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First name: Dave

Last name: Stawicki

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comprehensive River Management Plan (CRMP) for the Red Wild & Scenic River-

Comments submitted by Dave Stawicki (submitted via email; entered into CARA by Andrea Felton, Forest Environmental Coordinator, 7/23/2021)

The narrative in the Comprehensive River Management Plan indicates that the Red River Wild & Scenic designation continues to hold true for the river corridor. The 2 concerning factors in this, which I feel need to be prioritized for action, are:

1.

Water Quality issues, especially involving the Swift Camp Creek tributary. In both the river values evaluation and the CRMP, Swift Camp was single out as a major source of water quality concern, both in terms of sediment and e. coli contamination. Given that this tributary feeds the river near the beginning of the recreational segment, it poses a hazard, not only for river species, but for the humans that utilize the downstream river corridor for recreation. Given the potential safety and environmental impacts Swift Camp poses, I would suggest that continuing, and increasing, efforts to remedy Swift Camp's water quality woes should be the of the highest priority.

2. Recreational issues, as concerns river access in the recreational segment. With only the Copperas Creek launch site at the border of the wild & recreational segments of the Red River, paddlers are pretty much 'forced' to utilize user-defined access/take-out points down river. As mentioned in the document, the banks of much of the Red River are steep and susceptible to erosion from user impacts, such as dragging boats up from the river. Only the privately owned access at Red River Adventures provides a reasonable egress point, but is again private. I would recommend a take-out/launch point as a second priority for individual boaters who would not be utilizing the outfitter's services would be a wise second priority in order to protect the river and its banks from impacts due to boater use. My personal suggestion is to make the Edmunds Branch site the first launch constructed as it provides a reasonable, yet full, river experience for the recreational segment of the river.

As part of ongoing efforts by Daniel Boone National Forest to protect and manage the Wild & Scenic River corridor, I would also suggest that the DBNF website contain a page dedicated to updates on management actions undertaken both for the river corridor and as described in the EA-FONSI for the Red River Gorge.