

Steve Shade (66e)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
MEDFORD DISTRICT OFFICE  
3040 BIDDLE ROAD  
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*Kenny*

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(11000)  
8762L(MW:cb)

APR 23 1990

MEMORANDUM

To: State Director (935)  
From: District Manager, Medford  
Subject: Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Determinations

Ninety-two (92) rivers were identified and considered in the district's wild and scenic rivers eligibility process. The rivers list was generated from the nationwide rivers inventory and other external and internal sources and focused on being inclusive at the identification stage. ~~Fifty-nine (59) rivers were identified as meeting the eligibility criteria and therefore inventoried as wild and scenic rivers.~~ Again the focus was on being inclusive and to err on the side of being comprehensive in treating rivers in the district's suitability or trade-off stage of its RMP/EIS process.

Eligibility assessment forms for the 92 rivers were used in documenting the eligibility determination process in accordance with instruction memorandum OR-89-632 (see Attachment One). Specifically the forms document the analysis process conducted by the district's interdisciplinary (ID) team in determining whether a river was free-flowing and had one or more outstandingly remarkable values. A wide variety of existing information was considered by the ID team in arriving at a professional judgment on eligibility.

I commend the ID team for performing in an exemplary manner the accomplishment of another unscheduled, complex RMP inventory task.

1 Attachment

1 - Results of Medford District's Wild & Scenic Rivers Inventory for its 1990s Resource Management Planning (RMP) Process

cc: RMP Wild & Scenic Rivers Interdisciplinary Inventory Team

/s/ David A. Jones

8762L

cc: RMP Wild & Scenic Rivers Interdisciplinary Inventory Team  
Steve Shade✓  
Bob Bessey  
Roger Schnoes  
John Dutcher  
Cliff Oakley  
Jim Leffmann  
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Fred Tomlins  
Lew Brush  
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Mary Zuschlag  
Mike Walker  
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Ron Russell  
Lyman Deich  
Mike Mottice  
Cori Backen

August 31, 1989

METHODOLOGY FOR ASSESSING "OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES"  
FOR WILD AND SCENIC RIVER NOMINATIONS  
FOR FISHERIES

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1. Consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Fishery Biologist Mick Jennings (20 years Rogue Basin experience), currently with ODFW in Roseburg.
2. Consultation with Don King, Siskiyou National Forest Fishery Biologist. Don was Medford District Fishery Biologist from 1969 - 1977.
3. Medford District stream survey and fish shocking records.
4. Personal knowledge of the district's fishery resources. (Medford District Fishery Biologist 1978 to present).

Nominations were based on all or a combination of the above. Consideration was also given to species life history and habitat requirements. For instance lower Grave Creek (i.e. Wolf Creek confluence to the Rogue River) has severe water quality problems during the summer (high temperature and low flow caused by irrigation diversions) that make the habitat marginal for habitation by steelhead and cutthroat trout and coho salmon which require an adequate flow of cold water throughout the year. The stream was nominated for its value as a top chinook salmon producer but not for its value to other anadromous fish species.

Bob Bessey  
Fishery Biologist  
Medford B.L.M.

*Bob Bessey*



**WILD & SCENIC RIVERS INVENTORY:**

**ELIGIBLE RIVERS IN THE  
GLENDALE RESOURCE AREA**

	CLASSIFICATION 1/	<40% 2/	>40% 2/	PAGE
ALDER CREEK	WILD		100%	1
BOOZE CREEK	WILD		100%	2
BRONCO CREEK	WILD		100%	3
BUNKER CREEK	WILD		100%	4
COPSEY CREEK	WILD		100%	5
COW CREEK	RECREATIONAL	9%		6
COWLEY CREEK	WILD		100%	7
DITCH CREEK	WILD		80%	8
EAST FORK ELK VALLEY CREEK	RECREATIONAL		81%	9
ELK VALLEY CREEK	RECREATIONAL		46%	10
KELSEY CREEK	WILD		100%	11
MEADOW CREEK	WILD		100%	12
MULE CREEK	WILD		100%	13
QUAIL CREEK	WILD		100%	14
QUINES CREEK	RECREATIONAL	13%		15
RIFFLE CREEK	RECREATIONAL	28%		16
RUSSIAN CREEK	WILD		100%	17
SLIDE CREEK	WILD		100%	18
STANLEY CREEK	RECREATIONAL		85%	19
WHISKEY CREEK (EAST & WEST FORKS)	WILD		95%	
(EAST FORK)	WILD		100%	
(WEST FORK)	WILD		100%	20
WHITEHORSE CREEK	RECREATIONAL		46%	21

The determination that a river area contains "outstandingly remarkable values" is, ultimately, a professional judgement on the part of the interdisciplinary team members involved in the assessment process, but any such judgement needs to be based on a thorough, systematic, and well documented evaluation (reference OR-89-632, August 25, 1989).

1/ Classifications: Wild, Scenic and Recreational.

2/ This is the percentage of BLM-administered land. The BLM would complete suitability studies on rivers that have more than 40 percent BLM-administered lands.

## WILD & SCENIC RIVERS INVENTORY:

### GLENDALE RESOURCE AREA

	ELIGIBLE	NONELIGIBLE	a	b	c	PAGE
ALDER CREEK	X		X	X	X	1
BOOZE CREEK	X		X	X	X	2
BRONCO CREEK	X		X	X	X	3
BUNKER CREEK	X		X	X	X	4
COPSEY CREEK	X		X	X	X	5
COW CREEK	X		X	X	X	6
COWLEY CREEK	X		X	X	X	7
DITCH CREEK	X		X	X	X	8
EAST FORK ELK VALLEY CREEK	X		X	X	X	9
ELK VALLEY CREEK	X		X	X	X	10
KELSEY CREEK	X		X	X	X	11
MEADOW CREEK	X		X	X	X	12
MULE CREEK	X		X	X	X	13
QUAIL CREEK	X		X	X	X	14
QUINES CREEK	X		X	X	X	15
RIFFLE CREEK	X		X	X	X	16
RUSSIAN CREEK	X		X	X	X	17
SLIDE CREEK	X		X	X	X	18
STANLEY CREEK	X		X	X	X	19
WHISKEY CREEK (EAST & WEST FORKS)	X		X	X	X	20
WHITEHORSE CREEK	X		X	X	X	21

The determination that a river area contains "outstandingly remarkable values" is, ultimately, a professional judgement on the part of the interdisciplinary team members involved in the assessment process, but any such judgement needs to be based on a thorough, systematic, and well documented evaluation (reference OR-89-632, August 25, 1989).

## Eligibility Assessment for River Segments

River Name	Reason for Consideration 1/	Segment Description	Total Length (Miles)	Total BLM Administration 2/	
				Acreage	Percent of Corridor
Kelsey Creek (Glen-11)	d	Confluence with Rogue River to Mile Point 4.4 of Kelsey Creek (T 32 S., R 9 W., Section 34, NE 1/4)	4.4 (4.4 BLM)	1408	100

1/

- a - Nationwide Rivers Inventory
- b - 1987 Recreational Values on Oregon Rivers
- c - 1988 Outstanding Rivers List - American Rivers Inc.
- d - Medford District rivers list

2/ Shoreline and adjacent lands within 1/4 mile of the river segment not to exceed 320 acres per mile measured from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the river

4/3/92
Robert C. Hoffmann

Date
Glendale Area Manager

section b

## Eligibility Assessment for River Segments

River Name	Free-flowing values		Outstandingly Remarkable Values 3/							Potential Classification			Eligibility Determination	
	yes	no	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	Wild	Scenic	Recreational	Eligible	Noneligible
Kelsey Creek (Glen-11b)	X		X	X		X				X			X	

Wild river areas are defined to include "Those rivers or sections of rivers 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."

3/ (See section C for description of values)

- a - Scenic
- b - Recreational
- c - Geological
- d - Fish and Wildlife
- e - Historical
- f - Cultural
- g - Other (Including Ecological)

4/3/90

Date

Robert C. Kofler  
Glendale Area Manager



## Eligibility Assessments for River Segments

River Name	Description of Values	Miles Total	% BLM
Kelsey Creek (Glen-11c)	Flows southwesterly through a narrow, deep, largely inaccessible forested canyon to the wild section of the Rogue River. Hiking up scenic Kelsey Creek Canyon from the river provides a unique opportunity for hikers, whitewater enthusiasts and anglers to experience one of the most remote and pristine canyons in the Medford District. The stream has outstanding aquatic habitat consisting of deep, clear pools; waterfalls and clean spawning gravel. Cutthroat and steelhead trout.	4.4	100

The methodology for assessing fisheries is addressed on, "Outstandingly Remarkable Values" for Wild and Scenic Nominations for Fisheries (Attachment One)

4-3-90

Date

Robert A. Hoyle

Glendale Area Manager

## Eligibility Assessment for River Segments

River Name	Reason for Consideration 1/	Segment Description	Total Length (Miles)	Total BLM Administration 2/	
				Acreage	Percent of Corridor
Whiskey Creek to east and west forks (Glen-20)	d	Confluence of east and west forks of Whiskey Creek in T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Section 22, SE 1/4 to confluence with Rogue River	2 1/4	680	95
East Fork Whiskey Creek	d	Headwaters of East Fork Whiskey Creek are in T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Section 11, NW 1/4 to confluence with West Fork Whiskey Creek	3	960	100
West Fork Whiskey Creek	d	Headwaters of West Fork Whiskey Creek are in T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Section 5, SE 1/4 to confluence with East Fork Whiskey Creek	4	1280	100

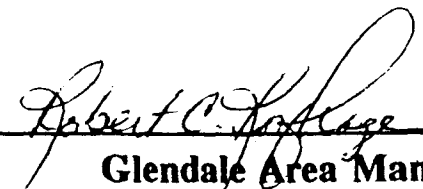
Nomination has high mineral potential, historical mining activity, active mining operations, or likely to have mining operations occur in the near future. Mining operations may impair the suitability of the lands under review.

