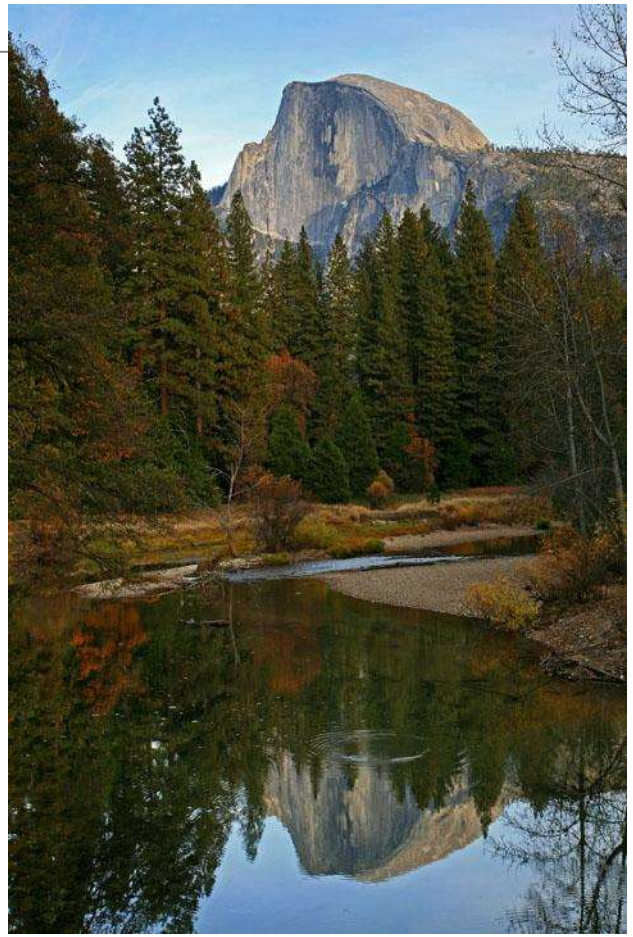
Interagency Eligible and Suitable Rivers Database

Presentation Overview

- What makes a river eligible and suitable;
- How agencies protect these eligible and suitable rivers;
- Process the interagency team used to develop the database framework; and
- Interim product the team is working on and plans for future products.



Wild and Scenic River Studies

Two kinds:

- Congressionally authorized (Section 5(a))
- Agency identified (Section 5(d)(1))

Steps and criteria common to both:

- Eligibility
- Preliminary Classification
- Suitability

Eligibility

Eligible rivers are free flowing and possess one or more outstandingly remarkable resource value:

- ORV must be river-related or dependent
- ORV must be unique, rare or exemplary in region of comparison
- Professional judgment
- Does not trigger NEPA

