



www.americanwhitewater.org

Kevin Colburn
National Stewardship Director
2725 Highland Drive
Missoula, MT 59802
406-543-1802
kevin@americanwhitewater.org

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report

Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forests

Prepared by:
American Whitewater
Kevin Colburn and James Hepburn

Introduction

The Rivers and streams of the Clearwater and Salmon basin are some of the cleanest and wildest rivers in the lower 48 states. Wilderness designation has protected many headwater streams from impacts, and Wild and Scenic designations have fostered a sustainable connection between the public and a few iconic rivers in these watersheds. The Forests offer some of the only and best multi-day river trips in the Nation, and offer superb habitat for anadromous fish both now and into the future. For many Americans, the Forests are defined by their big, clear, beautiful rivers. Protecting a subset of these rivers as eligible for Wild and Scenic designation will help protect this incomparable legacy for future generations.

The Nez Perce and Clearwater national forests defined streams as eligible for Wild and Scenic designation in 1987, 1990, 1995, and 2006. We support each of these findings, and suggest that other streams also warrant serious consideration for their eligibility based at least in part on their outstanding and remarkable recreational value. We refute preliminary findings from 1995 that a significant number of streams should be found not eligible or suitable for designation. The Forests are obligated to revisit eligibility inventories in response to new information and changing conditions. We believe that changes relating to recreational use patterns and emphasis on climate change adaptation, in addition to other factors, more than justify a renewed investigation.

To be eligible a stream must be free-flowing and have at least one “outstanding remarkable value” (ORV) that is regionally or nationally significant.¹ These ORV’s are

¹ Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, § 1273 (b)

specific place-based values associated with recreation, scenery, geology, history, fisheries, and other types of values. Eligibility is important as it ensures interim protection for these very special rivers and streams.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was signed into law in response to the nation’s dam building efforts. Most of the rivers in this report are impacted by downstream dams that inhibit salmon and steelhead migrations, and the North Fork of the Clearwater is impacted by the colossal Dworshak Dam. Several streams just to the north are currently being investigated for hydropower development and this threat exists on many streams in this report. We thus believe that a robust inventory of each stream’s eligibility for Wild and Scenic designation is justified, as well as required by law.

About American Whitewater

American Whitewater is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the protection and restoration of whitewater rivers, as well as their safe enjoyment. Our members are primarily conservation-oriented kayakers, canoeists, and rafters, some of whom recreate on the spectacular rivers and streams of the Panhandle National Forest.

About this Report

This report contains the streams we strongly believe meet or exceed the criteria for eligibility based primarily on recreational and scenic values. Each numbered stream name in the report is followed by the reach description and by a corresponding table with the following fields, described below:

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV’s
A	B	C	D

- A) This field describes the body of water which the eligible stream flows into. In cases where the stream flows into a tributary of a larger river, the field is filled out as follows: “Large River (tributary that the eligible river flows into)”
- B) This field describes the estimated length of the river reach
- C) This field indicates if the reach is currently protected as eligible under the existing forest plan and the NRI (Yes) or is not (No).
- D) This field indicates the Outstanding Remarkable Values (ORV’s) associated with the reach. ORV’s are abbreviated as follows: Fisheries (F), Recreation (R), Scenic (S), Wildlife (W),

We recommend the following rivers and streams be found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation.

