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Uncompahgre Field Office
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Draft

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY REPORT

for the BLM

Uncompahgre Planning Area

DRAFT WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY REPORT

FOR THE

BLM UNCOMPAHGRE PLANNING AREA



**PREPARED BY:
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD OFFICE, COLORADO
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To have some parts flowing free again...

With deer grazing on its banks...

*Ducks and geese raising their young
in the backwaters...*

Eddies and twists and turns for canoeists...

*And fishing opportunities such as Lewis
and Clark enjoyed...*

*Would be the finest possible tribute
to the men of the Expedition,
and a priceless gift for our children.*

~ Stephen Ambrose, Undaunted Courage ~

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

| ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION | COMPLETE PHRASE |
|-------------------------|--|
| ACEC | Area of Critical Environmental Concern |
| BLM | Bureau of Land Management |
| cfs | cubic feet per second (water flow measurement) |
| CNHP | Colorado Natural Heritage Program |
| EIS | Environmental Impact Statement |
| EPA | Environmental Protection Agency |
| FWS | Fish and Wildlife Service |
| NCA | National Conservation Area |
| NF | National Forest |
| NRHP | National Register of Historic Places |
| NWSRS | National Wild and Scenic River System |
| ORVs | Outstandingly Remarkable Values |
| PM | Prime Meridian |
| RMP | Resource Management Plan |
| UFO | Uncompahgre Field Office |
| USFS | United States Forest Service |
| VRM | Visual Resource Management |
| WSA | Wilderness Study Area |
| WSR | Wild and Scenic Rivers |
| WSRA | Wild and Scenic Rivers Act |



Executive Summary



INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Land Management Uncompahgre Field Office is conducting an inventory and analysis of rivers and streams in the Uncompahgre planning area, as well as the portion of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area within the field office, to determine their eligibility and suitability for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The evaluation is a required component of preparing the Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan (RMP). This draft report details the completed river inventory and draft eligibility determinations.

DETERMINATION OF WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY

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 on 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.

DRAFT ELIGIBILITY RESULTS

During the inventory phase, 174 river segments were identified for review. After evaluating these river segments, 23 rivers separated into 34 segments, were determined to be free-flowing and possessed one or more outstandingly remarkable values necessary for Wild and Scenic Rivers eligibility. In addition, the San Juan Public Lands Draft Land Management Plan identifies a segment of the Dolores River as eligible. The northernmost 11.8-mile downstream portion of this segment is managed by the Uncompahgre Field Office and will be evaluated by the field office during the suitability phase, resulting in a total of 35 eligible river segments.

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 Uncompahgre RMP and associated Environmental Impact Statement. A final determination of suitability will be issued in the RMP Record of Decision.



CHAPTER 1

Introduction



This draft Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) eligibility report details the results of an evaluation of waters within the Uncompahgre planning area and portions of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area (NCA) for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (NWSRS). Segments identified as **eligible** in the final report will be further evaluated for **suitability** during preparation of the Uncompahgre RMP.

A team of resource specialists from the Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) identified potential river and stream segments on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Using a standardized set of criteria, the team evaluated each segment to determine whether or not it was (1) free-flowing and (2) possessed any of several **outstandingly remarkable values** (ORVs) required for eligibility. Eligible segments were then assigned a preliminary classification of **wild**, **scenic**, or **recreational**, as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA).

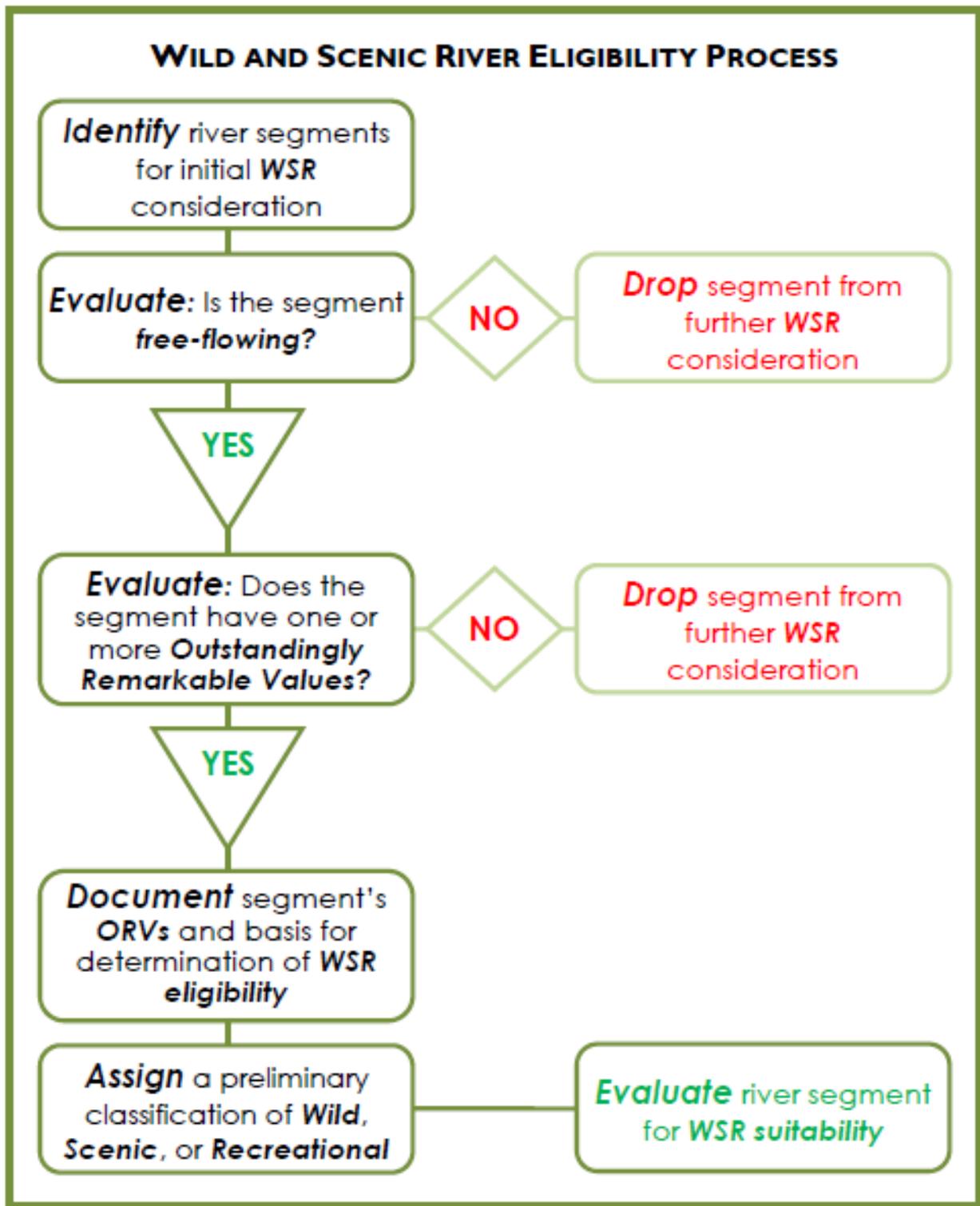
1.1 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS ACT

Congress enacted the WSRA (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq.) on October 2, 1968 to address the need for a national system of river protection. The legislation was the outgrowth of a nationwide conservation movement that took place during the 1950s and 1960s, as well as a response to the numerous diversion projects and dams constructed along American waterways during the 1930s through 1960s. The WSRA stipulates that the free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs of selected waterways should be preserved and protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Since 1968, the WSRA has been amended a number of times, primarily in order to designate additional rivers and to authorize the study of other rivers for possible inclusion.

WSR designation affords certain legal protections from development. For example, the construction of dams or other federally assisted water projects that might negatively affect a designated river's values is not permitted. When private lands are involved, the adjacent federal land management agency works with local governments and property owners to develop protective measures.

As of the 40th anniversary of the WSRA in 2008, some 166 river segments totaling more than 11,000 miles in 38 states and Puerto Rico have been granted protective status through the NWSRS. These nationally recognized waterways make up a little more than one-quarter of one percent of the nation's rivers, and provide a valuable network of natural and cultural resources, scenic beauty, and recreational opportunities.





1.2 WILD AND SCENIC RIVER ELIGIBILITY PROCESS



I.3 RATIONALE FOR EVALUATION OF UNCOMPAGRE RIVERS

Section 5(d)(1) of the WSR requires federal agencies to evaluate potential wild and scenic rivers when preparing land and resource management plans: “In all planning for the use and development of water and related land resources, consideration shall be given by all federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic, and recreational river areas.”

The BLM is revising the RMPs for BLM-administered lands within the Uncompahgre planning area. The Uncompahgre RMP will supersede two existing RMPs under which the UFO has been managed for the past two decades. Neither the 1984 San Juan/San Miguel RMP nor the 1989 Uncompahgre Basin RMP included a WSR evaluation. Public scoping for the Uncompahgre RMP is scheduled to occur during fall 2009. The scoping period will include an opportunity for public review of and comment on this draft eligibility report.

I.4 INVENTORY AND EVALUATION AREA

The UFO manages over 880,000 surface acres of public land in Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties, Colorado. The area inventoried and evaluated for this WSR eligibility report encompasses approximately 787,640 surface acres and associated waters within the UFO boundary. The newly designated Dominguez-Escalante NCA has waters that fall within the UFO boundary, and they were included in this evaluation. However, because the NCA will be managed under a separate RMP, the WSR inventory and evaluation area is referred to as the **WSR evaluation area** in this report.

The WSR evaluation area does not include the Gunnison Gorge NCA, which also operates under a separate RMP. The final Gunnison Gorge NCA RMP includes a WSR finding for its rivers. (See Map I.7 on page 6 for an overview of the area evaluated in this report.)

I.5 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STUDY PROCESS

The study and designation of watercourses under the WSR consists of a multi-step process: **eligibility** → **suitability** → **congressional action**. The eligibility phase of the process is shown in the flowchart on page 2. It begins with the identification of potentially eligible river segments (as described in Chapter 2 on page 7). Stream segments are then evaluated to determine if they meet the criteria set forth in the WSR. They must be free-flowing and possess one or more ORVs (as described in Chapter 3 beginning on page 8).

The river **study area** runs the length of an identified river segment, and includes the river and its immediate environment, as well as a boundary that extends one-quarter mile on either side of the river channel. Segments determined to be eligible are preliminarily classified in one of three categories—**wild**, **scenic**, or **recreational**—based upon water quality and the level of human development along the river corridor. This report details the UFO’s findings, as well as the basis for designating a particular river segment as eligible (as described in Chapter 5 beginning on page 19).

Eligible river segments are then carried forward to a suitability phase (as described in Chapter 6 on page 115). Results of the suitability analysis are included as part of the Draft RMP/Draft



Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Proposed RMP/Final EIS. Final determination of suitability will be documented in the Approved Uncompahgre RMP and Record of Decision. Following completion of the Uncompahgre RMP, the BLM will forward the results of the suitability determination to Congress for consideration. Congress (and sometimes the Secretary of Interior) has the final authority to designate a river segment as part of the NWSRS.

1.6 PROTECTIVE MANAGEMENT

Eligible river segments are afforded interim protection until a suitability analysis is completed and an RMP Record of Decision is issued. These measures are intended to protect the values for which a river was determined eligible, and preserve the integrity of the preliminary classification. Table I-1 below details the interim protection afforded eligible segments during an agency’s planning process.

While congressionally authorized study rivers are protected under the WSRA, agency-identified rivers receive protection through other authorities, including the National Environmental Policy Act, the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Endangered Species Act. For example, potential effects on the free-flowing condition, water quality, and ORVs of eligible river segments must be considered when proposing federal or federally permitted actions subject to the National Environmental Policy Act.

Once a Record of Decision is approved, segments identified as not suitable will revert to management according to the prevailing RMP. Suitable rivers will be managed to maintain their free-flowing character and ORVs in support of the alternative selected in the Final RMP, until released from consideration by Congress.

Table I-1 Interim Protection for Agency-Identified WSR Eligible Streams

| ISSUE | PROTECTION UNDER ELIGIBLE DESIGNATION |
|---|--|
| Study Boundary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum of one-quarter mile from the ordinary high water mark • Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values |
| Preliminary Classification | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild, scenic, and recreational classes as defined by statute • Manage segment at preliminary classification |
| Private Land: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration • Acquisition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affect private land uses through voluntary partnership with state/local governments and landowners • No regulatory authority • No ability to acquire interest in land under the Act’s authority prior to designation |
| Water Resources Project | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River’s free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities |
| Land Disposition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership |
| Mining and Mineral Leasing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect free flow, water quality, and ORVs through other agency authorities |

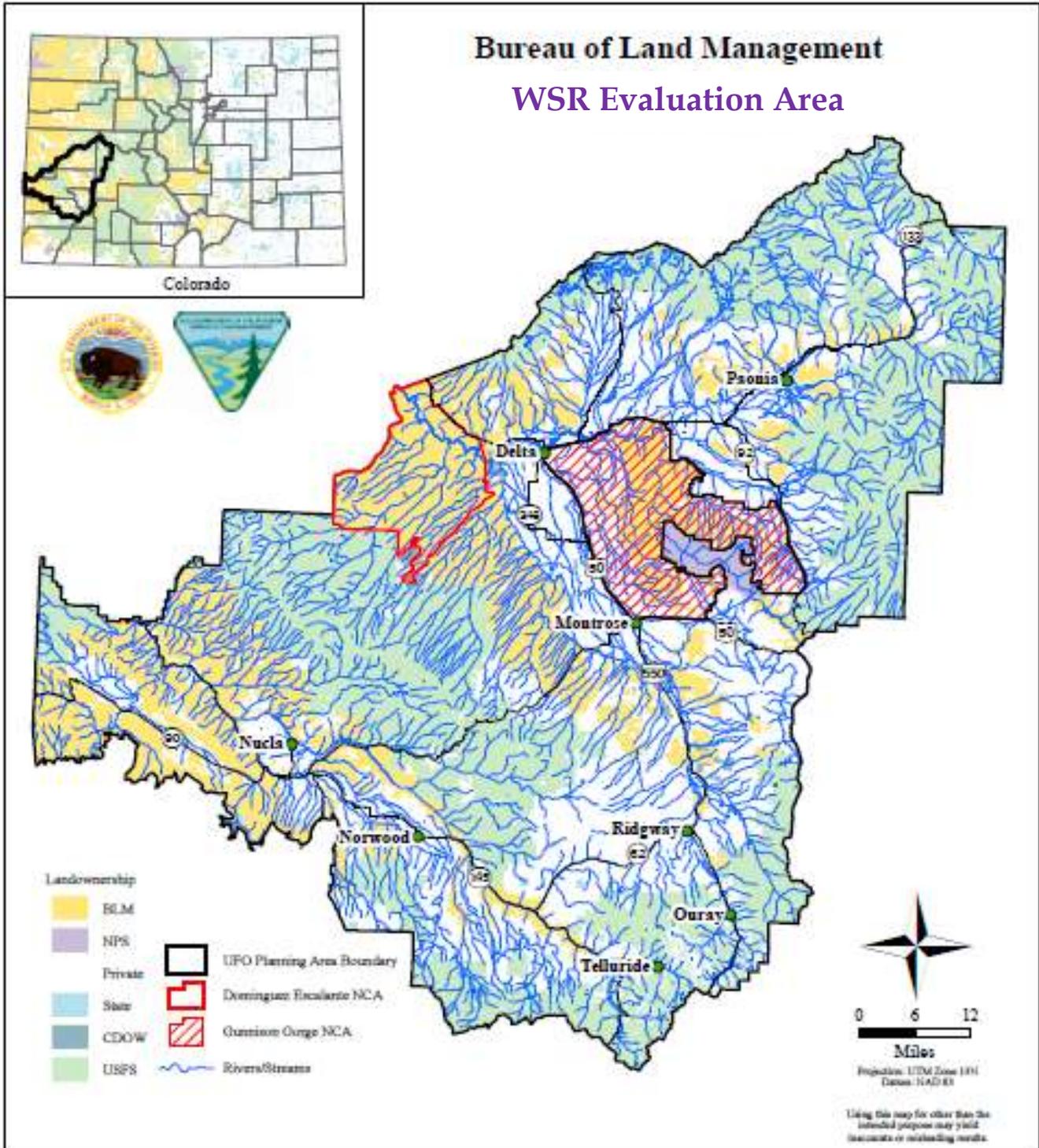


CHAPTER ONE - INTRODUCTION

| ISSUE | PROTECTION UNDER ELIGIBLE DESIGNATION |
|--|--|
| Actions of Other Agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnership |
| Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs) | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No regulatory authority conferred by Act; agency protects through other authorities• Section 11(b)(1): limited financial or other assistance to encourage participation in the acquisition, protection, and management of river resources |

Taken from the Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council, Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Process.





I.7 GENERALIZED DRAINAGE PATTERN IN THE WSR EVALUATION AREA



CHAPTER 2

Inventory of Uncompahgre Rivers



The initial step in the WSR eligibility process is to identify river segments. All rivers and streams with either a perennial or intermittent flow regime located within the WSR evaluation area were considered during the eligibility review. Additionally, some river segments were divided for evaluation purposes due to differences in level of development, physiographic character, land status, or the existence of in-channel diversions or dams.

2.1 FIELD ASSESSMENTS

A team comprised of UFO resource specialists from a variety of disciplines (listed in Chapter 7, Appendix A on page 119) conducted field assessments during the 2006 field season, and compiled a comprehensive list of 174 river and stream segments to be evaluated for potential eligibility. (See the Uncompahgre Rivers Inventory in Chapter 7, Appendix C beginning on page 123.) A detailed description of the methods used for river segment identification can be found in BLM Manual 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers—Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management (BLM Manual 8351).

2.2 DATA ANALYSIS

The interdisciplinary team utilized multiple data sources to delineate segments and boundaries, including:

- United States Geological Survey National Hydrography Datasets
- United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service 4th and 5th-level Hydrologic Units
- Colorado Land Ownership data
- BLM enterprise data
- a Named Streams dataset prepared by resource staff
- UFO river and riparian inventory and monitoring datasets
- the accumulated knowledge of UFO resource specialists regarding field conditions



CHAPTER 3

Eligibility Criteria



Section 16(b) of the WSRA defines a river as “a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.” According to the WSRA, a river segment must be both free-flowing and possess one or more river-related outstandingly remarkable values to be eligible for the NWSRS. Determinations are based exclusively on those portions of a river managed by the UFO, and because such determinations require professional judgment, the collective knowledge and experience of the interdisciplinary team is critical to the success of the eligibility process.

BLM Manual 8351 provides guidance for determining the eligibility of segments identified in the initial inventory and identification phase. Jurisdictional and management constraints will be addressed during the subsequent suitability analysis (described in Chapter 6 on page 115).

3.1 DETERMINATION OF FREE-FLOWING CHARACTER

As defined in the WSRA, a free-flowing water body is characterized as “existing or flowing in natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, rip-rapping, or other modification of the waterway.” The interdisciplinary team applied this definition, as well as guidance contained in BLM Manual 8351, when evaluating a segment’s free-flowing character.

Small dams, diversion works, or other minor structures along a river’s course do not automatically disqualify it from consideration for potential inclusion in the NWSRS. In authorizing the WSRA, Congress did not intend to require rivers to be “naturally flowing”—flowing without any upstream manipulation except by nature. The presence of impoundments above and/or below the segment—including those that regulate the flow regime through the segment, as well as existing minor dams, and diversion structures within the study reach—will not by themselves render a river ineligible. There are many segments in the NWSRS that are downstream from major dams or on reaches between dams.

A river segment need not be “boatable or floatable” in order to be eligible. For purposes of eligibility determination, the volume of flow is sufficient if it is enough to maintain the ORVs identified within the segment. Rivers with intermittent flows exist within the NWSRS, and rivers representative of desert ecosystems that have outstanding ecological or other values should be considered as well (BLM Manual 8351). In addition, there are no specific requirements for segment length. Supplemental guidance provided in BLM Instruction Memorandum 2004-196 states that:



As to the first issue, judgment is required in determining eligibility of water courses that are free-flowing and have associated ORVs. As a general rule, the segment should contain regular and predictable flows (even though intermittent, seasonal, or interrupted). This flow should derive from naturally occurring circumstances, e.g., aquifer recharge, seasonal melting from snow or ice, normal precipitation, in-stream flow from spillways or upstream facilities. Caution is advised in applying the free-flow criterion to water courses that only flow during flash floods or unpredictable events. The segment should not be ephemeral (flow lasting only few days out of a year). Evaluation of flows should focus on normal water years, with consideration of drought or wet years during the inventory.

A river study area extends the length of an identified river segment and includes a river corridor area of no more than 320 acres per mile from the ordinary high-water mark on both sides of the river. During field assessments, the interdisciplinary team outlined a preliminary one-quarter mile corridor boundary on both sides of the active channel of an eligible river segment. When existing data was inconclusive, the team considered the presence of riparian vegetation to be a surrogate indicator of a river's perennial or intermittent free-flowing state.

3.2 OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

While values must be river-related, eligible ORVs may be **scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, cultural, historic, vegetation**, or other similar value (such as **paleontological**). In addition, in order to be considered outstandingly remarkable, a value must be unique, rare, or exemplary, as well as significant within a defined region of comparison.

3.3 REGIONS OF COMPARISON

A **region of comparison** is used to compare the special values for which a river is being considered against comparable elements within a defined geographic area. The area, region, or scale used for comparison is not fixed, and should be that which best serves as a basis for meaningful analysis—it might vary, depending on the value being considered. The scale of a region could consist of a portion of a state or other appropriately scaled geographic area or hydrologic unit (Interagency WSR Coordinating Council, 1999).



The following regions of comparison for each ORV category were developed by UFO resource specialists, and used to evaluate the WSR eligibility of UFO rivers:

1. Scenic

Standard - The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors must result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions within the geographic region. The BLM Visual Resource Inventory Handbook (H8410-1) may be used to assess visual quality and evaluate the extent to which development impacts an area's scenic values. The area must have a **Scenic Quality Classification of A**, as defined in H8410-1. When analyzing scenic values, additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and length of time negative intrusions are viewed may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river segment length and not common to other rivers in the geographic region.

Region of Comparison - The landscape has a **Scenic Quality Classification of A** within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14).

2. Recreational

Standard - Recreational opportunities are or have the potential to be unusual enough to attract visitors to the geographic region. Visitors are willing to travel long distances to use the river resources for recreational purposes. Recreation-related opportunities could include, but are not be limited to, sightseeing, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. Interpretive opportunities may be exceptional and attract or have the potential to attract visitors from outside the geographic area. The river may provide or have the potential to provide settings for national or regional commercial usage or competitive events. In addition, the river may be eligible if it is determined to provide a critically important regional recreation opportunity, or be a significant component of a regional recreation opportunity spectrum setting.

Region of Comparison - The area possesses recreational opportunities popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the state of Colorado, and/or that are unique or rare within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14). Opportunities could include Gold Medal fisheries, rafting, and others.

3. Geologic

Standard - The river or the area within the river corridor contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is rare, unusual, or unique to the geographic region. The feature or features may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a textbook example and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, and other geologic structures).



Region of Comparison - The feature is unique or rare within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14).

4. Fish

Standard - 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 Colorado State and/or federally listed or candidate 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 Colorado State and/or federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.

Region of Comparison - Distribution of native species across their entire range, within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14).

5. Wildlife

Standard - Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of these conditions.

- a) **Populations:** The river or area within the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important populations of resident or indigenous wildlife species dependent on the river environment. Of particular significance may be species considered to be unique or populations of Colorado State and/or federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species.
- b) **Habitat:** The river or area within the river corridor provides exceptionally high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Colorado State and/or federally listed or candidate threatened and endangered species. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.

Region of Comparison - Distribution of native species across their entire range, within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14).

6. Cultural

Standard - The river or area within the river corridor contains one or more sites where there is evidence of occupation or use by Native Americans. Sites must be rare, have unusual characteristics, or exceptional human interest values. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting prehistory, may be rare, may represent an area where



culture or cultural period was first identified and described, may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups, or may have been used by cultural groups for rare, sacred, tribal, or spiritual purposes.

Region of Comparison (RAC) - A site that is on, or could be eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Table 3-1 National Register of Historic Places Evaluation Criteria

| The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and: | |
|--|---|
| CRITERION | DESCRIPTION |
| A | That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history |
| B | That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past |
| C | That embody 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 |
| D | That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory |

7. Historic

Standard - The river or area within the corridor contains one or more sites or features associated with a significant event, person, or cultural activity of the past that was rare, or unusual in the region. Historic and/or Native American sites or features in most cases are 50 years old or older. Sites or features listed in, or eligible for inclusion in, the NRHP may be of particular significance.

Region of Comparison - A site that is unique or rare within the state of Colorado, and is on or could be eligible for the NRHP. See Table 3-1 above.

8. Vegetation

Standard - The river or stream segment supports a riparian vegetation community that is a superior occurrence or is rare on a global basis:

- a) **Superior occurrence:** For this standard, a superior community is defined as having received an **Element Occurrence Ranking of A** by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP). An A-ranking denotes that the community has excellent estimated ecological integrity based on its size, condition, and landscape context.
- b) **Rare on a global basis:** For this standard, rareness is defined as a ranking of **G1 or G2**, as determined by CNHP and described in Table 3-2 on the following page.



Riparian vegetation that is located in a **Potential Conservation Area** (as determined by CNHP) has enhanced value because it has been identified as highly important for conserving regional and global biodiversity.

Region of Comparison - The river or area within the river corridor provides exceptional vegetative species or communities of significance within either the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14). Consideration should be given to habitats and rare plants identified by CNHP as being of global importance (e.g. exceptional riparian areas, hanging gardens).

The element imperilment ranks shown in the table below are assigned in terms of an element's imperilment over its entire range (its Global-rank or G-rank):

Table 3-2 Colorado Natural Heritage Program Element Imperilment Ranks

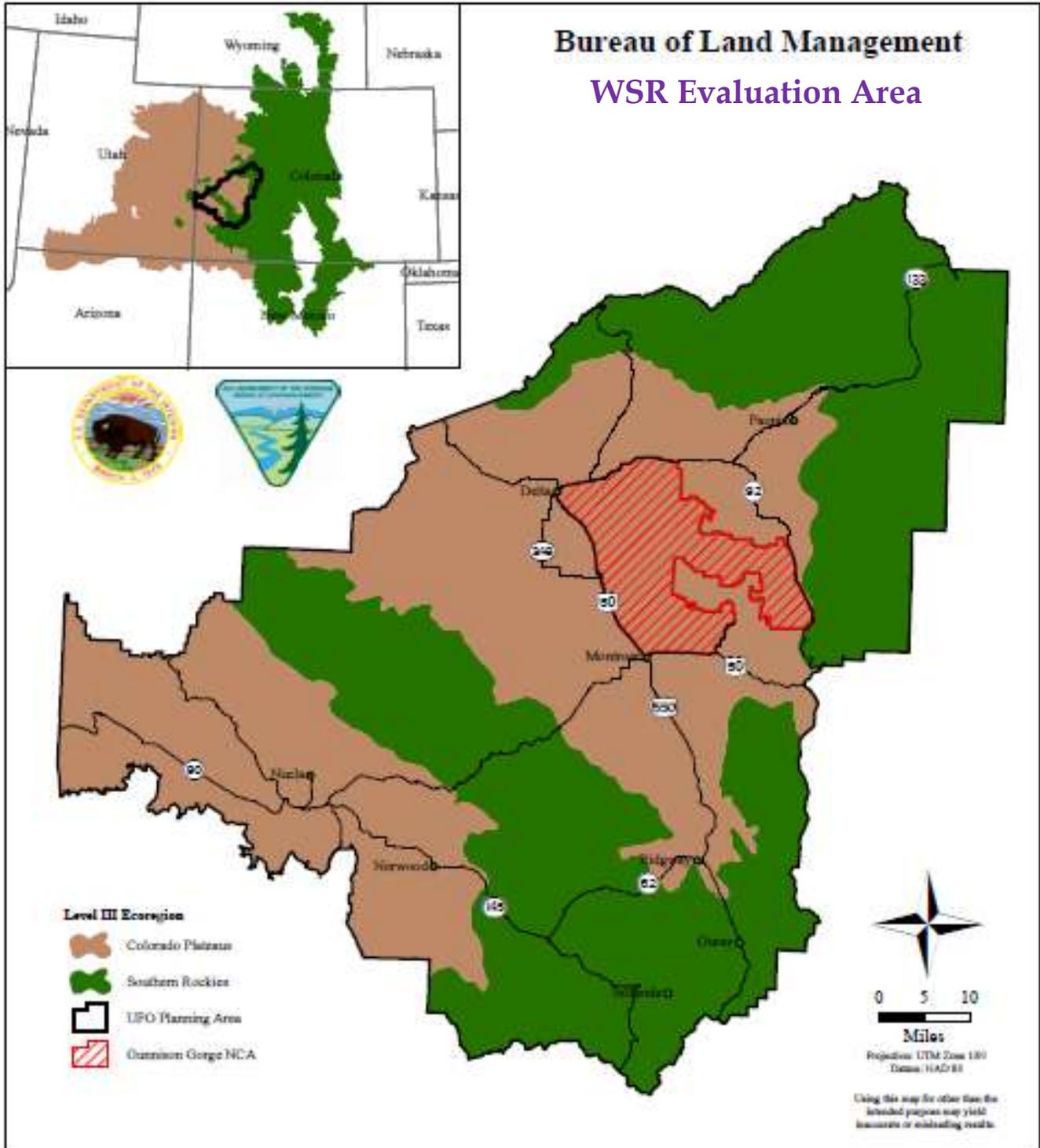
| RANK | DESCRIPTION |
|------|--|
| G1 | Critically imperiled globally because of rarity (5 or fewer occurrences in the world or 1,000 or fewer individuals), or because some factor of its biology makes it especially vulnerable to extinction. |
| G2 | Imperiled globally because of rarity (6 to 20 occurrences or 1,000 to 3,000 individuals), or because other factors demonstrably make it very vulnerable to extinction throughout its range. |
| G3 | Vulnerable through its range or found locally in a restricted range (21 to 100 occurrences or 3,000 to 10,000 individuals). |
| G4 | Apparently secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery. Usually more than 100 occurrences and 10,000 individuals. |
| G5 | Demonstrably secure globally, though it may be quite rare in parts of its range, especially at the periphery. |

9. Other Similar Values

Standard - While no specific evaluation guidelines have been established for the "other similar values" category, additional values deemed relevant to the eligibility of the river segment should be considered in a manner consistent with the foregoing guidance including, but not limited to, paleontologic, and scientific study opportunities.

Region of Comparison - Unique or rare within the Southern Rockies or Colorado Plateau ecologic region (as shown in the Ecoregions Map on page 14). For paleontological resources, these regions would be defined based on geological associations.





3.4 ECOREGIONS WITHIN THE WSR EVALUATION AREA

3.5 WILD, SCENIC AND RECREATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

The interdisciplinary team assigned each eligible river segment a classification of **Wild, Scenic** or **Recreational** based upon water quality, as well as the type and degree of human development and access associated with the river and adjacent lands at the time of the eligibility determination. Classifications assigned during the eligibility phase are preliminary. Final classification is a congressionally legislated determination, along with the designation of a river segment as part of the NWSRS. The criteria for classification used in this evaluation are defined in Section 2(b) of the WSRA and summarized in Table 3-3 below.

Table 3-3 Criteria for Preliminary Classification

| ATTRIBUTE | RIVER CLASSIFICATION | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| | WILD | SCENIC | RECREATION |
| Water Resources Development (impoundments, diversions, etc.) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free of impoundment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free of impoundment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some existing impoundment or diversion • The existence of low dams, diversions, riprap, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance |
| Shoreline Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essentially primitive • Little or no evidence of human activity • The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable • A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable • Little or no evidence of past timber harvest • No ongoing timber harvest | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Largely primitive and undeveloped • No substantial evidence of human activity • The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable • The presence of grazing, hay production or row crops is acceptable • Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some development • Substantial evidence of human activity • The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable • Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses • May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest |



CHAPTER THREE - ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

| ATTRIBUTE | RIVER CLASSIFICATION | | |
|----------------------|--|--|--|
| | WILD | SCENIC | RECREATION |
| Accessibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally inaccessible except by trail • No roads, railroads, or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area • A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the river area is acceptable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessible in places by road • Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river • The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Readily accessible by road or railroad • The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks, as well as bridge crossings and other river access points, including fords, is acceptable |
| Water Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets or exceeds Federal criteria or Federally approved state standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish • Wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming), except where exceeded by natural conditions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No criteria prescribed by the WSR Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the U.S. be made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists or is being developed in compliance with applicable federal and state laws. | |

Source: Federal Register. NWSRS; Final Revised Guidelines for Eligibility, Classification, and Management of River Areas. Section 1(3), Vol. 47, No. 173, page 39461. September 7, 1982.



CHAPTER 4

Eligibility Determinations of Neighboring Agencies



4.1 BLM GRAND JUNCTION FIELD OFFICE

The BLM Grand Junction Field Office borders the UFO to the north. Grand Junction completed a WSR eligibility report in March 2009 in preparation for an upcoming RMP revision. Eligible Grand Junction watercourses adjoining the UFO boundary are summarized in Table 4-1 below.

Table 4-1 Eligible Grand Junction Field Office Segments adjoining UFO Boundary

| RIVER SEGMENT | TOTAL LENGTH (IN MILES) | ORVs | TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Dolores River | 32.01 | Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Paleontologic | Recreational |
| North Fork Mesa Creek | 2.05 | Vegetation | Scenic |
| Gunnison River | 15.73 | Recreational, Fish, Historic | Scenic |

4.2 SAN JUAN PUBLIC LANDS CENTER

The San Juan Public Lands Center borders the UFO to the south. The Draft Land Management Plan and Draft EIS for the San Juan Public Lands Center identifies a 109.20-mile segment of the Dolores River from McPhee Reservoir to Bedrock, Colorado as eligible. The northernmost, downstream portion of this segment is within the UFO. Approximately 9.4 miles of this segment fall within the Dolores River Canyon WSA and have been preliminarily classified as *wild*. The remaining 2.4 miles from the WSA boundary to Bedrock, Colorado have been classified as *recreational*.

Table 4-2 Eligible San Juan Public Lands Segments adjoining UFO Boundary

| RIVER SEGMENT | TOTAL LENGTH (IN MILES) | ORVs | TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION |
|---------------|----------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|
| Dolores River | 109.20 (11.80 within the UFO) | Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Wildlife, Geologic, Ecologic, Archeologic | Wild (9.4) Recreational (2.4) |



4.3 MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST

The Manti La Sal National Forest borders the UFO to the west. Manti La Sal issued a Final Eligibility Study of Wild and Scenic Rivers in March 2003. This report identifies Roc Creek as eligible up to the UFO boundary. The details are provided in Table 4-3 below.

