

Bureau of Land Management

Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area

Summary Report for Wild and Scenic River Eligibility: November 2010

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Introduction:

The Bureau of Land Management Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (D-E NCA) has started the process of developing a Resource Management Plan (RMP). As part of the planning process, the BLM is required to conduct a Wild and Scenic River (WSR) study. The first step of the WSR study is to inventory stream segments and determine whether they are eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic River System (NWSRS). The D-E NCA includes lands from both the Uncompahgre and Grand Junction Field Offices, and both offices have completed eligibility studies as part of their individual RMP revision processes. As a result, eligibility determinations have been completed for the rivers and streams within the D-E NCA. This summary report combines the findings of both the Grand Junction Field Office (GJFO) and Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Reports that are applicable to the D-E NCA. The complete Eligibility Reports for both field offices can be downloaded at: http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/wild_and_scenic_river.html for the Uncompahgre office and http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp/Wild_Scenic_River.html for the Grand Junction office. Inconsistencies between the GJFO and UFO reports have been addressed in errata discussions included in this report. This summary report amends both the GJFO and UFO final reports and is the definitive report for eligible streams within the D-E NCA.

Every known river with a perennial or intermittent flow regime was identified, using a variety of Bureau of Land Management and other data sources. Some waterways were further segmented based upon differences in level of development, physiographic character, land status, or the existence of in-channel diversions or dams.

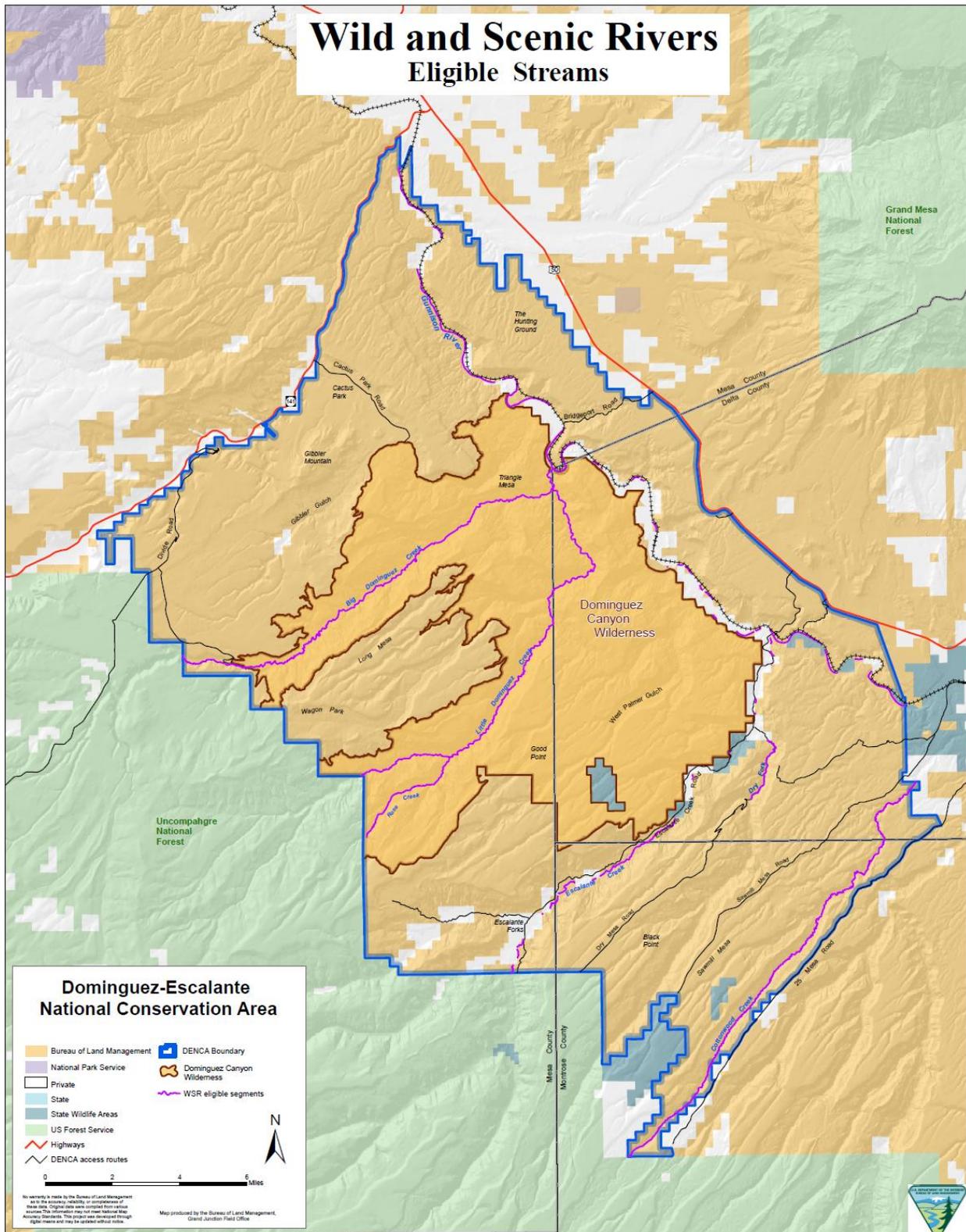
The river segments were then evaluated to determine whether they meet the dual criteria of being free-flowing and possessing one or more outstandingly remarkable values, as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Eligible river segments were preliminarily classified as wild, scenic, or recreational, based on water quality and level of human development along the river corridor.

Eligibility Results:

After evaluating the stream segments in the D-E NCA, seven streams separated into eleven segments were determined to be free-flowing and possessed one or more outstandingly remarkable values necessary for Wild and Scenic River eligibility.

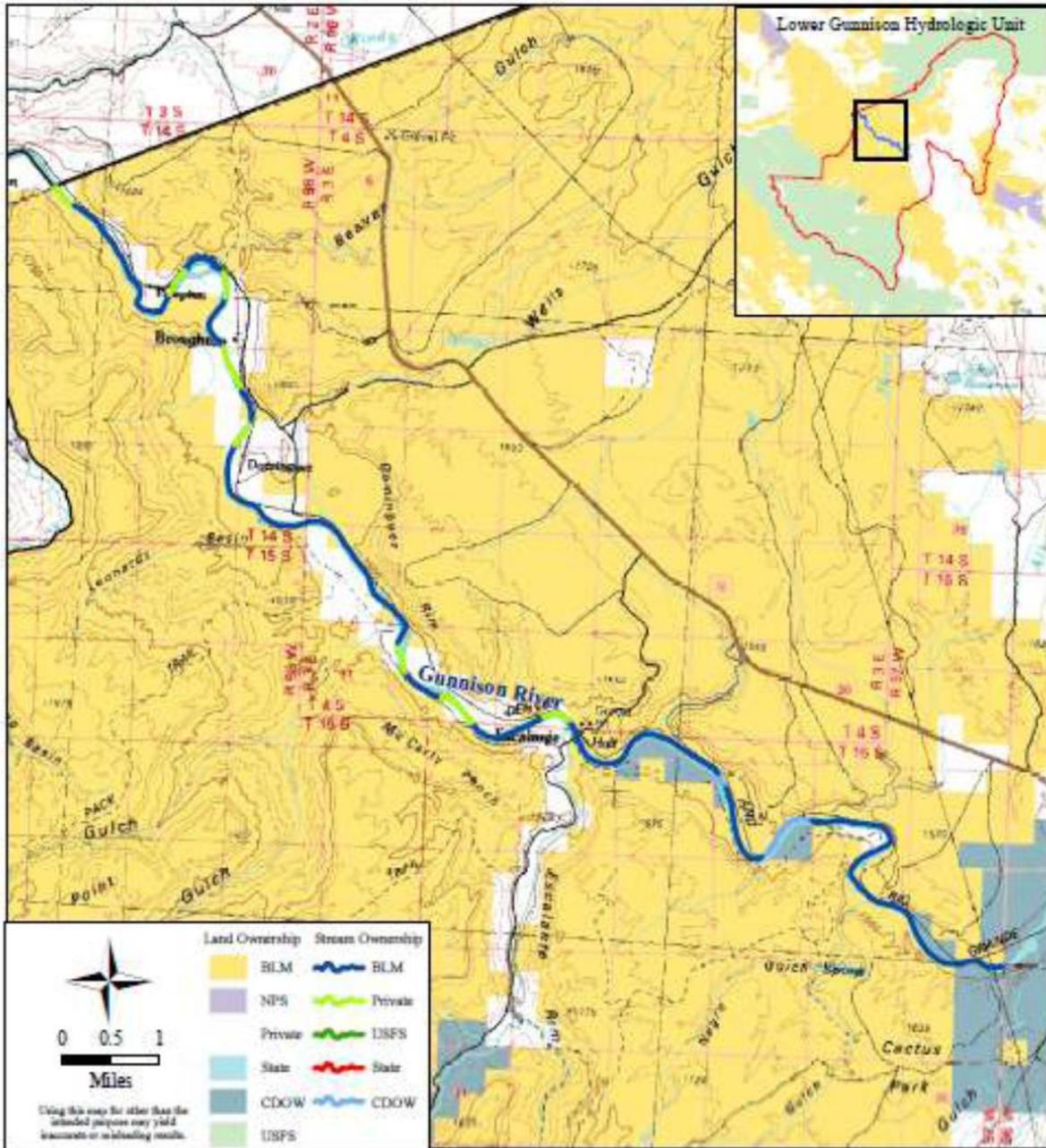
Management constraints were not considered during the eligibility phase, but will be assessed during the suitability analysis. This next phase of the Wild and Scenic Rivers review process will occur during development of the D-E NCA RMP and associated Environmental Impact Statement. A final determination of suitability will be issued in the RMP Record of Decision.

