DRAFT INSTREAM FLOW RECOMMENDATION

Ms. Linda Bassi Colorado Water Conservation Board 1313 Sherman Street, Room 721 Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Ms. Bassi:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is writing this letter to formally communicate its recommendation an instream flow water right for Mill Creek located in Water Division 3.

Location and Land Status. Mill Creek is tributary to Saguache Creek approximately 11 miles northwest of Saguache. This recommendation covers the reach from the Forest Service boundary to the headgate of the Harence Ditch, a distance of approximately 0.75 miles. The reach is located downstream of the Forest Service quantification point QP51C for its reserved water right on Mill Creek.

Biological Summary. Mill Gulch is a moderate gradient stream with large substrate size. The riparian community consists primarily of sedges and rushes, and has been steadily improving in condition since 2002. The creek presently does not support a fishery, but BLM believes that the flow regime and aquatic insect community will support a fishery. BLM also believes that multiple watershed improvement measures, including closure of duplicate roads, improved maintenance of existing roads, and improvement in grazing practices on lands located upstream on the National Forest, will further increase the amount of reliability of stream flows. The creek has a good width-depth ratio, overhanging bank habitat, good and good shading. BLM has observed perennial flow in the stream upstream of the Harence Ditch headgates, and there are many other creeks of this size within the Saguache Creek watershed that support fisheries. In addition, BLM has consistently observed mayfly and caddisfly in the creek. BLM will complete an updated macroinvertebrate survey during the 2009 field season. BLM's intention is to reintroduce Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout to the creek.

R2Cross Analysis. BLM collected the following R2Cross data from the creek:

Party	Date	Discharge	250%-40%	Summer (3/3)	Winter (2/3)
BLM	10/20/2008	0.12	0.0-1.3	Out of range	0.3
BLM	10/20/2008	0.10	0.0 - 0.2	Out of range	0.18

BLM's analysis of this data, coordinated with the Division of Wildlife, indicates that the following flows are needed to protect the fishery and natural environment to a reasonable degree.

0.8 cfs is recommended for the higher temperature period, from May 1 through September 30. This recommendation is driven by the average velocity criteria. This flow rate should create a high percentage of usable physical habitat in the small channel. This estimate is based on R2Cross results that were outside the

confidence interval of the data set, but BLM intends to collect additional data during 2009 to verify this number.

0.25 cfs is recommended for the remainder of the year, from October 1 through April 30. This recommendation is driven by the average depth criteria. This flow should provide sufficient water circulation to prevent total icing in pools that are critical for overwintering fish. This recommendation will be verified with additional data collection during the 2009 field season.

Water Availability. For water availability analysis, BLM recommends employing a paired basin analytical approach, using the La Garita Creek gage (USGS 08231000). Mill Creek and La Garita Creek both drain portions of the La Garita Mountains, so snowpack and precipitation should be similar. The Mill Creek watershed faces north, while the La Garita Creek watershed faces east, so the Mill Creek watershed may retain slightly more snowpack. BLM does not recommend using the Saguache Creek near Saguache (USGS 8227000) because this gage is heavily influenced by agricultural irrigation operations in the Saguache Creek watershed. However, the gage could be used to give a rough approximation of the timing of snowmelt runoff.

BLM is not aware of any decreed or historic stream diversions in this stream reach other than the Harence Ditches located at the lower terminus of the recommended stream reach.

Relationship to Management Plans. BLM and Forest Service resource management plan for this area specifically identifies Mill Creek as a priority for projects and changes in management to improve watershed and riparian conditions. Conditions have improved significantly on the creek since the adoption of the plan, and BLM is ready to move to the next management step, which is to attempt to reintroduce a fishery to the creek. A protected flow rate would provide BLM with assurance that its investment in fisheries projects will be supported by adequate flow rates.

Data sheets, R2Cross output, fishery survey information, and photographs of the cross section were included with BLM's draft recommendation in February 2009. We thank both the Division of Wildlife and the Water Conservation Board for their cooperation in this effort.

If you have any questions regarding our instream flow recommendation, please contact Roy Smith at 303-239-3940.