Table of Contents

<i>Introduction</i>	2
<i>About American Whitewater</i>	3
<i>About this Report</i>	3
1. <i>Clearwater National Forest</i>	6
1.1. <i>Big Sands Creek (headwaters to confluence with Colt Killed Creek)</i>	6
1.2. <i>Boulder Creek (headwaters to confluence with Lochsa)</i>	6
1.3. <i>Cayuse Creek (Headwaters to confluence with Kelly Creek)</i>	7
1.4. <i>Colt Killed Creek – aka White Sands Creek (Headwaters to confluence with Lochsa River)</i>	7
1.5. <i>North Fork Clearwater River (Gravy Creek Headwaters to Dworshak High Pool)</i>	8
1.6. <i>Elk River (headwaters to confluence with North Fork Clearwater)</i>	8
1.7. <i>Fish Creek (headwaters to confluence with Lochsa)</i>	9
1.8. <i>Hungry Creek (Headwaters to confluence with Fish Creek)</i>	9
1.9. <i>Kelly Creek (including North, South, and Middle Forks)</i>	10
1.10. <i>Little North Fork Clearwater River (Clearwater Forest Portion)</i>	10
1.11. <i>Lochsa River (Powell Ranger Station to confluence with Colt Killed Creek)</i>	11
1.12. <i>Lolo Creek (Headwaters to Forest Boundary)</i>	11
1.13. <i>Musselshell Creek (Gold Creek to Forest Boundary)</i>	12
1.14. <i>Old Man Creek (headwaters to confluence with Lochsa)</i>	12
1.15. <i>Potlatch River and Tributaries</i>	13
1.16. <i>Storm Creek (FR 2545 to Smith Creek)</i>	13
1.17. <i>Warm Springs Creek (headwaters to confluence with Lochsa)</i>	14
1.18. <i>Waw'aalamnime Creek (formerly Fishing Creek)</i>	14
1.19. <i>Weitas Creek (headwaters to confluence with North Fork Clearwater)</i>	15
2. <i>Nez Perce National Forest</i>	15
2.1. <i>American River (headwaters to the confluence with South Fork Clearwater)</i>	15
2.2. <i>Bargamin Creek (Headwaters to confluence with Salmon River)</i>	16
2.3. <i>Bear Creek Complex (Headwaters to Selway River – including Cub Creek, Brushy Fork Creek, Paradise Creek, and Wahoo Creek)</i>	16
2.4. <i>South Fork Clearwater (Confluence with Red River to Middle Fork Clearwater)</i>	16
2.5. <i>Crooked Creek (headwaters to confluence with Salmon)</i>	17
2.6. <i>Gedney Creek (Headwaters to Confluence with the Selway River – Including West Fork Gedney)</i>	17
2.7. <i>Horse Creek (Headwaters to Salmon River)</i>	18
2.8. <i>Johns Creek (Headwaters to SF Clearwater)</i>	18

2.9. Lake Creek (headwaters to confluence with Salmon)	18
2.10. Meadow Creek (Headwaters to Selway)	19
2.11. Moose Creek Complex (Headwaters to confluence with the Selway including East Fork, North Fork, West Fork, and Rhoda Creeks)	19
2.12. Running Creek (Headwaters to Selway River)	19
2.13. Salmon River (Confluence with Little Salmon to Long Tom Bar) ..	20
2.14. Slate Creek (Headwaters to Salmon River)	20
2.15. Three Links Creek (Headwaters to confluence with Selway River, including West Fork)	20

1. Clearwater National Forest

1.1. *Big Sands Creek (headwaters to confluence with Colt Killed Creek)*

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Lochsa River (Colt Killed Cr)	22.6	No	R, S

- Recreation:** Big Sands Creek is a full day hike-in mission with high quality Class IV and V rapids through a beautiful 4-mile section of canyon. Big Sands is a large volume creek. The creek is placid at the trail's terminus, but the gradient quickly and substantially increases. There are many high quality and challenging rapids on Big Sands Creek. Less difficult runs are possible on the 22.6 mile section for pack rafters and other Wilderness explorers. Big Sands is the most challenging creek that is regularly paddled in the Clearwater watershed, making it a unique recreational asset.
- Scenery:** Big Sands Creek is surrounded by very scenic towering granite bluffs in an undisturbed gorge. The lack of a trail further enhances the scenery from the river.



Additional Information:

- American Whitewater River Database page: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/4596/>
- Amaral, Grant. *Idaho the Whitewater State*. Watershed Books. 1990.