Table 4-3 Eligible Manti La Sal National Forest Segments adjoining UFO Boundary

| RIVER SEGMENT | TOTAL LENGTH (IN MILES) | ORVs | TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION |
|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Roc Creek | 9.40 | Scenic, Geologic, Hydrologic | Wild |

4.4 BLM GUNNISON AND MOAB FIELD OFFICES, AND GRAND MESA, GUNNISON AND UNCOMPAGRE NATIONAL FORESTS

The BLM Gunnison Field Office borders the UFO to the east. Gunnison completed a WSR review as part of their RMP revision in 1993. 130 watercourses were inventoried as part of this review. One eight-mile segment of the Upper Lake Fork of the Gunnison River was determined to be eligible. This river segment was dropped from WSR consideration at the suitability phase.

The BLM Moab Field Office borders the UFO to the west. Moab issued a Draft RMP and EIS in August 2007, which included a WSR study. There were no watercourses adjoining the UFO boundary identified as eligible.

The Grand Mesa and Uncompahgre National Forest issued a proposed Forest Plan Revision in conjunction with the Gunnison National Forest in March 2007, which included a WSR eligibility study. There were no watercourses adjoining the UFO boundary identified as eligible.



CHAPTER 5

Draft Eligible River Segments



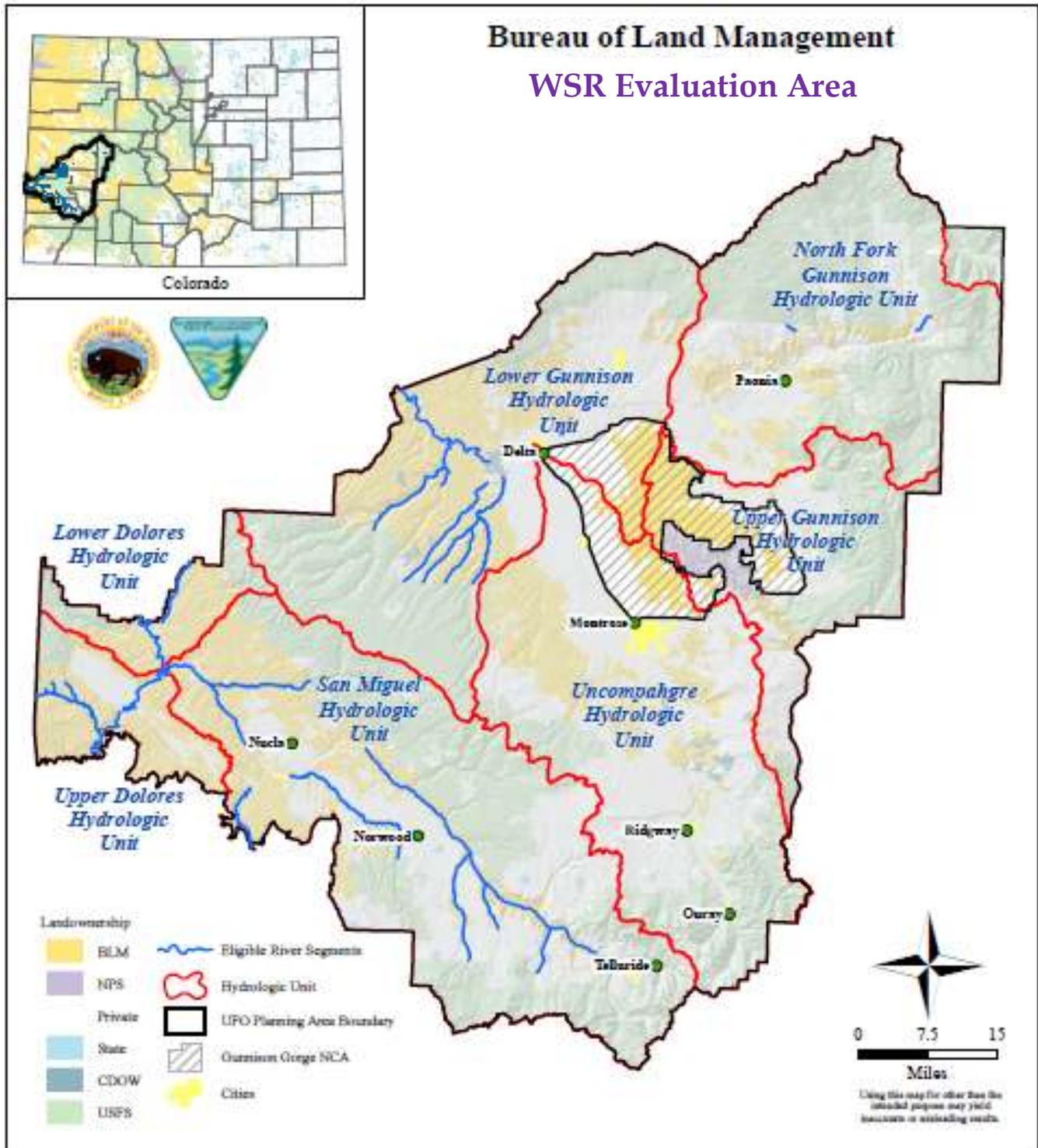
This chapter describes 35 river segments within the Uncompahgre planning area that were evaluated and found to meet the WSR eligibility criteria of being free-flowing and possessing at least one ORV. (See the eligibility criteria in Chapter 3 beginning on page 8) Table 5-1 below shows the number of eligible segments within each hydrologic unit of the UFO. In addition, Table 7-1 in Appendix C provides a detailed inventory of all UFO segments inventoried. Eligibility determinations apply only to that portion of a segment under BLM jurisdiction. The BLM will coordinate with and seek additional support from landowners and users during the suitability phase of the WSR process (described in Chapter 6 of this report).

Table 5-1 Eligible WSR Evaluation Area River Segments by Hydrologic Unit

| HYDROLOGIC UNIT | NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE SEGMENTS | MAP REFERENCE |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Upper Gunnison | 0 | N/A |
| Lower Gunnison | 11 | Map 1 to Map 11 |
| Uncompahgre | 0 | N/A |
| North Fork of the Gunnison | 2 | Map 12 to Map 13 |
| San Miguel | 12 | Map 14 to Map 25 |
| Lower Dolores | 2 | Map 26 to Map 27 |
| Upper Dolores ¹ | 8 | Map 28 to Map 34 |
| TOTAL SEGMENTS | 35 | |

¹Includes one reach of the Dolores River in the UFO that was determined to be eligible in the San Juan Public Lands, Draft Land Management Plan (map not included for this reach).





5.1 ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENTS IN THE WSR EVALUATION AREA

Total Eligible Segments: 35



5.2 AGENCY REVIEW

Eligible river segments and associated ORVs were reviewed and incorporate comments by the following agencies and organizations:

- Colorado Department of Wildlife
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

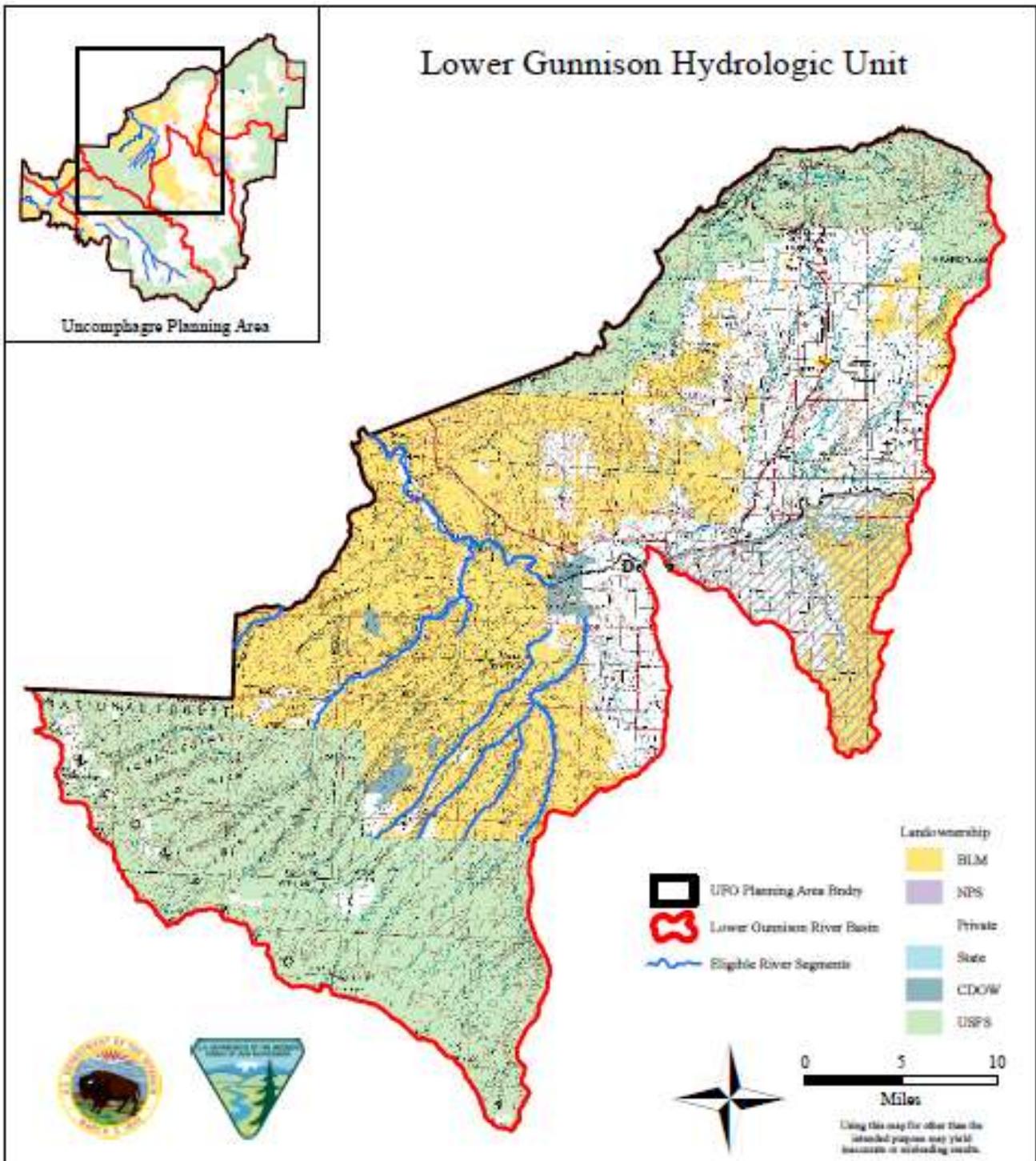
5.3 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

This draft eligibility report will be available for public review and comment as part of the scoping phase for the Uncompahgre RMP revision, expected to occur during fall 2009. Scoping comments received by the BLM will be appended as Appendix D in Chapter 7 of this report. In addition, the comments will be included in the final eligibility report.

5.4 RIVER SEGMENT DESCRIPTIONS AND RATIONALE

The following river segments were found to be eligible for WSR consideration by the UFO interdisciplinary team. They are listed in alphabetical order within their appropriate hydrologic unit:



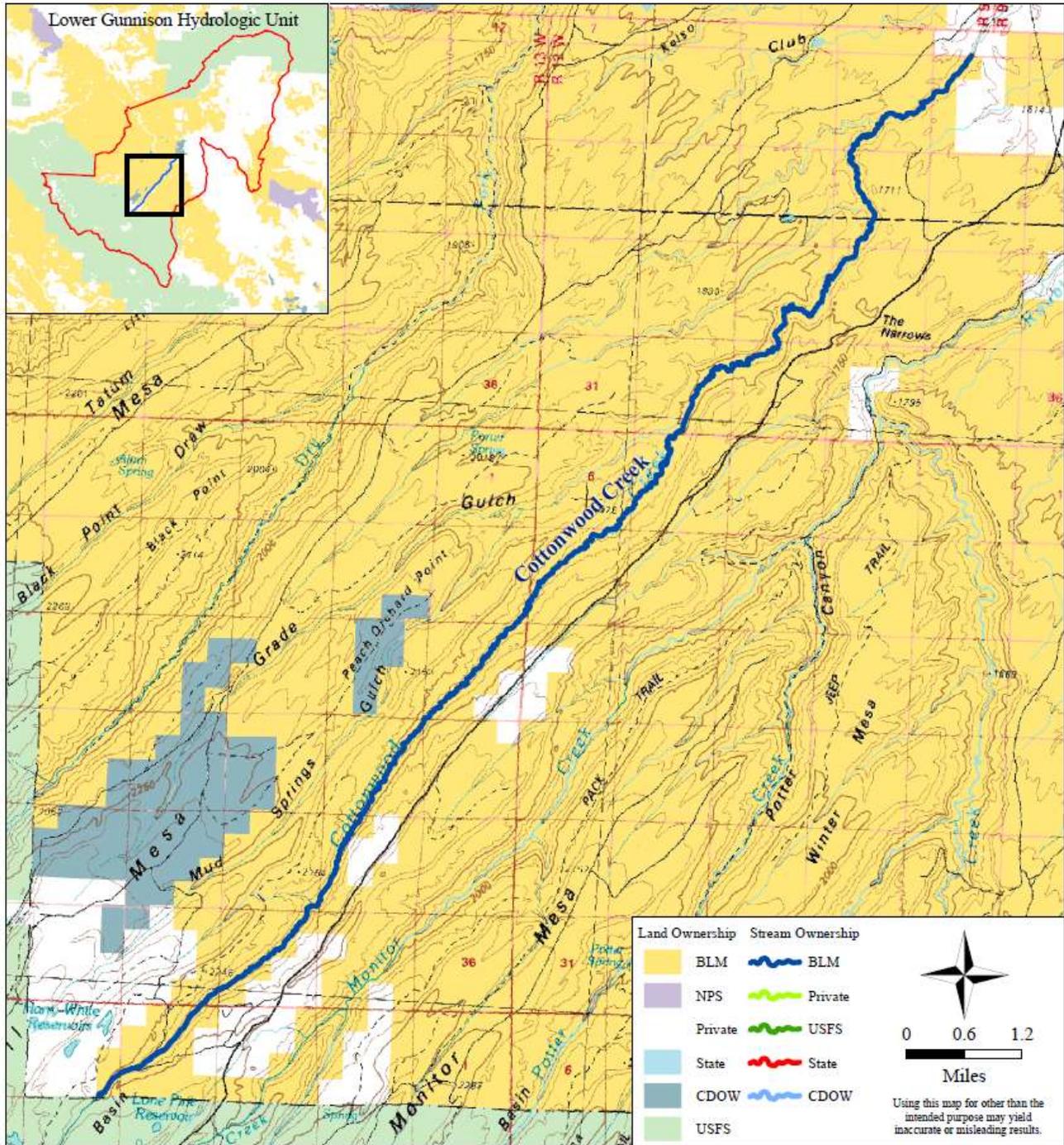


LOWER GUNNISON HYDROLOGIC UNIT

Eligible River Segments: 11

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Cottonwood Creek | 5. Gunnison River, Segment 2 | 9. Rose Creek |
| 2. Dry Fork Escalante Creek, Segment 2 | 6. Gunnison River, Segment 3 | 10. Roubideau Creek, Segment 1 |
| 3. Escalante Creek, Segment 1 | 7. Monitor Creek | 11. Roubideau Creek, Segment 2 |
| 4. Escalante Creek, Segment 2 | 8. Potter Creek | |





Map I - Cottonwood Creek

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



I - RIVER SEGMENT: Cottonwood Creek

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

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% |

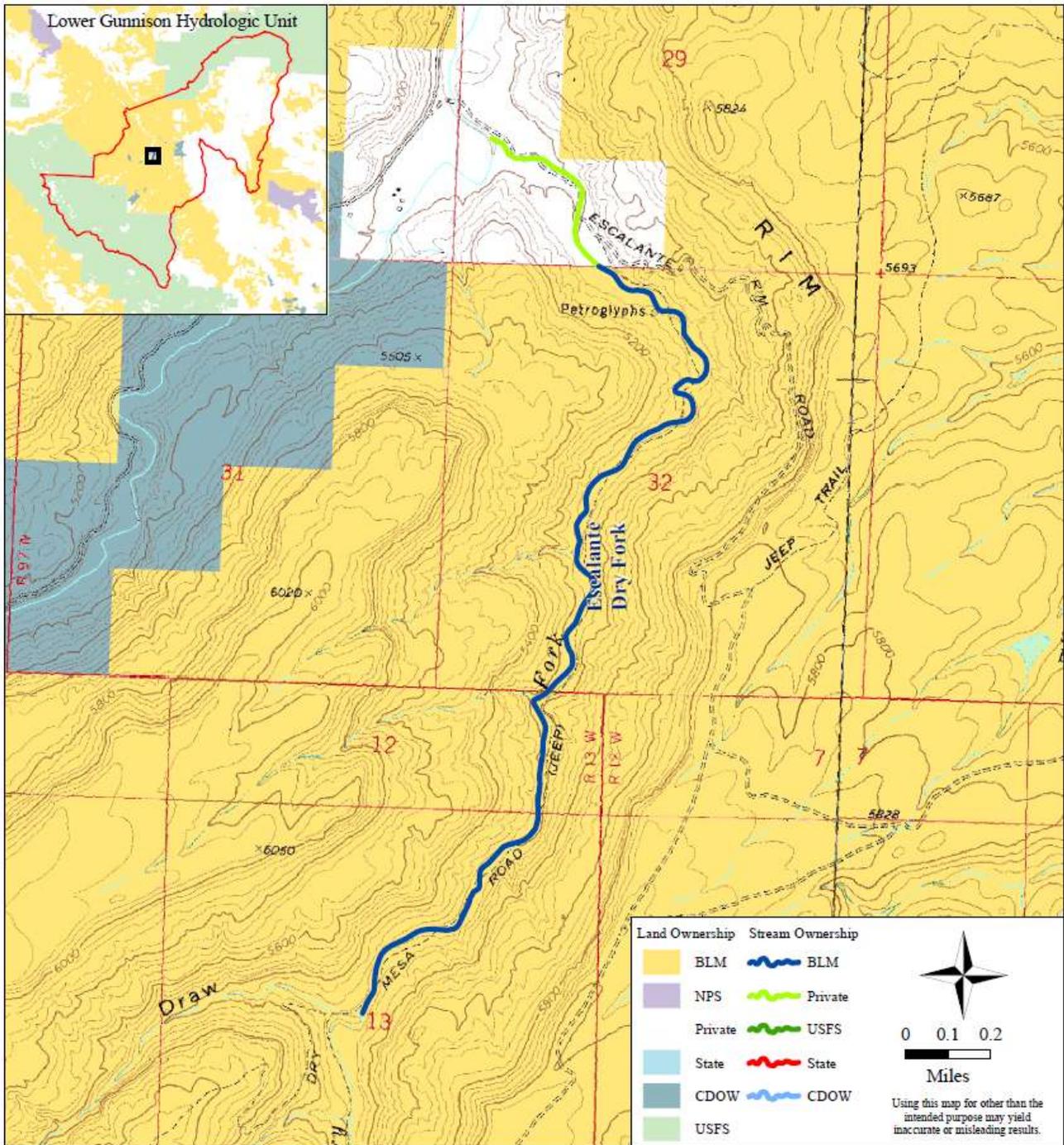
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 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 water diversions or impoundments along this stretch and little evidence of human activity. The shoreline is primitive. This river segment is on Colorado's list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission) due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Segment ID COGULG04a).





Map 2 - Dry Fork Escalante Creek, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: 2.89 miles
BLM-administered Portion: 2.43 miles
Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison
Preliminary Classification: Recreational
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation



2 - RIVER SEGMENT: Dry Fork Escalante Creek, Segment 2

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

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% |

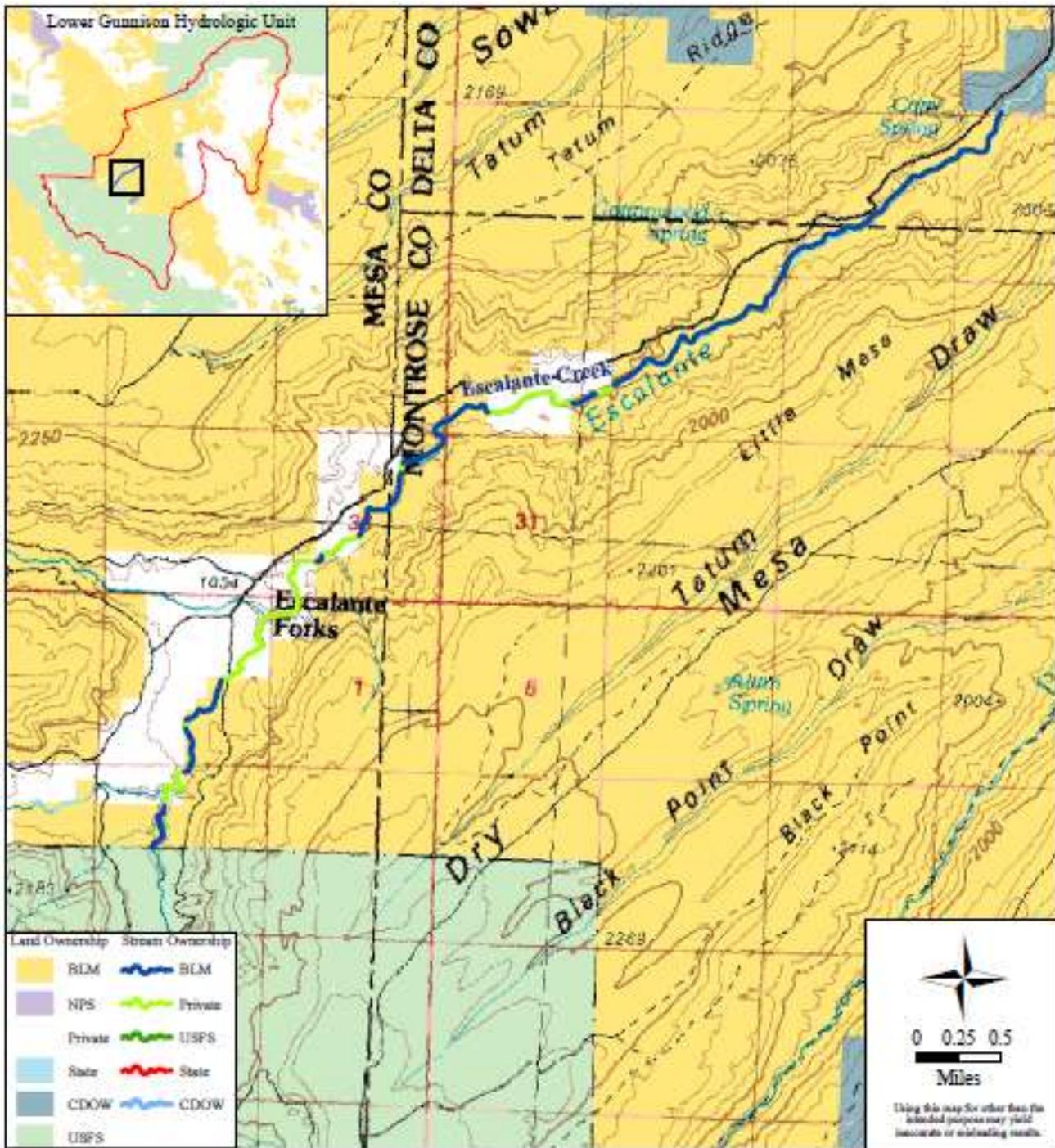
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 1) Vegetation - This segment contains an area of Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian forest (*Populus deltoides* ssp. *wislizenii*/*Rhus trilobata*), classified as imperiled globally (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. There are no water diversions or impoundments along this stretch. This river segment is on Colorado's 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission) due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Segment ID COGULG04a).





Map 3 - Escalante Creek, Segment I

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



3 - RIVER SEGMENT: Escalante Creek, Segment I

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

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.

- 2) **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.

- 3) 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.

- 4) 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.
- 5) 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 imperiled globally (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 imperiled globally (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.



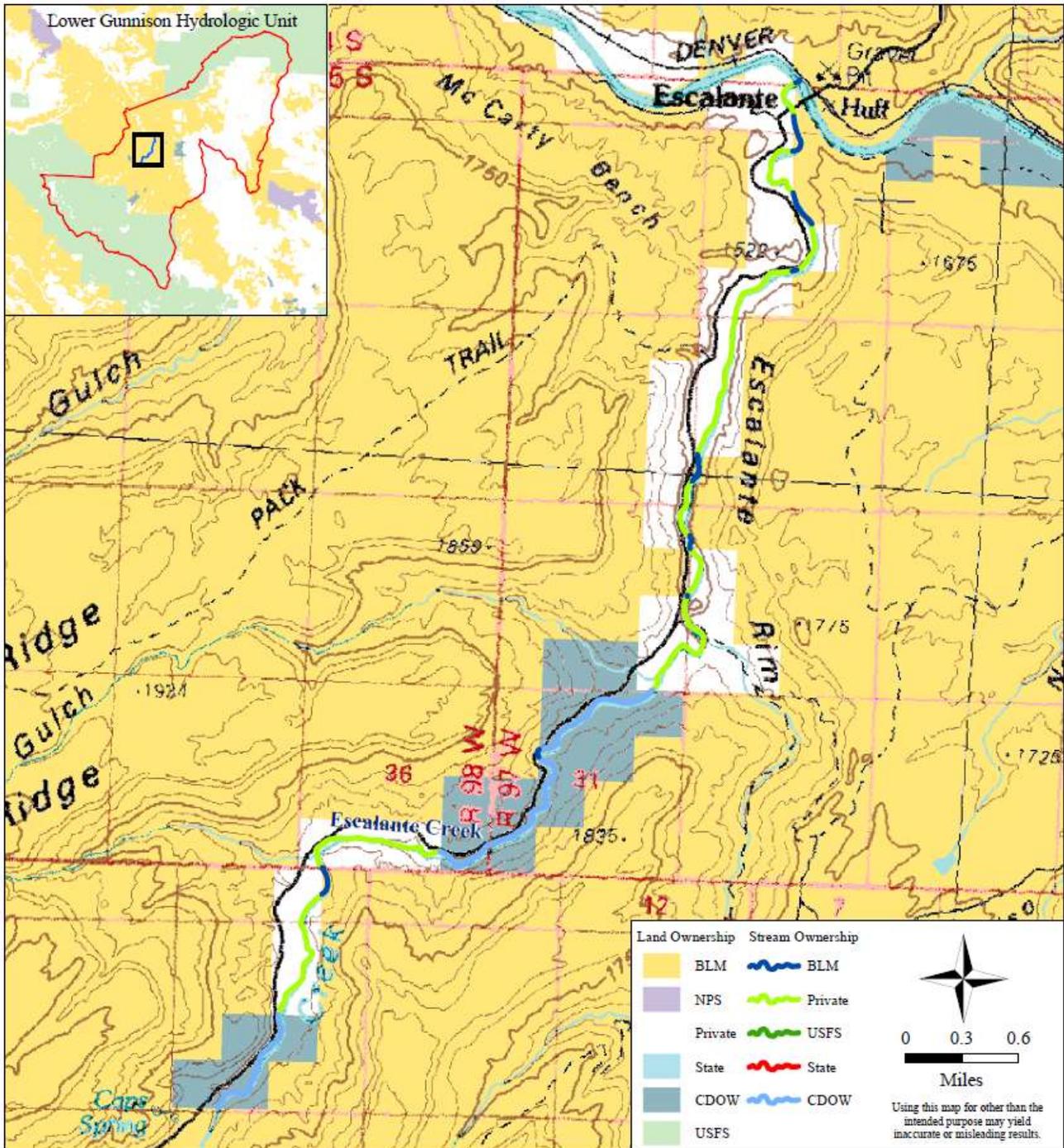
This section of Escalante Creek is also regionally important for several rare plants. A core Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*) population occurs along Escalante Creek and the adjacent benches. A federally threatened species, Colorado hookless cactus prefers alluvial, sandy-clay soils in salt desert and shrub communities, and may be found along drainages, waterways, and benches. In addition, 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. This river segment is on Colorado's 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission) due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Segment ID COGULG04a).





Map 4 - Escalante Creek, 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



4 - RIVER SEGMENT: Escalante Creek, Segment 2

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

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 imperiled



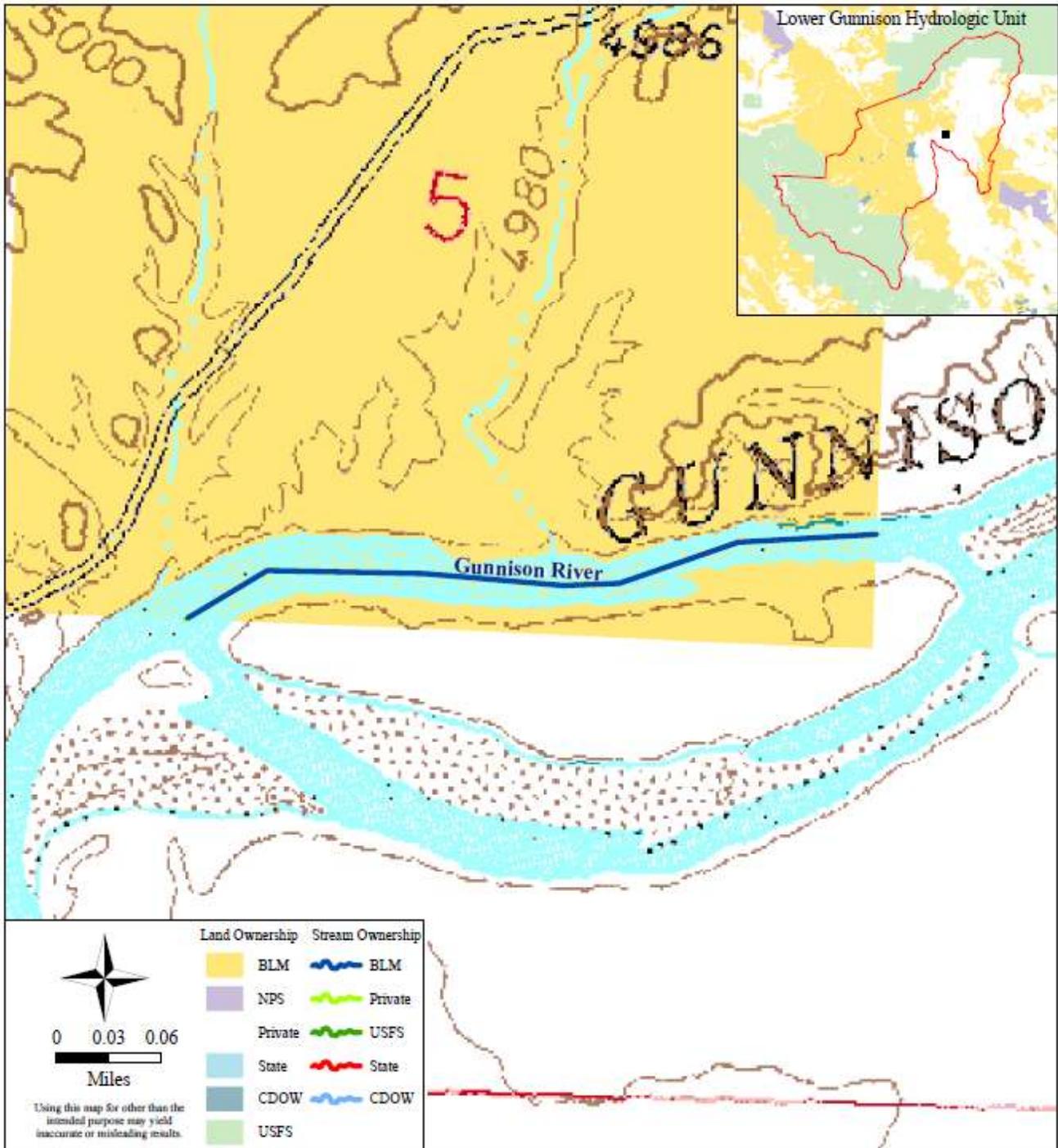
globally (G2). A portion of this segment is included in the CNHP-designated Escalante Creek Potential Conservation Area.

This section of Escalante Creek is also regionally important for several rare plants. A core Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*) population occurs along Escalante Creek and the adjacent benches. A Federally threatened species, Colorado hookless cactus prefers alluvial, sandy-clay soils in salt desert and shrub communities and may be found along drainages, waterways, and benches. An ecologically important occurrence of Eastwood's monkeyflower (*Mimulus eastwoodiae*), a rare BLM sensitive species, occurs near Escalante Creek. This species is associated with seeps, springs, and tributaries in hanging garden vegetation communities. Several occurrences are within one-quarter mile of Escalante Creek.

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. This river segment is on Colorado's 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission) due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native, warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Segment ID COGULG04a).





