

DRD Tool Kit for Framework Proposals

The following “Tool Kit” describe how proposals for meeting the DRD’s purpose statement are discussed and evaluated for action by the DRD-Steering Committee and eventually, the full DRD itself. This process is designed to be flexible, iterative, interactive and collaborative. The DRD-Steering Committee will serve as the central point for accepting and evaluating proposals, and will make recommendations to the full DRD related to each proposal submitted. This process can be used by any person or entity wishing to approach the DRD about a proposal that addresses the DRD Purpose Statement. Other methods of decision making can be used as well and it is recognized many partners and other groups are active in the Lower Dolores River area.

Dolores River Dialogue Purpose Statement (11/09)

The DRD is a coalition of diverse interests, whose purpose is to explore management opportunities, build support for and take action to improve the ecological conditions downstream of McPhee Reservoir while honoring water rights, protecting agricultural and municipal water supplies, and the continued enjoyment of rafting and fishing.

Principles for Success

The DRD-Steering Committee has developed a set of principles for successful Framework Proposals and do-able alternatives that include (note: this list should be considered a helpful guideline in thinking about and completing proposals):

- *All proposals will be fairly discussed by the DRD-SC*
- *Broad stakeholder involvement*
- *Sound scientific and hydrological information*
- *They are “do-able” – meaning they are crafted within the known hydrological sideboards, Colorado water law, and Project contracts and input from the Hydrology Committee*
- *They are based on the most current scientific literature available*
- *The proposal recognizes that there are various diverse interests involved in the DRD and that buy-in is important. Successful proposals prompt and promote collaboration.*

- *The benefits of the proposal are well articulated*
 - *The proposal may take an adaptive management approach recognizing that some ideas need to be tested and monitored for results and outcomes – therefore, the proposal may have a multi-year implementation component*
 - *Educating participants of the DRD and the community is evident*

Framework Proposal Outline (approved by the DRD, March 2010)

To complete a proposal, please answer the questions below. Please be concise and attach any maps, hydrographs or supporting documentation. The process by which the proposal will be evaluated by the DRD-Steering Committee should be reviewed before starting (see below). There is no deadline. When completed, please submit eight copies of this proposal and any attachments to the Dolores River Dialogue - Steering Committee through the facilitator, Marsha Porter-Norton: porternorton@bresnan.net , 970-247-8306. It should be noted that this process is just one method for the DRD to make decisions. Other methods can be used.

Dolores River Dialogue (DRD) Framework Proposal Outline for Considering Actions to Improve the Downstream Environment

Names of Person(s) Developing this Proposal: _____

Main Contact Person's Phone Number, Cell and Email: _____

Date: _____

Overview of the Proposal

- What is the specific proposal and how would it be implemented? Details and/or brief examples are helpful.
- What is the geographic area of focus including which DRD reach or reaches that would be involved?
- Who are the partners involved? Please describe their roles and responsibilities. Do you propose a role(s) for the DRD? If so, please be specific.
- What is a proposed timeline for implementing this proposal?
- If implemented, how would "success" be defined and monitored?
- Why do you believe this proposal is "do-able"?
- Are there communication plans or agreements that need to be in place among key entities to make this proposal work? If so, please describe.

Costs

- How much would this proposal cost (please provide a basis for the estimate)?
- What source(s) of funding are proposed?
- Would you be requesting any money or resources from the DRD?

Ecology and Science

- Please describe the anticipated ecological benefits (note: these might be from comparable situations elsewhere). Please be specific about any anticipated outcomes for: native fish, trout, riparian health, river mechanics and/or other.
- Please describe any key technical or scientific assumptions you are making including an overview of scientific information relating to the proposal.
- Are there any anticipated unintended or negative ecological consequences or costs?

Economic and Social

- What are the anticipated economic and/or social benefits and outcomes?

Hydrology

- Would the proposal affect water supplies in the reservoir and water rights in the Dolores drainage? If so, describe.
- Would the proposal affect operations of McPhee Dam? If so, describe.
- Would the proposal affect the hydrology downstream of the reservoir? If so, describe.

Sideboard/Constraints

- What are the current sideboards (i.e., constraints) and/or challenges that would need to be addressed (e.g., operational, contractual, legal, political, or other)?

Other Questions

- Are there additional questions that need to be answered to “flesh out” this proposal?
- What is not known at the current time? Can it be known?
- Is there anything else you would like to share?

