be added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Information on river-related values in addition to those listed above was considered in the analysis process; however, separate sections on each resource present in the study corridor were not developed unless existing information indicated that a resource or value was clearly outstanding or notable in the region. The assessments of all river-related values will be considered in depth in the suitability study process.

# V. SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF VALUES

## Scenic

The scenic beauty of the South Platte and North Fork of the South Platte River corridors has received wide acclaim since at least the 1880s and has been well documented in books, magazines, and newspapers. In both cases, the river and river canyon are distinctive visual features. The streams are largely composed of clear, smooth water interspersed with deep pools

and sections of white water flowing over boulders. Rock outcrops of pink and gray granite and riverside stands of willow are common along the river corridor. Jagged outcrops and massive rounded boulders of Pikes Peak granite are combined with steep vegetated slopes, providing a variety of visual relief. Vegetation types range from wetland and riparian species such as willows and tall grasses that grow within the flood plain, to cottonwoods, pines, spruces and drier forbs and short grasses ranging up the valley slopes. Wildflowers of various hues bloom from March through October. In the fall, the cottonwoods, aspens, vines and willows contrast their reds and yellows with the blue-greens of the spruce-fir forests. Local and regional newspapers highlight the South Platte River and North Fork of the South Platte River corridors as places for exceptional viewing of fall foliage.

The area's popularity for scenic viewing is enhanced by its accessibility from trails or paved and gravelled roads which parallel the majority of the river segments under study. Prior to construction of today's modern transportation network, wagon and coach roads, and later railroads and spurs, provided access to much of the area. Because of the many bends and curves of the river, and subsequently the river road, there are ample opportunities to view the crystal clear waters, diverse vegetation patterns and landforms. The lower portions of the study area are included and are highly visible from the Colorado Trail. The diverse landform and vegetation community supports a variety of animal life. All add to the scenic viewing enjoyment and overall attraction of the river corridor.

The scenery of the area figured into the economic growth and success of the early railroad days. In the 1880s railroads parallelled portions of the study segments bringing tourists into the area to enjoy the scenery and fisheries values. The river canyon's beauty was prominently featured in the advertisements for the Denver South Park and Pacific Railway Company. Remnants of this historic resource are still visible today, and provide history buffs and others with additional scenic viewing opportunities.

Chapter 4 of the Two Forks EIS (Volume 1) sums up the significant visual resources. The EIS describes the area as composed of rugged mountain foothills characterized by forested slopes, rock outcrops, and jagged peaks, with a grassy flood plain in a narrow canyon. The banks of the South Platte River support stands of riparian vegetation which contrast with coniferous vegetation on the hillsides. Deciduous trees and shrubs, such as cottonwood and willow, as well as grassy meadows line the river. The fine branching patterns of these deciduous trees and shrubs soften the texture of surrounding hillsides, and the fall color of the leaves is highly distinct. The scenic quality is also attributed to the diversity of distinct natural (geologic and landform) features found. Some of the more notable features include Skull Rock, Long Scraggy Peak, Noddle Heads, Eagle Rock, and the Chutes. Although most of these features are located outside the study corridor, these distinctive geologic formations provide visual interest and serve as regional landmarks.

## Recreational

The recreation features of the study corridor are generally described by the Two Forks EIS. It states that the South Platte River is a significant recreation resource since it is one of three Front Range rivers in Colorado having an annual flow in excess of 200,000 acre-feet. The portion of the South Platte River in the project study area (the same area as for this Wild and Scenic

analysis), represents a limited resource of large river canyons. Its proximity to a large urban area makes it an important and unique recreation resource for the Front Range of Colorado. Public lands and the existing road system make this (area) highly accessible to a large population center...The combination of proximity, accessibility, and fishing quality near a large metropolitan area is unique, and the fishing opportunity is considered to a be a significant resource (pp. 4-98, 4-100.) Recreation use on the National Forest portion of the study area is estimated at 300,000 Recreation Visitor Days which accounts for 10 percent of the recreational use on the Pike-San Isabel National Forests.

The dispersed recreation activities are a significant recreation resource in the regional area The natural stream gradients, level areas, vegetation patterns, and scenic quality along the river provide a variety of dispersed recreation activities. These activities include camping, picnicking, swimming, tubing, sunbathing, motorcycle use, scenic viewing, rock climbing, and organized activities such as volleyball and horseshoes. The majority of these activities are day use activities and are related to the presence of the river either directly, such as for boating, tubing and fishing, or indirectly, such as for scenic viewing. The capacity of the canyon bottom and the designated parking and developed camping are also important to activities such as hiking and off-highway vehicle (OHV) use, which are only marginally related to the river resource.

The project study area includes over 27 miles of white-water boating opportunities, which are a significant recreational resource. This includes approximately 7 miles of the North Fork below Buffalo Creek, 14 miles on the South Platte from Deckers to the North Fork confluence, and 6 miles on the South Platte from Reservoir to Riverside Campgrounds in Elevenmile Canyon. The South Platte River and the North Fork which are used by over 12,000 kayakers and canoeists each year...and represents 70 percent of the river boating activity on the Pike National Forest. The study area offers a broad range of white-water boating opportunities, from Class I to Class V (International Scale of Difficulty). The white-water boating opportunity is an especially valuable resource in that it is close to Metropolitan Denver and there are river segments that are suitable for teaching and practicing boating skills.

Kayakers have been able to access the upper portion of the North Fork at the town of Bailey and at property owned by the Farmer's Home Union located downstream from Bailey. Pine Valley Ranch, part of the Jefferson County Open Space park system will provide take out" points for watercrafts, parking and other amenities that will increase kayak and other recreation uses. River take out points within or downstream of the town of Pine have often presented problems with private land owners. The section of the river between Pine Valley Ranch and the community of Buffalo Creek (approximately three miles) is privately owned and access to the river is not generally open to the public.

Much of the popularity of the South Platte is due to its unique capability to accommodate a wide variety of recreation activities in one location. This diversity of recreation opportunities within the project study area contributes significantly to the popularity and uniqueness of the site (pp. 4-100, 4-101). The same can be said of the North Fork of the South Platte River below Kenosha Creek.

Developed recreation facilities in the study area include four National Forest campgrounds between the Wigwam Club and Strontia Springs Reservoir, with a combined capacity of over 520 people at one time. There are 12 other campgrounds within a half hour drive of the river that

can accommodate another 2,400 people. In addition to the campsites on the South Platte, there are three developed picnic areas that can accommodate 56 persons at one time, numerous trailheads, and two campgrounds on the North Fork of the South Platte River in Segment F. Other cultural recreational attractions in the study include three private resorts, two private fishing clubs, a YMCA camp, and a private campground. There are also 222 recreation cabins in the area, 21 on public lands. The private resorts, cabins, and fishing clubs and a YMCA camp are directly linked to the river and its recreation values.

Rock climbing, or mountaineering, is a popular activity in the area. *South Platte Rock Climbing,* (Hubbel and Rolofson, 1988), is devoted specifically to the South Platte and North Fork. Although most of the climbs associated with the South Platte River are outside the 1/2-mile wide river corridor, the access for these climbs are within the corridor. Primary routes associated with this area of the South Platte River include Top Of The World, Malay Archipelago, and Noddle Heads. There is a lack of comparative data with which to judge the geology and rock climbing values to other regional areas. The lower North Fork area within and adjacent to this 1/4-mile river corridor is a popular rock climbing area and is highlighted in many sporting goods stores and at least two rock climbing books. Many of the popular

rock climbing sites are privately owned and permission to climb on or cross private property to gain access to public climbing spots must first be obtained from the landowner. Within the South Platte and North Fork River area, the North Fork area is higher rated.

Special user groups play a large part in the use and management of the South Platte River. Youth groups such as scouting organizations do public service projects on the river each year. Other service groups, such as Trout Unlimited, also do yearly projects designed to protect and enhance the river while promoting their organization. Trout Unlimited also holds their annual Masterfly fishing event in Cheesman Canyon. The Paralyzed Veterans of America provides recreation opportunities for senior citizens and mentally challenged youths as well as for their own membership, on an annual basis.

