

Snake River Headwaters Comprehensive River Management Plan

Grand Teton National Park
John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway
Yellowstone National Park
National Elk Refuge



Presentation Agenda

- The Craig Thomas Snake Headwaters Legacy Act of 2008
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act
- Key Components of River Management Plans
 - National Park Service Plan
- Outstandingly Remarkable Values for the Snake River Headwaters
- Planning Process and Schedule

Craig Thomas Snake Headwaters Legacy Act of 2008

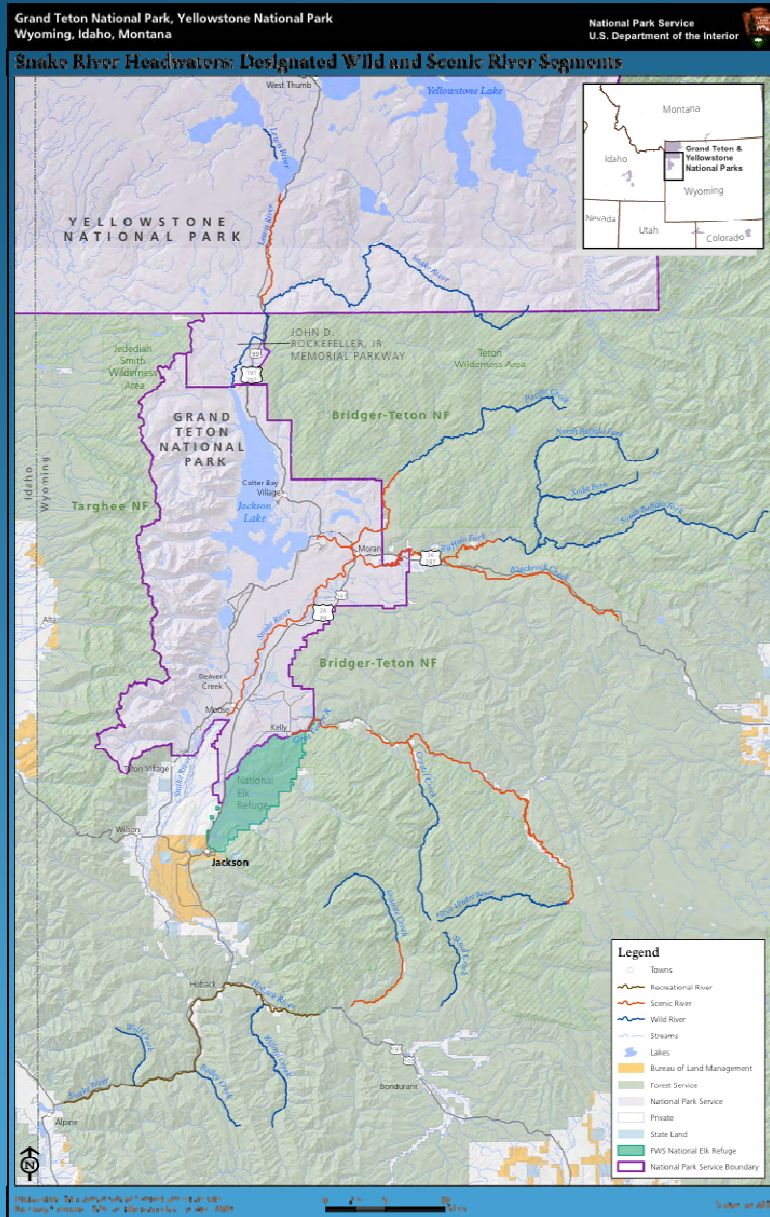
- Included in the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11).
- Reflects the leadership and collaborative approach of the late Senator Craig Thomas who worked with outfitters, conservationists, small business owners, sportsmen, and other river users to protect the Snake River Headwaters.
- Adds 388 miles of rivers and streams of the Snake River Headwaters to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.
- The National Park Service administers 121 miles of designated river segments; the remaining portions are administered by the Bridger-Teton National Forest.

Collaborative Planning Approach

The Snake River Headwaters includes 13 rivers and 25 separate river segments that cross multiple jurisdictional boundaries:

- National Park Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- State and Private Landowners

A collaborative planning approach is critical to managing this large designated river system.