Map of Eligible Streams within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA



Gunnison River

From the Uncomphgre Field Office Eligibility Report Segment 3



Total Segment Length: 17.48 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 14.02 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational, Fish, Cultural, Vegetation

Gunnison River

From the Uncomphre Field Office Eligibility Report Segment 3

Description: The Gunnison River is a large, perennially flowing river that is regulated upstream by the Aspinall Unit (Blue Mesa, Morrow Point, and Crystal reservoirs). The present flow regime is designed to mimic historic conditions to best meet habitat requirements for native warm-water fish. The upper terminus of this segment is the boundary between BLM and State managed lands, approximately one-half mile upstream from Dominguez-Escalante NCA. The lower terminus is the boundary between the BLM UFO and BLM Grand Junction Field Office. The BLM Grand Junction WSR Eligibility Report identifies the contiguous reach of the Gunnison River downstream as “eligible.”

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 50' 7.02" N; Longitude: 108° 21' 37.21" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 43' 33.87" N; Longitude: 108° 10' 33.72" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	USFS	State	Private	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
14.02		0.87	2.59	17.48	80.2%

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	USFS	State	Private	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
3,489.1		412.4	1,616.6	5,518.1	63.2%

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational, Fish, Cultural, Vegetation

- 1) Recreational - This section of the Gunnison River provides outstanding opportunities for relatively easy half-day to multi-day float trips through the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. The river is generally Class I flat water, with an occasional Class II riffle providing a challenge for novice boaters. Though much of this river segment flows through private lands, several BLM campsites and a boat launch provide good public access. Rafts, kayaks and canoes are the most common types of watercraft used on this section of river.

Because of its non-technical nature and public access points, the lower Gunnison is extremely popular with novice, family and casual recreationists from across the state. In addition, the river provides the only public access to the mouth of Leonard's Basin, a broad BLM canyon with important recreational and cultural values. Scenic canyon walls, verdant orchards and historic features add to the recreational value of this section.

- 2) Fish - This river segment is predominantly comprised of native fish species, and is identified as designated critical habitat for both the endangered Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) and razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*). Both species are known to reside within this

segment. In addition, this segment supports exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*).

- 3) Cultural - This segment of the Gunnison River flows through canyon country that has been inhabited by prehistoric and historic cultures for over 10,000 years. Over 300 Native American sites have been recorded in the vicinity, ranging from Paleo-Indian sites to Archaic hunting and occupational camps to late Historic Period Ute villages. Rock art sites in the Escalante Bridge, Palmer Gulch and Leonard's Basin areas are of extremely high quality and significance. These sites qualify for nomination to the NRHP under **Criterion C: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction** and **Criterion D: Yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory**.
- 4) Vegetation - This segment contains a large area of Fremont Cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland (*Populus deltoides/Rhus trilobata*), which is classified as globally imperiled (G2).

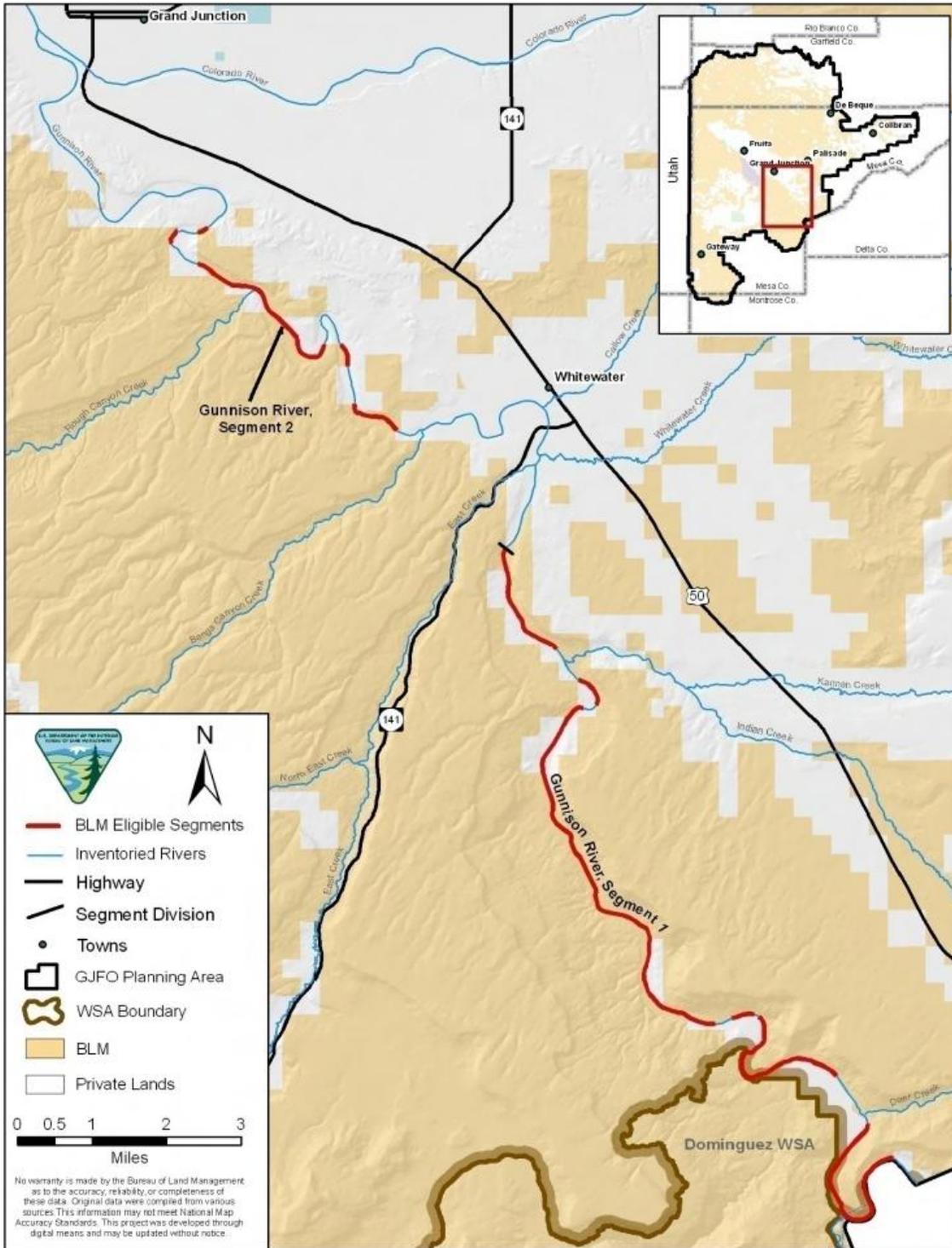
Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - There are several road access points along this reach, as well as a county road bridge crossing. A railroad runs adjacent to the river along the entire segment. There are also several water diversions, but no impoundments. Several parcels adjacent to the river are irrigated agricultural lands. This river segment has very high biodiversity significance (B2) and lies within the Gunnison River Potential Conservation Area, designated by CNHP in order to protect the endangered fish and threatened cactus.

