

Dolores River
Final Stakeholder Recommendations for
Management Provisions for Maintaining ORVs and Stakeholder Uses and Values
June 30, 2010

Watershed-Based Dialogue on the Dolores River:

1. Streamflow-related values in the Dolores River should be addressed to ensure protection of the fish and recreation ORVs and other stakeholder uses and values.
2. Dolores River streamflow management issues are best addressed on a watershed basis and coordinated among BLM field offices.
3. Streamflows in this segment of the Dolores River are largely determined by current and potential future actions upstream on both the Dolores and the San Miguel and their tributaries. Additionally, upstream water rights may be affected by management actions within the Grand Junction Field Office segments.
4. Therefore, we recommend a broader watershed-based dialogue, with the BLM participating, to pursue effective and coordinated management of ORVs in this and other field offices.
 - a. CWCB could convene the larger dialogue and help outline benchmarks
 - b. Healthy fish populations at the confluence and other values that we have highlighted in this field office need attention in that larger conversation as do ORVs and stakeholder uses and values in other field offices.
 - c. Stakeholders: CWCB, BLM, water conservation districts, counties, landowners, water right owners, and others around this table and similar individuals and groups from other areas

Ensure that ACEC and SRMA management is coordinated and that there is an integrated approach throughout the Dolores watershed. The ACEC and SRMA should both “bend” to accommodate and complement the specific values in the other field office areas, as needed.

When opportunities arise and are appropriate, cooperate with private landowners on a voluntary basis to use conservation easements to maintain stakeholder uses/values and ORVs.

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ORVs and Stakeholder Uses/Values	Management Options for Maintaining ORVs and Stakeholder Uses and Values
BLM Outstandingly Remarkable Values	
Scenic	<p>Include specific protections for scenic values, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VRM Class II 2. An ACEC to protect riparian values (cottonwoods, meandering nature of creek) with additional stipulations for protection of these riparian values 3. Note: The proposed ACEC could protect 3 BLM ORVs in this segment (scenic, geological, and paleontological). <p>Establish controlled surface use or conditional no surface occupancy where necessary to protect the ORVs within ¼ mile of river and apply NSO restrictions within 100 meters of the river; apply CSU restrictions to protect scenic values as viewed from the scenic byway and the river’s surface</p> <p>Customize restrictions within the viewshed to address varying location of scenic values</p>
Geological	<p>Include specific protections for scenic values, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VRM Class II 2. An ACEC to protect riparian values (cottonwoods, meandering nature of creek) with additional stipulations for protection of these riparian values 3. Note: The proposed ACEC could protect 3 BLM ORVs in this segment (scenic, geological, and paleontological). <p>Establish controlled surface use or conditional no surface occupancy where necessary to protect the ORVs within ¼ mile of river and apply NSO restrictions within 100 meters of the river; apply CSU restrictions to protect scenic values as viewed from the scenic byway and the river’s surface</p> <p>Customize restrictions within the viewshed to address varying location of scenic values</p>

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Recreational	<p>For the SRMA being considered for the larger Dolores River area, establish different trail systems for different uses in different places:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain current opportunities and access for recreation throughout potential SRMA • In riparian area, continue opportunities for quiet recreation • Continue current restrictions on motorized recreation on BLM land in the riparian area • Maintain camping opportunities but manage camping in the riparian area to protect the ORVs or other sensitive resources <p>Keep existing grazing allotments; maintain federal agency land health standards and tools to achieve those historic standards.</p> <p>Implement a program for recreation in the river corridor to ensure proper river use, provide education, protect sensitive riparian areas, and respect for private property.</p> <p>Consider recreation access easements on private land in cooperation with private landowners</p>
Paleontological	<p>Include specific protections for scenic values, such as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. VRM Class II 2. An ACEC to protect riparian values (cottonwoods, meandering nature of creek) with additional stipulations for protection of these riparian values 3. Note: The proposed ACEC could protect 3 BLM ORVs in this segment (scenic, geological, and paleontological). <p>Establish controlled surface use or conditional no surface occupancy where necessary to protect the ORVs within ¼ mile of river and apply NSO restrictions within 100 meters of the river; apply CSU restrictions to protect scenic values as viewed from the scenic byway and the river's surface</p> <p>Customize restrictions within the viewshed to address varying location of scenic values</p>

