

Animas River Protection Workgroup Summary of Wild & Scenic questions (Version 1: as of September 2012)

Below is a summary of questions, to date, regarding the impact of potential Wild & Scenic River designation for the Animas River focus area.

August 25, 2011:

- Does WSR conflict with Colorado Water Law?

December 15, 2011:

- Silverton to Baker's Bridge section:

Do we want more people accessing this if it a WSR? Will that increase access hurt the values, hurt the corridor?

What would be the amount of water that would be in the water right if it were determined to be WSR?

January 30, 2012:

- San Juan County Commissioners have questions about the quarter-mile segment that would surround the Animas corridor, if designated as Wild & Scenic. Interested in water rights and how they would be impacted. Also interested in the idea generated about a potential tool being a mineral withdrawal of this area, as well as upper Mineral Creek. Is there access to 3.7 miles down the canyon where Wild & Scenic is proposed?

- There was a question raised about the flexibility of a WSR corridor width – could the ¼ mile width be shrunken down a bit? If so, it might allow Commissioners to feel more willing to support Wild & Scenic.

- A working group member wanted more information on the economic impact of WSR status.

- Would new mining claims be encumbered by a designation?

- Would the value of a new mining claim be impacted if it is location by a Wild & Scenic designated area?

- What would be the implications for the Tacoma Power Plant, if WSR was enacted?

February 23, 2012:

- What types of resources that might be available in terms of resources and funds if WSR was designated?

- What would potential WSR designation do to water quality work?

April 30, 2012:

- To what degree would WSR protect the Train?
- What rights of condemnation, if any, come with a WSR designation?
- What are the impacts of a WSR on private lands, property rights and adjacent land owners?
- Would the pollution impacts of the train be mitigated under WSR designation?
- Wind, water and solar energy potential – is it excluded under WSR?

May 24, 2012:

- Would WSR designation would impact the train's ability to clear rock fall?
- For Mineral and South Mineral Creek: Are there any other WSR designations on a section of river this short (7.41 miles)?

June 29, 2012:

- How do RNA's (Research Natural Areas) compare to WSR's?
- Could a Good Samaritan Law could be enacted with a WSR designation?
- Would WSR prevent or inhibit any efforts going on now to clean up the river? If so, how?