AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

REGULAR MEETING DATE: June 14, 2016

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Request for Resolution of Support for the Federal Designation of the Crystal River as a Wild and Scenic River

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Residents of the Crystal Valley will be appearing before you, requesting your support for federal designation of the Crystal River as a Wild and Scenic River. The goal is to prevent dams from being built on the upper 39 miles of this beautiful river and to preserve the Crystal River's status as a free flowing stream. The sources of the Crystal are in the Maroon Bells Wilderness in northern Gunnison County. The river flows north through Marble, enters Pitkin County, continues north through Redstone and Carbondale, in Garfield County, where it joins the Roaring Fork River, which joins the Colorado River at Glenwood Springs. The upper 39 miles sought for inclusion are in the counties of Pitkin and Gunnison. The irrigated ranch land in Garfield County is not included in the request for designation.

The Forest Service designated its land in the upper 39 miles as eligible for inclusion in the early 1990s and has managed these lands as if designated ever since. The act we will propose to Congress will limit the effects of designation to only two features, **no dams on the main stem of the Crystal River,** and **no diversions of water out of the Crystal River Basin.** The only restriction on private landowners will be that they cannot build a dam on the main stem. Water rights, both conditional and absolute, will not be affected. Local, county and state land use authority will not be affected.

Attached are documents with more information concerning the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the features of the Crystal River which we think merit designation of the Crystal River. We have received overwhelming support with minimal opposition.

We are now addressing local governments for support and are seeking endorsements for the designation. We have received such endorsements from Pitkin, Eagle and Grand counties to date.

When we have obtained a significant number of supporting documents, we plan to seek a sponsor in Congress and, hopefully, proceed to designation.

Bill Jochems
Dorothea Farris
Chuck Ogilby
CITIZEN'S COMMITTEE FOR A WILD AND SCENIC CRYSTAL RIVER

Attachments:
Draft Act
Map
Forest Service Study Process
History of Designation
List of Supporters
Letters of support from Marble and Gunnison
2015 executed Pitkin County Resolution
Draft Resolutions Marble, Gunnison and Pitkin
Illustrations

Proposed Order of Presentation
Gunnison County Commissioners, Pitkin County Commissioners
and the Town of Marble Trustees
June 14, 2016 - 4:00 p.m. Church at Redstone
Redstone, CO

1. Presentation of the efforts to designate the Crystal River a Wild and Scenic River
   Crystal Voice – Pete McBride Film
   Proponent Speakers including:
   Chuck Ogilby
   Scott Fitzwilliams –Forest Supervisor, White River National Forest USFS
   Bill Jochems

   Q&A with Boards and Trustees
   Public Comment
   Discussion between Boards and Trustees

2. Request for Resolutions from the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison & Pitkin Counties and the Town of Marble Trustees, CO Supporting Federal Designation of the Crystal River as a Wild and Scenic River

An Act

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act by designating segments of the Crystal River in Colorado as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
This Act may be cited as the "Crystal River Wild and Scenic River Addition Act of 2016."

SEC. 2. WILD AND SCENIC RIVER DESIGNATION.

Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (82 Stat. 906; 16 U.S.C. 1274(a)) is amended by adding the following new paragraphs at the end:

( ) CRYSTAL RIVER, COLORADO.— (A) Approximately 39 total miles of both the north and south forks of the Crystal River, beginning at their headwaters and then downstream to a point immediately upstream of the Sweet Jessup headgate structures; to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in the following classifications:

(1) the approximately 7-mile segment from the headwaters of the North Fork downstream to the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness boundary, as a wild river; and

(2) the approximately 2-mile segment from the wilderness boundary on the North Fork to the junction with the South Fork, as a scenic river; and

(3) the approximately 10-mile segment from the headwaters of the South Fork downstream to Beaver Lake, as a scenic river; and

(4) the approximately 20-mile segment from Beaver Lake downstream to the point immediately upstream of the Sweet Jessup headgate structures, as a recreational river.

After the enactment of this paragraph, Federal lands within the boundaries of the segments designated under this paragraph or which constitute the bed or bank or

are situated within one-quarter mile of the ordinary high-water mark on each side of such segments are withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws and from operation of the mineral leasing laws of the United States, and no patent may be issued for the surface estate with respect to any mining claim located on such lands. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed as precluding mining operations on any valid existing claim, subject to applicable regulations under section 9. No private land or private interest in land may be acquired, condemned or otherwise encumbered by the United States by virtue of this Act without the consent of the owner thereof. This paragraph, however, does not preclude the Federal or State Government from working with, cooperating with, or assisting in providing use of the above mentioned one-quarter mile section of lands along the river for recreational purposes in cooperation with local state county, municipal, or special district purposes. The Act shall limit the effects of designation to two features: no dams on the main stem of the Crystal River including both the North and South Forks, and no diversion of water out of the Crystal River Basin. The goal is to protect the free flowing nature of the Crystal River

