

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/23/2021 11:00:00 AM

First name: Melanie

Last name: Rees

Organization:

Title:

Comments: [Copied from attachment]

Dear Taylor [river],

You will always have a special place in my heart because you were my first [ndash] the first cold, clear Colorado river I kayaked. What a day when love is born. It was decades ago yet sharper than last week.

A Bald Eagle perched on an overhanging snag, peering into the same pool as a fly fisherman in waders, the intensity of their stare equal. Climbers on sheer rock routes were so close above that I heard [ldquo]belay off[rddquo] above the sound of the water. Then I saw the Bighorns river right, scrambling up the steep terrain of the Almont Triangle. My paddling and climbing passions converged [ndash] true love at first sight.

I came back. I moved to the Gunnison Valley and lived near you for 15 years. I explored your headwaters on foot and horseback. I took my puppy up her first peak in your watershed. I shared you with my mom who, in her 90[rsquo]s, delighted how you reminded her of the cascading creeks of her Appalachian youth. We often picnicked with you on Sundays, some of the best memories ever.

I moved away, but I come back every summer and share you with new boating buddies who smile as I did, the first time.

Love always, Melanie

Sincerely, Melanie Rees

[Copied from attachment]

Dear Taylor [river],

You will always have a special place in my heart because you were my first [ndash] the first cold, clear Colorado river I kayaked. What a day when love is born. It was decades ago yet sharper than last week.

A Bald Eagle perched on an overhanging snag, peering into the same pool as a fly fisherman in waders, the intensity of their stare equal. Climbers on sheer rock routes were so close above that I heard [ldquo]belay off[rddquo] above the sound of the water. Then I saw the Bighorns river right, scrambling up the steep terrain of the Almont Triangle. My paddling and climbing passions converged [ndash] true love at first sight.

I came back. I moved to the Gunnison Valley and lived near you for 15 years. I explored your headwaters on foot and horseback. I took my puppy up her first peak in your watershed. I shared you with my mom who, in her 90[rsquo]s, delighted how you reminded her of the cascading creeks of her Appalachian youth. We often picnicked with you on Sundays, some of the best memories ever.

I moved away, but I come back every summer and share you with new boating buddies who smile as I did, the

first time.

Love always, Melanie

Sincerely, Melanie Rees