



GORE CANYON WHITEWATER FEATURE AT PUMPHOUSE



The Pumphouse Recreation Area, regulated by the Bureau of Land Management, is located at the take out of Gore Canyon of the Colorado River. Local government, boaters, landowners, regulatory agencies and a wide variety of Colorado River lovers all had crucial and active roles in bringing the project to fruition. Construction of the RiverRestoration designed whitewater park was completed spring of 2015. The park attracts boaters to the area and makes a recreational in-channel diversion water right absolute for Grand County, Colorado. The Gore Canyon Whitewater Park was granted water rights for flows ranging from 860 to 2,500 cfs.

The whitewater feature has hosted annual freestyle kayaking, rafting, and stand up paddle boarding competitive events every year since its completion. These events have drawn spectators and participants from around Colorado and the intermountain West.





ADA accessible overlook and step access

“This is the first RICD decree entered under the new statutes... It is the largest RICD water right decreed in Colorado and the only one on the Colorado River mainstem to date.”

-David Taussig, an attorney with White & Jankowski, LLP in Denver who represents Grand County on water matters

A wave hole feature on river left was designed to be separate from a boat and fish passage channel on the right. The existing fishery provides some of the best fishing in the state. Close coordination with Colorado Parks and Wildlife ensured the protection and improvement of the fish habitat in this stretch. Since construction



The attendees of the ribbon cutting ceremony pictured in front of the new whitewater feature. Representatives from Grand, Eagle, and Summit counties, American Whitewater, the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Bureau of Land Management, US Forest Service, and many others were in attendance.

completion, anglers have taken to fishing the installed habitat boulders both up and downstream of the feature. The site is a popular put-in for both commercial and private boaters on a fun Class II-III stretch. The feature was designed to maintain the whitewater character of the river and meet hydraulic conditions for downstream drift boat passage and upstream fish passage. The whitewater park design incorporated habitat friendly elements, such as no grouted boulders. This maintains small alcoves and eddies for fish to use when migrating upstream.



After a last fine tune, the feature is tested and approved. ~1000 cfs