1/

- a - Nationwide Rivers Inventory
- b - 1987 Recreational Values on Oregon Rivers
- c - 1988 Outstanding Rivers List - American Rivers Inc.
- d - Medford District rivers list

2/ Shoreline and adjacent lands within 1/4 mile of the river segment not to exceed 320 acres per mile measured from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the river

4-3-90  
Date

  
Glendale Area Manager

## Eligibility Assessment for River Segments

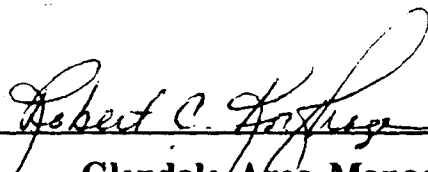
River Name	Free-flowing values		Outstandingly Remarkable Values 3/							Potential Classification			Eligibility Determination	
	yes	no	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	Wild	Scenic	Recreational	Eligible	Noneligible
Whiskey Creek to east and west forks (Section 22) (Glen-20b)	X		X	X			X			X			X	
East Fork Whiskey Creek	X		X	X						X			X	
West Fork Whiskey Creek	X		X	X						X			X	

Wild river areas are defined to include "Those rivers or sections of rivers 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."

3/ (See section C for description of values)

- a - Scenic
- b - Recreational
- c - Geological
- d - Fish and Wildlife
- e - Historical
- f - Cultural
- g - Other (Including Ecological)

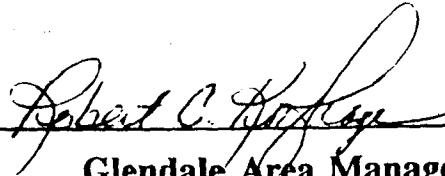
4-3-90  
Date

  
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Glendale Area Manager

## Eligibility Assessments for River Segments

River Name	Description of Values	Miles Total	% BLM
Whiskey Creek to east and west forks (Glen-20c)	Very steep rugged canyon side slopes with canyon live oak, tanoak, douglas-fir and sugar pine. Stream bottom is composed mainly of large boulders. A 10 foot high waterfall is located at mile 1.00 + 110 yards. Historic Whiskey Creek Cabin is located at confluence of Whiskey Creek and the Rogue River.	2 1/4	95
East Fork Whiskey Creek		3	100
West Fork Whiskey Creek	Intensive field inventories germane to the aesthetic and recreation resources for this stream have not been completed. Based on all available information on file at the Medford District Office (fisheries, hydrological surveys, and aerial photographs), it appears that this stream shares similar geophysical and biological characteristics to those other streams which have been more intensively inventoried within the primary drainage of the Rogue River wild section, and were found to possess the outstandingly remarkable qualities required for eligibility. All streams flowing into the Rogue wild section have similar aesthetic characteristics and have been rated as having class A scenery quality. Recreation resource quality and opportunities are also presumed to be similar to more intensively inventoried streams within the wild river area.	4	100

4-3-90  
Date

  
Glendale Area Manager

## WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT

Bronco, Ditch, Meadow, Quail, East Fork of Whiskey, West Fork of Whiskey, Russian, Bunker and Kelsey creeks

### I. SUMMARY

The following segments were studied from the headwaters of each stream to the confluence with the Rogue River. All segments were found not suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

### II. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Description of the Streams

The Medford District identified as eligible a 1.5 stream mile segment of Bronco Creek (T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 30, to T. 34 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 1); a 2.1 stream mile segment of Ditch Creek (T. 33 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 5, to T. 33 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 17); a 3.8 stream mile segment of Meadow Creek (T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 7, to T. 33 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 22); a 1.8 stream mile segment of Quail Creek (T. 33 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 1, to T. 33 S., R. 10 W., Sec. 12), a 1.9 stream mile segment of Russian Creek (T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 20, to T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 32); a 5.9 stream mile segment of West Fork of Whiskey Creek (T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 5, to T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 22); a 3.7 stream mile segment of East Fork of Whiskey Creek (T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 10, to T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 22), a 6.4 stream mile segment of Bunker Creek (T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 7, to T. 33 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 35); and a 4.7 stream mile segment of Kelsey Creek (T. 32 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 34, to T. 33 S., R. 9 W., Sec. 16). These segments run from their respective headwaters to their confluences with the Rogue river (see S33W08, S33W09, S34W08, S34W09, S32W09, and S33W10) Several tributaries feed into the streams. All of the 1/2 mile stream corridors (1/4 mile each side of the stream) are covered with Douglas-fir forests, alders and other species associated with the riparian zone and surrounding forest vegetation type.

The stream segments have good water quality typical for this area. Forest management activities in the stream drainages have not occurred or have been less than on similar streams and therefore water quality is expected to be excellent. Measurement of suspended sediment, turbidity, temperature, pH, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen on similar streams show better than normal water quality. Water Quality and watershed conditions are further discussed in the Draft RMP/EIS.

#### B. Eligibility Determination

The stream segments are free flowing within the study areas. Based upon the eligibility criteria, there are two outstandingly remarkable values: Scenic and Recreation. Recreational activities are limited due to the steepness of the stream channels and adjacent slopes and low water flows. The stream segments provide little habitat for fish populations. Rugged hiking

and sightseeing are the only known recreational opportunities within the stream segments. The scenic quality of the segments were comparable with each other and other similar streams in the area and offered no outstanding features. The Bureau's administrative jurisdiction within the 1/2-mile stream corridors ranges from 78 percent to 100 percent. Based on these findings, this suitability assessment was prepared.

### C. Classification Determination

The highest potential classification for all segments is Wild (see the table below). The streams are free of any impoundments, diversions, or stream bank modifications. No shoreline development exists within the stream segment corridors. The majority of the streams are within the seen area of the Wild Section of the Rogue River and have not been affected by logging activities. Water quality is relatively good and supports the stream corridors' outstandingly remarkable values. In extremely dry summers, water quantity is low to almost nonexistent in extremely dry summers and does not support the stream corridors' outstandingly remarkable values.

Three roads access private property within the one-half mile stream corridors of Ditch, Meadow, and Quail creeks. The road in the Quail Creek corridor provides the only vehicular access to the Rogue River in this area. All roads in these stream corridors are gated and closed to public access. BLM road #33-8-26 separates both the East and West Forks of Whiskey Creek from the main stem. This road is a major public route and used heavily by recreationists during the spring, summer, and fall. Bronco Creek has no roads closer than 1/2 to 1 mile away. The Rogue River National Recreation trail bisects the identified segments less than a quarter mile above their confluences with the Rogue River. A nonmaintained section of the Historic Kelsey Pack Trail crosses Ditch Creek above the Rogue River National Recreation Trail. A maintained section of this same trail crosses Quail Creek. These trails provide the only public access to the stream segments. Slide Creek is also bisected by an nonmaintained section of the Historic Kelsey Pack Trail.

The following table summarizes classification criteria met by the stream segments. As seen from the tables, each stream segment could be classified as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational with Wild being the highest classification.

#### Potential Classification Summary

Bronco, Ditch, Meadow, Quail, East Fork of Whiskey, West Fork of Whiskey, Russian, Bunker, and Kelsey creeks

Activity	Wild	Scenic	recreational
Water resources development	M	E	E
Shoreline development	M	E	E
Water quality	M	E	E
Accessibility	M	E	E

E: Exceeds

M: Meets

DM: Does Not Meet

### III. SUITABILITY FACTORS

#### A. Current Land Status and Use

##### 1. Land Ownership

The Medford BLM District administers all stream frontage acres (both sides included) or 100 percent of Bronco, Russian, Bunker, and Kelsey creeks. Additionally, the Medford BLM District administers 78 percent of Ditch Creek frontage acres, 97 percent of Meadow Creek frontage acres, 91 percent of Quail Creek frontage acres, and 99 percent of the frontage acres of the East and West Forks of Whiskey Creek as shown below.

