

STATE OF COLORADO

Colorado Water Conservation Board Department of Natural Resources

1313 Sherman Street, Room 721
Denver, Colorado 80203
Phone: (303) 866-3441
Fax: (303) 866-4474
www.cwcb.state.co.us



TO: Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

FROM: Linda Bassi
Stream and Lake Protection Section

Mike King
DNR Executive Director

DATE: September 10, 2012

Jennifer L. Gimbel
CWCB Director

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item 13, September 27-28, 2012 Board Meeting**
Stream and Lake Protection – Lower Dolores Working Group Presentation

Representatives of the Lower Dolores River Working Group will give a presentation to the Board on the Lower Dolores River Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (“Implementation Plan”), which was completed in June 2012. The Plan describes opportunities for improving the viability of native fish in the Dolores River below McPhee Dam, based upon the recommendations made in the “A Way Forward” final report, published in August 2011. “A Way Forward” is an inquiry by three expert scientists into the status of native fish on the Lower Dolores River combined with a multi-stakeholder consensus-building process, spearheaded by the Legislative Committee of the Lower Dolores Working Group. The report contains: (1) a summary of information describing the status and trends of flannelmouth sucker, bluehead sucker and roundtail chub in the Dolores River, Colorado (specifically the reach downstream of McPhee Dam to the confluence with the San Miguel River), and a discussion reasons for those fishes’ decline; and (2) a presentation of nine potential management opportunities for improvement of the native fish community. The “A Way Forward” Implementation Team put in many hours to develop the Implementation Plan. The Team includes representatives of the Bureau of Reclamation, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company, Dolores Water Conservancy District, The Nature Conservancy, San Juan Citizens’ Alliance, American Whitewater and Trout Unlimited.

This is an informational item with no Board action required.