

Dear GMUG,

Please consider including the San Miguel River sections of Norwood Canyon, Specie to Beaver, and Keystone to Sawpit as Eligible for Wild & Scenic (W&S) designation in your GMUG Forest Plan revision.

Norwood Canyon was given a Wild Suitability classification and Specie to Beaver was given a Recreation Suitability classification in the Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO), Resource Management Plan (RMP), which was finalized in April 2020. Their W&S Eligibility process was very in depth involving numerous community meetings that were facilitated and organized by their Resource Advisory Committee. As a participant in this process, I believe that the community is very much in support of the final RMP and accompanying W&S classifications. These W&S classifications even got a letter of approval from the Colorado Water Conservation Board, in part due to the community process and compromise that went into the UFO RMP process.

Both the Norwood Canyon and Specie to Beaver river sections are critically important for paddlers and anglers. As the Telluride and Norwood region are very dependent on tourism and recreation, these river sections are paramount.

As for Keystone to Sawpit, this section should be considered eligible for W& S. The Keystone Falls are absolutely magnificent and the Keystone hiking loop around the falls is my favorite Telluride Hike. It is a popular area for fishing, hiking, and viewing, and at one time, the private land around this section of river was in danger of being developed into a private fishing lodge. The section between Bilk Creek and Sawpit is a popular kayaking section and provides an exciting more advanced section of boating, not available anywhere else on the San Miguel River. Because there is a dirt road next to the river, people love to walk, ski, and bike along the river, so this section is a favorite for many.

Thank you for considering including all three of these wonderful sections of the San Miguel River as W&S Eligible in your plan revision.

Sincerely,  
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