BEFORE THE COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

STATE OF COLORADO

Prehearing Statement of Sheep Mountain Alliance

IN THE MATTER OF STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR AN INSTREAM FLOW APPROPRIATION ON THE SAN MIGUEL RIVER BELOW CALAMITY DRAW, WATER DIVISION 4

Pursuant to Rule 5n(2) of the Rules Concerning the Colorado Instream Flow and Natural Lake Level Program ("ISF Rules"), Sheep Mountain Alliance ("SMA") hereby submits its prehearing statement in support of the Colorado Water Conservation Board ("CWCB") staff's recommendations for an instream flow appropriation on the San Miguel River between the confluence with Calamity Draw and the confluence with the Dolores River (CWCB ID: 09/4/A-009) (the "ISF"). SMA supports the appropriation on the reach in the location, timing, and amounts adopted by the CWCB at its January 2011 regularly scheduled board meeting. The CWCB adopted the locations, timing, and amount set forth in the CWCB staff recommendation report made available to the CWCB and the public at the January 2011 CWCB regularly scheduled board meeting (this recommendation is a available for review on the CWCB's website at www.cwcb.state.co.us).

A. FACTUAL CLAIMS

1. There is a natural environment that can be preserved on the subject reach of the San Miguel River. The finding of a natural environment is based upon the fish surveys conducted the Colorado Division of Wildlife, riparian inventories conducted by Colorado Natural Heritage Program, and aquatic macroinvertebrate surveys conducted by the Bureau of Land Management (the "BLM").

2. The instream flow location, amount, and timing originally recommended by the CWCB staff at the January 2011 board meeting:

a) is based upon an accurate PHABSIM (Physical Habitat Simulation) analysis, which is a standard scientific methodology for identifying the amount of the physical habitat available for fish at various flow rates in a specified stream channel;
b) is based upon a set of habitat suitability curves that are appropriate for the fish species and the life stages to be protected;
c) is based upon a set of habitat suitability curves that are appropriate for the San Miguel River Stream channel;
d) is based upon a reasonable selection of protective flow rates take from the weighted usable area curves produced by PHABSIM analysis;
e) is based upon an accurate application of the R2Cross hydraulic modeling procedures;

f) is based upon an accurate application of hydraulic criteria for instream flow determinations utilizing the R2Cross methodology; and
g) is required to preserve the natural environment to a reasonable degree.

3. The natural environment on the subject reach of the San Miguel River:

a) includes native and introduces fishes, aquatic macroinvertebrates, and riparian communities;
b) can be preserved with an instream flow appropriation that is based upon the flow needs of flannelmouth sucker and bluehead sucker, because those species are indicator species for other elements of the natural environment that rely upon a hydrograph with a natural shape;
c) will be preserved to a reasonable degree with the proposed ISF water right; and
d) can exist without material injury to existing water rights, including conditional surface water rights and conditional storage rights.

4. The water availability analysis conducted by the CWCB in support of the January 2011 instream flow appropriation:

a) is based upon scientifically accepted hydrology analysis procedures;
b) relies upon data from multiple historic gaging sites, all of which demonstrate that sufficient water is available for the proposed appropriation; and
c) reflects an amount of water that is available for appropriation as an ISF right, utilizing standard procedures employed by the CWCB to evaluate a range of hydrologic year types.

5. SMA supports the CWCB staff recommendations as set forth in the January 2011 Staff Report and Recommendation on the subject reach of the San Miguel River.

6. SMA hereby adopts the factual claims set forth in CWCB staff's Prehearing Statement.

B. LEGAL CLAIMS

1. SMA is a party to these proceedings pursuant to Rule 5i(5) of the ISF Rules.

2. Because instream flow water rights are nonconsumptive and do not divert water from the stream, the CWCB can appropriate an instream flow water right that is based upon the flow of water that will be diverted downstream by a senior water right.

3. Even though the proposed ISF will be junior to existing water rights on the stream system, the CWCB can make appropriations based on water availability at the time of the proposed appropriation, without subtracting flow rates or volumes that have been adjudicated to conditional or presently unexercised water rights.

4. The proposed instream flow water right will not deprive the people of the State of Colorado of their right to develop the volume of water allocated to the State of Colorado under the

Colorado River Compact. The proposed instream flow water right leaves substantial water volumes available for new junior water rights and future water development.

5. In determining the amount of water available for an instream flow appropriation, the CWCB is not limited to the amount of water available during drought years. Instead, the CWCB may consider the amount of water available in a range of hydrologic conditions.

6. The CWCB has the discretion to determine amount and timing of water necessary to preserve the natural environmental to a reasonable degree.

7. The original CWCB staff ISF recommendation for the subject reach of the San Miguel River meets all of the substantive and procedural requirements outlined in the ISF Rules.

8. The CWCB's appropriation of an instream flow water right on the subject reach of the San Miguel River would further the express intent of C.R.S § 37-92-103(3) to "correlate the activities of mankind with some reasonable preservation of the natural environment."

9. SMA hereby adopts the legal claims set forth in the BLM's Prehearing Statement and in the CWCB staff's Prehearing Statement.

C. EXHIBITS TO BE INTRODUCED AT HEARING

1. January 2011, Staff Analysis and Recommendation on the subject reach of the San Miguel River. This report, along with its appendices, contains maps of the proposed reach, proposed ISF amounts and timing, and water availability calculations. This report, and supporting appendices, are available for review on the CWCB's website at http://www.cwcb.state.co.us, and is included in the CWCB's Prehearing Statement. In the hearing, SMA will refer to this report and its appendices as **SMA Exhibit 1.**

2. Range-Wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub, Bluehead Sucker, and Flannelmouth Sucker, September 2006. This document appears as Appendix A to the CWCB Staff Analysis and Recommendation on the subject reach of the San Miguel and is available for review on the CWCB website at: http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/weblink/electronicfile.aspx?docid=146683&searchid=55a060a6-154b-4dc0-a474-0377a6c0fcde&dbid=0.

3. Colorado's Water Supply Future, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Southwest Basin Non-consumptive Needs Assessment Report, March 2011. This document is available in its entirety for review on the CWCB website at: http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/Documents/Southwest/SWBasinNeedsAssessmentReport.pdf. SMA will refer to this report as **SMA Exhibit 2.**

4. Copies of stakeholder letters and petitions in support of the ISF, which are available for review on the CWCB website at: http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=146694&searchid=629a39e1-2f6d-4e9a-8948-4de6fd810d3c&dbid=0. Additional petitions and letters may be collected prior to the

Board meeting, which will be circulated to the Board and all parties prior to the hearing. SMA will refer to all letters and petitions in support of the ISF as **SMA Exhibit 3.**

5. Portions of Statewide Water Supply Initiative 2010 Report, including but not limited to Sections 2 and 8. This document is available in its entirety for review on the CWCB website at: http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/water-supply-planning/pages/swsi2010.aspx. SMA will refer to this document as **SMA Exhibit 4.**

6. Portions of the Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report for the BLM Uncompahgre Planning Area dated June 2010. This document is available in its entirety for review at: http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/co/field_offices/uncompahgre_field/rmp/rmp_docs.Par.16348.File.dat/Final%20WSR%20Eligibility%20Report%20Final%20Web%20071210.pdf. SMA will refer to this report as **SMA Exhibit 5.**

7. Portions of the BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS for the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers and Tributaries. This document is available in its entirety for review at: http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/co/field_offices/uncompahgre_field/rmp/wsr_docs.Par.31074.File.dat/2011-0225%20WSR%20Dolores%20San%20Miguel%20Segment%20Analysis%20RAC%20Recommendation.pdf. SMA will refer to this document as **SMA Exhibit 6.**

8. Final List of Southwest Basins Roundtable Nonconsumptive IPPS. SMA will refer to this list as **SMA Exhibit 7.**

9. Final List of Southwest Basin Roundtables Consumptive IPPs. SMA will refer to this list as **SMA Exhibit 8.**

10. SMA may introduce demonstrative, rebuttal, or other exhibits as allowed by the CWCB or agreed upon by the parties.

11. SMA may rely upon exhibits introduced or disclosed by any other party to this hearing.

D. LEGAL MEMORANDUM

SMA's legal memorandum is attached to this prehearing statement as Exhibit A and is incorporated by this reference.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of July, 2011.

RUSSELL & PIETERSE, LLC

Jennifer Russell, Attorney Reg. # 22047
Nathaniel Smith, Attorney Reg. # 42705
Attorneys for Sheep Mountain Alliance
Russell & Pieterse, LLC
PO Box 2673
Telluride, CO 81435
jenny.russell@lawtelluride.com
nate.smith@lawtelluride.com

ATTORNEYS FOR SHEEP MOUNTAIN ALLIANCE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have duly served the copies of the foregoing PREHEARING STATEMENT upon all parties herein by Federal Express, email or depositing copies of the same in the U.S. mail, postage prepaid this 13th day of July, 2011 addressed as follows:

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Linda Bassi
1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-3441 ext. 3204
linda.bassi@state.co.us

Colorado Department of Law
Natural Resources and Environment Section
Susan Schneider — Staff Attorney
1525 Sherman Street, 7th floor
Denver, CO 80203
(303) 866-5046
susan.schneider@state.co.us

Colorado Division of Wildlife
Mark Uppendahl
6060 Braodway
Denver, CO 80216
(303) 291-7267
mark.uppendahl@state.co.us

Bureau of Land Management
Roy Smith

DOI, BLM, Colorado State Office
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215-7093
(303) 239-3940
roy_smith@co.blm.gov

Farmer's Water Development Company
David Alexander, President
PO Box 10
Norwood, CO 81423
(970) 327-4844
farmerWDC@yahoo.com

Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County
Charles B. White
Petros & White, LLC
1999 Broadway, Suite 3200
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 825-1980
cwhite@petros-white.com

Southwestern Water Conservation District
Norwood Water Commission
Lone Cone Ditch & Reservoir Company
John B. Spear

Janice C. Sheftel
Adam T. Reeves
Maynes, Bradford, Shipps & Sheftel, LLP
835 E. 2nd Avenue, No 123
Durango, CO 81301
bspear@mbssllp.com
jsheftel@mbssllp.com
areeves@mbssllp.com

Western Resource Advocates
The Wilderness Society
Robert Harris
Bart Miller
Western Resource Advocates
2260 Baseline Road, Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 444-1188
bmiller@westernresources.org
rharris@westernresources.org

San Miguel Water Conversancy District
Raymond Snyder, President
San Miguel Water Conservancy District
PO Box 126
Norwood, CO 81423

Robert W. Bray, Secretary
San Miguel Water Conservancy District
PO Box 65
Redvale, CO 81431

Board of County Commissioners of San Miguel County
Becky King
San Miguel County Attorney's Office
PO Box 791
Telluride, CO 81435
(970) 728-3879
beckyk@sanmiguelcounty.org

Colorado Environmental Coalition
San Juan Citizens Alliance
American Whitewater
Western Colorado Congress
Center for Native Ecosystems
Becky Long
Colorado Environmental Coalition
1536 Wynkoop Street #5C
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 534-7066
becky@ourcolorado.org

Jennifer Russell

Sheep Mountain Alliance Prehearing Statement Legal Memorandum

This legal memorandum is in support of the ISF appropriation on the San Miguel River.

I. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Colorado Water Conservation Board ("Board") is a unique entity charged with preserving the natural environment to a reasonable degree for the people of the State of Colorado.[1] The Board initiates water appropriations in fulfillment of this unique statutory responsibility.[2]

In charging the Board with this authority, the legislature clearly envisioned that the instream flow program would reasonably obtain its goal of preserving the environment by ensuring that certain stream reaches would not be further depleted.[3] The primary value of an instream flow right is its ability to preserve the stream conditions existing at the time of its appropriation.[4] It protects the flow remaining in the river after decreed senior rights are satisfied.

All of the parties contesting the proposed instream flow appropriation ("ISF") hold, or have filed on, water rights senior to the ISF adequate for their current *and future* needs. Consequently, the ISF – like any other junior water right – will not affect them to the extent they put their conditional water rights to beneficial use.

In order to encourage other entities to participate in Colorado's instream flow program, the legislature directed the Board to request instream flow recommendations from other state and federal agencies. C.R.S. § 37-92-102(3). This ISF comes at the recommendation of the Colorado Department of Wildlife and the Bureau of Land Management and is based upon *10 years of data collection* on the San Miguel River by those agencies. The agencies have identified populations of fish species that are recognized as species of special concern by the state (rountail chub) or are considered sensitive species by the BLM (roundtail chub, flannelmounth sucker and bluehead sucker). Sensitive species are declining so rapidly that federal listing may become necessary.

A significant purpose of the ISF is to implement the five-state conservation agreement regarding the management of these species.[5] If successful, the ISF could curtail the need for federal listing of the species, which would constitute a direct, significant benefit to the public, particularly members of the public who live and work in the San Miguel River Basin.

---

1 *Aspen Wilderness Workshop, Inc. v. Colo. Water Conservation Bd.*, 901 P.2d 1251, 1256 (Colo. 1995).

2 *Id*. at 1259.

3 *Colo. Water Conservation Bd. v. City of Central*, 125 P.3d 424, 439 (Colo. 2005).

4 *Id.*

5 *See generally* Utah Department of Natural Resources, Rangewide Conservation Agreement for the Roundtail Chub, Bluehead Sucker, and Flannelmount Sucker (2006) (implementing conservation measures for the fish species).

The ISF was officially recommended in 2008. Following the Board's announcement of a potential 2010 appropriation of the ISF, Board staff met with the San Miguel County Commissioners at a public meeting in December 2009. At that meeting, the commissioners requested a one-year delay in the appropriation to allow water users time to file water rights applications for any present or anticipated future needs ahead of the instream flow appropriation. Many water users did file applications in 2010: the December 2010 resume was 124 pages long and included numerous filings on the San Miguel River, including applications by Montrose County, the Norwood Water Commission and the Lone Cone Ditch and Reservoir Company.

Nevertheless, the Board of County Commissioners of Montrose County ("Montrose County") and Farmer's Water Development Company ("Farmers") contested the proposed ISF. In addition, San Miguel Water Conservancy District ("SMWCD"), Southwestern Water Conservation District ("Southwest"), Norwood Water Commission ("NWC") and Lone Cone Ditch and Reservoir Company ("Lone Cone") filed for party status in opposition to the ISF.

The opponents' legal arguments against the ISF, as set forth in filings in this matter or by the parties' previous statements at Board meetings, can be summarized as follows:

1. The ISF will prevent future consumptive-use development in the basin; the Board should not appropriate the ISF unless there is either a "carve-out" for such future development or an agreement to subordinate the ISF to future development.

2. By preventing future consumptive use development, the ISF could deprive the people of the State of Colorado of the beneficial use of those waters available by law or interstate compact.

3. The ISF will deny water users the flexibility to change their water rights "as allowed by Colorado law".

These arguments are uniformly without basis.

II. FUTURE CONSUMPTIVE USE DEVELOPMENT

Montrose County filed six water rights applications for additional water for the west end of the county (the "West End") seeking 6400 acre-feet of additional water for future uses in the West End, which is enough water for approximately an additional 26,000 people. There are three towns in the West End on the San Miguel River: Naturita (population 687); Nucla (population 766); and Redvale (population: 381).[6] The unincorporated parts of the West End

[6] City of Montrose, Our Community, Demographics, http://montrose.org/index.aspx?nid=220 (last visited July 12, 2011); Market Insights, Redvale Colorado Information, marketinsights.com/city/Redvale-CO.html (last visited July 12, 2011). In a study prepared for Montrose County, Economic & Planning Systems, Inc. calculated similar population estimates. Economic & Planning Systems, Inc., Montrose County Population Forecast 2010–2060, 48, Table B21 (2011).

are widely dispersed with very small populations and little commercial or industrial development.

The 2010 list of Identified Projects and Processes for the West End, incorporated into SWSI 2010, shows no gap for anticipated 2050 growth for Nucla and Naturita, and a total estimated gap of 135 acre-feet for the portion of the West End not covered by a water system.

Montrose County's appropriations clearly provide adequate water for growth in the West End through 2050 and beyond. Because the appropriations are senior to the ISF, Montrose County cannot argue that the ISF will prevent future development in the West End, or that it needs some form of subordination for future uses. Future growth in Montrose County will not be harmed by the ISF.

Similarly, NWC and Lone Cone filed applications for conditional water rights in December 2010 for all of their anticipated future growth. NWC serves the Town of Norwood and rural portions of San Miguel and Montrose Counties. Based upon a recent water needs assessment prepared by Wright Water Engineers, NWC filed two water rights applications in December 2010 to meet their 2060 needs. One application is for five storage rights totaling 16,305 acre-feet. The other, a joint application with Lone Cone, is for an additional 4,000 acre-feet of storage. These water rights will be senior to the ISF and are more than adequate for their anticipated growth. Consequently, the ISF will not affect their ability to provide for anticipated future growth.

III. BENEFICIAL USE OF WATERS AVAILABLE BY LAW OR INTERSTATE COMPACT

Southwest, NWC and Lone Cone claim that the ISF could deprive the people of the state of the beneficial use of water available by law or by interstate compact by precluding the development of consumptive use water rights. These parties appear to argue that, in correlating the activities of mankind with some reasonable preservation of the environment, the *Board* must ensure the development of sufficient water for the next 50 years for the growing populations of Montrose and San Miguel Counties. That argument is nonsensical. The statutory language is clearly setting out the purpose of the legislative establishment of the instream flow program: to provide some reasonable preservation of the environment. The state constitution and statutes always have protected and provided water for "the activities of mankind". What did not exist prior to the adoption of the instream flow program in 1973 was a means to preserve the environment to *any* degree.

More puzzling still is these parties' suggestion that it is the Board's duty to ensure the development of water for the people of San Miguel and Montrose Counties. That job is clearly up to the water providers in the counties, and those providers have, in fact, filed water rights applications to provide water for all foreseeable development.

No court case defines what is meant by the prohibition in the statute against depriving the people of the state of the beneficial use of waters available by law and interstate compact. In

fact, the Supreme Court has admitted to being puzzled regarding the purpose of this language.[7] The Court, however, cited the water court's ruling in that case with approval:

> There is no evidence that these appropriations resulted in any people of the State of Colorado being deprived of the beneficial use of water. Until such time as a person is in fact deprived of the beneficial use of available water because of these appropriations the alleged harm is purely speculative and must be rejected.[8]

Here, the parties have made no specific or valid claim that the ISF would result in people of the State of Colorado being deprived of the beneficial use of water. Therefore, any such claim is speculative and must be rejected by the Board.

IV. CHANGES TO WATER RIGHTS

Farmers and SMWCD both argue that the ISF will deny water users the right to change their water rights in the future. However, under C.R.S. § 37-92-102(3) and Rule 5i of ISF Rules, potential future changes of existing water rights are not relevant to the Board's determination whether to initiate an instream flow appropriation.

Moreover, the ISF will impose no greater or different burden on water users wishing to change their rights in the future. Changes are subject to a non-injury standard with respect to other water rights, whether those rights are for instream flows or other beneficial uses.[9]

V. PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE ISF

A. Southwest Basins Roundtable.

Although the proposal for the instream flow was initiated by CDOW and the BLM to protect the environment for the sensitive fish species, there is strong and broad support in the basin for the ISF.[10]

The Southwest Basins Roundtable, pursuant to HB 05-1177, recently completed an extensive public process to determine its nonconsumptive water needs. This process included four meetings around the basin held in early 2010, including a very well-attended meeting in the San Miguel River Basin. The roundtable found that nearly the entire length of the San Miguel River – one of only two major undammed rivers in the state – had nonconsumptive

---

7 *Colo. River Water Conservation Dist. v. Colo. Water Conservation Bd.*, 594 P.2d 570, 575 (Colo. 1979)

8 *Id.*

9 C.R.S. § 37-92-305(3)(b).

10 *See, e.g.*, Copies of stakeholder letters and petitions in support of the ISF, which are available on the CWCB website: http://cwcbweblink.state.co.us/WebLink/ElectronicFile.aspx?docid=146694&searchid=629a39e1-2f6d-4e9a-8948-4de6fd810d3c&dbid=0.

values and attributes worthy of protection. The ISF segment of the river was identified as having between two and six nonconsumptive attributes.[11]

In addition, the nonconsumptive list of identified projects and processes ("IPPs") approved by the roundtable expressly includes the ISF to protect the fish species. The nonconsumptive IPPs identified by the basin were subject to a much greater level of scrutiny than the consumptive IPPs and were the direct result of the public process to determine the basin's nonconsumptive water needs.

Other nonconsumptive attributes important to the basin include various types of recreation dependent upon preservation of the natural environment. An instream flow is the only means to protect these nonconsumptive attributes and values. While not the focus of the current proceeding, it is important to recognize the Board's exclusive role in protecting the public's right to instream flows and the economic benefits that flow to communities dependent upon a flowing river and the natural environment. All of the opposers in this matter have an adequate means under Colorado water law to obtain and protect water for their consumptive uses. In contrast, the public must rely on this Board to obtain and protect water for their benefit and use.

B. Wild and Scenic Process

In the last year, the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office, as part of its Resource Management Plan, analyzed the suitability of various segments of the San Miguel River for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The BLM created a broad public process under the Southwest Resource Advisory Council (the "RAC"), a citizens' advisory board, to solicit and incorporate input on suitability. The RAC recommended inclusion of the ISF segment based in part on exemplary populations of the three sensitive fish species, as well as exceptional recreation opportunities and vegetation of outstanding significance, including globally imperiled vegetation. Protecting the environment through the ISF appropriation will also protect these significant natural values.

C. SWSI 2010 Recommendations

SWSI 2010 recognizes that one of the important factors in the state's growth is quality of life. New residents and businesses are attracted to Colorado because of the natural environment and wide array of recreational opportunities, many of which are water-based or have water as an integral part of the experience (such as camping or wildlife viewing).[12] In addition, recreation and the natural environment support tourism, which is a major economic driver in the San Miguel River Basin.

SWSI 2010 recommends meeting the state's nonconsumptive needs by working with stakeholders to:

---

[11] Colorado Water Conservation Board, Colorado's Water Supply Future, Southwest Basin Needs Assessment Report, § 2, § 8, fig. 2-9 (2010).

[12] Statewide Water Supply Initiative 2010 Report, §2.1.

- Promote recovery of endangered, threatened and imperiled species in a manner that allows the state to fully utilize its compact and decreed entitlements.

- Protect or enhance environmental and recreational values that benefit local and statewide economies.

- *Support the implementation of projects and methods to meet the state's nonconsumptive water needs.*

The proposed ISF fulfills these recommendations by protecting sensitive fish species to avoid federal listing; protecting the environmental and recreational values upon which the basin depends; and implementing a project identified by the Southwest Basins Roundtable to meet its nonconsumptive water needs.

VI. CONCLUSION

We urge this Board to exercise its unique authority to make the ISF appropriation proposed by CDOW, the BLM and the Board staff. The opposers in this matter have obtained more than adequate water rights to protect their growth and development of consumptive uses. The natural environment, including adequate instream flows, are a critical part of San Miguel River Basin's economy. In addition, a federal listing of the sensitive fish species will negatively affect the basin's ability to grow and develop in the future. Only the Board can protect these critical flows, help to avoid federal listing and protect the basin's tourism economy.

SMA EXHIBIT 7

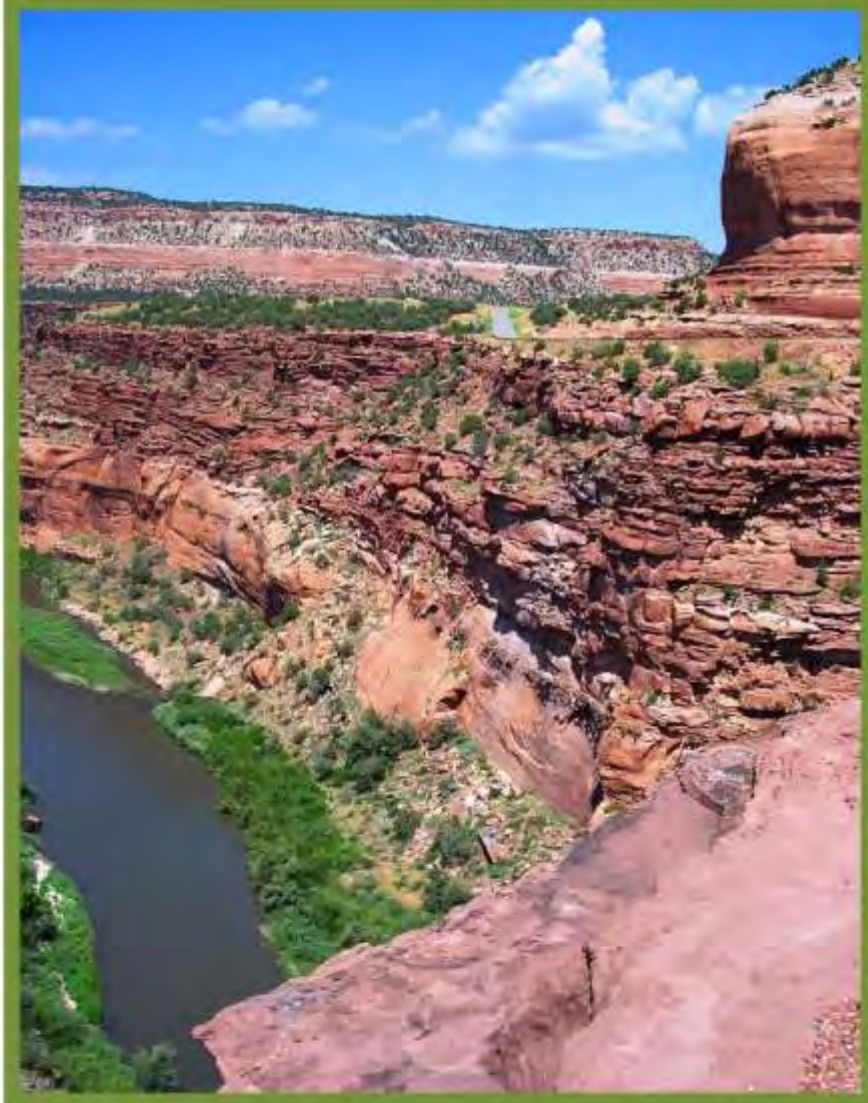
14080101	Archuleta	San Juan	Watershed of the West Fork of the San Juan River	Watershed values are defined by the collaborative workgroup and include the outstandingly remarkable value of geology, scenary and wildlife.	River Protection Workgroup leading local process to involve the public in protecting natural values while allowing water development to continue.		SWWCD, SJCA, TU, TWS, SUIT, CDWR, CWCB, SJPL, Private landowners and citizens	River Protection Workgroup
14080101	Western Slope	San Juan/ Colorado	San Juan Basin Recovery Implementation Program	Colorado Pikeminnow; Razorback Sucker (Federally listed endangered species under the ESA)	Federally listed fish species under the ESA - project ongoing since 1988 in Upper Co River Basin (San Juan also??)	Federal program affecting water management throughout Upper Co and San Juan River Basins; both basins operated under Programmatic Biological Opinion (PBO) allowing depletions under a cumulative cap w/out individual consultation on each project. San Juan program extended through 2023.		DG (CDOW)
14080101	Western Slope	San Juan/ Colorado	warm water streams w/in San Juan/ Co River drainages	Roundtail Chub, Flannelmouth Sucker, Bluehead Sucker are sensitive species (CDOW); and species of concern (BLM)	6-State Range-Wide Conservation Agreement (NM, WY, UT, NV, AZ, CO) to expedite conservation measures fo three native warm water fish that occupy lower reaches of all the San Juan/ Dolores/ San Miguel drainages. BOR, BLM, USFS also signatories to this agreement.	This Conservation Agreement signed in 2004 initiated formal inter-state consultation and cooperation to conserve these species. CO still drafting strategy document to coordinate implementation of conservation measures.	CO, AZ, NM, UT, NV, WY; BOR, BLM, USFS	DG (CDOW)
14030003	Montrose	San Miguel	Between Calamity Draw and Dolores Confluence (17.24 miles)	Roundtail Chub, Flannelmouth Sucker, Bluehead Sucker are sensitive species (CDOW); and species of concern (BLM)	In Stream Flow (ISF): 325 cfs: (4/15-6/14), 170 cfs: (6/15-731),115cfs:(8/1-8/31),80cfs:(9/1-2-29),115cfs: (3/1-4/14)	CWCB declared intent to appropriate 1/2011. Montrose County has provided additional information on flow/ habitat relationships that is being reviewed by CWCB staff.	CWCB, BLM, CDOW, Montrose County	April Montgomer, 2011 CWCB Board Member
14080101	Archuleta	Vallecito	Vallecito Creek headwaters to USFS boundary	Non-consumptive and consumptive values	River Protection Workgroup leading local process to involve the public in protecting natural values while allowing water development to continue.		SWWCD, SJCA, TU, TWS, SUIT, CDWR, CWCB Private landowners and citizens	Ann Oliver, RPW Steering Committee Member
14080101	Hinsdale	Vallecito	Vallecito Creek headwaters to USFS boundary	Non-consumptive and consumptive values	River Protection Workgroup leading local process to involve the public in protecting natural values while allowing water development to continue.		SWWCD, SJCA, TU, TWS, SUIT, CDWR, CWCB Private landowners and citizens	Ann Oliver, RPW Steering Committee Member
14080101	La Plata	Vallecito	Vallecito Creek watershed - headwaters to USFS boundary	Watershed values are defined by the collaborative workgroup and include the outstandingly remarkable values of scenery and recreation	River Protection Workgroup leading local process to involve the public in protecting natural values while allowing water development to continue.		SWWCD, SJCA, TU, TWS, SUIT, CDWR, CWCB, SJPL, Private landowners and citizens	River Protection Workgroup
14080101	San Juan	Vallecito	Vallecito Creek watershed - headwaters to USFS boundary	Watershed values are defined by the collaborative workgroup and include the outstandingly remarkable values of scenery and recreation	River Protection Workgroup leading local process to involve the public in protecting natural values while allowing water development to continue.		SWWCD, SJCA, TU, TWS, SUIT, CDWR, CWCB, SJPL, Private landowners and citizens	River Protection Workgroup
14030003	Montrose	San Miguel	Between Calamity Draw and Dolores Confluence (17.24 miles)	Roundtail Chub, Flannelmouth Sucker, Bluehead Sucker are sensitive species (CDOW); and species of concern (BLM)	In Stream Flow (ISF): 325 cfs: (4/15-6/14), 170 cfs: (6/15-731),115cfs:(8/1-8/31),80cfs:(9/1-2-29),115cfs: (3/1-4/14)	CWCB declared intent to appropriate 1/2011. Montrose County has provided additional information on flow/ habitat relationships that is being reviewed by CWCB staff.	CWCB, BLM, CDOW, Montrose County	April Montgomery, CWCB
1403003	Montrose	San Miguel	Tabeguache Creek (Confluence with N. Frk Tabeg. Crk to confluence with 47 mile Crk) (3.66 miles)	Supports self sustaining fish populations (speckled dace, rainbow trout, molted sculpin, blue head sucker. Also diverse ripairan habitat	In Stream Flow: 3.5 cfs (4/1 - 6/30), 2.0 cfs (7/1 - 10/31), 1.6 cfs (11/1 - 3/31)	CWCB declared intent to appropriate 1/2011. There has been no opposition to date.	CWCB, BLM, CDOW, Montrose County	April Montgomery, CWCB
1403003	Montrose	San Miguel	Red Canyon Creek	Supports self sustaining populations of native Co River Cutthroat trout and motled sculpin.	In Stream Flows: 1.2 cfs (4/1 - 6/30), .25 cfs 7/1 - 10/31)	CWCB declared intent to appropriate 1/2011. There has been no opposition to date.	CWCB, BLM, CDOW, Montrose County	April Montgomery, CWCB
1403003	Montrose	San Miguel at CCC-Ditch	San Miguel at CCC-Ditch	Provide fish passage at CCC-ditch diversion	Construct Fish Ladder that abuts CCC-ditch, add electronic guage to assist in diversion	no additional water associated with this project	CCC-Ditch, CWT, BLM, CDOW, TNC, SWCD, CWCB, Telluride Foundation	Peter Mueller, The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
1403003	Montrose	San Miguel below Naturita	San Miguel, Calamity Creek	Naturita and Nucla are in the process of identifying how to meet new water quality standards for sewar discharge; Naturita must meet standards by summer 2011	Identify best means of improving water qulaity to meet State standards		Towns of Nucla and Naturita	Peter Mueller (TNC), George Glasier
1403003	Montrose	San Miguel, Nucla and Naturita area	CCC-Ditch to Calamity Creek	Identify non-consumptive need to support fisheries in times when CCC-Ditch divert most or all water	Identify willing lessor for 3 in 10 year paid lease of water	unknown at this time	CDOW, TNC, CWT, and others as needed	Peter Mueller (TNC)
1403003	San Miguel	Howards Fork	Howards Fork above Ophir; Carbenaro Mine Reclamation	Mine Tailings Reclamation	USFS initiating tailings removal from riparian area east of Ophir	no water needed	USFS, SMWC, Town of Ophir, TLR, San Miguel Conservation Foundation, GOCO	Peter Mueller (TNC), Pat Willits
1403003	San Miguel	Howards Fork	Carbenaro Mine Audit Reclamation	Reduce or Treat the contaminated water - heavy metals, principal contributor to Howards Fork	Invistigate what options exist to mitigate heavy metal loading	no water needed	EPA, Division of Water Safety; CDPHE, DRMS, private landowner	Peter Mueller (TNC), Pat willits
1403003	San Miguel	Howards Fork	Carribou Mine Tailings and Audit	Improve water quality	Investigate how best to reclaim	no water needed	USFS, private land owner, DRMS, EPA, CDPHE et al	Peter Mueller (TNC), Pat Willits
1403003	San Miguel	Fall River	Fall River and tributaries above Woods Lake	Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (State Sensitive Species)	The CDOW w/ partners is continuing implementation of a cutthroat refugio concept at Woods Lake, and has completed 2 (of 3) infrastrucutre improvement projects designed to isolate this fishery from exposure to non-native trout (mainly brook trout)	CDOW has obtained internal funding and is working in partnership w/ the Hughes Ditch Co to modify the diversion structure to facilitate cutthroat isolation and allow diversion of existing water rights.	CDOW, USFS, Hughes Ditch Co, San Miguel County	DG (CDOW)
1403003	San Miguel	San Miguel	Telluride to Society Turn	Valley Floor restoration of historic river channel	Riparian habitat restoration. Flows to protect wetlands.	Existing flows may be sufficient	Town of Telluride	Telluride, Lance McDonald
14080104	La Plata	Animas	Animas River from ? To ?	Recreational In-Channel Diversion	Provide a boating park that allows for rafting, kayaking, tubing and other water sports	Water needs depend on the time of year. Water rights secured in 2009. Construction of the anchored rock facility awaits funding.	City of Durango, La Plata County, Animas River Task Force	City of Durango
14080104	La Plata	Florida	Upper Florida	Drinking Water Protection	Source Water Protection		City of Durango, Edgemont Ranch Metro District, Forest Groves Home Owners, El Rancho Florida Homeowners, Durango-La Plata Regional Airport, La Plata County, SJPL, CRWA, COWQCC	Eddy Balch, CRWA
14080104	La Plata	Animas	Lake Nighthorse	Recreational Use of Lake Nighthorse	Provide boating and fishing and swimming opportunities	No new water needs now that the reservoir is full	Animas La Plata Water Conservancy District, Bureau of Reclamation, La Plata County, City of Durango	City of Durango

ID	County	HUC	Subbasin	MajorProvider	Notes	Remaining Gap AF	Supplies Beyond 2050	Source
46	Montezuma	14080105	Mancos	Mancos, Town	Source is Jackson Reservoir and direct flow rights.	0	Y	John Porter & Raymond Keith (updated from SWSI 1)
47	Montezuma	14080105	Mancos	Mancos Rural Water Company	Negotiated added supplies thru 2020 from Jackson Project (300 af). Assume more available thru 2030.	0	N	Raymond Keith (updated from SWSI 1)
48	Montezuma	14080107	San Juan	Montezuma Water Company	Supplies potable water to rural Dolores and Montezuma Counties. Continually expanding to serve new areas presently on wells on hauling.	0	Y	John Porter (updated from SWSI 1)
49	Montezuma	14030002	Dolores	Dolores, Town	Have water rights and could purchase water from Dolores Project if needed.	0	Y	John Porter
50	Montezuma	14030002	Dolores	Cortez, City	Have direct flow rights and Dolores Project Water available.	0	Y	Response to CDM survey
51	Montezuma	14080107	McElmo	Summit Water District	Montezuma Water Company is now providing water to the District. Completed IPP.	0	N	Harris
52	Montezuma	14030002	Dolores	Montezuma County Water District	Serves rural area south Cortez. Could purchase water from Dolores Project Water or Montezuma Water Company.	0	Y	John Porter
53	Montezuma	14080105	All subbasins Mancos/ McElmo/ Dolores	Unincorporated Montezuma County not covered by a water district	Have assumed 5 to 10 percent of future demand in each county will be in rural area not served by a water district and groundwater or hauling water may be the only options and alternatives will not be developed.	168	N	BRT feedback
54	Montrose	14030003	San Miguel	SWCD and Montrose County	Montrose County, with assistance from SWCD, is evaluating the future water needs in the San Miguel basin in the County and the IPP's to meet the needs. A report and water rights application are planned to be prepared. IPP's will be identified and recommended for inclusion.	TBD	Y	SWCD (new IPP)
55	Montrose	14030003	San Miguel	CC Ditch	Modification of the headgate of the CC Ditch on the San Miguel River is being considered to improve the ability of kayaks and other boats to pass through the diversion.	N	N	SWCD (new IPP)
56	Montrose	14030003	San Miguel	Nucla	Mustang Water Authority formed to provide water.	0	U	Buckhorn Geotech Report on Mustang Water Authority
57	Montrose	14030003	San Miguel	Naturita	Mustang Water Authority formed to provide water.	0	U	Buckhorn Geotech Report on Mustang Water Authority
58	Montrose	14030003	San Miguel	Tri-State Power Facility	Have adequate water rights for future demands but would need storage to firm the yield if plant is expanded. Need storage options.	2000	N	Bill Haffner, Tri-State Generating
59	Montrose	14030003	San Miguel	Unincorporated Montrose County not covered by a water system	Have assumed 5 to 10 percent of future demand in each county will be in rural area not served by a water district and groundwater or hauling water will be the only options and alternatives will not be developed.	135	N	BRT feedback

SMA EXHIBIT 5

Bureau of Land Management
Uncompahgre Field Office
2465 South Townsend Avenue
Montrose, Colorado 81401

June 2010



Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report

for the BLM Uncompahgre Planning Area

SMA EXHIBIT 5

SMA EXHIBIT 5

FINAL 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

JUNE 2010

BARBARA SHARROW
UNCOMPAHGRE FIELD MANAGER
MONTROSE, COLORADO

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 ~

Table of Contents

RIVER SEGMENT MAPS

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	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
FWS	U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
NCA	National Conservation Area
NE	northeast
NF	National Forest
NMPM	New Mexico Principal Meridian (longitude 106° 53' 40")
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NW	northwest
NWSRS	National Wild and Scenic River System
ORVs	Outstandingly Remarkable Values
PM	Principal Meridian (Public Land Survey System)
R	Range (Public Land Survey System)
RMP	Resource Management Plan
S	Section (Public Land Survey System)
SE	southeast
SW	southwest
T	Township (Public Land Survey System)
UFO	Uncompahgre Field Office

ACRONYM OR ABBREVIATION	COMPLETE PHRASE
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 within the Uncompahgre planning area, as well as the portion of the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area within the field office, to determine the eligibility and suitability of rivers and streams 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 report details the completed river inventory and final 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 upon 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.

Eligibility Results

During the inventory phase, 174 river segments were identified for review. After evaluating these river segments, 22 rivers separated into 33 segments were determined to be free-flowing and possessed one or more outstandingly remarkable values necessary for Wild and Scenic River 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 34 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.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL ELIGIBILITY REPORT

The Final Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report for the BLM Uncompahgre Planning Area is the culmination of field assessments and data analysis conducted by UFO staff, review of free-flowing character and outstandingly remarkable value (ORV) determinations by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Colorado Natural Heritage Program, and review and comment on the Draft Eligibility Report by the public, interest groups, and government and non-government agencies. Comments regarding suitability (outlined in Appendix D on page 149) were not considered, but will be carried forward to the Suitability phase.

Fall Creek (within the San Miguel Hydrologic Unit) was the only stream segment identified as eligible in the draft report to be reclassified as not eligible in the final report, due to an inability to confirm that the segment is occupied habitat for the Canada Lynx *(Lynx canadensis)*.

Several animal species, including the Canada Lynx, the Gunnison sage grouse *(Centrocercus minimus)*, and the yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus),* were removed from the Wildlife ORV of some river segments because the BLM was unable to verify the segments as occupied habitat.

In addition, plant species and communities were removed from a number of Vegetation ORVs due to clarification of global ranking by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. The Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* was removed from the Vegetation ORV of four river segments because the species is not uniquely dependent on rivers and occurs outside of river corridors. In most cases, an ORV was supported by other qualifying plant species, while in others the removal of a species eliminated the ORV.

In some instances, water quality issues affected the preliminary classification of a segment. UFO staff recently learned that certain tributary stream segments along the Gunnison River previously thought to be on the Colorado 303(d) list for impairment due to excessive selenium were exempted based on segment descriptions in the Colorado Department of Public Health ***Classifications and Numeric Standards for Gunnison and Lower Dolores River Basins***. The stream segments affected by this are listed in Table ES-1 under the Lower Gunnison Hydrologic Unit.

Table ES-1 summarizes the changes made to the Draft Eligibility Report to produce this Final Eligibility Report.

Table ES-1 Summary of Changes from Draft to Final WSR Eligibility Report

HYDROLOGIC UNIT	RIVER SEGMENT	CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL ELIGIBILITY
LOWER GUNNISON	**Cottonwood Creek**	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary Classification remains Scenic.
	Dry Fork Escalante Segment 2	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary Classification remains Recreational.
	Escalante Creek Segment 1	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary classification remains Scenic. • Removed Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* from Vegetation ORV due to specie's lack of unique dependence on river and occurrence outside of river corridor. Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values.
	Escalante Creek Segment 2	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary classification remains Recreational. • Removed Eastwood's monkeyflower *(Mimulus eastwoodiae)* from Vegetation ORV, due to an inability to document occupied habitat within the segment. • Removed Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* from Vegetation ORV due to specie's lack of unique dependence on river and occurrence outside of river corridor. Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values.
	Gunnison River Segment 2	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary Classification remains Recreational.
	Gunnison River Segment 3	• Added statement to preliminary classification rationale to document that a draft Total Maximum Daily Load Plan has been prepared for this segment which, if implemented, would improve water quality. Preliminary Classification remains Recreational. • Removed Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* from Vegetation ORV due to specie's lack of unique dependence on river and occurrence outside of river corridor. Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values.
	Monitor Creek	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. • Changed Preliminary Classification from Scenic to Wild.

HYDROLOGIC UNIT	RIVER SEGMENT	CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL ELIGIBILITY
LOWER GUNNISON (continued)	**Potter Creek**	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. • Changed Preliminary Classification from Scenic to Wild.
	Rose Creek	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. • Changed Preliminary Classification from Scenic to Wild.
	Roubideau Creek Segment 1	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. • Changed Preliminary Classification from Scenic to Wild.
	Roubideau Creek Segment 2	• Omitted statement that segment is on Colorado State 303(d) impaired water quality list for excessive selenium. Preliminary Classification remains Scenic. • Removed Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* from Vegetation ORV due to specie's lack of unique dependence on river and occurrence outside of river corridor. Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values.
SAN MIGUEL	**Beaver Creek**	• Removed sandbar willow-strapleaf willow *(Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia)* riparian shrubland from Vegetation ORV due to change in ranking from globally imperiled (G2G3) to globally vulnerable (G3). Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values.
	Dry Creek	• Removed Wildlife ORV due to an inability to document occupied habitat for Gunnison sage grouse *(Centrocercus minimus)*. Segment remains eligible based on Scenic and Geologic ORVs.
	***Fall Creek**	• Withdrew Fall Creek from eligibility due to an inability to document occupied habitat for Canada Lynx *(Lynx canadensis)*, invalidating Wildlife ORV.
	San Miguel River Segment 1	• Removed Canada lynx *(Lynx canadensis)* and yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus)* from Wildlife ORV due to an inability to document occupied habitat. Wildlife ORV remains based upon other wildlife values.
	San Miguel River Segment 2	• Removed yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus)* from Wildlife ORV due to an inability to document occupied habitat. Wildlife ORV remains based upon other wildlife values. • Modified designation in Wildlife ORV from Important Bird Area to Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat.