Map 5 - Gunnison River, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: 0.41 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 0.41 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish

5 - RIVER SEGMENT: Gunnison River, Segment 2

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

Description: The Gunnison River flows perennially, with its flow regulated primarily by upstream releases from Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal reservoirs. These reservoirs are authorized under the Colorado River Storage Project and collectively managed as the Aspinall Unit by the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR). This stretch of the Gunnison is upstream from Delta, Colorado and lies within Colorado Sixth Principal Meridian, T15S, R95W, Section 5 of BLM's Public Land Survey System. The upper terminus is the upstream boundary, and the lower terminus is the downstream boundary, of BLM lands within this geographic section.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 46' 25.24" N; Longitude: 108° 2' 21.92" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 46' 28.47" N; Longitude: 108° 1' 55.65" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 0.41 | | | | 0.41 | 100% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 85.5 | | | 43.1 | 128.6 | 66.5% |

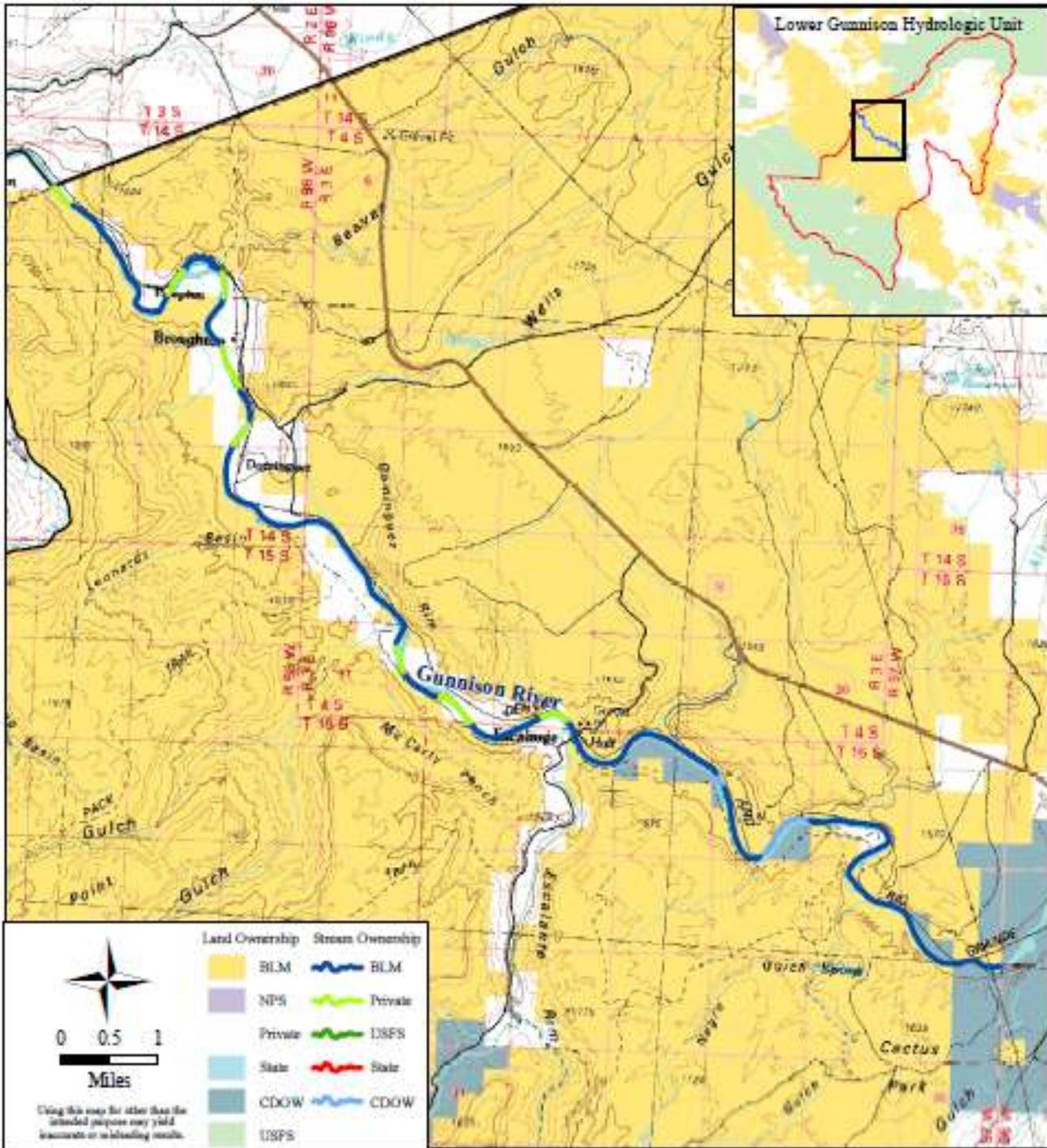
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish

- 1) **Fish** - The lower Gunnison River has been identified as habitat for two fish species classified as endangered under the Endangered Species Act: the Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*) and razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*). Both species are known to inhabit this segment. In addition, this section of water supports predominantly native fish species, including exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*).

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - There is an unsurfaced road along the north river channel for most of this segment. There are no water diversions or impoundments along this stretch. This stream segment is on Colorado's 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission) due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native, warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Segment ID COGULG02).





Map 6 - Gunnison River, 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

6 - RIVER SEGMENT: Gunnison River, Segment 3

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

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



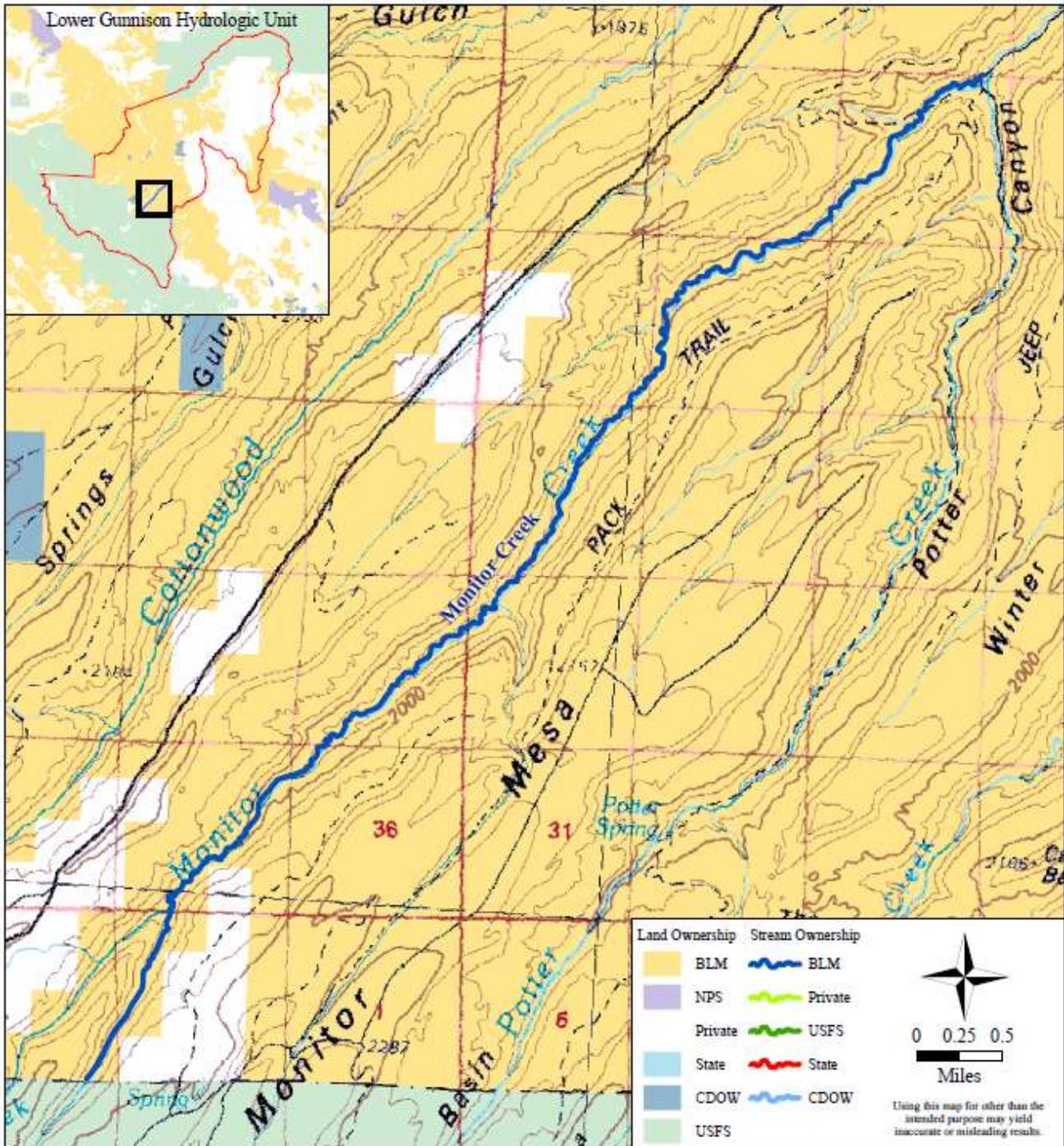
sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*).

- 3) **Cultural** - This segment of the Gunnison River flows through canyon country which 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 Paleoindian 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 has been classified as imperiled on a global level (G2). Benches and drainages along this river segment also provide regionally important habitat for several core populations of Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*). A federally threatened species, Colorado hookless cactus prefers alluvial, sandy-clay soils in salt desert and shrub communities found along drainages, waterways, and benches.

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 (Segment ID COGULG02). (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission)





Map 7 - Monitor Creek

Total Segment Length: 9.42 miles
BLM-administered Portion: 9.42 miles
Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison
Preliminary Classification: Scenic
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation



7 - RIVER SEGMENT: Monitor Creek
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

Description: Monitor Creek is an intermittent tributary of Potter Creek, which in turn is a tributary of Roubideau Creek. Monitor Creek drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau, with high flows typically occurring during spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this reach is the BLM boundary with the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Monitor Creek and Potter Creek.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 37' 13.37" N; Longitude: 108° 12' 30.12" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 31' 57.26" N; Longitude: 108° 18' 3.86" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 9.42 | | | | 9.42 | 100% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 2,613.0 | 14.5 | | 104.9 | 2,732.4 | 96.2% |

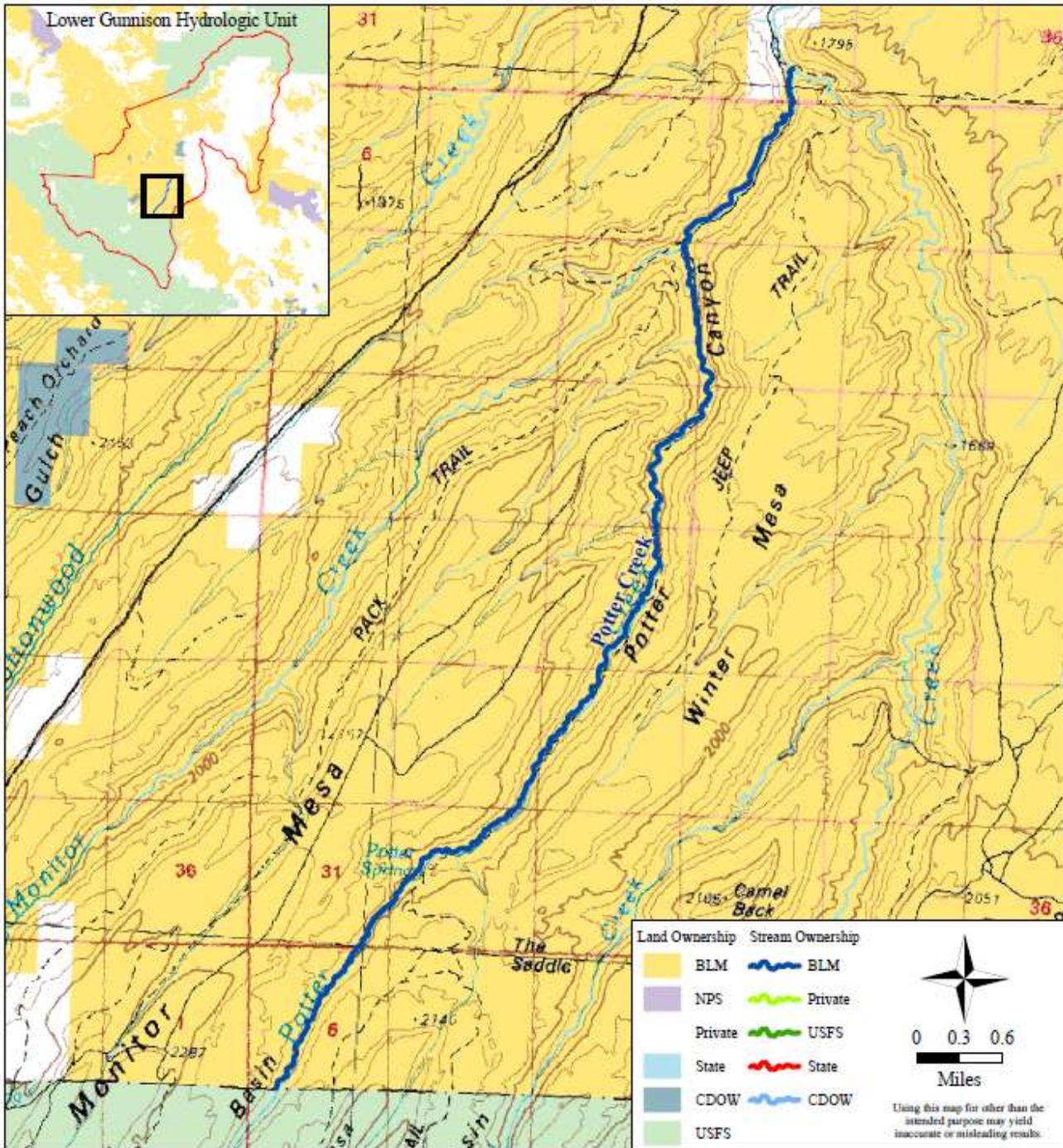
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of narrowleaf cottonwood/strappleaf willow/silver buffaloberry riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia/Salix ligulifolia/Sheperdia argentea*) which is classified as critically imperiled globally (G1). Areas of globally imperiled (G2) Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland (*Populus deltoides spp. Wislizeni/Rhus trilobata*) also occur along this segment. In addition, Monitor Creek contains a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of the common coyote willow riparian shrubland (*Salix exigua/mesic graminoids*). Monitor Creek is within the CNHP-designated Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - Potter Creek Trail crosses Monitor Creek via an unhardened ford near the confluence with Potter Creek. With the exception of this crossing, the shoreline is essentially primitive. There are no water diversions or impoundments along this river segment. The creek is on Colorado's 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission) due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Segment ID COGULG04a).





Map 8 - Potter Creek

Total Segment Length: 9.82 miles
BLM-administered Portion: 9.82 miles
Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison
Preliminary Classification: Scenic
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation



8 - RIVER SEGMENT: Potter Creek
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

Description: This perennial tributary of Roubideau Creek drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. The upper terminus of this segment is the boundary between BLM land and the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Potter Creek and Roubideau Creek. High flows in Potter Creek primarily occur during spring snowmelt and occasional summer rain events.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 38' 18.30" N; Longitude: 108° 11' 41.99" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 31' 58.37" N; Longitude: 108° 15' 25.70" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 9.82 | | | | 9.82 | 100% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 2,828.5 | 6.7 | | 43.3 | 2,878.5 | 98.5% |

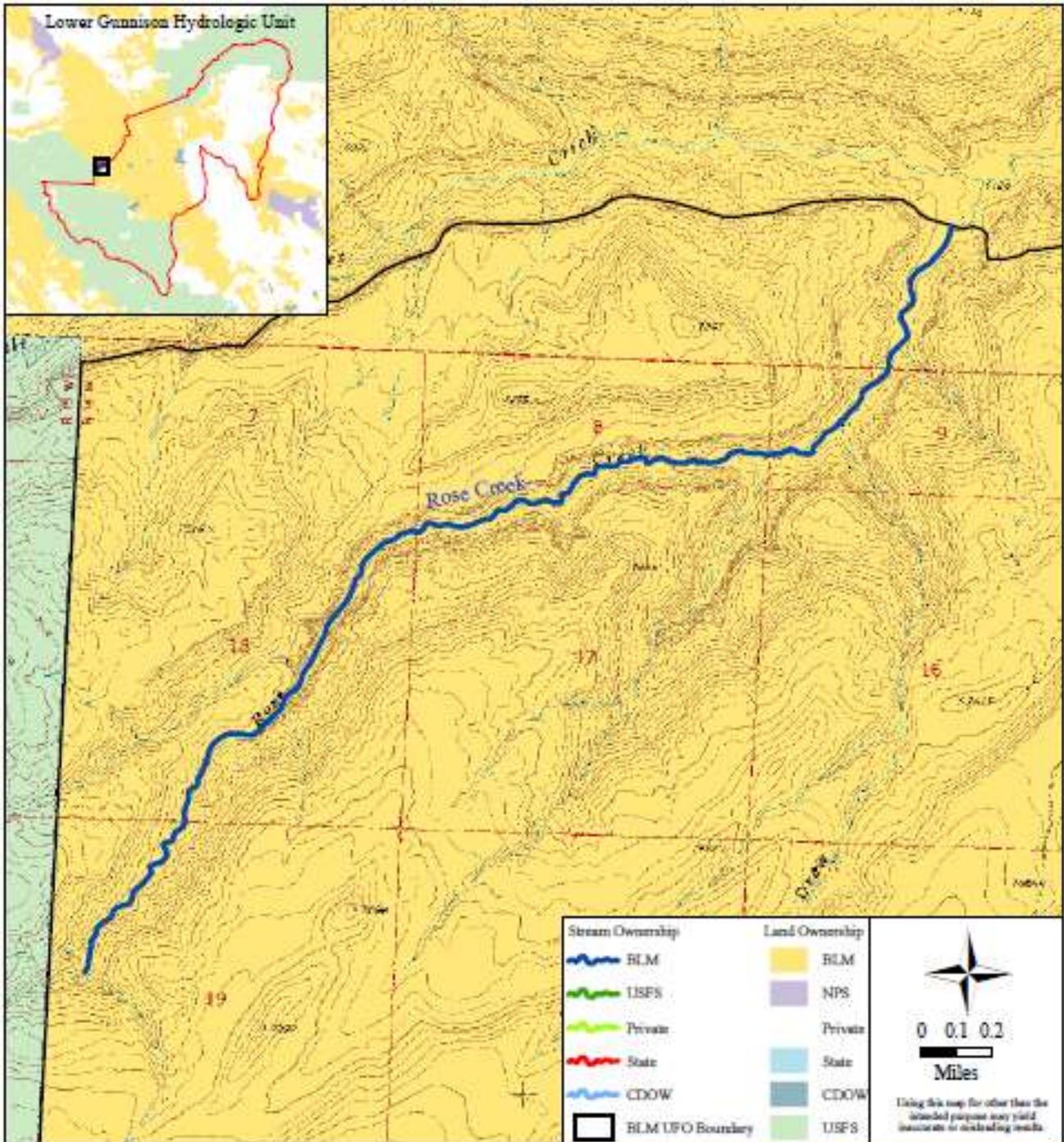
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 1) Vegetation - This segment supports areas of narrowleaf cottonwood/strapleaf willow-silver buffaloberry riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia/Salix ligulifolia/Sheperdia argentea*), classified as critically imperiled globally (G1). This segment is included in the CNHP-designated Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - There are no water diversions or impoundments along this river segment. The shoreline is essentially primitive, with the exception of a horse and hiking trail that crosses Potter Creek at several points along the canyon floor. This river segment is on Colorado's 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission) due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Segment ID COGULG04a).





Map 9 - Rose Creek

Total Segment Length: 3.90 miles
BLM-administered Portion: 3.90 miles
Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison
Preliminary Classification: Scenic
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic



9 - RIVER SEGMENT: Rose Creek

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

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):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 3.90 | | | | 3.90 | 100% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 1,266.9 | 40.4 | | | 1,307.3 | 100% |

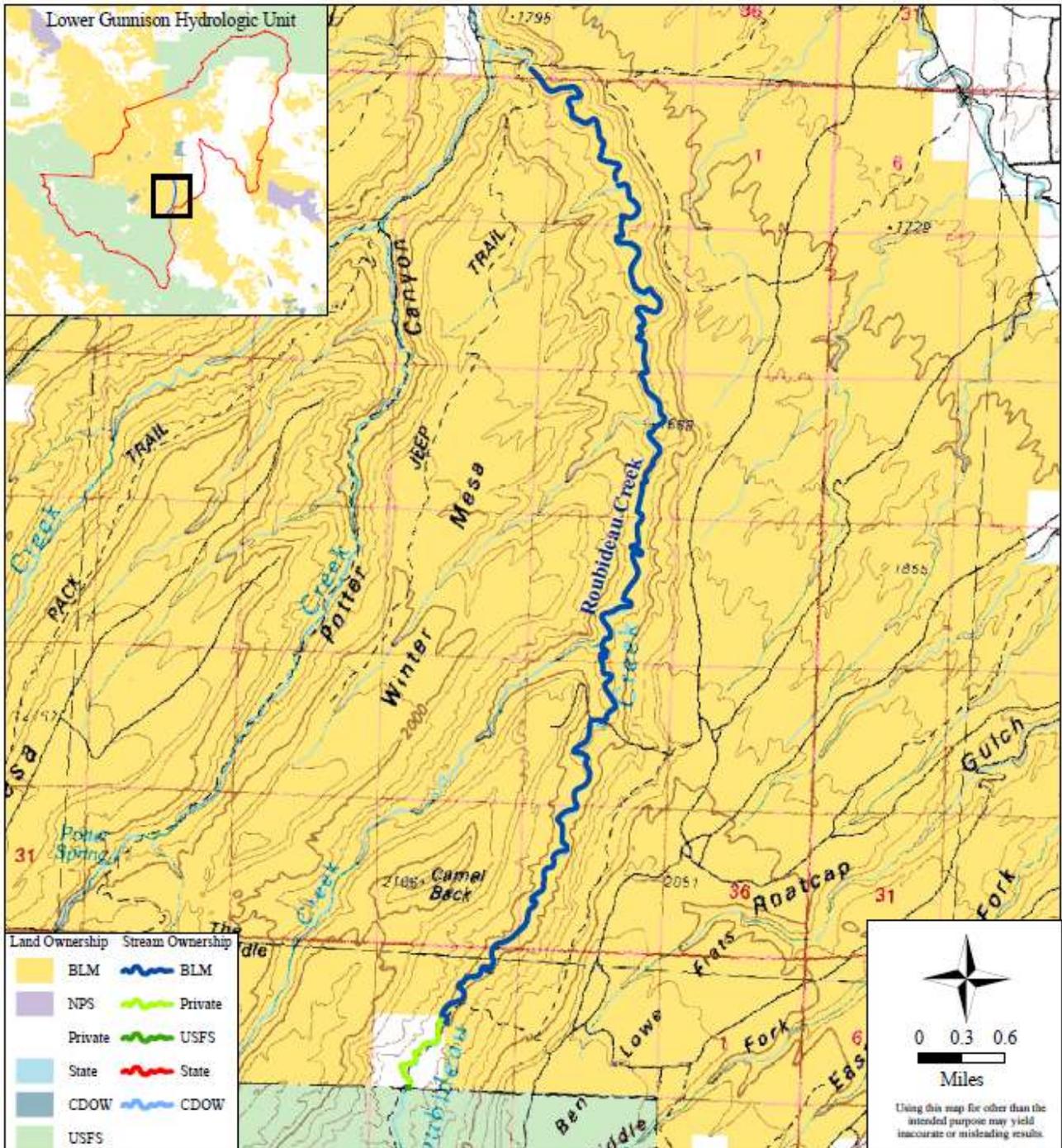
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic

- 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: Scenic

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. This river segment is on Colorado’s 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission) due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Segment ID COGULG04a).





Map 10 - Roubideau Creek, Segment I

Total Segment Length: 10.74 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 10.00 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational, Wildlife, Cultural, Vegetation



10 - RIVER SEGMENT: Roubideau Creek, Segment I

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

Description: Roubideau Creek is a perennial tributary of the Gunnison River that drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. High flows typically occur during spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this segment is the boundary with the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is the north boundary of Camelback Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 38' 9.10" N; Longitude: 108° 11' 23.20" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 31' 59.00" N; Longitude: 108° 12' 3.16" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 10.00 | | | 0.74 | 10.74 | 93% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 2,703.0 | < 0.1 | | 148.6 | 2,851.6 | 94.8% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational, Wildlife, Cultural, Vegetation

- 1) **Recreational** - This section of Roubideau Creek lies entirely within Camelback WSA and provides outstanding opportunities for primitive recreation. Activities include hiking, backpacking, horseback riding, photography, nature study, and other non-mechanized uses. There is vehicle access at the lower terminus of the segment. The natural appearance of this perennial stream and associated riparian area within a highly scenic, wilderness-quality canyon offer superior opportunities for non-mechanized recreation in a primitive setting.
- 2) **Wildlife** - The area has been designated as a potential conservation area for the northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*), which is known to occur along this reach. This species has been petitioned for listing and is currently under status review by the FWS, and a twelve-month finding is pending; i.e., listing of the species throughout all or a significant portion of its range may be warranted. This section of Roubideau Creek is also regionally important habitat for desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). The lower end of the creek is used extensively as a water source by this species, while the cliffs above are used for lambing.
- 3) **Cultural** - The stream flows past an inscription panel of extreme historic significance. In 1769, the site was visited by Juan Maria Rivera at the behest of the king of Spain. Rivera was the first European explorer to enter what later became Colorado, and was responsible for the route of the later Escalante and Dominguez party in 1776. Rivera left his name and a date carved into a rock face at this site. Other rock art on the panel includes a prehistoric mountain sheep figure. This site qualifies for and has been nominated to the NRHP under **Criterion A: Associated with**



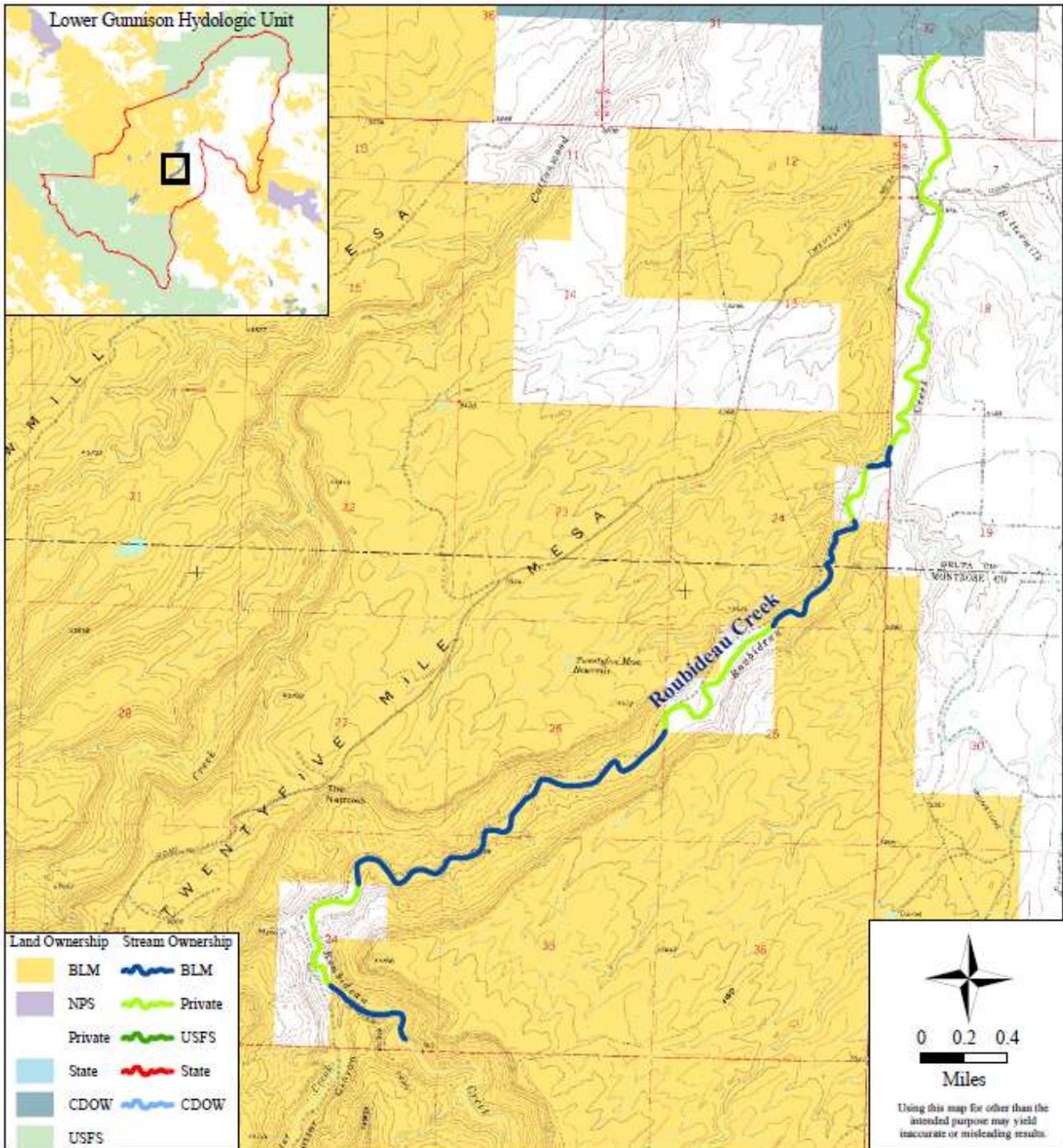
events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history, **Criterion B:** Associated with the lives of persons important in our past, and **Criterion D:** Yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

- 4) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland (*Populus Fremontei/Rhus trilobata*) which are classified as imperiled globally (G2). Areas of skunkbush sumac-sandbar willow riparian shrubland (*Rhus trilobata/Salix exigua*) also occur along this segment, and are classified as imperiled globally (G2). The segment lies within the CNHP-designated Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - Although there are no roads or water diversions along this stretch of Roubideau Creek, a large diversion upstream significantly reduces water flow. The shoreline is essentially primitive. The only evidence of human activity is single track trails that cross the creek. This river segment is on Colorado's 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission) due to the presence of selenium, which is suspected of impacting native warm water fish propagation in the Gunnison River (Segment ID COGULG04a).





Map 11 - Roubideau Creek, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: 7.59 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 3.45 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Lower Gunnison

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Wildlife, Vegetation



11 - RIVER SEGMENT: Roubideau Creek, Segment 2

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

Description: Roubideau Creek is a perennial tributary of the Gunnison River that drains from the east side of the Uncompahgre Plateau. High flows typically occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by occasional summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus of this segment is the north boundary of Camelback WSA, while the lower terminus is along the boundary of lands managed by the State of Colorado, approximately three miles upstream from the Gunnison River confluence.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 42' 10.67" N; Longitude: 108° 8' 49.95" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 38' 9.10" N; Longitude: 108° 11' 23.20" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 3.45 | | | 4.14 | 7.59 | 45.5% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 1,326.7 | | 33.1 | 844.9 | 2,204.7 | 60.2% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Wildlife, Vegetation

- 1) Wildlife - This area has been designated as a potential conservation area for the northern leopard frog (*Rana pipiens*), which is known to occur along this reach. This species has been petitioned for listing and is currently under status review by the FWS. A twelve-month finding is pending which will determine whether listing of this species throughout all or a significant portion of its range may be warranted. This section of Roubideau Creek is also regionally important habitat for desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). The creek is used extensively as a water source by this species, while the cliffs above are used for lambing.
- 2) Vegetation - This section of Roubideau Creek contains areas of Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland (*Populus deltoides* spp *wislizeni*/*Rhus trilobata*), which is classified as imperiled globally (G2). The segment is included within the CNHP-designated Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area. The threatened Colorado hookless cactus (*Sclerocactus glaucus*) also occurs here, although these occurrences would probably not be classified as significant or “core” populations based upon current data.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

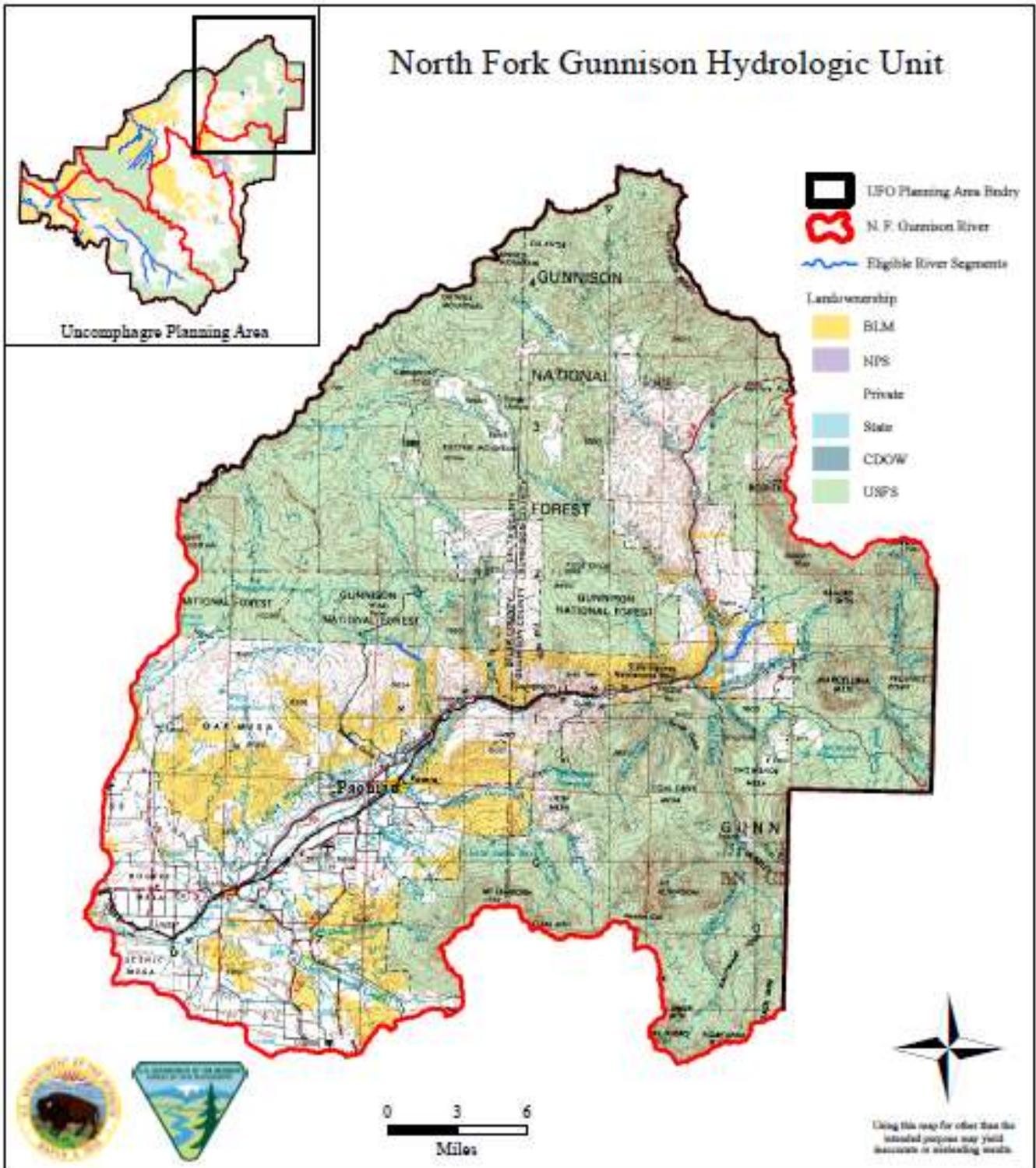
Rationale - Roads or trails parallel the creek along this entire segment. There is an unhardened road ford near the upper terminus and a county road bridge in the lower section. There are



CHAPTER FIVE - DRAFT ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENTS

water diversions along this river segment. A large diversion near the headwaters significantly reduces the flow in this segment during irrigation season. Roubideau Creek is 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. (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission Segment ID COGULG04a)