(B) Inclusion of the designated portions of the Crystal River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall not interfere with the exercise of existing decreed water rights, either perfected or conditional. Further, inclusion will not prohibit the development of water rights that are consumptive and non-consumptive within the Crystal River Valley involving groundwater resources, direct surface water diversion or the augmentation of such water resources, provided, however, that such development shall not include dams or diversions in the North or South Fork nor the main stem of the Crystal River. Adequate water rights, including the possible need for future augmentations, to meet the domestic needs of the township of Marble, Colorado shall not be restricted by this Act. Nor shall inclusion of the designated portions of the Crystal River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System be utilized in any Federal proceeding, whether concerning a license, permit, right-of-way, or other Federal action, as a reason or basis to prohibit the development or operation of any water impoundments, diversion facilities, and hydroelectric power and transmission facilities located entirely downstream from the segments of the Crystal River designated herein; *Provided,* That water from any development shall not intrude upon such segments. Congress finds that development of water impoundments, diversion facilities, and hydroelectric power and transmission facilities located entirely downstream from the designated portions of the Crystal River is not incompatible with the designation of portions of the Crystal River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System under section 101 of this title.

(C) Nor shall inclusion of the designated portions of the Crystal River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System preclude any maintenance of improvement of any roads, highways or other rights of way: *Provided,* That due consideration shall be given to reasonable measures for minimizing the impact of such facilities on the designated segments.

(D) Nor shall the inclusion of the Crystal River in said System result in any imposition of Federal control over land use of private property. Pitkin and Gunnison counties, the Town of Marble, their municipalities, special districts, or branches of said governments, shall retain all of their authority over land use of private property, including said local government's authority to plan and adopt future land use regulations and enforce regulations pertaining to land use and individual residential sewage disposal systems. Nor shall the Act preclude land use efforts valley-wide that are presently in progress including, but not limited to the proposed Crystal Trail or may be contemplated in the future.

(E) Nor shall inclusion of the designated portions of the Crystal River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System be construed to grant any authority to the United States, its agencies, departments or bureaus to acquire water rights in order to preserve the Outstanding Remarkable Values associated with this designation.

White River National Forest
Wild and Scenic River
STUDY PROCESS

The White River National Forest conducted the first phase of the WSR study process, the eligibility phase for all rivers on the forest as part of the forests Land Use Plan Revision in 2002. Five rivers were found to be eligible under the criteria and were provided administrative protection under land use management prescriptions in the plan. The five eligible rivers on the forest are: Deep Creek, Colorado River (Glenwood Canyon), South Fork of the White River, Cross Creek, and the Crystal River. An interagency suitability study is currently underway for the Colorado River and Deep Creek.

Congress authorized the National Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) Act in 1968 to preserve certain rivers with outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations. The Act safeguards the special character of these rivers, while allowing for their appropriate use and development, and encouraging river management that crosses political boundaries and promotes public participation in river protection.

When Is a Stream a River?

In the WSR Act, a *river* refers to a flowing body of water or estuary or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes.

What is the WSR study process?

The WSR Act, section 5(d) (1) requires the federal land management agencies to assess river segments during federal land use planning processes. The decisions are made through a record of decision (ROD) for an environmental Impact statement (EIS). The study and designation of rivers consists of a multi-step process: ***eligibility → suitability → congressional action***. Only Congress or (under certain circumstances) the Secretary of the Interior may designate a river for inclusion in the WSR system. The White River National Forest (WRNF) does not currently manage any WSR designated segments.

What makes a segment eligible for WSR consideration?

The first step in the WSR study process is to determine which river segments meet eligibility criteria. To be eligible, a river segment must be ***free-flowing*** and possess one or more **outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs).**

ORVs may be scenic, recreational, geological, fish or wildlife related, historic, cultural, botanical, hydrological, or paleontological. ORVs must be of a quality or scarcity that makes them unique, rare, or exemplary within the region. In addition, rivers must have sufficient water quality to support those values.

What did the Eligibility Studies determine?

During the inventory phase the WRNF as part of their land and resource management plan revision, 2002, identified 5 rivers/streams. Eligible rivers must be free-flowing and possess one or more ORVs necessary to meet WSR eligibility requirements.

Preliminary River Classification Guidelines

Wild: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted.

Scenic: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

What is meant by "free-flowing"?

Free-flowing means that there are no dams or diversions along a river segment that impound a significant amount of water for extended periods. It is not necessary for a river to have a completely natural flow regime to be considered free-flowing. For example, Congress has designated WSR segments immediately below major water storage projects.

How does the USFS manage eligible segments until the Suitability studies are completed?

USFS policy is to protect ORVs identified in an eligibility study until a decision on suitability can be made and/or until designated. The USFS must protect the free-flowing character, preliminary classification, and ORVs of all eligible/suitable segments. Unlike Congressional Study Rivers that were afforded protections under the act, eligible rivers studied under 5(d)(1) are protected through administrative prescriptions only and are not thru the WSR Act itself. Future management actions on forest service lands will comply with these interim protective measures (standards and guidelines) until a decision on suitability is made.

