DOLORES RIVER, COLORADO ---

THE RIVER OF SORROWS

Recommendation for Inclusion Under Section 5(d) of the

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Report by BLM, Colorado

Enclosure 8


WASHINGTON
SPOKANE
Coeur d'Alene
MONTANA
Shelby
GREAT FALLS
HELENA
BUTTE
Missoula
BILLINGS
Miles City
IDAHO
Pendleton
BOISE
Idaho Falls
POCATELLO
Twin Falls
NEVADA
Elko
Ogden
SALT LAKE CITY
UTAH
Cedar City
LAS VEGAS
ARIZONA
Kingman
Flagstaff
PHOENIX
Casa Grande
Yuma
TUCSON
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WYOMING
Sheridan
Buffalo
CASPER
Rock Sprs
CHEYENNE
Laramie
COLORADO
DENVER
Sterling
Limon
Grand Jct
COLORADO SPRINGS
PUEBLO
Trinidad
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NORTH DAKOTA
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La Crosse
MILWAUKEE
MADISON
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MISSOURI
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ST LOUIS
Springfield
Joplin
ARKANSAS
LITTLE ROCK
Ft Smith
Texarkana
LOUISIANA
SHREVEPORT
Marshall
BATON ROUGE
NEW ORLEANS
Biloxi
MISS
Vicksburg
JACKSON
McComb
Hattiesburg
Meridian
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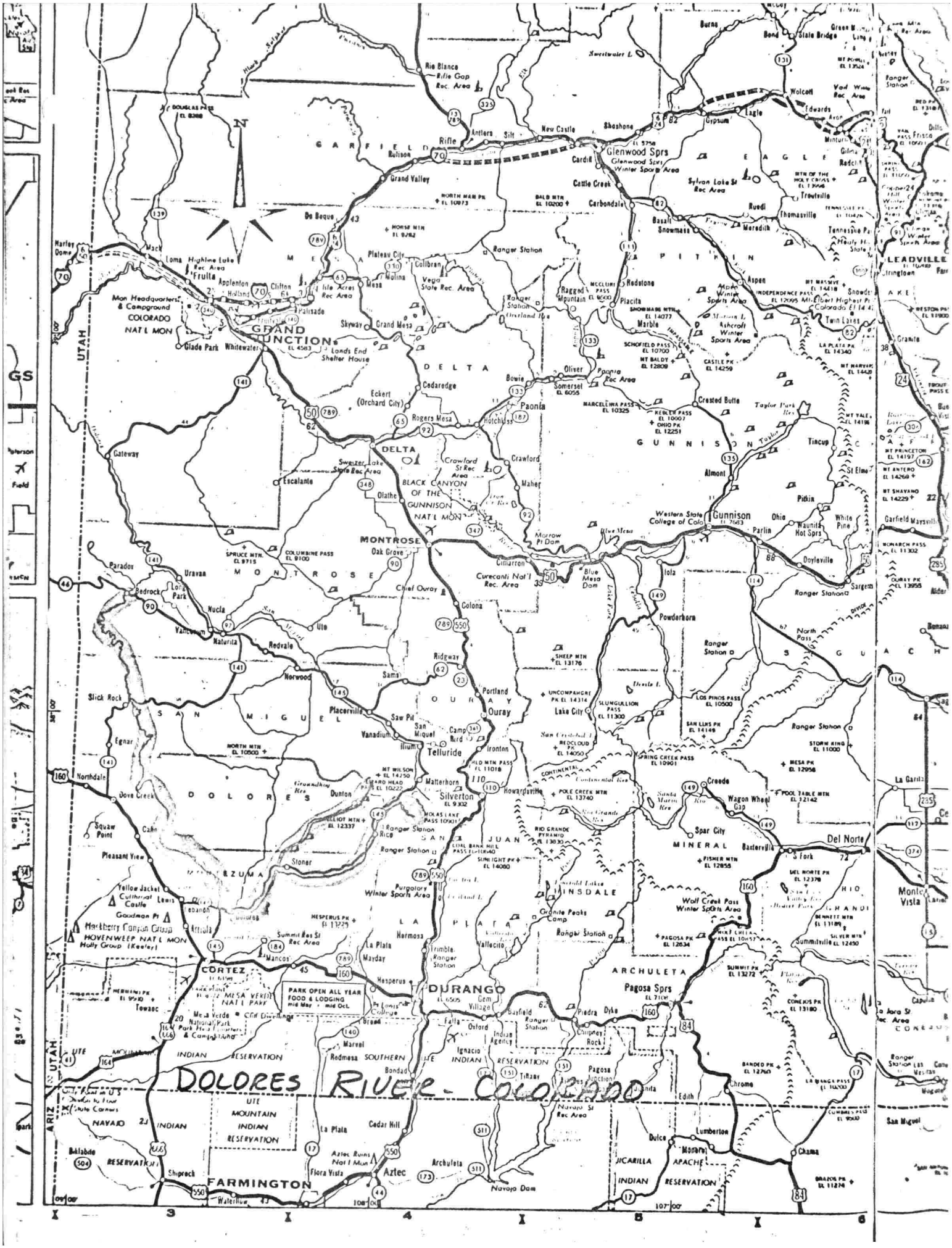
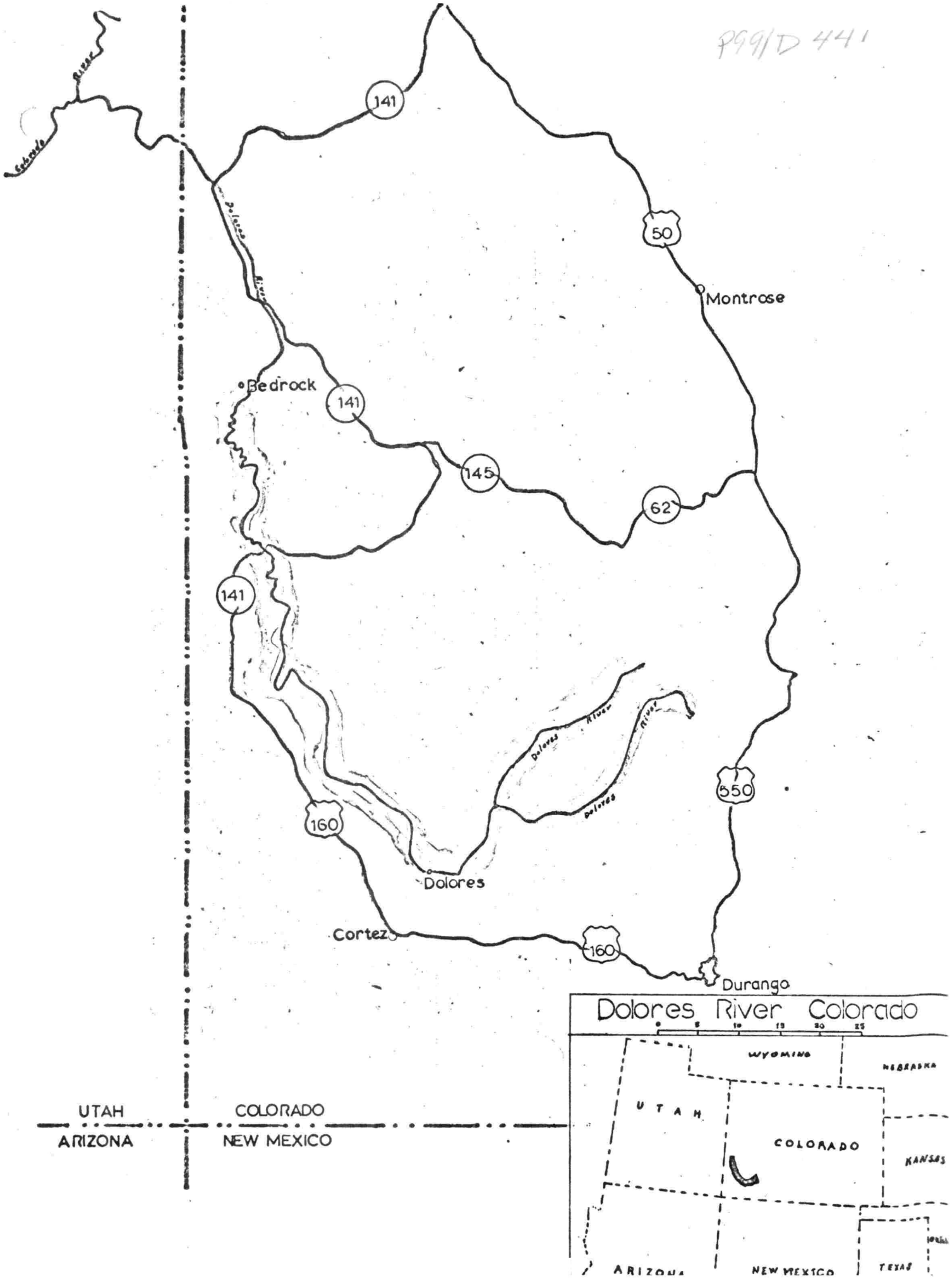


