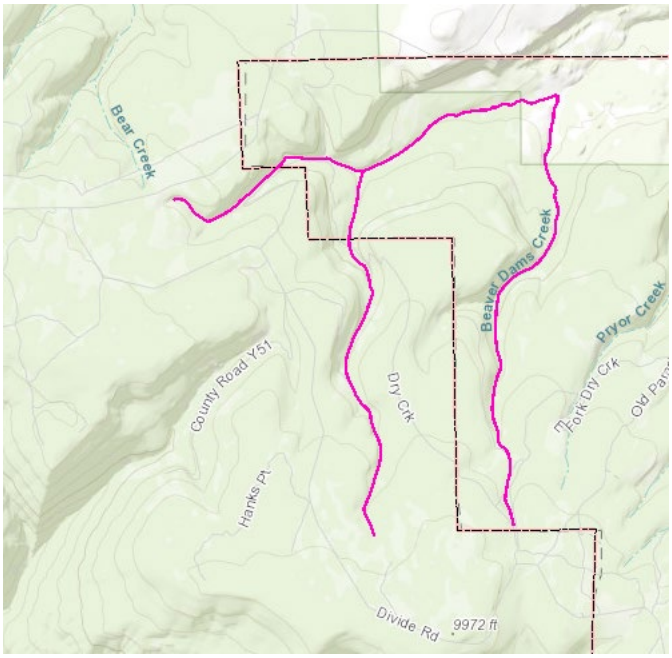
Preliminary Instream Flow Recommendations for unnamed tributary to East Fork Dry Creek in Water Division 4, Ouray & Montrose County to be presented at the January 2025 CWCB Meeting

Recommended Segments & Land Status

CPW is proposing an ISF recommendation on an unnamed tributary (UT) to East Fork (EF) Dry Creek from the headwaters (located at UTM 12S 227553.33 4241879.05) to the confluence with East Fork Dry Creek (located at UTM 12S 227567.86 4245975.82). The reach is approximately 2.75 miles in length. The proposed reach is mainly on public lands managed under the Uncompahgre National Forest. The ISF reach does pass through a private land inholding near the confluence with East Fork Dry Creek.



Natural Environment and Biological Summary

UT EF Dry Creek is a first order headwaters creek which supports a self-sustaining population of Colorado River cutthroat trout of the Gunnison Basin lineage. The creek also supports a healthy riparian area and diverse macroinvertebrate community.

Preliminary R2Cross Results

In 2019 through 2022, CPW and CWCB staff conducted site visits and collected R2Cross datasets on UT EF Dry Creek. Datasets from 2019 were not included in preliminary flow recommendations. This is because 2019 was an extremely wet year. There was still snow on the ground during the survey and streamflow conditions were very high (near bankfull). Data from 2020 was also not used because it was an extremely dry year and streamflow was too low for an accurate flow measurement. The preliminary results of the R2Cross analysis are summarized below using average data from 2021 and 2022.

	Bankfull Top Width	Date Measured	Flow Measured	Flow Meeting Two Criteria	Flow Meeting Three Criteria
4	12.88 ft	6/1/2021	1.06 cfs	0.93 cfs	3.64 cfs
5	14.01 ft	5/25/2022	1.49 cfs	1.78 cfs	2.81 cfs

Recommended Flow Rates:	**1.36 cfs**	**3.23 cfs**

The preliminary biological flow recommendation during the baseflow period is 1.36 cfs. The preliminary biological flow recommendation in the summer is 3.23 cfs.

Water Availability

There is a no gage data on UT EF Dry Creek. CPW and CWCB staff will use regression estimates to make a determination if water is available to meet the preliminary biological flow recommendations.