

**Gunnison Basin Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group**  
**Delta Performing Arts Center, 822 Grand Ave., Delta Colorado**  
**December 6, 2010, 7:00 p.m.**  
**DRAFT NOTES**

## **SUMMARY**

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Stakeholders shared information on the West Fork of Terror Creek, Roubideau Creek segment 2, and Gunnison River segment 2 before hearing a presentation by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on the policy tools available for managing "Wild & Scenic" eligible streams. The group then discussed financing the stakeholder process and a proposal for how to move forward with attempting to develop consensus recommendations to the BLM.

*Next Meeting:*

**Monday, January 10 7pm – 9pm, Bill Heddles Recreation Center in Delta**  
530 Gunnison River Drive, Delta (West on Gunnison River Drive off of Highway 50 just south of the Gunnison River/ north of the railroad; past Comfort Inn)

*Homework Assignments:*

- CO Division of Wildlife: when and where trout were found in West Fork of Terror Creek + where in the creek the major populations are.
- Facilitators: check new information from Colorado Natural Heritage Program on rareness classification of riparian vegetation in Roubideau Creek.
- BLM:
  - Is Gunnison Segment 2 identified as a critical habitat reach, and are the fish present in that stretch?
  - Is there spawning habitat or some other special feature for the fish in that segment?
  - Is Gunnison Segment 2 a natural channel?
  - How wide is island south of Gunnison Segment 2?
- All stakeholders: consider financial contribution to process (details in notes below) and contact Chris Treese regarding details at [ctreese@crwcd.org](mailto:ctreese@crwcd.org) .

## **DETAILS**

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*Introduction*

Following introductions (see copy of sign-in sheet at the end of these notes), facilitator Callie Hendrickson received approval of the expectations and agenda for the meeting and went over basic ground rules. Co-facilitator Hannah Holm asked participants to send her corrections to past notes.

*Stream Segment Discussions*

The group discussed the following stream segments:

- West Fork of Terror Creek
- Roubideau Creek, Segment 2
- Gunnison River, Segment 2

Each discussion began with a brief overview of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) eligibility report for the segment by Andy Windsor, followed by discussion of the following topics:

- Verify BLM information.
- ORV Conditions and Needs:
  - Any challenges
  - Good things happening
- Current Uses & Values
- Potential Future Uses
- Additional Information

The information gathered on these segments is detailed in the attached charts. BLM noted that for all segments, the configuration of the segment and the classification can be changed in the suitability determination process.

### *BLM Presentation on Policy Tools*

#### Introduction

Barbara Sharrow presented for the BLM (see attached hand-outs). She noted that the presentation was a joint effort, with the Grand Junction and Uncompahgre Field Offices coming to agreement. She noted that there were a few changes from what was presented in the Lower Colorado Wild & Scenic Stakeholder process because of feedback from the BLM's state office review.

#### Suitability/ Non-suitability/ Modified suitability Recommendations

If the group is not recommending suitability, it needs to provide a strong reason OR an alternative way to protect the Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV).

- non-manageability, due to limited BLM ownership of a stream, would be a strong reason.

In the suitability process, the segment can be shortened and the classification can be changed, so these are viable options for the stakeholder group to recommend.

#### Different types of designation

The two different routes to Wild & Scenic designation (Congressional and Administrative) and associated definitions are detailed in the "Special Designations and Decisions" hand-out. One question concerned the definition of "free flowing;" Ms. Sharrow clarified that a "free-flowing" stream can have diversions and ditches, just nothing that totally impedes its flow.

#### Management Tools

Potential management tools for protecting ORV's, in addition to a Wild & Scenic suitability determination, are detailed in the "W&SR Tools" hand-out. Highlights and comments are summarized below.

