

## **Lower Dolores River Management Plan Update Working Group: Exploring Alternatives to Wild and Scenic River Designation**

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### **Group Composition:**

- The Working Group for the Lower Dolores River Management Plan Update is made up of approximately 40 people who represent many interests, entities and voices in the Lower Dolores River Valley (see box on page #3).
- The meetings are open to the public. There will be time on each agenda for the public to give Working Group their comments and input.

### **Timing/Schedule:**

- The meetings will be from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. on a consistent schedule. Several field trips will occur in the spring.
- The group's work will conclude in 10/09.

### **Working Group Member Expectations:**

- Consistent participation throughout the process
- Read materials and prepare for the meetings
- Give your input, ideas, concerns and opportunities
- Communicate with your area(s) of the community throughout the process
- Follow the ground rules

### **Ground Rules:**

- Respect others' opinions even if they are different from your own
- One person talk at a time

### **The Planning Process: Three Phased Approach:**

#### **Phase I: Start up and orientation – 12/08**

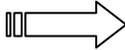
- Orientation
- Current plans for the USFS/BLM
- Background and history
- Outcomes and next steps
- DRD science
- Values the process will focus on in future meetings  
- initial list:

- Ecology (riparian and otherwise)
- Fish
- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Scenery
- Geology and
- Archeology
- Other

## Phase II: Outstandingly Remarkable Values and Other Values Topic-Specific Meetings – 1/09 to 4/09

- Meetings organized around values
- Meeting components:
  - \* Present known information, data, USFS/BLM inventories & DRD science
  - \* Present relevant 1990 Corridor Plan and San Juan National Forest Plan information
  - \* Discussion of how other topics influence the values such as grazing, multiple use and oil/gas/mining and minerals
  - \* Working Group dialogue about concerns, issues and opportunities as well as tools for protection
  - \* Speakers, field trips, Power Point presentations, etc.
  - \* Identify study area boundary (*boundary is developed in relation to the values that will be protected*)
- *Note: Public meeting hosted at some point*
- *Note: May and June - break from Working Group meetings*

## Phase III – Wrap Up -- 7/09 to 10/09

- Formulate alternatives for protecting the Outstandingly Remarkable Values and other values
- **Key Question:**
  -  *What is the appropriate level of protection and protection tool(s) that should be recommended to the Dolores Public Lands Office for the values identified and discussed in this planning process (both ORV and other)?*
- Develop recommendations with proposed actions for consideration by the DPLO in their completion of the Environmental Assessment.
- Produce a report and submit to the DPLO.

### **Important Planning Concepts:**

- Themes: \* Science \* Ecology \* Community
- Updating the Lower Dolores River Management Plan provides a vehicle for exploring alternatives to Wild and Scenic River Designation through a community-based process.
- This is a process that allows for a range of opinions to be brought to the table and discussed at the community level. Let's try to find areas of agreement/consensus and note where agreement does not exist.
- The process will be open: public comment at each meeting, one public meeting in Phase II, Web site, meeting noticing, meeting summaries. (revised 2/18/09)

