

# 2013 Instream Flow Recommendations Bureau of Land Management





# 2013 Recommendation Emphasis

- Protect streams in good condition that have no flow protection or where current protect is inadequate.
- Protect small streams where minor flow changes could threaten natural environment.
- Minimize CWCB workload by selecting noncontroversial streams.



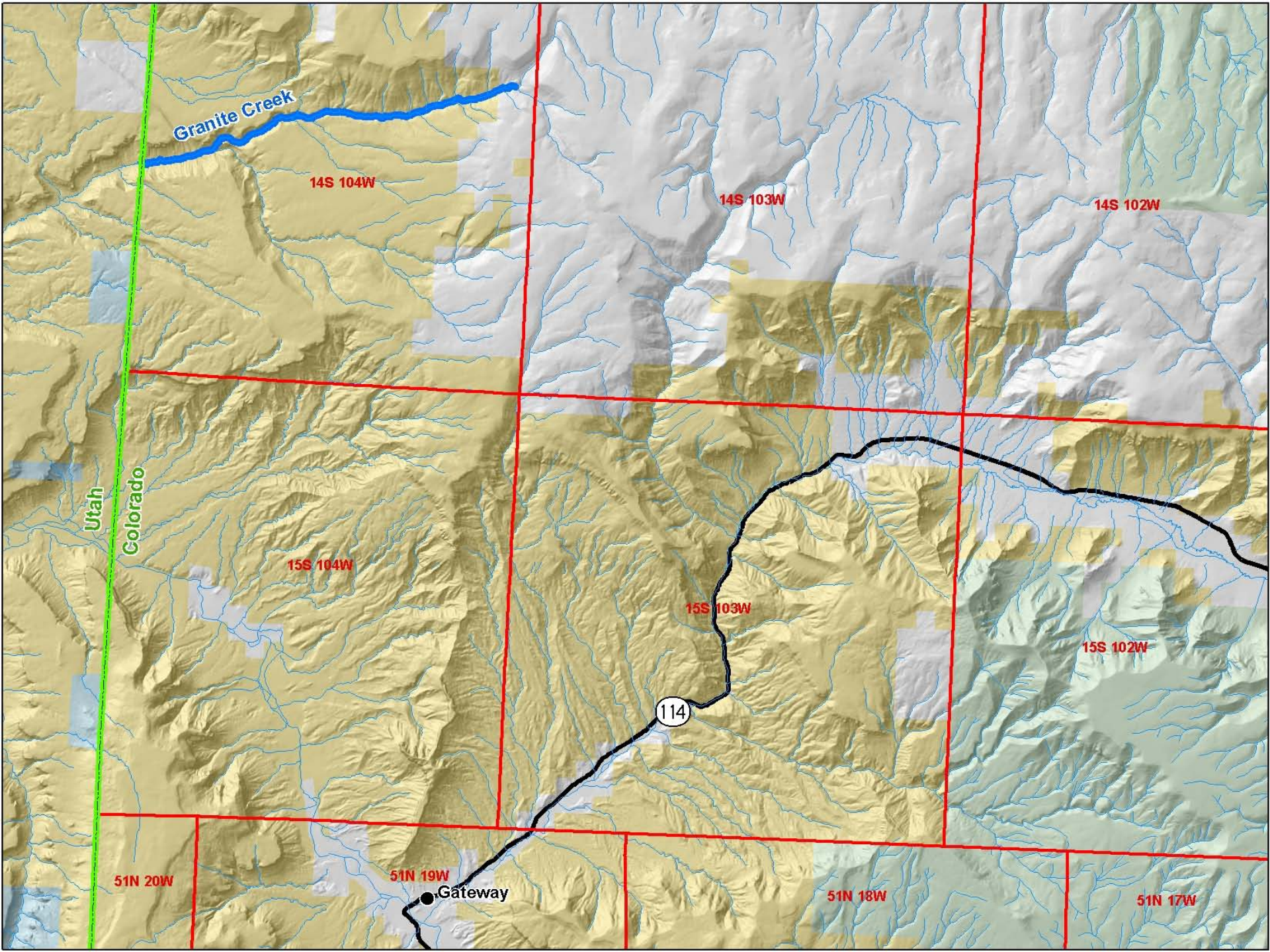


# Granite Creek

## Mesa County









# Granite Creek



## Natural Environment:

Brook Trout

Alder-Willow Riparian

High Gradient Canyon

Pristine Condition

## Flow Rates:

2.7 cfs April 1 - June 30

1.6 cfs July 1 – August 31

