

Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the the Interior



Colorado Segments

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**Authorizations / History /
Eligibility Descriptions /
Outstandingly Remarkable
Values / Potential
Classification / Wild and
Scenic Rivers System**

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River	County	Reach	Length (miles)	Year Listed/Updated	Potential Classification	ORVs	Description	Other States
Animas River	San Juan, La Plata	Animas City to Mineral Creek	45	1982		S, R, G, F, W, H	Excellent scenery, deep canyons, surrounding mountains; popular recreation attraction, including the Durango-Silverton Narrow Guage Railway, float trips; highest-value fishery resource (FWS); very important habitat providing diverse wildlife populations; historic gold	

							and silver mining district, historic Animas City.	
Arikaree River	Yuma	NE/KS State line to Alder Creek	48	1982		F, W, H, C	Exceptional fish and wildlife habitat along river, especially wetlands; highest-valued fishery resource (FWS); significant waterfowl use; historic Beecher Island Indian Massacre site; Jones-Miller Hell Gap Paleo Buffalo Kill-Storage site.	KS
Arkansas River	Lake/Chaffee	Pine Creek to Buena Vista	10	1982/1993	W	S, R, G, F, W	High mountain stream in rural setting with fisheries, cultural sites, recreation, scenic vistas, etc. with 46% public land ownership.	
Arkansas River	Chaffee	Salida to Pine Creek (continues downstream to Canon City in Section 13f)	39	1982		S, R, G, F	Deep, narrow canyon; excellent white water boating, world class kayaking above Buena Vista; diverse fishery habitat, highest-valued fishery resource (FWS).	
Arkansas River	Chaffee, Fremont	Canon City to Salida (continues upstream to Pine Creek in Section 16)	52	1982		S, R, F, W	Excellent canyon scenery, Royal Gorge; good white water boating; diverse fishery habitat, highest valued fishery resource (FWS); important wildlife habitat.	

Arkansas River	Chaffee/Fremont	Salida to Vallie Bridge	20	1982/ 1993	W	S, R, G, F, W	Mountain stream in a rural setting with fisheries, recreation, scenic vistas, etc. with 41% public ownership
Arkansas River	Chaffee	From Buena Vista to the town of Salida	29	1982/ 1993	W	S, R, G, F, W	High mountain stream in rural/semi-urban setting with fisheries, cultural sites, recreation, scenic vistas, T & E species, etc. with 40% public ownership.
Arkansas River	Fremont	Vallie Bridge to the west edge of Royal Gorge Park	31	1982/ 1993	W	S, R, G, F, W	Mountain valley stream in a rural setting with fisheries, recreation, scenic vistas, T & E species, etc. with 70% public ownership.
Arkansas River	Otero	Entire segment within Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site	2	1993	R	R, H	Within Historic Site, associated with reconstructed fort and river crossing of the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. Minor recreational boat use and trail horseback crossings.
Arkansas River	Lake/Chaffee	USFS boundary north of Leadville to Pine Creek	37	1993	W	S, R, G, F, W	High mountain stream in rural setting with fisheries, cultural sites, recreation, scenic vistas, etc. with 46% public land ownership.
Badger Creek	Fremont, Park	Arkansas River to source	25	1982		S, R, G, F	Deep canyon with exceptional scenery;

							popular with recreationists; highest valued fishery resource (FWS).	
Beaver Creek	Fremont	Skagway Reservoir to east side of State Refuge	20	1993	W	S, R, G, F, W, O	High rugged mountain stream in wilderness setting with fisheries, limited recreation, scenic vistas, T & E species, etc. with 100% public land ownership.	
Big Thompson River	Larimer	Entire segment within Rocky Mountain National Park	14	1993	W	S, R, G, F, W	Fishery values in upper 11 miles and geologic values in lower 2.6 miles. Habitat for threatened greenback cutthroat trout, beaver, black bear, and endangered peregrine falcon.	
Big Thompson River, North Fork	Larimer	Entire segment within Rocky Mountain National Park	9	1993	W	S, R, F	Habitat for threatened greenback cutthroat trout. In upper reach, river flows through alpine tundra, and mountain peaks are very accessible due to the open topography of the valley.	
Blue Creek	Gunnison	Curecanti National Recreation Area boundary downstream to Morrow Point Reservoir	2	1993	W	S	Towering canyon walls and undisturbed vegetation provide aesthetic values unequaled in the surrounding area.	
Cache la Poudre	Larimer	Dale Creek	31	1982		S, F,	Exceptional	

