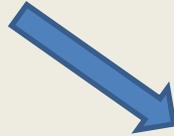


# Wild & Scenic River

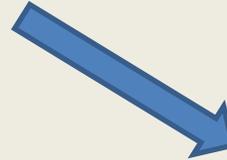
1. Review Wild and Scenic Process
2. Review Eligibility
3. Overview of Suitability Criteria
4. Gunnison River Stakeholder and Environmental Community recommendations

# Wild & Scenic Rivers

**Eligibility**



**Suitability and Recommendation**



**Designation**

Only Congress can  
designate a  
Wild and Scenic River





# Eligibility Review

Stream segment must:

1. Be “free-flowing”
2. Have at least one “outstandingly remarkable value” (ORV)

## **Tentative Classification:**

Level of Development along stream segment

### **Wild –**

watersheds and shorelines essentially primitive

### **Scenic –**

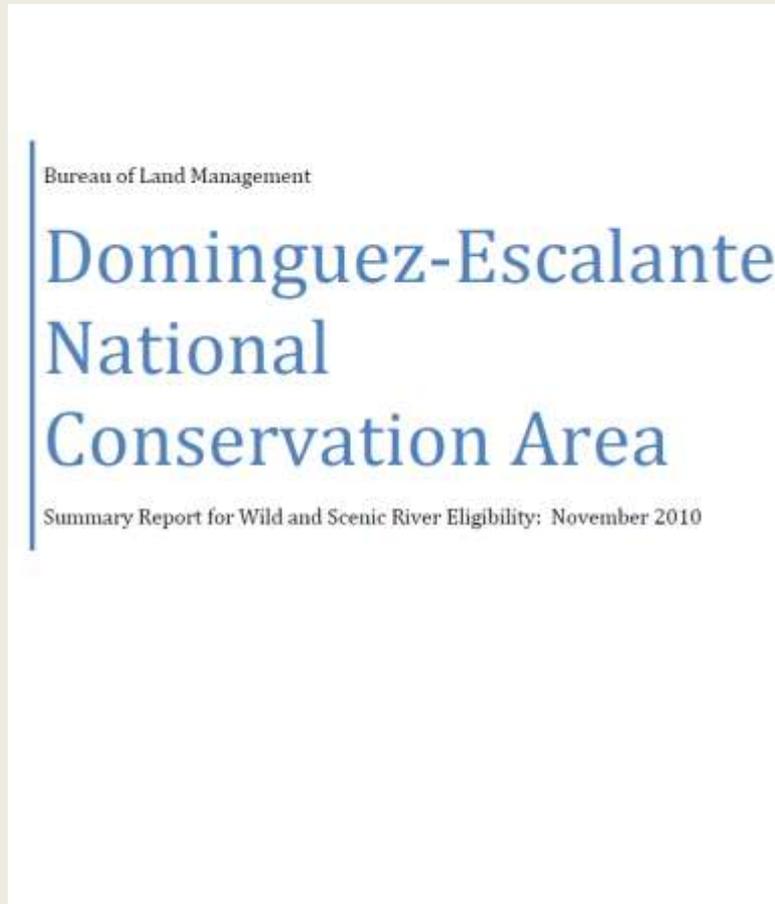
watersheds and shorelines largely undeveloped

### **Recreational –**

may have some development

# Wild & Scenic River Study Process

## Eligibility Report is Complete:



Combined the Eligibility finding from the Uncomphagre Field Office and Grand Junction Field Office reports

