

# Dolores River Dialogue Watershed Planning Process

April 26, 2012

*You are invited to join the Dolores watershed planning process!*

The Dolores River Dialogue (DRD) has received funding from the Colorado Non-point Source Program to develop a Watershed Plan. [Chester Anderson](#) of [B.U.G.S. Consulting](#) has been contracted to coordinate and write the plan.

A **Watershed Plan** is a stakeholder driven process developed for the purpose of:

1. Identifying existing and potential watershed issues;
2. Deciding on goals and objectives for the watershed;
3. Developing a list of best management practices (BMP's) in order to prevent or reduce the movement of pollutants from the land and surface or ground water into the river, and;
4. Maintaining and improving the river's capacity to deal with natural pollutants.

The Environmental Protection Agency has a 9-point plan that lists 9 elements that should be addressed in a watershed plan. Once the watershed plan is approved by the CO Non-point Source Program it may open the door to further funding for to implement Best Management Practices. *This program has no legal jurisdiction and is entirely voluntary.* For more information about watershed plans, please visit <http://www.npscolorado.com>.

***We would like to get your input on the plan.*** Please register at <http://www.bugsconsulting.com/Clients/DoloresWatershedPlan.aspx> to obtain access to announcements, links to other stakeholders, a place to send comments to Chester Anderson, a place to upload documents and images to share with other stakeholders, a list of participating stakeholders, a forum to comment on and discuss topics related to the watershed planning process and drafts of the Watershed Plan. The web pages are only open to those that register.

In the Forum, Chester has started a thread to capture the local history. It is important to reflect on the past and for everyone involved to understand the actions and the underlying reasons that have led us to this Dialogue process and the need for a larger, watershed planning process. Short snippets and memories are very important as well as longer treatises, especially about farming, ranching, water diversion projects, rafting, fishing, horseback riding, hiking, logging and living and working on the Dolores River. You can add your own recollections and comment on other people's contributions.

For those interested in the Dolores River Watershed Planning process, please contact Chester Anderson at [chester@bugsconsulting.com](mailto:chester@bugsconsulting.com), Wendy McDermott at [wendy@sanjuancitizens.org](mailto:wendy@sanjuancitizens.org), Don Schwindt at [dysch@frontier.net](mailto:dysch@frontier.net), or Marsha Porter-Norton at [porternorton@bresnan.net](mailto:porternorton@bresnan.net).

*The Dolores River Dialogue (DRD) is a collaborative group of conservation, water management, land management, recreational and governmental representatives working since 2004 to explore opportunities to manage McPhee Reservoir to improve downstream ecological conditions while honoring water rights, protecting agricultural and municipal water supplies and the continued enjoyment of rafting and fishing.*