## Geologic

The corridor from Cheesman to Strontia exhibits notable geologic and/or physiographic landmarks that are located in or visible from the study corridor. These include Cathedral Spires, Cheesman Canyon, Dome Rock, Skull Rock, Long Scraggy Peak, the ‘Chutes”, the Noddle Heads, and Eagle Rock.

According to Chronic (1980), the predominant geologic formation is Pikes Peak Granite, “a beautiful pink granite that contains stubby interlocking crystals of glass-like quartz and flat-faced white and pink feldspar, with a liberal sprinkling of hornblende and back flaky mica (p. 95)”. Formed from an ancient batholith of molten rock about a billion years ago, the weathering of Pikes Peak Granite follows joint planes, separating boulders and rounding the protruding angular edges. Along the river, the erosion of the granite has formed knobs, massive cliffs, and pinnacles of monumental rounded blocks. Many dikes in this area have large crystals of feldspar, smoky quartz and mica. In other places, particularly near the confluence, the granite is cut by pegmatite dikes. Elsewhere **it** may be cut by white veins composed of muscovite and white milky quartz.

## Vegetation/Ecological

The area on the South Platte River from Cheesman Dam to Strontia Springs Reservoir and an area on the North Fork of the South Platte from the upstream end of the Berger property, near Insmont, to 1/4 mile from the confluence (Segments D, E, H) contain riparian and wetland areas important to the health of the river and associated wildlife in the Front Range area of Colorado. Of particular importance is the prairie gayfeather *(Liatris punctata),* necessary for the survival of the Pawnee montane skipper butterfly. Cheesman Canyon may also contain habitat for the spotted owl. The river corridor from Cheesman Canyon to below Scraggy View (Segment D and part of Segment E) has been identified as potential habitat for the Ute-Ladies Tresses orchid, a threatened species.

Habitat types of increasing concern to the State and to the nation are wetland and riparian zones. According to the Two Forks EIS, there are at least 431 acres of wetland along the South Platte River from Cheesman Dam to Strontia Springs Reservoir. Some of this acreage includes the lower five miles of the North Fork above the confluence.

Segments D, E, and H each contains habitat types and diversity which are important and essential to the survival of several wildlife species, some of which are threatened, endangered, or sensitive. The potential for vegetative threatened species, the Ute-Ladies Tresses orchid, is very good. A number of wetland and riparian areas are located along these segments. Although the diversity of vegetative habitats supports the wildlife diversity and the vegetative diversity also contributes to the Recreational OR Value, Vegetative/Ecological was not found to be Outstandingly Remarkable.

## Fisheries

The fisheries within the analysis area has been best summed up by Region VIII of the U.S. Environmental Protect Agency in the 1990 report *Recommended Determination to Prohibit Construction of Two Forks Dam and Reservoir Pursuant to Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act* (EPA Report). Data supporting the population and habitat are presented as follows on page 22 of the EPA Report:

> 'The fishery in the Two Forks dam and reservoir area (Segments D, E, H) is an extremely valuable and unique resource. The Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) examined the historic records concerning the South Platte fisheries and concluded that the entire South Platte basin upstream from Denver possessed a phenomenal native fishery prior to initial settlement of the Denver area. By the late 1880's this quality fishery was being actively promoted by the railroads in an effort to attract fare-paying fishermen. This large area of quality fishery has been reduced to limited portions of the basin today, much of which is in the Two Forks dam and reservoir area
>
> In recognition of the value and uniqueness of the remaining resource, the Colorado Wildlife Commission and the USF&WS each selected the South Platte River in the inundation area for special status. The Colorado Wildlife Commission has designated the stretch of the mainstem of the South Platte from Cheesman Dam to the town of South Platte as a Gold Medal trout fishery, one of the highest quality habitats for trout which offers the greatest

potential for trophy trout fishing and angling success. The primary game fish in the area are rainbow and brown trout.

The USF&WS has designated portions of the stream in the inundation area as Resource Category 1, indicating the "habitat to be impacted is of high value for evaluation species and is unique and irreplaceable on a national basis or in the ecoregion section." The main stem of the South Platte from Cheesman Dam downstream to the Scraggy View picnic area has been designated as Resource Category 1 (p. 21.)

The USF&WS concluded this stretch of stream is unique because of: 1) its combination of high biomass numbers and the large average size of the trout present; 2) the ability of the habitat to support these highly valued populations given the frequent adverse conditions resulting from the operation of Cheesman dam; 3) the ability of the stream reach to provide public fishing within reach of the large metropolitan population; and 4) the stream reach is the best of the Gold Medal segments in the State" (EPA Report, p. 21.).

In addition to the above EPA findings, the USF&WS has rated the South Platte River as Resource Category 2 habitat from the Scraggy View Picnic Ground to the confluence with the North Fork. This habitat is defined as being relatively scarce or becoming scarce. Mitigation goals provide for no net loss of in-kind habitat value.

In addition to its Gold Medal Waters status, the portion of the South Platte River from Cheesman Dam to the Wigwam Club (Segment D) is listed by the DOW as Wild Trout Waters, meaning the area is not stocked but consists of a self-sustaining trout population.

The study area has historically provided excellent recreational fishing opportunities, but the natural fishery capability and fish biomass has been altered by human manipulation. The excellent fish population (biomass) in Segment D and much of Segment E can be attributed to the tailwater effect of Cheesman Dam. Much of the fish biomass in Segment F however, can be attributed to the DOW fish stocking program. Despite these impacts, the habitat and fish populations draw strong year-round angling use from throughout the region.

## Wildlife

The Two Forks EIS, the EPA Report, and FS data have determined that the area from Cheesman to Strontia and the first 7 miles of the North Fork contains a highly diverse set of wildlife, including threatened and endangered and sensitive species. The Mexican spotted owl is a threatened species and has been reported in an area less than 6 air-miles from Deckers. Cheesman Canyon (Segment D) has potential owl habitat. Peregrine falcons, an endangered species, have nested adjacent to the lower North Fork study corridor on Cathedral Spires and utilize the study area for feeding. The nest site was the last site on the eastern slope to be abandoned during the peregrine decline in the 1960s and was occupied in 1993, 1994, 1995, and 1996 with four young successfully fledged in 1994 and two falcons successfully fledged in 1996. The bald eagle, a threatened species, uses Cheesman Canyon and other segments on the South Platte and lower North Fork for its wintering grounds. The Waterton Canyon area (lower portion of Segment E) contains a unique low-elevation Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep herd. In addition,

the entire stretch of the South Platte from Cheesman to Strontia (Segment D-E) and portions of Segment H on the North Fork of the South Platte River are home to the threatened Pawnee montane skipper butterfly.

Other sensitive species such as the osprey exist within the area; not all sensitive species have been surveyed for, and there is the high potential for other species, primarily birds, to be present.

Three segments (D, E, H) contain a mixture of various habitat types and structural stages which contribute to a rich habitat diversity. Certain key vegetation cover types provide essential feeding areas for wildlife, and are low in availability. These include high-evaluation riparian areas, mountain grasslands and shrubs, willows and sedges, pastures, and the grass-forb and shrub-seedling stages of forested types. All of these habitats are prime feeding habitats for elk, deer, and bighorn sheep.

According to the Two Forks EIS, 'The diversity components...are important to many species for different portions of their life cycles...they are particularly important to deer and elk for feeding...they are considered to be relatively scarce and extremely valuable.' (p.4-47).

## Cultural

Numerous cultural heritage resources exist within the two segments between Cheesman Dam and Strontia Springs Reservoir, and from Insmont to the confluence. The cultural resource reconnaissance surveys conducted for the Two Forks project resulted in the recording of 45 sites between Cheesman Dam and Strontia Springs Reservoir (Segments D-E), which were determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Many of these would be suitable for interpretation and/or scientific research. The Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad Grade, the Pine Historic District and the Estabrook Historic District have been officially listed with the National Register; all are located within Segment H. Cheesman Dam, just outside Segment D, is listed as a National Engineering Landmark.