The Suitability Study Process

The suitability phase determines which of the eligible segments the USFS will find suitable and potentially recommend to Congress for inclusion in the National WSR System. This is done as an EIS and is usually done as part of a Land Use Planning process. During the suitability phase the USFS will ask for stakeholder help to analyze various management prescriptions, and positive and negative impacts of various designations for each segment. Suitability is a collaborative process that is meant to identify how stream-related values can best be protected and enhanced, and consider potential impacts to other values such as water supply. As part of this process the forest service will also consider alternatives to WSR designation for managing water-related values.

The suitability phase addresses several management considerations, including:

- **Should the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs be protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?**
- **Is protection of identified ORVs within management control? River segments with adjacent private lands may not be appropriate for WSR designation.**
- **Will historical or existing rights be adversely affected?**
- **Will the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and ORVs be protected through designation?**
- **Is it the best method for protecting the river corridor?**
- **The benefits and impacts of WSR designation must be evaluated, and alternative protection methods considered.**
- **Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any non-federal entities who may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?**

How will stakeholder and public involvement be incorporated into the suitability determination?

Suitability evaluation is designed to be a highly inclusive process, with numerous opportunities for stakeholders and the public to get involved.

Do the USFS WSR determinations create any federal water rights to protect the ORVs?

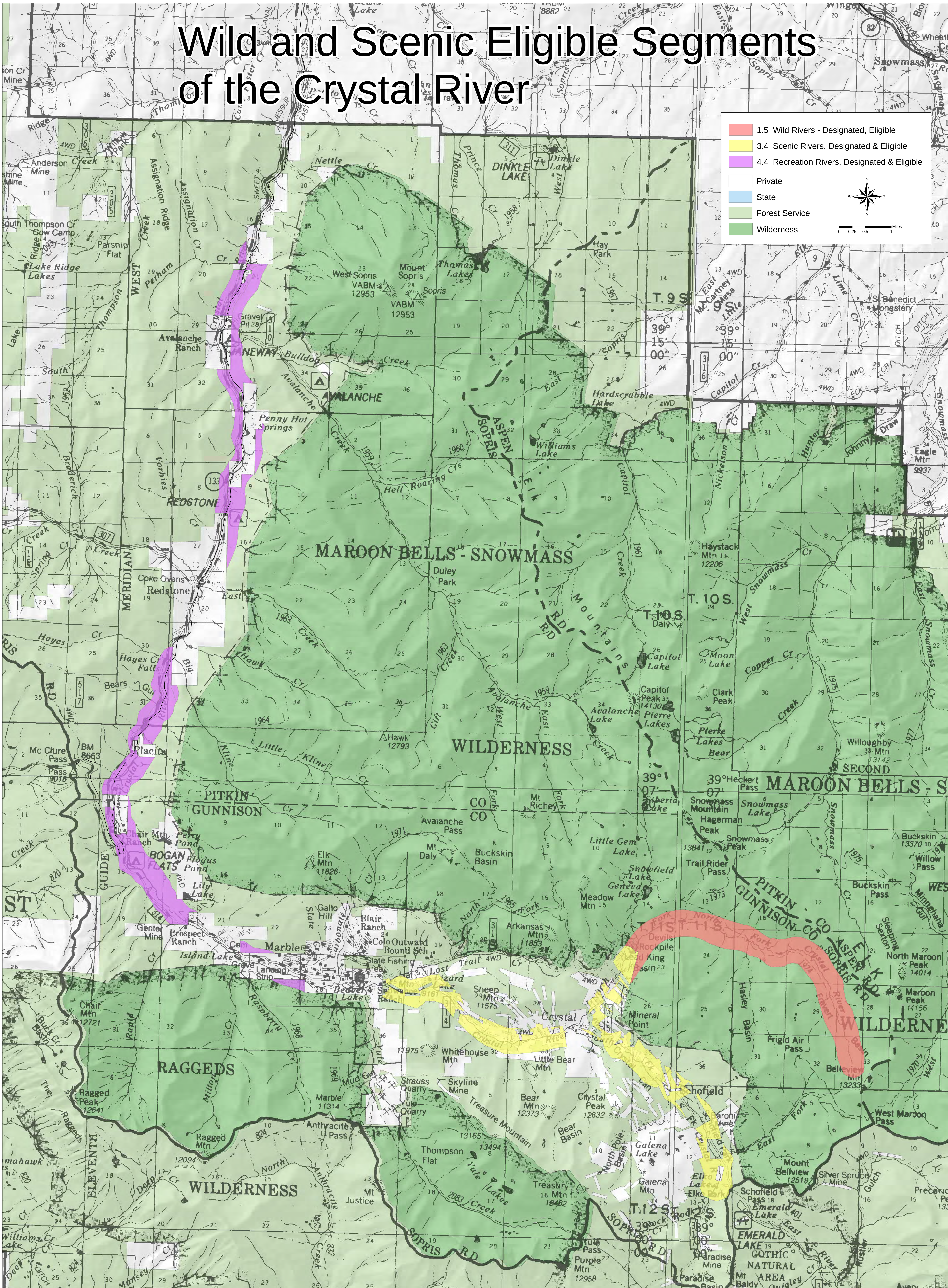
No. A federal water right is not created unless Congress designates a stream segment and identifies the need for a federal water right.