HYDROLOGIC UNIT	RIVER SEGMENT	CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL ELIGIBILITY
SAN MIGUEL (continued)	**San Miguel River Segment 3**	• Removed Canada lynx *(Lynx canadensis)* and yellow-billed cuckoo *(Coccyzus americanus)* from Wildlife ORV due to an inability to document occupied habitat. Wildlife ORV remains based upon other wildlife values. • Modified designation in Wildlife ORV from Important Bird Area to Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat.
	San Miguel Segment 5	• Changed ranking of New Mexico privet (*Forestieria pubescens*) riparian shrubland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
	San Miguel Segment 6	• Changed ranking of New Mexico privet (*Forestieria pubescens*) riparian shrubland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
LOWER DOLORES	**Lower Dolores River**	• Changed segment name to Lower Dolores River to distinguish from Upper Dolores river segments. • Added statement to Preliminary Classification rationale documenting that a water quality monitoring plan is being initiated to determine concentration and source of total recoverable iron in Dolores River, and develop remedial actions if necessary. Preliminary Classification remains Scenic.
	Tabeguache Creek Segment 2	• Changed ranking of New Mexico privet (*Forestieria pubescens*) riparian shrubland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
UPPER DOLORES	**Dolores River Segment 2**	• Added statement to Preliminary Classification rationale documenting that a water quality monitoring plan is being initiated to determine concentration and source of total recoverable iron in Dolores River, and develop remedial actions if necessary. Preliminary Classification remains Recreational. • Changed ranking of New Mexico privet (*Forestieria pubescens*) riparian shrubland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
	Ice Lake Creek	• Removed Vegetation ORV due to change in ranking of sandbar willow-strapleaf willow *(Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia)* riparian shrubland from globally imperiled (G2G3) to globally vulnerable (G3). Segment remains eligible based on Scenic ORV.
	La Sal Creek Segment 1	• Changed ranking of boxelder-river birch (*Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis*) riparian woodland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).

HYDROLOGIC UNIT	RIVER SEGMENT	CHANGES FROM DRAFT TO FINAL ELIGIBILITY
UPPER DOLORES (continued)	**La Sal Creek Segment 2**	• Changed ranking of boxelder-river birch (*Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis*) riparian woodland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
	La Sal Creek Segment 3	• Changed ranking of boxelder-river birch (*Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis*) riparian woodland from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
	Lion Creek	• Removed sandbar willow-strapleaf willow *(Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia)* riparian shrubland from Vegetation ORV due to ranking change from globally imperiled (G2G3) to globally vulnerable (G3). Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values. • Changed ranking of boxelder-river birch riparian woodland (*Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis*) from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).
	Spring Creek	• Removed sandbar willow-strapleaf willow *(Salix exigua-Salix ligulifolia)* riparian shrubland from Vegetation ORV due to ranking change from globally imperiled (G2G3) to globally vulnerable (G3). Vegetation ORV remains based upon other vegetation values. • Changed ranking of boxelder-river birch riparian woodland *(Acer negundo-Betula occidentalis)* from critically imperiled globally (G1G2) to globally imperiled (G2).

CHAPTER 1
Introduction

This 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.

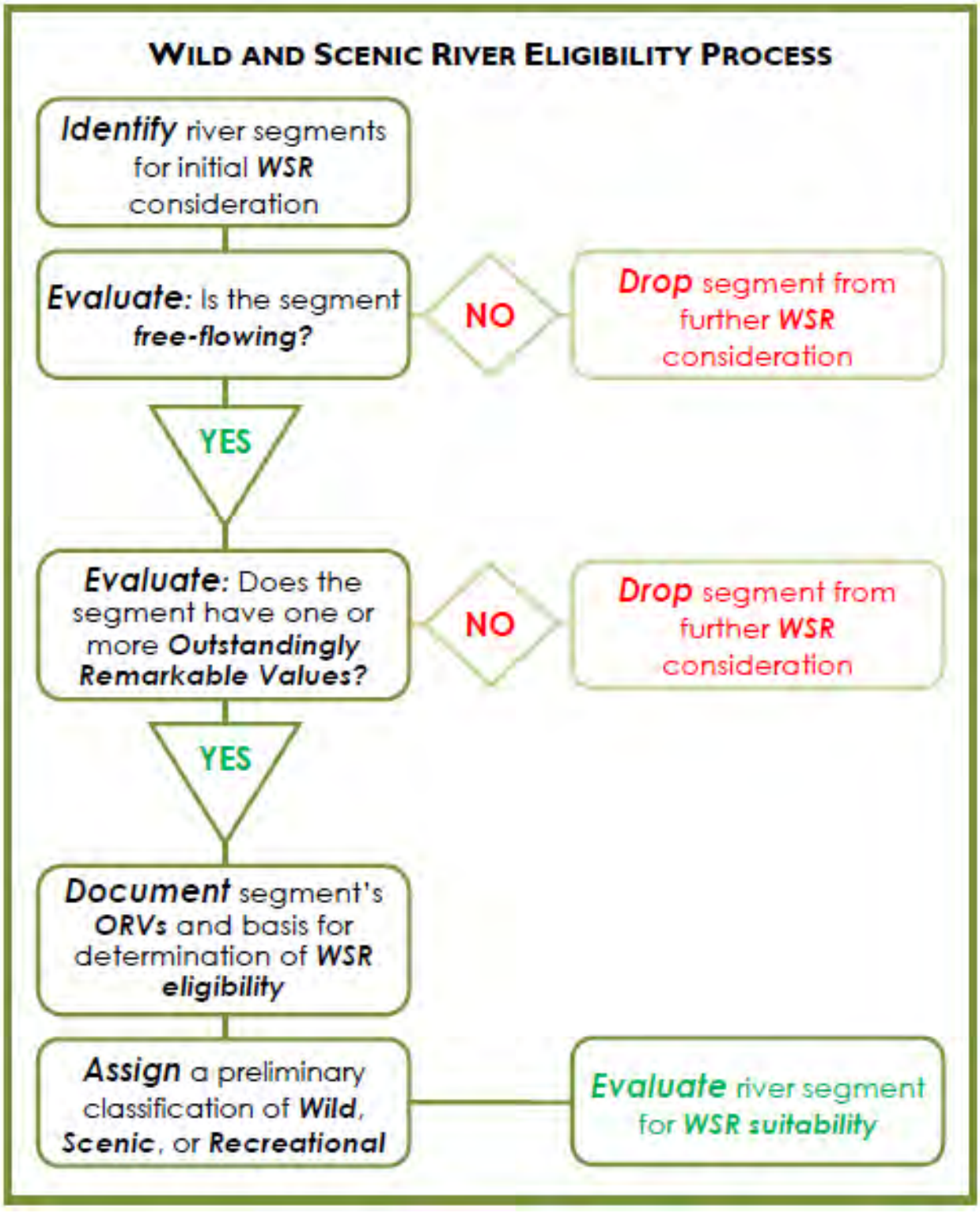
A team of resource specialists from the Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) identified potential river and stream segments on public land administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Using a standardized set of criteria, the team evaluated each segment to determine whether or not it was (1) free-flowing 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

1.3 RATIONALE FOR STUDY OF UNCOMPAHGRE PLANNING AREA RIVERS

Section 5(d)(1) of the WSRA 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 currently developing an RMP 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 occurred during the winter of 2009-2010. The scoping period included an opportunity for public review and comment on the draft eligibility report. (See Appendix D on page 142.)

1.4 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. Waters within the newly designated Dominguez-Escalante NCA fall within the UFO boundary and 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 1.7 on page 1 for an overview of the area evaluated in this report.)

1.5 WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS STUDY PROCESS

The study and designation of watercourses under the WSRA 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 WSRA. 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 110). 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 1-1 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.

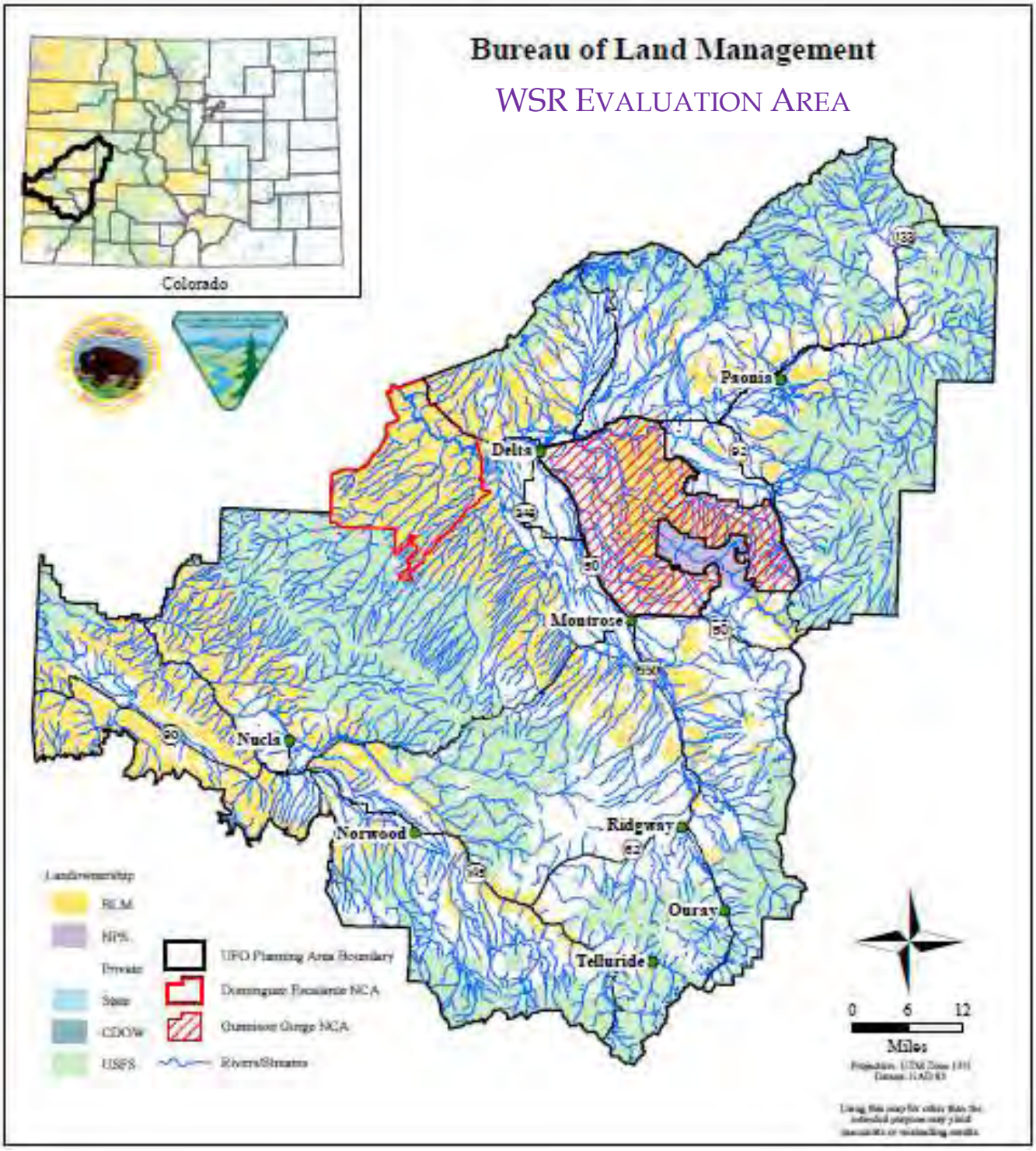
Once a Record of Decision is approved, segments identified as not suitable will revert to management according to the prevailing RMP. Suitable rivers will be managed to maintain their free-flowing character and ORVs in support of the alternative selected in the Final RMP, until released from consideration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

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

ISSUE	PROTECTION UNDER ELIGIBLE DESIGNATION
Study Boundary	• Minimum of one-quarter mile from the ordinary high water mark on both sides of the active channel • Boundary may include adjacent areas needed to protect identified values
Preliminary Classification	• Wild, scenic, and recreational classes as defined by statute • Manage segment at preliminary classification
Private Land: • Administration • Acquisition	• 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	• River's free-flowing condition protected to the extent of other agency authorities

ISSUE	PROTECTION UNDER ELIGIBLE DESIGNATION
Land Disposition	• Agency discretion to retain lands within river corridor in federal ownership
Mining and Mineral Leasing	• Protect free flow, water quality, and ORVs through other agency authorities
Actions of Other Agencies	• Affect actions of other agencies through voluntary partnership
Protect Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs)	• 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

Source: Interagency Wild and Scenic River Coordinating Council, Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Process



1.7 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 115) 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 119.) 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 WSRS. 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 110).

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, occupied habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, or may provide a unique or critical habitat link for special status species known to occur in the area. 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). A-ranking denotes that a community has excellent estimated ecological integrity based on 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.

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 (such as exceptional riparian areas and 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):

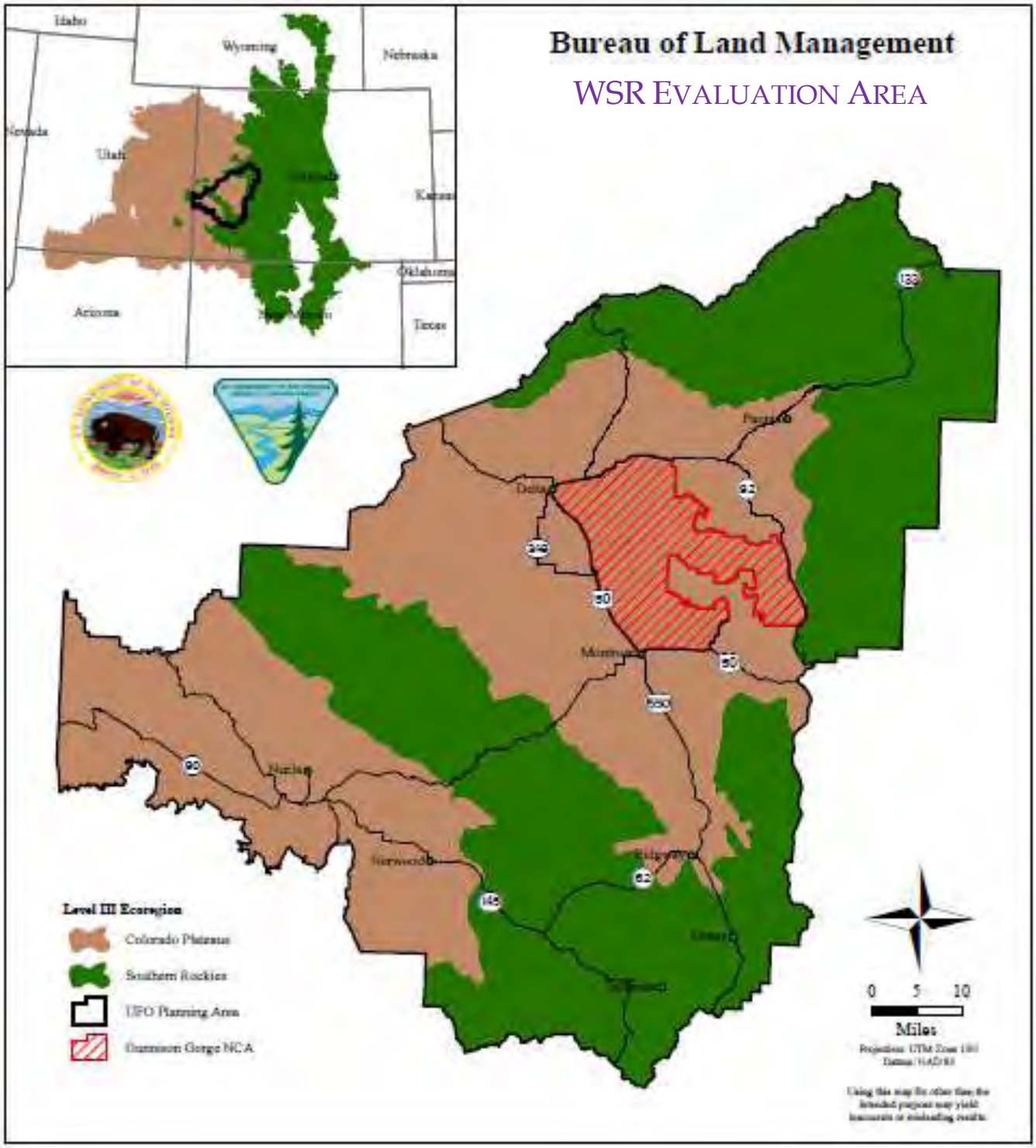
Table 3-2 Colorado Natural Heritage Program Element Imperilment Ranks

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 CLASSIFICATIONS

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 (such as impoundments and diversions)	• Free of impoundment	• Free of impoundment	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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

ATTRIBUTE	RIVER CLASSIFICATION		
	WILD	SCENIC	RECREATION
Accessibility	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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	• 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 UNCOMPAHGRE 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.

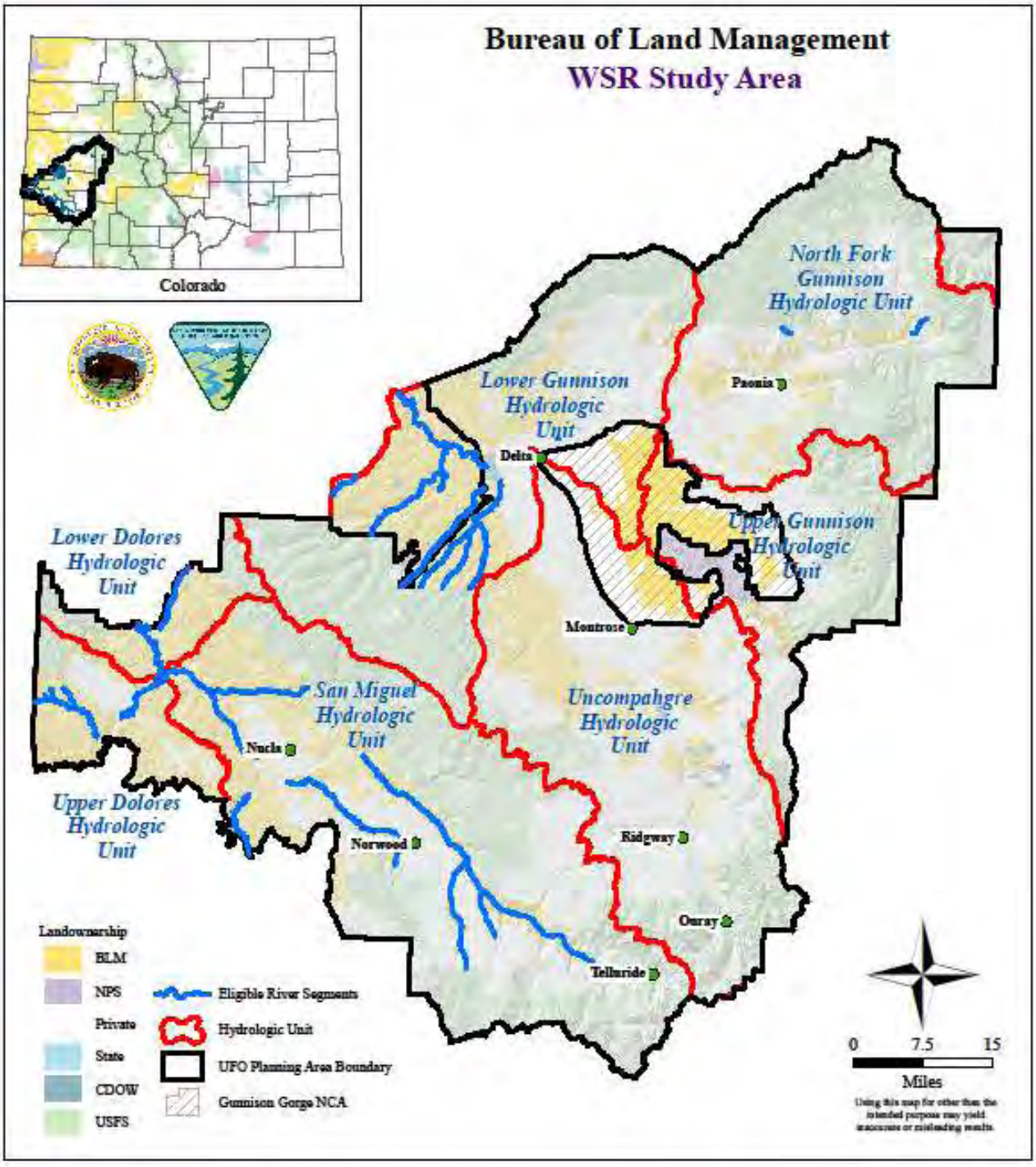
CHAPTER 5
Eligible River Segments

This chapter describes 34 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 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	11	Map 14 to Map 24
Lower Dolores	2	Map 25 to Map 26
Upper Dolores[1]	8	Map 27 to Map 33
TOTAL SEGMENTS	**34**	

[1]Includes 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: 34

5.2 AGENCY REVIEW

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

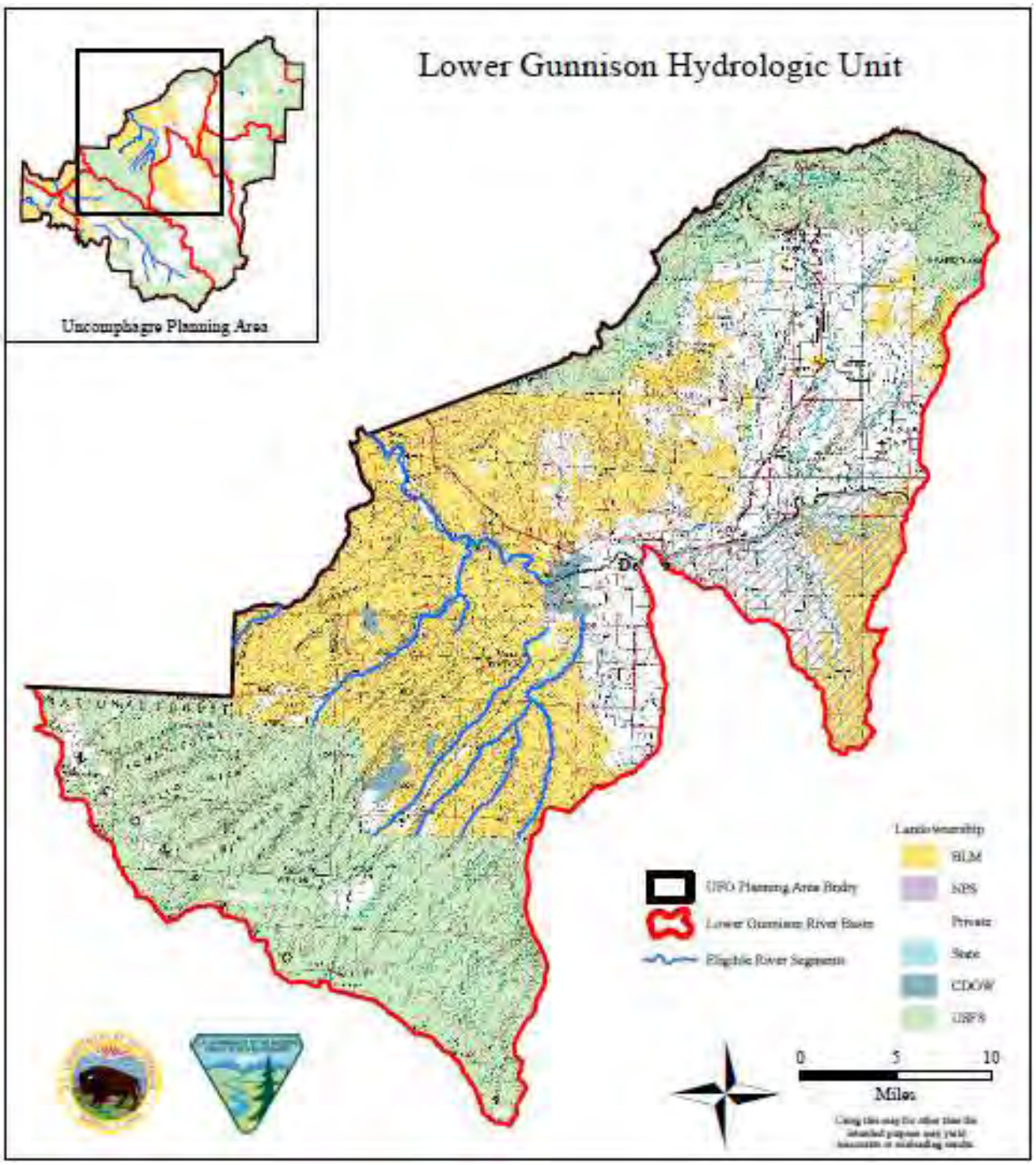
- Colorado Department of Wildlife
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP)
- United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

5.3 PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT

The draft eligibility report was available for public review and comment as part of the scoping phase for the Uncompahgre RMP revision, which occurred from December 15, 2009 to March 29, 2010. A summary of the comments received during scoping are in Appendix D of Chapter 7 of this report.

5.4 RIVER SEGMENT DESCRIPTIONS AND RATIONALE

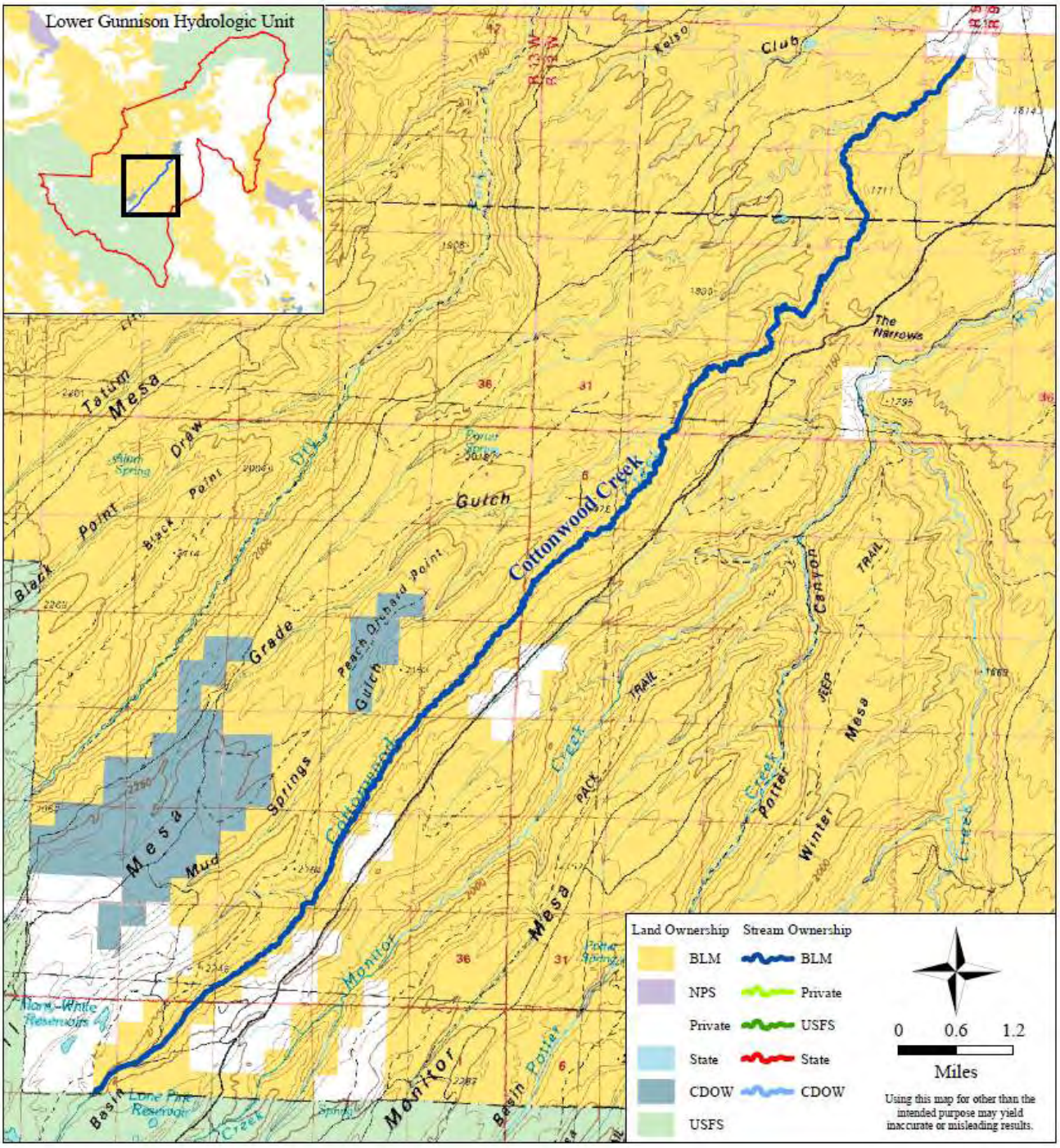
The following river segments were found to be eligible for WSR consideration by the UFO interdisciplinary team. They are listed in alphabetical order within their appropriate hydrologic unit:



HYDROLOGIC UNIT 1 - LOWER GUNNISON

Eligible River Segments: 11

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



Map 1 - 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**

1 - RIVER SEGMENT: COTTONWOOD CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

***Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.**

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):

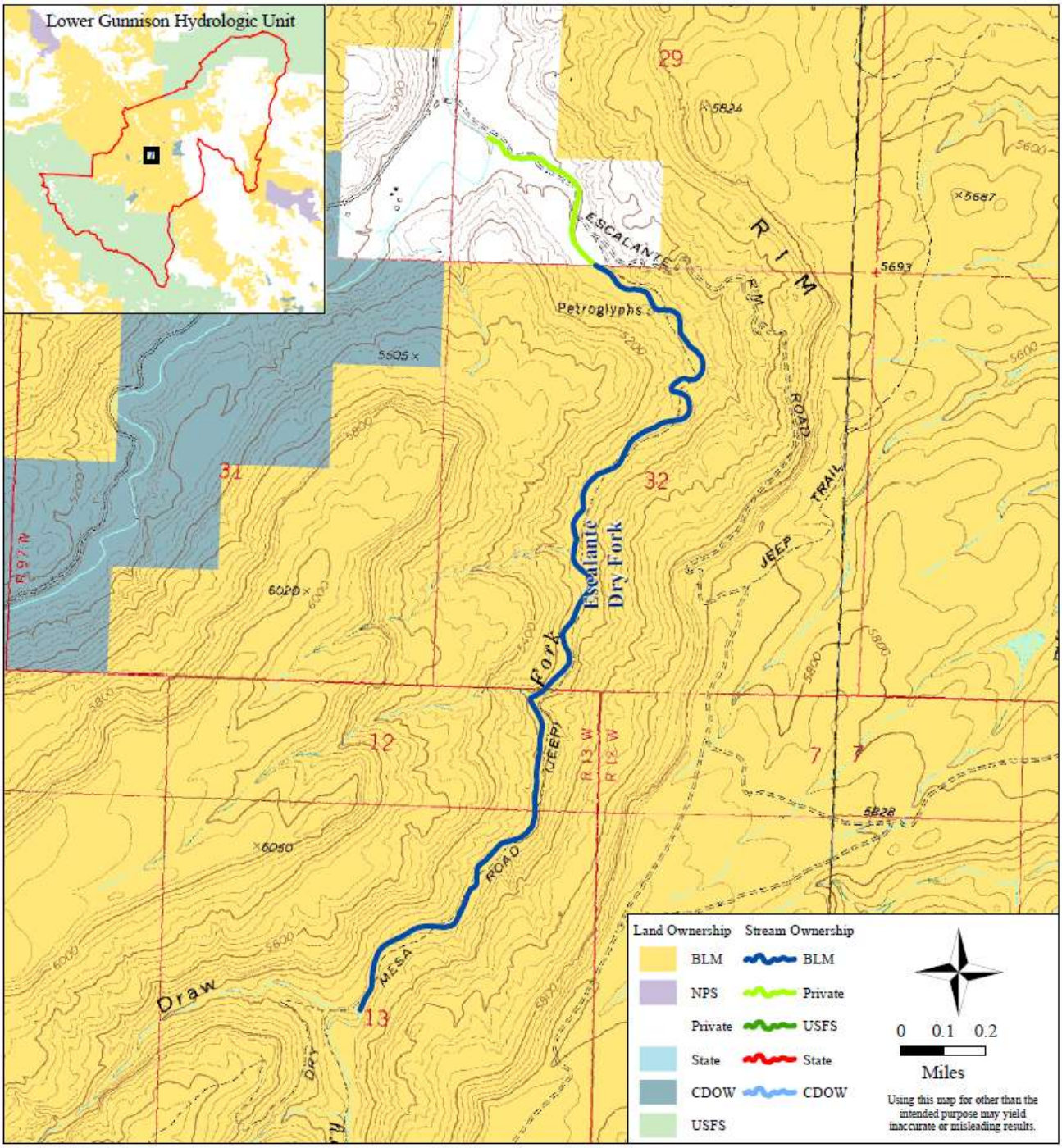
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
4,725.9	22.3		277.6	**5,025.8**	**94.5%**

***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 absolute water right diversions or impoundments along this stretch and little evidence of human activity. The shoreline is primitive.



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

***Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.**

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):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
2.43			0.46	**2.89**	**84.1%**

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

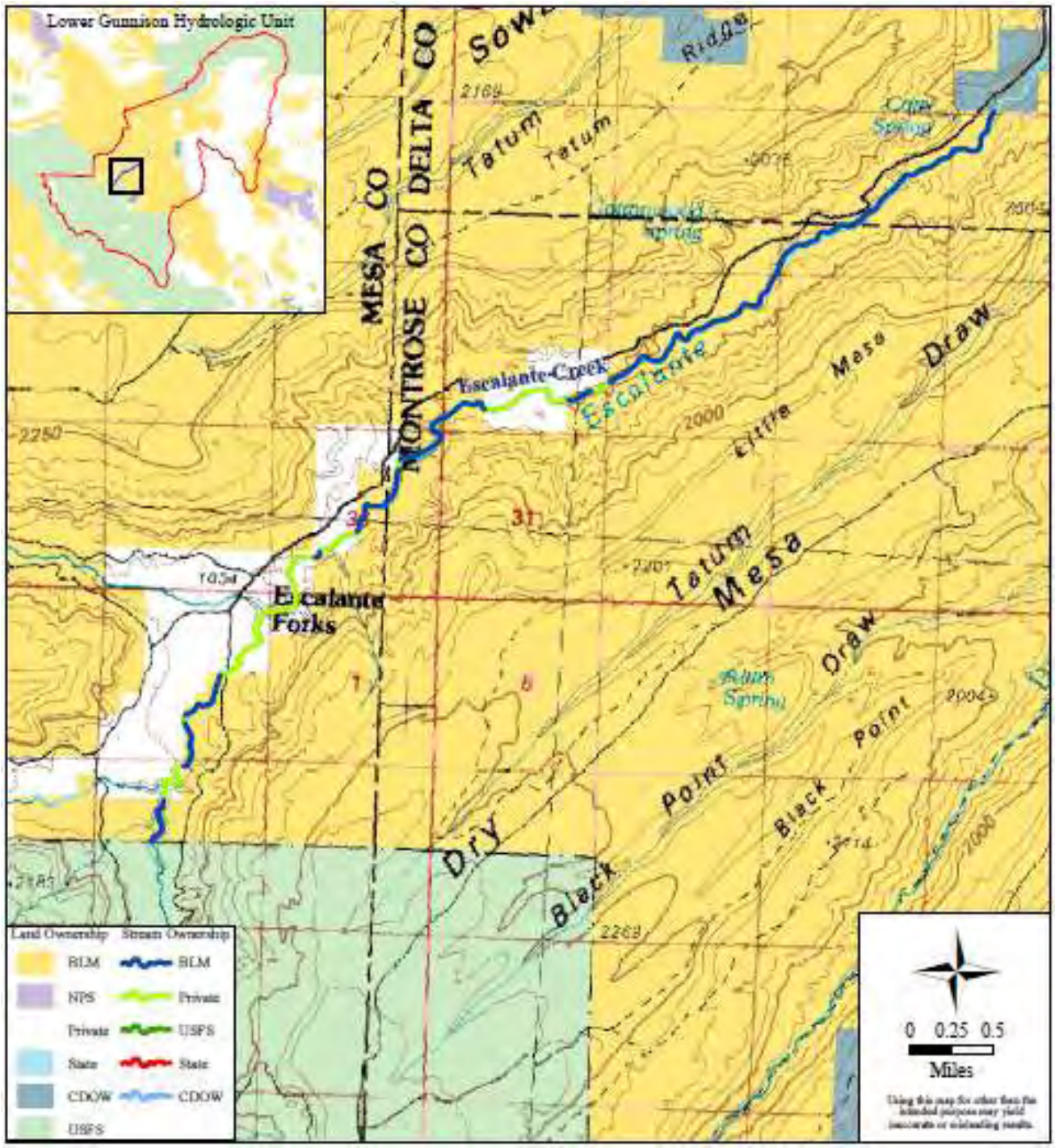
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
766.4			96.1	**862.5**	**88.9%**

***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 globally imperiled (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. The Colorado Decision Support System water rights database shows no water diversions or impoundments along this reach.



Map 3 - Escalante Creek, Segment 1

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 1
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

***Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.**

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.

1) 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.

2) 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.

3) 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.

4) Vegetation - This segment contains several plant communities considered to be rare globally, including occurrences of narrowleaf cottonwood/strapleaf 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 globally imperiled (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 globally imperiled (G2). Just uphill from

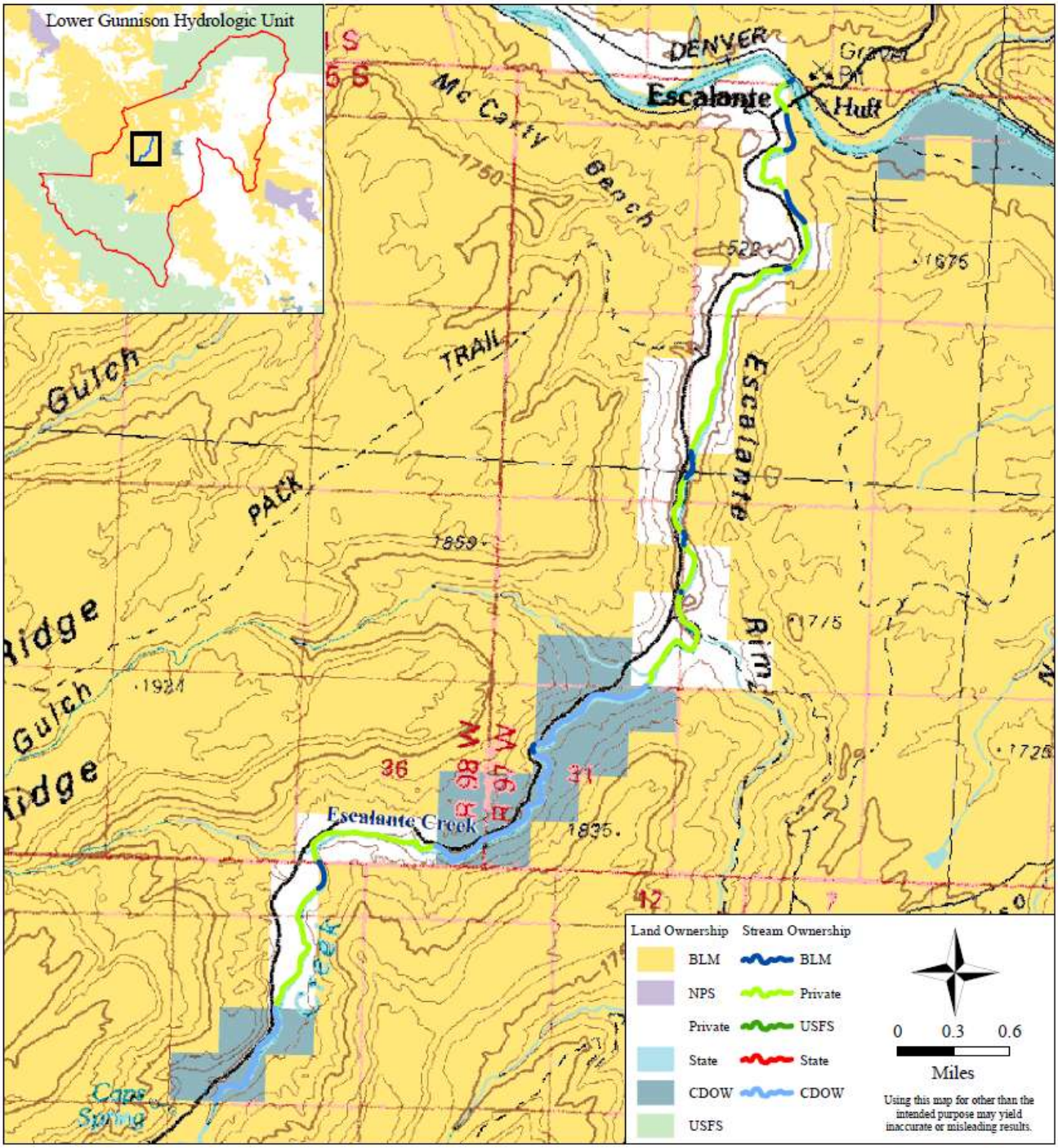
the stream, these seeps lead into an unusual salt meadow dominated by alkali cordgrass *(Spartina gracilis)*, which is ranked as rare in Colorado.

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.



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

***Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.**

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.

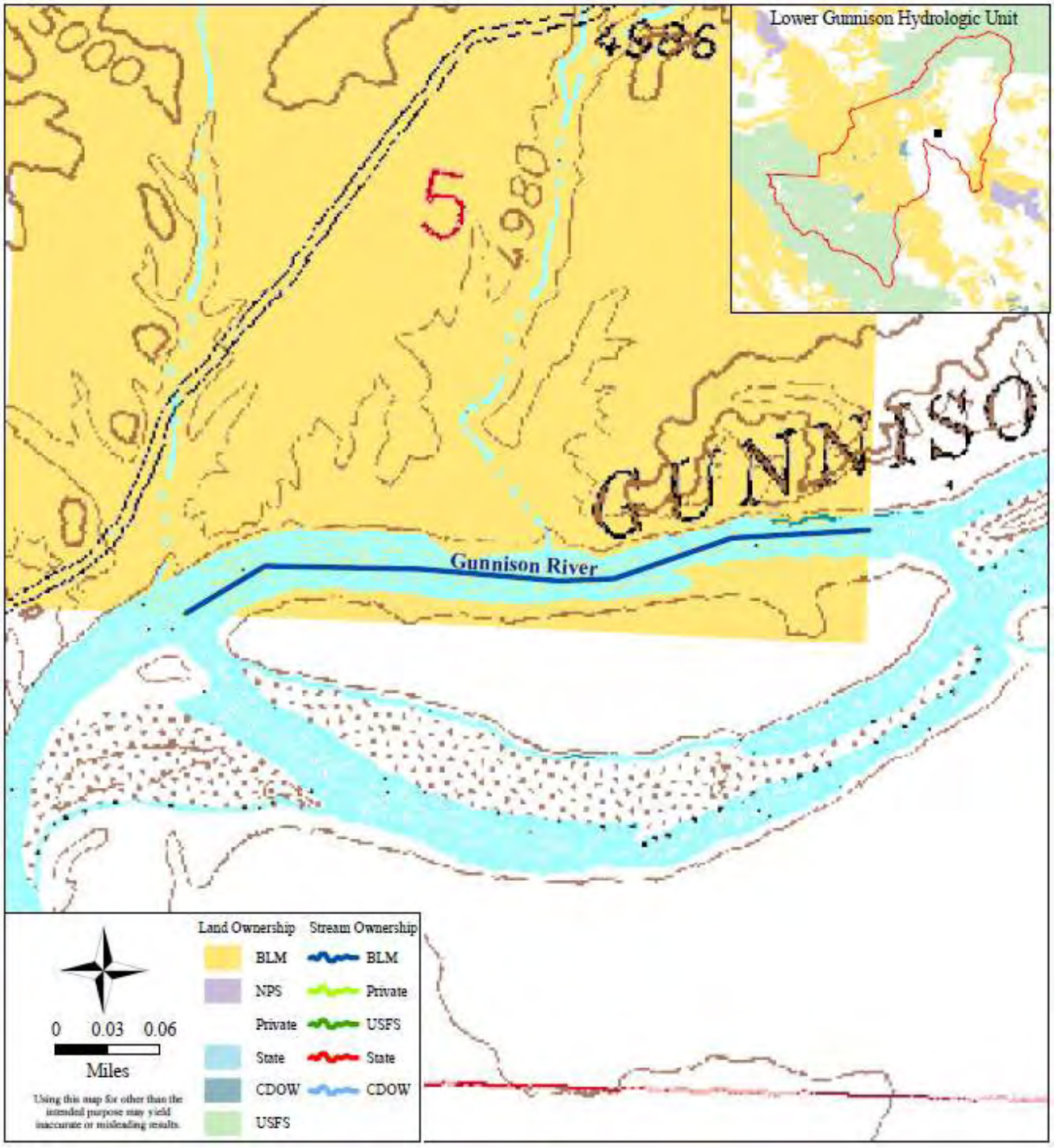
2) Wildlife - This section of Escalante Creek is regionally important habitat for desert bighorn sheep *(Ovis canadensis)*, primarily due to the presence of a water source. River otters *(Lontra canadensis)*, a BLM sensitive and Colorado endangered species, also occupy the creek.

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

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.



