

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/25/2019 6:00:00 AM

First name: FS-r2

Last name: Visitor Information

Organization:

Title:

Comments: FW: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison Forest Plan Revision #51806 - comment: 51806-2767-29

From: Lydia Stern

Sent: Wednesday, March 20, 2019 4:54 PM

To: FS-r2 gmug Visitor Information <r2_gmug_visitor_information@fs.fed.us>

Subject: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison Forest Plan Revision #51806 - comment: 51806-2767-29

Hi! Thank you for taking the time to read comments on the wild and scenic rivers of the GMUG. My comments are primarily based in Gunnison county, most specifically in Crested Butte and the surrounding area. I have attached 21 images to accompany the words since I think the photos speak to the wild and scenic aspect of the rivers much more than my words ever could. I'll highlight a few places specifically, but truly I believe that ALL rivers in this area are wild and scenic. They meet the eligibility requirements as free-flowing streams, and they all have outstanding remarkable values. The Slate River is perhaps my most favorite of all. Our town is nestled in the river valley and enjoys the diverse ecology that thrives in the basin. Once contaminated by mining (still in the reclamation process), the Slate River is now home to blue heron, beavers, deer, fish, foxes, moose, (all of which I have seen in person!) and many more creatures have their natural habitats there. I have enjoyed and witnessed so much recreation in this pristine area including stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, rafting, mountain biking and hiking along the trails that surround this area. I have so many more photos from these trails and along the scenic river route. I have even photographed one of the most magical elopements near a waterfall that is above Oh Be Joyful. The gushing water up there in the quiet trees is oh so soothing and awe-inspiring. I will also touch on the East River, Brush Creek, and Cement Creek areas which all feed in to the same valley inhabited by Crested Butte. All free-flowing, and all very scenic, they also draw fishermen/fisherwomen from all over to fly-fish in the streams. The Gothic valley is similar in these attributes. I just love seeing the meanders from up above and how undisturbed this area remains despite the growing town nearby. Gothic in particular also has a lot of historical value due to the mining history that has taken place here. The geology in Gunnison county is fascinating, and the riverbeds tell a story all their own. I could go on and on about my love for the rivers in the Crested Butte area, but I'll let my photos do the rest of the talking... I wish I could submit more since I really have so many! I spend so much of my time in the water, near the riverbanks, just watching and listening. I take photos of flowers, of bees, of animals, of people, of sunsets... It all makes me feel at peace and just so happy/lucky to live near such incredible rivers. Wild and Scenic indeed! Thank you again for reading my river rambblings. Cheers to clean water! (I don't think my attachments worked through the website, so I wanted to re-send... Is there a Google Drive or can I use WeTransfer?)

Lydia Stern

PHOTOGRAPHY & DESIGN

<<http://www.lsternmedia.com>>