This segment is also on Colorado's 303(d) list for impaired water quality due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Water Body ID COGULG02, (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission). The state of Colorado is preparing a draft Total Maximum Daily Load Report with the goal of reducing the selenium concentration in the Gunnison River.

Gunnison River

From the Grand Junction Field Office Eligibility Report Segment 1



Gunnison River

From the Grand Junction Field Office Eligibility Report Segment 1

Gunnison River, Segment 1

Location/Description: Sections of the Gunnison River west of Highway 50 on BLM land from the southern planning area boundary near Bridgeport to Whitewater.

Total Segment Length: 15.73 miles

Segment Length on BLM Land: 13.45 miles

Description and Justification of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Recreational

The segment of the Gunnison River is popular for floatboating mostly for kayaking and canoeing. This stretch is described in *The Floater's Guide to Colorado* as, "one of the few places in the Southern Rockies which offers a lengthy, gentle, out-of-the-way canoe trip" (Wheat 1995). Visitors travel from across the state float through the steep walled slickrock sandstone canyons.

Fish

The USFWS designated critical habitat for the federally endangered Colorado pikeminnow (= squawfish; *Ptychocheilus lucius*) and the Razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*) in 1994, which includes this stretch of the Gunnison River (59 Fed. Reg. 13,374 (1994-3-21)).

Historical

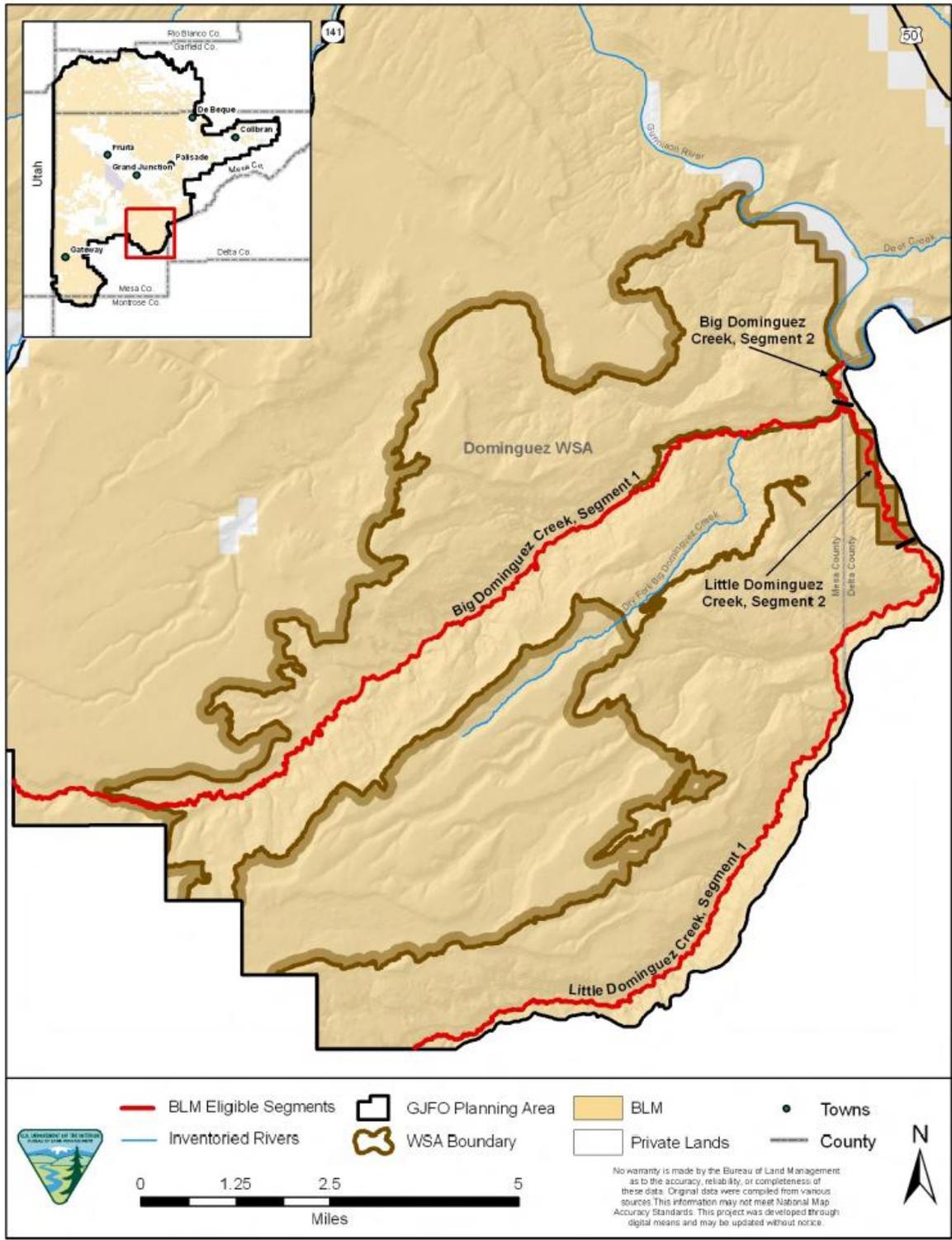
The section of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad (now part of Union Pacific) running next to the Gunnison River was the first line connecting Denver to Grand Junction, reaching the Grand Valley in 1882. This line was soon connected to Salt Lake City forming a narrow gauge transcontinental railroad link. The line was eventually replaced by a standard gauge track and remains in use through modern day. The importance of the railroad to developing the west makes this site eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Tentative Classification and Level of Human Activity:

The tentative classification of this segment is scenic due to a mainly inconspicuous railroad line that runs parallel to the river through this segment.

Big and Little Dominguez Creeks

From the Grand Junction Office Eligibility Report



Big and Little Dominguez Creeks

From the Grand Junction Field Office Eligibility Report

Big Dominguez Creek, Segment 1

Location/Description: Big Dominguez Creek boundary with the Uncompahgre National Forest in the southern portion of the planning area to the confluence with Little Dominguez Creek (near Bridgeport).

Total Segment Length: 15.86 miles

Segment Length on BLM Land: 15.86 miles

Description and Justification of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic

Big Dominguez Creek runs through a large mesa dissected by deep red slick-rock canyons. This has led to a magnificent contrast between the green vegetation characterizing the immediate areas next to the creek and the steep walled canyon. This contrast is most spectacular in the segments of the creek running through exposed sections of incised, dark colored Precambrian bedrock of the Uncompahgre Plateau that give way to softer benches covered with desert vegetation, before the sheer red sandstone cliffs. While hiking through the canyon, visitors are also exposed to many side canyons, alcoves, pinnacles, amphitheaters, and other unique sandstone formations. This unique and spectacular combination of features in conjunction with the wilderness study area (WSA) allows visitors to experience an outstanding desert stream in a primitive, wild environment. The stream itself is characterized by a wealth of different features including meandering stretches, and steeper drops through unique rock features and waterfalls.

Recreational

Trails along and near the canyon formed by Big Dominguez Creek are used extensively by locals and also have a regional appeal. The scenic quality, geologic interest, and cultural sites along the river corridor attract visitors from around the region and nation. Backpackers frequently camp in the overnight areas near the creek and the waterfall and rock art sites are popular destinations for day trips while enjoying the primitive and scenic environment.

Wildlife

The area around the confluence of Big Dominguez Creek and Little Dominguez Creek is an important Canyon Tree Frog (*Hyla arenicolor*) breeding area with many breeding pools found in surveys of this area. The Canyon Tree Frog is a BLM sensitive species and was identified as a species of greatest conservation need by the State of Colorado (CDOW 2006).

