



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

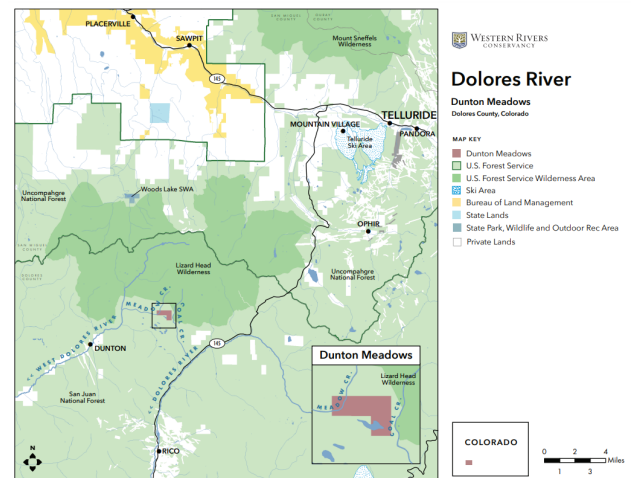
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Colorado's Dunton Meadows: Conserving a cold-water savings vault in the headwaters of the Dolores River

After more than five years of work, WRC and the San Juan National Forest successfully conserved Dunton Meadows, an essential high-altitude wetland complex that delivers clean, cold water to Meadow and Coal creeks, two headwater tributaries of the Dolores River. Spanning 160 acres, this alpine meadow stores enough rain and snowmelt during the wetter months to deliver an outsized benefit to these streams in the form of reliable seeps during warmer weather. One of the most notable beneficiaries of the meadow's output is the Colorado River cutthroat trout, a state-designated species of special concern that inhabits creeks downstream. For Coloradans, conservation of Dunton Meadows means that cherished views of the snow-capped San Juan Mountains, will remain intact. Just 26 miles from Telluride, Dunton Meadows is bisected by a county gravel road that provides ready access to the Lizard Head Wilderness via the popular Navajo Lake and Kilpacker Basin trailheads.

Christi Bode photo



California's Trinity River: Laying the groundwork for restoration

In the remote Klamath Mountains of Northern California, Western Rivers Conservancy and the Bureau of Land Management protected a vital property along a half mile of the Trinity River, downstream of Junction City. The acquisition ushers in a critical next phase of a multi-decade restoration project aimed at reviving one of the great salmon and steelhead streams of California. The Trinity has also long been a premier whitewater destination, and over 200 miles of the mainstem, North Fork and South Fork have been designated Wild and Scenic. WRC has been working for two years to get the Benjamin Flats property into BLM hands and successfully facilitated the agency's purchase of the land in November 2024. The hard work has paid off, and now a half mile of the Trinity has been permanently conserved for the fish and wildlife that depend on it. Stream restoration is already underway, and the BLM is now exploring the best way to blend restoration and public access along this important stretch of the Wild and Scenic Trinity River.

