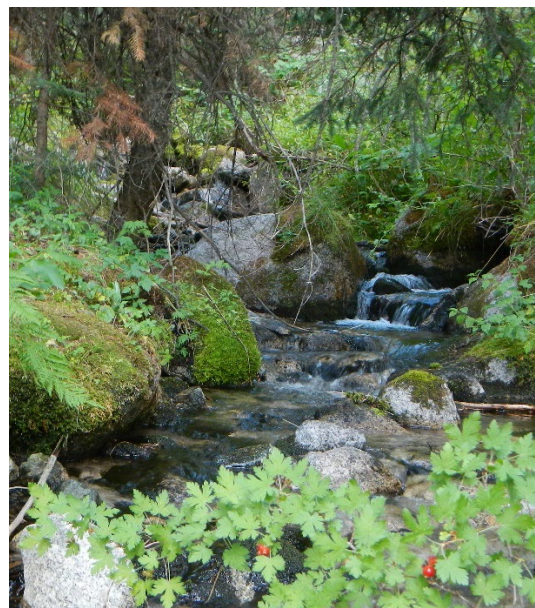


Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Evaluation

Carson National Forest

Taos, Rio Arriba, Colfax, and Mora Counties, New Mexico



Columbine Creek eligible wild and scenic river, Questa Ranger District



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List of Commonly Used Acronyms

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
FS	Forest Service
FSH	Forest Service Handbook
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
NF	national forest
ORV	outstandingly remarkable value
RGCT	Rio Grande cutthroat trout
RMBH	Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USDI	United States Department of Interior
WSRA	Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Background

The National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (National System) was enacted by Congress in 1968 (Public Law 90-542) to preserve the free-flowing condition of certain selected rivers with outstandingly remarkable values for the enjoyment of present and future generations. Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers “must be administered in such a way as to protect and enhance the values that made [them] eligible for the National System, but not to limit other uses that do not substantially interfere with public use and enjoyment of these values.” (IWSRCC 1998, p. 3). To be designated under the National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (WSRA)¹ a river segment must meet two fundamental requirements: (1) the river segment must be “free-flowing” as defined by Section 16(b) of the WSRA, and (2) the river segment must have one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORV) (Section 1(b)).

Rivers may be designated by Congress or, if certain requirements are met, the Secretaries of the Interior or Agriculture, as appropriate. Once designated under the WSRA, rivers receive special management direction that ensures the maintenance of the free-flowing nature and the outstanding natural, cultural, and recreational values of the river segment. Under the WSRA Section 2(b), river segments are required to be classified as wild, scenic, or recreational:

Wild river areas – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic river areas – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

The WSRA Section 5(d)(1) requires that, “consideration shall be given by all Federal agencies involved to potential national wild, scenic and recreational river areas” during land management planning. To meet this requirement, the Carson National Forest (NF) is conducting a systematic evaluation of all river segments to determine if they are eligible for designation under the WSRA. Prior to being recommended to Congress as potential additions to the National System, eligible rivers must also be found to be suitable for designation. Both eligible and suitable segments are managed to maintain their free-

¹ 16 U.S. Code Chapter 28

flowing nature and outstandingly remarkable values, until such time as they are designated under the WSRA or released from consideration.

Eligibility Evaluation Process

Wild and scenic river eligibility is being conducted as part of forest plan revision, consistent with the 2012 planning rule final directives at Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Section 82.2, which state:

Unless a systematic inventory of study rivers has been completed and eligible rivers identified, the Interdisciplinary Team shall develop and conduct a comprehensive inventory and evaluation to determine which rivers are eligible for inclusion in the National System....The rivers to be studied for eligibility include all rivers named on a standard U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle map.

A total of 217 rivers on the Carson NF are being evaluated for eligibility.² There are 192 rivers that must be included for evaluation, since they are named on a quadrangle map. Of those, 125 were evaluated for eligibility by the forest between 1994 and 2001. In 2002 the 1986 forest plan was amended to include language for managing the eligible rivers and river segments. No eligibility determinations have been made since. The previous eligibility evaluation processes did not fulfill the evaluation requirements under the 2012 Planning Rule directives (FSH 1909.12, Chapter 80). For example, (1) the previous evaluation did not involve the public in the evaluation of rivers; (2) the region of comparison was not explicitly defined; (3) some ORVs and eligibilities were identified on private lands; (4) some descriptions of ORVs were not specific; and (5) the effect of existing diversions such as acequias and community water supplies on free flow was not adequately considered. Since not all rivers have been evaluated and previous evaluations were insufficient under the 2012 Planning Rule, the Carson NF is reevaluating all 192 named rivers for eligibility during the current forest plan revision process. Compared to the previous evaluation, this consistent and complete evaluation is better aligned with the

² Some of those rivers are broken into multiple segments (smaller sections of one named river) with different eligibility or classification. For example, a road may parallel the bottom half (section 1) of a river, but not the top half (section 2). Both sections may be found eligible, but the classification of section 1 may be recreational while the classification for section 2 may be wild. Thus, one river was evaluated and found eligible. Two river sections were evaluated separately, and both were found eligible, but assigned different classifications. There are 255 river segments being evaluated. 180 of those segments were previously evaluated. There are 8 segments that have been added to this evaluation that were not previously evaluated, despite the rest of the river having been previously evaluated.

intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, provides clearer management direction, and better protects the values that provide the basis for eligibility.

The previous Carson NF eligibility evaluations considered an additional 41 rivers that are unnamed; therefore, they are not required to be reconsidered. Of those, 25 were previously determined to be eligible and are being reevaluated under this process. The 16 unnamed streams that were previously evaluated and found not eligible were not reevaluated. The current evaluation includes 192 named streams and 25 unnamed streams that were previously eligible, for a total of 217.

The determination of eligibility is based on the river's "free-flowing" character and outstandingly remarkable values that are regionally or nationally conspicuous examples that are among the best representatives of a feature (FSH 1909.12, sec. 82.71 and 82.73).

Free-Flowing Determination

The overarching intent of the WSRA is to preserve free-flowing rivers in their natural condition. To be eligible, a river must be free-flowing as defined in the WSRA Section 16(b):

"Free flowing" as applied to any river or section of a river means existing or flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, riprapping, or other modification of the waterway. The existence, however, of low dams, diversion works, or other minor structures at the time any river is proposed for inclusion in the [National System] shall not automatically bar its consideration for such inclusion.

Impoundment is defined as, "A body of water formed by any manmade structure." (947 FR 39456 (Sept 7, 1982)) Modification of the waterway may include any project that involves "a measurable alteration of the bed and banks of the river" (*Sierra Club North Star Chapter v. Pena*, 1 F. Supp. 2d 971 (D. Minn. 1998)), however, there is no clear threshold for when a project may adversely affect a river's free-flowing characteristics (WSRA sec. 7, p 37) and Congress has "implicitly delegated the task of deciding what constitutes a 'water resources project' to the [agency]" (*Sierra Club North Star Chapter v. Pena*, 1 F. Supp. 2d 971 (D. Minn. 1998)).

For this evaluation, any damming, diversion, channelization, or other confinement or rerouting of the channel was considered in the context of the river system as a whole. To be considered free-flowing, a river needed to maintain its natural stream functions, including a natural flood regime, natural sinuosity and channel shifting, natural bank erosion, and natural bed load and debris movement. Modifications of the stream channel

(such as a fish barrier) may adversely affect a river's free-flowing characteristics to the extent that the river is no longer free-flowing, or they may affect free-flowing characteristics while overall the river remains free-flowing. In this evaluation a distinction is made as to whether modifications of the stream channel alter or restrict the natural function of the river (i.e., bank erosion, channel shifting, bed-load or debris movement). Those modifications that mimic natural river processes, restore more natural river function, and are otherwise consistent with the river's eligibility are acceptable in a free-flowing river. Throughout this evaluation modifications that affect free-flow but do not cause a river to be not free-flowing are noted because of their influence on the appropriate classification of eligible rivers.

There is no requirement for a minimum flow or temporal or spatial continuity of flow. Flow must only be sufficient to sustain or compliment the ORVs for which the river would be recommended.

Outstandingly Remarkable Value Determination

According to the WSRA, for a river to be eligible the river and its adjacent land area must have one or more outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar value.

To be identified as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant when compared with similar values from other rivers at a regional or national scale. Unique, rare, or exemplary features are those that are conspicuous examples of these values, among the best representatives of these features, within a region or the nation.

While the spectrum of resources that may be considered is broad, all features considered should be directly river-related [and] should meet at least one of the following criteria:

1. Be located in the river or its corridor,
2. Contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem, or
3. Be river dependent and owe their location and existence to the presence of the river. (FSH 1909.12, sec. 82.73)

The determination that a river area does or does not contain one or more ORVs is a professional judgement on the part of the Responsible Official, as informed by the Interdisciplinary Team, best available scientific information, and public participation (FSH 1909.12, sec. 82.73).

Because a feature is rare or unique does not alone make it outstandingly remarkable. It must also be conspicuously dissimilar from the class of feature to which it belongs. That

is, just being an example of a type of feature that is remarkable is insufficient, the feature must be an outstandingly remarkable example of the type. For example, river-based recreation opportunities are rare in the arid southwest. To be outstandingly remarkable, the recreational opportunity must be an unusually exemplary example among arid rivers. Every archeological site is inherently unique and irreplaceable. To be outstandingly remarkable, an archeological site must be of a quality or extent such that it is among the best examples of a historical resource.

River values must be judged in comparison with the characteristics of other similar regional rivers. These similar regional rivers define the “region of comparison”. The region of comparison may vary for different categories of outstandingly remarkable values and thus, multiple regions of comparison may be used to evaluate a single river. The appropriate region of comparison is determined by the Interdisciplinary Team with input from the public and ultimately approved by the Responsible Official.

The region of comparison was not explicitly defined for previous Carson NF eligibility determinations; therefore, when those determinations are used as reference for this evaluation the ORVs must be reinterpreted in light of the region of comparison defined here. The Carson NF defines two regions of comparison, depending on ORV category:

Scenery – Public lands in northern NM and southern Colorado

The region of comparison for scenery includes all federal and state public lands in New Mexico and Colorado within 100 miles of the Carson NF.³ Rivers within the proposed region of comparison have similar landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors. Public lands also provide similar access for the public.

Recreation – Public lands in northern NM and southern Colorado

Rivers within the region of comparison have similar recreational user groups and uses. Recreational uses primarily include hiking, fishing, camping, hunting, wildlife viewing, nature study, and boating. The similarity of recreational uses of rivers in the region of comparison is due to similarities in landscape setting, flow regimes, stream sizes, biological characteristics, vegetation types, and accessibility of rivers and their corridors.

Geology – Intersecting Physiographic Provinces

The geology within the region of comparison has similar origin and physiography. The majority of the Carson NF is in the Southern Rocky Mountains or Colorado Plateaus

³ This includes National Parks, National Forests, National Grasslands, Bureau of Land Management lands, State Parks, and State Wildlife Areas.

physiographic provinces. The far eastern portion of Valle Vidal is in the Great Plains physiographic province, which extends from Mexico to Canada. The region of comparison includes the Southern Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateaus physiographic provinces and the Raton section of the Great Plains province which intersects the Valle Vidal.

Fish – Intersecting watersheds

The 4 drainage subregions (HUC 4) that intersect the Carson NF make up the region of comparison for fish values. Fish populations within this proposed region of comparison are similar in terms of species composition and aquatic habitat characteristics.

Wildlife – Intersecting ecoregional provinces

The four ecoregional provinces that intersect the Carson NF define the region of comparison for wildlife values. The wildlife within this proposed region of comparison are similar in terms of species composition and habitat characteristics.

Historic, Cultural – New Mexico and Colorado

The region of comparison has similar history and cultural influences, encompassing ancestral Puebloan, Spanish, and American settlement influences. The prehistoric archeological record has strong ties to the Four Corners region, as well as the plains in eastern New Mexico and Colorado. Spanish influence is most evident throughout New Mexico and into southern Colorado. Trapping, mining, railroad expansion and American settlement were influences throughout the region.

Other Values – The Four Corners states (AZ, NM, CO, UT)

Based on the regions of comparison for the values listed above the Four Corners states provide a broad enough region of comparison for other values that may be considered for their outstanding remarkableness.

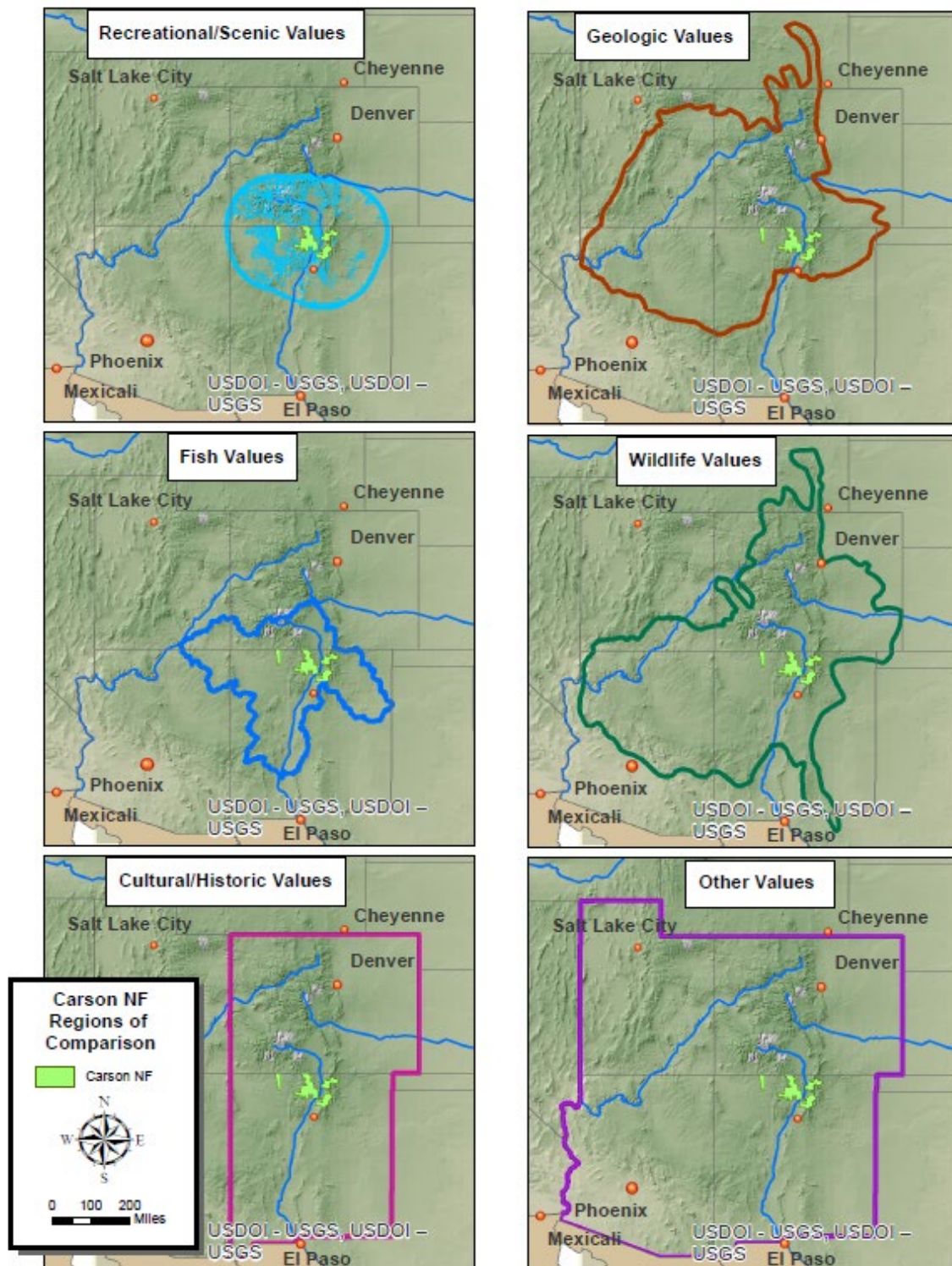


Figure 1. Carson National Forest regions of comparison for each outstandingly remarkable value

Outstandingly Remarkable Value Criteria

The Forest Service directives establish a baseline set of criteria as minimum thresholds to establish ORVs (FSH 1909.12, sec. 82.73a). The Carson NF has made some minor adjustments to the baseline criteria, in order to clarify their application and make them more meaningful in the specific circumstances encountered in Northern New Mexico. Together, the Forest Service directives and the more specific Carson NF criteria describe the approach that the Interdisciplinary Team took when assessing values. Ultimately, the determination that a resource value is outstandingly remarkable is a professional judgement by the Responsible Official that it meets the definition as described in the 2012 planning rule (FSH 1909.12, sec. 82.37). The value should be directly river-related and be either located in the river or its corridor, contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem, or be river-dependent and owe its location or existence to the presence of the river (FSH 1909.12, sec. 82.73). In addition, a value must be “a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant when compared with similar values from other rivers at a regional or national scale. Unique, rare, or exemplary features are those that are conspicuous examples of the values, among the best representatives of these features, within a region or the nation.” (FSH 1909.12, sec 82.73)

Table 1. Outstandingly remarkable value evaluation criteria

Resource	FSH 1909.12 Recommendations for Eligibility Evaluation Criteria	Carson NF Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Evaluation Criteria
Scenic	The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features or attractions. Additional factors, such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed, may be considered. Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over different parts of the river or river segment. Outstandingly remarkable scenic features may occupy only a small portion of a river corridor.	The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in extraordinary or exemplary visual features and attractions, that provide river users with scenery that is spectacular and not common to other rivers in the region. Consider the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional factors such as seasonal variations in vegetation, scale of cultural modifications, and the length of time negative intrusions are viewed. ▪ Scenery and visual attractions may be highly diverse over the majority of the river or river segment.
Recreation	Recreational opportunities are high quality and attract, or have the potential to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison; or the recreational opportunities are unique or rare within the region. River-related opportunities include, but are not limited to, sightseeing, interpretation, wildlife observation, camping, photography, hiking, fishing, hunting, and boating. The river may provide settings for national or regional use or competitive events.	Unique, rare, or exemplary recreation opportunities are available in the river corridor. These features include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ exceptional fishing, hunting, hiking, camping, sightseeing, wildlife viewing (e.g. birding), rock climbing, or photography opportunities; ▪ exceptional opportunities for solitude and to experience unaltered aquatic and riparian habitats; ▪ exceptional opportunities for rafting or kayaking (even if on only a seasonal basis).

