

**Gunnison Basin Wild and Scenic Stakeholder Group**  
**Bill Heddles Recreation Center**  
**March 9, 2011, 6:30pm**

**NOTES**

**SUMMARY**

---

The meeting focused on the Wild & Scenic eligible segments on Big and Little Dominguez and Rose Creeks, all of which are in the Dominguez Canyons Wilderness Area within the Dominguez-Escalante NCA. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff gave introductory information on the segments and their Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's), and the group shared information on current uses as well as potential threats to the ORV's and potential options for protecting them.

The group identified the following needs for additional information:

- Need more information on what could threaten the Canyon Tree Frog (Wildlife ORV).
- How would Wild & Scenic designation make any difference to management to protect ORV's?
  - Katie Stevens responded that she understands where the group stands on Wild & Scenic suitability; other ideas on management would be helpful.
- Investigate Special Recreation Management Area options. Can you have "no surface occupancy" in a Wilderness?

**Next Meeting**

- **March 23, 2011, 6:30pm – 9:00pm**
- **Delta Performing Arts Center (change of venue).**
- Will address Bridgeport – Whitewater segment of Gunnison River and potentially other Gunnison River segments.

**DETAILS**

---

**Introduction**

Facilitator Callie Hendrickson opened the meeting with a review of meeting expectations and the agenda, participant introductions, and a review of ground rules.

**Financial Update**

The only change from the previous meeting's financial update was the announcement of a new donation from the Terror Ditch & Reservoir Company.

**BLM Report**

Katie Stevens and Andy Windsor represented the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at the meeting and gave a brief overview of the eligibility report for the Wild & Scenic eligible segments on Big and Little Dominguez and Rose Creeks. These eligibility reports were consolidated and updated in a Summary Report on all the Wild & Scenic eligible segments in the Dominguez-Escalante National Conservation Area, which is available on-line at:

[http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/co/field\\_offices/denca/D-E\\_NCA\\_RMP/Reports.Par.4335.File.dat/D-E%20Wild%20&%20Scenic%20Summary%20Report\\_12111.pdf](http://www.blm.gov/pgdata/etc/medialib/blm/co/field_offices/denca/D-E_NCA_RMP/Reports.Par.4335.File.dat/D-E%20Wild%20&%20Scenic%20Summary%20Report_12111.pdf)

Some questions were raised about the report.

Q – Are the outstandingly remarkable values (ORV's) for the segments really as much the same as they appear to be in the eligibility report (Segments 1 and 2 of Big and Little Dominguez Creek are shown as sharing many of the same ORV's).

A – Yes

Q – Are there cultural sites in all segments?

A – Yes.

### **Current Uses in Eligible Segment Corridors**

Following the introduction by BLM staff, participants shared information on current uses in the eligible stream segment corridors. These included:

- A large water **diversion** on Segment 2 of Big Dominguez Creek.
  - The diversion is for private water right use in Bridgeport.
  - It isn't mentioned in the eligibility report.
  - BLM looked at it and considered whether it stored water, which would make the segment ineligible for Wild & Scenic status (diversions are legally compatible with Wild & Scenic status, but on-channel storage is not).
  - Backhoes are among the equipment needed to maintain the dam and diversion.
  - Could move the edge of the segment to the Wilderness boundary – hard for BLM to manage with state water laws requiring access to maintain diversions.
- **Grazing** allotments on Big and Little Dominguez and Rose Creeks.
- Big Dominguez Creek hosts the primary **hiking** trail, which gets its heaviest use to the rock art and back.
  - There is also a trail along Little Dominguez Creek.
- **Hunting** for deer and elk.
- There is a **road** for a single resident (Billy Rambo) to use for driving along Big and Little Dominguez Segments 2.
- There is an access road along the northern boundary.
- Billy Rambo also has a **water right** & ditch on Little Dominguez Creek.
- **Hang gliding** occurs in the area (recent accident was in the paper).
- Big Dominguez Creek has a history of **mineral exploration**/ mining for precious metals; further mining is already prohibited.
- There are **no power lines** in the area.
- Bighorn sheep are in the area.
  - Desert pronghorn have also been seen, but rarely.
- There have been **excavations of dinosaur bones** along Big Dominguez Segment 1 and between Big and Little Dominguez Creeks.
  - In response to a question about why the paleontological resources hadn't been listed as an ORV, BLM staff noted that in order for something to be considered an ORV, it had to depend on a river connection and be a high quality site.
  - In response to a question about how the NCA would affect future dinosaur digs, BLM staff noted that:
    - Science and paleontological research were among the reasons for the establishment of the NCA, so they would be allowed.
    - Wilderness designation may impact access modes.
- **Camping** is allowed at upstream and downstream ends of the area, but not in the middle or near rock art.
  - It was noted that the eligibility report notes camping occurring near waterfalls, which is an area where camping is prohibited.

### **Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORV's)**

BLM staff gave a brief introduction to each ORV listed in the eligibility report for the Big Dominguez, Little Dominguez and Rose Creeks, which was followed by a discussion of threats to the ORV, what BLM is currently doing to protect the ORV, BLM management options to protect the ORV, and other (non-BLM) measures that could be taken to protect the ORV. These comments are captured in the attached worksheet.

### **Additional Information Needed to Make Recommendation**

The group identified the following needs for additional information:

- Need more information on what could threaten the Canyon Tree Frog (Wildlife ORV).
- How would Wild & Scenic designation make any difference to management to protect ORV's?
  - Katie Stevens responded that she understands where the group stands on Wild & Scenic suitability; other ideas on management would be helpful.
- Investigate Special Recreation Management Area options. Can you have “no surface occupancy” in a Wilderness?

### **Next Meeting**

- March 23, 2011, 6:30pm – 9:00pm
- Delta Performing Arts Center
- Will address Bridgeport – Whitewater segment of Gunnison River.