

Amendment to the Grand Junction Field Office

Wild and Scenic River Report

Basis for the Amendment

The basis for the amendment is to update the Little Dolores River segment length and Dolores River description and justification of outstandingly remarkable values. New information is available to the BLM regarding those river segments.

Per the WSR Act, an eligible segment must be free flowing and possess one or more ORV(s). River values are evaluated within a region of comparison and are identified as outstandingly remarkable if the value is significant on a regional or national scale. Eligibility decisions are based solely off the values of a river. Managerial constraints and other factors are considered during the suitability determination stage of the process. If a river segment is determined eligible, it is then assigned a tentative classification (wild, scenic, recreational) based on the level of human development in the river corridor.

Little Dolores River

Update Rationale

The Little Dolores eligible segment length has been adjusted from 10.46 miles to 1.1 miles. The land status update and revised finding of eligibility is based on a land status adjustment due to a completed boundary assessment by Colorado State Office Cadastral Survey. The boundary adjustment resulted in major fragmentation along that stream corridor. Several of the smaller segments were removed due to absence in the Outstandingly Remarkable Values originally identified on the longer segments. Accordingly, the Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report is being amended to exclude several river miles and is illustrated in the attached map.

Location/Description: BLM sections of the Little Dolores River from the potholes to the Utah border just south of the McInnis Canyons NCA.

Total Segment Length: 20.03 miles

Updated Segment Length on BLM Land: 1.1 miles

Description and Justification of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Cultural

The Little Dolores River contains a high concentration of Native American sites from the formative period of cultures in this region. Research from these sites has led to discoveries about the development of agriculture in the area.

Scientific

This segment of the Little Dolores River has outstanding scientific value. Sedimentation cores have been used for paleo-environmental studies that examined charcoal and evidence of snails to make inferences about climate.

Tentative Classification and Level of Human Activity:

This segment is tentatively classified as scenic due to limited access via a dirt road along this segment.

Dolores River

Update Rationale

Colorado Division of Wildlife has provided us with additional data that indicates that Dolores River supports a native fish population that meets the guidelines for evaluating ORVs as described in BLM Manual 8351. As described below. Accordingly, the Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report is being amended to add "Fish" as an outstandingly remarkable value.

Fish - Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat, or a combination of these river related conditions:

- a. Populations. The river is nationally or regionally one of the top producers of resident, indigenous, and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance may be the presence of wild or unique stocks, or populations of State or federally listed threatened and endangered species.
- b. Habitat. The river provides exceptionally high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region. Of particular significance is habitat for State or federally listed threatened and endangered species.

Region of Comparison: Fish values in a segment were compared within the entire range of that species, especially threatened, endangered, and sensitive species. The range of some of the species evaluated extends outside of the Colorado Plateau and Southern Rockies ecoregions.

Location/Description: Sections of the Dolores River on BLM land from where the river enters the planning area at the southwest border of the field office and then running parallel to Highway 141, through Gateway, until the river reaches the Colorado/Utah border.

Total Segment Length: 32.01 miles

Segment Length on BLM Land: 18.62 miles

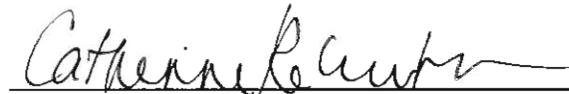
Description and Justification of Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

Fish:

This segment of the Dolores river supports a robust native fish population that includes flannelmouth suckers, bluehead suckers, and roundtail chubs. Roundtail chub are a state species of special concern and all three fish are BLM Sensitive species. This segment of the Dolores was also historically occupied habitat for the endangered Colorado pikeminnow and has supported this fish as recently as 1991 between the state line and the confluence with the Colorado River. A 1992 Biowest study commissioned by the USFWS identified suitable habitat for Colorado pikeminnow throughout the Dolores below the San Miguel.

Tentative Classification and Level of Human Activity:

The tentative classification of this segment is recreational. Highway 141 parallels the river and is fairly obvious along long stretches of the river corridor.