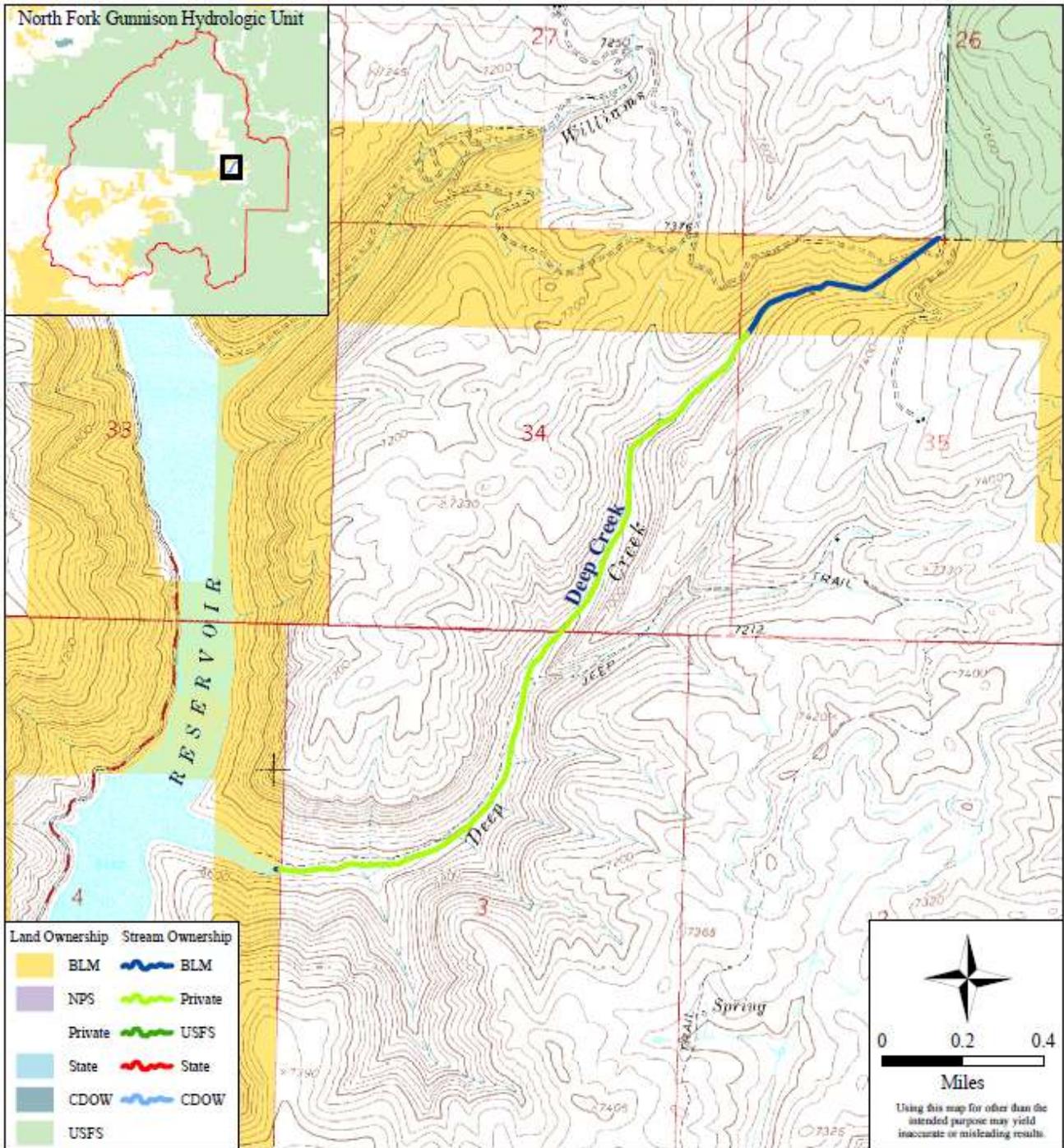


NORTH FORK OF THE GUNNISON HYDROLOGIC UNIT

Eligible Segments: 2

- 12. Deep Creek
- 13. West Fork Terror Creek





Map 12 - Deep Creek

Total Segment Length: 2.55 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 0.58 miles

Hydrologic Unit: North Fork of the Gunnison

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish



12 - RIVER SEGMENT: Deep Creek
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: North Fork of the Gunnison

Description: Deep Creek is a perennial headwater stream that drains from the Ragged Mountains and discharges into Paonia Reservoir. High flows on this stream typically occur during spring snowmelt. The lower terminus of this segment is the confluence of Deep Creek with Paonia Reservoir along the North Fork of the Gunnison River, while the upper terminus is the upstream limit of BLM-managed lands.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 57' 16.77" N; Longitude: 107° 20' 1.39" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 58' 40.89" N; Longitude: 107° 18' 13.85" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 0.58 | | | 1.97 | 2.55 | 22.7% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 127.7 | | | 680.2 | 807.9 | 15.8% |

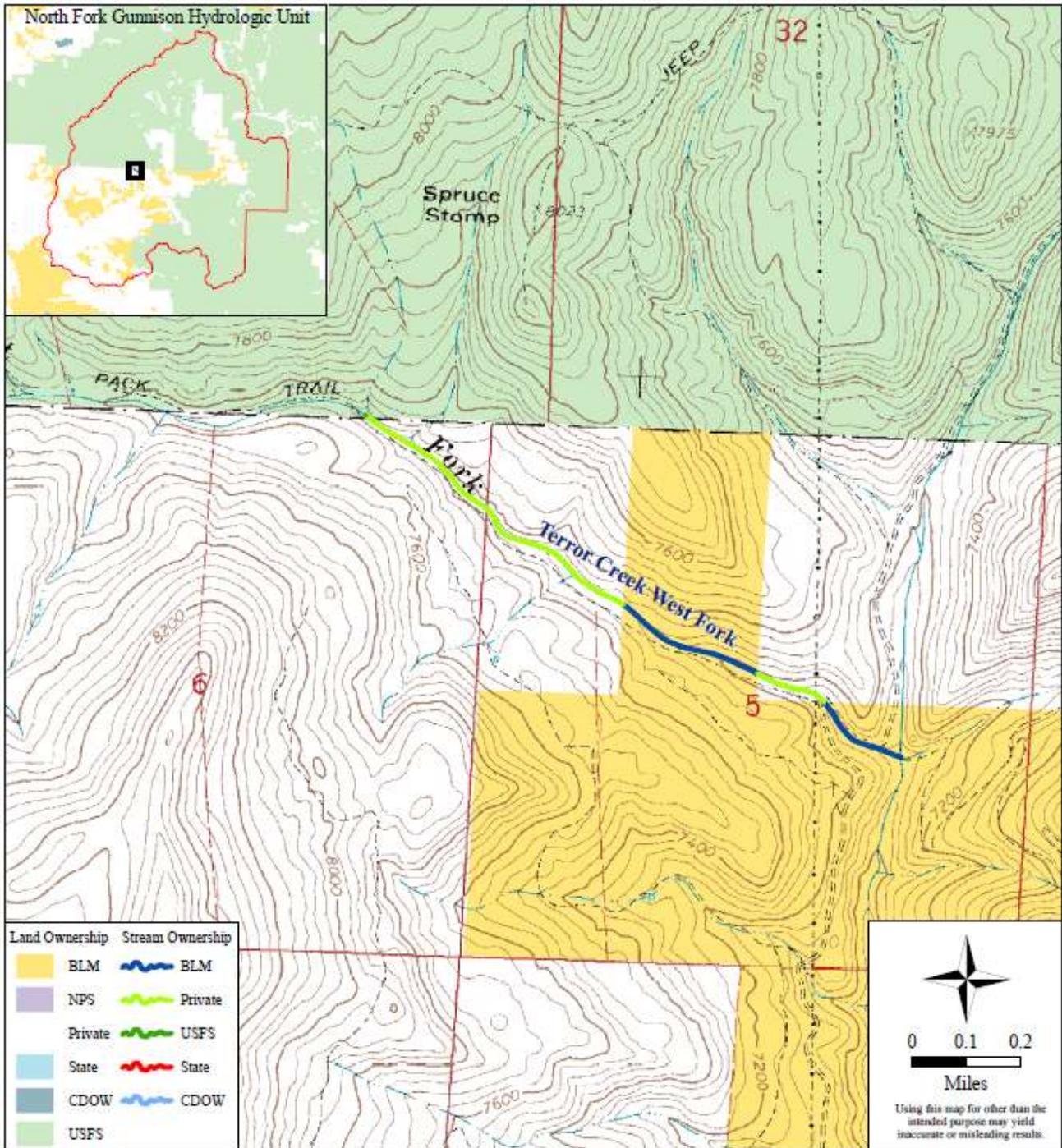
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish

- 1) Fish - Based upon the best available genetic information, this river segment harbors a genetically pure population of greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*), a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This is one of 37 known greenback populations on the west slope of Colorado.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - An unsurfaced road crosses Deep Creek via an unhardened ford within and near the upper terminus. The remaining river channel and associated corridor are primitive and undeveloped. There are irrigation diversions upstream from this reach.





Map 13 - West Fork Terror Creek

Total Segment Length: 1.21 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 0.47 miles

Hydrologic Unit: North Fork of the Gunnison

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish



13 - RIVER SEGMENT: West Fork Terror Creek
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: North Fork of the Gunnison

Description: The West Fork of Terror Creek is a perennial headwater stream on the southern flank of Grand Mesa north of Paonia. The creek drains into Terror Creek, which is a tributary of the North Fork of the Gunnison River. The lower terminus of this river segment is its confluence with East Terror Creek, while the upper terminus is the boundary of Grand Mesa National Forest.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 56' 53.88" N; Longitude: 107° 34' 28.65" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 57' 25.28" N; Longitude: 107° 35' 35.84" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 0.47 | | | 0.74 | 1.21 | 39.2% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 151.3 | 31.8 | | 202.4 | 385.5 | 47.5% |

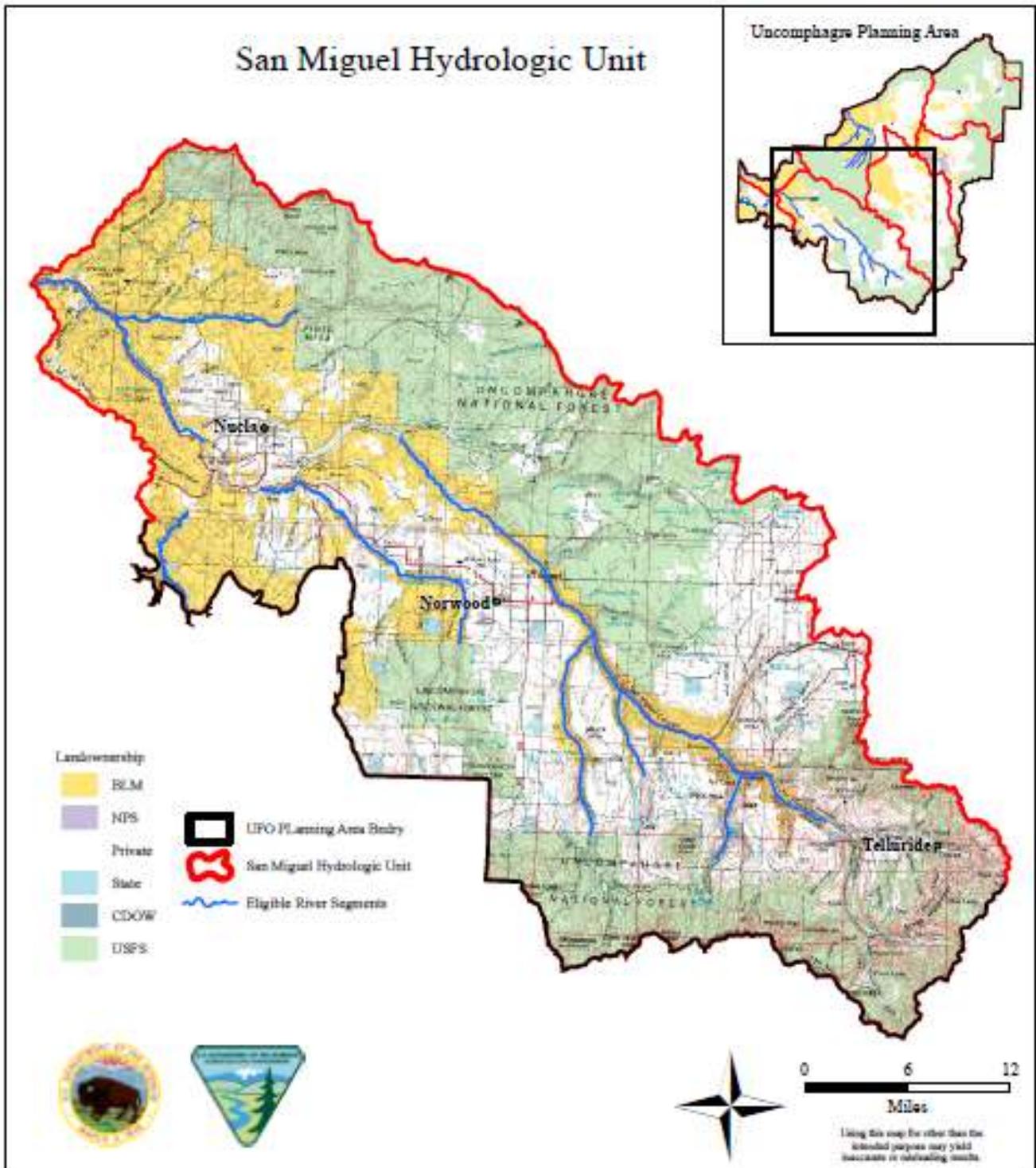
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish

- 1) Fish - Based upon the best available genetic information, this river segment harbors a genetically pure population of greenback cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki stomias*), a species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. This is one of 37 greenback populations currently identified on the west slope of Colorado.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - An unsurfaced road crosses the West Fork of Terror Creek near its confluence with Terror Creek. The remaining river channel and associated corridor are primitive and undeveloped. There is a small impoundment known as Holy Terror Reservoir, as well as Grand Mesa Canal Head Gate #4, an irrigation diversion upstream of the reach.



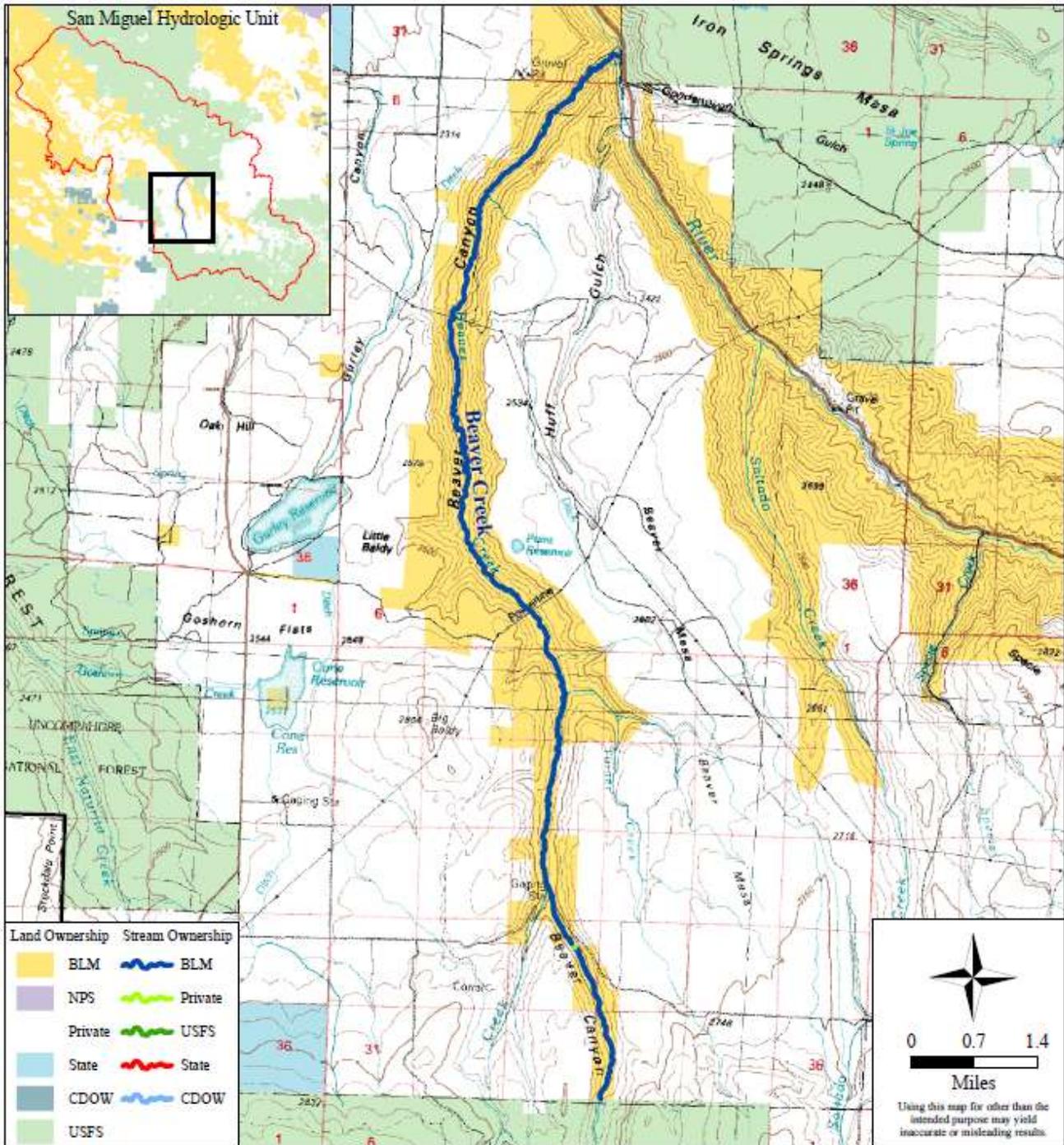


SAN MIGUEL HYDROLOGIC UNIT

Eligible River Segments: 12

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 14. Beaver Creek | 18. Saltado Creek | 22. San Miguel River, Segment 5 |
| 15. Dry Creek, Segment 1 | 19. San Miguel River, Segment 1 | 23. San Miguel River, Segment 6 |
| 16. Fall Creek | 20. San Miguel River, Segment 2 | 24. Tabeguache Creek, Segment 1 |
| 17. Naturita Creek | 21. San Miguel River, Segment 3 | 25. Tabeguache Creek, Segment 2 |





Map 14 - Beaver Creek

Total Segment Length: 14.25 miles
BLM-administered Portion: 14.19 miles
Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel
Preliminary Classification: Scenic
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation



14 - RIVER SEGMENT: Beaver Creek

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Beaver Creek is a perennial tributary of the San Miguel River with its headwaters in the San Juan Mountains. High flows usually occur in spring from mountain snowmelt. The upper terminus is the boundary between BLM-managed lands and the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Beaver Creek and the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 6' 20.84" N; Longitude: 108° 11' 14.48" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 37° 56' 14.01" N; Longitude: 108° 11' 1.82" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 14.19 | | | 0.06 | 14.25 | 99.5% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 3,707.4 | 2.7 | | 583.1 | 4,293.2 | 86.4% |

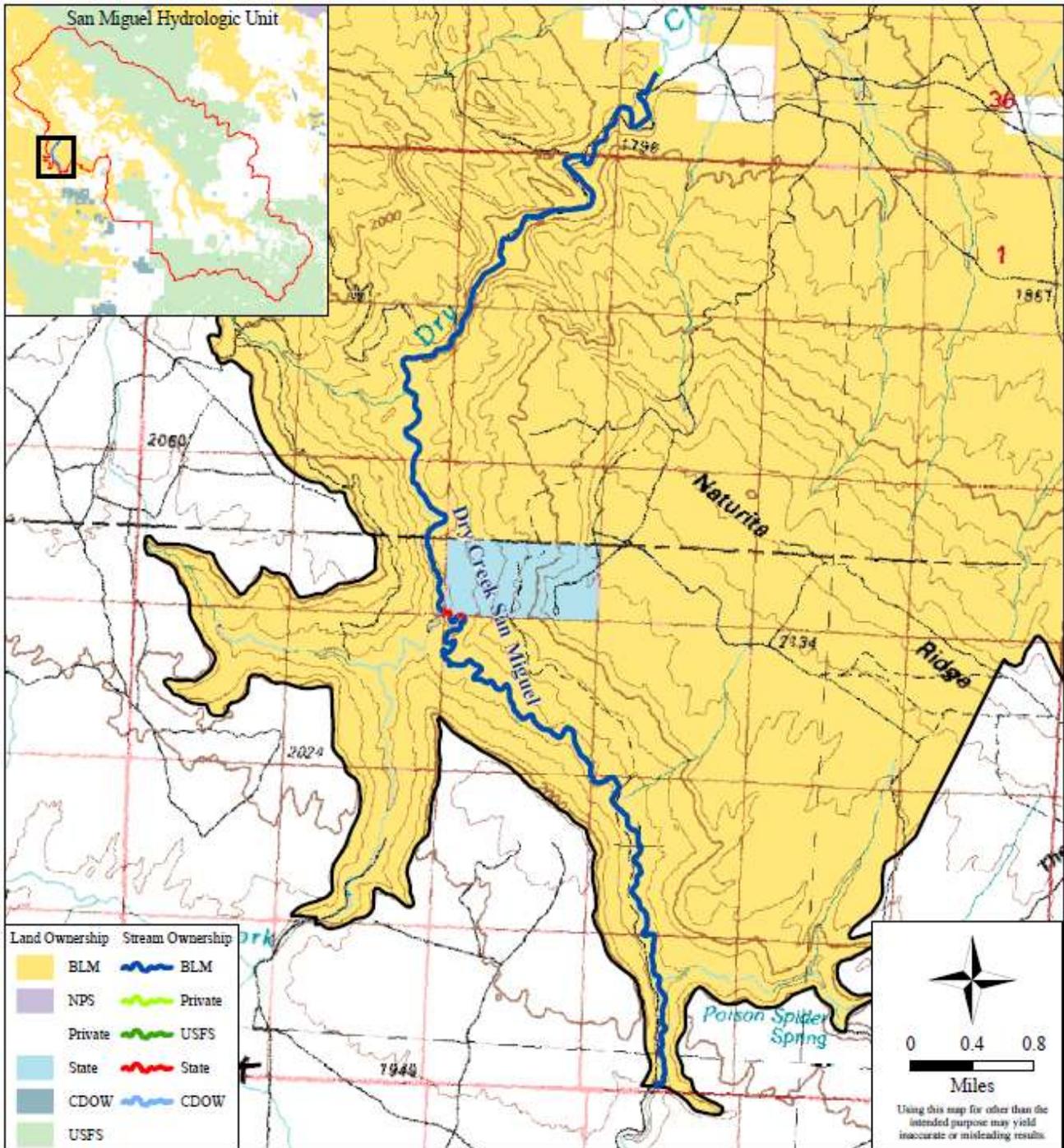
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of sandbar willow-strapleaf willow riparian shrubland (*Salix exigua-salix ligulifolia*), which is currently rated as imperiled globally (G2G3) until more information on the distribution of this community becomes available. The segment also supports a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of globally vulnerable (G3) narrowleaf cottonwood-blue spruce/thinleaf alder riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia-Picea pungens/Alnus tenuifolia*) along several miles of its length. The BLM has designated an area which includes this segment as part of the San Miguel ACEC, primarily in order to protect these outstanding riparian communities.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - Beef Trail Road crosses Beaver Creek via a bridge approximately seven miles upstream from the mouth. An unsurfaced secondary road runs adjacent and parallel to the creek from the mouth upstream for an unknown distance. A power line crosses Beaver Canyon and is visible from the creek. A buried natural gas pipeline is located along the lower reach of the creek and is surface-laid where it descends along the side of Beaver Canyon. The town of Norwood has a conditional water right to withdraw up to five cubic feet per second (cfs) from the San Miguel River upstream from Beaver Creek, along with a plan to convey the water to Norwood via a route similar to the natural gas pipeline in the lower reach. The plan could require additional surface features in the vicinity of Beaver Creek, such as pump facilities and access roads. There are no water diversions along this river segment.





Map 15 - Dry Creek

Total Segment Length: 10.49 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 10.42 miles

Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, Geologic, Wildlife



15 - RIVER SEGMENT: Dry Creek

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Dry Creek is a large, intermittent tributary of the lower San Miguel River. The creek commonly experiences slightly elevated flows from snowmelt during April and May, although the highest flows result from runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity, which is usually short-lived. The upper terminus is the BLM UFO boundary, while the lower terminus is the boundary between BLM and private land at an area known as the “Coke Ovens.”

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 11' 50.57" N; Longitude: 108° 37' 36.51" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 6' 8.52" N; Longitude: 108° 37' 21.21" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 10.42 | | 0.07 | | 10.49 | 99.3% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 2,760.4 | | 80.7 | 2.8 | 2,843.9 | 97.1% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, Geologic, Wildlife

- 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: While the vegetation does not vary greatly, and Dry Creek is not a dominant feature in the landscape, rich colors and strong contrast between rocks, soil, and vegetation make it a visually exceptional area. Steep canyons and vertical relief contribute to the scenic qualities, while the adjacent scenery moderately enhances the view. The scenic quality of Dry Creek is distinctive in the region, although it cannot be classified as either common or one of a kind. A small two-track dirt route follows the creek through this reach.

The segment of the creek that crosses the anticline valley cuts gradually down through a variety of colorful rock strata, crosses the axis of the anticline, then because of a dramatic change in the tilt of strata, the creek rapidly and dramatically ascends back through those same layers. This section is very scenic and distinctive whereas the segments above and below it possess scenic qualities common to the region of comparison. This fairly small segment is an exceptional example of a creek cutting across a valley (Paradox Valley is another example), with dramatic visual features in an area with only minor cultural modifications.

- 2) **Geologic** - Dry Creek offers a rare opportunity to observe earth processes in a localized setting, while at the same time providing an example of a relatively young geologic structure exposed in an area of low precipitation. This feature is in many ways similar to the much larger



Paradox Basin, located only a few miles to the northwest. The Paradox Basin is a geologic structural anticline that has at its core the Pennsylvanian age Paradox Formation, a halitic evaporite. Over time, water has partially dissolved the salt core, causing the axis of the anticline to collapse, and creating a valley with walls that dip away in either direction. The anticline is asymmetric, with the southwest limb having a shallow dip and the northeast limb having a steep dip. The Dolores River has carved a channel across and perpendicular to this collapsed valley, forming the geological 'paradox' for which the valley is named.

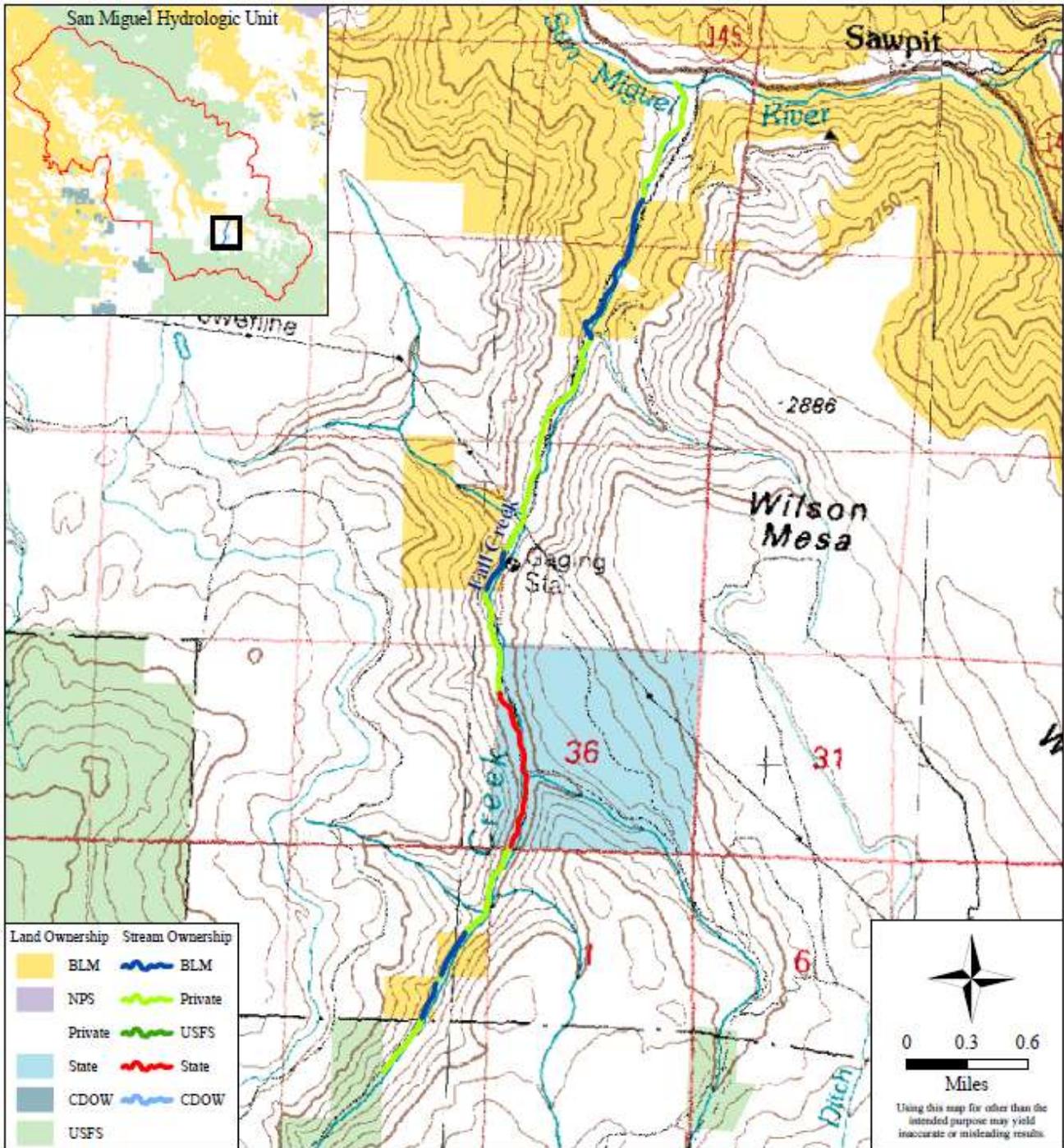
The Paradox Anticline has affected Triassic to Jurassic age sediments in the Dry Creek area, where a prominent north-west trending normal fault forms a southeasterly extension of the anticline's axis. Erosion has created a pair of valleys along this fault trace, with the Dry Creek drainage crosscutting this feature much as the Dolores River cuts across Paradox Valley. However, while the Paradox Valley is about 28 miles long, the Dry Creek feature is only about two miles in length. This unique geologic feature contradicts our basic understanding of erosional processes, as the down-cutting creek flows across, rather than through the valley, revealing the paradox of Paradox Valley at a fraction of the scale. Dry Creek may well be regarded as one of the more intriguing geologic features in the region.

- 3) Wildlife - Portions of this creek may provide seasonally important water and brood-rearing habitat for the Gunnison sage grouse (*Centrocercus minimus*), a federal candidate species currently under consideration for Endangered Species Act listing. Mapped potential habitat for this species occurs at the lower end, while occupied habitat occurs at the upper end of this reach. Dry Creek is regionally important to this rare and declining species, especially due to the scarcity of water in this section of the UFO. While there is no evidence to indicate that sage grouse currently inhabit this stretch of Dry Creek, reintroductions and habitat improvements are being considered and discussed, particularly in areas identified as potential habitat. Long-term protection of Dry Creek and the habitat it supports would likely benefit conservation of the San Miguel population of Gunnison sage grouse.

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Rationale - The shoreline of this river segment is essentially primitive, with the exception of an old, unused roadbed along portions. There are no water diversions or impoundments along this river reach.





Map 16 - Fall Creek

Total Segment Length: 5.56 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 1.44 miles

Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Wildlife



16 - RIVER SEGMENT: Fall Creek

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Fall Creek is a perennially flowing tributary of the San Miguel River. High flows are predominantly due to spring snowmelt. The upper terminus is the intersection of the creek with the Uncompahgre National Forest boundary, while the lower terminus is the confluence of Fall Creek and the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 37° 59' 34.25" N; Longitude: 108° 1' 29.11" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 37° 55' 16.28" N; Longitude: 108° 2' 54.14" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 1.44 | | 0.82 | 3.30 | 5.56 | 25.9% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 466.1 | 23.1 | 223.6 | 1,035.3 | 1,748.1 | 28% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Wildlife

- 1) Wildlife - Denning, winter, and other habitat for the federally listed threatened Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) occurs along Fall Creek. On March 24, 2000, the FWS issued a final rule determining that the contiguous U.S. Distinct Population Segment of the lynx is threatened (Federal Register, Volume 65, Number 58). The effective date of the final rule is April 24, 2000.

In the western United States, lynx are associated with lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Englemann spruce, and aspen cover types within or immediately adjacent to mixed conifer habitat types. Denning and winter habitat for this species is typically comprised of dense coniferous forests, often with heavy downfall that provides suitable denning sites. At lower and drier elevations such as those on BLM lands, this habitat type is often concentrated along streams, rivers, and canyons that provide sufficient moisture for montane forest types, making for a strong relationship between watercourses and winter/denning sites. There is strong evidence that the confluence of Leopard Creek and the San Miguel River approximately 2.5 miles downstream from Fall Creek serves as a high quality, landscape-level movement corridor for the lynx between the Uncompahgre Plateau and Mount Sneffels/San Juan Mountains. Due to its proximity and connectivity, it is highly probable that Fall Creek is used by the lynx for this same purpose (based on personal communication with FWS in 2009).

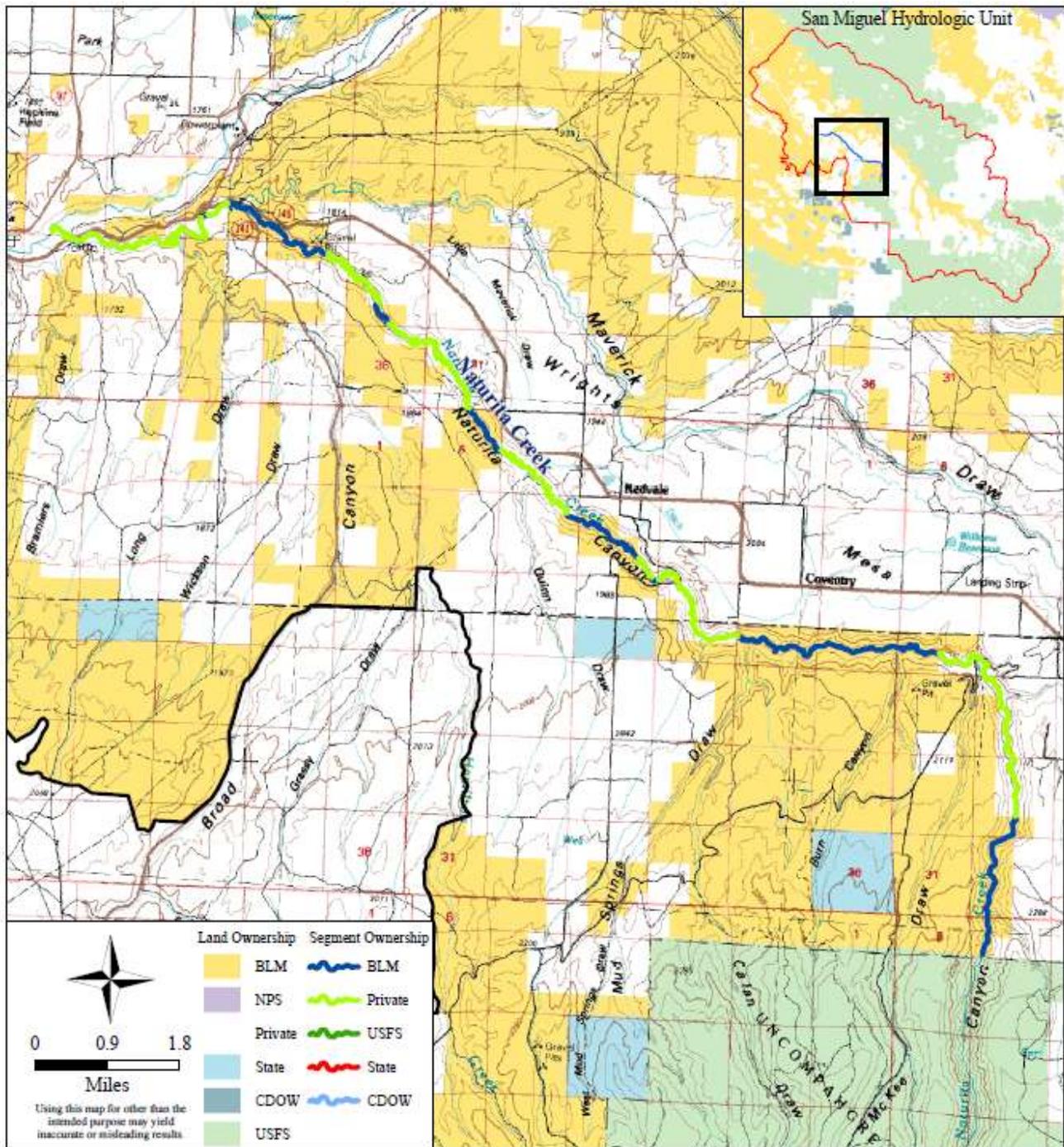
Preliminary Classification: Recreational



CHAPTER FIVE - DRAFT ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENTS

Rationale - There are water diversions along this river reach, and a San Miguel County road runs parallel to and crosses Fall Creek via a bridge. The road is visible from the creek in several locations. Water flow in this segment is regulated by Woods Lake, a seventeen-acre State Wildlife Area.