0.6 cfs Sept. 1 – March 31

# Granite Creek



## Water Availability:

Headwaters stream; typical snowmelt hydrograph

Losing stream; low flows in late summer and fall

Located on state boundary

## Water Rights Upstream:

One livestock watering ditch

Multiple small reservoirs and springs





# Granite Creek



## Stakeholders:

Mesa County

Trout Unlimited

Wilderness Advocates

Colorado River Water  
Conservation District

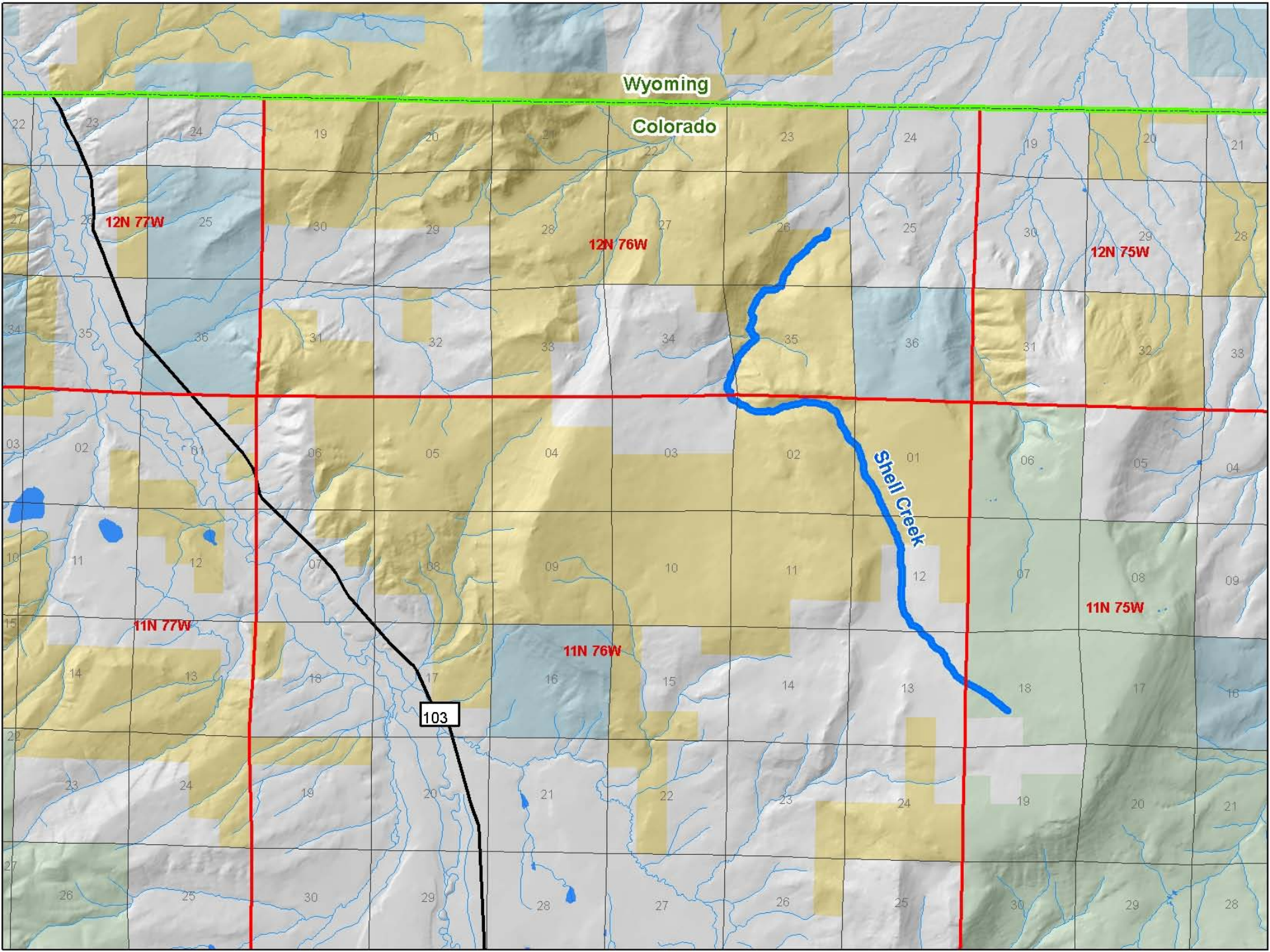
Upstream Ranch Owner



# Shell Creek Larimer County









# Shell Creek



## Natural Environment:

Brook Trout

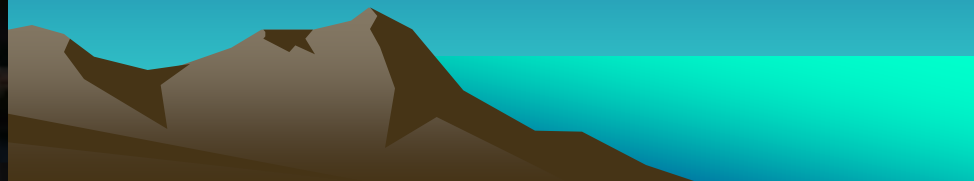