Preliminary Classification

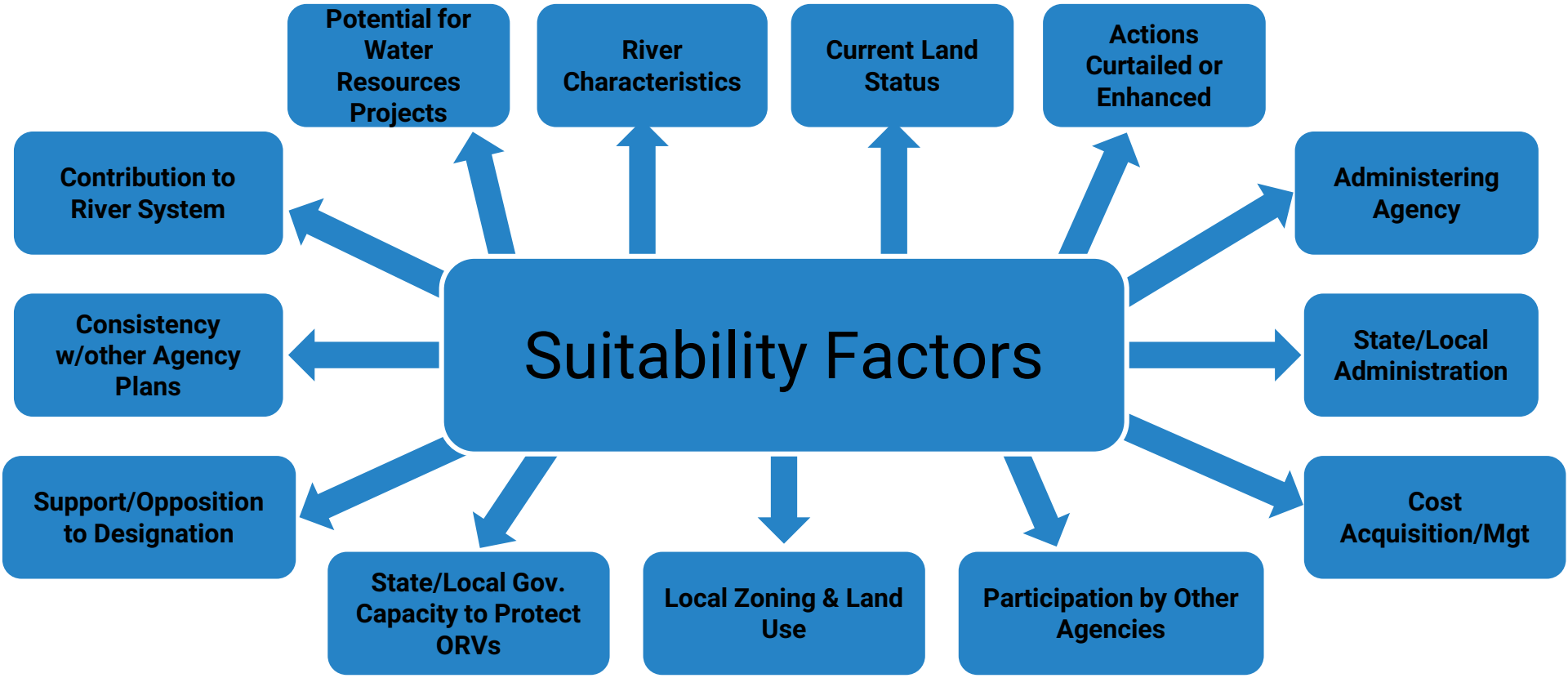
Three categories:

- Wild
- Scenic
- Recreational

Based on level of development, access, water quality

Must be managed consistent with classification

Suitability



Source: BLM WSR Training Module

Nationwide Rivers Inventory

- Listing of more than 3,200 free-flowing river segments that are potentially eligible
- Completed in partial fulfillment of the Section 5(d)(1) of WSR Act; began in mid-1970s
- Maintained by NPS
- All federal agencies must seek to avoid or mitigate actions that would adversely affect one or more NRI segments.

River Protections

- Manage all eligible/suitable segments to:
  - Protect free-flow, water quality, and ORVs
  - Maintain classification
  - Evaluate any new development or water resource projects in context of protecting the river's values

Congressional Study River Protections

- Protections until 3 years after study report is submitted to Congress
- Section 7(b) prohibits FERC projects and requires review of water resources projects
- Section 8(b) withdraws public lands from entry, sale, or other disposition
- Section 9(b) withdraws public lands from mining laws
- Section 12(a) directs other agencies to work with river administering agencies to protect river values

Beaver Creek, photo by Bob Wick

Protective Management: How?

Use existing authorities, such as:

Organic Acts
Clean Water Act
Endangered Species Act
Taylor Grazing Act
Public Rangelands Improvement Act
Archaeological Resource Protection Act

