

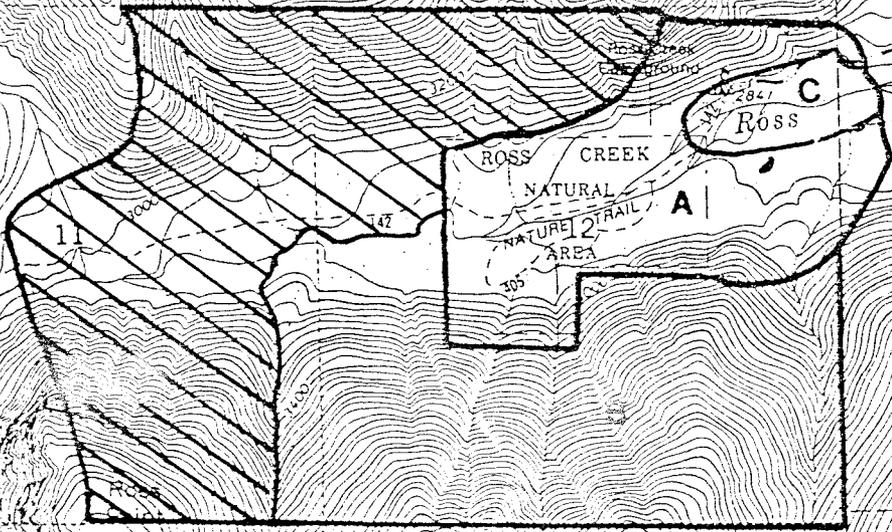
KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST PLAN

APPENDIX TWENTY-ONE

ROSS CREEK RNA/SENIC AREA MAP

ROSS CREEK



	SCENIC AREA
	RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA)
	PROPOSED WILDERNESS
	PICNIC AREA

7/86
ek

KOOTENAI NATIONAL FOREST

FOREST PLAN

APPENDIX TWENTY-TWO

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

APPENDIX 22

WILD and SCENIC RIVERS

Currently there are no Wild and Scenic Rivers on the Kootenai Forest but four rivers appear to be eligible for consideration and they are discussed in this Appendix. The rivers are the Yaak, Kootenai, Bull, and Vermilion. Final designation as a Wild and Scenic River is done by Congress after thorough study and public involvement. The four rivers discussed in this section will be formally studied and recommended for or against inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River system. In the interim, their river values will be protected on the Kootenai Forest land involved within the identified river corridor.

Background: The purpose and authority for study of wild and scenic rivers is established in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of October 1, 1968, as amended. Under the authority of the Act, the Kootenai Forest is charged with the identification of potential additions to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System. As a result, rivers on the Forest were analyzed for their eligibility and potential classification in the System.

River Eligibility and Potential Classification: To be eligible for consideration for addition to the System a river must be free-flowing and with its adjacent land area possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable" values. Scenic, recreation, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values are examples of the considerations. The eligible river systems are assigned a potential classification of Wild, Scenic or Recreational. A river can have all three classifications in different segments or sections.

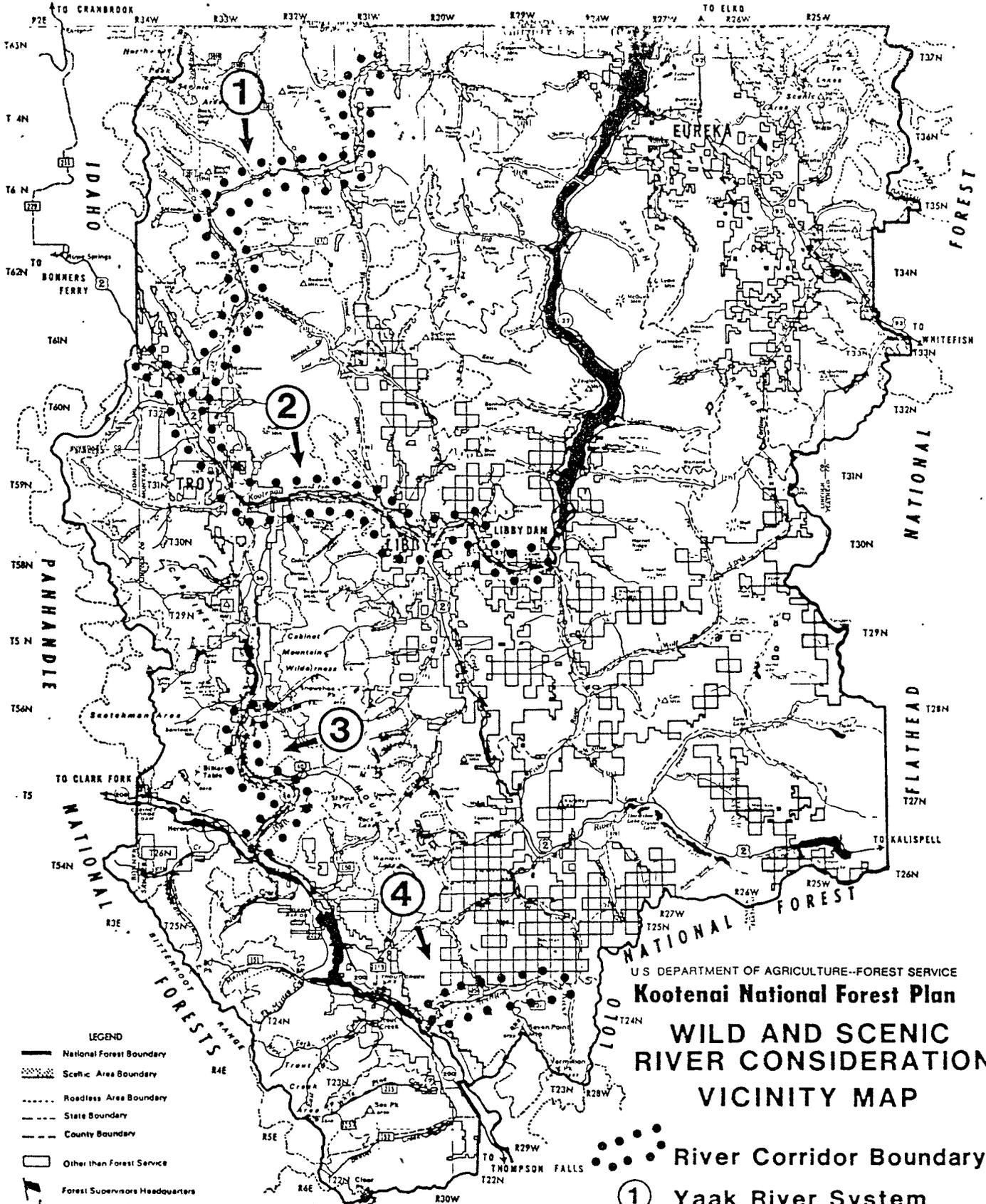
The characteristics of these three classifications are:

Wild River - Rivers or sections of rivers that are generally accessible only by trail, with the watershed or shoreline essentially primitive and undeveloped.

Scenic River - Rivers or sections of rivers with shorelines and watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped but accessible in places by roads.

Recreation River - Rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by roads, have some development along their shoreline and may have some history of impoundment or diversion.

By application of the above criteria the following rivers were identified as eligible for further consideration as potential additions to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE--FOREST SERVICE
Kootenai National Forest Plan
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CONSIDERATION
VICINITY MAP

-  River Corridor Boundary
- ①** Yaak River System
- ②** Kootenai River System
- ③** Bull River System
- ④** Vermilion River System

YAAK RIVER SYSTEM

Introduction

The Yaak River drains the northwest portion of the Kootenai Forest and merges with the Kootenai River 6 miles downstream from the town of Troy, Montana. The Yaak is 45 miles long with 57% of the river mileage in National Forest ownership. 16,000 acres are included within a 1/2 mile-wide corridor. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are the scenic values along the entire length, as well as the historical values that are related to the gold-mining days. The natural topographic features along with the landownership pattern readily yield four different segments that can be assessed independently. They are:

Segment 1 - Recreation river potential from the junction of the East and West Fork, downstream for 17 miles to Pete Creek. This segment meanders through valley-bottom land in a rural wetland setting that is primarily private ownership (67%). The historical community of Yaak, Montana and a major portion of the Yaak River Road are located within the corridor. Also included is the Upper Ford work center (Yaak Ranger District).

Segment 2 - Recreation river potential for 9 miles from Pete Creek to Meadow Creek. This segment flows at an increased rate through a heavily forested setting that is primarily National Forest ownership (90%). The Pete Creek and Whitetail Creek campgrounds, as well as the Yaak River Road are located within the corridor.

Segment 3 - Recreation river potential for 12 miles from Meadow Creek to the Yaak Falls. This segment flows at a still faster rate through a forested, narrow, valley-bottom setting that is primarily National Forest land (68%). The Red Top Campground, historical mining community of Sylvanite and the Yaak River Road are located within the corridor. Also included is the Sylvanite Ranger Station.

Segment 4 - Wild river potential begins at the Yaak Falls and cascades downstream for 8 miles through a deep canyon setting and ends at the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) electric transmission corridor paralleling U.S. Highway 2 adjacent to the mouth of the Yaak River. This rugged segment is almost entirely National Forest land (97%) and includes the Yaak Falls Campground.

Alternatives for Future Study

(The following alternatives are presented as possibilities for consideration and are not meant to be limiting for any future study.)

Alternative A: The entire river corridor (river segments 1, 2, 3, and 4). This would produce a 45-mile river system with 16,000 acres, of which 64% would be National Forest land. 37 miles would be in a Recreation River status and 8 miles would be in a Wild River status. This alternative would involve the largest amount of private land (5,710 acres).

Alternative B: The lower 2/3 of the river corridor (river segments 2, 3 and 4). This would produce a 29-mile river system with 10,300 acres, of which 82% would be National Forest land. 21 miles would be in a Recreation River status, and 8 miles would be in a Wild River status similar to Alt. A. This alternative would effect 1,850 acres of private land.