DOLORES RIVER – COLORADO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DOLORES RIVER, COLORADO -- THE RIVER OF SORROWS

I. INTRODUCTION

Within the Four Corners Region lies Colorado's least known and most unique river. Originating in the 14,000 foot peaks of the San Juan Range, the Dolores, like the Colorado main stem into which it empties, is striking for the relative absence of habitation along its banks and the extremity of wilderness through which it flows.

From appearances, it seems that, logically the river should enter the Montezuma Valley of the San Juan River drainage at Dolores. However, it turned abruptly north from this path of least resistance and carved a torturous serpentine route through the raised Glade Plateau.

The remarkable physiographic feature of this part of Colorado is the fact that the river, coursing roughly northward, cuts "across the grain" of a series of alternate uplifts and valleys which lie perpendicular to the river's path. In this traverse, the river cuts not only across the grain of the country, but also across the geologic and human history of western Colorado as well. The Dolores River Canyon, between Big Gypsum Valley and Bedrock, Colorado, has worn into the sandstone formations to depths of over 1,000 feet. Its twisted path gives an impression of aimless wandering. Seemingly having lost its way, it meanders for 35 miles to reach a point 12 miles distant.

Antiquity hides the origin of the name "Rio de Nuestra Senora de las Dolores" (The River of Sorrows). Escalante and Dominiques knew the river by this name when they reached it on August 11, 1776. Apparently, it was so called by the New Mexico traders who preceded the Padres and who fully recognized the fitness of the designation.

The Dolores River drains 4,500 square miles of land area. It travels 250 miles from the snow-capped peaks of its origin before joining the mighty Colorado River near Moab, Utah. Elevation of the watershed ranges from 14,250 feet at the summit of Mt. Wilson to 4,090 feet at the Colorado River--giving the river a fall of 10,000 feet throughout its reach.

The river has played an important role in the history and development of the San Juan Basin of southwestern Colorado. Its canyon first sheltered the homes of ancient cliff dwellers, the Anasazi. Later, the river was used as a main travel route for the Utes and Navajos. The earliest recorded visit to the Dolores was that of Don Juan Rivera in 1765, although little is know of this visit.

In the 1870's and 1880's, the upper portions of the river served as a major travel route to the silver and gold mines of Rico, Dunton, Ophir and Telluride. In 1889, the river canyon became the route of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. This railroad served the area until 1952--the last twenty years seeing the birth and death of the world famous "Galloping Goose" line. The mining activity has nearly subsided

and the railroad has been removed, but the river valley is still the main means of access.

The influence of man can be noted along much of the upper stretch of river as considerable acreage is privately owned. These scattered ranches and meadow lands compliment rather than detract from the scenic values.

The lower section of the river remains today very much as it was when Escalante visited it. The banks of the stream are grown with dense thickets of bush and trees through which even cattle, especially the Spanish longhorns, found going difficult. Moreover, for long distances, it runs through narrow gorges between high unscalable cliffs. It is these features that makes the Dolores River a matter of affection and pride to people who live near its banks. From some canyons, the only way to get out is to go forward or turn back.[4]

This river represents a significant segment of our natural heritage--a segment which has all but disappeared. The lower river section could very well be a one-of-a-kind natural resource, a so called "desert river" with stream banks remaining essentially as they were when first visited by man. Remoteness of the area has preserved this condition.

It is essential that proper consideration be given to the preservation of this rarity. The following information briefly describes the river and its special qualities and values.

