

July 11, 2019

Dear Sam & Brittany,

Our crew of 10 hikers is lunching here in Bear Creek drainage after an extraordinary hike. We wish you were here with us!

Even though I hike this trail @ least twice a year I am still in awe of the scenic beauty, the quality habitat for Byhorn sheep, elk, deer + bear. The unique geology is yet another reason I support this polygon for wilderness recommendation. I also support Bear Creek as eligible for Wild + Scenic River given the pristine upper reaches of the Main + S. Fork + the unique turquoise mineralized water of S. Fork.

As you know, Great Old Broads for Wilderness has been advocating for not only the Bear Creek polygon (your Amphitheater polygon) along w/ Hayden, Baldy + Abram for recommendation for wilderness (Abram as SMA given its size) since our conservation coalition first submitted the Community Conservation Proposal during the initial stages of the wilderness process (Chapter 70).

I thank you for recommending the Whitehouse addition to Mt Sneffels Wilderness for wilderness designation, and urge to consider these other Ouray County landscapes in your draft forest plan/DEIS.

Thank you as always for your consideration of my comments and for our ongoing collaboration.

Respectfully + gratefully

Robyn Cascade

Leader, Northern San Juan
Broadband

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