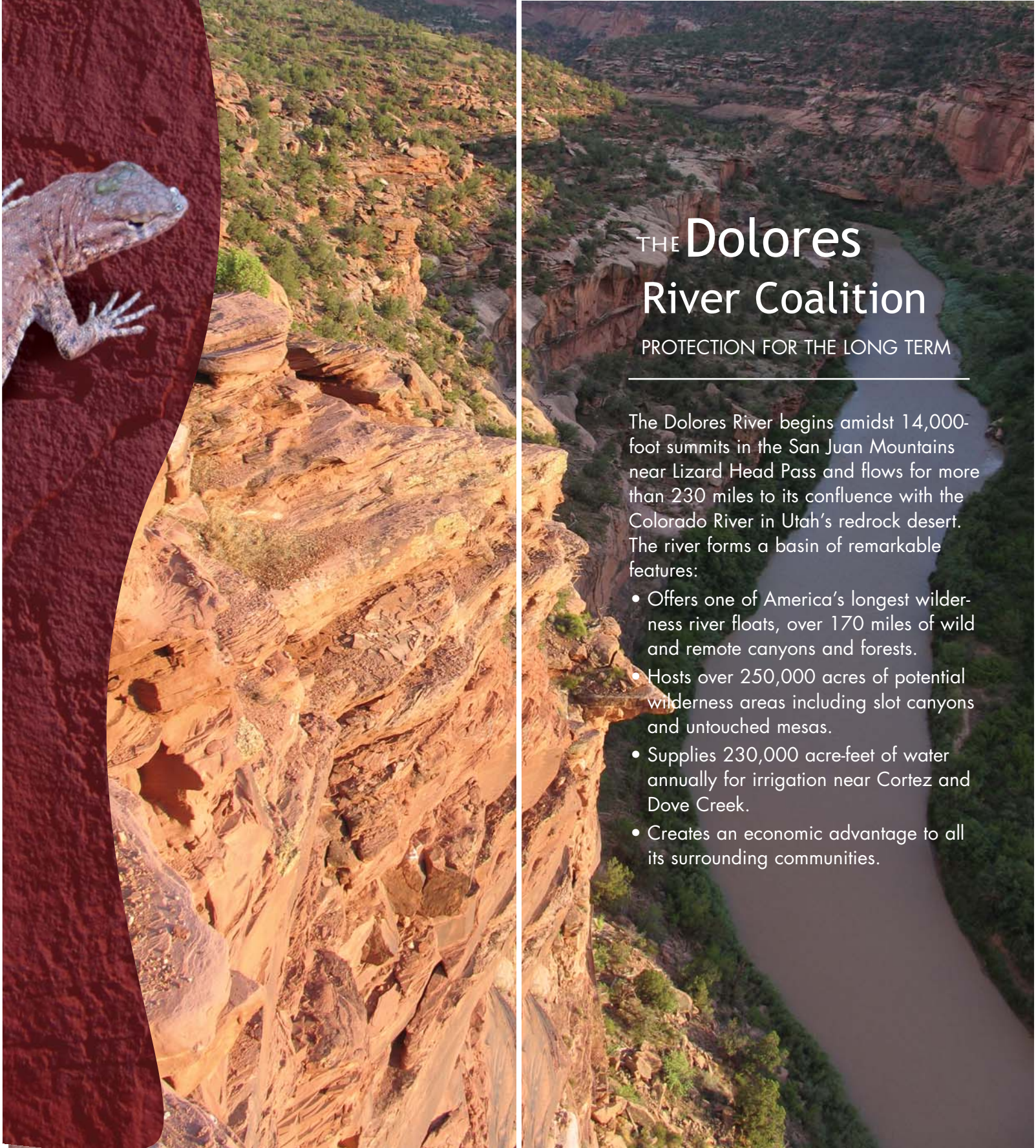


THE Dolores River Coalition

PROTECTION FOR THE LONG TERM





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PROTECTION FOR THE LONG TERM

The Dolores River begins amidst 14,000-foot summits in the San Juan Mountains near Lizard Head Pass and flows for more than 230 miles to its confluence with the Colorado River in Utah's redrock desert. The river forms a basin of remarkable features:

- Offers one of America's longest wilderness river floats, over 170 miles of wild and remote canyons and forests.
- Hosts over 250,000 acres of potential wilderness areas including slot canyons and untouched mesas.
- Supplies 230,000 acre-feet of water annually for irrigation near Cortez and Dove Creek.
- Creates an economic advantage to all its surrounding communities.

