

U.S. Forest Service Instream Flow Water Right Proposals 2014

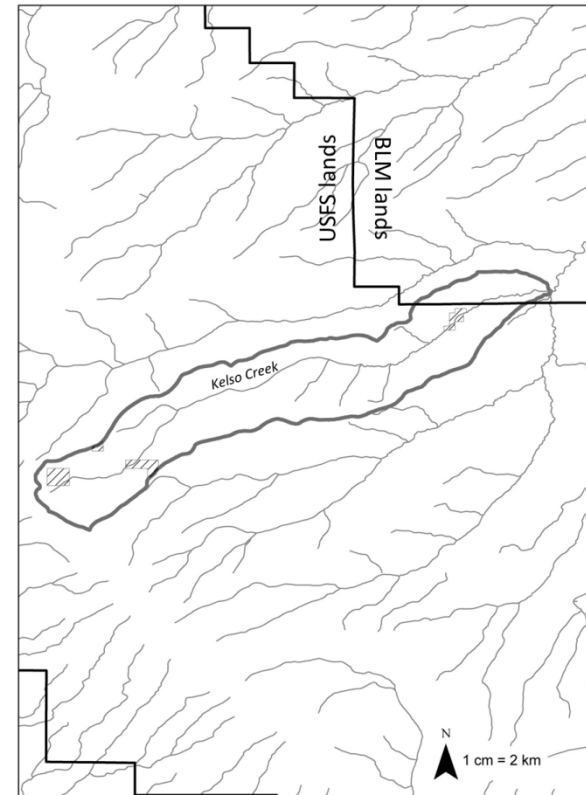
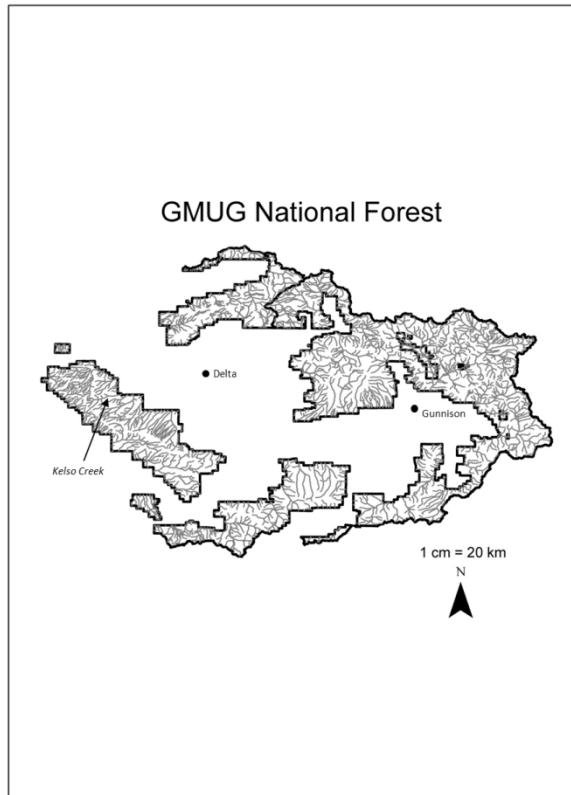
Kelso Creek and Schaefer Creek



Kelso Creek



Kelso Creek is located on the north end of the Uncompahgre Plateau on the Uncompahgre National Forest



Natural Environment

- Vast majority of watershed managed by USFS
- Healthy riparian areas composed of willows and grassy areas.
- Upslope areas contain aspen and mixed-conifer stands.
- Supports a very large allopatric population of native Cutthroat Trout.
 - ESA-protected.



Proposed Flow

- Winter: 0.34 cfs (2/3 hydraulic criteria)
- Spring: 1.32 cfs (bankfull volume)
- Summer: 0.45 cfs (measured base flow)



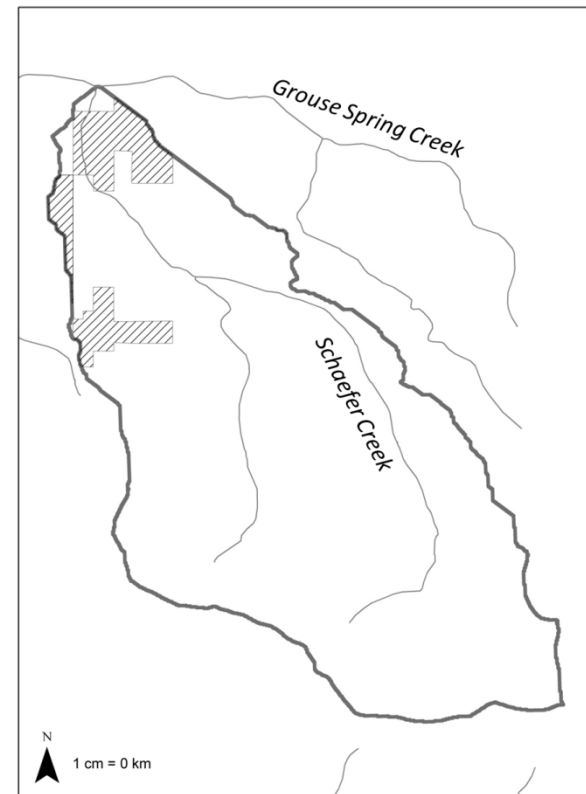
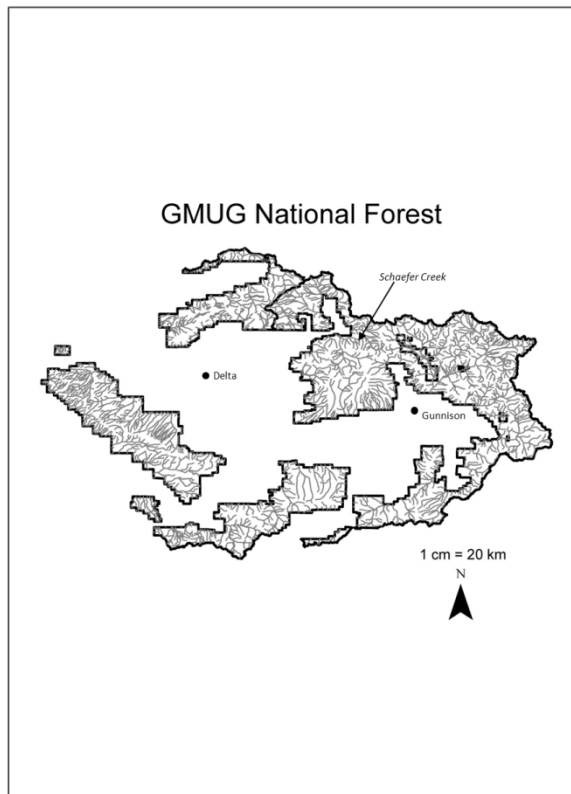
Stakeholders

