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First name: Joan

Last name: Randall

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wild and Scenic River Evaluation Comment

Dear Assistant Forest Planner Brittany Duffy,

Dear Ms. Duffy,

As an kayaker, rafter, and outdoor enthusiast, I am writing to comment on the GMUG Draft Wild and Scenic River Evaluation. The Forest's Eligibility Inventory should include ALL rivers that are free-flowing and possess at least one ORV, and the Draft Eligibility Evaluation is missing numerous river segments that qualify. I understand that the Forest Service may not be aware of the number of unique and high-quality paddling opportunities that exist in the GMUG and I encourage you to review Outdoor Alliance's GMUG Mapping Tool and American Whitewater's National Whitewater Inventory to inform the Final Eligibility Evaluation.

I want to thank you for determining Oh Be Joyful creek and its tributaries as Eligible and for recognizing Recreation as an Outstandingly Remarkable Value for Eligible segment 1B. Oh Be Joyful is one of Colorado's most popular challenging creeks, bringing new residents to the Gunnison Valley and bringing in visitors from across the country. While Oh Be Joyful is the crown jewel, paddlers don't just come to Crested Butte for Oh Be Joyful - they come to paddle Daisy Creek (i.e., Poverty Gulch), the Slate River, and the Upper East River. Intermediate paddlers flock to the Lower Taylor River and those looking for awe-inspiring views travel farther upstream to the Taylor River above Taylor Reservoir. After spending time kayaking in this area, I was impressed with the power and beauty of Oh Be Joyful Creek, and enjoyed the pristine and continuous fun on the Taylor River. There is an unforgettable, magical feeling from paddling through the forest of dark evergreens on the Taylor River. I am inspired to return to visit Upper East and Daisy one day, as they are regarded by the paddling community as being very scenic and having great rapids.

Each of these rivers are free-flowing and possess at least one ORV and they should be listed as Eligible in the Final Eligibility Evaluation.

Thank you for considering my comments on the GMUG Eligibility Evaluation.

Sincerely,

Joan Randall

River Advocate & BLM River Ranger