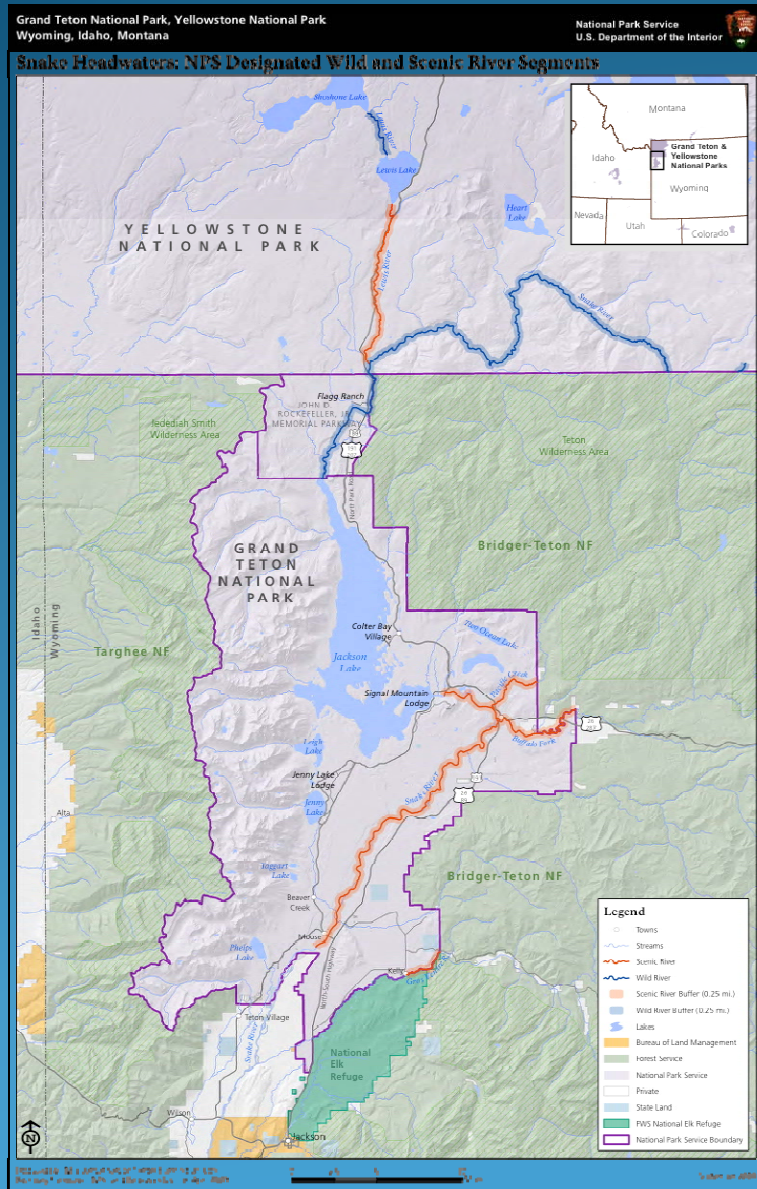


Collaborative Planning Approach

- Two Comprehensive River Management Plans
 - National Park Service Plan
 - Grand Teton National Park
 - John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway
 - Yellowstone National Park
 - National Elk Refuge boundary segment
 - U.S. Forest Service Plan
 - Bridger-Teton National Forest
- State of Wyoming Cooperating Agency on both plans

Designated NPS Segments

- **BUFFALO FORK OF THE SNAKE RIVER (scenic)**—The portion of the Buffalo Fork of the Snake River consisting of the 7.7-mile segment from the upstream boundary of Grand Teton National Park to its confluence with the Snake River.
- **GROS VENTRE RIVER (scenic)**—The portion of the Gros Ventre River consisting of the 3.3-mile segment flowing across the southern boundary of Grand Teton National Park to the Highlands Drive Loop Bridge.
- **LEWIS RIVER (wild / scenic)**—5-mile segment of the Lewis River from Shoshone Lake to Lewis Lake, (wild) river, and the 12-mile segment from the outlet of Lewis Lake to its confluence with the Snake River (scenic).
- **PACIFIC CREEK (scenic)**— 11-mile segment of Pacific Creek, from the wilderness boundary to its confluence with the Snake River.
- **SNAKE RIVER (wild / scenic)**— 47-mile segment of the Snake River from its source to Jackson Lake (wild), and 24.8-mile segment from 1 mile downstream of Jackson Lake Dam to 1 mile downstream of the Teton Park Road bridge at Moose, Wyoming (scenic).