Alternative C: A significant portion (42%) of the lower river corridor (river segments 3 and 4). This would produce a 19-mile river system with 6,800 acres, of which 78% would be National Forest land. 11 miles would be in a Recreation River status, and 8 miles would be in a Wild River status similar to Alts. A and B. This alternative would effect 1,500 acres of private land.

Alternative D: The lower portion of the river corridor (river segment 4). This would produce an 8-mile Wild River system that would be 93% National Forest land and have the least effect on private land (180 acres). This alternative could be extended to include the lower portion of the Kootenai River. See river segment 5 in the Kootenai River discussion.

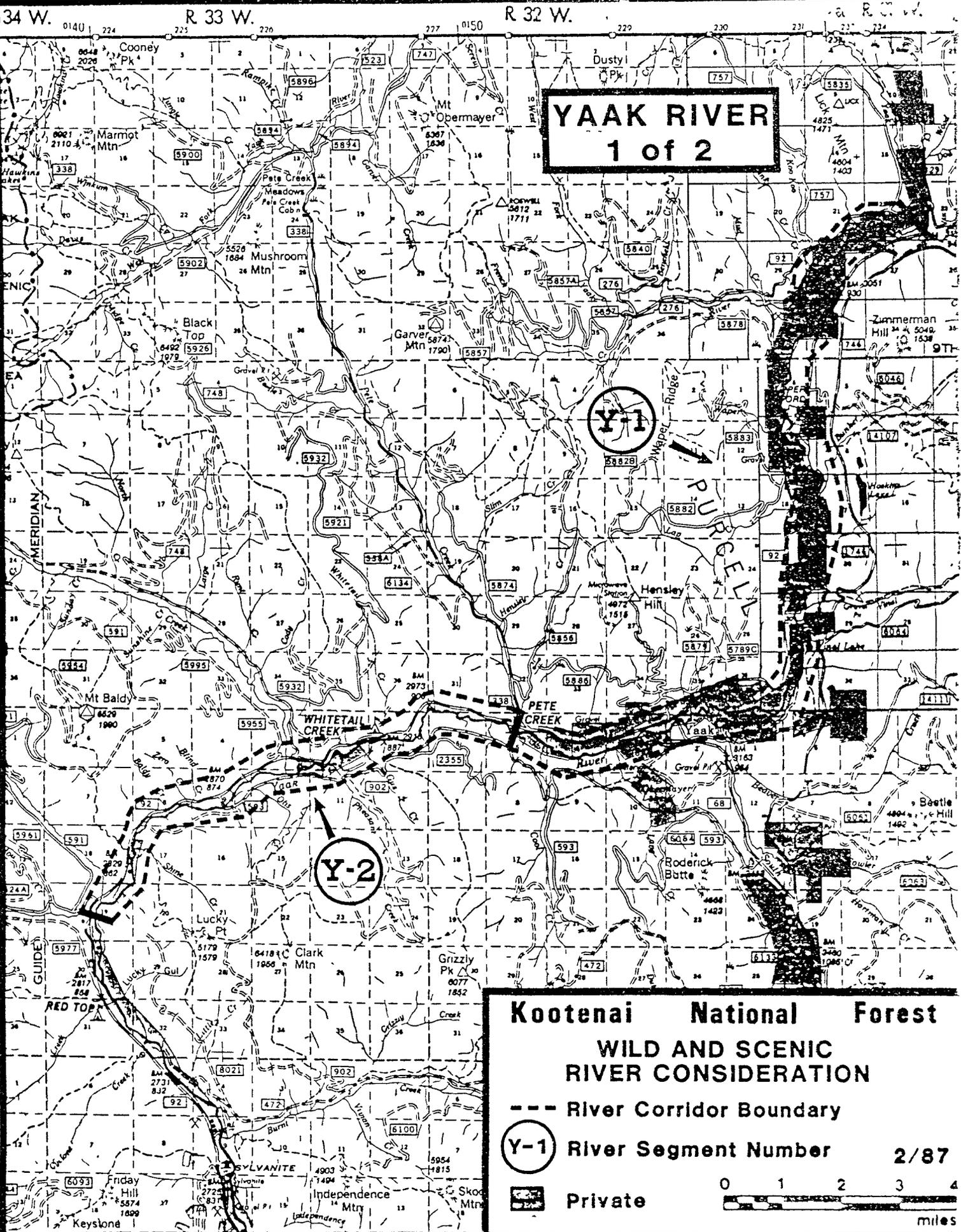
Interim Management Considerations

The Forest Plan has land designations within the identified river corridor that will protect the Yaak River qualities for future consideration as a potential addition to the Wild and Scenic River System. Management Direction is included within the Recreation Standards in Chapter II which provides the necessary interim protection of river values.