Poudre, North Fork		to source				W, H	scenery, varied topography; diverse fishery, highest- valued fishery resource (FWS); exceptional riparian habitat for game and non-game wildlife; Cannibal Phil historic site.	
Chacuaco Canyon	Las Animas	Purgatoire River to Highway 160	37	1982		S, G, W, C	Deep, scenic red canyon with intermittent stream, potholes; beautiful sandstone formations and exposed geologic processes; excellent wildlife habitat; dinosaur tracks and bones; Indian paintings, dwellings, camps, and artifacts.	
Coal Creek	Gunnison	Curecanti National Recreation Area boundary downstream to Blue Mesa Reservoir	0	1993	W	S, F, W	Scenic, fishery, and wildlife values.	
Colorado River	Grand, Eagle	State Bridge to Blue River	23	1982		S, R, G, F	Exceptional mountain, canyon scenery; varied high quality recreation opportunities, notably white water boating; excellent visibility of geologic processes; highest- valued fishery resource (FWS).	
Colorado	Grand	Entire	21	1993	S, R	S, R,	Prehistoric	

River		segment within Rocky Mountain National Park				W, H	sites, historic mining and lumbering camps, early homesteads, and the earliest transmountain water diversion structure in Colorado. Alpine peaks, talus slopes, and broad glacial valley.	
Conejos River	Conejos	North, Middle, and El Rito Azul Forks from sources to confluence with Conejos River, thence Conejos River to confluence with South Fork	57	1993	W, R	S, R, G, F, W		
Crystal River	Gunnison, Pitkin	National Forest boundary to sources of North and South Forks (including the North and South Forks)	45	1982		S, R, F, W, H	Excellent scenery; popular with recreationists; good diversity of fish and wildlife, excellent habitat, possible Colorado cutthroat waters; highest-valued fishery resource (FWS); marble quarry for Lincoln Monument; historic mines, mining towns.	
Crystal River	Pitkin	Sweet Jessep Headgate upstream to source, including both North and South Forks	40	1982/ 1993		S, R, H		
Curecanti Creek	Gunnison	Curecanti National Recreation Area boundary	1	1993	S	S, F	Scenic and fisheries values.	

		downstream to Morrow Point Reservoir						
Dolores River	Montezuma, Dolores, San Miguel, Montrose	1.3 miles below McPhee Damsite downstream to point 1 mile above Colorado Highway 90 bridge near Bedrock	105	1993	W, S, R	S, R, G, C, O	Challenging white water boating and rafting during spring and early summer. Archeological values.	
East River	Gunnison	Gunnison River to source	20	1982		S, F, W, H	Exceptional scenery, varied topography; diverse fishery, highest-valued fishery resource (FWS); excellent riparian habitat important to many wildlife species, including the wintering bald eagle, a federally listed endangered species; historic mining area, town of Gothic.	
Elk River	Routt	Main stem upstream from confluence with SF, NF and SF to headwaters, and MF to confluence of Gilpin and Gold Creeks	29	1993	W, S	S, R, F, O		
Encampment River	Jackson	Main Stem from Wyoming state line to headwaters. West Fork from confluence with main stem to headwaters at West Fork Lake	20	1993	W	F, W, O		
Fall River	Larimer	Headwaters	10	1993	W	S, R,	Excellent	