11 segments on 7 streams found eligible

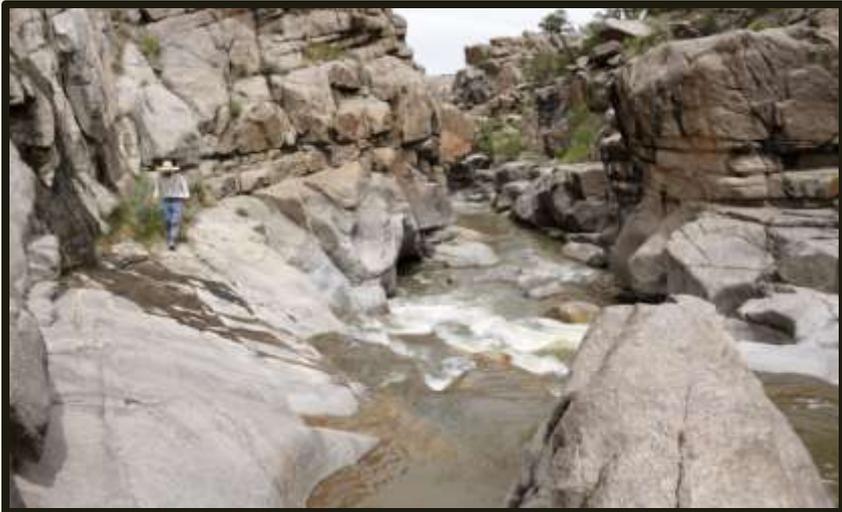
New information on vegetation ranking changes some ORVs

Errata (change) sheet will address the impact to eligibility findings



# Wild & Scenic River Study Process

**Suitability** = determining which eligible rivers/streams are suitable or not suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS)



## Suitability Questions:

1. Should the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs be protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
2. Will the river's free-flowing character water quality, and ORVs be protected through designation? Is it the best method for protecting the river corridor?
3. Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any nonfederal entities who may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

# Wild & Scenic River Study Process

**Q. What factors are considered in the suitability evaluation and determination process?**

**A.** As provided in Sections 4(a) and 5(c) of the Act, the following factors should be considered and, as appropriate, documented as a basis for the suitability determination for each river.

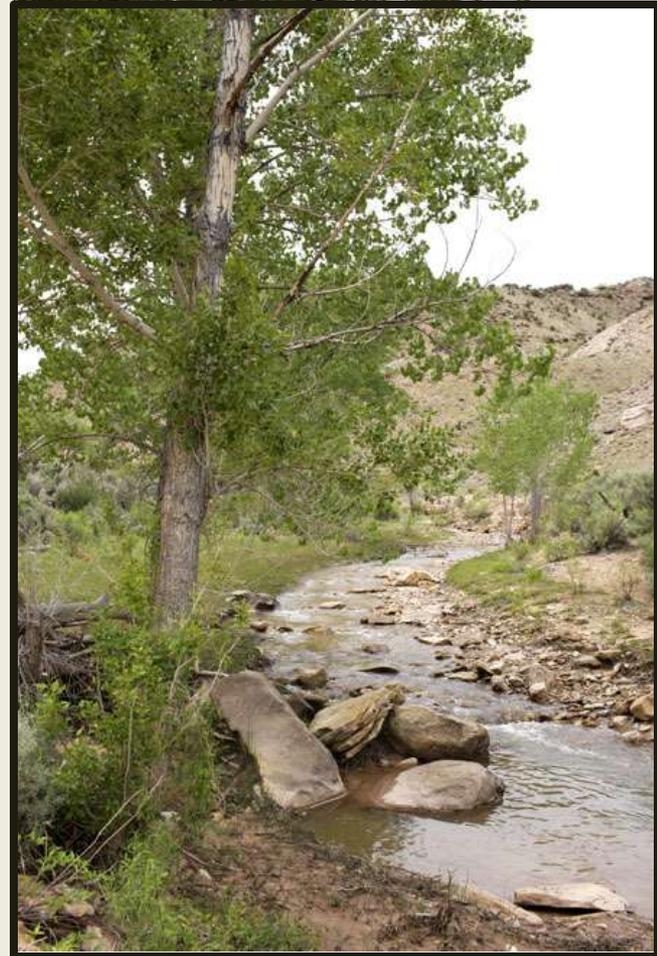
- 1) Characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the National System. These characteristics are described in the Act (see factors 2 through 7) and may include additional suitability factors (8 through 13).
- 2) The current status of land ownership and use in the area.
- 3) The reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and water that would be enhanced, foreclosed or curtailed if the area were included in the National System.
- 4) The federal agency that will administer the area should it be added to the National System.
- 5) The extent to which the agency proposes that administration of the river, including the costs thereof, be shared by state and local agencies.
- 6) The estimated cost to the United States of acquiring necessary lands and interests in lands and of administering the area should it be added to the National System.
- 7) A determination of the degree to which the state or its political subdivisions might participate in the preservation and administration of the river should it be proposed for inclusion in the National System.

