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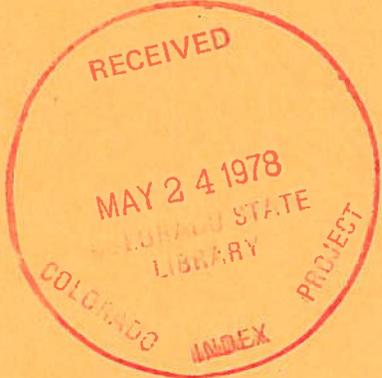
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# glenwood canyon

# I-70

# design process

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## WORKING PAPER

### Statement of Direction TRG Recreation Subcommittee

August 11, 1976

prepared by the

**TRG Recreation Subcommittee**

for the

**Colorado Division of Highways**

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## STATEMENT OF DIRECTION

### TRG SUBCOMMITTEE ON RECREATION

August 11, 1976

#### INTRODUCTION

The Recreation Subcommittee was formed within the Technical Review Group to consider recreation issues related to existing and potential uses of the canyon, problems of highway access, and visual quality and esthetics. The following government agencies participate on the Subcommittee:

- . U.S. Forest Service
- . Bureau of Land Management
- . Bureau of Outdoor Recreation
- . Colorado Division of Wildlife
- . Colorado Division of Highways

Additional information is being obtained from the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation as well as other public agencies and various private organizations and individuals.

The Recreation Subcommittee was initially established to focus on recreation issues in order to expand upon and record the expressed concerns of various organizations regarding recreation and to report this information to the design team. It was found that these concerns were closely related to major issues being considered by all of the

groups involved in the design process and total integration of work was considered important. Consequently, the Subcommittee broadened the scope of its work to include the collection of baseline resource planning information for use by the CAC, the workshops, and the design team as well as the Subcommittee, in developing and analyzing alternative design concepts. The Subcommittee will use this information to formulate a comprehensive recreation program as a means of expressing the full recreation potential of the canyon.

#### BASELINE STUDIES

In the effort to objectively develop a recreation program, upon which detailed designs could be developed, the Subcommittee has delineated various areas of study. Data is being compiled on the following environmental, physical and recreational features of the Canyon.

##### Existing Recreation Facilities & Use

An inventory of the Canyon's existing facilities is being conducted to determine the range and extent of recreational activities in the Canyon.

##### Land Ownership

An inventory of the land ownership and status with regard to mining claims (present and future) of areas visible from within the Canyon.

## Geology

Existing studies are being utilized to review the geologic character of the Canyon and to identify unusual geologic sites and conditions. Field studies are also being conducted to inventory in greater detail rock faces, talus slopes, and areas of unstable rock or talus slides.

## Fish & Wildlife

The Subcommittee is mapping areas of wildlife movement and critical habitat and studying the relationship of such areas to existing and potential activity sites. Existing information is also being used to determine quality of the river habitat throughout the Canyon for fish, areas of prime fishing, and spawning grounds.

## Vegetation

An inventory of vegetation in the Canyon is being made to evaluate ecological relationships, esthetics, revegetational requirements and educational use of plant communities.

## Natural Features

Field surveys are being made of natural features such as stable rock faces for climbing, ice flows, springs, falls, caves and rapids.

## Visual Resources

An inventory of view sheds and focal points is being conducted to identify areas of special visual sensitivity as well as areas with scenic overlook potential.

### Noise and Air Quality

General information is being developed on existing air and noise quality levels within the Canyon with special attention given to the dispersion and attenuation characteristics of the Canyon.

### Historic and Anthropological Resources

Background information is being developed on the natural characteristics of the Canyon before introduction of the railroad, power plant, dam and roadway. Information is also being gathered on the historic events and uses in the Canyon for potential use in interpretative facilities.

### Water Resources

Data is being gathered to establish existing water quality, characteristics of the aquifers and upper elevation streams, and general hydrology information on the Colorado River and tributaries within Glenwood Canyon. Information is also being collected to establish the levels of water withdrawal and effects on water levels throughout the Canyon due to withdrawal and flooding.

### Recreation Demand

As part of the recreation studies, the Subcommittee is developing data on the present and anticipated recreational demands placed on the Canyon by local, regional and national

users. Demand information is being gathered from various areas including:

- . Colorado Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan  
This plan, prepared in 1975, outlines outdoor recreation opportunities, needs, and problems in Colorado on a regional and statewide basis.
  