Spruce/Willow/  
Alder/Sedge Riparian

Moderate width valley in  
foothills/alpine zone

## Flow Rates:

1.15 cfs April 1 – Oct. 31

1.00 cfs Nov. 1 – March 31





# Shell Creek



## Water Availability:

Headwaters

Snowmelt hydrograph

## Water Rights:

None in reach

Located above  
headgates



# Shell Creek

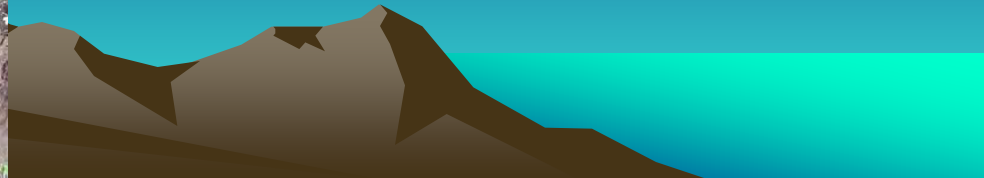


## Stakeholders:

Larimer County

Ditch owner at lower  
terminus

State of Colorado –  
interstate decree

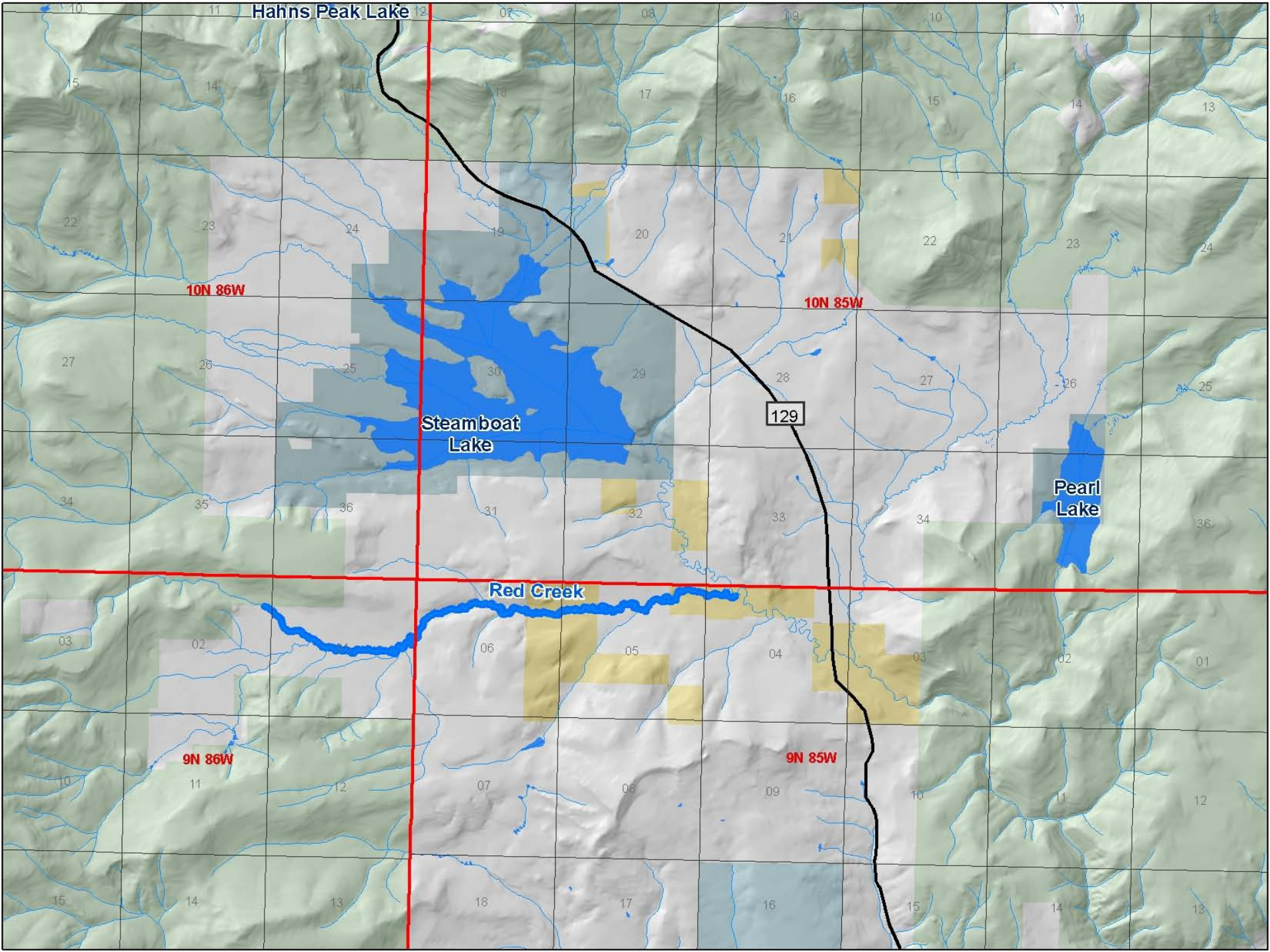




# Red Creek Routt County









# Red Creek

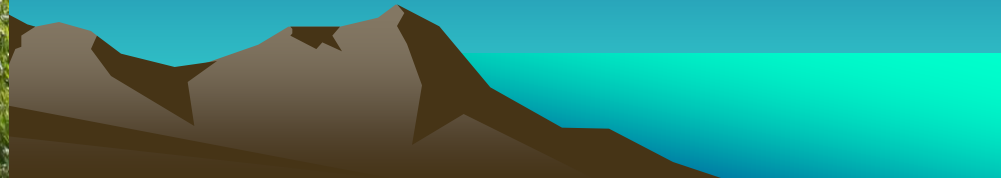


## Natural Environment:

Native fishery – mountain suckers, mottled sculpin, speckled dace

Extensive Willow-Sedge Riparian Community

Broad valley – low gradient





# Red Creek



Current ISF water right to  
Forest Boundary:

1.0 cfs Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

1977 Priority

Proposed Flow Rates

Below Forest Boundary:

1.85 cfs April 1 – July 31

1.50 cfs August 1 – March  
31



# Red Creek



## Water Availability:

- Near headwaters
- Snowmelt driven
- Upstream ditches divert snowmelt runoff flows

## Water Rights:

- Frye Ditch System – 7.5 cfs diverted upstream
- 1,030 AF conditional storage right on stream



