

Segment	Protections in Place	Values	Ideas for Protection
<p>1) Baker’s Bridge north up to just below Silverton</p>	<p>-BLM & USFS managed land (current and future management)</p> <p>-historic and scenic railroad corridor</p> <p>-a Wilderness Area that is adjacent to Wilderness Study Areas</p> <p>-Special Management Resource Area (Alpine Triangle) in the upper reaches</p> <p>- preliminarily suitable for Wild and Scenic River (WSR) in the <i>San Juan Public Lands 2007 Draft Land Management Plan</i></p> <p>-all laws, requirements, guidelines, etc. that protect wetlands, rivers and streams including ones required under the Federal Clean Water Act, the Mine Reclamation Act and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</p> <p>-the conservation protections that private land owners may be doing such as forest restoration, easements, etc., etc. (specifically in this stretch, Tall Timbers Resort told the group of their efforts)</p> <p>-efforts to improve the water quality in the river such as what is being done by the Animas River Stakeholders Group</p>	<p>-Rafting: only two-day, class 5 river trip in the United States</p> <p>-Train: 1,000 of visitors every year -- train is a major economic driver for San Juan County</p> <p>-Recreation and scenery: the river canyon and surrounding landscape; well known for rock and ice climbing, backpacking, and rafting/kayaking (this area is “ iconic nationally”).</p> <p>-The area is in its natural state; is remote; hard to get to.</p> <p>-Geology</p> <p>-Local control</p> <p>- Durable and long term preservation</p> <p><i>Values as identified by the USFS/BLM leading to this stretch being “Preliminarily Suitable” for WSR: Animas River – Baker’s Bridge to Silverton</i></p> <p><i>Recreation and Scenery: The Durango-Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad runs along the river through this segment. The railroad draws more than 146,000 visitors annually from all over the world to see the canyon and scenery associated with the river. The Upper Animas provides the highest commercial put-in points in Colorado, and the Class V whitewater is one of just a few rivers in Colorado that provides this extreme experience for commercial rafters.</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State in-stream flow (ISF) 2. “Status quo” (a.k.a. clarified as meaning that to protect the values, existing management and available tools are enough; means the current protections are adequate). Two scenarios emerged around suitability for WSR in status quo: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Leaving it Preliminarily Suitable for the WSR designation (like it is now in the San Juan Public Lands Draft Land Management Plan, a plan that is soon to be final) b. No suitability (removal of suitability...this could be something discussed in the “Regional Discussion”) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2.1 Another element of Status Quo relates to WSR issues and again: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The way it is now 2) The way it would once the Draft Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) is final and any changes in management, if any. 2.2 Status quo includes efforts to clean up the river 3. Wild & Scenic River status (current identified stretch) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3.a. Wild & Scenic River status (with truncated area to the north – due to mineral claims). 4. Use county land use codes, San Juan & La Plata (additional idea: any mining operations in the area that would ever be approved would need to look like a historic site) (additional idea: the two counties make their codes consistent in this corridor around densities and set backs) 5. Designate the two WSAs adjacent as Wilderness Areas 6. Mineral withdrawal within the area between wilderness areas and private land 7. Management scheme by USFS such as the planning tool in the plan 8. Design a special area (see the St.Vrain example in the Tool Kit) – the idea is to craft a tool that would likely require legislation that is unique to this area