1.2. *Boulder Creek (headwaters to confluence with Lochsa)*

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Lochsa River	13.2	No	R,F

- Recreation:** Boulder Creek offers a class V whitewater adventure to whomever makes the 5-mile hike up the trail from Wilderness Gateway Campground. The put-in is just below Stanley Hot Springs and the take-out is just upstream of the creek's confluence with the Lochsa River. The trail offers scenic hiking and access to the wonderful Stanley Hot Springs, a series of hot pools in a remote

setting with good camping. The trail, hot springs, and paddling opportunities together justify a recreation ORV.

- **Fisheries:** Boulder Creek contains populations of bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, and steelhead trout. Upper reaches are meandering and undisturbed, offering good fish habitat.

Additional Information:

- Turner, Nick, Matt Wilson, and Russ Fry. *Montana Surf*. Winnipeg, Canada: Kromar Printing, 2001. Print.
- Idaho Fish and Game Fishing Planner page: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/WaterInfo.aspx?qt=1&ID=0&WID=6425>

1.3. **Cayuse Creek (Headwaters to confluence with Kelly Creek)**

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Kelly Creek (NF Clearwater)	34	Yes	S,R,F

- **Recreation:** Cayuse Creek offers anglers a blue ribbon backcountry fishing experience, and both hikers of trail 532 and paddlers a remote and beautiful river to explore.



Additional Information:

- <https://www.idahoconservation.org/events/explore-idaho/north-central-idaho/cayuse-creek-test>

1.4. **Colt Killed Creek – aka White Sands Creek (Headwaters to confluence with Lochsa River)**

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Lochsa River	24	Yes	R,F,W

- **Recreation:** White Sands offers paddlers two incomparable whitewater runs. The first is a remote hike-in descent through Class IV and V rapids. This run is immediately followed by a relatively popular Class III/IV trip through a scenic gorge with great rapids and crystal clear water. Colt Killed Creek offers a unique and very high quality contribution to the recreational treasure that is the Lochsa watershed.



Additional Information;

- American Whitewater River Database
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/645/>,
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/646/>
- Amaral, Grant. *Idaho the Whitewater State*. Watershed Books. 1990.

1.5. North Fork Clearwater River (Gravy Creek Headwaters to Dworshak High Pool)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Clearwater River	79	Yes	S,R,F,C,B

- **Recreation:** The North Fork offers over 40 miles of great class III and IV whitewater separated by calm pools. Ample camping along the river adds to the experience, as does the remote but road accessible location. The North Fork is a nationally significant recreation experience in that it offer big water rapids, crystal clear water, and a relatively remote setting, with beautiful scenery.
- **Fisheries:** Designated by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA and Idaho Fish and Game as a "highest-valued fishery resource."



Additional Information:

- American Whitewater River Database
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/542/>
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/543/>
- Amaral, Grant. *Idaho the Whitewater State*. Watershed Books. 1990.

1.6. Elk River (headwaters to confluence with North Fork Clearwater)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
North Fork of the Clearwater	23.1	No	R,S,F

- **Recreation:** The Elk River is a popular and developed hiking destination for regional residents, offering spectacular views of several consecutive large waterfalls in a columnar basalt gorge. Paddlers enjoy the first few falls, which offer a regionally rare chance to run vertical and sliding basalt waterfalls.
- **Scenery:** The scenic qualities of Elk



River Falls are hard to dispute. Numerous falls of over 60-100 feet have carved basalt gorges and plunge pools, set in a relatively undisturbed mossy cedar forest.