Prehistoric Native American sites have been documented that exceed 7,000 years in age. However, little data is available that fully explores this period. Only one prehistoric site, a rock shelter located in Segment F, has been examined in any great detail. The previous surveys show that the corridors were used by Native Americans since early Archaic (ca. 7,000 years ago) up to the historic present. It is logical to assume that prehistoric use and/or occupation within the corridor occurred earlier than this.

Historic sites important to our understanding of the past are also present, and reflect themes relating to transportation, recreation, and engineering. Ferguson (1993) states that the first historic Euro-American contact in the area was in 1805, when a Kentuckian named James Purcell was chased to South Park "with an angry band of Sioux hot on his trail' *(Rocky Mountain Walks,* p. 174). In 1806 Zebulon Pike made his first exploration up the South Platte, also traveling to South Park.

The Platte River was a major gateway for the westward migration of Euro-Americans, with travelers following both the North and South Platte Rivers. Pierre and Paul Mallet, traveling from St. Louis, lead an early (1739) exploration party, and named the river Riviere La Platte

because of the flat shallow waters. Between 1800 and 1840, the South Platte River and the North Fork saw mainly trappers seeking fur-bearing animals. In 1858, at least two settlements formed at the junction of Cherry Creek and the South Platte River, known as Placer Camp and Montana City. By the 1850's the search for precious minerals was well underway. Between 1859 - 1860, the boom days had hit Tarryall Creek, upriver of Cheesman Dam, between the South Platte River and South Park. The boom led to organized stage, express and freight line service, and during the 1860's, upwards of 70,000 people immigrated to the Rocky Mountains. In 1860 the Denver, Auraria and Colorado Wagon Road Company and the Denver and South Park Stage Company were formed, serving the traffic up the South Platte and the North Fork. In 1862 the Tarryall and Arkansas River Wagon Road Company offered some competition as a toll and stage road servicing the upper South Platte canyon area above present day Cheesman Reservoir.

Between 1868 and 1870, thousands of pine and spruce were logged in the Platte canyons, primarily the North Fork, and floated to Denver for construction of the Denver Pacific and Kansas Pacific Railroad (Poor, 1949.) This is the only historical evidence found regarding the navigable activities of these rivers.

Between 1870 and 1880, Denver's population grew from 4,760 to 35,000 people, precipitating a "railroad war' between various political and commercial factions. In 1868 the first railroad route up the South Platte was undertaken by the Denver South Park and Pacific Railway, and by January of 1879, the railroad had reached Hall's Valley and crossed Kenosha Pass for South Park. By October of 1942 the line was abandoned, and the longest narrow gage line in the United States was dismantled.

## VI. OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUE FINDINGS

### South Platte River

From the base of Cheesman Dam to the impoundment waters of Strontia Springs Reservoir, the South Platte River canyon drops approximately 700 feet in elevation (from 6,700 feet to 6,000 feet). The narrowest and steepest gradient on the South Platte is between the base of Cheesman Dam to the Wigwam property boundary. The river drops approximately 300 feet within this three-mile stretch (Segment D). Between the Wigwam property and the community of Nighthawk, the canyon is much more open and broader, with an approximate drop of 200 feet in elevation within a fourteen-mile stretch (upper end Segment E). The gradient and narrowness of the canyon again increases from this point, dropping approximately 300 feet, a distance between Nighthawk and the Strontia impoundment waters, a distance of almost six miles (lower end Segment E).

Several creeks and gulches drain into the South Platte between Cheesman and Strontia Springs reservoirs. Many, like Jenny Gulch and Saloon Gulch, are of low volume or are intermittent in nature. Others, such as Horse Creek, Sugar Creek and Pine Creek, are permanent but also of low volume.

**Segment D**

The 3.1-mile section of the South Platte River includes the section from below Cheesman Dam downstream to the upstream boundary of the Wigwam Club property (the NW 1/4 of the NW 1/4, Section 29, Township 9 South, Range 70 West). The first mile below Cheesman Dam is owned by the City and County of Denver, and the next two miles are National Forest System lands. It is the finding of this Eligibility/Classification document that Segment D possesses the following Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational - Fishing, and dispersed recreation such as: hiking and scenic viewing.

This segment in Cheesman Canyon attracts people from all over the region for hiking, flyfishing, and scenic viewing in its rugged boulder-strewn canyon. The canyon is one of the most heavily fished sections in the State of Colorado and receives the heaviest fishing use in the Front Range. The Gill Trail, which parallels the river, is heavily used by anglers, hikers, nature observers, and photographers. Outfitters and guides permitted by the South Platte Ranger District cater to local, national and international clients. This area is also the site of the annual Masterfly Tournament sponsored by Trout Unlimited. The tournament is used as a fundraiser to enhance the South Platte River corridor.

Fisheries - Nationally renowned brown and rainbow trout populations and habitat.

The fisheries value for Segment D includes population and habitat. This segment contains exceptionally high fish habitat and is a nationally important producer of wild brown and rainbow trout. According to the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW), there are more than 9,000 miles of trout streams in Colorado. This stretch represents 3 miles of the ii 2.5 miles of wild trout streams, and 3 of the 167.8 miles of Gold Medal trout streams in the state. Wild Trout waters contain fish raised entirely within the natural environment and are not stocked with hatchery fish. Gold Medal waters provide outstanding angling opportunities for large trout. Cheesman Canyon is considered the "crown jewel" with more than 500 pounds of fish over a 14 square foot surface area. The CDOW ranks this among the most productive trout streams in the state if not the country. According to the USD1-Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW), Resource Category 1 waters are unique on a national basis and are irreplaceable in kind.

Wildlife - Pawnee montane skipper butterfly populations and habitat.

The Pawnee montane skipper qualifies under the wildlife population OR Value defined for this analysis. The montane skipper is a globally rare sub-species found only in the area of Platte Canyon from near South Platte up to approximately 7,400' elevation (Pague, et.al., 1993; Carlson, 1991). To add to the significance of this value, this sub-species of the skipper is listed in the *Federal Register* (52 FR 36176) as a Threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The habitat of the butterfly has been created by the river, over time, resulting in the current canyon topography.

Other values for this segment were evaluated including scenic, geologic, and cultural and were found to be significant but not Outstandingly Remarkable. The geologic features do contribute to the Recreational ORV's, but were not in themselves found to be Outstandingly Remarkable. Vegetation/ Ecological was not considered significant.

**Segment E**

The South Platte River from the upstream boundary of the Wigwam Club property downstream to the high water line of Strontia Springs Reservoir (19.5 miles). Approximately 50% of the land is National Forest System land; 45% is owned by the City and County of Denver; and 5% is privately owned. It is the finding of this Eligibility/Classification document that Segment E possesses the following Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

> Recreational - Dispersed and developed recreation such as: camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, scenic driving, and other day-use.
>
> The quality and diversity of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities along this segment and the accessibility and proximity of the area to major metropolitan areas provides an excellent year-round recreation resource. The recreational study for the *Two Forks EIS* indicated that the Recreational Visitor Day (RVD) use for the project area exceeds 304,000 RVD's on public land (this includes an area larger than the river corridor). However, most of this visitor use was projected to occur along the river, including the North Fork. A survey conducted by the District in 1993 (Maguire and Alden, 1994) lists the wide range of activities which occur within Segment E and Segment H. In addition to the premier flyfishing activity that occurs in the upper (60%) portion of this, the Paralyzed Veterans of America hosts an annual three-day fishing derby and an outing for over 750 persons with a disability and their families, senior citizens, and developmentally disabled youths. This event occurs near the historic site of Twin Cedars at the lower end of the segment. The area is also popular for waterfowl hunting. This segment is considered the best recreational river segment within the region of analysis primarily because of the amount and diversity of opportunities presented to such a large population base.
>
> Fisheries - Nationally renowned brown and rainbow trout populations and habitat.
>
> The fisheries value for Segment E includes population and habitat. The Colorado Division of Wildlife lists the South Platte from the Wigwam Club to the confluence with the North Fork as Gold Medal waters, approximately 85% of this segment's length. The USFW Resource Category 1 rating extends from the Wigwam Club to Scraggy View Picnic Grounds, approximately 45% of the segment, and Resource Category 2 extends from Scraggy View to Strontia Springs Reservoir. Gold Medal and Resource Category 1 waters were previously described under Segment D. Resource Category 2 waters are also Outstandingly Remarkable in that they represent aquatic habitat that must be mitigated in kind for no net loss.
>
> Wildlife - Pawnee montane skipper butterfly and habitat.
>
> (See description in Segment D)

Other values for this segment were evaluated including scenic, geologic, and cultural and were found to be significant but not Outstandingly Remarkable. Vegetation/Ecological was not considered significant.