Resource	FSH 1909.12 Recommendations for Eligibility Evaluation Criteria	Carson NF Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Evaluation Criteria
Geologic	The river corridor, contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is unique, rare or exemplary within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a “textbook” example, and/or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).	The river, or the area within the river corridor, contains one or more examples of a geologic feature, process, or phenomenon that is unique or exceedingly rare within the region of comparison. The feature(s) may be in an unusually active stage of development, represent a “textbook” example, or represent a unique or rare combination of geologic features (erosional, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).
Fisheries	<p>Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.</p> <p>Populations. The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident and/or anadromous fish species. Of particular significance are a diversity of fish species or the presence of wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation concern.</p> <p>Habitat. The river provides uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison. Of particular significance is exemplary habitat for wild stocks and/or Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered, or species of conservation. Consider also rare and unique habitats within the corridor.</p>	<p>Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions.</p> <p>Populations. The river is nationally or regionally an important producer of resident fish species. An extraordinary diversity of native fish species or the presence of genetically pure Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGCT) and absence of non-native hybridizing species⁴ would be of particular significance.</p> <p>Habitat. The river provides uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison.</p>

⁴ Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGCT) are native only to the Rio Grande, Pecos, and Canadian River drainages and thus are considered rare regionally and nationally. However, they occur in many streams in the four drainage subregion region of comparison. Most of these streams also contain non-native trout species (i.e., brown and rainbow trout) that interbreed and compete with RGCT. On the Carson NF, RGCT populations are only considered an ORV where non-native species are not present, a full barrier is in place (prevents all upstream movement by non-native species), RGCT genetics are unaltered (no more than 10% introgression) or are suspected to be unaltered according to NM Department of Game and Fish data, and the stream is not isolated (i.e., connected to a large multi-stream network that provides redundant, high-quality RGCT habitat). Together these criteria identify rivers where both the current fish population and the current condition of the habitat are uniquely high quality in the region of comparison because the genetics are pure, and the habitat is redundant and not accessible by non-native species.

Resource	FSH 1909.12 Recommendations for Eligibility Evaluation Criteria	Carson NF Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Evaluation Criteria
Wildlife	<p>Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of these conditions.</p> <p>Habitat. The river, or area within the river corridor, provides uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance, and/or may provide unique habitat or a critical link in habitat conditions for Federal or State listed or candidate threatened, endangered species, or species of conservation concern. Contiguous habitat conditions are such that the biological needs of the species are met.</p> <p>Populations. The river, or area within the river corridor, contains nationally or regionally important populations of indigenous wildlife species. Of particular significance are species diversity, species considered to be unique, and/or populations of Federal or State listed or candidate threatened or endangered species, or species of conservation concern.</p>	<p>Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of these conditions.</p> <p>Habitat- The river or river corridor provides uniquely diverse or uniquely high quality habitat for wildlife of national or regional significance (e.g. federal or state listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern), particularly where such habitats meet the year-round or important seasonal biological needs of the species.</p> <p>Populations. The river or river corridor contains nationally or regionally important metapopulations necessary for providing diversity, resiliency, or redundancy. Consider the following species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ At risk riparian-dependent species ▪ Other indigenous wildlife species, particularly federal or state listed or candidate threatened or endangered species, or species of conservation concern.
Historical	<p>The river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of occupation or use by humans. Sites may have national or regional importance for interpreting history or prehistory.</p> <p>History. Site(s) or feature(s) associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that was rare or one-of-a-kind in the region. A historic site or feature, in most cases, is 50 years old or older.</p> <p>Pre-history. Sites may have unique or rare characteristics or exemplary human interest value; represent an area where a culture or cultural period was first identified and described; may have been used concurrently by two or more cultural groups, or may have been used for rare sacred purposes.</p>	<p>The river, or area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of historic or pre-historic occupation or use by humans. Sites may have regional or national importance for interpreting history or prehistory and are exemplary or unusually intact. Many such sites are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.</p> <p>History. Site(s) or feature(s) are associated with a significant event, an important person, or a cultural activity of the past that is now rare or unique in the region. Historic sites or features date to AD 1539 or later, and in most cases, are 50 years old or older.</p> <p>Prehistory. Site(s) or feature(s) associated with prehistoric human use or occupation may have unique or rare characteristics or exemplary anthropological value such as evidence of prehistoric human practices and modes of living dating prior to contact with European cultures (AD 1539).</p>
Cultural	<p>Cultural values are combined with historical values in the recommended criteria.</p>	<p>As opposed to historical values, cultural values have current, ongoing religious, spiritual, or community importance, including traditional uses. Outstandingly remarkable cultural values in this context are those that are widely held in the local area, are uniquely tied to a particular river, and depend on the river's free-flowing, unaltered condition.</p>

Resource	FSH 1909.12 Recommendations for Eligibility Evaluation Criteria	Carson NF Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Evaluation Criteria
Other Similar Values	N/A	Riparian The river or river corridor contains nationally or regionally important or unique riparian systems necessary for providing extraordinarily high biodiversity, species resiliency, or species redundancy. Consider the following species: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ At risk riparian-dependent species▪ Other indigenous species, particularly federal or state listed or candidate threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.

Classification of Eligible Rivers

Wild and scenic rivers are classified as either wild, scenic, or recreational (WSRA sec. 2(b)). River segments may have differing classifications when levels of human use and activity create different degrees of development given that each segment is of sufficient length to warrant unique management. The preliminary classification of eligible rivers is based on the existing level of development in the river and surrounding area.

Each river found to be eligible must be assigned a preliminary classification. The preliminary classification of a river found to be eligible is based on the condition of the river and the development level of adjacent lands as they exist at the time of the study (FSH 1909.12 sec. 82.73).

Rivers with wild or scenic classifications are free of impoundments. Roads are absent in wild river corridors, rare in scenic river corridors, and acceptable in recreational river corridors. Wild rivers have a primitive character. Scenic rivers are undeveloped. Recreational rivers may have some development. Water quality in wild rivers must be high, but may be poor under the other two classifications.

The intent of the Act, to protect a river's free-flowing condition and protect and enhance the river's ORVs, applies equally to all wild and scenic rivers regardless of classification. Management of an eligible river must maintain the river's classification as evaluated, unless a suitability study recommends management at a less restrictive classification. Otherwise, all eligible rivers are managed with the same intent, regardless of classification.

Table 2. Criteria for wild, scenic, and recreational classifications

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Water Resource Development	Free of impoundment.	Free of impoundment.	Some existing impoundment or diversion. The existence of low dams, diversions, or other modifications of the waterway is acceptable, provided the waterway remains generally natural and riverine in appearance.

Attribute	Wild	Scenic	Recreational
Shoreline Development	<p>Essentially primitive. Little or no evidence of human activity.</p> <p>The presence of a few inconspicuous structures, particularly those of historic or cultural value, is acceptable.</p> <p>A limited amount of domestic livestock grazing or hay production is acceptable.</p> <p>Little or no evidence of past timber harvest. No ongoing timber harvest.</p>	<p>Largely primitive and undeveloped. No substantial evidence of human activity.</p> <p>The presence of small communities or dispersed dwellings or farm structures is acceptable.</p> <p>The presence of grazing, hay production, or row crops is acceptable.</p> <p>Evidence of past or ongoing timber harvest is acceptable, provided the forest appears natural from the riverbank.</p>	<p>Some development. Substantial evidence of human activity.</p> <p>The presence of extensive residential development and a few commercial structures is acceptable.</p> <p>Lands may have been developed for the full range of agricultural and forestry uses.</p> <p>May show evidence of past and ongoing timber harvest.</p>
Accessibility	<p>Generally inaccessible except by trail.</p> <p>No roads, railroads, or other provision for vehicular travel within the river area. A few existing roads leading to the boundary of the area are acceptable.</p>	<p>Accessible in places by road.</p> <p>Roads may occasionally reach or bridge the river.</p> <p>The existence of short stretches of conspicuous or longer stretches of inconspicuous roads or railroads is acceptable.</p>	<p>Readily accessible by road or railroad.</p> <p>The existence of parallel roads or railroads on one or both banks as well as bridge crossings and other river access points is acceptable.</p>
Water Quality	<p>Meets, or exceeds criteria, or federally approved State standards for aesthetics, for propagation of fish, and wildlife normally adapted to the habitat of the river, and for primary contact recreation (swimming) except where exceeded by natural conditions.</p>	<p>No criteria are prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States are made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists, or is being developed in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.</p>	<p>No criteria are prescribed by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 have made it a national goal that all waters of the United States are made fishable and swimmable. Therefore, rivers will not be precluded from scenic or recreational classification because of poor water quality at the time of their study, provided a water quality improvement plan exists, or is being developed in compliance with applicable Federal and State laws.</p>

Interim Management of Eligible Rivers

Certain protections are applied to eligible rivers until a decision is made on the future use of the river and adjacent lands through an Act of Congress or a change in eligibility or suitability status from a future study (FSH 1909.12, sec 84.3).

The Responsible Official may authorize site-specific projects and activities on National Forest System lands within eligible or suitable river corridors only where the project and activities are consistent with all of the following:

- The free-flowing character of the identified river is not adversely modified by the construction or development of stream impoundments, diversions, or other water resources projects.
- Outstandingly remarkable values of the identified river area are protected.
- For all Forest Service-identified study rivers, classification of an eligible river must be maintained as inventoried unless a suitability study is completed that recommends management at a less restrictive classification (such as from wild to scenic or scenic to recreational) (FSH 1909.12, sec. 84.2).

Forest plan components must be developed to protect the values for which a river is eligible or suitable. Plan components developed for various resource sections of the plan may provide for outcomes consistent with these required protections. Collectively, plan components must ensure that projects and activities are consistent with the following interim protection measures (FSH 1909.15, sec. 84.3):

1. **Water Resources Projects.** A water resources project is defined in 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) part 297 as the construction or development of water supply dams, diversions, flood control works, and other water resources projects that affect the river's free-flowing characteristics.

Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers. For Forest Service-identified (sec. 5(d)(1)) eligible or suitable rivers, water resources projects proposed on these segments are not subject to section 7(b) of the Act; however, these projects shall be analyzed as to their effect on a river's free-flow, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values, with adverse effects to be prevented to the extent of existing agency authorities (such as special-use authority).

2. **Hydroelectric Power Facilities**

- a. Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers. Forest Service-identified eligible rivers are to be protected pending a suitability determination. Forest Service-identified suitable rivers are to be protected for their free-flowing condition, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values pending a designation by Congress.

3. **Minerals**

- a. Wild Rivers.
 - 1) Locatable Minerals. Existing or new mining activity on a Forest Service-identified eligible or suitable river are subject to regulations in 36 CFR part

228 and must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation, pollution, and visual impairment.

- 2) Leasable Minerals. For all eligible or suitable rivers, leases, licenses, and permits under mineral leasing laws must include conditions necessary to protect the values of the river corridor that make it eligible or suitable for inclusion in the National System.
- 3) Saleable Minerals. For all eligible or suitable rivers, disposal of saleable mineral material is prohibited.

Scenic and Recreational Rivers.

- 4) Locatable Minerals. Existing or new mining activity on a Forest Service-identified eligible or suitable river are subject to regulations in 36 CFR part 228 and must be conducted in a manner that minimizes surface disturbance, sedimentation, pollution, and visual impairment.
- 5) Leasable Minerals. For all eligible or suitable rivers, leases, licenses, and permits under mineral leasing laws must include conditions necessary to protect the values of the river corridor that make it eligible or suitable for inclusion in the National System.
- 6) Saleable Minerals. For all eligible or suitable rivers, saleable mineral material disposal is allowed if the values for which the river may be included in the National System are protected.

4. Transportation System

- a. Wild Rivers. Roads and railroads are generally not compatible with a wild river classification. Prevent actions related to the road system that would preclude protection of the river as wild. Do not plan roads outside of the corridor that would adversely affect the wild classification. New trail construction should generally be designed for non-motorized uses. However, limited motorized uses that are compatible with identified values and unobtrusive trail bridges may be allowed. New airfields may not be developed.
- b. Scenic Rivers. New roads and railroads are permitted to parallel the river for short segments or bridge the river if such construction fully protects river values (including the river's free-flowing character). Bridge crossings and river access are allowed. New trail construction or airfields must be compatible with and fully protect identified values.
- c. Recreational Rivers. New roads and railroads are permitted to parallel the river if such construction fully protects river values (including the river's free-flowing character). Bridge crossings and river access are allowed. New trail construction or airfields must be compatible with and fully protect identified values.

5. Utility Proposals

- a. Wild, Scenic, and Recreational Rivers. New transmission lines such as gas lines, water lines, and similar linear facilities are not compatible and are discouraged. Where no reasonable alternative exists, additional or new facilities should be restricted to existing rights-of-way. Where new rights-of-way would be necessary for a utility line, the proposed project must be evaluated as to its effect on the river's outstandingly remarkable values and classification. Any portion of a utility proposal that has the potential to affect the river's free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.

6. Recreation Development

- a. Wild Rivers. As stated in the USDA-USDI Guidelines, major public-use areas such as large campgrounds, interpretive centers, or administrative headquarters must be located outside the river corridor. Minimum facilities, such as toilets and refuse containers, may be provided if necessary to protect and enhance water quality and other identified river values, while also providing for public recreation uses that do not adversely impact or degrade those values. All facilities must be located and designed to harmonize with the primitive character, natural, and cultural settings of the river corridor. The facilities must protect identified river values including water quality and be screened from view from the river to the extent possible.
- b. Scenic Rivers. Public-use facilities such as moderate-size campgrounds, simple sanitation and convenience facilities, public information centers, administrative sites, or river access developments, and so forth are allowed within the river corridor. All facilities must be located and designed to harmonize with their natural and cultural settings, protect identified river values including water quality, and be screened from view from the river to the extent possible.
- c. Recreational Rivers. Recreation, administrative, and river access facilities may be located in close proximity to the river. However, recreational classification does not require extensive recreation development. All facilities must be located and designed to harmonize with their natural and cultural settings, protect identified river values including water quality, and be screened from view from the river to the extent possible.

7. Motorized Travel

- a. Wild Rivers. Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, but is generally not compatible with this classification. Where motorized travel options are deemed to be necessary, such uses should be carefully defined and impacts mitigated.
- b. Scenic and Recreational Rivers. Motorized travel on land or water may be permitted, prohibited, or restricted to protect the river values.

8. Wildlife and Fish Projects

- a. Wild Rivers. Construction of minor structures and vegetation management to protect and enhance wildlife and fish habitat should harmonize with the area's essentially primitive character and fully protect identified river values. Any portion of a proposed wildlife or fisheries restoration or enhancement project that has the potential to affect the river's free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.
- b. Scenic Rivers. Construction of structures and vegetation management designed to protect and enhance wildlife and fish habitat should harmonize with the area's largely undeveloped character and fully protect identified river values. Any portion of a wildlife or fisheries restoration or enhancement project that has the potential to affect the free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.
- c. Recreational Rivers. Construction of structures and vegetation management to protect and enhance wildlife and fish habitat should fully protect identified river values. Any portion of a wildlife or fisheries restoration or enhancement project that has the potential to affect the river's free-flowing character must be evaluated as a water resources project.

9. Vegetation Management

- a. Wild Rivers. Cutting of trees and other vegetation is not permitted except when needed in association with a primitive recreation experience, to protect users, or to protect identified outstandingly remarkable values. Examples of such exceptions include activities to maintain trails or suppress wildfires. Prescribed fire and wildfires managed to meet resource objectives may be used to restore or maintain habitat for threatened, endangered, or sensitive species or restore the natural range of variability.
- b. Scenic and Recreational Rivers. A range of vegetation management and timber harvest practices are allowed, if these practices are designed to protect users, or protect, restore, or enhance the river environment, including the long-term scenic character.

10. Domestic Livestock Grazing

- a. Wild Rivers. Domestic livestock grazing should be managed to protect identified river values. Existing structures may be maintained. New facilities may be developed to facilitate livestock management so long as they maintain the values for which a river was found eligible or suitable, including the area's essentially primitive character.
- b. Scenic Rivers. Domestic livestock grazing should be managed to protect identified river values. Existing structures may be maintained. New facilities may be developed to facilitate livestock management so long as they maintain

the values for which a river was found eligible or suitable, including the area's largely undeveloped character.

- c. Recreational Rivers. Domestic livestock grazing should be managed to protect identified river values. Existing structures may be maintained. New facilities may be developed to facilitate livestock management so long as they maintain the values for which a river was found eligible or suitable.

Evaluating Suitability of Eligible Rivers

Following a determination of eligibility, a river must also be found suitable prior to designation as a Wild and Scenic River. No suitability evaluations are being conducted as part of this current process. A suitability study provides the basis for determining which eligible rivers or river segments should be recommended to Congress as potential additions to the National System. Any eligible river may be studied for its suitability for inclusion in the National System at any time. If a proposed project has the potential to adversely affect the free-flow or outstandingly remarkable values of any river that has previously been determined to be eligible, the Responsible Official should study the suitability of that river for inclusion in the National System before approving the project. If the river is found suitable, then the proposed project must maintain free-flow and protect the outstandingly remarkable values.

Suitability studies address these questions (FSH 1909.12, sec. 83.2):

1. Should the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values be protected, or are one or more other uses important enough to warrant doing otherwise?
2. Will the river's free-flowing character, water quality, and outstandingly remarkable values be protected through designation?
3. Will the benefits of designation exceed the benefits of non-designation?
4. Is designation the best method for protecting the river corridor?
5. Is there a demonstrated commitment to protect the river by any non-Federal entities that may be partially responsible for implementing protective management?