Table III-13

YAAK RIVER SYSTEM

	River Segments				River Corridor Totals
	1	2	3	4	
	E. & W. Fork to Pete Cr. (Recr.)	Pete Cr. to Mdw. Creek (Recr.)	Mdw. Cr. to Yaak Falls (Recr.)	Yk. Falls to BPA Trans.Line (Wild)	
<u>River Miles</u>					
on Private land:	12.6	2.3	4.2	0.2	19.3
(% Priv.)	75	24	36	3	43
on National Forest:	4.1	7.1	7.4	7.5	26.1
(% KNF)	25	76	64	97	57
Total Miles in Segment:	16.7	9.4	11.6	7.7	45.4
(% of Total River)	37	21	26	17	100
<u>Landownership (acres)</u>					
on Private land:	3,860	350	1,320	180	5,710
(% Priv.)	67	10	32	7	36
on National Forest:	1,870	3,200	2,830	2,420	10,320
(% KNF)	33	90	68	93	64
Total Acres in Segment:	5,730	3,550	4,150	2,600	16,030
(% of Total Acres)	36	22	26	16	100
<u>Road Miles</u>					
on Private land:	12.3	1.0	7.7	0.0	21.0
(% Priv.)	69	6	38	0	33
on National Forest:	5.6	15.9	12.7	7.8	42.0
(% KNF)	31	94	62	100	67
Total Road Miles in Segment:	17.9	16.9	20.4	7.8	63.0
(% of Total Road Miles)	28	27	32	12	100



YAAK RIVER
1 of 2

Y-1

Y-2

Kootenai National Forest
WILD AND SCENIC
RIVER CONSIDERATION

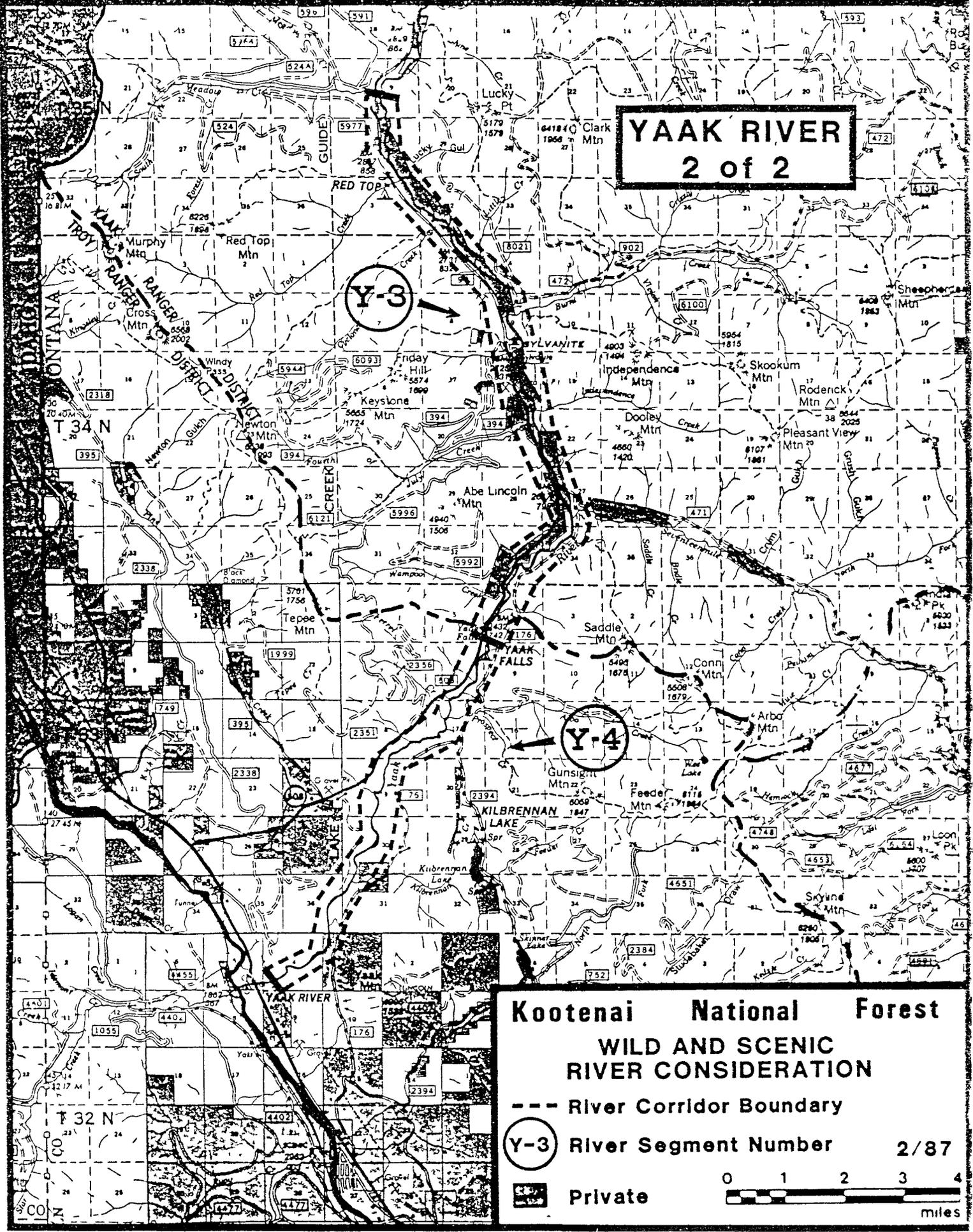
--- River Corridor Boundary

Y-1 River Segment Number 2/87

Private

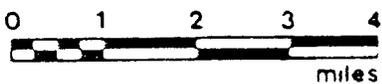
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miles