## North Fork of the South Platte River

Headwater tributaries for the North Fork are located high on the eastern slope of the Continental Divide at 12,500 feet in elevation. The tributaries combine to form the main stem of the river at approximately 11,300 feet. The North Fork flows in an easterly direction for approximately 51 miles before reaching the South Platte River at an elevation of 6,050 feet. Numerous small intermittent and perennial streams contribute to the flow.

The North Fork has three distinct segments. The first is from the headwaters to Kenosha Gulch near the town of Webster (Segment F). This segment is known as Hall Valley. The landscape is a result of alpine glaciation, with a primary geologic substrata composed of the granitic Kenosha batholith. Elevation changes approximately 3,500 feet within the 9.7-mile segment. The overall topography is representative of a typical high mountain glacial valley, with narrow and steep tributary canyons, open vistas interrupted by glacial ridges, and alpine to sub-alpine vegetation.

The second segment is from Kenosha Gulch, near Webster, to Insmont near the community of Estabrook (Segment G). The river valley geology changes from the granitic batholith to a schist-gneiss complex, and the valley is much broader with less gradient drop. The river parallels an ancient fault, with the elevation dropping 1,520 feet in approximately 17.5 miles. Glacial and river gravels form flat terraces along the river. Most of the river is paralleled by US Highway 285. Numerous ranches, communities, and houses are found in this section, taking advantage of the open topography and transportation network. The water from Roberts Tunnel enters the river in this section three miles downstream from the community of Webster. The Forest Service maintains a work and visitor information center along the river corridor.

The third segment (Segment H) is from Insmont to the confluence with the South Platte River. The North Fork canyon takes on different characteristics within this 22.9-mile segment. The overall effect is a narrow and confined river canyon. The gradient rapidly drops 800 feet within the first seven miles. Near the town of Pine, the topography becomes less steep for the next five miles, with the gradient dropping 150 feet. Near the community of Riverview, the canyon again becomes narrower and steeper, dropping 1,500 feet in the next eleven miles before reaching the confluence. Population density within this segment is low as there are only a few small communities in this area and many of the dwellings are occupied on a seasonal basis. The channel has been modified in spots, and the banks have been stabilized in places during the construction of the historic railroad grade and more recently by county road work.

The entire length of Segment H is paralleled by either roads, trails or the historic (abandoned) railroad grade. Access to the river is restricted in places by private lands, but the majority of this segment is accessible to the general public. Jefferson County has recently developed the Pine Valley Ranch near Pine as a day-use Open Space park. Lands jointly managed by the Denver Water Department and the U.S. Forest Service, from near Buffalo Creek to the confluence, are also managed for day-use only. National Forest land in the Crossons area at the upper end of the segment is open for dispersed recreational use. A portion of the land at Crossons is privately owned where non-motorized access only is allowed.

**Segment F**

The North Fork of the South Platte River from the headwaters downstream to its confluence with Kenosha Gulch (9.7 miles). Approximately 65% of the lands are National Forest System lands and the rest is in private ownership. Also included in this analysis is the upper 2.3-mile portion of Segment G above the Roberts Tunnel. It is the finding of this Eligibility/Classification document that Segment F and the upper 2.2-mile section of Segment G possess no Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

Other values for this segment were evaluated and were found to be significant but not Outstandingly Remarkable. These include the following:

*Scenic:* In terms of scenic value, the terrain in the area is moderately varied with steep, stable and broad slopes. Rock forms, although present are not distinct or unusual in appearance. Rounded hills, ridges and peaks are not visually dominant. Minor lateral canyons are present.

Vegetation is moderately varied with interspersed patterns and common diversity in plant species or seasonal color. Vegetation offers a normal range of size, form, color, texture and spacing. In this segment the stream channel flows mostly through heavy stands of conifer vegetation. Views from the stream and of the stream are extremely limited except in the upper portion of Segment G where the stream parallels US Highway 285. Also, as a result of the heavy vegetation, sunlight to the stream is limited. The valley offers spring color from wildflowers and fall colors from the aspen.

Waterforms are varied with moderate numbers of water bodies, snow patterns and streams of varying size. Special features are only occasionally present. Poor water quality is found both in surface and ground water. Water clarity from the headwaters to the confluence with Handcart Gulch is excellent. However, below Handcart Gulch water clarity is very poor. The water is cloudy as a result of sediment loads. The high iron content in the water flowing from Handcart Gulch has stained the rocks and stumps in the stream channel. Several stretches of the stream are covered with timbers lying bank to bank, some with rootballs attached. In several locations the stream is heavily braided as a result of dams created by either beavers or flood debris.

*Recreation:* The lack of recreational fishing may contribute to the lesser amount of recreational use when compared to other parts of the drainage. There are developed recreation facilities which include a picnic area, campground and dispersed campsites located along the river in Segment F. These facilities are assessed as being relatively small, clean, and in good shape but they are not regarded as "destination' sites attracting visitors from outside the Denver metro area or for lengthy stays. Recreation opportunities are present on this segment but nothing outstandingly remarkable.

*Geologic:* The area is a part of the Front Range, an anticlinal northerly trending feature composed of igneous and metamorphic rocks. The highest portion of the area is the Continental Divide, which has been subjected to glacial action. Some spectacular geologic features occur in this area but nothing outstandingly remarkable.

*Fisheries:* There are no Outstandingly Remarkable Fisheries values recorded for this area. Up to the confluence of Handcart Creek the stream is murky and obviously polluted with mine drainage. It appears more or less sterile.

***Wildlife:*** The headwaters are habitat for mountain goats. There are sections near US Highway 285 that are critical winter range for deer. These values have local significance but are not outstandingly remarkable. There are no documented threatened or endangered species associated with this segment of the river.

*Cultural:* There are some cultural values significant to the area but nothing outstandingly remarkable on a national or regional level. No prehistoric sites have been recorded to date. The recorded mining-related resources in Segment F (the Whale and Missouri Mines, the Whale Mill, the tramway, Hallstown, and the Hallstown Smelter) and the railroad resources (railroad grade, and Webster site including the charcoal ovens) are determined locally significant and could be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places but have not been formally evaluated.

*Vegetation/Ecological:* The area was found to be typical of other high mountain valleys in the region. Primary tree species were Englemann and Colorado blue spruce, subalpine fir, scattered stands of aspen. Lower elevations contained stands of ponderosa pine with scattered Douglas-fir on the north and east aspects. Vegetation/Ecological was not considered significant.

**Segment G**

The North Fork of the South Platte River from its confluence with Kenosha Gulch downstream 17.5 miles to the upstream boundary of the Berger property (the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 34, Township 7 South, Range 72 West) near Insmont. Approximately 14.5 miles of Segment G are private lands and approximately 3 miles are National Forest System lands.

