



Nathan Fey
Colorado Stewardship Director
1601 Longs Peak Avenue
Longmont, Colorado 80501
nathan@americanwhitewater.org

June 22, 2010

Superintendent Jock Whitworth
Zion National Park
Springdale, UT 84767-1099

Re: Wild and Scenic River Management Plans

Dear Superintendent Whitworth:

Congratulations on the recent designation of Zion National Park's first Wild and Scenic Rivers. American Whitewater is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to conserving and restoring whitewater resources while enhancing opportunities to enjoy them safely. Since 1954 we have represented conservation-oriented non-commercial whitewater kayakers, canoeists, and rafters on river stewardship projects across the United States.

We worked on the passage of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and have been strong advocates for Wild and Scenic River designation and protection ever since. We played a role in designating the approximately 165.5 miles of segments of the Virgin River and tributaries of the Virgin River across Federal land within and adjacent to Zion National Park under the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009. The passage of this legislation marked a great success for our community, and we are excited to participate in planning efforts for many of the rivers it protected.

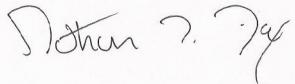
Through our stewardship programs, American Whitewater has become recognized as a key stakeholder in river management focused on conservation, access, and safety issues, which have led to formal partnerships with public land management agencies, policy makers, and other conservation organizations. In addition to building strong working relationships with resource managers and policy-makers, our strongest successes have come in discovering the impact of bringing science-based recreational resource needs to bear on river management and policy decisions.

American Whitewater is preparing to launch a progression of studies for the Virgin River, to identify the range of flows that provide high quality recreation opportunities, and specific paddling experiences. Our stewardship team will design and conduct an online survey consistent with industry-standard methodologies published by the National Park Service¹, to collect data and information from paddlers that describe recreation opportunities associated with specific flows. Our goal is to identify the range of flows that provide desired whitewater paddling experiences within the National Park, and to foster greater understanding of Zion's river-based recreational resources.

¹ Whittaker, D., Shelby, B., Jackson, W., & Beschta, R. (1993). *Instream Flows for recreation: A handbook on concepts and research methods*. Anchorage, AK: US National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Program.

Please consider American Whitewater a stakeholder in the forthcoming development of Wild and Scenic River Management Plans for the recently designated rivers in Zion National Park. We look forward to contributing to this process.

In Cooperation,



Nathan T. Fey
Colorado Stewardship Director
American Whitewater

cc:

Kezia Nielsen
Zion National Park
Springdale, UT 84767-1099

William Hansen
Water Resources Division
National Park Service
1201 Oakridge Drive, Suite 250
Fort Collins, CO 80525

SEC. 1976. ZION NATIONAL PARK WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION.

(a) Designation- Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) (as amended by section 1852) is amended by adding at the end the following:

``(204) ZION NATIONAL PARK, UTAH- The approximately 165.5 miles of segments of the Virgin River and tributaries of the Virgin River across Federal land within and adjacent to Zion National Park, as generally depicted on the map entitled ``Wild and Scenic River Segments Zion National Park and Bureau of Land Management' and dated April 2008, to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in the following classifications:

``(A) TAYLOR CREEK- The 4.5-mile segment from the junction of the north, middle, and south forks of Taylor Creek, west to the park boundary and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a scenic river.

``(B) NORTH FORK OF TAYLOR CREEK- The segment from the head of North Fork to the junction with Taylor Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

``(C) MIDDLE FORK OF TAYLOR CREEK- The segment from the head of Middle Fork on Bureau of Land Management land to the junction with Taylor Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

``(D) SOUTH FORK OF TAYLOR CREEK- The segment from the head of South Fork to the junction with Taylor Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

``(E) TIMBER CREEK AND TRIBUTARIES- The 3.1-mile segment from the head of Timber Creek and tributaries of Timber Creek to the junction with LaVerkin Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

``(F) LAVERKIN CREEK- The 16.1-mile segment beginning in T. 38 S., R. 11 W., sec. 21, on Bureau of Land Management land, southwest through Zion National Park, and ending at the south end of T. 40 S., R. 12 W., sec. 7, and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a wild river.

``(G) WILLIS CREEK- The 1.9-mile segment beginning on Bureau of Land Management land in the SWSW sec. 27, T. 38 S., R. 11 W., to the junction with LaVerkin Creek in Zion National Park and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

``(H) BEARTRAP CANYON- The 2.3-mile segment beginning on Bureau of Management land in the SWNW sec. 3, T. 39 S., R. 11 W., to the junction with LaVerkin Creek and the segment from the headwaters north of Long Point to the junction with LaVerkin Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

``(I) HOP VALLEY CREEK- The 3.3-mile segment beginning at the southern boundary of T. 39 S., R. 11 W., sec. 20, to the junction with LaVerkin Creek and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a wild river.

``(J) CURRENT CREEK- The 1.4-mile segment from the head of Current Creek to the junction with LaVerkin Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(K) CANE CREEK- The 0.6-mile segment from the head of Smith Creek to the junction with LaVerkin Creek and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a wild river.