Additional Information:

- <http://www.visitidaho.org/attraction/natural-attractions/elk-creek-falls-recreation-area/>

1.7. Fish Creek (headwaters to confluence with Lochsa)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Lochsa River	21	Yes	R,F,W

- **Recreation:** Fish Creek offers many boating opportunities. The most commonly run section is the last mile of the creek from the Fish Creek trailhead to the confluence with the Lochsa River. This class III/IV section is a great way to start the day off for anyone who wants to get a little creek boating in before entering the big waters of the Lochsa. It also serves as an important training ground for paddlers wanting to learn creek boating techniques in a relatively safe and accessible environment. There are very few roadside creek boating opportunities in the Forests, making Fish Creek regionally significant. Above the Fish Creek trailhead the gradient of the creek increases along with the difficulty of the run. The upper section contains several significant and high quality class V rapids. The Fish Creek trail is also popular for hiking, hunting, fishing, and horseback riding as runs along the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail in places.
- **Fisheries:** Important anadromous fishery with an excellent steelhead trout population.
- **Wildlife:** Provides important winter habitat for elk.



Additional Information:

- American Whitewater River Database page: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/10359/>
- Amaral, Grant. *Idaho the Whitewater State*. Watershed Books. 1990.

1.8. Hungry Creek (Headwaters to confluence with Fish Creek)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Fish Creek (Lochsa River)	14	Yes	R,F,W

Fisheries: Hungery Creek is a vital component of the Fish Creek Waterhshed, renown for its impressive steelhead run.

1.9. Kelly Creek (including North, South, and Middle Forks.

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
NF Clearwater River	44	Yes	S, R, F, W

- **Recreation:** Kelly Creek offers paddlers a roadside but remote Class III-IV whitewater paddling opportunity as well as an upper hike-in option. The creek offers paddlers a tight and rocky paddling opportunity in a scenic and deep gorge. Kelly Creek is also a cherished blue ribbon trout fishing destination.



Additional Information:

- <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/563/>

1.10. Little North Fork Clearwater River (Clearwater Forest Portion)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
NF Clearwater River	4	Yes	R,F,W

- **Recreation:** The Little North Fork Clearwater Gorge contains a diverse range of unique and challenging rapids, rated from class II to Class V. In its upper reaches, the river has continuous class II-III boulder garden style rapids. Lower down, the river drops into several distinct canyons with rapids formed by exposed bedrock ledges, constricted canyon walls and large boulder fields. In its last three miles, the river offers nearly continuous class III/IV whitewater, punctuated by large and challenging class IV+ and V drops. The Little North Fork also offers paddlers the only opportunity in the Idaho Panhandle for a multi-day river trip in a remote and roadless setting. The canyon also offers superb opportunities for recreational fishing, as well as hiking and wildlife viewing.
- **Scenery:** The Little North Fork flows through a deep, rugged, roadless river canyon, predominated by scenic groves of mature Western Red cedar. The canyon is rimmed with scenic views of the surrounding peaks of the Mallard Larkins Pioneer area and Snow Peak Wildlife Management area.



- **Fisheries:** The Little North Fork Clearwater has superb water quality, an intact watershed, and is critical habitat for Bull Trout, and holds an exceptional fishery of West Slope Cutthroat. Several Anadromous fishes also use the Little North Fork for spawning.
- **Wildlife:** The Little North Fork provides habitat for several threatened species including Grizzly Bear, Canadian Lynx, Fisher Wolverine and Harlequin Ducks.

Additional Information:

- American Whitewater River Database:
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/3248/>