Segment Ownership and Status  
Within the Creek Corridor

Bronco, Ditch, Meadow, Quail, East and West Forks of Whiskey, Russian, Bunker,  
and Kelsey creeks

	BLM		Private		Total
	O&C	RWSR	Timber	Individual	BLM
Bronco Creek					
Acres	403.64	196.34			599.99
	67.28%	32.72%			100%
Ditch Creek					
Acres	472.48	129.94	146.91	20	602.42
	61.41%	16.89%	19.10%	2.60%	78.30%
Meadow Creek					
Acres	1071.69	180.39		27.94	1280.02
	83.72%	14.09%		2.18%	97.82%
Quail Creek					
Acres	518.19	113.87	2.50	59.61	631.55
	74.70%	16.42%	.36%	8.59%	91.05%
East Fork of Whiskey Creek					
Acres	1270.14			.56	1270.14
	99.96%			.04%	99.96%
West Fork of Whiskey Creek					
Acres	1907.71			.58	1907.71
	99.97%			.03%	99.97%
Russian Creek					
Acres	596.66	132.32			728.98
	81.85%	18.15%			100%
Bunker Creek					
Acres	1849.36	190.36			2037.72
	90.67%	9.33%			100%
Kelsey Creek					
Acres	1367.48	162.63			1530.11
	89.37%	10.63%			100%

RWSR: Rogue Wild and Scenic River Corridor



## 2. Land Use

Land uses within the one-half mile wide stream corridors are varied. The small amount of private land within the corridors is mostly meadow with a few small buildings. The effects of private logging seen elsewhere in the planning area are virtually nonexistent as a result of the current situation. One timber sale harvest unit, 10 acres in size, was sold on Russian Creek in 1989. One timber sale harvest unit, 18 acres in size, was sold on Ditch Creek in 1987. No other timber sale harvest has occurred within these stream segments' buffers in the last ten years due to lack of access, TPCC withdrawal, and the segments' proximity to the Wild section of the Rogue River and limits set to protect its viewshed. Livestock grazing and agricultural activities do not occur within the stream corridor.

Three private residences exist within the Quail, Ditch, and Meadow Creek stream corridors. No water front development exists near any of these streams and vegetative screening conceals all existing structures from the corridor.

There are eight known mining claims located within the East Fork of Whiskey Creek stream corridor. No federal mineral leases are in effect on any of these segments. There are no powerlines crossing any of the stream segments studied.

Josephine and Curry counties have zoned the land containing the stream corridors as commercial forestland.

### B. Reasonable Foreseeable Uses of the Land and Water Which would be Affected By Designation

Appendix 2-WS-2 in the Draft RMP/EIS provides a general description of land uses and management practices appropriate for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational river areas. Consequences by plan alternative are displayed in Table 4-Ws-1 in the Draft RMP/EIS.

#### 1. Uses That Would Be Enhanced By Designation

Current and potential uses on BLM-administered lands are expected to be compatible with a Wild river classification. Current management recognizes the value of recreation and other resource values within the Wild Rogue River Section. The visual resource management would continue to be highly restrictive with the highest potential classification of Wild.

Current and potential uses on non-BLM-administered lands, which are not expected to be affected by this classification, include scenic viewing from the Rogue River, hiking/exploration, and wildlife viewing.

#### 2. Uses That Would Be Foreclosed By Designation

Timber harvesting and new mining claims would not be allowed within the one-half mile stream corridors.

Designation as Wild could lead to imposition of county zoning restrictions on currently subdivided but undeveloped lands, or federal efforts to acquire scenic easements limiting development on such lands, foreclosing some development options.

### 3. Uses That Would Be Curtailed By Designation

The most significant constraints on BLM-administered land could be restrictions on road and trail construction and the size of timber harvest units within the visual corridor (area seen from the stream) of the stream segments. Designation would lead to application of a higher water quality standard requiring more careful timing of BLM timber sales in the upstream watershed which could also diminish the rate of timber harvest but on a larger area. ✓

Timber harvest on private lands may be restricted to maintain visual qualities as seen from the streams. Restrictions could be imposed on development of new structures. While designation might limit landowners' flexibility, it could help maintain the lifestyle of current residents by maintaining existing conditions through protection of river values.

Existing land uses and activities including timber harvest would continue at levels authorized by other portions of the Resource Management Plan subject to the constraint of VRM Class I management on BLM-administered land within the one-half mile corridor. New land uses, developments, and activities (including uses on private land within the corridor) would occur within guidelines applicable to the potential Wild classification. Outstandingly remarkable values would be protected as provided by the Wild and Scenic River Act.

VRM Class II management of the adjacent BLM-administered lands could minimally reduce annual timber sale volumes with an attendant slight loss in jobs, local income, and county revenues. As most of the stream corridors are already located within or adjacent to the Wild section of the Rogue River and subject to these or more stringent restrictions, few additional uses would be curtailed. Much of this land is also withdrawn from timber harvest because of reforestation potential or fragile slopes. ✓

#### C. Hydroelectric and Other Water Diversion Potential

The potential hydroelectric power available in any stream reach is determined by the formula:  $P=cQHe$

where: P = power (kilowatts)  
c = conversion factor = 0.08475  
Q = streamflow (ft<sup>3</sup>/sec)  
H = head (feet)  
e = efficiency = 1.0 1/

Using the data contained in the Oregon State University's Water Resources Research Institute's 1979 study entitled, "A Resource Survey of Low-Head Hydroelectric Power Potential in Oregon," the theoretical hydroelectric power potential for these segments would be:

Bronco Creek  $P = (0.08475) (0.166) (1600) (1.0) = 22.51$  kilowatts  
 Ditch Creek  $P = (0.08475) (0.083) (2300) (1.0) = 16.18$  kilowatts  
 Meadow Creek  $P = (0.08475) (0.50) (2800) (1.0) = 118.65$  kilowatts  
 Quail Creek  $P = (0.08475) (0.083) (1600) (1.0) = 11.25$  kilowatts  
 E. Fork Whiskey Creek  $P = (0.08475) (0.125) (900) (1.0) = 9.53$  kilowatts  
 W. Fork Whiskey Creek  $P = (0.08475) (0.50) (1800) (1.0) = 76.28$  kilowatts  
 Russian Creek  $P = (0.08475) (0.166) (2300) (1.0) = 32.38$  kilowatts  
 Bunker Creek  $P = (0.08475) (1.4) (2500) (1.0) = 296.6$  kilowatts  
 Kelsey Creek  $P = (0.08475) (5.0) (1500) (1.0) = 635.62$  kilowatts

The values used in determining the hydroelectric power potential for these segments are estimates based on rough field measurements and should not be considered highly accurate.

There are no Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) applications, irrigation, or other proposals for dams or diversions on file for these stream segments.

#### D. Effect on Outstandingly Remarkable Values

##### 1. Those Enhanced if River Segment Were Designated

The headwaters for the stream segments entering into the Rogue River would be further protected in terms of Scenic and Recreational outstandingly remarkable values. The lower stretches of these streams are already protected within the Wild Rogue Corridor.

##### 2. Those Diminished if River Segments Were Not Designated

Due to the character, steep slopes, and proximity of these segments to the Rogue River, timber harvest and other surface disturbing activities are not authorized in portions of these stream segments at this time and therefore would not change. Some harvest has been allowed where not visible from the Rogue River. This would continue to be the case if not designated. Recreation opportunities on the upper stretches of these segments would therefore not be provided any long term protection afforded by designation.

E. How the River Segments Would Be Managed if it Were Not Designated or if Designated at a Lower Classification

If the streams were not added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the BLM would manage land under its jurisdiction within the one-half mile corridors for substantial protection of the riparian values along the stream and for continuation of existing levels of uses within the corridor. The Scenic and Recreation outstandingly remarkable values would receive management similar to that which would occur if the stream were designated Wild except lands in the one-half-mile corridor but outside the riparian zone would be subject to timber harvest and would be managed under VRM Class I, II, and IV standards depending on location and visibility from the Rogue River. There is little chance of further development on private lands within the seen corridor of these streams because of location and topography and, in some instances, controls currently imposed for the protection of the Rogue River viewshed. Should further development occur, it could diminish the scenic attributes of the stream corridor. Any of these actions or combination there of would probably degrade the river's eligibility classification to Scenic but not alter the outstandingly remarkable values.

If the streams were added to the system but designated as Recreational instead of Scenic or Wild, management would be similar to that if it were not designated. Increased public use due to the increased visibility of the segments could require more management of recreational use. It is possible that the application of a higher water quality standard due to its designation would require more careful timing of BLM timber sales in the watershed.

