



March 3, 2024

USFS GMUG National Forest
Attn: Lindsey Binder, Lands and Minerals Specialist
2505 South Townsend
Montrose, CO 81401
Via email: lindsey.binder@usda.gov

RE: Full Moon/Crystal Reservoir Dam

Dear Ms Binder and GMUG Responsible Officials,

Though Great Old Broads for Wilderness (Broads) - Northern San Juan chapter - did not receive an invitation to comment on Crystal Reservoir Dam, Broads has become aware of concern for the dam on the part of the USFS through communication with Ouray Board of County Commissioners and reporting in our local newspaper.

Crystal Reservoir is an asset to our community as related to its water rights and recreation, scenic, wildlife and ecosystem (especially the Iron-ton Fen) values. We ask that before any action is taken to repair and/or partially or completely drain the reservoir, the USFS conduct a full EIS as requested by Ouray County that incorporates alternatives that include and allow for:

1. Protection of the City of Ouray's water rights;
2. Transfer of ownership of Full Moon Dam, (aka Crystal Dam) and Crystal Reservoir to a state or local government or nonfederal entity;
3. Dam repair or improvement;
4. Incorporation of grid-tied hydroelectricity generation;
5. Incorporation of the project components designed by the USFS in 2012: ADA-accessible fishing pier to be located in the northeast corner of the reservoir to improve angler access to the reservoir as well as provide additional access for other forms of recreation common at the site, including but not limited to hiking, wildlife watching, ice sailing/kite skiing, and landscape photography;
6. Analysis of socio-economic impacts to Ouray, Ridgway, Silverton, Ouray, and San Juan Counties from the potential loss of scenic resources and outdoor recreation opportunities currently provided by Crystal Reservoir, which lies adjacent to U.S. 550 and is within the San Juan Skyway Scenic Byway corridor.
7. Full ecosystem restoration to pre-reservoir conditions (including planting native vegetation and preventing noxious or invasive species) if Crystal Reservoir is lowered or drained and/or if Full Moon Dam is removed.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,

A small, rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robyn Cascade".

Robyn Cascade
Volunteer, Northern San Juan chapter