		<p><i>Cultural/Historical:</i> <i>The Animas Canyon wagon road was the first transportation route to connect Silverton to Animas City and Durango.</i></p>	<p>9. National Recreation Area or “NRA”</p> <p>10. Recommend in the report that no new major impoundments be built in this segment (4/12 meeting)</p> <p>11. Support efforts to improve water quality in this section (note: consensus was reached to use this tool on South Mineral, check for consensus on this stretch)</p> <p>13. New tool suggestion: Establish a Local Advisory Council that could help weigh in on how to protect values in the watershed</p>
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Segment	Protections in Place	Values	Ideas for Protection
<p>2) South Mineral Creek</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mix of USFS-owned land (94%) with some mining claims and private land - This stretch travels through inventoried roadless area - Has instream flow held by CWCB - Preliminarily suitable for WSR - All state, county and federal protections in place including all laws, requirements, guidelines, etc. that protect wetlands, rivers and streams including ones required under the Federal Clean Water Act, the Mine Reclamation Act and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - Black Swifts (birds) are a “species of concern” - Stream standards are set by Water Quality & Control Commission - efforts to improve the water quality in the river such as what is being done by the Animas River Stakeholders Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Known mineralized area - Ice Lakes – hiking - Grazing - Fishing - Widely used - All season usage - Biological and geological classroom - Easily accessible to Silverton - Possible heli-skiing - Firewood collection - Wildlife – Black Swift - Unusual wetlands - Hunting - Migration route for animals not usually migrating, i.e. Lynx - Mining - Hard rock 100 race - Backpacking - Ice climbing - 4-wheeling - Good fishery and high water quality -Local control -Durable and long term preservation -Private property <p><i>Values as identified by the USFS/BLM leading to this stretch being “Preliminarily Suitable” for WSR: South Fork Mineral Creek (and portions of Cataract Creek, Porcupine Creek and unnamed tributaries)</i></p> <p>Ecology: <i>There is an iron fen/wetland complex at the mouth of South Fork Mineral Creek. Again, currently there are only 13 iron fens known globally, four of which occur in San Juan County. Wildlife: Four breeding colonies of black swifts (a bird type) occur at waterfalls within South</i></p>	<p>1. “Status quo” (a.k.a. clarified as meaning that to protect the values, existing management and available tools are enough; means the current protections are adequate). Two scenarios emerged around suitability for WSR in status quo:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Leaving it Preliminarily Suitable for the WSR designation (like it is now in the San Juan Public Lands Draft Land Management Plan, a plan that is soon to be final) b. No suitability (removal of suitability could be something discussed in the “Regional Discussion”) <p>Action step that relates to an existing tool under Status Quo: Understand more about the local standards and tools that the Columbine Ranger District of the USFS has in place to protect the Black Swifts and Fens (e.g. Plan guidelines, standards, laws, etc.) Identified as an area we need more information.</p> <p>1.1 Another element of Status Quo relates to WSR issues and again:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The way it is now 2) The way it would once the Draft Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) is final and any changes in management, if any. <p>1.3 Status quo includes all efforts to clean up the river</p> <p>2. Continue efforts to improve water quality including: a) support the removal of barriers to improvement of Water Quality Act, i.e. Good Samaritan Act (consensus reached on 5/24/12) b); support the Animas River Stakeholders in their continued work (work has been done above Chattanooga to date)</p> <p>3. Wild & Scenic River designation</p> <p>4. Additional flow protection tool for instream flows (tool to be developed)</p> <p>5. Further increase flows that protect consumptive use of flows in streams (tool to be developed) (could be a part of 4)</p> <p>7. Protect hydrology of fens(tool to be developed) (could be a part of 4)</p>

		<p><i>Fork Mineral Creek corridor, on Porcupine Creek, Cataract Creek and unnamed tributaries. The species nests behind or adjacent to waterfalls, where the mists water the mosses that make up the nest. The San Juan Planning area provides a significant contribution to the species' worldwide breeding distribution, which is limited to a narrow portion of the Rocky Mountains from Mexico to British Columbia and a narrow band along sea cliffs from California to Alaska.</i></p>	<p>8. Tool to prevent trans-basin diversion (tool to be developed)</p> <p>9. New tool suggestion: Research Natural Area or RNA</p> <p>10. <i>New tool suggestion Establish a Local Advisory Council that could help weigh in on how to protect values in the watershed</i></p> <p>11. Proposed Special Management Area from Clear Lake Road west (this was added to the list of tools instead of being listed as "Protection in Place" because the bill has not passed yet in Congress.)</p> <p>12. <i>Fens:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Protect hydrology of fens (possible In-Stream Flow)</i> ▪ <i>Request an inventory from the USFS around the fens they would really like to see protected (the specific areas)</i> • <i>Area of Critical Environmental Concern (to protect fens)</i>
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Segment	Protections in Place	Values	Ideas for Protection
<p>3) Mineral Creek</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Passes through USFS-owned land (85%) and private land -Much of it is in scenic byway -Colorado instream flows on main stem and two tributaries -A portion of Middle-Fork of Mineral Creek (Ophir Creek) is inventoried roadless – includes most of Mount Molly -Is in scenic view corridor overlay district of San Juan County -A portion of the lower section is in the town/county mutual interest zone -Needs cooperative approval to move forward with development or projects -In 1996 Act, some historic structures are protected -A short portion (maybe a mile) is in Silverton Special Recreation Management Area of BLM -State Game laws -Preliminarily Suitable for WSR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mining - Backcountry skiing - History - Motorized and non-motorized - Chattanooga Fen - Scenic - Hunting - Potential fish barrier for South Mineral - Zinc loading has been cut in half – goal is to allow fish to be able to survive below the confluence to the Animas - Mineral Creek corridor is historic right-of-way for train -Local control Durable and long term preservation -Private property <p><i>Values as identified by the USFS/BLM leading to this stretch being “Preliminarily Suitable” for WSR:</i></p> <p>Mineral Creek Recreation and scenery: <i>Mineral Creek is along the San Juan Skyway, designated as an All-American Road and a National Scenic Byway. The Skyway attracts national and international visitors. Scenic values include wetlands and colorful geology from exposed mineral/ore deposits. The creek runs through a U-shaped glacial valley marked by avalanche runs where aspen grows.</i></p> <p>Ecology: <i>The Chattanooga iron fen borders Mineral Creek and supports a rare moss, sphagnum balticum that has not been documented anywhere else in the continental</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Status quo” (a.k.a. clarified as meaning that to protect the values, existing management and available tools are enough; means the current protections are adequate). Two scenarios emerged around suitability for WSR in status quo: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> c. Leaving it Preliminarily Suitable for the WSR designation (like it is now in the San Juan Public Lands Draft Land Management Plan, a plan that is soon to be final) d. No suitability (removal of suitability could be something discussed in the “Regional Discussion”) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Another element of Status Quo relates to WSR issues and again: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The way it is now b. The way it would once the Draft Land Management Plan (Forest Plan) is final and any changes in management, if any. 1.3 Status quo includes efforts to clean up the river <p>Action step that relates to an existing tool under Status Quo: Understand more about the local standards and tools that the Columbine Ranger District of the USFS has in place to protect the Black Swifts and Fens (e.g. Plan guidelines, standards, laws, etc.) Identified as an area we need more information.</p> 13. .Continue efforts to improve water quality (consensus); Animas River Stakeholders - continue work (all work has been done above Chattanooga to date) – numerous ARS projects have positively impacted water quality in Mineral Creek 4. Removal of barriers to improvement of Water Quality Act, i.e. Good Samaritan Act 5. Wild & Scenic River designation 7. Flow protection tool for additional instream flows

