

Summary of requested information by the Piedra Workgroup

(March, 2012 – January, 2013)

March 13, 2012

1. Hydrograph of Piedra
2. Proposed dam locations by CWCB
3. Williams Reservoir Management plan
4. Senior and tribal water rights below Highway 160
5. How much water in the Piedra Basin is available for new appropriation.
6. Is Archuleta county a right to farm and ranch county?
7. Break down areas “eligible” for Wild and Scenic status and areas “suitable” for Wild and Scenic status within Focus Area.

For answers refer to information sheet, website, and April, 2012 minutes

April, 2012

1. Public comments submitted to San Juan National Forest Plan regarding Piedra River’s Wild and Scenic potential.
2. Hydrology study that established instream flow rights on the Williams Creek and Weminuche Creek.
3. What groups proposed reservoirs on the Piedra River? Were storage rights obtained, and if so what are the storage amounts and locations?
4. Ask Roz Wu and or Paul Blackman to come in and speak about recreation stats, carrying capacity, permits, etc.

For answers refer to information sheet, website, and May, 2012 minutes

May, 2012

1. More specific data on how many vehicles travel on the Piedra Road.
2. Will there be any changes in forest management within the Piedra Focus Area in the proposed new San Juan National Forest plan?

For answers, refer to information packet, website and June, 2012 minutes.

June, 2012

1. A hydrograph showing instream flows for the Piedra watershed.
2. A hydrograph of the Piedra plotted on a ten-year average.

For answers, refer to information packets, website and July, 2012 minutes.

July, 2012

1. A handout detailing the required steps towards a Wild and Scenic designation was requested.
2. How often do instream flows go below the required levels?

3. How many commercial boating permits are active for the Piedra?
4. What are the prospects for potential gravel mines on the Piedra?

For answers refer to information packets, website, and August, 2012 minutes.

August, 2012

1. It was recommended that the group obtain what studies there are on current use on the forest, compared to past years. Carrying capacity studies were also requested.
2. Can the forest service use prescribed burns in the Piedra Area or Wilderness Areas in order to prevent build up of fuels that contribute to major wildfires?
3. It was asked to what degree the Piedra River is stocked with fish?
4. The Piedra Area includes a mineral withdrawal and it was asked if that included geothermal leases.
5. The group requested data on senior water rights below the highway and above Navajo reservoir.
6. It was noted that the information sheet needs to be corrected where it implies certain water rights owned by the tribe are not used. The tribe does divert that water into ditches to irrigate land.
7. Would a Wild and Scenic status impact river-habitat improvement conducted on private land within the designated stretch? It was thought that changes below the high- water mark would be impacted by a Wild and Scenic river designation, but it was to be looked into further.
8. A general inventory, not necessarily specific locations, of ruins and historic sites so the group could have a better understanding of them going forward.
9. The upper Piedra community as a whole should be added under values on the segment spreadsheet. Existing water rights and diversions should be listed as a value to be protected.
10. The group requested more specific data on conservation easements within the Focus Area in regards to protections.

For answers refer to information handouts, website and September minutes.

September, 2012

1. More information was to be found on the specifics of rules and regulations on roadless areas adjacent to the Piedra Area to see what was allowable.
2. The group wants to know the specific restrictions of Colorado Roadless Area within the Piedra Focus Area.
3. What are the winter management rules for the Piedra Focus Area.
4. Two advisory groups were suggested to further study certain issues.
 - A. A subcommittee is being considered to tackle the issue of expanding the Piedra Area in exchange for dropping suitability status for Wild and Scenic on the Piedra River.Research would also be done on the possibilities of limiting federal funding for

major impoundments on the Piedra.

B. A permanent committee was suggested be formed to help give guidance and direction to forest managers regarding local resources and land management.

5. Is there a population target for the river otter on the Piedra?

For answers refer to information handouts, website and the October, 2012 minutes.

October, 2012

1. What type of motorized snow travel (snowcat, snowmobile, ATV fitted with tracks) is allowed and where can they go?
2. Coordinate with water districts on monitoring return flows into the Piedra watershed from agricultural irrigation.
3. Volunteer effort to install fencing that protects riparian areas from grazing.
4. Program be researched that gives irrigators more incentive to conserve water that does not risk minimizing their water rights. Information was to be sought on whether the excess water saved be used to augment low flows in the Piedra.

For answers refer to information packet, website and December, 2012 minutes.

(No November meeting)

December 12

1. Who owns and operates the transmountain diversion at the headwaters of Williams Creek? What are its water rights?
 - A. The group requested clarification on what the instream flows are for Williams Creek.
2. What impact does the transmountain diversion on Williams Creek have on instream flows?

For answers, refer to information sheets, website and January minutes.

January, 2013

1. What are the conditional water rights within the Piedra watershed?
2. Is the group consensus for no major impoundments just for the Piedra Main stem or does it include the East Fork, Williams Creek, Weminuche Creek and Middle Fork?
3. What are the restrictions in the Piedra Area? And how does that compare to the restrictions in Colorado Roadless Areas?
4. Is there a difference in how many clients an outfitter can guide between the Colorado Roadless Areas and the Piedra Area?
5. Do the CRAs adjacent to the Piedra Area qualify for inclusion into the Piedra Area?

6. What is the history behind the creation of the Piedra Area and why were the boundaries drawn where they are?
7. How do the working group's various proposals match up with management goals within the National Forest draft management plan?

Information requested

1. A document identifying the consensus items agreed to by the group since the first meeting.
2. A document outlining proposals, ideas and research opportunities put forth by the group.
3. A map that shows the locations of reservoirs identified by the State Water Supply Initiative, and also where the conditional water rights are located.
4. A map that shows the different levels of roadless areas within the Focus Area.
5. A copy of the 1993 Colorado Wilderness Bill was requested.

Visit the River Protection Working group website for documents, meeting minutes, maps and more information.