Need More Information?

The website: www.rivers.gov/council is an excellent resource for detailed information related to the National WSR System, including the WSR Act, the eligibility and suitability processes, and agency guidance.

National Wild & Scenic Rivers

Wild and Scenic Eligible Segments of the Crystal River



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History of the Crystal River Wild and Scenic Designation Effort

1968	The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was passed into law by the United States Congress, in which "selected rivers of the Nation, which with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."
1980's	Crystal Valley Residents takes the first steps toward designation by taking an inventory of the lands near the river and outlining a general proposal. There is interest, but also opposition, primarily over concerns with Federal authority over private property and existing water rights.
1992	The USFS formally concludes that the Crystal River is eligible for Wild and Scenic Designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and starts managing the river as though it were already so designated.
1990's	Crystal Valley Residents and area ranchers meet over several years to develop a survey to gauge how the public would like to see the river managed. The results of the survey were quite favorable for Wild & Scenic Designation, but the Park Service never officially released the results.
2000's	Support for designation quietly grows as area ranchers start to place conservation easements on their properties, and citizens realize designation would protect the Crystal from dams and diversions while not affecting private property or water rights.
2012	American Rivers lists the Crystal River as one of America's Ten Most Endangered Rivers, largely because of the ongoing threat of two dams on the river.
2013	Pitkin County, after initial encouragement by Crystal Valley Residents, achieved a court settlement with the West Divide Water Conservancy District and the Colorado River Conservancy District to relinquish their conditional rights to construct dams and divert water from the Crystal.
2013	A Wild & Scenic Citizen's Committee consisting of Chuck Ogilby, Dorothea Farris and Bill Jochems was formed to contact local city and county governments, civic groups, major water users, and citizens to determine their level of support for proceeding with the effort to obtain Wild & Scenic Designation for the Crystal.
2014	The Wild & Scenic Citizen's Committee completed their contacts with community governments and civic groups and found overwhelming support to proceed.
2015	The Citizen's Committee completes the first drafts of the required Suitability document and the Congressional Act.
2015	In the second half of 2015, the Suitability document and Congressional drafts will be presented to local governmental and citizens groups to obtain their review, comments and suggestions.

Crystal River Wild and Scenic Designation
List of supporters and those who have provided
initial encouragement to proceed

Co Dept. of Transportation 2014
Colorado House of Rep. Dist 51 Millie Hamner 2014
Crystal River Caucus 2014
Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association ("CVEPA") 2014
Crystal Valley Environmental Protection Association ("CVEPA") 2015
Eagle County 2015
Flying Dog Ranch (McIntyre) 2015
Grand County 2015
Gunnison County 2014
Mt. Sopris Historical Society 2013
Northwest Colorado Council of Governments – Water Quality & Quantity ("QQ") 2014
Pitkin County Healthy Rivers 2015
Pitkin County Healthy Rivers 2014
Pitkin County Open Space and Trails 2015
Pitkin County BOCC 2015
Redstone Community Association 2013
Redstone Community Association 2015
Town of Carbondale 2014
Town of Marble 2013
Two Shoes Ranch 2014
West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway Steering Committee May 2014
West Elk Loop Scenic and Historic Byway Steering Committee May 2015

TOWN OF MARBLE

MARBLE, CO 81623

November 18, 2013

Dorothea Farris

1640 Prince Creek Road,

Carbondale, CO 81623

RE: Wild and Scenic Designation of Crystal River

Dear Ms. Farris,

This letter will acknowledge that Marble Town Board, at its regular meeting on September 5, 2013, discussed possible Wild and Scenic River designation of the Crystal River, that the board was in agreement that the Crystal River should not be dammed, and that the possibility of Wild and Scenic Designation should be further investigated. Also, there were no comments opposing designation made by either members of the Town Board, or members of the public attending the meeting.

Truly Yours,

Ron Leach, Marble Town Clerk

Gunnison County
COLORADO

Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners
Phone: (970) 641–0248 • Fax: (970) 641–3061
Email: bocc@gunnisoncounty.org • www.GunnisonCounty.org

March 4, 2014

Pitkin County Healthy Rivers and Streams Board
c/o Lisa MacDonald, Pitkin County Attorney's Office
530 East Main
Aspen, CO 81611

RE: Wild and Scenic Designation of Crystal River

Dear Board Members,

The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners supports the proposed designation of the Crystal River as Wild and Scenic from the suitability phase through to congressional designation.

It is our sincere hope that the 39 miles of the Crystal River eligible for this designation will remain free flowing without the threat of diversion or damming in the future.

