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Organization: Southern Ute Tribe

Title:

Comments: GMUG wild and scenic rivers report

Good afternoon,

I would like to see all the comments that were received from tribes, the records you have on tribal identification and field notes associated with identification and in person consultation with tribal representatives notes.

The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is made of the Mouache and Capote bands of Ute. The rivers that in question are still an important of our tribal identity. Without hearing and taking us into the field to help in the identification of the eligibility of sites is not due diligence.

Significance and Integrity is not solely based on the European/American perspective and history, it also important to recognize the value we place on our aboriginal homelands, and that those areas that possess the character of association and feeling also lends itself to the integrity. Ute people were a part of their landscaped recognizing and alluding to our existence as trivial is not adequate without our input.

We did not leave our homelands voluntarily, we were removed. We are also a part of that westward expansion-even for all its atrocities.

Cultural - The River has evidence of significant occupation and use by both prehistoric and historic peoples. Native Americans consider the River and its major flowing tributaries as sacred spaces. The variety and number of archeological and historical sites adjacent to the river embrace the occupation of these prehistoric and historic peoples. Sites include alcoves, rock shelters, lithic scatters, rock art, and open camp sites, as well as European homesteads. Prehistoric sites have the potential to provide information concerning the use of the river corridors by Archaic, Fremont, and Pre-Puebloan Cultures, as well as the Numic speaking peoples. Early travelers and traders also utilized the River as fords; crossings developed with the advent of increased travel along these waterways.