

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/22/2019 3:32:19 PM

First name: Scott

Last name: Williams

Organization:

Title:

Comments: First, thank you for providing a concise and understandable summary of a complex subject - the Wild and Scenic River process. Very helpful.

I am a Ouray County resident and a member of the Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership and Ridgway-Ouray Community Council, two grass-roots organizations which work hard to preserve and protect the area's natural resources. I am also an avid outdoors-person and enjoy hiking, fishing, river-running, photography and cross-country skiing. Your eligibility recommendation with regard to Cow Creek is spot-on. That area is truly wild and scenic and meets all of the criteria for designation.

I would like more information, however, on why Bear Creek, which was found eligible in 2005, was not included in this round.

Also, I would think that East Dallas Creek, from Blue Lakes down through the Sneffels Wilderness and National Forest as far as the Forest boundary, should also be considered. The Blue Lakes trail is very popular because it offers exceedingly spectacular views of both the mountains and the water, and the river includes all of the forms that a mountain watercourse can take - including the glacial blue lakes themselves, waterfalls, a meandering meadow stream, a fast-running mountain brook, and the wetlands in the valley below the trailhead. I have also occasionally encountered visiting moose along the creek - a rarity in Ouray County. I am not aware of any existing diversions in this upper section - the only diversion I can think of are on Wilson Creek in the adjoining drainage. I would also think that offering enhanced protection to this stretch would benefit downstream private property owners and water users.

Thank you for considering my comments.