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<p>Fish (new BLM ORV)</p>	<p>Work with CWCB to establish Colorado instream flow to maintain seasonal variability for protection of fish ORV</p> <p>Encourage voluntary flow management in coordination with other partners to benefit native fisheries within available water supplies</p> <p>BLM Grand Junction Field Office and all other affected BLM and Forest Service field offices should coordinate agency actions and cooperative measures to protect and enhance flow-related ORVs in all segments of and tributaries to the Dolores River within available water supplies.</p> <p>BLM and other stakeholders should engage in collaborative, open, and transparent research-based science as a basis for addressing the fish ORV</p> <p>Stakeholder group write a letter to other BLM and US Forest Service field offices in support of the above coordination and cooperative measures.</p> <p>Riparian ACEC should ensure protections for fishery values.</p>
<p>Stakeholder Uses and Values</p>	
<p>Recreation – Hunt, fish, raft, canoe, bike, bird watch, backpack, horse, trail development, gold panning, off-road vehicles, bridge, scenic</p>	<p>Consider ACEC and SRMA alternatives to provide and protect recreational opportunities</p> <p>Consider private property rights when designing and implementing ACEC and SRMA</p>
<p>Wildlife – elk, deer, raptors, desert big horn sheep, bear, etc.</p>	<p>Continue scientifically-based best management practices, including habitat restoration projects, Dolores River Restoration Partnership work, non-native species management, and wildlife habitat management on public lands.</p> <p>When implementing these management practices, BLM should work collaboratively with DOW, other agencies, and private landowners to protect the wildlife resources of the area.</p>

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<p>Fish / Otters / Other aquatic species</p>	<p>Undertake habitat restoration efforts in riparian corridor providing more shade for fish and restoring native vegetation.</p> <p>The riparian ACEC should ensure protections for fishery values.</p> <p>Consider NSO in the riparian corridor.</p> <p>Balance other potentially competing uses and values.</p> <p>Encourage cooperative agreements among water community to protect fish without diminishing other uses/values</p>
<p>Transportation – Rights of way, access, scenic byways, tourism</p>	<p>Existing BLM rules for transportation easements across BLM lands are sufficient and will not change.</p>
<p>Water Rights/Use – Colorado River Compact, agriculture, municipal water, diversions, storage facilities</p>	<p>The State of Colorado has jurisdiction regarding water rights, recognizing the supremacy of existing water rights.</p> <p>BLM shall fully respect private water rights consistent with Colorado water law in making permitting and management decisions and allow the exercise of those rights that will not significantly harm ORVs and other stakeholder values.</p> <p>If additional water is needed in this segment, encourage acquisition or appropriation of water through Colorado water court, including employing state instream flow program.</p> <p>In the event that the water conditions are significantly impacted due to unforeseen circumstances, BLM will work with other agencies managing this area (Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), the Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment (CDPHE), the Division of Wildlife (DOW), etc.) within state water law to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize potential value of an instream flow • Identify an instream flow and acquire if necessary

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Agriculture/Livestock – Grazing, open range access, water rights, crops, grapes, hay, alternative crops	Keep existing grazing allotments, maintaining federal agency land health standards and tools to achieve those historic standards Respect Right to Farm provisions
Private/Resort/Residential/ Commercial – Air tours, infrastructure, wastewater treatment, subdivisions, resorts, associated commercial	Coordinate and cooperate with Mesa County on land use applications that affect BLM management plan for adjacent lands. Private property rights should be recognized.
Vegetative – Scenic, habitat, weed control	Retain all weed management options for use when appropriate
Extractive – Energy, potash, uranium, logging and related transportation	Address restoration and reclamation requirements through the State Division of Mineral Resources, in conjunction with BLM RMP tools and County permitting processes. Comply with County, State, and Federal laws addressing extractive resources
Wilderness values	Manage to retain and protect lands found to have wilderness characteristics
Additional stakeholder uses/values: Cultural heritage of the area, historical uses of the land and resources	To protect the integrity of historic and cultural resources, conduct review and consultation pursuant to National Historic Preservation Act and other federal regulations.