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 the BLM 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):

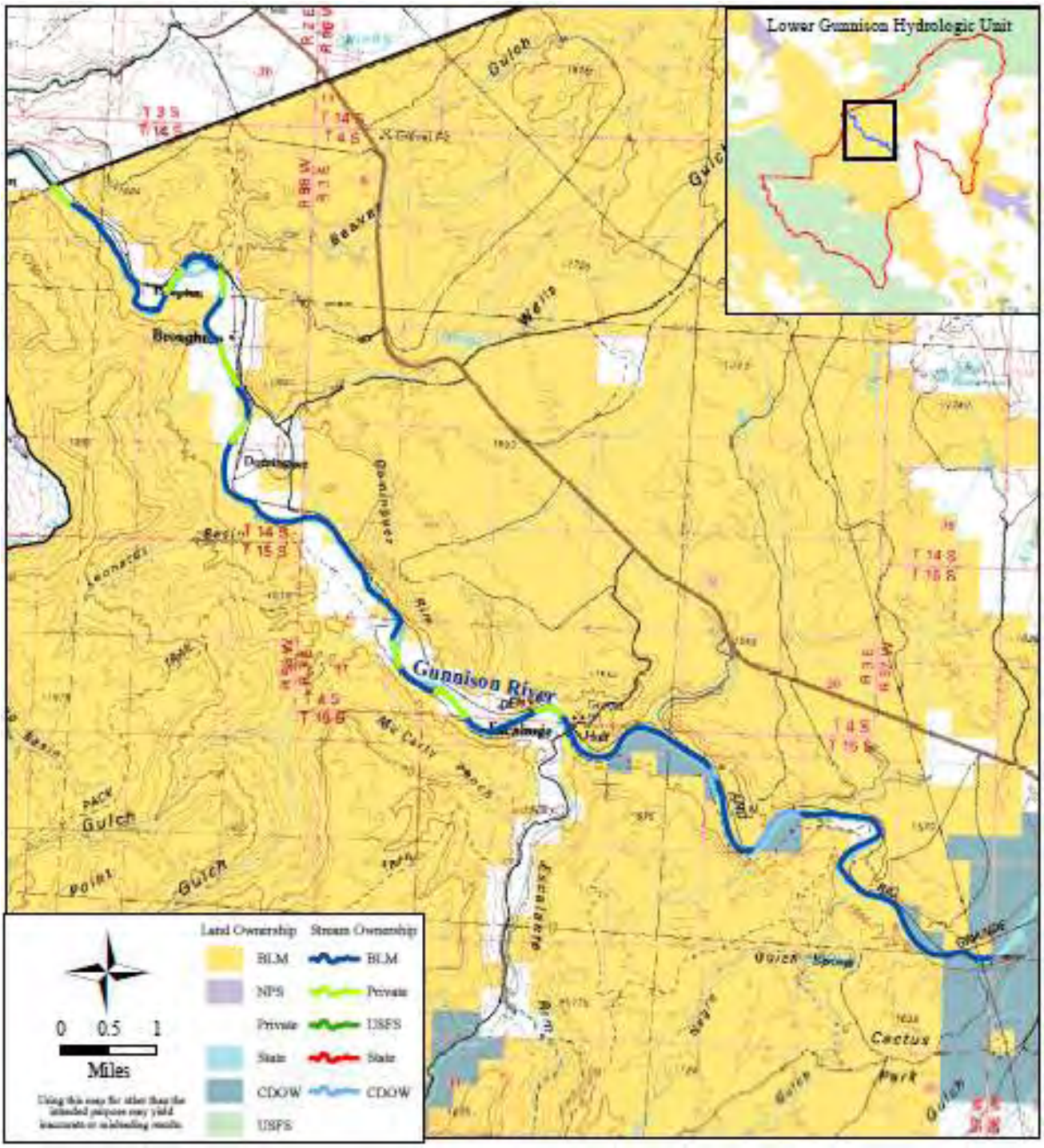
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
85.5			43.1	**128.6**	**66.5%**

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.



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

*****Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.***

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)*.

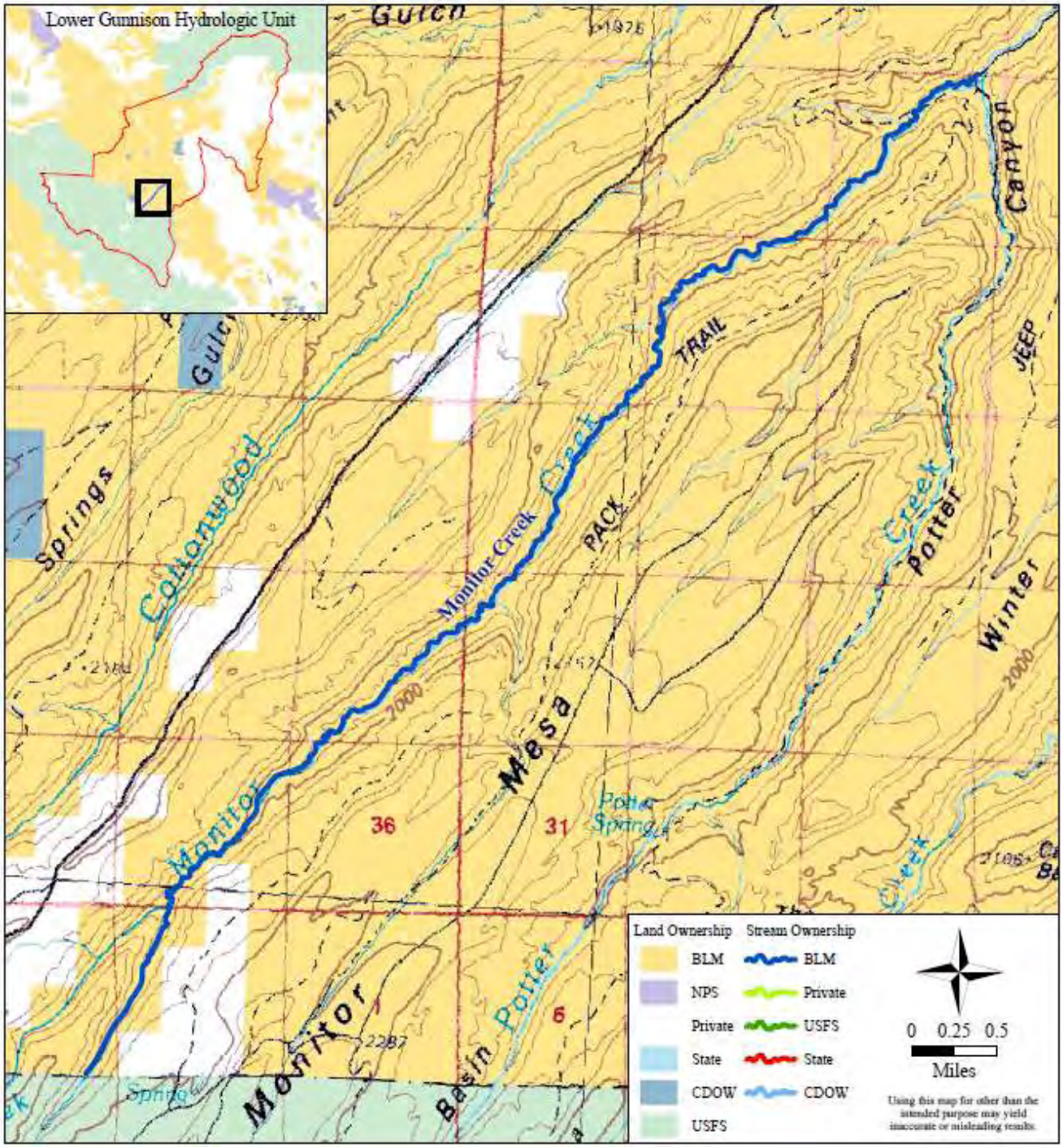
3) Cultural - This segment of the Gunnison River flows through canyon country that has been inhabited by prehistoric and historic cultures for over 10,000 years. Over 300 Native American sites have been recorded in the vicinity, ranging from Paleo-Indian sites to Archaic hunting and occupational camps 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 is classified as globally imperiled (G2).

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 (Water Body ID COGULG02, (Colorado Water Quality Control Commission). The state of Colorado is preparing a draft Total Maximum Daily Load Report with the goal of reducing the selenium concentration in the Gunnison River.



Map 7 - Monitor Creek

Total Segment Length: **9.42 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **9.42 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

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):

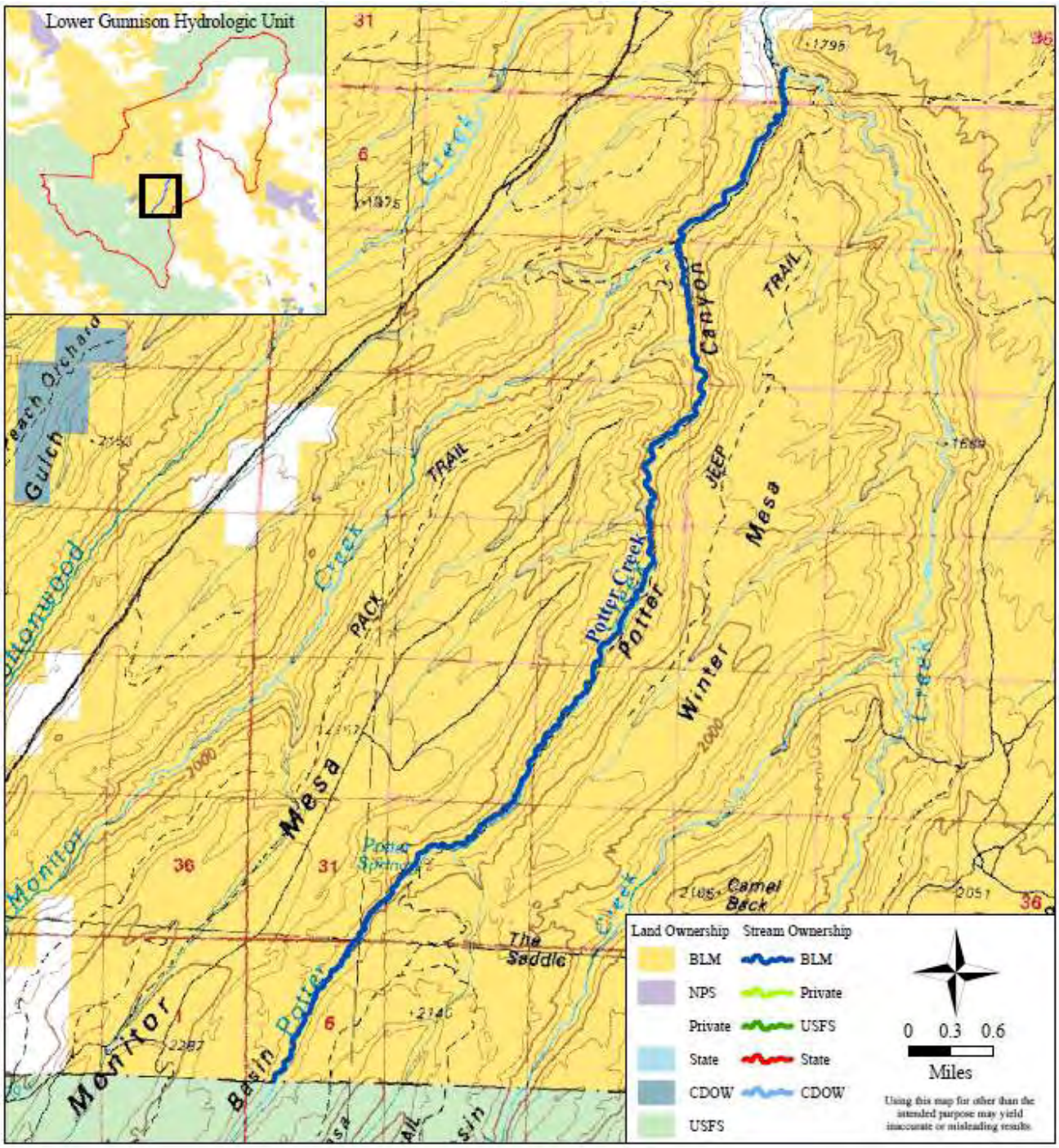
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,613.0	14.5		104.9	**2,732.4**	**96.2%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of narrowleaf cottonwood/strapleaf willow/silver buffaloberry riparian forest *(Populus angustifolia/Salix ligulfolia/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: **Wild**

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.



Map 8 - Potter Creek

Total Segment Length: **9.82 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **9.82 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

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):

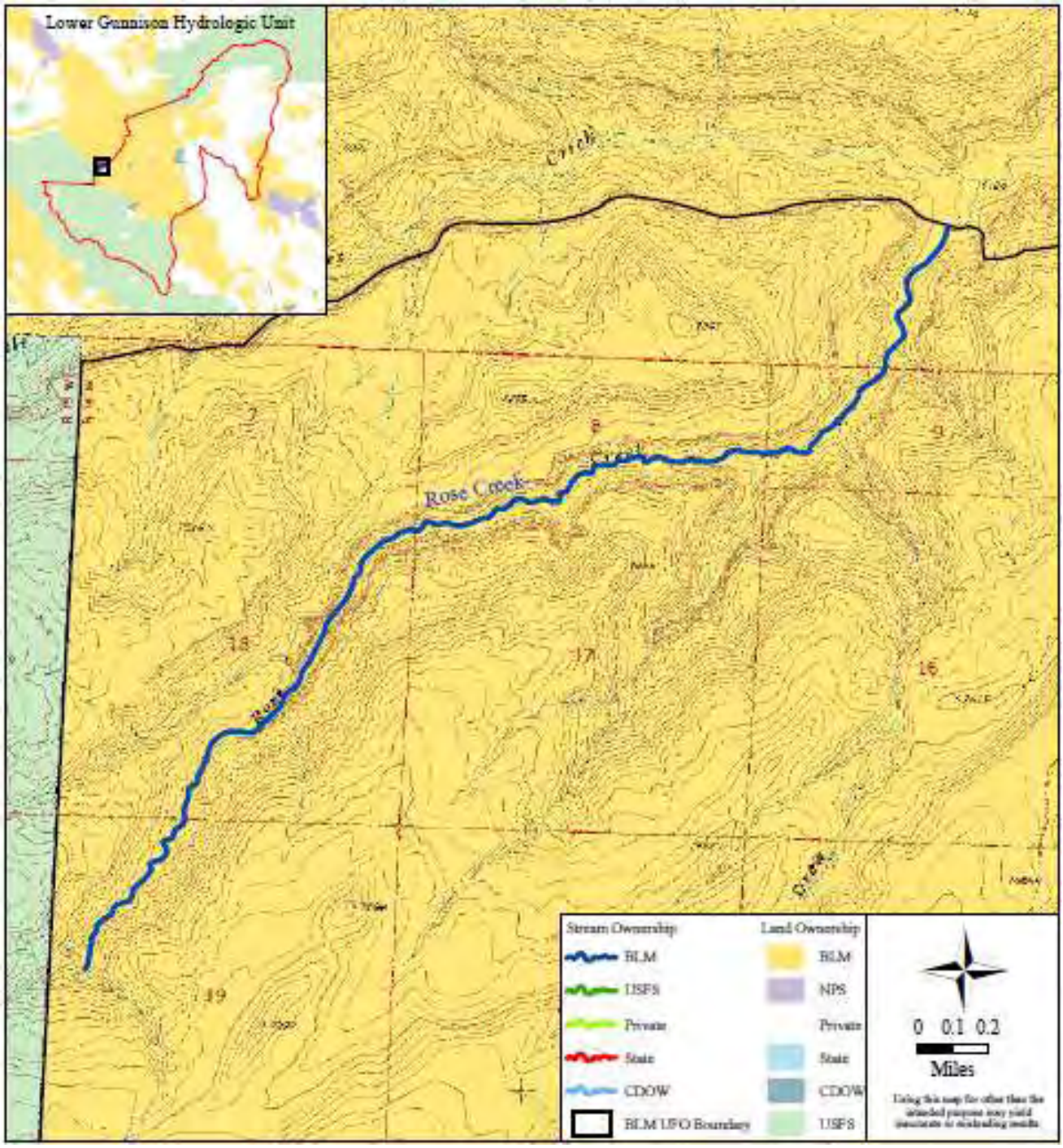
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,828.5	6.7		43.3	**2,878.5**	**98.5%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

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

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

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.



Map 9 - Rose Creek

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

9 - RIVER SEGMENT: ROSE CREEK
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: Lower Gunnison

***Segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.**

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):

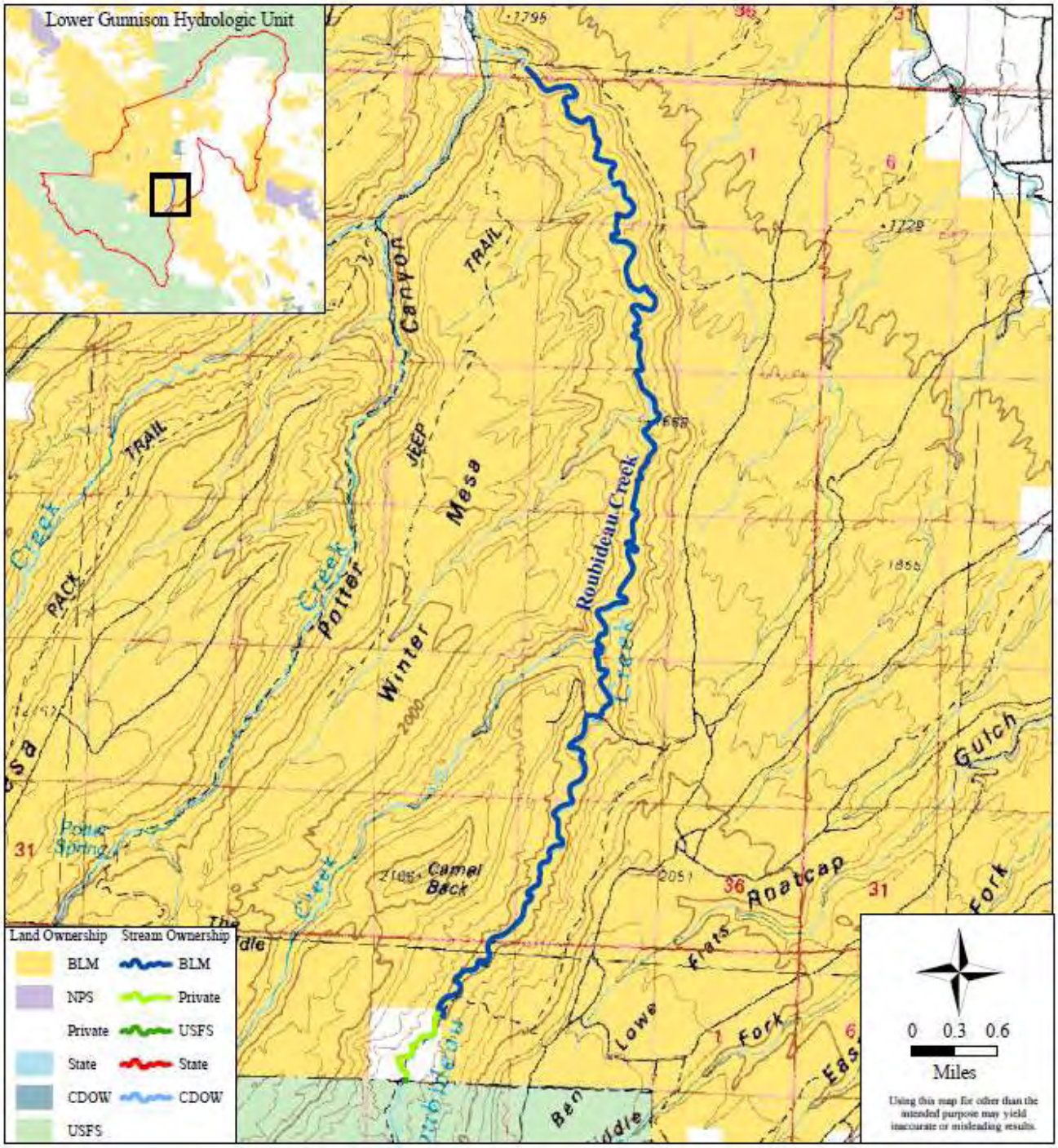
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,266.9	40.4			**1,307.3**	**100%**

***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:* Wild**

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.



Map 10 - Roubideau Creek, Segment 1

Total Segment Length: **10.74 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **10.00 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Lower Gunnison**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Recreational, Wildlife, Cultural, Vegetation**

10 - RIVER SEGMENT: ROUBIDEAU CREEK, SEGMENT 1
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.

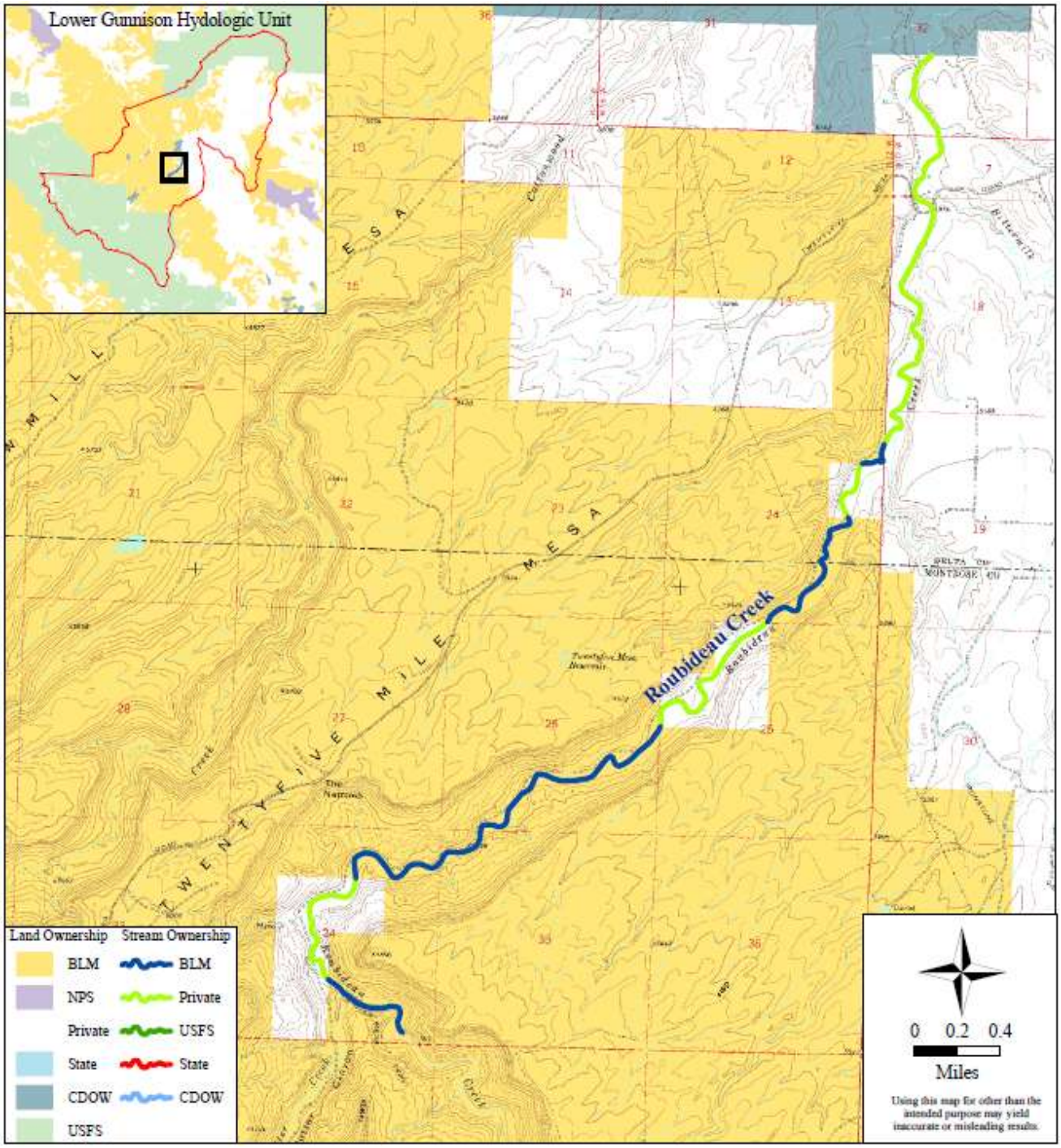
3) Cultural - The stream flows past an inscription panel of extreme historic significance. In 1769, the site was visited by Juan Maria Rivera at the behest of the king of Spain. Rivera was the first European explorer to enter what later became Colorado, and was responsible for the route of the later 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 globally imperiled (G2). Areas of globally imperiled (G2) skunkbush sumac/sandbar willow riparian shrubland (*Rhus trilobata/Salix exigua*) also occur along this segment. The segment lies within the CNHP-designated Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

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.



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%**

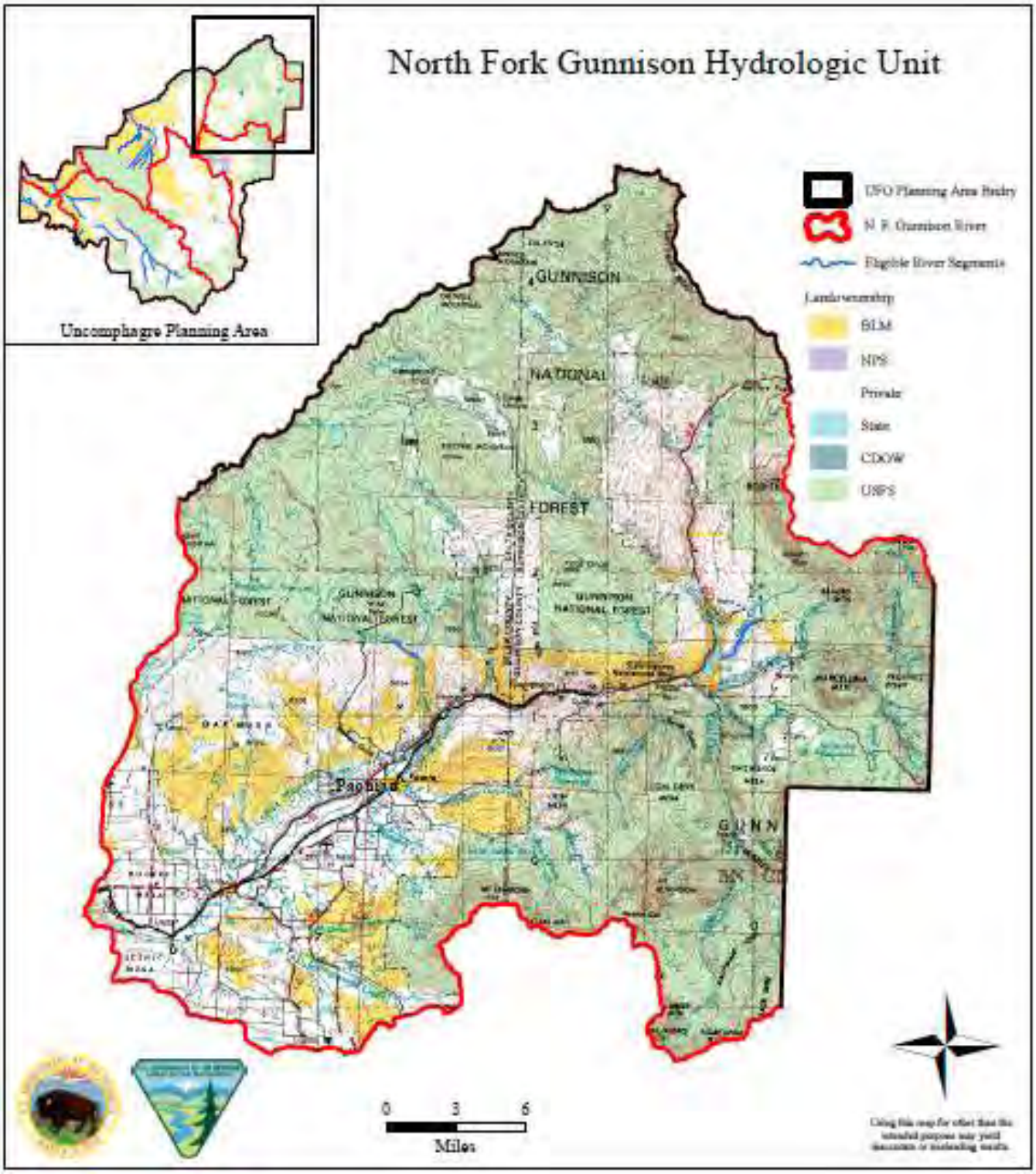
***Outstandingly Remarkable Values:* Wildlife, Vegetation**

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. wislizenii/Rhus trilobata)*, which is classified as globally imperiled (G2). The segment is included within the CNHP-designated Roubideau Creek Potential Conservation Area.

Preliminary Classification: Scenic

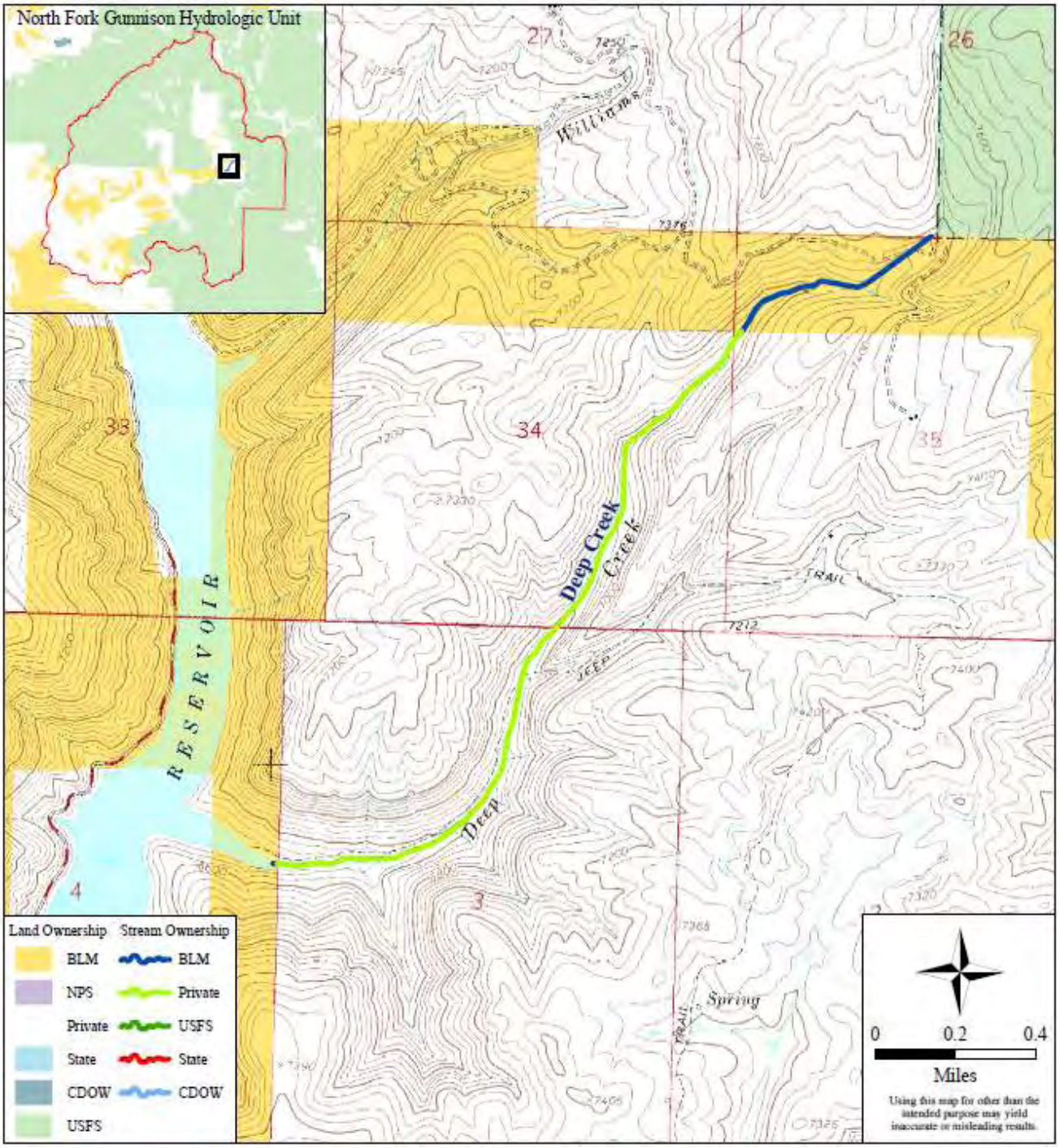
Rationale - Roads or trails parallel the creek along this entire segment. There is an unhardened road ford near the upper terminus and a county road bridge in the lower section. There are water diversions along this river segment. A large diversion near the headwaters significantly reduces the flow in this segment during irrigation season.



HYDROLOGIC UNIT 2 - NORTH FORK OF THE GUNNISON

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):

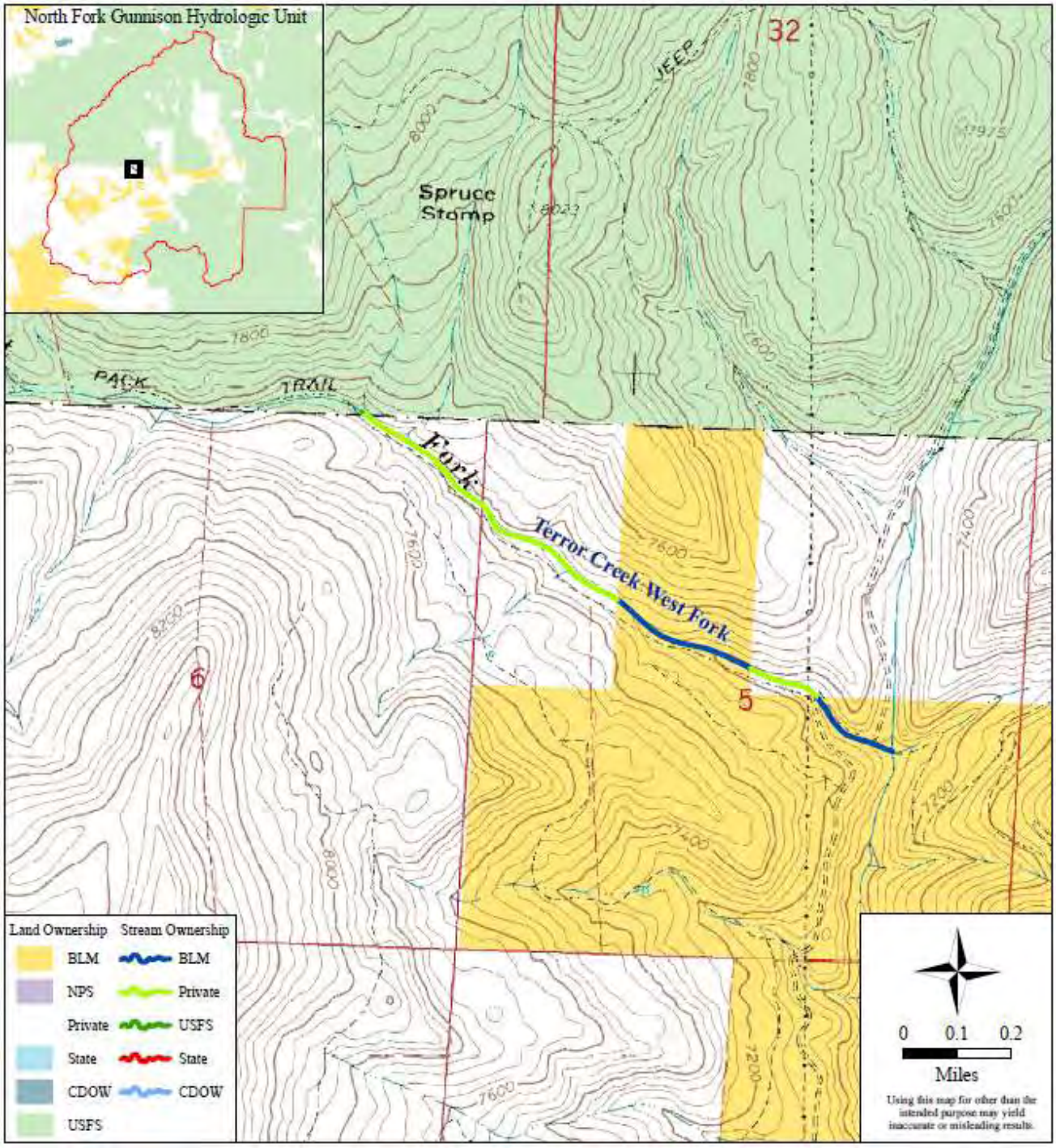
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
127.7			680.2	**807.9**	**15.8%**

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):

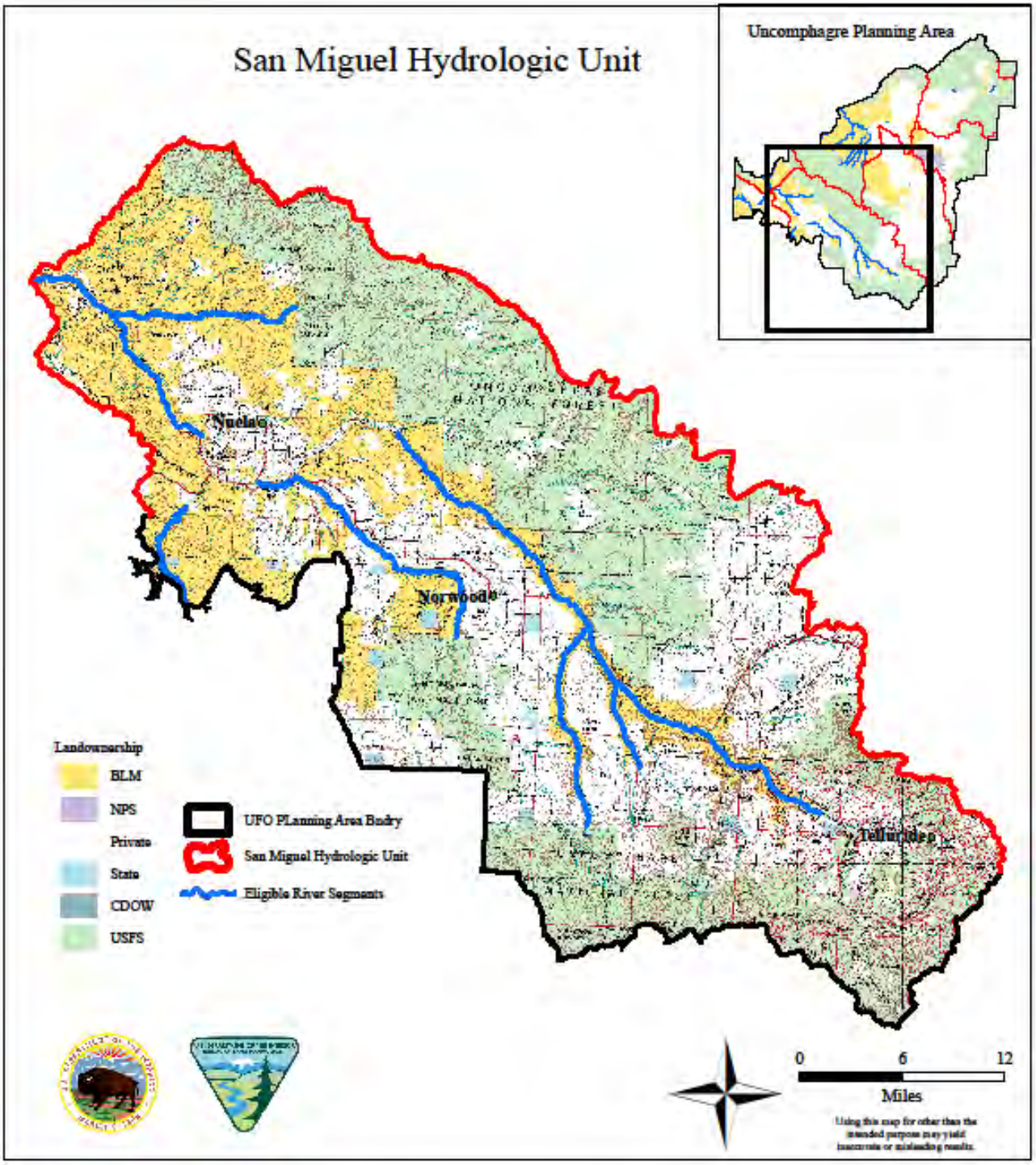
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
151.3	31.8		202.4	**385.5**	**47.5%**

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**

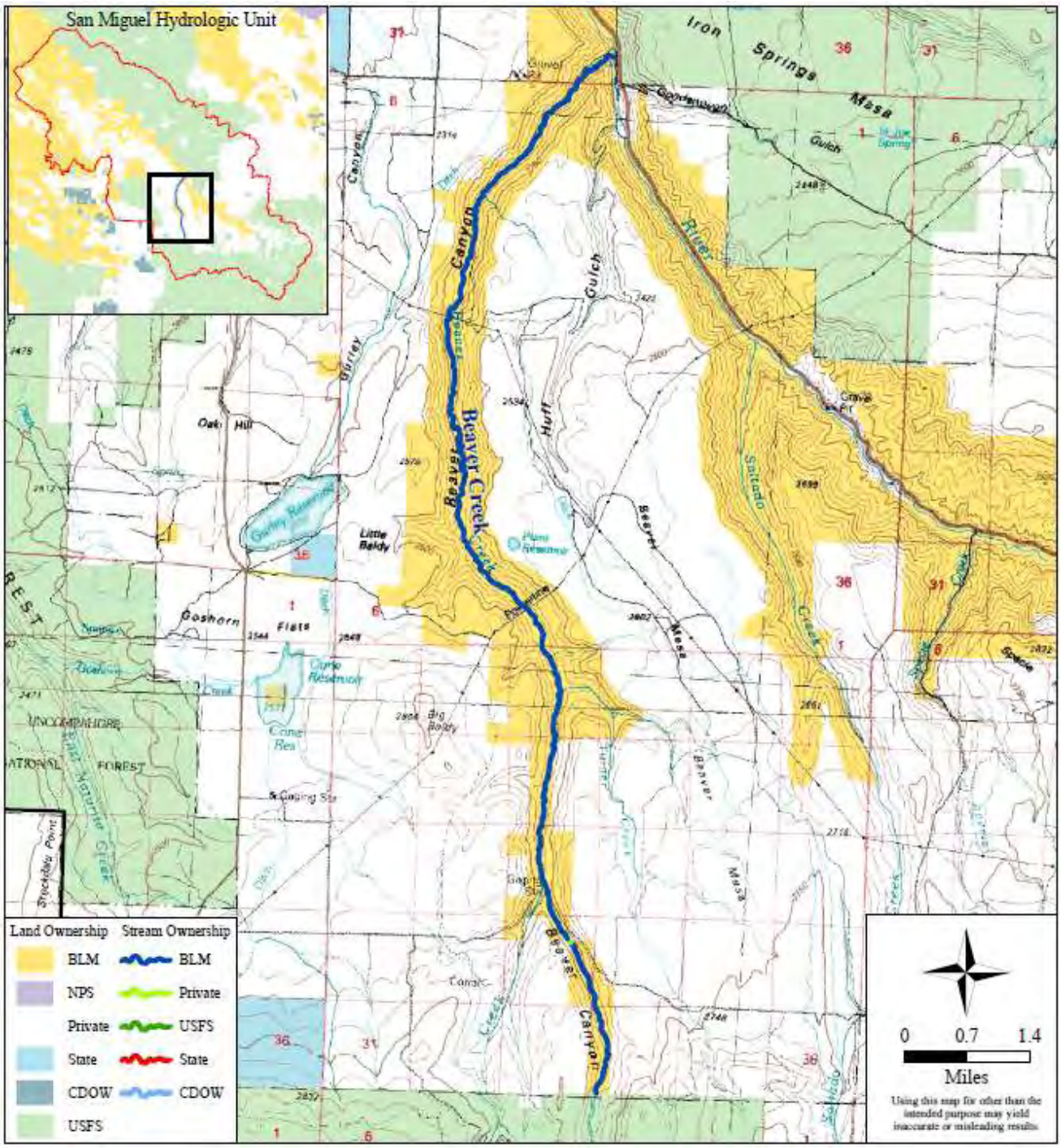
Rationale - An unsurfaced road crosses the West Fork of Terror Creek near its confluence with Terror Creek. The remaining river channel and associated corridor are primitive and undeveloped. There is a small impoundment known as Holy Terror Reservoir, as well as Grand Mesa Canal Head Gate #4, an irrigation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



HYDROLOGIC UNIT 3 - SAN MIGUEL

Eligible River Segments: **11**

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

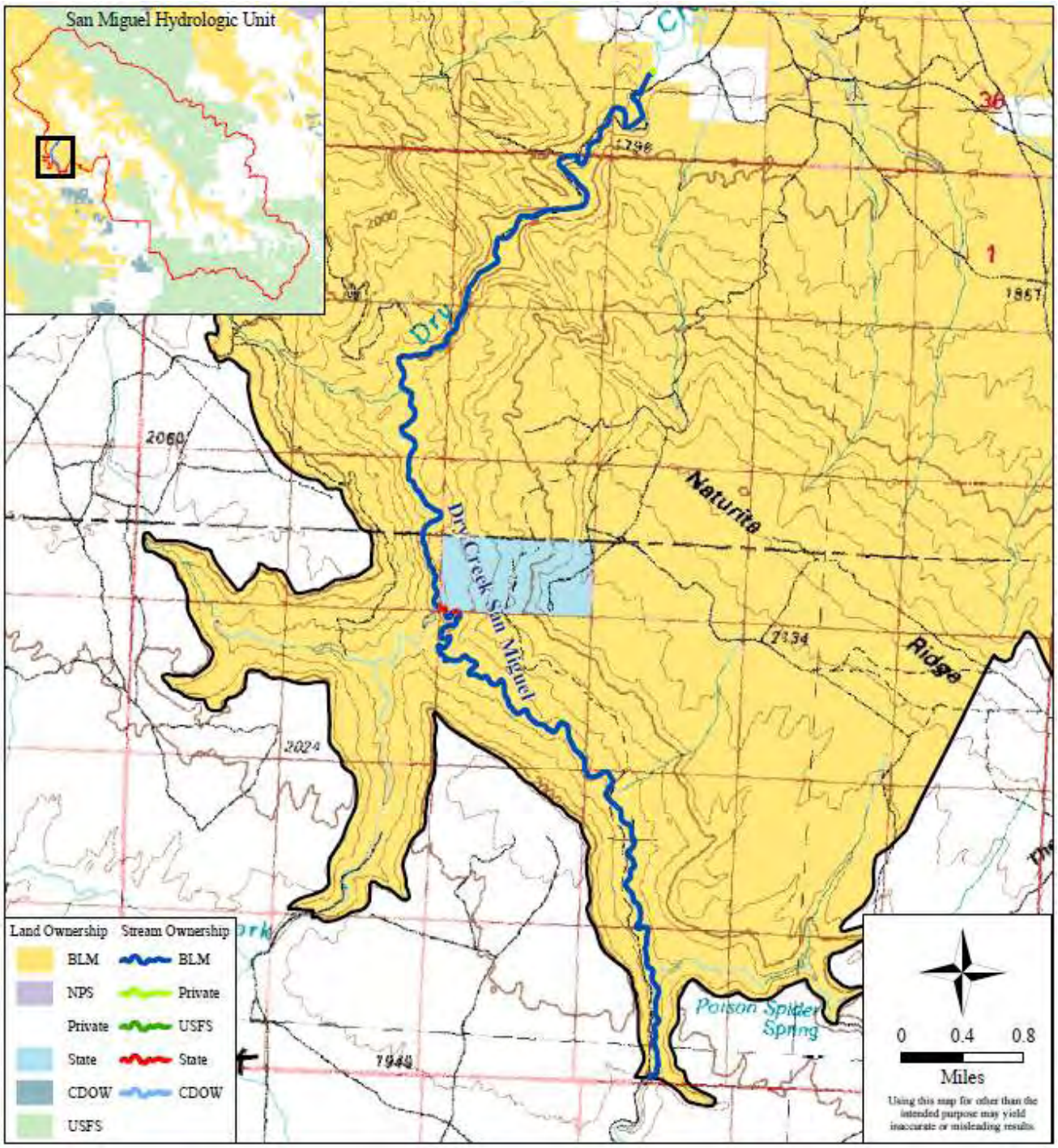
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment 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 that includes this segment as part of the San Miguel ACEC, primarily in order to protect this outstanding riparian community.