II REGIONAL SETTING

A small, low ridge forming the north rim of the Montezuma Valley is also the barrier marking the southern boundary of the Dolores River Watershed. Although this ridge is probably the least prominent topographic feature along the river banks, it has altered the stream course dramatically, having changed its direction nearly 180 degrees. Deeply incised canyons, sheer sandstone cliffs and rugged mountain peaks dominate the river's surroundings.

The Dolores River setting has picture book appeal. The the south lie extensive wheat and bean fields where topography is reminiscent of our nation's midwest corn belt areas. While north from this area, conditions change rapidly from the floor of the southwest desert, comprising the Navajo Indian Nation, through the deep canyons and high plateaus of the pinon-juniper foothills to timbered slopes and lush alpine meadows. Finally, we reach the very spectacular precipitous peaks of the Rocky Mountains draped in permanent snowfields.

The region's western margin is marked by the impressive Sierra de La Sal Range standing isolated astride the Utah-Colorado border. Guarding the northern flank is the Uncompahgre Plateau while the La Plata Mountains form the eastern edge.

Diverse topographical features create a wide range of climatic conditions in the region. Precipitation during a normal year averages from 24 inches in the mountains to 9 inches in the lower valleys.

Annual precipitation occurs in about equal amounts from summer thunderstorms and from winter snow fall. The growing season ranges from a short 45 days at Telluride near the river basin headwaters to 153 days at Montrose in the Uncompahgre Valley. Temperatures average through the 40's on an annual basis with average lows of 20's in January and average highs of 65-70 in July.

Autumn is a particularily pleasant period with low humidity, cool evenings, warm days and the spectacular scenery provided by the countryside draped in fall colors.

Regional economy has a firm base in agriculture, stock raising and mineral development as well as tourism.

The Uravan Mineral Belt, until recently, produced 10 percent of the nation's uranium supply. It also contains the nation's largest known vanadium reserves. The lure of precious metals was directly related to settlement of the area in the 70's and 80's. Production, though diminished, continues.

Colorado is second only to Michigan in dry bean production within the nation. Southwestern Colorado is known as the Pinto Bean Capital of the U. S., producing an annual average of 600,000 hundredweight in beans. Cattle and sheep raising still make up a substantial portion of the economy. Colorado beef and lamb are sought after throughout the country.

During the summer months, the tourist population increases

dramatically in the entire southwest portion of Colorado. People are drawn here by the classic Anasazi cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde National Park (receiving 564,000 visitors in 1971), Ute and Navajo Indian Nations and the Narrow Gauge Railroad between Durango and Silverton. An outstanding attraction is the breathtaking high mountain scenery of which the Dolores River Watershed is a fine example. The cool, dry, summer climate makes the area ideal for camping vacations. Numerous private recreational enterprises are available to the public such as dude ranches, packers and outfitters offering pack trips, jeep tours and other outdoor activities. Public camping and picnic sites are available on federally managed lands.

A small ski area exists at Stoner on the Dolores River and a major ski vacation complex is on the drawing boards for Telluride. Construction will begin in 1972.

The Dolores River, although virtually unknown, has become an attraction for wild river boaters. While it does not contain extensive stretches of rough water demanded by some expert enthusiasts, it is, without doubt, a unique wilderness experience well worthy of preservation for its scenic and recreational values. Demand for this type of recreation is mushrooming. This is evidenced by a 71 percent increase in numbers of boating visitors in a single year on the Colorado River and 168 percent in Dinosaur National Monument in the last three years.

Carrying capacity and numbers of visitors are now being limited on the Colorado River system through Flaming Gorge, Dinosaur and Grand Canyon.

The River of Sorrow flows through four southwestern Colorado counties; Dolores, Montezuma, San Miguel and Montrose. This region is sparsely populated having 34,908 residents within a region of 7,412 square miles--an area equivalent in size to the state of New Jersey. This population is expected to reach 40,623 by 1980. Recent developments indicate these figures to be quite conservative.

Farmington, New Mexico, and Grand Junction, Colorado, each with populations of 20-30 thousand, are the largest population centers within a hundred mile radius of the region.

Highway transportation to southwestern Colorado is provided by U. S. Highway 160 from the east and west and by 666 and 550 from the north and south. State Highways 141 and 145 also traverse the region.