Geological

Throughout the canyon the Great Unconformity, a large gap in rock ages where the Precambrian basement rock is overlaid by the much more recent Chinle formation, is readily accessible and apparent to visitors. The basement rocks of the Uncompahgre Plateau are extremely old and are rarely exposed elsewhere in the world. The forces of erosion that created this canyon have exposed over 600 million years of geologic history in addition to creating sandstone formations that make this area outstandingly remarkable.

Cultural

The canyon bottoms of the Dominguez Canyon area have evidence of human activity dating back thousands of years. There are numerous high quality rock art sites which constitute one of the highest concentrations in the planning area. The known rock art sites cover a long period with some that date from over 2,000 years ago to Ute rock art panels from approximately 100 years ago.

Tentative Classification and Level of Human Activity:

The tentative classification for this segment is wild. The segment is wholly contained within a WSA and has little to no evidence of modern human activity within the river corridor.

Big Dominguez Creek, Segment 2

Location/Description: This segment begins at the confluence with Little Dominguez Creek and continues until the confluence with the Gunnison River near Bridgeport.

Total Segment Length: 0.78 miles

Segment Length on BLM Land: 0.78 miles

Description and Justification of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic

This ORV is the same as for segment 1.

Geological

This ORV is the same as for segment 1.

Wildlife

This ORV is the same as for segment 1.

Cultural

This ORV is the same as for segment 1.

Tentative Classification and Level of Human Activity:

The tentative classification of this segment is scenic. There is evidence of grazing and an administrative route along this segment.

Little Dominguez Creek, Segment 1

Location/Description: Little Dominguez Creek boundary with the Uncompahgre National Forest in the southern portion of the planning area to the Dominguez WSA boundary approximately two miles from the confluence with Big Dominguez Creek.

Total Segment Length: 13.14 miles

Segment Length on BLM Land: 13.14 miles

Description and Justification of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic

This ORV is the same as for Big Dominguez Creek.

Geological

This ORV is the same as for Big Dominguez Creek.

Wildlife

This ORV is the same as for Big Dominguez Creek.

Cultural

This ORV is the same as for Big Dominguez Creek.

Tentative Classification and Level of Human Activity:

The tentative classification for this segment is wild. The segment is wholly contained within a WSA and has little to no evidence of human activity within the river corridor.

Little Dominguez Creek, Segment 2

Location/Description: Boundary of the Dominguez WSA to the confluence with Big Dominguez Creek.

Total Segment Length: 2.45 miles

Segment Length on BLM Land: 2.45 miles

Description and Justification of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Scenic

This ORV is the same as for Big Dominguez Creek.

Geological

This ORV is the same as for Big Dominguez Creek.

Wildlife

This ORV is the same as for Big Dominguez Creek.

Cultural

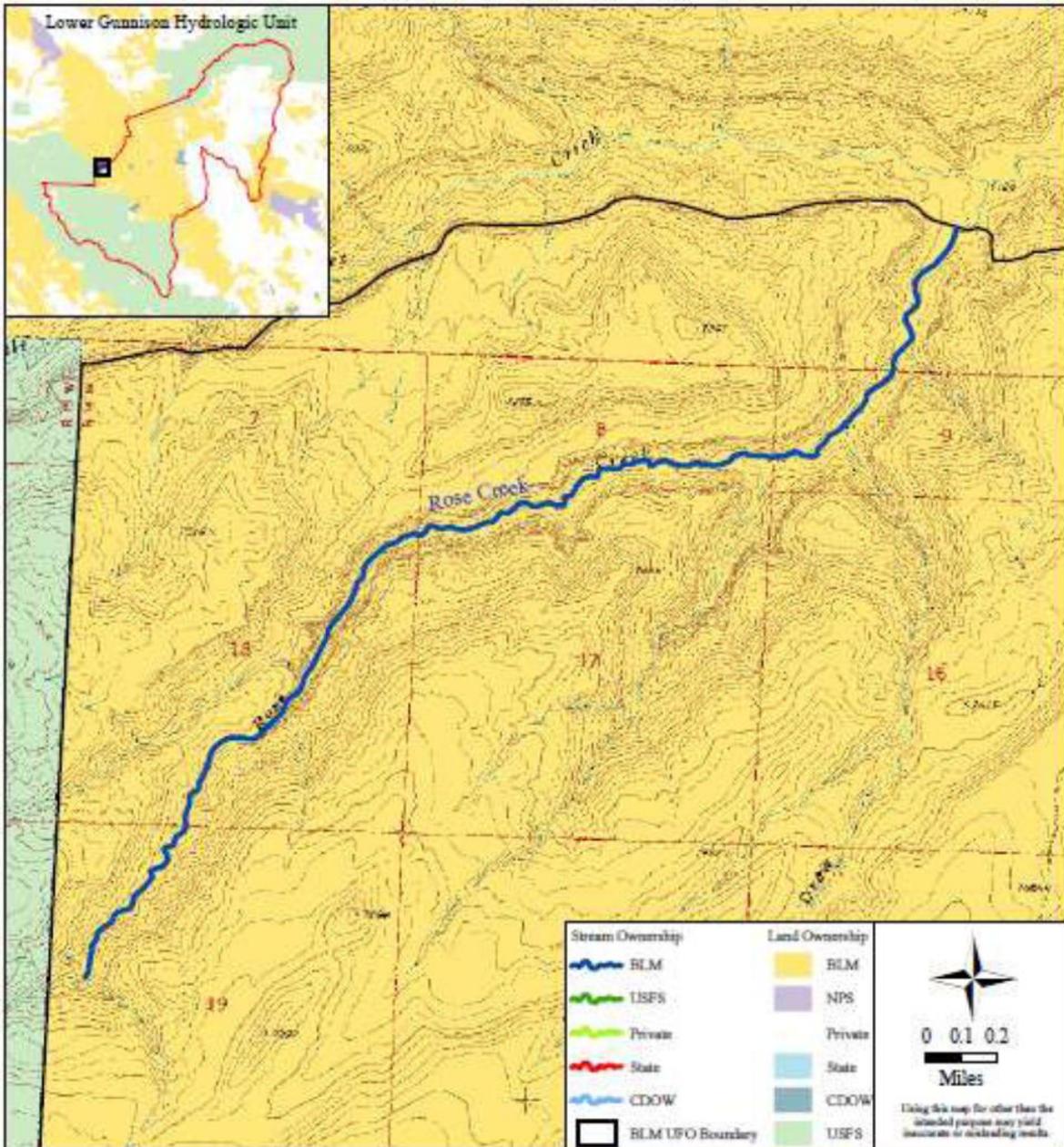
This ORV is the same as for Big Dominguez Creek.

Tentative Classification and Level of Human Activity:

The tentative classification of this segment is scenic. There is heavy evidence of grazing, a homestead, and an administrative route along this segment.

Rose Creek

From the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report



Total Segment Length: 3.90 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 3.90 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic

Rose Creek

From the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report

Description: This perennial tributary of Little Dominguez Creek drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau and is within the Dominguez Canyon Wilderness Area. The creek's upper terminus is the confluence of Barkley Cabin Gulch and Corral Gulch, while the lower terminus is the UFO boundary. High flows primarily occur during spring snowmelt and occasional summer rain events. Perennial base flow occurs throughout most of this segment, which originates from multiple groundwater discharge points at the contact between the Entrada and Chinle geologic formations.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 42' 12.23" N; Longitude: 108° 26' 16.87" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 40' 15.32" N; Longitude: 108° 28' 56.86" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

<i>BLM</i>	<i>USFS</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Private</i>	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
3.90				3.90	100%

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

<i>BLM</i>	<i>USFS</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Private</i>	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,266.9	40.4			1,307.3	100%