# Red Creek

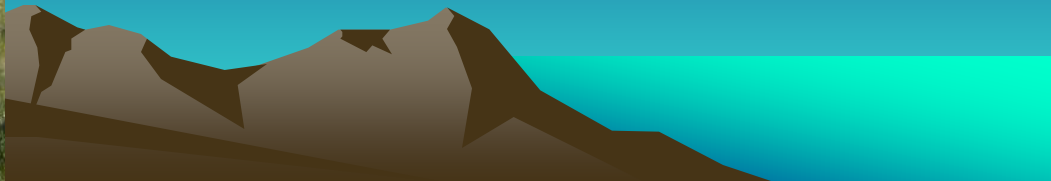


## Stakeholders:

Steamboat Lake Water  
and Sanitation District –  
owns conditional right

Multiple small landowners  
along creek

Upstream ditch owners

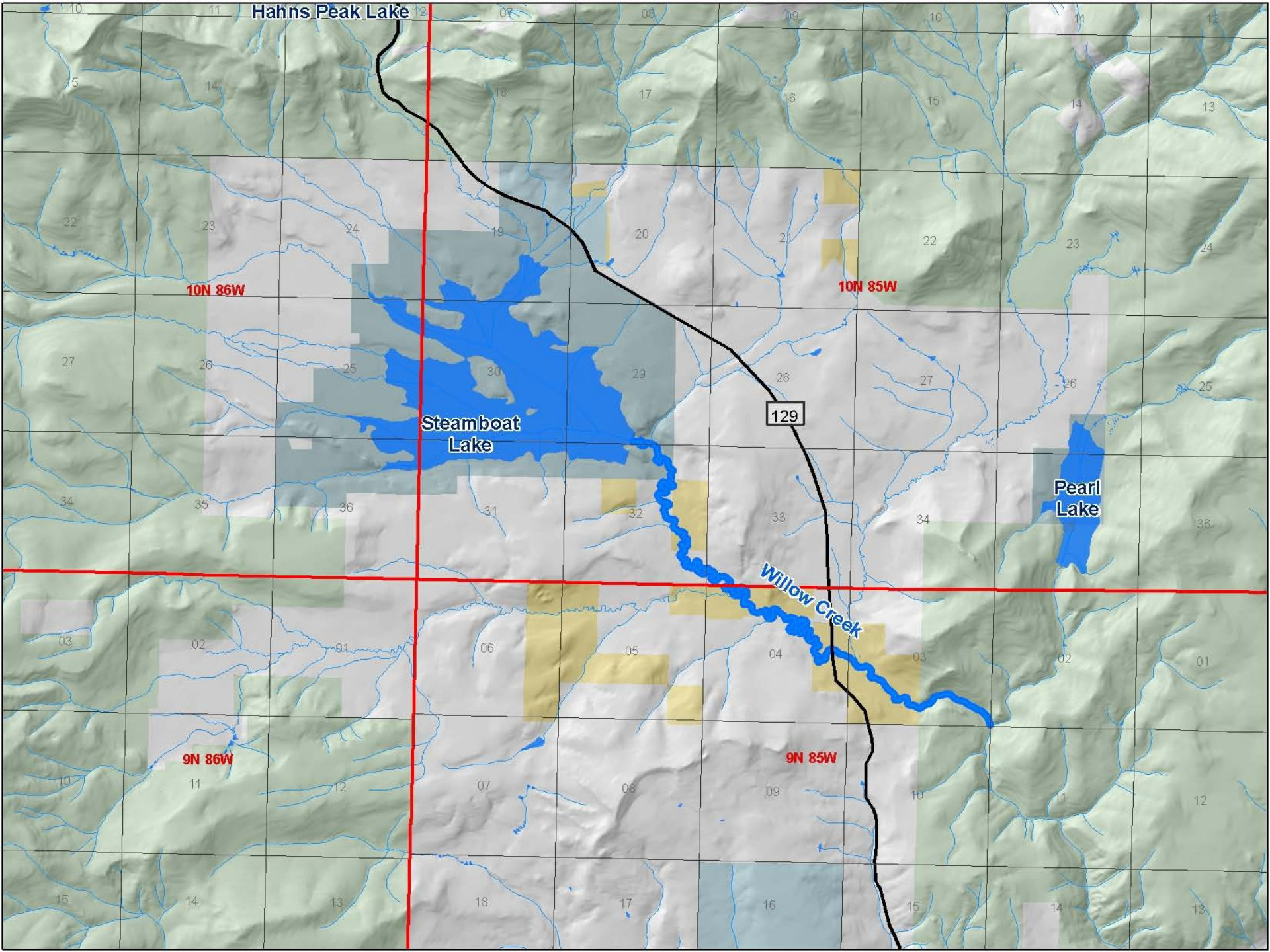




# Willow Creek Routt County









# Willow Creek



## Natural Environment:

- Native fishery – mountain suckers, mottled sculpin, speckled dace
- Willow/sedge riparian zone – much of stream channel is not shaded
- Low gradient stream in wide valley



# Willow Creek



Existing ISF water right,  
appropriated in 1977:

- Steamboat Lake to Beaver Creek – 5.0 cfs, year round
- Beaver Creek to Elk River – 7.0 cfs, year round



# Willow Creek



## Proposed Enlargements:

Steamboat Lake to Beaver Creek –

- 6.9 cfs April 1 to July 31 (11.9 cfs total ISF right)
- 2.7 cfs August 1 to March 31 (7.70 total ISF right)



# Willow Creek

## Proposed Enlargements

Beaver Creek to Lester Creek Segment (no enlargement proposed for lower portion of current ISF reach):

- 13.3 cfs April 1-July 31 (20.3 cfs total ISF right)
- No enlargement proposed for rest of year





# Willow Creek



## Water Availability:

Snowmelt hydrology

Base flows controlled by  
releases from  
Steamboat Lake

Two upstream ditches





# Willow Creek



## Water Rights:

- Conditional right for Grouse Mountain Reservoir – 79,000 AF
- Conditional right for Steamboat Lake Water and Sanitation District Well No. 1 – 13 cfs
- Storage rights in Steamboat Lake – 23,000 AF