References

- IWSRCC (Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council). 1998. An Introduction to Wild and Scenic Rivers. Technical Report. www.rivers.gov/documents/wsr-primer.pdf
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- USDA FS (United States Department of Agriculture – Forest Service). 2012. Forest Service handbook (FSH) 1909.12 – Land management planning handbook: Chapter 80 –Wild and Scenic Rivers. Washington, D.C.: USDA Forest Service.
- US Congress. 1968. Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542).
- Sierra Club North Star Chapter v. Pena*, 1 F. Supp. 2d 971 (D. Minn. 1998). law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp2/1/971/2569732/

Wild and Scenic River Eligibility for the Carson National Forest

Eligible River Segments

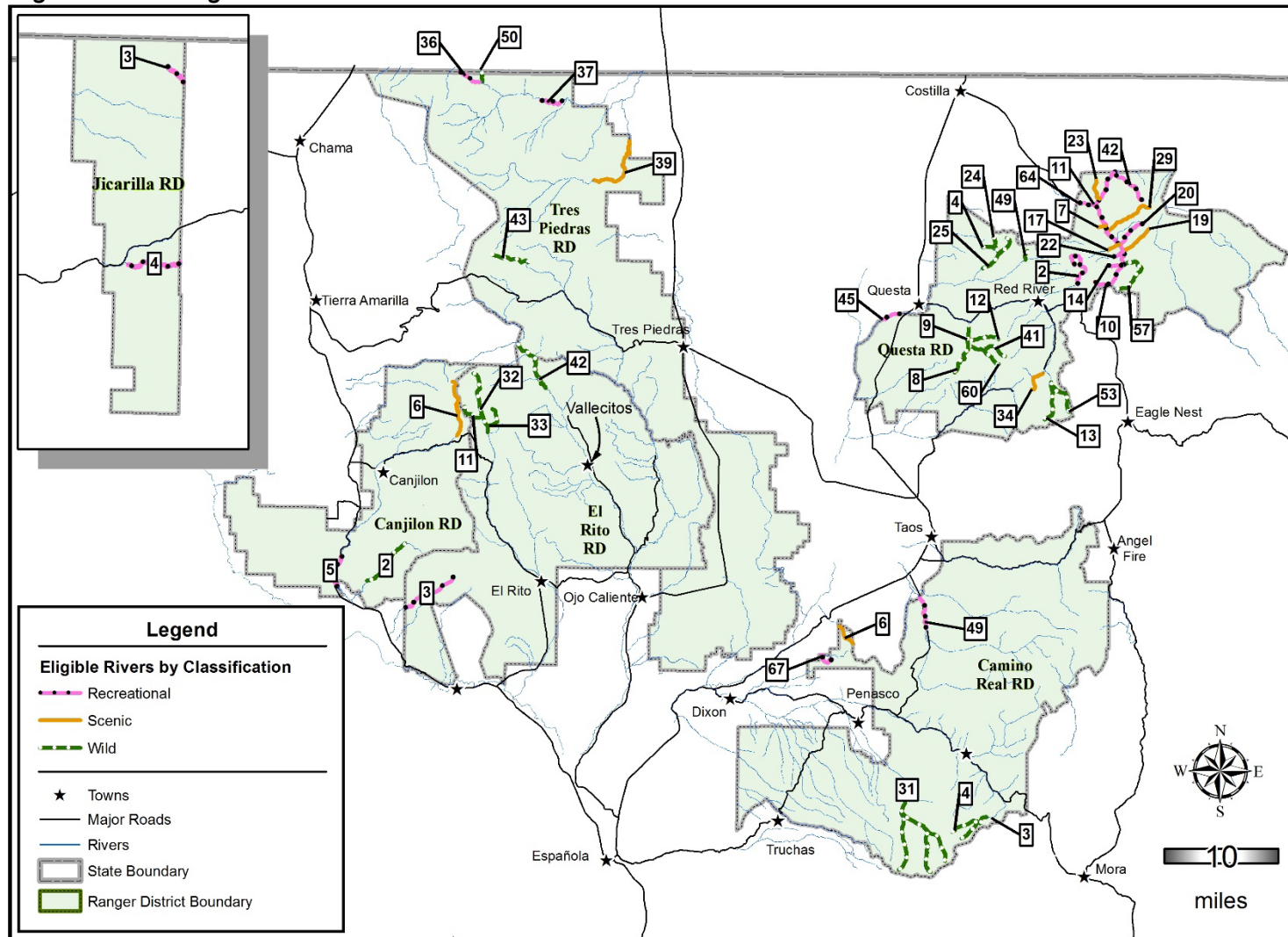


Figure 2. Eligible rivers by classification.

River segments that have been determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers based on their free-flowing nature and associated outstandingly remarkable values are listed in Table 3. River segments are listed by ranger district and ID number, and each has a description of the segment location, the segment classification, the ORVs for which it is eligible, the length of the segment in miles, and a narrative describing the ORV and classification determination. Identification numbers are unique to each district and correspond to the river location on the district maps below.

Table 3. Eligible river segments and their associated classification and ORVs

RD ⁵	ID ⁶	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ⁷	Miles	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	3	Alamitos Creek	From headwaters to FR 161D	Wild (F)	3.4	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Together Alamitos Creek and the North Fork of Alamitos Creek are a stream network that provides redundant, high-quality habitat.
Cr	4	North Fork Alamitos Creek	Headwaters to Alamitos Creek	Wild (F)	2.6	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Together Alamitos Creek and the North Fork of Alamitos Creek are a stream network that provides redundant, high-quality habitat.
Cr	6	Arroyo Hondo	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Scenic (G)	2.2	The lower BLM segment of Arroyo Hondo has been listed as eligible for outstandingly remarkable “geologic” values. “Staurolites”, unique geologic features, are found along this upper segment of the Arroyo Hondo. It is determined to be eligible for outstandingly remarkable “geologic” values. Scenic classification is appropriate due to a (closed) two-track road that parallels the entire segment, crossing it in several places.

⁵ Ranger district abbreviations: Cr = Camino Real, Ca = Canjilon, Er = El Rito, Ji = Jicarilla, Qu = Questa, Tp = Tres Piedras

⁶ Identification numbers locate the river on the corresponding ranger district map. An asterisk (*) signifies rivers that are not named on a USGS 7.5 minute quad, but are being evaluated because they were previously determined to be eligible.

⁷ Outstandingly Remarkable Value abbreviations: S = scenic, R = recreational, G = geologic, F = fish, W = wildlife, H = historic, C = cultural, O = other

RD ⁵	ID ⁶	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ⁷	Miles	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	31	Rio Santa Barbara (all three forks)	From headwaters to Jicarita Creek confluence	Wild (S, R)	1.9 6.9 3.5 5.7 (18.0 total)	All three forks of the Rio Santa Barbara offer outstanding scenic and recreational opportunities, because of the solitude and high alpine, primitive experience. The main stem drains into a narrow canyon, densely populated with tall trees that opens into three headwater tributaries with views of the entire basin and its expansive aspen stands. There is a long history of reliance by local communities on this watershed and a fight for access to, and control over resources. The upper watershed remains critical to downstream communities as a source of water for acequias, medicinal herb collection, and other traditional activities. There is an old water system above the campground that impacts primitive character in that area. Above that point wild classification is appropriate.
Cr	49	Rio Grande del Rancho	From private land to Forest boundary	Recreational (W, O)	3.5	The willow riparian vegetation is critical habitat for Southwestern willow flycatcher, though none have been recorded here since 2014. The habitat is degraded but has potential to be high quality. Equally intact and functional riparian systems may be found in the region of comparison, but it is outstandingly remarkable at least on the forest and in northern New Mexico and is considered an ORV. Recreational classification is appropriate due to the highway that parallels this segment, and other development.
Cr	67*	Agua Caliente Canyon	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Scenic (H, C)	1.5	Warm springs flows into Agua Caliente Canyon. The 1854 Battle of Cieneguilla in this canyon is historically significant, and the site is important for its historical interpretive value among battle sites in the Apache Wars of the late 1800s. The battlefield is eligible for the National Register of Historic Sites. The area around warm springs is also culturally important to many area tribes. There is unique traditional tribal importance tied to the springs, the creek, and the surrounding area. A classification of scenic is appropriate because the upper portion of the river has evidence of past timber harvest and there are many closed, inconspicuous roads that cross the river in places. The creek is confined in culverts in several locations.
Ca	2	Arroyo del Yeso	FR 138 to private land	Wild (S, R, G)	5.5	Arroyo del Yeso is the largest and most dramatic canyon in this area of the El Rito RD. Steep drainages have sliced through the sandstone cliffs revealing many shades of yellow, pink, red, purple and blue-gray. The area above Ghost Ranch attracts visitors from all over the world. They come to gaze, to photograph, to paint, and to hike into the canyons. Wild classification is appropriate.
Ca	5	Canjilon Creek	From private land to forest boundary	Recreational (S, R, G)	5.0	The scenic and recreational opportunities in this segment are outstandingly remarkable regionally. The canyon with dramatic sandstone cliffs is wider than the ¼ mile river corridor, but is dramatic and unique. The side canyons are popular for hunting and Echo Amphitheater is a unique recreational site. The Recreational classification is appropriate.

RD ⁵	ID ⁶	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ⁷	Miles	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Ca	6	Canjilon Creek	From headwaters to the edge of the Continental Divide Trail visible foreground, above Canjilon Creek Campground (closed)	Scenic (R)	4.4	Fishing for RGCT contributes to the outstandingly remarkable recreational value. The Continental Divide Trail parallels the river for most of this segment, though it is actually old two-track road in many places. Canjilon Lakes developed campground is in the river corridor, and there is significant evidence of recent timber harvest. Below the Canjilon Lakes Campground the Continental Divide Trail turns away from the river to the east as Canjilon Creek enters a small, steep canyon. Below this point as the river passes the now closed Canjilon Creek Campground, it becomes braided and intermittent, and it offers less remarkable recreation opportunities. Scenic classification is appropriate.
Er	3	Arroyo del Chamiso	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Recreational (S)	6.3	Among the intermittent Rio Chama tributaries on the El Rito RD, Arroyo del Chamiso was judged to be the most outstandingly remarkable for its sandstone cliffs and steep drainages. Most visitors would only view the canyon from Highway 84, as it is not accessible from the bottom. There are no designated trails or open roads. Arroyo del Yeso and Arroyo del Chamiso are much larger and more dramatic than the other intermittent tributaries, and are the only two that are judged to be outstandingly remarkable. There is a closed road used by grazing permittees to access pit tanks that parallels most of this segment. There is an adjacent area that has been chained to remove piñon and juniper woodlands and create grasslands that are maintained with fire or thinning. There are 4 pit tanks in this river segment that impound water and impact the free-flowing nature of the river, therefore a recreational classification is appropriate
Er	11	Cañada de Chacon	From headwaters to El Rito Creek	Wild (F)	2.3	Provides some RGCT habitat. Populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Er	32	El Rito Creek	From headwaters to fish barrier	Wild (F)	6.1	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Er	33*	Hachita Canyon	From headwaters to El Rito Creek	Wild (F)	2.4	Provides some RGCT habitat. Populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Er	42	Rio Vallecitos	From Jarosa Creek to FR 274	Wild (S, R)	5.9	The sport fishing opportunity contributes to the recreational value but is not an outstandingly remarkable fish value. The canyon rock formations and opportunities for solitude are regionally remarkable scenic and recreational values. The Continental Divide trail crosses this segment. The center portion crosses through the private El Vallecito Ranch which is developed, but Wild classification is appropriate on FS lands.

RD ⁵	ID ⁶	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ⁷	Miles	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Ji	3*	Carracas Canyon	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Recreational (H)	2.6	The "wagon road" is a portion of the Northern Route of the Old Spanish Trail. There is physical evidence of constructed trail for mule trains including evidence at drainage crossings of modifications to allow for crossing by small carts or wagons. The boiler at Boiler Springs was important locally for its use to prepare for sheep dipping in the 1870s. Recreational classification is appropriate due to parallel road and mineral development.
Ji	4*	La Jara Canyon	From Forest boundary to Vaqueros Canyon	Recreational (H)	5.3	La Jara Canyon contains three Navajo Pueblito sites that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The canyon is also the location of a battle between the Navajo and the Spanish in 1705, during which the Spanish burned the Navajo homes and destroyed their milpas (corn fields). Recreational classification is appropriate due to parallel road and mineral development.
Qu	2	Bitter Creek	From headwaters to private land (section 21)	Recreational (R, H)	5.1	Bitter Creek has a long history of human use and modification. It was previously dammed and there are still dams on private land below this section. The stream channel has been altered by mining and mills and subsequent remediation. It is rerouted, and, while no longer impounded, its free flow is affected. The Anchor and Midnight mine sites are historically significant, and outstandingly remarkable. The valley is remarkable for its historic value and interpretive and educational values based on the number of old mine sites. The recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	4	Bull Creek	From headwaters to Lagunitas Fork	Wild (F)	1.4	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	7*	Chuck-wagon Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Scenic (F)	0.7	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. There is a culvert where FR 1950 crosses this segment. An old road (old Midnight-Chuckwagon Trail) that parallels this segment has been mostly obliterated. This segment is less than 1 mile long and almost half of it is within ¼ mile of FR 1950. Scenic classification is appropriate.
Qu	8	Columbine Creek	From headwaters to Deer Creek	Wild (F, R)	3.6	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. The Columbine-Twining National Recreation Trail parallels this segment. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	9	Columbine Creek	From Deer Creek to Columbine trailhead	Wild (R)	1.3	The Columbine-Twining National Recreation Trail parallels this segment. Almost all of this segment is in the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness and wild classification is appropriate.

RD ⁵	ID ⁶	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ⁷	Miles	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	10	Comanche Creek	From headwaters to Costilla Creek	Recreational (S, R, G, F, O)	11.6	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Geologically, Comanche Point is outstandingly remarkable. It is an example of impact melt with columnar jointing (proterozoic biotite) believed to have formed at the center of an impact crater. The wetland component is remarkable compared to other similar systems. The large valley meadows on the west side of the Valle Vidal are unusual in the region for their scenic and primitive recreational value. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	11	Costilla Creek	From Forest boundary to fish barrier	Recreational (S, R, F)	5.8	At the time of this evaluation this segment is being treated with piscicide in order to remove non-native fish and restore native fish habitat. Once this multi-year process is complete the separation of native fish from non-native fish will be maintained via the recently constructed fish barrier. RGCT populations will be genetically pure, no non-native species will be present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. The large valley meadows on the west side of the Valle Vidal are unusual in the region for their scenic and primitive recreational value. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	64	Costilla Creek	From fish barrier to forest boundary	Recreational (S, R)	0.5	Non-native species are present below the fish barrier. The deep narrow canyon was judged to be outstandingly remarkable for scenery. This is a very popular fly-fishing stream. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	12	Deer Creek	From headwaters to Columbine Creek	Wild (F)	2.9	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. The Columbine-Twining National Recreation Trail parallels the lower portion of this segment. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	13	East Fork	From headwaters to trailhead	Wild (S, H)	4.0	Elizabethtown ditch no longer diverts water, but historically started on the Middle Fork, collected water from the East Fork and Sawmill Creek, and carried it to the east slopes of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	14	Foreman Creek	From private property boundary to Comanche Creek	Recreational (F)	1.3	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Recreational classification is appropriate due to existing culverts, closed roads.
Qu	17	Gold Creek	From private land boundary to Comanche Creek	Scenic (F)	1.2	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Scenic classification is appropriate due to old, administrative roads that are used by Vermejo Park to access the La Belle property which detract from the primitive character.

RD ⁵	ID ⁶	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ⁷	Miles	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	19	Grassy Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Scenic (F)	3.2	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Scenic classification is appropriate.
Qu	20	Holman Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Recreational (F)	3.2	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	22	La Belle Creek	From private property boundary to Comanche Creek	Recreational (F)	1.0	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	23*	La Cueva Canyon	From headwaters to Costilla Creek	Scenic (F)	2.2	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Scenic classification is appropriate due to closed (administrative) road.
Qu	24	Lagunitas Fork	From headwaters to Lake Fork	Wild (F)	1.7	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	25	Lake Fork	From headwaters to Cabresto Lake	Wild (F)	4.0	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	29	Little Costilla Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Scenic (F)	5.0	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Scenic classification is appropriate due to closed (administrative) road that parallels this segment.
Qu	34	Middle Fork	From below Middle Fork lake to private land	Scenic (H)	2.3	Middle fork lake is altered (dammed). Below the lake the river is free flowing. Elizabethtown ditch no longer diverts water, but historically started on the Middle Fork, collected water from the East Fork and Sawmill Creek, and carried it to the east slopes of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Scenic classification is appropriate due to an old road/ATV trail that parallels this river segment and the day use site at the lake.
Qu	41	Placer Fork	From headwaters to Columbine Creek	Wild (F)	4.0	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.

RD ⁵	ID ⁶	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ⁷	Miles	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	42*	Powder-house Canyon	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Recreational (F)	4.2	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. There are many closed roads in this area that detract from the primitive character. There is an existing fish barrier in the middle of this segment that impacts free flow and impounds water, therefore a recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	45	Red River	From canyon mouth below Hwy 522 to fish hatchery	Recreational (R)	1.7	The recreational fishing opportunities are outstandingly remarkable due to the accessible and well stocked fishery. There is a road that parallels much of this segment. The lower portion is diverted which effects the river's free-flowing nature. There are power lines in the corridor, and substantial development around the fish hatchery. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	49	Rito Claro	From headwaters to Cabresto Creek	Wild (O)	0.9	The stand age along this river segment is outstandingly remarkable, with some of the oldest Douglas-fir trees documented in the Southwest. Innermost pith dates from tree-ring records range between the early and late 1200s: ten trees date to the mid- to late-1200s, four trees to before 1230, and the innermost pith of the oldest tree at the Rito Claro site to 1210. Located on a gradual, south-facing slope of rocky soils, the stand comprises mainly small-diameter Douglas-fir trees (> 30 cm dbh). As Swetnam and Brown (1992) ⁸ note, "[a]t first glance, it is not at all obvious that the Rito Claro stand is ancient." The authors attribute the low growth rate to conditions like the shallow, rocky soils found in Rito Claro and, in the case of other old-growth sites in the Southwest, also steep slopes. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	53	Sawmill Creek	From headwaters to East Fork	Wild (S, H)	3.3	Elizabethtown ditch no longer diverts water, but historically started on the Middle Fork, collected water from the East Fork and Sawmill Creek, and carried it to the east slopes of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	57	Vidal Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Wild (S, F)	5.6	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. The large valley meadows on the west side of the Valle Vidal are unusual in the region for their scenic and primitive recreational value. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	60	Willow Fork	From headwaters to Placer Fork	Wild (F)	2.1	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.

⁸ Swetnam, T.W. and P. M. Brown. 1992. *Oldest Known Conifers in the Southwestern United States: Temporal and Spatial Patterns of Maximum Age*, Paper Presented at Workshop on Old-Growth Forests in the Rocky Mountains and Southwest: The Status of Our Knowledge, Portal, AZ.

RD ⁵	ID ⁶	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ⁷	Miles	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Tp	36	Rio de los Pinos	From Colorado border to private land boundary	Recreational (S, R, G)	2.4	Rock outcrops and the gorge are outstandingly remarkable scenic and geologic values. The Proterozoic rocks in the Rio de Los Pinos valley are gneiss, schist, and amphibolite intruded by granite and dikes of aplite and pegmatite. Fishing opportunities and the Cumbres-Toltec railroad are outstanding recreational values. Wildlife viewing opportunities, brown trout habitat, riparian corridor, and wildlife diversity are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Recreational classification is appropriate due to the parallel railroad.
Tp	37	Rio de los Pinos	From private land boundary to private land boundary	Recreational (S, R)	2.6	There are irrigation diversions on private land above and below this segment which is free-flowing. Fishing and camping are popular in this segment in the scenic gorge. Recreational classification is appropriate due to parallel FR 284 and developed campgrounds.
Tp	39	Rio San Antonio	From Stewart Meadows to Forest boundary	Scenic (S)	6.9	The steep canyon and surrounding plains are outstandingly remarkable scenic values. Scenic classification is appropriate due to FR 87 and FR 118 which parallel most of this segment. There is also a small inholding in the middle of this segment with some development, and range improvements (fences, tanks) in the river corridor.
Tp	43	Rio Tusas	From headwaters to section 16 tank	Wild (R)	3.7	This river segment is crossed by Trail 41, and the Continental Divide Trail. In combination with sport fishing opportunities these recreational values are outstandingly remarkable. There is a tank in section 16 that impounds water and affects free flow but a wild classification is appropriate upstream.
Tp	50	Toltec Creek	Forest Boundary to private land	Wild (S, R)	1.0	The headwaters in Colorado are eligible for their scenic, recreational, and historic values. The Cumbres and Toltec railroad is not within the ¼ mile corridor on the Carson NF, and there are no other outstandingly remarkable historic values on the New Mexico side. Toltec canyon is a remote, steep, and narrow canyon that is outstandingly remarkable for its scenic and recreational values. Wild classification is appropriate as the surroundings are generally primitive.

