

# *“Dolores River Dialogue”*

Purpose, Function, Projects/Activities & DRD-Steering Committee Roles  
2014

## ***Dolores River Dialogue: Purpose Statement***

*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. (11/09)*

## ***Dolores River Dialogue: Functions of the DRD***

- ✓ To serve as an ongoing forum to bring together various community members, conservation groups, water managers, recreationists, other interest groups, and federal, state and local governments and agencies to explore issues, develop common understandings and complete projects – towards the goal of defining and acting upon “do-able” actions which address the purpose statement.
- ✓ To link with other groups working in the Lower Dolores area to communicate, coordinate, and share resources and information.
- ✓ To produce and disseminate relevant documents and other educational publications for use by DRD members, the DRD - Steering Committee and other DRD Committees, partners, and the community-at-large.

## ***Projects/Activities that the DRD is supporting in 2014 in order to work towards the Purpose Statement:***

1. Host two full DRD meetings a year to keep the public and all key stakeholders informed of activities in the watershed and on the river.
2. After completion of the “319 watershed study” (formerly called the Dolores River Nonpoint Source Pollution Plan) in June of 2013, over the course of the next two years, the DRD will be looking to identify projects that can be implemented after vetting and more planning by stakeholders. These projects, if completed, will contribute to improved water quality goals. Please go to the “319” button on the DRD Web site on the left for more information and for the plan the DRD completed.
3. Continue to convene and facilitate, as necessary, the Lower Dolores Plan Working Group and the Legislative Subcommittee as it finalizes plans for a National Conservation Area (NCA) which is the identified alternative to the river being suitable for the Wild and Scenic

River status. Please find more at the Lower Dolores Plan Working Group button on the DRD Web site.

4. Link with the Implementation Team ~~ giving input; sharing information; and vetting of ideas. The Implementation Team (IT) was formed in July 2011 to study and potentially pursue nine opportunities to improve the status of native fish identified in the report issued by the *A Way Forward* science contractors in July and finalized in August of 2011. The Implementation Team released a report in the fall of 2012 and is currently making plans for releasing an update taking into consideration questions and feedback heard from community members, entities and groups. For more information, go to “Implementation Team” at the bottom of the DRD Web page (left side).
5. If and when any proposals come forth for addressing the DRD’s purpose statement, the DRD-SC will continue to oversee the implementation of the Framework Proposal Project that offers interested persons, organizations and coalitions the opportunity to develop “do-able” alternatives which are first vetted by the DRD - Steering Committee, and the Hydrology and Science Committees with recommendations then being made to the larger DRD. *For more information, please contact the group’s facilitator Marsha Porter-Norton: porternorton@bresnan.net or 970-247-8306.*
6. Convene a **Science Committee, as needed**, that comments on scientific aspects of Framework Proposals; conducts science efforts in the corridor; compiles and summarizes scientific information pertinent to Dolores River ecology and management; promotes communication and coordination among partners; and conducts technical and/or peer reviews of DRD science efforts.

Convene a **Hydrology Committee, as needed**, that provides and interprets hydrological assists in preparing, reviewing and commenting on the hydrological aspects of new Framework Proposals; and educates DRD members and Framework Project proponents specific to hydrologic constraints, costs and opportunities.
7. The DRD will carry out administrative functions:
  - The Steering Committee (\*) will meet quarterly and more often as needed. It is hoped that the full DRD will meet twice.
  - The DRD Web site will continue to be a resource for disseminating information.
  - The budget of \$40,503 (two years ’14 and ’15) will be raised working with a variety of partners. This budget is for the core operations of the DRD and identified projects
  - The DRD Science Committee and Hydrology Committee will hold meetings as necessary.

\* Roles of the DRD-SC: The DRD Steering Committee of the DRD is made up of: American Whitewater and Dolores River Boating Advocates (shared role); Bureau of Reclamation; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; Dolores Water Conservancy District; Montezuma Valley Irrigation Company; San Juan Basin Farm Bureau; San Juan Citizens Alliance; Southwestern Colorado Livestock Association; The Nature Conservancy; and Trout Unlimited. Each entity appoints a representative and an alternate. The Steering Committee's roles and tasks are:

- Reports to the DRD and serves as a clearing house for all DRD activities
- Guides the *Framework* process; vets ideas and moves efforts forward; develops recommendations to take to the DRD; is a place where consensus is "hammered out" in great detail; frames opportunities for the larger DRD; takes recommendations to the DRD using detail work coming in from the Hydrology and Science Committees
- Keeps the DRD from getting out ahead of the member groups
- Is not a final decision maker
- Ensures funding oversight
- Oversees the Science and Hydrology Committees (they meet only as necessary)
- Selects contractors and/or other staff
- Organizes work – develops annual goals, work plans, objectives and measurements for progress and monitoring of each and reviews requests for projects
- Ensures credibility and outside review of science efforts
- Provides continual communication with the DRD and committees; listens at all levels; works together to keep the diverse coalition of interests working in a positive direction; uses a "can do" attitude; stays flexible
- Can include other players as necessary