This segment was not examined for Outstandingly Remarkable Values downstream from the Roberts Tunnel because it did not meet the basic free-flowing eligibility criteria. In the short stretch above the Roberts Tunnel, it was evaluated and found similar to Segment F and no Outstanding Remarkable Values were identified. Consequently, Segment G is considered ineligible for designation as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

**Segment H**

The North Fork of the South Platte River from the upstream boundary of the Berger property near Insmont, downstream to within 1/4 mile of its confluence with the South Platte River (22.9 miles). It is the finding of this Eligibility/Classification document that Segment H possesses the following Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreational - Kayaking, and dispersed recreation such as picnicking, fishing, hiking, riding, scenic driving, and other day-uses.

The quality and diversity of dispersed recreation opportunities along this segment and the accessibility and proximity of the area to major metropolitan areas provides an excellent

year-round recreation resource. The Maguire and Alden (1994) survey conducted for the District shows the popularity of the segment as a day-use site.

The upper portion of the North Fork section (between the Buffalo Creek and the South Platte confluence) contains Class IV and V whitewater rapids, and is considered to be one of the premier kayaking waters within the region due to the presence of the rapids and the longer length of the season (Bowers, 1994; Baker, 1994). Its unique value is attributed to its level of difficulty, as well as sustained seasonal flows (National Park Service, 1995). Kayakers can still run the North Fork after other rivers in the region have passed their peak flows. This is due to the importation of water through the Roberts Tunnel. Kayakers who use the area are accustomed to frequent changes in flow volumes that result from the operation of Denver Water's delivery system.

The lower portion of the North Fork, between Buffalo Creek and the confluence, is important to all levels of kayakers and one of the few areas in the region most suitable for teaching entry-level kayaking.

The portion between Buffalo Creek and the confluence is heavily used by summer home residents, some year-round residents, and the general public. The majority of the land is owned by the City and County of Denver and is currently managed by the Denver Water Department as a day-use area

This segment also contains the Pine Valley Ranch, a Jefferson County Open Space Park which contains group picnic sites, an amphitheatre, several trails, and striking rock outcrops. The park is very popular regionally for picnicking and hiking.

Wildlife - Pawnee montane skipper butterfly populations and habitat, peregrine falcon habitat.

The significance of the skipper butterfly has been described under Segment D. There is a peregrine nest site immediately adjacent to the corridor on Cathedral Spires. The nest is outside the study corridor but the one-mile protective management buffer around the nesting site overlaps the river corridor. The study corridor provides important foraging habitat for the falcon. The nesting site and associated foraging habitat are considered to be of regional importance. The site was the last site to be abandoned during the peregrine decline of the 1960s and thus the habitat in this segment is considered to be outstandingly remarkable.

Cultural - Estabrook Historic District and North Fork Historic District including the Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad grade.

The State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) provided input on whether the two river corridors contained Outstandingly Remarkable Cultural Values. The SHPO examined all the known National Register sites in the corridor and determined that within the North Fork corridor between the Berger property and the confluence there are two outstandingly remarkable historic sites. These two sites are listed with the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for their association with the transportation and entertainment/recreation elements of Colorado history.

The two outstandingly remarkable cultural sites are the Estabrook Historic District (approximately 1/2 mile of the river corridor on either side of the community of Estabrook) and the North Fork Historic District which includes the North Fork corridor 1/4 mile west of Pine to 100 feet east of the South Platte Hotel. Included within the North Fork Historic District, but separate from the district designation, are several other historic sites which are also considered outstandingly remarkable on a regional level (Hartmann, 1994.) The Denver South Park and Pacific Railroad grade between South Platte and Pine is included as one of these sites. (NOTE: A segment of this railroad grade, between the North Fork and Estabrook Historic Districts, has not been officially assessed for the NRHP, yet presents a better physical representation of this historic period than the segments currently listed.)

Other values for this segment were evaluated including scenic, geologic, and fisheries and were found to be significant but not Outstandingly Remarkable. Vegetation/Ecological was not considered significant.

### Other Important Values

In addition to the values identified above, there are other values for the river corridors. The South Platte and North Fork Rivers are important corridors through which water is used by the City of Denver and other Front Range municipalities, as well as downstream for agricultural and irrigation purposes. The water is also used to sustain downstream ecological factors, including sensitive, threatened and endangered species. The free-flowing characteristics therefore have important hydrologic considerations.

The economic value of the area, locally and regionally, is important due to the river's recreational values, fisheries values, and rural lifestyles in the proximity of a large metropolitan area.

Finally, the synergistic values of Segments D, E, and H are also important. The overall beauty of the canyons, the free-flowing waters in a semi-arid environment, the presence of wildlife, and the proximity to the Front Range metropolitan area provide a setting unique to the region.

Although there are other important or significant values identified for the river segments studied here, none of these values were determined to be outstandingly remarkable.

## VII. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION

The South Platte River, from Cheesman Reservoir to Strontia Springs Reservoir, meets the minimum eligibility requirements as specified by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Thus, Segments D and E are found to be free-flowing and contain outstandingly remarkable recreation, fish, and wildlife values.

The North Fork of the South Platte River, from the upstream boundary of the Berger property near Insmont, to the confluence with the South Platte, also meets the minimum eligibility requirements as specified by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Segment H is considered free-flowing and contains outstandingly remarkable recreation, wildlife, and cultural values.

The North Fork of the South Platte River, from its headwaters to its confluence with Kenosha Gulch near Webster, is found to be free-flowing but possesses no Outstandingly Remarkable Values. As a result, this segment (Segment F) is ineligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System.

The North Fork of the South Platte River, from its confluence with Kenosha Gulch near Webster to the upstream boundary of the Berger property near Insmont (Segment G), is found not to be free-flowing and is thus, ineligible for inclusion into the National Wild and Scenic River System.

# VIII. CLASSIFICATION

## Introduction

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act requires that eligible rivers be classified as one of the following:

1. Wild river areas - Those rivers or sections of river that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America

2. Scenic river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas - Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

The appropriate classification of each study segment will be analyzed from the perspective of the topics contained in the classification definitions. Those individual determinations will then be considered as a whole to determine whether the river segments should be classified as a Wild, Scenic, or Recreational River in the event of inclusion within the National Wild and Scenic River System. This analysis will be conducted using the framework suggested by the 1982 joint guidelines developed by the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior. This framework is best displayed by the following chart from the September 7, 1982 Federal Register, which published the *National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas.* This chart provides an excellent summary of the more lengthy narrative in the *Guidelines.* It is not intended to stand alone and is applied in this analysis in the context of the longer narrative material and in context with applicable Wild and Scenic River legislation. There are four major topics addressed in the classification definitions of Wild, Scenic, and Recreational rivers. These topics are: Water Resource Development, Shoreline Development, Accessibility, and Water Quality.

| ATTRIBUTE | WILD | SCENIC | RECREATIONAL |
|---|---|---|---|
| Water Resource Development | Free of impoundment. | Free of impoundment. | Some existing impoundment or diversion.<br><br>The existence of low dams, diversions, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance. |
| Shoreline Development | Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity,<br><br>The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable.<br><br>A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable.<br><br>Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest, | Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.<br><br>The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.<br><br>The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable.<br><br>Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank. | Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity.<br><br>The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable.<br><br>Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses.<br><br>May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest. |
| Accessibility | Generally inaccessible except by trail.<br><br>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. | Accessible in places by road.<br><br>Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river. The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or rail-roads is acceptable. | Readily accessible by road or railroad.<br><br>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 recreation (swimming) except where exceeded by natural conditions. | 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. | |

### Classification Determination

The overriding determinant for classification decisions is the degree of naturalness, or inversely, the degree of evidence of man's activity in the river area. It is determined that the potential classifications of the 3.1-mile segment of the South Platte River from below Cheesman Dam downstream to the upstream boundary of the Wigwam Club property (Segment D) is classified as a potential "Wild" river. The remainder of the eligible segments, the North Fork of the South Platte River from the Berger property to the confluence with the South Platte (Segment H), and the South Platte River from the Wigwam property downstream to the high water line of Strontia Springs Reservoir (Segment E), are classified as potential "Recreational' river segments.