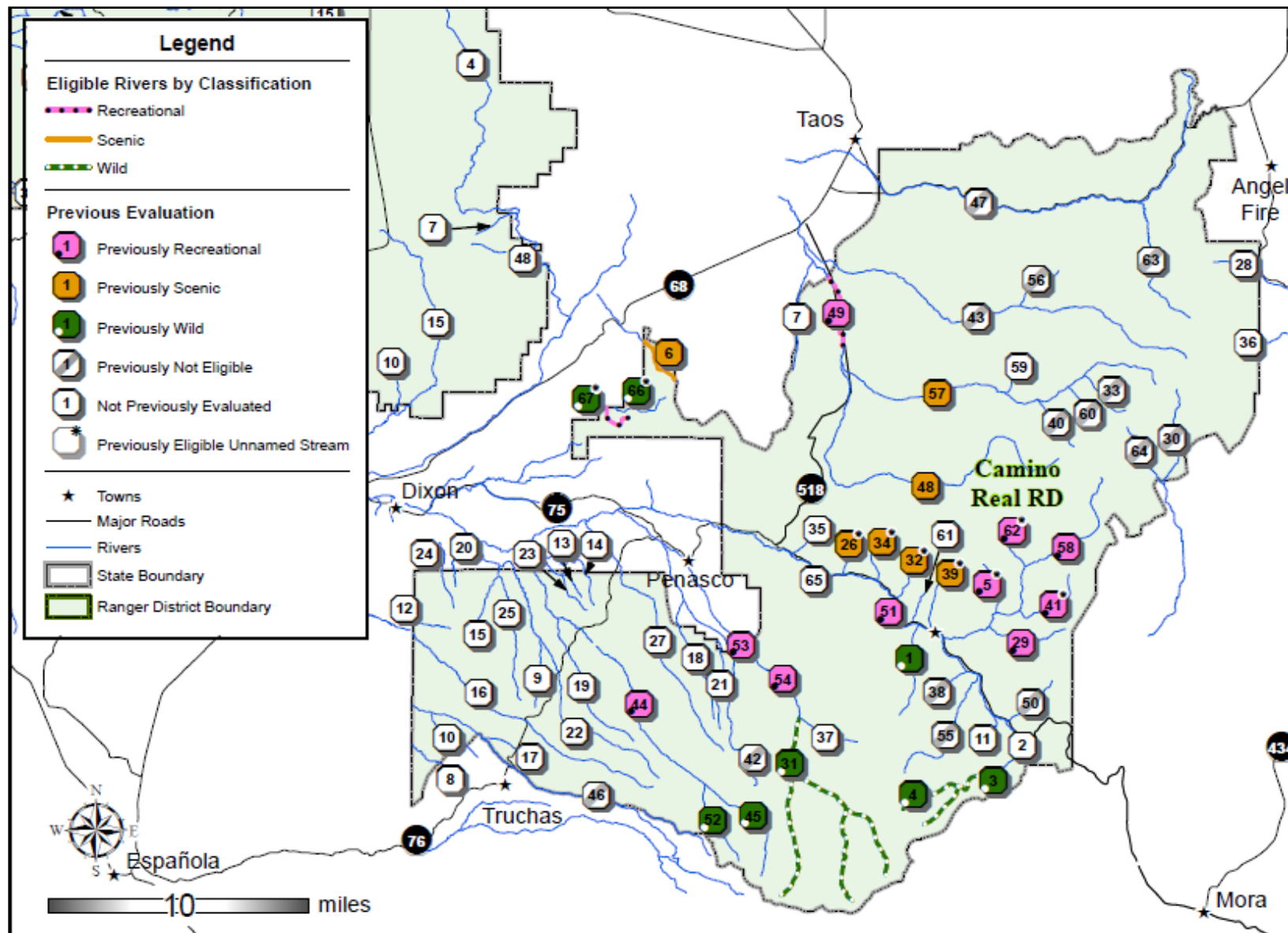


Figure 3. Camino Real Ranger District eligible wild and scenic rivers. Eligible rivers are highlighted by a thicker, colored line.

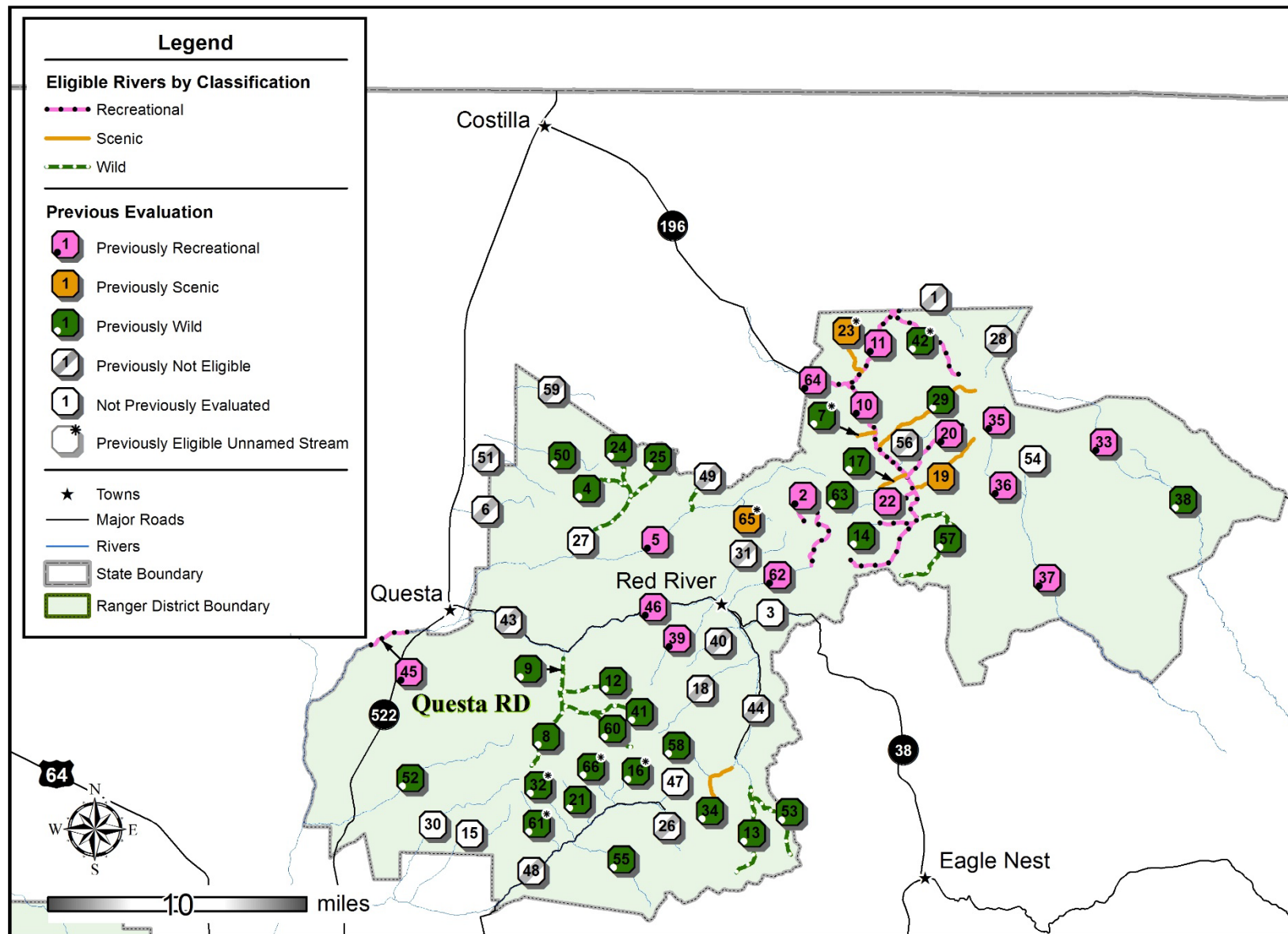


Figure 4. Questa Ranger District eligible wild and scenic rivers. Eligible rivers are highlighted by a thicker, colored line.

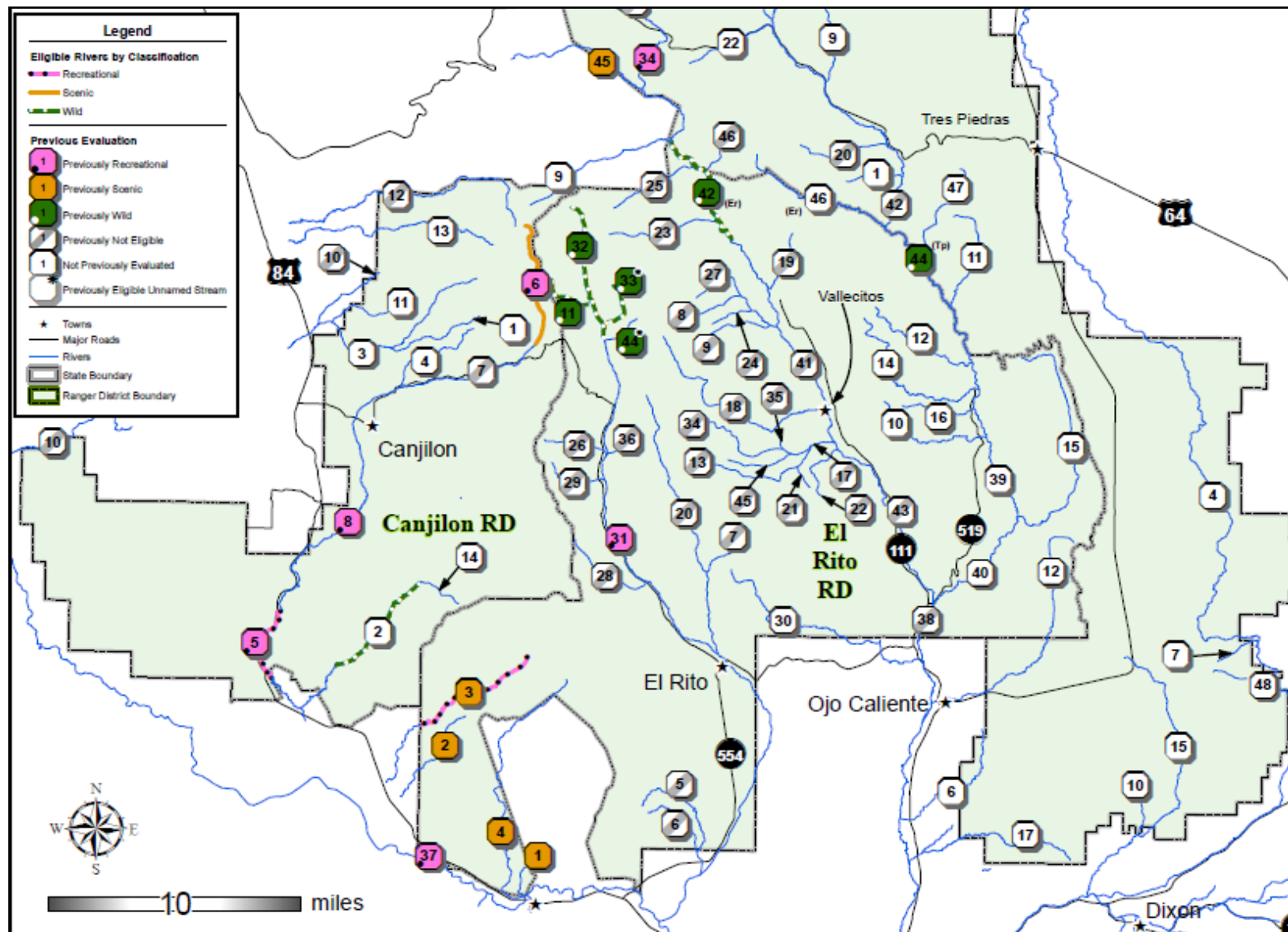


Figure 5. Canjilon and El Rito RDs eligible wild and scenic rivers. Eligible rivers are highlighted by a thicker, colored line.

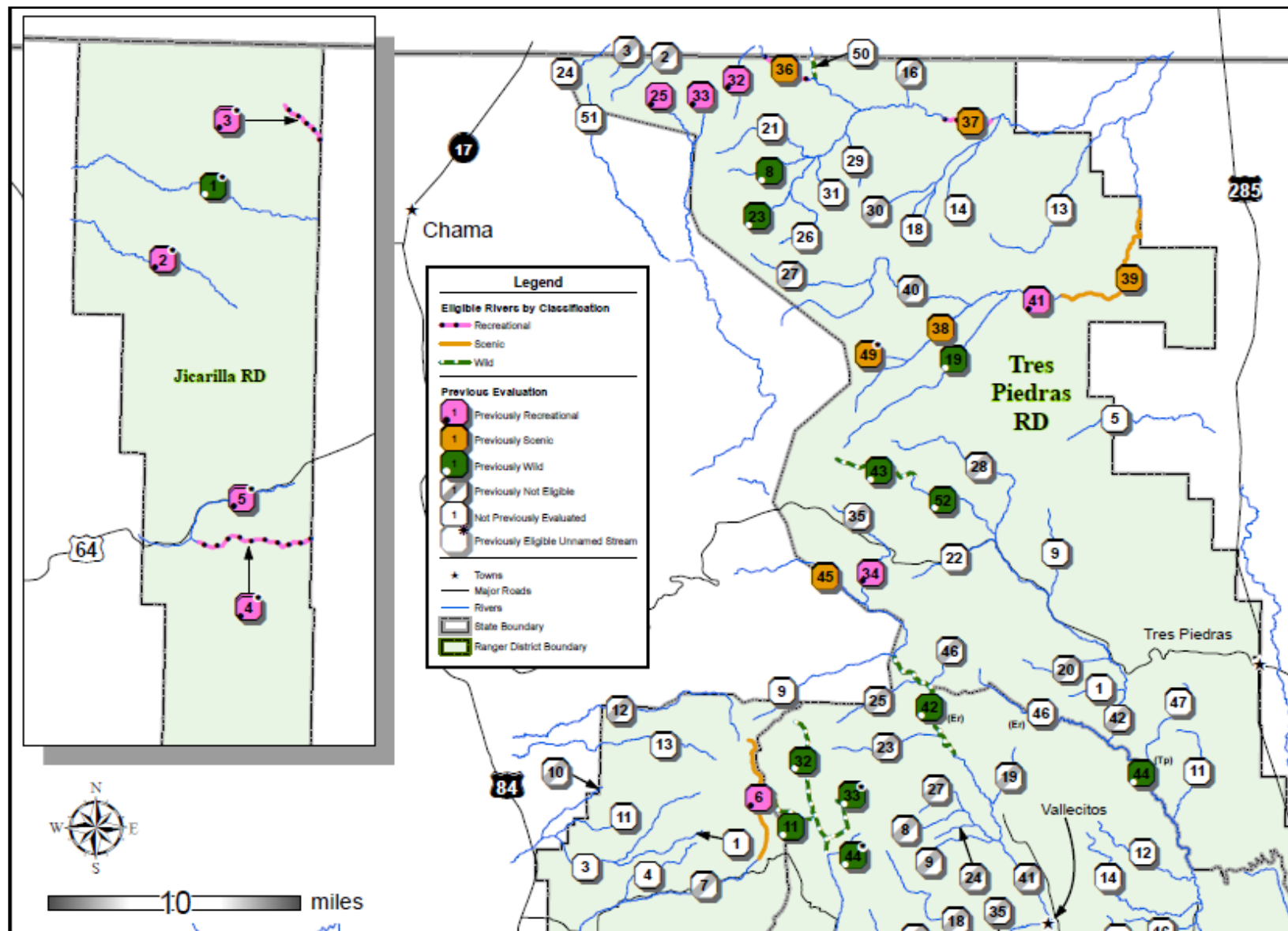


Figure 6. Tres Piedras and Jicarilla ranger districts eligible wild and scenic rivers. Eligible rivers are highlighted by a thick, colored line.

Previously Eligible River Segments

Rivers and groups of rivers that were previously determined to be eligible (by the Carson NF's 1994-2001 evaluations) are listed alphabetically by ranger district in Table 4. The previous evaluation (classification, ORVs, and narrative) is shown in *italics with a gray background* with the symbol "PE" in place of an identification number. The current evaluation of each river segment that was part of a previous evaluation of a river or group of rivers is listed by number below in un-italicized text with a white background. In some cases the definition of the river segment has changed from the previous evaluation (a river may now be split into multiple segments, private land may now be excluded). Where rivers were previously grouped they have now been evaluated individually. In some cases the classification may have been adjusted, or the ORVs for which the river is eligible may have changed. Any classification or ORV changes are discussed in the narrative. In some cases additional information or clarification has been added to the narrative.