Sacramento River, CA - Suitable

Source: BLM WSR Training Module

Protective Management: Agency Policies

Bureau of Land Management: Policy Manual 6400

US Forest Service : Handbook 1909.12, Ch. 80

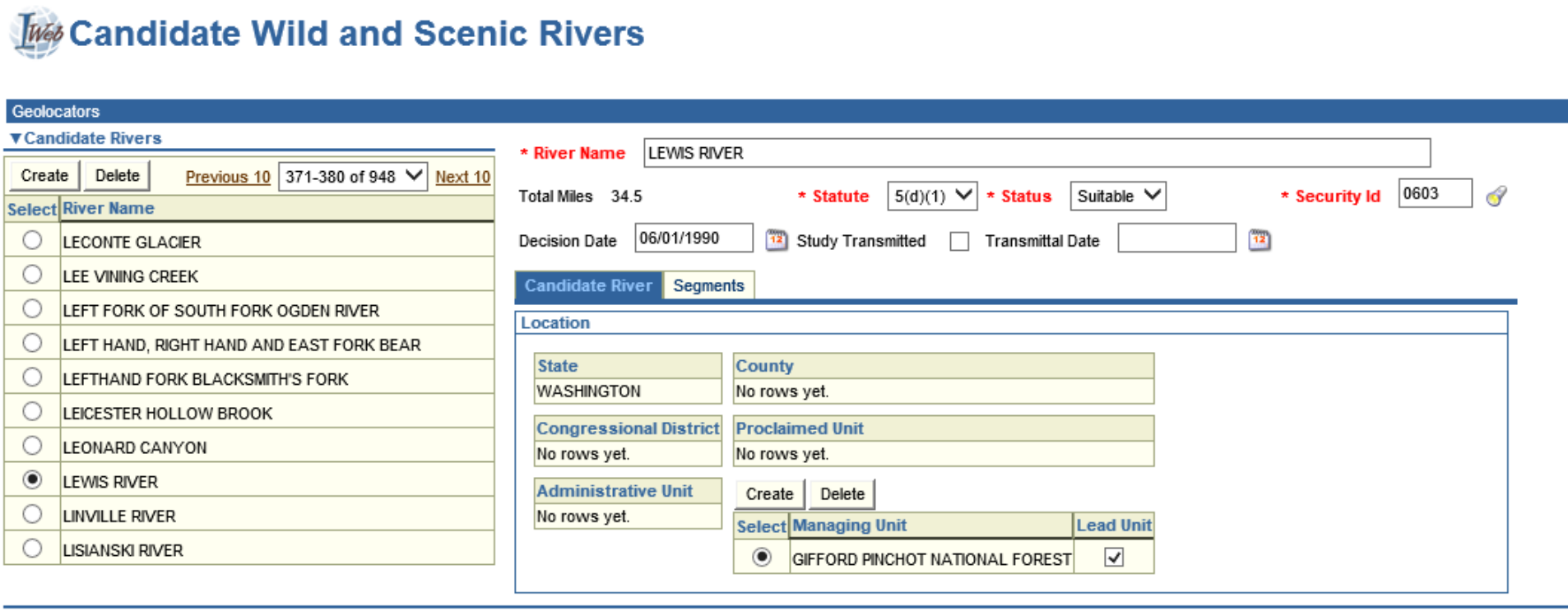
National Park Service: Director Order 46

Fish and Wildlife Service: Comprehensive Planning Handbook

The Process: Start-up

- Team of technical and policy folks from BLM, NPS, and USFS
- Show and tell of each agency's existing databases

Forest Service Eligible/Suitable Internal Database



Candidate Wild and Scenic Rivers

Information

The changes have been saved successfully.

▼Candidate Rivers

Create | Delete | Previous 10 | 371-380 of 948 | Next 10

Select	River Name
○	LECONTE GLACIER
○	LEE VINING CREEK
○	LEFT FORK OF SOUTH FORK OGDEN RIVER
○	LEFT HAND, RIGHT HAND AND EAST FORK BEAR
○	LEFTHAND FORK BLACKSMITH'S FORK
○	LEICESTER HOLLOW BROOK
○	LEONARD CANYON
◉	LEWIS RIVER
○	LINVILLE RIVER
○	LISIANSKI RIVER

* River Name: LEWIS RIVER

Total Miles: 34.5 | * Statute: 5(d)(1) | * Status: Suitable | * Security Id: 0603

Decision Date: 06/01/1990 | Study Transmitted ☐ | Transmittal Date:

Candidate River | Segments

Create | Delete

Select	ID	Classification	Miles	BP Narrative	EP Narrative
◉	1	WILD	4.0	Headwaters in NE1/4 of Sec 35, T9N, R10E	Mt. Adams Wilderness boundary
○	2	SCENIC	29.0	Mt. Adams Wilderness boundary	Gifford Pinchot NF boundary
○	3	RECREATIONAL	1.5	Gifford Pinchot NF boundary	Maximum pool of Swift Reservoir in NW1/4 of

Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)

Type	Narrative
☑ Scenic	The scenic value of the Lewis River is outstanding because of the five large
☑ Recreational	The outstanding scenery along the Lewis River attracts many hikers. The Lewis
☐ Geologic	
☐ Fish	
☐ Wildlife	
☐ Historic	
☐ Cultural	

Other

Create | Delete

Select	Type	Narrative
	No rows yet.	