### Segment Analysis

***Segment D:*** This segment is accessible at either end by the Gill (foot) trail. Some cultural development has occurred in the past, primarily relating to mining and fishing activities. Numerous non-system trails are evident along both river banks. It is recommended as 'Wild" because the area within this segment lacks road access and human development.

***Segment E:*** This segment is paralleled by paved and gravel roads. Several small communities and isolated houses are located along the river and there are several developed picnic and camp sites. Numerous parking areas accommodate the large number of day-users and anglers. Several resorts and private camps are also located in this segment. This segment is recommended to be classified as "Recreational" due to road access and the amount of human development.

***Segments Hi and H3:*** These segments, including the North Fork from the upstream end of the Berger property to the downstream side of the old stone house downstream of Estabrook (Segment HI - 1.5 miles) and from the Section line between Sections 29 and 30 downstream of Cliffdale to 1/4-mile from the confluence of the South Platte (Segment H3 -16.5 miles), are classified as "Recreational" since they are paralleled by an historic railroad grade and graveled county roads, and contain developed recreation areas (such as Jefferson County's Pine Valley Ranch), numerous dwellings, and minor diversions and channel work.

***Segment H2:*** This 4.9-mile segment, from the downstream side of the old stone house downstream of Estabrook to the Section line between Sections 29 and 30 downstream of Cliffdale, is classified as "Scenic' since the area is predominately undeveloped National Forest System lands with very limited access. There is an old abandoned railroad grade through the area, a footbridge, some small check dams, and a few dwellings at Crossons, but the area remains largely primitive and undeveloped.

## IX. INTERIM MANAGEMENT

As a river segment identified for study via the land management planning process (Section 5(d)(1) study river), a ½-mile wide corridor (1/4 mile from average high water mark on both sides of the river) will be managed to protect river eligibility and classification. Interim

management requirements are in effect until the river study and resulting decision process is complete. These interim management guidelines only apply to Federal lands and have no effect on private lands within the study corridor.

1. To the extent the Forest Service is authorized under law to control stream impoundments and diversions, the free-flowing characteristics of the identified river segments cannot be modified.

2. OR values of the identified river area must be protected and, to the extent practicable, enhanced. This will be accomplished by applying direction found in FSH 1909.15, Chapter 8 (Interim Management Direction for Section 5(d)(1) Study Rivers) and forest plan standards and guides for Management Area 7 (Wild and Scenic Rivers).

3. Management and development of the identified river and its corridor cannot be modified to the degree that eligibility or classification would be affected (i.e., classification cannot be changed from wild to scenic or scenic to recreational).

To ensure these interim management responsibilities are met, an analysis of potential effects on free-flow and OR values of all proposed projects within and adjacent to the study corridor shall be completed and documented by the interdisciplinary team.

## X. REFERENCES

In addition to the previous studies cited in Appendix B, the following sources were used for this analysis:


Hartmann, James E. 1994. Colorado Historical Society, letter on file

Maguire, Patti and Dr. Howard Alden. 1994. *South Platte River Corridor Recreation User Study Report.* Manuscript on file, South Platte
Ranger District, Morrison, CO. 80465.

National Park Service, September 8, 1995 letter on file.

Obmascik, Mark. 1993. "South Platte River No. 1 attraction demands attention." *Denver Post,* April 14, 1993, p.8D, Denver, CO.

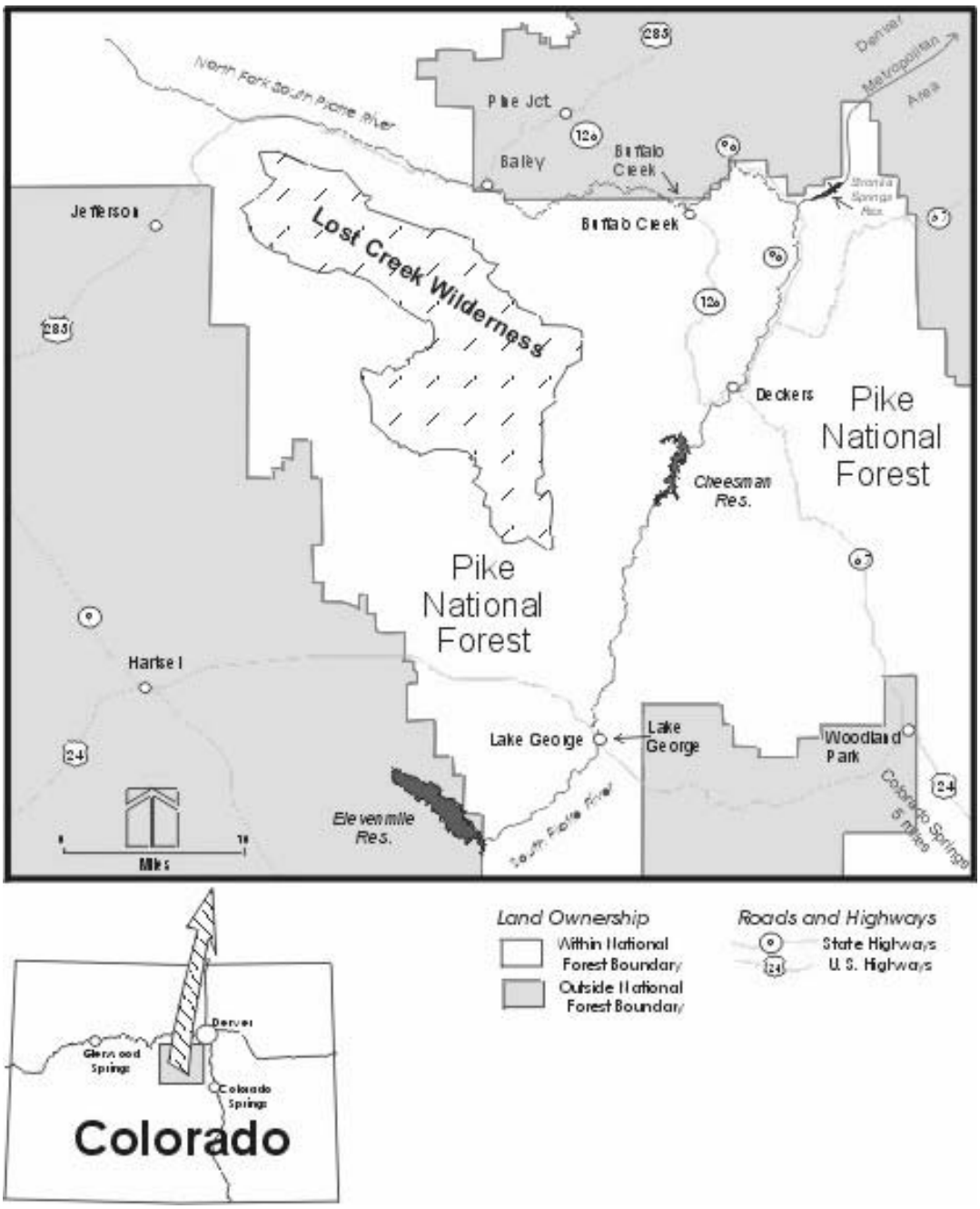
Pague, Christopher A., Renee Rondeau, Mark Duff. 1993. *Natural Heritage Inventory of Jefferson County, Colorado.* Prepared for Jefferson County
Open Space, Colorado Natural Heritage Program, University of Colorado Museum, Boulder, CO. 80309-0315.

Rocky Mountain News Staff. 1988. "Area near Two Forks valued at $2 billion." *Rocky Mountain News,* June 3, 1988, Denver, CO.