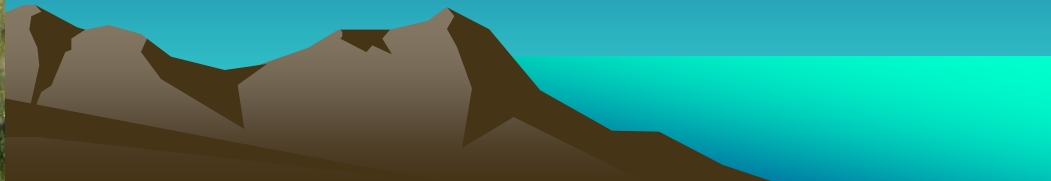


# Willow Creek



## Stakeholders:

- Steamboat Lake Water and Sanitation District – owns conditional rights
- Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association
- Multiple small landowners along creek
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife

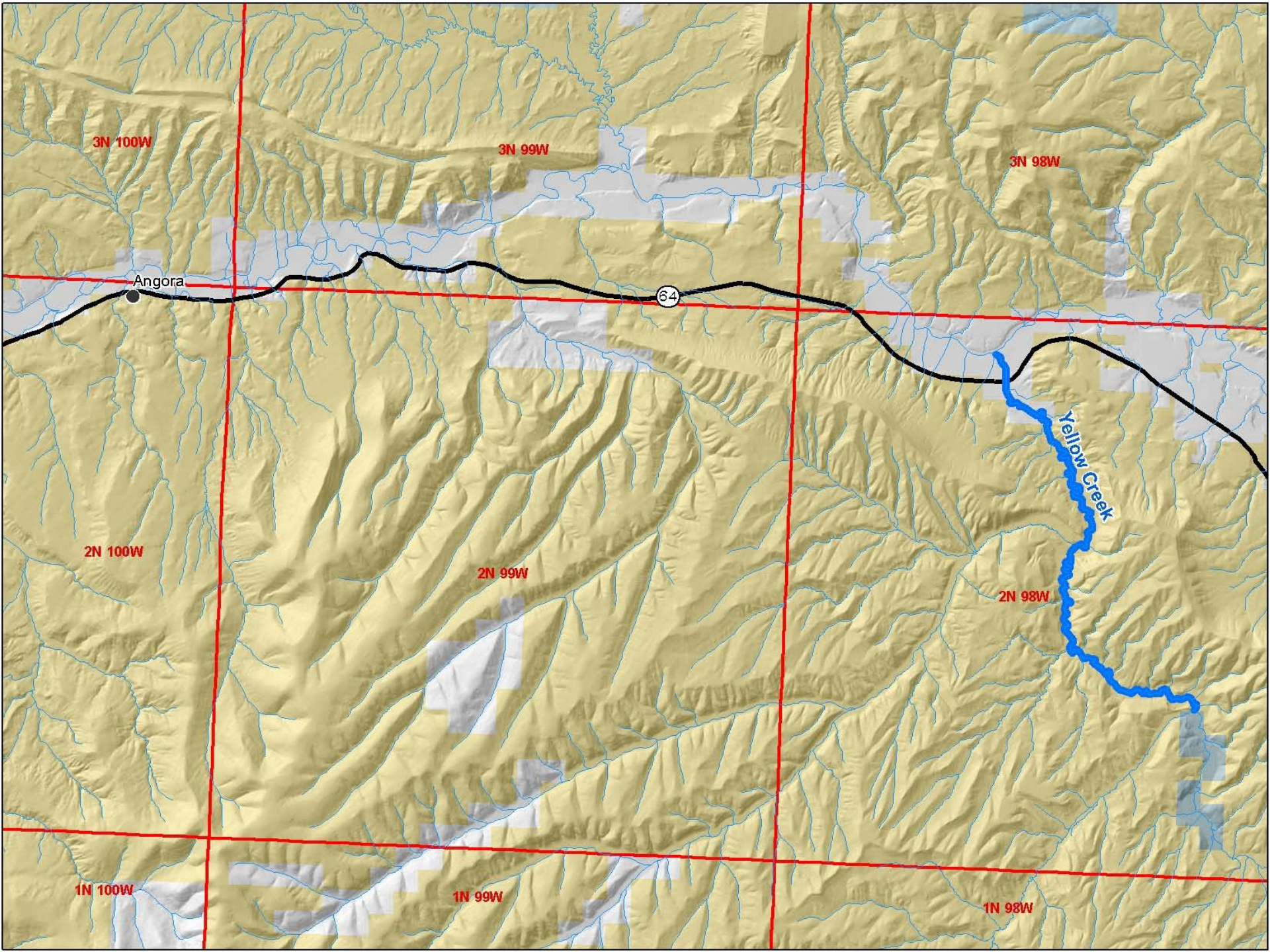




# Yellow Creek Rio Blanco County









# Yellow Creek



## Natural Environment:

Native Fishery –  
speckled dace and  
mountain suckers

Northern leopard frogs

Willow-sedge riparian

Recovering from historic  
livestock and wild  
horse overuse



# Yellow Creek



## Flow Rates:

- Barcus Gulch to Lambert Spring:

1.5 cfs April 1 to June 30

0.6 cfs July 1 to March 31

- Lambert Spring to White River :

2.45 cfs April 1 to June 30

1.05 cfs July 1 to March 31



# Yellow Creek



## Water Availability:

Snowmelt runoff hydrology

Bottom of watershed

Highly dependent on flow  
from springs

## Water Rights:

No water rights within reach

Three upstream ditches,  
totalling 9.4 cfs

Numerous conditional rights  
upstream



# Yellow Creek



## Stakeholders:

Rio Blanco County

Colorado Parks and Wildlife

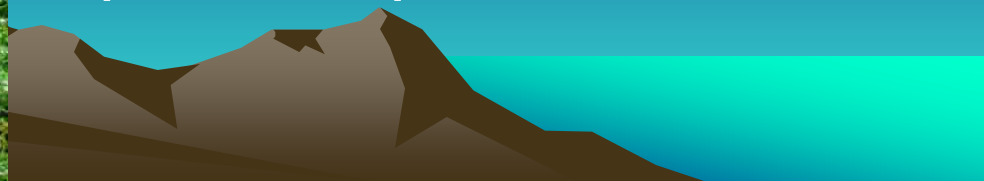
Energy companies:

Shell, Chevron – oil shale

Natural Soda

Williams Petroleum

BOPCO-building treatment  
plant for produced water



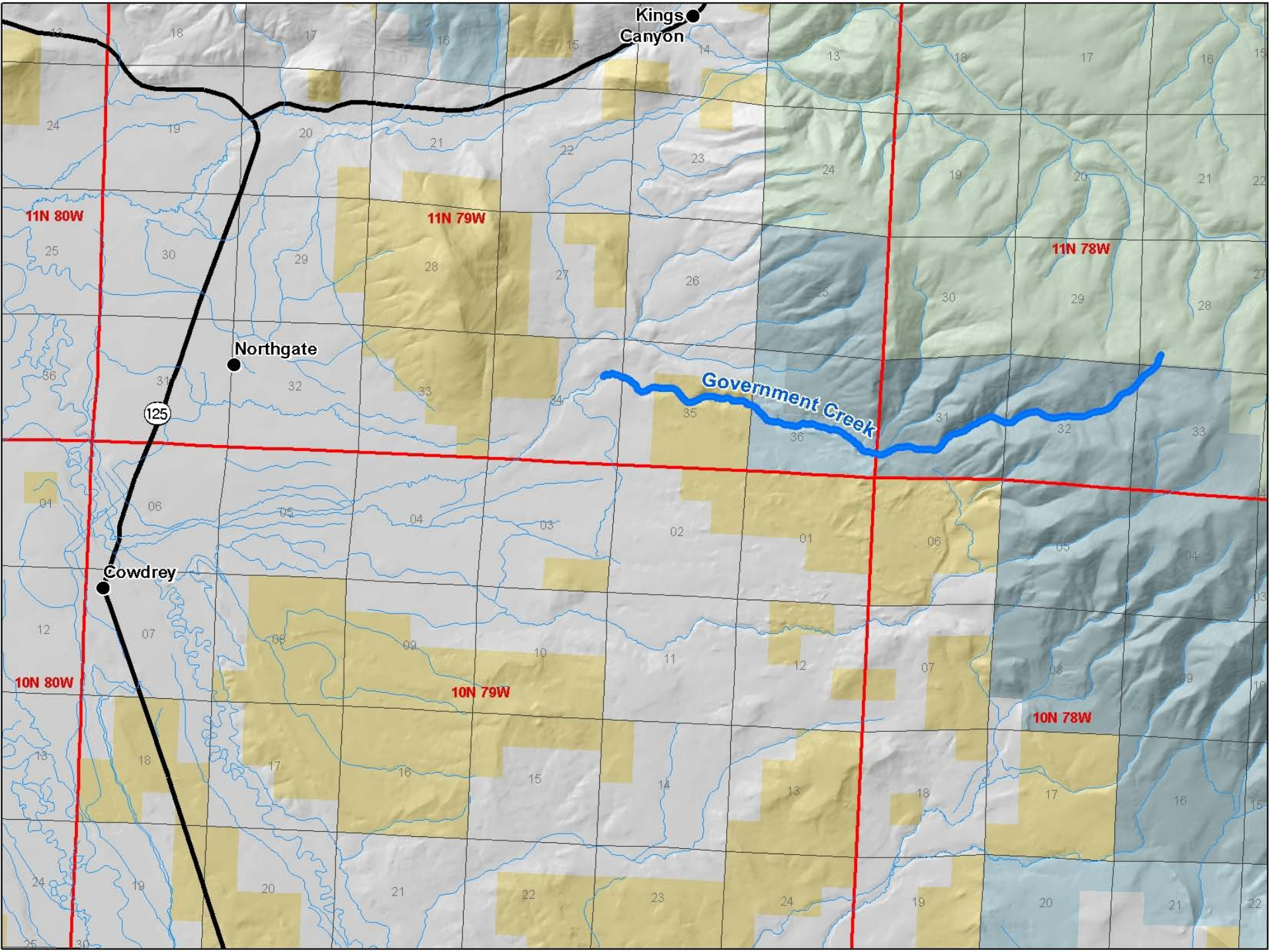


# Government Creek

## Jackson County









# Government Creek



## Natural Environment:

Brook trout fishery

Alder-willow-sedge riparian community

Moderate gradient stream in narrow canyon

Recovering from overuse by livestock and vehicles





# Government Creek

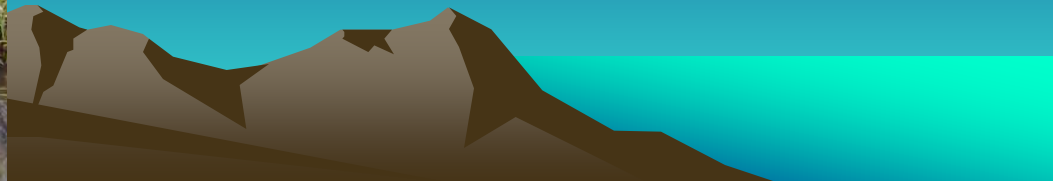


## Proposed Flow Rates:

3.6 cfs May 1 to July 31

1.15 cfs August 1 to  