DRD Framework Process

The following steps describe how proposals for meeting the DRD’s purpose statement are discussed and evaluated for action by the DRD-Steering Committee and eventually, the full DRD itself. This process is designed to be flexible, iterative, interactive and collaborative. The DRD-Steering Committee will serve as the central point for accepting and evaluating proposals, and will make recommendations to the full DRD related to each proposal submitted.

Phase 1: Initial Discussion with DRD-Steering Committee

Proposals are discussed in concept at a meeting with the proposal developer(s) and the DRD- Steering Committee. Two ground rules will be used: no proposal is rejected outright and no decision is made in this phase. The purpose of this initial meeting is for the entity/person developing the proposal to have a conversation and exchange with the DRD-Steering Committee stakeholders; to receive and give initial information/feedback; and to learn where resources might be available for proposal development and information gathering.

Phase 2: Proposal Development

The proposal developer uses the “Framework” questions (available on the Web site or by emailing the facilitator) and completes a proposal, and then submits it electronically to the DRD-Steering Committee. Proposals can be generated from many sources including:

- The community
- DRD members
- DRD - Steering, Science or Hydrology Committee Members
- Other

There is no deadline for submitting proposals.

Phase 3: Education and Common Understanding

The DRD-Steering Committee works with the proposal developer(s) to hold an educational process or event. The goal is to have all parties involved learn about the proposal together in a detailed fashion. The outcome is a common understanding of what exactly is being proposed. This education step will include adequate meeting time for understanding complex information and may include a facilitated dialogue or debate about the proposal. There will be a write up of this education meeting(s) using a consistent outline so the process is transparent.

The educational step could take the shape of a “forum” or “symposia” or could be an expanded meeting between the DRD-Steering Committee with the proposal developer(s) and/or members of the Science and Hydrology Committees, and any other relevant stakeholders.

The exact format of this educational step will be designed based on what is necessary and helpful and of course, in partnership with the proposal developer. Again in this phase, the ground rules are: no proposal is rejected and no decisions are made.

Phase 4: DRD- Steering Committee Review and Recommendation-Setting Phase

The DRD - Steering Committee then further discusses the proposal and makes a recommendation using consensus-based decision making. The DRD-Steering Committee takes their recommendation(s) to the larger DRD. Their recommendations could include any of following:

- a) The DRD should support the proposal and actively work to implement it.
- b) The DRD supports the proposal but it will be implemented by a combination of partners. (In other words, it's not a DRD-led project but is supported by the DRD.)
- c) Some other action should be taken to be defined.
- d) There should be no action on the proposal at the present time by the DRD.

Phase 5: Full DRD Review and Recommendation Phase

Then, at the next scheduled full DRD meeting, the DRD-Steering Committee presents their recommendations and requests the DRD evaluate and act on those recommendations. The full DRD aims to operate with a full consensus but will establish a super majority threshold for voting. The DRD contract staff will produce transparent meeting summaries and information related to each proposal. If the DRD-Steering Committee does not recommend a proposal be supported, the full DRD will be fully briefed as to the reasons.

If the DRD support a proposal, plans will then be made for implementation.

Additional Information:

- 1) Each of the above steps will be fully documented through meetings summaries and/or production of other documents so that the process is transparent.
- 2) Subject to availability of funding, contract staff with a background in relevant issues could be hired to help with the Framework Project.
- 3) These process steps can be reviewed for "do-ability" and the DRD-Steering Committee is open to feedback.
- 4) It is intended that the DRD Science and Hydrology Committees be intimately involved as the proposals are developed and evaluated.
- 5) It should be noted that this process is one method for the DRD to make decisions. Other methods can be used. And, it is recognized other groups and partners are active in the Lower Dolores River corridor.

Available Tools

The DRD-SC has developed a list of tools that interested persons or organizations can refer to and/or use in putting together a DRD Framework Proposal:

- 1) The DRD Science and DRD Hydrology Committees as well as the Steering Committee are made up of experts and interested persons who can give feedback, data, information, bibliographies, etc.
- 2) The DRD Web site contains all DRD-published materials and reports including things such as: DRD Hydrology Report (draft); Core Science Report; Correlations Report; reports published by the DRD Science Committee; etc., etc., etc.

- 3) Information related to the ecological goals discussed by the DRD or other groups can be provided and/or is on the DRD Web site under “Resources” and/or under the specific buttons on the left of the opening page.