



Dolores Public Lands Office
March 2009



Dolores Public Lands Office
March 2009



Dolores Public Lands Office
March 2009



Dolores Public Lands Office
March 2009



Dolores Public Lands Office
March 2009



Dolores Public Lands Office
March 2009



Dolores Public Lands Office
March 2009



Dolores Public Lands Office
March 2009

Summary of Wild and Scenic River Findings 2007 Draft San Juan FS/BLM Plan

Lower Dolores River + selected tributaries

Dolores Public Lands Office
March 2009

Topics of Discussion

- 1968 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, Public Law 90-542
- 1976 Dolores River Wild and Scenic River Study Report
(CO Dept of Natural Resources, USDA Forest Service, USDI Bureau of Outdoor Recreation)
- 2007 San Juan Public Lands Draft Land Management Plan – Volume 3
Appendix D pages D-10 to D-41 (USDI BLM, USDA FS)

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968)

- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, P.L. 90-542 signed October 2, 1968
- '...preserves "certain selected rivers" that "possess *outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values*"...in their free-flowing condition...for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.'
- Amended three times (most recent 1/3/1975) at this time identified the Dolores River for study (29 total rivers in the U.S., 12 in Colorado)
- '...McPhee Dam to the Colorado-Utah border, excluding the segment from one mile above Hwy 90 to the confluence of the San Miguel River...this equaled 194 river miles to be studied....'

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1968)

Types of Classification

- *Recreational* – may have undammed or diverted some impoundment or diversion in the past, shorelines/watershed have some development, readily accessible by roads/railroads.
- *Scenic* – free of impoundments, shorelines/watershed still largely primitive and undeveloped, accessible in places by roads
- *Wild* – free of impoundments, shorelines/watershed largely undeveloped (waters unpolluted), accessible by trail only

**Act contains no authority to control the use of privately-owned land. Landowners would be allowed to use their land just as they had before potential designation.

Dolores River

Wild and Scenic River Study Report (1976)

- Mainstem from McPhee Dam to Bedrock (105 miles) possesses *outstanding scenic, geologic, historic and cultural values*.
- Segments recommended from *Eligible to Suitable* into Wild and Scenic River System in one of 3 classifications:
 - McPhee Dam to Bradfield Bridge = Recreational
 - Bradfield Bridge to Disappointment Creek = Scenic
 - Disappointment to Little Gypsum Valley Bridge = Recreational
 - Little Gypsum to 1 mile above Bedrock = Wild

Dolores River Wild and Scenic River Study Report (1976)

"The recommendations expressed are based on the premise that the Dolores Project will be constructed. Its construction and operation will *enhance most wild and scenic values* of the Dolores River and insure that a live streamflow will be maintained below McPhee Dam."

San Juan Draft Management Plan (2007)

Process for Wild and Scenic Designation (required by 1968 Act):

1. Determine which streams are *Eligible* and what classification (Wild, Scenic, Recreational)
2. Determine which streams are *Suitable*
3. FS/BLM can choose when to forward suitable streams for legislative consideration
4. Potential Designation (two options):
 - a) Congress 'designates' Wild and Scenic River
 - b) Governor makes recommendation to Secretary of Interior

San Juan Draft Management Plan (2007)

Eligible Segments	Wild	Scenic	Rec.	Total
Dolores River (McPhee–Bedrock)	48.84	23.15	37.04	109.02
McIntyre Canyon		5.82		5.82
Summit Canyon		12.15		12.15
Bull Canyon	1.44	4.94		6.38
Coyote Wash	7.6			7.6
Totals	57.88	46.06	37.04	140.97
Overall San Juan Plan Totals	200	82	253	535

San Juan Draft Management Plan (2007)

Preliminary Suitable Segments	Wild	Scenic	Rec.	Total
Dolores River (McPhee–Bedrock)	48.84	23.15	37.04	109.02
McIntyre Canyon		0		0
Summit Canyon		12.15		12.15
Bull Canyon	0	0		0
Coyote Wash	7.6			7.6
Totals	56.44	35.3	37.04	128.77
Overall San Juan Plan Totals	176.86	68.74	110.61	356.21

Dolores Public Lands Office
March 2009

San Juan Draft Management Plan (2007)

Development Types by Classification

<u>Classification</u>	<u>Wild</u>	<u>Scenic</u>	<u>Recreational</u>
Livestock Grazing	Y	Y	Y
Historical Buildings	Y	Y	Y
Subdivisions/Stores	N	N	Y
Timber Harvest	N	Y	Y
Trails (Non-Motorized)	Y	Y	Y
Trails (Motorized)	Y/N	Y/N	Y
Roads Crossing/Bridges	N	Y	Y
Parallel Roads	N	N	Y
Low Dams/Diversions	N	N	Y

San Juan Draft Management Plan (2007)

- Outstandingly Remarkable Values: a unique, rare or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. Can be related to scenery, recreation, geology, fish, wildlife, historical, cultural or other values.

San Juan Draft Management Plan (2007)

- Example: Coyote Wash
 - ✓ Location, Wild/Scenic Classification, Land Ownership %'s
 - ✓ Outstandingly Remarkable Values
 - ✓ *Ecology* – largest population of Kachina Daisy in CO, Eastwood Monkeyflower abundance
 - ✓ *Recreation* – hiking experience and rafter camping at mouth
 - ✓ Existing and Potential Land Uses - Managed as BLM Wilderness Study Area
 - ✓ Mineral Potential - low potential for uranium, high potential for oil/gas
 - ✓ Water Resources Development - No diversions, No conditional water rights or potential reservoir sites

San Juan Draft Management Plan (2007)

- Example: Coyote Wash continued
 - ✓ Transportation and Facilities – No Roads
 - ✓ Recreation and Other Activities – hiking from rafters and campers
 - ✓ Special Areas – located entirely within Dolores River WSA
 - ✓ Socioeconomic Environment – no study done in Montrose County
 - ✓ Current Administration and Funding Needs – designation will not dramatically change use or management of the area
 - ✓ Benefits and Impacts of WSR or Other Methods and Preliminary Suitability Determination – suitable, multiple ORVs rare in CO, few conflicts,
 - ✓ Outstanding Issues and Conflicts to be Resolved – SW Basin Roundtable potential water supply locations

San Juan Draft Management Plan (2007)

DRD collaboration language

Under Dolores River -

"Should the DRD make substantial progress in identifying and securing needed protections of the ORVs, the recommendations of the group could be used to supplement or replace this preliminary finding of suitability."

Under Coyote Wash -

"As stated above, should the DRD develop alternative consensus-based recommendations for the mainstem of the lower Dolores River, careful consideration should be given to extending these protections to some of all of the major tributaries, including Coyote Wash."

"If the Dolores River Dialogue comes to consensus and makes plans for the management of the Dolores River, those plans should be incorporated and/or addressed in any final recommendation."