The Dolores River carves one of America's premier wild river canyons. The 170-mile segment from below McPhee Reservoir to the river's confluence with the Colorado River in Utah at Dewey Bridge traverses some of the most remarkable landscapes in the desert Southwest. Renowned features of the Dolores River include magnificent stands of old-growth ponderosa pine, thrilling whitewater rapids such as Snaggletooth and Stateline, sheerwalled sandstone canyons, and hidden archeological treasures.

The Basin's political landscape is as complex as its ecological landscape, as the river flows through two states and six counties, and along the way is managed by a half-dozen different national forest and BLM offices. The river supports a variety of economic and recreational activities that benefit nearby communities. Working farms and ranches, professional outfitters, anglers, historians, river runners, hikers, archeologists and recreationists all share an interest in preserving the Dolores River Basin.

The river's serenity and beauty can be enjoyed but not taken for granted.

America's thirst for energy is pushing hard into the Dolores River Basin, and the southwest's burgeoning population makes water management an ever trickier problem. Below McPhee Reservoir, the Dolores is often reduced to a trickle as its waters are diverted for the benefit of farms and ranches, but to the detriment of fish and recreation. The Dolores River Coalition is working in partnership through the Dolores River Dialogue with these traditional agricultural uses to find a balance for the enhancement of scenic and recreational activities.

Time for Action

The next few years will see major decisions with far-reaching consequences for the communities and resources of the Dolores River Basin. Federal land agencies are revising land use plans for the next 20 years. Industry is exploring public and private lands for oil, gas, uranium and other energy minerals. Ongoing drought places growing stress on the river's ecology and the allocation of valuable water. Recreational uses are increasing in volume and type as new developments and activities arise.



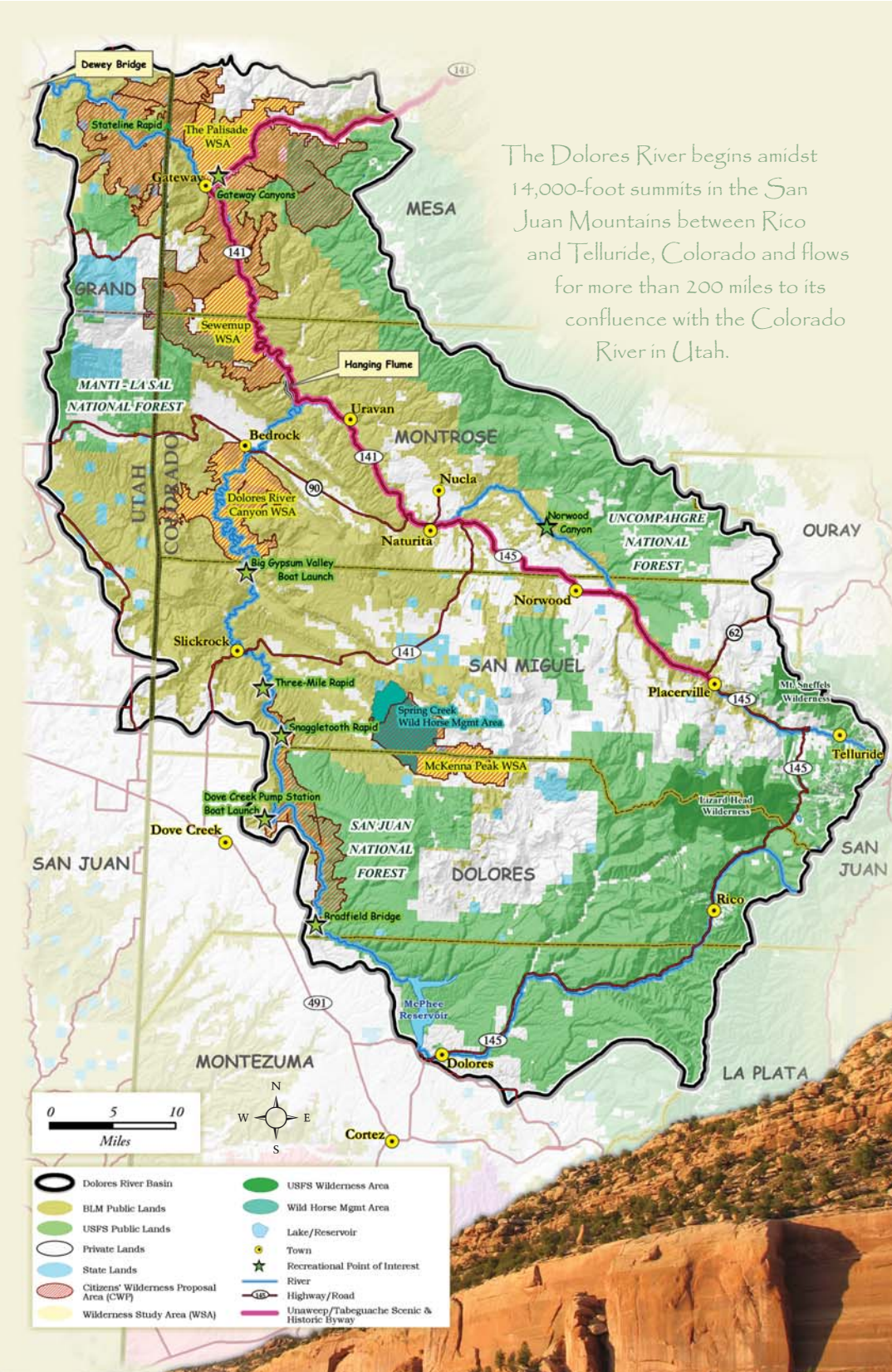
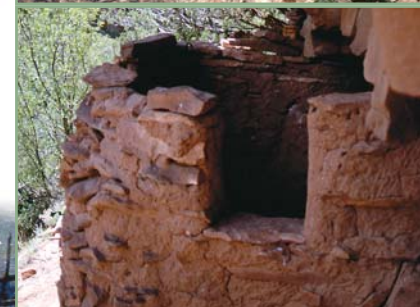
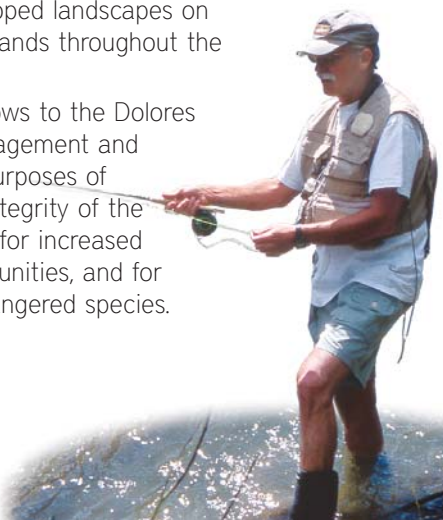
The Dolores River Coalition

