

Appendix B

Visitor Survey Comments

Appendix B Part I

Respondent Comments: Fryingpan River Survey

Total Surveys with Comments: 121 (30 percent of sample)

100: “Question 6D, the day that I was on the ‘Pan was in the month of November. The air temperature was 10 degrees F and there were very few people on the river. Question 6E, the fact that there were very few people on the river greatly affected my degree of satisfaction. I fish the ‘Pan very rarely because of the number of people. I prefer to fish the Fork because it is generally less congested. Sometimes I go to the ‘Pan very early in the morning and leave when other people begin to arrive. In terms of the river flow level I would fish the ‘Pan less if the level was very low or very high.”

101: “I feel that cutting flows in the Frying Pan River would be harmful, and in the long run, costly to the fish and wildlife that inhabit the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork Valleys. With all the development in the Valley taking place, we are already putting a strain on our streams and rivers as they try to keep an ecological balance suitable for trout and its other inhabitants. We are replacing soil with asphalt and golf courses. The soil we are replacing used to filter out contaminants, now the contaminants flow straight to the rivers edge. The golf courses use fertilizers and take away natural forage. If we reduce flows upstream on the Frying Pan it effects downstream flows and promotes overwhelming algae and moss growth in the Roaring Fork and in lesser effect the Colorado River. We are at a point now where we could lose all the things that make this area great to live in. Right now things seem peachy. If we don’t look at long-term effects (10-20 years), we’ll be taking this away from our children and future visitors. Sincerely, Jason Kocinek.”

102: “I fish the Fryingpan in November only, because of crowds.”

104: “I have been coming to fish in the Frying Pan Valley for almost 30 years. I think it is a beautiful area and the fishing has always been excellent. I hope this area will not change too much in the future. Gary Cole”

112F: “The greatest concern affecting my length of stay was lodging. Had to go to Carbondale to find a decent rate. Even when I went by myself in October expecting to camp and it was a pain due to closed campgrounds (bears) and far away campgrounds as alternative. This can affect quality of experience and stay, especially in winter when it can be unbearable to camp. In October I ended up with (permission of Basalt Police) sleeping in my truck in 2 hour parking on Main Street.”

“I will probably take 3 or 4 trips in Feb./March and October/November due to crowd issues.”

113F: “Beautiful area! The stream flow questions did not really apply to our trip due to the time of year we visited. In general, if the flow was less we would most likely fish another river, but, if they were double I would fish it with certainty.”

114: “I think the water level was too low (71 cfs) and this stresses the trout due to high angling pressure. As a trout enthusiast, my wish is that the water level would remain at a minimum of 120 cfs, that the water level is at an optimum level that is tailored to the trout’s needs.”

115: “I would like to see more licenses being checked on the Frying Pan. In eight years of fishing there I have never been checked nor has anyone in my party. In fact the day that I was there and received this I overheard some people saying ‘See we don’t need a license here, they never check them.’ I would also like there to be a fee station (maybe charge a couple bucks per car). It would help limit people and pay for someone to be there to check licenses.”

120: “I am fully supportive of local attempts to curtail the irresponsible practices of the Bureau of Wreck of drastic daily fluctuations of stream flows. Specifically, spring levels should be governed by lesser levels spread out over greater lengths of time vs. large drastic increases in order to protect spawning rainbow trout. I am only in favor of autumn releases in so far as they help the Roaring Fork, like they did this year. I think it is absurd to do it in the name of protecting a rough fish that is supposedly endangered in the Colorado, yet runs rampant in Utah. In terms of the economic impact of fly fishing in the Basalt area, I have not only guided here for over 5 years, but have waited tables here for over 7 years and lived mainly in Basalt the 10 years I’ve been in the Valley. By far, the great majority of visitors to Basalt in the summer are fisherman, and I personally know restaurant, hotel and other business owners who have provided many jobs and countless tax dollars to our local government. My message to the government-Take care of our water! David Johnson”

127: “More access to the river for recreational users.”

131: “Questions 13 & 14 are zero because the trips to the Pan that I go on are always during the winter months.”

133: “Thank you for your efforts to collect information which may lead to wise planning for the Frying Pan River Valley. I must note that I was contacted on the Frying Pan on a cold morning late in December. There was no note of when I visited the river in this survey. Therefore my responses regarding the number of other fishermen are misleading. I have fished the Frying Pan/ Roaring Fork/Colorado Rivers a fair amount over the years and have frequently been frustrated or discouraged by the numbers of fishermen on these rivers- especially on the Frying Pan. I would say that crowding is a huge problem on the Pan. Increased public access could help, but I am not sure how that would happen. I would also spread the money spent on visits between Glenwood and Basalt. I often stay in Basalt, and in the summer, will camp up at Ruedi. There is very good fishing in the rivers. But I am concerned that increased use (fishing, rafting, etc...) and out-of-control development in the Roaring Fork Valley are bad signs for the future of this wonderful area.”

140: "We enjoyed our short time on the Frying Pan. We only caught a couple of fish, but any day fishing is better than a day working. We also enjoyed watching a bald eagle roosting in a large tree along the river. Every bald eagle sighting is a special and treasured experience. As the popularity of fly fishing has increased, the number of people along the river is of a concern and has somewhat impacted my enjoyment of the river. However, I've been fishing ever since I was a kid and I understand how more and more people are enjoying fishing. Good luck with the survey."

146: "It's a great fishery but very, very crowded. A sign with etiquette rules on it would be nice. A lot of people there seem to be after the big ones and don't care who they piss off or even about who's fishing where. They'll stand right next to you if you're catching fish."

148: "#6.b. ie: the no sharing (trespass) signs! There are plenty of them!"

150: "We as a family are interested in any information that would be useful in maintaining fishing access on the Frying Pan River. We as well are conservationists at heart and will continue to teach respect to our children. Any information is welcome."

151: "I wish some of the Frying Pan water below the bridge to the handicapped area was more open to the public. Most of the best water below the bridge is private. The fish above the bridge are very wary and much harder to catch. The fishing pressure below the bridge seems to be much lighter. Can this water be opened up or have private camps purchase the rights?"

157: "You should make Fish Handling 101 a prerequisite to fish the Pan!"

166: "There needs to be a lot more public access available. In the summer months, there seems to be a lot of people fishing the Frying Pan and makes fishing way too crowded, with much less enjoy. If more land was acquired, I believe there would be a lot less pressure on the fish and enjoyable for all."

170: "The biggest issues on the Frying Pan are: 1) Private ownership of the river bed preventing access, 2) Poaching, and 3) Mishandling of fish by well meaning catch & release fisherman. The solutions to these issues are probably easier to fix as you go down the list. Handling fish the right way is a matter of education-maybe even just fishing with only the fly and no hook. Poaching prevention requires more supervision by Fish & Game. The final issue requires an entire mindset change in Colorado. We did it in California in 1970, but I can't foresee it happening here during my lifetime."

172: "Take a look at the Silver Creek Conservancy in Picabo, ID. Open up the stream (private sections) by offering tax breaks for landowners. If this is at all possible, get landowners involved. Make this stream accessible to all and not just the rich!"