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 pipline 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**

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**

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 provides an exceptional example of a creek cutting across a valley, with dramatic visual features in an area with only minor cultural modifications.

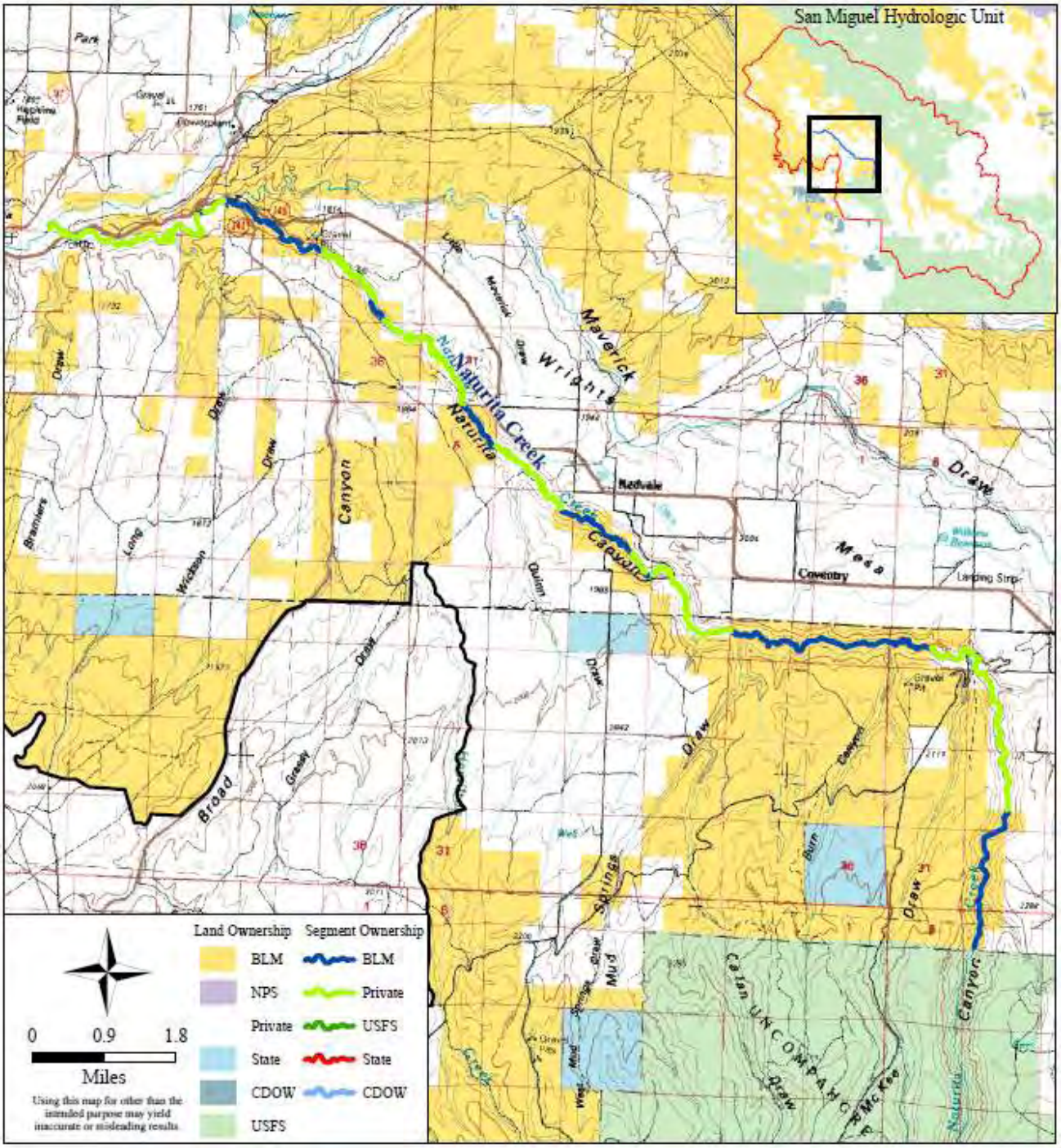
2) Geologic - Dry Creek offers a rare opportunity to observe earth processes in a localized setting, while at the same time providing an example of a relatively young geologic structure exposed in an area of low precipitation. This feature is in many ways similar to the much larger

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.

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 - 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**

16 - 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):

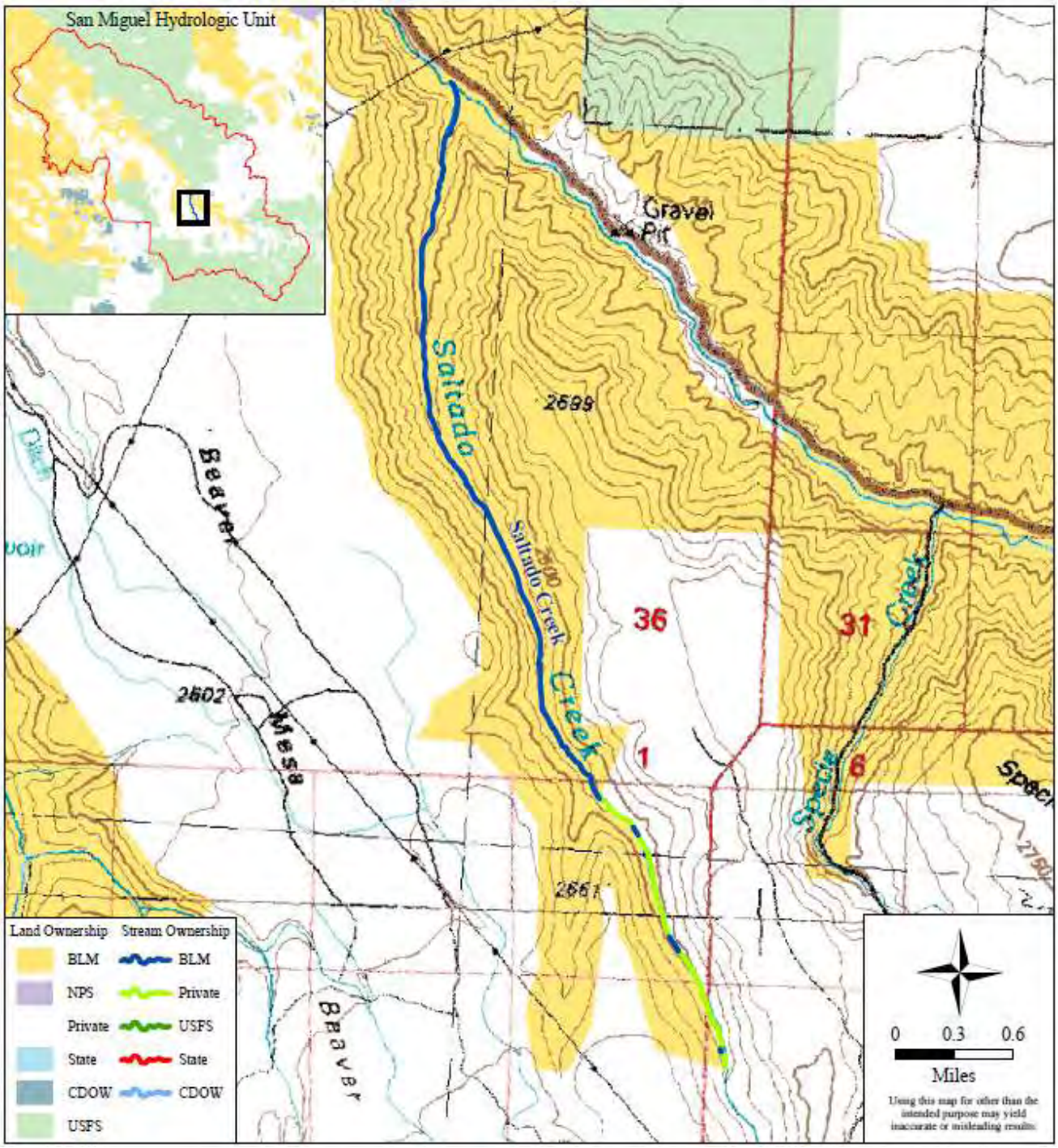
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
3,238.5	2.3		3,176.6	**6,417.4**	**50.5%**

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 17 - 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**

17 - 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):

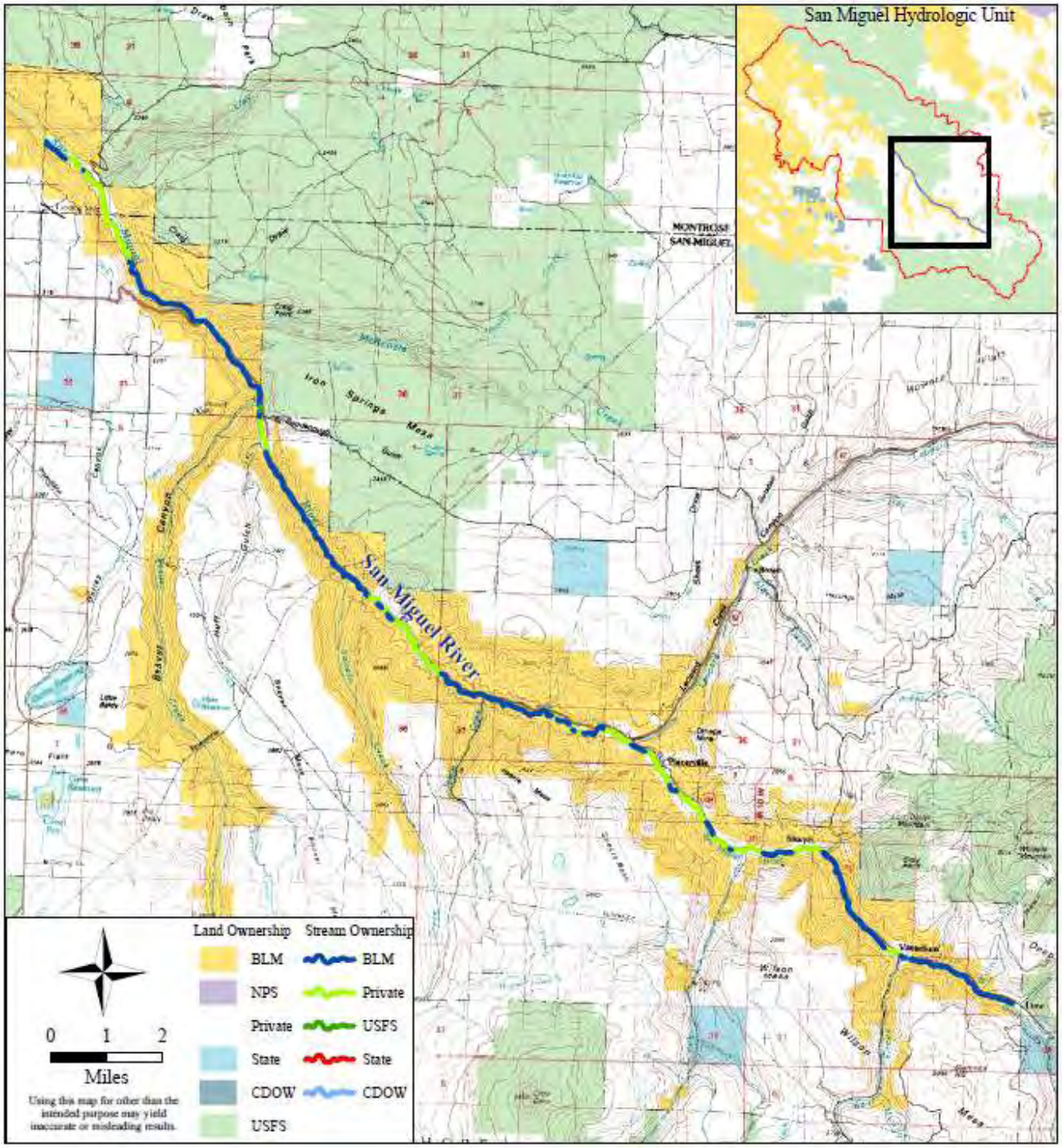
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,448.4			313.0	**1,761.4**	**82.2%**

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.



Map 18 - San Miguel River, Segment 1

Total Segment Length: **27.23 miles**
BLM-administered Portion: **17.34 miles**
Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**
Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Historic, Vegetation, Paleontology**

18 - RIVER SEGMENT: SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 1
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occuring during fall and early winter months, and high flows occuring 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 add 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 contains a number of high-quality BLM river-related recreation sites, including six developed boat launch sites, one campground, six picnic areas, and one interpretive center.

   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 - Portions of the river corridor in this segment represent one of the finest protected Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat sites in the United States. The Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat is recognized as the richest terrestrial bird habitat type in North America, providing breeding sites for a wide variety of species, and primary migratory routes for nearly all songbirds throughout the western United States. More than 300 bird species have been observed in the San Miguel River corridor (National Audubon Society 2010).

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.

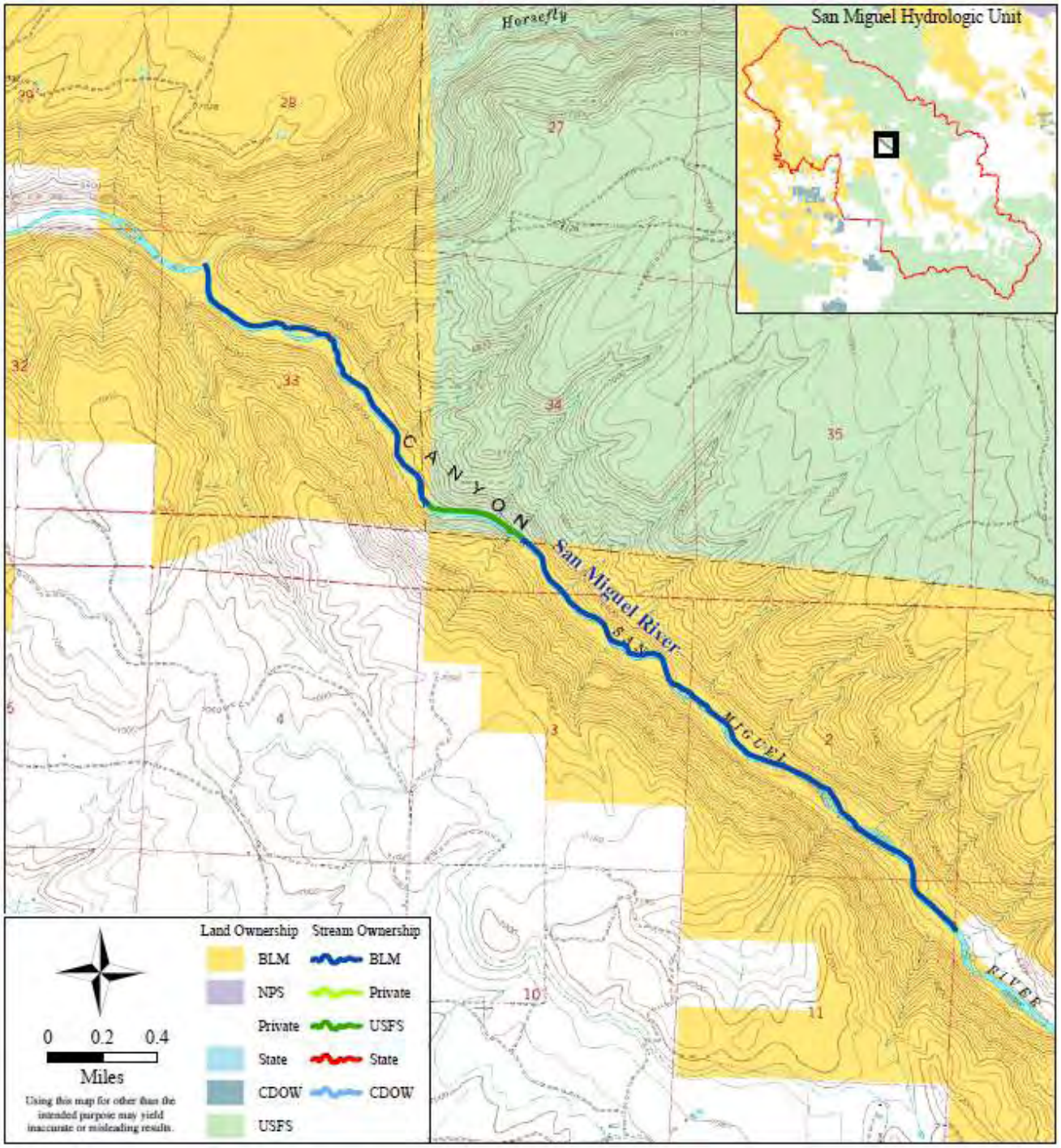
5) Vegetation - This reach contains numerous occurrences of four globally vulnerable (G3) riparian communities. These include superior (A-ranked) occurrences of river birch/mesic graminoid riparian shrubland *(Betula occidentalis/mesic graminoids)*, narrowleaf cottonwood/blue spruce/thinleaf alder riparian forest *(Populus angustifolia/Picea pungens/Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia)*, narrowleaf cottonwood/thinleaf alder riparian woodland *(Populus angustifolia/Alnus incana ssp. tenuifolia)*, and 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 segement. 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 19 - 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**

19 - 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

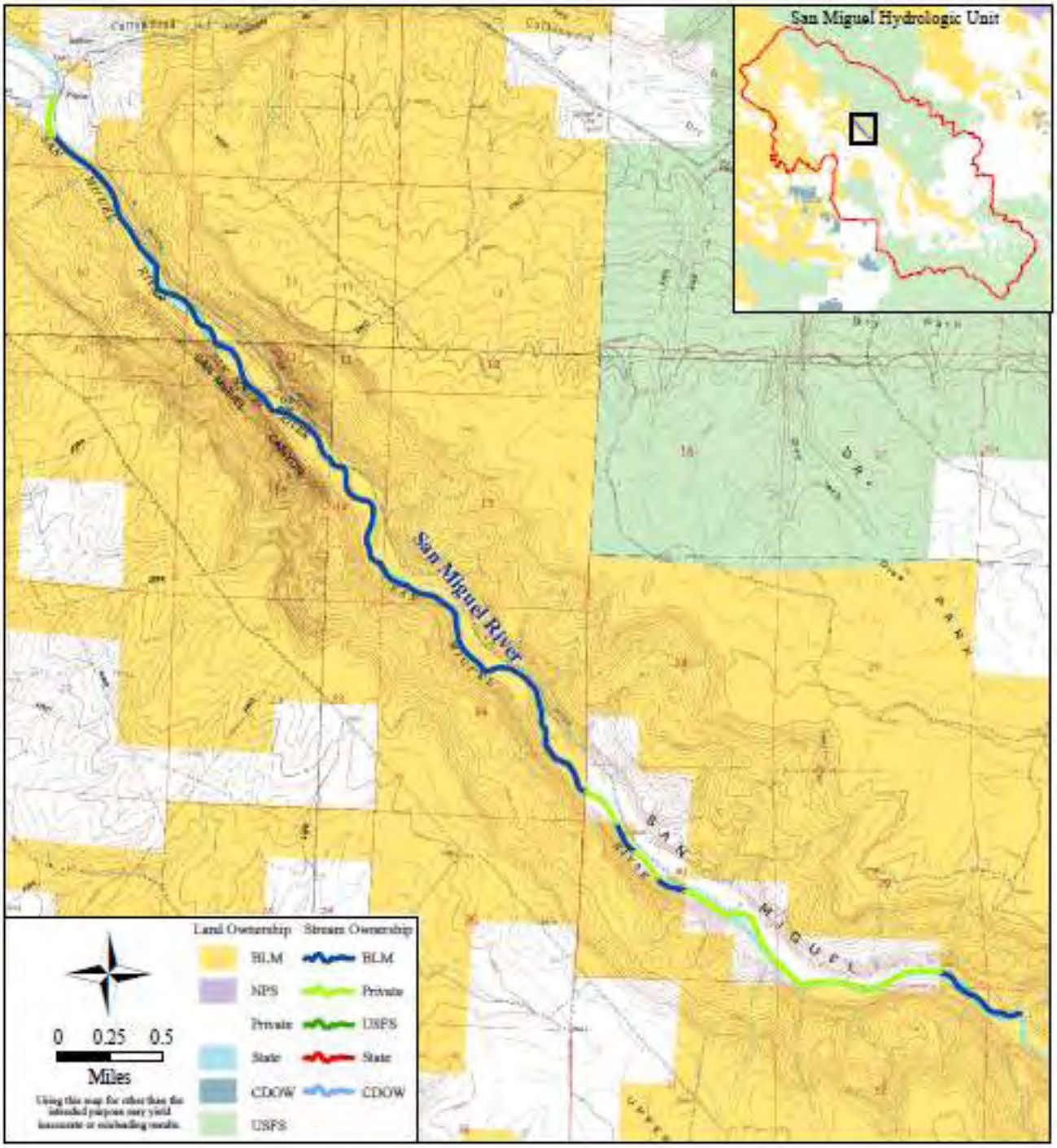
along the reach. The entire reach lies within the San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area, used by private and commercial river runners and trout fishers.

3) Wildlife - Portions of the river corridor in this segment represent one of the finest examples of protected Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat in the United States. The Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat is recognized as the richest terrestrial bird habitat type in North America, providing breeding sites for a wide variety of bird species and primary migratory routes for nearly all songbirds throughout the western United States. More than 300 bird species have been observed in the San Miguel River corridor (National Audubon Society 2010).

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 segement. The shoreline is essentially primitive.



Map 20 - 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**

20 - RIVER SEGMENT: SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 3
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occuring 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.

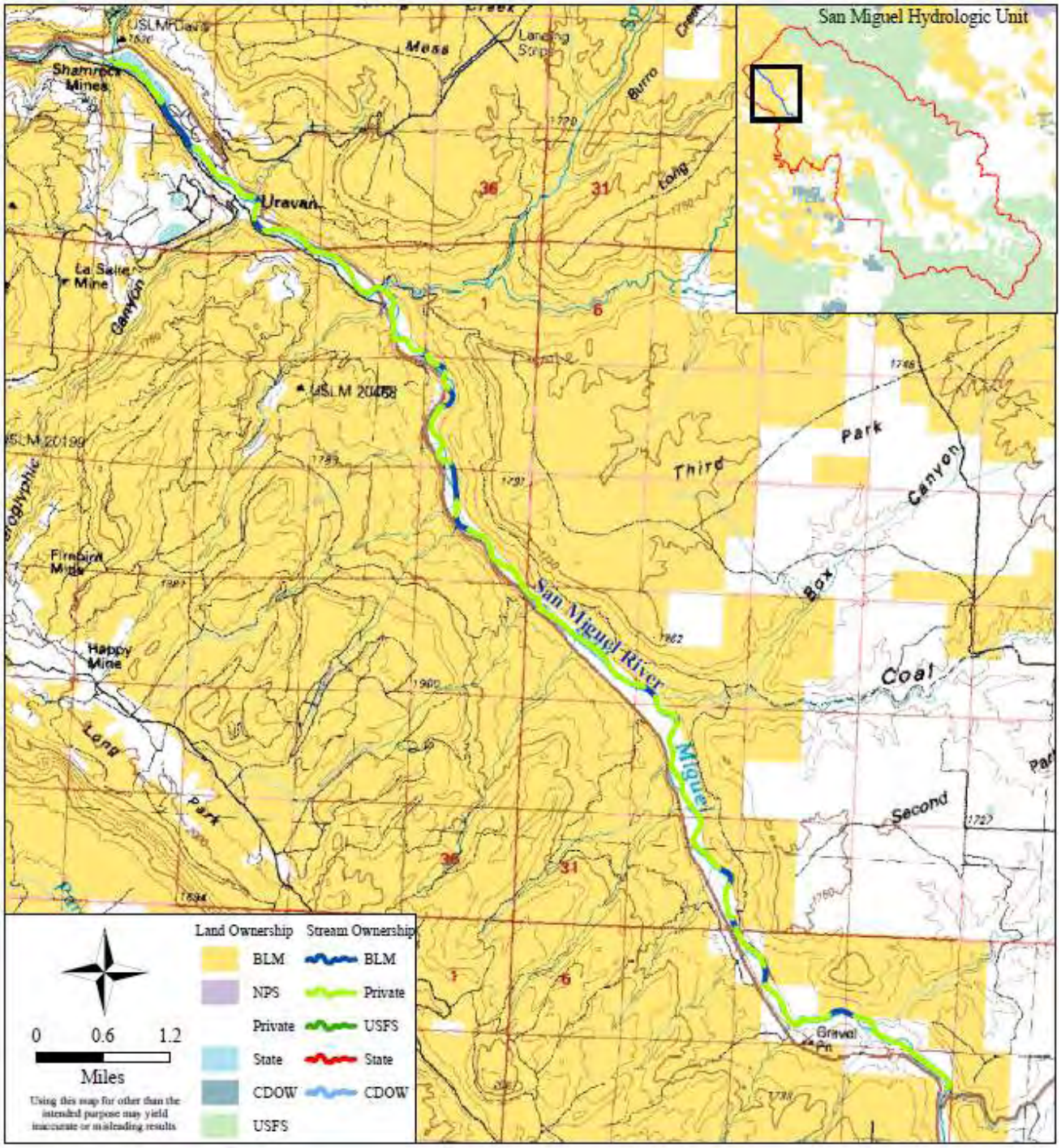
2) Fish - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and roundtail chubs *(Gila robusta)*.

3) Wildlife - Portions of the river corridor in this segment represent one of the finest areas of protected Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat in the United States. The Southwest Canyon Riparian Habitat is recognized as the richest terrestrial bird habitat type in North America, providing breeding sites for a wide variety of bird species and primary migratory routes for nearly all songbirds throughout the western United States. More than 300 bird species have been observed in the San Miguel River corridor. The expanding Black Phoebe *(Sayornis nigricans)* population has been moving up the San Miguel River, as evidenced by a nest found at the Highway 90 Bridge at Piñon (National Audubon Society 2010).

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 21 - 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**

21 - RIVER SEGMENT: SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 5
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occuring during fall and early winter months, and high flows occurring during spring snowmelt and from runoff generated during summer thunderstorm activitiy. 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

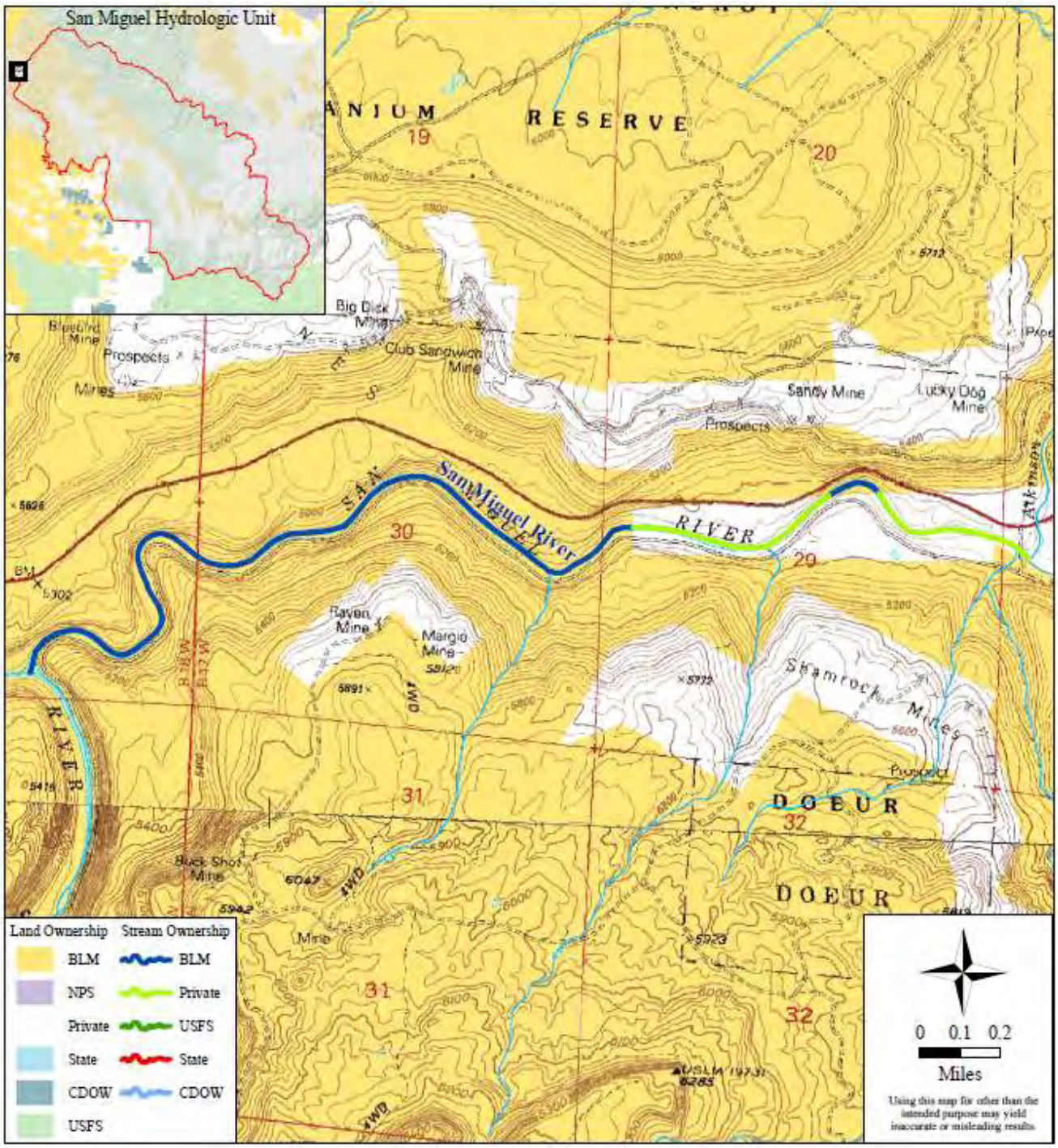
Heritage Fund's list of most endangered places and the 2006 World Monument Fund Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites.

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 New Mexico privet riparian shrubland *(Forestiera pubescens)*, Fremont cottonwood/skunkbush sumac riparian woodland *(Populus deltoides ssp. wislizeni/Rhus trilobata)* and skunkbush sumac riparian shrubland *(Rhus trilobata),* all ranked as 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 22 - 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**

22 - RIVER SEGMENT: SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 6
HYDROLOGIC UNIT: San Miguel

Description: The San Miguel River flows perennially, with low flows occuring during fall and early winter months, and high flows occuring 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

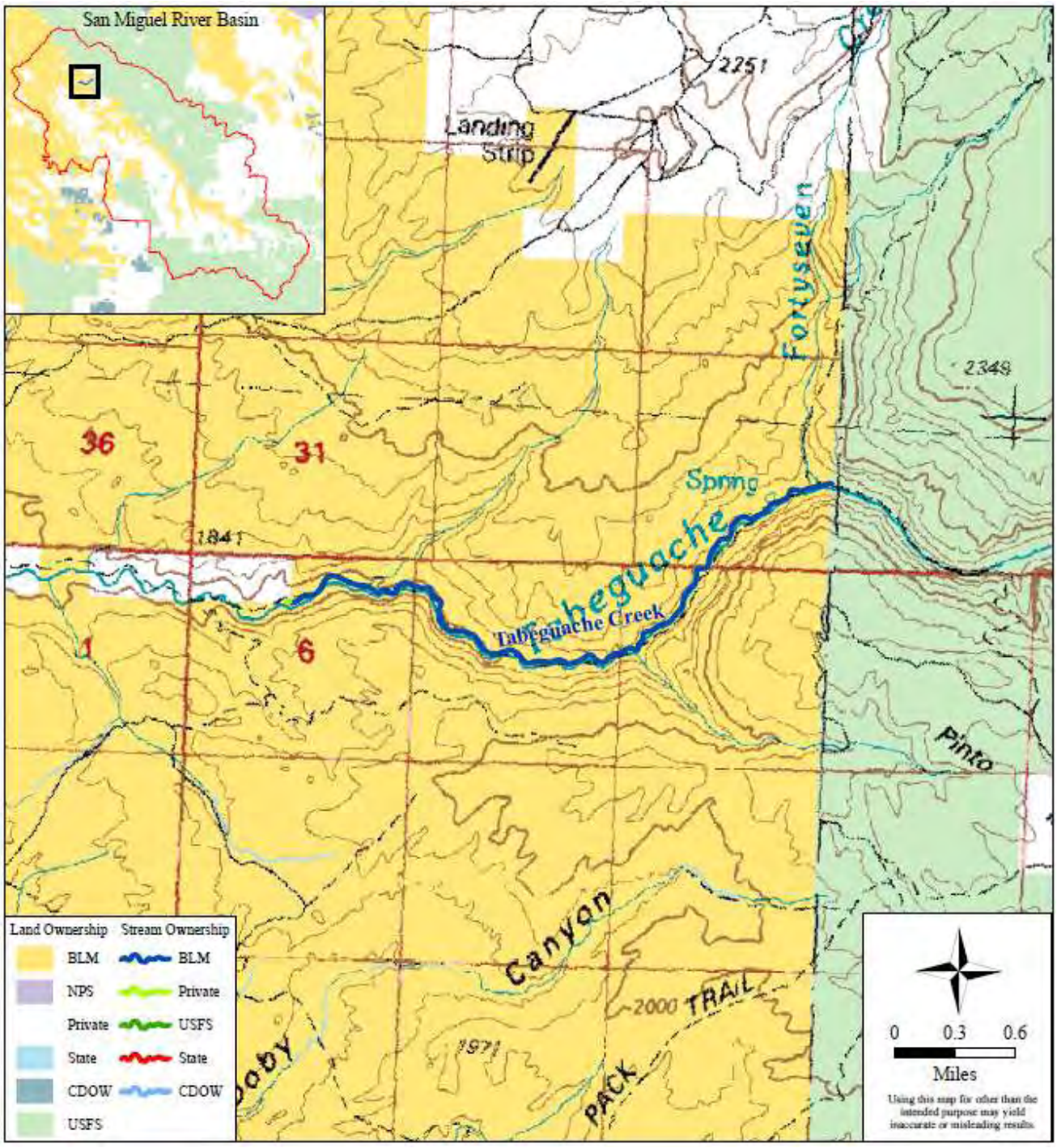
Heritage Fund's list of most endangered places and the 2006 World Monument Fund Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites.

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 globally imperiled (G2). 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 23 - Tabeguache Creek, Segment 1

Total Segment Length: **3.61 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **3.61 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **San Miguel**

Preliminary Classification: **Wild**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

23 - RIVER SEGMENT: TABEGUACHE CREEK, SEGMENT 1
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):

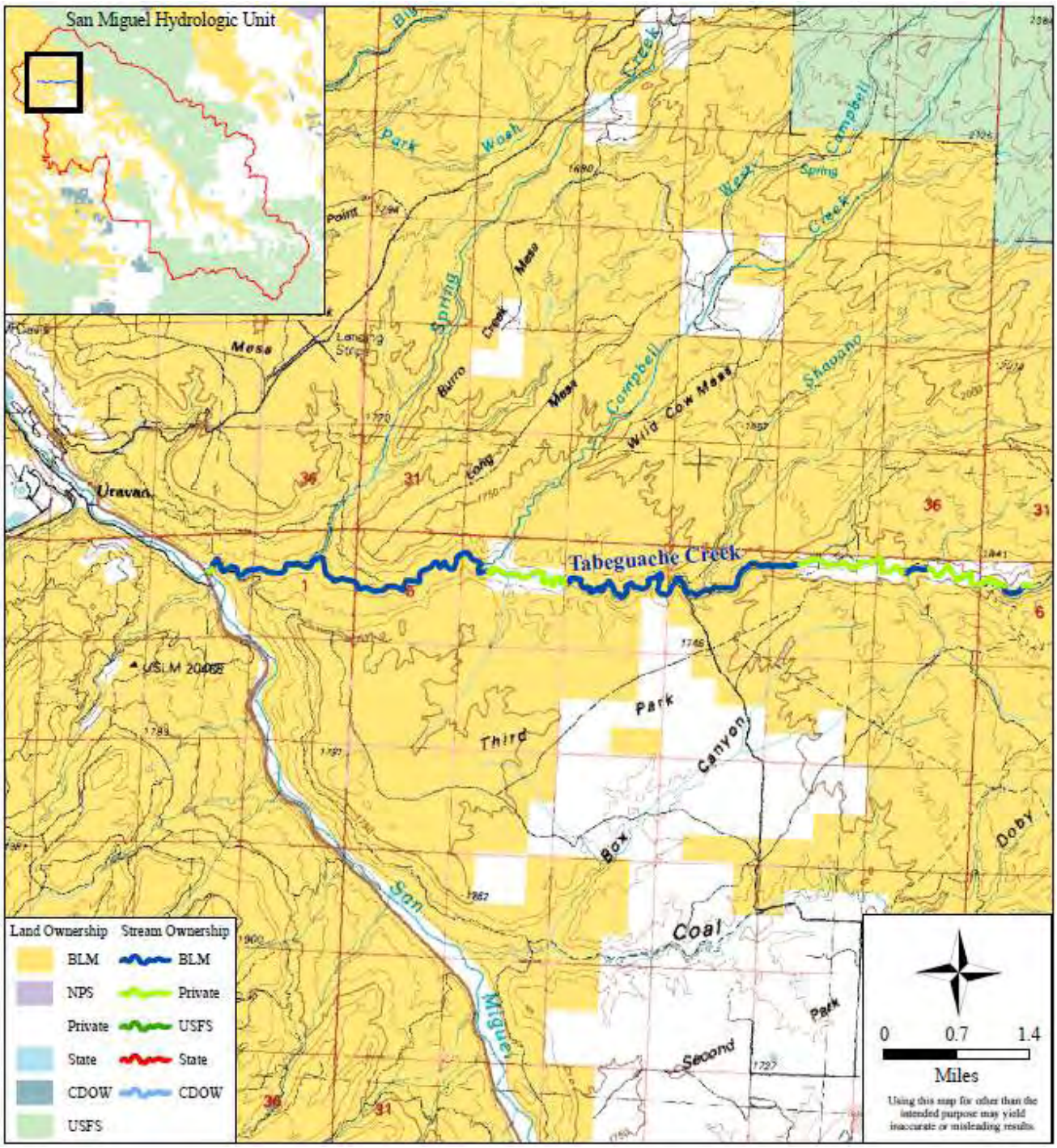
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
1,077.0			6.3	**1,083.3**	**99.4%**

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, New Mexico Principal Meridian (NMPM) of the BLM Public Land Survey System. 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 24 - 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**

24 - 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**

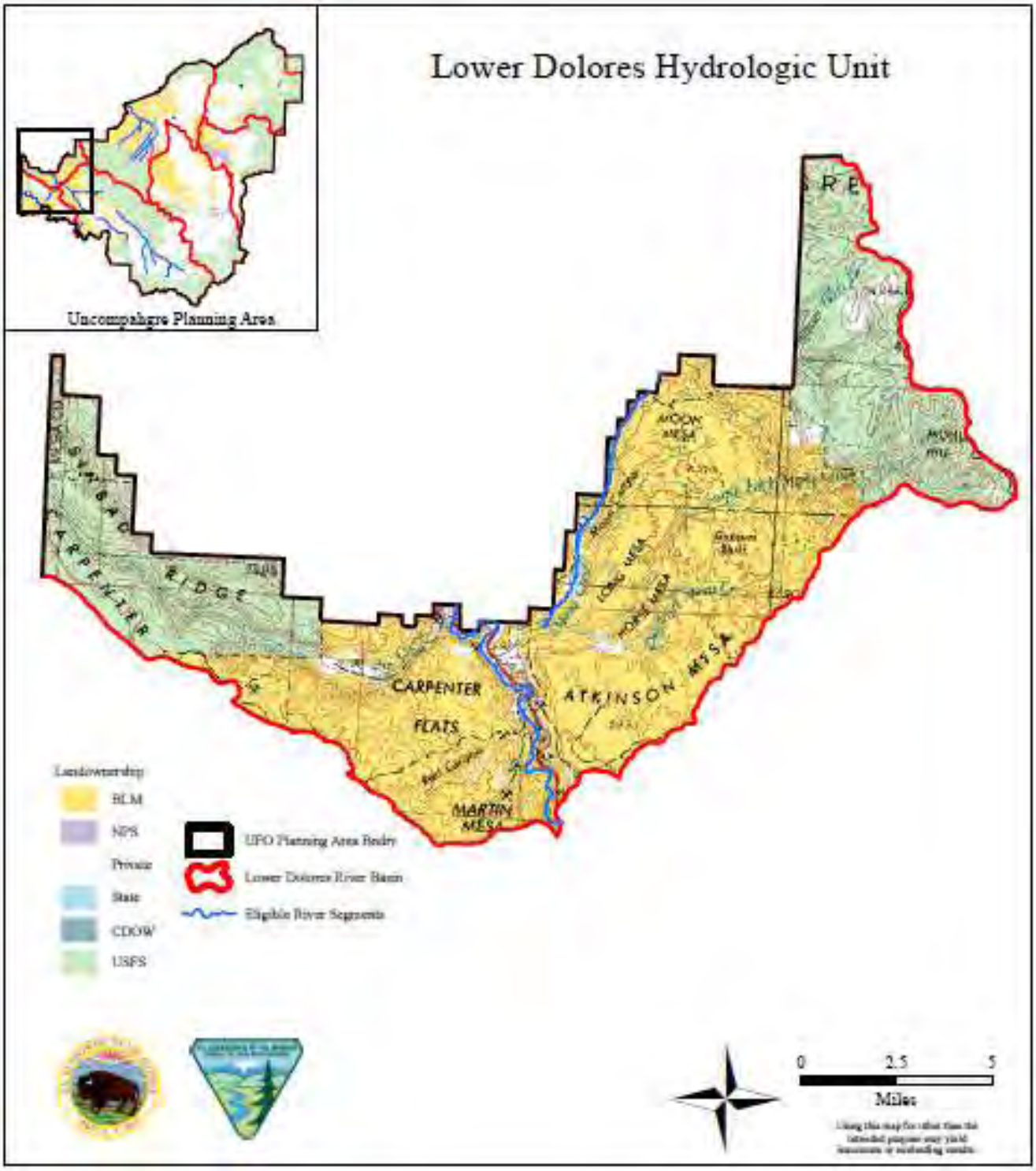
1) Cultural - The prehistoric Tabeguache Cave site was home to Anasazi and possibly Gateway Culture people. The site was excavated in the 1920s, and provides much of the baseline archaeological data used in interpreting Colorado's prehistory. The site is listed on the NRHP and was added to the Colorado 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 globally imperiled (G2). There are also superior (A-ranked) occurrences of globally vulnerable (G3) narrowleaf cottonwood/skunkbush 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**

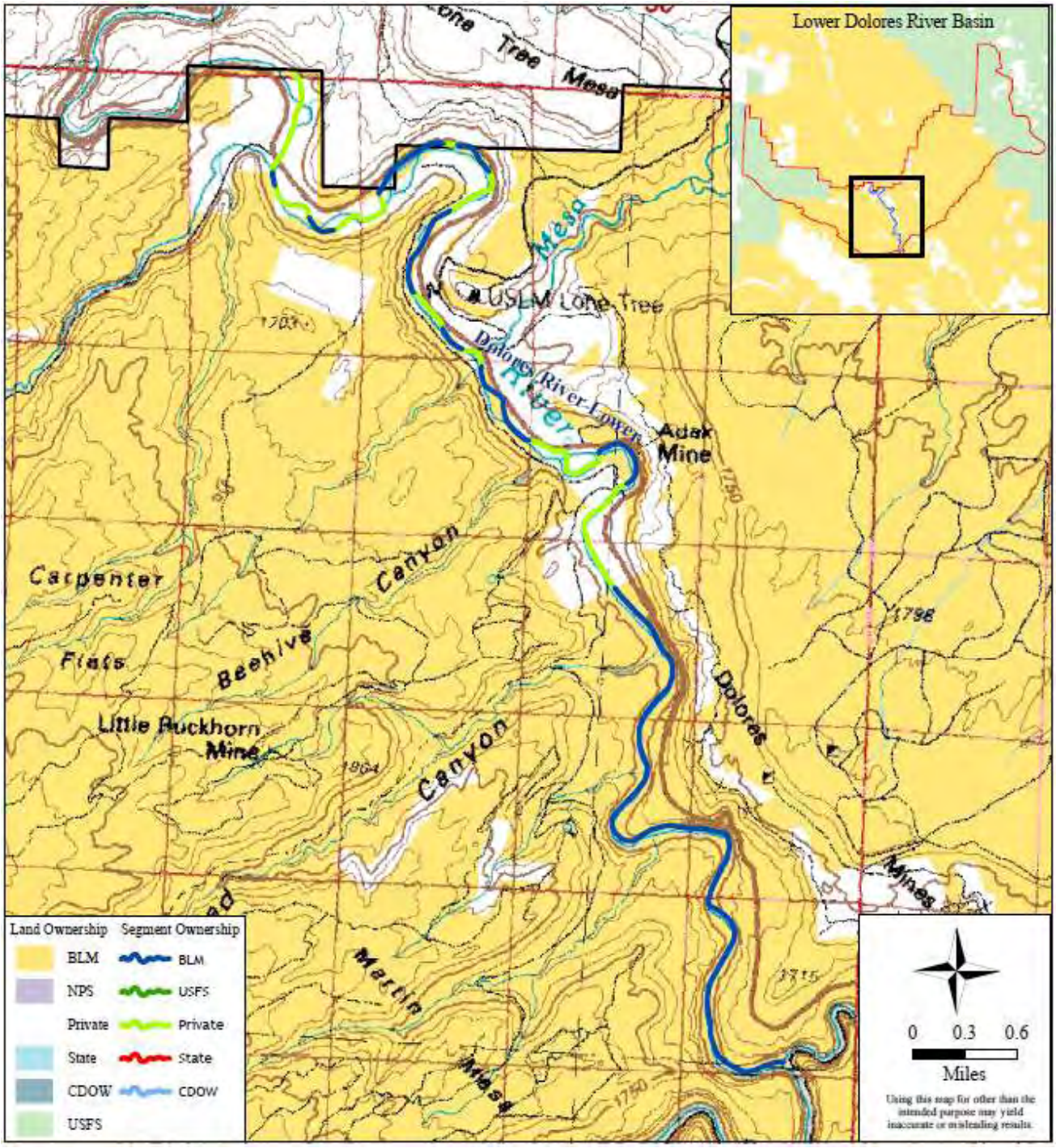
Rationale - Montrose County roads and an unsurfaced road primarily associated with private lands parallel portions of this segment. In addition, there is a county road bridge crossing, as well as water diversions and one small impoundment.