Table 4. Eligibility evaluations of previously eligible river segments

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	PE	Agua Piedra Creek & tributaries	From headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Wild (F)	<i>Segments support RGCT populations; therefore they are considered eligible for outstandingly remarkable "fish" values.</i>
Cr	1	Agua Piedra Creek	From headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	Most of this river is confined by trails 19 and 19A (motorized) which effect its free-flowing nature. RGCT populations are not genetically pure, and there is no fish barrier on this segment. Agua Piedra is the only named stream, tributaries are unnamed.
Cr	PE	Arroyo Hondo	From Serna Land Grant boundary to Forest boundary	Scenic (G)	<i>BLM segment of Arroyo Hondo has been listed as eligible for outstandingly remarkable "geologic" values. "Staurolites", unique geologic features, are found along this upper segment of the Arroyo Hondo; therefore it is determined to be eligible for outstandingly remarkable "geologic" values.</i>

⁹ Ranger district abbreviations: Cr = Camino Real, Ca = Canjilon, Er = El Rito, Ji = Jicarilla, Qu = Questa, Tp = Tres Piedras

¹⁰ Identification numbers locate the river on the corresponding ranger district map. An asterisk (*) signifies rivers that are not named on a USGS 7.5 minute quad, but are being evaluated because they were previously determined to be eligible. Identification numbers were not

¹¹ Outstandingly Remarkable Value abbreviations: S = scenic, R = recreational, G = geologic, F = fish, W = wildlife, H = historic, C = cultural, O = other

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	6	Arroyo Hondo	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Scenic (G)	The lower BLM segment of Arroyo Hondo has been listed as eligible for outstandingly remarkable "geologic" values. Staurolites, unique geologic features, are found along this upper segment of the Arroyo Hondo. It is determined to be eligible for outstandingly remarkable "geologic" values. Scenic classification is appropriate due to a (closed) two-track road that parallels the entire segment, crossing it in several places.
Cr	PE	Middle Rio Pueblo	From Rito Angostura to Osha diversion (near Camp Summerlife)	Recreational (R, H)	<i>This segment of the Rio Pueblo played an important roll in transporting RR ties down from the slopes of the canyon to the Rio Grande during the early part of this century. Evidence of these logging activities can still be found today, including an abandoned narrow gauge RR network, sawmills and splash dams. At the confluence of Agua Piedra there is also a cabin built in the 30's as a warming hut for the first developed ski area in New Mexico. The Rio Pueblo canyon is the destination for many recreationists, particularly during the summer. It is one of the most popular streams for fishing, camping, picnicking and sight-seeing in northern New Mexico. This segment of the Rio Pueblo is considered eligible for outstandingly remarkable "recreational" and "historic" values.</i>
Cr	51	Middle Rio Pueblo	From Rito Angostura to Osha diversion (near Camp Summerlife)	Not Eligible	The middle Rio Pueblo has been altered substantially by past use and is not free-flowing. There are diversions and impoundments in the Tres Ritos and Sipapu areas. There are structures in the river throughout this section for bridges, abandoned bridges, crossings, and bank hardening and reinforcement that all affect free flowing character. The abandoned railroad and sawmills in and of themselves are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The evidence of splash dams detracts from the free-flowing characteristics of the river. The practice of flume logging was common across the west and is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. However, the history of logging and the Santa Barbara Pole and Tie Company and its effect on the local communities is remarkable. The 1930's ski area warming hut and the history of the first NM ski area is unique and significant, though the structure itself is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. There are other canyons that are at least as popular for recreation on the forest (Rio Chiquito Canyon, Taos Canyon, Rio Hondo Canyon, Red River Canyon, Cabresto Creek Canyon, Costilla Creek Canyon), and in the region (Cimmaron Canyon, Jemez River Canyon, others). The level of development and accessibility for fishing, camping, picnicking, and sightseeing are unique to the forest, but not outstandingly remarkable within the region of comparison.
Cr	PE	Rio de las Trampas	From San Leonardo to Forest boundary	Recreational (H, O)	<i>This segment of the las Trampas supports an historic acequia system that has important cultural significance to surrounding communities. The last .5-mile of this segment takes on a more wild and scenic look. As it meets the Rio Embudo, it has geologic significance. The BLM has designated the segment below as eligible for outstandingly remarkable "geologic", "wildlife", "scenic" values. This segment is eligible for outstandingly "historic" and "social" values</i>
Cr	44	Rio de las Trampas	From San Leonardo to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	This segment passes through the small communities of Diamante, El Valle, Los Trampas, and Vallecitos, and is highly developed and altered. The acequia diversions detract from the free-flowing characteristics of the river. Acequia diversion is a common practice across Northern New Mexico and the examples here are not historically outstandingly remarkable. The Rio Embudo confluence is about 1 mile beyond the FS boundary. The private inholding of Vallecitos is just upstream of the eligible BLM section, right near the FS boundary.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	PE	Rio de las Trampas & Rio San Leonardo	From headwaters to their confluence	Wild (S, R, G)	With the exception of a 1½ miles, these segments flow within the Pecos Wilderness. They are a good example of a high elevation headwater system cutting through glacial terrain. These segments are eligible for outstandingly remarkable “scenic”, “recreational” & “geologic” values.
Cr	45	Rio de las Trampas	From headwaters to Rio San Leonardo	Not Eligible	There are many examples of high elevation headwater systems cutting through glacial terrain in the region. The scenic, recreational, and geologic values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Cr	52	Rio San Leonardo	From headwaters to Rio de las Trampas	Not Eligible	There are many examples of high elevation headwater systems cutting through glacial terrain in the region. The scenic, recreational, and geologic values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Cr	PE	Rio Grande del Rancho	From headwaters to Rito de la Olla	Scenic (S, R, O)	This scenic segment of the “Little Rio Grande” attracts local and out-of-state recreationists for picnicking, camping, fishing, biking, horseback riding and sightseeing. The stream supports tall cottonwoods and healthy riparian vegetation that is potential Southwestern willow flycatcher habitat. This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable “scenic”, “recreational” & “riparian” values. Does include one culvert and one ford.
Cr	48	Rio Grande del Rancho	From headwaters to Rito de la Olla	Not Eligible	The recreational and scenic opportunities are relatively common and are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. There are other rivers on the forest alone that are more popular for recreationists (Rio Pueblo, Red River, Cabresto Creek). Cottonwood and riparian vegetation that is potential Southwestern willow flycatcher habitat is relatively common and not outstandingly remarkable regionally. RGCT are present, but so are non-native trout. Much of the middle and upper portion of this river is confined by FR 439.
Cr	PE	Rio Grande del Rancho	From confluence of Rito de la Olla to Forest boundary	Recreational (W, C)	The large Pot Creek pueblo that existed over 700 years ago is between this segment of the “Little Rio Grande” & lower Rito de la Olla. This cultural site is primarily located on private land owned by Southern Methodist University, and is significant to the origins of other nearby pueblos. A vast ditch system used for irrigation is evident on the landscape. A small “suburb” of the larger pueblo has been reconstructed on National Forest lands. Across the river from the cultural site is a 3-mile stretch of some of the best riparian vegetation the Carson NF manages. It is known to be the breeding habitat for several pairs of Southwestern willow flycatchers. This segment is considered eligible for outstandingly remarkable “cultural”, “wildlife” and “riparian” values.
Cr	49	Rio Grande del Rancho	From private land to Forest boundary	Recreational (W, O)	The historical site is across Highway 518 from the river on private land, and not directly river related. The small reconstructed site on FS land is also not directly river related and not outstandingly remarkable among similar pueblo sites in the region. There are no cultural values that are regionally outstandingly remarkable. The willow riparian vegetation is critical habitat for Southwestern willow flycatcher, though none have been recorded here since 2014. The habitat is degraded but has potential to be high quality. Equally intact and functional riparian systems may be found in the region of comparison, but it is outstandingly remarkable at least on the forest and in northern New Mexico and is considered an ORV.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	PE	Rio Pueblo tributaries (La Cueva, Flechado, Gallegos & Tio Maes)	From la Presa to Osha diversion (near Camp Summerlife)	Scenic (R)	Each of the canyons in which these tributaries of the Rio Pueblo flow includes a trail. With the exception of Flechado, all the trails are designated as motorized. They all attract heavy recreation use in the summer; therefore these Rio Pueblo tributaries are considered eligible for outstandingly remarkable "recreational" values.
Cr	26*	Cañon Tio Maes	From headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	The motorized trail recreational opportunity is not outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Cr	34*	Gallegos Canyon	From headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	The motorized trail recreational opportunity is not outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Cr	32*	Flechado Canyon	From headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	The non-motorized trail recreational opportunity is not outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Cr	39*	La Cueva Canyon	From headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	The motorized trail recreational opportunity is not outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Cr	PE	Rio Santa Barbara	From headwaters to Santa Barbara Campground	Wild (S, R, G, F, W, H, O)	With the exception of a 1½ miles, all of these segments are within the Pecos Wilderness. These segments all support wilderness values, including "scenic", "recreational", "geologic", "fish", "wildlife" & "historic" values.
Cr	31	Rio Santa Barbara (all three forks)	From headwaters to Jicarita Creek confluence	Wild (S, R)	All three forks of the Rio Santa Barbara offer outstanding scenic and recreational opportunities, because of the solitude and high alpine, primitive experience. The main stem drains into a narrow canyon, densely populated with tall trees that opens into three headwater tributaries with views of the entire basin and its expansive aspen stands. There is a long history of reliance by local communities on this watershed and a fight for access to, and control over resources. The upper watershed remains critical to downstream communities as a source of water for acequias, medicinal herb collection, and other traditional activities. RGCT populations are genetically pure but non-native species are present. There is not a full barrier that separates this section. The geologic and wildlife values in these rivers are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The geologic and wildlife values of these rivers are similar to those found in rivers in the Wheeler Peak, Columbine-Hondo, and Latir Wilderness areas on the Carson, on the Santa Fe National Forest side of the Pecos Wilderness as well as other areas in the region of comparison. There is an old water system above the campground that impacts primitive character in that area. Above that point wild classification is appropriate.
Cr	PE	Rio Santa Barbara	From Santa Barbara CG to concrete bridge on FR 116	Recreational (S, R, O)	This short segment flows where the Santa Barbara Canyon widens before transitioning into a valley. The aspen covered slopes provide a dramatic backdrop in the fall for the communities of Llano and Peñasco. This segment is considered eligible for outstandingly remarkable "scenic", "recreational" & "riparian" values.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	54	Rio Santa Barbara	From Jicarita Creek confluence to concrete bridge on FR 116	Not Eligible	The aspen in particular, and the scenic and recreational values of this area generally are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The riparian value of this segment is not outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Cr	PE	Rio Santa Barbara	From concrete bridge on FR 116 to Forest boundary	Recreational (H)	<i>This segment is where the Hodges Logging Camp was located in the early 1900's. Old railroad grades, a tie hack splash dam and 5 historic acequias make this segment eligible for outstandingly remarkable "historic" values.</i>
Cr	53	Rio Santa Barbara	From concrete bridge on FR 116 to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	The Hodges Logging Camp is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The abandoned railroads are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The splash dam and acequia diversions detract from the free-flowing characteristics of the river. The practice of flume logging was common across the west, and is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Acequia diversion is a common practice across Northern New Mexico and the examples here are not outstandingly remarkable.
Cr	PE	Rito Alamos	From headwaters to Alamos diversion.	Wild (F)	<i>Rito Alamos supports a Class A (pure) RGCT fishery and is therefore eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" value. La Sierra Ditch picks up water from the Alamos on its way to Holman, but the diversion is much further down the stream course than Angostura and little water is actually diverted.</i>
Cr	3	Alamos Creek	From headwaters to FR 161D	Wild (F)	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Together Alamos Creek and the North Fork of Alamos Creek are a stream network that provides redundant, high-quality habitat. Wild classification is appropriate above FR161D. Below that point FR161 parallels the river, the setting is not primitive, and there is much more evidence of human activity.
Cr	4	North Fork Alamos Creek	Headwaters to Alamos Creek	Wild (F)	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Together Alamos Creek and the North Fork of Alamos Creek are a stream network that provides redundant, high-quality habitat. Wild classification is appropriate.
Cr	PE	Rito de la Olla	From headwaters to Rio Grande del Rancho	Scenic (H, C)	<i>The early Spanish settlers called this river, Rito de la Olla or "Little River of Pots", because of the many prehistoric pots that were found along its banks. The large Pot Creek pueblo, which existed over 700 years ago, is between the "Little Rio Grande" and lower Rito de la Olla. This cultural site is primarily located on private land owned by Southern Methodist University, and is significant to the origins of other nearby pueblos. Fort Burgwin is located at the confluence of Rito de la Olla and Rio Grande del Rancho. It was a significant stronghold in the 1800's, protecting Taos and the flow of merchandise to and from the east from hostile bands of Pawnee, Ute, Comanche and Kiowa. Rito de la Olla is considered eligible for outstandingly remarkable "historic" & "cultural" values.</i>

