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February 18, 2010

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

Dear Ms. Bassi and Mr. Baessler,

Trout Unlimited in conjunction with the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) is submitting this instream flow recommendation for Little Green Creek, located in Routt and Grand Counties, Water Division 5.

Location and Land Status. Little Green Creek originates in the headwaters of the Gore Range at an elevation of approximately 9,800 feet. Over the next 3.75 miles it flows generally east through the Arapahoe National Forest as it drops to its confluence with Muddy Creek at an elevation of 8,400 feet. The proposed ISF reach covers this entire 3.75 mile segment and the entire reach is located on Forest Service Land (Fig. 1).

Biological Summary and R2CROSS Analysis. In September 2009, TU collected stream cross sectional data, natural environment data, and other data needed to quantify instream flow needs. Previous survey data collected by CDOW and rod and reel sampling by TU staff indicates that the stream supports healthy populations of Colorado River cutthroat trout.

Stream cross sectional data were analyzed using the R2CROSS program, and the output was evaluated using the methods described in Nehring (1979) and Espegren (1996). The R2CROSS models how average depth, percent wetted perimeter and average velocity vary with discharge. According to the criteria established by Nehring (1979), the relevant minimum requirements are an average depth of 0.2 feet, a wetted perimeter of 50%, and an average velocity of 1.0 ft/sec. Protecting salmonids during the summer season is accomplished by insuring all three criteria are met while during the winter protection can be accomplished by protecting 2 of three criteria. Thus, R2CROSS indicates that the fishery of Little Green Creek can be protected with minimum summer flows of 1.25 cfs and minimum winter flows of 0.50 cfs.

Water Availability. There are no stream gages on Little Green Creek so we used the USGS StreamStats methodology to estimate the discharge passing through the proposed ISF reach.

This allowed us to estimate how much water would have flowed through Little Green Creek in the absence of any diversions.

The Colorado State Engineer's CDSS Diversion Structures, Division 5, Database (version 20090701) indicates that there are no diversion structures located within the Little Green Creek watershed. Therefore, no adjustments to the StreamStats modeled flows were necessary.

We used this water availability analysis to adjust the recommended ISF so that our estimate of average monthly flows through Little Green Creek typically exceeded the recommended flows (Fig. 2).

Preliminary ISF Recommendation. Our StreamStats water availability analysis indicates that streamflows are available to satisfy the flows that resulted from our R2CROSS analysis. Therefore, TU makes a preliminary recommendation for the following flow amounts to preserve the natural environment of Little Green Creek to a reasonable degree:

- From **March 15 through October 15** a flow appropriation of **1.25 cfs** is recommended to maintain the three principal criteria of average depth, average velocity, and percent wetted perimeter;
- From **October 16 through March 14**, a flow appropriation of **0.50 cfs** is recommended to maintain the wetted perimeter and average depth criteria.

We understand that the CWCB staff will evaluate water availability in more detail during the coming months and the seasonality of these flow recommendations may change as a result of the CWCB staffs' analysis.

Relationship to Existing State Policy. TU is forwarding this stream flow recommendation to the CWCB to meet the State of Colorado's policy "that the wildlife and their environment are to be protected, preserved, enhanced, and managed for the use, benefit, and enjoyment of the people of this state and its visitors ... and that, to carry out such program and policy, there shall be a continuous operation of planning, acquisition, and development of wildlife habitats and facilities for wildlife-related opportunities." C.R.S. 33-1-101(1). Further, the CDOW Strategic Plan states "Healthy aquatic environments are essential to maintain healthy and viable fisheries, and critical for self-sustaining populations. The Division desires to protect and enhance the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats." TU recommends that Little Green Creek be considered for inclusion in the Instream Flow Program because doing so would help meet these stated policies. Specifically, establishing minimum flows through this reach would preserve the natural environment of the stream to a reasonable degree.

Attached in Appendix A, please find copies of the field data sheets, the R2CROSS modeling runs, and stream photographs. If you have any questions regarding the attached information or the instream flow recommendations, please feel free to contact me at (303) 440-2937.