F. Cost of Administration

The basic objective of Wild and Scenic river designation is to maintain the streams' existing condition. If a land use or development clearly threatens the outstandingly remarkable values which resulted in a segments' designation, efforts will be made to remove the threat through local zoning, State Scenic Waterway Act provisions, land exchanges, purchases from willing sellers, and other actions short of condemnation. In the event condemnation becomes necessary, the only landowner rights which will be purchased are those necessary to remove the threat to the specific stream value.

Any actual or potential threat to a streams outstandingly remarkable values, together with specific options to remove or mitigate that threat, can only be determined on a case-by-case basis. Because of variable stream values, possible threats and protection mechanisms, estimated costs of acquiring necessary lands or interests in lands will be made in the river study report for streams determined suitable and subsequently recommended for designation and/or in the river management plan required to be completed within three full fiscal years of designation.

The estimated cost of preparing a required river management plan for these stream segments would be \$30-40,000. Annual river management, administration, and monitoring cost are estimated to be \$3-6,000. Cost estimates for resource protection measures and necessary public use facilities would be determined through the river management planning process. More detailed estimates would also be provided during preparation of suitability reports.

No state or local agency has come forward and stated they would be willing to share in the cost of administering these stream segments should they become part of the system. In light of the financial constraints imposed by Oregon ballot "Measure 5," it is unlikely that state or local agencies would share in these costs.

#### G. Administering Agency

If these stream segments were added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the BLM would continue to manage the land and resources it currently administers.

### IV. FINDING AND RATIONALE

#### A. Finding

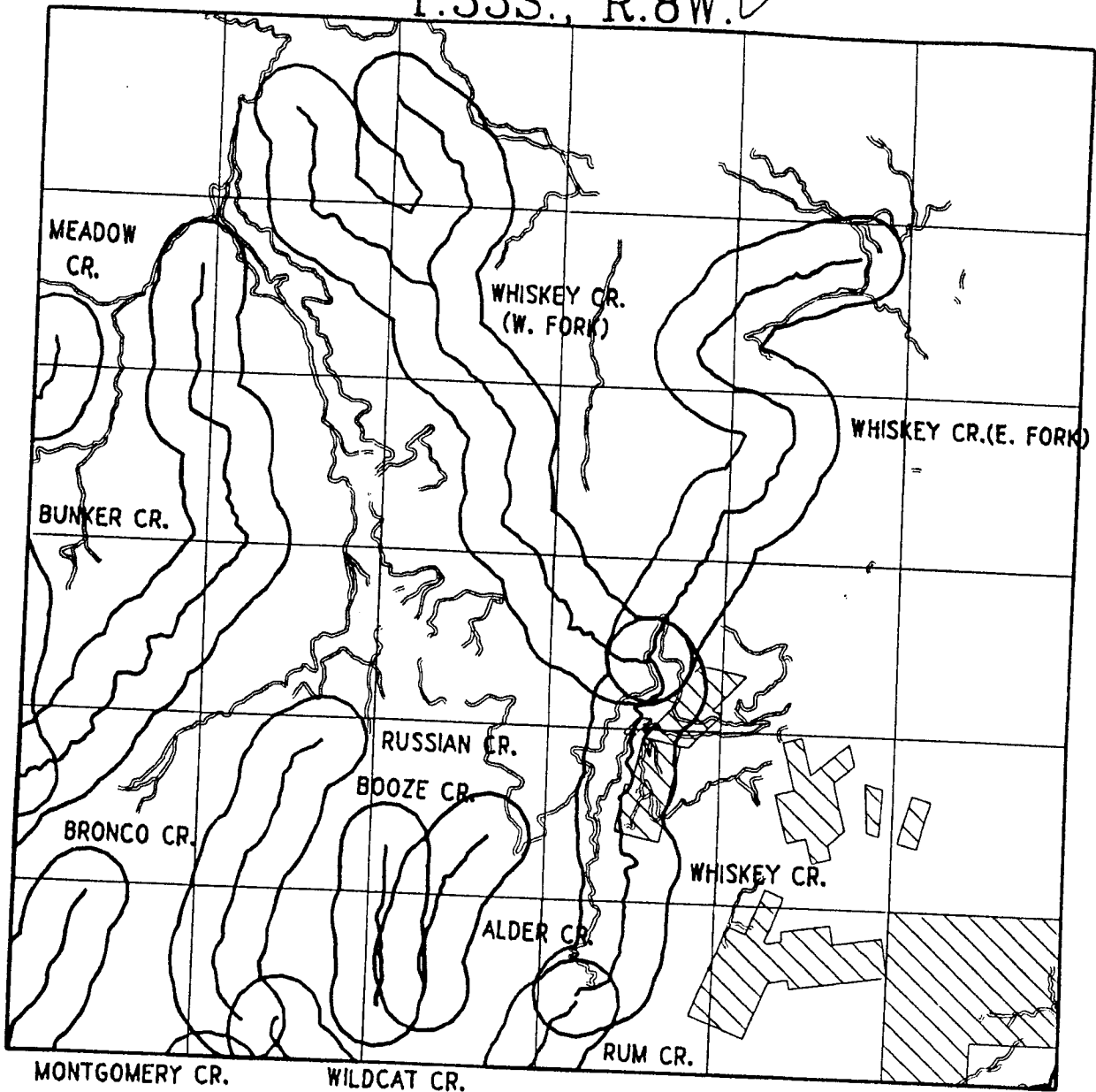
The studied segments of Bronco, Ditch, Meadow, Quail, East Fork of Whiskey, West Fork of Whiskey and Russian creeks from their individual headwaters to their confluence with the Rogue River are found not suitable for Federal designation as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational segments under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. ✓

#### B. Characteristics Which Do or Do Not Make the Area a Worthy Addition to the System

The low comparative rating of the segments' two outstandingly remarkable values gives them marginal potential for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Scenic and Recreational outstandingly remarkable values are rather common in the region. These segments do add to the integrity of the Rogue River in terms of the outstandingly remarkable values which would be protected; however, the areas which would most drastically affect the integrity of the Rogue River are located within its corridor or are protected through withdrawal or VRM II classification where affecting the Rogue River's viewshed. BLM's intent in the Preferred Alternative of this Draft RMP/EIS to protect those outstandingly remarkable values on BLM-administered land indicates that designation is not needed to protect those values. The outstandingly remarkable values are not threatened by dam construction or irrigation development. On the small amount of private land not subdivided or eligible for subdivision, the requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act should protect the outstandingly remarkable values from impacts associated with timber management.

In addition, although county zoning permits additional development of private lands, such development would probably affect those values only slightly. Considering all the factors, BLM believes the stream segments' outstandingly remarkable values can best be protected by a combination of the actions set forth in the Preferred Alternative of the Draft RMP/EIS and by management of private land consistent with county zoning and state law.

T.33S., R.8W. ✓



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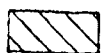
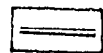


Eligible stream segment  
and 1/4-mile buffer  
Roads within 3/4-mile  
of stream