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	57	Rito de la Olla	From headwaters to Rio Grande del Rancho	Not Eligible	There is a full barrier in the middle of this segment that affects free-flow. RGCT are present, but so are non-native trout. There are no cultural values that are outstandingly remarkable regionally. The cultural site is mainly on private land, and where a portion of the cultural site is on FS land the river is on private land. The lower portion of the river is confined by FR 438, effecting its free-flowing nature.
Cr	PE	Rito de la Presa & tributaries	From headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Recreational (R, F)	<i>The upper end of Policarpio (trib of La Presa) contains pure cutthroat populations, and other tributaries also have the potential for supporting RGCT. This segment, also known as La Junta Canyon, includes two developed campgrounds and many dispersed sites that attract out-of-state recreationists, primarily coming from TX, OK & LA. This segment of the Rito de la Presa (aka La Junta Canyon) is considered eligible for outstandingly remarkable "recreational" & "fish" values.</i>
Cr	41*	Policarpio Canyon	From private land boundary to fish barrier	Not Eligible	RGCT populations in Policarpio Canyon are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section, but this is an isolated segment. Recreational opportunities are not outstandingly remarkable in the region.
Cr	58	Rito de la Presa	Headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	Fish barrier is only partial and toward the headwaters of the stream, near Little Korea. The two developed campgrounds and most of the dispersed camping in this area are along this river. The recreational opportunities are not outstandingly remarkable in the region. The flow of this river has been altered to protect the adjacent forest road and campsites. There are several bridges with hardened, buttressed sides, culverts, low water crossings, and bank hardening to route the river around campsites that all degrade its free-flowing nature.
Cr	5*	Arellano Canyon	Headwaters to Rito de la Presa	Not Eligible	Recreational opportunities are not outstandingly remarkable, the original ORV of potential for supporting RGCT is not outstandingly remarkable.
Cr	62*	Sardinas Canyon	Headwaters to Rito de la Presa	Not Eligible	Recreational opportunities are not outstandingly remarkable, the original ORV of potential for supporting RGCT is not outstandingly remarkable.
Cr	29	Duran Creek	Headwaters to Rito de la Presa	Not Eligible	Recreational opportunities are not outstandingly remarkable, the original ORV of potential for supporting RGCT is not outstandingly remarkable.
Cr	PE	Warm Springs & Tierra Amarilla Cyn	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Wild (S, G, W)	<i>BLM segment of Tierra Amarilla has been listed as eligible for outstandingly remarkable "water quality", "geologic", "recreational", "cultural", "riparian" & "scenic" values. This upper segment is eligible for outstandingly remarkable "scenic", "geologic" & "wildlife" values.</i>
Cr	66*	Tierra Amarilla Canyon	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	There is a small scenic rock outcrop, but it is not remarkable, similar outcrops are found in the Latir area of the Questa RD and in the Rio Frijoles canyon on the Santa Fe NF. More remarkable scenic rocky cliffs can be found in the Cruses Basin area and in the Costilla Creek canyon on the Carson NF, as well as other places in the region. The scenic and geologic values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. No outstandingly remarkable wildlife values were identified.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	67*	Agua Caliente Canyon	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Scenic (H, C)	Warm springs flows into Agua Caliente Canyon, not Tierra Amarilla Canyon, and it doesn't seem that this canyon was part of the previous evaluation. The scenery and geologic values here are less remarkable than in Tierra Amarilla Canyon. No outstandingly remarkable wildlife values were identified. The 1854 Battle of Cieneguilla is historically significant, and the site is important for its historical interpretive value among battle sites in the Apache Wars of the late 1800s. The battlefield is eligible for the National Register of Historic Sites. The area around warm springs is also culturally important to many area tribes. There is unique traditional tribal importance tied to the springs, the creek, and the surrounding area. A classification of scenic is appropriate because the upper portion of the river has evidence of past timber harvest and there are many closed, inconspicuous roads that cross the river in places. The creek is confined in culverts in several locations.
Ca	PE	Canjilon Creek	From headwaters to private land boundary	Recreational (S, R, F, O)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "scenic", "recreational", "fish" (RGCT in upper reaches) & "riparian" (good species diversity) values.</i>
Ca	6	Canjilon Creek	From headwaters to the edge of the Continental Divide Trail visible foreground, above Canjilon Creek Campground (closed)	Scenic (R)	The riparian and scenic values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section, but this is an isolated segment and does not qualify as an outstandingly remarkable fishery. The opportunity to fish for RGCT contributes to the outstandingly remarkable recreational value. The Continental Divide Trail parallels the river for most of this segment, though it is actually old two-track road in many places. Canjilon Lakes developed campground is in the river corridor, and there is significant evidence of recent timber harvest. Below the Canjilon Lakes Campground the Continental Divide Trail turns away from the river to the east as Canjilon Creek enters a small, steep canyon. Below this point as the river passes the now closed Canjilon Creek Campground, it becomes braided and intermittent, and it offers less remarkable recreation opportunities. Scenic classification is appropriate.
Ca	PE	Canjilon Creek	From private land boundary below Canjilon to Forest boundary	Recreational (S, R, G, W, O)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "scenic", "recreational", "geologic" (Echo Amphitheater and fossil beds), "wildlife" (good diversity) and "ecological" (oldest Douglas fir in New Mexico) values.</i>
Ca	8	Canjilon Creek	From private land boundary below Canjilon to private land near Martinez Canyon	Not Eligible	The scenic and recreational opportunities in this segment are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Echo amphitheater and the fossil beds are further downstream. The wildlife value is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The oldest known Douglas fir in New Mexico is no longer thought to be in this area, but instead on the northern edge of the district.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Ca	5	Canjilon Creek	From private land boundary to Forest boundary	Recreational (S, R, G)	The scenic and recreational opportunities in this segment are outstandingly remarkable regionally. The canyon with dramatic sandstone cliffs is wider than the ¼ mile river corridor, but is dramatic and unique. The side canyons are popular for hunting and Echo Amphitheater is a unique recreational site. Fossil beds of similar quality and from similar time periods are found throughout the southwestern US (Utah and Arizona). These particular fossil beds are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The wildlife diversity found here is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The oldest known Douglas fir in New Mexico is no longer thought to be in this area, but instead on the northern edge of the district. The Recreational classification is appropriate.
Er	PE	El Rito Creek (aka El Rito Colorado)	From 15 Springs to FR 106 bridge.	Wild (F)	<i>These are the headwaters of El Rito Creek and the only section of the river that maintains a native RGCT fishery. The RGCT is surviving in only 5-7% of its historic range, which means that segments of river like these are important for the survival of the species. The outstandingly remarkable value that makes the upper reaches of El Rito Creek eligible for wild & scenic designation is the native cutthroat fishery.</i>
Er	32	El Rito Creek	From headwaters to fish barrier	Wild (F)	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Er	PE	El Rito Creek tributaries	From 15 Springs to FR 106 bridge.	Wild (F)	<i>Although in this area 15 Springs is the source of most of the water flowing into the main stem of El Rito Creek, the tributaries play a role in providing additional water during spring runoff when the cutthroat are spawning. The outstandingly remarkable value that makes the upper tributaries of El Rito Creek eligible for wild & scenic designation is the native cutthroat fishery.</i>
Er	11	Cañada de Chacon	From headwaters to El Rito Creek	Wild (F)	Provides some RGCT habitat. Populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Er	33*	Hachita Canyon	From headwaters to El Rito Creek	Wild (F)	Provides some RGCT habitat. Populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Er	44*	Salvador Canyon	From headwaters to El Rito Creek	Not Eligible	Providing runoff to an eligible river is not itself an outstandingly remarkable value. Salvador Canyon is below the fish barrier on El Rito Creek, and likely has non-native fish species.
Er	PE	El Rito Creek	From FR 106 bridge to Rio Chama	Recreational (C)	<i>This is the rest of El Rito Creek. There are a number of diversions along this section and it flows through a lot of private land. The outstandingly remarkable value of this segment is Sapawe ruins, a huge "classic" pueblo covering 26 acres along the stream course. Between 400 and 500 years ago the structure included several plazas and more than 2000 rooms, making it the largest pueblo ever found in the Southwest. The site is mostly on State and private lands, although there are some agricultural features on National Forest lands.</i>
Er	31	El Rito Creek	From fish barrier to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	This segment runs through multiple private inholdings and is highly developed and altered. The Sapawe Pueblo ruins are off the forest. The historic values on the forest (agricultural features) are not outstandingly remarkable. There are no cultural values that are regionally outstandingly remarkable.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Er	PE	Rio Chama	From Abiquiu Dam to El Rito Creek	Recreational (R, C)	<i>The section of the Rio Chama above Abiquiu Reservoir is already a Wild & Scenic River. This segment of the Rio Chama offers good recreational boating and fishing. A 200 year old archeological site called the Poshuouingue Pueblo is located along this stretch of the Rio Chama. The site is still used for study and is interpreted for visitors. This segment of the Rio Chama is considered eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "recreational" & "cultural" (archeological) values.</i>
Er	37	Rio Chama	From private land boundary to private land boundary	Not Eligible	Only a very short segment of the river between Abiquiu Dam and El Rito Creek is managed by the Forest Service. The Rio Chama in this area is mostly privately owned. The only segment that touches the Carson NF is less than a mile long where the river defines the boundary between the Carson and Santa Fe NFs. There are two low dams and one diversion in this section that effect its free flow. There is no recreational access to this section of the river from the Carson NF, and much better recreational opportunities are available just upstream, above Abiquiu Reservoir, as well as in other areas of the region. The Poshuouingue Pueblo archeological site does not meet the criteria of a Cultural ORV. It is located on the Santa Fe NF downstream from this river segment. While it may have some historical value as an ORV that value is not directly related to this river segment.
Er	PE	Rio Chama intermittent tributaries	From Abiquiu Dam to El Rito Creek.	Scenic (S)	<i>The landscape, just to the north of this portion of the Rio Chama is what many people refer to as "Georgia O'Keefe country". Through her paintings, O'Keefe made famous the landscape in this part of northern New Mexico. Steep drainages have sliced through the sandstone cliffs made up of many shades of yellow, pink, red, purple and blue-gray. This area attracts visitors from all over the world. They come to gaze, to photograph, to paint and to hike into the canyons created by Rio Chama's tributaries. These tributaries are eligible for their scenic value.</i>
Er	3	Arroyo del Chamiso	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Recreational (S)	Among the intermittent Rio Chama tributaries on the El Rito RD, Arroyo del Chamiso was judged to be the most outstandingly remarkable for its sandstone cliffs and steep drainages. Most visitors would only view the canyon from Highway 84, as it is not accessible from the bottom. There are no designated trails or open roads. The previous discussion of ORVs is more applicable to Arroyo del Yeso which was previously unevaluated and drains into Canjilon Creek, not the Rio Chama. Arroyo del Yeso and Arroyo del Chamiso are much larger and more dramatic than the other intermittent tributaries, and are the only two that are judged to be outstandingly remarkable. There is a closed road used by grazing permittees to access pit tanks that parallels most of this segment. There is an adjacent area that has been chained to remove piñon and juniper woodlands and create grasslands that are maintained with fire or thinning. There are 4 pit tanks in this river segment that impound water and impact the free-flowing nature of the river, therefore a recreational classification is appropriate
Er	2	Arroyo de Comales	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Arroyo de Comales is much smaller and its cliffs and scenery are less dramatic than either Chamiso or Yeso. No outstandingly remarkable values.
Er	4	Arroyo del Cobre	Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	This river is not free flowing. The canyon bottom is a designated forest road (84A). Any ephemeral flows are contained within the road. This area does not have the same ORVs as the canyons further north.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Er	1	Arroyo Blanco	Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	This river is not free flowing. The canyon bottom is a designated forest road (84T2). Any ephemeral flows are contained within the road. This area does not have the ORVs identified for canyons further north.
Er	PE	Rio Vallecitos	From El Rito Ranger District boundary to Felipito bridge.	Wild (S, R, F)	<i>This segment was chosen for several values. This section of the Rio Vallecitos cascades from its headwaters through unusual looking rock formations. It is fairly isolated, with little evidence of human habitation and influence. There are few signs of modifications to the landscape. These characteristics give this segment its "scenic" value. The segment supports healthy, wild populations of sport fish -- mainly rainbow and brown trout -- which attract anglers who travel various distances in order to find quality fishing. This section of the Vallecitos provides both outstandingly remarkable "recreational" & "fish" values.</i>
Er	42	Rio Vallecitos	From Jarosa Creek to FR 274	Wild (S, R)	The sport fishing opportunity contributes to the recreational value but is not an outstandingly remarkable fish value. The canyon rock formations and opportunities for solitude are regionally remarkable scenic and recreational values. The Continental Divide trail crosses this segment. The center portion crosses through the private El Vallecito Ranch which is developed, but Wild classification is appropriate on FS lands.
Ji	PE	Bancos Canyon	From Jicarilla Apache Reservation boundary to Forest boundary	Wild (R, W, C)	<i>Entire area is leased to gas development. This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "recreational" (popular hunting and hiking area and visiting historic sites), "wildlife" (key winter migratory corridor and holding area for deer, wintering bald eagles) and "cultural" (looking at proposing whole canyon as National Historic Site due to density of Anasazi and Navajo sites) values.</i>
Ji	1*	Bancos Canyon	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	There are two pit tanks in the upper section near open FR 310 and one near Rincon Quemado in the lower section that affect free flow. The river corridor is developed with a closed road that parallels this entire segment and several decommissioned natural gas wells within 100 yards of the river. FR 309B6 on the west end is a permit road to an active well pad that is near the river. The section in between is popular for hunting, primarily deer hunters. No data is available to indicate if this canyon gets many more hunters than the rest of the district, however it is believed to get no more or no less. Carracas Mesa seems to be the magnet area for deer hunters during rifle seasons while other hunts are more widespread. Bottom lands such as this provide very little hiding cover for wildlife. There are other hunting opportunities on adjacent BLM lands that are as good, and there are better opportunities in the region of comparison (particularly Colorado). There have been bald eagle roost tree identified in the past, however those can be found throughout the region of comparison and are unremarkable. The canyon has a high density of archeological sites, but there are other canyons on the district with higher site density. Also, the site density within the canyon is comparable to the larger region and is not unique. The presence of primarily Anasazi sites with a few Navajo sites is also typical of the archeology of the four corners region.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Ji	PE	Cabresto Canyon	From Jicarilla Apache Reservation boundary to Forest boundary	Recreational (S, W, C, O)	Entire area is leased to gas development. This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "wildlife" (key wintering area at east end, wintering bald eagles at east end) & "historic" (old school house & several homesteads) & "cultural" (major petroglyph area up Lion Canyon) values.
Ji	2*	Cabresto Canyon	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	There are three springs in close proximity in the east end of Cabresto Canyon which provide wildlife habitat. There is at least as dense a concentration of springs in other areas on the district (Carracas Canyon, lower Vaqueros Canyon, Valencia Canyon). There are other similar and higher quality wintering areas in the surrounding area, and certainly in the region of comparison. Cabresto Canyon has a high density of archeological sites, but does not have the highest density on the District. The site density is comparable to the archeology of the four corners region. The "major petroglyph area" is a single panel that is unique in terms of what has been recorded on the district, but not to the four corners region. The one unique archeological value for Cabresto Canyon is that the northeastern most known/recorded Navajo Pueblito site (a site type unique to the four corners) is located on Bancos Mesa (over a mile away) overlooking the Cabresto Canyon area, but this feature is not directly river related.
Ji	PE	Carracas Canyon	From Jicarilla Apache Reservation boundary to Colorado border	Recreational (W, H, O)	Entire area is leased to gas development. This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "wildlife" (key winter migratory corridor and holding area for deer, significant security area for large bucks, wintering bald eagles), "historic" (Boiler Springs and wagon road from Arboles to Dulce) & "riparian" (one of few places in area that can support riparian plant species) values.
Ji	3*	Carracas Canyon	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Recreational (H)	While this may be one of the few places on the district that supports riparian plants, and while at the district level it may provide important habitat for deer and eagles, it is not unique in the region of comparison. Even considering only the Carson NF, this canyon does not have unique riparian values. It is unremarkable even in comparison to streams within just 10 miles, including Turkey Canyon, Tio Quinto Canyon, Devil's Canyon, Cottonwood Canyon, Bancos Canyon, Amargo Creek, Navajo River, Piedra River, and the San Juan River. The "wagon road" is a portion of the Northern Route of the Old Spanish Trail. There is physical evidence of constructed trail for mule trains including evidence at drainage crossings of modifications to allow for crossing by small carts or wagons. The boiler at Boiler Springs was important locally for its use to prepare for sheep dipping in the 1870s.
Ji	PE	La Jara Canyon	From Jicarilla Apache Reservation boundary to Vaqueros Cyn	Recreational (W, C, O)	Entire area is leased to gas development. This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "wildlife" (key winter migratory corridor and security area for elk and deer, wintering bald eagles), "cultural" (Navajo refugee look-out towers are on the Register of National Historic Places) & "riparian" (one of few places in area that can support riparian plant species) values.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Ji	4*	La Jara Canyon	From Forest boundary to Vaqueros Canyon	Recreational (H)	While this may be one of the few places on the district that supports riparian plants, and while at the district level it may provide important habitat for deer and birds, it is not unique in the region of comparison (intersecting ecoregional provinces). Even considering only the Carson NF, this canyon does not have unique riparian values. It is unremarkable even in comparison to streams within just 10 miles, including Vaqueros Canyon, Frances Creek, Gobernador Canyon, and Munoz Creek. La Jara Canyon contains three Navajo Pueblito sites that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The canyon is also the location of a battle between the Navajo and the Spanish in 1705, during which the Spanish burned the Navajo homes and destroyed their milpas (corn fields).
Ji	PE	Vaqueros Canyon	From Jicarilla Apache Reservation boundary to Forest boundary	Recreational (S, W, C, O)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "scenic" (diversity of colors in fall vegetation), "wildlife" (east end is prime elk wintering habitat), "historic" (historic Vaqueros Ranger Station site) & "riparian" (one of few places in area that can support riparian plant species) values.</i>
Ji	5*	Vaqueros Canyon	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	While this may be one of the few places on the district that supports riparian plants, and while at the district level it may provide important habitat for elk, it is not unique in the region of comparison. Even compared to only the Carson NF, this canyon does not have unique riparian values. It is unremarkable even in comparison to streams within just 10 miles, including La Jara Wash, Dulce Creek, Frances Creek, Gobernador Canyon, and Munoz Creek. The fall colors may be notable on the district, but not when compared to the region or even the Carson NF. The historic Vaqueros Ranger Station is significant to the District, but not significant in the context of the four corners. It is one of many known previous locations for the Jicarilla Ranger District headquarters.
Qu	PE	Bitter Creek	From headwaters to Red River	Recreational (G, F, H)	<i>This segment of the Red River and its tributaries are determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "historic" (Anchor and Midnight complex), "geologic" (geothermal head scar, significant in size and scope) & "fish" (RGCT above dams) values.</i>
Qu	2	Bitter Creek	From headwaters to private land (section 21)	Recreational (R, H)	Bitter Creek has a long history of human use and modification. It was previously dammed and there are still dams on private land below this section. The stream channel has been altered by mining and mills and subsequent remediation. It is rerouted, and, while no longer impounded, its free flow is affected. RGCT populations are genetically pure but there is not a complete barrier. The geothermal head scar geologic features occur throughout the Red River drainage. Those along Bitter Creek are not the largest, or otherwise conspicuous examples, and are not regionally outstandingly remarkable. The Anchor and Midnight mine sites are historically significant, and outstandingly remarkable. The valley is remarkable for its historic value and interpretive and educational values based on the number of old mine sites. The recreational classification is appropriate.

RQ ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	62	Bitter Creek	From private land to Red River	Not Eligible	Bitter Creek has a long history of human use and modification. It was previously dammed and there are still dams on private land above this section. The stream channel has been altered by mining and mills and subsequent remediation. It is rerouted, though no longer impounded. Portions of this segment are incised in the old road. RGCT populations are genetically pure but there is not a complete barrier. The geothermal head scar geologic features are above this section, and are not regionally outstandingly remarkable. The Anchor and Midnight mine sites are also above this section. No other outstandingly remarkable historic values were found in this segment.
Qu	PE	Cabresto Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Recreational (F, O)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) and "ecological" (Arizona willow) values.</i>
Qu	5	Cabresto Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Forest road 134 parallels and crosses this segment multiple times. There are multiple road crossings with bank hardening and other road related infrastructure, such as rip-rapping, that impact free-flow. The lower portion of this segment is not free flowing due to several major diversion structures. The RGCT population is not outstandingly remarkable. Non-native fish species are present. Arizona willow occurs in other parts of the region of comparison. The riparian vegetation here is not outstandingly remarkable.
Qu	PE	Chuckwagon Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek.	Wild (F)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) values.</i>
Qu	7*	Chuckwagon Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Scenic (F)	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. There is a culvert where FR 1950 crosses this segment. An old road (old Midnight-Chuckwagon Trail) that parallels this segment has been mostly obliterated. This segment is less than 1 mile long and almost half of it is within ¼ mile of FR 1950. Scenic classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Columbine Creek & tributaries	From headwaters to Red River	Wild (F, W)	<i>The Columbine and its tributaries are within the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Study Area. These segments are determined to be eligible for their outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) & "wildlife" (RMBH) values.</i>
Qu	8	Columbine Creek	From headwaters to Deer Creek	Wild (F, R)	RMBH are common in the region, and are not directly river related. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. The Columbine-Twining National Recreation Trail parallels this segment. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	9	Columbine Creek	From Deer Creek to Columbine trailhead	Scenic (R)	Below the barrier RGCT populations are not genetically pure, non-native species are present, and there is not a full barrier that separates this section. The Columbine-Twining National Recreation Trail parallels this segment and the developed Columbine Campground is located along the river.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	12	Deer Creek	From headwaters to Columbine Creek	Wild (F, R)	RMBH are common in the region, and are not directly river related. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. The Columbine-Twining National Recreation Trail parallels the lower portion of this segment. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	41	Placer Fork	From headwaters to Columbine Creek	Wild (F)	RMBH are common in the region, and are not directly river related. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	60	Willow Fork	From headwaters to Placer Fork	Wild (F)	RMBH are common in the region, and are not directly river related. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Comanche Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Point	Recreational (S, R, G, F, W, H)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT), "wildlife" (elk calving area), "scenic", "recreational", "geologic" (Comanche Point) & "historic" values.</i>
Qu	10	Comanche Creek	From headwaters to Costilla Creek	Recreational (S, R, G, F, O)	The elk calving area is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. There are prehistoric hunting blinds in the river corridor, but they are common regionally and not outstandingly remarkable. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Geologically, Comanche Point is outstandingly remarkable. It is an example of impact melt with columnar jointing (proterozoic biotite) believed to have formed at the center of an impact crater. The wetland component is remarkable compared to other similar systems. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Foreman Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Wild (H)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "historic" values.</i>
Qu	14	Foreman Creek	From private property boundary to Comanche Creek	Recreational (F)	There is an old log cabin, but no historic values that are outstandingly remarkable regionally. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Recreational classification is appropriate due to existing culverts, closed roads.
Qu	PE	Gold Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Wild (F)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) values.</i>
Qu	17	Gold Creek	From private land boundary to Comanche Creek	Scenic (F)	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Scenic classification is appropriate due to old, administrative roads that are used by Vermejo Park to access the La Belle property which detract from the primitive character.

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Qu	63	Gold Creek	From headwaters to private land boundary	Not Eligible	This segment is on the La Belle private property.
Qu	PE	Grassy Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Scenic (F)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) values.</i>
Qu	19	Grassy Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Scenic (F)	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Scenic classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Holman Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Recreational (F)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) values.</i>
Qu	20	Holman Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Recreational (F)	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Jiron Creek	From headwaters to Cabresto Creek	Scenic (F)	<i>Jiron Creek was evaluated with the tributaries listed above [Cabresto Creek tributaries – not eligible]. It was determined that this segment is eligible for outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) values.</i>
Qu	65*	Jiron Canyon	From headwaters to Cabresto Creek	Not Eligible	RGCT are present but there are also non-native trout species, and there is no barrier that separates this segment. No additional ORVs have been identified.
Qu	PE	La Belle Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Recreational (F, W, H)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT), "wildlife" (elk calving area) & "historic" values.</i>
Qu	22	La Belle Creek	From private property boundary to Comanche Creek	Recreational (F)	The elk calving area is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. There is no remaining evidence of the old town of La Belle. There is a newer building (c. 1970) built by Vermejo Park on private land. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	La Cueva Creek	From headwaters to Costilla Creek	Scenic (F, W)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) & "wildlife" (elk wintering and calving area) values.</i>
Qu	23*	La Cueva Canyon	From headwaters to Costilla Creek	Scenic (F)	The elk calving area is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Scenic classification is appropriate due to closed (administrative) road.