186: "My fishing trip (for this survey) was in February 2001. The water was very low. A typical summer trip has a flow of around 200-250. If the flow were to double, I would not come to fish here. The true appeal of this river is its fishability, its aesthetic appeal and the size and quantity of fish. From bank to bank, this is the finest fishery in America. Regardless

of the reasons for increasing its flow, it would be a travesty to allow this river to double or more in volume. In reading and completing this survey, it is apparent that there is a major concern with regard to the economic and recreational impact of raising the flow from Ruedi Reservoir. Ultimately it will come down to whether this is to remain an un-natural fishable habitat and allow for economic preservation or allow the dam to flow at the whim of those who need the water for agriculture and endangered natural flows in the Colorado River. The ones with the most money will win! I fish both dry flies and nymphs. A nymph fisherman will do no better fishing from the bank than a dry fly fisherman. Maintaining flows of around 100-250 is ideal and provides the best fishing in the country.”

188-F: “I am handicapped and because of the snow was unable to access the river, but I was able to view my friends fishing and always love coming to the river. The river was somewhat low, but still fishable and fish were catchable. Any lesser flow might be a problem. Morris Orr.”

194: “My answers to the questions about flow might be more clearly understood...as a fly fisherman, I think the winter flows of 70-100 cfs are great in the winter. I prefer to wade fish in a safe environment, which I consider <200 cfs, with little or no daily fluctuation. You should also get the Department of Transportation to stop salting the roads...the bighorn ewe I nearly hit was licking the pavement and refused to move. Gravel works great and doesn't threaten wildlife!”

195: “I've been impressed by the Frying Pan, for a tail water, in my two visits. I prefer freestone rivers generally, but they are rare. I would oppose restricted public access to the extent that, in comparison with the Taylor River, the FP is much better, leaving me the option to fish lower on the river. Increased flows will be fine, to a point. I would not have made the trip if winter water levels were high. I will choose the FP when other rivers are experiencing run-off in the spring. I will spend money @ Alpine Anglers because they are good and competent. Otherwise, I will spend in Basalt as in the past. Flies and lures only. Catch and release. Your best information to me is via professional fishing reports on line @ VFS.com Virtual Flyshop. By and large, don't dam rivers. I'll use 'em if it's done but the experience is still artificial. And for my final, additional and welcome comment-GO BADGERS!”

198: “It seemed to me that more of the Frying Pan is now private compared to the years past. I hope the public access doesn't shrink any more than it already has.”

211: “I have been fishing the Pan infrequently for 4 years and I used to fish it frequently 4-7 years ago. Many fewer large fish especially 'Bows were noticed on recent trips. Whirling disease is obviously taking its toll, as is the case on so many trout rivers in the west. No fish sighted over 8 pounds in the entire C&R stretch. Several between 3 and 2 pounds.”

212: “Please lobby to keep river flows as close to 225 CFS as possible year round. Every other year in May 'Blow out' the river to '100-1400' cfs to scour the bottom and remove silt for about 10 days.”

224: “We need to vote in the high water mark in Colorado. Access to fishing waters is becoming very rare.”

227: “The Pan should run full approximately 150+CFS during the spring when the trout spawn. If the flows run below this level all the large fish stack up in the deep pools and so do the anglers. Many fish are foul hooked. I took approximately 5 flies out of fish. More H2O allows the fish to move and find better cover and spawning areas. Thanks for the opportunity to comment.”

228: “Everyone concerned with maintaining the Frying Pan river does a good job. Very little streamside trash this time of year (April). I did notice two tires in one of the pools in public space. Both fly fishing stores were excellent with good staffers. Our motel Best Western was clean with a nice breakfast room. The two restaurants: Chefys and the other were very good. My son and I hope to return to Basalt again next year in April to avoid crowds.”

233: “The day of the survey it was 37 degrees F and snowing and the wind was blowing. I had a great time and I will be back. Thank you.”

242: “This survey seems more concerned with what I spend in the Valley and not to dammed much about the care and conservation of the rivers etc.”

244: “I fish with my two adult sons frequently—Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. We enjoy ‘catch and release’ waters. As more and more people enjoy fly-fishing, these waters have become more crowded. The quality of fly-fishing to us is more than just catching fish - scenery, wildlife, not too many people, an outdoor, fun experience. Whatever can be done to preserve and enlarge this type of ‘fishing’ experience is what we support. The Roaring Fork Valley is a unique area—preserve as much as you can in ‘wild’ form. Good luck.”

248: “Of all the questions in this survey the one I found most interesting was concerning stream flows. I tend to fish the Frying Pan a lot in the summertime when the flows are higher. I would travel to this area considerably more often in the winter if the flows were kept consistently higher during this period.”

255: “Public fishing areas on the Frying Pan need better signage. I will not take a chance at trespassing and find that the signage has differentiated in the last few years. We need obvious signs that say ‘Public Fishing access from here→ downstream’ and another sign corresponding from here← upstream. Good luck and I hope this helps. I look forward to visiting Basalt again later this summer.”

257: “Fisherman can adapt to varying flows, but can the trout? Fishing the river should be closed during low flows, if it comes to that. As a landscape architect in Denver, I have first hand experience with growth and water issues. Sometimes the public/developers have no choice concerning landscape/irrigation (sod), because cities/planning boards require it. I hope Whirling Disease from private ponds draining into the Pan are addressed.”

260: "I know some Conservancy Board Members, locally. You do great stuff... buy more. Resources are precious. These wonderful fish are so valuable. Screw Denver's housing, let's keep our H2O here, where God intended."

261: "Very rewarding and enjoyable trip. Fishing good. Best area. Will return September. Most beautiful area in Colorado."

262: "Real estate development is rampant on the Frying Pan and a one hundred year flood would be just the ticket. In places the river is quite beautiful, red cliffs, blue water."

263: "The Frying Pan is a beautiful stream that appears to be well-managed, despite a lot of use to pressure. I've only fished it once and have not experienced it under different water levels."

268: "I try to fish the 'Pan' this time of year for large trout. My only disappointment was that historical flows are 200 CFS and at 137 CFS the big fish were scarce. But as they say... a good day of fishing..."

273: "The day area below the dam needs trash cans and the bathrooms are in terrible condition – need better maintenance. Otherwise the fishing is great!"

280-F: "Need improved stream access laws similar to Montana."

281: "We had planned on camping and were surprised to see that the campground at Ruedi Reservoir was closed. The sign said it would open in May. We were there May 10-12th. We usually come up this time every year and have never seen it closed."

283: "This river (Frying Pan) is at its best when the flow is about 180 CFS to 200 CFS. Never let the flow go below 100 CFS."

284: "Forest Service Campgrounds 'closed' and lack of 'wilderness' area camping access almost sent us home (campgrounds at R. Reservoir were closed and actually had signs directing you to campgrounds 8 & 15 miles on up the river...they were closed as well). We spend lots of time camping and fishing and cannot afford to stay in a motel or rental cabin. Besides, part of the fun is really camping-in a tent-without other people 'stuck up underneath you.' We will camp in the Forest Service campgrounds if we have to but if they're closed...? Why can't the F.S. get them opened a little earlier if they won't allow camping along the river? It feels like a conspiracy between the F.S. and private campground and hotel owners etc. to make sure one spends \$ to stay in the area. We find this to be the case in most areas we visit in Colorado, not just the RFV area. After all, what are public lands (game land and F.S. land) for? We see enough 'no trespass' and 'posted' signs as it is without being denied access to public land! Is this all about money?"