	<p>- efforts to improve the water quality in the river such as what is being done by the Animas River Stakeholders Group</p> <p>- All state, county and federal protections in place including all laws, requirements, guidelines, etc. that protect wetlands, rivers and streams including ones required under the Federal Clean Water Act, the Mine Reclamation Act and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment</p>	<p><i>United States. Currently, there are only 13 iron fens known globally, four of which occur in San Juan County.</i></p>	<p>9. Level of flexibility to meet future needs (took out...this is an interest, not a tool)</p> <p>10. Further increased flows that protect consumptive use of flows in streams</p> <p>11. Fens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Protect hydrology of fens (possible In-Stream Flow)? - Request an inventory from the USFS around the fens they would really like to see protected (the specific areas) - Area of Critical Environmental Concern (to protect fens) <p>14. Tool to prevent trans-basin diversion</p> <p>15. New tool suggestion Establish a Local Advisory Council that could help weigh in on how to protect values in the watershed</p>
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<p>4) Cement Creek</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Special recreation management area - San Juan County Land Use Code - Everything in information sheet about applicable laws and regulations - No in-stream flows - Animas River Stakeholders recommendations on water quality - All state, county and federal protections in place including all laws, requirements, guidelines, etc. that protect wetlands, rivers and streams including ones required under the Federal Clean Water Act, the Mine Reclamation Act and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment <p>Note: This segment is not in the Scenic Overlay District.</p> <p>-efforts to improve the water quality in the river such as what is being done by the Animas River Stakeholders Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Iron fens - Ski area - Mines - Significant mineral potential - Timber - Hydroelectric potential - Access point to other recreation - Jeeping - Hunting - Identified as a growth area in County Land Use Plan, “economic hoarder” - Lynx habitat - Wildlife - Sheep grazing - Waterfront amenity for Silverton - Historical mining, mills - Old railroad grade - Economic - River functioning at risk, well known area of concern -Local control - Winter recreation including snowmobiling and skiing - AMC Mitigation (??) -Durable and long term preservation <p><i>This segment has not been found suitable for WSR so there are no values identified by the USFS or BLM in their Draft Land Management Plan</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Superfund site (Note: as of Herald article in April, this is off the table for now) 2) Animas River Stakeholders work 3) San Juan County Code 4) Potential transfer of BLM lands to County lands 5) In-stream flow 6) Good Samaritan Law 7) Mine permitting 8) Laws and regulations i.e. Clean Water Act 9) Major testing ground for demineralization 10) Status quo” (a.k.a. clarified as meaning that to protect the values, existing management and available tools are enough; means the current protections are adequate). <p>Two scenarios emerged around suitability for WSR in status quo:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> e. Leaving it Preliminarily Suitable for the WSR designation (like it is now in the San Juan Public Lands Draft Land Management Plan, a plan that is soon to be final) f. No suitability (removal of suitability could be something discussed in the “Regional Discussion”) <p>10. 1 Status quo includes effort to clean up the river.</p>