Regular airline service is provided to Montrose, Cortez, Durango and Moab, Utah, by Frontier Airlines, with small plane access to Nucla, Colorado and Monticello, Utah.

III COMPOSITE DESCRIPTION OF THE RIVER

River Segments

The 200-mile segment treated in this report is classified into two sections. The upper "mountain" portion is 82 miles in length and extends from the headwaters to McPhee. The 30-mile reach of the river's West Fork is included in this portion. The downstream "desert" portion extends 118 miles between McPhee and the Bedrock community in Paradox Valley.

Several main headwater tributaries, Snow Spur Creek, Lizard Head Creek and Coke Ovens Creek combine to form the main Dolores River. The West Fork originates at snow-fed Navajo Lake nestled between the 14,000 foot peaks of the Wilson Mountain Wilderness Area. From its origin to McPhee, the river drops 6,000 feet in elevation, falling at a rate of 67 feet per mile.

During high water in the spring, the river, from Stoner to Dolores, has been the scene of white water raft and kayak races in connection with local holiday celebrations. This is considered a dangerous and challenging white water run during spring runoff.

Above the town of Rico, the main Dolores is a relatively undisturbed mountain stream alternately crossing open meadows and areas timbered with spruce, aspen and willow. Below Rico, the river shows some evidence of occupation and between the Forks and McPhee, man's influence can be plainly seen. Much of the river's flood plain is cultivated crop and

pasture land with its own pastoral scenic qualities.

The main Dolores River has been scarred to a certain extent by seasonal flooding throughout its entire length. The river was channelized in many places during construction of Highway 145. The Army Corps of Engineers and private landowners have done stream bank protection and flood control work along the upper river. Much of this work is visible from the highway.[1]

State Highway 145, paralleling the main stem from Dolores to Lizard Head Pass, provides one of the most pleasant mountain drives in the region. Irregardless of the 6,000 foot increase in elevation, road grades are gentle and few precipitious cliffs descend from the road bed as on U.S. 550, the Million Dollar Highway near Ouray. It has been said that even a flatlander can enjoy the scenery without worrying about the road conditions.

The variety of color, provided by cottonwood, aspen, oak and pine, is unsurpassed in late September and early October.

Access along the entire river is limited both by topographic and legal barriers. None of the private lands allow legal public access although permission to enter can be obtained in most cases from the landowner. More and more of the private lands are being posted and closed to the public.

Small tracts of federally-owned lands are interspersed within the private holdings. As the private land is developed or closed, these small islands become increasingly important for public use.

Bureau of Reclamation plans include fishing easement acquisition for public use of the river where it traverses some of these privately-owned tracts.

Below McPhee, the "desert" portion of the Dolores River, a secondary unsurfaced road follows the river for approximately 21 miles. Much of this is through privately owned crop and pasture land. At the Bradfield ranch, the road leaves the river and for the next 10 miles, there is no vehicle access. The Bradfield ranch is a popular launching site for boaters and also essentially marks the end of private ownership of lands along the river. The remaining 97 miles of river is predominantly federal land administered by either the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service.

A secondary road enters the river at Big Canyon near Dove Creek, Colorado, where a primitive road parallels the river for approximately 8 miles. Additional access points are Highway 141 at Slick Rock and a graveled county road at Gypsum Valley. This is the last access point for the next 35 miles to Bedrock where the river exits Slick Rock Canyon.

The combined judgement of various river boating groups indicates that boating below McPhee requires the following water quantities:

Cubic Feet Per Second	
600	Absolute minimum
900-1100	More enjoyable
1500-2500	Optimum conditions.

Based on historical records, it appears the Dolores River presently produces an average of 35 boating days per year between the periods of April 15 and June 30. Considering that it takes 900 to 1,100 cubic feet per second to make boating enjoyable, 2,000 acre feet of water per day is necessary to provide downstream boating. It is estimated that after construction of the McPhee Dam, an average of 28 boating days per year could be provided through natural spills. The capability to anticipate and forecast boating spills after construction of the dam mitigates partially the reduction in boating season. As in the past, there will continue to be years in which no boating will be provided due to low runoff.