Trout Unlimited thanks the Colorado Division of Wildlife and the Colorado Water Conservation Board Staff for their support in preparing this recommendation.

Sincerely,

Greg Espegren

Greg Espegren
Trout Unlimited
Aquatic Specialist

Cc: Jay Skinner, CDOW Water Unit Program Manager – w/o attachments
Mark Uppendahl, CDOW Instream Flow Program Coordinator

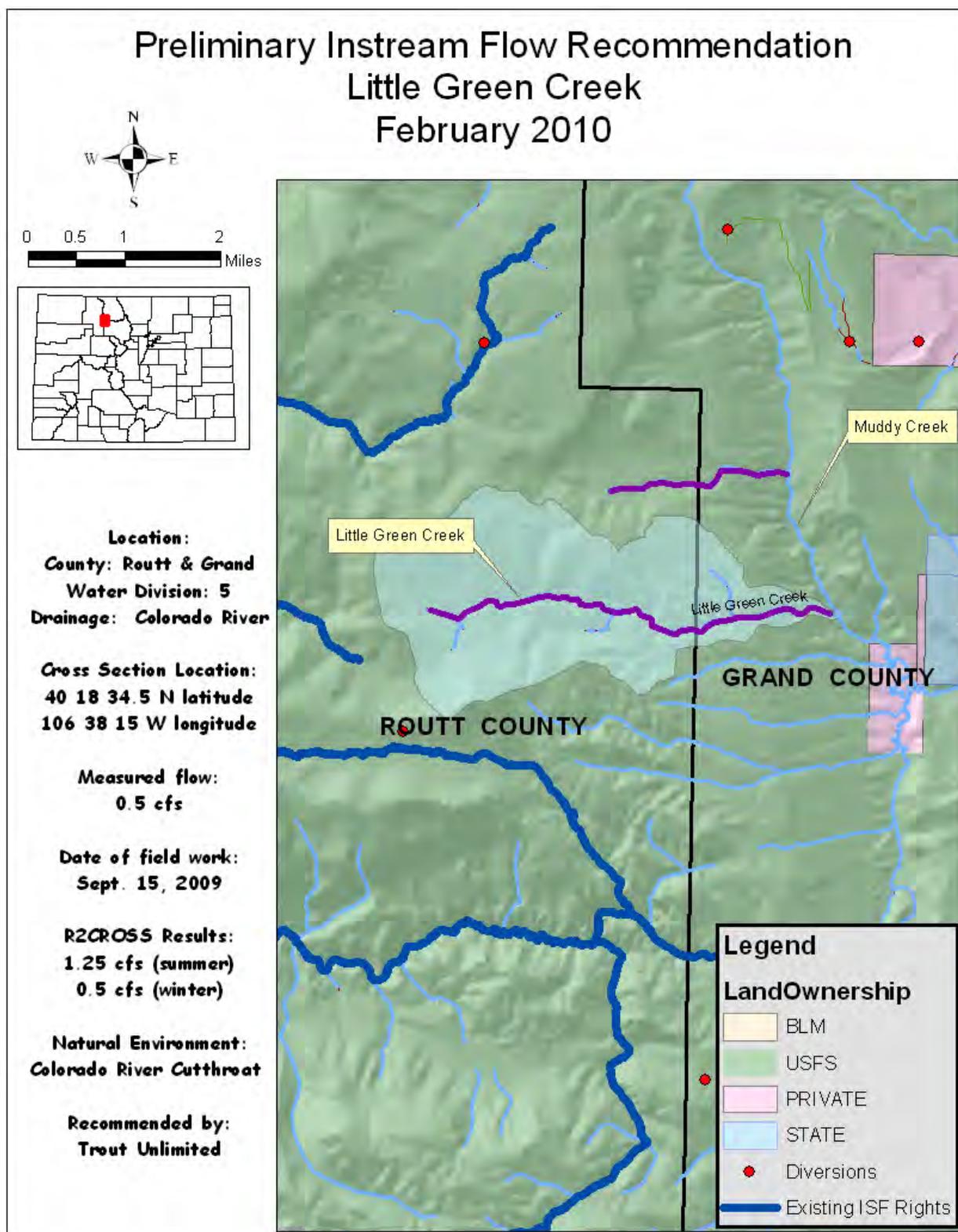


Figure 1.. Map of Little Green Creek watershed. The watershed's location within Division 5 is indicated by the red box on the inset map of Colorado

