

Dear Uncompahgre Gorge,

I love you because of the geologic setting we're in. A tight and slotty gorge with towering mountains above and wild primeval forest around. It's also a place where you will be alone. I've never seen another group in there while I was paddling. It's such a niche run that you have the place all to yourself.

I remember when I first paddled this section. We hiked our boats down the river along Horse Tail Falls and scrambled back out to 550 to run shuttle. After dropping our car off, we hiked the entire run scouting all the sections of the canyon looking for rockfall and wood. Walking along 550 with no shoulder, cars driving by, and 1000ft down to the river was very memorable. Shoving off the shore and heading downstream for an adventure even more so.

You deserve to be protected because rivers are the life-blood of our planet and they should all be protected. There are not that many wild places and remote rivers left in CO as development and water needs have inundated most of them. We should protect these places not for ourselves, but for future generations so that the idea of going somewhere remote isn't a concept people read in books as past tense. Rivers need protection in and of themselves. Not from an anthropomorphic sense.

I believe that you should be determined eligible under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act so that your outstanding values and free-flowing waters can be recognized and protected for future generations.

Love,

Dave Farkas

Sincerely,  
Dave Farkas  
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