YAAK RIVER 2 of 2



Kootenai National Forest WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CONSIDERATION

- River Corridor Boundary
- Y-3 River Segment Number 2/87
- Private



KOOTENAI RIVER SYSTEM

Introduction

The Kootenai River drains the northern portion of the Kootenai Forest from Libby Dam downstream to the Montana-Idaho State line. The Kootenai is 47 miles long with 71% of the river mileage in non-National Forest landownership. 18,500 acres are situated within a 1/2 mile-wide corridor including 3,500 acres of water surface. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are the scenic values along the entire length including Kootenai Falls, the fishery values, as well as the historic and pre-historic values that are related to the early days of northwest exploration and settlement. Natural topographic features along with the landownership pattern readily yield five different segments that can be assessed independently. They are:

Segment 1 - Recreation river potential from the junction of the Fisher River (3 miles below Libby Dam), downstream for 10 miles to Tub Gulch approximately 4 miles upstream from the town of Libby, Montana. This segment flows through a wide-bottom canyon in a rural setting that is mostly non-National Forest ownership (86%). The historical site of Jennings, Montana and Jennings Rapids are located within the corridor. Also included are State Highway 37, the Burlington Northern Railroad, the W.R. Grace Mine mill and loading facility, the Canoe Gulch Ranger Station and a potential hydro-electric site (Libby Re-Regulating Dam).

Segment 2 - Recreation river potential for 10 miles from Tub Gulch to Quartz Creek. This segment flows through a wider valley-setting that is more developed than Segment 1 although open hayfields border the river in many places. Landownership is primarily non-National Forest (81%). A portion of the town of Libby, Montana, a major portion of State Highway 37, 4 miles of U.S. Highway 2, and the Burlington Northern Railroad are all located within the corridor.

Segment 3 - Recreation river potential for 8 miles from Quartz Creek to Surprise Gulch, 2 miles below Kootenai Falls. This segment flows at a faster rate through a forested, narrow, valley-bottom and canyon setting that is primarily National Forest land (63%). China Rapids, Kootenai Falls, the Lions picnic ground and vista point, the historic 'swinging footbridge' as well as the David Thompson portage trail and Kootenai Falls Cultural Resource District are located within the corridor. U.S. Highway 2, the Burlington Northern Railroad, and the Pacificorp electric transmission line are also included as well as the Kootenai Falls hydro-electric site (Northern Lights REA).

Segment 4 - Recreation river potential for 10 miles from Surprise Gulch to a mile below Kootenai Vista Estates. This segment flows through a valley-bottom setting and includes a portion of the town of Troy, Montana, U.S. Highway 2, the Burlington Northern Railroad and a Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Substation. Landownership is 95% non-National Forest.

Segment 5 - Recreation river potential for 8 miles to the Montana-Idaho State line and the Kootenai Forest boundary. (Another 5 miles of recreation river continues into Idaho with a significant portion of National Forest land located within the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.) This segment flows through a forested, wide canyon-bottom and includes the mouth of the historic Yaak River (which could be a natural continuation under one alternative). Landownership is 84% National Forest land. U.S. Highway 2, and the Burlington Northern Railroad are also located within the corridor.

Alternatives for Future Study

(The following alternatives are presented as possibilities for consideration and are not meant to be limiting for any future study.)

Alternative A: The entire river corridor (river segments 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5). This would produce a 47-mile Recreation River system with 18,500 acres of land and water surface, of which 33% would be National Forest ownership. The largest amount of private land (12,350 acres) would be affected as well as two towns (Libby and Troy, Montana) and two potential hydro-electric sites (Libby Re-reg. and Kootenai Falls).

Alternative B: The lower 2/3 of the Recreation River corridor (river segments 2, 3, 4 and 5). This would produce a 37 mile river system with 14,500 acres of land and water surface, of which 39% would be National Forest land. 8,800 acres of non-national Forest ownership would be affected as well as the two towns of Libby and Troy, Montana, and the Kootenai Falls hydro-electric site.

Alternative C: The lower half of the Recreation River corridor (river segments 3, 4 and 5). This would produce a 26 mile river system with 10,200 acres, of which 47% would be National Forest land. This alternative would effect 5,400 acres of private land including a portion of the town of Troy, Montana, and the Kootenai Falls hydro- electric site.

Alternative D: The lower portion of the river corridor (river segment 4 and 5). This would produce a 19-mile Recreation River system that would be 39% National Forest land. 4,200 acres of private land would be affected including a portion of the town of Troy, Montana.

Alternative E: The lowest portion of the river corridor (river segment 5). This would produce an 8-mile Recreation River system that would be 84% National Forest land. This river portion could be joined with the lower portion of the Yaak River as another alternative. See the description of river segment 4 in the writeup on the Yaak River system.

Interim Management Considerations

The Forest Plan has land designations within the identified river corridor that will protect the Kootenai River qualities for future consideration as a potential addition to the Wild and Scenic River System. Management Direction is included within the Recreation Standards in Chapter II which provides the necessary interim protection of river values.