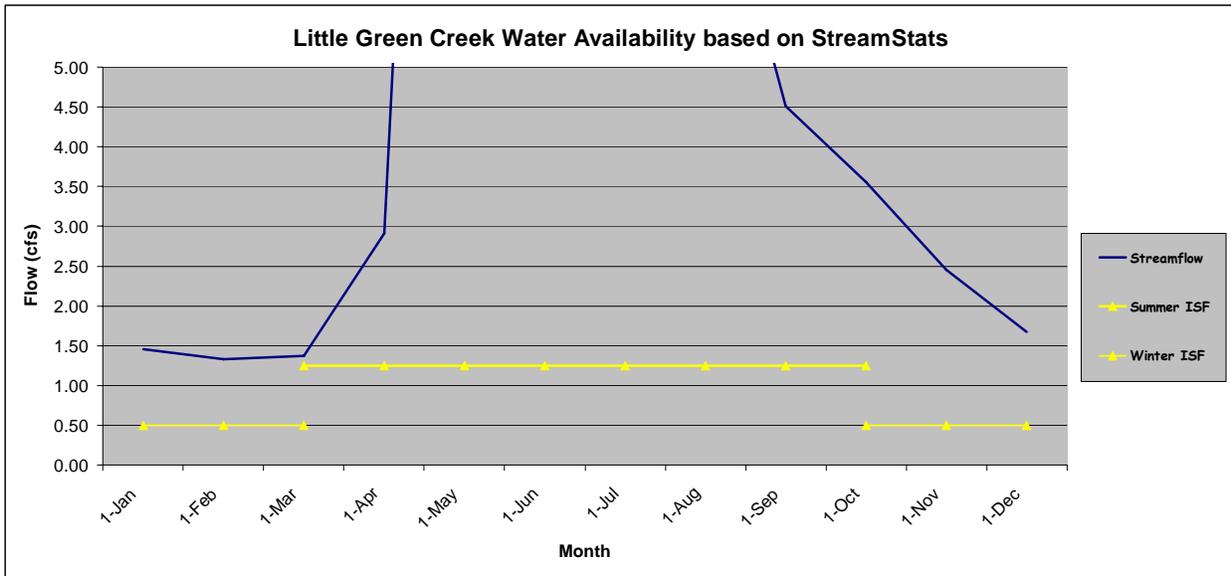


Figure 2. Recommended instream flow appropriations (yellow lines) as compared to estimated average monthly discharge at Lower Terminus of proposed ISF reach on Little Green Creek.



COLORADO WATER
CONSERVATION BOARD

FIELD DATA FOR INSTREAM FLOW DETERMINATIONS



LOCATION INFORMATION

STREAM NAME: <u>Little Green Creek</u>		CROSS-SECTION NO.: <u>1</u>	
CROSS-SECTION LOCATION: <u>100 yards upstream of FS Road 100 crossing</u>			
<u>N 40° 18' 34.5" W 106° 38' 15"</u>			
DATE: <u>9-15-09</u>	OBSERVERS: <u>Greg Espartero + Drew Petrone</u>		
LEGAL DESCRIPTION	% SECTION: <u>NE</u>	SECTION: <u>24</u>	TOWNSHIP: <u>4 N/S</u>
			RANGE: <u>83 E/W</u> PM: <u>6:20</u>
COUNTY: <u>ROUTT</u>	WATERSHED: <u>COLORADO</u>	WATER DIVISION: <u>5</u>	DOW WATER CODE:
MAP(S):	USGS: <u>WALTON PEAK</u>		
	USFS: <u>ARAPAHOE</u>		