The Process: Defining the Framework

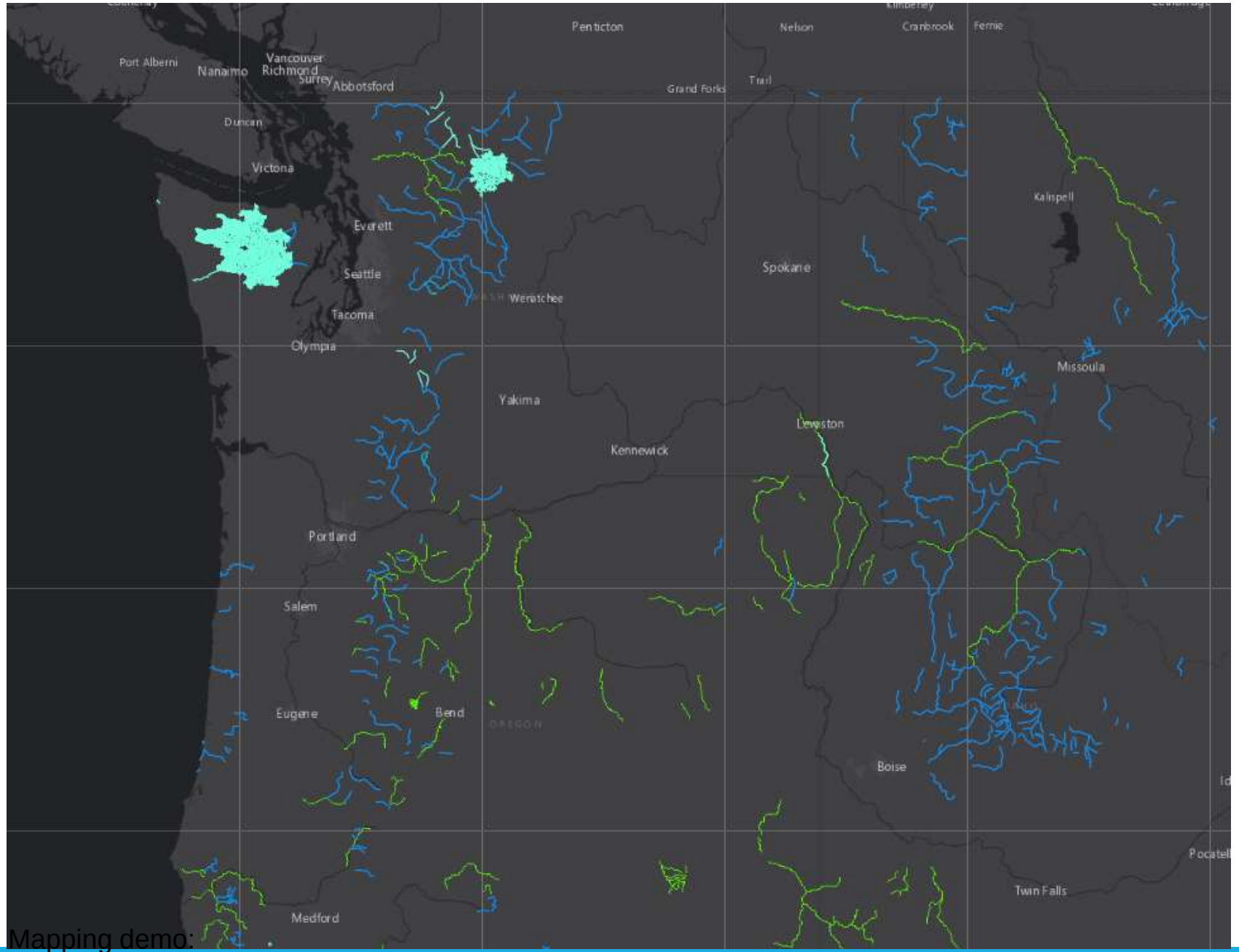
- Decided on the platform - spreadsheet, then GIS
- Crosswalk: identified similarities and differences
- Decided what we want in the interagency database and mandatory/optional fields