Map 17 - Naturita Creek

Total Segment Length: 24.97 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 9.99 miles

Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish



17 - RIVER SEGMENT: Naturita Creek

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Naturita Creek is a perennially flowing tributary of the lower San Miguel River. The creek experiences high flows from spring snowmelt and runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus of this segment is the intersection of the stream with the Uncompahgre National Forest boundary. The lower terminus is the confluence of Naturita Creek and the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 13' 6.44" N; Longitude: 108° 32' 57.29" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 5' 40.99" N; Longitude: 108° 19' 52.29" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|------------|
| 9.99 | | | 14.98 | 24.97 | 40% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|----------------|--------------|
| 3,238.5 | 2.3 | | 3,176.6 | 6,417.4 | 50.5% |

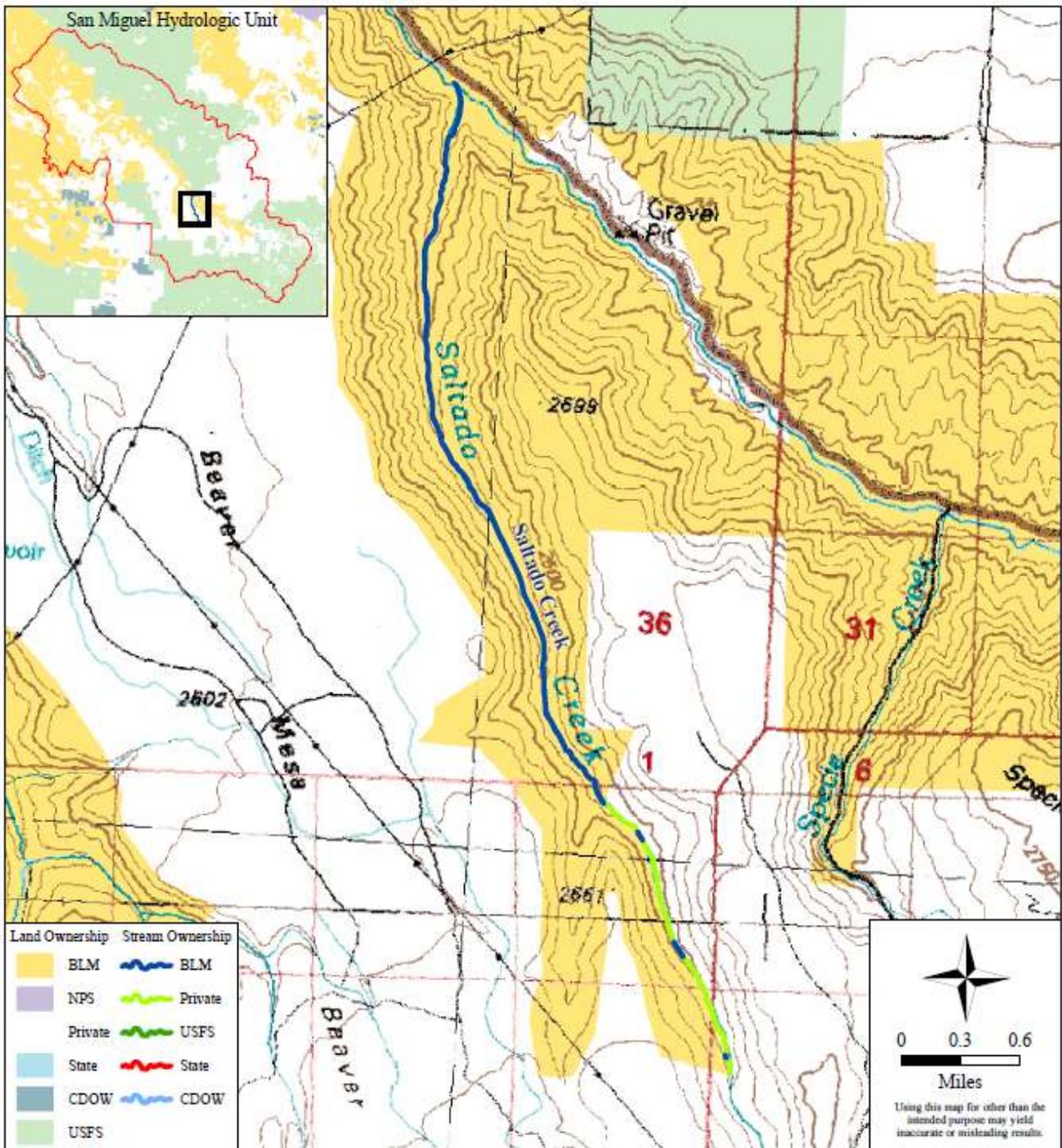
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish

- 1) **Fish** - Naturita Creek harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*). The river segment is one of only a very few spawning tributaries for these species in the San Miguel River Basin. In addition, the upper portion of this river segment is managed as a wild trout fishery.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - While no roads run parallel to Naturita Creek, at least five road crossings occur along it: two county road bridge crossings, two state highway bridge crossings, and one unimproved road crossing. There are water diversions along this reach, but no impoundments. Miramonte Reservoir, located several miles upstream from the upper terminus, regulates flow to some extent.





Map 18 - Saltado Creek

Total Segment Length: 5.56 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 4.14 miles

Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation



18 - RIVER SEGMENT: Saltado Creek

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Saltado Creek is a perennially flowing tributary of the San Miguel River. Saltado Creek experiences high flows during spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this segment is the intersection with the upper extent of BLM-managed lands. The lower terminus is the confluence of Saltado Creek and the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 3' 38.56" N; Longitude: 108° 9' 24.71" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 37° 59' 19.95" N; Longitude: 108° 7' 41.62" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 4.14 | | | 1.42 | 5.56 | 74.6% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 1,448.4 | | | 313.0 | 1,761.4 | 82.2% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 1) Vegetation - This segment supports a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of globally vulnerable (G3) narrowleaf cottonwood-blue spruce/thinleaf alder riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia*-*Picea pungens*/*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*) along several miles of its length. The BLM has designated an area which includes this segment as part of the San Miguel ACEC, primarily in order to protect these outstanding riparian communities.

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Rationale - The shoreline of this river segment is primitive, with no roads, water diversions or other developments along it.



19 - RIVER SEGMENT: San Miguel River, Segment 1

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occurring during fall and early winter months, and high flows occurring during spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this segment is the BLM/private land boundary, immediately downstream of its confluence with Deep Creek. The lower terminus is the BLM/private land boundary, downstream of the San Miguel River's confluence with Clay Creek. This river segment is in a narrow, sinuous and confined canyon, deeply incised through sedimentary rock formations.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 10' 17.90" N; Longitude: 108° 15' 38.92" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 37° 57' 19.00" N; Longitude: 107° 56' 0.71" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 17.34 | 0.08 | | 9.81 | 27.23 | 64% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 6,679.2 | 136.0 | | 1,628.8 | 8,444.0 | 80.7% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Historic, Vegetation, Paleontology

- 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:

Deep Creek to Leopard Creek - Stunning views of the San Juan mountain range enhance an array of landscapes with strong vertical relief and interesting erosional patterns. The surrounding vegetation provides wonderful color and contrast, with the river a major contributor to the landscape. This section of river is boulder-strewn with a constant strong gradient. The energetic, splashy flow is the keystone to the scenic quality of this reach. Thick, diverse riparian vegetation provides additional scenic value, changing in color and density through the growing season. Some modifications, including a road, power line, and scattered structures detract somewhat from the impact of the scene.

Leopard Creek to Cascabel - A variety of vegetation with interesting features contributes to the exceptional beauty of this section of the San Miguel. This section of river is boulder-strewn with a constant strong gradient. The energetic, splashy flow is the keystone to the scenic quality of this reach. Thick, diverse riparian vegetation provides additional scenic value, changing in color and density through the growing season. The river somewhat dominates the landscape, while the color and contrast provided by steep canyons and interesting erosional patterns adds to the



visual appeal. There are a few modifications including power lines and roads that detract from the scenery.

- 2) Recreational - This segment of the San Miguel River provides superior opportunities for river recreation. During the snowmelt season, whitewater rafters and kayakers are challenged by the swift currents and complex hydraulics of this boulder-strewn river. Outside of the snowmelt season, the river provides excellent opportunities for trout fishing on complex pocket water. Fishing enthusiasts may access the river via foot or raft. The river is easily accessed via paved highway and a number of high-quality BLM recreation sites. Included among these are six developed boat launch sites, one campground, six picnic areas, and one interpretive center – all associated with the river.

The river's reputation for outstanding recreational opportunities combined with the availability of commercial guiding services, consistently draw visitors from around the world. This section also provides exceptional opportunities for sightseeing and photography along the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway. The byway is marketed to visitors from within Colorado, out of State, and internationally by the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway Committee and the Colorado Office of Tourism. The entire segment is within the San Miguel River Special Recreation Management Area.

- 3) Wildlife - In the western United States, the Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*) is associated with lodgepole pine, subalpine fir, Englemann spruce, and aspen cover types within or immediately adjacent to mixed conifer habitat types. Denning and winter habitat for this species is typically comprised of dense coniferous forests, often with heavy downfall that provides suitable denning sites. At lower and drier elevations such as those on BLM lands, this habitat type is often concentrated along streams, rivers, and canyons that provide sufficient moisture for montane forest types, making for a strong relationship between watercourses and winter/denning sites. There is strong evidence that this river segment and in particular, the Leopard Creek-San Miguel confluence near Placerville, functions as a high quality, landscape-level movement corridor, a critical link between the Uncompahgre Plateau and Mount Sneffels/San Juan Mountains for this federally threatened species (based on personal communications with the FWS in 2009.)

In addition, the area has been identified as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society, supporting a diversity of birds and containing regionally outstanding habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), a federal candidate species.

- 4) Historic - Remnants of an old railroad grade follow along much of this section. The Rio Grande Southern Railroad operated a fleet of seven unusual railcars along a narrow gauge track from the 1930s until service ended in 1952, at which point the line was quickly decommissioned. The rail line was known as the *Galloping Goose*. Built from car, truck, and bus parts, the lightweight "motors" proved to be an economical method for transporting mail and passengers between Durango and Ridgway.



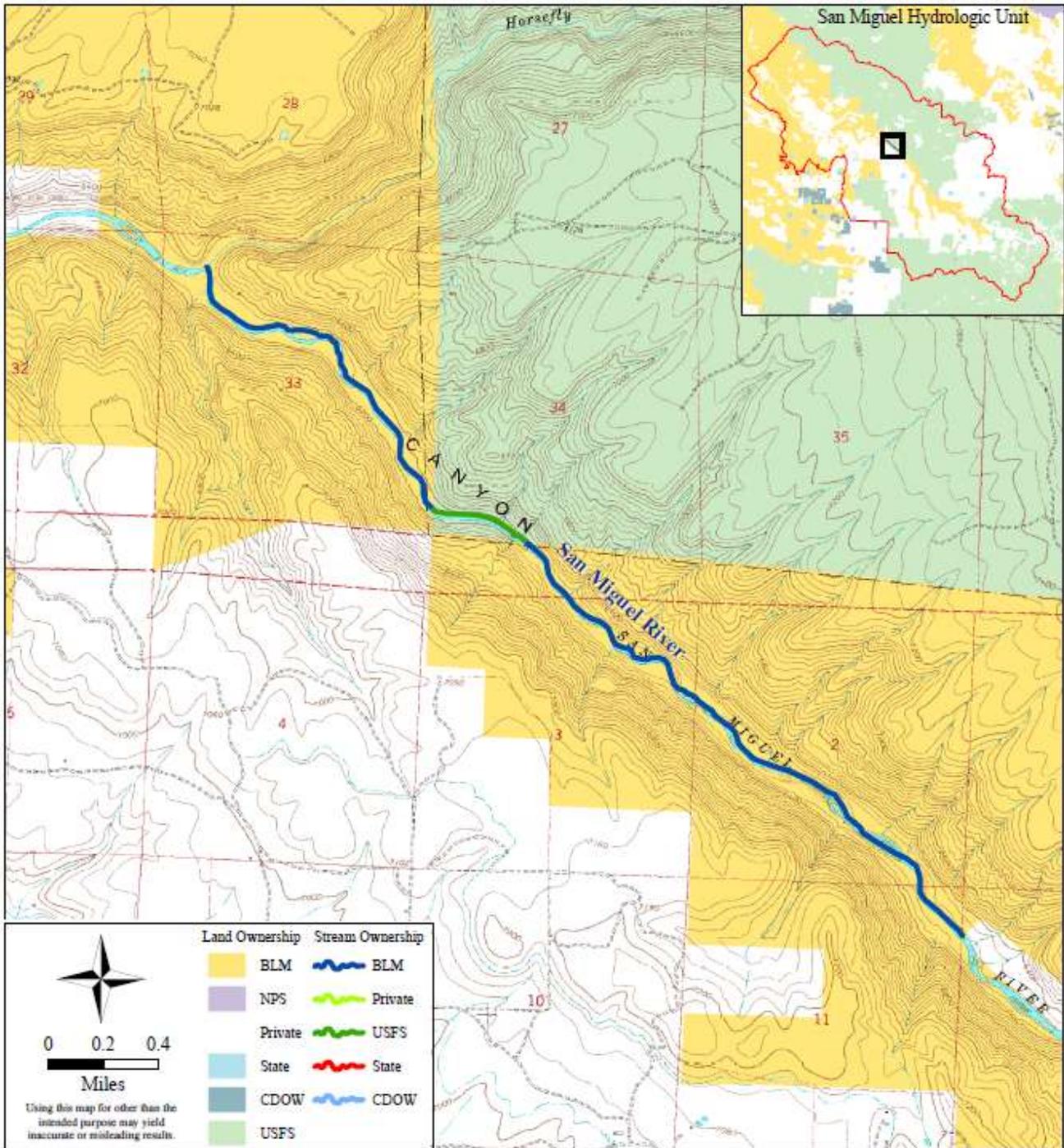
The remains of historic uranium ore processing loadout areas are also present along this stretch. The site qualifies for nomination to the NRHP under **Criterion A**: *Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.*

- 5) **Vegetation** - This reach contains numerous occurrences of four globally vulnerable (G3) riparian communities. These include superior (A-ranked) occurrences of river birch/mesic graminoid riparian shrubland (*Betula occidentalis*/mesic graminoid), narrowleaf cottonwood-blue spruce/thinleaf alder riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia*-*Picea pungens*/*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), narrowleaf cottonwood/thinleaf alder riparian woodland (*Populus angustifolia*/*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*), and thinleaf alder/mesic graminoid riparian shrubland (*Alnus incana* ssp. *tenuifolia*/mesic graminoids). The reach falls within the Middle San Miguel Potential Conservation Area. In addition, the BLM has designated an area which includes this segment as part of the San Miguel ACEC, primarily to protect these outstanding riparian communities.
- 6) **Paleontology** - For many miles, the canyon formed by the San Miguel River exposes chunks of the Morrison Formation, remnants of a one hundred million-year old river bed. This Jurassic-age river meandered eastward from the ancestral Rocky Mountains into immense inland seas. Many fossils, including rare fish, plants and fragmentary dinosaur bones, can be found in various places along this stretch.

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - Colorado state highways parallel this river segment for most of its length. There are also several county road bridge crossings, and at least one unimproved road crossing (ford) at Beaver Creek. A powerline parallels the river within the riparian area for most of this segment. There are several recreational developments along this segment, including campgrounds, day use areas, and boat launches. An in-channel rock project exists about 1.5 miles downstream of Placerville, Colorado, with the intended purpose of stabilizing a laterally eroding reach of the river and protecting Colorado State Highway 145. There are water diversions on this river segment, but no impoundments.





Map 20 - San Miguel River, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: 4.01 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 3.64 miles

Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Vegetation



20 - RIVER SEGMENT: San Miguel River, Segment 2

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occurring during fall and early winter months, and high flows resulting from spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this segment is the BLM/private land boundary downstream of its confluence with Clay Creek. The lower terminus is immediately above the confluence of the San Miguel and Horsefly Creek. The river in this section flows through a narrow, sinuous and confined canyon composed of deeply incised sedimentary rock.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 12' 19.52" N; Longitude: 108° 18' 46.13" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 10' 17.90" N; Longitude: 108° 15' 38.92" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 3.64 | 0.37 | | | 4.01 | 100% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|-------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 1,112.0 | 122.7 | | 21.3 | 1,256.0 | 98.3% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, Recreational, 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: The San Miguel flows clear and is a dominant element in this section. Complex erosional patterns combine with a diverse plant community to form a varied landscape in contrasting hues of green, red, yellow, orange, gray, tan and blue. The adjacent scenery contributes moderately to this river setting. This section of river is boulder-strewn and has a consistent gradient. The constant, energetic, splashy flow creates visually pleasing hydraulic features that are rare in the region of comparison. Riparian vegetation provides additional scenic value, changing in color and density through the growing season.
- 2) Recreational - This section of the San Miguel River offers a rare and extraordinary opportunity for primitive river recreation, as the riparian surroundings transition from the Rocky Mountain physiographic region of the upper San Miguel to the Colorado Plateau physiographic region of the lower San Miguel. With no roads or developments, this section appears primitive and natural. River recreation in this section includes rafting, kayaking and trout fishing, as part of long day or multi-day trips. This and the adjacent downstream segment support the San Miguel's best population of self-sustaining trout. There are several primitive BLM campsites along the



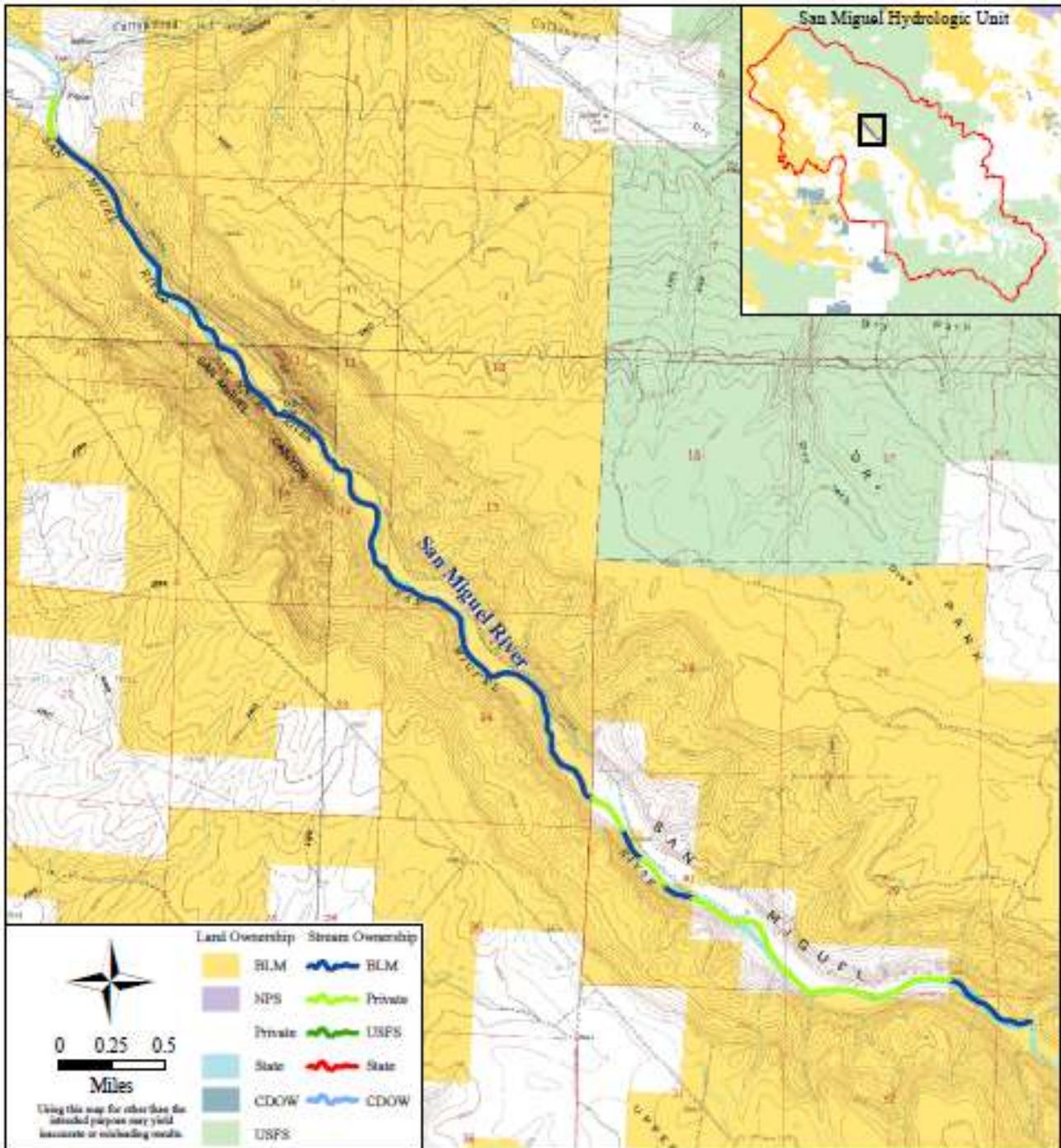
reach. The entire reach lies within the San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area, used by private and commercial river runners and trout fishers.

- 3) Wildlife - The area in and around this section has been identified as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society, supporting a diversity of birds and containing regionally outstanding habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), a federal candidate species.
- 4) Vegetation - This segment supports five distinct and outstanding riparian communities. These include four superior (A-ranked) occurrences of communities classified as globally vulnerable (G3) thinleaf alder/mesic graminoid riparian shrubland (*Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia*/mesic graminoids), narrowleaf cottonwood-blue spruce/thinleaf alder riparian forest (*Populus angustifolia-Picea pungens/Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia*), narrowleaf cottonwood/thinleaf alder riparian woodland (*Populus angustifolia/Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia*), and river birch/mesic graminoid riparian shrubland (*Betula occidentalis*/mesic graminoids). In addition, a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of blue spruce/red osier dogwood riparian forest (*Picea pungens/Cornus sericea*), ranked as apparently secure (G4), occurs here as well. The site is included within the CNHP-designated San Miguel River, Clay Creek to Horsefly Creek Potential Conservation Area. The BLM has also designated an area which includes this segment as part of the San Miguel ACEC, primarily in order to protect these outstanding riparian communities.

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Rationale - A trail leading to the river boundary exists near the upper terminus, and an inconspicuous trail through riparian areas parallels the river for portions of this segment. There are no other developments or diversions along this segment. The shoreline is essentially primitive.





Map 21 - San Miguel River, Segment 3

Total Segment Length: 7.31 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 5.30 miles

Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational, Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation

21 - RIVER SEGMENT: San Miguel River, Segment 3

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occurring during fall and early winter months, and high flows resulting from spring snowmelt. The upper terminus of this segment is immediately upstream from the confluence of the San Miguel River and Horsefly Creek. The lower terminus is the Colorado State Highway 90 bridge crossing at the old townsite of Pinon.

Lower Terminus - Latitude: 38° 15' 59.44" N; Longitude: 108° 24' 4.57" W

Upper Terminus - Latitude: 38° 12' 19.52" N; Longitude: 108° 18' 46.13" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 5.30 | | | 2.01 | 7.31 | 72.5% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 1,880.7 | | | 407.6 | 2,288.3 | 82.2% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational, Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation

- 1) **Recreational** - This San Miguel River segment offers a rare and extraordinary opportunity for primitive river recreation, as the riparian surroundings transition from the Rocky Mountain physiographic region of the upper San Miguel to the Colorado Plateau physiographic region of the lower San Miguel. River recreation in this section includes rafting, kayaking and trout fishing, as part of long day or multi-day trips.

With few developments and one minor dirt road not visible from the river, this section appears mostly primitive and natural. Several primitive BLM campsites dot the shoreline, and two developed campgrounds with boat ramps, toilets and picnic facilities are located along the lower third of the reach. Exceptionally good “play waves” form in the Ledges area during spring runoff and are sought by kayakers, who consider them to be some of the best natural features of their kind in the state.

This and the adjacent upstream segment support the San Miguel’s best population of self-sustaining trout. The entire reach lies within the San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area, used by private and commercial river runners and trout fishers.

- 2) **Fish** - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*).

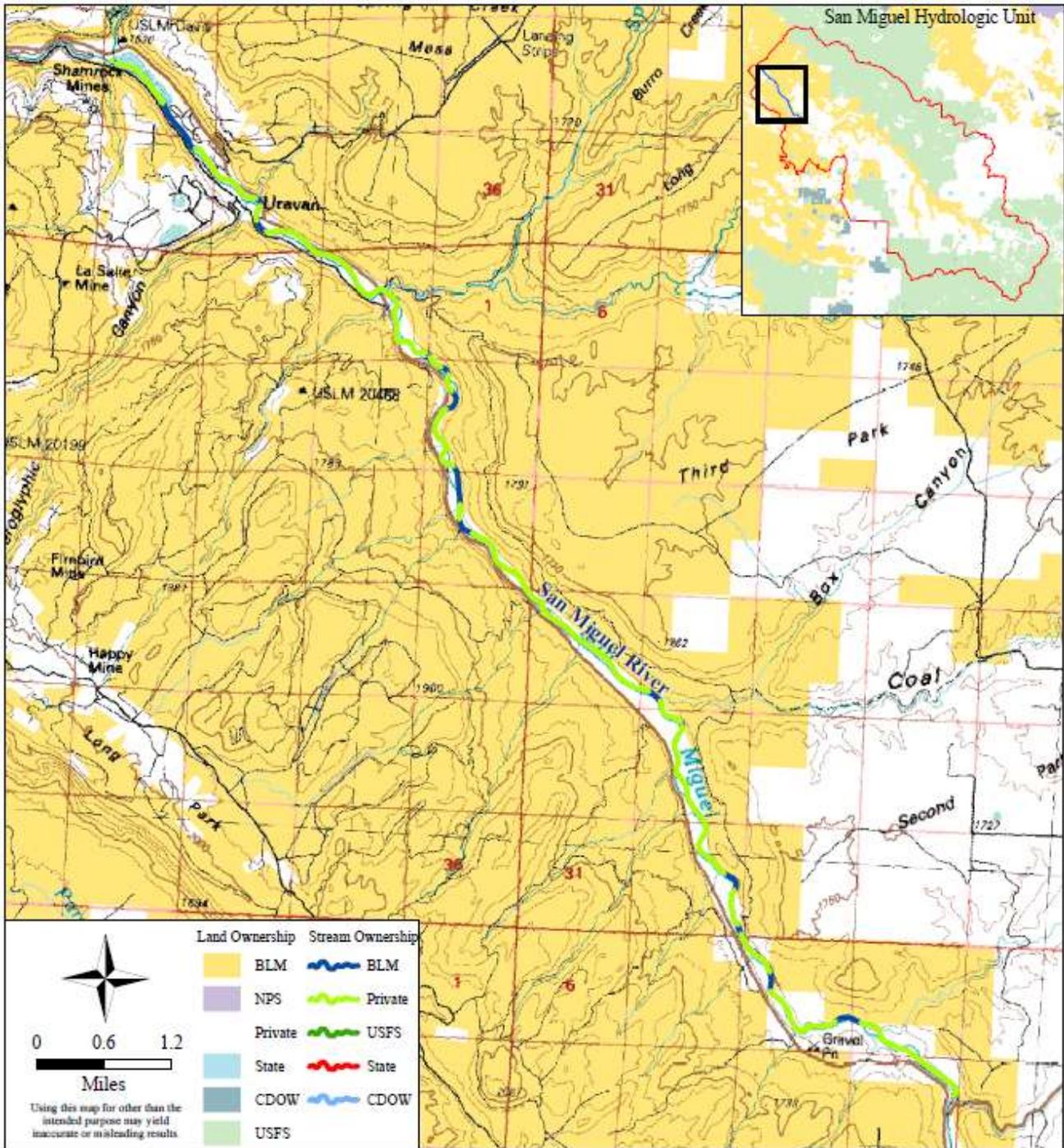


- 3) Wildlife - The area in and around this section supports a diversity of birds, and is classified as an Important Bird Area by the Audubon Society. In addition, the area contains regionally outstanding habitat for the yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), a federal candidate species.
- 4) Vegetation - This reach supports a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of sandbar willow (*Salix exigua*)/mesic graminoids riparian shrubland, ranked as secure globally (G5). The segment is included in the San Miguel River at Cottonwood Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - An unsurfaced road parallels but does not dominate the river corridor for most of this segment. BLM recreation sites are available for overnight camping, picnicking and boat launches within the river corridor. There are water diversions along this segment. The Highline Diversion, located downstream of Horsefly Creek, has a senior water right of 145 cfs and significantly depletes the San Miguel River during irrigation season. An overhead power line and a buried natural gas pipeline cross this segment.





Map 22 - San Miguel River, Segment 5

Total Segment Length: 14.00 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 2.59 miles

Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational, Fish, Historic, Vegetation



22 - RIVER SEGMENT: San Miguel River, Segment 5

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occurring during fall and early winter months, and high flows occurring during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated during summer thunderstorm activity. This segment of the river has an upper terminus at its confluence with Calamity Draw. The lower terminus is the confluence of the San Miguel River and Atkinson Creek.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 16' 13.17" N; Longitude: 108° 38' 39.27" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 15' 23.86" N; Longitude: 108° 36' 49.95" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 2.59 | | | 11.41 | 14.00 | 18.5% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 2,738.1 | | | 1,610.4 | 4,348.5 | 63% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational, Fish, Historic, Vegetation

- 1) Recreational - This section of the San Miguel River provides exceptional opportunities for sightseeing and photography along the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway. The byway is marketed to visitors from within Colorado, out of state, and internationally by the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway Committee and by the Colorado Office of Tourism. This section of the byway focuses on the San Miguel River and its associated historic sites and surrounding landscape.
- 2) Fish - 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*). This segment contains an intact native fishery and is regionally one of the best examples of a remnant native fishery. In addition, this segment was historically occupied by Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), a federally endangered species.
- 3) Historic - This stretch of river marks the beginning of the historic Hanging Flume, one of the premier 19th century engineering accomplishments in the west. The thirteen-mile flume was constructed above the Dolores and San Miguel rivers over a three-year period in the late 1800s to supply water to a hydraulic placer gold mining operation. The structure was added to the NRHP in 1980, and was listed as one of Colorado's Most Endangered Places in 1999. In addition, the flume is listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties, the World Heritage Fund's list of most endangered places and the 2006 World Monument Fund Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites.



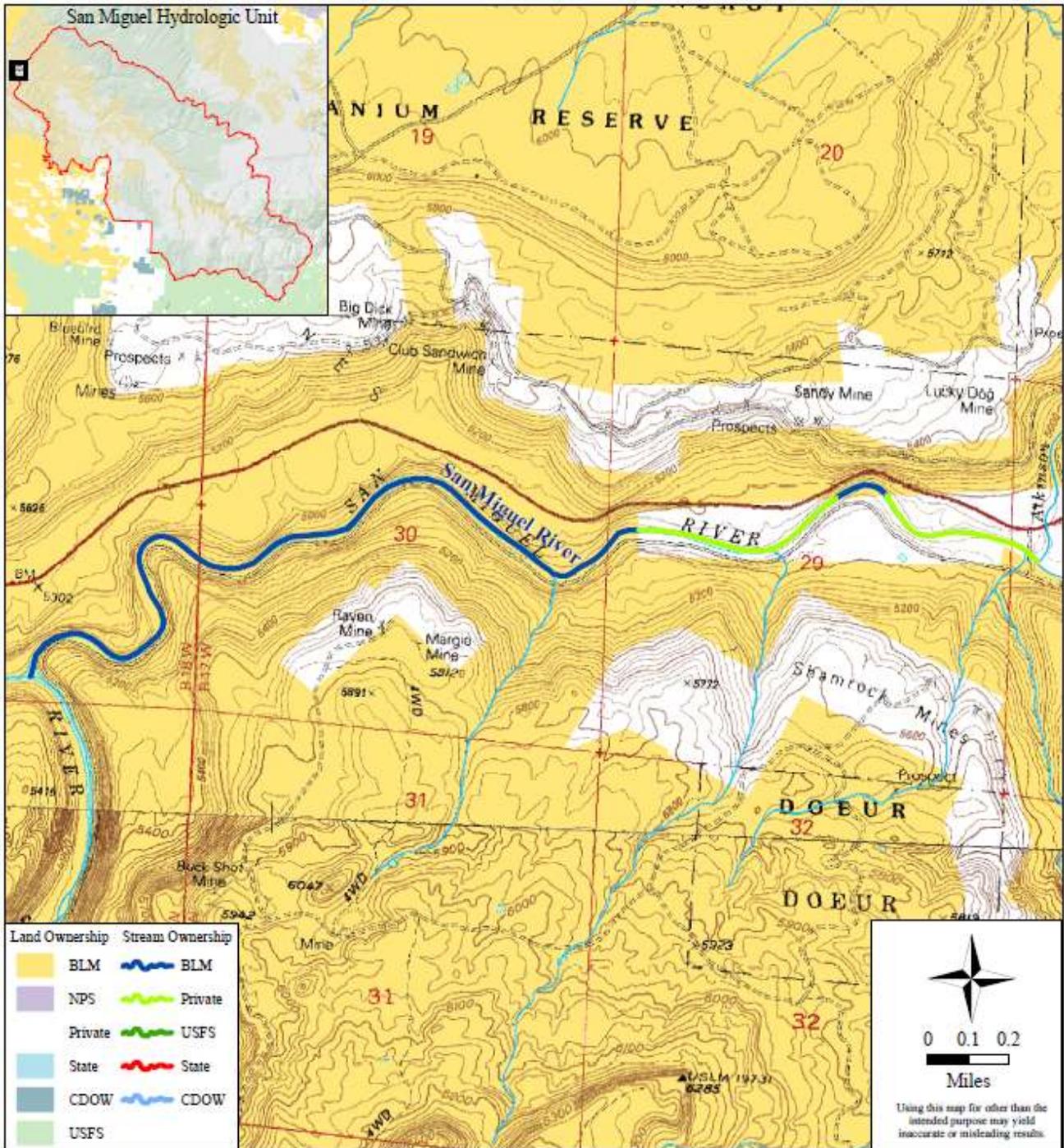
Historic mining buildings and shafts, as well as remnants of the dismantled radium, uranium and vanadium mill town of Uravan, are also found along this stretch.