		of Fall River to Fan Lake (within Rocky Mountain National Park)				W	recreational and scenic opportunities. Wildlife is visible to visitors. Self-guided auto tour teaches about historic, geologic, and recreational features.	
Gunnison River	Montrose	Entire segment within Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Monument	12	1993	W, S	S, G, O	Outstanding scenic canyon resources, wilderness values, and geologic features.	
Gunnison River, Lake Fork	Gunnison	Curecanti National Recreation Area boundary downstream to Blue Mesa Reservoir	1	1993	R	S, R, F, W, H	Primarily fishing and rafting. Good breeding population of brown and rainbow trout, a small herd of bighorn sheep, and refuge for migrating bald eagles. Remnants of temporary railroad camps for construction crews.	
Gunnison River, Lake Fork	Gunnison	Sloan Lake to Wager Gulch	13	1993	R	S	Spectacular scenery important for recreation.	
Huerfano River	Pueblo	Huerfano Cucharas Ditch diversion to Cucharas River	9	1982		S, C	Excellent scenery with steep-sided canyon, various geological formations; scattered pinyon-juniper at upper end; prehistoric occupation, petroglyphs, artifacts.	
Los Pinos River	Hinsdale	Confluence of North Fork and Rincon La Vaca downstream to northern boundary of Granite	54	1993	W	S, R, G	Tributaries are Lake Creek, Flint Creek, Rincon La Vaca, Rincon La Osa, Snowslide Canyon	

		Peak Ranch. Tributaries from headwaters to confluence with Los Pinos River.					Creek, and Sierra Vandera. Within Weminuche Wilderness.	
North St. Vrain Creek	Boulder	Ralph Price Reservoir to source	19	1982		S, F, W, O	Excellent scenic and natural values in this last, virtually roadless canyon on the urban front range. Elevations range from over 6000' to 14, 215' at Longs Peak Summit. Alpine meadows, talus slopes, nearly unmodified subalpine and montane forests, habitat for threatened greenback cutthroat trout, also golden eagle, big horn sheep, cougar and elk habitat as well as highest-valued fishery resource (FWS).	
North St. Vrain Creek	Boulder	Entire segment within Rocky Mountain National Park	8	1982/ 1993	W, S	F, W, O	Alpine meadows, talus slopes, and nearly unmodified subalpine and montane forests. Habitat for golden eagles, bighorn sheep, cougar, elk, deer, and threatened greenback cutthroat trout.	
Piedra River	Archuleta, Hinsdale, Mineral	Main stem from confluence	32	1993	W, S	S, G, F, W		

		with Indian Creek to boundary between Sec. 8 and 9, T.36 N., R.3 W. Middle Fork from boundary between Sec. 10 and 15, T.37 N., R.3 W. to headwaters						
Purgatoire River	Otero, Las Animas	Smith Canton to Trinchera Creek (continues downstream to Arkansas River in Section 13f)	75	1982		S, G, F, W, C	Deep, scenic red canyon with good flowing stream; beautiful sandstone formations and exposed geologic processes; excellent fish and wildlife habitat; dinosaur tracks and bones; Indian paintings, dwellings, camps, and artifacts.	
Purgatoire River	Bent, Otero	Arkansas River to Smith Canyon (continues upstream to Trinchera Creek in Section 13g)	42	1982		S, G, F, W, C	Deep, scenic canyon at upper end; good flow; excellent fish and wildlife values; heavy prehistoric use in adjacent flats and canyon walls; petroglyphs; dinosaur tracks.	
Rio Grande River	Costilla/Conejos Boundary, Alamosa	Alamosa Wildlife Refuge to Lasauoes	19	1993	S	S, R, W, C	Wetlands, cultural sites, scenic vistas.	
Rio Grande River	Costilla/Conejos Boundary	Lasauoes to 1/4 mi. north of Labatos Bridge	14	1993	S	S, G, W, H	Rugged landscapes, scenic vistas.	
Rio Grande River	Costilla/Conejos Boundary	Lobatos Bridge to New Mexico state line	8	1982/ 1993	W	S, R, G, W, C	Vertical rock walls. Uplifting, faulting, and volcanic action. Raptor	

