

# 2016 BLM Instream Flow Recommendations



Piney River near State Bridge



# 2016 Recommendations Emphasis

- Recommendations from previous years-complete work
- Protect streams that provide habitat for sensitive and native fish species – work to prevent listing under Endangered Species Act
- Decree instream flow increases for streams where existing instream flow could more fully protect the natural environment
- Protect small streams that were previously overlooked





# Streams in Water Division 4



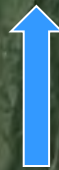
Gunnison River  
South of Grand  
Junction



# West Fork Terror Creek Delta County







Bowie

Somerset

Paonia

© 2015 Google

Google earth

Imagery Date: 10/12/2015 38°55'12.21" N 107°33'30.85" W elev 6308 ft eye alt 14.75 mi



Upper  
Terminus:  
Headwaters



Forest Service  
Road 701

© 2015 Google



Lower  
Terminus:  
Confluence  
With East  
Fork

Google earth

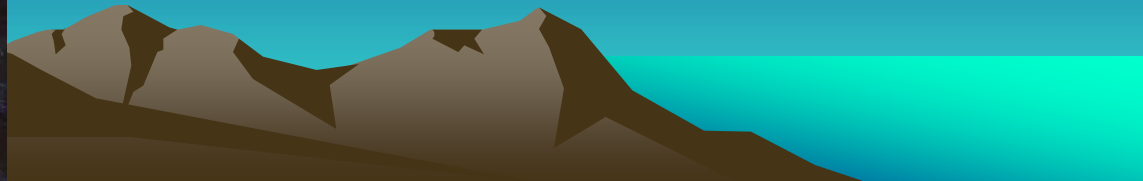


# West Fork Terror Creek



## Natural Environment:

- Fishery: native cutthroat trout – green lineage; speckled dace
- Good macroinvertebrate community for trout
- Riparian community – willow species, alder, blue spruce, narrowleaf cottonwood





# West Fork Terror Creek



Proposed ISF rates:  
(subject to further data  
collection and  
methodology refinement)

2.2 cfs April 1 to July 15

1.6 cfs July 16 to March 31





# West Fork Terror Creek



## Water Availability:

- Headwaters stream
- Springs and groundwater provide base flow; large snowmelt runoff flows
- No gage data available

## Water Rights:

- Overland Ditch and Reservoir Co – 150 cfs
- Grand Mesa Canal – 85 cfs conditional

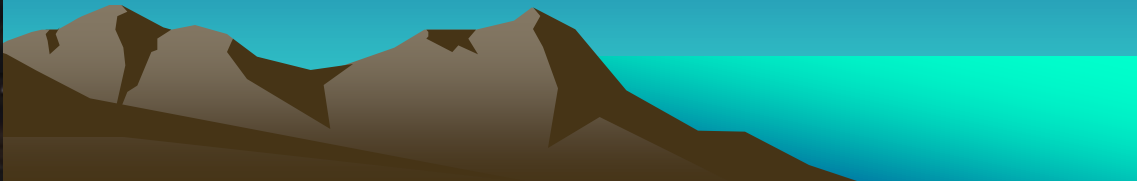


# West Fork Terror Creek



## Stakeholders:

- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Delta County
- Overland Ditch
- Terror Creek Ditch
- Private landowners near lower terminus





