

Camino Real Ranger District

Luna-Coyote

Suggested Evaluation Determination: This area does not 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

The Luna-Coyote evaluated area does not offer apparent naturalness, because of visible impacts from past thinning projects and closed roads that are still visible on the landscape. Infrastructure associated with range and wildlife improvements are also scattered throughout this area, including exclosures, spring developments, trick tanks, stock tanks, and corrals. All of these structures detract from the natural appearance of the landscape and serve to highlight the human activity actively occurring in the area.

Solitude or Unconfined Recreation

This evaluated area offers limited opportunities for solitude or unconfined recreation, since it is highly used by the communities of Holman, Mora, Chacon, Angel Fire, and Black Lakes. Some of this high use consists of fuelwood gathering, driving for pleasure, dispersed camping (including car camping), hunting, and piñon picking.

Outstanding Values

Outstanding values within this evaluated area include Rio Grande cutthroat trout populations in its streams.

Manageability

It would be difficult to manage the Luna-Coyote evaluated area to preserve wilderness character, because it is within the wildland urban interface (WUI) of Chacon, Angel Fire, and Black Lakes, where all fire suppression efforts would have priority to protect life and property. Motorized access and the use of mechanized equipment are needed for the maintenance of range and wildlife improvements.

Other considerations that may affect the manageability of wilderness character in this area include long established traditional and cultural uses that consist of fuelwood gathering, hunting, and latilla cutting from the communities of Chacon and Black Lakes.