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Qu	PE	Lake Fork & tributaries	From headwaters to Cabresto Lake	Wild (F)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) values.</i>
Qu	25	Lake Fork	From headwaters to Cabresto Lake	Wild (F)	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	24	Lagunitas Fork	From headwaters to Lake Fork	Wild (F)	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	4	Bull Creek	From headwaters to Lagunitas Fork	Wild (F)	RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Little Costilla Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Wild (F, W)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) & "wildlife" (elk calving area) values.</i>
Qu	29	Little Costilla Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Scenic (F)	The elk calving area is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Scenic classification is appropriate due to closed (administrative) road that parallels this segment.
Qu	PE	McCrystal Creek	From Forest boundary to just above McCrystal Campground	Recreational (S, R, F, W, H, O)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT), "wildlife" (elk wintering area), "scenic", "recreational", "historic" & "ecological" values.</i>
Qu	33	McCrystal Creek	From Forest boundary to just above McCrystal Campground	Not Eligible	The elk wintering area is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. Rio Grande cutthroat trout populations are genetically pure and there is a complete barrier, but this is an isolated segment. The historic values are not outstandingly remarkable. McCrystal place is fallen down and not remarkable. The segment below McCrystal place is not free-flowing. A headgate completely diverts the flow, and there is a partially functional dam near McCrystal campground that impounds water. The short segment above McCrystal Place is free flowing but there are no ORVs. The lower portion of McCrystal Creek, just above its confluence with North Ponil Creek is free flowing and does contain RGCT that are genetically pure. However, together these two named segments constitute a single stream channel that provides fish habitat. From its headwaters, North Ponil Creek does not contain channelized flow that would provide fish habitat until it meets McCrystal Creek below McCrystal campground. Therefore, McCrystal Creek and North Ponil Creek do not form a network of streams, and do not therefore meet the criteria for an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.
Qu	PE	Middle Ponil Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Recreational (W, H, O)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "wildlife", "historic" & "ecological" values.</i>

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Qu	35	Middle Ponil Creek	From headwaters to FR 1950	Not Eligible	Wildlife, historic, and ecological values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. RGCT population is not genetically pure.
Qu	36	Middle Ponil Creek	From FR 1950 to fish barrier	Not Eligible	Wildlife, historic, and ecological values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. RGCT population is not genetically pure.
Qu	37	Middle Ponil Creek	From barrier to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Wildlife, historic, and ecological values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. There is significant infestation by leafy spurge in this segment. RGCT population is not genetically pure.
Qu	PE	North Ponil Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Wild (H)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "historic" values.</i>
Qu	38	North Ponil Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	There are no historic values that are outstandingly remarkable regionally. The town of Ponil burned in the Ponil Fire and is not outstanding. RGCT populations are genetically pure and there is a complete barrier but this is an isolated segment. From its headwaters, North Ponil Creek does not contain channelized flow that would provide fish habitat until it meets McCrystal Creek below McCrystal campground. There is a single stream channel that provides fish habitat. The upper portion is called McCrystal Creek and the lower portion is called North Ponil Creek but together they do not form a network of streams, and do not therefore meet the criteria for an outstandingly remarkable fisheries value.
Qu	PE	Pioneer Creek	From headwaters to Red River	Recreational (H, C)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "historic" & "cultural" values. There are numerous mine and mill sites along the Pioneer.</i>
Qu	39	Pioneer Creek	From headwaters to Red River	Not Eligible	There are no Cultural ORVs. The mine and mill sites along the river are not outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Qu	PE	Powderhouse Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Wild (F, W)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT) & "wildlife" (elk wintering and calving area) values.</i>
Qu	42*	Powderhouse Canyon	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Recreational (F)	The elk wintering and calving areas are not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. There are many closed roads in this area that detract from the primitive character. There is an existing fish barrier in the middle of this segment that impacts free flow and impounds water, therefore a recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Red River	From Goose Ck to Fawn Lakes Campground	Recreational (S, R, G)	<i>There was great debate on whether on this segment of the Red River. There has been a great deal of modification – especially where it flows through the town. It was determined to be eligible for outstandingly remarkable "recreational", "scenic" & "geologic" values. It was concluded that the town of Red River would not attract the number of recreationists to the area without these values.</i>

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	46	Red River	From Goose Creek to canyon mouth below Hwy 522	Not Eligible	This segment is not free-flowing. It runs through the town of Red River and through multiple private inholdings. As alluded to by the previous evaluation, the free-flowing condition has been highly modified by construction of Highway 38, multiple stream crossings, and channelization. The same is true downstream through the canyon where there are additional impacts from the mine and the town of Questa.
Qu	PE	Red River & tributaries	From bridge on Hwy 522 to W&S River designation boundary.	Recreational (S, G, O)	<i>This segment of the Red River is just above a segment already designated as a Wild & Scenic River. It is considered eligible for outstandingly remarkable "scenic" (below the hatchery), "geologic" (beginning of the gorge) & "riparian" (intact, also diversity of north & south facing vegetation) values.</i>
Qu	45	Red River	From canyon mouth below Hwy 522 to fish hatchery	Recreational (R)	The Red River is the only named, perennial river in this area (no tributaries are being considered). The identified scenic values are below the hatchery, in the existing designated area. The riparian values in this segment are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The geologic values are less remarkable than those in the lower canyon. The recreational fishing opportunities are outstandingly remarkable due to the accessible and well stocked fishery. There is a road that parallels much of this segment. The lower portion is diverted which effects the river's free-flowing nature. There are power lines in the corridor, and substantial development around the fish hatchery. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Red River & tributaries	From their headwaters to Red River/upper gaging station	Wild (S, R, W, H, C, O)	<i>This segment of the Red River & its tributaries are determined to be eligible for their outstandingly remarkable "scenic" (Sawmill Park & East Fork waterfalls), "recreational" (fishing and hiking attraction), "wildlife" (RMBH, Sangre de Cristo pea clam, boreal owl), "historic" (Elizabethtown ditch complex) & "ecological" (Arizona willow) values.</i>
Qu	34	Middle Fork	From below Middle Fork lake to private land	Scenic (H)	Middle fork lake is altered (dammed). Below the lake the river is free flowing. The Sangre de Cristo pea clam is only found in Middle Fork Lake, not in the river below. RMBH and boreal owls are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Arizona willow is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Elizabethtown ditch no longer diverts water, but historically started on the Middle Fork, collected water from the East Fork and Sawmill Creek, and carried it to the east slopes of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Scenic classification is appropriate due to an old road/ATV trail that parallels this river segment and the day use site at the lake.
Qu	58	West Fork	From headwaters to Middle Fork	Not Eligible	The Sangre de Cristo pea clam is only found in Middle Fork Lake. RMBH and boreal owls are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Arizona willow is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The Elizabethtown ditch did not connect the West Fork.
Qu	13	East Fork	From headwaters to trailhead	Wild (S, H)	The Sangre de Cristo pea clam is only found in Middle Fork Lake. RMBH and boreal owls are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Arizona willow is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Elizabethtown ditch no longer diverts water, but historically started on the Middle Fork, collected water from the East Fork and Sawmill Creek, and carried it to the east slopes of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Wild classification is appropriate.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	53	Sawmill Creek	From headwaters to East Fork	Wild (S, H)	The Sangre de Cristo pea clam is only found in Middle Fork Lake. RMBH and boreal owls are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Arizona willow is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Elizabethtown ditch no longer diverts water, but historically started on the Middle Fork, collected water from the East Fork and Sawmill Creek, and carried it to the east slopes of the Sangre de Cristo mountains. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Rio Costilla Creek	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Recreational (R, F, O)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT), "recreational" & "riparian" values.</i>
Qu	11	Costilla Creek	From Forest boundary to fish barrier	Recreational (S, R, F)	Riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. At the time of this evaluation this segment is being treated with piscicide in order to remove non-native fish and restore native fish habitat. Once this multi-year process is complete the separation of native fish from non-native fish will be maintained via the recently constructed fish barrier. RGCT populations will be genetically pure, no non-native species will be present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	64	Costilla Creek	From fish barrier to Forest boundary	Recreational (S, R)	Riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Non-native species are present below the fish barrier. The deep narrow canyon was judged to be outstandingly remarkable for scenery. This is a very popular fly-fishing stream. Recreational classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Rio Hondo tributaries	From Long Canyon to Forest boundary	Wild (S, R, F, W, O)	<i>Tributaries include Long, Gavilan, Italianos, Manzanita, South Fork & Yerba. All are within either the Wheeler Peak Wilderness or the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Study Area. All are determined eligible for outstandingly remarkable "scenic", "fish" (RGCT), "wildlife" (RMBH), & "riparian" (S. Fork is untouched) values.</i>
Qu	16*	Gavilan Canyon	From headwaters to private land boundary	Not Eligible	RMBH population is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. RGCT populations are genetically pure, but non-native species are present, and there is no barrier that separates this section. The scenic and riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable compared to other similar regional rivers.
Qu	21	Italianos Canyon	From headwaters to private land boundary	Not Eligible	RMBH population is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. The scenic and riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable compared to other similar regional rivers. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section, but this is an isolated segment.
Qu	55	South Fork	From headwaters to private land boundary	Not Eligible	RMBH population is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. The scenic and riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable compared to other similar regional rivers. RGCT populations are genetically pure, but non-native species are present, and there is not a full barrier that separates this section.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	32*	Manzanita Canyon	From headwaters to private land boundary	Not Eligible	RMBH population is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. The scenic and riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable compared to other similar regional rivers. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section, but this is an isolated segment.
Qu	61*	Yerba Canyon	From headwaters to private land boundary	Not Eligible	RMBH population is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. The scenic and riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable compared to other similar regional rivers. RGCT populations are genetically pure, but non-native species are present, and there is not a full barrier that separates this section.
Qu	66*	Long Canyon	From headwaters to Rio Hondo	Not Eligible	RMBH population is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. The scenic and riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable compared to other similar regional rivers. RGCT presence is unknown and genetics have not been tested, but there is not a full barrier that separates this section.
Qu	PE	Rito del Medio	From their headwaters to Forest boundary	Wild (W)	<i>Most of the Rito del Medio is within the Latir Peak Wilderness. It is determined eligible outstandingly remarkable "wildlife" values. It supports the habitat for the rare white-tailed ptarmigan & RMBH.</i>
Qu	50	Rito del Medio	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	White-tailed ptarmigan is rare, and its habitat is rare regionally. However, most high alpine streams provide potential habitat (willow), the same habitat is found outside of stream corridors, and white-tailed ptarmigan are not stream dependent (not directly river related). There is nothing about this segment of Rito del Medio that makes it more important to ptarmigan than any other high alpine stream. RMBH are common regionally, and their habitat is not directly river related.
Qu	PE	San Cristobal Creek	From their headwaters to Forest boundary	Wild (F, W, O)	<i>Most of this segment (from its headwaters to the community of San Cristobal) is within the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness Study Area. It is considered eligible for outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT), "wildlife" (RMBH) & "riparian" values.</i>
Qu	52	San Cristobal Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	There is a diversion for the community water supply and acequia system just below the wilderness boundary. The creek is not free flowing below this point. RMBH population is not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. There are RGCT in the upper sections, but there is no barrier that separates this section. The riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Qu	PE	Vidal Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Wild (F, W, H)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (RGCT), "wildlife" (elk calving area) & "historic" values.</i>

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	57	Vidal Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Wild (S, F)	The elk calving areas are not outstandingly remarkable regionally, and not directly river related. Clayton camp has multiple intact historic structures, but is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Wild classification is appropriate.
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio de los Pinos</i>	<i>From Colorado border to Forest boundary</i>	<i>Scenic (S, R, G, F, W, H, C)</i>	<i>There was question as to whether or not to separate the east and west portions of the river. The east side contains diversions, but it was concluded that the diversions don't take away from the outstandingly remarkable values. This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "scenic" (Cumbres-Toltec RR goes through, dramatic rock outcrops and visual diversity), "recreational" (regionally known for wildlife viewing and fishing), "geologic" (gorge), "fish" (very little imbeddedness, managed for brown trout), "wildlife" (riparian corridor, cliffs, diversity) & "historic/cultural" (Cumbres-Toltec RR, irrigation) values.</i>
Tp	36	Rio de los Pinos	From Colorado border to private land boundary	Recreational (S, R, G)	Rock outcrops and the gorge are outstandingly remarkable scenic and geologic values. The Proterozoic rocks in the Rio de Los Pinos valley are gneiss, schist, and amphibolite intruded by granite and dikes of aplite and pegmatite. Fishing opportunities and the Cumbres-Toltec railroad are outstanding recreational values. Wildlife viewing opportunities, brown trout habitat, riparian corridor, and wildlife diversity are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Recreational classification is appropriate due to the parallel railroad.
Tp	37	Rio de los Pinos	From private land boundary to private land boundary	Recreational (S, R)	The irrigation diversions are on private land above and below this segment which is free-flowing. Fishing and camping are popular in this segment in the scenic gorge. Recreational classification is appropriate due to parallel FR 284 and developed campgrounds.
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio de los Pinos tributaries (Osier Fork, Brazos & tribs)</i>	<i>From Tierra Amarilla Grant boundary to Colorado border</i>	<i>Recreational (S, R, G, F, W, H, C)</i>	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "scenic" (unique, forms suddenly, drops quickly in elevation), "recreational" (regionally known for wildlife viewing and fishing), "geologic" (unique pumice outcrops), "fish" (supports good populations of brook trout) & "wildlife" (always there) values.</i>
Tp	33	Osier Fork Rio Brazos	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	This river was previously misidentified as a tributary of the Rio de los Pinos. None of the previously identified ORVs are outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Tp	25	East Fork Rio Brazos	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	This river was previously misidentified as a tributary of the Rio de los Pinos. None of the previously identified ORVs are outstandingly remarkable regionally.
Tp	32	Osier Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	This segment is not free flowing. It has become channelized in FR 74.

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio de los Pinos tributaries (Beaver & Diablo)</i>	<i>From headwaters to Los Pinos</i>	<i>Wild (F, W, H)</i>	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (abundance of large fish), "wildlife" (good diversity) & "historic" (structures, cabins, gold mining & panning) values.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>Beaver Creek</i>	<i>Headwaters to private land boundary</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>None of the previously identified ORVs are outstandingly remarkable regionally. No additional ORVs have been identified.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>Diablo Creek</i>	<i>Headwaters to Beaver Creek</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>None of the previously identified ORVs are outstandingly remarkable regionally. No additional ORVs have been identified.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio San Antonio</i>	<i>From Stewart Meadows to Forest boundary</i>	<i>Scenic (S, G, W)</i>	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "scenic" (box canyon), "geologic" (diverse formations) & "wildlife" (good hiding cover for deer) values.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>Rio San Antonio</i>	<i>From Stewart Meadows to Forest boundary</i>	<i>Scenic (S)</i>	<i>The steep canyon and surrounding plains are outstandingly remarkable scenic values. Geologic and wildlife values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. The geology is part of a small extension of the Servilleta basalt that makes up the western side of the Taos volcanic field. Scenic classification is appropriate due to FR 87 and FR 118 which parallel most of this segment. There is also a small inholding in the middle of this segment with some development, and range improvements (fences, tanks) in the river corridor.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio San Antonio</i>	<i>From Rio Nutrias to Stewart Meadows</i>	<i>Recreational (W, H)</i>	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "wildlife" (potential southwestern willow flycatcher habitat), "historic" (old houses on private land) values.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>Rio San Antonio</i>	<i>From Rio Nutrias to Stewart Meadows</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>The identified Historic ORV is on private land, and is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Potential southwestern willow flycatcher habitat is present throughout the region, there is nothing outstandingly remarkable about the habitat here. Stewart meadows are partially formed by low earthen dams that impede free flow. The bridge on FR 87 includes rip-rap and bank hardening that also affect free-flow.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio San Antonio tributaries (Tanques and Nutrias)</i>	<i>From headwaters to Rio San Antonio</i>	<i>Scenic (F)</i>	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (Grade A RGCT population) values.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>Tanques Canyon</i>	<i>From headwaters to Rio Nutrias</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>Tanques (tanks in English) Canyon contains 2 pit tanks which impound water. The river is not free-flowing. Non-native fish are present.</i>

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Tp	38	Rio Nutrias	From headwaters to Rio San Antonio	Not Eligible	There are 3 tanks in this section that impound water. The river is not free-flowing. Non-native fish are present. There is no barrier on this section.
Tp	PE	Rio San Antonio tributaries (Tio Grande)	From headwaters to Rio San Antonio	Wild (F)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (Grade A RGCT population) values.</i>
Tp	19	Cañada Tio Grande	From headwaters to Rio San Antonio	Not Eligible	Non-native fish are present. No other outstandingly remarkable values were identified.
Tp	PE	Rio Tusas	From headwaters to private land	Wild (F)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "fish" (Grade A RGCT population) values.</i>
Tp	43	Rio Tusas	From headwaters to section 16 tank	Wild (R)	RGCT genetics are unknown, however there is no barrier on this section. This river segment is crossed by Trail 41, and the Continental Divide Trail. In combination with sport fishing opportunities these recreational values are outstandingly remarkable. There is a tank in section 16 that impounds water and affects free flow. This is a scenic area with small canyons, open meadows, and large aspen stands but it is not outstandingly remarkable. Rio Vallecitos just to the south or areas in the Cruces Basin, or Rio San Antonio just to the north on the district are at least as scenic. There are many more scenic areas in the region of comparison.
Tp	52	Rio Tusas	From section 16 tank to private land	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	PE	Rio Tusas Box	From Spring Creek to private boundary	Wild (S, G)	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "scenic" (box canyon, with pools of clear water) & "geologic" (diverse formations) values. [This section was duplicated in the El Rito Ranger District during the previous evaluation.]</i>
Er	PE	Rio Tusas	From Spring Creek to Las Tablas (Tusas Box)	Wild (S, R, F)	<i>This segment was chosen for its "scenic", "recreational" & "fish" values. The high canyon walls with unique rock formations provide a scenic backdrop for the angler or recreationist seeking an isolated place. This stretch of the Tusas is inaccessible by vehicle, so a person must make a special effort to hike into the box. The Tusas box supports good populations of game fish. [This section was duplicated in the Tres Piedras Ranger District during the previous evaluation.]</i>
Tp	44	Rio Tusas Box	From Spring Creek to Las Tablas	Not Eligible	The scenery and geology may be remarkable, however the river is not free flowing. Most of this section is private inholdings with irrigated agriculture diverted from the river.
Tp	PE	Rio Vallecitos	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Scenic (S, G, H)	This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "scenic", "geologic" (rock cliff formations) & "historic" (mining evidence) values

RD ⁹	ID ¹⁰	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs ¹¹	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Tp	45	Rio Vallecitos	From Forest boundary to private land (above Placer Creek)	Not Eligible	There is very little evidence of historic mining and it is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. A few hundred feet of this segment passes through a narrow rocky canyon which is pretty, but not geologically outstandingly remarkable. The rock formations are much less remarkable than the Brazos Cliffs just to the west, or the Tusas Box or Upper Rio de los Pinos canyons on the district. Other than the little narrow canyon the scenery is very unremarkable for Northern New Mexico. Similar scenery is found in many streams in the Rio San Antonio and Cruces Basin area on the district, more outstanding scenery is found in the Valle Vidal on the Carson or the Valles Caldera National Preserve.
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio Vallecitos tributaries (Placer Creek)</i>	<i>From Hopewell Lake to Forest boundary</i>	<i>Recreational (G, H)</i>	<i>This segment is determined to be eligible for its outstandingly remarkable "geologic" (unique rock patterns) & "historic" (mining town of Hope) values.</i>
Tp	34	Placer Creek	From Hopewell Lake to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	The geology in this segment is not outstandingly remarkable regionally. Rock formations are similar to what is found in the Rio Vallecitos canyon. The historic town of Hope is flooded beneath Hopewell Lake. There is other mining evidence in the form of dredging and diversion which effect the free-flowing nature of the river.

Previously Ineligible River Segments

Rivers and groups of rivers that were previously determined to not be eligible (by the Carson NF's 1994-2001 evaluations) are listed alphabetically by ranger district in Table 5. The previous evaluation is shown in *italics with a gray background* with the symbol "PE" in place of an identification number. The current evaluation of each river segment that was part of a previous evaluation of a river or group of rivers is listed by number below in un-italicized text with a white background. In some cases the definition of the river segment has changed from the previous evaluation (a river may now be split into multiple segments, private land may now be excluded). Where rivers were previously grouped they have now been evaluated individually. In some cases the classification may have been adjusted. Any classification changes are discussed in the narrative. In some cases additional information or clarification has been added to the narrative.

