

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/3/2018 8:11:58 PM

First name: Travis

Last name: Kite

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments On Draft Wild and Scenic Suitability Report

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forests,

Dear Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest,

My name is Travis Kite, I'm a 24 year old river guide in Central Idaho. I have seen first hand the benefits of protecting the rivers I've guided on. To have places, relatively unaltered by man, is a right that we should all have. It is unfair for man to strip these beautiful places of their wildness and grandeur for selfish reasons such as resources. There are plenty of places in the United States that are barren and still abundant with resources that would not be missed as much as these special places in central Idaho.

I grew up working at my parents shop in Southern Nevada. We built cooling systems for mining equipment. Also my father works at Cortez, in Northern Nevada, one of the largest gold mines in North America. I mention these things because I want to establish that I do understand the need for mining, gold is a conductor in the piece of equipment I am using to send this very message. I am not ignorant of our need for these resources, but I beg you to protect these rivers. Not because of my own love of these places, but for the future generations to have a place to reconnect to the wild.

Today my generation has become more disconnected from the natural world than any before them. Technology has taken over our every waking moment. You cannot go anywhere without seeing children and young adults with their noses buried in screens, ignorant to their surroundings. It's unfortunate, but it is what it is. But I beg you to protect these places because I've seen first hand what places like this can do for people.

As a kid I found solace in the hills and mountains. They were a place I could go and forget about school, family problems, and whatever else may trouble ones mind. From a very young age I fostered a strong unbreaking love for the outdoors, mostly through family members who taught me the nuances of the natural world. Originally I was from Elko, but a divorce and nasty custody battle ensured that I would spend most of my childhood growing up in the concrete jungles of Las Vegas.

Visiting my dad in Elko gave me many opportunities to get out into nature and learn about it, as he was, and still is, a huge and respected outdoorsman. But returning to Vegas after these trips only left me yearning for more. I would return to school and tell my friends the great tales of our hunting/ camping/ fishing/ etc.. trips and no one would be able to relate. None of my friends who went to these inner city schools with me knew of camping. It was something they had never had the opportunities to enjoy. So I knew from a young age that I wanted to take people out and show them the places that I love so much.

Now as a multi day Whitewater and fishing guide I've gotten an opportunity to do just that! Out of high school I started working for the mines, and was even promised a raise that would have put my yearly salary at over \$70,000 a year at 19 years old, if I had chosen to stay. But money isn't everything and I packed my bags for North Idaho to go pursue a life as a guide. Originally it was very intimidating learning these new, powerful landscapes. But my sense of wonder, and want for adventure, could not keep me away from these places.

Now as I exit my fourth year of guiding I have many great memories that I've made on these rivers, and near them, that we're asking you to protect, for now and forever. I've had the chance to take families down and see the change in them, from being nervous on the boat ramp, to screaming with ecstasy pushing through 15 foot waves. I've helped children catch their first fish, and seen their faces light up with new found appreciation. I am writing to ask that all 89 streams that you have found eligible for Wild and Scenic designation remain protected. I'm not asking you to save these places for me, I'm asking you to save them for the kids after "US".

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Travis Kite

Elko, NV 89801
kite7225@yahoo.com