Table III-14

KOOTENAI RIVER SYSTEM

	River Segments					River Corridor Totals
	1	2	3	4	5	
	Fisher River to Tub Gulch (Recr.)	Tub Gl. to Quartz Cr. (Recr.)	Quartz to Cr.Surpr. (Recr.)	Cr.Surpr. to Cr Vista (Recr.)	Cr Koot. Est. Idaho (Recr.)	Vista Line
<u>River Miles</u>						
on Private land:	7.8	8.4	4.6	9.1	3.2	33.1
(% Priv.)	79	81	60	89	38	71
on National Forest:	2.1	2.0	3.1	1.1	5.3	13.6
(% KNF)	21	19	40	11	62	29
Total Miles in Segment:	9.9	10.4	7.7	10.2	8.5	46.7
(% of Total River)	21	22	16	22	18	100
<u>Landownership (acres)</u>						
on Private land:	3,500	3,410	1,230	3,720	490	12,050
(% Priv.)	86	81	37	95	16	67
on National Forest:	580	810	2,090	200	2,510	6,190
(% KNF)	14	19	63	5	84	33
Total Acres in Segment:	4,080	4,220	3,320	3,920	3,000	18,540
(% of Total Acres)	22	23	18	21	16	100
<u>Road Miles</u>						
on Private land:	19.2	19.9	5.7	18.8	2.3	65.9
(% Priv.)	80	86	50	85	26	74
on National Forest:	4.7	3.2	5.7	3.4	6.5	23.5
(% KNF)	20	14	50	15	74	26
Total Road Miles in Seg:	23.9	23.1	11.4	22.2	8.8	89.4
(% of Total Road Miles)	27	26	13	25	109	100

KOOTENAI RIVER 2 of 2

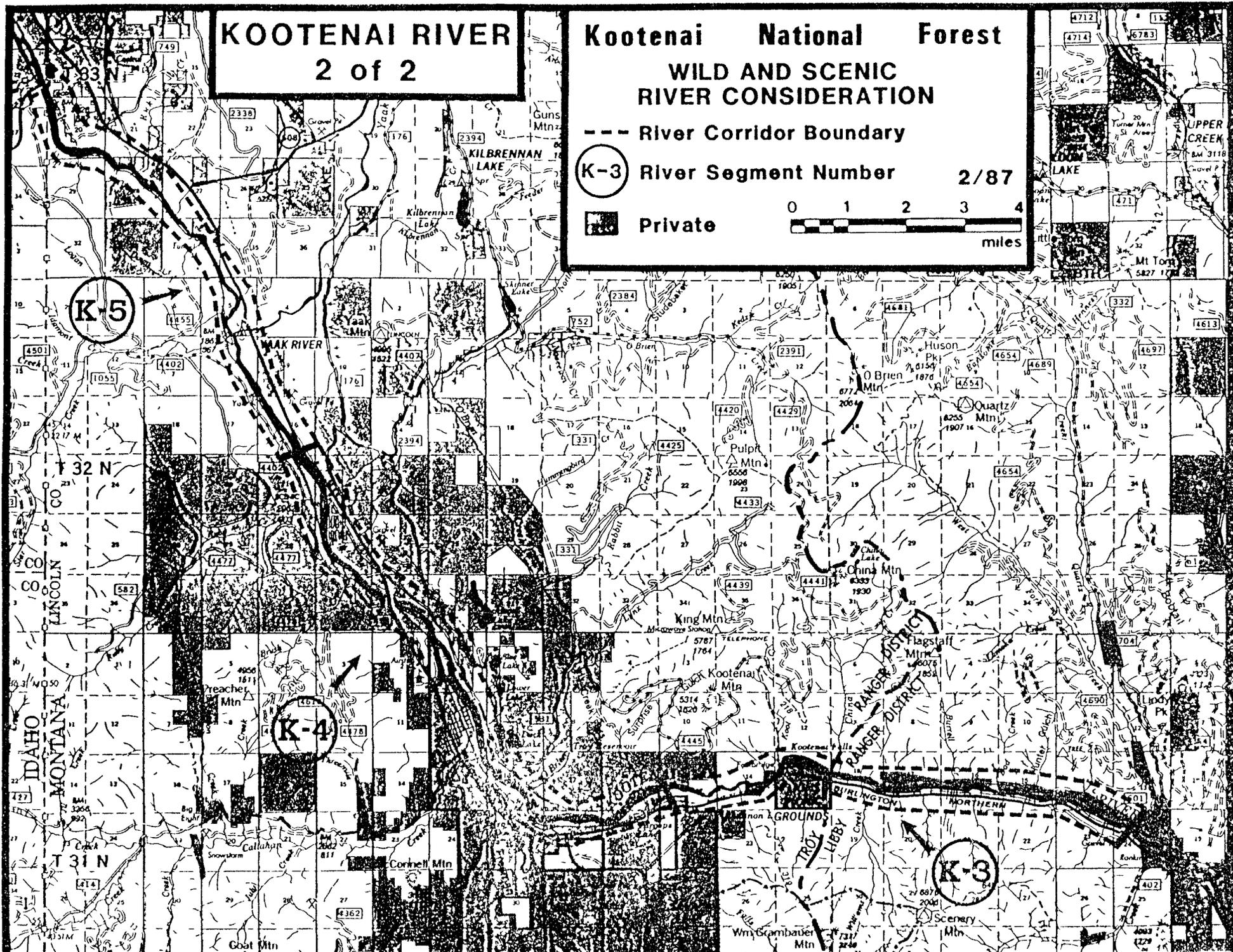
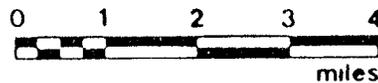
Kootenai National Forest