Between Dolores and Bedrock, the Dolores River offers a unique wilderness river experience for hiking, primitive camping and white water boating at various skill levels. The river just below Dolores drops 33 feet per mile placing it in the category of a white water river. From McPhee to Slick Rock, the drop averages 24 feet per mile. Much of this section is easy and pleasant boating, however, the drops tend to come in steps and many of the rapids require expertise in maneuvering.[3] One of these has been christened "Snaggletooth" and is a major obstacle to the canyon. It has been portaged more times than successfully run. This stretch offers beautiful campsites in grassy parks interspersed with ponderosa pine, maple, cottonwood and gamble oak.

The canyons between Slick Rock and Bedrock are unique in that they offer one of the very few true wilderness experiences left in our country

that is within the limits of safety for the novice and average boater. Elevation in this 50-mile section drops about 11 feet per mile.

The pristine desert canyons are carved of sandstone, delightfully scenic, somewhat reminiscent of the inundated Glen Canyon with massive multicolored stone walls draped in curtains of desert varnish. Camping in the canyon is a unique experience rarely found now days. Scenic river canyons unspoiled by man, that are long enough to provide an overnight stop, are almost non-existant. A river trip from Slick Rock to Bedrock takes 2-3 days. The entire stretch from Dolores to Bedrock can be negotiated in 4 days by experienced boaters.[3]

Recreational values of the lower canyon also include rockhounding, camping and hiking up side canyons such as Bull Canyon, Spring Canyon, or Coyote Wash or a short hike to the saddle of the river's "Horseshoe Bend". A variety of wild flowers, wildlife and geologic phenomena make just being there a memorable experience.

Flow Characteristics

The Dolores River, during the period 1953 to 1971, had an average annual flow of 263,000 acre feet. This represents a 22 percent decline in water flows from the 1939-1952 period. Flow records will show that fluctuations from less than 100 cubic feet per second to more than 10,000 second feet may occur annually.

As a result of such widely varying quantities of water, the stream width also varies from less than 10 feet to approximately 100 feet.

Normal spring flows would be 50-100 feet in width and 2-6 feet in depth. The West Fork is not as wide as the main Dolores, nor is the flood plain as well developed. Average width of the channel is less than 30 feet and the valley bottom less than 1/4 mile wide. In many places the river meanders lazily before plunging through narrow rapids.

April, May and June flows are high as spring snowmelt occurs. Boating conditions are optimum during these months. Summer flows are moderate, with water quantity lowest in fall and winter. Low summer flows on the West Fork below Fish Creek are supplemented by releases from Groundhog Reservoir. This reservoir has a capacity of 21,710 acre feet of water which is totally obligated to irrigation diversion at Dolores.

Essentially, the Montezuma Valley Irrigation District diversions totally dry the river bed during low flow periods and between July 1 and October 15 each year.

Through priority appropriation, the irrigation district has been allotted the entire annual flow of the Dolores River by the State of Colorado. The only water allowed to bypass their diversion works is either before or after the irrigation season or during high flows exceeding capacity of the diversion works and canals.

Water Quality

The quality of water at the source is very good, but is quickly

eroded by polluting sources downstream. One source of pollution, which parallels the river for 43 miles, is paved highway 141. This man-made watershed collects water which picks up roadside trash, transporting it into the river. A historic pollution source, though somewhat controlled in recent years, has been the mine and mill tailings from the Rico-Argentine concentrating plant at Rico. Sulphuric acid wastes, not only have destroyed surrounding vegetation, but also once eliminated the downstream fishery. This situation has since been corrected and now both the West Fork and the main Dolores River provide good fishing for state stocked and native trout. Incidental mine pollution occurs from numerous small operations on both major forks of the river. The pollution is not significant at this time as dilution is reducing its effect.

Approximately twenty active and recently abandoned gravel pits used by the county, state and Forest Service are located in the upper stretch of the river. The majority of these lie between Dolores and McPhee. Although state law prohibits active gravel operations in stream beds, some of these still actively pollute the river.

Forest Service road construction to and within numerous timber harvest areas is causing additional sediment and siltation to enter the river. This load of sediment added to that coming from natural erosion probably constitutes the major source of pollution see by the general public. This situation is very evident during spring runoff.