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic

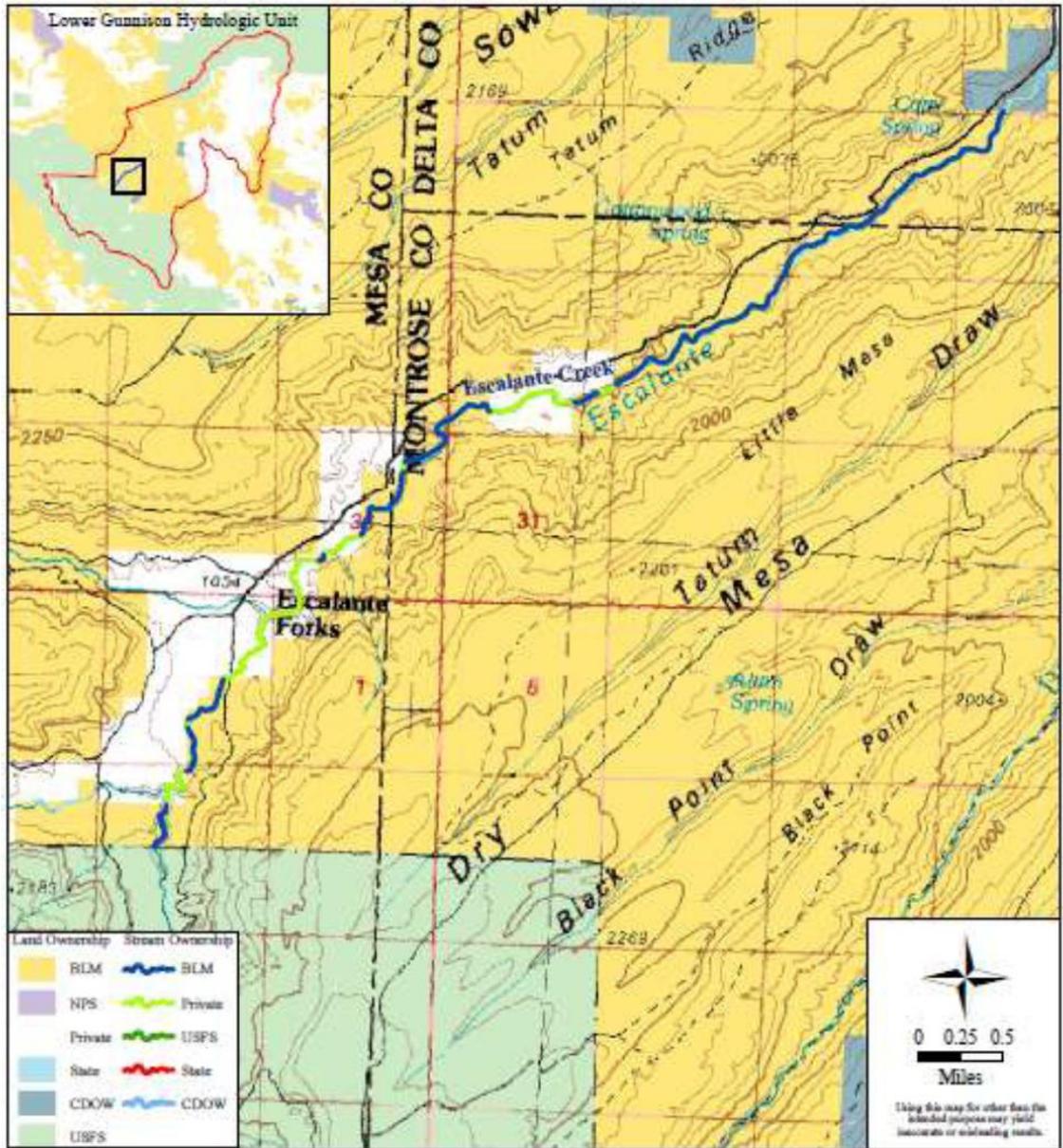
- 1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned a **Scenic Quality Classification of A**. The following observations were derived from their field notes: Rose Creek possesses very high scenic qualities that are rare in the area of comparison. Prominent vertical and horizontal cliffs, interesting erosional features, major rock outcroppings, narrow chasms and stepped ridgelines, together with dense and diverse vegetation especially in the canyon bottoms, make Rose Creek a visually spectacular landscape. Rock formations, small waterfalls, alcoves, hanging gardens, and pools add significantly to the area's visual character. Adjacent landforms provide rich color in contrasting shades of tan, pink, red, orange, brown, and blue. The surrounding vegetation contributes hues of green, gold, yellow, tan, and gray, completing the stunning scene.

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Rationale - There are no water diversions, impoundments, or developments of any kind along this remote segment. The entire shoreline is primitive and not accessible by road or trail.

Escalante Creek

From the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report Segment 1



Total Segment Length: 8.45 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 5.75 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Wildlife, Vegetation

Escalante Creek

From the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report Segment 1

Description: Escalante Creek is a major perennial tributary of the lower Gunnison River that drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. This segment of the creek lies within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. The upper terminus is its meeting with the Uncompahgre National Forest boundary, while the lower terminus is the boundary between BLM and State managed lands. This stream supports both a trout fishery and native flannelmouth and bluehead suckers.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 40' 42.47" N; Longitude: 108° 18' 44.70" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 36' 44.01" N; Longitude: 108° 24' 12.21" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	USFS	State	Private	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
5.75			2.69	8.45	68%

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	USFS	State	Private	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,796.5	13.5	13.7	654.9	2,478.6	73%

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Wildlife, Vegetation

- 1) **Scenic** - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned a Scenic Quality Classification of A. The following observations were derived from their field notes: Escalante Creek offers very high scenic qualities. The cascading whitewater creek runs swift and linear here, creating dramatic potholes and waterfalls. A large-scale sandstone canyon provides dramatic vistas, prominent vertical and horizontal cliffs, major rock outcroppings, and jagged ridgelines that dominate the landscape. Landform colors abound in shades of tans, pinks, reds, oranges, brown and blue. The surrounding vegetation adds to the beauty, providing shades of green, golden, yellow, and tan, which become increasingly dense along the river.

This canyon has scenic features that are rare in the region of comparison: a “double canyon” system. The broader outer canyon bounded by colorful cliffs of sedimentary rock holds within it a smaller, narrow canyon of dark gray and black Precambrian metamorphic rock within which the creek flows. This vivid contrast is only found in a handful of canyons on the Colorado Plateau.

- 1) **Recreational** - This segment has outstanding opportunities for recreation, primarily in the Escalante Potholes Recreation Site. Escalante Creek has smoothed and sculpted the Precambrian metamorphic rock through which it flows, creating a series of chutes, falls and plunge-pools. These features are rare. During spring snowmelt, high water surges through the

Potholes area, attracting extreme kayakers from all over the western United States. The complex hydraulic features challenge even the most experienced kayakers. Later in the season, as the snowmelt tapers off and the creek returns to a more sedate and steady flow, the potholes are used for wading, swimming and streamside camping by groups and individuals, primarily from Colorado's West Slope. Classic Colorado Plateau canyon scenery and the rare occurrence of black Precambrian schist in a perennially-flowing streambed combine to make this section of Escalante Creek an exceptional recreational experience.

- 2) Geologic - The Escalante Potholes are a regionally rare geologic and hydrologic streambed feature in the lower reach of this segment. The potholes are hourglass-shaped erosional features occurring in hard Precambrian gneiss where it intercepts the streambed of Escalante Creek. Stream channel knickpoints have formed in the overlying softer sedimentary rock units, providing high velocity waters with adequate sediment supply and hydrologic energy to produce circulating erosive water currents. The scouring process that occurs primarily during annual spring snowmelt, has taken thousands of years to produce the potholes in their current state.

There are no other areas in the region where Precambrian gneiss is exposed and shaped by a stream powerful enough to create the feature, yet not so powerful as to completely erode the stream channel smooth. This rare combination of lithology and erosion demonstrates not only the efficacy of hydrology upon geology, but also the creative sculpturing action that time and water have upon a very resistant medium. With almost any other medium, such as sandstone or even marble, this effect would not have produced as dramatic a feature as has been formed in Escalante Creek.