Sincerely,

Paula Swenson, Chairperson | Phil Chamberland, Commissioner | Jonathan Houck, Commissioner

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO SUPPORTING FEDERAL DESIGNATION OF THE
CRYSTAL RIVER AS A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

RESOLUTION NO. 054 -2015

1. The Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners are in support of the Wild and Scenic River designation for the Main Stem of the Crystal River from its headwaters in the Maroon Bells- Snowmass Wilderness area to a point just above the Sweet Jessup Ditch.

2. We request Congress and appropriate federal, state, local and water conservation district officials to act toward achieving this designation in order to protect, in perpetuity, the water quality and quantity of the Crystal River in its free flowing condition while maintaining the river's ranching heritage, sustaining the river's diverse fish and wildlife habitat, its remarkable cultural, historical, and scenic values, and protecting its diverse recreational uses.

3. This designation will ensure the Crystal remains a free-flowing, healthy and natural river with no dams or diversions out of the watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pitkin County, Colorado that the Commissioners are in support of the Wild and Scenic River designation for the Main Stem of the Crystal River from its headwaters in the Maroon Bells- Snowmass Wilderness area to a point just above the Sweet Jessup Ditch.

We request Congress and appropriate federal, state, local and water conservation district officials to act toward achieving this designation in order to protect, in perpetuity, the water quality and quantity of the Crystal River in its free flowing condition while maintaining the river's ranching heritage, sustaining the river's diverse fish and wildlife habitat, its remarkable cultural, historical, and scenic values, and protecting its diverse recreational uses.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED ON THE 12TH DAY OF August 2015.

ATTEST:

By Jeanette Jones
Jeanette Jones
Deputy County Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: Steven F. Child
Steven F. Child, Chair

Date: 8/18/2015

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

John Ely, County Attorney

MANAGER APPROVAL

Jon Peacock, County Manager

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF GUNNISON COUNTY, COLORADO SUPPORTING FEDERAL DESIGNATION OF
THE CRYSTAL RIVER AS A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

RESOLUTION NO. _____-2016

1. The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners are in support of the Wild and Scenic River designation for the Main Stem of the Crystal River from its headwaters in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness area to a point just above the Sweet Jessup Ditch.

2. We request Congress and appropriate federal, state, local and water conservation district officials to act with expediency toward achieving this designation in order to protect, in perpetuity, the water quality and quantity of the Crystal River in its free flowing condition while maintaining the river's ranching heritage, sustaining the river's diverse fish and wildlife habitat, its remarkable cultural, historical, and scenic values, and protecting its diverse recreational uses.

3. This designation will ensure the Crystal remains a free-flowing, healthy and natural river with no dams or diversions out of the watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Gunnison County, Colorado that the Commissioners are in support of the Wild and Scenic River designation for the Main Stem of the Crystal River from its headwaters in the Maroon Bells- Snowmass Wilderness area to a point just above the Sweet Jessup Ditch.

We request Congress and appropriate federal, state, local and water conservation district officials to act with expediency toward achieving this designation in order to protect, in perpetuity, the water quality and quantity of the Crystal River in its free flowing condition while maintaining the river's ranching heritage, sustaining the river's diverse fish and wildlife habitat, its remarkable cultural, historical, and scenic values, and protecting its diverse recreational uses.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED ON THE 14th DAY OF JUNE 2016.

DRAFT

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF MARBLE TRUSTEES OF MARBLE, COLORADO SUPPORTING FEDERAL DESIGNATION OF THE CRYSTAL RIVER AS A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

RESOLUTION NO. _____-2016

1. The Gunnison County Board of County Commissioners are in support of the Wild and Scenic River designation for the Main Stem of the Crystal River from its headwaters in the Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness area to a point just above the Sweet Jessup Ditch.

2. We request Congress and appropriate federal, state, local and water conservation district officials to act with expediency toward achieving this designation in order to protect, in perpetuity, the water quality and quantity of the Crystal River in its free flowing condition while maintaining the river's ranching heritage, sustaining the river's diverse fish and wildlife habitat, its remarkable cultural, historical, and scenic values, and protecting its diverse recreational uses.

3. This designation will ensure the Crystal remains a free-flowing, healthy and natural river with no dams or diversions out of the watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Town of Marble, Trustees that the Trustees are in support of the Wild and Scenic River designation for the Main Stem of the Crystal River from its headwaters in the Maroon Bells- Snowmass Wilderness area to a point just above the Sweet Jessup Ditch.

We request Congress and appropriate federal, state, local and water conservation district officials to act with expediency toward achieving this designation in order to protect, in perpetuity, the water quality and quantity of the Crystal River in its free flowing condition while maintaining the river's ranching heritage, sustaining the river's diverse fish and wildlife habitat, its remarkable cultural, historical, and scenic values, and protecting its diverse recreational uses.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED ON THE 14th DAY OF JUNE 2016.