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

SAG TAPE SECTION SAME AS DISCHARGE SECTION: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO	METER TYPE: <u>Marsh McBirney</u>
METER NUMBER:	DATE RATED:
CALIB/SPIN: <u>—</u> sec	TAPE WEIGHT: <u>D/A</u> lbs/foot
TAPE TENSION: <u>NA</u> lbs	NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHS: <u>3</u>
CHANNEL BED MATERIAL SIZE RANGE:	PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES / <input type="checkbox"/> NO

CHANNEL PROFILE DATA

STATION	DISTANCE FROM TAPE (I)	ROD READING (II)	SKETCH 	LEGEND:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tape @ Stake LB	0.0			Stake <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tape @ Stake RB	0.0			Station <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> WS @ Tape LB/RB	0.0	<u>R.B = 8.28 / L.B = 8.29</u>		Photo <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> WS Upstream	<u>10'</u>	<u>8.25'</u>		Direction of Flow
<input type="checkbox"/> WS Downstream	<u>10'</u>	<u>8.62'</u>		
SLOPE				

AQUATIC SAMPLING SUMMARY

STREAM ELECTROFISHED: YES/NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	DISTANCE ELECTROFISHED: _____ ft	FISH CAUGHT: YES/NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO <u>FLY ROD</u>	WATER CHEMISTRY SAMPLED: YES/NO														
LENGTH - FREQUENCY DISTRIBUTION BY ONE-INCH SIZE GROUPS (1.0-1.9, 2.0-2.9, ETC.)																	
SPECIES (FILL IN)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	>15	TOTAL
<u>CRCT</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>1</u>						<u>7</u>							
AQUATIC INSECTS IN STREAM SECTION BY COMMON OR SCIENTIFIC ORDER NAME:																	

COMMENTS

CAUGHT APPROX 25 CRCT (2" - 11") - NO BROWN TROUT!

Data Input & Proofing

STREAM NAME:	Little Green Creek 2009
XS LOCATION:	100 yds u/s of FS Road 100 crossing
XS NUMBER:	1
DATE:	9/15/2009
OBSERVERS:	Espegren, Peternell
1/4 SEC:	NE
SECTION:	24
TWP:	4N
RANGE:	83W
PM:	6th
COUNTY:	Routt
WATERSHED:	Muddy Creek, Colorado River
DIVISION:	5
DOW CODE:	
USGS MAP:	Wallon Peak, Lake Agnes
USFS MAP:	Arapahoe
TAPE WT:	0.0106 lbs / ft
TENSION:	99999 lbs
SLOPE:	0.0185 ft / ft

GL=1	FEATURE	DIST	VERT DEPTH	WATER DEPTH	VEL	A	Q	Tape to Water
			Total Data Points = 24					
		0.00	6.79			0.00	0.00	0.00
		0.80	7.08			0.00	0.00	0.00
1	G	1.50	7.74			0.00	0.00	0.00
	W	1.75	8.29	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00
		2.00	8.39	0.10	0.65	0.03	0.02	8.29
		2.25	8.45	0.20	0.66	0.05	0.03	8.25
		2.50	8.44	0.20	1.08	0.05	0.05	8.24
		2.75	8.42	0.15	1.25	0.04	0.05	8.27
		3.00	8.43	0.15	1.39	0.04	0.05	8.28
		3.25	8.45	0.15	1.32	0.04	0.05	8.30
		3.50	8.44	0.15	0.83	0.04	0.03	8.29
		3.75	8.41	0.10	1.12	0.03	0.03	8.31
		4.00	8.39	0.10	1.30	0.03	0.03	8.29
		4.25	8.40	0.10	1.21	0.03	0.03	8.30
		4.50	8.40	0.10	0.87	0.03	0.02	8.30
		4.75	8.40	0.10	1.04	0.03	0.03	8.30
		5.00	8.36	0.10	0.35	0.03	0.01	8.26
		5.25	8.36	0.10	0.52	0.03	0.01	8.26
		5.50	8.39	0.10	0.78	0.03	0.02	8.29
		5.75	8.34	0.05	0.24	0.01	0.00	8.29
	W	6.00	8.28			0.00	0.00	0.00
	G	7.00	7.69			0.00	0.00	0.00
1		8.00	7.62			0.00	0.00	0.00
	Stake	8.80	6.59			0.00	0.00	0.00

CHECKED BY:.....DATE.....