Wild and Scenic River Act of 1968

Section 1(b)

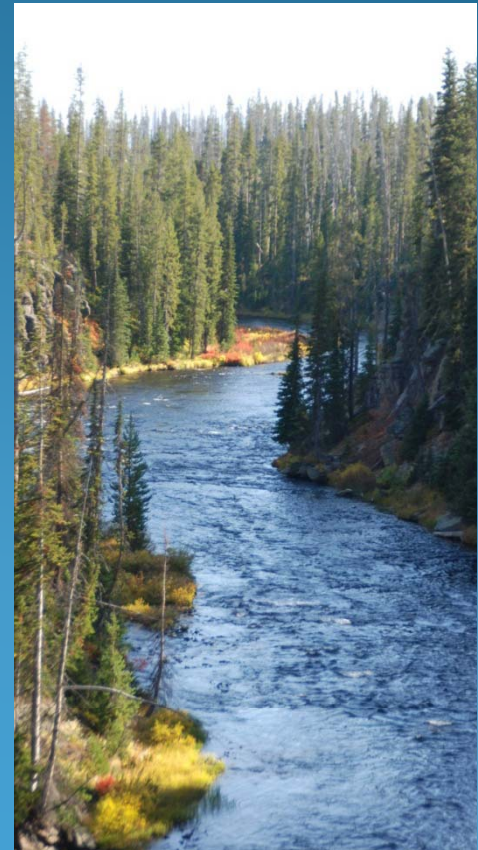
“It is hereby declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”



Protected River-related Values

Section 1(b)

- Free-flowing condition
- Water quality
- Outstandingly remarkable values



WSR River Classifications

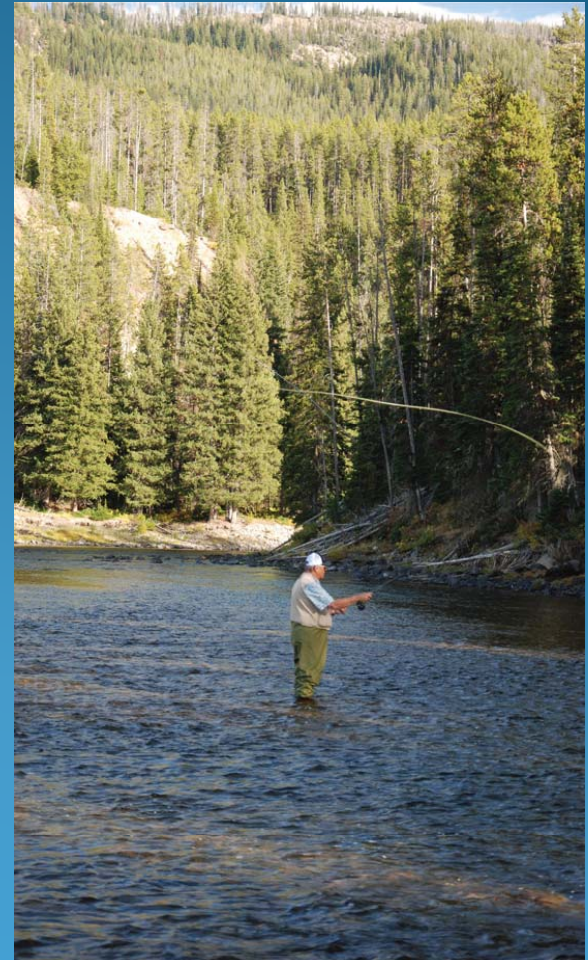
- *Wild* —
 - free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail (no roads)
 - watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted
 - represent vestiges of primitive America
- *Scenic* —
 - free of impoundments
 - shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped
 - accessible in places by roads
- *Recreational* —
 - readily accessible by road or railroad
 - may have some development along their shorelines
 - may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past

Key Components of a Comprehensive River Management Plan

- Define Outstandingly Remarkable Values
- Goals and Objectives for Protecting River Values
- Boundary Delineation
- Development of Lands and Facilities
- User Capacity
- Evaluation of Water Resource Projects
- Instream Flows
- Monitoring Strategy

Outstandingly Remarkable Values

- Foundation of wild and scenic river planning
- Define river-related values for the overall headwaters and for each segment
- Free-flowing condition and water quality support these values
- Developed collaboratively