Existing/potential recreation site

Existing/potential special area

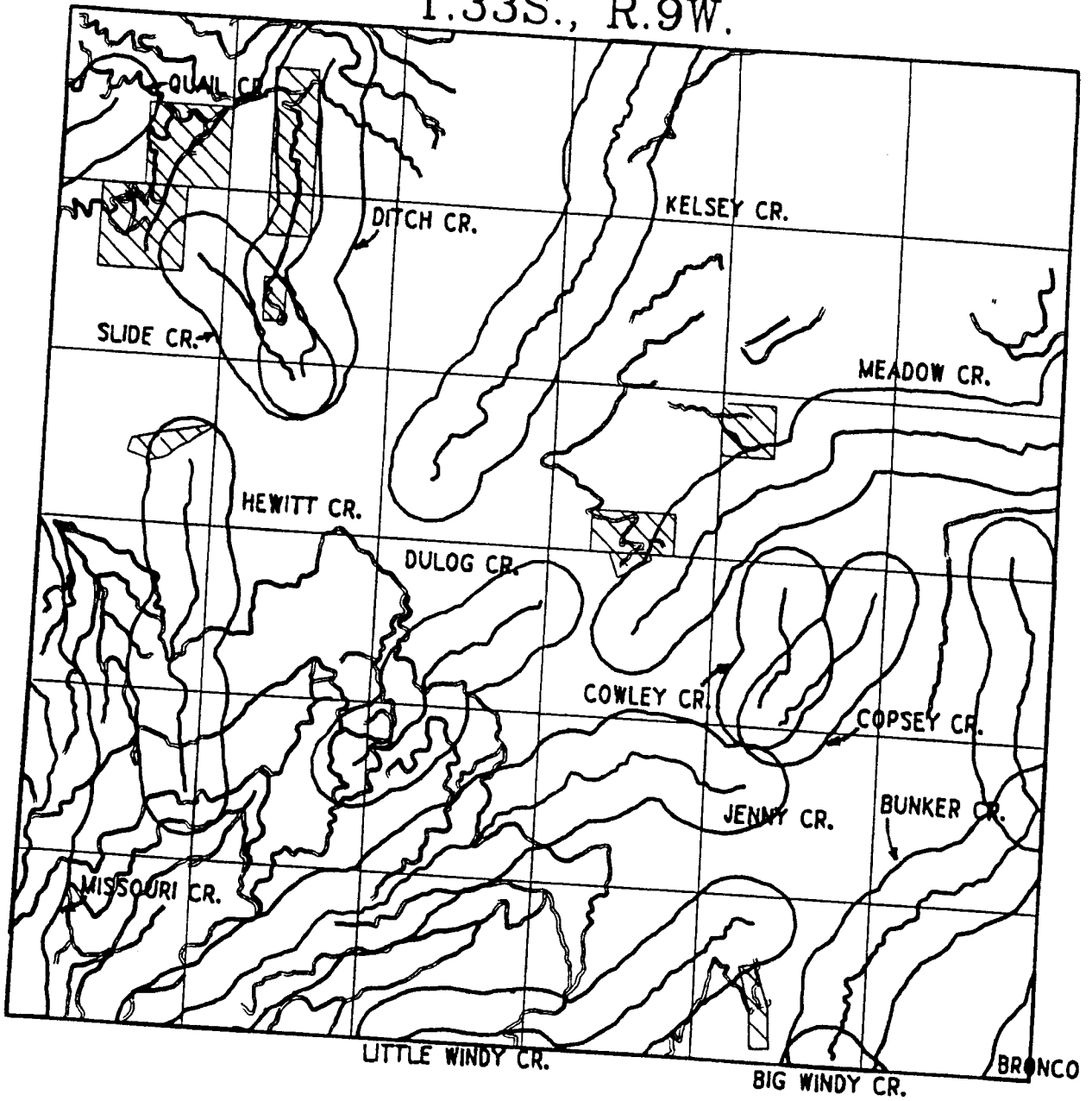
Non-BLM Lands



# Wild and Scenic River Suitability Assessment

(89)

T.33S., R.9W.



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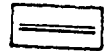


Eligible stream segment  
and 1/4-mile buffer  
Roads within 3/4-mile  
of stream

Existing/potential recreation site

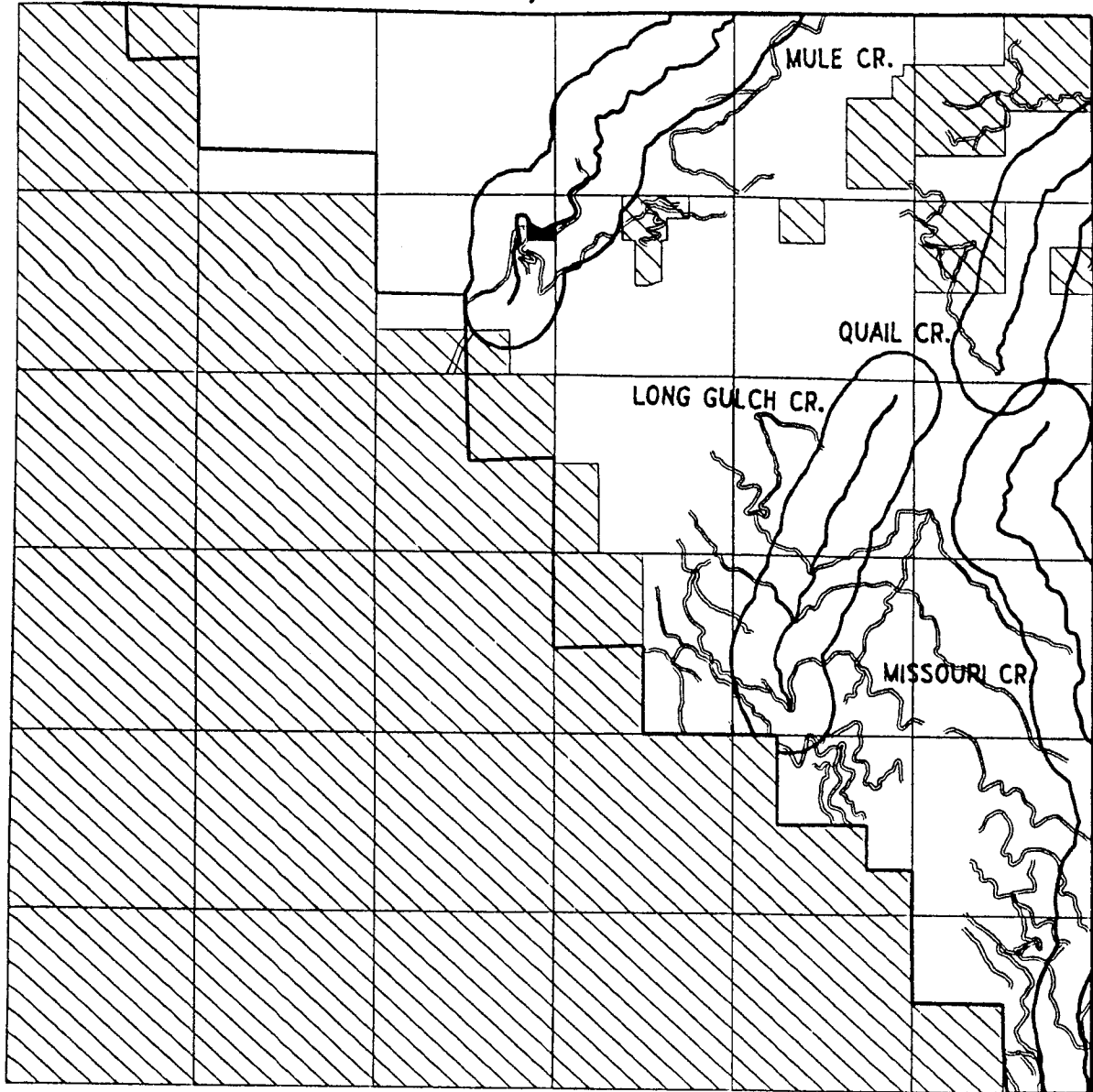
Existing/potential special area

Non-BLM Lands



# Wild and Scenic River Suitability Assessment

T.33S., R.10W. ✓



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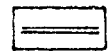
Eligible stream segment  
and 1/4-mile buffer