288-F: "Stream access to the Frying Pan is at its worst. Landowners are misplacing trespassing signs to confuse the public. This is the most serious threat to the Frying Pan. Access and increased public fishing is absolutely necessary."

289: "Stream access is a major barrier to bringing additional money to area."

291-F: "Flows below 150 CFS make for worse fishing conditions. I have fished the river numerous times at flows above 300 CFS and found the fishing good. Also, periodic high flows more closely mimic natural conditions, flushing sediment through the river."

292: "Lodging in Basalt and fishing trip was a Christmas gift from our daughter and son-in-law for myself and wife. They own the Condo unit in Basalt (they live in Wisconsin). It was a great experience and a wonderful gift. This is a beautiful area. Do the best you can to protect it. We will be doing more fly-fishing from now on because of this trip, mostly in Wisconsin. We hope to get back here again."

296: "I have lived in the Roaring Fork Valley for 35 years. After I answered the questions, I reconsidered some of my responses. Since I live in Basalt, I have many choices of areas to fish. I move around to take advantage of the best water. I prefer the Fryingpan, but I think the number of guide days should be limited. It's almost impossible for me to squeeze in during the best water. If the stream flow level is being fluctuated mechanically, not naturally, I think it should be at optimum levels like the day I fished it, except for special situations, like the farmers in Fruita. I don't believe in the humpback squaw fish."

299: "It appears that 90% of 'fishing holes' are private."

307: "Unsatisfactory, the amount of private land on the Woody Creek, Crystal, Forks and Pan that are privately owned and do not accommodate access to some of the more pristine fishing waters, for being a Gold Medal Fishery, there did not seem to be a satisfactory amount of fish as the take for two people was zero. This is my second and last trip to the Basalt area, since the distance, time, expense does not justify the trip for the fishing experience. The distance is too far for what Northern California and Utah have to offer. People in your area were not overly helpful in giving instructions to good or accessible fishing waters, most likely due to California plates. Robert Parent, 3991 Avenida Simi, Simi Valley, CA 93063."

325-F: "The Frying Pan is a beautiful river. The flow continues seem about right. The only problems with the river are the number of private restricted fishing areas. I'm sure this will never change as it is a problem with many of Colorado's rivers."

334: "Changes in flow of the Frying Pan affect my decision to visit the stream far less than the potential for abundant fisherman on the stream. In general, I try to plan trips to the Fryingpan when I think the number of other fishermen will be low. This generally means fishing on weekdays and during the winter."

351: "Delightful experience. The local fly shops in Basalt and Glenwood Springs were just great. I will be back to fish the Frying Pan soon."

352: "Everyone (guides, store owners, etc.) was very supportive of our first-time, fun fishing the Frying Pan."

353: "Some silly ?'s included. The fishing ?'s are good, but \$, come on..."

355: "Private vs. Public Access: Speaking for myself as an angler- I do not mind that there are private areas on the river (either by ownership and owner's choice or by/for conservation). This is a good thing. However, some areas are better marked than others. Suppose that I, a law-abiding angler, want to fish downstream of the dam outflow/parking lot below the reservoir. Lots of areas are marked here and there with No Trespass or Private. But where do these areas begin? End? Some of the no trespass areas are worked right in the stream bank and I think this is a good thing. Especially since the access public/private is so on/off again (unlike a river where its simply 'private from here to town' or whatever). Basically, poor or incomplete markings only make it hard for conscientious anglers from being easily law-abiding ones too. It would also make trespassers who don't care without an excuse of ignorance. That's my 2 cents."

358: "Found Guides on the Frying Pan below Ruedi acted like they owned the river. Walk right through wherever we're fishing. They do not respect average Fisherman. I have never experienced this on any river in Utah, Wyoming or Montana. If this is typical, they are making a bad impression on visitors from out of state. But maybe that is what they or you want."

361: "I fully understand and accept the inevitable fact of personal real estate holdings along the banks of America's blue-ribbon trout streams, but totally oppose ownership of the adjoining streambed. No one should have the right either to own navigable waters or the streambed on which these waters flow. All states in the continental U.S., except for New York, Wyoming (I think) and of course, Colorado, legally mandate that a riparian easement shall exist up to the high-water mark for public navigation and the incidents of navigation (i.e., boating, fishing, swimming, and other recreational uses). The Frying Pan River is an incredible fishery and Colorado needs to change their riparian laws accordingly!"

362: "This was our first visit to the area. I used to have a condo in Vail, but the Basalt/Aspen areas are much better for me. I really enjoyed the Basalt area in particular, and am planning on making the change from Northern Arizona to Basalt for my summer recreation."

363: "Trash pick up is needed at park below Ruedi Dam."

369: "The flow changed on the river as we were there. We noticed that when it was decreased on Monday 6/18, the fish stayed in any pockets they could find and didn't seem to be eager to feed. When it increased Thursday-Sunday, the catch increased as the fish were actively feeding. Is this done for the weekend? Why is the reservoir dropping so rapidly? Thirsty areas from a growth explosion?"

388: "Access to Frying Pan was good but could not find any group access to Roaring Fork, all private housing, not easily found public areas."

396: "The quality of fishing on this (Frying Pan) river has dropped in the past 10 years. It is still good and is always challenging. Stream flows and weather conditions always affect fishing, but the extremely low flows at this time of the year seemed unusual. Over the years my friend and I have generally had good experiences on the Frying Pan and have learned to avoid crowded areas at certain times of the day. The services available in Basalt that support fishing-fly shops, groceries, gas etc. are adequate and we often stop in and purchase. I long for the good old days with large rainbows but alas, whirling disease and crowds have taken their toll. This river is still one of our favorites to fish."

401: "Long Survey. Flow too low."

405: "More public access on the rivers of the Roaring Fork Valley. Outdoor recreation fishing etc. should not become a past time just for the elite."

410: "Some of these answers are based on staying with in-laws at Rifle, CO."

412: "If I could not wade the Frying Pan, I would vacation somewhere else. It is a beautiful, easy stream to fish. The fly shops, restaurants and motels in Basalt are all excellent! The people are friendly and helpful."

414: "Could you please mark the Private Fishing areas better, i.e.:

| | | |
|---------|-----|---------|
| sign | | sign |
| → | ← → | ← |
| private | | private |
| use | | use |
| only | | only |

This would take a great deal of guess work out of the fishing areas. I don't like to feel I am imposing on other people when I cast. Control the situation."

416: "When I was fishing below the dam, a Hispanic family came. The husband used a spin set with bait. Took a 24 inch fish and left with the fish. Perhaps signage in Spanish would be part of your education campaign regarding fishing regulations."

