



# Integrated Water Management Planning in the Middle Colorado River

*To improve security for all water uses in the Middle Colorado River by understanding and protecting existing uses, meeting shortages, and maintaining healthy riverine ecosystems in the face of increased future demand and climate uncertainty.*

## Recreation Focus Group Meeting

February 13, 2019

### Meeting Summary

#### I. Attendees.

Nate Mohrmann – Parks and Recreation, Glenwood

Joe Mollica – River enthusiast

Joe Keys, Jet Boat Colorado

Derek Wingfield – Community Development, Parachute

Tom Whitmore – Parks and Recreation Director – Rifle

Justin Jones – Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM Colorado River Field Office

Kimberly Leitzinger – Outdoor Recreation Planner, BLM Colorado River Field Office

Seth Mason, Lotic Hydrological

Quinn Donnelly – River Restoration Inc.

Laurie Rink – Middle Colorado Watershed Council

#### II. Review of Draft Recreation User Survey

The latest draft of the survey was reviewed by the group. Comments were as follows:

- Advertise/distribute on group websites, Facebook, Twitter.
- Use student volunteers to administer survey this summer.
- MCWC has a monthly op-ed column with the Post Independent and will feature recreation and access to this survey either in April or May. Run as press release for other regional papers to pick up.
- BLM and USFS cannot be cited as partner on the survey!
- Include questions regarding motorized use of river.

Other comments should be directed to Quinn by end of next week.

#### III. Continued Discussion on River Map

Last meeting we resolved that public education and access are the existing impediments to river use in the middle river. The main educational topics are user etiquette, respect for private property, and overcoming conflicts (potential) between motorized and non-motorized use.

- Seth provided examples for a variety of river guide formats that could be used. The group decided they liked a booklet format, one that could be easily flipped from page to page, that would fit easily in a pocket, ammo can, or standard size pamphlet holder at an access site.
- BLM produced a version of a river map for the upper Colorado that folks liked – cost \$10 each to produce.
- Proceed with caution on listing hazards, they can change with varying flow levels and from year to year as the river moves. Scouting of hazards may not be possible given abundance of private property. BLM

focused in its map on human-made hazards, not natural ones because those can and do change. Be sure to include a clear disclaimer on the extent of information contained.

- BLM used a variable scale to display individual stream reaches dependent upon how complex the details were.
- More detail may be helpful for locating points where boats could stop for a rest, picnic, to stretch legs. Be clear about where private land occurs and that boats, SUPs, etc. cannot legally stop and touch the bottom.
- Extend the map area to Bair Ranch upstream – this is where BLM's upper Colorado River guide leaves off. This will not conflict with the Wild & Scenic process in Glenwood Canyon since it does not focus on recreation. Extend downstream to Cameo roller dam or the Beaver Tail tunnels (take out above roller dam).
- Note where boater-friendly amenities occur, like restrooms, boat pumps, drinking water, garbage or recycle facilities.
- Address the need for boaters to be equipped with human waste containers, like WAG bags.
- BLM has a request pending to Washington to enforce, where in effect, the requirement to use firepans and groovers.
- It was noted that river signage at access point would be useful for education. Consider standardizing the format along this reach. Folks will send Laurie examples to work with.

Seth rolled out a large print of the middle river and asked folks to add notes that will help in constructing the river map.

#### IV. Next Meeting

The group will be reconvened at a later date, to be determined, when the consulting team has more data or outputs for group feedback.