HYDROLOGIC UNIT 4 - LOWER DOLORES

Eligible River Segments: **2**

25. Lower Dolores River
26. North Fork Mesa Creek



Map 25 - Lower 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**

25 - RIVER SEGMENT: LOWER 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.

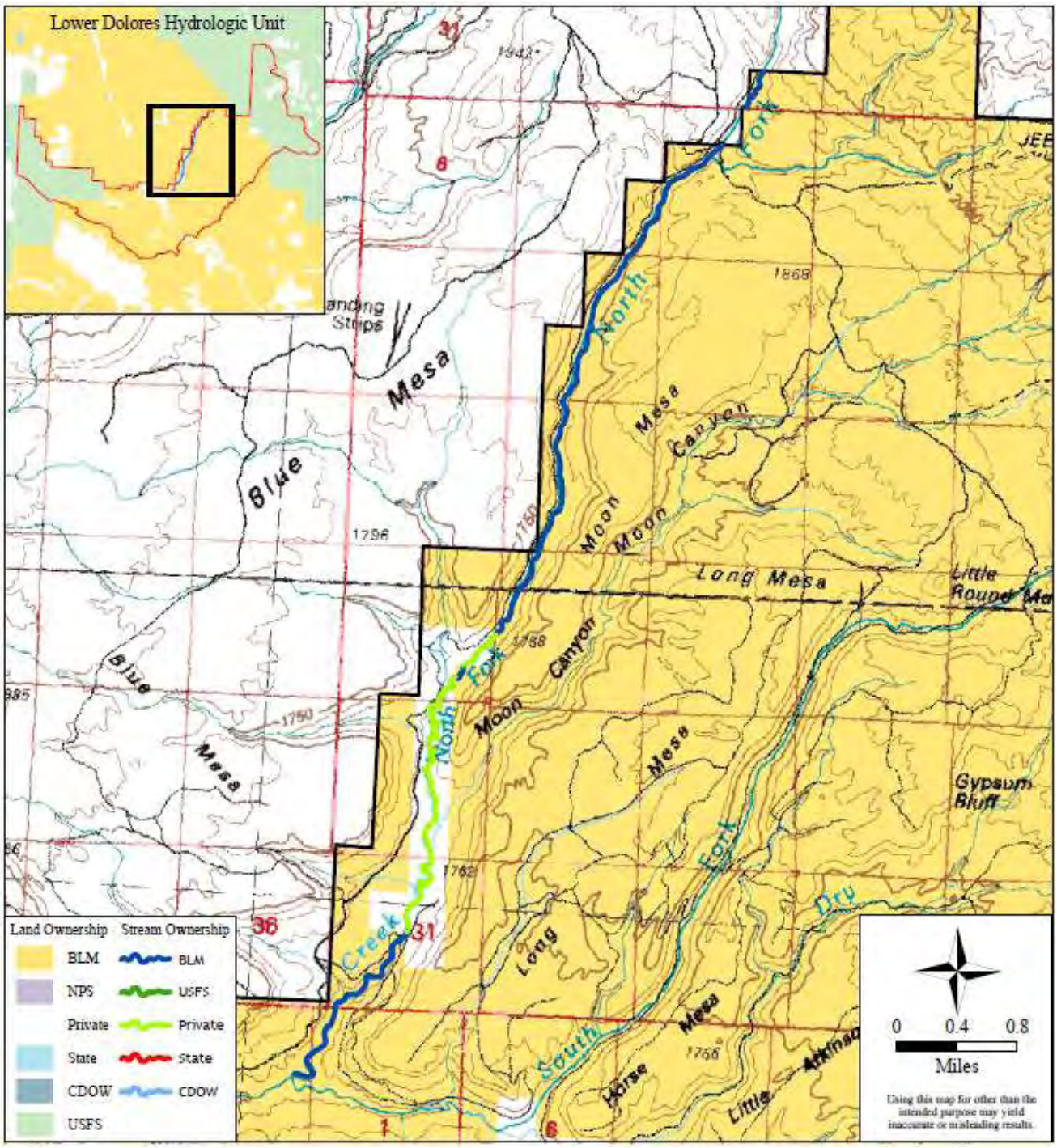
3) Geologic - The Dolores River has a well-defined entrenched meander channel pattern through this area, with exposures of Triassic-age Chinle, Wingate, and Kayenta formations. The river has been superimposed upon the Colorado Plateau geology as the region has undergone uplifting. Initially the river 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 (Water Body ID COGUUN12). A water quality monitoring plan is being initiated to determine concentration and source of total recoverable iron in the Dolores River, and develop remedial actions if necessary.



Map 26 - 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**

26 - 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):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
5.81			2.72	**8.53**	**68.1%**

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

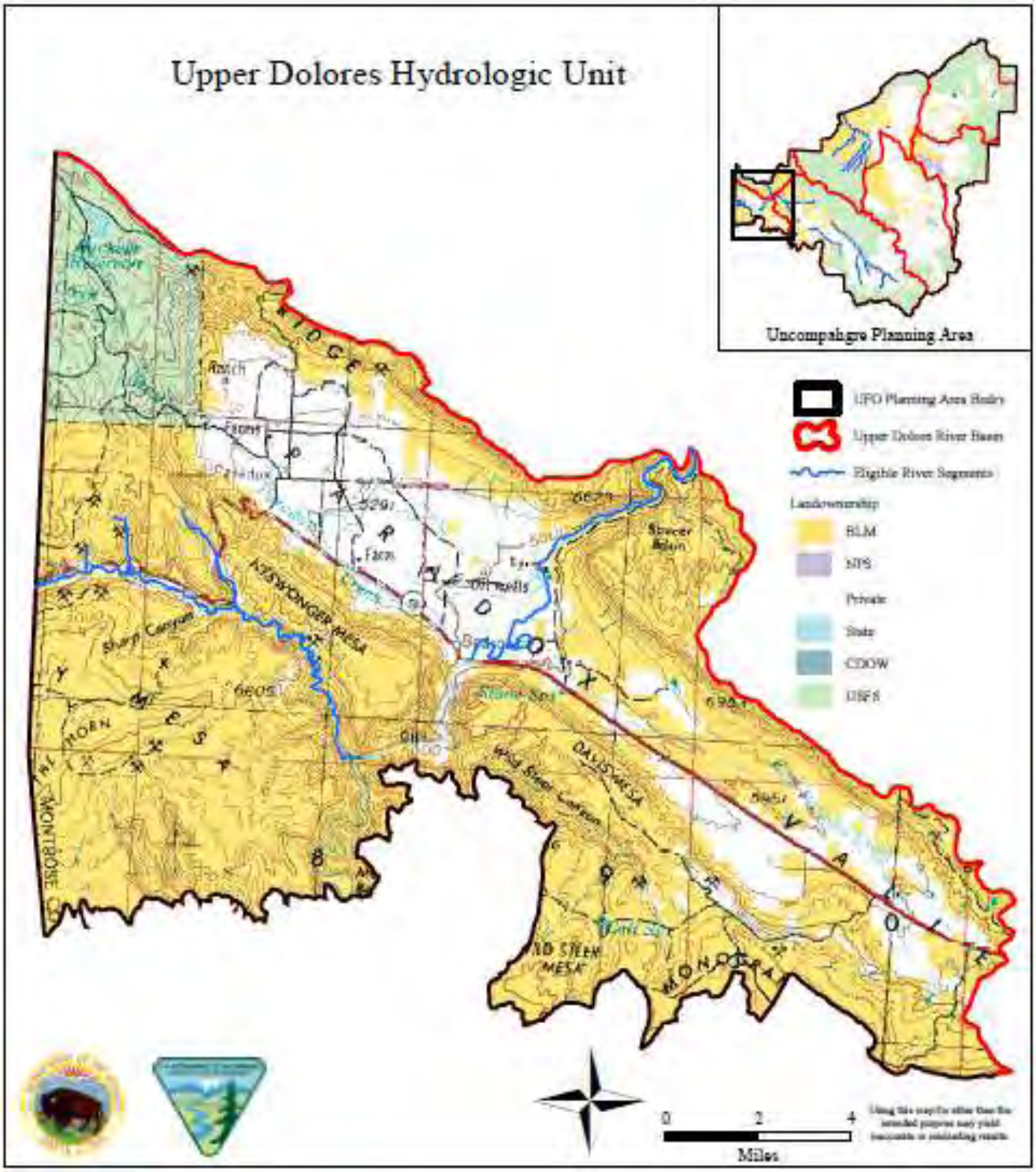
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,042.4			424.5	**2,466.9**	**82.8%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

1) Vegetation - This segment contains areas of narrowleaf cottonwood/strapleaf willow/silver buffaloberry riparian woodland (*Populus angustifolia/salix ligulfolia/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.

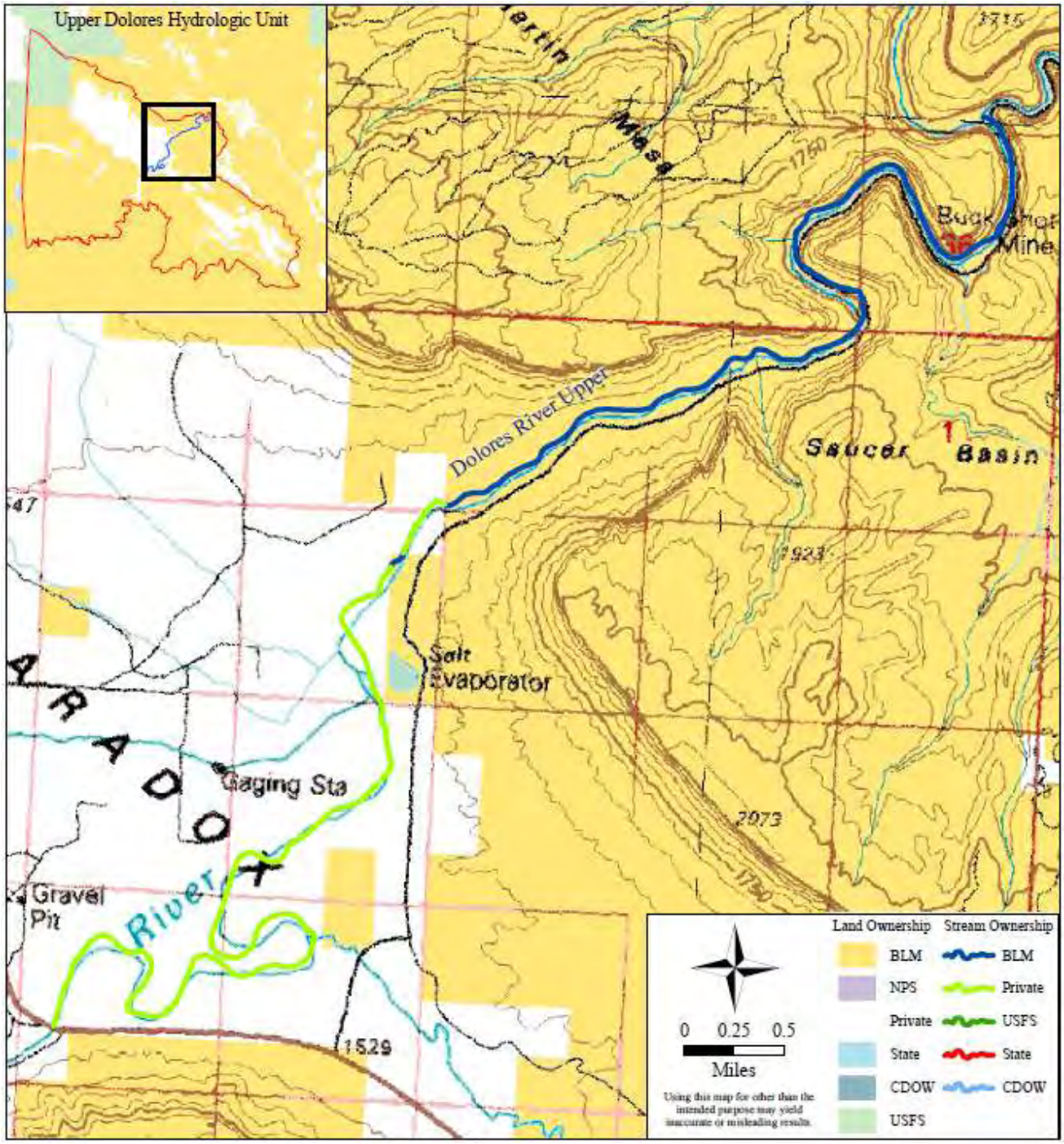


HYDROLOGIC UNIT 5 - UPPER DOLORES

***Eligible River Segments:* 8**

27. Dolores River, Segment 2
28. Ice Lake Creek, Segment 2
29. La Sal Creek, Segment 1
30. La Sal Creek, Segment 2
31. La Sal Creek, Segment 3
32. Lion Creek, Segment 2
33. Spring Creek
*34. Dolores River, Segment 1

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



Map 27 - 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**

*27 - 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 is not 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 of 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.

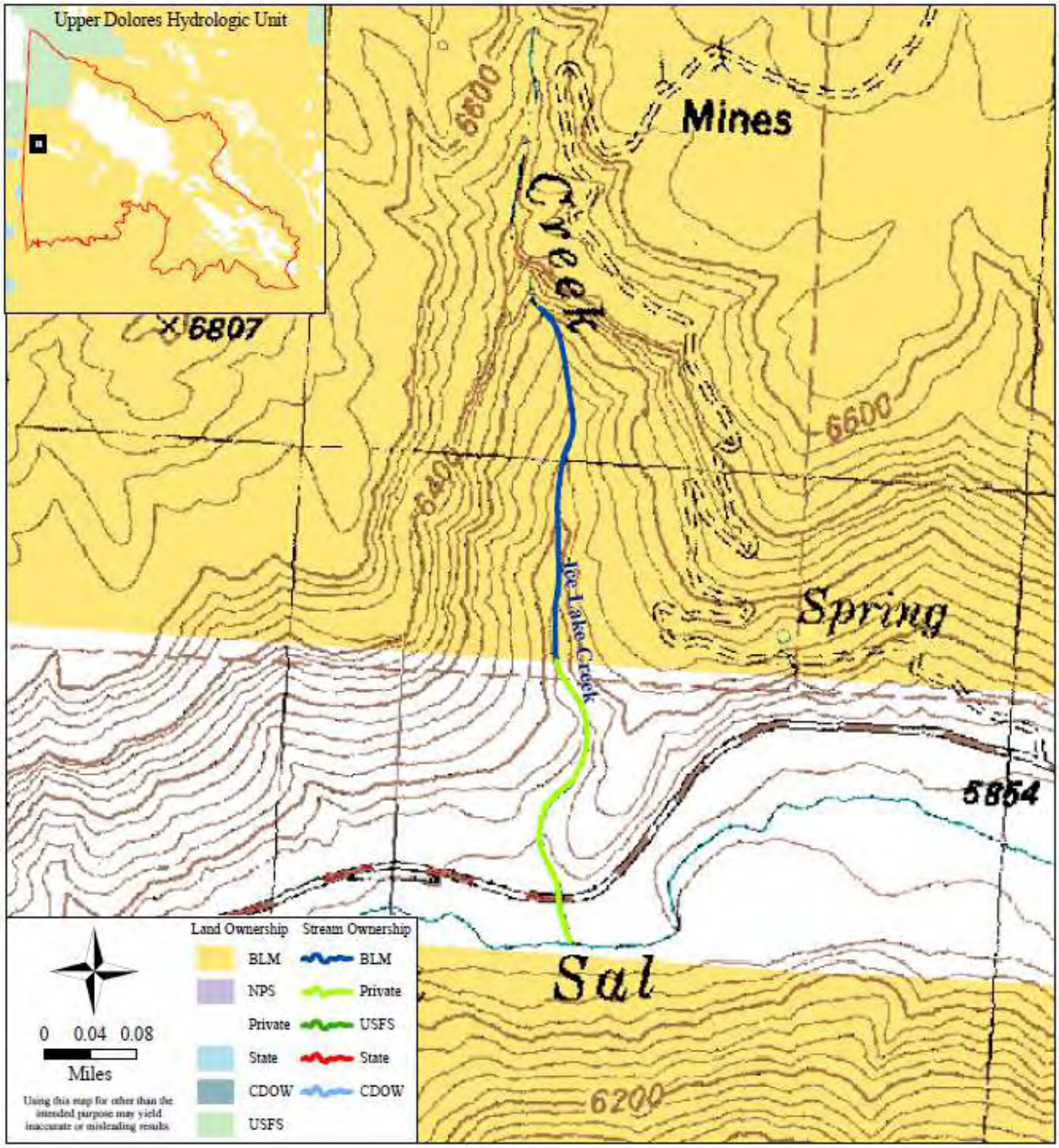
5) Wildlife - This river segment provides exceptionally high quality habitat for peregrine falcons *(Falco peregrinus)*, and is considered a regionally important area for this rare BLM sensitive species. In 1999, the peregrine was delisted from threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. The 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 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 *(Forestieria pubescens)*, which is classified as globally imperiled (G2).

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Rationale - An unsurfaced county road adjacent to the river in the canyon bottom ocassionally 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 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) for total recoverable iron, which is suspected of impacting native, warm water fish propagation (Water Body ID COGUUN12). A water quality monitoring plan is being initiated to determine concentration and source of total recoverable iron in the Dolores River, and develop remedial actions if necessary.



Map 28 - Ice Lake Creek Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **0.58 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **0.31 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Upper Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic**

28 - RIVER SEGMENT: ICE LAKE CREEK SEGMENT 2
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):

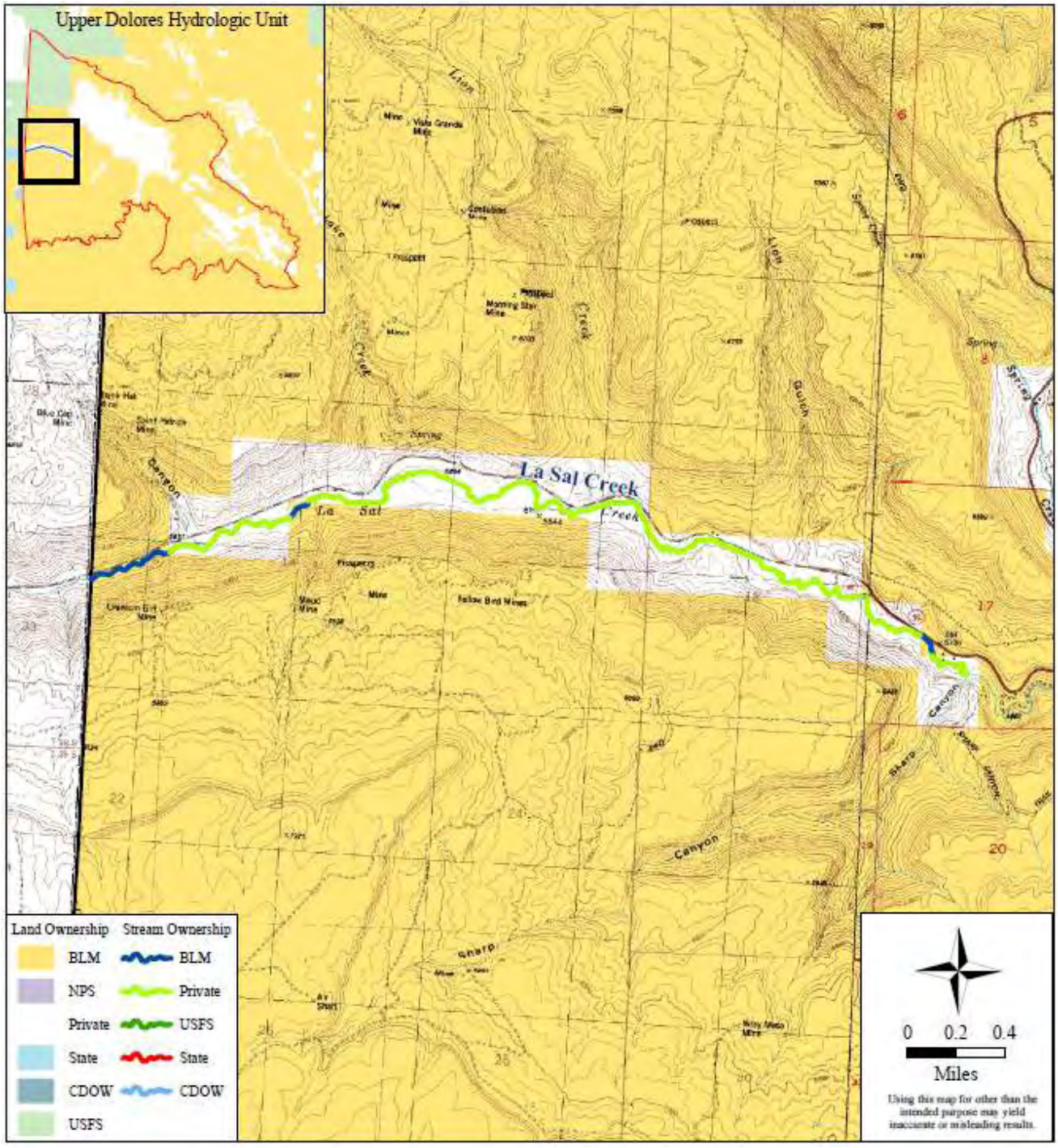
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
104.8			75.8	**180.6**	**58%**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Scenic**

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.

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 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 29 - La Sal Creek, Segment 1

Total Segment Length: **4.82 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **0.62 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Upper Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Recreational**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish, Vegetation**

29 - RIVER SEGMENT: LA SAL CREEK, SEGMENT 1
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%**

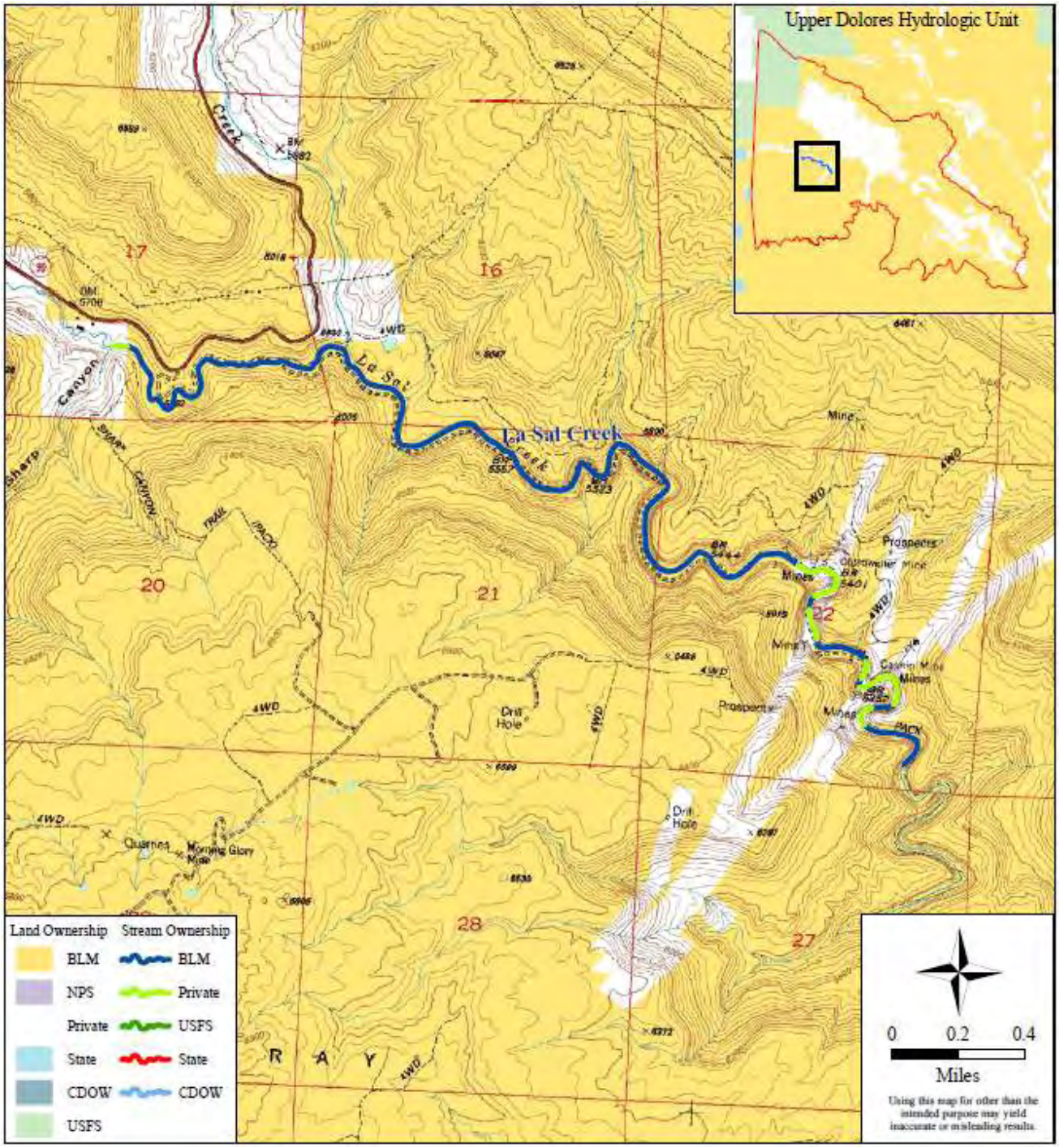
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish, Vegetation**

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 globally imperiled (G2).

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 30 - 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**

30 - 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%**

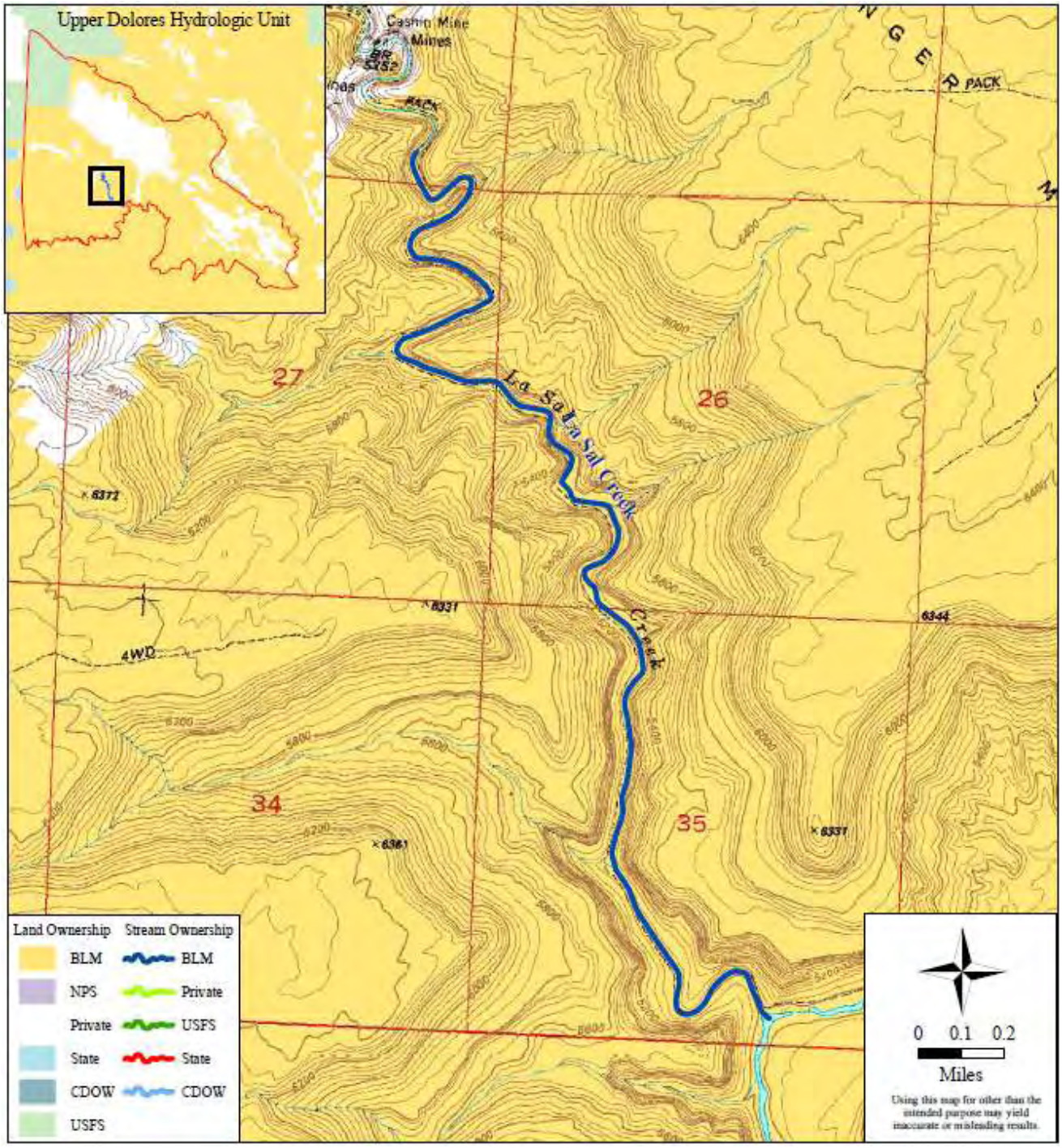
Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Fish, Vegetation**

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 globally imperiled (G2). 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 31 - 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**

31 - 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.

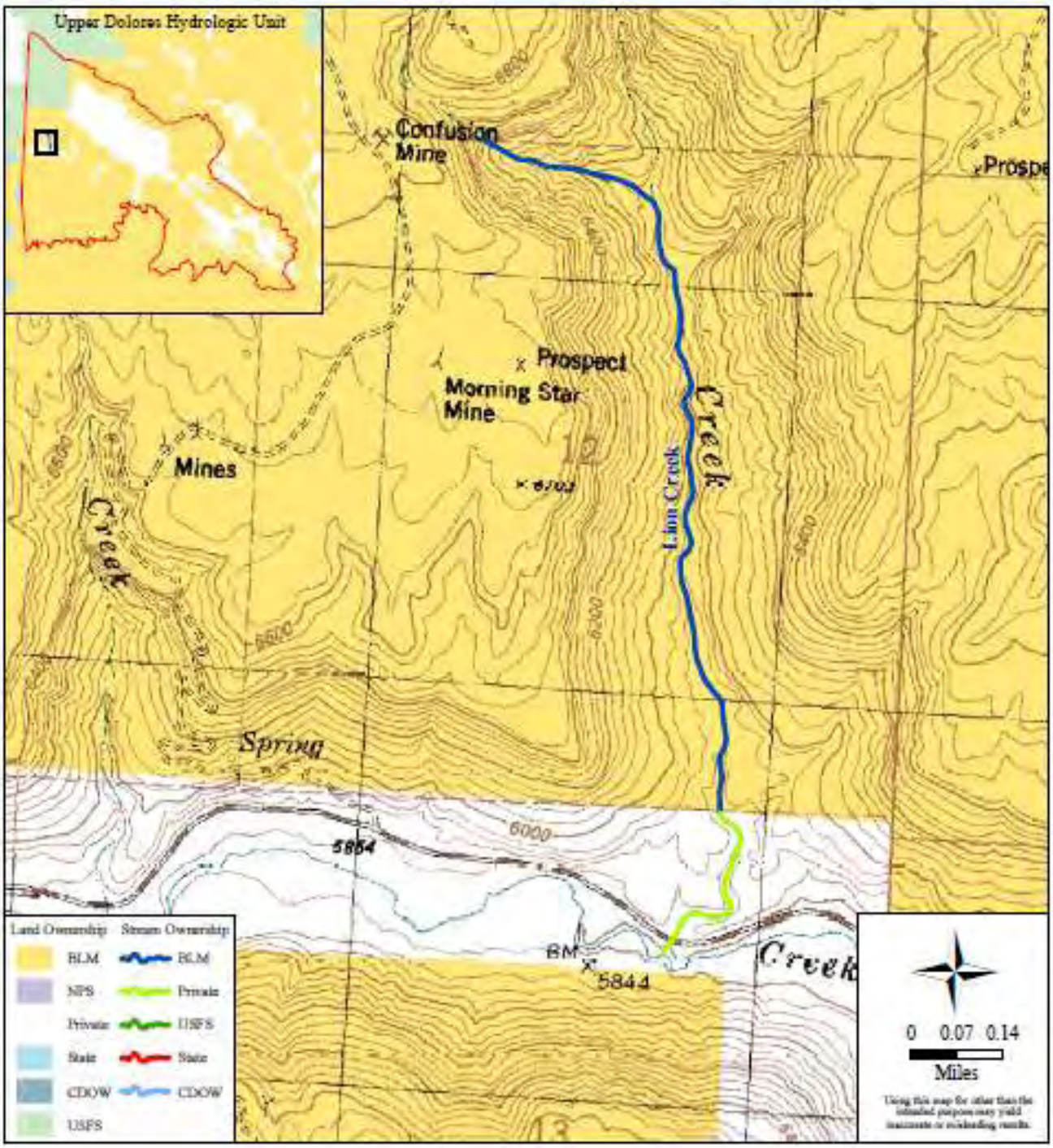
3) Fish - This segment harbors exemplary populations of three BLM and Colorado sensitive species: flannelmouth suckers *(Catostomus latipinnis)*, bluehead suckers *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and roundtail chubs *(Gila robusta)*. The segment is one of only a very few spawning tributaries for these three 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, which is currently ranked as globally imperiled (G2). 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 32 - Lion Creek Segment 2

Total Segment Length: **1.57 miles**

BLM-administered Portion: **1.26 miles**

Hydrologic Unit: **Upper Dolores**

Preliminary Classification: **Scenic**

Outstandingly Remarkable Values: **Vegetation**

32 - RIVER SEGMENT: LION CREEK SEGMENT 2
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):

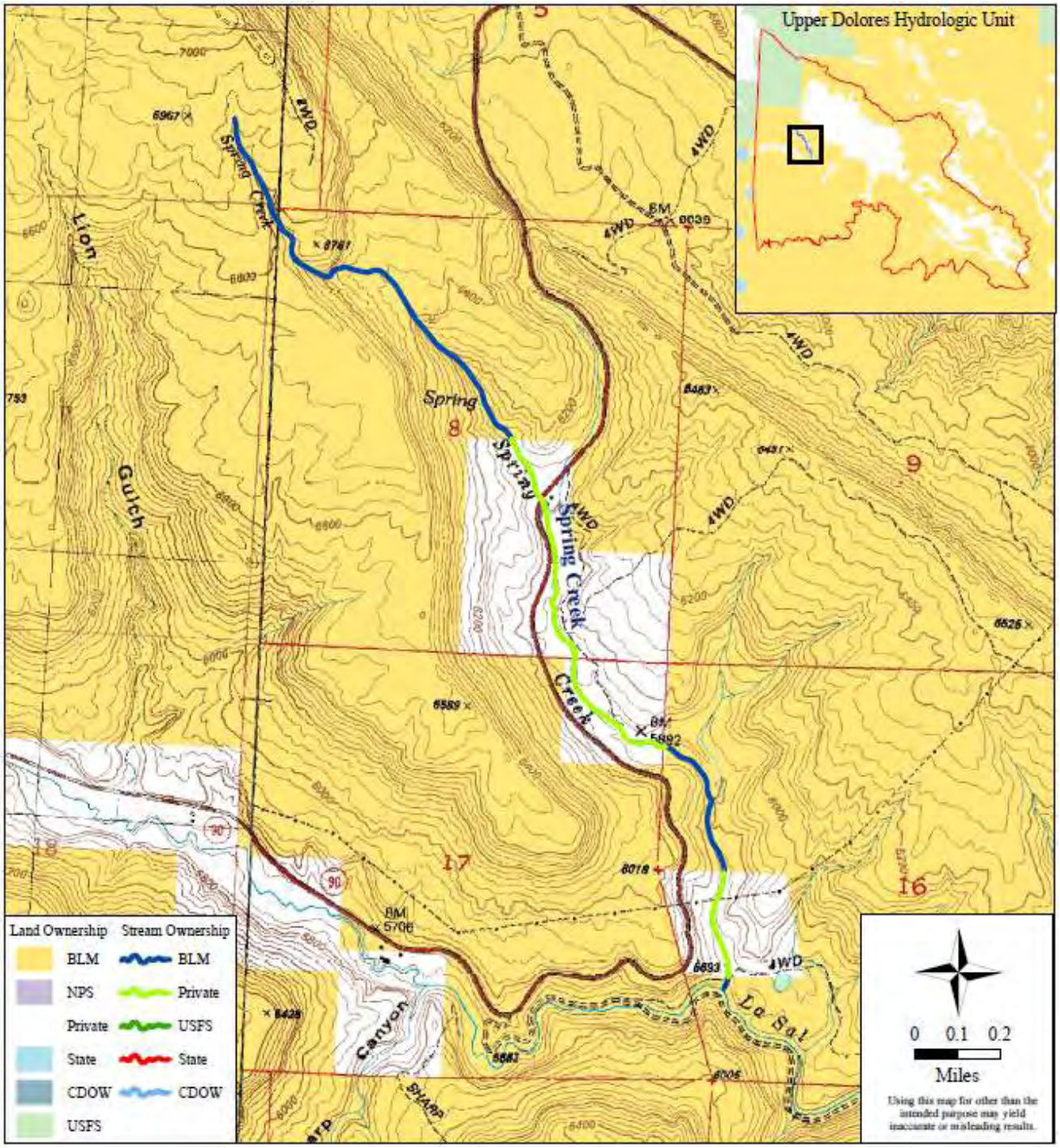
BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
401.5			84.7	**486.2**	**82.6%**

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 globally imperiled (G2).

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 33 - 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**

33 - 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 globally imperiled (G2).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 Uncompaghre 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 8351 identifies factors to be considered when examining jurisdictional and management constraints and answering the questions presented above during the suitability process:

- Characteristics which do or do not make the area a worthy addition to the NWSRS
- 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
- 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

- Federal, public, state, tribal, local, or other interests in designation or non-designation of the river
- 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
- 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
- Historical or existing rights which could be adversely affected.

The ***Wild and Scenic River Study Process*** (1999) developed by the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council provides additional factors that may be important to examine in considering the suitability of a given segment, including:

- An evaluation of the adequacy of local zoning and other land use controls in protecting the river's ORVs by preventing incompatible development. This evaluation may result in a formal finding that the local zoning fulfills Section 6(c) requirements, which in turn preempts the federal government's ability to acquire land through eminent domain if the river is designated.
- The state/local government's ability to manage and protect the ORVs on nonfederal lands. This factor requires an evaluation of the river protection mechanisms available through the authority of state and local governments. Such mechanisms may include, for example, statewide programs related to population growth management, vegetation management, water quantity or quality, or protection of river-related values such as open space and historic areas.
- Support or opposition to designation. Assessment of this factor will define the political context. The interest in designation or non-designation by federal agencies; state, local and tribal governments; and national and local publics should be considered, as well as the state's political delegation.
- The consistency of designation with other agency plans, programs or policies and in meeting regional objectives. Designation may help or impede the "goals" of other tribal, federal, state or local agencies. For example, designation of a river may contribute to state or regional protection objectives for fish and wildlife resources. Similarly, adding a river which includes a limited recreation activity or setting to the National System may help meet statewide recreation goals. Designation might, however, limit irrigation and/or flood control measures in a manner inconsistent with regional socioeconomic goals.
- The contribution to river system or basin integrity. This factor reflects the benefits of a "systems" approach, such as expanding the designated portion of a river in the National System or developing a legislative proposal for an entire river system (headwaters to mouth) or watershed. Numerous benefits are likely to result from managing an entire river

or watershed, including the ability to design a holistic protection strategy in partnership with other agencies and the public.

- The potential for water resources development. The intent of the Act is to preserve selected rivers from the harmful effects of water resources projects. Designation will limit development of water resources projects as diverse as irrigation and flood control measures, hydropower facilities, dredging, diversion and channelization.

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

NAME	DISCIPLINE	RESPONSIBILITY
BLM Colorado State Office—		
Roy Smith	Water Rights Specialist	Water Rights
BLM Glenwood Springs Field Office—		
Tom Fresques	West Slope Fisheries Biologist	Fish ORVs
BLM Uncompahgre Field Office—		
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

1982 *Archaeological Resources of Southwestern Colorado: Uncompahgre and Gunnison Resource Areas, San Miguel Resource Area*. Colorado State Office. Denver, Colorado.

1992 *Wild and Scenic Rivers-Policy and Program Direction for Identification, Evaluation, and Management*. BLM Manual 8351. Rel. 8-61. Washington D.C.

2000 Colorado BLM State Director's Sensitive Species List (Animals and Plants). Webpage: *http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/BLM_Programs/botany/Sensitive_Species_List_.html*

2002 *Roan Plateau Eligibility Report for the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System*. Glenwood Springs Field Office. Glenwood Springs, Colorado.

2004 Washington Office Instruction Memorandum No. 2004-196, *Clarification of Policy in the BLM Manual Section 8351, Wild and Scenic Rivers, with Respect to Eligibility Criteria and Protective Management*, Washington D.C.

2006 Adamic, Denise and Julie Coleman. "History in the Making: Yesterday's Miners Leave a Treasure for Tomorrow's Visitors." *Colorado Road Trip, Uncompahgre Field Office*. Colorado State Office. Denver. File address: *http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/co/information/road_trips/2006.Par.71440.File.dat/RT_February_2006.pdf*

2006b Manual H-8410-1, *Visual Resource Inventory Handbook.* Webpage: *http://www.blm.gov/nstc/VRM/8410.html*

2007 *San Juan Public Lands Center Draft Land Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. Durango, Colorado.