1.11. Lochsa River (Powell Ranger Station to confluence with Colt Killed Creek)

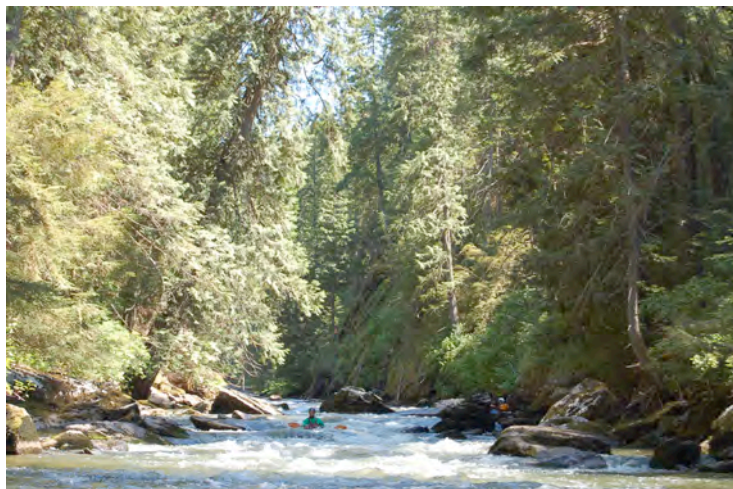
Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Clearwater River	2	Yes	S,R,W,H,C

- **Recreation:** The Lochsa is a classic whitewater river, from its headwaters all the way to the Selway. This section would link Colt Killed Creek and the lower Lochsa for a contiguously protected river.
- **Fisheries:** This section and the river as a whole is an important resource for anadromous fish.

1.12. Lolo Creek (Headwaters to Forest Boundary)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Clearwater River	20	Yes	S,R,F,H,C

- **Recreation:** Lolo Creek is by most objective standards the best whitewater creek boating opportunity in the Forests. It offers paddlers over 10 miles of high quality rapids of a consistent class IV difficulty with one great class V rapid and only one (easy) portage. The upper reaches of Lolo offer



paddlers a beautiful early season Class II/III paddling trip. Adding to the unique recreational value of Lolo Creek, it often flows at boatable levels for a uniquely long season of January through June, whereas very few other regional rivers are runnable January through March.

- **Scenery:** Most of Lolo Creek is in steep walled mossy gorge lined with old growth cedars. Near the end the cliff bands continue but the cedars give way to upland ponderosa pines and regionally unique overstory riparian alders. The scenery and quality of the whitewater run are outstanding.
- **Fisheries:** Lolo Creek is an extremely important stream for anadromous fish. Wild summer steelhead and spring chinook salmon, as well as recovering populations of coho salmon that were reintroduced to the system thrive in Lolo. Other species include threatened bull trout and redband trout, Pacific lamprey and westslope cutthroat.
- **Cultural / Historical:** The Nee-Mee-Poo, or Lolo Trail, crosses Lolo Creek in several locations. The Nez Perce Tribe led the Lewis and Clark expedition from the Weippe Prairie to the Clearwater River over this trail.

Additional Information

- Amaral, Grant. Idaho the Whitewater State. Watershed Books. 1990.
- American Whitewater River Database
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/572/>

1.13. Musselshell Creek (Gold Creek to Forest Boundary)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Lolo Creek	4	Yes	C,B

- **Cultural:** Significant cultural values.

1.14. Old Man Creek (headwaters to confluence with Lochsa)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Lochsa River	15.6	No	R,F

- **Recreation:** Looking up at Old Man Creek from its confluence with the Lochsa River provides a small glimpse of the character of the whitewater upstream. Old Man Creek is a class V+ whitewater run for only the most physically fit and intrepid paddlers. The creek is crossed by a trail in its upper reaches, but otherwise is an inaccessible and highly scenic gorge.
- **Fisheries:** Old Man Creek contains populations of bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, chinook salmon, and steelhead trout.



Additional Information:

- Idaho Fish and Game Fishing Planner page:

1.15. **Potlatch River and Tributaries**

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Middle Fork of the Clearwater	56.7	No	R

- Recreation:** The Potlatch River offers many boating opportunities. The two most common runs are the 17 miles known as the Potlatch Canyon run and the 6 miles known as the lower Potlatch run. The class II-V Potlatch Canyon run from Little Boulder Campground to Cedar Creek is the most reliable and easily accessible creek to anyone living or traveling through the Moscow/Pullman area known as the Palouse. Its typical run-off season starts in January and can run through April – when very few rivers in the region are running. The lower class II-III run from Frog Pond to Kendrick is one of the only easy half-day trip for those residing in the Moscow, ID and Pullman, WA areas. This stretch is great for kayaks, but it can be a nice IK, canoe, or small raft trip if the water's up.