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CONSIDERATION

--- River Corridor Boundary

(K-3) River Segment Number 2/87

Private



BULL RIVER SYSTEM

Introduction

The Bull River drains the southwestern corner of the Kootenai Forest and merges with the Cabinet Gorge Reservoir 4 miles northwest of the town of Noxon, Montana. The Bull is 21 miles long with 81% of the river mileage in private landownership. 5,850 acres are included within a 1/2 mile-wide corridor with 60% in private ownership. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are the scenic values along the entire length.

The natural topographic features along with the landownership pattern readily yield two different river segments that can be assessed independently. They are:

Segment 1 - Recreation river potential from the junction of the North and South Forks, downstream for 12 miles to the junction of the East Fork. The river meanders through the upper Bull river valley which is primarily rural wetlands and important riparian areas. Landownership is 79% private. The Bull River Highway and Cabinet Mountain Vista Point are included within the corridor.

Segment 2 - Recreation river for 9 miles from the junction of the East Fork to the Cabinet Gorge Reservoir. This segment flows at a faster rate through a narrow valley-bottom canyon setting that is 54% National Forest ownership. A major portion of the Bull River Highway and the historical Bull River Guard Station are included within the corridor.

Alternatives for Future Study

(The following alternatives are presented as possibilities for consideration and are not meant to be limiting for any future study.)

Alternative A: The entire river corridor (river segments 1 and 2). This would produce a 21-mile Recreation River system with 3,500 acres of private land (60%) affected.

Alternative B: The lower portion of the river corridor (river segment 2). This would produce a 9-mile Recreation River system that would be 54% National Forest land and affect the least amount of private land (1,500 acres).

Interim Management Considerations

The Forest Plan has land designations within the identified river corridor that will protect the Bull River qualities for future consideration as a potential addition to the Wild and Scenic River System. Management Direction is included within the Recreation Standards in Chapter II which provides the necessary interim protection of river values.

Table III-15

BULL RIVER SYSTEM

River Segments

	1	2	
	N. & S. Fork to East Fk. (Recr.)	East Fk. to Cab. Gorge Res. (Recr)	River Corridor Totals
<u>River Miles</u>			
on Private land:	11.1	6.0	17.1
(% Priv.)	90	69	81
on National Forest:	1.3	2.7	4.0
(% KNF)	10	31	19
Total Miles in Segment	12.4	8.7	21.1
(% of Total River	59	41	100
<u>Landownership (acres)</u>			
on Private land:	2,020	1,500	3,520
(% Priv.)	79	46	60
on National Forest:	550	1,780	2,330
(% KNF)	21	54	40
Total Acres in Segment:	2,570	3,280	5,850
(% of Total Acres)	44	56	100
<u>Road Miles</u>			
on Private land:	7.8	2.0	9.8
(% Priv.)	60	29	50
on National Forest:	5.1	4.8	9.9
(% KNF)	40	71	50
Total Road Miles in Segment:	12.9	6.8	19.7
(% of Total Road Miles)	65	35	100



BULL RIVER

B-1

B-2

Kootenai National Forest WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CONSIDERATION

- River Corridor Boundary
 - (B-1) River Segment Number 2/87
 - Private
- 0 1 2 3 4
miles

VERMILION RIVER SYSTEM

Introduction

The Vermilion River drains a southern portion of the Kootenai Forest and merges with the Noxon Reservoir 3 miles southeast from the town of Trout Creek, Montana. The Vermilion is 12 miles long with 85% of the river mileage in National Forest ownership. 4,150 acres are included within a 1/2 mile-wide corridor with 87% in National Forest ownership. The qualities that contribute to its eligibility are the scenic values along the entire length, including Vermilion Falls, as well as the historical values that are related to the gold-mining days.

The natural topographic features along with the landownership pattern readily yield a continuous Recreation river segment from the junction of Willow Creek, downstream to Noxon Reservoir. The river cascades over the Vermilion Falls located near the upper end of the river segment, and down through a narrow, timber-covered canyon. The seasonal, unpaved Vermilion River road parallels the river for the entire length within the study corridor. 530 acres of private land would be effected.

Alternatives for Future Study

It appears that the entire 12-mile segment can be analyzed in its entirety because of the short length.