Sincerely,

Linda Anania Deputy State Director Resources and Fire cc: Andrew Archuleta, Saguache FO Steve Sanchez, Saguache FO



FIELD DATA FOR INSTREAM FLOW DETERMINATIONS



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FIELD DATA FOR INSTREAM FLOW DETERMINATIONS



LOCATION INFORMATION

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DISCHARGE/CROSS SECTION NOTES

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COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD INSTREAM FLOW / NATURAL LAKE LEVEL PROGRAM STREAM CROSS-SECTION AND FLOW ANALYSIS

LOCATION INFORMATION

STREAM NAME:

XS LOCATION: XS NUMBER:	200' downstr 1	from BLM-USFS boundary
DATE: OBSERVERS:	20-Oct-08 R. Smith, S. S	Sanchez
1/4 SEC: SECTION: TWP: RANGE: PM:	SW 32 45N 6E N.M.	
COUNTY: WATERSHED: DIVISION: DOW CODE:	Saguache Closed Basin 3 38253	
USGS MAP: USFS MAP:	0 0	
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	=	*** NOTE *** Leave TAPE WT and TENSION at defaults for data collected
TAPE WT: TENSION:	0.0106 99999	with a survey level and rod
CHANNEL PROFILE DATA	<u> </u>	
SLOPE:	0.018	
INPUT DATA CHECKED B	Y:	DATE
ASSIGNED TO:		DATE

STREAM NAME:

Mill Creek

XS LOCATION: XS NUMBER:

200' downstr from BLM-USFS boundary

DATA POINTS=

18

VALUES COMPUTED FROM RAW FIELD DATA

FEATURE		VERT	WATER		WETTED	WATER	AREA	Q	% C
	DIST	DEPTH	DEPTH	VEL	PERIM.	DEPTH	(Am)	(Qm)	CELL
I LS & G	3.00	4.88			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
	3.40	4.98			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
W	3.60	5.26			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
	3.80	5.40	0.15	0.16	0.24	0.15	0.03	0.00	3.9%
	4.00	5.55	0.30	0.14	0.25	0.30	0.06	0.01	6.8%
	4.20	5.55	0.30	0.38	0.20	0.30	0.06	0.02	18.4%
	4.40	5.55	0.30	0.38	0.20	0.30	0.06	0.02	18.4%
	4.60	5.55	0.30	0.09	0.20	0.30	0.06	0.01	4.4%
	4.80	5.55	0.30	0.08	0.20	0.30	0.06	0.00	3.9%
	5.00	5.55	0.30	0.30	0.20	0.30	0.06	0.02	14.5%
	5.20	5.50	0.25	0.21	0.21	0.25	0.05	0.01	8.5%
	5.40	5.50	0.25	0.26	0.20	0.25	0.05	0.01	10.5%
	5.60	5.40	0.15	0.32	0.22	0.15	0.03	0.01	7.7%
	5.80	5.35	0.10	0.19	0.21	0.10	0.02	0.00	3.1%
W	6.00	5.25			0.22		0.00	0.00	0.0%
	6.40	5.06			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
	7.20	5.04			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
IRS&G	9.50	4.87			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
TO	TALS				2.55	0.3	0.54	0.12	100.0%
10	I ALO				2.55	(Max.)	0.54	0.12	100.076