September 30

0.5 cfs Oct. 1 to March 31





# Government Creek



## Water Availability:

Snowmelt runoff hydrology

Headwaters stream

Above headgates

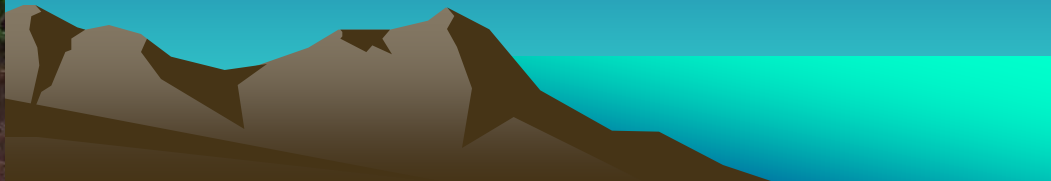
## Water Rights:

Livingstone Ditch is decreed

within reach, but diverts

at Government No. 2

Ditch headgate





# Government Creek



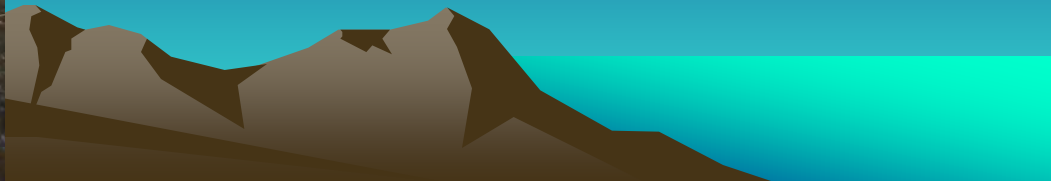
## Stakeholders:

Jackson County

Colorado State Forest

Jackson County Water  
Conservancy District

Livingstone Ditch owner





# Questions for BLM?