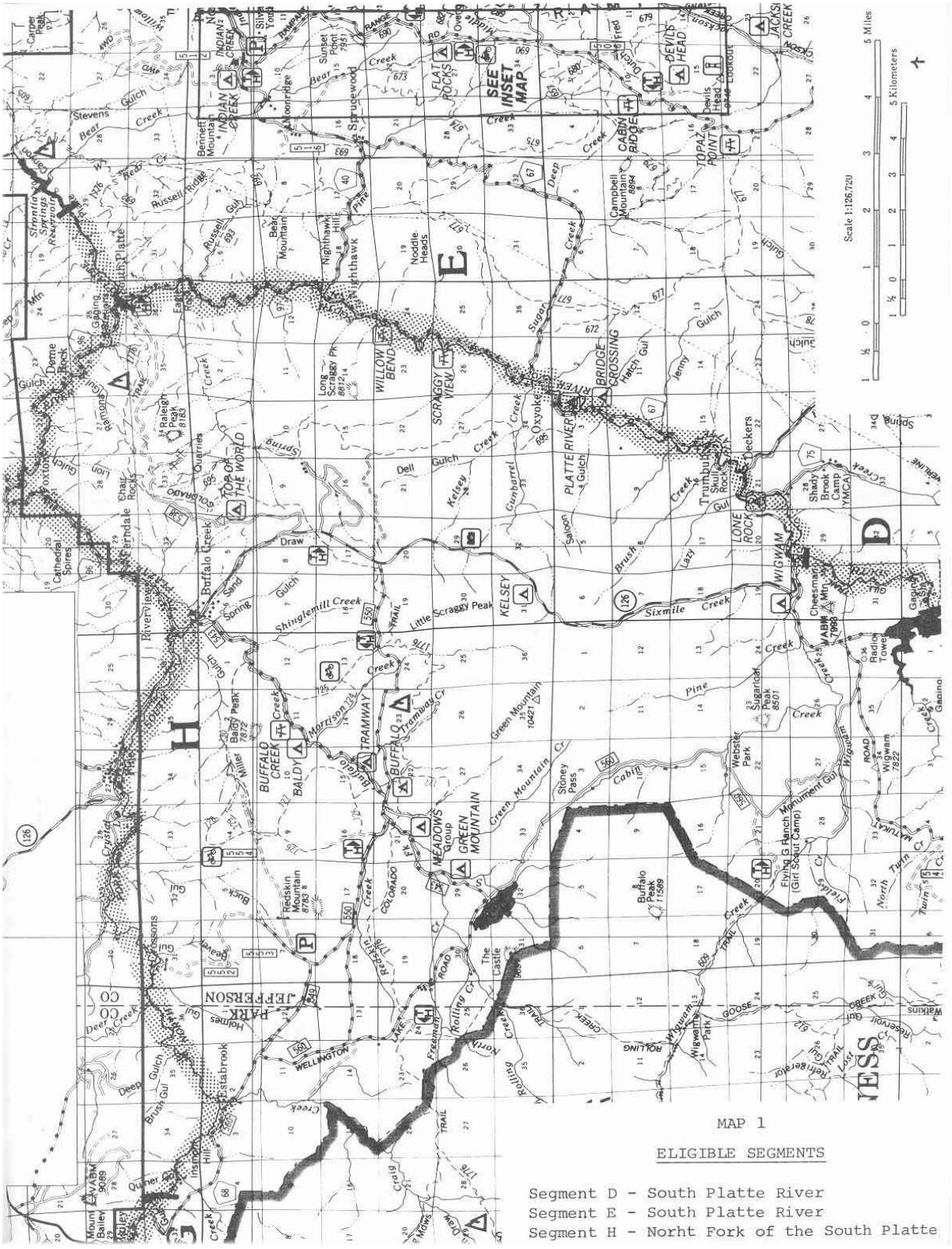
*Survey of Man-Made Alterations to the North Fork of the South Platte River.* Denver Water 1994.

USDA Forest Service, "Revision Desk Guide", Rocky Mountain Region 1994.

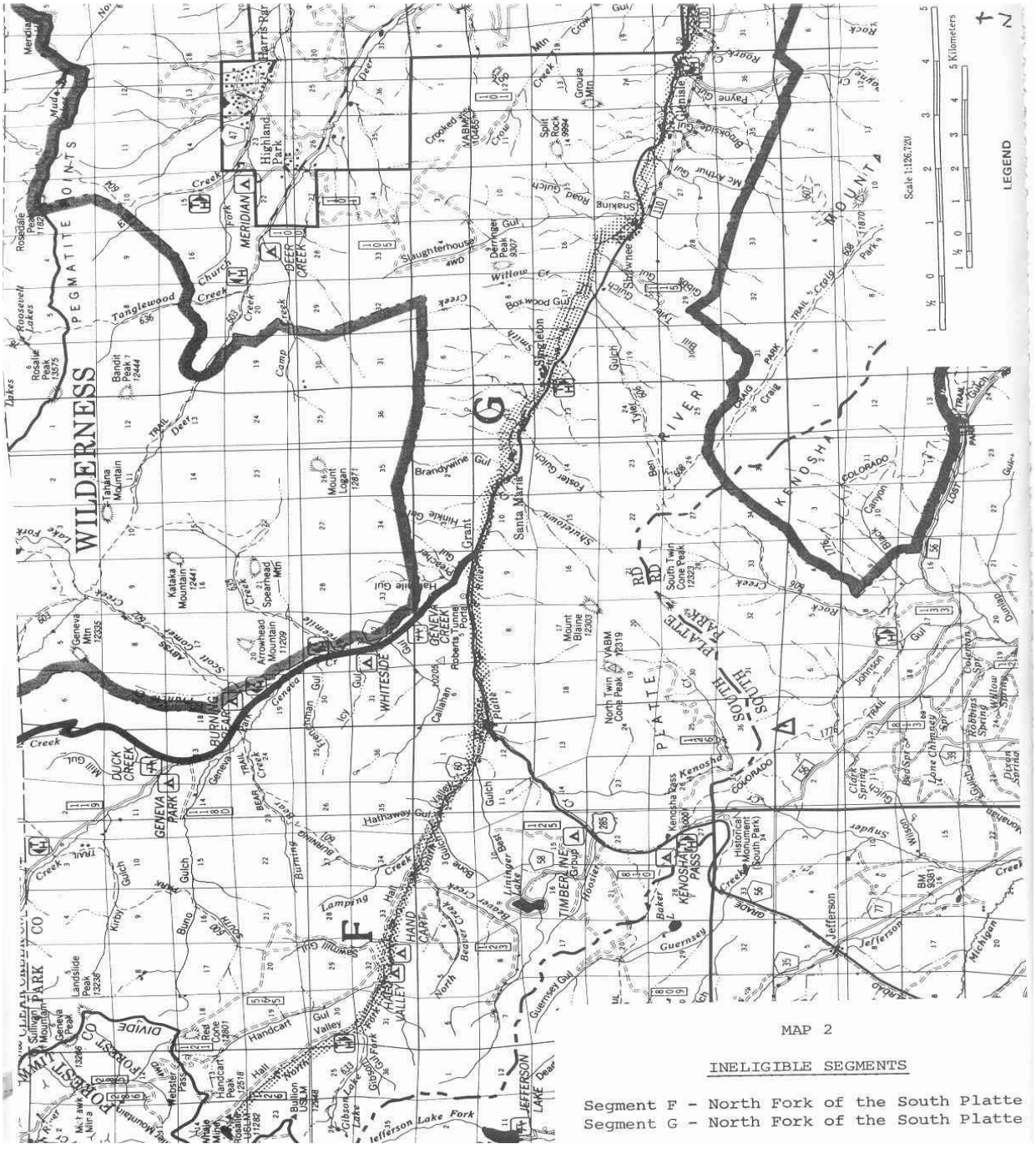
## ATTACHMENT A – VICINITY MAP



# SOUTH PLATTE MAP



# NORTH FORK MAP



# ATTACHMENT B - PREVIOUS STUDIES

The Eligibility Determination relied upon previously documented studies, supplemented with field trips and more recent documentation. Studies include:

*Western U.S. Water Plan: Streams and Stream Systems.* Working Document, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Part 2 "Other Rivers with Identified Free-Flowing Values.' 1972. This document identified 56 miles of the South Platte River, from Elevenmile Reservoir to Waterton, as a free-flowing river that should be considered and evaluated during the BOR's planning process for Wild and Scenic Rivers.