# Streams in Water Division 5



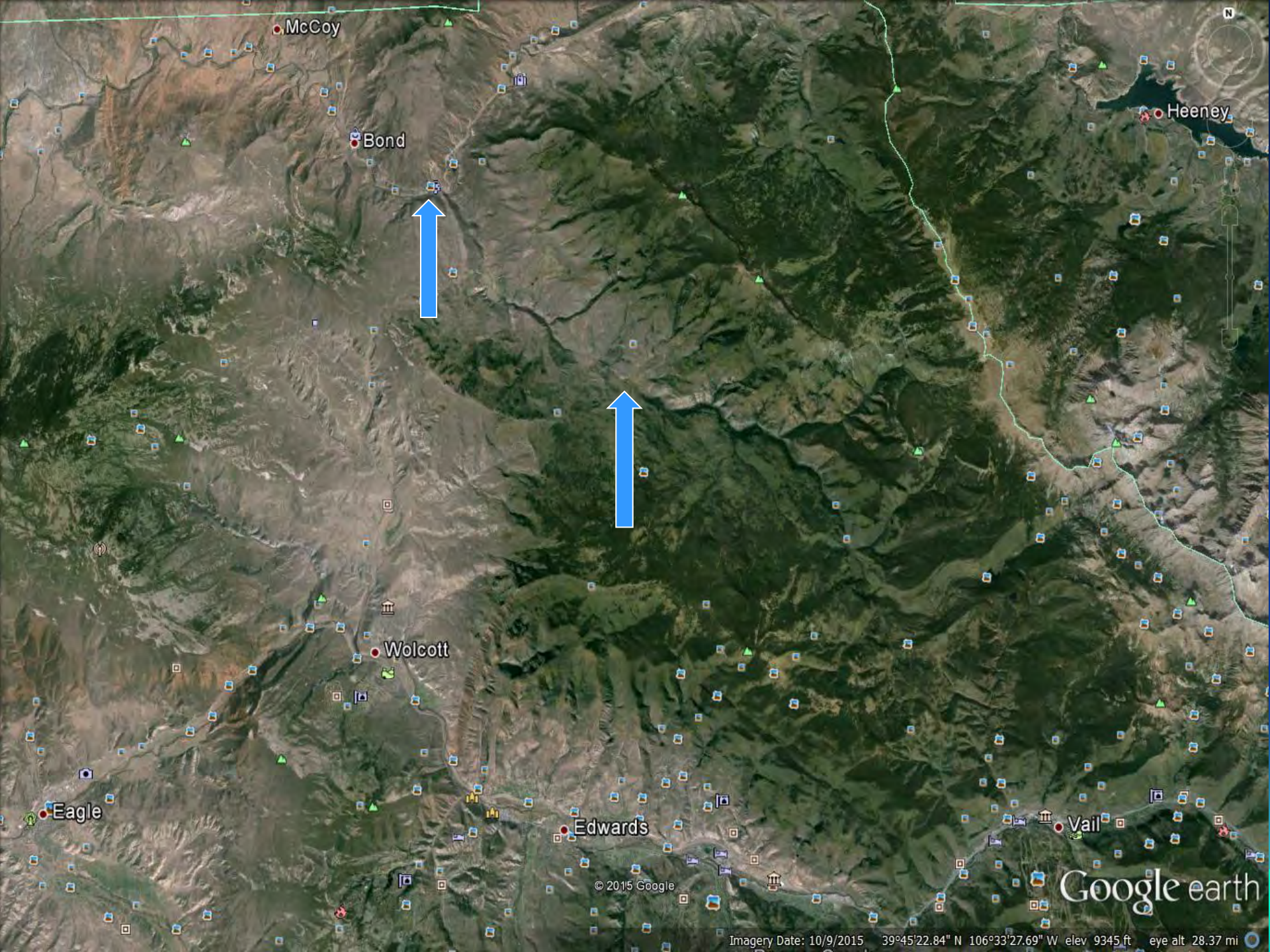
Colorado River  
near State Bridge



# Piney River Eagle County







McCoy

Bond

Heeney

Wolcott

Eagle

Edwards

Vail

© 2015 Google

Google earth

Imagery Date: 10/9/2015 39°45'22.84" N 106°33'27.69" W elev 9345 ft eye alt 28.37 mi





Bond



Lower Terminus:  
Confluence with  
Colorado River



Upper Terminus:  
Grace Creek

© 2015 Google

Google earth

Imagery Date: 10/9/2015 39°48'58.70" N 106°36'25.60" W elev 7420 ft eye alt 46276 ft



# Piney River



## Natural Environment:

- Fishery: brown trout, rainbow trout, mottled sculpin, mountain whitefish, longnose sucker
- Good macroinvertebrate community for trout
- Riparian community: cottonwood, willow, alder, douglas fir, red osier dogwood





# Piney River



Proposed ISF rates:

Current ISF right = 9 cfs

64 cfs May 1 to July 15  
(55 cfs increase)

25 cfs July 16 to Aug 15  
(16 cfs increase)

13 cfs Aug 16 to Mar 31  
(4 cfs increase)

25 cfs Apr 1 to Apr 30  
(16 cfs increase)



# Piney River



## Water Availability:

- Segment low in basin
- Large springs and groundwater provide base flow; large snowmelt runoff
- Gage data available

## Water Rights:

- Upstream – More than 25 rights totaling more than 60 cfs
- Within reach – 2 senior ditches totaling 9 cfs