Manning's n = Hydraulic Radius=

0.3084 0.21146159 STREAM NAME: Mill Creek

XS LOCATION: 200' downstr from BLM-USFS boundary

XS NUMBER: 1

WATER LINE COMPARISON TABLE

WATER	MEAS	COMP	AREA
WATER LINE	AREA	COMP AREA	ERROR
LINE	AKEA	AKEA	EKKUK
	0.54	0.50	0.00/
5.04	0.54	0.53	-2.0%
5.01	0.54	1.26	132.7%
5.03	0.54	1.17	117.5%
5.05	0.54	1.10	103.3%
5.07	0.54	1.03	91.6%
5.09	0.54	0.98	80.9%
5.11	0.54	0.92	70.3%
5.13	0.54	0.86	60.0%
5.15	0.54	0.81	49.9%
5.17	0.54	0.76	40.0%
5.19	0.54	0.70	30.3%
5.21	0.54	0.65	20.8%
5.22	0.54	0.63	16.1%
5.23	0.54	0.60	11.5%
5.24	0.54	0.58	6.9%
5.25	0.54	0.55	2.4%
5.26	0.54	0.53	-2.0%
5.27	0.54	0.51	-6.4%
5.28	0.54	0.48	-10.8%
5.29	0.54	0.46	-15.1%
5.30	0.54	0.44	-19.3%
5.31	0.54	0.41	-23.4%
5.33	0.54	0.37	-31.5%
5.35	0.54	0.33	-39.4%
5.37	0.54	0.29	-47.0%
5.39	0.54	0.25	-54.1%
5.41	0.54	0.21	-60.9%
5.43	0.54	0.18	-67.4%
5.45	0.54	0.14	-73.6%
5.47	0.54	0.11	-79.6%
5.49	0.54	0.08	-85.4%
5.51	0.54	0.05	-90.7%

WATERLINE AT ZERO AREA ERROR =

5.250

STREAM NAME: Mill Creek

XS LOCATION: 200' downstr from BLM-USFS boundary

XS NUMBER:

Constant Manning's n

 $^*GL^*$ = lowest Grassline elevation corrected for sag $^*WL^*$ = Waterline corrected for variations in field measured water surface elevations and sag STAGING TABLE

-	DIST TO	TOP	AVG.	MAX.		WETTED	PERCENT	HYDR		AVG.
	WATER	WIDTH	DEPTH	DEPTH	AREA	PERIM.	WET PERIM	RADIUS	FLOW	VELOCITY
_	(FT)	(FT)	(FT)	(FT)	(SQ FT)	(FT)	(%)	(FT)	(CFS)	(FT/SEC)
GL	4.88	6.36	0.30	0.67	1.92	6.72	100.0%	0.28	0.54	0.28
	4.90	6.01	0.30	0.65	1.79	6.36	94.6%	0.28	0.50	0.28
	4.95	5.13	0.29	0.60	1.51	5.48	81.5%	0.28	0.41	0.27
	5.00	4.32	0.30	0.55	1.28	4.65	69.2%	0.27	0.35	0.27
	5.05	3.33	0.32	0.50	1.08	3.64	54.1%	0.30	0.31	0.29
	5.10	2.83	0.33	0.45	0.93	3.10	46.1%	0.30	0.27	0.29
	5.15	2.69	0.30	0.40	0.79	2.92	43.4%	0.27	0.22	0.27
	5.20	2.55	0.26	0.35	0.66	2.74	40.8%	0.24	0.17	0.25
WL	5.25	2.41	0.22	0.30	0.54	2.56	38.1%	0.21	0.12	0.23
	5.30	2.24	0.19	0.25	0.42	2.37	35.3%	0.18	0.09	0.21
	5.35	2.07	0.15	0.20	0.32	2.17	32.3%	0.15	0.06	0.18
	5.40	1.80	0.12	0.15	0.22	1.88	27.9%	0.12	0.03	0.15
	5.45	1.63	0.08	0.10	0.13	1.68	25.0%	0.08	0.02	0.12
	5.50	1.26	0.04	0.05	0.06	1.29	19.1%	0.04	0.00	0.08