2007b *Final Wild and Scenic Eligibility Report for Kremmling and Glenwood Springs Field Offices*, Kremmling Field Office and Glenwood Springs Field Office, Colorado.

2008 *Moab Field Office Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan*. Moab Field Office, Utah.

2008b *Preparation Plan for the Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan*. Uncompahgre Field Office. Montrose, Colorado.

2009 *Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report for Upper Snake Field Office*. Upper Snake Field Office. Idaho Falls, Idaho.

2009b *Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report for Bureau of Land Management Grand Junction Field Office*, Grand Junction, Colorado.

Coffin, R.C.

1921 "Radium, Uranium and Vanadium Deposits of Southwestern Colorado." *Colorado Geological Survey, Volume 16*: 131-136. Denver, Colorado.

Colorado Division of Wildlife

2009 *Species of Concern*. Denver, Colorado.
Webpage: *http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/SpeciesOfConcern/*

Colorado Natural Heritage Program

2003 *Field Guide to Wetland and Riparian Plant Associations of Colorado*. Colorado State University. Fort Collins, Colorado.

2005 *Understanding Natural Heritage Conservation Status*.
File address: *http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/download/list/Understanding_Conservation_Status_7-28-2005.pdf*

Colorado River Water Conservation District

2009 *Water Glossary of Colorado River Terms.* Webpage: *http://www.crwcd.org/page_100*

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Commission

2008-2010 "Section 303(d) List of Water Quality-limited Segments Requiring Total Maximum Daily Loads." *5CCR 1002-93, Regulation #93*. Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Denver, Colorado.

2010 Classifications and Numeric Standards for Gunnison and Lower Dolores River Basins, Regulation Number 35, as amended 8 February 2010. Available online at: http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/regulations/wqccregs/

COMET, NWS NERFC, and SUNY-ESF

"Glossary of Terms." *Introduction to Fluvial Geomorphology.*
Webpage: *http://www.fgmorph.com/showglossary.php*

Dallas, Emma Peel

2006 "Mesa to Telluride via Unaweep/Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway 180 miles." *Talking to Myself.* Webpage: *http://emmapeeldallas.blogspot.com/2006_07_01_archive.html*

Fish and Wildlife Service

2000 "Remanded Determination of Status for the Contiguous United States Distinct Population Segment of the Canada Lynx: Clarification of Findings, Final Rule." *Federal Register: March 24, 2000, Volume 65, Number 58:* 16051-16086.
File address: *www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/lynx/.../06-appendix_b_references.pdf*

2000b *Commonly Asked Questions About The Canada Lynx*. Site bulletin.
File address: *http://library.fws.gov/Pubs/lynx_faqs.pdf*

2002 *Critical Habitat: What Is It?* Site bulletin. Endangered Species Program.
File address: *http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wildlife/tes/docs/esa_references/critical_habitat.pdf*

2009 Personal communication between BLM Wildlife Biologist Charlie Sharp and FWS biologists Collin Ewing and Kirk Broderdorp regarding potential habitat of the Canada lynx.

Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council

1999 *The Wild and Scenic Rivers Study Process*, Technical Report. Washington D.C. Website: *http://www.rivers.gov*

Kohler, Judith

2009 "Gunnison sage grouse reconsidered for listing." *Denver Post*. Denver, Colorado. File address: *http://www.denverpost.com/commented/ci_13161578?source%253D commented-.09C77390B6B3F7A2083D2070F9A78E28.html*

National Audubon Society

2010 Important Bird Areas in the U.S. Available online at: *http://www.audubon.org/bird/iba*

Streeter, Kelly

2004 "Hanging Flume, Uravan, Colorado." *Vertical Access Quarterly*. Webpage: *http://www.vertical-access.com/newsletter/200406/*

U.S. Forest Service

2003 *Final Eligibility Study of Wild and Scenic Rivers*, Manti-La Sal National Forest. Price, Utah.

2007 *Proposed Land Management Plan Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests*. Delta, Colorado.

2007b *Wild and Scenic Rivers Suitability Study for National Forest System Lands in Utah.* PowerPoint. File address: *http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/rivers/documents/suitability_presentation_052407.pdf*

U.S. Geological Survey

2006 *Ecoregions of Colorado.* Color poster with map, descriptive text, summary tables, and photographs. S.S. Chapman, G.E. Griffith, J.M. Omernik, A.B. Price, J. Freeouf and D.L. Schrupp. Reston, Virginia. Webpage: *http://www.epa.gov/wed/pages/ecoregions/co_eco.htm*

Watershed Management Council

1994 Recommended Watershed Terminology. Moccasin, California. Webpage: *http://watershed.org/news/fall_94/terminology.html*

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

1968 Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271 et seq., as amended.

Willits, Patrick

2001 *San Miguel River Restoration Assessment Summary*. The Trust for Land Restoration. Ridgway, Colorado. File address: *www.restorationtrust.org/Rest-Assess_summ.pdf*

APPENDIX C - UNCOMPAHGRE RIVER 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 the segment has been evaluated for eligibility in an Eligibility Report prepared by the BLM Dolores Field Office.
Tan shading indicates that an eligible segment will be evaluated for suitability during development of the Dominguez-Escalante RMP.
[1]X indicates that a value has been determined to meet ORV criteria.
[2]W 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									

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									

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									

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 6th PM	0.41	0.41	Y				X					R
Gunnison River Segment 3	Upstream UFO boundary in T15S/R97W/Sec 24 6th 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									

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 6th PM to Currant Creek	0.37	0.37	N									
Monitor Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Potter Creek	9.42	9.42	Y								X	W
Negro Creek	Headwaters in T13S/ R96W/Sec 34 6th 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	W
Rose Creek				Y	X								W

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	W
Roubideau Creek Segment 2	Downstream Camelback WSA boundary to upstream Colorado State land boundary in T15S/ R96W/Sec 32 6th PM	7.59	3.45	Y					X			X	S
Sulphur Gulch	Upstream UFO boundary in T14S/R94W/Sec 25 6th 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									

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									

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									

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									

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 6th PM to North Fork	3.28	1.45	Y									
Buzzard Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 19 6th 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 6th PM to West Muddy Creek	0.25	0.13	Y									

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 6th PM to Leroux Creek	3.34	1.00	Y									
East Fork Terror Creek	Reach beginning at upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R91W/Sec 5 6th PM to confluence with Muddy Creek West	0.05	0.05	Y									
East Muddy Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 20 6th 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 6th PM to Roatcap Creek	1.81	1.10	Y									
Elk Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to downstream UFO boundary in T13S/R90W/ Sec 5 6th PM	0.77	0.75	Y									
Hawksnest Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork Gunnison River	1.87	1.75	Y									

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*	
Hubbard Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to North Fork Gunnison River	2.37	1.27	Y									
Jay Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/Sec 30 6th 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 6th PM to downstream UFO boundary in T14S/R93W/ Sec 22 6th PM	7.03	1.86	Y									
Long Draw	Stream reach on UFO land in T13S/R92W/Sec 16 6th PM	1.03	1.01	Y									
Love Gulch	Headwaters to downstream UFO boundary in T14S/R92W/ Sec 4 6th PM	2.39	1.19	N									
McDonald Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to Cottonwood Creek	5.84	4.47	Y									

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*	
Minnesota Creek	Lake Fork to Dry Fork	2.02	0.16	Y									
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 6th PM	0.53	0.52	Y									
Roatcap Creek	East and West Forks of Roatcap Creek to downstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/ Sec 35 6th PM	1.61	1.18	Y									

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*	
Sams Creek	Gunnison NF boundary to Minnesota Creek	1.10	0.82	Y									
Sheep Creek	Grand Mesa NF boundary to Hubbard Creek	0.88	0.51	Y									
Stevens Gulch	Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/Sec 23 6th PM to downstream UFO boundary in T13S/R91W/ Sec 30 6th 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 6th PM	0.26	0.26	Y									
West Muddy Creek Segment 2	Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 19 6th PM to East Muddy Creek	0.45	0.39	Y									
West Roatcap Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T13S/R92W/Sec 8 6th PM to Roatcap Creek	3.69	1.89	Y									

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*	
Williams Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T12S/R89W/Sec 27 6th PM to Paonia Reservoir	0.96	0.96	Y									
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									

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*	
Calamity Draw	Upstream UFO boundary in T46N/R16W/ Sec 11 NMPM to San Miguel River	0.65	0.61	N									
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						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									

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 Branch Shavano Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to Shavano Creek	1.09	0.50	Y									
Fall Creek	Uncompahgre NF boundary to San Miguel River	5.56	1.44	Y									
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 NMPM to Beaver Creek	0.75	0.58	Y									
Good Enough Gulch	UFO land in T44N/R12W/ Sec 3 NMPM	0.10	0.10	N									
Hamilton Creek	Upstream UFO boundary in T44N/R14W/Sec 33 NMPM 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 NMPM to San Miguel River	0.67	0.54	N									

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*	
Hyatt Draw	Headwaters to confluence with San Miguel River	0.89	0.89	N									
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									

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	Upstream UFO boundary in T42N/R10W/Sec 4 NMPM to Big Bear Creek	0.45	0.40	Y									
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 Paleontology		W		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			W			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	W			X	S

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 4	Colorado State Highway 90 Bridge at Piñon, Colorado to Calamity Draw	16.34	1.62	Y									
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

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*	
Tabeguache Creek Segment 2	West boundary of Tabeguache Area to San Miguel River	11.57	7.89	Y						X		X	R
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													
Lower Dolores River	San Miguel River to BLM Grand Junction Field Office boundary	10.53	6.93	Y	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

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*	
Roc Creek	Manti-La Sal NF boundary to Dolores River	5.02	2.30	Y									
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	W/R
Dolores River Segment 2	Highway 90 Bridge to San Miguel River	11.50	5.42	Y	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								S
La Sal Creek Segment 1	Colorado State line to Sharp Canyon	4.82	0.62	Y				X				X	R

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 2	Sharp Canyon to Dolores River Canyon WSA boundary	4.52	3.82	Y				X				X	S
La Sal Creek Segment 3	Dolores River Canyon WSA boundary to Dolores River	3.37	3.37	Y	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

INTRODUCTION

The UFO conducted public scoping for the purpose of receiving comments on the Draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report. Solicitation for comments began with a news release on December 15, 2009. (See Appendix E on page 151.) The news release requested feedback specifically on the Eligibility Phase of the Wild and Scenic Rivers review process, which consisted of determinations of ***outstandingly remarkable values*** and ***free-flowing*** and preliminary classifications of stream segments in the Uncompahgre planning area and the portion of the Dominguez-Escalante NCA within the UFO. The news release summarized the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, identified the larger river segments found eligible in the draft report, and described the subsequent Suitability Phase of the Wild and Scenic River review process.

The news release also stated that comments would be accepted through February 26, 2010 (later extended to March 29, 2010) and provided a web address for viewing and downloading the Draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report: (http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html). In addition, the news release provided both a mailing address (Uncompahgre Field Office, Attn: RMP Revision, 2465 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401) and an email address (uformp@blm.gov) for submitting comments to the BLM.

Public comment on the Draft Wild and Scenic Eligibility Report was also solicited during the scoping period for the Uncompahgre RMP/EIS. This process was initiated on December 24, 2009, when the BLM mailed a newsletter announcing the start of the scoping period to more than 390 individuals from the public, agencies, and organizations that participated in past UFO activities and had been included on past UFO distribution lists. The newsletter provided the dates and venues for the original six scoping open houses held in the Towns of Hotchkiss, Delta, Montrose, Ridgway, Norwood, and Naturita, all communities with the Uncompahgre planning area. The newsletter also included an insert with a comment form for submitting scoping comments, and described the various methods for submitting comments, including dedicated e-mail and postal addresses.

In addition, a press release was posted on the RMP webpage (www.uformp.com) on January 5, 2010. This press release announced the scoping period for the Uncompahgre RMP/EIS process and provided information on the original six scoping open houses to be held in the Towns of Hotchkiss, Delta, Montrose, Ridgway, Norwood, and Naturita. It also described the various methods for submitting comments.

A newspaper advertisement was published in six local newspapers in December 2009 and January 2010, prior to the scoping meetings, Table D1. This newspaper advertisement announced the original six scoping open houses located in the Towns of Hotchkiss, Delta, Montrose, Ridgway, Norwood, and Naturita, all in Colorado.

Table 7-2 Newspaper Advertising for Scoping Meetings

NEWSPAPER	LOCATION (COLORADO)	DATE(S) ADVERTISEMENT APPEARED
Delta County Independent	Delta	• December 23, 2009 • January 6, 2010
Montrose Daily Press	Montrose	• December 30, 2009 • December 31, 2009 • January 6, 2010 • January 10, 2010
Norwood Post	Norwood	• December 30, 2009 • January 20, 2010
Ouray Plaindealer	Ouray	• January 8, 2010
Ridgway Sun	Ridgway	• January 6, 2010 • January 13, 2010
Telluride Daily Planet	Telluride	• January 20, 2010 • February 2, 2010

Six local newspapers are known to have published articles regarding the RMP revision and scoping period, Table D2.

Table 7-3 Newspaper Articles Discussing RMP Revision and Scoping

NEWSPAPER	DATE(S) ARTICLE(S) APPEARED
Delta County Independent	January 20 and 27, 2010
Montrose Daily Press	January 15 and February 3, 2010
Norwood Post	January 23, 2010
Ridgway Sun	January 13, 2010
San Miguel Basin Forum	January 21 and 28, 2010
Telluride Daily Planet	January 17 and February 2, 2010

The BLM hosted seven open houses to provide the public with opportunities to become involved, to learn about the project and the planning process, to meet the Uncompahgre RMP team members, and to offer comments. The seventh open house in Telluride was added in response to a special request from the San Miguel County Commissioners. The open houses were advertised via press release, newspaper advertisements, the project newsletter, the project Web site, and flyers posted in various towns throughout the planning area. A flyer announcing the dates and locations of the original six scoping open houses was posted in public locations in Delta, Hotchkiss, Montrose, Naturita, Norwood, Nucla, Paonia, and Redvale on January 8 and 12, 2010.

A BLM webpage was launched and has been updated regularly to provide the public with current information about the Uncompahgre RMP revision, including activities associated with the Wild and Scenic River study process. The webpage, available online at http://www.uformp.com, provides background information about the RMP revision, notices about public involvement opportunities, maps of and fact sheets about the planning area, newsletters, and current planning documents such as the Community Assessment and Federal Register Notice of Intent. The dates and locations of all seven scoping open houses were announced on the webpage. The webpage also provided a link for submitting comments during the scoping period, which included the Draft Wild and Scenic Eligibility Report.

Table 7-4 Scoping Open House Information

LOCATION	VENUE	DATE (2010)	NUMBER OF ATTENDEES	COMPLETED COMMENT FORMS
Hotchkiss, CO	Memorial Hall	January 12	99	11
Delta, CO	Bill Heddles Recreation Center	January 13	42	0
Montrose, CO	Montrose Pavilion	January 14	84	1
Ridgway, CO	Town Hall	January 19	41	3
Norwood, CO	Town Hall	January 20	26	0
Naturita, CO	Community Building	January 21	60	2
Telluride, CO	Miramonte Building	February 3	17	0
TOTAL			**369**	**17**

All scoping meetings were held in an open house format to encourage participants to discuss concerns and questions with BLM staff representatives. Copies of the first issue of the project newsletter, as well as blank scoping comment forms and a guide to providing substantive comments, were available at the sign-in station. A Microsoft PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of the RMP process and information about public involvement opportunities played continuously on a large screen. At every meeting, one of eight resource stations provided information regarding the Draft Wild and Scenic Rivers Eligibility Report and accepted public comments.

CONTENT ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENTS

During the public comment period described in the preceding section, comments regarding the Wild and Scenic Rivers Draft Eligibility report were received from 87 individuals. Comments were overwhelmingly from communities within the vicinity of the planning area. Of those providing a home address, only twelve (14%) of the 87 respondents were from outside the planning area, including nine from within Colorado and three from other states (California, Texas and Wyoming).

Public comments received by the BLM were grouped according to issue. If several issues were addressed within one submission, each issue was tabulated as a separate comment. Multiple general

statements from the same commenter for the same segment(s) were counted as one comment. The 227 identified comments were further grouped into one of three categories according to type of issue: General, Eligibility, or Suitability. The comments are summarized below within these categories.

GENERAL ISSUES

General issues included those comments stating support for or opposition to the Wild and Scenic River eligibility study process or one or more of the draft eligible stream segments, without mentioning a specific eligibility determination. As shown in Table D4, 109 (48%) of the 227 comments received were identified as General Issues.

Table 7-5 Comments Regarding General Issues

GENERAL ISSUE COMMENTS		
Wild and Scenic River Study Process	Support for One or More Stream Segments	Opposition to One or More Stream Segments
14	54	41

Fourteen comments were received regarding the Wild and Scenic River Study Process:

- One expressing concern with the high cost of conducting the inventory.
- One stating that one year to inventory the streams was not long enough.
- One stating that the streams in the Dominguez-Escalante NCA have sufficient protection through NCA designation.
- One requesting that the BLM not rely on the Dominguez-Escalante NCA or wilderness designation to protect streams.
- One stating that the San Miguel River already has protection through ACEC designation.
- One stating that San Miguel Segment 3 is already sufficiently protected through the Cottonwood Creek Conservation Area.
- One expressing appreciation to the BLM UFO for accepting comments on the Draft Eligibility Report.
- One recommending Monitor Creek, Potter Creek, Rose Creek, Roubideau Creek, Big and Little Dominguez Creeks, the Dry Fork of Escalante, Cottonwood Creek (a tributary of Roubideau Creek), and Escalante Creek segments 1 and 2 as good candidates for alternative management plans.
- One requesting that the BLM keep all local water users informed of decisions made throughout the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process.

- One recommending that the Colorado instream flow program be considered for river value protection.
- One expressing appreciation for the BLM's willingness to collaborate, and recommending that the BLM continue to collaborate with outside groups during the Suitability Analysis.
- One recommending that the UFO build from the experience of the San Juan Public Lands Center, Dolores River Working Group and the Dolores River Dialogue.
- One requesting that the Colorado Water Conservation Board have the opportunity to provide additional comment on the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process as needed.
- One requesting that the UFO Eligibility Report include a map and supporting text for the Dolores River segment upstream of Bedrock, Colorado (evaluated for eligibility by the San Juan Public Lands Center).

Fifty-four general comments were received expressing support for carrying forward one or more eligible segments in the Wild and Scenic Rivers study process:

- Seven expressing support for all eligible streams in the draft report.
- One expressing support for all eligible streams in the North Fork of the Gunnison drainage.
- Twelve expressing support for the Dolores River.
- Eleven expressing support for the San Miguel River.
- Other stream segments with five or fewer comments of general support include: Tabeguache Creek, Beaver Creek, Dry Creek (tributary to the San Miguel River), Fall Creek, Naturita Creek, Saltado Creek, Cottonwood Creek (tributary to Roubideau Creek), Potter Creek, Monitor Creek, Roubideau Creek segments 1 and 2, Escalante Creek segments 1 and 2, the Gunnison River segments 2 and 3, Horsefly Creek (tributary to the San Miguel River), La Sal Creek, Lion Creek, Roc Creek, and the North Fork of the Gunnison River.

Forty-one general comments were received expressing opposition to carrying forward one or more eligible segments in the Wild and Scenic Rivers review process:

- Two expressing opposition to carrying forward any streams identified as eligible in the draft report.
- Sixteen expressing opposition to carrying forward the San Miguel River.
- Seven expressing opposition to carrying forward Escalante Creek segments 1 and 2.
- Six expressing opposition to carrying forward segments on the Gunnison River.
- Other segments with five or fewer comments expressing opposition to being carried forward include: Roubideau Creek, Naturita Creek, and stream segments in the West End of Montrose County.

ELIGIBILITY ISSUES

The Eligibility Issue category includes all comments that pertain to the Outstandingly Remarkable Value (ORV) and free-flowing determinations of draft eligible segments. Comments on both stream segment delineation, number of segments, and the preliminary classification of draft eligible segments (Wild, Scenic, and Recreational) were also included as Eligibility Issues. Of the total comments received, 35 (15%) were related to eligibility. (See Table D5 below.)

Table 7-6 Comments Regarding Eligibility Issues

ELIGIBILITY ISSUE COMMENTS				
Wild, Scenic, Recreation Preliminary Classification	Outstandingly Remarkable Values	Free-Flowing Stream Segment Determination	Stream Segment Delineation	Number of Eligible Stream Segments
5	15	6	6	3

Five comments were received regarding preliminary stream classifications:

- Two stating that draft eligible streams on the Miller Ranch do not meet classification definitions and should be withdrawn from eligibility.
- One opposing the classifications and interim stream management standards.
- One stating that the preliminary classification of ***Scenic*** for Ice Lake Creek is inconsistent with historic mining impacts.
- One stating that the preliminary classification of ***Recreational*** for Spring Creek is in conflict with historic mining impacts.

Fifteen comments were received regarding ORVs:

- One stating that the CNHP global ranking for vegetation is not an appropriate measure for an ORV.
- One stating that San Miguel River Segment 3 has no outstanding values.
- One questioning the presence of native fish in Naturita Creek.
- One questioning why Lion Creek was assigned a preliminary classification of ***Scenic*** when the ORV is Vegetation.
- One questioning whether the vegetation and geology along Dolores Segment 2 are unique.
- Two disagreeing with the ORV determinations for Dry Fork of Escalante Segments 1 and 2 and Escalante Creek Segment 2.

- One disagreeing with the ORV determinations for all draft eligible segments on the Dry Fork of Escalante Creek, Escalante Creek, and the Gunnison River.
- Three stating that the riparian vegetation along Escalante Creek Segment 2 is very common and expressing doubt that either the Eastwood's monkeyflower *(Mimulus eastwoodiae)* or the Colorado hookless cactus *(Sclerocactus glaucus)* occur along this reach.
- One questioning how the peregrine falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* pertains to the Wildlife ORV.
- One recommending that the ORVs along both Escalante and Roubideau Creeks be protected.
- One recommending that wilderness values be added to Cottonwood Creek (a tributary to Roubideau Creek) for the Wild and Scenic evaluation.
- One stating that the native fishes identified as a Wildlife ORV for La Sal Creek Segment 1 do not impart the characteristics necessary for a preliminary classification of ***Recreational***.

Six comments were received pertaining to the free-flowing stream determinations:

- One stating that Dry Creek (a tributary of the San Miguel River) is dry 90% of the time (rather than intermittent) and should not be eligible.
- One stating that, due to water rights and an unpredictable flow regime, Naturita Creek has dried up 11 out of the last 19 years, and should not be considered free-flowing or eligible.
- One stating that the Dry Fork of Escalante Creek flows only ten days per year and should not be eligible.
- Two stating that, due to rip rap, agricultural use, and the number and size of water diversions, Escalante Creek segments 1 and 2 and Gunnison River Segment 3 should not be eligible.
- One stating that, due to the presence of significant upstream water control facilities (of the Aspinall Unit) both Gunnison River segments 1 and 2 should not be eligible.

Six comments were received pertaining to stream segment delineation:

- One stating that the Dry Creek segment (a tributary of the San Miguel River) is too long, given that the geologic anticline is only two miles.
- One questioning why the upper terminus of Gunnison River segment 3 terminates at the boundary with state lands.
- Two expressing concern with how the BLM calculated ownership along Gunnison River Segment 3.
- One recommending that exceptionally short, and in some cases not contiguous, river segments (identified as Gunnison River Segment 2, Escalante Creek Segments 1 and 2, Deep Creek, West Fork of Terror Creek, Dry Fork of Escalante Creek Segment 2, Rose Creek, and North Fork of Mesa Creek) be removed from eligibility.

- One stating the need to show Bureau of Reclamation, Section 5a withdrawn lands on stream segment maps.

Three comments were received regarding the number of eligible segments:

- One stating that too few of the 174 streams inventoried were found to be eligible.
- One requesting to review the inventory data on stream segments determined to be not eligible.
- One questioning why no eligible stream segments were located in either the Uncompahgre or Upper Gunnison river basins.

SUITABILITY ISSUES

Suitability issues include all comments pertaining to the manageability of stream segments. Thirty-seven percent of the total comments received were categorized as pertaining to suitability and will be carried forward to the subsequent Suitability Analysis, which is being conducted as part of the UFO RMP revision. (See Table D6.) Suitability issues pertaining to river segments within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA will be addressed during development of the RMP for the NCA.

The most common suitability themes included concerns regarding:

- How designation of a river segment could affect future uses within the river corridor.
- How private and other non-BLM lands within a river corridor could be affected by WSR designation (including the degree of existing development within some corridors).
- Existing water rights and the need for instream flows.
- Mining rights within WSR-designated river corridors.
- Potential economic impacts to local communities from WSR designation.

Table 7-7 Comments Regarding Suitability Issues

SUITABILITY ISSUE COMMENTS				
Impacts to Land Uses Resulting from WSR Designation	Impacts to Private and Non- BLM Land and Existing Development	Impacts on Water Rights and Projects from WSR Designation	Impacts to Mining Rights from WSR Designation	Local Economic Impacts from WSR Designation
7	29	13	32	2

Seven comments were received regarding changes in land use along WSR-designated rivers:

- One expressing general concern that designated rivers would serve a select few users groups, and one expressing similar concern specifically regarding the San Miguel River from Horsefly Creek to Pinon.

- Four expressing concerned about increased recreation use (and associated impacts) on the Gunnison River and Escalante Creeks if designated.
- One recommending that oil and gas development be banned from the Dolores River if designated.
- One recommending that no more dams or major water diversions be constructed on the Gunnison River if designated.

29 comments were received regarding private and non-BLM land issues:

- Fifteen stating that the level of existing development, water diversions, and fragmented land status along the Dry Fork of Escalante Creek, Escalante Creek, and the Gunnison River is too great for these to remain eligible.
- One stating that there is too much private land along La Sal Creek.
- One stating a need to retain road access to the Cashen Mine if La Sal Creek is designated.
- One stating a need to retain access along the North Fork of Mesa Creek if the creek is designated.
- Three expressing concern that there is too much private land and existing development with potential for condemnation if Naturita Creek is designated.
- Five opposing designation of the San Miguel River due to impacts to private property rights, instream flow water rights, and existing development.
- Three expressing general concern for impacts to private lands, including the right to graze livestock and other historic uses.

Thirteen comments were received regarding water rights or water projects:

- All expressing concern for impacts to existing water rights or water projects along various waterways, including the San Miguel River (3 comments), and the Dry Fork of Escalante Creek, Escalante Creek, and the Gunnison River (3 comments).

32 comments were received regarding mining rights:

- Two expressing concern for potential impacts to local economies.
- Eleven expressing concern specifically for the San Miguel River, while the remainder did not specify a river segment.

The full text of scoping comments is available for public review at the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office headquarters in Montrose, Colorado. Phone (970) 240-5300 for more information.

APPENDIX E - DRAFT ELIGIBILITY REPORT PRESS RELEASE

United States Department of the Interior
Grand Junction Field Office

Bureau of Land Management
http://www.co.blm.gov

2815 H Road
Grand Junction, CO 81506

BLM News Release

Contact: Erin Curtis, Public Affairs Specialist 970-244-3097

December 15, 2009

Draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report Available for the BLM Uncompahgre Planning Area

Montrose, Colo. – The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public comments on a draft Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Report conducted by the Uncompahgre Field Office.

The report is the first step in a Wild and Scenic River evaluation for the 900,000-acre field office, which is being conducted as the field office revises the Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan. The Draft Eligibility Report provides an inventory of river and stream segments on BLM-administered lands, and identifies those segments that meet the eligibility criteria necessary for federal Wild and Scenic River consideration.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed in 1968 to preserve selected rivers or sections in their free-flowing condition in order to protect "the water quality of such rivers and to fulfill other vital national conservation purposes." To be eligible under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, a river or stream segment must possess one or more "outstandingly remarkable values," have sufficient water quality to support those values, and be "free-flowing." The BLM evaluated 174 river and stream segments and found 35 to be eligible.

The draft report identifies five segments of the San Miguel River (approximately 55 miles), two segments of the Dolores River (approximately 20 miles), and two segments of the Gunnison River (approximately 18 miles) as eligible. Eligibility review does not take into account potentially conflicting uses or the manageability of a river segment, which will be addressed in the upcoming *suitability* phase.

At this stage, the BLM is specifically looking for information regarding free-flowing condition and outstandingly remarkable values, including vegetation, wildlife, cultural, recreation, hydrologic, geologic, and scenic. Public comments on the draft report will be accepted through Feb. 26. The report is available at **http://www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/ufo/uncompahgre_rmp.html**.

Comments can be emailed to uformp@blm.gov or mailed to the Uncompahgre Field Office, Attn: RMP Revision, 2645 S. Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401.

"Once the eligibility study has been finalized, we'll be working with stakeholders to look at each eligible segment to determine whether or not it is suitable for Wild and Scenic River consideration," said Uncompahgre Field Manager Barb Sharrow. "Public involvement in this process is essential."

Draft Eligibility Report Press Release (continued)

The suitability study will be included in the Resource Management Plan revision, which will analyze a range of possible recommendations. The BLM may or may not actively recommend suitable segments for Wild and Scenic River designation, based on input from stakeholders and the public.

River segments determined to be eligible are afforded interim protective management by the BLM until a suitability study is completed. The Resource Management Plan revision and suitability analysis is scheduled to be completed in 2013.

The Cache La Poudre River is currently the only river in Colorado with segments included in the Wild and Scenic River system. For more information on Wild and Scenic Rivers, visit **http://www.nps.gov/rivers/.**

-BLM-

SMA EXHIBIT 6

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS
for the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers and Tributaries

At the Colorado Statewide Resource Advisory Council (RAC) meeting held on February 25, 2011, the BLM Colorado Southwest RAC adopted Wild and Scenic River suitability recommendations proposed by the RAC Subgroup for the Uncompahgre Resource Management Plan. The following recommendations resulted from an extensive period of public meetings, analysis, and deliberation and will be considered by the BLM in formulating the preferred alternative for the Uncompahgre RMP.

Segment Number & Name/Eligibility Report Page #	BLM Eligibility Classification	Subgroup Recommendation	Notes/Justification
14 - Beaver Creek Page 57	Scenic	Suitable for Recreational classification	While mining is not a significant factor within the segment, the subgroup finds that the following issues render the segment better suited to classification as Recreational: • The classification would allow for a healthy balance of competing interests: protection of the ORV, while providing reasonable certainty that future water development projects would receive consideration and could move forward with minimal difficulty • The Norwood Water Commission has requested future rights to develop water via a pump station at Goat Creek (a significant project) and development of the Naturita Canal is moving forward • Overall, there was a great deal of public support for suitability. The Recreational classification would allow for development of water rights if the Vegetation ORV continues to be protected.
15 - Dry Creek Page 59	Wild	Not Suitable	The not suitable recommendation was based upon the following discussion: • The area does not receive significant visitation and the terrain protects the canyon to some extent • The biggest threats to the segment are oil and gas development (but there has not been much exploration to date) • ACEC designation as well as No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations are potential management alternatives for the segment being considered during the RMP development process • Because the creek flows intermittently, the contribution of the segment to the National Wild and Scenic River program is questionable • With five miles of private land at the upper end of the segment and three miles of private land between the

SEGMENT NUMBER & NAME/ELIGIBILITY REPORT PAGE #	BLM ELIGIBILITY CLASSIFICATION	SUBGROUP RECOMMENDATION	NOTES/JUSTIFICATION
			segment and the San Miguel River, as well as accompanying senior private water rights, the segment could be difficult to manage • A rough 4WD road runs through the segment, making it unsuitable for Wild classification.
16 - Naturita Creek Page 62	Scenic	Not Suitable	Fish species for which the Fish ORV was assigned are found primarily within private property at the lower end of the segment and the landowners in that portion do not support WSR suitability. While a private landowner (Dave Foley) with property at the upper end of the segment has expressed strong support for suitability, there is uncertainty as to whether a Vegetation ORV can be substantiated in the stretch. The BLM is currently conducting an on-site review. Another landowner (Lockhart) within the segment has a conservation easement on their property.
17 - Saltado Creek Page 64	Wild	Suitable	The subgroup acknowledges and concurs with the strong support for suitability that the segment has received from private property owners.
18 - San Miguel River, Segment 1 Page 66	Recreational	Suitable	Overall, there is significant support for a suitable recommendation. While there are concerns regarding uranium and recreational placer mining within the segment, the subgroup believes that the Recreational classification would allow for the continuation of these activities.

SMA EXHIBIT 6

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS
for the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers and Tributaries

Segment Number & Name/Eligibility Report Page #	BLM Eligibility Classification	Subgroup Recommendation	Notes/Justification
19 - San Miguel River, Segment 2 Page 70	Wild	Suitable with modifications	There is significant support for a suitable recommendation. The natural geography of the segment drove the subgroup's recommendation that the segment should be shortened to end at the Bennett property in order to protect the landowner's interests at Horsefly Creek, and the corridor should extend only to the canyon rims and end at the confluence with Horsefly Creek. In addition, the subgroup considered the overall land health to be of great concern for the segment. While the impact of grazing on the Vegetation ORV is addressed to some extent through the current ACEC and Special Recreation Management Area designations, WSR designation would provide longer lasting protections.
20 - San Miguel River, Segment 3 Page 73	Scenic	Suitable for Recreational classification	The subgroup recommends that the segment be reclassified as Recreational due to the CC Ditch and a dirt road that runs parallel to the river. In addition, the BLM has two campgrounds along this stretch and there are a significant number of mining claims in the area. This segment is popular for recreation gold mining. The Bennett property, as well as private land at the lower end of the segment, should be excluded from the suitability recommendation.
21 - San Miguel River, Segment 5 Page 76	Recreational	Suitable with modifications	The subgroup recommends that the segment be significantly reduced, beginning downstream from the Richards' property, running the length of TNC property, and terminating at the confluence with Tabeguache Creek. In addition, the group recommends that the boundaries of the protective corridor extend rim to rim and be delineated by existing developments and natural barriers (such as the state highway).
22 - San Miguel River, Segment 6 Page 79	Recreational	Suitable with modifications	The subgroup recommends that the segment begin downstream of Umetco Minerals Corporation property and terminate at the confluence with the Dolores River. The subgroup will contact the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding the Umetco Minerals Corporation Uravan site. If there is sufficient support, then DOE lands beginning at the bridge below Uravan could be included in the segment.

Segment Number & Name/Eligibility Report Page #	BLM Eligibility Classification	Subgroup Recommendation	Notes/Justification
23 - Tabeguache Creek, Segment 1 Page 82	Wild	Suitable	The subgroup recommends that the segment begin at the USFS boundary and end one-quarter mile from private property. The Wild classification complements existing protections in the area, including designation as a specially managed "Area," and provides a good management tool for the BLM.
24 - Tabeguache Creek, Segment 2 Page 84	Recreational	Not Suitable	The ability to manage the segment is compromised by significant portions of private land. The private landowners do not support recommending the segment as suitable.
25 - Lower Dolores River Page 88	Scenic	Suitable with modifications	The subgroup recommends that the segment be shortened to exclude private property (ending at the Weimer property). In addition, the corridor boundary should be modified to protect mining claims and delineated on the east side by the highway and on the west side by a geographic marker such as the canyon rim or other natural feature.
26 - North Fork Mesa Creek Page 91	Scenic	Not Suitable	Due to a review by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program that lowered the rarity ranking of the Narrowleaf cottonwood/strapleaf willow/silver buffaloberry plant community to G3, the segment no longer possesses an ORV to support eligibility.
27 - Dolores River, Segment 2 Page 94	Recreational	Suitable with modifications	The subgroup recommends suitability for the public land portion of the segment (5.3 miles), but not for private land portions (6.2 miles). In addition, the group recommends aligning the protective corridor to exclude the Buck Shot Mine and associated ROW. The segment boundary would follow the cliff line if less than one quarter mile from the river center.
28 - Ice Lake Creek, Segment 2 Page 98	Scenic	Not Suitable	The subgroup recommends that the segment be found not suitable based upon the following discussion: • Mining occurs on the mesa along the northern end of the segment • The segment length is extremely short • The segment terminates on private land, which could make the area more difficult to manage.

SMA EXHIBIT 6

BLM Colorado Southwest Resource Advisory Council
WILD AND SCENIC RIVER SUITABILITY RECOMMENDATIONS
for the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers and Tributaries

Segment Number & Name/Eligibility Report Page #	BLM Eligibility Classification	Subgroup Recommendation	Notes/Justification
29 - La Sal Creek, Segment 1 Page 100	Recreational	Not Suitable	Extensive private land would make the segment difficult to manage. A significant number of private landowners do not support finding the segment suitable.
30 - La Sal Creek, Segment 2 Page 102	Scenic	Suitable for Recreational classification with modifications	The subgroup recommends that the segment be found suitable with the following modifications: • Change the classification from Scenic to Recreational in order to accommodate potential future mining activities and road improvements • Shorten the segment to end at and exclude the Cashin Mine.
31 - La Sal Creek, Segment 3 Page 104	Wild	Suitable	The subgroup recommends that the segment be classified as Wild due to the pristine, wild, and remote character of the area. In addition, the segment provides critical habitat for warm water fish.
32 - Lion Creek, Segment 2 Page 107	Scenic	Not Suitable	The subgroup recommends that the segment be found not suitable due to the short length, as well as a measure of self-protection already afforded by the steep slopes of the corridor and restricted access from private land. Land owners within the segment do not support finding the segment suitable.
33 - Spring Creek Page 109	Recreational	Not Suitable	The subgroup recommends that the segment be found not suitable due to the short length and an extensive amount of interspersed private land that could make the segment difficult to manage, as well as a measure of self-protection already afforded by the steep slopes of the corridor.
34 - Dolores River, Segment 1 SJPLC Draft Land Management Plan, Page D-14	Recreational	Suitable for Wild classification with modifications	The subgroup believes that a suitability recommendation complements the Wilderness Study Area designation and is consistent with other WSR designations for portions of the Dolores River outside of the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office. In order to avoid interference with mining operations, the subgroup recommends that the segment begin at the UFO boundary and terminate at the private land boundary (T47N/R18W/Section 31) south of Bedrock, and that the corridor extend from rim to rim or ¼-mile from the high water mark (whichever measure is less).

14 - BEAVER CREEK

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Scenic**

ORVs: **Vegetation**

Key Points:

- A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community for this segment might only be achieved through WSR designation.
- The primary private landowner within the corridor has expressed support for WSR designation.
- Beaver Creek provides value-added flow for the proper hydrologic function of the San Miguel River system and river-dependent resource values (including aquatic and riparian plant and animal species).

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Recreational Classification**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

While mining is not a significant factor within the segment, the subgroup finds that the following issues render the segment better suited to classification as Recreational:

- The classification would allow for a healthy balance of competing interests: protection of the ORV, while providing reasonable certainty that future water development projects would receive consideration and could move forward with minimal difficulty
- The Norwood Water Commission has requested future rights to develop water via a pump station at Goat Creek (a significant project) and development of the Naturita Canal is moving forward
- Overall, there was a great deal of public support for suitability. The Recreational classification would allow for development of water rights if the Vegetation ORV continues to be protected.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- The primary private landowner (Heritage Partnership) within the corridor has expressed support for WSR designation.
- San Miguel County expresses support for a finding of suitable based upon the segment's riparian vegetation and primarily federal land.
- Three comments note that flow through the segment is essential for sustaining the riparian community within Beaver Canyon and the health of the San Miguel River.
- Two comments express general support for WSR designation.
- Two comments recommend that the BLM coordinate with the USFS to consider extending the segment into national forest lands in order to protect additional stream-related resources, rather than making the terminus an arbitrary administrative boundary.
- One comment notes that the segment consists almost entirely of federally-managed land, simplifying the effective implementation of protective management if designated.

Opposing Suitability:

- No comments were received specifically opposing WSR designation for Beaver Creek.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Beaver Creek provides value-added flow for the proper hydrologic function of the San Miguel River system and river-dependent resource values (including aquatic and riparian plant and animal species).

There are no absolute or conditional water rights or impoundments within the segment. Ditch diversions totaling 28 cfs and storage rights totaling 203 acre-feet of decreed water rights upstream of the segment and on tributaries diminish flow through the segment primarily during irrigation season. Conditional water rights totaling 10 cfs for direct flow rights and 6,043 acre-feet of storage rights occur upstream of the segment and on tributaries. If developed, these water rights would be senior to the instream flow water right. The Norwood Water Commission has a conditional water right on the San Miguel River.

The Naturita Canal presently diverts water from Beaver Creek upstream of the segment. The diversion is presently limited to a portion (approximately 60%) of the full decree due to water conveyance limitations of the canal system. As the infrastructure is improved to increase the water carrying capacity of the canal, more of the decree will be diverted, further depleting flows through the segment (based upon personal communication with Colorado Division of Water Resources Water Commissioner Aaron Todd). This water right is senior to both the existing state instream flow and any federal water right associated with designation. In the Statewide Water Supply

Initiative (SWSI 2004), the CWCB identified upper Beaver Creek as a potential dam site to help supply future water needs in the San Miguel Basin.

A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community within the segment might only be achieved through federal designation. The CWCB holds an instream flow water right along a portion of the segment decreed for 5 cfs (from May 1 to June 30) and 2.5 cfs (from July 1 to April 30), which is structured to protect the natural environment to a reasonable extent. The instream flow provides some protection to sustain the Vegetation ORV. A 2.7-mile portion of the segment from the upper terminus to the confluence with Goat Creek is not protected by a water right.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND USES

Land ownership is primarily federal within an approximately one quarter-mile buffer of the creek. Within San Miguel County, over 13% of land in the corridor is private. Private lands on the east side of Beaver Creek are in the Forestry, Agriculture, and Open Zone, which is intended to preserve large, relatively remote areas of the county for resource, agricultural, open space, and recreational proposes. These areas currently have minimum public facilities and services and are considered inappropriate for substantial development. Development and/or special uses are encouraged to be located away from environmentally sensitive land.

Private lands on the west side of the corridor are within the Wright's Mesa Zone District. The district is intended to preserve the rural and agricultural character of Wright's Mesa while encouraging compatible, diverse economic opportunities that complement the rural landscape. Wright's Mesa has a history of co-existing agricultural, ranching, residential, and small business uses that comprise its rural character. The district discourages sprawl patterns typically created by 35-acre lots by offering reasonable alternatives and incentives to cluster buildings, retain open lands, and keep large parcels intact.

The Beaver Creek corridor is closed to OHV use. If developed, a conditional water right on the San Miguel River could require an ROW along portions of Beaver Creek.

ROWs

Numerous BLM ROW authorizations cross or run adjacent to the creek, including distribution and WAPA/Tri-State transmission powerlines, a gas pipeline, a CDOT highway, and a county road. These ROWs are primarily concentrated near the confluence with the San Miguel River.

Energy and Mineral Resources

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

Although compatible with WSR designation, neither the existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern nor the Special Recreation Management Area designation (nor the state instream flow water right) secure sufficient instream flow to sustain the Vegetation ORV.

Few existing roads and trails in the segment somewhat restrict access. WSR designation would complement the BLM Colorado Public Land Health standard for riparian vegetation.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORV, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

The costs for administering and managing this segment for the riparian Vegetation ORV would not likely increase much above current funding levels. The segment is remote, has limited trail access, and the riparian zone is primarily federal land managed as an ACEC for riparian protection, factors that assist in protecting the ORV. It is therefore unlikely that additional facilities would be required.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

WSR designation would provide the highest level of protection for the riparian Vegetation ORV by necessitating acquisition of a federal water right that produces a flow rate mimicking natural, seasonal variation. Several existing authorities and segment features provide a lesser level of ORV protection, including an ACEC designation that protects riparian values, an existing state-based instream flow water right, environmentally supportive San Miguel County land use codes, and a high percentage of federally managed land within the corridor.

15 - DRY CREEK

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Wild**

ORVs: **Scenic, Geologic**

Key Points:

- The segment is within a potential Area of Critical Environmental Concern being considered during development of the Uncompahgre RMP and an area undergoing travel management planning, both of which would provide significant protection for the ORVs.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Not Suitable**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The not suitable recommendation was based upon the following discussion:

- The area does not receive significant visitation and the terrain protects the canyon to some extent
- The biggest threats to the segment are oil and gas development (but there has not been much exploration to date)
- ACEC designation as well as No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulations are potential management alternatives for the segment being considered during the RMP development process
- Because the creek flows intermittently, the contribution of the segment to the National Wild and Scenic River program is questionable
- With five miles of private land at the upper end of the segment and three miles of private land between the segment and the San Miguel River, as well as accompanying senior private water rights, the segment could be difficult to manage
- A rough 4WD road runs through the segment, making it unsuitable for Wild classification.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- San Miguel County expresses support for a finding of suitable based upon the segment's exceptional visual character.
- Two comments note that Dry Creek traverses a uniquely un-roaded landscape, providing important wildlife support and general ecological vibrancy.
- Two comments state that Dry Creek contributes seasonally significant streamflow to the San Miguel River.
- Two general comments recommend extending the segment upstream of the UFO administrative boundary.
- One comment states that the distinctive scenery and geology of the area—formed in large part by the creek—warrant strong protective management for the stream and corridor.
- One comment states that the nearly 100% federally-managed land along the corridor and extensive federal land beyond the corridor, simplify protective management of the segment.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County Board of County Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation, stating that it would not be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- One comment notes that the scenic and geological features will not be changed or harmed by not designating the segment.
- One comment opposes designation due to the potential effects on historic uses of the area.
- One comment opposes designation due to the possible negative effects to the local economy.
- One comment states that the segment receives adequate protection through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- One comment states that designation would create fragmented management systems, making the area more difficult and costly to administer.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

There is no instream flow water right protection for the segment. An absolute water right diversion of 5 cfs for irrigation near the lower terminus has seniority over any future instream flow water right associated with designation. Upstream of the segment, absolute water rights include ditch diversions totaling 97 cfs and reservoir storage totaling 170 acre-feet. These rights are also senior to any instream flow associated with WSR designation.