ASSIGNED TO:.....DATE.....

Totals	0.49	0.47
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COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
INSTREAM FLOW / NATURAL LAKE LEVEL PROGRAM
STREAM CROSS-SECTION AND FLOW ANALYSIS

LOCATION INFORMATION

STREAM NAME: Little Green Creek 2009
XS LOCATION: 100 yds u/s of FS Road 100 crossing
XS NUMBER: 1

DATE: 15-Sep-09
OBSERVERS: Espegren, Peternell

1/4 SEC: NE
SECTION: 24
TWP: 4N
RANGE: 83W
PM: 6th

COUNTY: Routt
WATERSHED: Muddy Creek, Colorado River
DIVISION: 5
DOW CODE: 0

USGS MAP: Walton Peak, Lake Agnes
USFS MAP: Arapahoe

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA

*** NOTE ***

Leave TAPE WT and TENSION
at defaults for data collected
with a survey level and rod

TAPE WT: 0.0106
TENSION: 99999

CHANNEL PROFILE DATA

SLOPE: 0.0185

INPUT DATA CHECKED BY:DATE.....

ASSIGNED TO:DATE.....

STREAM NAME: Little Green Creek 2009
 XS LOCATION: 100 yds u/s of FS Road 100 crossing
 XS NUMBER: 1

DATA POINTS= 24

VALUES COMPUTED FROM RAW FIELD DATA

FEATURE	DIST	VERT DEPTH	WATER DEPTH	VEL
	0.00	6.79		
	0.80	7.08		
1 G	1.50	7.74		
W	1.75	8.29	0.00	
	2.00	8.39	0.10	0.65
	2.25	8.45	0.20	0.66
	2.50	8.44	0.20	1.08
	2.75	8.42	0.15	1.25
	3.00	8.43	0.15	1.39
	3.25	8.45	0.15	1.32
	3.50	8.44	0.15	0.83
	3.75	8.41	0.10	1.12
	4.00	8.39	0.10	1.30
	4.25	8.40	0.10	1.21
	4.50	8.40	0.10	0.87
	4.75	8.40	0.10	1.04
	5.00	8.36	0.10	0.35
	5.25	8.36	0.10	0.52
	5.50	8.39	0.10	0.78
	5.75	8.34	0.05	0.24
W	6.00	8.28		
1 G	7.00	7.69		
	8.00	7.62		
Stake	8.80	6.59		

WETTED PERIM.	WATER DEPTH	AREA (Am)	Q (Qm)	% Q CELL
0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
0.27	0.10	0.03	0.02	3.5%
0.26	0.20	0.05	0.03	7.1%
0.25	0.20	0.05	0.05	11.6%
0.25	0.15	0.04	0.05	10.1%
0.25	0.15	0.04	0.05	11.2%
0.25	0.15	0.04	0.05	10.6%
0.25	0.15	0.04	0.03	6.7%
0.25	0.10	0.03	0.03	6.0%
0.25	0.10	0.03	0.03	7.0%
0.25	0.10	0.03	0.03	6.5%
0.25	0.10	0.03	0.02	4.7%
0.25	0.10	0.03	0.03	5.6%
0.25	0.10	0.03	0.01	1.9%
0.25	0.10	0.03	0.01	2.8%
0.25	0.10	0.03	0.02	4.2%
0.25	0.05	0.01	0.00	0.6%
0.26		0.00	0.00	0.0%
0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
0.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%

TOTALS _____

4.30 0.2 0.49 0.47 100.0%
 (Max.)