Additional Information:

- American Whitewater River Database Potlatch Canyon page: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/601/>
- American Whitewater River Database lower Potlatch page: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/602/>

1.16. **Storm Creek (FR 2545 to Smith Creek)**

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Lochsa River (Colt Killed Cr)	10.8	No	S,F

- Scenery:** Upper 10 miles or more are in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness in lush cedar/fir forests.
- Fisheries:** Important bull trout habitat. Site of Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Forest Service expenditure for anadromous fishery improvements.

1.17. Warm Springs Creek (headwaters to confluence with Lochsa)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Lochsa River	17.1	No	R,F

- Recreation:** Warm Springs Creek contains a 3-mile-long class V to V+ whitewater run with access limited by early season snowpack. The run referred to as the narrows contains Moose Drool Falls, a 20-foot slide into a 25-foot waterfall that plunges into a pool backed up by an undercut cave and two boulder sieves. During the



- last two miles of the run the creek eases in difficulty and flows past the famous Jerry Johnson Hot Springs, where a boater can soak away the experience found upstream. The creek then flows to the Lochsa, but continues with the ever present wood hazards found throughout the run.
- Fisheries:** Warm Springs Creek contains populations of bull trout, westslope cutthroat trout, chinook salmon, and steelhead trout.

Additional Information:

- Turner, Nick, Matt Wilson, and Russ Fry. *Montana Surf*. Winnipeg, Canada: Kromar Printing, 2001. Print.
- Warm Springs Creek Falls First Descent video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k87Llecvo10>
- Grant Amaral Kayaking Warm Springs Creek video: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_efbdfiJMU
- Idaho Fish and Game Fishing Planner page: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/WaterInfo.aspx?qt=1&ID=0&WID=6425>

1.18. Waw'aalamnime Creek (formerly Fishing Creek)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Lochsa River	8.1	No	F

- Fisheries:** Very high anadromous fisheries value.

1.19. Weitas Creek (headwaters to confluence with North Fork Clearwater)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
North Fork of the Clearwater River	50	No	S,R,F,W

- **Recreation:** Weitas Creek is primarily a class II run through primitive Idaho cedar and fir forests. The drainage has an excellent trail system. The last few miles of a standard 18 mile run, from Weitas Creek Pack Bridge to the North Fork of the Clearwater, contain a few class III and IV rapids with an average gradient of 55 feet per mile (fpm) and a maximum gradient of 70 fpm. Camping is great on the creek and surrounding area.
- **Scenery:** The majority of the watershed is roadless and is part of the Bighorn-Weitas Roadless (BWRA) Area, abuts the Lewis and Clark trail, and has historical and cultural significance.
- **Fisheries:** Good fishery with kokanee salmon, bull trout, and westslope cutthroat trout.
- **Wildlife:** The Weitas watershed is prime grey wolf habitat, which were present prior to federal re-introduction. The low-elevation of the Weitas Creek watershed provides necessary winter habitat for elk.



Additional Information:

- American Whitewater River Database page: <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/10359/>
- Friends of the Clearwater's "Weitas as Wilderness" report: <http://www.friendsoftheclearwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Weitas1.pdf>

2. Nez Perce National Forest

2.1. American River (headwaters to the confluence with South Fork Clearwater)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
South Fork of the Clearwater River	22.4	No	F

Fisheries: The American River offers important salmon spawning habitat

2.2. Bargamin Creek (Headwaters to confluence with Salmon River)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Salmon River	21	Yes	S,R,F

