

Escalante (Seg 1 – upstream; Seg 2 – downstream) & Cottonwood Creeks – ORV Worksheets v. 4-26-11

Items in italics reflect comments made in stakeholder group discussions.

<u>ORV</u>	<u>What is Special</u>	<u>Possible Threats to ORV</u> Examples: Vandalism, trash, flow issues	<u>Current measures to protect</u> Examples: NCA, ESA, Grazing Restrictions, Camping Restrictions, etc.	<u>BLM Management Tools/Options</u> Examples: WSR, ACEC, SRMA, etc.	<u>Other ways to protect the ORV</u>
Escalante Creek, Seg 1 (Scenic Class) <u>Scenic</u>	Cascading creek, potholes, prominent cliffs, varied colors in rock & vegetation; unusual “double canyon” <i>Scenic Class “A”</i>	<i>Increased traffic diminishes the experience.</i>	<i>Counting vehicles.</i> <i>Focus law enforcement & maintenance on potholes.</i> <i>New grazing agreement: building drift fences to protect cactus.</i> <i>Visual Resource Management Class 2: minimal change allowed</i>		
Escalante Creek, Seg 1 (Scenic Class) <u>Recreational</u>	Primarily potholes area, with chutes, falls & plunge pools. Extreme kayaking during runoff; wading & camping later.	<i>Dangerous behavior</i> <i>Same as for Dominguez: Too much recreation, spreading out.</i> <i>Ability of Escalante Ranch to dry up stream – usually don’t.</i>	<i>ISF right: 4.0 cfs 3/1–3/31 & 6/15-7/31); 8.2 cfs 4/1-6/14; 1.5 cfs 8/1-2/28.(junior to Escalante Ranch right).</i> <i>Escalante Ranch releases from reservoir to meet water needs downstream.</i> <i>Designated campsites.</i> <i>Focus law enforcement & maintenance on potholes.</i> <i>“No shooting” area</i>	<i>Special regulations on kayakers.</i> <i>Restrict particular uses to particular places.</i>	
Escalante Creek, Seg 1 (Scenic Class) <u>Geologic</u>	Potholes – unique to have Precambrian gneiss eroded by stream into these formations.		<i>Takes care of itself.</i>		

Escalante (Seg 1 – upstream; Seg 2 – downstream) & Cottonwood Creeks – ORV Worksheets v. 4-26-11

Items in italics reflect comments made in stakeholder group discussions.

<u>ORV</u>	<u>What is Special</u>	<u>Possible Threats to ORV</u>	<u>Current measures to protect</u> Examples: NCA, ESA, Grazing Restrictions, Camping Restrictions, etc.	<u>BLM Management Tools/Options</u> Examples: WSR, ACEC, SRMA, etc.	<u>Other ways to protect the ORV</u>
Escalante Creek, Seg 1 (Scenic Class) <u>Wildlife</u>	Exceptionally high quality peregrine falcon habitat. <i>BLM: In the area because of the canyon rims and water, which draws their prey.</i> <i>Others: should remove this ORV because of lack of evidence of their presence after 2009.</i>	<i>People aren't really a threat – they nest in skyscrapers in cities.</i> <i>Escalante Ranch could dry up stream.</i>	<i>BLM sensitive species.</i> <i>Monitored; pair observed '08-'09.</i> <i>ISF right: 4.0 cfs 3/1–3/31 & 6/15-7/31); 8.2 cfs 4/1-6/14; 1.5 cfs 8/1-2/28.</i>		
Escalante Creek, Seg 1 (Scenic Class) <u>Vegetation</u>	Giant helleborine orchid, rare in CO Mancos columbine/ Eastwoods monkeyflower wetland (G2) Eastwood's monkeyflower (BLM sensitive) in hanging gardens alkali cordgrass saltmeadow, rare in CO <i>Other veg. ORV's dropped out after re-assessment of vegetation rareness.</i>	<i>People</i> <i>Drought</i> <i>Gas drilling/ fracking on private land in the area could affect hydrology and/ or water quality.</i>	ACEC for hanging gardens and saltmeadow (1895 acres) – impact on Esc Ranch avoided by agreement to allow continued grazing. State natural area <i>New grazing agreement: building drift fences to protect cactus.</i> <i>ISF right: 4.0 cfs 3/1–3/31 & 6/15-7/31); 8.2 cfs 4/1-6/14; 1.5 cfs 8/1-2/28.</i>	<i>Vegetation on rim isn't related to the creek (although is related to hydrology of the area) – may not be a legitimate ORV.</i>	
Escalante Creek, Seg 2 (Rec class) <u>Fish</u>	Bluehead, flannelmouth sucker resident, spawning habitat (BLM, CO sensitive) <i>Recent survey showed the fish thriving.</i> <i>Access up and down the stream at the right times are important for the fish.</i>	<i>Ability of Escalante Ranch to dry up stream – usually don't.</i>	<i>BLM Sensitive status.</i> <i>Landowners restrict access.</i> <i>Landowner reservoir releases benefit fish.</i>	<i>If this segment wasn't in the NCA, it would have been tossed out of consideration for WSR status by the GJ stakeholder process b/c of too much private land.</i>	

Escalante (Seg 1 – upstream; Seg 2 – downstream) & Cottonwood Creeks – ORV Worksheets v. 4-26-11

Items in italics reflect comments made in stakeholder group discussions.

<u>ORV</u>	<u>What is Special</u>	<u>Possible Threats to ORV</u>	<u>Current measures to protect</u> Examples: NCA, ESA, Grazing Restrictions, Camping Restrictions, etc.	<u>BLM Management Tools/Options</u> Examples: WSR, ACEC, SRMA, etc.	<u>Other ways to protect the ORV</u>
Escalante Creek, Seg 2 (Rec class) <u>Wildlife</u>	Desert bighorn – <i>really historically there? Old remains found on Glade Park, in Montrose County</i> river otter – <i>really there? No one present has seen in 20 years. DOW confirms no recent sightings.</i> peregrine falcon	<i>DOW hunting tags for bighorn (3).</i> <i>Natural predators.</i>	<i>Escalante Ranch doesn't allow bighorn hunting.</i>		
Cottonwood Creek (Scenic class) <u>Vegetation</u>	A-ranked occurrence of narrowleaf cottonwood/ skunkbush sumac riparian woodland (G3)	<i>Wildfire</i> <i>Upstream water rights?</i> <i>Grazing – if not managed appropriately.</i>	<i>Protected by remoteness/ difficult access.</i>		

Existing Uses – Escalante Creek

- *hiking*
- *drunken parties*
- *a maintained road bisects the stream corridors*
- *grazing*
- *kayaking*
- *rock climbing (segment 2)*
- *traffic count: guess 12,000/ year (will check)*
- *ATV's on the road.*
- *hunting*
- *access to Forest Service land via 4-wheel-drive*
- *power lines (segment 2): vehicle access required for maintenance, repair and replacement activities*
- *mountain biking*
- *horseback riding*
- *agriculture: grazing, hay at the Forks; need horse access.*
- *Bernice Musser takes people on tours.*

Existing Uses – Cottonwood Creek

- *grazing*
- *hunting*
- *ATV's (no access in canyon; north and west on rim)*