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Comments: Please reverse its exclusion of Kelso Mesa from Alternative B as "lands with wilderness characteristics" as it is inconsistent with its own analysis of the area.

## 2. Kelso and North Escalante Creek -

Keep Wild and Scenic River Recommendation for Kelso and North Fork Escalante Creeks. Please review the eligibility of the Middle Fork of Escalante Creek and other tributaries. Outstanding recreational access to Unspoiled Scenic Values: I recently hiked the area again and the quiet, diversity of wildlife, outstanding beauty and diversity of landscape took my breath away. Rivers, ponderosa and juniper pines, mesas, red cliffs, beavers, deer, birds, fish - truly a gem of a place.. it is prime big game and fisheries habitat, incl. endangered Green-lineage Cutthroat and declining CO River Cutthroat. Please restore the previous inclusion of Dry Fork Escalante Creek for Wild and Scenic River eligibility "relatively undisturbed stand of Blue spruce. This area is the first example of this cover type nationally to be set aside as a Research Natural Area

## Kelso Mesa: Big Game Habitat -

If Alternative B's management plan for Kelso remains in the final analysis, please strengthen WMA standards. I recommend that standards or guidelines for maintaining big game habitat require or encourage maintenance of habitat blocks at least 500 acres in size having no roads or other human intrusions in all areas assigned to this management area. I remind the FS of its desired conditions for WMAs MA-DC-WLDF-01 "Large blocks of diverse habitat are relatively undisturbed by routes, providing security for the life history, distributions, and movement of many species including big-game species..."