Roads within 3/4-mile  
of stream

Existing/potential recreation site

Existing/potential special area

Non-BLM Lands

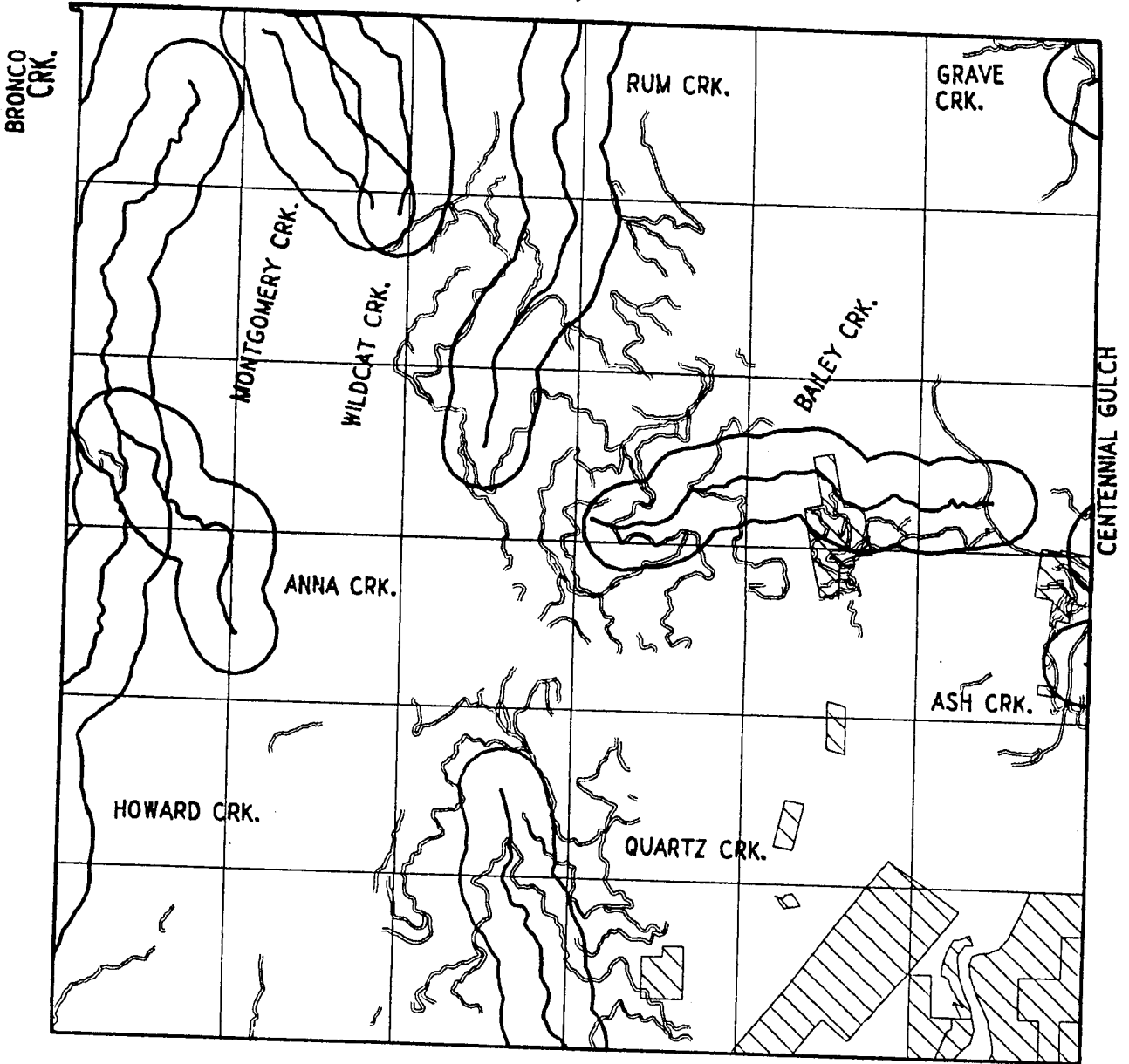


# Wild and Scenic River Suitability Assessment

(91)



T.34S., R.8W.



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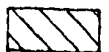
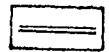


Eligible stream segment  
and 1/4-mile buffer  
Roads within 3/4-mile  
of stream

Existing/potential recreation site

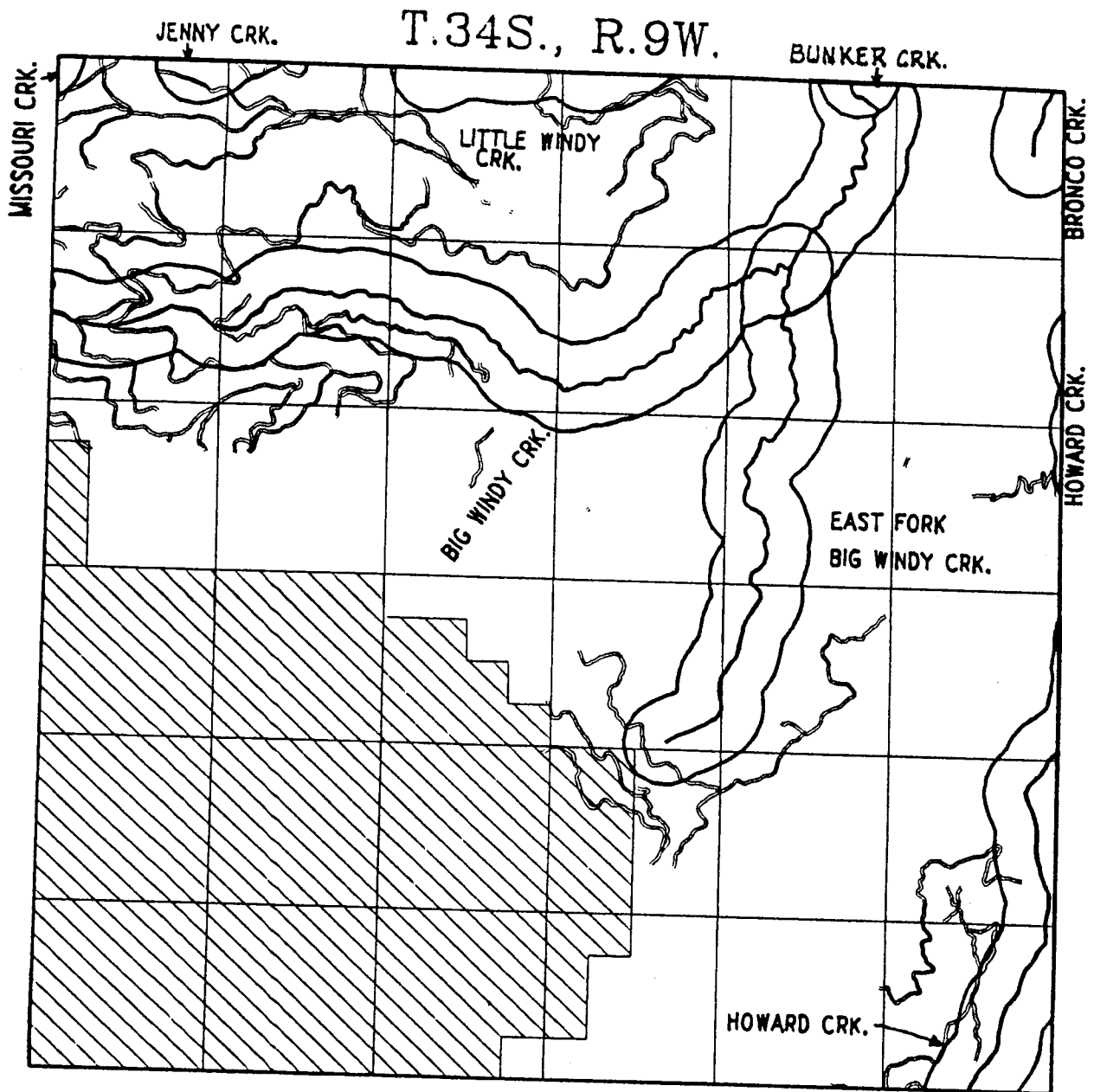
Existing/potential special area

Non-BLM Lands



# Wild and Scenic River Suitability Assessment

(92)



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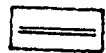


Eligible stream segment  
and 1/4-mile buffer  
Roads within 3/4-mile  
of stream

Existing/potential recreation site

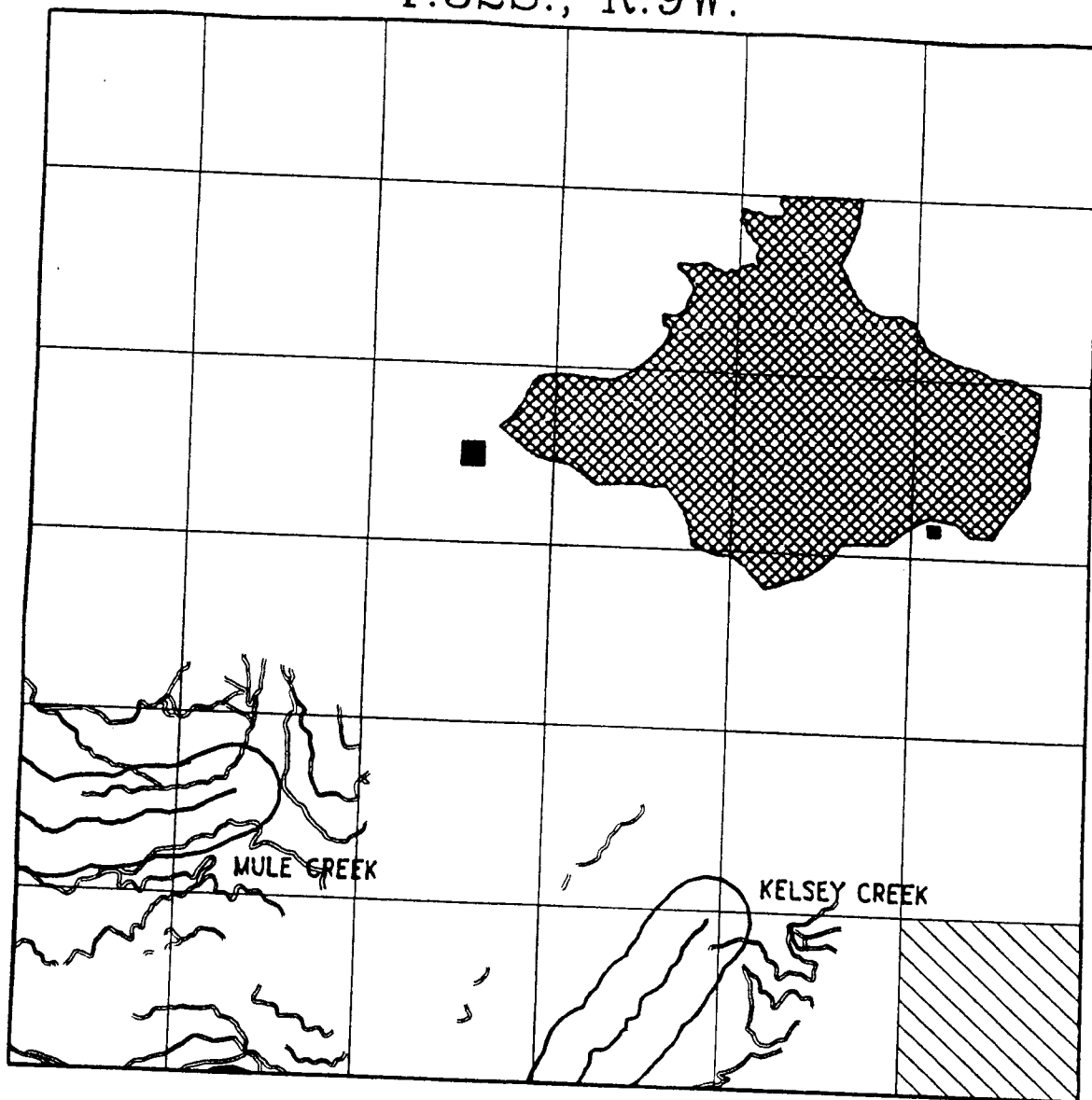
Existing/potential special area

Non-BLM Lands



# Wild and Scenic River Suitability Assessment

T.32S., R.9W.