418: "We fondly refer to the fish on this river as being 'Circus Trout.' They do so many things unusual just like circus animals. Just considering the size and number of fish we caught it was one of the best fish days of our lives. The overall experience that includes anglers bunching together too close, etc. makes it almost undesirable. It might help to post rules of etiquette, mark off beats to stay within on the upper river, or who knows what."

421: "This is a very beautiful area, but not for me. There were people waiting 'in line' to fish certain spots. Also, this is not a catch and release area as advertised. Too highly advertised and too many people."

429-F: “ My trip to the F.P. was actually part of a larger trip made to Colorado. I had always wanted to fish the F.P. and because of a trip I was making to Colo., could take a quick side trip to the F.P. Based on this experience, I am planning on returning to the F.P in the future.”

430: “I have been coming to Ruedi Reservoir for about 30 years; although not every year. My grandfather fished the Frying Pan before the Dam and the Lake were there. He said that Lake covered some of the best fishing anywhere! We come back every few years- it’s one of my favorite places to camp and fish. Unfortunately there are a lot more people around these days but isn’t it like that everywhere these days? Can you please send me the results of the study? Thank you: Jim Rose, 5423 Twin Lakes Dr., Cypress, CA 90630”

439: “Sorry if I got a bit carried away with my comments previously in the questionnaire. The most politically and emotionally charged questions in the survey were about stream flows on the Pan, a subject your introductory letter was suspiciously ambiguous about. Actually, it mentioned nothing about them, which makes me wonder what the ulterior motive may be behind this survey. It clearly pertains to more than simply the local economy and activities. My opinion is that stream flows should be kept at whatever the optimal flows would be for: 1. Human daily living needs, 2. Wild trout habitat maintenance, 3. Suckers, Humpback, razorback, chubs, etc. go on the bottom of any list compiled. Thank you for this opportunity. And I sincerely hope my views and your efforts will help the Roaring Fork Valley stay a beautiful place!”

443: “I have fished the Frying Pan River for 25 years. There are too many guides working this river. I know that is a reflection of the demand placed upon the river by fisherman like me. The quality of the outdoor experience has diminished noticeably in the last 10 years. I fished the “Pan” in March and found it almost deserted. I will probably fish the “off-season” more in the coming years. Thank you for your efforts to help keep this area a great place to visit.”

444: “It seems as though more of the river is being posted each year. If access is limited any further I will not come to the ‘Pan’, as the number of anglers per mile of public water will outnumber the fish. I understand that people need their privacy, but if the state along with conservation groups could “persuade” people to lease, donate or sell fishing rights, especially those who own long stretches of private water, the resources of the Frying Pan may be preserved for future generations to enjoy. I think some landowners with long riverfronts might be willing to give access at the further ends of their property, allowing them to maintain their privacy, and their water. If you could connect the ends of two landowners, this might provide greater access for the public.”

452: “If you would like to call to discuss, please give me a call or e-mail me at (303) 591-9350, Thomas.Martin@Nextel.com. It was my first time in the area and had a wonderful time. The fishing was great and the area was beautiful.”

453: “The Roaring Fork Valley has become an absolute wreck. You have way too many monied butt heads who think it’s cool to have trophy homes here and elsewhere...and spend 2-3 weeks per year here. Nothing better than a great big house with 2 people rattling around in it. A pity those old ranches are gone and the bulldozers and tourist crap has taken over.

Truthfully I'll probably leave the R.F. Valley to the morons and go to less crowded Colorado areas and other states. The valley does look like hell."

457: "While private/public signage was good-would it not make sense to have a uniform system? Or arrows on the trespassing signs (→, ←, ↔) or signs on the road indicating private?"

462: "Too much private water."

467: "Too many guides, especially those who think they own the river."

474: "Although the number of fisherman on the day I visited wasn't a problem, I've certainly noticed the effects of heavy fishing pressure. By the time most fish reach reasonable sizes (>15") they've been caught so often that they are rather uninspiring to catch. Their behavior is very different from truly wild fish. This is something I've seen much more on the 'Pan' than on other local rivers (i.e.: Roaring Fork). Although the stream flows were certainly wade-able the day I was there, I would not have liked it too much higher. I fish primarily the lower 'Pan', so most of these comments apply to that part of the river."

481: "Most impressed by cleanliness and lack (absence) of littering, as well as preservation of State Forests. Water quality is also remarkable. Helpful and friendly attitude of officials encourages another visit."

484: "Water flows on the Pan between 110 and 200 are very fishable-above that it becomes very difficult and sometimes dangerous. Thanks for your continued good work, we will be there next 'clean-up day'."

487: "The Frying Pan Valley is my favorite place in Colorado. Y'all are very lucky to have it as your backyard. I would be happy to lend my support in whatever way you need to help protect this resource. Feel free to call me at 303-432-2797. Keep up the hard work."

489: "I was attending an Aikido summer camp at Colorado Mountain College. Since I am too old and too smart to work out all day, I spent ½ fly-fishing."

492: "Less anglers on this river would increase the quality of the fishing experience. But curtailing access and activity on a public waterway is wrong. Like everything else in nature, competition will iron out the access/congestion problems on the river. If there are too many people here, myself and other anglers will go somewhere else. As for the river flow questions, we arranged our trip around what we understood would bring us more reliable flows like we had today. Drastically changing river flows will quickly lead to lower quality aquatic life in the river, and a lessened quality of fishing experience."

494: "When I visit Colorado again I will take at least two days to explore the Frying Pan and other rivers in the area."

495: "I have been fishing the Pan and surrounding area since the early 80's. I want a wilderness experience and therefore we normally camp at Elk Wallow. The upper Pan is more crowded each year, that is why we were on the lower Pan when you saw us. I would be willing to pay a fee for a beat on the upper pan. If the flows are increased to allow floating, I will not come anymore. Additional development along the Pan will reduce the attraction of the Pan, at least for me. The upper Pan needs to be barbless hooks only and only catch and release. There are enough guides on the Pan, no more. If there was cheap airfare from Denver to Aspen, I would rent a car in the area and probably come more often. I really enjoy the technical part of fishing the Pan. I do send a number of friends to the Pan each year and they agree with the above items. If I only lived closer, I would be willing to do whatever to take care of and protect this valuable fishery. Thanks and good luck."

496: "The Pan was a great experience. Very crowded, though. In spite of this, I'll be back. The fishing was great."

499: "I plan to retire to this area due to the fishing opportunities on the Pan and Fork. If that were to change, respectively, my plans would change and I would go elsewhere. Fishing is that important to me! Thanks for all of your efforts. Internet info. is great too."

514: "I was contacted at the Forest Service sign on Sunday. I chose that spot because there were no fishermen there. However, on Saturday, the river was elbow to elbow and that would have 'substantially' diminished my experience. That is why we fished the upper Frying Pan above the river."

515-F: "The day I met your representative on the river was not a particularly crowded day. However, the first week of my visit was the most crowded I have ever seen it on the Pan in 20+ years. This has become a major issue and I believe has negatively affected the fishery-can't document that-but it sure doesn't fish like it used to. I also think the quality of fisherman has decreased. The usual ethics of fly fishing have been totally negated-replaced with aggressive, rude and selfish behaviors (sorry, I had to vent). You should also know that we are property owners in the valley. We visit as much as we can and, of course, stay at our ranch. Thanks for doing this. I love the Pan. It's part of me and I know it intimately."