- 3) Wildlife - Escalante Canyon provides exceptionally high quality habitat for peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), and is considered a regionally important area for this BLM sensitive species. In 1999, the peregrine was delisted from threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM monitors the status of peregrine populations to ensure continued recovery of the species. Peregrine falcons are closely associated with steep-walled canyons and often nest near perennial water sources that support prey populations such as waterfowl, songbirds, and shorebirds. Peregrine falcon pairs were observed in Escalante Canyon as recently as 2008 and 2009, and breeding/nesting activity has been confirmed along this segment.
- 4) Vegetation - This segment contains several plant communities considered to be rare globally, including occurrences of narrowleaf cottonwood/strappleaf willow-silver buffaloberry riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia/Salix ligulifolia/Shepherdia argentea*), which is critically imperiled globally (G1) and Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian forest (*Populus deltoides ssp. wislizenii/Rhus trilobata*), which is globally imperiled (G2). Giant helleborine orchid (*Epipactis gigantea*), rare in Colorado, occurs along this segment. Hanging gardens arise from seeps on nearby cliffs, and support Mancos columbine/Eastwood's monkeyflower wetland (*Aquilegia micrantha/Mimulus eastwoodiae*), which is categorized as globally imperiled (G2). Just uphill from

the stream, these seeps lead into an unusual salt meadow dominated by alkali cordgrass (*Spartina gracilis*), which is ranked as rare in Colorado.

An ecologically important occurrence of Eastwood's monkeyflower (*Mimulus eastwoodiae*), a rare BLM sensitive species, occurs in the vicinity of Escalante Creek. This species is associated with seeps, springs, and tributaries in hanging garden vegetation communities. Several occurrences are within the Escalante Creek corridor.

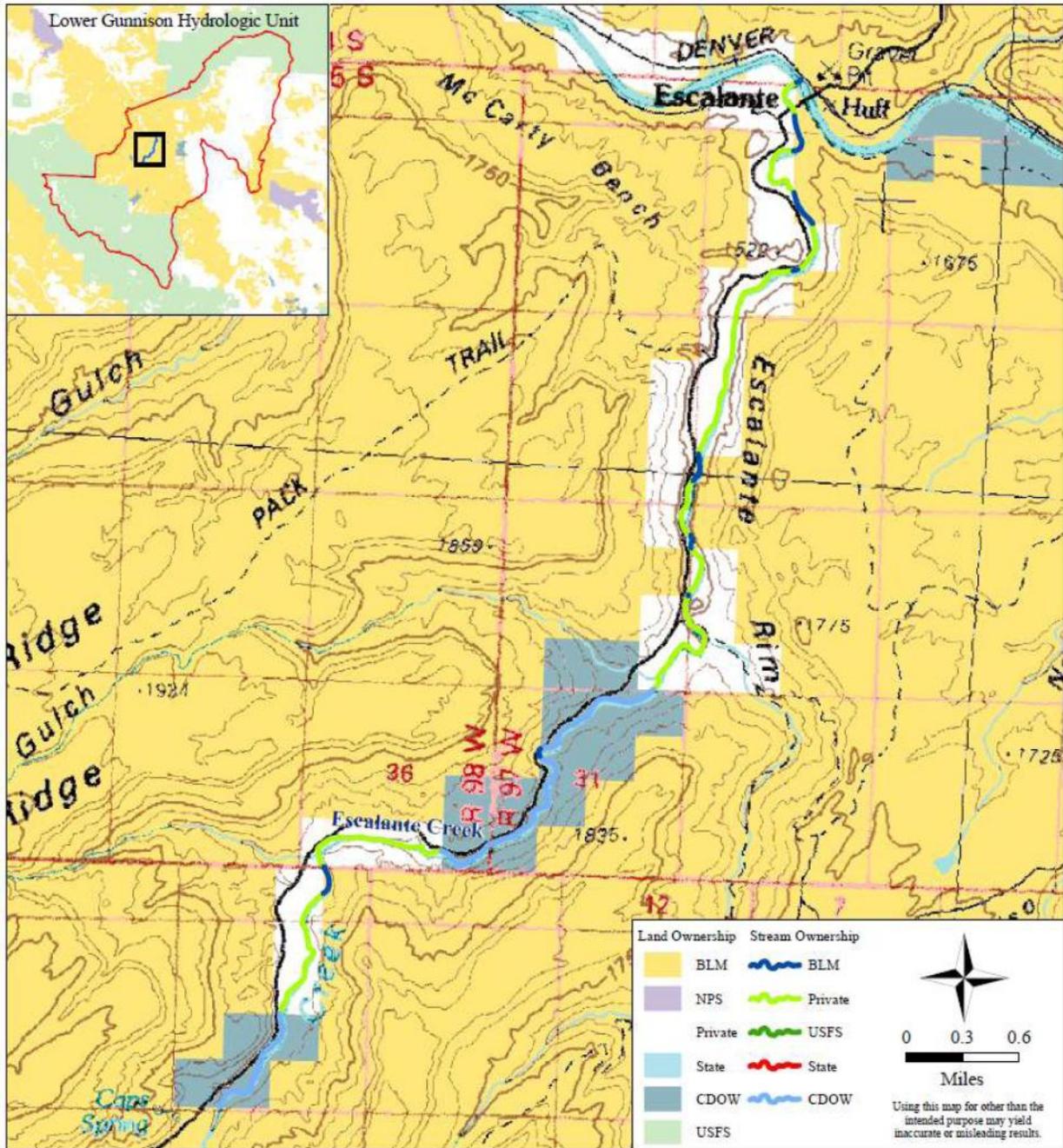
This segment is included in the CNHP-designated Escalante Creek Potential Conservation Area. The BLM manages the hanging gardens and salt meadow vegetation adjacent to the segment as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). In addition, the Colorado Natural Areas Program recognizes this as a State Natural Area.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road runs parallel to Escalante Creek for much of this reach, but is primarily well above the stream along a bench, and therefore not visible from the stream channel. The road crosses Escalante Creek near the upper terminus. Extensive recreational activity occurs in the Potholes area along this segment. There are water diversions as well, but no impoundments.

Escalante Creek

From the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report Segment 2



Total Segment Length: 8.48 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 0.90 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation

Escalante Creek

From the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report Segment 2

Description: Escalante Creek is a major perennial tributary of the Gunnison River, draining from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. High flows typically occur during spring snowmelt, as well as from runoff generated by occasional summer thunderstorm activity. This segment is located within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. The upper terminus is the boundary between BLM and State managed lands, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Escalante Creek and the Gunnison River.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 45' 32.20" N; Longitude: 108° 15' 32.56" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 40' 42.47" N; Longitude: 108° 18' 44.70" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	USFS	State	Private	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
0.90		2.51	5.07	8.48	10.6%

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	USFS	State	Private	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
987.6		550.3	1,001.8	2,539.7	38.9%

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation

- 1) **Fish** - Escalante Creek is regionally important habitat for resident populations of native bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*) and flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), as well as serving as a spawning site for Gunnison River populations of both these BLM and Colorado sensitive species.
- 2) **Wildlife** - This section of Escalante Creek is regionally important habitat for desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*), primarily due to the presence of a water source. River otters (*Lontra canadensis*), a BLM sensitive and Colorado endangered species, also occupy the creek.

Escalante Canyon provides exceptionally high quality habitat for peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), and is considered a regionally important area for this BLM sensitive species. In 1999, the peregrine was delisted from threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. The BLM monitors the status of peregrine populations to ensure continued recovery of the species. Peregrine falcons are closely associated with steep-walled canyons and often nest near perennial water sources that support prey populations such as waterfowl, songbirds, and shorebirds. Peregrine falcon pairs were observed in Escalante Canyon as recently as 2008 and 2009, and breeding/nesting activity has been confirmed along this segment.