- *Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)* – could be an alternative tool for protecting ORV's; used mostly for biological ORV's but BLM is also considering using to protect sensitive soils. ACEC's have different levels, with each clearly stating what restrictions are required.
- *National Conservation Area (NCA)*– Planning is currently underway for the recently-designated Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, which includes several of the streams to be considered by this stakeholder group.
- *National Monument* - This designation is unlikely in this area; Canyon of the Ancients is the only BLM-managed National Monument in Colorado; in this area the public is more receptive to NCA's than National Monuments.
- *Wilderness Study Area (WSA)* – Existing WSA's will not have that status changed in this planning process.
- *National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)* – Can protect historic, cultural ORV's.
- *Endangered Species Act (ESA)* – Probably most protective tool; if suitability analysis reveals that ESA is already protecting the ORV, can be a reason to find “not suitable.”
- *Paleontologic Resources Preservation Act and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act* – protect specific on-site ORV's, not the river corridor.
- *Stipulations on fluid and mineral development* – Could protect ORV's; examples include “no surface occupancy,” and timing limitations on development. Required to be the minimum necessary to protect the resource; finding a stream segment “not suitable” for Wild & Scenic status would make it hard to make the case for a stipulation.
- *Closure of specific uses* – need a REALLY good reason; finding a stream segment “not suitable” for Wild & Scenic status would make it hard to make the case for a closure.
- Local government controls can provide some protections.
- Conservation easements are an action private landowners can take to provide long-term protections.
- Everything goes back to what is needed to maintain the ORV – the tool recommended should match the needs of the ORV.

### Financial Update

Chris Treese of the Colorado River District provided a financial update for this Wild & Scenic stakeholder process.

- The River District is the financial manager for the process.
- The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has funds to assist, but not fully fund, these stakeholder processes.
  - Need a “meaningful contribution” from each set of stakeholders (left purposely vague)
  - CWCB has committed to support this process on the condition that we demonstrate that meaningful contribution from each set of stakeholders.
  - Only contributions so far: 1 private landowner, Farm Bureau, River District
- Stakeholder donation suggested guidelines:
  - landowners/ individuals - \$50 - \$500

- groups/ organizations - \$500 - \$1,000
- water conservation districts and municipalities - \$1,000 - \$2,000
- counties and conservation districts - \$2,000 - \$2,500

➤ Mechanics:

- To make the contribution tax-deductible, may be pass the donation through a non-profit, such as Western Colorado Congress.
- Checks are to be written to the Colorado River District.
- Small contributions now could avoid greater costs later.
- For more information or to make a donation, contact Chris Treese at [ctreese@crwcd.org](mailto:ctreese@crwcd.org) .

Looking Ahead: Proposal for moving forward

Richard Connell of the Farm Bureau described two conference calls held by a smaller subset of the stakeholder group to seek agreement among a broad cross-section of stakeholders on how to proceed with attempting to develop a consensus recommendation to the BLM on how to manage the Wild & Scenic eligible stream segments. Notes from these calls, which include the proposal for moving forward developed by the group, are attached in a separate document.

Mr. Connell then asked participants if they would agree to follow the smaller group's recommended path forward, which would involve getting participation from more landowners (Olen Lund, Delta County Commissioner, is working on that with County records) and going through the following steps:

1. Information gathering for non-NCA segments (as the group has been doing)
2. Consider suitability and other management tools for those segments, listing all concerns.
3. If group doesn't agree, then:
  - a. Smaller group will meet to try to work out differences (bundling together all segments on which agreement has not been reached). The small group would consist of everyone willing and able to participate.
  - b. Smaller group recommendation will be presented to the larger group; if consensus is still not reached, process with small group will be repeated.
  - c. If, after 3 small group meetings, consensus is still not reached, the group will prepare majority and minority reports.
4. Repeat process above with NCA segments.

The group discussed the proposal, which was generally favorably received. However, no consensus was reached on following the proposed steps. The sticking point was a lack of clarity on how to involve stakeholders who are not yet at the table.

**Next Meeting: January 10, 7pm – 9pm in the Bill Heddles Recreation Center, 530 Gunnison River Drive, Delta (West on Gunnison River Drive off of Highway 50 just south of the Gunnison River/ north of the railroad; past Comfort Inn).**

## SIGN-IN SHEET

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