- 4) Vegetation - This segment supports three superior (A-ranked) occurrences of riparian communities. New Mexico privet riparian shrubland (*Forestiera pubescens*) is currently ranked as critically imperiled globally (G1G2) until more information on the distribution of this community is available. Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland (*Populus deltoides ssp. wislizenii/Rhus trilobata*) and skunkbush sumac riparian shrubland (*Rhus trilobata*) are both globally imperiled (G2). The segment lies within the San Miguel River at Tabeguache Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - Colorado State Highway 141 parallels this river segment, although the highway is located on a bench well above the river for much of the segment. Two county road bridge crossings occur on this segment, with one county road running parallel for a short distance along the lower portion. The former mill town site of Uravan is near the lower terminus. There are water diversions on this river segment.





Map 23 - San Miguel River, Segment 6

Total Segment Length: 3.23 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 2.25 miles

Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational, Fish, Historic, Vegetation



23 - RIVER SEGMENT: San Miguel River, Segment 6

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occurring during fall and early winter months, and high flows occurring during spring snowmelt. This reach of the San Miguel River has an upper terminus at its confluence with Atkinson Creek and a lower terminus at its confluence with the Dolores River. The river has carved a narrow, sinuous canyon, deeply incised through sedimentary rock formations.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 22' 46.60" N; Longitude: 108° 48' 12.89" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 23' 6.71" N; Longitude: 108° 45' 28.77" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 2.25 | | | 0.98 | 3.23 | 69.66% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 808.7 | | | 180.7 | 989.4 | 81.7% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Recreational, Fish, Historic, Vegetation

- 1) **Recreational** - This section of the San Miguel River provides exceptional opportunities for sightseeing and photography along the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway. The byway is marketed to visitors from within Colorado, as well as out of state and internationally by the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway Committee and by the Colorado Office of Tourism. This section of the byway focuses on the San Miguel River and associated historic sites and surrounding landscape.
- 2) **Fish** - This river segment contains exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive warm water fish species: Bluehead sucker (*Catostomus discobolus*), flannelmouth sucker (*Catostomus latipinnis*), and roundtail chub (*Gila robusta*). These populations are regionally significant due to population numbers and the lack of non-native fish within this segment. In addition, this reach was historically occupied by the Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), a federally endangered species.
- 3) **Historic** - Along the canyon walls of this San Miguel River segment are remnants of the historic Hanging Flume, one of the premier engineering accomplishments of the 19th century in the west. The thirteen-mile flume was built in the late 1800s to supply water to a hydraulic placer gold mining operation on the Dolores River near Roc Creek. The structure was added to the NRHP in 1980, and was listed as one of Colorado's Most Endangered Places in 1999. In addition, the flume is listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Properties, the World Heritage



Fund's list of most endangered places and the 2006 World Monument Fund Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites.

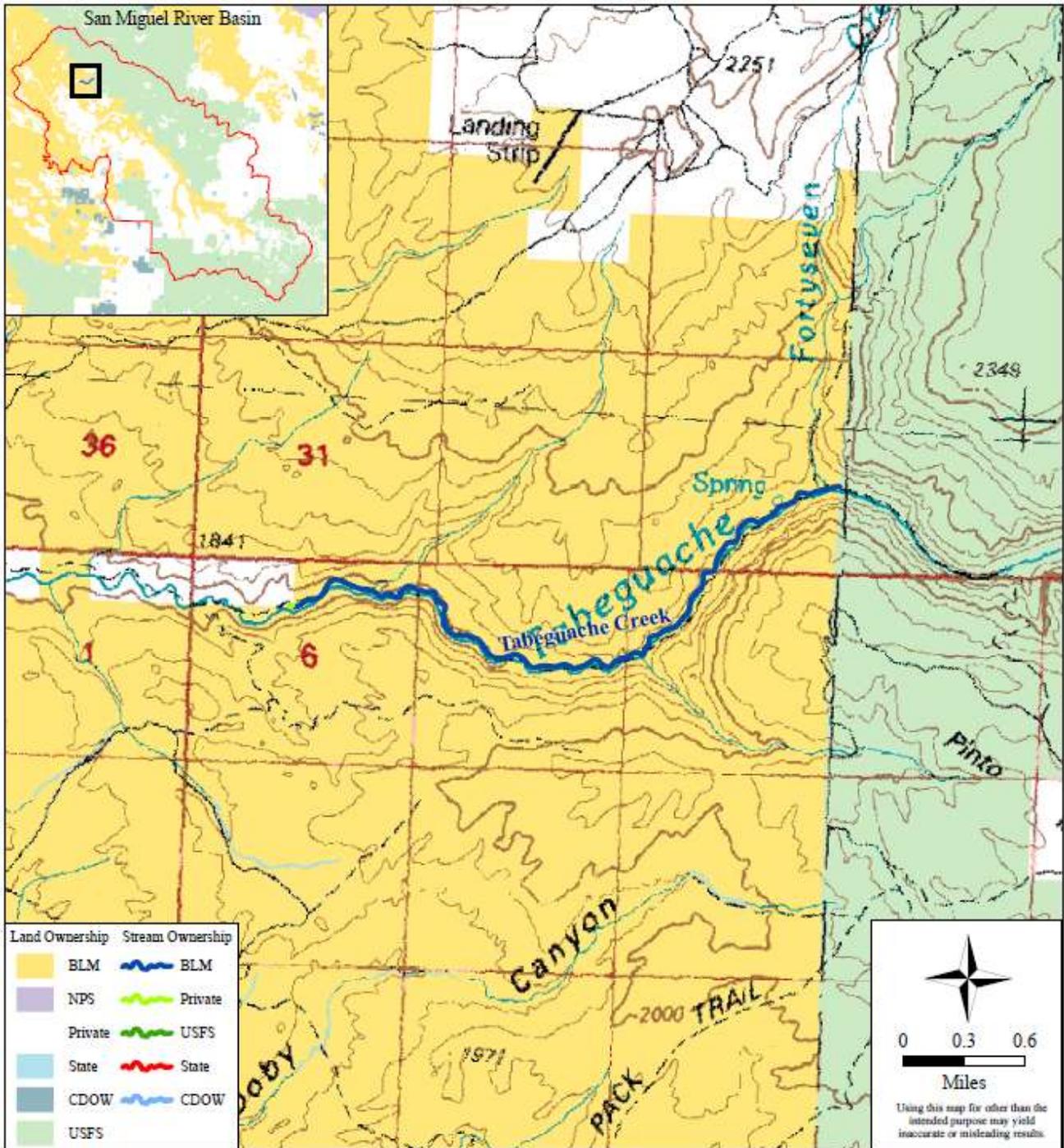
Historic uranium mining buildings and shafts can also be found along this stretch, many of which have been evaluated and found to be eligible for nomination to the NRHP under **Criterion A**: *Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.*

- 4) Vegetation - This riparian zone contains New Mexico privet riparian shrubland (*Forestiera pubescens*), which is currently ranked as critically imperiled globally (G1G2) until more information on the distribution of this community is available. The reach is included within the Uravan West Potential Conservation Area and is considered by CNHP to have outstanding significance.

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - This river reach is free of diversions and impoundments, but an improved gravel county road parallels the southern bank of the river for its entire length. The road is primarily located in the riparian zone adjacent to the channel, but does occasionally infringe on the active river channel. An old, unused bridge crosses the San Miguel River just downstream of its confluence with Atkinson Creek. The historically significant Hanging Flume is visible from the river along the north canyon side for much of this reach.





Map 24 - Tabeguache Creek, Segment I

Total Segment Length: 3.61 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 3.61 miles

Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation



24 - RIVER SEGMENT: Tabeguache Creek, Segment I

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Tabeguache Creek is a perennially flowing tributary of the lower San Miguel River. High flows on this segment occur from spring snowmelt and runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus is the boundary with the Uncompahgre National Forest, while the lower terminus is the west boundary of the Tabeguache Area.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 21' 34.46" N; Longitude: 108° 33' 58.49" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 22' 10.25" N; Longitude: 108° 31' 1.30" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 3.61 | | | | 3.61 | 100% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 1,077.0 | | | 6.3 | 1,083.3 | 99.4% |

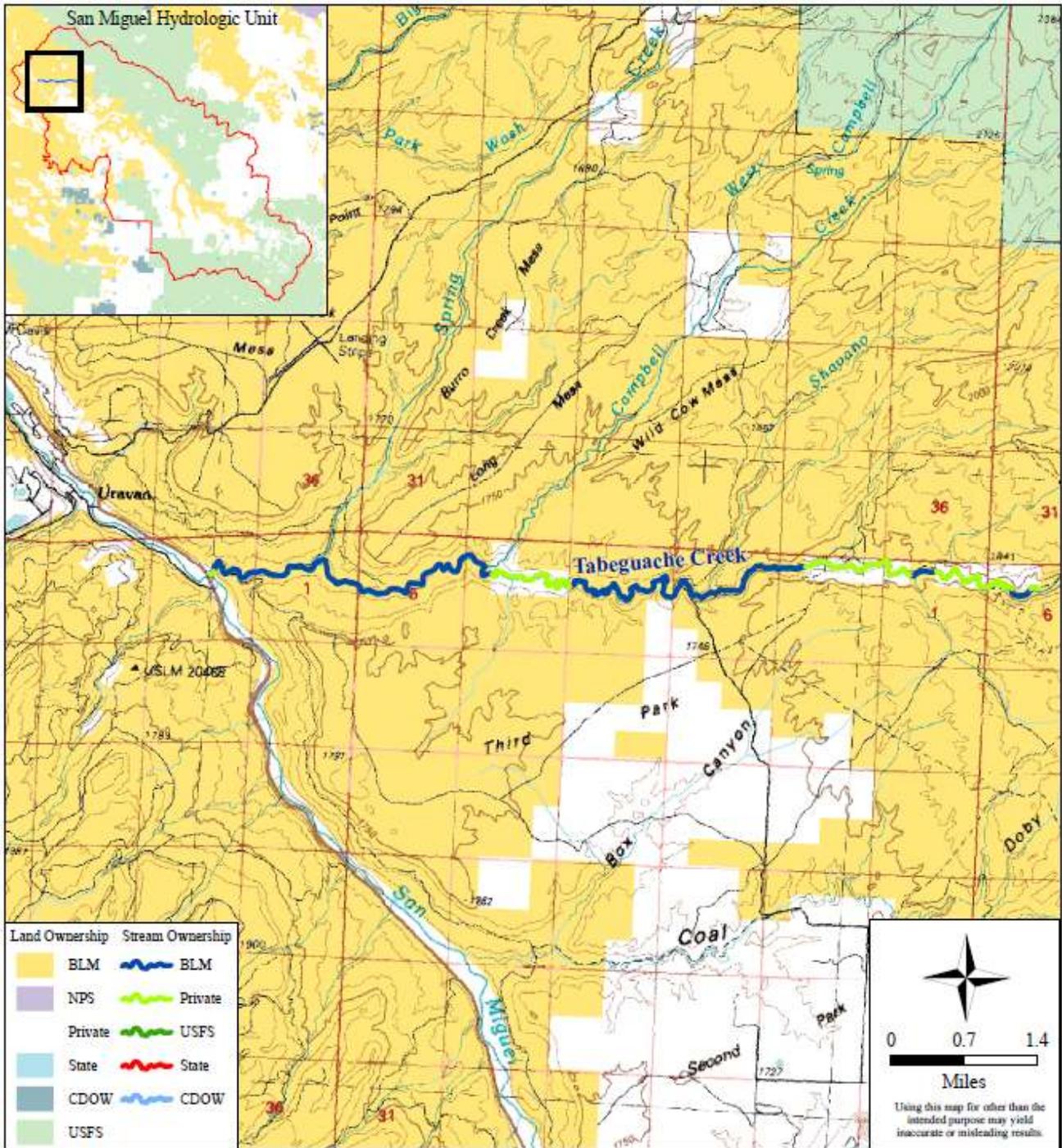
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 1) Vegetation - This segment contains a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland (*Populus angustifolia/Rhus trilobata*), classified as vulnerable globally (G3). There is also a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of common sandbar willow/barren riparian shrubland (*Salix exigua/barren*). The entire segment lies within the CNHP-designated San Miguel River at Tabeguache Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Rationale - A relatively inconspicuous single-track pack trail, overgrown with vegetation, parallels and crosses this river segment, and runs entirely within the confined canyon bottom. An absolute water right for a 1.92-cfs irrigation diversion and ditch known as Skee's Ditch is located on this river segment at Colorado Sixth Principal Meridian, T47N, R15W, Section 5 SW, NW, NMPM of BLM's Public Land Survey System (PLSS). This water right was decreed by the State of Colorado in 1939, but records indicating if and when it was ever constructed are lacking. A field assessment conducted by BLM personnel in May 2009 found no physical sign of a stream diversion or ditch. The shoreline for the entire segment is primitive.





Map 25 - Tabeguache Creek, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: 11.57 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 7.89 miles

Hydrologic Unit: San Miguel

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Cultural, Vegetation



25 - RIVER SEGMENT: Tabeguache Creek, Segment 2

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: Tabeguache Creek is a perennially flowing tributary of the lower San Miguel River. High flows on this segment occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus is the west boundary of the Tabeguache Area. The lower terminus is the confluence of Tabeguache Creek with the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 21' 25.36" N; Longitude: 108° 42' 43.18" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 21' 34.46" N; Longitude: 108° 33' 58.49" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 7.89 | | | 3.68 | 11.57 | 68.2% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 2,487.3 | | | 515.4 | 3,002.7 | 82.8% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Cultural, Vegetation

- 1) Cultural - The prehistoric Tabeguache Cave site was home to Anasazi and possibly Gateway Culture people. The site was excavated in the 1920s, and provides much of the baseline archaeological data used in interpreting Colorado’s prehistory. The site is listed on the NRHP and was added to the Colorado Register of Historic Properties in 1996.

In addition, numerous open occupations, rock art figures and campsites are associated with this segment of Tabeguache Creek, many of which have been evaluated as eligible 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.**

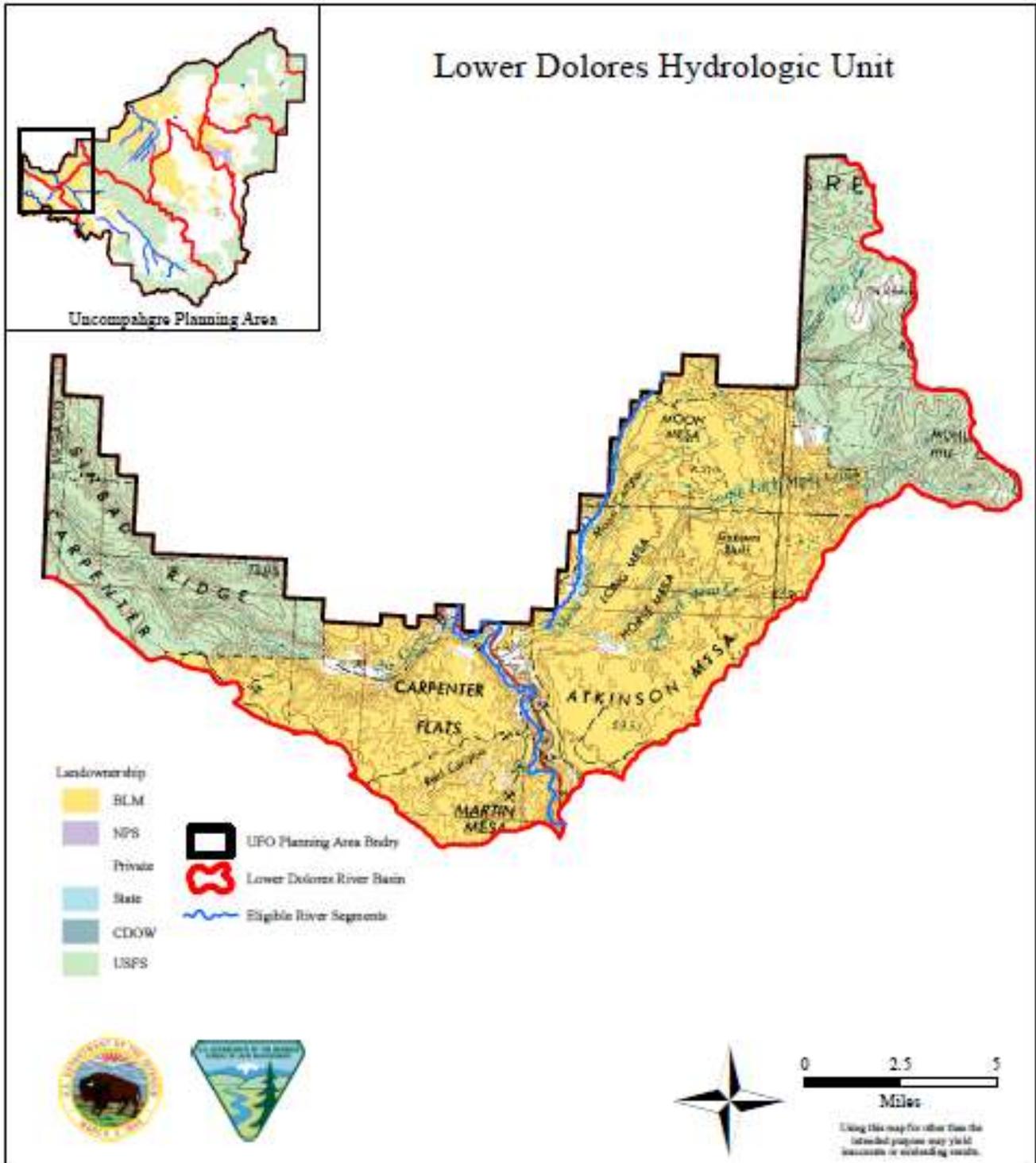
- 2) Vegetation - This segment contains three outstanding plant communities. There is a superior (A-ranked) occurrence of New Mexico privet riparian shrubland (*Forestiera pubescens*), which is considered to be critically imperiled globally (G1G2) until more information on the distribution of this community is available. There are also superior (A-ranked) occurrences of globally vulnerable (G3) narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbrush riparian woodland (*Populus angustifolia/Rhus trilobata*), and common coyote willow/bare ground riparian shrubland (*Salix exigua/barren*). The entire segment lies within the CNHP-designated San Miguel River at Tabeguache Creek Potential Conservation Area.



Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - Montrose County roads and an unsurfaced road primarily associated with private lands parallel portions of this segment. In addition, there is a county road bridge crossing, as well as water diversions and one small impoundment.



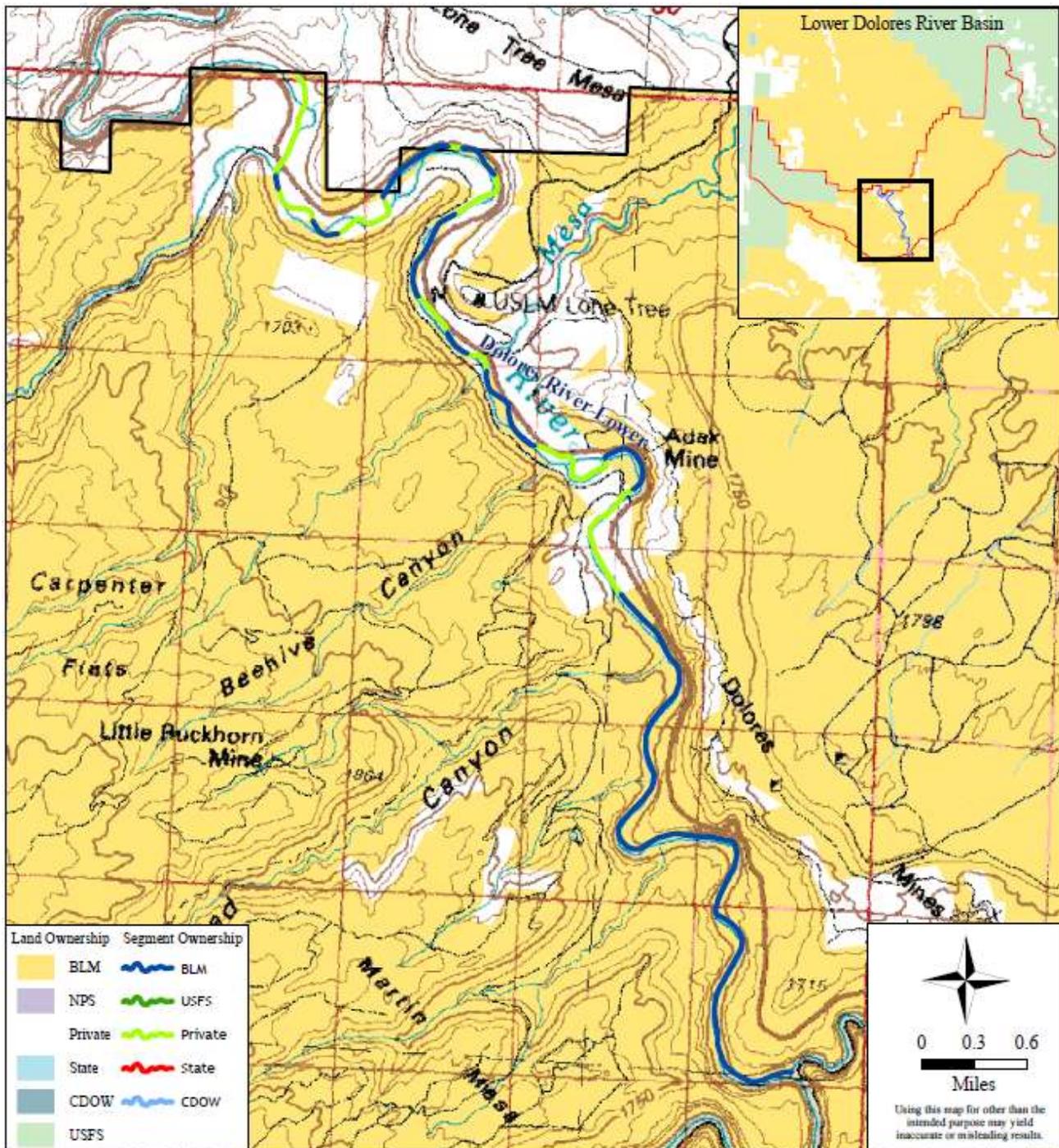


LOWER DOLORES HYDROLOGIC UNIT

Eligible River Segments: 2

- 26. Dolores River
- 27. North Fork Mesa Creek





Map 26 - Dolores River

Total Segment Length: 10.53 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 6.93 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Lower Dolores

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

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



26 - RIVER SEGMENT: Dolores River
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Dolores

Description: This segment of the Dolores River is perennial, with the flow regulated upstream by the McPhee Reservoir. The upper terminus is the confluence of the Dolores River and the San Miguel River. The lower terminus is the boundary of the BLM UFO with the BLM Grand Junction FO. Grand Junction’s WSR Eligibility Report identifies the downstream, contiguous segment of the Dolores River as eligible. The river is in a narrow sinuous canyon, deeply incised through sedimentary rock formations for much of this segment.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 27' 34.84" N; Longitude: 108° 51' 35.14" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 22' 46.60" N; Longitude: 108° 48' 12.89" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 6.93 | | | 3.60 | 10.53 | 65.8% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 2,197.5 | | | 922.7 | 3,120.2 | 70.4% |

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

- 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: A highly varied landscape marked by prominent cliffs, strong vertical relief and interesting erosional patterns, make the Dolores River a visually remarkable area. Exceptional views of adjacent scenery complete the stunning scene. The colors in the area, consisting of greens, yellows, oranges, tans, reds, browns and grays, are rich and varied. Cultural modifications consist of power lines, a recreation site, and Colorado Highway 141 that do not detract significantly from the scenery. From the mouth of the San Miguel River downstream to the confluence with Red Canyon, the river meanders through a narrow canyon bounded by sheer red-rock walls. The scenic value created by the river flowing within the canyon is rare in the region of comparison. The section downstream from the confluence with Red Canyon opens to broken ledges and slopes, and does not merit the same outstandingly remarkable scenic quality.
- 2) **Recreational** - This section of the Dolores River provides exceptional opportunities for sightseeing and photography along the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway. The byway is marketed to visitors from within Colorado, out of state, and internationally by the Unaweep-Tabeguache Byway Committee and by the Colorado Office of Tourism. This section of the byway focuses on the Dolores River and its associated historic sites and surrounding landscape. The river



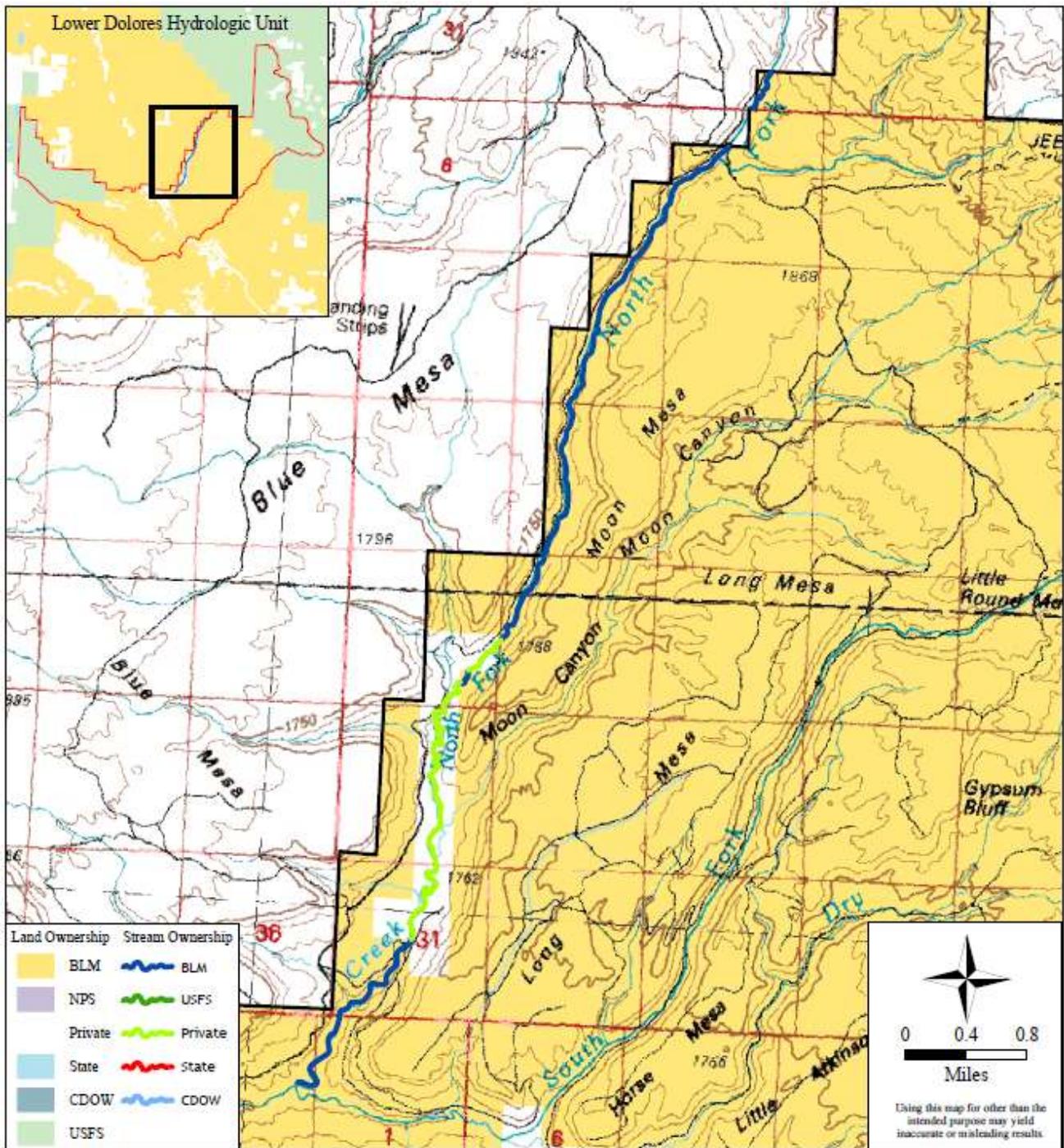
provides extraordinary opportunities for rafting, kayaking and canoeing in a spectacular redrock canyon. With only a handful of comparable opportunities spread across the entire Colorado Plateau, this is an outstanding section of water.

- 3) Geologic - The Dolores River has a well-defined entrenched meander channel pattern through this area, with exposures of Triassic-age Chinle, Wingate, and Kayenta formations. The river has been superimposed upon the Colorado Plateau geology as the region has undergone uplifting. Initially the river established a meandering pattern and as the area rose, the river cut down in this channel until the pattern became well entrenched. Now the river cannot easily cut across the meander bends to create oxbow lakes, as many unentrenched rivers do. Over time, as the river downcuts, it exposes underlying rock formations, usually in the form of resistant redrock sandstone cliffs. The Chinle, Wingate, and Kayenta formations all exhibit this cliff-forming erosional characteristic.
- 4) Fish - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*). In addition, this segment was historically occupied by Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), a Federally endangered species.
- 5) Wildlife - This river segment provides exceptionally high quality habitat for peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), and is considered a regionally important area for this rare 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 their continued recovery. 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 pairs were observed along this segment as recently as 2008 and 2009, and breeding/nesting activity has been confirmed along this segment. Several established peregrine territories also occur in the vicinity.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road crosses the Dolores River via a bridge, and Colorado State Highway 141 parallels portions of this segment but is primarily located on a bench well above the river. In addition, there are water diversions on this reach of the Dolores. The historic Hanging Flume is visible along portions of this river segment. This river segment is on the Colorado 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission). The impairment is listed for total recoverable iron which is suspected of impacting native, warm water fish propagation (Segment ID COGUUN12).





Map 27 - North Fork Mesa Creek

Total Segment Length: 8.53 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 5.81 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Lower Dolores

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation



27 - RIVER SEGMENT: North Fork Mesa Creek

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Dolores

Description: The North Fork of Mesa Creek is a perennial tributary of Mesa Creek. High flows occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus is the BLM Grand Junction Field Office boundary. The lower terminus is the confluence of North Fork Mesa Creek with the South Fork Mesa Creek. Grand Junction’s WSR Eligibility Report identifies the upstream, contiguous segment of the North Fork of Mesa Creek as eligible. Additionally, nested within this river segment is a 475-yard reach near the upper terminus, which is managed by the Grand Junction Field Office.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 27' 10.31" N; Longitude: 108° 49' 2.09" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 33' 1.27" N; Longitude: 108° 45' 53.41" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| <i>BLM</i> | <i>USFS</i> | <i>State</i> | <i>Private</i> | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 5.81 | | | 2.72 | 8.53 | 68.1% |

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 |
|------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 2,042.4 | | | 424.5 | 2,466.9 | 82.8% |

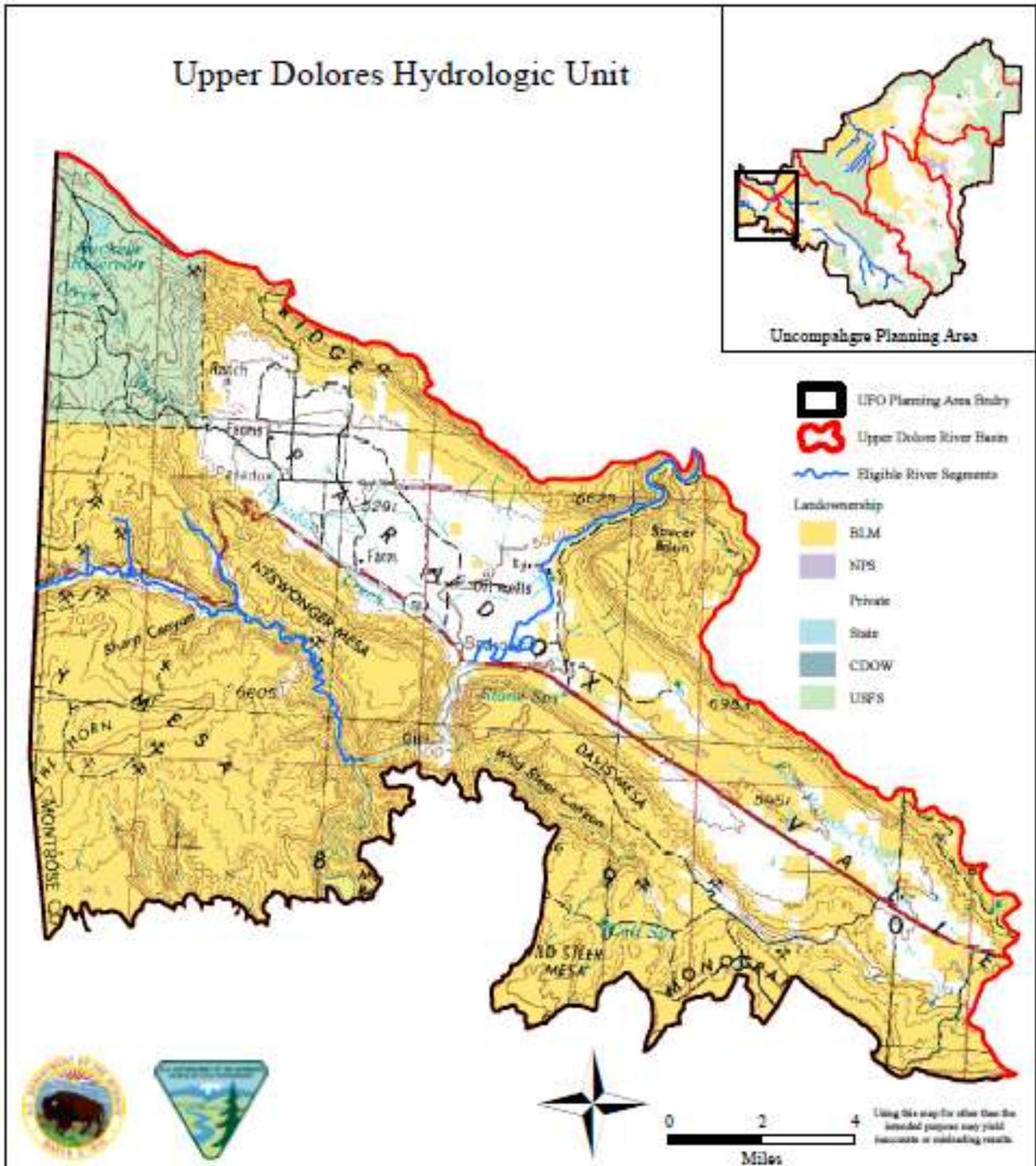
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of narrowleaf cottonwood/strappleaf willow-silver buffaloberry riparian woodland (*Populus angustifolia/salix ligulifolia-Shepherdia argentea*), which is classified as critically imperiled globally (G1).

