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Title: Vice Chair, Central West Slope Regional Director

Comments: Additional Comment [ndash] Wild and Scenic River Designation for Cow Creek on the Ouray Ranger District

On behalf of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, I request the GMUG consider including an additional reach of Cow Creek as eligible for designation as wild and scenic.

The Draft Forest Plan includes the headwaters of the Cow Creek drainage in its list of streams eligible for designation as wild and scenic. We think a very valid case can be made that the segment of Cow Creek eligible for Wild and Scenic status should be extended downstream to the Sneva Ditch.

Our research indicates that the State of Colorado has an instream flow right on this reach to protect the fishery and integrity of the aquatic habitat. We also firmly believe that not only does the lower reach of Cow Creek have the same [ldquo]Outstandingly Remarkable Values[rldquo] (ORV[rldquo]s) as the upper reach that make them suitable, but matching up the reach with the State[rldquo]s in stream flow reach makes sense as well. In addition, the fishery values in Cow Creek include a wild trout fishery for rainbows as well as native Paiute Sculpin. There are two streams in the headwaters that are managed for native cutthroats.

Respectfully,

Craig Grother

Central West Slope Regional Director

Backcountry Hunters & Anglers