*A Conceptual Proposal for a South Platte Canyons Free-Flowing Recreational River (And Identification of Related Potentials).* Draft, Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, Mid-Continent Region, Denver. June, 1974. The draft tentatively identified the South Platte from Cheesman to Waterton, and the North Fork from Bailey to the confluence, as a Recreational River component, and from Cheesman to Elevenmile as a Scenic River component.

*Assessment of South Platte River for Wild and Scenic River Designation.* U.S. Forest Service. n.d. This report was published by the Forest Service as an alternative to the proposed Two Forks and Ferndale water storage projects. The report looked at the South Platte's South and Middle Forks, the North Fork from Ferndale to the confluence, and the South Platte from Elevenmile to Waterton. The report appears to have been written post 1980. The assessment was based upon previous Guidelines and disqualified certain segments because of cultural development, length, and flow sizes. All of the South Platte qualified, as did the North Fork from Ferndale down. The Middle and South Forks would have but for the small size and cultural development.

*Heritage Conservation Resource Assessment; Cultural Development Scoring Sheet.* Unpublished documentation, Nationwide Rivers Inventory, n.d. Conducted as part of the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, the documentation addressed which rivers would qualify as NRI rivers for later suitability studies for Wild and Scenic River status. The South Platte from the confluence to Cheesman and from above Cheesman to Elevenmile qualified, as did all of the North Fork.

*The Nationwide Rivers Inventory.* National Park Service. 1982. The inventory listed the South Platte from Elevenmile to Cheesman as qualified.

*Metropolitan Denver Water Supply Final EIS.* Corps of Engineers. 1988. The baseline study for this report, the EIS listed numerous unique and outstanding resource values, but did not address the South Platte below Cheesman or the North Fork for Wild and Scenic River status.

*Regional Director Memorandum to the Director, National Park Service,* 1988, on American Rivers' request to have a segment of the South Platte River evaluated for the Nationwide Rivers Inventory. The letter requested the Director to list the South Platte from Cheesman to

the confluence as a segment of the NRI system. The letter identified recreational, fish, historic and endangered species Outstandingly Remarkable Values.

*Recommended Determination to Prohibit Construction of Two Forks Dam and Reservoir Pursuant to Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act.* U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. 1990. This report recommended denial of a 404 permit for Two Forks based upon the adverse effects to the unique fisheries, wildlife and recreation of the area. The report also cites past Wild and Scenic studies for the South Platte and North Fork.

*Final Determination of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Assistant Administrator for Water Pursuant to Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act Concerning the Two Forks Water Supply Impoundments Jefferson and Douglas Counties, Colorado.* 1990.

# ATTACHMENT C - SUMMARIES

## SOUTH PLATTE RIVER:

Two segments are recommended as Eligible. The segment lengths total 22.6 miles. Approximately 12.6 miles are within the Pike National Forest, approximately 8 miles are owned by the City and County of Denver, Colorado, and approximately 2 miles are owned by private clubs or individuals.

### SEGMENT D:

From Cheesman Dam (downstream of the stream gage weir) downstream to the Wigwam Club property (southern end).

*Classification:* "Wild"

*Outstandingly Remarkable Value(s):*

RECREATIONAL - Fishing, and dispersed recreation such as hiking and scenic viewing.
FISHERIES - Nationally renowned brown and rainbow trout populations and habitat.
WILDLIFE - Pawnee montane skipper butterfly populations and habitat.

*Legal Description:*

T95; R7OW; 5 29-32. Ti OS; R7OW; 5 6.

Douglas and Jefferson Counties.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Segment Length:* | 3.1 miles. | |
| *Land Ownership:* | National Forest | 2.19 miles. |
| | City and County of Denver (DWD) | 0.91 miles. |

### SEGMENT E:

From the Wigwam Club Property (southern end) downstream to the high water line of Strontia Springs reservoir (6029 foot contour).

Classification: "Recreational"

*Outstandingly Remarkable Values:*

RECREATIONAL- Dispersed and developed recreation such as camping, picnicking, hiking, fishing, scenic driving, and other day-use.

FISHERIES - Nationally renowned brown and rainbow trout populations and habitat.

WILDLIFE - Pawnee montane skipper butterfly and habitat.

*Legal Description:*

T75; R69W; 5 19, 20, 29, 30, 31.
T75; R7OW; 5 25, 36.
T85; R69W; 5 6, 7, 18.
T85; R7OW; 5 1, 12,13, 23-26, 34, 35.
T95; R7OW; 5 2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16, 20-22, 28-30.
Douglas and Jefferson Counties.

*Segment Length:* 19.5 miles.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Land Ownership:* | National Forest | 10.41 miles. |
| | Private | 2.0 |
| | City and County of Denver (DWD) | 7.09 miles. |

## NORTH FORK OF THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER:

Three segments were identified, but only Segment H is recommended as being eligible. Segment lengths total 50.26 miles. Approximately 14.17 miles are within the Pike National Forest, 17.7 miles are privately owned, 17.62 miles are owned by the City and County of Denver, Colorado, and .77 miles are owned by Jefferson County.

### Segment F:

From its headwaters downstream to Kenosha Gulch, near Webster (also known as the Hall Valley).

*Classification:* Not classified - ineligible

*Outstandingly Remarkable Values:* None.

*Legal Description:*

T65; R76W; 5 13, 14, 23-25.
T65; R7SW; 5 30-34.
T75; R75W; 5 1-3, 12.

### Park County

*Segment Length:* 9.70 miles.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Land Ownership:* | National Forest | 6.47 miles. |
| | Private | 3.23 miles. |

### *SEGMENT G:*

From Kenosha Gulch, near Webster, downstream to Insmont (upstream boundary of Berger property).

*Classification:* Not classified - ineligible - not free-flowing downstream from Roberts Tunnel, no Outstandingly Remarkable Values upstream from Roberts Tunnel.

*Outstandingly Remarkable Values:* None *Legal Description:*

T75; R75W; S 12.
T75; R74W; 5 3-13
T75; R73W; 5 16-18, 20-23, 25-27.
T75; R72W; 5 28, 29, 30, 32, 33, NW1/4, SW1/4.

Park County

*Segment Length:* 17.50 miles.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| *Land Ownership:* | National Forest | 3.03 miles. |
| | Private | 14.47 miles. |

***SEGMENT H:***

From Insmont (upstream end of Berger property) to within 1/4 mile of the confluence with the South Platte River.

Divided into 3 subsections for classification:

*SEGMENT H1 - (1.5 miles):*

From Insmont (upstream end of Berger property) downstream to Estabrook (downstream side of old stone house).

*SEGMENT H2 - (4.9 miles):*

From Estabrook (downstream side of old stone house) to Cliffdale (Section line between Sections 29 and 30 east of Cliffdale).

*SEGMENT H3 - (16.5 miles):*

From Cliffdale (Section line between Sections 29 and 30 east of Cliffdale) to within 1/4 mile of the confluence with the South Platte River.

*Classification:* Segments Hi and H3 - "Recreational", Segment H2 - "Scenic' *Outstandingly Remarkable Values:*

RECREATIONAL - Kayaking, and dispersed recreation such as picnicking, fishing, hiking, riding, scenic driving, and other day-uses.
WILDLIFE - Pawnee montane skipper butterfly populations and habitat.
CULTURAL - Pine and Estabrook Historic Districts; D SP & P Railroad Grade.

Legal Description:

T75; R72W; 5 25, 33, NE1/4, SE1/4, 5 34, 35, 36.
T85; R72W; S 2,3.

Park County

T7S; R71W; 5 26-31, 33-36.
T85; R71W; 5 1
T75; R7OW; 5 16, 20-23, 25, 26, 29-32.
T85; R7OW; 5 6

Jefferson County

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Segment Length: | 2.9 miles. | |
| *Land Ownership:* | National Forest | 4.67 miles. |
| | Bureau of Land Management | 0.2 miles Pvt., |
| | Jeff. Co Parks, City/County of Denver | 8.03 miles. |