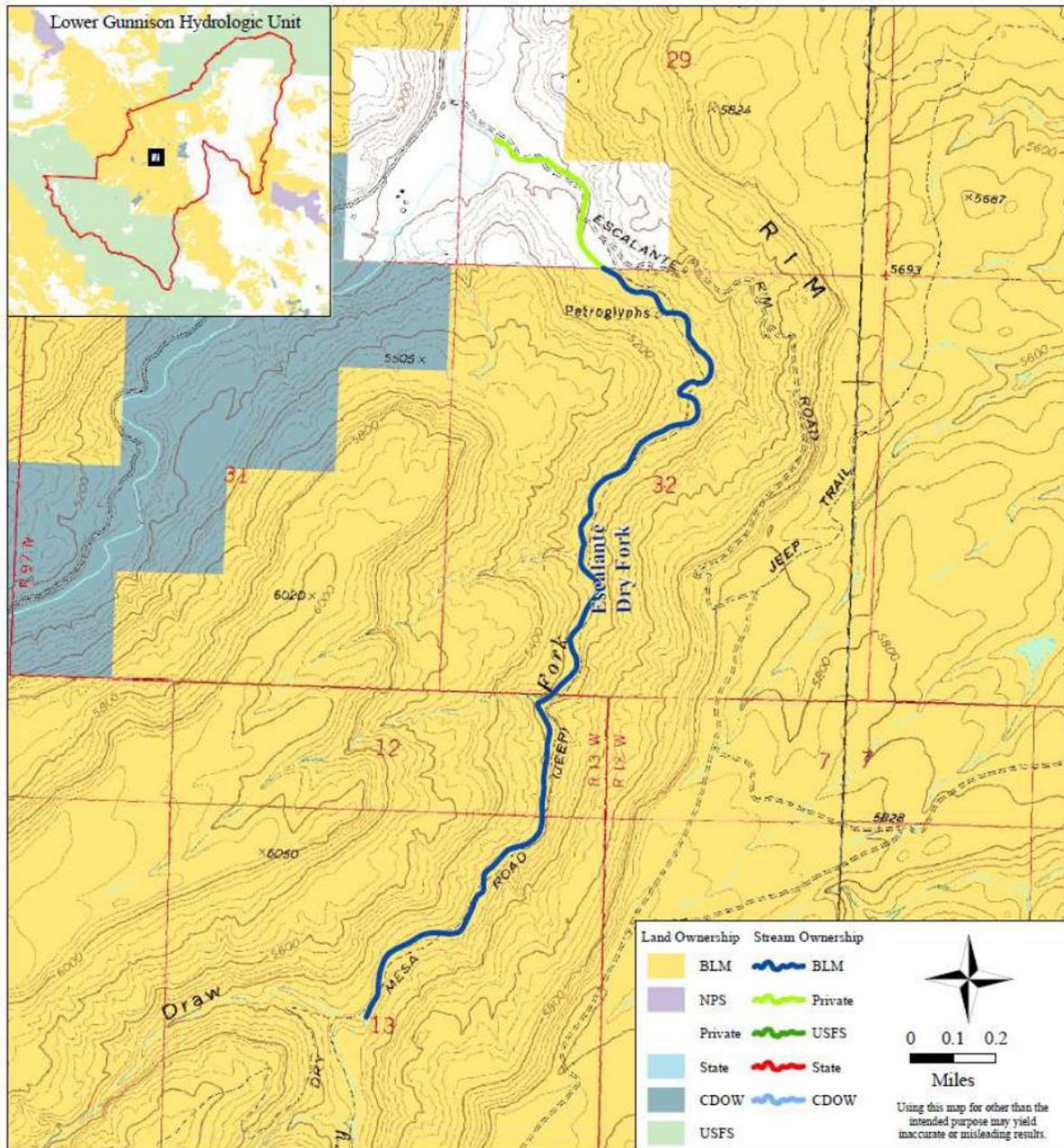
- 3) Vegetation - This segment contains an occurrence of Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian forest (*Populus deltoides* ssp. *wislizenii*/*Rhus trilobata*), which is classified as globally imperiled (G2). A portion of this segment is included in the CNHP-designated Escalante Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road runs along portions of this stream segment and crosses Escalante Creek via a bridge near the mouth. A low water ford across Escalante Creek provides road access to the Dry Fork Escalante Creek area. There are several water diversions along this reach, primarily for irrigating agricultural lands along the river corridor.

Dry Fork Escalante Creek

From the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report



Total Segment Length: 2.89 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 2.43 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

Dry Fork Escalante Creek

From the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report

Description: The Dry Fork of Escalante Creek is an intermittent-flowing tributary of Escalante Creek, draining from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. High flows in this stream typically occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by occasional summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus of this segment is the confluence of Dry Fork and Tatum Draw, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Dry Fork with Escalante Creek. This creek segment lies entirely within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 42' 57.59" N; Longitude: 108° 15' 59.61" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 41' 10.08" N; Longitude: 108° 16' 14.85" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

<i>BLM</i>	<i>USFS</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Private</i>	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
2.43			0.46	2.89	84.1%

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

<i>BLM</i>	<i>USFS</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Private</i>	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
766.4			96.1	862.5	88.9%

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

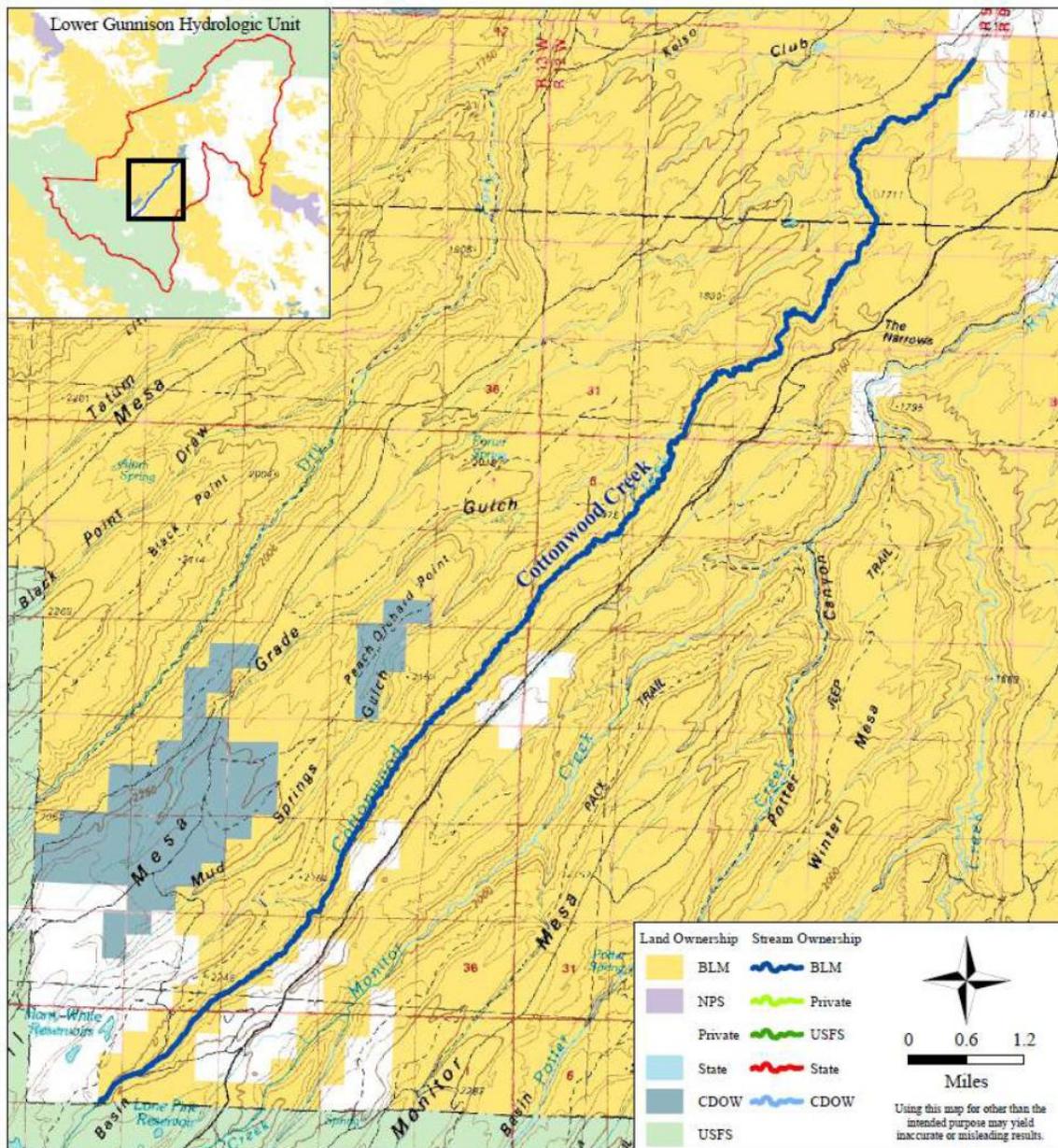
- 1) Vegetation - This segment contains an area of Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian forest (*Populus deltoides* ssp. *wislizenii*/*Rhus trilobata*), classified as globally imperiled (G2). Part of this segment is included in the CNHP-designated Escalante Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - A heavily used unsurfaced road follows and crosses the Dry Fork stream channel. In addition, several fences cross the channel to delineate livestock grazing pastures. The Colorado Decision Support System water rights database shows no water diversions or impoundments along this reach.