- . Community Attitude Survey  
This survey, conducted in 1976 for the Glenwood Canyon project by SRI Community Response of Colorado, Inc., included questions regarding recreational usage and possible facility development in the Canyon.
  
- . Local Field Surveys  
The Subcommittee is conducting a limited number of interviews with local residents living and working within the Canyon regarding their perception of recreational activities in the Canyon.
  
- . Other Contacts and Discussions  
The Subcommittee is also contacting various local, State and national recreation interest groups in order to document the concerns of those organizations regarding recreational usage of the Canyon.

#### PRELIMINARY DIRECTIONS

On the basis of information gathered to date and in consideration of agencies stated positions, especially those with land ownership and land management functions within the

Canyon, the following initial directions are being formulated:

- . Bikeway

A bicycle path the length of Glenwood Canyon would offer local, State and national cyclists a safe route through a scenic Colorado canyon for both loop and cross-country tours. Although it is recognized that engineering and design issues are yet to be resolved, information gathered to date indicates a strong demand to support the inclusion of a bikeway facility.

- . Interpretative Facilities

In an effort to enhance motorist's preception and appreciation of Glenwood canyon, the Subcommittee is considering the inclusion of interpretative facilities within the Canyon. While the extent and best use of such facilities has yet to be resolved, geological, historical and ecological aspects of the Canyon appear to be best suited for interpretation.

- . Extent of Usage

Concerns have been expressed by all members of the Subcommittee regarding the extent of recreation development in the Canyon. At this time, one aspect of recreational usage has been delineated. There is a strong desire to follow the general policy of the U.S. Forest Service and limit facilities within the Canyon to day-use activities.

. Rafter Access

There is evidence from demand data gathered to date that a strong need exists for adequate access for commercial and private rafters. Facilities for this activity would include an unloading and staging area with adequate parking and rest rooms.

. Fishing Access

Presently, there is a strong demand for acceptable fishing access within the Canyon. The Subcommittee is considering inclusion of a path along the mean flow line of sections of the Colorado River for those fishermen and other recreationalists wishing to reach the river's edge.

. Trail Access

A number of trails connect the Canyon's rim and floor. Access to these trails is being studied. It is considered by the Subcommittee that access to existing trails and some new trails be maintained or improved.

. Picnicking

The Canyon is presently being used for picnicking by a large number of motorists. Inclusion of this activity in any future recreation development plan is considered essential.

. Scenic Viewpoints and Overlooks

Many portions of the Canyon have been identified as scenic or unique. Areas of special focus and attention should be made available to recreationalists.

Similar to the purpose of interpretative facilities, overlooks would provide the motorist the opportunity to view the scenic quality of Glenwood Canyon.

#### REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Subcommittee is also considering several issues which require broader analysis. We solicit your comments on the following issues:

- . Boating  
The demand for water-oriented recreation facilities is high in Colorado. In the past, Glenwood Canyon, above Shoshone Dam, has offered marginal opportunity to water skiers and other boaters. It is the general feeling of the Subcommittee to limit this form of recreation and promote more passive forms such as canoeing and wakeless boating.
  
- . Intensive Activity Center Concept  
A proposal under consideration at this time, is to allow passive recreation within the Canyon and intensify facility development in a more suitable area. An example of such an area could be the Golden Bair Ranch. Limiting development of intensive activities such as interpretative, primitive camping, rest area facilities, etc. to one site would allow retention of the Canyon for passive uses such as picnicking, fishing, hiking and trail access, scenic viewing, etc. and help preserve the Canyon's scenic quality.

. Use of Canyon Floor

The Subcommittee is gathering the information necessary to evaluate alternative design concepts which would free portions of the Canyon floor for recreation.

We would appreciate input from the CAC regarding directions for the type and level of recreation activity and the possible location of facilities.

CONCLUSION

Presently, the Subcommittee is preparing inventories, maps and documents on the various outlined environmental and demand factors. When these maps and documents reach a finished stage, they will be available to the CAC, the workshops, and the design team. Interim status reports will be made as appropriate to keep the CAC and design team informed of the Subcommittee's activities. As alternative highway design concepts are developed, the Subcommittee will use the information presently being prepared to formulate recreational programs for each of the concepts and assist in the evaluation of impacts on the recreational and esthetic qualities of the Canyon.

