

*****SAMPLE COMMENTS for KFO dRMP*****

January 13, 2012

Bureau of Land Management
Kremmling Field Office,
P.O. Box 68
2103 E. Park Ave,
Kremmling, CO 80459

To the RMP Project Manager:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on the BLM's Kremmling Field Office's (KFO) draft Resource Management Plan (dRMP). *[Describe why the Upper Colorado River and other rivers in the KFO region are important to you. How often do you visit? Do you take your family? Do you plan to go again in the future? What do you gain from your time on the water? You can also describe who you are and where you're from here if you feel it's relevant].* As a result, I write to support a combination of Alternatives B2 and C for the CRVFO. Alternative B2 is the most protective of instream flows on the Colorado River into the future and Alternative C provides additional protections to the rest of the rivers throughout the CRVFO region.

The Colorado River is one of the key recreation resources in the KFO region, bringing critical economic support to the area each year. Commercial rafting in Glenwood Canyon alone had over \$18 million in economic impact in 2010 to local economies. The river is also home to numerous species, including the sensitive Colorado cutthroat trout. The Upper Colorado River is also the largest supplemental source of water for the cities of Denver, Aurora, Colorado Springs, and eastern Colorado towns and farms. As these demands increase, so does the threat to these flow-dependant resources.

Iconic river reaches, such as the Colorado River, deserve additional and permanent protection of their Outstandingly Remarkable Values, which includes whitewater boating. While a Wild and Scenic designation may do much towards this goal, it unfortunately can do very little to protect the streamflows needed to support recreation and the health of the river. The Stakeholder Agreement that would be implemented under Alternative B2 provides a much stronger framework for protection of streamflows into the future, while also balancing the needs for water supplies, including the Windy Gap and Moffat Projects.

[Express your opinion about other issues in the dRMP that are important to you, such as whether there should be more or less Special Recreation Permits on the Colorado (for commercial outfitters), whether you believe that the current recreation facilities meet demand, whether you support a permit system for private boaters, whether you believe a user fee should be implemented, whether a group size limit of 25 people, including guides, is appropriate. Support maintaining the current boat ramps/river access locations, and specify which ones you use. Provide comment on the possibility that user fees will be implemented. See AW's guide to the dRMP for more information about these issues.]

While the Colorado River attracts the most attention, I support the ongoing maintenance of river access sites on the Fraser River, Blue River and at Muddy Creek. *[If you would like to see whitewater recreation facilities expanded to other parts of the region, specify where.]*

Additionally, I support protecting the riparian habitat of all of the rivers throughout the KFO region. While Alternative B2 is the most protective of flows in the Colorado, Alternative C continues to protect the remaining 13 segments that are currently eligible for Wild and Scenic designation. The dRMP states that other BLM management actions will protect the ORV's of these segments, however these protections can be withdrawn in the future through a dRMP revision process. Wild and Scenic designation will help to provide the permanent protection that these rivers deserve.

Whether or not the remaining 13 river segments are found to be Suitable for inclusion in the NWSRS, I support protecting other important values of these rivers through other means. In particular, I support the designation of proposed Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC's) that are near river corridors that are proposed under Alternative C only. For example, the proposed Kinney Creek ACEC would protect the genetically pure population of native, wild and naturally reproducing Colorado River cutthroat trout. I also support the designation of the Troublesome Creek, Laramie River and North Park Natural Area ACEC's as outlined under Alternative C. I also support the use restrictions outlined in Alternative C for the Troublesome Creek and Platte River WSA's, as both areas have an impact on important rivers and creeks that warrant protection.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Joe Boater