516 F: "Even though I made a trip this August to specifically fish the Frying Pan, my favorite time to visit the river is in the winter months when there seems to be less traffic on it. Having lived in Canyon City my entire life, I have been fortunate to be able to fish the Arkansas on a very consistent basis-even though the average fish is quite smaller compared to the Frying Pan, it is a pleasure to fish because of the scenery and the lack of fisherman. Because I have been fly fishing for approximately 35 years, I feel I don't need a guide and have never used one. However, the Frying Pan is very difficult anymore to find a place on public land to fish because of the pressure it receives. Because of the quality of the fish in the river, I am now almost tempted to use a guide if it meant being able to fish private water without another fisherman in sight. The Frying Pan is a wonderful stream and it certainly would be great if more of it was accessible to fly fishing. Thank you, Roy W. Betts."

517: "1. Fishing conditions in the lower Frying Pan (Seven Castles to Basalt) have been greatly diminished largely due to siltation from Seven Castles Creek. Fish populations and insect density are but only a fraction of what they were 10 years ago due to unrestricted sediments entering the Pan at Seven Castles. 2. Each year more previously public access is now fenced and posted, funneling more anglers into fewer available public waters. The general angling public should have access to the entire river up to the high water mark as in other western states. Overcrowding on the river creates daily conflict among anglers. Prime spots are taken early leaving few or no quality access to the paying public. 3. Each year we are experiencing 250 CFS flow in August. This is not conducive to dry fly fishing. 4. Although I am an environmentally and conservation- minded person, I do not believe in trading jobs and local economy for a so called endangered rough fish somewhere in the Colorado River."

522-F: "I love fly fishing, and the Frying Pan River is by far the best river (I think) for fishing for trout. I live in Broomfield, CO, so it's a little bit of a drive but it's worth it! I usually come fishing at least 2-3 times a year."

523: "Drove from TN to Snowmass Village (3500 R. Trip) 14 nights at Snowmass- made 3 day trips to Frying Pan. Also fished Roaring Fork and 5 Alpine Lakes. Plan to return next year-fifth year in a row."

526: "Enjoyed meeting you and sharing the spectacular setting. Although the fish completely outwitted us, we plan to return and experience the Fryingpan Valley. As I finish this survey I am crossing the Chicago River which has just recently begun to sustain marine life. I appreciate, very much, your conservation efforts."

533: "I am sad to see the extensive development in this area and no plan yet to accompany this unrestricted growth. 15 years ago this valley had a 2 lane highway to Aspen. Now it is a residential corridor leading to an over-priced and restricted use ski area (let's face it, an average American cannot afford Aspen-this is clearly misuse of American Public Lands). As a professional water scientist concerned with policy and science it scares me to see unrestricted growth. Water is VERY PRECIOUS and this growth will undoubtedly impact this river. But all in all, this was still a good experience. It sounds like you care- so count me in. If you need help please feel free to contact me. John Jaacks, 1324 Caroline Ct., Oakridge, VA 20171. Jjueh@enols.com."

"The river level dropped several hundred cfs between 6am and 1pm with the fishing activity changing accordingly."

534: "Sorry to see all of the development in the Roaring Fork Valley."

544-F: "I think the Pan is great. It seems like it is getting crowded however. Without my guide to quickly stake out good areas it would be difficult to catch the fish. The guides are grateful and quick. I think the water level was great. I was there July 24-30. It seemed pretty crowded in August. All in all a great river to fish."

545: "We had a great time. Sorry to see the rampant development in the valley. Obtain more river access to Frying Pan."

547: "My wife and kids have been coming up here for 30 years. Kids are grown now-so we get to spend more time doing the outdoor activities such as this trip. I started traveling to the valley due to my work, which is in hospitals and medical clinics. I would hate to see many more changes, such as the ones that have taken place in the last 10 years. We need to control growth in a sensible manner. This valley will be destroyed in another 20 years if the developers have their way. When Vail thinks I-70 should be underground, they have gone too far-the developers. Lots of luck, nice to see someone is thinking ahead a few years!"

550: "If we don't conserve this area it will be lost like the rest of Colorado. Take a look around! Colorado is vanishing before our eyes."

559: "My friend Josh and I spent 4 great days on the river. We thank the family who owns a section of the river that has a sign posted to fisherman that they are welcome to fish the area. I only wish more land owners would make the river available to everyone. Sorry it took so long to get this back. Thanks."

560: "Please don't experiment with the flows in the F.P."

561: "1. I think that privatization of the stream should be stopped and a government organization or state should take over this valuable asset. 2. I caught 2 fish in 2 days which is not impressive for a Gold Medal Stream. I would be in favor of increasing the fishing fees if the promise of catching fish was greater."

569: "This was our 4th trip to the Frying Pan River and the third time we've been to the (Toilet Bowl) spillway from Ruedi. My son caught and released a 9 lb. Rainbow so we'll be back."

584: "This was my first trip to the Fryingpan. I really enjoyed it!!"

587: "Beautiful country!"

596-F: "This was my first trip to the Fryingpan and I brought a friend that had never used a fly rod. We both had a wonderful experience."

598: "We have enjoyed fishing the Frying Pan for years-have not had good luck fishing the Roaring Fork- would hope more info. is published in future-magazines, newspapers, etc. on where to have good success on the Roaring Fork River. Keep up the good work."

600: "I go on an annual Frying Pan fishing trip with my son and his friends when invited. It's usually every year. We arrived Thurs. evening and leave by noon on Sunday. 2 more joined up Friday night at the campground and 2 more for the day on Sat. For me the river was too fast. I cannot negotiate it on my own."

605: RIVER FLOW → ~~~~~~ (stream)
existing signage: x (denotes private
doesn't designate up or
down from sign) recommended signage: ←x→
(denotes "private" on
either side of sign)

617: "My Dad was born and raised in Carbondale, but it is tough for him to see all the development in the valley. He believes, and I agree, that much of the development stems from Aspen's growth and lack of affordable infrastructure for service industry employees, who must commute from further down the valley. I love fishing the Pan for it's beauty, accessibility, rich insect life, and lack of drift boat fishing. It is my darkest nightmare to contemplate future development in the Frying Pan valley, such as has happened in the upper (and lower) Roaring Fork valley. We used to fish the Aspen area frequently when I was a child, but now the traffic and crowds are more than we can handle. I have heard a bit about your organization, and would like to know more regarding your goals and effectiveness. Please feel free to send me more info at: Troy Rhudy, 1500 Main St., Louisville, CO 80027 troyrhudy@aol.com."

623: "The fishing was poorer than in prior years. I presume this was because the reservoir had just turned over."

634: "Radical fluctuations in water flow would definitely impact the Frying Pan River's productivity and appeal as a fishing destination."

