

Dear Forest Service,

I am writing to highlight the outstanding value of the rivers and creeks in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forest Lands. I am a whitewater kayaker and I have been a regular visitor to these wonderful places. The creeks around Crested Butte, such as Oh Be Joyful Creek, Daisy Creek, the Slate River, and the East River, are unique and special watersheds that are prized for their outstanding beauty and their exceptional high quality whitewater. The river bed geology is unique in Colorado and produces large waterfalls that are navigable by kayaks that are globally recognized as some of the best steep creeks in the US. The Uncompahgre plateau is home to classic western desert creeks such as Escalante Creek which provide for an action packed whitewater experience in the desert in a challenging whitewater canyon. These rivers and creeks are the prized public lands gems that boaters from all over the US and the world flock to when the Colorado snowpack starts to melt each spring provided exceptionally high quality whitewater kayaking opportunities. I am asking you to consider these remarkable values in your planning process to ensure that watershed quality and public access are preserved for years to come and for future generations. Critical threats including mining, resource development, lost access due to private interests, degradation of habitat, and loss of snowpack due to climate change. These areas would be high quality candidates for wild and scenic river status as well as long term protected areas to preserve their outstanding values. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ian Foley

9355 E Center Ave Denver, CO 80247-1224

[ianfoleyiii@hotmail.com](mailto:ianfoleyiii@hotmail.com)