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road parallels this creek for much of the segment. There are at least two secondary road crossings via unhardened fords. In addition, there are water diversions along this river segment, but no impoundments.





UPPER DOLORES HYDROLOGIC UNIT

Eligible River Segments: 8

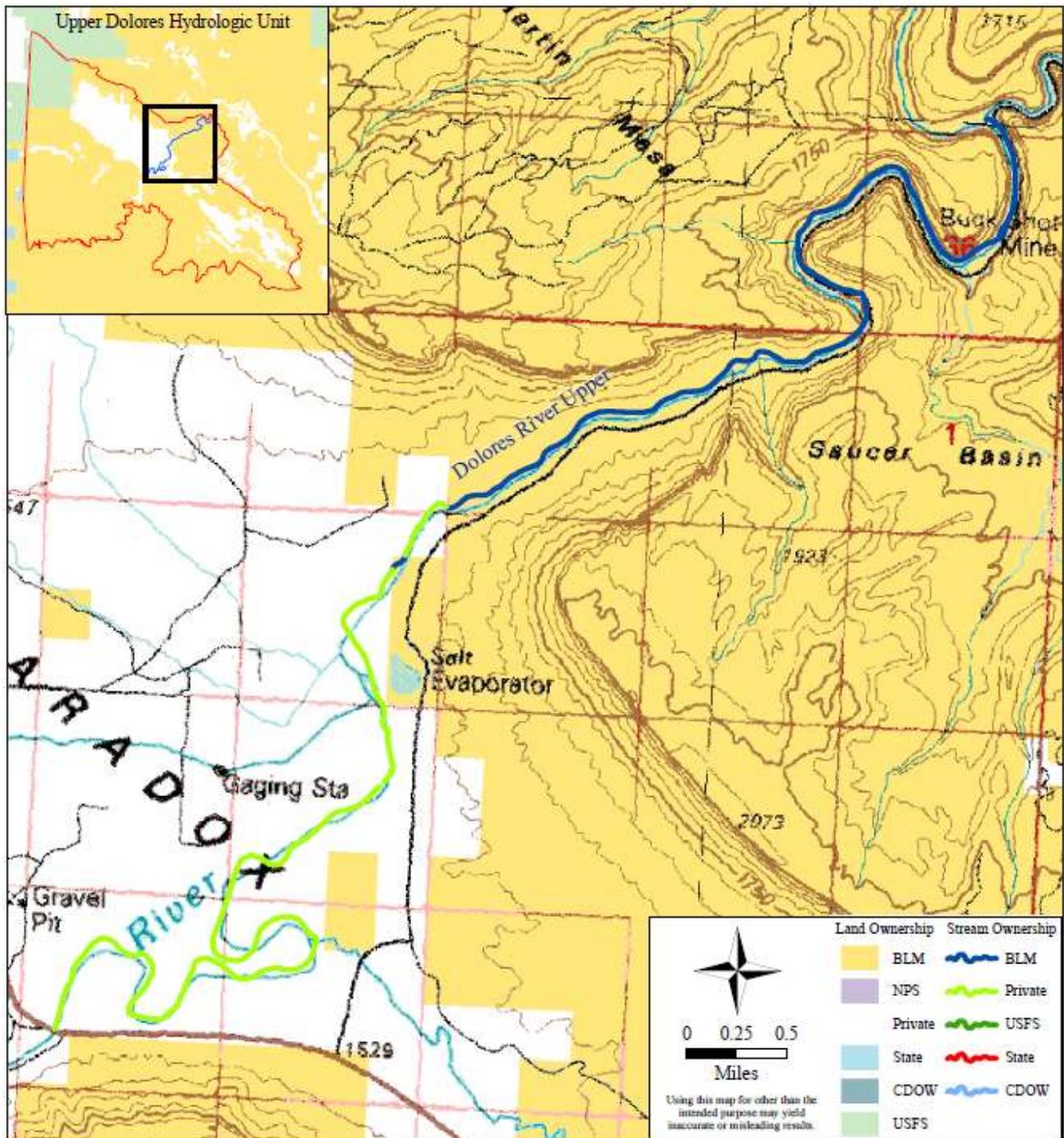
- 28. Dolores River, Segment 2
- 29. Ice Lake Creek, Segment 2
- 30. La Sal Creek, Segment 1

- 31. La Sal Creek, Segment 2
- 32. La Sal Creek, Segment 3
- 33. Lion Creek, Segment 2

- 34. Spring Creek
- *35. Dolores River, Segment 1

* Please refer to the San Juan Public Lands Draft RMP for the Dolores River, Segment 1 eligibility determination





Map 28 - Dolores River, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: 11.50 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 5.42 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Upper Dolores

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

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



***28 - RIVER SEGMENT: Dolores River, Segment 2**

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

*The San Juan Public Lands Draft Land Management Plan identifies a contiguous segment of the Dolores River upstream as eligible for WSR status. From Bedrock, Colorado south, the first 11.8 miles of this river segment is within the UFO, and is referred to in this document as *Dolores River, Segment 1*. Segment 1 will be evaluated by the UFO during the suitability phase, but has not been addressed in this eligibility report.

Description: While Segment 2 of the Dolores River is perennial, the McPhee Reservoir regulates flow upstream. The upper terminus of this segment is the Highway 90 bridge crossing at Bedrock in Paradox Valley. The lower terminus is the confluence of the Dolores with the San Miguel River.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 22' 46.60" N; Longitude: 108° 48' 12.89" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 18' 37.30" N; Longitude: 108° 53' 8.76" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 5.42 | | | 6.08 | 11.50 | 47.1% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 1,820.7 | | | 1,423.8 | 3,244.5 | 56.1% |

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

- 1) Scenic - An interdisciplinary BLM field inventory team evaluated the area and assigned the upper portion of this segment in the Paradox Valley a **Scenic Quality Classification B**, making it ineligible for inclusion in the NWSRS. The lower portion of this segment from where the river leaves the Paradox Valley, downstream to the mouth of the San Miguel River was assigned a **Scenic Quality Classification of A**. The following observations were derived from the team’s field notes: A highly varied landscape marked by prominent cliffs, strong vertical relief, and interesting erosional patterns, make the Dolores River a visually remarkable area. Exceptional views of the adjacent scenery complete the stunning scene. The colors in the area are rich and varied, consisting of greens, yellows, oranges, tans, reds, browns, and grays. One of the most dramatic canyons in Western Colorado. Spectacular landforms, color, water, and vegetation combine to create Class A scenic quality. A small, dirt road parallels the river in the lower section, but detracts only minimally from the scenic quality.
- 2) Recreational - When releases from McPhee Dam allow, the lower five miles of this reach, primarily managed by the BLM, offers rare and outstanding opportunities for rafting, kayaking and canoeing in a deep, meandering redrock canyon. With only a handful of rivers with similarly



attractive characteristics on the entire Colorado Plateau, the Dolores River attracts boaters from across the western United States.

- 3) **Geologic** - The Paradox Basin is a northwest, southeast trending geologic structural anticline that has at its core the Pennsylvanian age Paradox Formation, a halitic evaporite. Over time, water has partially dissolved the salt core, causing the axis of the anticline to collapse and creating a valley with walls that dip away in either direction. The Dolores River has carved a channel across and perpendicular to this collapsed valley, forming the geological paradox for which the valley is named.

After traversing the Paradox Valley and exiting toward the north, the Dolores River follows a well-defined and exemplary entrenched meander channel. Initially the slow-moving river established its meandering pattern. As the Colorado Plateau uplifted, the accelerated flow continued to downcut within this same channel until the pattern became entrenched. Now the river cannot easily cut across these meander bends to form oxbow lakes, as many unentrenched rivers do. As the river carves slowly downward through Triassic-age strata of the Chinle Group, Wingate Sandstone, and Kayenta Formation, it exposes resistant red sandstone cliffs.

- 4) **Fish** - This river segment supports populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*). In addition, this segment was historically occupied by Colorado pikeminnow (*Ptychocheilus lucius*), a Federally endangered species.
- 5) **Wildlife** - This river segment provides exceptionally high quality habitat for peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), and is considered a regionally important area for this rare 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 their continued recovery. 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 pairs were observed in Escalante Canyon as recently as 2008 and 2009, and breeding/nesting activity has been confirmed along this segment. Active territories and nests occur within this reach. In addition, the BLM sensitive canyon treefrog (*Hyla arenicolor*) occupies portions of this stretch.
- 6) **Vegetation**: This segment contains areas of New Mexico privet riparian shrubland (*Forestiera pubescens*), which is classified as critically imperiled globally (G1G2), until more information on the distribution of this community is available.

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

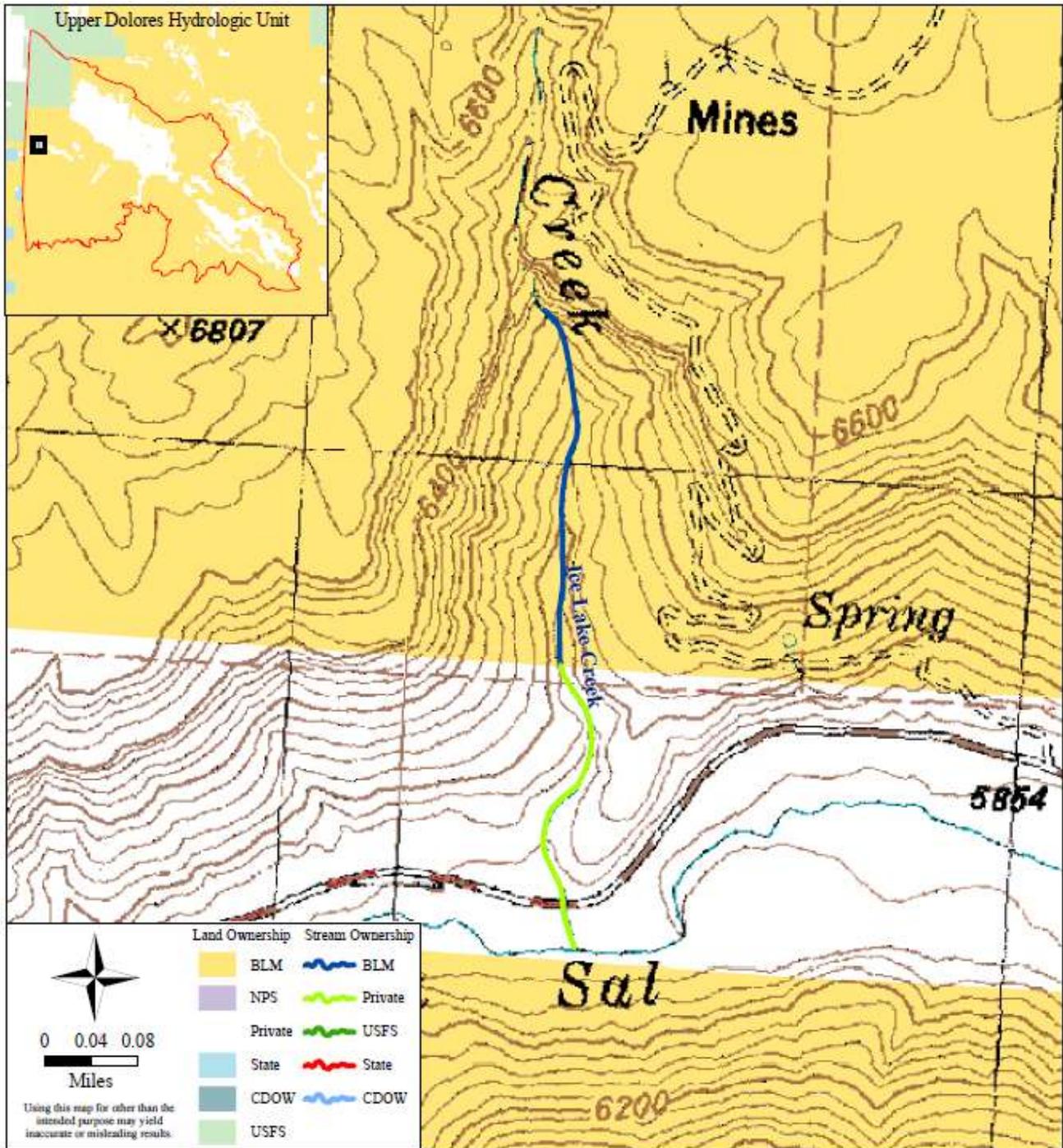
Rationale - An unsurfaced county road adjacent to the river in the canyon bottom occasionally encroaches on the riparian zone and river channel. There are several well diversions along this reach, primarily in the section through Paradox Valley. The wells withdraw saline brine water from the river alluvium, which is pumped upstream south of the town of Bedrock and disposed



CHAPTER FIVE - DRAFT ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENTS

of in a deep injection well. There are remnants of a large retention pond along the west bank of the river associated with past salinity reduction efforts. This river segment is on the Colorado 303(d) list for impaired water quality (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission). The impairment is listed for total recoverable iron which is suspected of impacting native, warm water fish propagation (Segment ID COGULD02).





Map 29 - Ice Lake Creek

Total Segment Length: 0.58 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 0.31 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Upper Dolores

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, Vegetation



29 - RIVER SEGMENT: Ice Lake Creek

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: Ice Lake Creek is a small, spring-fed perennial tributary of La Sal Creek. The upper terminus is the start of the creek’s perennial flow, below a knickpoint in the channel. The lower terminus of this river segment is the confluence with La Sal Creek. High flows in this creek are short-lived and flashy, typically resulting from runoff during intense summer thunderstorms. Baseflow occurs yearlong from spring discharge in the channel, approximately three-quarters of a mile upstream from the mouth of the creek.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 57.43" N; Longitude: 109° 2' 22.14" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 20' 25.64" N; Longitude: 109° 2' 25.40" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 0.31 | | | 0.27 | 0.58 | 53.4% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 104.8 | | | 75.8 | 180.6 | 58% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, 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: A spectacular landscape marked by prominent cliffs, strong vertical relief and interesting erosional features, make Ice Lake Creek a visually remarkable area. Small waterfalls, alcoves, hanging gardens, and pools add to the visual character, and are rare in the region of comparison. The landforms of the adjacent scenery provide rich colors and contrast, completing the stunning scene. The varied colors in the area consist of greens, yellows, oranges, tans, reds, browns, and grays. There is a mining road above the ridgeline on the east side of the creek, but it is not visible from the creek.
- 2) Vegetation - This segment has areas of sandbar willow-strapleaf willow riparian shrubland (*Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia*), which is currently ranked as imperiled globally (G2G3) until more information on the distribution of this community is available.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

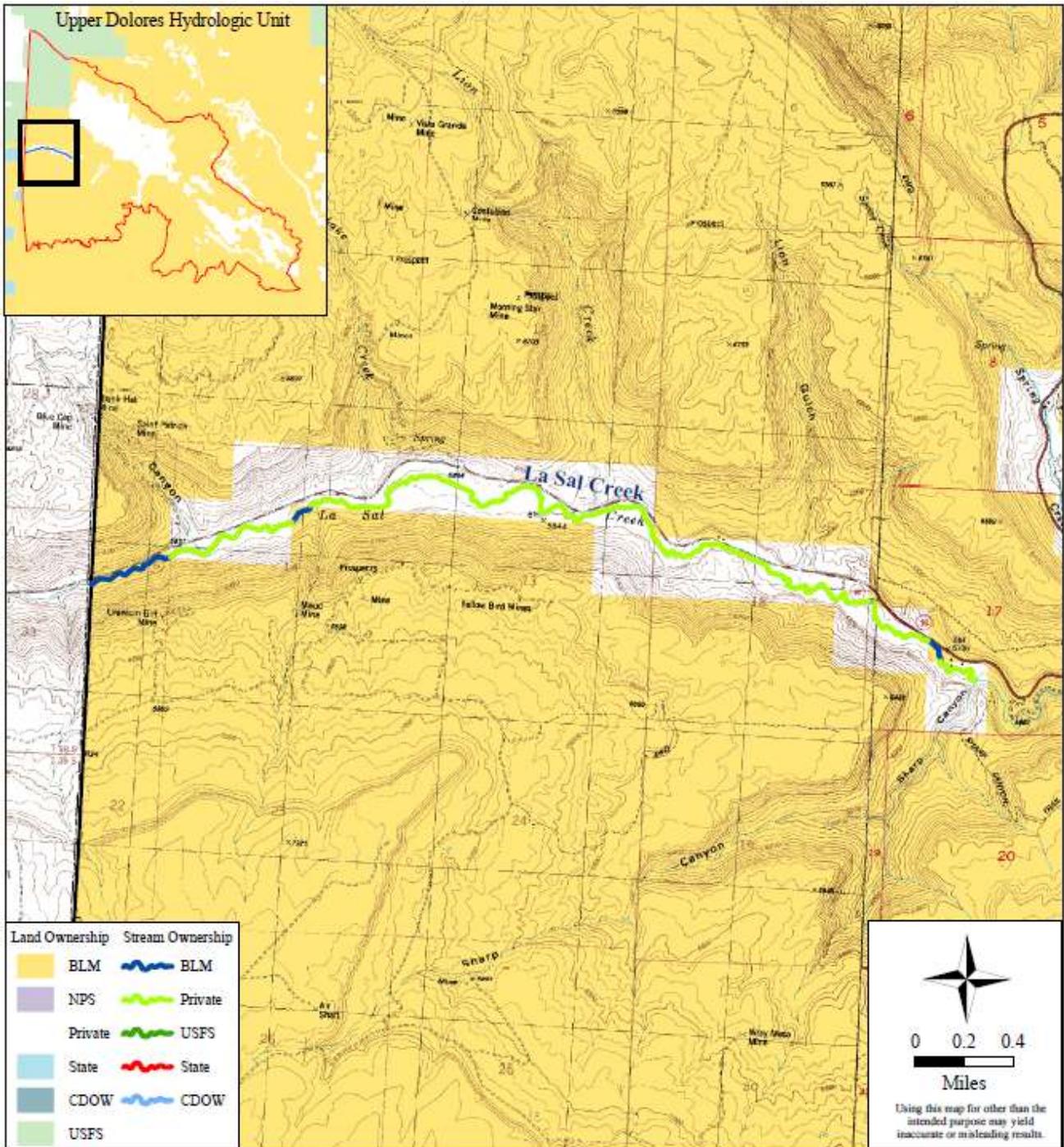
Rationale - There are no roads or other developments along the creek, although several secondary roads exist on the mesas and side slopes above the creek. The shoreline along public lands is essentially primitive. On private land near the lower terminus, there is an irrigated



CHAPTER FIVE - DRAFT ELIGIBLE RIVER SEGMENTS

agricultural field with a water diversion. Colorado State Highway 90 crosses this river segment just above the lower terminus. The water quality meets state classifications and designations.





Map 30 - La Sal Creek, Segment I

Total Segment Length: 4.82 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 0.62 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Upper Dolores

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish, Vegetation



30 - RIVER SEGMENT: La Sal Creek, Segment I

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: La Sal Creek is a perennial stream with headwaters in the La Sal Mountains of eastern Utah. The creek experiences high flows from both spring snowmelt off the La Sal Mountains and runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus for this river segment is the Utah-Colorado state line. The lower terminus is the confluence of La Sal Creek with Sharp Canyon.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 26.09" N; Longitude: 108° 59' 34.40" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 38.29" N; Longitude: 109° 3' 36.09" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 0.62 | | | 4.20 | 4.82 | 12.9% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 718.1 | | | 630.8 | 1,348.9 | 53% |

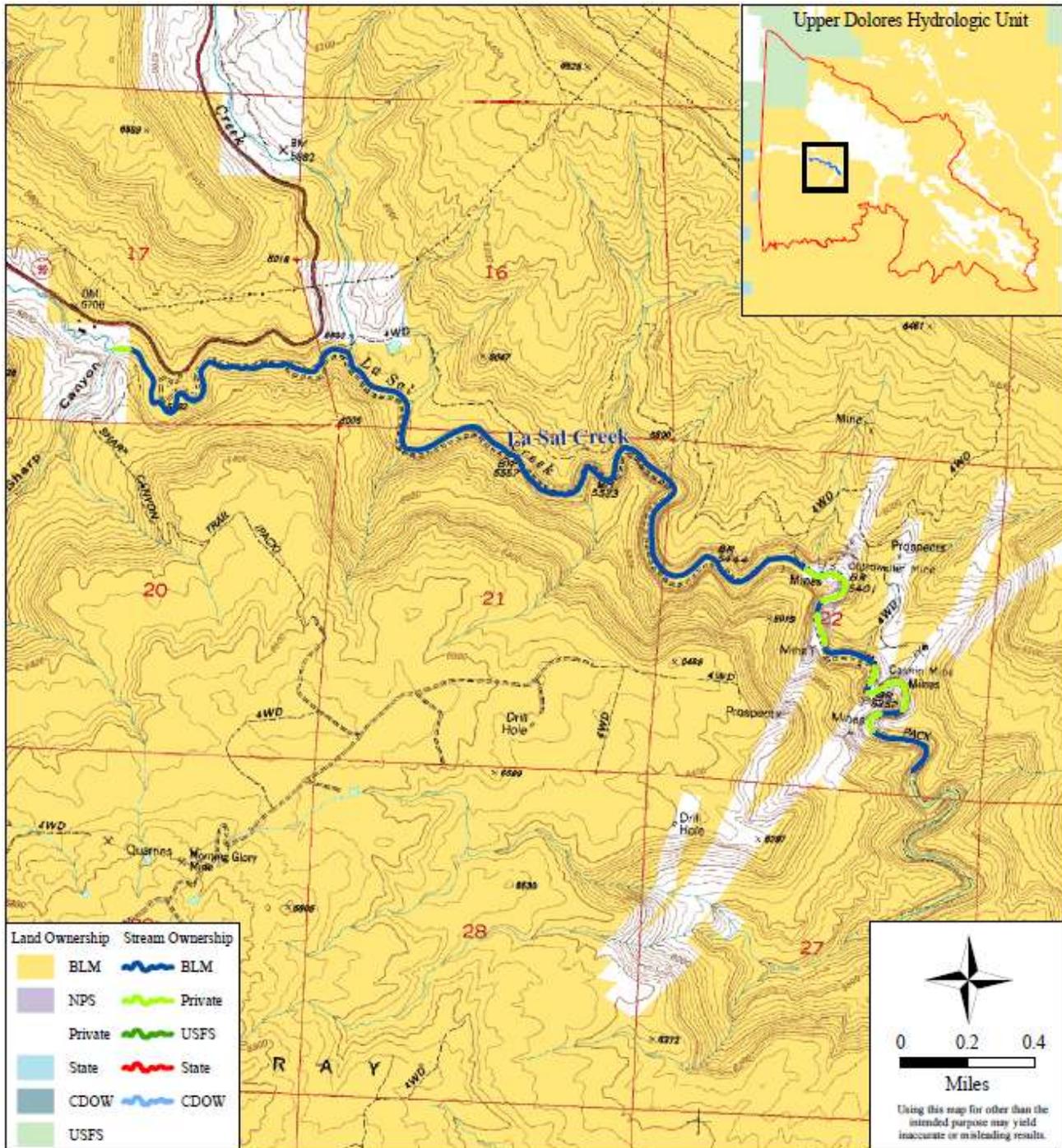
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish, Vegetation

- 1) Fish - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species, flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*), and the segment is one of only a very few spawning tributaries for these three species in the Dolores River Basin. In addition, the upper portion of this river segment is managed as a wild trout fishery.
- 2) Vegetation - This segment contains an occurrence of boxelder-river birch riparian woodland (*Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis*), which is currently ranked as critically imperiled globally (G1G2) until more information on the distribution of this community becomes available.

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - La Sal Creek is paralleled by Colorado State Highway 90 throughout this segment. There are several water diversions, primarily constructed to irrigate the agricultural lands common along this river segment.





Map 31 - La Sal Creek, Segment 2

Total Segment Length: 4.52 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 3.82 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Upper Dolores

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish, Vegetation



31 - RIVER SEGMENT: La Sal Creek, Segment 2

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: La Sal Creek is a perennial stream that drains from the La Sal Mountains in eastern Utah. High flows occur during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated by summer thunderstorms. The upper terminus of this segment is the confluence of La Sal Creek with Sharp Canyon. The lower terminus is at the boundary of the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 18' 25.77" N; Longitude: 108° 56' 52.93" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 26.09" N; Longitude: 108° 59' 34.40" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 3.82 | | | 0.70 | 4.52 | 84.5% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|---------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 1,032.9 | | | 138.8 | 1,171.7 | 88.2% |

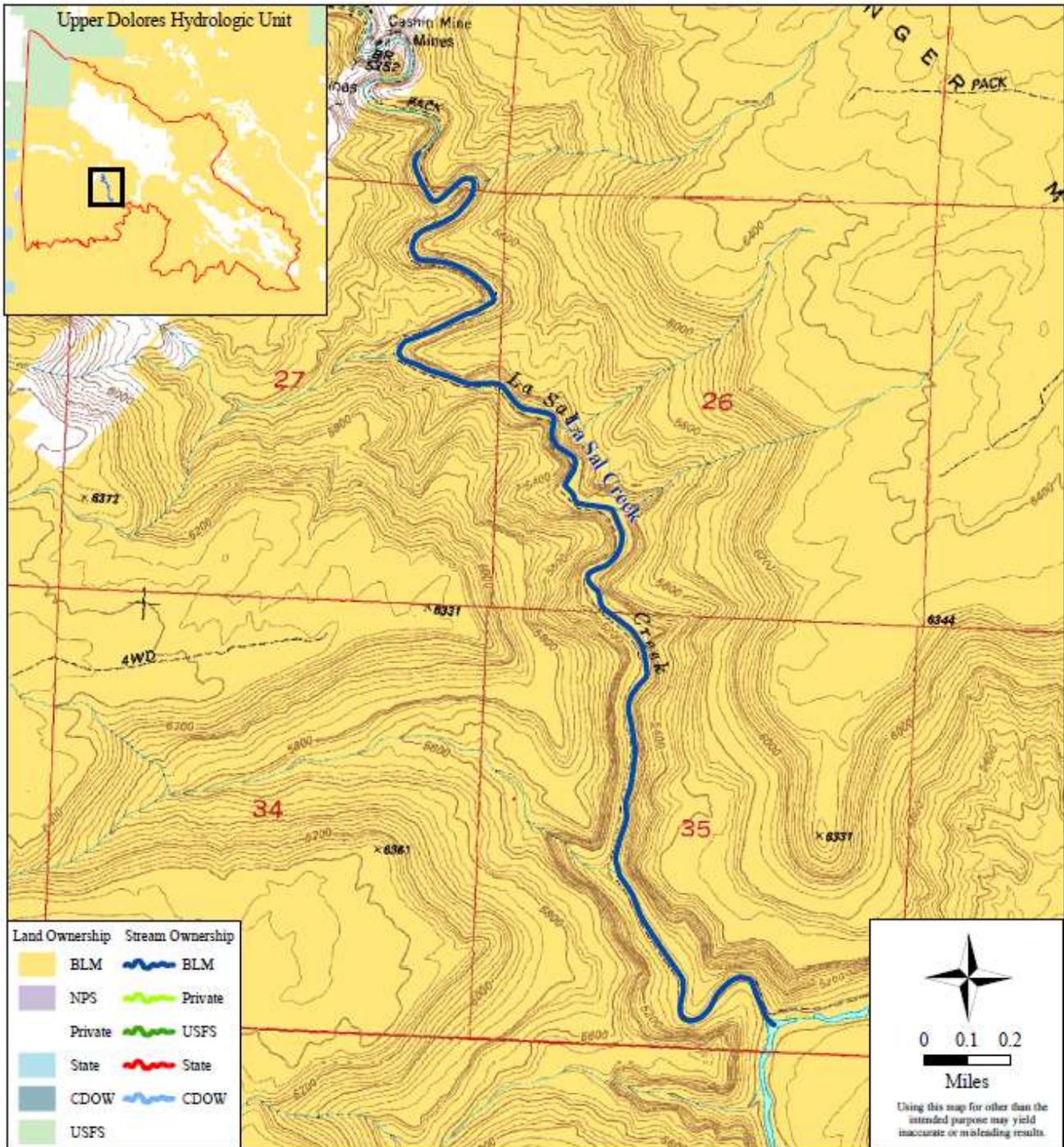
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Fish, Vegetation

- 1) Fish - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado Sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*). This is one of a very few spawning tributaries for these species within the Dolores River Basin. The segment is largely intact, with native fish predominant over introduced species, and includes populations of native speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*) and mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdii*).
- 2) Vegetation - The entire length of this segment supports boxelder/river birch riparian woodland (*Acer negundo/Betula occidentalis*), which is currently ranked as critically imperiled globally (G1G2) until more information on the distribution of this community becomes available. The segment is included within the CNHP-designated La Sal Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road runs adjacent to La Sal Creek for most of this segment. There are no water diversions or impoundments along this stretch.





Map 32 - La Sal Creek, Segment 3

Total Segment Length: 3.37 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 3.37 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Upper Dolores

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Cultural, Vegetation



32 - RIVER SEGMENT: La Sal Creek, Segment 3

HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: La Sal Creek is a perennial stream with headwaters in the La Sal Mountains of eastern Utah. The creek experiences high flows from both spring snowmelt off the La Sal Mountains and runoff generated by summer thunderstorm activity. The upper terminus for this river segment is the Dolores River Canyon WSA boundary. The lower terminus is the confluence of La Sal Creek with the Dolores River.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 16' 42.03" N; Longitude: 108° 55' 52.62" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 18' 25.77" N; Longitude: 108° 56' 52.93" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 3.37 | | | | 3.37 | 100% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 907.7 | | | 7.9 | 915.6 | 99.1% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Cultural, 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: Massive rock outcrops and prominent cliffs are the stunning qualities of the La Sal Creek area. The creek flows constant and swift. The rocks and box elder-river birch vegetation create an area of strong contrasts in color and relief consisting of greens, reds, yellows, oranges, grays, and browns. This area is visually exceptional and was determined to be rare within the region.
- 2) **Recreational** - This narrow, deeply incised and tightly meandering canyon provides superior opportunities for hiking, wildlife observation, nature study and photography in a high quality, primitive, densely vegetated riparian setting. BLM specialists have observed abundant signs of game species and large predators. The upper end of the segment can be reached by rough four-wheel drive road, while the lower end is accessible by boaters hiking up from the Dolores River.
- 3) **Fish** - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers (*Catostomus latipinnis*), bluehead suckers (*Catostomus discobolus*), and roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*). The segment is one of only a very few spawning tributaries for these three species in the Dolores River Basin. In addition, this river segment supports two other native fishes: speckled dace (*Rhinichthys osculus*) and mottled sculpin (*Cottus bairdii*).

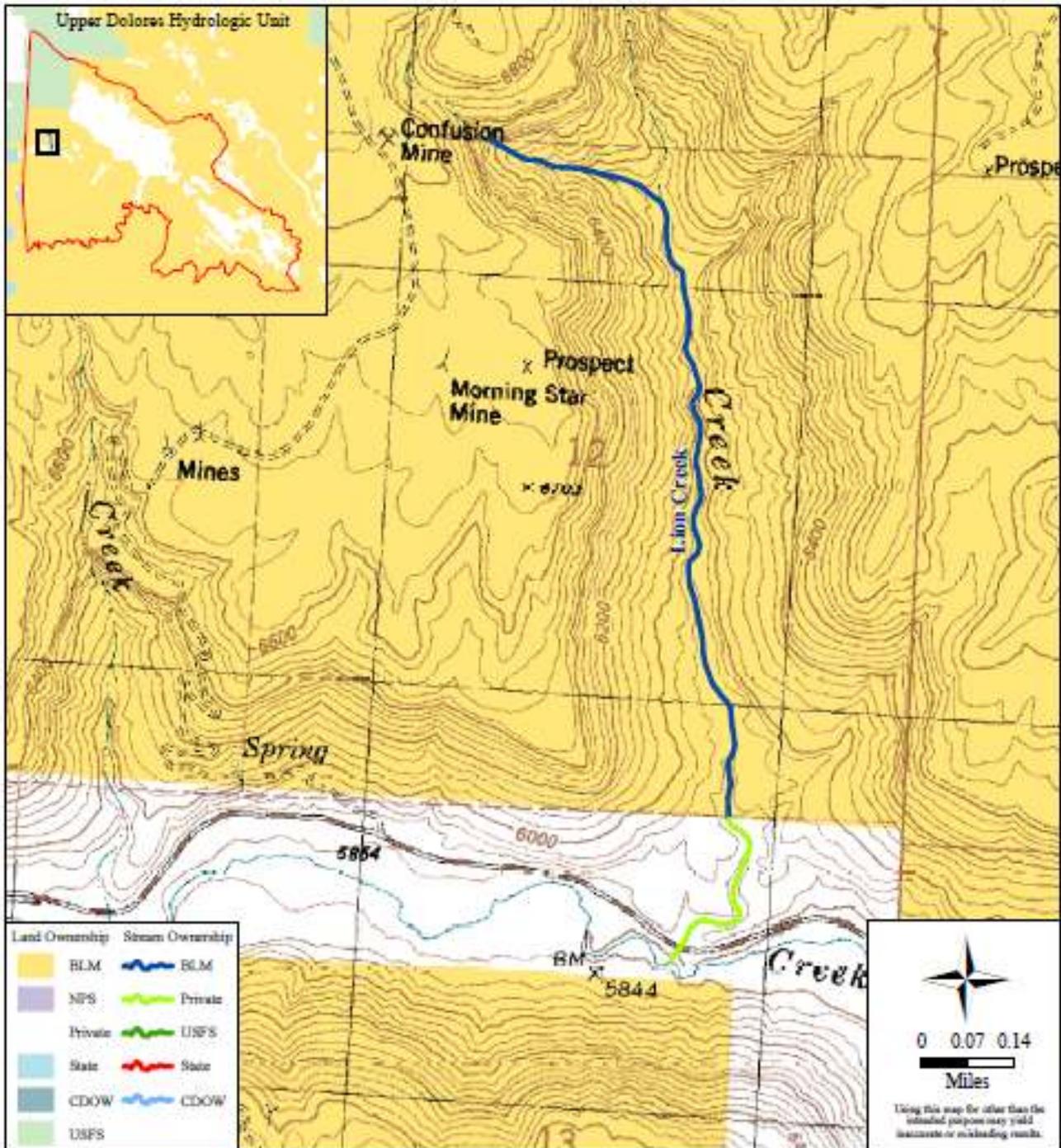


- 4) Cultural - Several large and important petroglyph panels are found at the junction of LaSal Creek and the Dolores River. These panels represent cultural expressions ranging from Archaic hunting motifs dating to as early as 4,000 years ago to late period Anasazi figures from around AD 1000. These petroglyph panels have been recorded and evaluated as being eligible 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.*
- 5) Vegetation - This segment contains boxelder/river birch riparian woodland (*Acer negundo/Betula occidentalis*) along its entire length. This community is currently ranked as critically imperiled globally (G1G2), until more information on the distribution of this community is available. The segment is included within the CNHP-designated La Sal Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Wild

Rationale - The entire river segment is within the Dolores River Canyon WSA. There is a hiking trail along the creek. Except for several locations where the trail crosses the creek, the shoreline is essentially primitive. There are no water diversions or impoundments within this river reach. The water quality meets state classifications and designations.