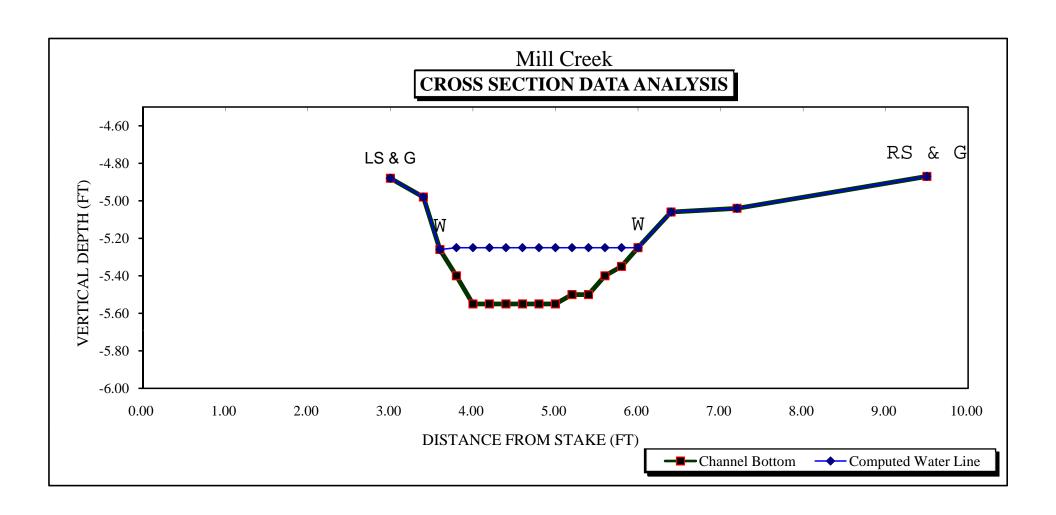
STREAM NAME: Mill Creek

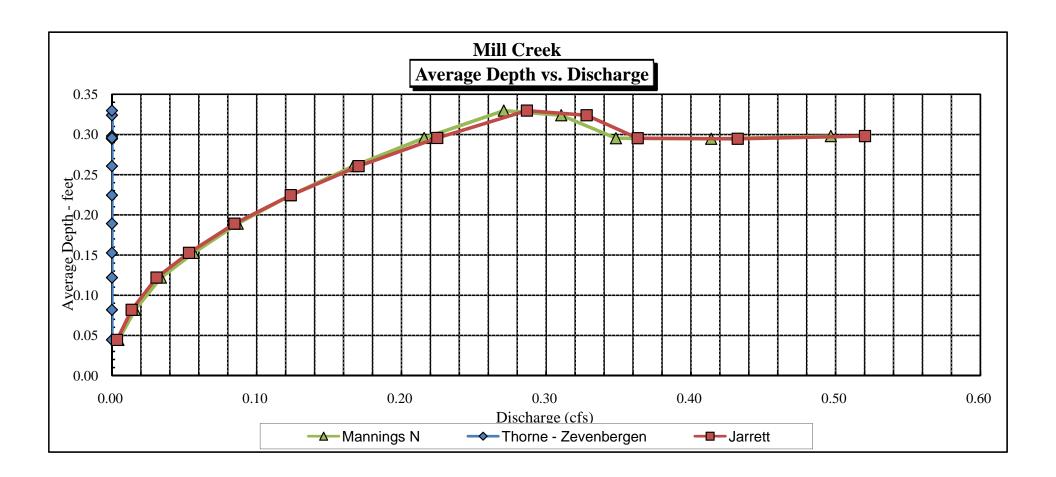
XS LOCATION: 200' downstr from BLM-USFS boundary

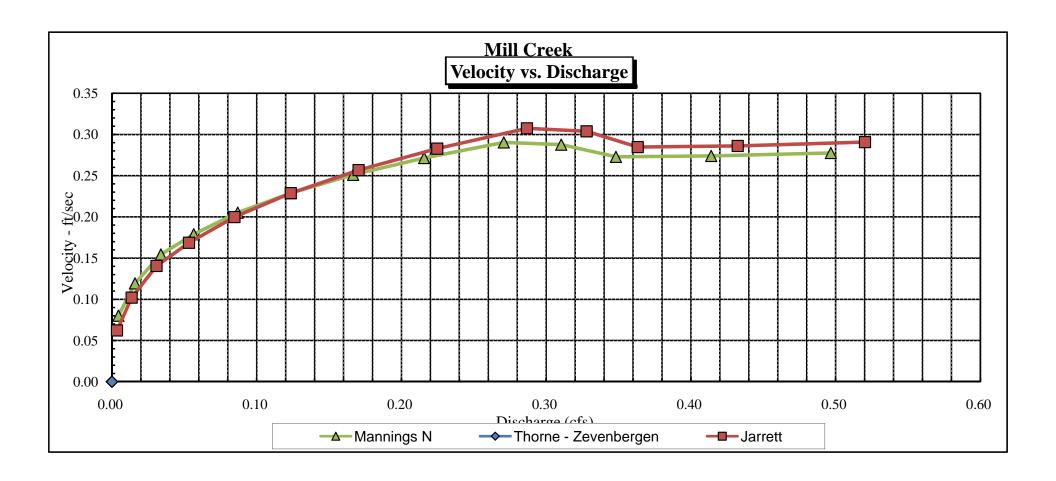
XS NUMBER:

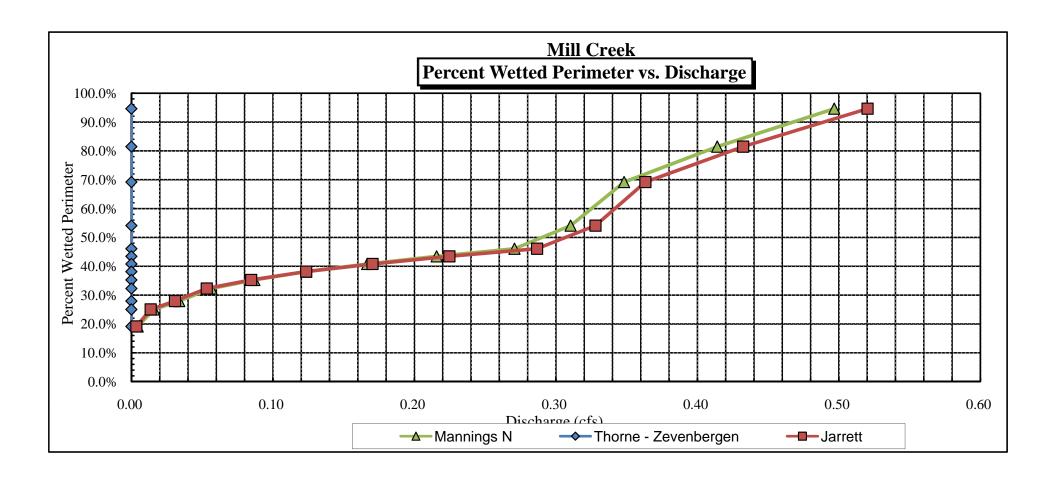
SUMMARY SHEET

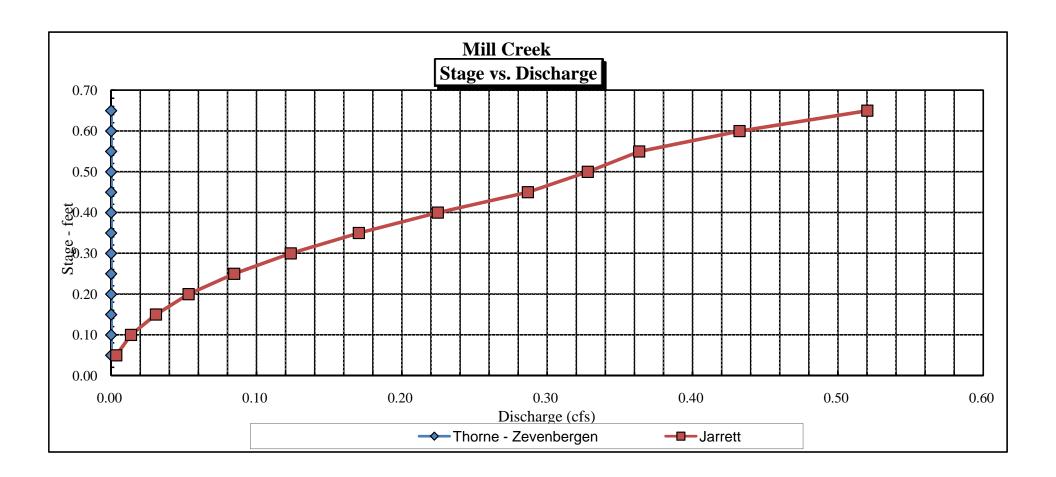
MEASURED FLOW (Qm)= CALCULATED FLOW (Qc)=	0.12 0.12		RECOMMENDED INS	
(Qm-Qc)/Qm * 100 =	0.12		FLOW (CFS)	PERIOD
MEASURED WATERLINE (WLm)= CALCULATED WATERLINE (WLc)= (WLm-WLc)/WLm * 100 =	5.26 5.25 0.1	ft	=======	======
MAX MEASURED DEPTH (Dm)= MAX CALCULATED DEPTH (Dc)= (Dm-Dc)/Dm * 100 MEAN VELOCITY= MANNING'S N= SLOPE= 4 * Qm = 2.5 * Qm=	0.30 0.30 0.1	ft ft % ft/sec ft/ft cfs		
RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION:				
RECOMMENDATION BY:		AGENCY		DATE
CWCD DEVIEW DV.		AGLINGT		DATE:











COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD INSTREAM FLOW / NATURAL LAKE LEVEL PROGRAM STREAM CROSS-SECTION AND FLOW ANALYSIS

250' downst. From BLM-USFS boundary

LOCATION INFORMATION

STREAM NAME:

XS LOCATION:

XS NUMBER:	2	
DATE: OBSERVERS:	20-Oct-08 R. Smith, S. S	Sanchez
1/4 SEC: SECTION: TWP: RANGE: PM:	SW 32 45N 6E NM	
COUNTY: WATERSHED: DIVISION: DOW CODE:	Saguache Closed Basin 3 38253	
USGS MAP: USFS MAP:	0 0	
SUPPLEMENTAL DATA	=	*** NOTE *** Leave TAPE WT and TENSION at defaults for data collected
TAPE WT: TENSION:	0.0106 99999	with a survey level and rod
CHANNEL PROFILE DATA	<u>. </u>	
SLOPE:	0.009	
INPUT DATA CHECKED B	Y:	DATE
ASSIGNED TO:		DATE

Mill Creek

STREAM NAME:

Mill Creek

XS LOCATION:

250' downst. From BLM-USFS boundary

XS NUMBER:

DATA POINTS=

15

VALUES COMPUTED FROM RAW FIELD DATA

FEATURE	DIST	VERT DEPTH	WATER DEPTH	VEL	WETTED PERIM.	WATER DEPTH	AREA (Am)	Q (Qm)	% Q CELL
1 LS & G	3.00	5.55			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
	6.40	5.50			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
	8.50	5.40			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
W	8.90	5.81			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
	9.10	5.90	0.10	0.00	0.22	0.10	0.02	0.00	0.0%
	9.30	5.95	0.15	0.19	0.21	0.15	0.03	0.01	5.8%
	9.50	6.05	0.25	1.00	0.22	0.25	0.05	0.05	50.9%
	9.70	6.05	0.25	0.49	0.20	0.25	0.05	0.02	24.9%
	9.90	6.05	0.25	0.12	0.20	0.25	0.05	0.01	6.1%
	10.10	6.00	0.20	0.10	0.21	0.20	0.04	0.00	4.1%
	10.30	6.00	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.04	0.01	8.1%
W	10.50	5.80			0.28		0.00	0.00	0.0%
	10.70	5.45			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
	12.60	5.54			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
1 RS & G	14.20	5.57			0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
TC	OTALS				1.74	0.25	0.28	0.10	100.0%
						(Max.)			

Manning's n = Hydraulic Radius=

0.1190 0.16109756 STREAM NAME: XS LOCATION: Mill Creek

250' downst. From BLM-USFS boundary

XS NUMBER:

WATER LINE COMPARISON TABLE

WATER	MEAS	COMP	AREA	
LINE	AREA	AREA	ERROR	
	0.28	0.27	-2.5%	
5.56	0.28	0.73	160.0%	
5.58	0.28	0.68	143.7%	
5.60	0.28	0.64	129.8%	
5.62	0.28	0.61	116.2%	
5.64	0.28	0.57	102.8%	
5.66	0.28	0.53	89.5%	
5.68	0.28	0.49	76.6%	
5.70	0.28	0.46	63.8%	
5.72	0.28	0.42	51.2%	
5.74	0.28	0.39	38.9%	
5.76	0.28	0.36	26.8%	
5.77	0.28	0.34	20.8%	
5.78	0.28	0.32	14.9%	
5.79	0.28	0.31	9.1%	
5.80	0.28	0.29	3.3%	
5.81	0.28	0.27	-2.5%	
5.82	0.28	0.26	-8.2%	
5.83	0.28	0.24	-13.7%	
5.84	0.28	0.23	-19.2%	
5.85	0.28	0.21	-24.5%	
5.86	0.28	0.20	-29.7%	
5.88	0.28	0.17	-39.8%	
5.90	0.28	0.14	-49.4%	
5.92	0.28	0.12	-58.5%	
5.94	0.28	0.09	-66.9%	
5.96	0.28	0.07	-74.6%	
5.98	0.28	0.05	-81.8%	
6.00	0.28	0.03	-88.6%	
6.02	0.28	0.02	-93.7%	
6.04	0.28	0.01	-97.6%	
6.06	0.28	0.00	-100.0%	

WATERLINE AT ZERO AREA ERROR =

5.801

STREAM NAME: Mill Creek

XS LOCATION: 250' downst. From BLM-USFS boundary

XS NUMBER:

 $^*GL^*$ = lowest Grassline elevation corrected for sag $^*WL^*$ = Waterline corrected for variations in field measured water surface elevations and sag STAGING TABLE

	DIST TO WATER	TOP WIDTH	AVG. DEPTH	MAX. DEPTH	AREA	WETTED PERIM.	PERCENT WET PERIM	HYDR RADIUS	FLOW	AVG. VELOCITY
	(FT)	(FT)	(FT)	(FT)	(SQ FT)	(FT)	(%)	(FT)	(CFS)	(FT/SEC)
•	(/	(/	(/	(1.17)	(04.1)	(/	(70)	(/	(0. 0)	(: :/626)
GL	5.57	1.97	0.35	0.48	0.69	2.34	100.0%	0.30	0.36	0.53
	5.60	1.92	0.33	0.45	0.63	2.26	96.7%	0.28	0.32	0.51
	5.65	1.84	0.29	0.40	0.54	2.13	91.2%	0.25	0.25	0.47
	5.70	1.76	0.25	0.35	0.45	2.01	85.8%	0.22	0.20	0.44
	5.75	1.69	0.21	0.30	0.36	1.88	80.3%	0.19	0.14	0.40
WL	5.80	1.61	0.17	0.25	0.28	1.75	74.8%	0.16	0.10	0.35
	5.85	1.46	0.14	0.20	0.20	1.57	67.0%	0.13	0.06	0.30
	5.90	1.30	0.10	0.15	0.13	1.37	58.7%	0.10	0.03	0.25
	5.95	1.05	0.07	0.10	0.08	1.10	47.0%	0.07	0.02	0.20
	6.00	0.70	0.04	0.05	0.03	0.71	30.5%	0.04	0.00	0.13

Constant Manning's n

STREAM NAME: Mill Creek

XS LOCATION: 250' downst. From BLM-USFS boundary

XS NUMBER:

SUMMARY SHEET

MEASURED FLOW (Qm)=	0.10		RECOMMENDED INSTREAM FLOW:		
CALCULATED FLOW (Qc)=	0.10		============	========	
(Qm-Qc)/Qm * 100 =	0.5	%	FLOW (CFS)	PERIOD	
MEASURED WATERLINE (WLm)=	5.81	ft	========	======	
CALCULATED WATERLINE (WLc)=	5.80	ft			
(WLm-WLc)/WLm * 100 =	0.1	%			
MAX MEASURED DEPTH (Dm)=	0.25	ft			
MAX CALCULATED DEPTH (Dc)=	0.25				
(Dm-Dc)/Dm * 100	0.3				
MEAN VELOCITY=	0.35	ft/sec			
MANNING'S N=	0.119		-		
SLOPE=	0.009	ft/ft			
.4 * Qm =	0.0	cfs			
2.5 * Qm=	0.2	cfs			
RECOMMENDATION BY:		AGENCY		DATE:	
CWCB REVIEW BY:				DATE:	