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1										
2	**Segment Level**				**Eligible/Suitable Database - River Level**					
3	**USFS**	**BLM**	**NPS**	**NPS Definition**	**DRAFT Interagency Fields**	**Interagency Field Definition**				
4	ORV_CN		River_ID	This is a unique ID associated with spatially connected river systems. Modelled after WSR ID system starting at 1000	River_ID	This is a unique ID associated with spatially connected river systems. Need to figure out the system. Make sure it is expandable to cover considerable number of segments given the non-elgibile river inclusion.		**Legend**		
5		River_Name and NLCS_NAME	River	The offical name of the river (USGS)	River	The offical name of the river (USGS)			Mandatory for all rivers	
6	SEGMENT_CN	NLCS_ID and Global ID	Segment_ID	This is a unique ID that integrates the River_ID with the river segments that make up the connected river systems.	Segment_ID	This is a unique ID that integrates the River_ID with the river segments that make up the connected river systems.			for future river entries	
7	SEGMENT_ID	WSR_CTGY	Classification	Wild, Scenic or Recreational	Segment_Classification	Wild, Scenic, Recreational, or **unknown**			Mandatory for future BLM rivers	
8	SEGMENT_CLASSIFICATION	Eligible_or_Non_eligible	Eligible	has been found eligible under section 5(d)(1) or 5(a) of the Wild and Scneic Rivers Act.	Eligible	segment/river has been found eligible under section 5(d)(1) or 5(a) of the Wild and Scneic Rivers Act.			Optional	
9			Suitable	The is yes, unknown, not studied, no field indicating whether or not a river segment/river has been found suitable under section 5(d)(1) or 5(a) of the Wild and Scneic Rivers Act.	Suitable	The is yes, unknown, not studied, no field indicating whether or not a river segment/river has been found suitable under section 5(d)(1) or 5(a) of the Wild and Scneic Rivers Act.				
10	SEGMENT_MILES		GIS_Miles	The miles calulated within ArcMap from the beginning to the end of the ESR segment.	Miles	Segment miles this could be from legislation for 5(a), planning documents, or GIS miles				
11			Status	This field combines the information within the eligible and suitable fields: eligible, suitable, eligible&suitable	Status	This field combines the information within the eligible and suitable fields: eligible, suitable, noneligible, eligible and not suitable				
12			Miles_Within_Park	The miles calulated within ArcMap from the beginning to the end of the ESR segment with in park boundaries.	Miles_Within_Park	The miles calulated within ArcMap from the beginning to the end of the ESR segment with in park boundaries.				
13	SEGMENT_BEGIN_POINT_NARRATIVE	Upstream_Terminus	Beginning_Point_Narrative	Spatial description of the upstream beginning point of the river segment.	Upstream_Terminus	Spatial description of the upstream beginning point of the river segment.				
14	SEGMENT_END_POINT_NARRATIVE	Downstream_Terminus	End_Point_Narrative	Spatial description of the downstream ending point of the river segment.	Downstream_Terminus	Spatial description of the downstream ending point of the river segment.				
15	Scenic		Scenic	yes/no	Scenic	yes/no				
16	Scenic_Narrative	Scenic_ORV_Description	Scenic_Narrative	Description of the scenic nature of a river segment	Scenic_Narrative	Description of the scenic nature of a river segment				
17	Recreational		Recreational	yes/no	Recreational	yes/no				