DRAFT

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF PITKIN COUNTY, COLORADO REAFFIRMING ITS SUPPORT OF FEDERAL
DESIGNATION OF THE CRYSTAL RIVER AS A WILD AND SCENIC RIVER

RESOLUTION NO. _____-2016

1. On August 12, 2015, the Pitkin County Board of County Commissioners approved a resolution of support of the Wild and Scenic River designation for the Main Stem of the Crystal River from its headwaters in the Maroon Bells- Snowmass Wilderness area to a point just above the Sweet Jessup Ditch.

2. We request Congress and appropriate federal, state, local and water conservation district officials to act with expediency toward achieving this designation in order to protect, in perpetuity, the water quality and quantity of the Crystal River in its free flowing condition while maintaining the river's ranching heritage, sustaining the river's diverse fish and wildlife habitat, its remarkable cultural, historical, and scenic values, and protecting its diverse recreational uses.

3. This designation will ensure the Crystal remains a free-flowing, healthy and natural river with no dams or diversions out of the watershed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Pitkin County, Colorado that the Commissioners reaffirm support of the Wild and Scenic River designation for the Main Stem of the Crystal River from its headwaters in the Maroon Bells- Snowmass Wilderness area to a point just above the Sweet Jessup Ditch.

We request Congress and appropriate federal, state, local and water conservation district officials to act with expediency toward achieving this designation in order to protect, in perpetuity, the water quality and quantity of the Crystal River in its free flowing condition while maintaining the river's ranching heritage, sustaining the river's diverse fish and wildlife habitat, its remarkable cultural, historical, and scenic values, and protecting its diverse recreational uses.

INTRODUCED, READ AND ADOPTED ON THE 14TH DAY OF JUNE 2016.

ATTEST:

By:_____
Jeanette Jones
Deputy County Clerk

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Rachel Richards, Chair

Date:_____

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

_____
John Ely, County Attorney

MANAGER APPROVAL

_____
Jon Peacock, County Manager

DRAFT

Draws & Straws

The Pull on Western Slope Water

Lower Basin Right
7,500,000 AFY

Colorado´s Obligation
3,750,000 AFY

Colorado River Basin

Colorado
Front Range

Trans-mountain
Diversions (24)
560,000 AFY

Las Vegas

Phoenix

Los Angeles

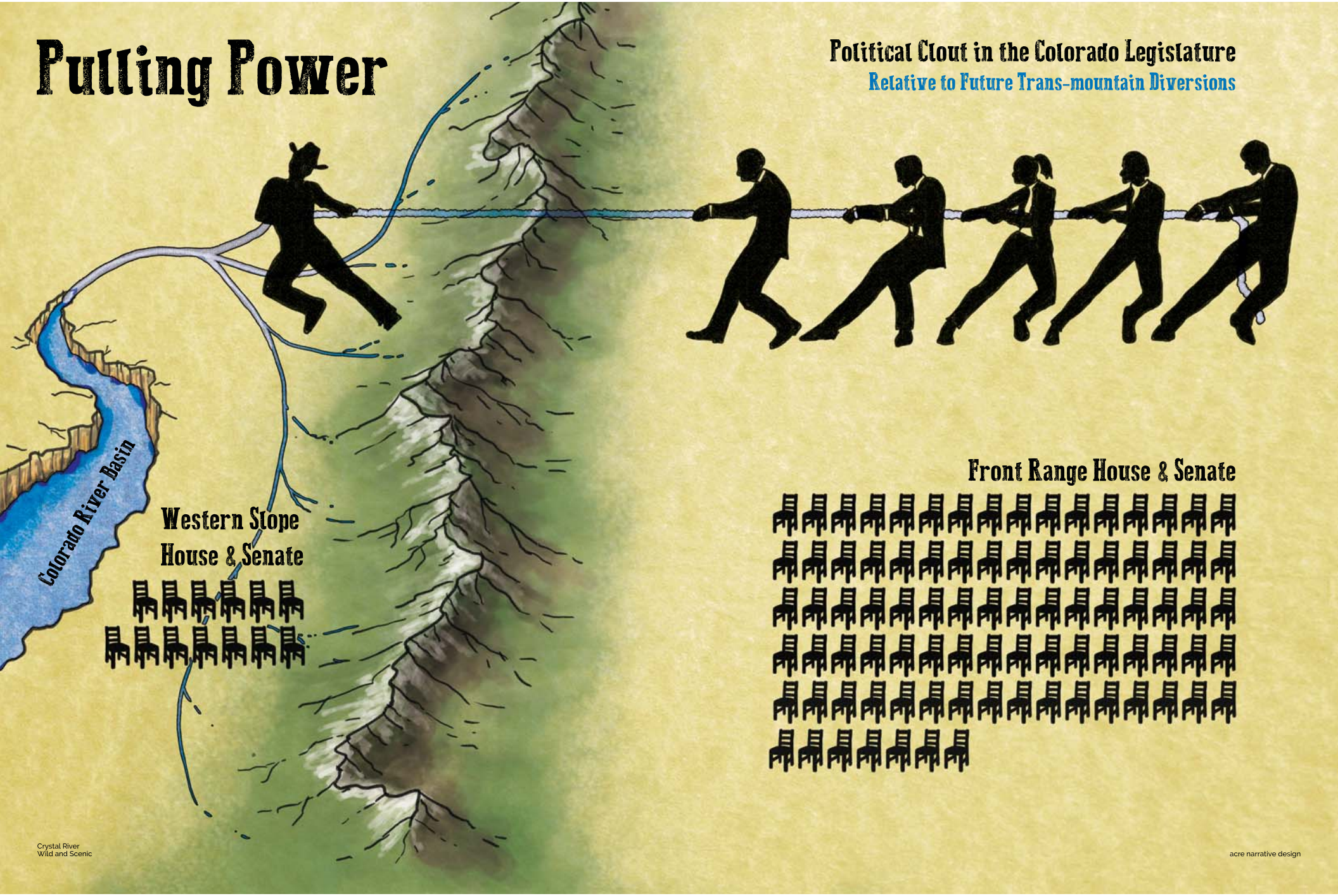
Crystal River Wild and Scenic

acre narrative design

Pulling Power

Political Clout in the Colorado Legislature

Relative to Future Trans-mountain Diversions

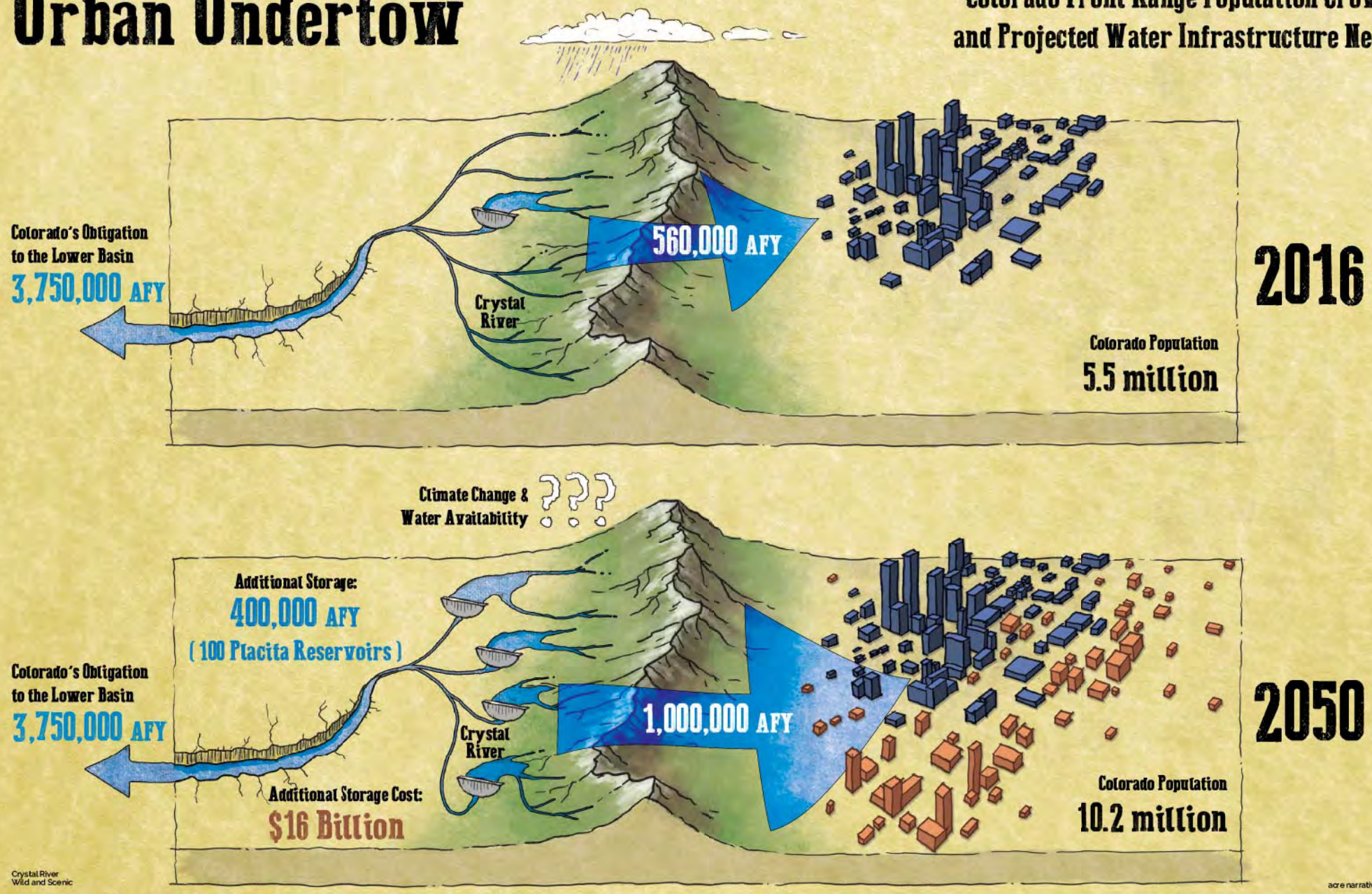


Crystal River