							nesting sites.	
Rio Grande River	Conejos	NM/CO Line to Lobatos Bridge	8	1982		S, R, W	Deep narrow canyon, adjoins designated Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River in New Mexico; good floating opportunities; good riparian habitat for many wildlife species, including migratory whooping cranes.	
San Juan River (including East and West Forks)	Rio Grande, Mineral, Archuleta	Fourmile Creek to sources of East and West Forks	50	1982		S, R, F, W, H	Excellent scenery through varied topography; diverse fishery, highest-valued fishery resource (FWS); very important habitat providing for diverse wildlife populations; route of first trans-continental telephone lines.	
South Platte River	Douglas, Teller, Park, Jefferson	Cheesman Reservoir to Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir	28	1982		S, R, G, F, W	Deep, narrow canyon with many rock outcrops in generally forested area; exceptional recreation including fishing, backpacking, hiking, hunting; highest-valued fishery resource (FWS); important habitat for many wildlife species, wintering and migratory bald eagles, a federally listed endangered species.	

							Exceptional scenery, nestled between majestic mountain ranges; varied high-quality recreation activities; historic freight route.	
South Platte River	Douglas, Teller, Park, Jefferson	Eleven-Mile Canyon Dam downstream to private land in vicinity of Lake George	8	1982/1993	R	S, R, G, F, W	Rocky outcrops in defined canyon with interspersed forest cover and scattered meadows. Developed campgrounds and picnic grounds.	
South Platte River	Douglas, Teller, Park, Jefferson	Lake George to mouth of Beaver Creek	6	1982/1993	R	S, R, G, F, W	Wide flat canyon bottom with ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir on slopes.	
South Platte River	Douglas, Teller, Park, Jefferson	Beaver Creek to head of Cheesman Lake	9	1982/1993	W	S, R, G, F, W	Rocky outcrops in defined canyon with interspersed forest cover and scattered meadows. Used primarily for fishing.	
South Saint Vrain River, North Fork	Boulder	Rocky Mountain National Park Boundary to high water mark of Ralph Price Reservoir (Sec. 18, T.3N., R.71W., 6th PM.)	11	1993	S, R	S, R, F, W	Steep incised canyon of granite rock with ponderosa pine on south facing slopes and Douglas fir on north facing slopes.	
Taylor River	Gunnison	Illinois Creek to source	21	1982		S, R, F, H		
West Elk Creek	Gunnison	Curecanti National Recreation Area boundary downstream to Blue Mesa	0	1993	W	S, W	Free-flowing and possesses outstandingly remarkable scenic values.	

		Reservoir						
White River, North Fork	Rio Blanco, Garfield	White River to source	25	1982		S, R, F, W	Excellent scenery, deep canyon heavily forested with aspen and conifers, unusual and varied geologic features; very popular with recreationists; excellent game and non-game wildlife habitat; highest- valued fishery resource (FWS).	
White River, South Fork	Rio Blanco, Garfield	White River to source	35	1982		S, R, F, W	Excellent scenery, deep canyon heavily forested with aspen and conifers, unusual and varied geologic features; very popular with recreationists; varied wildlife habitat provides for diverse game and non- game populations; highest valued fishery resource (FWS).	
White River, South Fork	Rio Blanco, Garfield	White River to Source	38	1982/ 1993		S, R, G, W	Fishing, hunting, camping, and hiking. Spring Cave, third largest cave in Colorado. Underground lakes and waterways.	
Yampa		The segment within the boundaries of the Dinosaur National Monument.	0	1982/ 1995			This river is under Congressional study for designation to the Wild and Scenic River System. It is currently under the full	

							protection of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act pursuant to Section 7 (b) of the Act.
Yampa River	Moffat	Little Snake River to Williams Fork	83	1982		S, R, G, F, W, C	Excellent varied scenery through largely natural environment, open areas, canyons, precipitous rock walls through Cross Mountain, in canyon areas; Colorado squawfish, humpback chub, bonytail chub, all federally listed endangered species; highest-valued fishery resource (FWS); excellent wildlife habitat for numerous species; walls of Cross Mountain contain notable Indian rock art site.

Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance	Land & Water Conservation Fund	National Trails System
Partnership Wild & Scenic Rivers	Urban Park & Recreation Recovery	Federal Lands to Parks
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