



www.americanwhitewater.org

Kevin Colburn
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Shoshone National Forest
Clarks Fork River Management Plan

Re: Comments on EA and Proposed Actions regarding the River Management Plan for
Clarks Fork River

July 30, 2009

Dear Mr. Sharp

American Whitewater is a national nonprofit organization whose mission is to protect and restore our nation's whitewater resources while enhancing opportunities to enjoy them safely. We are a membership based organization, and a portion of our roughly 7,000 members live near and/or recreate on the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. Our members are generally non-commercial whitewater kayakers, canoeists and rafters with a strong river stewardship ethic.

American Whitewater staff and volunteers have reviewed the predecisional environmental assessment for the management plan and proposed actions regarding the management of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River. In February of last year we wrote you expressing our interests in protecting the scenic, recreational, and ecological values of the Clarks Fork while assuring that historic responsible river access opportunities are maintained. Specifically we highlighted the value that roads 119 and 178.1B have in providing access to the incomparable whitewater paddling opportunities that the Clarks Fork Box and Honeymoon sections provide.

We feel that the travel management components of the EA and proposed actions will protect and enhance the solitude and environmental values of the Clarks Fork River, while also protecting legitimate motorized and non-motorized recreation in the area. We support the findings of the EA and the proposed actions.

We would like also to voice our appreciation for the recognition in the Environmental Assessment of the extraordinary whitewater boating opportunities the Clarks Fork provide.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Colburn', written over a white background.

Kevin Colburn
National Stewardship Director