

2020 Instream Flow Proposals



**HIGH COUNTRY CONSERVATION
ADVOCATES**





Water Division 4

Elk Creek



Instream Flow Right



- Proposing winter and summer instream flow protection on Elk Creek
 - No existing ISF right
 - Water quality improvements from mine reclamation at the headwaters
 - Natural habitat including salamanders, recovering brook trout population, and healthy macroinvertebrate population



Natural Environment

Brook trout fishery

Tiger Salamander

Healthy macroinvertebrate community

Riparian area featuring mixed forest, pine/willow

Steep pool-drop system



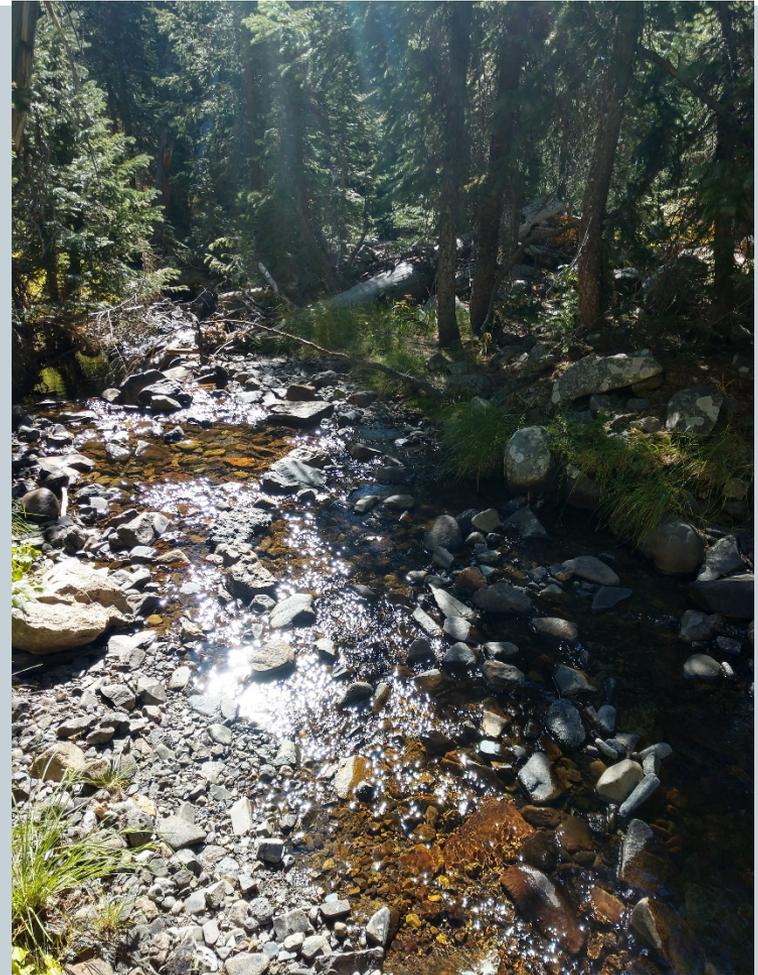
Current R2Cross Criteria

Hydraulic Criteria

- 1 ft./sec Average Velocity
- 50% Wetted Perimeter
- Average Depth

Flow Recommendations

- Flow recommendation meets 2 of 3 hydraulic criteria
- To obtain a summer recommendation will need to return to collect data that meets 3 of 3 hydraulic criteria

