

RPW for the Animas River – Agreements and Ideas (DRAFT ** DRAFT ** DRAFT as of: 12/18/12)

Segment	Value	Potential Tools or Ideas	Information Needs
ALL	Water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is consensus that this is a very important value and goal. There is agreement that the Animas River Stakeholders Group’s (ARSG) work should continue and where possible, the RPW for the Animas River Workgroup’s report and recommendations should bolster and support the ARSG. - There is consensus that the group supports the passage of the Good Samaritan Act. 	
ALL	Private property rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The group acknowledges and supports private property rights. 	
South Mineral and Mineral Creeks	Iron Fens Groundwater (plant community)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exploring a County Code Amendment that would consider the protection of ground water in development applications on private lands (the idea would be that the fens would need to be considered in the development application process). - Further define the source of the groundwater through commissioning a study. This study could also include mapping the fens that are most unique, that may be of priority for protection. 	<p>Need to understand what MSI (Mtn. Studies Institute) is working on around potential tools and also determine what is in the current County Code around protection of the Iron Fens.</p> <p>Need to get the mapping from MSI that they have done around Iron Fens to see if it answers the group’s questions about the fens, where they are located, and if “priority” areas can be identified for protection.</p> <p>Find out what is in place now around County Code and protection of the fens.</p>
	Iron Fens – Surface water (plant community)	<p>A potential goal was noted as being: <i>Protect the source(s) of the surface water that feed the Iron Fens.</i> There was no consensus on a recommendation but these ideas were noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In-stream flow b) Prevent surface water interruption c) Study what level of water is needed and get a baseline 	<p>The group realized they cannot develop a solid recommendation because there is not enough information on the amount of water needed, so this could be an area of future inquiry.</p>

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	Black swifts (birds)	<p>-Consider exploring an in-stream flow as a potential tool to protect the habitat for the Black Swifts. The segment would end at the bottom of the waterfall starting at the top. (Note: ISF is a state tool and you can find out more by reading about it on the Web site or in the Tool Kit handout given at the meetings. A presentation on ISF was given by Linda Bassi from the Colorado Water Conservation Board in 2011.)</p> <p>-Explore seasonal closure of the waterfall to protect habitat.</p> <p>-Ask the USFS to do a study to find out what the impacts of human activity are and what specific times of year are the most sensitive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to understand more about water rights above the water fall - The group felt more information was needed here and wanted to guard against unintended consequences. More research would need to be done on this if it were to be worked on.
	General Area and Flows	Support a policy of “no new major impoundments” on these segments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to understand the Town of Silverton’s potential storage right on South Mineral. - Where is the SWSI site? - Need to clarify that small diversions are OK (e.g. stock ponds).
	General and Various Values (ORVs and Flows)	<p>Wild and Scenic River: There was no consensus on this issue.</p> <p>Range of Ideas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Keep it suitable in the Forest Plan (final) as a way to protect values. b) Remove suitability c) Full designation 	
Upper Animas	Various values	<p>-Status quo protects the values</p> <p>-Support for no major impoundment at Howardsville site</p> <p>-Support ARSG and their efforts to improve water quality</p> <p>-Possibly look at a small mineral with-drawl, if one does not exist now, for the area around Animas Forks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where is the Howardsville site specifically located? - Language from Bruce W. related to A-LP agreements - Talk to the BLM to see if there is a mineral with-drawl at Animas Forks
Cement Creek	Various values	<p>-Support work of ARSG</p> <p>-Status quo protects the values</p>	
Cement Creek Through Town	Various values	<p>- Support work of ARSG</p> <p>- Status quo protects the values</p>	

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Main Steam (Baker’s Bridge up to below Silverton)	Flows in the Animas	- Consensus agreement on no new impoundments in main stem with a note about Animas-La Plata (get from Bruce W.)	- Hydrograph (CWCB working on) - Is there a SWSI site in the main stem?
		THIS ONE ISN'T DONE YET. TO BE DISCUSSED	

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INTERESTS (identified by the group in October)

- 🌳 Water quality
- 🌳 Balance between uses, demand and preservation of values; balance in the ways the group finds solutions
- 🌳 Developing resources
- 🌳 Accommodation of each other’s interests
- 🌳 Economic interests: recreation, mining, tourism
- 🌳 Maintaining the way things are now
- 🌳 Maintaining jobs and employment
- 🌳 Recognize our place in the greater scheme of things – we are the trustees of natural resources for the whole country
- 🌳 River in a natural, unimpeded state – free-flowing
- 🌳 Product development and sales
- 🌳 Historic structures and activities
- 🌳 Freedom to enjoy & access nature
- 🌳 Water availability
- 🌳 Public land resource