Appendix B Part II

Respondent Comments: Ruedi Reservoir Survey

Total Surveys with Comments: 81 (28 percent of sample)

1003: “Our trip was mainly for fly fishing the Frying Pan River and Roaring Fork River. The Roaring Fork was too high due to runoff; consequently, we had to fish the lower frying pan and upper as it entered the reservoir. The reservoir water levels were of little interest to us, as we do not utilize/access reservoirs per se. However, Ruedi Reservoir is a beautiful body of water situated in a very scenic mountain area. Picnic areas and camping areas appeared very neat and well kept. Hopefully people who utilize the reservoir facilities appreciate the area as well they should. I’ll definitely return to the Roaring Fork Valley for more fly fishing on the Roaring Fork and Frying Pan Rivers.”

1011: “We as a group go to Ruedi every year for Memorial Day weekend and we always have a great time!”

1016: “The only drawback of going to Ruedi is that it is far from our home. Thank you!”

1020: “I think Ruedi is an absolutely beautiful recreational area as well as a place to visually enjoy. I take all my visitors from out of state to Ruedi, they all love it!”

1021: “I think I live in one of the greatest places in the world.”

1022: “If the flow was lowered in the Fryingpan as a result of the level of the Reservoir being lowered, I would take fewer trips to the Reservoir.”

1025: “There should not be a day use fee for residents (Pitkin County, Roaring Fork Valley). Our tax dollars as residents should afford us access. If there are truly valid reasons for our day use fees, we should be given a bill explaining the services you provide above and beyond what we already pay for.”

1029: “Love Mollie B. and Little Maud. Great Hosts at bath, clean, hot water and flush toilets. Love it’s so close to home but you feel like you’re farther away.”

1034: “I hope that we keep our water and don’t sell out to other potential purchasers. All watersheds should be protected at all costs.”

1035: “The day that we were at Ruedi, the water seemed to be a little bit on the low side. If water is not flowing out of the spillway at the dam, then the lake is too low. The water should always be deep enough to be able to go over the dam, otherwise there are too many rocks

when you try to beach your boat or jet ski at the various camp spots and beaches around the lake. When I was a kid, the water was always much deeper up at Ruedi then it is now, and I really don't like it as much now as I did then. Fill it back up!"

1045: "We were quite disappointed to see the water level lowered the amount it was on our first trip to Ruedi in late May. In talking to the camp Ranger, we were told the Reservoir was drawn down so much so the squawfish might spawn. Is this really a valid reason to pull the lake down, making boating less desirable and affecting the beauty of this lovely (when fuller) mountain reservoir? The sucker is a trash fish and if caught or netted by stream fisherman it is tossed on shore as it's not edible and feeds on trout eggs. We feel the DOW has their priorities out of whack for this plan."

Written on envelope: "Since completing the survey we've heard people are choosing to go to Paonia because of the low level of Ruedi."

1053-F: "Fishing was superb! Best I can remember at any lake or reservoir."

1060: "Do not lower the level of Ruedi Reservoir! Thanks."

1062: "Thanks for taking the time to put together such a fine survey. I live at Ruedi Shores with my girlfriend. We sea kayak just about every day for an hour or two sometimes skirting the shoreline and sometimes fishing. We both work from home and moved up here from Snowmass Village partly for the enjoyment of the reservoir. We can see the water line from our bed most days which is like paradise. When the waterline drops as low as you suggest I doubt that view will be the same. At the same time my view of the water is the last thing this is about. From a kayaker's perspective, we only kayak Ruedi, not the rivers. The shoreline and it access is important and makes it more of an adventure to explore. From a mountain biker's perspective a single track hiking/biking trail connecting the trail to the "point" from the campground to Freeman Mesa then to the inlet would be wonderful and comparable to the trails around Turquoise and Twin Lakes. This would give Basalt's economy a huge summer boost and is not dependent on the water line. The Ruedi trail turned out great but is too steep for most rec. riders. Good luck, Jim Geib."

1071: "90,000 is as low as I like to see the lake! Lower than 90,000 is a muddy experience on shore and bugs tend to come out more. This is a great lake for locals and should not be advertised statewide. There are so few hidden treasures left in the valley, let's keep it that way! Thanks, Russell Fritz."

1074: "The Ruedi Reservoir area is beautiful! The drive from Basalt to the reservoir is very beautiful also! We would spend more time there if we lived closer to the area."

1096: "Please do not drop the level of Ruedi. It is very important to our family and friends. (That) we feed the fish down (stream) is not important to us and only a Federal ploy to save their jobs. Please save the water level at Ruedi."

1098: "If we had more water in Ruedi, we could sail earlier in the summer and later in the fall. Boat goes in the water late and out early because we can't use the boat ramp without higher levels! We hope we are not forced to move our boat to Dillon."

1103: "Need more public access to the Frying Pan. Would like boat rentals on Ruedi. And more large, stocked fish. Thanks for protecting the fishing there."

1106: "We would make more trips to Ruedi if the water was at a higher level earlier. We did not go until the middle of June because the water was too low."

1107-F: "Water was warmer than usual-felt great. This is a great area to visit!"

1111: "We have been visiting Ruedi for the past 30 years and also the Aspen Valley area. This is our place. We have been other places in Colorado, but there is no place more peaceful and relaxing as Ruedi Res. My children enjoy camping here and some day we plan on making our home here in this area. Thank you, Leo and Gilda Manzanares, 1057 Norfolk St., Aurora, CO 80011, (303) 344-8215."

1115: "We've bought a small self-propelled boat and enjoy boating on Ruedi and Basalt's restaurants very much. So much so, I'm considering buying a sail boat and applying at the Aspen Yacht Club. Boating at Ruedi is wonderful for us locals and is a real jaw dropper for visitors. We always take guests there, enjoy ourselves and enjoy their attempts to describe the beauty. Low water levels would severely diminish the accessibility and beauty of the reservoir and I would reluctantly seek out alternative locations."

1123: "Too many restrictions regarding dogs. I have to drive to other locations to walk my dog as he is my constant companion and Aspen Yacht Club is not allowed to have dogs on property."

1125-F: "Biting flies at Freeman Mesa were a problem during July 4th visit. They were not present at Mollie B. campground, but a real pain at Freeman Mesa!"

1132: "Thanks for everything the Roaring Fork Conservancy does. This was absolutely the most beautiful survey I have ever taken."

1134: "At the annual meeting between the public and the 'Bureau of Wreck' around 8 years ago, the truth about the actual use of Ruedi water came out. The endangered fish are a useful excuse to draw down Ruedi. The additional "fish water" provided by Ruedi is allowing more water to be taken from the river by downstream users! If I remember correctly, the fish project will run for a set term of years-possibly 15. What happens at the end of the project? Will Ruedi be allowed to remain full, as it did for years? Will the downstream users who have become accustomed to using the "fish water" be allowed to come up with another excuse to draw down Ruedi? I think you should find out!"

1143-F: "Is there any environmental reason why they have no gas services at Ruedi? Thank you. David Griffin."

1145: “We came to check out the lake. We will probably come back at a later date for a weekend of fishing.”

1151: “Ruedi Reservoir flows should be operated/release primarily to enhance the amazing and fragile trout fishing resource of the Frying Pan.”