Cottonwood Creek

From the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report



Total Segment Length: 18.27 miles
BLM-administered Portion: 18.27 miles
Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison
Preliminary Classification: Scenic
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

Cottonwood Creek

From the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report

Description: Cottonwood Creek is a tributary of Roubideau Creek that drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. This segment is located within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. Its upper terminus is the BLM boundary with the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is at the lower extent of BLM-managed lands, approximately 2.5 miles above the Roubideau Creek confluence. The flow regime of Cottonwood Creek is typically perennial in average to above average water years, but can become intermittent in lower reaches during dry years. High flows occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity, especially in the lower reaches.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 41' 36.07" N; Longitude: 108° 10' 47.74" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 31' 57.44" N; Longitude: 108° 20' 21.17" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	USFS	State	Private	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
18.27				18.27	100%

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres):

BLM	USFS	State	Private	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
4,725.9	22.3		277.6	5,025.8	94.5%

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 1) Vegetation - The entire length of this segment supports a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of globally vulnerable (G3) narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland (*Populus angustifolia/Rhus trilobata*). The Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) includes this segment within the Cottonwood Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - One unsurfaced road crosses Cottonwood Creek approximately one-half mile downstream of the upper terminus. There are no absolute water right diversions or impoundments along this stretch and little evidence of human activity. The shoreline is primitive.

Errata Sheet for the Grand Junction Field Office Eligibility Report

Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report for Grand Junction Field Office, Colorado Errata Sheet (Change)

The *Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report* for the Bureau of Land Management's Grand Junction Field Office was completed in March 2009, and the *Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report* for the Bureau of Land Management's Uncompahgre Field Office was completed in June 2010. The reports document the WSR authorities, study process, and subsequent findings of the eligibility analysis. After the Reports were published, inconsistencies were identified, which need to be clarified to ensure consistency in the two Reports along streams that cross the administrative boundary between the offices. This document provides that clarification, in the form of errata discussions. The entire Eligibility Reports are on the Grand Junction and Uncompahgre Field Offices websites at:

http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp/Wild_Scenic_River.html for the Grand Junction office and at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/wild_and_scenic_river.html for the Uncompahgre office.

Background:

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542) directs federal agencies to consider potential wild and scenic rivers during their planning processes. In the BLM's case, the Wild and Scenic Rivers (W&SR) eligibility studies analyze river and stream segments on BLM-administered public lands that might be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). Eligibility determinations are not made on portions of rivers or streams on State or private lands. The Eligibility Reports were prepared as part of revising the Grand Junction and Uncompahgre resource management plans (RMPs).

The initial step in determining eligibility was to generate an inventory of all rivers and streams within the evaluation area. Every known river with a perennial or intermittent flow regime was identified, using a variety of Bureau of Land Management and other data sources. Some waterways were further segmented based upon differences in level of development, physiographic character, land status, or the existence of in-channel diversions or dams.

The river segments were then evaluated to determine whether they meet the dual criteria of being free-flowing and possessing one or more outstandingly remarkable values, as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Eligible river segments were preliminarily classified as wild, scenic, or recreational, based on water quality and level of human development along the river corridor.

The Grand Junction and Uncompahgre field office's *Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Report* will be used during the WSR suitability study as part of the Resource Management Plan revisions for both field offices, to determine whether eligible segments are suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. The changes described below have no effect on current management.

Change #1:

Page 4-20: Gunnison River, Segment 1

In the final eligibility report there is no cultural outstandingly remarkable value (ORV).

The full IDT comprised of specialists from both offices reviewed and agreed that the report should include a cultural ORV that reads:

Cultural

*This segment of the Gunnison River flows through canyon country that has been inhabited by prehistoric and historic cultures for over 10,000 years. Over 300 Native American sites have been recorded in the vicinity, ranging from Paleo-Indian sites to Archaic hunting and occupational camps to late Historic Period Ute villages. Rock art sites along the segment are of extremely high quality and significance. These sites qualify for nomination to the NRHP under **Criterion C**: Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possesses high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction and **Criterion D**: Yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.*

Change #2:

Page 4-20: Gunnison River, Segment 1

In the final eligibility report there is no vegetation outstandingly remarkable value (ORV).

The full IDT comprised of specialists from both offices reviewed and agreed that the report should include a vegetation ORV that reads:

Vegetation

*This segment contains a large area of Fremont Cottonwood/skunkbrush sumac riparian woodland (*Populus deltoids*/*Rhus trilobata*), which is classified as globally imperiled (G2).*

Errata Sheet for the Uncompahgre Field Office Eligibility Report

Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report for Uncompahgre Field Office, Colorado Errata Sheet (Change)

The *Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report* for the Bureau of Land Management's Uncompahgre Field Office was completed in June 2010, and the *Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report* for the Bureau of Land Management's Grand Junction Field Office was completed in March 2009. The reports document the WSR authorities, study process, and subsequent findings of the eligibility analysis. After the Reports were published, inconsistencies were identified, which need to be clarified to ensure consistency in the two Reports along streams that cross the administrative boundary between the offices. This document provides that clarification, in the form of errata discussions. The entire Eligibility Reports are on the Grand Junction and Uncompahgre Field Offices websites at: http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/wild_and_scenic_river.html for the Uncompahgre office and at http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/gjfo/rmp/Wild_Scenic_River.html for the Grand Junction office.

Background:

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542) directs federal agencies to consider potential wild and scenic rivers during their planning processes. In the BLM's case, the Wild and Scenic Rivers (W&SR) eligibility studies analyze river and stream segments on BLM-administered public lands that might be eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). Eligibility determinations are not made on portions of rivers or streams on State or private lands. The Eligibility Reports were prepared as part of revising the Uncompahgre and Grand Junction resource management plans (RMPs).

The initial step in determining eligibility was to generate an inventory of all rivers and streams within the evaluation area. Every known river with a perennial or intermittent flow regime was identified, using a variety of Bureau of Land Management and other data sources. Some waterways were further segmented based upon differences in level of development, physiographic character, land status, or the existence of in-channel diversions or dams.

The river segments were then evaluated to determine whether they meet the dual criteria of being free-flowing and possessing one or more outstandingly remarkable values, as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Eligible river segments were preliminarily classified as wild, scenic, or recreational, based on water quality and level of human development along the river corridor.

The Uncompahgre and Grand Junction field office's *Final Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Report* will be used during the WSR suitability study as part of the Resource Management Plan revisions for both field offices, to determine whether eligible segments are suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS. The changes described below have no effect on current management.

Change #1:

Page 37: Gunnison River

In the final eligibility report there is no historical outstandingly remarkable value (ORV).

The full IDT comprised of specialists from both offices reviewed and agreed that the report should include a historical ORV that reads:

The section of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad (now part of the Union Pacific) running next to the Gunnison River was the first line connecting Denver and Grand Junction, reaching the Grand Valley in 1882. This line was soon connected to Salt Lake City forming a narrow gauge transcontinental railroad link. The line was eventually replaced by the standard gauge track and remains in use through modern day. The importance of the railroad to developing the west make this site eligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Change #2

Page 44: Rose Creek

In the final eligibility report the Rose Creek segment stopped at the field office boundary and did not include the short segment (0.2 miles) of Rose Creek within the Grand Junction Field Office.

The full IDT comprised of specialists from both offices reviewed and agreed that the report should include the short segment within the Grand Junction Field Office. The scenic ORV should be applied to the 0.2 mile segment. The total length of the Rose Creek segment should be 4.1 miles; the total BLM acres should be 1,330.9; and the total acres should be 1,371.3.