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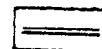


Eligible stream segment  
and 1/4-mile buffer  
Roads within 3/4-mile  
of stream

Existing/potential recreation site

Existing/potential special area

Non-BLM Lands



# Wild and Scenic River Suitability Assessment



# WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT

## WHISKEY CREEK - MAIN STEM

### I. SUMMARY

The following segment was studied from the confluence of the East and West Forks of Whiskey to the streams confluence with the Rogue River. This segment was found not suitable for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

### II. INTRODUCTION

#### A. Description of the Streams

The Medford District identified as eligible a 2.4 stream mile segment of Whiskey Creek (T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 22, to T. 33 S., R. 8 W., Sec. 34). This segment includes the area between the confluence of the East and West Forks of Whiskey Creek to its' confluence with the Rogue River (see S33W08). Several streams flow into this segment. All of the one-half mile stream corridor (one-fourth mile each side of the stream) is covered with Douglas-fir forests, alders, and other species associated with the riparian zone and surrounding forest vegetation type.

The stream segment has good water quality typical of the area. Forest management activities such as timber harvest and road construction in the stream drainages have been less than on similar streams, and therefore, water quality is expected to be excellent. Measurement of suspended sediment, turbidity, temperature, pH, conductivity, and dissolved oxygen on similar streams show better than normal water quality. Water Quality and watershed conditions are further discussed in the Draft RMP/EIS.

#### B. Eligibility Determination

The stream segment is free flowing within the study area. Based upon the eligibility criteria there are three outstandingly remarkable values: Scenic, Recreation, and Historic. Recreational activities are limited due to the steepness of the stream channels and adjacent slopes. Water flow of this segment is not substantial enough to support recreational activities such as boating. The stream segment provides little habitat for fish populations. Rugged hiking, sightseeing, some fishing and swimming are the only known recreational opportunities within the stream segment. The scenic quality of the segment was comparable with other similar streams in the area and offered no outstanding features. The historical values were based primarily on the Whiskey Creek Cabin and other historic mining developments. It has been determined that the majority of these developments are located within the Rogue River corridor and thus are already afforded protection based on their location. This suitability assessment was prepared based on these findings and BLM's 84 percent administrative jurisdiction within the one-half mile stream corridor

C. Classification Determination

The highest potential classification for this segment is Wild as shown below. The stream is free of any impoundments, diversions, or stream bank modifications. No shoreline development exists within the stream segment corridor. The majority of the stream is within the seen area of the Wild Section of the Rogue River and has not been effected by logging activities. Water quality is relatively good and supports the stream corridors' outstandingly remarkable values. Water quantity is low in extremely dry summers and minimally supports the stream corridor's outstandingly remarkable values.

A gated jeep road provides access to the Rogue River and the Whiskey Creek Cabin site within one-quarter mile of the segment. Another road is located within the one-quarter mile buffer on the east side to the Benton Mine (private, patented mining claim). The Rogue River National Recreation trail bisects the identified segment less than one-quarter mile above its' confluence with the Rogue River. The trail provides the only public access to the stream corridor.

The table below summarizes classification criteria met by the stream segment. The stream segment could be classified as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational, Wild being the highest classification.

Potential Classification Summary  
Whiskey Creek - Main Stem

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Activity	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Water resources development	M	E	E
Shoreline development	M	E	E
Water quality	M	E	E
Accessibility	M	E	E

---

E: Exceeds

M: Meets

DM: Does Not Meet

### III. SUITABILITY FACTORS

#### A. Current Land Status and Use

##### 1. Land Ownership

The Medford BLM District administers approximately 2 stream frontage miles (both sides included) of the segment which is 84 percent of the stream segment as shown below.

##### Segment Ownership Status Within the Creek Corridor

##### Whiskey Creek - Main Stem

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Ownership	Acres	%
Private Individuals	136.41	16%
BLM		
O&C	550.58	65%
RWSR	160.43	19%
Total BLM	711.01	84%

---

RWSR: Rogue Wild and Scenic River Corridor

##### 2. Land Use

Land use within the one-half mile wide stream corridor is varied. The small amount of private land within the corridor is a patented mining claim. Timber harvest on private land could occur in this area subject to Oregon laws for protection of the riparian area. Harvesting of timber on public lands has not occurred within the buffers on this stream due to lack of access, TPCC withdrawal, or the segment's proximity to the Wild section of the Rogue River and limits set to protect its viewshed. Livestock grazing and agricultural activities do not occur within the stream corridor.

No permanent structures or other waterfront developments exist within the Whiskey Creek stream corridor.

There are no known mining claims located on public land within the stream corridor and no federal mineral leases are in effect. There are no powerlines crossing the stream segment studied.

Josephine and Curry counties have zoned the land containing the stream corridor as commercial forestland.

B. Reasonable Foreseeable Uses of the Land and Water Which would be Affected By Designation

Appendix 2-WS-2 in the Draft RMP/EIS provides a general description of land uses and management practices appropriate for Wild, Scenic, and Recreational river areas. Consequences by plan alternative are displayed in Table 4-WS-1 in the Draft RMP/EIS.

1. Uses That Would Be Enhanced By Designation.

Current and potential uses on BLM-administered lands are expected to be compatible with a Wild river classification. Current management recognizes the value of recreation and other resource values within the Wild Rogue River section. The visual resource management would continue to be highly restrictive with the highest potential classification of Wild.

Current and potential uses on non-BLM-administered lands which are not expected to be affected by this classification include scenic viewing from the Rogue River, hiking/exploration and wildlife viewing.

2. Uses That Would Be Foreclosed By Designation

Timber harvesting and new mining claims would not be allowed within the one-half mile stream corridor.

Designation as Wild could lead to imposition of county zoning restrictions on currently subdivided but undeveloped lands, or to federal efforts to acquire scenic easements limiting development on such lands, foreclosing some development options.

3. Uses That Would Be Curtailed By Designation

The most significant constraints on BLM-administered land could be restrictions on road and trail construction and the size of timber harvest units within the visual corridor (area seen from the stream) of the stream segment. Road building and timber harvest would not be allowed within the one-half mile stream buffer if the stream were designated Wild. Designation would lead to application of a higher water quality standard, requiring more careful timing of BLM timber sales in the upstream watershed which could also diminish the rate of timber harvest but in a larger area.

Timber harvest on private lands may be restricted to maintain visual qualities as seen from the streams. Restrictions could be imposed on development of new structures. While designation might limit landowners' flexibility, it could help maintain the lifestyle of current residents by maintaining existing conditions through protection of stream values.



New land uses, developments, and activities (including uses on private land within the corridor) would occur within guidelines applicable to the potential Wild classification. Outstandingly remarkable values would be protected as provided by the Wild and Scenic River Act.

VRM Class I management of the adjacent BLM-administered lands could minimally reduce annual timber sale volumes with an attendant slight loss in jobs, local income, and county revenues. As most of the stream corridors are already located within or adjacent to the Wild section of the Rogue River and subject to these or more stringent restrictions, few additional uses would be curtailed. Much of this land is also withdrawn from timber harvest because of reforestation potential or fragile slopes.

#### C. Hydroelectric and Other Water Diversion Potential

The potential hydroelectric power available in any stream reach is determined by the formula:  $P=cQHe$

where: P = power (kilowatts)  
c = conversion factor = 0.08475  
Q = streamflow (ft<sup>3</sup>/sec)  
H = head (feet)  
e = efficiency = 1.0 1/

Using the data contained in the Oregon State University's Water Resources Research Institute's 1979 study entitled, "A Resource Survey of Low-Head Hydroelectric Power Potential in Oregon," the theoretical hydroelectric power potential for this segment would be:

Whiskey Creek       $P = (0.08475) (.75) (600) (1.0) = 38$  kilowatts

The values used in determining the hydroelectric power potential for this segment are estimates based on rough field measurements and should not be considered highly accurate.

There are no Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) applications, irrigation, or other proposals for dams or diversions on file for this stream segment.