Map 33 - Lion Creek

Total Segment Length: 1.57 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 1.26 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Upper Dolores

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation



33 - RIVER SEGMENT: Lion Creek
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: Lion Creek is a small, spring-fed tributary of La Sal Creek. The upper terminus is located at the base of a large knickpoint in the channel, above which the stream is mostly ephemeral. The lower terminus of this segment is the confluence with La Sal Creek. High flows in this creek are short-lived and flashy, typically resulting from runoff during intense summer thunderstorms. Baseflow occurs from spring discharge in the channel, approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the mouth of the creek.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 57.59" N; Longitude: 109° 1' 26.41" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 21' 1.31" N; Longitude: 109° 1' 48.01" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 1.26 | | | 0.31 | 1.57 | 80.3% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 401.5 | | | 84.7 | 486.2 | 82.6% |

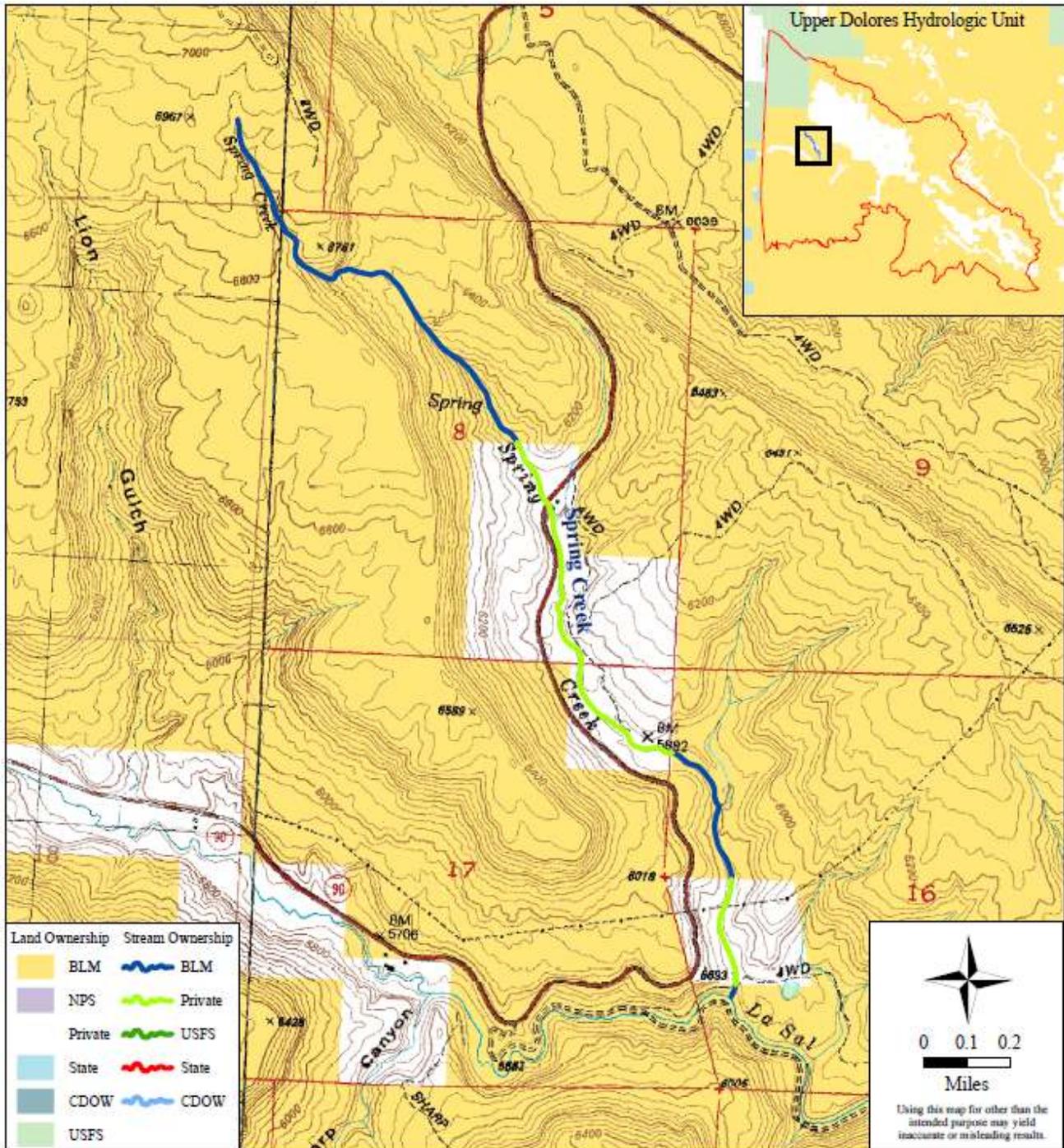
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of boxelder/river birch riparian woodland (*Acer negundo/Betula occidentalis*), which is currently ranked as critically imperiled globally (G1G2) until more information on the distribution of this community becomes available. There are also occurrences of sandbar willow-strapleaf willow riparian shrubland (*Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia*), which also has an interim ranking of globally imperiled (G2G3) pending further study.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

Rationale - Colorado State Highway 90 crosses Lion Creek near its confluence with La Sal Creek. Except for the highway crossing, the shoreline is largely primitive. There are water diversions on private land near the confluence with La Sal Creek. The water quality meets state classifications and designations.





Map 34 - Spring Creek

Total Segment Length: 2.65 miles

BLM-administered Portion: 1.49 miles

Hydrologic Unit: Upper Dolores

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation



34 - RIVER SEGMENT: Spring Creek
HYDROLOGICAL UNIT: Upper Dolores

Description: Spring Creek is a small perennial, spring-fed tributary of La Sal Creek. The upper terminus this river segment is the creek’s headwaters, while the lower terminus is the confluence with La Sal Creek. High flows in this creek are short-lived and flashy, typically resulting from runoff during intense summer thunderstorms. Baseflow occurs yearlong, resulting from spring discharge in the headwaters.

Lower Terminus – Latitude: 38° 19' 27.03" N; Longitude: 108° 58' 48.09" W

Upper Terminus – Latitude: 38° 21' 10.67" N; Longitude: 109° 0' 9.84" W

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL LENGTH | % FEDERAL |
|------|------|-------|---------|--------------|-----------|
| 1.49 | | | 1.16 | 2.65 | 56.2% |

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

| BLM | USFS | State | Private | TOTAL ACRES | % FEDERAL |
|-------|------|-------|---------|-------------|-----------|
| 633.0 | | | 201.4 | 834.4 | 75.9% |

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: Vegetation

- 1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of box elder/river birch riparian woodland (*Acer negundo/Betula occidentalis*), which is currently ranked as critically imperiled globally (G1G2) until more information on the distribution of this community is available. In addition, there are occurrences of sandbar willow-strapleaf willow riparian shrubland (*Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia*) ranked as imperiled globally (G2G3), which is also an interim ranking pending further study. The segment is located within the CNHP-designated La Sal Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Recreational

Rationale - A Colorado State Highway crosses Spring Creek via a bridge and parallels portions of this river segment. Two power lines are visible from the bench above the creek. There are water diversions for irrigation of agricultural lands within this river segment.



CHAPTER 6

Suitability Analysis



Eligible river segments (described in Chapter 5 of this report) will undergo a suitability evaluation during the development of the Draft RMP/Draft EIS and Proposed RMP/Final EIS. The final decision on the suitability of a given river segment will be made in the Record of Decision for the Approved Uncompahgre RMP.

This determination does not designate a river as part of the NWSRS. Only congressional action (or the Secretary of the Interior in some cases) may designate a river. If a river is found to be unsuitable, it will be removed from further WSR consideration and will be subject to the management objectives in the prevailing RMP. According to the Interagency WSR Coordinating Council (1999), suitability evaluations should answer three 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? In answering these questions, the benefits and impacts of WSR designation must be evaluated, and alternative protection methods considered.
- 3) Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any nonfederal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

Input from designated stakeholder groups during the scoping process, as well as comments regarding the Draft RMP and Draft EIS, will be incorporated into the suitability determination.

6.1 CRITERIA USED IN SUITABILITY EVALUATION

BLM Manual 835I identifies eight factors to be considered when examining jurisdictional and management constraints and answering the questions presented above during the suitability process:

- 1) Characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the NWSRS;
- 2) Status of land ownership, surface and subsurface minerals, area use, including the amount of private land involved and associated or incompatible uses. Jurisdictional consideration (including administrative role and/or presence) must be taken into account to the extent that management would be affected;



- 3) Reasonably foreseeable potential uses of the land and related waters which would be enhanced, foreclosed or curtailed if the area were included in the NWSRS, and the values which could be foreclosed or diminished if the area is not protected as part of the NWSRS;
- 4) Federal, public, State, tribal, local, or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river;
- 5) Where appropriate, estimated costs associated with acquiring lands or interests in lands, and administering the area if it were to be added to the NWSRS;
- 6) Ability of the agency to manage and/or protect the river area or segment as a WSR, or other mechanisms (existing and potential) to protect identified values other than WSR designation;
- 7) Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected;
- 8) Other issues and concerns. (The Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council (1999) provides detailed examples of six more factors that may be important to examine for a given segment.)

6.2 TIMING AND PROCESS OF THE SUITABILITY PHASE

River and stream segments identified as eligible in this report will be evaluated for WSR suitability during the development of management alternatives for the Draft RMP, scheduled to take place in 2010. This evaluation will be a collaborative effort between the BLM UFO and other federal and non-federal stakeholders. In addition to two required alternatives: (1) finding all eligible segments suitable, and (2) finding no eligible segments suitable, the BLM and stakeholders will coordinate to develop alternatives considering designation of a portion of eligible segments as suitable, and will examine different potential levels of classification for each segment.

Coordination is particularly important during this phase to determine the appropriateness of designating a river based on other uses, whether a river can be protected through designation, and the level of commitment to protect a river by any non-federal entities who would be involved in protective management. Other options may be developed during this phase that would have the greatest potential for successfully maintaining the character and values of eligible river segments.



*I choose to listen to the river for a while,
thinking river thoughts,
before joining the night and the stars.*

~ Edward Abbey ~



CHAPTER 7

Appendices



APPENDIX A - REPORT PREPARERS

APPENDIX B - REFERENCES

APPENDIX C - UNCOMPAHGRE WSR EVALUATION AREA RIVERS INVENTORY

APPENDIX D - SCOPING COMMENTS



APPENDIX A. REPORT PREPARERS

| NAME | DISCIPLINE | RESPONSIBILITY |
|--|---|---|
| <i>BLM Colorado State Office –</i> | | |
| Roy Smith | Water Rights Specialist | Water Rights |
| <i>BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office –</i> | | |
| Tom Fresques | West Slope Fisheries Biologist | Fish ORVs |
| <i>BLM Uncompahgre Field Office –</i> | | |
| Bruce Krickbaum | Planning & Environmental Coordinator | Report Oversight/Rivers Field Inventory |
| Dennis Murphy | Hydrologist | Report Lead/Rivers Field Inventory |
| John Arkins | Outdoor Recreation Planner | Scenic ORVs/Rivers Field Inventory |
| Amanda Clements | Ecologist | Vegetation ORVs/Rivers Field Inventory |
| Robert Ernst | Geologist | Geologic ORVs |
| Jim Ferguson | Wildlife Biologist | Rivers Field Inventory |
| Edd Franz | Outdoor Recreation Planner | Recreational & Scenic ORVs |
| Glade Hadden | Archaeologist | Cultural & Historic ORVs |
| Julie Jackson | Outdoor Recreation Planner | Scenic ORVs/Rivers Field Inventory |
| Dave Kauffman | Associate Field Manager | Rivers Field Inventory |
| Kurt Kubik | Range Conservationist | Rivers Field Inventory |
| D. Maggie Magee | Technical Writer/Editor | Report Editing & Formatting |
| Teresa Pfifer | Lands & Minerals Staff Supervisor | Rivers Field Inventory |
| Charles Sharp | Wildlife Biologist | Wildlife ORVs |
| Barbara Sharrow | Field Manager | Report Review/Rivers Field Inventory |
| Kirk Sherrill | Geographical Information Systems Specialist | Mapping & Spatial Analysis |
| Melissa Siders | Biology Staff Supervisor | Rivers Field Inventory |
| David Sinton | Geographical Information Systems Lead | Mapping & Spatial Analysis/Rivers Field Inventory |
| Dean Stindt | Range Conservationist | Rivers Field Inventory |
| Karen Tucker | Gunnison Gorge NCA Manager | Rivers Field Inventory |



APPENDIX B. REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management

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APPENDIX C. UNCOMPAHGRE RIVERS INVENTORY

Table 7-1 River Segments in the WSR Evaluation Area Reviewed for Eligibility

Yellow shading indicates that a segment has been determined eligible.

Blue shading indicates that a segment has been evaluated for eligibility in an Eligibility Report prepared by another BLM field office.

IX indicates that a value has been determined to meet ORV criteria.

2W indicates a tentative classification of wild, **S** indicates a tentative classification of scenic, and **R** indicates a tentative classification of recreational.

| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | Vegetation | |
| HYDROLOGIC UNIT: UPPER GUNNISON | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coal Creek | Headwaters in T47N R7W Sec 34 NMPM to Cimarron River | 3.74 | 0.89 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Doug Creek | Gunnison NF boundary to Muddy Creek | 6.69 | 0.30 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| High Park Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Coal Creek | 1.84 | 0.96 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Iron Creek | Gould Reservoir to Crawford Reservoir | 5.08 | 0.30 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | Vegetation | |
| Muddy Creek | Headwaters to Crawford Reservoir | 8.49 | 0.03 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Muddy Creek | Crawford Reservoir to Smith Fork | 0.89 | 0.83 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Smith Fork | Gunnison NF boundary to GGNCA boundary | 15.35 | 0.12 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Squaw Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T48N/R7W/Sec 1 NMPM to Cimarron River | 1.48 | 1.28 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| HYDROLOGIC UNIT: LOWER GUNNISON | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alkali Creek | Grand Mesa NF boundary to confluence with Gunnison River | 10.11 | 7.22 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Beebe Creek | Grand Mesa NF boundary to Oak Creek | 6.32 | 2.57 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Branch Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to North Fork Escalante Creek | 1.96 | 1.27 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Camp Creek | Grand Mesa NF boundary to Dirty George Creek | 4.53 | 0.73 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Cottonwood Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to downstream UFO boundary in T51N/ R12W/Sec 14 NMPM | 18.27 | 18.27 | Y | | | | | | | | X | S |
| Criswell Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Roubideau Creek | 5.12 | 5.12 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Currant Creek | Grand Mesa NF boundary to downstream UFO boundary at Antelope Hill | 11.83 | 1.65 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Dirty George Creek | Grand Mesa NF boundary to Tongue Creek | 7.68 | 1.44 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Doughspoon Creek | East and West Forks of Doughspoon Creek to Tongue Creek | 7.00 | 3.30 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry Fork Escalante Creek Segment 1 | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Tatum Draw | 10.86 | 10.86 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry Fork Escalante Creek Segment 2 | Tatum Draw to mouth | 2.89 | 2.43 | Y | | | | | | | | X | R |
| East Fork Doughspoon Creek | Grand Mesa NF boundary to Doughspoon Creek | 1.76 | 1.18 | N | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Escalante Creek Segment 1 | Uncompahgre NF boundary to upstream Colorado State land boundary in T51N/R13W/ Sec 15 NMPM | 8.45 | 5.75 | Y | X | X | X | | X | | | X | S |
| Escalante Creek Segment 2 | Upstream of Colorado State land boundary in T51N/R13W/Sec 15 NMPM to Gunnison River | 8.48 | 0.90 | Y | | | | X | X | | | X | R |
| Gunnison River Segment 1 | Gunnison Forks to Currant Creek | 7.86 | 5.06 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gunnison River Segment 2 | Upstream boundary to downstream boundary of BLM land in T15S/R95W/ Sec 5 6 th PM | 0.41 | 0.41 | Y | | | | X | | | | | R |
| Gunnison River Segment 3 | Upstream UFO boundary in T15S/R97W/Sec 24 6 th PM to boundary between UFO and Grand Junction Field Office | 17.46 | 8.43 | Y | | X | | X | | X | | X | R |
| Kelso Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Escalante Creek | 1.68 | 0.76 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Little Monitor Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Monitor Creek | 1.41 | 1.37 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Madison Gulch | Upstream UFO boundary in T14S/R94W/Sec 16 6 th PM to Currant Creek | 0.37 | 0.37 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Monitor Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Potter Creek | 9.42 | 9.42 | Y | | | | | | | X | | S |
| Negro Creek | Headwaters in T13S/ R96W/Sec 34 6 th PM to Tongue Creek | 8.27 | 4.99 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| North Fork Escalante Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Escalante Creek | 5.98 | 1.93 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Oak Creek | Grand Mesa NF boundary to Tongue Creek | 6.79 | 2.20 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Peach Valley | GGNCA boundary to Gunnison River | 8.11 | 0.89 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Potter Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Roubideau Creek | 9.82 | 9.82 | Y | | | | | | | X | | S |
| Rose Creek | | | | Y | X | | | | | | X | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | Vegetation | |
| Roubideau Creek Segment 1 | Uncompahgre NF boundary to downstream Camelback WSA boundary | 10.74 | 10.00 | Y | | X | | | X | X | | X | S |
| Roubideau Creek Segment 2 | Downstream Camelback WSA boundary to upstream Colorado State land boundary in T15S/ R96W/Sec 32 6 th PM | 7.59 | 3.45 | Y | | | | | X | | | X | S |
| Sulphur Gulch | Upstream UFO boundary in T14S/R94W/Sec 25 6 th PM to Gunnison River | 1.31 | 1.11 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| West Fork Doughspoon Creek | Grand Mesa NF boundary to Doughspoon Creek | 1.41 | 0.98 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| HYDROLOGIC UNIT: UNCOMPAHGRE | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Alkali Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R8W/Sec 27 NMPM to Ridgway Reservoir | 2.54 | 0.81 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Brook Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R8W/Sec 26 NMPM to Billy Creek | 0.53 | 0.12 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Cedar Creek | Montrose Reservoir to Uncompahgre River | 21.64 | 3.32 | N | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Chaffee Gulch | Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R8W/Sec 35 NMPM to Uncompahgre River | 3.25 | 1.61 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Cottonwood Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T48N/R11W/Sec 34 NMPM to East Fork Dry Creek | 0.95 | 0.39 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Cow Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Uncompahgre River | 11.15 | 0.97 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Cushman Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Dry Creek | 7.82 | 7.43 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Dolores Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R10W/Sec 24 NMPM to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/ R9W/Sec 33 NMPM | 5.54 | 4.64 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry Cedar Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T48N/R8W/Sec 10 NMPM to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/ R9W/Sec 14 NMPM | 2.57 | 1.05 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry Creek | Confluence of East and West Forks of Dry Creek to downstream UFO boundary in T49N/ R11W/Sec 1 NMPM | 12.66 | 12.24 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| East Fork Dry Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R11W/Sec 2 NMPM to Dry Creek | 6.74 | 5.15 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| East Fork Horsefly Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R9W/Sec 4 NMPM to Horsefly Creek | 1.05 | 0.84 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| East Fork Spring Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Spring Creek | 0.66 | 0.66 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Flume Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Cow Creek | 1.36 | 0.82 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Happy Canyon Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R10W/Sec 24 NMPM to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/ R9W/Sec 19 NMPM | 7.52 | 4.94 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Horsefly Creek | Confluence of East and West Forks of Horsefly Creek to Uncompahgre River | 6.52 | 2.81 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Martin Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R7W/Sec 30 NMPM to Cow Creek | 0.66 | 0.47 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| McKenzie Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R8W/Sec 7 NMPM to Uncompahgre River | 1.49 | 1.34 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Middle Fork Spring Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Spring Creek | 0.77 | 0.77 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|-----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Montrose Arroyo | Headwaters to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/R9W/ Sec 1 NMPM | 3.34 | 2.16 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Rawhide Gulch | Upstream UFO boundary in T49N/R7W/Sec 32 NMPM to Cedar Creek | 0.48 | 0.48 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Spring Creek | Confluence of East and Middle Forks of Spring Creek to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/ R10W/Sec 27 NMPM | 4.81 | 4.81 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Uncompahgre River Segment 1 | Upstream UFO boundary in T44N/R8W/Sec 13 NMPM to Ridgway Reservoir | 13.32 | 0.51 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Uncompahgre River segment 2 | Outflow of Ridgway Reservoir to Horsefly Creek | 16.60 | 0.28 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Waterdog Basin | Upstream to downstream UFO boundary in T48N/ R8W/Sec 15 NMPM | 1.01 | 0.77 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| West Fork Dry Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T48N/R12W/Sec 24 NMPM to Dry Creek | 3.94 | 3.94 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| West Fork Horsefly Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R9W/Sec 5 NMPM to Horsefly Creek | 1.44 | 1.44 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|--|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| West Fork Spring Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Spring Creek | 1.01 | 0.74 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| HYDROLOGIC UNIT: NORTH FORK | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Anthracite Creek | Layton Gulch to Snowshoe Creek | 2.83 | 0.20 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Bear Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R91W/Sec 36 6 th PM to North Fork | 3.28 | 1.45 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Buzzard Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 19 6 th PM to West Muddy Creek | 0.37 | 0.36 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Cottonwood Creek- Downstream of Paonia Reservoir | Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork | 1.87 | 1.22 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Cottonwood Creek (North of Crawford, CO) | Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork | 11.93 | 2.02 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Deadman Gulch | Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 19 6 th PM to West Muddy Creek | 0.25 | 0.13 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Deep Creek | Gunnison NF boundary to Paonia Reservoir | 2.55 | 0.58 | Y | | | | X | | | | | S |
| Dever Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R93W/Sec 23 6 th PM to Leroux Creek | 3.34 | 1.00 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| East Fork Terror Creek | Reach beginning at upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R91W/Sec 5 6 th PM to confluence with Muddy Creek West | 0.05 | 0.05 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| East Muddy Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 20 6 th PM to confluence with West Muddy creek | 0.55 | 0.28 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| East Roatcap Creek | Upstream UFO/private land boundary in T13S/ R92W/Sec 14 6 th PM to Roatcap Creek | 1.81 | 1.10 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Elk Creek | Gunnison NF boundary to downstream UFO boundary in T13S/R90W/ Sec 5 6 th PM | 0.77 | 0.75 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Hawksnest Creek | Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork Gunnison River | 1.87 | 1.75 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Hubbard Creek | Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork Gunnison River | 2.37 | 1.27 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Jay Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/Sec 30 6 th PM to North Fork Gunnison River | 5.51 | 3.04 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Lake Fork | Gunnison NF boundary to Minnesota Creek | 0.31 | 0.26 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Layton Gulch | Gunnison NF boundary to Anthracite Creek | 2.24 | 1.43 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Leroux Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R93W/Sec 16 6 th PM to downstream UFO boundary in T14S/R93W/ Sec 22 6 th PM | 7.03 | 1.86 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Long Draw | Stream reach on UFO land in T13S/R92W/Sec 16 6 th PM | 1.03 | 1.01 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Love Gulch | Headwaters to downstream UFO boundary in T14S/R92W/ Sec 4 6 th PM | 2.39 | 1.19 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| McDonald Creek | Gunnison NF boundary to Cottonwood Creek | 5.84 | 4.47 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Minnesota Creek | Lake Fork to Dry Fork | 2.02 | 0.16 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Muddy Creek Segment 1 | East and West Forks of Muddy Creek to Paonia Reservoir | 1.34 | 0.38 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Muddy Creek Segment 2 | Outlet of Paonia Reservoir to Anthracite Creek | 0.52 | 0.27 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| North Fork Gunnison River Segment 1 | Anthracite Creek to Paonia, CO | 15.74 | 2.22 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| North Fork Gunnison River Segment 2 | East boundary of GGNCA to Gunnison Forks | 1.11 | 0.96 | | | | | | | | | | |
| Raven Gulch | Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork Gunnison River | 0.54 | 0.11 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Reynolds Creek | Stream reach on UFO in T14S/R91W/Sec 21 6 th PM | 0.53 | 0.52 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Roatcap Creek | East and West Forks of Roatcap Creek to downstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/ Sec 35 6 th PM | 1.61 | 1.18 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Sams Creek | Gunnison NF boundary to Minnesota Creek | 1.10 | 0.82 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Sheep Creek | Grand Mesa NF boundary to Hubbard Creek | 0.88 | 0.51 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Stevens Gulch | Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/Sec 23 6 th PM to downstream UFO boundary in T13S/R91W/ Sec 30 6 th PM | 2.58 | 1.92 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Terror Creek | Confluence of East and West Terror Creeks to North Fork Gunnison | 3.50 | 2.97 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| West Fork Terror Creek | Grand Mesa NF boundary to confluence with East Fork Terror Creek | 1.21 | 0.47 | Y | | | | X | | | | | S |
| West Muddy Creek Segment 1 | Upstream boundary to downstream UFO boundary in T12S/R90W/ Sec 12 6 th PM | 0.26 | 0.26 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| West Muddy Creek Segment 2 | Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 19 6 th PM to East Muddy Creek | 0.45 | 0.39 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| West Roatcap Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/Sec 8 6 th PM to Roatcap Creek | 3.69 | 1.89 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Williams Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 27 6 th PM to Paonia Reservoir | 0.96 | 0.96 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | Vegetation | |
| HYDROLOGIC UNIT: SAN MIGUEL | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Atkinson Creek | West Atkinson Creek to San Miguel River | 2.89 | 2.70 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Beaver Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River | 14.25 | 14.19 | Y | | | | | | | | X | S |
| Big Atkinson Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River to Atkinson Creek | 5.91 | 5.91 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Big Bear Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T42N/R10W/Sec 4 NMPM to San Miguel River | 2.60 | 1.54 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Big Bucktail Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River | 3.55 | 3.20 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Big Johnson Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to confluence with Little Johnson Creek | 0.50 | 0.49 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Broad Canyon | Upstream UFO boundary to Hamilton Creek | 2.72 | 1.71 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Calamity Draw | Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R16W/ Sec 11 NMPM to San Miguel River | 0.65 | 0.61 | N | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|---------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Campbell Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Tabeguache Creek | 6.20 | 4.99 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Coal Canyon | Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River | 10.33 | 7.06 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Cottonwood Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River | 3.41 | 1.99 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Craig Draw | Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River | 2.14 | 1.23 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry Creek Segment 1 | Upstream UFO boundary to downstream UFO boundary in T46N/R6W/ Sec 34 NMPM | 10.49 | 10.42 | Y | X | | X | | X | | | | W |
| Dry Creek Segment 2 | Upstream private land boundary in T46N/R16W/ Sec 34 NMPM to San Miguel River | 3.17 | 1.64 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Dry Park Draw | UFO land from headwaters to Uncompahgre NF boundary | 0.65 | 0.61 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| East Branch Shavano Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Shavano Creek | 1.09 | 0.50 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|-------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Fall Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River | 5.56 | 1.44 | Y | | | | | X | | | | R |
| Forty-Seven Creek | Boundary of Tabeguache Area to Tabeguache Creek | 1.40 | 1.40 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Goat Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R12W/Sec 28 NMPPM to Beaver Creek | 0.75 | 0.58 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Good Enough Gulch | UFO land in T44N/R12W/ Sec 3 NMPPM | 0.10 | 0.10 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Hamilton Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T44N/R14W/Sec 33 NMPPM to Naturita Creek | 16.16 | 11.17 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Horsefly Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River | 1.12 | 1.12 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Huff Gulch | Upstream UFO boundary in T44N/R12W NMPPM to San Miguel River | 0.67 | 0.54 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Hyatt Draw | Headwaters to confluence with San Miguel River | 0.89 | 0.89 | N | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|-------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Leopard Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T44N/R11W/Sec 12 NMPM to San Miguel River | 4.87 | 3.36 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Little Johnson Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to confluence with Big Johnson Creek | 0.86 | 0.85 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Little Maverick Draw | Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R14W/Sec 19 NMPM to Maverick Draw | 0.72 | 0.45 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Manly Draw | Upstream UFO boundary in T45N/R13W/Sec 18 NMPM to Naturita Creek | 0.28 | 0.28 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Maverick Draw Segment 1 | Upstream UFO boundary in T45N/R13W/Sec 6 NMPM to Little Maverick Draw | 9.42 | 1.06 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Maverick Draw Segment 2 | Little Maverick Draw to Naturita Creek | 2.05 | 1.69 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| McKenzie Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River | 1.24 | 1.05 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Muddy Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T42N/R10W/Sec 4 NMPM to Big Bear Creek | 0.45 | 0.40 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|-----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| Naturita Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River | 24.97 | 9.99 | Y | | | | X | | | | | S |
| North Fork Cottonwood Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Cottonwood Creek | 0.04 | 0.04 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Saltado Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R11W/Sec 18 NMPM to San Miguel River | 5.56 | 4.14 | Y | | | | | | | | X | W |
| San Miguel River Segment 1 | UFO boundary just downstream of Deep Creek to UFO boundary 1.25 miles (est.) downstream from Clay Creek | 27.23 | 17.34 | Y | X | X | X | | X | | X | X | R |
| San Miguel River Segment 2 | UFO boundary 1.25 miles (est.) downstream from Clay Creek to immediately above Horsefly Creek | 4.01 | 3.64 | Y | X | X | | | X | | | X | W |
| San Miguel River Segment 3 | Immediately above Horsefly Creek to Colorado State Highway 90 Bridge at Piñon, CO | 7.31 | 5.30 | Y | | X | | X | X | | | X | S |
| San Miguel River Segment 4 | Colorado State Highway 90 Bridge at Piñon, Colorado to Calamity Draw | 16.34 | 1.62 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|----------------------------|--|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| San Miguel River Segment 5 | Calamity Draw to Atkinson Creek | 14.00 | 2.59 | Y | | X | | X | | | X | X | R |
| San Miguel River Segment 6 | Atkinson Creek to Dolores River | 3.23 | 2.25 | Y | | X | | X | | | X | X | R |
| Shavano Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Tabeguache Creek | 5.91 | 5.83 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Specie Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R11W/Sec 7 NMPM to San Miguel River | 2.07 | 2.07 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Spring Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Tabeguache Creek | 8.35 | 7.49 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Summit Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R10W/Sec 22 NMPM to San Miguel River | 0.45 | 0.45 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Tabeguache Creek Segment 1 | Uncompahgre NF boundary to west boundary of Tabeguache Area | 3.61 | 3.61 | Y | | | | | | | | X | W |
| Tabeguache Creek Segment 2 | West boundary of Tabeguache Area to San Miguel River | 11.57 | 7.89 | Y | | | | | | X | | X | R |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | Vegetation | |
| Turner Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R12W/Sec 10 NMPM to Beaver Creek | 1.00 | 1.00 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Tuttle Draw | Upstream UFO boundary in T47N/R15W/ Sec 26 to San Miguel River | 9.42 | 2.80 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| West Atkinson Creek | Confluence of Little Johnson and Big Johnson Creeks to Atkinson Creek | 5.68 | 5.68 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Willow Creek | Upstream UFO boundary in T43N/R10W/Sec 26 NMPM to San Miguel River | 0.35 | 0.35 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| HYDROLOGIC UNIT: LOWER DOLORES | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dolores River | San Miguel River to BLM Grand Junction Field Office boundary | 10.53 | 6.93 | Y | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | | S |
| Mesa Creek | North and South Forks of Mesa Creek to Dolores River | 2.08 | 0.95 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| North Fork Mesa Creek | UFO boundary to Mesa Creek | 8.53 | 5.81 | Y | | | | | | | | X | S |
| Roc Creek | Manti – La Sal NF boundary to Dolores River | 5.02 | 2.30 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|------------|-----------------------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | Vegetation | |
| South Fork Mesa Creek | Uncompahgre NF boundary to Mesa Creek | 11.48 | 11.18 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| HYDROLOGIC UNIT: UPPER DOLORES | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Dolores River Segment 1 | UFO boundary downstream to Highway 90 Bridge at Bedrock, CO. | | 11.80 (UFO) | Y | X | X | X | X | X | | | X | WR |
| Dolores River Segment 2 | Highway 90 Bridge to San Miguel River | 11.50 | 5.42 | Y | X | X | X | X | X | X | | X | R |
| Gregory Creek | Headwaters to Wild Steer Canyon | 3.65 | 3.65 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Ice Lake Creek Segment 1 | Headwaters of Ice Lake Creek to Knickpoint in T47N/R20W/Sec 11 NMPM | 1.78 | 1.78 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Ice Lake Creek Segment 2 | Knickpoint in T47N/ R20W/Sec 11 NMPM to La Sal Creek | 0.58 | 0.31 | | X | | | | | | | X | S |
| La Sal Creek Segment 1 | Colorado State line to Sharp Canyon | 4.82 | 0.62 | Y | | | | X | | | | X | R |
| La Sal Creek Segment 2 | Sharp Canyon to Dolores River Canyon WSA boundary | 4.52 | 3.82 | Y | | | | X | | | | X | S |



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| SEGMENT NAME | SEGMENT LOCATION | TOTAL SEGMENT LENGTH (IN MILES) | SEGMENT LENGTH ON BLM LANDS (IN MILES) | FREE-FLOWING DETERMINATION (Y OR N) | OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES ¹ | | | | | | | CLASSIFICATION ² | |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|----------|------|----------|----------|----------|-----------------------------|------------|
| | | | | | Scenic | Recreational | Geologic | Fish | Wildlife | Cultural | Historic | | Vegetation |
| La Sal Creek Segment 3 | Dolores River Canyon WSA boundary to Dolores River | 3.37 | 3.37 | Y | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | W |
| Lion Canyon | UFO boundary to La Sal Creek | 0.70 | 0.43 | Y | | | | | | | | | |
| Lion Creek Segment 1 | Headwaters of Lion Creek to knickpoint in T47N/ R20W/Sec 1 NMPM | 1.95 | 1.95 | N | | | | | | | | | |
| Lion Creek Segment 2 | Knickpoint in T47N/ R20W/Sec 1 NMPM to La Sal Creek | 1.57 | 1.26 | Y | | | | | | | | X | S |
| Spring Creek | Headwaters of Spring Creek to La Sal Creek | 2.65 | 1.49 | Y | | | | | | | | X | R |
| West Paradox Creek | Reach on UFO land in T48N/R19W/Sec 29 NMPM | 0.15 | 0.15 | Y | | | | | | | | | |



APPENDIX D. SCOPING COMMENTS