In addition, conditional water rights upstream of the segment include ditch diversions totaling 135 cfs and reservoir storage totaling 136,400 acre-feet. If developed, these water rights would be senior to any instream flow water right associated with WSR designation.

Land Ownership and Uses

ROWs and Withdrawals

Hecla Mining has ROWs for earthen berm water diversion structures and a tank site within the corridor.

Energy and Mineral Leasing

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. According to the State of Colorado Oil and Gas Commission electronic well records database, an abandoned oil and gas well remains within the corridor. Current lode mining claims have a prior existing right to lode mineral deposits. No BLM authorizations exist for these claims.

Administration

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

The costs for administering and managing this segment for the Scenic and Geologic ORVs would not likely increase much above current funding levels. The segment is remote, has limited trail access, and the stream corridor is nearly all (greater than 99%) federal or state managed lands, factors that assist in protection of the ORVs and support the Wild classification. It is therefore unlikely that additional facilities would be needed if the segment was designated. While just under 0.1% of the stream corridor contains private land, there is no known benefit in acquiring this land to support the ORVs.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

The segment is within a potential Area of Critical Environmental Concern being considered during development of the Uncompahgre RMP and an area undergoing travel management planning. Implementing travel restrictions would help to protect the area from surface-disturbing activities.

16 - NATURITA CREEK

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Scenic**

ORVs: **Fish**

Key Points:

- Numerous conditional water rights in the Naturita Creek drainage are senior to any federal water right associated with WSR designation.
- The Fish ORV is concentrated in the lower reaches of the segment.
- During suitability analysis, BLM staff determined that CWCB appropriation of a state instream flow water right would provide significant protection for the Fish ORV.
- A substantial amount of private land is distributed in a diffuse pattern throughout the corridor.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Not Suitable**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The fish species for which the Fish ORV was assigned are primarily found within private property at the lower end of the segment and the landowners in that portion do not support WSR suitability.

While a private landowner (Dave Foley) with property at the upper end of the segment has expressed strong support for suitability, there is uncertainty as to whether a Vegetation ORV can be substantiated in the stretch. The BLM is currently conducting an on-site review. Another landowner (Lockhart) within the segment has a conservation easement on their property.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- San Miguel County expresses support for a finding of suitable based upon the segment's primitive nature and the Fish ORV.

- Two comments state that the rare habitat supports exemplary populations of endangered native fish and species of concern, warranting the strongest possible protection for streamflow, water quality, and riparian vegetation.
- Two comments state that the BLM should coordinate with the USFS to consider extending the segment onto national forest lands in order to protect additional stream-related resources, rather than assigning an arbitrary administrative boundary.
- Two landowners in the upper portion of the segment express support for a finding of suitable.
- One comment notes that Naturita Creek contributes significantly to the flow and health of the San Miguel River and provides essential riparian habitat.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County Board of County Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Six comments express concern regarding the negative influence that WSR designation would have on existing land and water uses.
- Four comments express concern over the negative effect that WSR designation would have on the socioeconomic future of the area, including impacts to private landowners.
- Three comments state that the large amount of scattered private land would make the segment difficult to manage.
- Three comments note that there would be high potential for jurisdictional disputes over administrative roles and presence in an area with significant amounts of private land.
- Two comments state that ongoing management and protection by the private landowner is preferable to intervention by agencies with potentially conflicting agendas.
- One comment states that WSR designation is unnecessary because the area is not subject to intense development.
- One comment states that WSR designation would fragment the area, making it more difficult and costly to manage.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Naturita Creek provides value-added flow for the proper hydrologic function of the San Miguel River system and river-dependent resource values (including aquatic and riparian plant and animal species).

Five diversion ditches decreed for 2.73 cfs are scattered between the lower and upper terminus and would be senior to any instream flow water right associated with WSR designation. Absolute water right decrees upstream of the segment on the mainstem and tributaries (including Maverick Draw) consist of ditch diversions totaling 1,623 cfs and storage rights totaling 43,000 acre-feet. These water rights cause significant depletion of stream flow through the segment. Changing points of

diversion on existing water rights within the segment could be limited by any instream flow right associated with WSR designation.

Development of conditional water rights would be senior to any instream flow water right established as part of WSR designation and would further diminish flow through the segment. Conditional water rights on the mainstem and tributaries upstream of the segment include ditch diversions totaling 8.4 cfs and storage rights totaling 19,434 acre-feet.

The CWCB holds an instream flow water right decreed for 3 cfs year-round from above the upper terminus (at the Uncompahgre National Forest boundary) to a county road crossing just upstream of the confluence with McKee Draw (4.81 miles) structured to protect the natural environment to a reasonable extent, including the Fish ORV. Due to the many surface water diversions in the creek, this instream flow progressively loses value downstream of the confluence with McKee Draw.

Land Ownership and Uses

Almost 50% of the corridor consists of private land encompassing parts of San Miguel and Montrose counties. Portions of the corridor within Montrose County are zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

Portions of the corridor within San Miguel County and to the east and north of Naturita Creek are within the Wright's Mesa Zone District. The district is intended to preserve the rural and agricultural character of Wright's Mesa, while encouraging diverse economic opportunities compatible with the rural landscape. A history of co-existing agriculture, ranching, residential, and small business uses comprise the rural character of the area. The district discourages the sprawl pattern typically created by 35-acre lots by offering alternatives and incentives to cluster buildings, retain open lands, and keep large parcels intact.

Portions of the corridor within San Miguel County and to the south and west of Naturita Creek are within the West End Zoning District. The district is intended to preserve large, relatively remote areas of western San Miguel County for resource, agricultural, open space, and recreational purposes, while protecting private property rights. These areas currently have minimal public facilities and services and are considered premature for substantial development. Development in these areas preserves historical, archeological, and natural resources and landmarks, while allowing individuals to farm, ranch, and use necessary resources with limited intrusion on property rights.

ROWs

Numerous ROWs exist within the corridor, including Highways 145 and 141, county roads, powerlines, telephone lines, a water pipeline, and an access road to private property.

Energy and Mineral Resources

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. While portions of the segment are within an area identified by the USGS as having coal potential, the classification does not preclude WSR designation. There are no mining claims within the corridor.

ADMINISTRATION

The diffuse and scattered pattern of private land within the corridor could make this segment difficult to administer. Given the current level of water depletion in Naturita Creek, sufficient flow needed to protect the fish population might need to be acquired from existing decree owners. WSR designation would be consistent with the BLM Colorado Public Land Health standard for special status species.

Proposed management actions include designating the area as a Special Recreation Management Area, as well as conducting travel management planning for Burn Canyon (part of the Norwood Recreation District in Montrose and San Miguel counties).

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORV, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

The costs for administering and managing this segment for the Fish ORV would be substantially higher than current funding levels.

Approximately half (3,177 acres) of the stream corridor is composed of private land with a fragmented pattern throughout most of the reach that could restrict access and limit available management options within the stream corridor. Significant land acquisition from willing sellers would be necessary in order to effectively and proactively manage for the ORV. Some stream channel modification projects might be needed to facilitate fish propagation.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

Apart from WSR designation, options for protecting the Fish ORV include actions implemented in accordance with the Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub *(Gila robusta)*, Bluehead Sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and Flannelmouth Sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)*.

BLM staff determined that appropriation of an instream flow water right below McKee Draw by the Colorado Water Conservation Board would provide significant protection for the Fish ORV.

17 - SALTADO CREEK

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Wild**

ORVs: **Vegetation**

Key Points:

- A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community might only be achieved through WSR designation.
- Saltado Creek provides value-added flow for the proper hydrologic function of the San Miguel River system and river-dependent resource values (including aquatic and riparian plant and animal species).
- San Miguel County and a local homeowners association support WSR designation.
- The majority of the segment is comprised of contiguous BLM-administered lands, allowing for efficient and cost-effective management if designated.
- There are no roads or water right diversions within the segment.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Wild Classification**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup acknowledges and concurs with the strong support for suitability that the segment has received from private property owners.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- San Miguel County and a local homeowners association have expressed support for WSR designation.
- Four comments note that Saltado Creek contributes significantly to the flow and health of the San Miguel River and supports stream-related values worth protecting.

- Three comments encourage the BLM to coordinate with other agencies, including the USFS and FWS, to ensure protection of the extended riparian ecosystem.
- Two comments express general support for WSR designation.
- One comment notes that extensive federally-managed land along the lower four miles of the segment would facilitate effective management.

Opposing Suitability:

- One comment states that this segment receives adequate protection through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- One comment states that WSR designation of Saltado Creek would fragment the area, making it more difficult and costly to manage.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community might only be achieved through federal designation. The CWCB holds an instream flow water right along the entire segment decreed for 2 cfs (from May 1 to June 30) and 1 cfs (from July 1 to April 30) and structured to protect the natural environment (including the Vegetation ORV) to a reasonable extent. Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the San Miguel River.

There are no water diversions or impoundments within the segment. Absolute water rights upstream of the segment include ditch diversions totaling 39 cfs and storage rights totaling 11.4 acre-feet. These water rights cause some depletion of stream flow through the segment, especially during the irrigation season.

Conditional water rights above the upper terminus include flow diversions totaling 5 cfs and storage rights totaling 15 acre-feet. If developed, these water rights would have seniority over the existing instream flow and any water right established as part of WSR designation, and could further diminish flow through the segment.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND USES

Approximately 18% of the corridor consists of private land within the Forestry, Agriculture, and Open Zone District of San Miguel County. The district is intended to preserve large, relatively remote areas of the county for resource, agricultural, open space, and recreational proposes. These areas currently have minimal public facilities and services and are considered inappropriate for substantial development. Development and special uses are encouraged to be located outside of environmentally sensitive areas.

Special Designations

The segment is within the San Miguel Special Recreation Management Area and Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The area is closed to OHV use.

ROWs and Withdrawals

Numerous BLM ROW authorizations cross or briefly run adjacent to the creek, including distribution and telephone lines, a CDOT highway, two WAPA transmission lines, and the Tri-State Nucla-Sunshine 115 kV transmission project.

While portions of the segment are within an area identified as a federal Power Site, the classification does not preclude WSR designation. The federal government acquired public access easement across private lands adjacent to the creek in the southern upper reach of the segment.

Energy and Mineral Leasing

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

The northern lower reach of the segment has contiguous public land and lack of development, while along the southern upper reach, land ownership is split. WSR designation would be consistent with the BLM Colorado Public Land Health standard for riparian vegetation.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORV, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the riparian Vegetation ORV would require a moderate increase over current funding levels. The segment is remote, has no developed access, and 82% of the corridor is federal land managed as an ACEC for riparian protection, factors that assist in protecting the ORV.

It is unlikely that additional facilities would be necessary as a result of WSR designation. If available for purchase from willing sellers, private land parcels within the corridor would have added value for ORV protection.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

WSR designation would provide the highest level of protection for the riparian Vegetation ORV by necessitating acquisition of a federal water right that produces flow rates mimicking natural, seasonal variation. However, several existing authorities and segment features provide a lesser level of ORV protection, including: an ACEC designation intended to protect riparian values, an existing state-based instream flow water right, environmentally supportive San Miguel County land use codes, and a high percentage of federally managed land within the corridor.

18 - SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 1

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Recreational**

ORVs: **Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Historic, Vegetation, Paleontology**

Key Points:

- The segment contains a wide array of ORVs.
- A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community for this segment might only be achieved through WSR designation.
- Over 80% of land within the segment is public. Most of the segment is within San Miguel County, which has expressed support for WSR designation. A small portion of the segment is within Montrose County, which opposes designation.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Recreational Classification**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The segment has received significant public support for a suitable recommendation. While there was concern regarding uranium and recreational placer mining within the segment, the subgroup believes that a Recreational classification would allow for the continuation of these activities.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- San Miguel County has expressed support for WSR designation.
- Five comments note that the river contributes valuable flow to support downstream river-related values (such as fish and riparian vegetation).
- Four general comments recommend that all San Miguel River segments be found suitable.
- Two comments support WSR designation and recommend that all mineral development be excluded from the corridor.

- One comment states that this segment has unparalleled scenery and attendant natural and cultural features.
- One comment recommends suitability based upon the number and quality of ORVs.
- One comment expresses support for WSR designation, but recognizes the complexities of administering the area due to the patchwork of federal and private land.
- One comment notes that WSR designation would provide recreational opportunities that benefit local economies.
- One comment supports WSR designation to protect the outstanding river canyon setting and one of the last undammed rivers in Colorado.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County Board of County Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Eleven comments express concern that WSR designation may limit future mining activities within the corridor.
- Nine comments state that existing area designations are sufficient to protect the ORVs.
- Four comments express opposition because of the potential negative impact WSR designation could have on water rights.
- Two comments express opposition because of potential negative impact that WSR designation could have on historic uses in the area.
- Two comments remark that WSR designation would hamper future economic development in the local area.
- Two comments express general opposition to WSR designation.
- One comment expresses concern that WSR designation would fragment the area, making it more difficult and costly to manage.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the Lower San Miguel River and Dolores River downstream. The CWCB holds two instream flow water rights structured to protect the natural environment to a reasonable extent. The instream flow provides some protection to sustain the ORVs. Instream flow from Deep Creek to Fall Creek provides for a year-round flow of 20 cfs, while the flow from Fall Creek to the lower terminus calls for 93 cfs from May 1 to October 14 and 61 cfs for the remainder of the year. Flow needed to support some recreational boating activities and riparian protection might only be secured through water rights associated with WSR designation.

Approximately six water diversions scattered along the segment are not prominent features in the corridor and do not detract from the natural character of the river. Impoundments upstream of the segment include Trout Lake and Hope Lake on the Lake Fork tributary. There are a few off-channel impoundments within the segment associated with Cascabel Ranch near the lower terminus.

According to a draft BLM San Miguel Instream Flow Assessment, senior water rights on the main stem of the San Miguel River between Horsefly Creek and Naturita Creek divert water downstream of the segment. Much of this water demand is conveyed through the segment, but is limited primarily to the irrigation season.

Estimates from the HydroBase Colorado Decision Support System indicate that there are more than 160,000 acre-feet of conditional storage water rights on either the main stem or tributaries within and upstream of the segment. If developed, these rights could influence flow through the segment.

Much of the water needed to meet future demands would come from conservation practices and development of existing water rights, including some conditional water rights in the San Miguel Basin. Most of these rights are senior to existing instream flow water rights or any instream flow created through WSR designation.

According to a draft BLM San Miguel instream flow assessment, dam sites identified on the main stem are unlikely to be developed given current costs and concern over environmental impacts.

Any new water right or change to existing water rights is limited by the instream flow water right and would contain BLM conditions to ensure compliance with the WSR Act.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND USES

Zoning

A portion of the segment within Montrose County is zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of these uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

Portions of the corridor downstream of Beaver Creek and on the southwest side of the San Miguel River are within the Wright's Mesa Zone District in San Miguel County. The district is intended to preserve the rural and agricultural character of Wright's Mesa while encouraging diverse economic opportunities compatible with the rural landscape. Wright's Mesa has a history of coexisting agriculture, ranching, residential, and small business uses that comprise its rural character. The district discourages large-lot patterns of sprawl (typically created through 35-acre developments) by offering alternatives and incentives to cluster buildings, retain open lands, and keep large parcels intact.

The remaining portions of the corridor within San Miguel County are primarily in the Forestry, Agriculture, and Open Zone District. The district is intended to preserve large, relatively remote areas of the county for resource, agricultural, open space, and recreational purposes. These areas currently have minimal public facilities and services and are considered inappropriate for substantial development. Development and/or special uses are encouraged to be located away from environmentally sensitive land.

The incorporated town of Placerville is zoned into two districts: The Placerville Residential Zone District provides areas and design standards for single-family residences surrounding the Placerville Commercial Zone District. The Placerville Commercial Zone District provides standards for commercial establishments located on Front Street in Placerville and at the southwest corner of the intersection of State Highways 62 and 145 west of Placerville. The size of the district cannot be increased.

There are a few planned unit developments along the San Miguel River in the vicinity of the incorporated town of Sawpit. The allowed uses within the planned unit developments are primarily single family housing on large lots (with a minimum of 35 acres). Other uses, such as multi-family housing and neighborhood commercial development, are allowed upon approval from the Board of County Commissioners.

ROWs and Withdrawals

ROWs within the segment include four power and nine telephone lines, gas pipelines, private access roads, county roads, a highway, an historic ditch, two WAPA 345-kilovolt power lines, the McKeever drift fence to the USFS boundary, and C-64335 river diversion weirs.

While portions of the segment are within an area identified by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission as having potential for hydropower development, the Power Site classification does not preclude WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Leasing

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. According to the State of Colorado Oil and Gas Commission electronic well records database, there is an abandoned oil and gas well within the corridor.

Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

Several private land parcels are scattered throughout the corridor. A small portion of the segment is within Montrose County, which has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation.

WSR designation would complement BLM Colorado Public Land Health standards for riparian vegetation and wildlife.

Special Designations

Most of the segment is within a Special Recreation Management Area and an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

The costs for managing this segment for the Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Historic, riparian Vegetation, and Paleontologic ORVs would be moderately higher than current funding levels. The segment is within an existing SRMA and an ACEC from Placerville downstream, both of which have resulted in additional funding and resource protection actions along the river corridor.

A state highway parallels most of this reach, providing for easy access and use of the river and riparian area.

The segment includes several scattered parcels of private land. The BLM would pursue land acquisition from willing sellers as funding and opportunities arose, which would add value toward management and protection of the ORVs.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

While WSR designation would provide the most comprehensive protection for the ORVs, several existing authorities and segment features provide some lesser level of ORV protection:

- ACEC and SRMA designations emphasize management for riparian and recreation values.
- An existing state-based instream flow water right in the San Miguel River helps to sustain the water-dependent ORVs.
- Development objectives on private lands in most of the segment are within the San Miguel County Land Use Code, which promotes preserving large remote areas for resource, agricultural, open space, and recreational purposes.
- A large portion of private land within the corridor is managed by The Nature Conservancy, which supports a finding of suitability.

In addition, conservation easements could be pursued on select private portions of the corridor, which would be value added in providing protection for the ORVs.

19 - SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 2

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Wild**

ORVs: **Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, Vegetation**

Key Points:

- The segment contains a wide array of ORVs.
- The segment is comprised entirely of public lands.
- A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community for this segment might only be achieved through WSR designation.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Wild Classification with Modifications**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

There was significant support for a suitable recommendation. The natural geography of the segment drove the subgroup's recommendation that the segment should be shortened to end at the Bennett property in order to protect the landowner's interests at Horsefly Creek, and the corridor should extend only to the canyon rims and end at the confluence with Horsefly Creek.

In addition, the subgroup considered overall land health to be of greatest concern for the segment. While the impact of grazing on the Vegetation ORV is addressed to some extent through the current ACEC and Special Recreation Management Area designations, WSR designation would provide longer lasting protections.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- Five comments offer support for finding the entire segment suitable.
- Four comments note the significant contribution of the river's flow to river-related values (such as fish and riparian vegetation) downstream.

- Two comments encourage the BLM to coordinate with other agencies, including the USFS and FWS, to ensure protection of the extended riparian ecosystem.
- Two comments recommend that all mineral development be excluded from the corridor.
- One comment states that this relatively short segment contains unusually undisturbed stream and corridor features, warranting the strongest possible protection.
- One comment notes that land within the segment is 100% federally managed, simplifying the implementation of effective protective management.
- One comment states that WSR designation would provide recreational opportunities that benefit local economies.
- One comment expresses support for WSR designation in order to protect the outstanding river canyon setting and one of the last undammed rivers in Colorado.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County Board of County Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation, as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Twelve comments express concern that WSR designation may limit future mining activities in the corridor.
- Nine comments indicate that the segment receives adequate protection through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- Five comments express concern that WSR designation could negatively impact water rights.
- Three comments state that WSR designation could negatively impact historic uses of the area.
- Two comments state that upstream, off channel storage may be necessary and WSR designation would restrict local management of the river water.
- Two comments express general opposition to WSR designation.
- Two comments state that WSR designation would hamper future economic development in the local area.
- One comment states that WSR designation would create fragmented management systems, making the area more difficult and costly to manage.
- One comment expresses concern that WSR designation of this segment could restrict future growth in the West End of Montrose County.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Water yield through the segment significantly contributes to the proper hydrologic function of the lower San Miguel River and Dolores River downstream.

The CWCB holds an instream flow water right along the entire segment decreed for 93 cfs from May 1 to October 14 and 61 cfs the remainder of the year structured to protect the natural

environment to a reasonable extent. The instream flow provides some protection to sustain the ORVs.

There are no absolute or conditional water rights or impoundments within the segment.

If developed, conditional water rights upstream of the segment could influence flow through the segment. Estimates from the HydroBase Colorado Decision Support System indicate that there are more than 160,000 acre-feet of conditional storage water rights upstream of the segment, on either the mainstem or tributaries.

There are a few impoundments upstream of the segment, including Trout Lake and Hope Lake (on the Lake Fork tributary), and a few off-channel impoundments associated with Cascabel Ranch near the lower terminus.

New water rights or changes to existing water rights are limited by the existing instream flow right. If designated, the BLM could add terms and conditions to ensure compliance with the WSR Act.

Senior rights on the main stem of the San Miguel River divert water in the reach between Horsefly Creek and Naturita Creek downstream of this segment (based upon San Miguel legal and institutional analysis). Much of the water demanded by these diversions is conveyed through the segment, primarily limited to the irrigation season.

Much of the water needed to meet future demand in the San Miguel River Basin would come from conservation practices and development of existing water rights, including some of the existing conditional water rights in the San Miguel Basin. Most of these rights are senior to both the existing instream flow water rights and any instream flow created through WSR designation.

According to San Miguel legal and institutional analysis, potential dam sites on the San Miguel River (downstream of Leopard Creek near the confluence with Beaver Creek and above Horsefly Creek) and major tributaries (including Horsefly Creek and Maverick Draw) identified in the 2004 SWSI are unlikely to be developed given current costs and concern over environmental impacts. Saltado Reservoir (with a conditional fill and refill right totaling over 140,000 acre-feet on the San Miguel River downstream of Specie Creek) is included in this assessment.

Land Ownership and Uses

Approximately 1.7% of the corridor consists of private land zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a fee or special use permit. Many of the uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

Special Designations

The segment is within an ACEC, as well as a Special Recreation Management Area. WSR designation is compatible with these existing designations.

Withdrawals

While portions of the segment are within an area classified as having potential for hydropower, the federal Power Site classification does not preclude WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Resources

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

There is no road access within the segment.

River flow needed to support some recreational boating activities and provide ample protection for the riparian vegetation might only be secured through water rights associated with WSR designation. Designation would complement BLM Colorado Public Land Health standards for riparian vegetation and wildlife.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Estimated costs for administering and managing this segment for the Scenic, Recreational, Wildlife, and riparian Vegetation ORVs would be slightly higher than current funding levels. The river corridor is remote, has limited trail access, and is entirely comprised of federal land, most of which is managed as both an ACEC (for riparian protection) and an SRMA. These designations provide some additional funding necessary for managing and protecting the ORVs.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

The area is identified in the Colorado Citizens Wilderness Proposal and the Colorado **Wilderness Act** of 2009 (H.R. 4289) introduced by Congresswoman Diana DeGette. WSR designation would be compatible with wilderness designation and wilderness characteristics.

The segment is within an ACEC, as well as a Special Recreation Management Area.

20 - SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 3

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Scenic**

ORVs: **Recreational, Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation**

Key Points:

- The segment contains a wide array of ORVs.
- A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community within the segment might only be achieved through WSR designation.
- Sufficient flow for certain recreational boating activities might only be secured with water rights acquired through WSR designation.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Recreational Classification**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommended that the segment be reclassified as Recreational due to the CC Ditch and a dirt road that runs parallel to the river. In addition, the BLM operates two campgrounds along this stretch and there are a significant number of mining claims in the area. This segment is popular for recreation gold mining. The Bennett property, as well as private land at the lower end of the segment, should be excluded from the suitability recommendation.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- Five comments recommend finding the entire segment suitable.
- Four comments note the critical contribution of San Miguel River flows to support downstream river-related values (such as fish and riparian vegetation).

- Two comments stress the need to designate this segment to protect recreational uses and aquatic habitat.
- Two comments express support for WSR designation and recommend that all mineral development be excluded from the corridor.
- One comment notes that private land within the segment is consolidated in one location and would not significantly affect implementing essential protective measures.
- One comment expresses support for suitability without the private lands near the upper terminus of the segment.
- One comment states that WSR designation would provide recreational opportunities that benefit local economies.
- One comment expresses support for WSR designation in order to protect the outstanding river canyon setting and one of the last undammed rivers in Colorado.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Eleven comments express concern that WSR designation might restrict future mining activities in the corridor.
- Eleven comments indicate that this segment receives adequate protection through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- Nine comments express concern that WSR designation may affect current and future water use.
- Five comments state that WSR designation could negatively impact historic uses of the area.
- Two comments express general opposition to WSR designation.
- Two comments state that WSR designation could hamper future economic development in the local area.
- One comment states that WSR designation would fragment the area, making it more difficult and costly to administer.
- One comment states that the segment should not be designated due to the number of ROWs within the corridor.
- One landowner requests that private land at the lower terminus of the segment not be included.

BLM ASSESSMENT

Water Rights and Uses

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the lower San Miguel River and Dolores River downstream. There is no instream flow water right on the segment, so changes or enlargements to existing water rights or new water rights on private property could further diminish flow.

Four absolute water rights within the segment divert up to 153 cfs for irrigation and some municipal use. An instream flow right associated with WSR designation could limit the ability to change points of diversion on existing water rights.

The Highline Canal diversion (decreed for 145 cfs) is located about one mile downstream of the upper terminus and parallels the San Miguel River for most of the segment. The canal is senior to most other water rights and is primarily used for crop irrigation downstream in late summer, when irrigation demand is high and snowmelt has diminished.

While there are no existing impoundments within the segment, Trout Lake and Hope Lake impound water upstream on the Lake Fork tributary. In addition, there are a few off-channel impoundments near the lower terminus associated with Cascabel Ranch.

Estimates from the HydroBase Colorado Decision Support System indicate that there are more than 204,000 acre-feet of conditional water storage rights upstream of the segment, on both the main stem and tributaries. Much of the water needed to meet future demand is likely to come from conservation practices and development of existing water rights, including conditional rights in the San Miguel Basin. Most of these rights would be senior to any instream flow created through WSR designation.

Future potential dam sites identified on the San Miguel River and major tributaries are unlikely to be developed given current costs and concerns with environmental impacts (according to a draft BLM instream flow assessment). This would include the Saltado Reservoir on the San Miguel River downstream of Specie Creek, which has a conditional water right for fill and refill totaling over 140,000 acre-feet.

Land Ownership and Uses

Approximately 17.8% of the corridor consists of private lands zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit). Many of the uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

Special Designations

WSR designation would be consistent with existing Area of Critical Environmental Concern and Special Recreation Management Area designations.

ROWs and Withdrawals

Highway 90, Transco and Rocky Mountain Natural Gas pipelines, two Tri-State transmission lines, and one distribution powerline cross the segment. The Highline Canal, telephone lines, and a county road parallel the segment. There is a private access road one quarter to one half mile to the west and a water pipeline within one quarter mile to the north.

While portions of the segment are identified as having potential for hydropower development, the federal Power Site classification does not preclude WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Leasing

According to a State of Colorado Oil and Gas Commission electronic well records database, there are existing oil and gas leases within the segment, as well as two abandoned oil and gas wells. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community for this segment might only be achieved through WSR designation.

River flow needed to support certain recreational boating activities might only be secured through water rights associated with WSR designation.

WSR designation would complement BLM Colorado Public Land Health standards for riparian vegetation, special status species, and wildlife.

This segment supports habitat for native warm water fish, making WSR designation consistent with actions in the Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub *(Gila robusta)*, Bluehead Sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and Flannelmouth Sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)*. Depletion of flow by the Highline Canal might inhibit the ability to sustain the Fish ORV, as well as the Vegetation ORV.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the Recreational, Fish, Wildlife, and riparian Vegetation ORVs are estimated to be moderately higher than current funding levels. The segment is managed as an SRMA and an ACEC (for riparian protection), both of which have provided some funding for facilities and maintenance to protect the ORVs.

With easy access to the river corridor provided by a county road running parallel to the river, visitor use could increase if designated and additional funding for facilities would likely be needed. If purchased from willing sellers, private land parcels within the corridor would have added value for ORV protection.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

While WSR designation would provide the most comprehensive protection for the ORVs, other existing authorities provide some level of ORV protection, including the ACEC and SRMA designations, which emphasize management for riparian and recreation values. Conservation easements could be pursued for select private portions of the corridor, which would add value toward ORV protection. Appropriation of a state-based instream flow water right through the segment would also help to sustain the ORVs.

21 - SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 5

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Recreational**

ORVs: **Recreational, Fish, Historic, Vegetation**

Key Points:

- Water yield contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the Lower Dolores River downstream.
- A stream flow regime that mimics the natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community might only be attainable through WSR designation.
- The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is the principal landowner and has expressed strong support for WSR designation of the segment.
- The CWCB has declared its intent to appropriate a state instream flow for the lower San Miguel River.

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
0.01			7.50	**7.51**	**<1.0%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres): **Still to be calculated**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Recreational Classification with Modifications**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommends that the segment be significantly reduced, beginning downstream from the Richards property, running the length of TNC property, and terminating at the confluence with Tabeguache Creek. In addition, the group recommends that the boundaries of the protective corridor extend rim to rim and be delineated by existing developments and natural barriers (such as the state highway).

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- Nine comments highlight the significant flow contribution of the San Miguel River in support of downstream river-related values (such as fish and riparian vegetation).
- Two comments support WSR designation and recommend that all mineral development be excluded from the corridor.

- One comment encourages the BLM to coordinate with other agencies to ensure protection of the extended riparian ecosystem.
- One comment expresses support for WSR designation without road closures.
- One comment states that WSR designation would provide recreational opportunities benefitting local economies.
- One comment expresses support for WSR designation in order to protect the outstanding river canyon setting and one of the last undammed rivers in Colorado.
- One comment expresses general support for WSR designation of this segment.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation, as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Montrose County expresses the need to maintain public access along portions of the segment, specifically for emergency connections to the Paradox Area. Montrose County also expressed the belief that river management would be better served with a segment break at Tabeguache Creek, because the river has more consistent hydrology and would be less complicated to manage.
- Fifteen comments express concern that WSR designation could limit future mining activities in the corridor.
- Ten comments express the belief that the segment receives adequate protection through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- Nine comments express concern that WSR designation could impact current and future water use.
- Six comments express concern that WSR designation could negatively impact historic uses of the area.
- Three comments state that WSR designation would fragment and make the area more difficult and costly to manage.
- Two comments state that WSR designation would hamper future economic development in the local area.
- Two comments express general opposition to WSR designation.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the Lower Dolores River.

There is currently no instream flow protection for the segment. The BLM and CDOW have recommended and the CWCB has declared its intent to appropriate an instream flow for the

lower San Miguel River (from the confluence of Calamity Draw to the confluence with the Dolores River) of 325 cfs (from April 15 to June 14), 170 cfs (from June 15 to July 31), 115 cfs (from August 1 to August 31), 80 cfs (from September 1 to February 28), and 115 cfs (from March 1 to April 14) structured to benefit the propagation of native warm water fishes. Until an instream flow water right is appropriated, changes or enlargements to existing water rights, or new water rights could occur on private property, further diminishing flow.

While there are no existing impoundments within the segment, there are a few small impoundments upstream (including Trout Lake and Hope Lake on the Lake Fork tributary), and a few off-channel impoundments near lower the terminus associated with Cascabel Ranch.

The segment contains approximately six water diversions, at least two (San Miguel Power Company Canal and Johnson Ditch) of which were owned by Umetco Minerals Corporation and donated to the CWCB for other than decreed uses. Decision on the fate of these water rights is pending, but potential future uses include conveying a portion to Montrose County or local governments within the San Miguel Basin, and donating a portion to an instream flow right in the lower San Miguel River. Future use of these rights could result in changes to existing points of diversion.

According to estimates from the HydroBase Colorado Decision Support System, there are over 349,000 acre-feet of conditional storage water rights upstream of the segment, on either the mainstem or tributaries of the San Miguel River. If developed, these water rights would be senior to any instream flow or federal water right for the segment and could further diminish flow.

Much of the water needed to meet future regional demand would be derived through conservation practices and development of existing water rights, including conditional water rights in the San Miguel Basin. Most of these conditional water rights are senior to both existing instream flow water rights and any instream flow created through WSR designation.

SWSI (2004) identified future potential dam sites on the San Miguel River (downstream of Leopard Creek near the confluence with Beaver Creek and above Horsefly Creek) and major tributaries, including Horsefly Creek and Maverick Draw. According to a draft BLM San Miguel Instream Flow Assessment, even though dam sites have been identified on the mainstem, they are unlikely to be developed given current costs and concerns with environmental impacts. This would also include the Saltado Reservoir with a fill and refill right totaling over 140,000 acre-feet on the San Miguel River downstream of Specie Creek.

An instream flow or federal water right associated with WSR designation could restrict new water rights or changes to existing water rights.

Land Ownership and Uses

ROWs and Withdrawals

ROWs within the corridor include Colorado State Highway 141, several county roads, telephone and power lines, an historic irrigation ditch, and a water pipeline.

There is a bat maternity roost withdrawal in an abandoned uranium mine along the river.

While portions of this segment have been identified as having potential for hydropower development, the federal Power Site classification does not preclude WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Resources

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

WSR designation would complement the public land health standard for riparian vegetation and special status species. This segment supports habitat for native warm water fishes, and designation would be consistent with actions in the Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub *(Gila robusta)*, Bluehead Sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and Flannelmouth Sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)*.

TNC is the principal landowner within the corridor and supports WSR designation and working with the BLM to manage the segment ORVs.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

With a finding of suitability, the stream and corresponding corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Upon formal WSR designation, the segment could require additional funding for signage, public education, ranger patrolling, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use.

The segment is paralleled by State Highway 141, part of the Unaweep Tabeguache Scenic and Historic Byway. The highway provides easy access to the river corridor, and if designated, visitor use along the byway could be expected to increase somewhat.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

While WSR designation would provide the most comprehensive protection for the ORVs, TNC ownership affords significant protections. If appropriated, a state-based instream flow water right would help to sustain the Fish and Vegetation ORVs.

22 - SAN MIGUEL RIVER, SEGMENT 6

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Recreational**

ORVs: **Recreational, Fish, Historic, Vegetation**

Key Points:

- A stream flow regime that mimics the natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community might only be attainable through WSR designation.
- Water yield contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the Lower Dolores River downstream.
- The CWCB has declared its intent to appropriate a state instream flow for the lower San Miguel River.

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
2.10				**2.10**	**100%**

Land Ownership within One-Half Mile Wide Corridor (in Acres): **Still to be calculated**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Recreational Classification with Modifications**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommends that the segment begin downstream of Umetco Minerals Corporation property and terminate at the confluence with the Dolores River. The subgroup will contact the Department of Energy (DOE) regarding the Uravan site. If there is sufficient support, then DOE lands beginning at the bridge below Uravan could be included in the segment.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- Nine comments highlight the significant flow contribution of the San Miguel River in support of downstream river-related values (such as fish and riparian vegetation).
- Two comments note that private land is consolidated at one end of the segment and would not significantly affect implementing essential protective measures.
- Two comments support WSR designation and recommend that all mineral development be excluded from the corridor.
- One comment encourages the BLM to coordinate with other agencies to ensure protection of the extended riparian ecosystem.

- One comment expresses support for WSR designation without road closures.
- One comment states that WSR designation would provide recreational opportunities benefitting local economies.
- One comment expresses support for WSR designation in order to protect the outstanding river canyon setting and one of the last undammed rivers in Colorado.
- One comment expresses general support for designation of this segment.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation, as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Fifteen comments express concern that WSR designation could limit future mining activities in the corridor.
- Ten comments express the belief that the segment receives adequate protection through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- Nine comments express concern that WSR designation could impact current and future water use.
- Six comments express concern that WSR designation could negatively impact historic uses of the area.
- Three comments state that WSR designation would fragment and make the area more difficult and costly to manage.
- Two comments state that WSR designation would hamper future economic development in the local area.
- Two comments express general opposition to WSR designation.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the Lower Dolores River.

There is currently no instream flow protection for the segment. The BLM and CDOW have recommended and the CWCB has declared its intent to appropriate an instream flow for the lower San Miguel River (from the confluence of Calamity Draw to the confluence with the Dolores River) of 325 cfs (from April 15 to June 14), 170 cfs (from June 15 to July 31), 115 cfs (from August 1 to August 31), 80 cfs (from September 1 to February 28), and 115 cfs (from March 1 to April 14) structured to benefit the propagation of native warm water fishes. The CWCB will consider the appropriation recommendation at their January 25-26, 2011 meeting. Until an instream flow water right is appropriated, changes or enlargements to existing water rights, or new water rights could occur on private property, further diminishing flow.

While there are no existing impoundments within the segment, there are a few small impoundments upstream (including Trout Lake and Hope Lake on the Lake Fork tributary) and a few off-channel impoundments near the lower terminus associated with Cascabel Ranch.

There are a few small impoundments upstream of the segment (including Trout Lake and Hope Lake) located on the Lake Fork tributary.

According to estimates from the Colorado Decision Support System (HydroBase), there are more than 349,000 acre-feet of conditional storage water rights upstream of the segment, on either the mainstem or tributaries of the San Miguel River. If developed, these water rights would be senior to any instream flow or federal water right on this segment and could further diminish flow through this reach.

Much of the water needed to meet future demand would come from conservation practices and development of existing water rights, including some of the existing conditional water rights in the San Miguel Basin. Most of these conditional water rights are senior to both existing instream flow water rights and any instream flow created through WSR designation.

SWSI 2004 identified future potential dam sites on the San Miguel River (downstream of Leopard Creek near the confluence with Beaver Creek, and above Horsefly Creek) and major tributaries, including Horsefly Creek and Maverick Draw. According to a draft BLM San Miguel Instream Flow Assessment, although dam sites have been identified on the mainstem, they are unlikely to be developed given current costs and concerns with environmental impacts. This would also include the Saltado Reservoir with a conditional water right on the San Miguel River downstream of Specie Creek with a fill and refill right totaling over 140,000 acre-feet.

An instream flow or federal water right associated with WSR designation could restrict new water rights or changes to existing water rights.

Land Ownership and Uses

ROW and Withdrawals

ROWs within the corridor include Colorado State Highway 141, several county roads, telephone and powerlines, and an historic irrigation ditch and water pipeline.

While portions of the segment are within an area classified as having hydropower potential, the Power Site classification does not preclude WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Resources

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

Administration

WSR designation would complement BLM Colorado Public Land Health standards for riparian vegetation and special status species.

This segment supports habitat for native warm water fishes, and designation would be consistent with actions in the Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub *(Gila robusta)*, Bluehead Sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and Flannelmouth Sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)*.

The BLM is uncertain regarding the position of Umetco Minerals Corporation on WSR designation.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the Recreational, Fish, Historic, and riparian Vegetation ORVs would be moderately to significantly higher than current funding levels. With easy access to the river corridor provided by the paralleling county road, visitor use would be expected to increase if designated. As a result, additional funding for facilities would likely be needed.

A county road currently infringes on the stream channel and riparian zone along portions of this reach. With future county plans to possibly widen the road, costly measures would be necessary to avoid additional impacts to the river corridor. If purchased from willing sellers, private lands in the upper reaches of the segment would add value for ORV protection.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

While WSR designation would provide the most comprehensive protection for the ORVs, conservation easements on select private portions of the corridor would offer added value toward protecting the ORVs. If appropriated, a pending, state-based instream flow water right would help sustain the Fish and Vegetation ORVs.

23 - TABEGUACHE CREEK, SEGMENT 1

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Wild**

ORVs: **Vegetation**

Key Points:

- Existing designation as a Special Management Area offers significant protection to sustain the Vegetation ORV.
- Limited water development in the upper Tabeguache Basin results in a flow regime that mimics natural conditions.
- A contiguous 3.7-mile upstream portion of Tabeguache Creek managed by the USFS is identified as eligible in the Proposed Land Management Plan for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (2007), based upon Scenic and Cultural ORVs.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Wild Classification**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommends that the segment begin at the USFS boundary and end one-quarter mile from private property. The Wild classification complements existing protections in the area, including designation as a specially managed "Area," and provides a good management tool for the BLM.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- Three comments encourage the BLM to coordinate with other agencies to ensure protection of the extended riparian ecosystem.
- One comment identifies the need to protect the wild landscape and natural values of the area.

- One comment notes that the predominance of federally managed land would simplify effective management of the segment.
- One comment supports preserving the wilderness values of the segment through a congressional designation in keeping with the status of surrounding lands.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Two comments express concern over the effect that WSR designation would have on private land.
- One comment expresses concern over the effect that WSR designation would have on historic uses of the area.
- One comment expresses concern with the effect that WSR designation would have on water rights.
- One comment states that the segment receives adequate protection through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- One comment states that WSR designation would fragment the area, making it more difficult and costly to manage.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of lower Tabeguache Creek and the lower San Miguel River downstream. An instream flow water right appropriation has been finalized for the segment. The instream flow would provide some protection to sustain the Vegetation ORV.

An irrigation diversion known as Skees Ditch was decreed for 1.92 cfs in 1939 by the State of Colorado, but no records are available indicating if and when it was constructed. A field assessment conducted by BLM personnel in May 2009 found no physical sign of a diversion or ditch. Although the Skees Ditch has not been developed, it is considered an absolute water right by Colorado and would be senior to both the pending state instream flow and any federal instream flow resulting from WSR designation.

Glencoe Ditch in the Tabeguache headwaters is presently decreed to divert up to 17 cfs, and would have seniority over any instream or federal water right established as part of WSR designation. Changing the diversion point on an existing water right within the segment could be limited in the future by any instream flow right associated with WSR designation.

There are no impoundments or conditional water rights within the segment. Diversions totaling 22.18 cfs are decreed upstream of this segment. Conditional water rights upstream of the segment include 2.0 cfs for diversion and 30 acre-feet for storage.

Land Ownership and Uses

Land ownership adjacent to the segment is almost entirely federal. Approximately 0.6% of the segment at the lower terminus consists of private lands zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the allowable and special uses are not related to agriculture and have potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

A contiguous 3.7-mile upstream portion of Tabeguache Creek managed by the USFS is identified as eligible in the Proposed Land Management Plan for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests (2007), based upon Scenic and Cultural ORVs.

Special Designations

This segment and the contiguous USFS segment are within the Tabeguache Area, an area withdrawn by Congress and managed to protect wilderness values. Due to the designation, the only foreseeable actions within the segment are likely to be BLM-proposed projects. Access is limited to non-mechanized and non-motorized use.

Administration

The source water area upstream of this segment is primarily managed by the USFS. Existing authorities provide adequate management capability to protect the stream flow and sustain the ORV.

WSR designation would be consistent with policies and authorities afforded by designation as a Special Management Area and would complement the BLM Colorado Public Land Health standard for riparian vegetation.

Tabeguache Creek contributes significant flow to the Lower San Miguel and Dolores Rivers, supporting habitat for native warm water fish. WSR designation would be consistent with actions in the Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub *(Gila robusta)*, Bluehead Sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and Flannelmouth Sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)*.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORV, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the riparian Vegetation ORV would not likely increase much above current funding levels. The segment is remote, has limited access along undeveloped trails, and the riparian zone is completely under federal management, factors that assist in protecting the ORV. Additional facilities would not be needed if designated. A small amount of additional funding would be needed for signage, public education, ranger patrolling, and maintenance.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

An existing Special Management Area designation and a state-based instream flow water right provide significant protection to sustain the Vegetation ORV. In addition, the watershed upstream of this segment is dominated by lands managed by the U.S. Forest Service as a Special Management Area and has a state-based instream flow water right, both of which would aid in future management, administration, and preservation of the area.

24 - TABEGUACHE CREEK, SEGMENT 2

BLM Eligibility Classification: Recreational

ORVs: Cultural, Vegetation

Key Points:

- Congressional designation of an area upstream of the segment (that includes Tabeguache Creek, Segment 1 and a contiguous USFS segment) to protect its wilderness values ensures reliable flow, while a recently finalized state-based instream flow water right would contribute additional flow to help sustain the Vegetation ORV.
- The upper Tabeguache Basin has experienced limited water development and has few conditional water rights, resulting in a flow regime that mimics natural conditions most of the year, except during late season irrigation.
- The majority of the source water area upstream of the segment is managed by the BLM or USFS. Existing authorities allow for management actions necessary to protect river flow and sustain the ORV.
- Private property within the corridor consists of three distinct parcels separated by public land.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Not Suitable**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Significant portions of private land interspersed throughout the corridor have the potential to make the segment difficult to manage. Private landowners within the segment do not support suitability.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- One comment expresses support for protecting the creek's streamflow contribution to the San Miguel River, and the superior examples of unique stream-dependent riparian vegetation.
- One comment states that, although less than 70% of the land within the segment is federally managed, 100% of the land immediately above the stream's confluence with the San Miguel River is federally owned, facilitating effective implementation of protective management.
- One comment expresses support for WSR designation on federally managed portions of the segment.