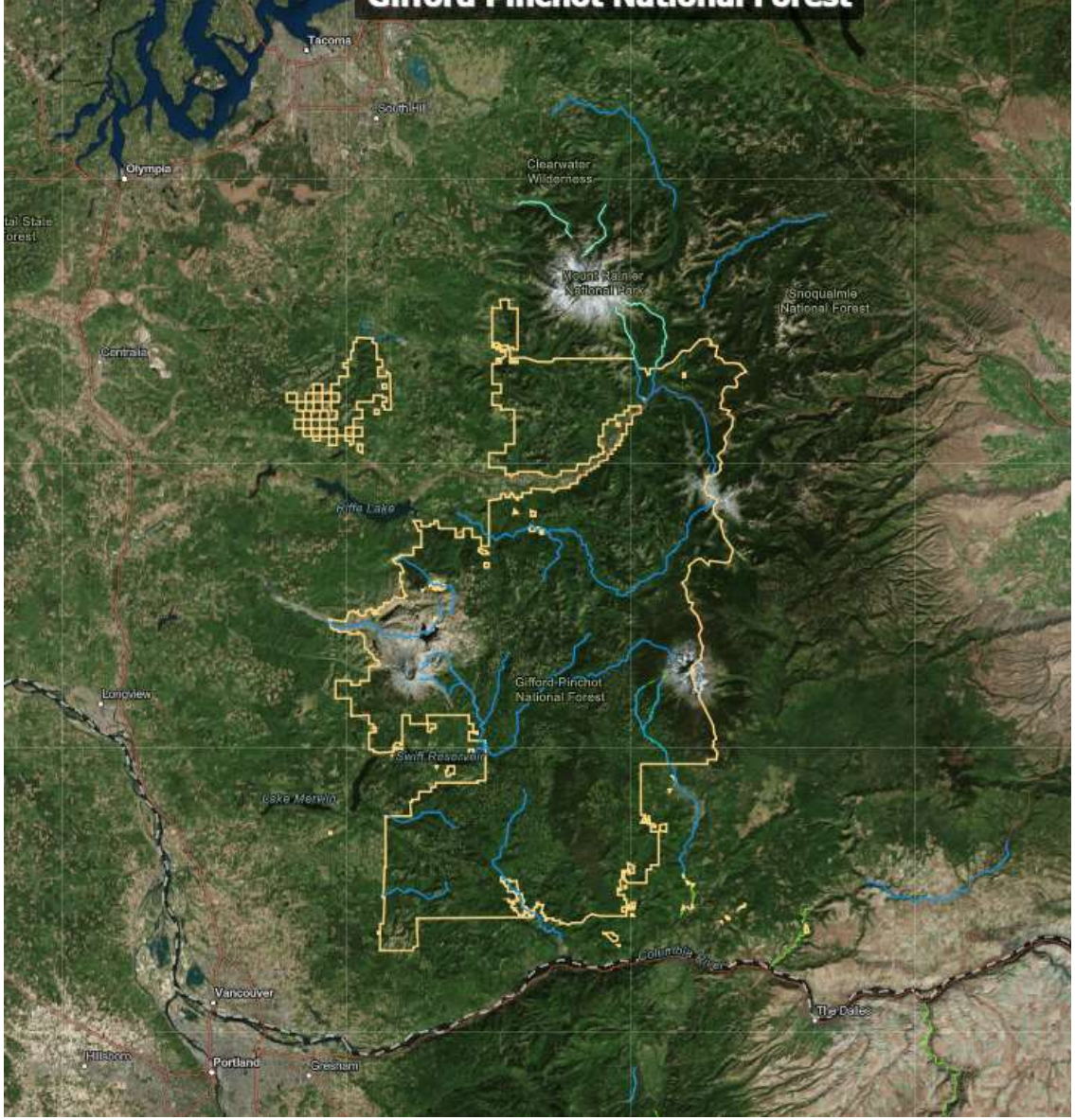
ESR River Level | **ESR Segment Level** | Preliminary Proposed Boundaries | Ineligible Rivers | Webmap Fields | USFS Database | BLM_Database | NPS Database | Q ...

Database Framework

- River Layer (river name, eligible/suitable study document, study type: congressional or agency initiated, status: eligible, suitable, non-suitable)
- Segment Layer: Classification, outstandingly remarkable river values
- Study Corridor/Preliminary Boundary
- Ineligibles



Mapping demo:
https://nps.maps.arcgis.com/apps/presentation/index.html?webmap=bb4b56e717144818950cd2d016f863f3