- USFS
 - The most important CRCT population on the Forest.
- USBLM
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
 - Kelso Creek population used as brood source for stocking Woods Lake, near Telluride.
 - Kelso Creek will be used as brood source for future native translocations.
- Trout Unlimited

Schaefer Creek



Schaefer Creek is in the NF of the Gunnison watershed, on the Gunnison National Forest. Grouse Spring Creek and Schaefer Creek merge to form Snowshoe Creek



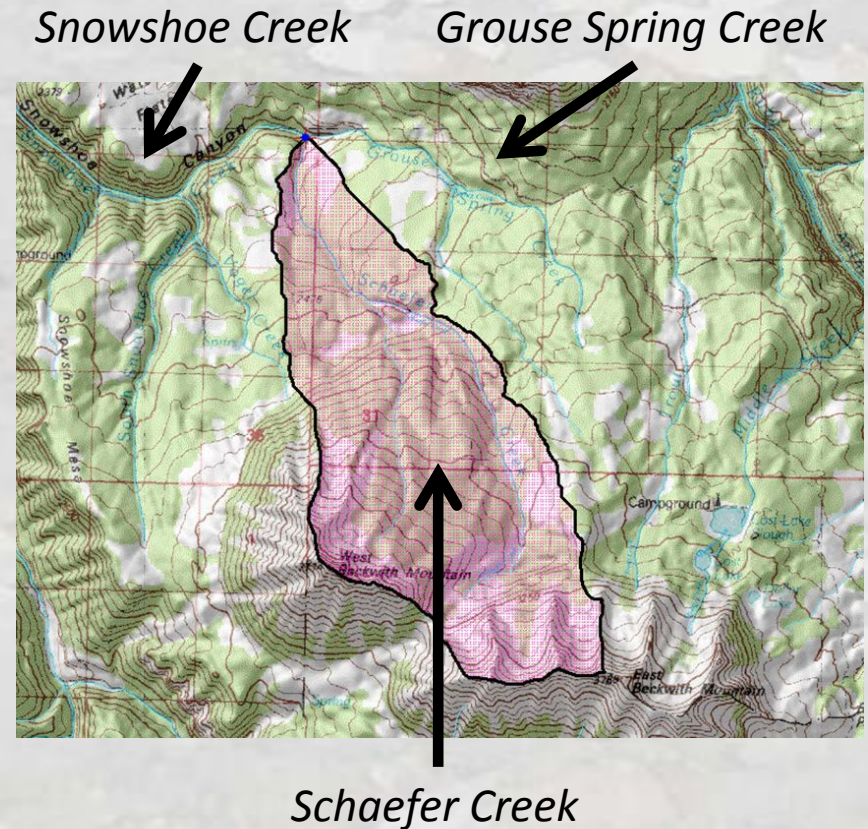
Natural Environment

- Stream contains a genetically pure native Cutthroat Trout population and seasonally present Brown Trout.
 - CRCT are ESA-protected.
- Pristine, high-gradient watershed with dense mixed vegetation riparian areas.



Existing Instream Flows

- Grouse Spring and Schaefer Creek form Snowshoe Creek at their confluence.
- There is a 3 cfs minimum flow right for all of Grouse Spring and Snowshoe to its confluence with Coal Creek.



2013 Discharge Measurements

There are two active diversions on Schaefer Creek with 22.6 cfs of decreed irrigation rights

- August 8, 2013
- Confluence with Grouse Spring Creek
- Measured 5.8 cfs
- September 25, 2013
- At FSR 913, upstream of private land.
- Measured 7.71 cfs

Proposed Flow

- R2Cross winter: 2.45 cfs.
- R2Cross summer: 4.54 cfs
- Alternative: 3 cfs
 - Complements existing minimum instream flow rights in Grouse Spring Creek and Snowshoe Creek.



Stakeholders

- USFS
 - Conservation Populations are the highest priority on the Forest.
 - Future bridge repair will include a barrier to prevent Brown Trout incursion.
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Water-users in the watershed

**For more information please
contact**

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