# Piney River



## Stakeholders:

- Water rights owners
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Colorado River District
- Eagle County
- Private land owners along river





# Streams in Water Division 6



Piceance Creek

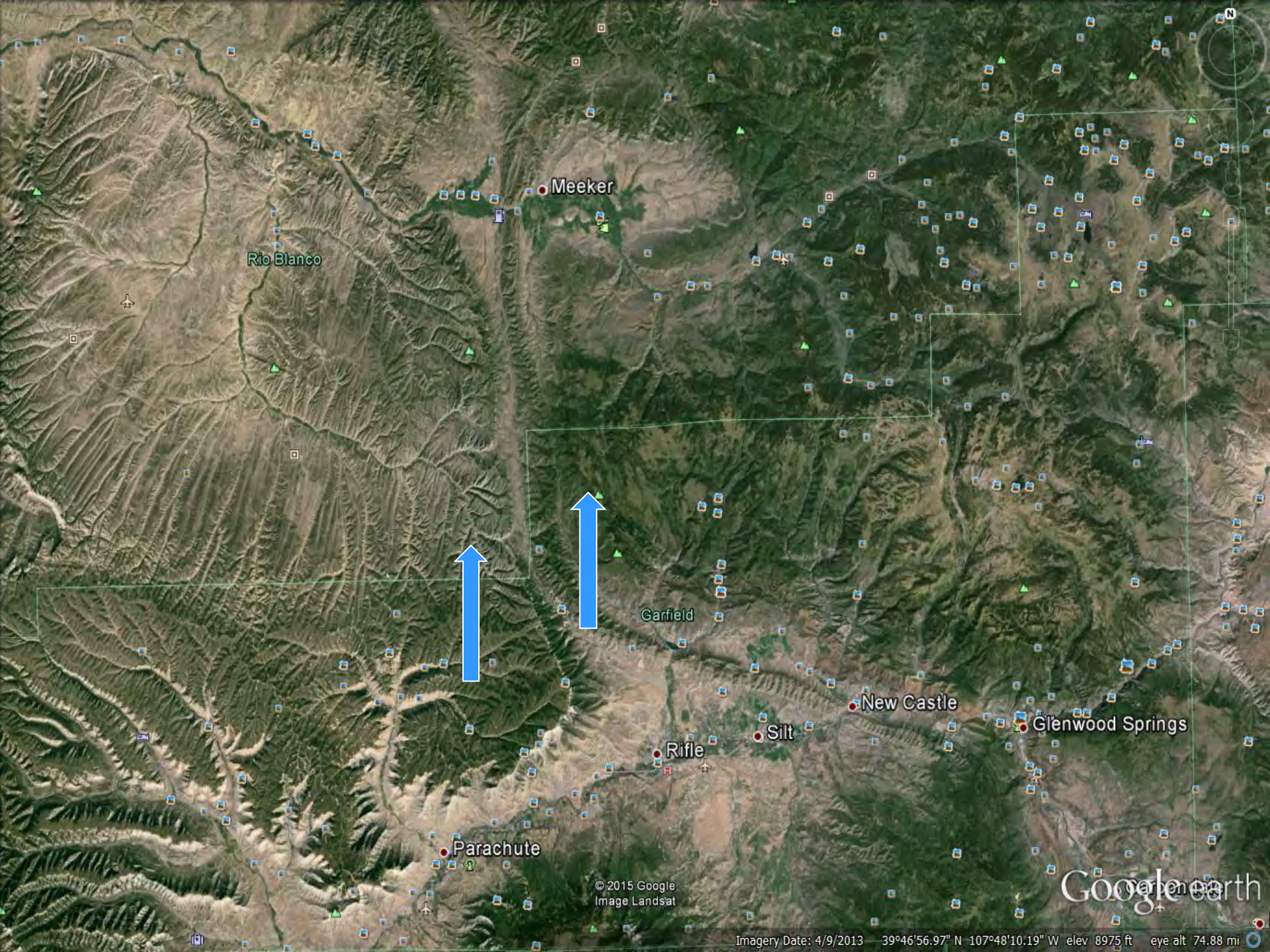


# Upper Piceance Creek

## Rio Blanco and Garfield Counties







Rio Blanco

Meeker

Garfield

Parachute

Rifle

Silt

New Castle

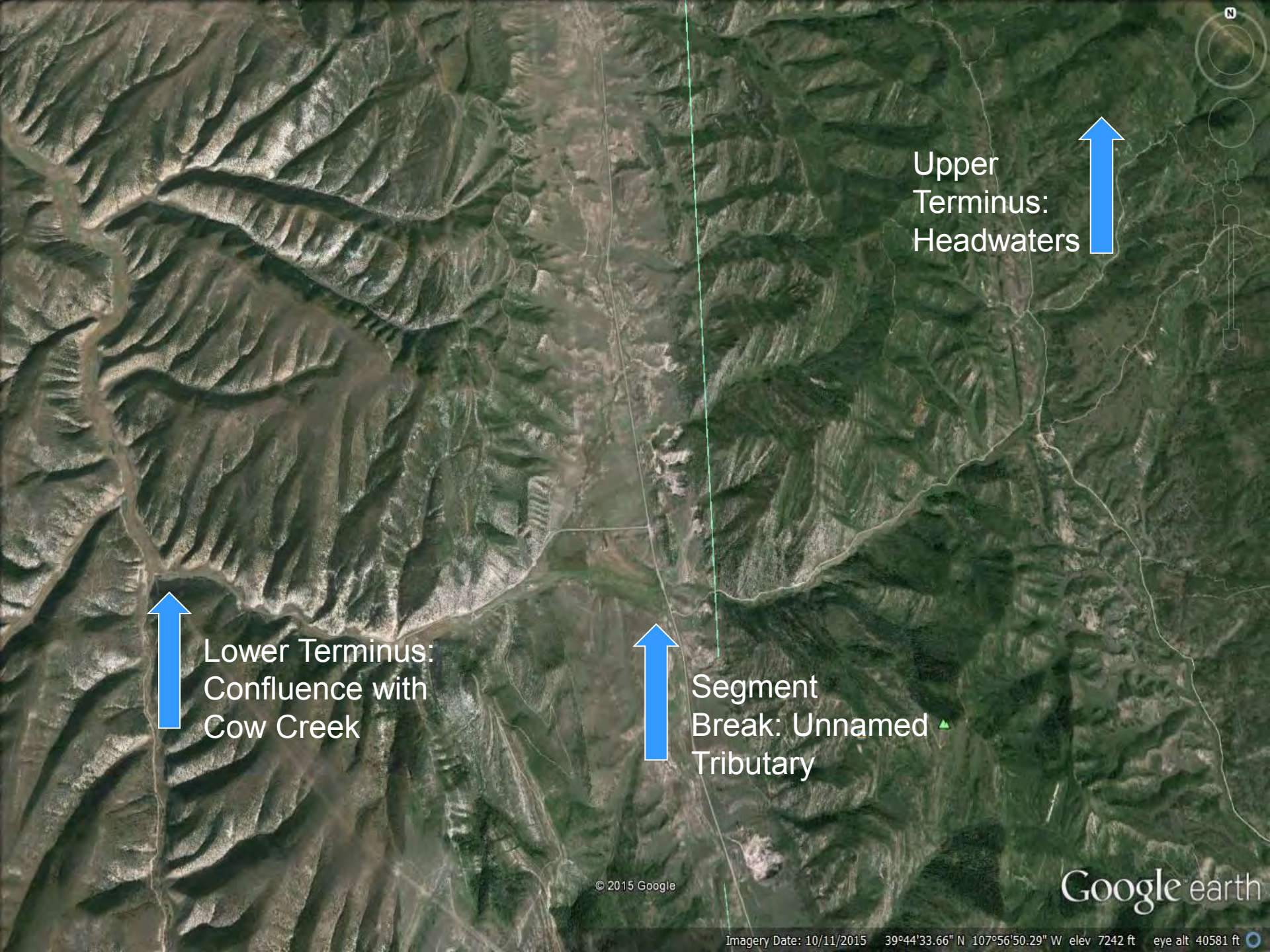
Glenwood Springs

© 2015 Google  
Image Landsat

Google earth

Imagery Date: 4/9/2013 — 39°46'56.97" N 107°48'10.19" W elev 8975 ft eye alt 74.88 mi

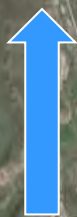




Upper  
Terminus:  
Headwaters



Segment  
Break: Unnamed  
Tributary



Lower Terminus:  
Confluence with  
Cow Creek



© 2015 Google

Google earth

Imagery Date: 10/11/2015 39°44'33.66" N 107°56'50.29" W elev 7242 ft eye alt 40581 ft