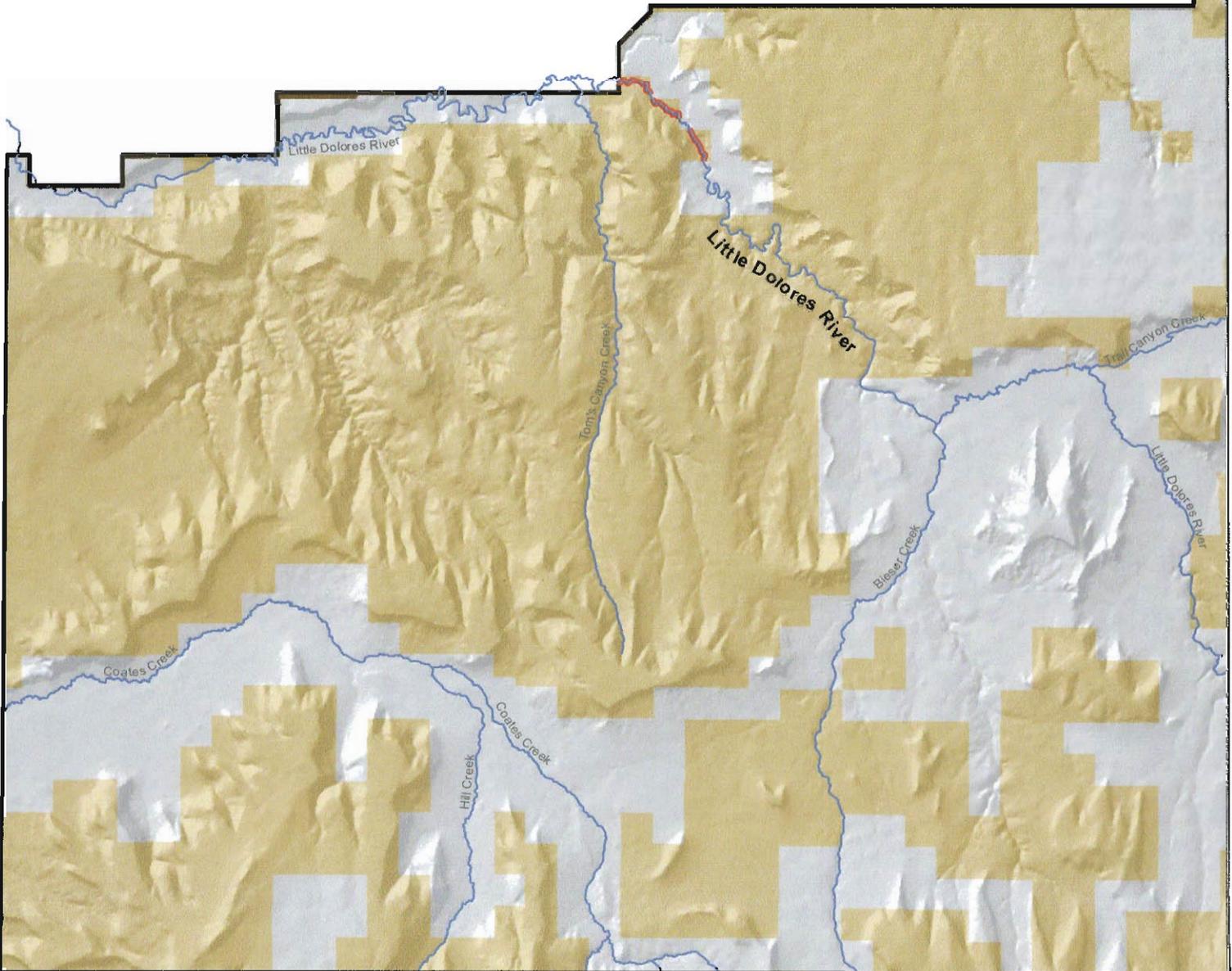
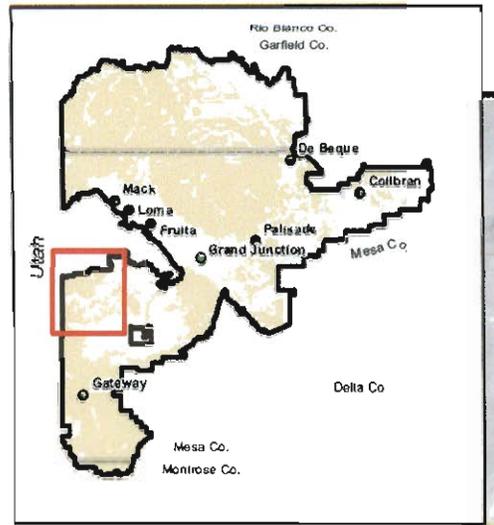


Catherine Robertson

Field Office Manager

_____ March 23, 2010

Date



 BLM Eligible Segments

 Inventoried Rivers



GJFO Planning Area



County Boundary



BLM



Private Lands



Miles

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This project was developed through digital means and may be updated without notice.