Opposing Suitability:

- The Montrose Board of County Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Two comments oppose WSR designation due to the potential impact on historic uses of the area.
- One comments states that this segment receives adequate protection without WSR designation through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- One comment states that WSR designation would fragment the area, making it more difficult and costly to manage.
- One comment opposes WSR designation but recommends strong prescriptions to protect the archaeological and cultural resources in the immediate area.
- One comment expresses general opposition to WSR designation.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the Lower San Miguel River downstream. One small impoundment occurs within the segment. An instream flow water right appropriation has been finalized for this segment.

While the water right would provide additional protection to sustain the Vegetation ORV, the Templeton Ditch restricts flow during the native fish spawning season from April through June. The Templeton Ditch is decreed for 5.5 cfs and significantly dewaters the channel downstream of the diversion during late summer months. The water right is senior to the instream flow water right.

Although it has not been in use for several years, the Uravan pipeline diversion and ROW located near the lower terminus of the segment remains an active water right. Several small stock reservoirs and ditch diversions on tributaries draining into the segment are decreed for a total of

62.3 cfs and 46 acre-feet of storage rights. Changing points of diversion on existing water rights within the segment could be restricted by any instream flow right associated with WSR designation.

If developed, a conditional water right ditch diversion of 3.5 cfs upstream of the segment could result in additional diminution of flow through the segment. Conditional water rights are senior to a pending state instream flow and any future instream flow associated with WSR designation.

The majority of the source water area upstream of this segment is managed by the BLM or USFS. Existing authorities allow for management actions to ensure adequate river flow needed to sustain the ORV.

Land Ownership and Uses

Private property within the corridor consists of three distinct parcels separated by public land. The scattered land configuration provides opportunities for land uses that could negatively impact public land within the corridor. Approximately 17.2% of the corridor consists of private land zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the allowable and special uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

Special Designations

Cultural resources within the segment are on the National Register of Historic Places.

Rights-of-Way and Withdrawals

ROWs within the corridor include county roads V19 & U19, telephone and power lines adjacent to and crossing the creek, and an historic ditch adjacent to the creek in the upper part of the segment. Umetco owns a water pipeline and road adjacent to and crossing the creek.

While portions of the segment are identified by the USGS as having coal potential, and portions are in an area classified as a power site, neither classification precludes WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Leasing

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

Administration

WSR designation would complement the BLM Colorado Public Land Health standard for riparian vegetation.

Management actions in support of the Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub *(Gila robusta)*, Bluehead Sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and Flannelmouth Sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)* promote preserving the stream flow in Tabeguache Creek, which in turn benefits the Vegetation ORV.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the Cultural and riparian Vegetation ORVs would be moderately higher than current funding levels. Portions of the segment can be accessed by county roads which would facilitate increased visitor use if designated.

The corridor does include parcels of private land containing riparian vegetation. As funding and opportunities arise, the BLM would pursue land acquisition from willing sellers, which would add value for ORV management and protection.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

Congressional designation of an area upstream of the segment (that includes Tabeguache Creek, Segment 1 and a contiguous USFS segment) to protect its wilderness values ensures reliable flow through the segment, while a recently finalized state-based instream flow water right would contribute additional flow to help sustain the Vegetation ORV. Future water right applications on public land within the segment should contain BLM terms and conditions ensuring that the ORVs are sustained.

25 - LOWER DOLORES RIVER

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Scenic**

ORVs: **Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Fish, Wildlife**

Key Points:

- The segment contains a wide array of ORVs.
- The upper portion of the segment consists primarily of BLM-administered public land, while the downstream portion has a considerable amount of private land.
- The upstream portion of the segment has experienced little development, while the downstream portion contains mining claims and oil and gas leases.
- A state highway parallels the downstream portion of the river.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Scenic Classification with Modifications**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommends that the segment be shortened to exclude private property (ending at the Weimer property) and the corridor boundary be modified to protect mining claims, delineated on the east side by the highway and on the west side by a geographic marker such as the canyon rim or other natural feature.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- Four comments state that the Dolores River should receive immediate, thorough, and enduring protection, and that previous WSR suitability findings for this river should be reaffirmed in the plan update.
- Four comments recommend that oil and gas leasing should be prohibited in the Dolores River Corridor in order to protect the ORVs.

- Three comments state that this regionally significant river warrants consistent and coordinated status, management, and protection throughout the entire public portion.
- Two comments support suitability in order to protect the wild landscape and natural values of the area.
- One comment generally recommends that at least the federally managed portions of the segment be found suitable.
- One comment states that, even with the significant amount of private land, through cooperative agreements and other actions would help in implementing protective management.
- One comment encourages the BLM to coordinate with other agencies to ensure protection of the extended riparian ecosystem.
- One comment states that the Dolores River and its tributaries are the evocative, awe-inspiring lifeblood for many human and wildlife communities in western Colorado. In the face of accelerating change in the west, the unique geology, outstanding scenery, diverse recreational opportunities, and precious water resources of the Dolores River should be preserved for people, wildlife, and healthy natural systems.
- One comment stresses that the Dolores River is especially important for the protection and enhancement of riparian ecosystems spanning federal land management areas.
- One comment stresses that the Dolores River corridor, including the Paradox Valley and its rich wildlife and cultural resources, should be managed in close cooperation with private land owners and adjacent BLM field offices.
- One comment elaborates on the special natural features of the river, and states that the river basin spans numerous BLM and USFS offices and should be cooperatively managed to ensure that the river's serenity and beauty can continue to be enjoyed and explored.
- One comment states that the river corridor requires coordinated management between federal jurisdictions in order to preserve the ORVs.
- One comment states that, while the UFO portion of public land within the corridor is smaller and the stretch of the Dolores River is shorter than those of adjoining BLM field offices, it forms the core of the river ecosystem, and urges the UFO to consider the portion within its jurisdiction to be an integral part of the larger Dolores River ecosystem when making management decisions regarding the area.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Three comments oppose WSR designation due to potential negative impacts on historic uses and water rights in the area.
- Two comments state that there is adequate protection for and ability to manage the area through existing federal, state, and local regulations.

- One comment states that many of the outstanding values in the area are associated with recreational opportunities that may be negatively impacted by WSR designation.
- One comment expresses concern that WSR designation would fragment the area, making it more difficult and costly to manage.
- One comment recommends exploring feasible management alternatives to WSR designation.
- One comment opposes WSR designation due to lack of water in the Dolores River and potential negative impacts to water rights.
- One comment states that this segment receives adequate protective management through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- One comment recommends that the UFO coordinate with the BLM Grand Junction Field Office, as the lower terminus of the segment forms the boundary between the two field offices. In addition, the comment recommends finding only the southern portion of the segment suitable (Segment 25A), as the northern portion (Segment 25B) contains a patchwork of private land.

BLM ASSESSMENT

Water Rights and Uses

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the Lower Dolores River downstream (within the Grand Junction Field Office). There is no instream flow water right protection on the segment. An instream flow right associated with WSR designation could restrict the ability to change points of diversion on existing water rights within the segment.

There are no conditional water rights or impoundments within the segment. Two small diversions along the lower reaches of the segment do not detract from the natural character of the river.

Flow through the segment is significantly diminished by the operation of the McPhee Dam upstream. A large portion of natural water yield entering the reservoir is transferred out of the basin, primarily for agricultural uses. Water rights associated with the McPhee Reservoir are senior to the instream flow water right on the downstream reach.

Most future water demand will be met through conservation practices and development of existing water rights. According to the Statewide Water Supply Initiative (2004), between 400,000 and 500,000 acre-feet of conditional storage water rights upstream throughout the San Miguel and Upper Dolores basins predate any future state or federal instream flow right. As rights are perfected to meet future water demand, flows through the segment could be diminished. Additional water developments for uses such as irrigation are likely to increase along with the growing population.

The Statewide Water Supply Initiative has identified reservoir sites on Beaver Creek and Plateau Creek flowing into the McPhee Reservoir that could be operated to increase flows in the Dolores

River below the McPhee Reservoir. Beaver Creek and Plateau Creek reservoir sites are a high priority for the Southwest Basins Roundtable of Colorado Interbasin Compact Committee.

Land Ownership and Uses

Approximately 29.6% of the corridor consists of private lands zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As currently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

ROWs and Withdrawals

ROWs within the segment include telephone lines, powerlines, a highway, county roads, private access roads, and a gravel pit.

While public lands adjacent to the river are withdrawn to the Department of Energy as a potential Power Site, the classification does not preclude WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Leasing

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have prior existing right to mineral deposits.

Administration

Because of limited unappropriated water, it is unlikely that the high flows needed to sustain recreational activities could be secured through WSR designation.

Managing this segment to sustain native warm water fish is consistent with actions in the Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub *(Gila robusta)*, Bluehead Sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and Flannelmouth Sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)*.

WSR designation would complement BLM Colorado Public Land Health standards for special status species and wildlife.

The GJFO has made no decision regarding Dolores River segments, pending a basin-wide discussion.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

The costs for administering and managing this segment for the Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Fish, and Wildlife ORVs would be substantially higher than current funding levels. The lower portion of this segment is paralleled by State Highway 141, providing diffuse access points to this portion of the river corridor. If designated, the potential increase in visitor use, especially in the lower portion

of the corridor, would require additional funding for facilities, public education, signage, additional weed control, and ranger patrolling. Visitor use in the upper portion of the segment would be limited to mostly river-based recreation activities which would require a small amount of additional funding for maintenance and primitive camp and day use site development.

If purchased from willing sellers, private land parcels within the corridor would have added value for ORV protection.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

Approximately 41 acres of private land could be eliminated from the segment to alleviate zoning issues.

Warm water fish would receive significant protection by acquiring a state-based instream flow water right for this segment.

The Visual Resource Management classification of the segment could be upgraded to protect the Scenic ORV.

The Hanging Flume receives protection through listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

26 - NORTH FORK MESA CREEK

NOTE: A review by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program (CNHP) lowered the rarity ranking of the Narrowleaf cottonwood/strapleaf willow/silver buffaloberry plant community to G3, eliminating the Vegetation ORV that supported eligibility for the segment.

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Scenic**

ORVs: **Vegetation**

Key Points:

- There is little water development in the headwaters of the North Fork Mesa Creek, which produces a flow regime mimicking natural conditions.
- The majority of the source water area upstream of the segment is managed by the BLM or USFS and existing authorities provide for ample management actions to protect stream flow needed to sustain the Vegetation ORV.
- Several ROWs occur within the corridor.
- There is a significant amount of private land in the lower reach of the segment.

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
5.81			2.72	**8.53**	**68.1%**

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

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,042.4			424.5	**2,466.9**	**82.8%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Not Suitable**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Due to a review by the CNHP that lowered the rarity ranking of the Narrowleaf cottonwood/ strapleaf willow/silver buffaloberry plant community to G3, the segment no longer possesses an ORV to support eligibility.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- One comment cites the necessity of protecting the wild landscape and natural values in the area.

- One comment states that the predominance of federally managed land along the upper portion of the segment could simplify the implementation of effective management.
- One comment expresses general support of WSR designation for the segment.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation, as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Two comments state that this segment has adequate protection through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- One comment states that WSR designation would fragment the area, making it more difficult and costly to manage.
- One comment opposes WSR designation due to the short segment length with non-contiguous ownership of land parcels, which would make effective management of the segment difficult.
- One comment asserts the need to retain access for mining activities if designated.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

The North Fork of Mesa Creek contributes flow to Mesa Creek and the Lower Dolores River, providing habitat for native warm water fish. WSR designation would be consistent with actions in the Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for the Roundtail Chub *(Gila robusta)*, Bluehead Sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and Flannelmouth Sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)*.

The CWCB holds instream flow water rights along the entire segment structured to protect the natural environment to a reasonable extent. The instream flow provides some protection to sustain the Vegetation ORV. From the lower terminus and 3.90 miles upstream to Cedar Tree Ditch Diversion, seasonal instream flow is 2.1 cfs for the period from April 1 to May 31. From Cedar Tree Ditch to the upper terminus, instream flow appropriation varies throughout the year. Between April 1 and May 31, appropriated instream flow is 2.75 cfs. It drops to 0.5 cfs between June 1 and February 29, and rises to 1.9 cfs between March 1 and March 31.

There are three water diversions in the lower reach, but only the Patterson Ditch has a decreed flow (of 14.12 cfs). The Patterson ditch diversion is located on public land. This water right is senior to the existing instream flow water right and any federal water right associated with WSR designation. An instream flow right associated with WSR designation could restrict the ability to change points of diversion for existing water rights within the segment.

A number of stock watering facilities in headwater tributaries constitute the only water use above the upper terminus.

There are no conditional water rights within or upstream of the segment.

Any additional water right filings or changes to existing diversions would be junior to the instream flow water right.

Land Ownership and Uses

Approximately 17.2% of the corridor consists of private lands zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the allowable and special uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

ROWs and Withdrawals

ROWs include telephone and power lines. A county road runs along the creek, dominating the setting for much of the segment. Unsurfaced roads cross the stream in a couple of locations.

There is a bat maternity roost withdrawal along the creek.

While portions of the segment are within an area identified as a potential Power Site, the federal classification does not preclude WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Leasing

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

Administration

WSR designation complements the BLM Colorado Public Land Health standard for riparian vegetation.

Private land at the lower portion of the corridor could create challenges for managing the area.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

Because the BLM and USFS manage the headwaters of the North Fork of Mesa Creek, authorities exist to preserve a flow regime that mimics the natural variability needed to sustain the Vegetation ORV.

27 - DOLORES RIVER, SEGMENT 2

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Recreational**

ORVs: **Scenic, Recreational, Geologic, Fish, Wildlife, Vegetation**

Key Points:

- A series of alluvial water wells adjacent to the river are managed by the BOR as part of the Paradox Valley Unit, Salinity Control Project.
- The segment contains a wide array of ORVs.
- The upstream portion of the segment is dominated by private land, while the downstream portion is comprised primarily of public land and has experienced little development.
- A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community for this segment might only be achieved through WSR designation.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Recreational Classification with Modifications**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommends suitability for the public land portion of the segment (5.3 miles), but not for private land portions (6.2 miles). In addition, the group recommends aligning the protective corridor to exclude the Buck Shot Mine and associated ROW. The segment boundary would follow the cliff line if less than one quarter mile from the river center.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- Four comments state that the Dolores River should receive immediate, thorough, and enduring protection, and that previous findings of WSR suitability should be reaffirmed in the plan update.

- Four comments recommend that oil and gas leasing be prohibited within the Dolores River corridor in order to protect the ORVs.
- Three comments state that this regionally significant river warrants consistent and coordinated management and protection throughout the entire public portion.
- One comment states that, in the face of accelerating change in the west, the Dolores River Basin's unique geology, profoundly moving scenery, diverse recreational opportunities, and precious water resources must be preserved for people, wildlife, and healthy natural systems.
- One comment stresses that the Dolores River corridor, including the Paradox Valley and its rich wildlife and cultural resources, should be managed in close cooperation with adjacent BLM field offices and private land owners.
- One comment elaborates on the many special, natural features of the Dolores River, and states that the entire river basin spans numerous BLM and USFS offices and should be cooperatively managed to ensure that the river's serenity and beauty can continue to be enjoyed and explored.
- One comment states that preserving the ORVs in the Dolores River corridor requires coordinated management between various federal jurisdictions.
- One comment states that, while the UFO portion of public land within the corridor is smaller and the stretch of the Dolores River is shorter than those of adjoining BLM field offices, it forms the core of the river ecosystem, and urges the UFO to consider the portion within its jurisdiction to be an integral part of the larger Dolores River ecosystem when making management decisions regarding the area.
- One comment states that the BLM should continue its dialogue with stakeholders concerning management of the river, and that the BLM's main responsibility is to protect riparian habitat within the segment.
- One comment stresses that the Dolores River has a critical role in the protection and enhancement of riparian ecosystems spanning federally-managed land.
- One comment notes that the large portion of federally managed land in the segment should facilitate the implementation of effective protective measures.
- One comment expresses the need for protecting the wild landscape and natural values in the area and recommends a decisive finding of suitable.
- One comment recommends that the full length of the segment be found suitable.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County Board of Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- One comment recommends exploring feasible management alternatives to WSR designation.
- One comment opposes WSR designation due to insufficient water in the Dolores River and potential negative impacts to water rights.
- One comment expresses concern that WSR designation could fragment the area, making it more difficult and costly to manage.

- One comment states that this segment receives adequate protection through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- One comment expresses opposition to WSR designation due to potential negative impacts to historic uses and water rights in the area.
- One comment expresses concern that WSR designation could curtail future mining on mesa edges outside of the corridor but within view of the river.

BLM ASSESSMENT

Water Rights and Uses

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the Lower Dolores River downstream. The CWCB holds a year-round 78 cfs instream flow water right along the entire segment, structured to protect the natural environment to a reasonable degree, which also provides some protection to sustain the ORVs.

There are no conditional water rights within the segment. The only withdrawals are a series of alluvial wells along the corridor that are operated as part of Paradox Valley Unity, Deep Well Injection Salinity Control Project.

Flow is significantly diminished by the operation of the McPhee Dam upstream. A large portion of natural water yield entering the reservoir is transferred out of the basin, primarily for agricultural uses. Water rights associated with McPhee are senior to the instream flow water right.

The Statewide Water Supply Initiative (2004) has identified potential dam sites on Beaver Creek and Plateau Creek that flow into McPhee Reservoir and could be operated to increase flows below McPhee Reservoir. The Beaver Creek and Plateau Creek sites are a high priority for the Southwest Basins Roundtable of the Colorado Interbasin Compact Committee.

Most future water demand would come from conservation practices and development of existing water rights, including some 141,000 acre feet of conditional water rights in the basin (SWSI 2004). Many conditional rights are senior to both existing instream flow water rights and any instream flow resulting from WSR designation.

Land Ownership and Uses

ROWs and Withdrawals

BLM ROWs within the corridor include a Montrose County road, telephone and powerlines, and the Bureau of Reclamation Paradox Valley Salinity Control Project, including an evaporative salt disposal pond.

While portions of the segment are within an area identified as a potential Power Site, the federal classification does not preclude WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Resources

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community for this segment might only be achieved through WSR designation.

A Montrose County road located within the corridor may need to be upgraded and enlarged in the future.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the Scenic, Recreation, Geologic, Fish, Wildlife, and riparian Vegetation ORVs would be moderately to significantly higher than current funding levels. With easy access to the river corridor provided by the paralleling county road, visitor use would be expected to increase if designated. Additional funding would likely be needed for facilities and increased weed control.

A county road currently infringes on the stream channel and riparian zone along portions of this reach. With future county plans to possibly widen the road, costly measures would need to be employed to avoid additional impacts to the river corridor. Private land acquisition would not be pursued, as more than 43% of the stream segment is privately owned and contiguous, making it difficult for the BLM to acquire enough land to benefit management of the ORV.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

The Dolores River Working Group is proposing that the area be designated a National Conservation Area.

The area is being proposed as a Special Recreation Management Area and portions of the corridor are being proposed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

28 - ICE LAKE CREEK, SEGMENT 2

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Scenic**

ORVs: **Scenic**

Key Points:

- Landowners in the lower reach of the segment oppose WSR designation.
- The segment length is short and there are access issues involving private land within the segment.
- The BLM manages the source water areas that produce baseflow for the creek, providing protection for flow-dependent values.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Not Suitable**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommends that the segment be found not suitable based upon the following points of discussion:

- Mining occurs on the mesa at the northern end of the segment
- The segment length is extremely short
- The segment terminates on private land, which could make the area difficult to manage.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- One comment submitted by fourteen individuals expresses general support for all eligible tributaries of the Dolores River to receive immediate, thorough, and enduring protection.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County Board of County Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Four comments oppose WSR designation due to potential negative impacts on private property.
- One comment states that the scenic aspect is impacted by mines on the cliffs easily visible across La Sal Creek to the south and that the Scenic Classification on this segment is inconsistent with similar segments (#30 and #34).
- One comment expresses concern that designating the segment as a wild and scenic river could inadvertently attract destructive and inconsistent uses.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of La Sal Creek downstream. There is no instream flow water right protection on the segment.

One absolute water right near the lower terminus would be senior to any water right associated with WSR designation.

A federal water right associated with WSR designation could restrict changing the points of diversion for existing water rights within the segment.

There are no conditional water rights or impoundments within or upstream of the segment.

In the lower reaches, La Sal Creek is protected by an instream flow water right that could restrict future diversions from Ice Lake Creek.

Flow through the segment could be further reduced if diversion amounts are enlarged or diversion points are changed prior to securing an instream flow water right.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND USES

Approximately 42% of the corridor consists of private lands zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act. The private property in question is a contiguous parcel located just upstream of the lower terminus. The potential for impacts to the ORV due to lack of zoning controls would be limited on public land.

ROWs

A BLM road traverses the canyon just east of the creek.

Energy and Mineral Resources

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

Ice lake Creek contributes flow to La Sal Creek, providing spring spawning habitat for native warm water fish consistent with the Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub *(Gila robusta)*, Bluehead Sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and Flannelmouth Sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)*.

A large amount of private land hinders access to public land within the segment and a number of private landowners have expressed opposition to WSR designation.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the Scenic ORV would increase moderately above current funding levels. The public land portion of this segment is remote and has no developed access, both factors that would assist in the protection of the ORV. The lower reach of this segment is private land within which the Ice Lake Creek Corridor is bisected by Colorado State Highway 90.

Private land currently limits access to the public land portion of the corridor from the highway. Acquiring portions of private land from willing sellers would add value for managing and providing public access to this segment if designated. If designated, additional facilities would not likely be needed.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

The following options were identified as alternatives to WSR designation:

- Upgrade the Visual Resource Management classification in order to protect scenic values.
- Apply a No Surface Occupancy (NSO) stipulation to protect the corridor.
- Include conditions in the Uncompahgre RMP to protect the baseflow source water area at the upper terminus.

The Scenic ORV could be protected through existing authorities by requiring BLM conditions on all future applications and actions to ensure compatibility with the scenic classification.

29 - LA SAL CREEK, SEGMENT 1

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Recreational**

ORVs: **Fish, Vegetation**

Key Points:

- There is a significant amount of private land within the segment, along with significant opposition to WSR designation from private landowners.
- Land use zoning for private land within the segment is relatively non-restrictive.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Not Suitable**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Extensive private land would make the segment difficult to manage. A significant number of private landowners do not support finding the segment suitable.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- Fourteen replicated comments were received expressing general support for all eligible segments of the Dolores River and its tributaries to receive immediate, thorough, and enduring protection.
- One comment notes that, because La Sal Creek is in a remote location seemingly abandoned by the BLM, they support recognizing the area for something other than uranium leasing.
- One comment notes that they are not aware of any land use controls along La Sal Creek and would be happy to see this area respected as the unique Colorado natural area that it is.
- One comment notes that BLM protection could promote values that suffer due to the stigma associated with uranium mining.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation, as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Four comments oppose WSR designation due to the amount of private property and trespass issues within the segment.
- Two comments state that landowners work closely with county and state government entities to ensure protection and proper management of the canyon corridor, and large tracts of private land and sparse population ensure conservation of the area.
- One comment believes that the significant amount of development, private land, and water rights precludes the segment from WSR designation.
- One comment expresses concern over loss of water rights if the segment is designated.
- One comment notes that landowners seem to be in solidarity on preventing WSR designation for the segment.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community in this segment might only be achieved through WSR designation. The upstream terminus is along the Colorado-Utah state line and a significant portion of the headwaters are in Utah.

There is no instream flow water right protection on the segment. Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the lower reaches of La Sal Creek, which is protected by an instream flow water right, possibly restricting additional water development within the segment.

Four absolute water right diversions totaling 8.9 cfs within private portions of the reach are senior to any instream flow water right. A water right associated with WSR designation could restrict changing the points of diversion on existing water rights within the segment.

No conditional water rights or impoundments occur within the segment.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND USES

Approximately 47% of the corridor consists of private lands zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the allowable and special uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

ROWs and Withdrawals

ROWs within the segment include a CDOT highway and county roads. Telephone and power lines cross and run adjacent to La Sal Creek.

Energy and Mineral Leasing

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

The headwaters of La Sal Creek are in the State of Utah. A state-based instream flow water right would provide sufficient flow to sustain the Fish ORV, but would be inadequate for sustaining the Vegetation ORV. WSR designation would complement BLM Colorado Public Land Health standards for riparian vegetation and special status species.

A large amount and configuration of private land with non-restrictive zoning occurs within the segment. Large portions of private land have been converted to agricultural crops, making it difficult to manage for native riparian vegetation.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the Fish and riparian Vegetation ORV would be substantially higher than current funding levels. Some management actions to sustain the target fish species would continue with or without designation per the Range-Wide Conservation Agreement and strategy for Roundtail Chub, Bluehead Sucker, and Flannelmouth Sucker.

Private land acquisition would not be pursued, as more than 87% of the stream segment is privately owned, making it difficult for the BLM to acquire enough land to benefit management of the ORV. Some stream channel modification projects may be needed to facilitate fish propagation.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

Any future private water right or ROW application on public land within the segment should include BLM terms and conditions to protect the ORVs.

30 - LA SAL CREEK, SEGMENT 2

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Scenic**

ORVs: **Fish, Vegetation**

Key Points:

- A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community might only be achieved through WSR designation.
- Both the river segment and corridor consist primarily of public lands.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Recreational Classification with Modifications**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommends that the segment be found suitable with the following modifications:

- Change the classification from Scenic to Recreational in order to accommodate potential future mining activities and road improvements
- Shorten the segment to end at and exclude the Cashin Mine.

Supporting Suitability:

- Fourteen identical comments express general support for all eligible tributaries of the Dolores River to receive immediate, thorough, and enduring protection.
- One comment notes that the distinctive canyon corridor affords a stunning backdrop to outstanding recreational opportunities and that the stream provides important flow to the Dolores River, as well as an essential healthy riparian environment in an otherwise arid area, justifying the strongest possible protective measures.
- One comment notes that the predominance of federally-managed land within the segment would facilitate implementation of protective management.
- One comment expresses general support for WSR designation.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation for this segment, as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Two comments express concern over access to mining and water rights as a result of WSR designation.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of Lower La Sal Creek downstream.

The CWCB holds an instream flow water right along the entire segment decreed for 3 cfs (from December 15 to March 14), 5.1 cfs (from March 15 to June 14), and 1.2 cfs (from June 15 to December 14) and structured to protect the natural environment to a reasonable degree. The flow would also provide some protection to sustain ORVs by limiting future water right actions within and upstream of the segment.

No absolute or conditional water rights occur within the segment. No impoundments occur within or upstream of the segment to the Colorado-Utah state line. Four ditch diversions are located upstream of the segment within La Sal Creek, Segment 1.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND USES

The corridor consists primarily of public land. Approximately 11.8% of the corridor consists of private lands zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the uses are related to agriculture and have potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

ROWs

Numerous BLM ROW authorizations cross or run adjacent to the creek, including transmission powerlines, telephone lines, a CDOT highway, and a Montrose County road.

Energy and Mineral Resource

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

WSR designation would complement BLM Colorado Public Land Health standards for riparian vegetation and special status species.

A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community might only be achieved through WSR designation.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the Recreation, Fish, and riparian Vegetation ORVs would be moderately higher than current funding levels. With easy access to the river corridor provided by the paralleling county road, visitor use would be expected to increase if designated. Thus, additional funding would be needed for facilities, public education, signage, ranger patrolling, and maintenance.

If purchased from willing sellers, the privately owned portion of the corridor (approximately 12%) would contribute value toward ORV protection.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

An area encompassing the segment is being considered for ACEC designation during development of the Uncompahgre RMP.

31 - LA SAL CREEK, SEGMENT 3

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Wild**

ORVs: **Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Cultural, Vegetation**

Key Points:

- The entire segment is comprised of public land within the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area, facilitating effective management.
- The segment contains a wide array of ORVs.
- A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community within the segment might only be accomplished through WSR designation.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Wild Classification**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommends that the segment be classified as Wild due to the pristine, wild, and remote character of the area. In addition, the segment provides critical habitat for warm water fishes.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- Fourteen duplicate comments express general support for all eligible tributaries of the Dolores River to receive immediate, thorough, and enduring protection.
- One comment supports WSR designation, noting that the segment lies wholly within the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area and supports regionally rare riparian and scenic vibrancy, and that habitat health is reflected in the presence of healthy populations of regionally imperiled native fish.

- One comment supports WSR designation in order to protect the numerous significant ORVs within the segment, including exemplary populations of flannelmouth suckers, bluehead suckers, and roundtail chubs.
- One comment notes that federally-managed land along the stream is 100%, requiring the strongest possible protective management.
- One comment expresses general support for finding the entire segment suitable.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose County Board of Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation, as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the Dolores River downstream.

The CWCB holds an instream flow water right along the entire segment, structured to protect the natural environment to a reasonable extent. The water right is decreed for 3 cfs (from December 15 to March 14), 5.1 cfs (from March 15 to June 14), and 1.2 cfs (from June 15 to December 14), providing some protection to sustain the ORVs by limiting future water right actions within and upstream of the segment.

No absolute or conditional water rights occur in the segment. No impoundments occur within or upstream of the segment to the Colorado-Utah state line.

Four ditch diversions occur upstream of the segment within La Sal Creek, Segment 1.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND USES

All surrounding federal lands are within the Dolores River Canyon WSA.

Approximately 0.9% of the corridor consists of private lands zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the General Agriculture Zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

WSR designation would complement BLM Colorado Public Land Health standards for riparian vegetation and special status species.

Special Designations

The entire segment is located within the Dolores River Canyon WSA. While the WSA affords interim protection for the ORVs, the designation is transitory and should not be relied upon for enduring protection.

ROWs and Withdrawals

There are no known ROWs within the segment.

While portions of the segment are within an area identified as a Power Site, the federal classification does not preclude WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Resources

Because of the WSA designation, BLM-proposed projects are likely to constitute the only foreseeable development within the segment. Although lands under wilderness review continue to be subject to location under federal mining laws, location methods and subsequent assessment work are restricted to operations determined as meeting BLM nonimpairment criteria.

ADMINISTRATION

A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community might only be accomplished through WSR designation.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

The existing state-based instream flow water right provides significant is sufficient to sustain the warm water fishery, but may not be adequate for long-term sustainability of the Vegetation ORV.

The entire segment is located within the Dolores River Canyon WSA. The WSA designation affords some protection for the ORVs in accordance with the Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review (H-8550-1).

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the Scenic, Recreational, Fish, Cultural, and riparian Vegetation ORVs would be similar to slightly higher than current funding levels. The stream corridor is totally within the Dolores River Canyon WSA, is very remote and accessible only by an unmaintained non-motorized, non-mechanized trail, factors that assist in protection of the ORVs. The BLM presently incurs some costs in this area to implement the Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review. However, additional visitor use associated with WSR designation could generate the need for funding to develop staging facilities to support primitive recreation opportunities, signage, public education, ranger patrolling, and maintenance.

32 - LION CREEK, SEGMENT 2

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Scenic**

ORVs: **Vegetation**

Key Points:

- There is a significant amount of private land and landowner opposition to WSR designation in the lower reaches of the segment.
- Because the BLM manages the source water areas that produce baseflow for the creek, flow-dependent values could be protected through existing authorities.
- Existing authorities could provide significant protection for the Vegetation ORV by requiring that future BLM applications and actions be compatible with sustaining the riparian vegetation.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Not Suitable**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommends that the segment be found not suitable due to the short length, as well as a measure of self-protection already afforded by the steep slopes of the corridor and restricted access from private land. Land owners within the segment do not support finding the segment suitable.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- One comment submitted by fourteen individuals expresses support for all the eligible Dolores River tributaries to receive immediate, thorough, and enduring protection.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose Board of County Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Four comments state that the creek does not require special designation to be protected.
- One comment opposes WSR designation because of the impacts to historic uses in the area.
- One comment notes that, while the length, location, and percentage of federally managed land might not warrant a finding of suitable, the segment should be protected in other manners to ensure its continuing contribution to the health of the watershed.

BLM ASSESSMENT

Water Rights and Uses

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of La Sal Creek downstream, which is protected by an instream flow water right in the lower reaches that might also limit additional water development in Lion Creek. There is no instream flow water right protection for Lion Creek.

The Manning Ditch is an absolute water right (of 0.6 cfs) near the lower terminus that would be senior to any instream flow associated with WSR designation. There are no conditional water rights or impoundments within or upstream of the segment.

Changing points of diversion on existing water rights within the segment could be limited in the future by water rights associated with WSR designation. Enlarging the diversion amount or changing the diversion point of an existing water right within the segment would further reduce flow within the longer reach of the segment if the changes are decreed prior to securing water rights associated with WSR designation.

Land Ownership and Uses

Approximately 17.4% of the corridor consists of private lands zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. The property is a contiguous parcel located just upstream of the lower terminus, limiting the potential for impacts to the ORV.

Energy and Mineral Resources

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

Administration

WSR designation would complement the BLM Colorado Public Land Health standard for riparian vegetation.

There is a significant amount of private land and landowner opposition to WSR designation in the lower reaches.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the riparian Vegetation ORV would increase moderately above current funding levels. The public land portion of this segment is remote and has no developed access, both factors that would assist in the protection of the ORV. The lower reach of this segment is private land within which the Lion Creek Corridor is bisected by Colorado State Highway 90.

The private land presently limits access to the public land portion of the corridor from the highway. Thus, acquiring portions of the private land from willing sellers would be value added for managing and providing public access to this segment if designated. A small amount of additional funding would be needed for signage, public education, ranger patrolling, and maintenance. Additional facilities would not be needed if designated. No detailed cost analysis or estimate was prepared as part of this study.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

The Vegetation ORV could be protected through existing authorities by requiring BLM terms and conditions on all future water right and ROW applications and actions to ensure compatibility with sustaining the riparian vegetation.

33 - SPRING CREEK

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Recreational**

ORVs: **Vegetation**

Key Points:

- The segment is short and non-contiguous, with private land parcels near the lower terminus and along much of the middle portion.
- The BLM manages the source water areas that produce baseflow for Spring Creek, allowing for protection of flow-dependent values through existing authorities.
- The Vegetation ORV in the segment could be protected through existing authorities by ensuring that all future applications and actions contain BLM terms and conditions.

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%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Not Suitable**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup recommends that the segment be found not suitable due to the short length and an extensive amount of interspersed private land that could make the segment difficult to manage, as well as a measure of self-protection already afforded by the steep slopes of the corridor.

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- One comment submitted by fourteen individuals expresses general support for all eligible tributaries of the Dolores River to receive immediate, thorough, and enduring protection.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose Board of County Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation, as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- Two comments express concern for the potential impacts of WSR designation on historic uses and water rights in the area.

- Two comments express opposition to WSR designation for Spring Creek because the large amount of private land could make the segment difficult to manage.
- One comment notes that historic and current agricultural zoning and uses have been adequate to protect the Vegetation OVR on non-federal lands.
- One comment notes that, while the length, location, and percentage of federally managed land might not warrant a finding of suitability, the segment should be protected by other means that ensure the continuing contribution of Spring Creek to the health of the watershed.

BLM ASSESSMENT

Water Rights and Uses

Although Spring Creek has no instream flow water right protection, water yield from the creek contributes flow to La Sal Creek, which is protected by an instream flow in the lower reaches that could restrict additional water development within the segment.

An absolute ditch diversion water right within the segment is senior to any water right associated with WSR designation. There are no conditional water rights or impoundments within or upstream of the segment.

Enlarging or changing diversion points on existing water rights within the segment prior to obtaining a federal reserved water right associated with WSR designation could further reduce flow within the reach. If the points of diversion are on public land, the water right could contain BLM terms and conditions limiting impacts to the Vegetation ORV.

Land Ownership and Uses

Approximately 24.1% of the corridor consists of private lands zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the uses are not related to agriculture. Private parcels cover much of the middle portion and lower terminus of the segment.

ROWs

ROWs within the segment include Highway 90, a county road, a powerline, and a telephone line that parallels a portion of the creek.

Energy and Mineral Resources

There are existing oil and gas leases within the segment. Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

Administration

WSR designation would complement the BLM Colorado Public Land Health standard for riparian vegetation.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the riparian Vegetation ORV would increase slightly above current funding levels. The headwater, public land portion of this segment is remote and has no developed access, both factors that would assist in the protection of the ORV.

The middle and lower portions of this segment contain private land within which the Spring Creek corridor is bisected by Colorado State Highway 90. The private land currently limits highway access to public land portions of the segment. Thus, acquiring portions of private land from willing sellers would add value to managing and providing public access to this segment if designated. A small amount of additional funding would be necessary for signage, public education, ranger patrolling, and maintenance. Additional facilities would not be needed if designated.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

The Vegetation ORV would receive significant protection by placing BLM terms and conditions on all future actions and activities within the segment.

34 - DOLORES RIVER, SEGMENT 1

NOTE: The eligibility determination for this segment was made by the BLM Dolores Field Office.

BLM Eligibility Classification: **Recreational**

ORVs: **Recreation, Scenery, Fish, Wildlife, Geology, Ecology, Archeology**

Key Points:

- A wide array of ORVs occurs within the segment.
- A stream flow regime that mimics natural seasonal changes necessary for sustaining a healthy riparian vegetation community for the segment might only be secured through WSR designation.
- The segment is within the Dolores River Canyon Wilderness Study Area (WSA).

River Segment Ownership (in Miles):

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL LENGTH	% FEDERAL
9.56			2.32	**11.88**	**80.5%**

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

BLM	*USFS*	*State*	*Private*	TOTAL ACRES	% FEDERAL
2,790			557	**3,347**	**83.4%**

RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL SUBGROUP ASSESSMENT

Recommendation: **Suitable for Wild Classification with Modifications**

BASIS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The subgroup believes that a suitability recommendation complements the Wilderness Study Area designation and is consistent with other WSR designations for portions of the Dolores River outside of the BLM Uncompahgre Field Office. In order to avoid interference with mining operations, the subgroup recommends that the segment begin at the UFO boundary and terminate at the private land boundary (T47N/R18W/Section 31) south of Bedrock, and that the corridor extend from rim to rim or ¼-mile from the high water mark (whichever measure is less).

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Supporting Suitability:

- Four comments recommend that the Dolores River receive immediate, thorough, and enduring protection, including reaffirming previous WSR suitability findings for this segment in the RMP revision.

- Four comments recommend prohibiting oil and gas leasing in the Dolores River Corridor to protect the ORVs.
- Three comments assert that this regionally significant river warrants consistent and coordinated management and protection throughout the entire public land portion.
- One comment notes that the segment was identified as eligible in the San Juan Public Lands Draft RMP, and is essentially a component of Dolores River, Segment 2. As such, its extensive and diverse ORVs and value-related flows warrant the highest possible protection.
- One comment identifies the Dolores River and its tributaries as the lifeblood for many human and wildlife communities in western Colorado and states that, in the face of accelerated change in the west, the unique geology, profoundly moving scenery, diverse recreational opportunities, and precious water resources of the river basin must be preserved.
- One comment stresses that the Dolores River is critical for the protection and enhancement of riparian ecosystems spanning the federal land management areas.
- One comment stresses that the Dolores River Corridor, including the Paradox Valley and its rich wildlife and cultural resources, should be managed in close cooperation with adjacent BLM field offices and private landowners.
- One comment elaborates on the special natural features of the river, noting that the river basin spans numerous BLM and USFS offices and should be cooperatively managed to ensure that the river's serenity and beauty can continue to be enjoyed and explored.
- One comment states that the Dolores River corridor requires coordinated management between various federal jurisdictions in order to preserve the ORVs for the future.
- One comment states that, while the UFO manages a smaller portion of public land and a shorter stretch of the river than two adjoining BLM field offices, the segment constitutes the core of the river ecosystem and urges the UFO to consider the greater ecological significance when making management decisions.
- One comment encourages the BLM to continue its dialogue with stakeholders concerning management of the river, and identifies the protection of riparian habitat as the BLM's main responsibility within the segment.
- One comment recommends that the full length of the segment be found suitable.
- One comment expresses the necessity of protecting the wild landscape and natural values in the area and recommends a decisive finding of suitable.

Opposing Suitability:

- Montrose Board of County Commissioners has adopted a resolution opposing WSR designation as it is thought not to be in the best interest of Montrose County citizens.
- One comment recommends exploring feasible management alternatives to WSR designation.
- One comment opposes WSR designation due to the lack of sufficient water in the Dolores River and potential negative impacts to water rights.

- One comment expresses concern that WSR designation would fragment the area, making it more difficult and costly to manage.
- One comment states that the segment receives adequate protection through existing federal, state, and local regulations.
- One comment opposes WSR designation due to potential negative impacts on historic uses and water rights in the area.

BLM ASSESSMENT

WATER RIGHTS AND USES

Water yield through the segment contributes significantly to the proper hydrologic function of the Lower Dolores River downstream. The CWCB holds a year-round 78 cfs instream flow water right along the entire segment, structured to protect the natural environment to a reasonable extent. The instream flow would also provide some protection to sustain the ORVs.

One pump diversion within the segment is located near the lower terminus. There are no conditional water rights within the segment.

The 2004 Statewide Water Supply Initiative identifies reservoir sites on Beaver Creek and Plateau Creek with flows into McPhee Reservoir that could be operated to increase flow in the Dolores River below McPhee Reservoir. The reservoir sites are a high priority for the Southwest Basins Roundtable of Colorado Interbasin Compact Committee. The report also identifies potential dam sites on the Dolores River in Paradox Valley and Slickrock, Colorado.

Flow through the segment is significantly diminished by the operation of McPhee Reservoir upstream. A large portion of natural water yield entering the reservoir is transferred out of the basin, primarily for agricultural use. Water rights associated with the reservoir are senior to an instream flow water right downstream.

Most future water demand will come from conservation practices and development of existing water rights, including some existing 141,000 acre-feet of conditional water rights in the basin. (SWSI 2004) Many of these are senior to both the existing instream flow water right and any instream flow associated with WSR designation.

LAND OWNERSHIP AND USES

Approximately 12% of the corridor includes private land zoned as General Agriculture in the Montrose County Master Plan. As presently defined in the Montrose County Zoning Resolution, the zone is relatively non-restrictive regarding allowable uses-by-right and uses requiring a special use permit. Many of the uses are not related to agriculture and have the potential to conflict with the intent of the WSR Act.

Special Designations

Portions of the segment are within a Special Recreation Management Area. The majority of the segment is located within the Dolores River Canyon WSA. The WSA affords some interim protection for the ORVs. The lower northeast portion outside of the WSA consists of private land. Neither designation provides the authority to acquire flows necessary for sustaining the Vegetation ORV.

Rights-of-Way and Withdrawals

ROWs on intermingled BLM lands outside the WSA include access roads serving private lands, utilities, and a pending water pipeline application.

Some lands within the corridor are managed by the Bureau of Reclamation and contain the administrative office building and injection well for the Paradox Basin Unit, Salinity Control Project.

While the entire BLM portion of the segment is within an area classified as a power site, the classification does not preclude WSR designation.

Energy and Mineral Resources

Active mining claims occur within the corridor and have a prior existing right to mineral deposits.

ADMINISTRATION

Access is limited on portions of the segment within the WSA. There is existing development and no land use controls on private portions of the segment.

WSR designation would complement BLM Colorado Public Land Health standards for special status species and wildlife.

Managing the segment to sustain native warm water fish is consistent with actions in the Range-wide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Roundtail Chub *(Gila robusta)*, Bluehead Sucker *(Catostomus discobolus)*, and Flannelmouth Sucker *(Catostomus latipinnis)*.

Potential Costs Associated with WSR Designation

Upon finding a segment suitable, the stream and corridor would be managed to protect the ORVs, with little additional funding needed. Following formal WSR designation, additional funding would be required for signage, public education, ranger patrols, and maintenance, the amount of which would vary, depending upon projected increases in visitor use, as well as the segment's size, location, and other attributes.

Costs for administering and managing this segment for the Recreational, Scenic, Wildlife, Geologic, Ecologic, and Archeology ORVs would be similar to or slightly higher than current funding levels. The upper portion of this segment is within the Dolores River Canyon WSA, with access limited to a single track non-motorized, non-mechanized trail, factors that assist in protection of the ORVs.

The BLM presently incurs some costs on this area to implement the Interim Management Policy for Lands under Wilderness Review. However, additional visitor use resulting from WSR designation could generate the need for funding to develop staging facilities to support primitive recreation opportunities.

Lower portions of the segment downstream from the WSA include private lands. The BLM would pursue acquisition of selected tracts of private land from willing sellers as needed to support increased visitor use, and provide additional protection for the ORVs.

Alternative Protective Measures Considered

A portion of the segment is within the proposed Dolores River Slickrock Canyon ACEC, being considered during development of the Uncompahgre RMP.

Portions of the segment are within a Special Recreation Management Area. The majority of the segment is located within the Dolores River Canyon WSA. The WSA designation affords some protection for the ORVs in accordance with the Interim Management Policy for Lands Under Wilderness Review (H-8550-1).

Future private water right or ROW applications should include BLM terms and conditions to protect the ORVs.