^(L) SMITH CREEK- The 1.3-mile segment from the head of Smith Creek to the junction with LaVerkin Creek and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a wild river.

^(M) NORTH CREEK LEFT AND RIGHT FORKS- The segment of the Left Fork from the junction with Wildcat Canyon to the junction with Right Fork, from the head of Right Fork to the junction with Left Fork, and from the junction of the Left and Right Forks southwest to Zion National Park boundary and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(N) WILDCAT CANYON (BLUE CREEK)- The segment of Blue Creek from the Zion National Park boundary to the junction with the Right Fork of North Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(O) LITTLE CREEK- The segment beginning at the head of Little Creek to the junction with the Left Fork of North Creek and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a wild river.

^(P) RUSSELL GULCH- The segment from the head of Russell Gulch to the junction with the Left Fork of North Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(Q) GRAPEVINE WASH- The 2.6-mile segment from the Lower Kolob Plateau to the junction with the Left Fork of North Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a scenic river.

^(R) PINE SPRING WASH- The 4.6-mile segment to the junction with the left fork of North Creek and adjacent land 1/2 -mile, as a scenic river.

^(S) WOLF SPRINGS WASH- The 1.4-mile segment from the head of Wolf Springs Wash to the junction with Pine Spring Wash and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a scenic river.

^(T) KOLOB CREEK- The 5.9-mile segment of Kolob Creek beginning in T. 39 S., R. 10 W., sec. 30, through Bureau of Land Management land and Zion National Park land to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(U) OAK CREEK- The 1-mile stretch of Oak Creek beginning in T. 39 S., R. 10 W., sec. 19, to the junction with Kolob Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(V) GOOSE CREEK- The 4.6-mile segment of Goose Creek from the head of Goose Creek to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(W) DEEP CREEK- The 5.3-mile segment of Deep Creek beginning on Bureau of Land Management land at the northern boundary of T. 39 S., R. 10 W., sec. 23, south to the junction of the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(X) NORTH FORK OF THE VIRGIN RIVER- The 10.8-mile segment of the North Fork of the Virgin River beginning on Bureau of Land Management land at the eastern border of T. 39 S., R. 10 W., sec. 35, to Temple of Sinawava and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(Y) NORTH FORK OF THE VIRGIN RIVER- The 8-mile segment of the North Fork of the Virgin River from Temple of Sinawava south to the Zion National Park boundary and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a recreational river.

^(Z) IMLAY CANYON- The segment from the head of Imlay Creek to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(AA) ORDERVILLE CANYON- The segment from the eastern boundary of Zion National Park to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(BB) MYSTERY CANYON- The segment from the head of Mystery Canyon to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(CC) ECHO CANYON- The segment from the eastern boundary of Zion National Park to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(DD) BEHUNIN CANYON- The segment from the head of Behunin Canyon to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(EE) HEAPS CANYON- The segment from the head of Heaps Canyon to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(FF) BIRCH CREEK- The segment from the head of Birch Creek to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a wild river.

^(GG) OAK CREEK- The segment of Oak Creek from the head of Oak Creek to where the forks join and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a wild river.

^(HH) OAK CREEK- The 1-mile segment of Oak Creek from the point at which the 2 forks of Oak Creek join to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a recreational river.

^(II) CLEAR CREEK- The 6.4-mile segment of Clear Creek from the eastern boundary of Zion National Park to the junction with Pine Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a recreational river.

^(JJ) PINE CREEK - The 2-mile segment of Pine Creek from the head of Pine Creek to the junction with Clear Creek and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a wild river.

^(KK) PINE CREEK- The 3-mile segment of Pine Creek from the junction with Clear Creek to the junction with the North Fork of the Virgin River and adjacent land rim-to-rim, as a recreational river.

^(LL) EAST FORK OF THE VIRGIN RIVER- The 8-mile segment of the East Fork of the Virgin River from the eastern boundary of Zion National Park through Parunuweap

Canyon to the western boundary of Zion National Park and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide, as a wild river.

`(MM) SHUNES CREEK- The 3-mile segment of Shunes Creek from the dry waterfall on land administered by the Bureau of Land Management through Zion National Park to the western boundary of Zion National Park and adjacent land 1/2 -mile wide as a wild river.'

(b) Incorporation of Acquired Non-Federal Land- If the United States acquires any non-Federal land within or adjacent to Zion National Park that includes a river segment that is contiguous to a river segment of the Virgin River designated as a wild, scenic, or recreational river by paragraph (204) of section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) (as added by subsection (a)), the acquired river segment shall be incorporated in, and be administered as part of, the applicable wild, scenic, or recreational river.

(c) Savings Clause- The amendment made by subsection (a) does not affect the agreement among the United States, the State, the Washington County Water Conservancy District, and the Kane County Water Conservancy District entitled 'Zion National Park Water Rights Settlement Agreement' and dated