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First name: Kevin

Last name: Cripps

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wild and Scenic Eligibility Evaluation Comments

Dear Assistant Forest Planner Brittany Duffy,

Dear Ms. Duffy,

I was recently made aware of the recent Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Evaluation. As an avid whitewater kayaker in Colorado for over a decade, I'm very familiar with the unique paddling opportunities available in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests. The quality of the paddling opportunities have brought me many times over the years to visit these regions.

I was pleased to see that Oh Be Joyful creek, known to paddlers across the country for its beautiful location and uniquely high quality whitewater recreational opportunities was recognized as eligible. In the same area, on any paddlers list are three other rivers/creeks that offer similarly outstanding paddling opportunities in stunning environments: Daisy Creek, the Slate River, and the Upper East River. In fact, almost any whitewater paddler's visit to this region involves all of these destinations.

For beginning and intermediate paddlers, the Lower Taylor offers fantastic opportunities for recreation in a beautiful environment. And in the Uncompahgre region, the headwaters of the San Miguel and Uncompahgre offer unique adventures in a more remote feeling environment that are treasures to the Colorado paddling community.

I recommend that all these rivers, given their multiple remarkable values for recreation, scenery, wildlife, and botanical beauty be designated for Wild and Scenic eligibility.

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

Sincerely,

Kevin Cripps

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Kevin Cripps

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