Manning's n = 0.0496
 Hydraulic Radius= 0.113415075

STREAM NAME: Little Green Creek 2009
 XS LOCATION: 100 yds u/s of FS Road 100 crossing
 XS NUMBER: 1

WATER LINE COMPARISON TABLE

WATER LINE	MEAS AREA	COMP AREA	AREA ERROR
	0.49	0.48	-2.0%
8.04	0.49	1.61	229.4%
8.06	0.49	1.51	209.8%
8.08	0.49	1.42	190.5%
8.10	0.49	1.32	171.3%
8.12	0.49	1.23	152.3%
8.14	0.49	1.14	133.5%
8.16	0.49	1.05	114.8%
8.18	0.49	0.96	96.4%
8.20	0.49	0.87	78.1%
8.22	0.49	0.78	60.0%
8.24	0.49	0.69	42.0%
8.25	0.49	0.65	33.1%
8.26	0.49	0.61	24.3%
8.27	0.49	0.56	15.5%
8.28	0.49	0.52	6.7%
8.29	0.49	0.48	-2.0%
8.30	0.49	0.44	-10.7%
8.31	0.49	0.39	-19.2%
8.32	0.49	0.35	-27.5%
8.33	0.49	0.31	-35.7%
8.34	0.49	0.27	-43.8%
8.36	0.49	0.20	-59.6%
8.38	0.49	0.13	-73.6%
8.40	0.49	0.07	-85.5%
8.42	0.49	0.03	-93.3%
8.44	0.49	0.01	-98.5%
8.46	0.49	0.00	-100.0%
8.48	0.49	0.00	-100.0%
8.50	0.49	0.00	-100.0%
8.52	0.49	0.00	-100.0%
8.54	0.49	0.00	-100.0%

WATERLINE AT ZERO
 AREA ERROR = 8.283

STREAM NAME: Little Green Creek 2009
 XS LOCATION: 100 yds u/s of FS Road 100 crossing
 XS NUMBER: 1

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 WATER (FT)	TOP WIDTH (FT)	AVG. DEPTH (FT)	MAX. DEPTH (FT)	AREA (SQ FT)	WETTED PERIM. (FT)	PERCENT WET PERIM (%)	HYDR RADIUS (FT)	FLOW (CFS)	AVG. VELOCITY (FT/SEC)
GL	7.74	5.42	0.57	0.71	3.11	5.97	100.0%	0.52	8.21	2.64
	7.78	5.32	0.54	0.67	2.88	5.83	97.8%	0.49	7.34	2.55
	7.83	5.22	0.50	0.62	2.62	5.68	95.2%	0.46	6.36	2.43
	7.88	5.11	0.46	0.57	2.36	5.53	92.7%	0.43	5.45	2.31
	7.93	5.00	0.42	0.52	2.11	5.37	90.1%	0.39	4.60	2.18
	7.98	4.89	0.38	0.47	1.86	5.22	87.5%	0.36	3.81	2.05
	8.03	4.79	0.34	0.42	1.62	5.07	85.0%	0.32	3.08	1.90
	8.08	4.68	0.29	0.37	1.38	4.91	82.4%	0.28	2.41	1.75
	8.13	4.57	0.25	0.32	1.15	4.76	79.8%	0.24	1.82	1.58
	8.18	4.46	0.21	0.27	0.92	4.61	77.2%	0.20	1.29	1.40
	8.23	4.36	0.16	0.22	0.70	4.45	74.7%	0.16	0.84	1.19
WL	8.28	4.24	0.11	0.17	0.49	4.30	72.0%	0.11	0.47	0.96
	8.33	3.92	0.07	0.12	0.28	3.96	66.3%	0.07	0.20	0.70
	8.38	2.97	0.04	0.07	0.11	2.99	50.1%	0.04	0.05	0.44
	8.43	0.94	0.01	0.02	0.01	0.95	15.9%	0.01	0.00	0.19

1.25
 0.50