# Upper Piceance Creek



## Natural Environment:

- Native Fishery: Speckled Dace, Mountain Suckers
- Riparian community: coyote willow, geyer's willow, blue spruce, aspen, alder, sedges, rushes



# Upper Piceance Creek



## Proposed ISF Rates:

### *Headwaters to Highway 13*

- 1.5 cfs Apr 1 to Oct 15
- 0.65 cfs Oct 16 to Mar 31

### *Highway 13 to Cow Creek*

- 2.5 cfs Apr 1 to Oct 15
- 1.7 cfs Oct 16 to Mar 31





# Upper Piceance Creek



## Water Availability:

- Headwaters stream
- Snowmelt driven hydrograph
- No gage data available

## Water Rights:

- 5 ditches totaling 5.3 cfs



# Upper Piceance Creek



## Stakeholders:

- US Forest Service
- Big Mountain Ranch
- Water rights owners
- Rio Blanco and Garfield Counties





# Fourmile Creek

## Moffat County







Baggs

Dixon

Savery

© 2015 Google

Google earth

Imagery Date: 6/29/2014 40°54'48.87" N 107°29'12.36" W elev 7788 ft eye alt 34.44 mi





Lower Terminus:  
Norma Ryan  
Ditch



Upper Terminus:  
Headwaters



Google earth



# Fourmile Creek



## Natural Environment:

- Fishery: conservation population of native cutthroat trout (Yampa-White lineage)
- Riparian Community: Spruce-Alder (higher) Aspen-Willow (lower) riparian community





# Fourmile Creek



## Proposed ISF rates:

- 3.75 cfs May 1 to Sep 30
- 1.25 cfs Oct 1 to Apr 31





# Fourmile Creek

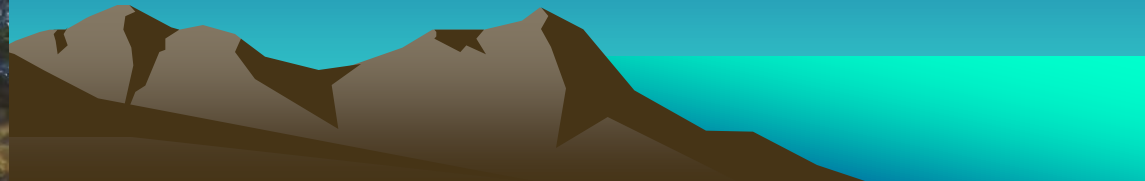


## Water Availability:

- Headwaters stream
- Snowmelt driven hydrology
- No gage data available

## Water Rights:

- None





# Fourmile Creek



## Stakeholders:

- Moffat County
- Private land owners along lower portion of creek
- US Forest Service
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife





# Slater Creek

## Moffat County







Baggs

Dixon

Savery

© 2015 Google

Google earth

Imagery Date: 6/29/2014 40°54'48.87" N 107°29'12.36" W elev 7788 ft eye alt 34.44 mi



Lower  
Terminus:  
Slater  
Fork  
Ditch



Upper Terminus:  
Confluence with  
Beaver Creek



© 2015 Google

Google earth

Imagery Date: 6/29/2014 40°55'52.10" N 107°22'43.66" W elev 6746 ft eye alt 14.08 mi



# Slater Creek



## Natural Environment:

- Fishery:
  - Native – bluehead sucker, speckled dace, mottled sculpin
  - Non-native – fathead minnow, creek chub
- Riparian community – alder, willow, narrowleaf cottonwood



# Slater Creek



## Proposed ISF Flow Rates:

- 56 cfs Apr 16 to Jun 30
- 40 cfs Jul 1 to Sep 30
- 17 cfs Oct 1 to Apr 15



# Slater Creek



## Water Availability:

- Snowmelt driven hydrograph
- Low but reliable base flows

## Water Rights:

- 9 cfs of water rights within the reach
- Many senior water rights located downstream and on Little Snake River



# Slater Creek



## Stakeholders:

- Water rights owners
- Private land owners along reach
- Moffat County
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife



# Questions for BLM?

Contact Roy Smith at [r20smith@blm.gov](mailto:r20smith@blm.gov) or 303-239-3940



Big Dominguez Creek  
near Grand Junction