Additional suitability factors may also be considered by the interdisciplinary team. The following is not all inclusive; other factors may be developed for a particular river study. Possible considerations include:



# Wild & Scenic River Study Process

- 8) An evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's ORVs by preventing incompatible development. This evaluation may result in a formal finding that the local zoning fulfills Section 6(c)'s requirements, which in turn preempts the federal government's ability to acquire land through eminent domain if the river is designated.
- 9) The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the ORVs on non-federal lands. This factor requires an evaluation of the river protection mechanisms available through the authority of state and local governments. Such mechanisms may include, for example, statewide programs related to population growth management, vegetation management, water quantity or quality, or protection of river-related values such as open space and historic areas.
- 10) Support or opposition to designation. Assessment of this factor will define the political context. The interest in designation or non-designation by federal, state, local and tribal governments and national and local publics should be considered, as well as the state's political delegation.
- 11) The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives. Designation may help or impede the "goals" of other tribal, federal, state or local agencies. For example, designation of a river may contribute to state or regional protection objectives for fish and wildlife resources. Similarly, adding a river which includes a limited recreation activity or setting to the National System may help meet statewide recreation goals. Designation might, however, limit irrigation and/or flood control measures in a manner inconsistent with regional socioeconomic goals.
- 12) The contribution to river system or basin integrity. This factor reflects the benefits of a "systems" approach, i.e., expanding the designated portion of a river in the National System or developing a legislative proposal for an entire river system (headwaters to mouth) or watershed. Numerous benefits are likely to result from managing an entire river or watershed, including the ability to design a holistic protection strategy in partnership with other agencies and the public.
- 13) The potential for water resources development. The intent of the Act is to preserve selected rivers from the harmful effects of water resources projects. Designation will limit development of water resources projects as diverse as irrigation and flood control measures, hydropower facilities, dredging, diversion and channelization.



# Wild & Scenic River Study Process

## Recommendation

The decision whether or not to recommend designation of a study river is made through the RMP.



# Wild & Scenic River Process

## Deferral of a suitability determination

- Requires management actions in the RMP to protect free-flowing nature and ORVs identified in the Eligibility Report
- Example: Upper Colorado River



# Wild & Scenic River Study Process

## Gunnison Basin Stakeholder Group/Environmental Community Recommendations

W&SR Segment	ORVs	Length on BLM	Total Segment Length	Finding by Gunnison River Basin Stakeholder Group	Finding by Environmental Coalition
Big Dominguez Creek, Segment 1	Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Geological, Cultural	15.86 miles	15.86 miles	Not suitable	Not suitable
Big Dominguez Creek, Segment 2	Scenic, Geological, Wildlife, Cultural	0.78 miles	0.78 miles	Not suitable	Not suitable
Little Dominguez Creek, Segment 1	Scenic, Geological, Wildlife, Cultural	13.14 miles	13.14 miles	Not suitable	Not suitable
Little Dominguez Creek, Segment 2	Scenic, Geological, Wildlife, Cultural	2.45 miles	2.45 miles	Not suitable	Not suitable
Rose Creek	Scenic	4.1 miles	4.1 miles	Not suitable	Suitable, recommend designation to Congress
Escalante Creek Segment 1	Scenic, Recreational, Geological, Wildlife, Vegetation	5.75 miles	8.45 miles	Not suitable	Suitable, do not recommend designation to Congress
Escalante Creek Segment 2	Fish, Wildlife	0.90 miles	8.48 miles	Not suitable	Not suitable
Dry Fork Escalante Creek	None, dropped from eligibility	2.89 miles	2.43 miles	Not considered	Suitable (federally-owned portion only), recommend designation to Congress
Cottonwood Creek	Vegetation	18.27 miles	18.27 miles	Not suitable	Suitable, recommend designation to Congress
Gunnison River Segment 3	Recreational, Fish, Cultural, Historical	14.02 miles	17.48 miles	Not suitable	Suitable, do not recommend designation to Congress
Gunnison River Segment 1	Recreational, Fish, Historical, Cultural	13.45 miles	15.73 miles	Not suitable	Not suitable

\* Segment miles based on GJFO and UFO Eligibility Reports

# **Wild & Scenic River**

**Questions?**