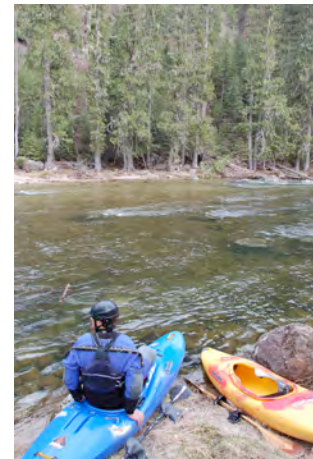
- **Recreation:** Bargamin Creek Camp is a popular campsite on the Main Salmon offering superb hiking for river runners wanting to explore a big and wild tributary. Kayakers often carry up Bargamin and paddle the last few miles, and less often put on at the Macruder Road.
- **Fisheries:** Very important habitat for steelhead and Chinook.



2.3. Bear Creek Complex (Headwaters to Selway River – including Cub Creek, Brushy Fork Creek, Paradise Creek, and Wahoo Creek)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Selway River	65	Yes	S,F,C,R

- **Recreation:** Bear Creek offers paddlers a remote and seldom travelled Class II-V multi-day river trip that is done in concert with the Selway. Paddlers begin their trip at the Bitterroot crest at the top of Lost Horse Creek and hike down into the Bear Creek Watershed. One on the water they are treated to incredible solitude, crystal clear water, great fishing, and high quality rapids.



2.4. South Fork Clearwater (Confluence with Red River to Middle Fork Clearwater)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Clearwater River	63	Yes	S,R,G

- **Recreation:** the South Fork of the Clearwater offers incredible paddling and angling opportunities. The Golden Canyon Run offers an important stepping stone between the Lochsa and harder runs like the South Fork Salmon and Payettes. Golden Canyon has a long season and dishes out miles of great Class IV and V rapids including the iconic Chuck Rollins and Fish Jump rapids. The downstream Mickey Mouse Run provides a great roadside Class IV run. In the spring the South Fork is an important and highly used steelhead fishing resource.
- **Fisheries:** The South Fork is an important and productive steelhead fishery.



Additional Information:

- <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/545/>
- <http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/544/>

2.5. ***Crooked Creek (headwaters to confluence with Salmon)***

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Salmon River	8	No	R,S,F

- **Recreation:** Paddlers are treated to a remote Class IV adventure from Dixie to the Salmon River.
- **Fisheries:** Important spawning habitat for chinook and steelhead that was the subject of significant USFS investment.

2.6. ***Gedney Creek (Headwaters to Confluence with the Selway River – Including West Fork Gedney)***

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Selway River	20	Yes	S,F,R

- **Recreation:** A trail leads hikers, paddlers, and horseback riders up Gedney Creek, starting near Selway Falls. The Creek offers paddlers a Class IV descent through an aesthetic gorge.
- **Scenery:** Spectacular scenery ranging from lush cedar forests to high glaciated parks and rock faces. Water quality and rapids add to scenic values.
- **Fisheries:** Gedney Creek is important anadromous spawning habitat for Selway River salmon, steelhead and bull trout.

2.7. Horse Creek (Headwaters to Salmon River)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Selway River	15	No	S,F,R

- Recreation:** Horse Creek tumbles from its source near a hot spring high in the Bitterroot Mountains. With sage growing all the way from the headwaters to the Salmon River, Horse Creek offers hikers, horseback riders, and paddlers a journey through an arid, rocky, and beautiful landscape. Horse creek is one of the largest tributaries to the Main Salmon River in the Wilderness section.



2.8. Johns Creek (Headwaters to SF Clearwater)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
SF Clearwater River	20	Yes	S,F,R

- Recreation:** Johns Creek and its headwaters flow from the Gospel Hump Wilderness and offer paddlers, anglers and hikers a largely protected watershed to explore in a larger watershed that has seen significant mining and other human uses. A good trail from the South Fork of the Clearwater provides scenic views of the canyon and ample wildlife viewing opportunities.
- Fisheries:** Johns Creek provides important anadromous fish habitat for chinook salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat, in a largely intact watershed.