1153: “Camp Site at Mollie B.: 1) Threads on water faucet outlets ground off-could not attach a water hose. 2) Campsites were not level, after we were told they were level. Need to be re-graded to make level. Other than those two things we enjoyed our stay.”

1164: “We were very surprised at number of people and boats at Ruedi this year compared to past years.”

1180-F: “I visit the Roaring Fork Valley each summer for two weeks. I enjoy many of the beautiful recreational opportunities that the Valley has to offer!”

1182: “We had a lovely time. We had no idea how wonderful it was. Keep it a secret. Don’t let out-of-state people know. If you make a bunch of upgrades, too many people will be there. Keep it like it is.”

1186: “I have visited Ruedi Reservoir every summer except the year 2000, since summer of 1994 to sail in the Aspen Yacht Club Open Regatta. Sometimes my family visits with me. Love the lake.”

1187: “Would love to see Ruedi filled earlier and kept fuller as long as possible!”

1190: “We need at least 7 feet of water over the end of the ramp to get our keel boat launched. If we couldn’t launch at the Yacht Club we would consider not coming.”

1196-F: “We frequent Rifle Gap – they used the water there for ? So we were so disappointed it was so low so early in July we stayed at Ruedi because the water level was much better the rest of the summer. Nancy Quisenberry and Rick, P.O. Box 626, Carbondale, CO 81623”

1197: “We enjoy Ruedi-the natural beauty of the area and quality outdoor experience is exceptional. That is why I took the time for this survey. Water is a valuable commodity and I would like it to stay right here!”

1200: “When I access ReservoirUSA.com, Mollie B. is listed as ‘Carbondale.’”

1204: “My group traveled to the Roaring Fork area to participate in the annual Aspen Yacht Club Open Regatta. We are part of a traveling sailing fleet who participate in 6-10 such regattas/season. The water level at the reservoir would definitely affect our trip- if we could not launch the sailboats we would not come. The water temperature is not so important, although if it were colder this would not be a trip we would bring the family on (kids would not come).”

1214: “My folks have a motor home and I took lots of pictures of your campgrounds. I think they’ll love going here for vacation. They like camping and fishing in different places. Anyway, we loved it there.”

1223: “Bathroom facilities at Mollie B. campground were really nice – we loved it and will be back!”

1224: “I do not fish or boat – but water level is important to me.”

1225: “I most enjoy camping at Dearhamer, although I have camped at Chapman and at the Dam. My main reason for the annual trip is the fishing, both above and below the Dam. I also use a belly boat on the reservoir.”

1236: “Our decision to continue to visit Ruedi depends on the CFS that is coming in to the Frying Pan River as well as the quality of fishing in that same river. The quality is also important in the campgrounds – the ‘atmosphere’ we like quiet, friendly and somewhat private.”

1242: “Water levels in Ruedi Reservoir are crucial to a enjoyable recreational experience. For me it’s wind surfing and the lake needs to be at its established shoreline (as in the 80’s-95,900 +) to provide acceptable entry conditions to the lake especially at Freeman Mesa. Many of my friends do not windsurf anymore because of low water levels, which produce an unacceptable launching experience (i.e. too much beach and mud). But a more pressing issue is planning for the future and the growth of water recreation that will accompany the growth in Eagle, Garfield and Pitkin Counties. We really only have one big lake for water sports. Our economy would be enhanced by being able to provide a quality recreational water venue!! Jonathan Fuescher.”

1243: “The picnic area used on our day visit was nice-but it might be nicer if there were some sort of shade provided.”

1251: “Need more enforcement at no-wake zones in Reservoir, especially at shore below Mollie B. campground.”

1253: “We have traveled in many states, and in most camping parks they have pull thru sites for large campers. Colorado is an exception. Ruedi for example, there are many sites that could very easily be made into pull thru sites, but only one site at Dearhamer is a pull thru. Who plans these camping sites; obviously not a camper. Placement of tables is crazy at Dearhamer. Space is not utilized very well. There are 5 or 6 spaces that could be nice pull thru spaces, if things were just changed a little.”

1257: “Too much wood floating.”

1261: "I am a daily user at Ruedi Reservoir and the Aspen Yacht Club from approximately Memorial Day to Labor Day. I would use the lake more if the water levels remained above about 93,000 acre feet."

1264: "I and my family have been using Ruedi since it was constructed in the early 60's. As a scenic and recreational attraction it is best when it is full, or at least to its most common high water level. It's a short boating season at 8000 feet +, and it would be wonderful to keep the reservoir full from mid-June to Labor Day. It would also be a resource we could depend on, rather than dealing with the muddy shoreline during the last part of the summer. This would obviously appeal to visitors as well."

1268: "The 24,000 'no trespassing' and 'posted' signs are a ugly eye sore. This really makes you feel welcome in the land of snobs."

1273: "The campground and Hosts were very accommodating! The ramp and dock for boats was great! We enjoyed the access to the many hiking trails in the area and the Gold Medal fishing was super. It's rarely less crowded during the week, than on weekends!"

1277: "We are not pleased at prospect of lowering Ruedi water level-we feel it is for the purpose only to enhance the interest groups involved with fishing down river! Special interest groups already have shut off areas of the river, which is National forest/public. If lower levels help stimulate or keep healthy the fly fishing trade, the boating and fishing recreation for the general public will be made terrible because of population and low water levels. The purpose of creating Ruedi was for recreation (boating, skiing, fishing) for the general public. The rich man once again gets his way!?! Saving fish is supposed reason for releasing Ruedi waters to Frying Pan – really? Serfdom gets mud pond or negative effects of releasing or selling water to other areas."

1282: "The campsites were very beautiful and well kept. We stayed in the Mollie B. The rangers were very efficient, helpful and friendly. Our stay was delightful. Thank you!"

1287-F: "We have been to your area approx. 25 to 30 times (sometimes twice a year). I was so happy to see additional fishing areas below the dam and all the way to Basalt-we have been going to Ruedi Reservoir for approximately 30 years and have watched how the fishing areas were being consumed by new owners up and down the river. As soon as someone would buy the adjoining land they would close off the waters to fisherman or lease it to the fly fishing guides. It was so sad as I watched the Thompson (River) change from a gift from heaven to a river that you could not see for houses/bars/motels etc. Please don't let this happen to the Frying Pan. The state should buy back the land along the river because these are treasures that cannot be restored when they are built into homes/towns/businesses. Hold on to this valley as it can be destroyed as we have seen too many times. 'Can we ever learn?' Big Money Controls. Please do not try to improve Dearhamer boat ramp/campground/picnic area. It is a fisherman's campground and is best left alone. Change is not always good at some places. Having good boat ramps at Mollie B. is important along with good water conditions. Thank you for letting me respond."

1297: "It was our first camping trip to Ruedi and first boating experience there. Our main concern there was the heavy alcohol consumption both on the water and off. Our son was skiing behind a friend's boat and due to the amount of alcohol being consumed it was worrisome. However the Park Ranger was sure to correct us about our golden retriever puppy not being on a leash (while swimming). To me, way too much emphasis being put on dogs with all the surveillance and ticketing. What about the drunks?! We are just getting into kayaking and would like to go to Ruedi more, but the strict leash laws and too many drinking people, we might go to other areas more often. Thank you! This is a beautiful area and appreciate your efforts."