Some raw sewage enters the river at Rico and the settlement of Dunton. Both areas use septic tank and leach fields which drain to the river. The town of Dolores has a sewage plant but only through primary treatment. Some leaching may occur from this source.

Active and potential subdivision of the Dolores River flood plain above McPhee poses a major treat of all types of pollution. In a general sense, all sources of pollution are not yet causing deterioration of the river to the eye of the viewing public.

Disappointment Creek which enters the Dolores River near Slick Rock is a major silt producer to the river. Soils of this drainage basin are composed of the highly erosive mancos shale parent material and are also subject to high intensity thunderstorms.

Mill tailings at Slick Rock were allowed to enter the river in past years. This is presently controlled and the tailings partially stabilized.

The following table shows river pollutant concentrations recorded at Bedrock, Colorado:

Concentrations of Soluble Salts Sediment and Other Pollutants

Pollutant	Parts per Million
Sodium	2,350
Sulfate	1,690
Cloride	3,520
Calcium	474
Dissolved Solids	1,000
Sediment Concentrations	175-2,000 (Upper Reaches)
Sediment Concentrations	Up to 6,500 (Lower Reaches)

Land Ownership

The majority of lands along this 200 mile reach of the Dolores are in Federal ownership administered by either the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service. A breakdown of status is shown in the following table:

LAND OWNERSHIP

	River Miles	% of Total
Federal		
Bureau of Land Management	76	38
Forest Service	46	23
Private	78	39
State (Fish Hatchery)	.25	--
TOTAL	200.25	100

Above Lands under Withdrawal	River Miles
Power Site (Fed. Power Comm.)	5
Atomic Energy Comm.	2
Bureau of Reclamation	1
TOTAL	8

Significant Historic and Natural Values

The Dolores River is rich in historical and natural values throughout its entire reach.

The first recorded prospecting expedition into this area was led by Don Juan Maria de Rivera, a Spaniard from Santa Fe. The year was 1765. In the eleven years following the Rivera expedition, numerous other Spanish explorers visited the San Juan Basin. It was at this time that many of the mountains and rivers received their musical Spanish names.[5] Many of these names remain today; i.e., Dolores, La Plata, Piedra, Florida and others.

Franciscan Padres Fray Silvestre Vélez de Escalante and Fray Francisco Antanasio Dominquez and company recorded the sighting of their first Indian ruin in Colorado near present day Dolores. A journal entry dated August 13, 1776, reads: "On an elevation on the south bank of the river in ancient times there was a small settlement of the same form as those of the Indians of New Mexico, as is shown by the ruins which we purposely examined".[4]

The ruin referred to is located on BLM lands with the NW$\frac{1}{4}$SE$\frac{1}{4}$ Sec. 7, T. 37 N., R. 15 W., N.M.P.M. A 1970 inventory of the site revealed a circular kiva or ceremonial structure, 12-14 feet in diameter, surrounded by nine rectangular rooms of comparable size. Located nearly 200 feet above the proposed McPhee reservoir, the ruin is particularily significant due to its stabilization and recreational development potential. A smaller less extensive ruins occupies the same tract of land.

From ancient times to present, the Indian culture of the area is clearly evident. In the mid 1880's, the red man manifested his domain and resented the intrusion of the white. One early settler noted: "Cowmen had to go out together as if a man went out alone he hardly ever returned as the Indians got him".[2]

Additional remnants of the Anasazi (ancient ones) culture have been located along the Dolores River. Pueblo-type ruins occupy the canyon rim near Dove Creek and reports of additional sites within the canyon have been received. Petroglyphs have been identified at Gypsum Valley, Bull Canyon and La Sal Creek. Several caves and overhangs along the river contain evidence of campsites.

A complete inventory of archaeological values is currently in progess within the river canyon area. This is being conducted by the University of Colorado under contract to the Bureau of Land Management.

It was near the town of Dolores that one of the nation's earlier trans-basin water diversions was made. Here, a two mile tunnel built in 1885-86 by Major Hannah, diverts water into the Montezuma Valley of the San Juan Watershed.[2]

The eventful and well documented history of the gold and silver development during the 1870's and 1880's is in evidence along the upper river reaches. Rico, Dunton, Ophir Telluride, boom-day population centers, still retain a flavor reminiscent of that by-gone era. Remnants of abandoned prospects, buildings and the Rio Grande

Southern Railroad bed indicates the vigorous activity once associated with the seeking of these precious metals.