Additional information:

- <http://www.idahoconservation.org/events/expl ore-idaho/north-central-idaho/johns-creek-trail-system-blue-ridge-route>

2.9. Lake Creek (headwaters to confluence with Salmon)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Salmon River (Crooked Creek)	13.6	Yes	R,S,F,H,G

- **Scenery:** Numerous historic cabins and mine ruins from 1860s mining era. Orbicular granite (rare mottled form of granite) found in Whistling Pig Canyon. Rare willow found near Hump Lake at headwaters.

2.10. *Meadow Creek (Headwaters to Selway)*

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Selway River	44	Yes	S,R,F

- **Recreation:** A spectacular multi-day kayaking trip of consistent moderate difficulty and incredible scenery. It is the only remote multi-day paddling trip in the Clearwater basin not requiring a permit or an extremely long hike in. A popular trail also grants access to significant portions of Meadow Creek.
- **Fisheries:** Meadow Creek offers great habitat for chinook, steelhead, bull trout, and redband trout, as well as genetically unique cutthroat trout. This large and under-protected watershed is a fisheries treasure.

Additional Information:

- American Whitewater Rivers Database:
<http://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/River/detail/id/5792/>

2.11. *Moose Creek Complex (Headwaters to confluence with the Selway including East Fork, North Fork, West Fork, and Rhoda Creeks)*

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Selway River	93	Yes	S,F,H,B

- **Recreation:** Moose, the East Fork of Moose, the West Fork of Moose, and Rhoda Creek offer paddlers superb multi-day Wilderness paddling opportunities that are extremely rare in the lower 48 United States. Trails offer hikers and horseback riders access to the same outstanding country.
- **Fisheries:** Pristine habitat for Chinook, Steelhead, and other fish species. Excellent climate change refugia due to high elevation headwaters typically receiving a large snowpack.
- **History:** Moose Creek Ranger Station and several homesteading sites offer outstanding historic value in an otherwise wild landscape.



2.12. *Running Creek (Headwaters to Selway River)*

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Selway River	21	Yes	G,S,F

- **Geology:** Hot Springs at Warm Springs Bar are an outstanding and nationally rare geologic feature, as well as rare in the Selway watershed.
- **Fisheries:** Protected habitat for summer Chinook and other native fish.



**2.13. Salmon River
(Confluence with Little Salmon to Long Tom Bar)**

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Snake River	26	Yes	S,R,G,F,W,H,C

- **Recreation:** The Salmon River between the Little Salmon and Long Tom Bar is a terrific and accessible big water whitewater run. Used by commercial rafters on day trips as well as freestyle kayakers seeking huge waves to surf, this run is a valuable recreational resource. Big sand beaches and limestone cliffs are additional scenic highlights of the trip.



2.14. Slate Creek (Headwaters to Salmon River)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Salmon River	22	Yes	F

- **Geology:** Slate Creek cuts through limestone cliffs, which is a unique attribute on the Forests.
- **Fisheries:** Important anadromous fish habitat.

2.15. Three Links Creek (Headwaters to confluence with Selway River, including West Fork)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Selway River	18	Yes	S,F,R

- **Recreation:** Three Links Creek offers a remote and beautiful whitewater trip through cedars, large boulders, and several bedrock rapids. It is one of the best moderate creek boating opportunities in the region, but its uniqueness comes from its location deep in the Selway



Wilderness and its intact and scenic nature.

- **Fisheries:** Large steelhead have been documented at least 2 miles (and 600 vertical feet) upstream of the Selway River on Three Links Creek. This pristine watershed features one of the largest log jams in the region, and cold clear water.

2.16. White Bird Creek (Headwaters (N and S Forks) to Forest Boundary)

Tributary of:	Mileage	USFS Eligible	ORV's
Salmon River	18	Yes	F,H

- **Fisheries:** Important anadromous fish habitat.