1311: "Keep water level up. The Basalt Community depends on the recreation activity at this lake."

1312: "I believe that Ruedi Reservoir has become an essential part of the recreational use of the area. Beyond the need for water conservation, preservation of endangered species and agricultural use is the need to provide healthy recreational opportunities to the Roaring Fork community. I hope that this need is recognized and improved upon in the coming years. Thank you."

1313-F: "Hmmm. How about enforcing the no dog ordinance at Freeman Mesa."

1314: "We used to boat at Ruedi more often when we lived in Carbondale but now we go to Rifle Gap more because it is closer and warmer. Ruedi is much better for water level and it is larger which is more fun for boating."

1316-F: "The ground at the Dearhamer campsites is filthy from use. Some new fresh sand/gravel would be appreciated."

1321: "Colorado needs to address the laws governing fishing on trout streams. The Montana model is the one to strive for. I, with my wife, spend over a month in Montana and only 4 days on average each summer in Colorado. I buy a one-year license in Montana and a five-day in Colorado. Every time I drive up to Ruedi along the Pan and look at posted signs for land that is only 3 feet to the stream (roadside) I get more annoyed at CO and more appreciative of MT. Even WY is better."

1322: "I really enjoyed my time in the Roaring Fork Valley. One of the best experiences we had as a group was on Saturday August 25th at the Fireside Chat. I hope that the conservancy can continue these programs and continue to educate people on the natural world. Keep up the good work. Chris Mortenson."

1337: "I would like to see, some clean-up and increased water flow at Chapman Dam. Many years ago I was on camp staff at the Boy Scout Camp that existed there for many years. I was sorely disappointed from the site's present condition when compared to my memories. Thank you, Louis E. Smith."

1343: “Even at the current level Ruedi sees less boats due to obstructions on upper end of lake. If we give away our water and set a precedent, it is historic that it will never be ‘our’ water again.”

1344: “Greatest lake in the world-please don’t let them monkey with the water levels anymore than they do already. I hope the fact that I’m a local (for 40 years) and only spend approx. \$30 per trip isn’t a negative to you or the profit-seekers of the valley. I live here for the outdoors and not the money concerned with it. Sincerely Bob Bogner.”

1353: “Too many fast jet skis for small boats and kayak. Need to have there be one area.”

1354-F: “I have been coming to the Little Mattie Campground for approx. 12 years. During this time, I have watched this area go through many changes. Most of these have been positive changes such as cleanliness of restrooms, cleanliness of campgrounds, better treatment (respecting) of plant life at campgrounds, upkeep of the camping area such as leveling of ground, spraying for bugs and weeds, development of the camping area and Ruedi area such as the day use and picnic areas. Some negative changes have included: camper that caused reason for fearful feelings, one occasion the campground host was very ‘leachy,’ he wouldn’t leave my group alone. Every time we turned around he was there. He was also seen drinking very large amounts of liquor (summer 2001). It’s becoming increasingly difficult to know where I can fly fish. Some private areas of the river are not clearly marked. It’s definitely not as comfortable to fish this area (the river) as it was before. I still find this area my main camping area and will continue to come to this area for my family camping trips.”

1365-F: “As a retiree (and Colorado resident for 55 years) I would like to see all the campgrounds open year around. A lot of us retirees have self-contained camping rigs and enjoying ice fishing, x-country skiing, snow shoeing and winter camping. For instance, if Mollie B. campground were open all year, I could enjoy going up there in Jan. Feb, March and hiking, snow shoeing, x-country skiing, and winter camping (totally self-contained) and have a great time, and leave no tracks....”

1366: “We have been coming to Ruedi Res. for about 22 years for at least one long weekend, sometimes a week. It is just the matter of travel time that keeps us from coming more often. We come here because it’s very beautiful, and has so much to offer for our family needs, such as fishing the Frying Pan (all of us), windsurfing (myself), lake kayaking (all of us) and hiking for all of us. When we go to the Glenwood Hot Springs we will often take a day to fish a part of the Roaring Fork. Another great reason is that there aren’t so many people. One of the areas that is hard is that some people have ruined things for others that are responsible such as pets at the windsurfing beach. Our dog is part of the family and goes with us on trips. It’s not fair to keep her locked in the camper or car. Dogs must have been there since there were messes on the beach. In the 3 days there we never saw a ranger to ask these questions or suggest having doggie bags and if people didn’t comply with the leash law or cleanup, patrolling more and catching the guilty. Also with the water down that much, it can be horrible at the windsurfing beach, but being a fly fishing family realize that the water flow for the Pan needs to be good for the excellent fishing. We come up here to relax and have fun and

since camping isn't as costly as motels etc. we get our fill and can't wait until we can come back."

1374: "I have lived in the Roaring Fork Valley my whole life. Born in Glenwood, I remember when I was a kid going to Ruedi and I would like to do the same for my kids when I have them."

1376: "It would be fun if there were a couple of docks or rafts like big square docks off shore a couple of feet so you can dive and swim a little."

1379: "The campground was pleasant to stay in and your campground host was well chosen. We believe the best point of the whole weekend was having the hot water to wash up in. The writer went for a swim and the water was a little cool at first but quite enjoying after a few minutes. If you had a small dock somewhere that a person could walk out of his boat or walk out and jump into deep water. Without having to wade through that mud. Would give you a 9-9.5 out of ten. Thanks."

1381: "Ruedi is the only place to ski in the Roaring Fork Valley. It would be a tragedy to lose it. Many, many folks enjoy the lake; it is a treasure. Charge to use it if you must. (I already pay \$175/summer to park my boat there). Please: put a no wake buoy 100 feet from the boat launch dock/ramp. Will ensure safety of boaters and keep people from breaking the law (no wake w/in 100' of a dock). Also-a pay phone (emergency phone should be installed at ramp, as cell phones do not work at Ruedi). Thank you, Laurel Pan, 970-925-9090."

1383: "Re: Water levels: if water is not being wasted by agricultural uses, and if agriculture water is not diverted to include golf courses (even though I play golf) then I would not favor decreasing. Priority of agriculture over recreation. In other words, agriculture over rec. if water is well used and efficient."

1393: "During our trip we had mentioned that the water level was low even before meeting the woman from the RF Conservancy. But this did not effect our trip, because we were merely there for an afternoon and also because we don't spend much recreational time at large bodies of water-so our trip was great regardless."

1395: "People need to clean up after themselves. The Frying Pan River below Reudi is over populated and over fished. We think signs and fines should be imposed for litter and fishing line and enforced. The Spanish-speaking residents need to understand that it is not OK to leave their trash behind. We have witnessed it several times and find it very disturbing and disgusting. They need to have pride in their new country."

1403: "This particular trip was to just check out a prop on my boat – usually I stay all day. Ruedi is a great place to be on any given day-more so in the fall. Saw two bears and many fly fishermen."