Boundary Delineation

- Plan will define boundaries to protect river values
- Cannot exceed average of 320 acres/mile (1/4 mile each side)
- Measured from high watermark
- Islands do not count in acreage average
- Interim boundary is 1/4 mile



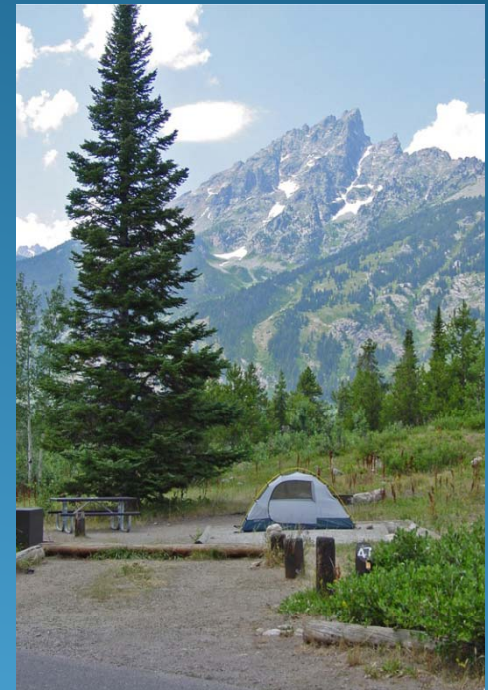
Development of Lands and Facilities

- Determine appropriate types and levels of development by segment
- Based on classification
- Designed to ensure protection of free-flow, water quality and ORVs



User Capacity

- Includes appropriate kinds and levels of recreation use that a river area can sustain without adverse impact to river values, the quality of the recreation experience, and public health and safety



Evaluation of Water Resource Projects

- Section 7 of WSR requires evaluation of federally assisted water resource projects
- Evaluation by interdisciplinary team
- Includes activities undertaken by NPS
- Plan will formalize evaluation process



Instream Flows

- Omnibus Land Management Act created federal reserved water rights as of March 19, 2009
- Valid water rights, including the storage, management, and release of water from the Jackson Lake Dam are not affected
- Established to protect river values
- Plan will describe which river values are dependent on instream flows, which will provide the basis for filing for water rights under Wyoming state law as required by the act.

Monitoring Strategy

- Plan will develop a monitoring program to periodically “check-in” on the status of river value conditions.
- Ensure visitor and other public use does not unacceptably impact river values over time



Outstandingly Remarkable Values for Snake River Headwaters

- Developed by the National Park Service, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wyoming Game and Fish.
- Includes free-flowing condition and water quality
- Based on criteria established by the Interagency Coordinating Council (river-related; rare, unique, or exemplary)

What makes a Resource “Outstandingly Remarkable”?

- ORVs are river-related resources that are rare, unique, or exemplary on a regional or national scale.
- ORVs are identified by an interdisciplinary team of resource experts, using their best professional judgment.
- ORV statements are developed through an objective inventory and evaluation process

Outstandingly Remarkable Values for Snake River Headwaters

- Scenic
- Recreational
- Cultural
- Ecological/Wildlife
- Fish
- Geologic



National Park Service River Segments

Outstandingly Remarkable Values Matrix

Segment	Scenic	Recreational	Cultural	Ecological/ Wildlife	Fish	Geologic
Lewis River (wild)		✓	✓			✓
Lewis River (scenic)	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Snake River (wild)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Snake River (scenic)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pacific Creek (scenic)	✓			✓	✓	
Buffalo Fork (scenic)	✓			✓	✓	
Gros Ventre River (scenic)			✓	✓	✓	

NPS Planning Schedule

Estimated Timeframe	Planning Activity	Opportunity for Public Involvement
Late 2010	Public Scoping	Attend public meetings or provide comments via our website or by mail.
Early 2011	Public scoping summary report	Review public scoping report on our website.
Spring to Fall 2011 (We are here)	Develop management alternatives and user capacity	Internal planning team work. Check for updates on our website.
Fall 2011 to Summer 2012	Develop the comprehensive river management plan and environmental assessment	Internal planning team work. Check for updates on our website.
Late Summer 2012	Public review of the comprehensive river management plan and environmental assessment	Attend public meetings or provide comments via our website or by mail.
Fall 2012	Decision Document	Review the decision document on our website or by mail.