In 1898, two French chemists, Messrs. Povilot and Voilique, visited southwestern Colorado. They investigated uranium deposits in this area and then built the very first uranium concentrating plant in the world. This historic site, known as Camp Snyder, is located on the Dolores River at Slick Rock. Madam Marie Curie is credited with having been responsible for the coming of the Frenchmen and for construction of the uranium mill at Camp Snyder.

Madam Curie visited the mill in 1899 and gave the name "Carnotite" to the type of uranium ore being produced in the area. This type of yellow ore was name in honor of the then President of France, M. Carnot.[9]

Near the Dolores River's entrance to Gypsum Valley, a rock overhang displays the names of several individuals along with the date "1899". Research indicates the inscriptions were left by a party of Aspen, Colorado prospectors in that year.

A traverse of the Dolores River takes one through an area interesting for its rare natural beauty and the dramatic ecological change from sub-alpine to desert habitat.

Big game hunting values, along with all other outdoor recreational activities, have significance here. In the fall, elk, deer and bear

hunting draws hunters from throughout the nation. These, and other wildlife species frequently sighted along the river, are: Waterfowl, beaver, muskrat, raccoon, marmot, badgers and band tailed pigeons. The river canyon is important year-round habitat for all of these animals and provides essential winter range for the big game species.

Proposals Affecting the River

Two water development projects are presently being considered on the Dolores River by the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation. They are a desalinization project at Paradox Valley and the Dolores irrigation project. The Dolores Project, at McPhee, has been authorized by Congress as a component of the Central Arizona Project. Advanced planning is currently in progress and construction is scheduled for 1974.

The proposed reservoir would extend 11 miles from McPhee to the outskirts of Dolores. It would have 4,320 acres of surface area and a capacity of 364,000 acre feet of water. This water is totally obligated to irrigation and municipal and industrial uses. Consideration is being given to altering of plans to provide for development of a downstream fishery. The project contains no specific provisions for the releasing of water from McPhee reservoir in sufficient quantities to allow downstream boating. The project will deplete downstream flows by 140,600 acre feet annually.

Plans under consideration also include a second dam upstream at the confluence of the Dolores main stem and its West Fork. This dam would have a maximum surface acreage of 1,260 acres and a maximum storage capacity of 90,000 acre feet.

The Paradox desalinization project is under preliminary study and its possible effect upon the Dolores River is unknown. If dams were built, float boating could be eliminated in a resulting reservoir. Any impoundment of water in the untouched Slick Rock Canyon would detract materially from a wilderness experience. Definite project plans are yet to be developed.

A potential hazard exists to the wilderness qualities of the Slick Rock Canyon by mineral exploration activities. Core drilling on the canyon rims have identified uranium and vanadium deposits at depths which prohibit profitable access from the surface. Extraction could possibly become economical by tunneling horizontally into the ore deposits from the canyon floor.

Another mining impact is posed by the Atomic Energy Commission's proposals for offering uranium mining leases, upon lands withdrawn from mineral entry, along 2 miles of the Dolores River.

IV SUMMARY

This report is the result of a reconnaissance study and evaluation of the Dolores River as to its potential for designation under Section 5(d) of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act PL 90-542.

From analysis of the natural, historic and recreational values identified, the river appears to have those qualities making it worthy of inclusion under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

The upper segment has significant potential for a recreational designation, while the lower section has wild river qualities. It is relatively inaccessible, canyon-like country in a semi-arid environment. The canyon and surrounding rims are wild in nature. In no canyon in the Colorado System is there less evidence of the hand or presence of man. Historical and archaeological values, while not fully explored, are known to exist.

The river would provide an exciting recreational experience, for which demand greatly exceeds supply, as well as represent a segment of our nation's heritage.

Nomination of this river under Sec. 5(d) of the Act would be the first river so nominated within Colorado and it could lead to one of the first classified rivers in desert, canyonland type country.

Classification would assure that any future planning and programs involving this segment proceed with complete recognition of the natural

values of the river and clear understanding of how these values would be affected.

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