#### D. Effect on Outstandingly Remarkable Values

##### 1. Those Enhanced if River Segment Were Designated

The upper reaches of this stream segment entering into the Rogue would be further protected in terms of scenic, recreational, and historic outstandingly remarkable values. The lower stretch of the stream is already protected within the Wild Rogue Corridor.

##### 2. Those Diminished if Stream Segments Were Not Designated

Due to the character, steep slopes, and proximity of this segment to the Rogue River, timber harvest and other surface disturbing activities are not authorized on public land within portions of the stream segment at this time and therefore would not change. Timber harvest, where not restricted by some other closure listed earlier including visual limitations for the Rogue River Wild section, would be allowed to continue if the segment were not designated. Recreation opportunities on

the upper stretch of this segment therefore would not be provided any long-term protection afforded by designation.

E. How the Stream Segments Would be Managed if it Were Not Designated or if Designated at a Lower Classification

If the stream were not added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the BLM would manage land under its jurisdiction within the one-half-mile corridors for substantial protection of the riparian values along the stream and for continuation of existing levels of uses within the corridor. The Scenic, Recreation, and Historic outstandingly remarkable values would receive management similar to that which would occur if the stream were designated Wild, except lands in the one-half-mile corridor but outside the riparian zone would be subject to timber harvest and would be managed under VRM Class I, II, and IV standards depending on location and visibility from the Rogue River. There is little chance of further development on private lands within the seen corridor of these streams because of location and topography and, in some instances, controls currently in place for the protection of the Rogue River viewshed.

If the stream were added to the system, but designated as Recreational instead of Scenic or Wild, management would be similar to that if it were not designated. Increased public use due to the increased visibility of the segment could require more management of recreational use. It is possible that the application of a higher water quality standard due to its designation would require more careful timing of BLM timber sales in the watershed.

F. COST OF ADMINISTRATION

The basic objective of Wild and Scenic river designation is to maintain the streams' existing condition. If a land use or development clearly threatens the outstandingly remarkable values which resulted in the segments' designation, efforts will be made to remove the threat through local zoning, State Scenic Waterway Act provisions, land exchanges, purchases from willing sellers, and other actions short of condemnation. In the event condemnation becomes necessary, the only landowner rights which will be purchased are those necessary to remove the threat to the specific stream value.

Any actual or potential threat to the streams outstandingly remarkable values, together with specific options to remove or mitigate that threat, can only be determined on a case-by-case basis. Because of variable stream values, possible threats and protection mechanisms, estimated costs of acquiring necessary lands or interests in lands will be made in the river study report for streams determined suitable and subsequently recommended for designation and/or in the river management plan required to be completed within three full fiscal years of designation.

The estimated cost of preparing a required river management plan for these stream segments would be \$30-40,000. Annual river management, administration, and monitoring cost are estimated to be \$3-6,000. Cost estimates for resource protection measures and necessary public use facilities would be determined through the river management planning

process. More detailed estimates would also be provided during preparation of suitability reports.

No state or local agency has come forward and stated they would be willing to share in the cost of administering the stream segment should it become part of the system. In light of the financial constraints imposed by Oregon ballot "Measure 5," it is unlikely that state or local agencies would share in these costs.

#### G. Administering Agency

If this stream segment were added to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, the BLM would continue to manage the land and resources it currently administers.

### IV. FINDING AND RATIONALE

#### A. Finding

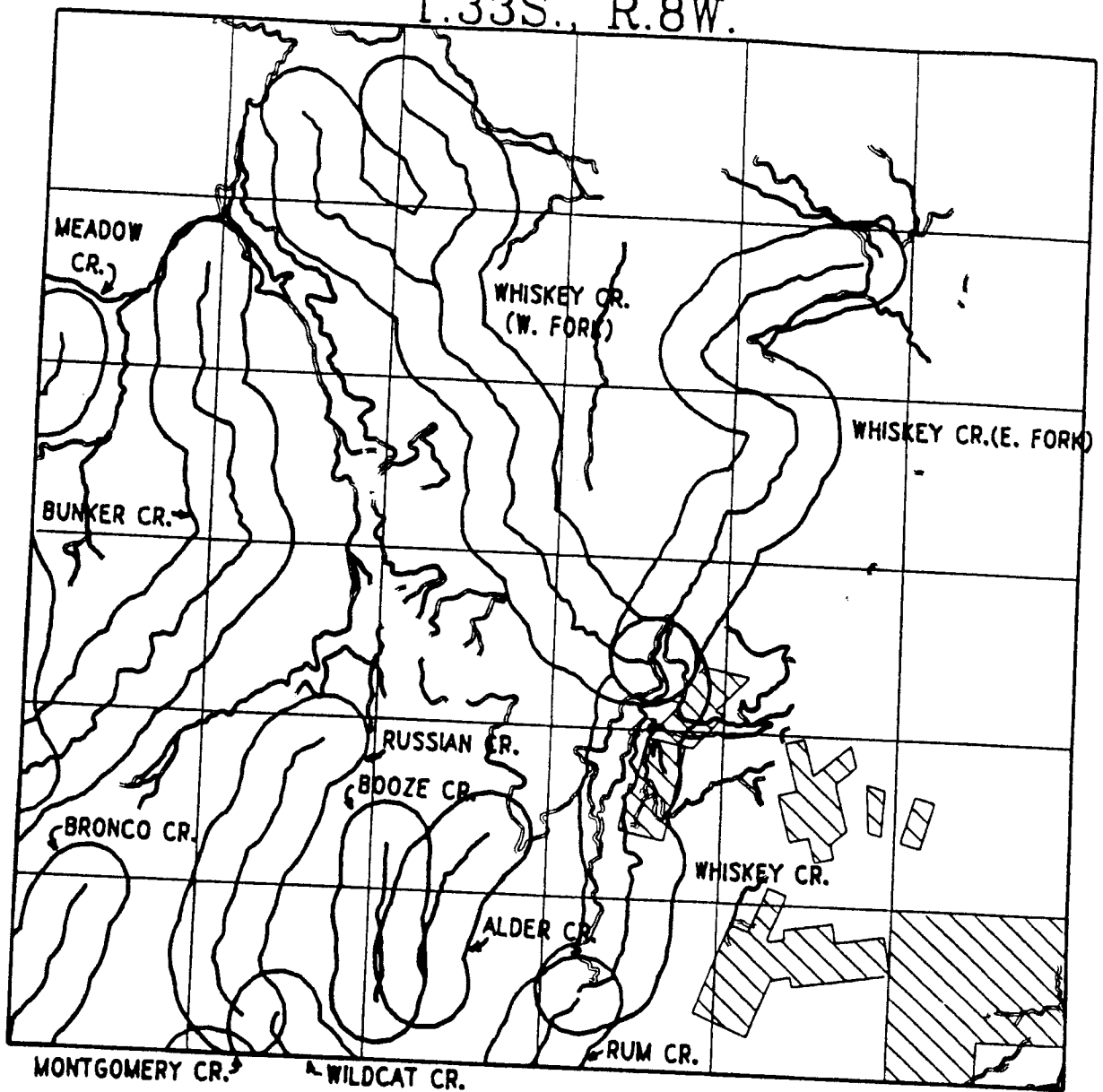
The studied segments of Whiskey Creek from confluence of the East and West Forks of Whiskey to its' confluences with the Rogue River is found unsuitable for federal designation as a Wild, Scenic or Recreational segment under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

#### B. Characteristics Which Do or Do Not Make the Area a Worthy Addition to the System

The low comparative rating of the segment's three outstandingly remarkable values gives it marginal potential for addition to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The Scenic and Recreational outstandingly remarkable values are rather common in the region. These segments do add to the integrity of the Rogue River in terms of the outstandingly remarkable values which would be protected; however, the areas which would most drastically effect the integrity of the Rogue River are located within its corridor or are protected through withdrawal or VRM II classification where effecting the Rogue River's viewshed. The characteristics which lead to the study of the segments suitability based on historical values are located within the Rogue River Wild Section Corridor and thus protected. BLM's intent in the Preferred Alternative of this Draft RMP/EIS to protect those outstandingly remarkable values on BLM-administered land indicates that designation is not needed to protect those values. The outstandingly remarkable values are not threatened by dam construction or irrigation development. On the small amount of private land not subdivided or eligible for subdivision, the requirements of the Oregon Forest Practices Act should protect the outstandingly remarkable values from impacts associated with timber management.

Although county zoning permits additional development of private lands, such development would probably only slightly affect those values. Considering all the factors, BLM believes the stream segment's outstandingly remarkable values can best be protected by a combination of the actions set forth in the Preferred Alternative of the Draft RMP/EIS and by management of private land consistent with county zoning and state law.

T.33S., R.8W.



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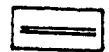


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Existing/potential recreation site

Existing/potential special area

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# Wild and Scenic River Suitability Assessment