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First name: Samuel

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wild and Scenic Eligibility Evaluation Comments

Dear Assistant Forest Planner Brittany Duffy,

Dear Ms. Duffy,

My Name is Sam as whitewater nut employ you to add the daisy river, east river and oh joyful to the GMUG inventory.

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.

These creeks are places I hike and stand as inspiration to me others of goals to strive for. To be able to paddle these rivers is a once in a life time opportunity and if something were to effect there flow or change them from there natural state this inspiration would lost and my heart would hurt with goals that i could no longer achieve.

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,

Samuel Rininger

Gunnison, CO 81230

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