Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/20/2019 6:00:00 AM
First name: Jonathan
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Wild and Scenic Eligibility Evaluation Comments

Dear Assistant Forest Planner Brittany Duffy,

Dear Ms. Duffy,

As an avid paddler 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. However, 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. More adventurous visitors hike their boats miles into the Dark Canyon to paddle Ruby Anthracite Creek and the mainstem Anthracite, one of the more unique and remote paddling adventures in Colorado. In the Uncompahgre Forest, paddlers travel to the headwaters of the Uncompahgre and the headwaters of the San Miguel for high-challenge and incredibly scenic paddling experiences.

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,

Jonathan Aardal