

# 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

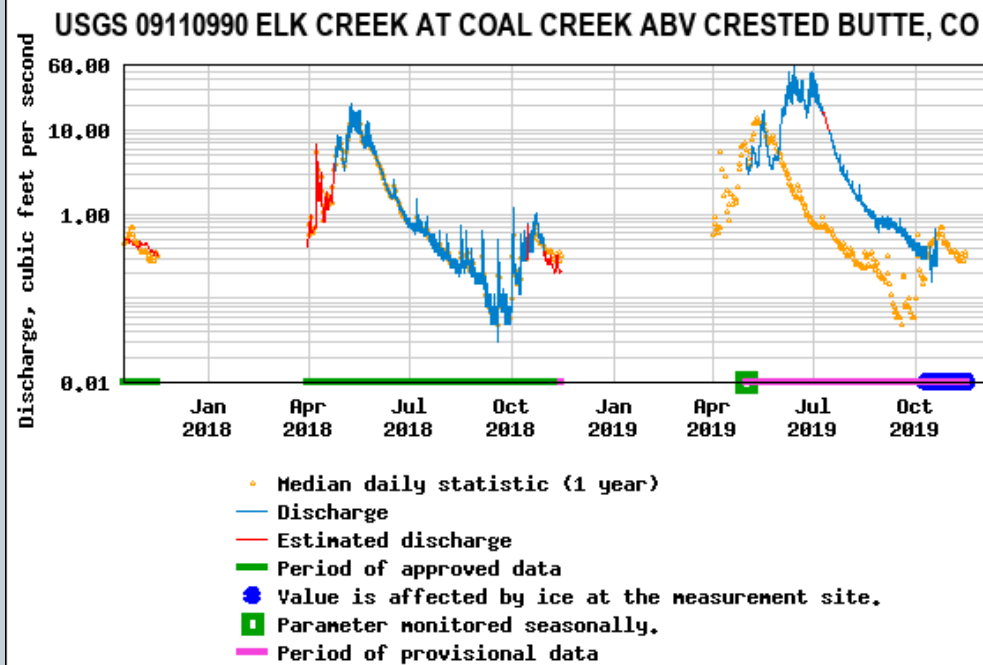




# Proposed ISF

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 <sup>1</sup>	Lower Terminus	Total Length (miles)	Land Ownership	
			Private (%)	Public (%) <sup>2</sup>
Headwaters	Confluence with Coal Creek	2.7	Riparian Corridor <sup>3</sup>	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 <sup>1</sup>	Lower Terminus	Total Length (miles)	Land Ownership	
			Private (%)	Public (%) <sup>2</sup>
Headwaters at Green Lake	Confluence with Coal Creek	2.6	Riparian Corridor <sup>3</sup>	Riparian Corridor
			59%	41%
			Watershed Composition	Watershed Composition
			13%	87%

# Questions?



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