Wild and Scenic

acre narrative design

Urban Undertow

Colorado Front Range Population Growth and Projected Water Infrastructure Needs

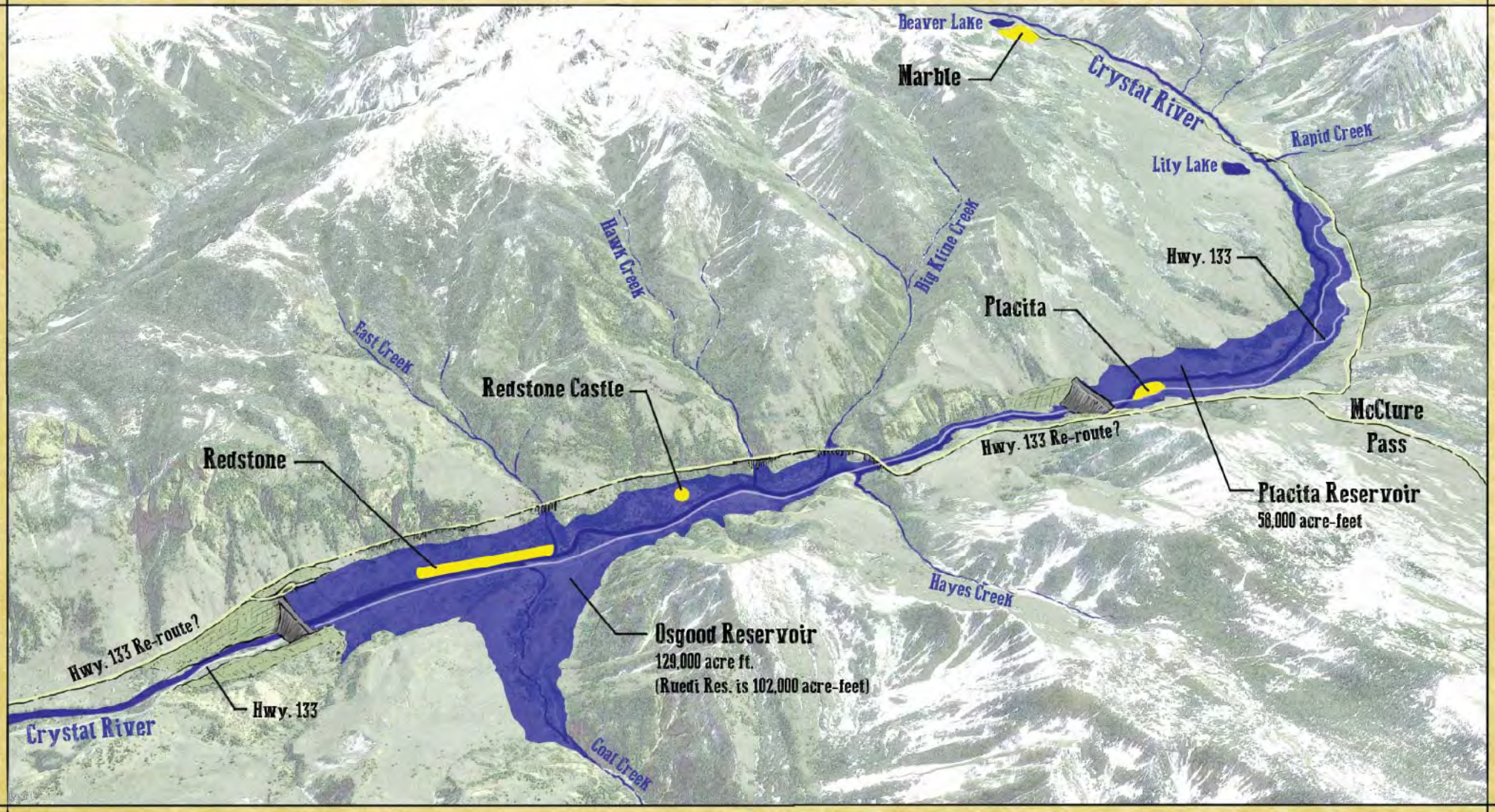


Crystal River
Wild and Scenic

acre narrative design

Sleeping Giants

In the early 1960's, Colorado Water Court adjudicated rights for these huge reservoirs. Fifty years later, in 2010, rights to build them were still valid.



Increasing water demand will trigger new dam proposals

Crystal River
Wild and Scenic

acre narrative design

Wild, Scenic, and Home

Worth protecting

The Crystal Valley at Redstone

Crystal River
Wild and Scenic

acre narrative design

A Drawn Down Tomorrow

Worth preventing

The Crystal Valley at Redstone

Crystal River
Wild and Scenic

acre narrative design