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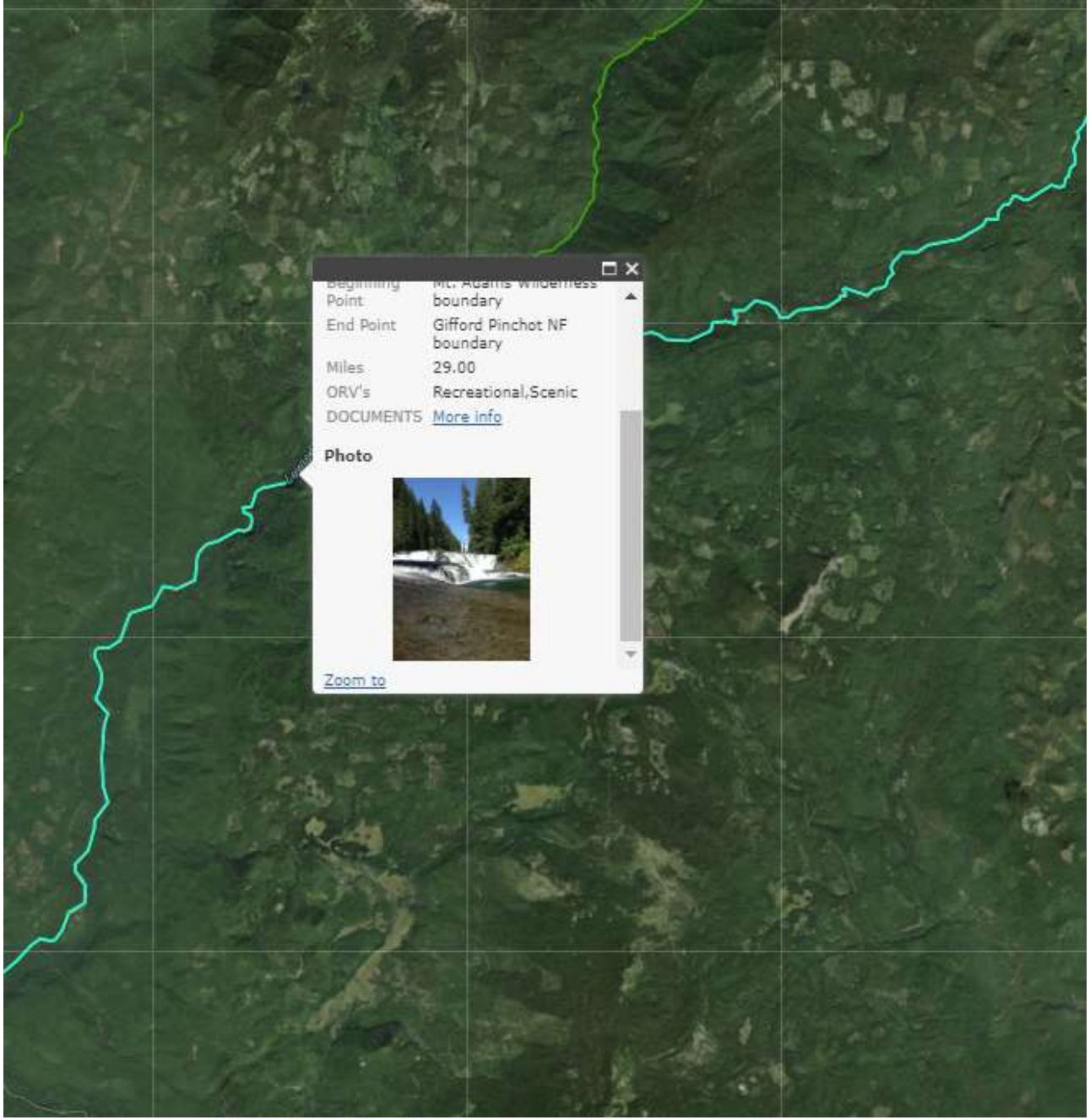
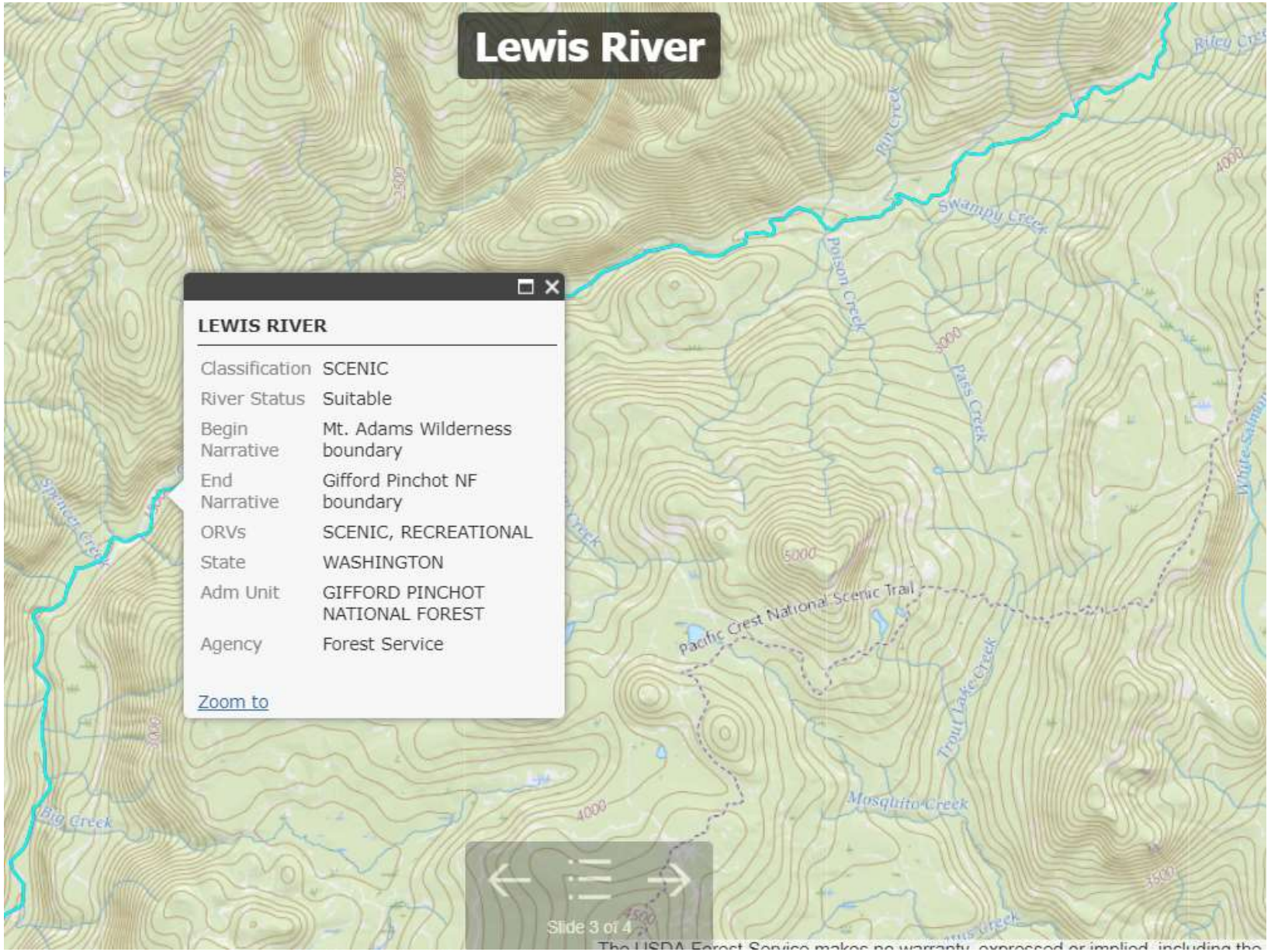

Point
boundary
End Point
Gifford Pinchot NF boundary
Miles
29.00
ORV's
Recreational,Scenic
DOCUMENTS
More info
Photo
Zoom to


Lewis River
LEWIS RIVER
Classification SCENIC
River Status Suitable
Begin Narrative Mt. Adams Wilderness boundary
End Narrative Gifford Pinchot NF boundary
ORVs SCENIC, RECREATIONAL
State WASHINGTON
Adm Unit GIFFORD PINCHOT NATIONAL FOREST
Agency Forest Service
Zoom to
Swamply Creek
Poison Creek
Pass Creek
Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail
Trout Lake Creek
Mosquito Creek
Big Creek
Slide 3 of 4

Resources

Interagency Guidelines - Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification and Management of River Areas issued jointly by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture (FR-9/7/82)

BLM- Policy Manual 6400 NPS
NPS Director Order 46
FWS Comprehensive Planning Handbook
USFS Forest Handbook
NPS Eligible Suitable Data
Nationwide Rivers Inventory
Wild and Scenic River Study Process Technical Document

Questions?

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