

DRD Accomplishments & Milestones

Since its formal beginning in 2004, the DRD has accomplished the following...

Bringing Stakeholders Together

1. Held regular full DRD meetings involving 36+ Lower Dolores stakeholders as well as interested citizens to develop plans of action for moving forward; to learn about science and hydrology efforts carried out by the DRD and other partners; to be kept informed about other groups' efforts in the Lower Dolores River area; and to set broad direction for the work of the DRD.
2. Organized regular monthly meetings of the DRD - Steering Committee that carries out the work of the DRD, handles administrative and process issues, and oversees contract staff.
3. Developed a Web site that is updated regularly with information, minutes, reports, media, etc. <http://ocs.fortlewis.edu/drd/default.asp> (Fort Lewis College's Office of Community Services hosts the site.)

Addressing the Purpose Statement

4. Secured funding from the EPA for a "319 Watershed Plan" and completed the plan (*Dolores River Nonpoint Source Pollution Plan*) in June 2013. Find it on the DRD Web site. The DRD-Steering Committee will be working on identifying projects in the plan that have high community support for possible implementation after vetting ideas with the DRD (2014-2015).
5. In 2008, Formed the Lower Dolores Plan Working Group(LDPWG)in December of 2008. The group concluded their first phase in July of 2010 and submitted a report to the Dolores Public Lands Office (USFS and BLM). The group identified a 'National Conservation Area as their alternative to the current status of the river being suitable for Wild and Scenic River designation. Establishment of an NCA takes a Congressional designation. Since July of 2010, a Legislative Subcommittee, appointed by the LDPWG, has been working to define the parameters and goals of the legislation. The Legislative Committee hopes to have the NCA parameters document done in 2014 working with the LDPWG (this is an outline of what the legislation would and would not do). This document will be presented to the LDPWG and the DRD for feedback. For more information contact Marsha Porter-Norton, facilitator(porternorton@bresnan.net) or Amber Kelley, Chairwoman of the Legislative (amber@sanjuancitizens.org).
6. Worked collaboratively to secure funding for a river monitoring gauge at Slickrock in order to better understand flows. Currently, the DRD is not actively working to get the gauge funded but community groups have taken on this project notably the Dolores River Boating Advocates.
7. Worked collaboratively to secure funding for another SNOTEL site (2012) in order to improve forecasting.
8. Formed a DRD Science Committee that issued a Core Science Report in May of 2005 and organized other science related investigations, projects and efforts such as:

Dolores River Dialogue: Purpose Statement: *The DRD is a coalition of diverse interests, whose purpose is to explore management opportunities, build support for and take action to improve the ecological conditions downstream of McPhee Reservoir while honoring water rights, protecting agricultural and municipal water supplies, and the continued enjoyment of rafting and fishing.*

- 2009 Secured a CWCB Severance Tax Trust Fund Grant to support field studies and synthesis of existing science and identification of opportunities for improvement of the downstream environment.
 - 2010 Completed and submitted "Science-Based Opportunities, Field Investigations, and Potential Tools for Improvement of the Downstream Environment on the Lower Dolores River," known as the "Opportunities Report".
 - 2011 Completed Edition II of the "Opportunities Report", to incorporate review and comment from DRD Steering, Science and Hydrology Committees and to update temperature and cottonwood field study results.
 - 2011 Developed DRD Proposal Worksheet, outlining DRD's proposed science "desired outcomes."
9. Formed a DRD Hydrology Committee that educated stakeholders about key issue related to the river's hydrology, and contracts and operations of McPhee Reservoir.
 10. Produced a "Correlation Report" (integrating hydrology and core science) and a "Matrix of Opportunities" (assessing benefits, constraints, costs of current and alternative management scenarios). Find these at the Web site under "Resources".
 11. Organized, funded and led field science investigations in order to better understand the Lower Dolores River system from a scientific view point(s) including these topics: Big Gyp habitat analysis, Macroinvertebrates, cold water and warm water fish surveys, historic cottonwood analysis, experimental tamarisk removal, baseline floodplain analysis, and water nutrient and thermocline analyses. These field studies are carried out by science students, supervised volunteers and/or paid science contactors.
 12. Reviewed and formulated comments on all Dolores Public Lands Office (USFS and BLM) streams that were eligible or suitable for the Wild and Scenic River status under consideration as part of the *San Juan Forest/BLM Land Management Plan Revision and EIS*.
 13. Oversees a Framework Proposal Project via the Dolores River Dialogue - Steering Committee which acts as a coordinating point for accepting, discussing and analyzing "do-able" alternatives that relate to the purpose statement. The DRD - Steering Committee then makes recommendations to the full DRD. This is just one tool used for the DRD to use in deciding which projects to take on and/or support.

Networking and Communications

- 1) Presented to participants on the annual Statewide Water Tour, June 2010 (CFWE event).
- 2) Presented a paper at a Flagstaff, AZ conference entitled: *The Dolores River Dialogue as an Example of Long-term Collaborative Decision-making*.
- 3) Submitted the DRD as a project in the SW Basin Roundtable Non Consumptive Needs Assessment and Inventory.
- 4) Presented at the annual Southwestern Water Conservation District Seminar, Durango, April, 2010.
- 5) Teamed up with MVIC, the AmeriCorps program and the Western Hardrock Watershed Team to host a VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) Volunteer in 2008 -- 2009.
- 6) Organized guests for appearances on two public radio KSJD's "Zine" radio programs.