The Dolores River Coalition joins together local, state and national organizations with business, recreation and conservation interests to protect the natural attributes of the Dolores Basin for the long term benefit of residents and visitors.



The Coalition's goals are:

- To support sustainable and diverse economies around agriculture, angling, and recreation.
- To stress better and more balanced resource management for the full spectrum of human uses and for the protection of the ecosystem.
- To protect undeveloped landscapes on public and private lands throughout the river corridor.
- To obtain added flows to the Dolores River through management and purchase for the purposes of perpetuating the integrity of the basin's ecosystem, for increased recreational opportunities, and for the benefit of endangered species.



The Dolores River begins amidst 14,000-foot summits in the San Juan Mountains between Rico and Telluride, Colorado and flows for more than 200 miles to its confluence with the Colorado River in Utah.

Dolores River Basin—Colorado/Utah. Map prepared by Colorado Environmental Coalition, 2006, for the Dolores River Coalition. Cartography and GIS operations by Brandon Jett. Data sources: BLM, CED, USFS, Colorado Watershed Partnership.



Who we are

The Dolores River Coalition includes 24 local, regional, and national conservation, fishing, and outfitter organizations as well as individuals and local businesses. The Coalition is led by the San Juan Citizens Alliance and is headquartered in Cortez, Colorado.

What we are doing

The Dolores River Coalition participates in the Dolores River Dialogue with irrigators, land managers, water regulators, and wildlife officials in searching for ways to improve management of the river for the benefit of all users.

The Dolores River Coalition engages individuals and organizations in long-range plans about the future of BLM lands throughout the Dolores River Basin.

The Dolores River Coalition advocates for protection of water quality, wilderness values, recreation and wildlife in response to energy development proposals throughout the Dolores River Basin.

We invite your help

Please join us in protecting the lands, river and communities of the Dolores River Basin.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

I would like to help in the following way(s)

- Receive regular coalition updates
- Volunteer for projects
- Help in the office
- Make a financial donation

Please contact the Dolores River Coalition at the Cortez office of San Juan Citizens Alliance to discuss the many ways you can help • P.O. Box 1513, 10 West Main St., Suite 104, Cortez, CO 81321 • (970) 565-7191