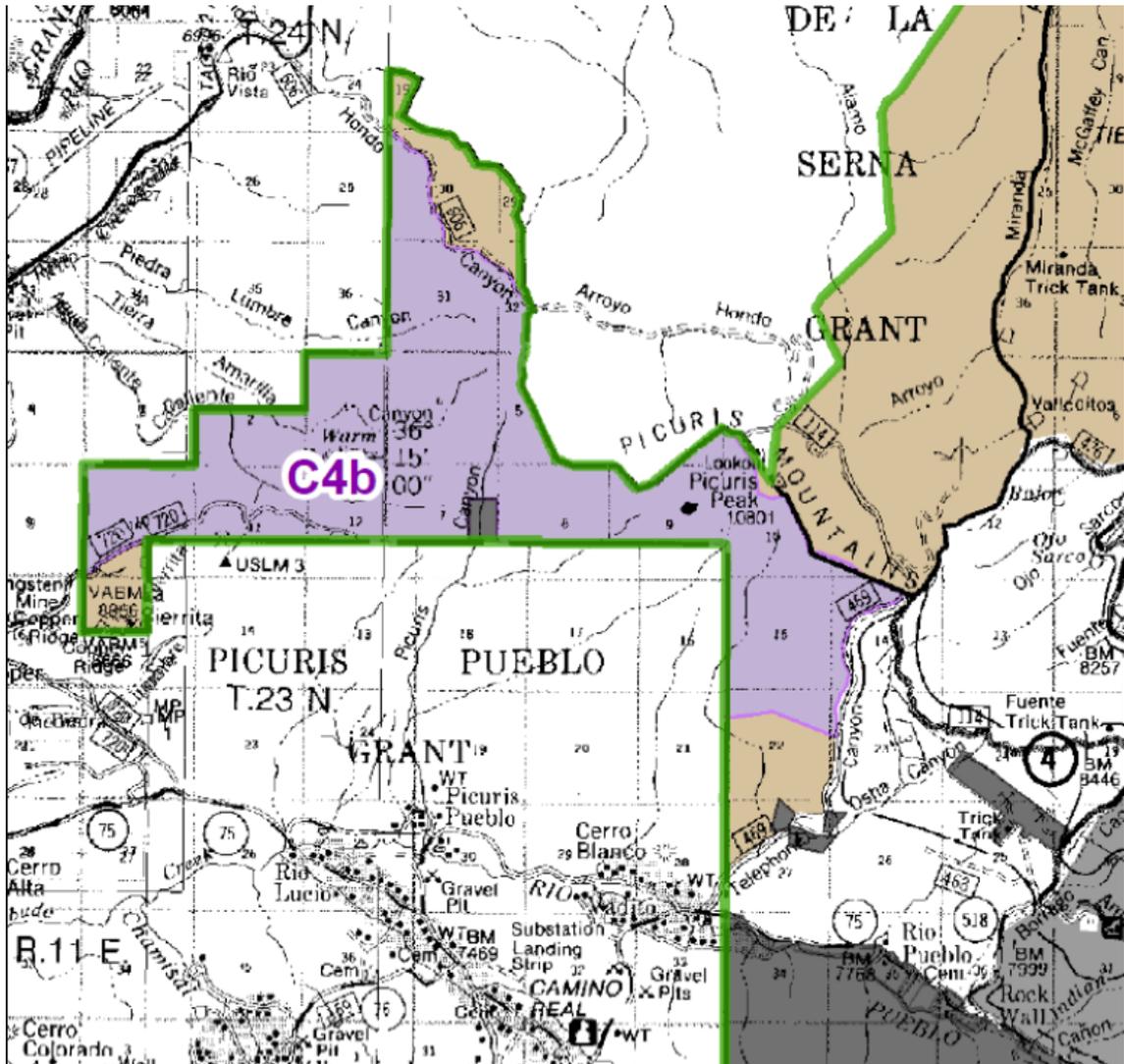


Camino Real Ranger District

Warm Springs-Miranda

Suggested Evaluation Determination: Most of this area does not have wilderness character; however, one portion (labeled C4b see below) does have wilderness character.



If a wilderness characteristic is not addressed in the following rationale, that characteristic is not determined to be found in the evaluated area, except for size. If size is not addressed, the area is determined to be 5,000 acres or more per the [wilderness criteria](#). The five wilderness characteristics are: (1) apparent naturalness; (2) opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation; (3) size; (4) ecological, scientific, educational, scenic, or historical values; and (5) manageability of wilderness characteristics.

Apparent Naturalness

Warm Springs-Miranda evaluated area lacks apparent naturalness, because of visible impacts from past thinning projects (especially on the Miranda side), evidence of historic mining activities, and visually apparent logging roads. Numerous range and wildlife improvements, such as guzzlers, spring developments, trick tanks, stock tanks, exploratory water wells, and corrals, are scattered throughout this area as well. A lookout tower and electronic site are visually apparent and several dumpsites are obvious in the area. All of these factors are evidence of the heavy influence of human activity and little in the way of apparent naturalness.

C4b is determined to have apparent naturalness, based on a natural hydrothermal spring (Warm Spring) found within the western part of this area, as well as its steepness and remoteness that has discouraged development, improvements, and other activities in the area.

Solitude or Unconfined Recreation

Most of area offers limited opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation, because this area is already highly used by the communities of Taos, Peñasco, and Picuris Pueblo. Some of this high use consists of fuelwood gathering, driving for pleasure, dispersed camping (including car camping), four-wheeling, hunting, and piñon picking.

C4b is determined to have solitude and unconfined recreation, because of its steepness and remoteness that has discouraged development, improvements, and other activities.

Outstanding Values

Outstanding values within C4b include the hydrothermal spring and Rio Grande cutthroat trout streams.

Manageability

It would be difficult to manage most of the Warm Springs-Miranda evaluated area to preserve wilderness character, because of the motorized access and mechanized equipment required for the maintenance of range and wildlife improvements, administrative access needed for the new Miranda Canyon acquisition, motorized access needed for maintenance of the lookout tower and electronic site.

Other considerations that may affect the manageability of wilderness character in this evaluated area include long established traditional and cultural uses that consist of fuelwood gathering, hunting, and piñon picking from Peñasco and Picuris Pueblo.

C4b is extremely remote and it is unknown if there is public or legal administrative access to the area. Without legal access by the Forest Service, it would not be possible to manage boundaries or to provide other wilderness management needs.