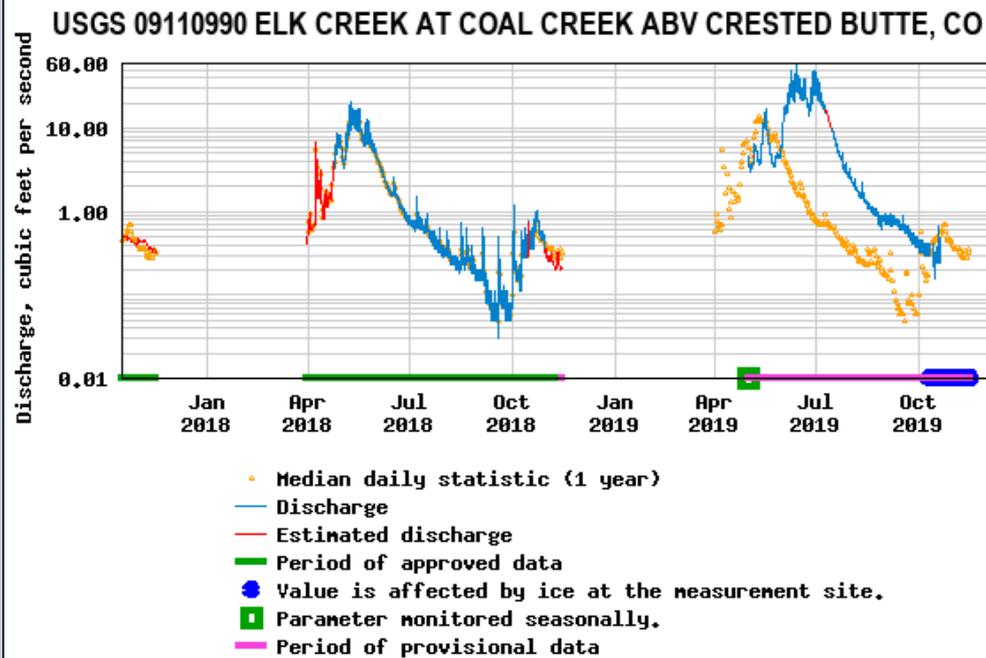




Proposed ISF

Cross Section (Date & Location)	Winter Flow Recommendation (cfs)	Summer Flow Recommendation (cfs)
Elk Creek 10/3/19	0.2 cfs	TBD with additional data collection

Water Availability



Physical

- Used a combination of StreamStats, R2Cross, and gage records to look at physical availability

Legal

- No current diversions on Elk Creek
- Conditional water rights



Stakeholders

**US Forest
Service**

**Colorado Parks &
Wildlife**

Gunnison County

**Water rights
owners**

**The Upper
Gunnison River
Water
Conservancy
District**



Upper Terminus ¹	Lower Terminus	Total Length (miles)	Land Ownership	
			Private (%)	Public (%) ²
Headwaters	Confluence with Coal Creek	2.7	Riparian Corridor ³	Riparian Corridor
			15%	85%
			Watershed Composition	Watershed Composition
			16%	84%



Water Division 4

Wildcat Creek



Instream Flow Rights



- Proposing a winter and summer instream flow protection on Wildcat Creek
 - No existing ISF right



Natural Environment

Cutthroats of unknown lineage

Small high altitude stream with a pool drop system

Healthy mixed pine and willow riparian area





Proposed ISF

Cross Section (Date & Location)	Winter Flow Recommendation (cfs)	Summer Flow Recommendation (cfs)
Wildcat Creek 10/09/19	0.36 cfs	TBD with additional data collection

Water Availability



Physical

- Used a combination of StreamStats and R2Cross to look at physical availability

Water Availability

Legal

- There is one existing diversion on Wildcat Creek owned by the Town of Crested Butte. This diversion serves as a backup supply for the Town of Crested Butte. The Town of Crested Butte's water right can be exercised either from Wildcat Creek or Coal Creek.



Stakeholders

US Forest Service

Colorado Parks & Wildlife

Gunnison County

Town of Crested Butte

The Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District

BLM (partner in 2020)

Upper Terminus ¹	Lower Terminus	Total Length (miles)	Land Ownership	
			Private (%)	Public (%) ²
Headwaters at Green Lake	Confluence with Coal Creek	2.6	Riparian Corridor ³	Riparian Corridor
			59%	41%
			Watershed Composition	Watershed Composition
			13%	87%

Questions?



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