			<p>10.2 Action step that relates to an existing tool under Status Quo: Understand more about the local standards and tools that the Columbine Ranger District of the USFS has in place to protect the Fens (e.g. Plan guidelines, standards, laws, etc.) Identified as an area we need more information.</p>
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Segment	Protections in Place	Values	Ideas for Protection
<p>5) Upper Animas Above Cement Creek</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality Control Stream Standards - Backcountry development regulations (limits size of homes) (Note: This is in place) - In-stream flows - County Code: scenic overlay from Eureka to Headwaters - Laws and regulations in place - Boulder Creek mineral withdrawal area to protect water supply - Wilderness Study Area – Handies Peak - Roadless inventoried area - Cunningham has its headwaters in Wilderness - All state, county and federal protections in place including all laws, requirements, guidelines, etc. that protect wetlands, rivers and streams including ones required under the Federal Clean Water Act, the Mine Reclamation Act and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment - Abandoned mine mitigations/reclamations laws - efforts to improve the water quality in the river 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Significant mineral resources - On Alpine Loop – historic - Recreation – Skiing, fishing, hiking, etc. - Historic tourism - Educational camps - Hardrock 100 - Most visitors of any BLM land in Colorado (600,000+ / visitor days/ yr.) - Timber - Bighorn sheep habitat - Sheep grazing - Tundra - Potential for mineral development (rare earth minerals and their importance to national security) - Mill - Local control - Durable and long term preservation - Jeeping and mining tours - Durable and long term preservation of the natural area <p><i>This segment has not been found suitable for WSR so there are no values identified by the USFS or BLM in their Draft Land Management Plan</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) National Conservation Area (NCA) 2) Special Management Area as an alternative to an NCA 3) Wilderness Study Area going to Wilderness 4) BOCC land use regulations 5) Mineral withdrawal 6) Increase the number of In-stream flows 7) Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation 8) Howardsville development site – explore whether it should stay as a proposed dam site. 9) New tool suggestion Establish a Local Advisory Council that could help weigh in on how to protect values in the watershed 11) Status quo” (a.k.a. clarified as meaning that to protect the values, existing management and available tools are enough; means the current protections are adequate). <p>11. 1 Status quo includes effort to clean up the river.</p>

	such as what is being done by the Animas River Stakeholders Group		
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<p>6) Animas up to Cement Creek (small segment in Town)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water Quality Control Standards - Mutual zone of interest between Town and County - County land use code - Town of Silverton restrictions - SRMA - Deed restrictions - Scenic Byway -efforts to improve the water quality in the river such as what is being done by the Animas River Stakeholders Group - All state, county and federal protections in place including all laws, requirements, guidelines, etc. that protect wetlands, rivers and streams including ones required under the Federal Clean Water Act, the Mine Reclamation Act and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Railroad and its facilities - Town - Historic - River properties - Dog runs - Rafting - Events - Kendall Mountain Recreation Area - Wetlands - Fishing ponds - Mineral resources -Local control <p>Values for segment 5 (many of them apply to this segment)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreation – Skiing, fishing, hiking, etc. - Historic tourism - Educational camps - Hardrock 100 - Most visitors of any BLM land in Colorado (600,000+/yr.) - Timber - Bighorn sheet habitat - Sheep grazing - Tundra -Local control - Jeeping and mining tours - Durable and long term preservation <p><i>This segment has not been found suitable for WSR so there are no values identified by the USFS or BLM in their Draft Land Mgmt. Plan.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recreation and Public All Purposes Act – could expand via BLM 2. Town/County Master Plan 3. Special Management Area 4. “Status quo” (a.k.a. clarified as meaning that to protect the values, existing management and available tools are enough; means the current protections are adequate). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 1 Status quo includes effort to clean up the river. 5. New tool suggestion Establish a Local Advisory Council that could help weigh in on how to protect values in the watershed 6. A watershed tool the group designs (new....maybe one that is not existing)

If you would like to view a map of the Area of Focus, please go to:

<http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/riverprotection/animas/animasMaps.htm>

Also, handouts of the map are available at the meetings.

This document is a Working Draft: Date 12/17/12 (Fifth Version)