We hope you enjoyed your visit today to Bear Creek! Many conservation groups are advocating for the Bear Creek watershed/landscape to be recommended for wilderness in the revised Grand Mesa-Uncompahgre-Gunnison National Forest plan and for Bear Creek to be considered eligible for Wild and Scenic River status. If you agree, we would appreciate your providing a comment below to the US Forest Service. (Additional space on reverse side.)

***How to submit comments*** *(in order of preference:)*

You can submit as many comments as you wish until November 12, 2021

* **webpage**: <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public//CommentInput?Project=51806>

### email: SM.FS.gmugplanning@usda.gov

* **postal mail**: (be sure to include your contact information)

GMUG National Forest

attn: Jonathan Tucker/GMUG Forest comments

2250 South Main Street

Delta, CO 81416

* Give your comments below to us and we’ll mail them to the USFS.

**Tell the Forest Service why you are visiting Bear Creek, what you love about it, and why it should be protected. SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL TALKING POINTS IF NEEDED.**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dear GMUG Forest:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Justification for Bear Creek watershed as recommended wilderness:**

* Critical wildlife habitat - especially for Tier 1 bighorn sheep herd (little to no genetic introduction) and deer, elk, bear, raptors/birds and water-dependent fauna
* Opportunities for solitude & primitive recreation (no roads/motorized use/infrastructure)
* Scenic beauty & geologic values (fossilized tidal ripple marks; volcanic spires)
* Cultural/historic values – mining history of region

**Justification for Bear Creek as Wild and Scenic River eligible:**

* Bear Creek was found eligible in the GMUG’s 2005 Wild and Scenic Comprehensive Assessment but not in the current draft forest plan.
* The scenery is spectacular with deep gorges, thundering waterfalls, dramatic cliffs and golden aspen in autumn (Scenic value)
* Geologic features including volcanic tuff pinnacles, iron-rich intrusions and fossilized tidal ripple marks augment the phenomenal scenery (Geologic value)
* The Bear Creek National Recreation Trail that climbs and follows the creek is certainly river-related (Recreation value)

THANK YOU! Contact [northernsanjuanbroadband@gmail.com](mailto:northernsanjuanbroadband@gmail.com) for more information.

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