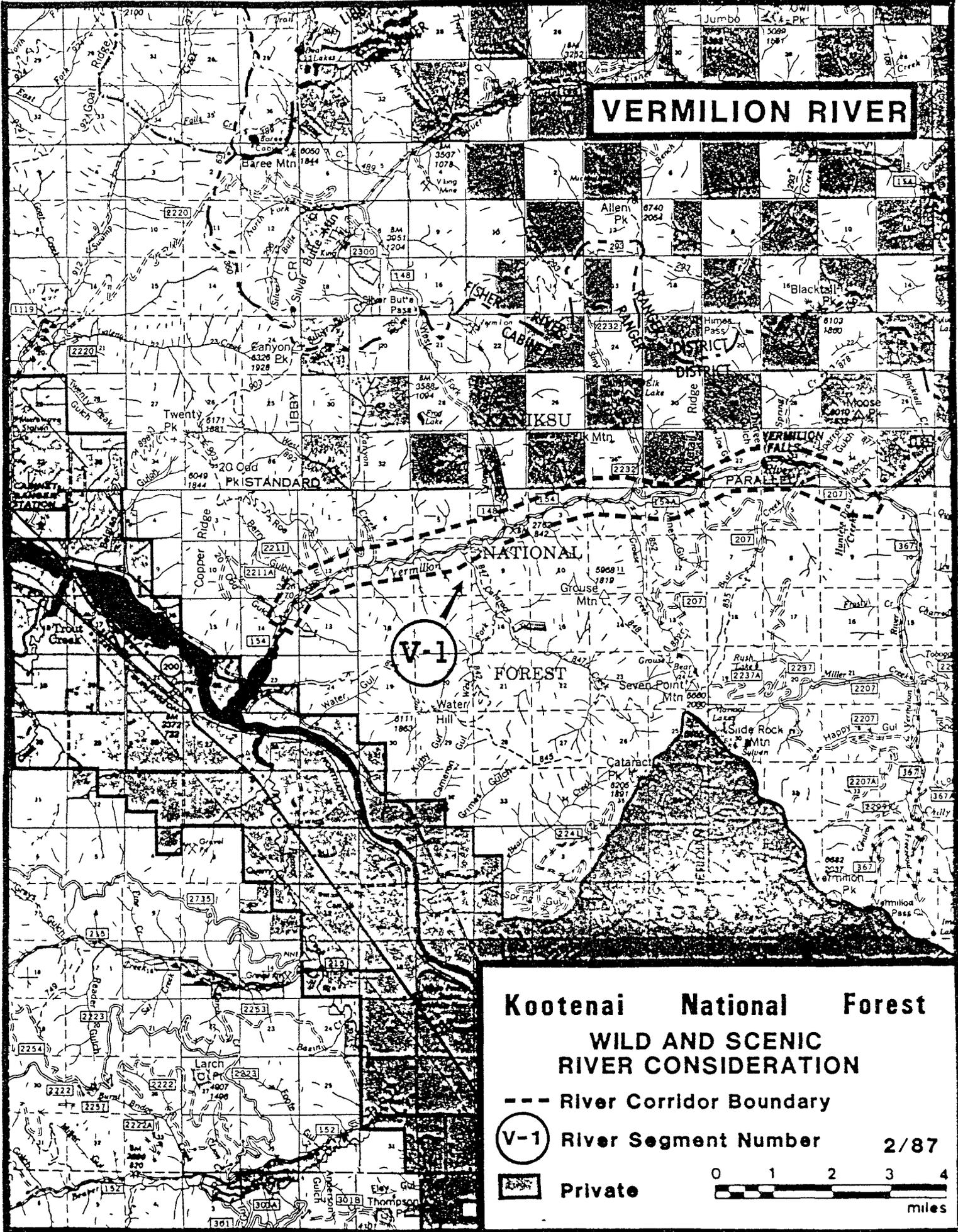
Interim Management Considerations

The Forest Plan has land designations within the identified river corridor that will protect the Vermilion River qualities for future consideration as a potential addition to the Wild and Scenic River System. Management Direction is included in the Recreation Standards in Chapter II which provides the necessary interim protection of river values.

Table III-16

VERMILION RIVER SYSTEM

Item	River Segment		River Corridor Totals
	1		
	Willow Cr. to Noxon Reservoir (Recr.)		
<u>River Miles</u>			
on Private land:	1.8		1.8
(% Priv.)	15%		15%
on National Forest:	9.9		9.9
(% KNF)	85%		85%
Total Miles in Segment:	11.7		11.7
(% of Total River)	100%		100%
<u>Landownership (acres)</u>			
on Private land:	530		530
(% Priv.)	13%		13%
on National Forest:	3,620		3,620
(% KNF)	87%		87%
Total Acres in Segment:	4,150		4,150
(% of Total Acres)	100%		100%
<u>Road Miles</u>			
on Private land:	2.4		2.4
(% Priv.)	17%		17%
on National Forest:	11.9		11.9
(% KNF)	83%		83%
Total Rd. Miles in Seg.	14.3		14.3
(% of Total Road Miles)	100%		100%



VERMILION RIVER

V-1

Kootenai National Forest

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER CONSIDERATION

- River Corridor Boundary
- V-1** River Segment Number 2/87