Table 5. Eligibility evaluations of river segments previously evaluated as being ineligible

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	PE	East & West Forks of Luna Creek & Bull Canyon	From headwaters to Forest Boundary	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Cr	64	West Fork Luna Creek	From headwaters to Forest Boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Bull Canyon does not contain a named river.
Cr	30	East Fork Luna Creek	From headwaters to Forest Boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Bull Canyon does not contain a named river.
Cr	PE	Knob Creek	From headwaters to Rito Angostura	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Cr	38	Knob Creek	From headwaters to Rito Angostura	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	PE	Rio Chiquito/ Dinner Canyon	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Cr	42	Rio Chiquito	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Dinner Canyon does not contain a named river.
Cr	PE	Rio Chiquito & tributaries	From headwaters to Rio Grande del Rancho	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	43	Rio Chiquito	From headwaters to Rio Grande del Rancho	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	56	Rito Bonito	Headwaters to Rio Chiquito	Not Eligible	Rito Bonito is the only named tributary. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	PE	<i>Rio de Truchas</i>	<i>From Truchas Land Grant boundary to Forest boundary with BLM</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.</i>
Cr	46	Rio de Truchas	From Truchas Land Grant boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	There is a fish barrier, three acequia diversions, and a pit tank that affect free-flow. RGCT are hybridized and non-native species are present. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	PE	<i>Rio Don Fernando</i>	<i>From acequia diversion to mouth of Taos Canyon</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>Although communities below this segment of the Rio don Fernando depend on the flows from the don Fernando & its tributaries, there are many such streams in Taos County that people rely on for irrigation. Also the historic acequia system is located below the mouth of Taos Canyon, outside of this section. This segment was not found to be outstandingly remarkable.</i>
Cr	47	Rio Fernando de Taos	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	PE	<i>Rio Don Fernando tributaries (Capulin & Tienditas Creeks)</i>	<i>From acequia diversion to mouth of Taos Canyon</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>Capulin & Tienditas creeks were chosen as the tributaries in this section of the Rio don Fernando most likely to have any outstandingly remarkable values. They were determined not to be eligible, therefore the other tributaries were also considered not eligible.</i>
Cr	63	Tienditas Creek	Headwaters to Rio Don Fernando	Not Eligible	Capulin Canyon is not a named river. No outstandingly remarkable values were identified for Tienditas Creek.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	PE	Rito Angostura	From headwaters to Angostura trailhead	Not Eligible	<i>A Bill to include Rito Angostura in the W & S River System was introduced to Congress by a past First District US Representative (no longer in office) through the encouragement of several special interest groups. The Bill has yet to be passed. There has been much debate over the free-flowing status of the Rito Angostura. La Sierra Ditch diverts the entire upper Angostura watershed to Holman, 25 miles away. The lower reaches are perennial as a result of a highly charged watershed with many seeps & springs. The Sierra Ditch has been in existence since the 1850's. Considering this streamcourse to be eligible would be perceived as a threat to the consistent supply of water communities of Holman, Mora & Chacon have depended for the past 150 years from the Sierra Ditch.</i>
Cr	55	Rito Angostura	Headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	The upper portion of the Rito Angostua is not free flowing. The entirety of the overland flow is diverted in the headwaters into the La Sierra ditch. Eligibility below the diversion would have no impact the water supply to those communities that rely on the acequia. Groundwater resupplies the stream and there is some flow lower down that supports Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) populations that are genetically pure. No non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section, however this is an isolated segment.
Cr	PE	Rito de la Olla tributaries (Frijoles, Rito Quien Sabe & Palociento)	From headwaters to Rio Grande del Rancho	Not Eligible	<i>The tributaries to Rito de la Olla do not sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable "historic" or "cultural" values found along the main stem of Rito de la Olla. These tributaries are not found to be eligible.</i>
Cr	40	Palociento Creek	Headwaters to Rito de la Olla	Not Eligible	RGCT populations in Palociento Creek are genetically pure, and there is a full barrier that separates this section, but non-native brown trout are present.
Cr	60	Rito Quien Sabe	Headwaters to Rito de la Olla	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	33	Frijoles Creek	Headwaters to Rito de la Olla	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	PE	Upper Rio Pueblo & tributaries (Raton Canyon)	From Alamos diversion to Rito Angostura	Not Eligible	<i>Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found. Nearly all of this section flows through private land.</i>
Cr	50	Upper Rio Pueblo	From headwaters to Rito Angostura	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	2	Alamos Creek	From headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Ca	PE	Canjilon Creek	From private land boundary to private land boundary of Canjilon	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Ca	7	Canjilon Creek	From private land boundary to private land boundary of Canjilon	Not Eligible	There is a buttressed bridge on FR 599 that affects free-flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Ca	PE	Rio Cebolla	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Ca	10	Rio Cebolla	From Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Ca	PE	Rio Nutrias	From Hidden Lake to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Ca	12	Rio Nutrias	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	PE	Cañada de los Comanches & tributaries	From headwaters to El Rito Ranger District boundary	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Tp	12	Cañada de los Comanches	Headwaters to Forest boundary (in Tres Piedras RD)	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. There are no named tributaries.
Er	PE	El Rito Creek Tributaries	From 15 Springs to FR 106 bridge	Not Eligible	The tributaries to this section of El Rito Creek do not sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable "cultural" value Sapawe ruins provide the mainstem of El Rito Creek. These tributaries are not found to be eligible.
Er	26	Cañada Jose Maria	From headwaters to El Rito Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	36	Ojito Chico	From headwaters to El Rito Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Er	29	Cañada Sierra	From headwaters to El Rito Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	28	Cañada Piedra Amarilla	From headwaters to El Rito Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	20	Cañada del Protrero	From headwaters to Arroyo Seco	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	7	Arroyo Seco	From headwaters to El Rito Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	5	Arroyo del Perro	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	6	Arroyo del Perro del Oeste	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	PE	Rio Tusas	From Las Tablas to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Er	39	Rio Tusas	From Las Tablas to Cañada de los Comanches	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	40	Rio Tusas	Cañada de los Comanches to Rio Ojo Caliente	Not Eligible	Acequia diversions affect free flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	PE	Rio Tusas tributaries	From Las Tablas to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Er	12	Cañada de la Jarita	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	14	Cañada de los Apaches	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	16	Cañada de los Tanques	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	10	Cañada de Abrevadero	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	15	Cañada de los Comanches	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Er	PE	Rio Vallecitos tributaries	From El Rito Ranger District boundary to Felipito bridge	Not Eligible	The tributaries to this section of Rio Vallecitos do not sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable "scenic", "recreational" & "fish" values found along the mainstem of Rio Vallecitos. These tributaries are not found to be eligible.
Er	25	Cañada Jarosita	Headwaters to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	23	Cañada Escondida	Headwaters to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	PE	Rio Vallecitos	From Felipito bridge to Cañada del Rancho	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Er	41	Rio Vallecitos	From FR 274 to Cañada del Rancho	Not Eligible	Acequia diversions affect free flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	PE	Rio Vallecitos tributaries	From Felipito bridge to Cañada del Rancho	Not Eligible	The Rio Borracho was thought to be the tributary in this section of the Rio Vallecitos most likely to have any outstandingly remarkable values, but was determined not to be eligible. For this reason the other tributaries were also considered not eligible.
Er	19	Cañada del Oso	Headwaters to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	27	Cañada Llaves	Headwaters to Cañada Alamosa	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	8	Cañada Alamosa	Headwaters to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	24	Cañada Gallina	Headwaters to Cañada Alamosa	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	9	Cañada Burro	Headwaters to Cañada Alamosa	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	18	Cañada del Borracho	Headwaters to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	34	Middle Fork Cañada del Agua	Headwaters to Cañada del Agua	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Er	35	North Fork Cañada del Agua	Headwaters to Cañada del Agua	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	17	Cañada del Agua	Confluence of Middle and North Forks to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	45	South Fork Cañada del Agua	Headwaters to Cañada del Agua	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	13	Cañada de la Jarita	Headwaters to Cañada del Agua	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	21	Cañada del Puertecito	Headwaters to Cañada de la Jarita	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	22	Cañada del Rancho	Headwaters to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	PE	Rio Vallecitos (& Rio Caliente)	From Cañada del Rancho to El Rito Ranger District boundary	Not Eligible	<i>This segment of the Rio Vallecitos has scenic rock formations along 2 small sections, but they were not determined to be outstandingly remarkable. This segment had no other values that were outstandingly remarkable either.</i>
Er	43	Rio Vallecitos	From Cañada del Rancho to Rio Ojo Caliente	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	38	Rio Ojo Caliente	From Rio Vallecitos/Tusas confluence to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	PE	Spring Creek, tributary of Rio Tusas	From El Rito Ranger District boundary (Deer Park) to Rio Tusas.	Not Eligible	<i>Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.</i>
Er	46	Spring Creek	From headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

RQ	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	PE	Allen Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	1	Allen Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section, but this is an isolated segment.
Qu	PE	Cabresto Creek tributaries (excluding Lake Fork & Jiron)	From headwaters to Cabresto Creek (between headwaters & Forest boundary)	Not Eligible	These tributaries include Rito Claro, Bonito & Italian Creeks. Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	49	Rito Claro	Headwaters to Cabresto Creek	Wild (O)	The stand age along this 0.9 mile river segment is outstandingly remarkable, with some of the oldest Douglas-fir trees documented in the Southwest. Innermost pith dates from tree-ring records range between the early and late 1200s: ten trees date to the mid- to late-1200s, four trees to before 1230, and the innermost pith of the oldest tree at the Rito Claro site to 1210. Located on a gradual, south-facing slope of rocky soils, the stand comprises mainly small-diameter Douglas-fir trees (> 30 cm dbh). As Swetnam and Brown (1992) ¹² note, "[a]t first glance, it is not at all obvious that the Rito Claro stand is ancient." The authors attribute the low growth rate to conditions like the shallow, rocky soils found in Rito Claro and, in the case of other old-growth sites in the Southwest, also steep slopes. Wild classification is appropriate.
Qu	PE	Lake Fork (Rio Hondo)	From headwaters to Rio Hondo	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	26	Lake Fork (Rio Hondo)	From headwaters to Rio Hondo	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	PE	Lake Fork (Cabresto Creek)	From Cabresto Lake to Cabresto Creek	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	27	Lake Fork (Cabresto Creek)	From Cabresto Lake to Cabresto Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

¹² Swetnam, T.W. and P. M. Brown. 1992. *Oldest Known Conifers in the Southwestern United States: Temporal and Spatial Patterns of Maximum Age*, Paper Presented at Workshop on Old-Growth Forests in the Rocky Mountains and Southwest: The Status of Our Knowledge, Portal, AZ.

RQ	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	PE	Leandro Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	28	Leandro Creek	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Cutthroat genetics are pure, and a full barrier exists but Brook Trout are present.
Qu	PE	Mallette Creek & tributaries	From headwaters to Red River	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	31	Mallette Creek	From headwaters to Red River	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. There are no named tributaries.
Qu	PE	Placer Creek	From headwaters to Red River	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	40	Placer Creek	From headwaters to Red River	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	PE	Red River & tributaries	From their headwaters to Red River (between upper gaging station & Goose Ck)	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	44	Red River	East Fork/Middle Fork confluence to Goose Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. This segment flows mainly through private land.
Qu	18	Goose Creek	From headwaters to Red River	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	PE	Red River	From Fawn Lakes Campground to Eagle Rock diversion	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	43	Red River	From Fawn Lakes Campground to Eagle Rock diversion	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	PE	Rio Hondo	From Long Canyon to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	48	Rio Hondo	From headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	PE	Rio Grande tributaries (Latir Peak Wilderness), except Rito del Medio	From their headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Tributaries include Penasquito, Pinabete, Rito Primero, Jarocito & West Latir – the majority of which are within the Latir Peak Wilderness. It was determined that none of these supported outstandingly remarkable values.
Qu	59	West Latir Creek	Forest boundary to forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Peñasquito and Jaracito Canyons do not contain a named stream.
Qu	51	Rito Primero	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Peñasquito and Jaracito Canyons do not contain a named stream.
Qu	6	Cañada Pinabete	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Peñasquito and Jaracito Canyons do not contain a named stream.
Qu	PE	Rio Grande/Red River tributaries except San Cristobal	From their headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	30	Lobo Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	15	Gallina Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	PE	Springwagon Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Qu	56	Springwagon Creek	From headwaters to Comanche Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. There is not usually enough flow to support RGCT. To the extent that this river provides RGCT habitat, it is being protected indirectly as a tributary to Comanche Creek which is eligible.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Tp	PE	Rio Conejos tributaries (Apache & Arkansas)	From headwater to Colorado border	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Tp	2	Apache Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	3	Arkansas Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	PE	Rio de los Pinos (Lola Creek)	From headwaters to Los Pinos	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Tp	30	Lola Creek	From headwaters to Los Pinos	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	18	Cañada Tanques	Headwaters to Lola Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	PE	Rio de los Pinos (Atencio, Florentino, Jarocita & Hondo)	From headwaters to Los Pinos	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Tp	16	Cañada Jarocita	From headwaters to Los Pinos	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Cañon Hondo, Atencio, and Florentino do not contain named streams.
Tp	PE	Rio San Antonio	From headwaters to Rio Nutrias	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Tp	40	Rio San Antonio	From headwaters to Rio Nutrias	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	PE	Rio San Antonio tributaries (Lagunitas)	From headwaters to Rio San Antonio	Not Eligible	Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.
Tp	27	Lagunitas Creek	From headwaters to Rio San Antonio	Not Eligible	There are 2 pit tanks at the upper end near FR 87 that affect free flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio Tusas</i>	<i>From private land boundary to Tusas Box</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	42	Rio Tusas	From private land boundary to Tusas Box	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio Tusas tributaries (Little Tusas)</i>	<i>From headwaters to Rio Tusas</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	28	Little Tusas Creek	From headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Much of this segment runs through private land.
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio Tusas tributaries (Cow Creek)</i>	<i>From headwaters to Rio Tusas</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	20	Cow Creek	From headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
<i>Er</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio Tusas tributaries</i>	<i>From Spring Creek to Las Tablas</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>The tributaries to this section of Rio Tusas do not sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable "scenic", "recreational" & fish" values found along the mainstem of Rio Tusas. These tributaries are not found to be eligible.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	47	Sawmill Creek	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
<i>Tp</i>	40	Cañada de la Agua	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
<i>Tp</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio Vallecitos tributaries (Placer Creek)</i>	<i>From headwaters to Hopewell Lake</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>Not eligible--no outstandingly remarkable values found.</i>
<i>Tp</i>	35	Placer Creek	From headwaters to Hopewell Lake	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
<i>Er</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Rio Vallecitos tributaries</i>	<i>From El Rito Ranger District boundary to Felipito bridge</i>	<i>Not Eligible</i>	<i>The tributaries to this section of Rio Vallecitos do not sustain or complement the outstandingly remarkable "scenic", "recreational" & "fish" values found along the mainstem of Rio Vallecitos. These tributaries are not found to be eligible.</i>

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Tp	46	Rock Creek	Headwaters to Rio Vallecitos	Not Eligible	This segment is not free-flowing. The lower portion contains multiple pit tanks. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

Previously Unevaluated River Segments

Rivers that have never previously been evaluated for wild and scenic river eligibility are listed alphabetically by ranger district in Table 6.

Table 6. Eligibility evaluations of previously unevaluated river segments

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	2	Alamitos Creek	La Sierra ditch diversion to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Alamitos Creek is partially diverted into La Sierra ditch at the top of this segment. Most of the segment runs through private land.
Cr	7	Arroyo Miranda	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	8	Cañada Ancha	Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	9	Cañada Ancha	Headwaters to private land	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	10	Cañada de Abeyta	Forest boundary to Rio de Truchas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	11	Cañada de Don Samuel	Headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	12	Cañada de Jacinto	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	13	Cañada de la Madera	Headwaters to Cañada del Agua	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. This area is heavily roaded with old roads (closed), and free-flow is being impacted by effects of illegal use and stream crossings.
Cr	14	Cañada de la Marias	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. This area is heavily roaded with old roads (closed), and free-flow is being impacted by effects of illegal use and stream crossings.
Cr	15	Cañada de la Orilla	Headwaters to Cañada del Oso	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	16	Cañada de las Entrañas	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	There is a pit tank in this segment that affects free-flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	17	Cañada de las Ruedas	Headwaters to Rio de Truchas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	18	Cañada de los Alamos	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. This area is heavily roaded with old logging roads (closed), and free-flow is being impacted by effects of a pit tank, illegal use and stream crossings.
Cr	19	Cañada de los Alamos	Headwaters to Rio de las Trampas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. The lower portion of this segment passes through private land, and free flow is influenced by acequia diversion.
Cr	20	Cañada de los Pinos Reales	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	21	Cañada de Ojo del Agua	Headwaters to private land	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. This area is heavily roaded with old logging roads (closed), and free flow is being impacted by effects of a pit tank, illegal use and stream crossings.
Cr	22	Cañada de Ojo Sarco	Headwaters to private land	Not Eligible	There is a pit tank in this segment that affects free-flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	23	Cañada del Agua	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. This area is heavily roaded with old roads (closed), and free-flow is being impacted by effects of illegal use and stream crossings.
Cr	24	Cañada del Montecito	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	25	Cañada del Oso	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	27	Chamisal Creek	Headwaters to private land	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	28	Coyote Creek	Headwaters to private land	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	35	Indian Creek	Headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	36	Jarosa Creek	Headwaters to forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	37	Jicarita Creek	Headwaters to Rio Santa Barbara	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. This segment is outside of the Pecos Wilderness. The RGCT populations in this segment are not hybridized as they are in the Rio Santa Barbara, but there is not a complete barrier separating this segment.
Cr	59	Rito Osha	Headwaters to Rito de la Olla	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Cr	61	Rito Sandoval	Headwaters to Rio Pueblo	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Cr	65	Lower Rio Pueblo	From fish barrier to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Ca	1	Amador Creek	Headwaters to Cañada del Baño	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Ca	2	Arroyo del Yeso	FR 138 to private land	Wild (S, R, G)	It seems that the previous evaluation misidentified this as a tributary of the Rio Chama and grouped it in with eligible rivers assigned a wild classification. Among the intermittent Rio Chama tributaries on the El Rito RD, Arroyo del Chamiso was judged to be the most outstandingly remarkable for its sandstone cliffs and steep drainages. However, the previous evaluation of ORVs is more applicable to Arroyo del Yeso which was previously unevaluated and drains into Canjilon Creek, not the Rio Chama. Arroyo del Yeso is the largest and most dramatic of these river canyons. Steep drainages have sliced through the sandstone cliffs revealing many shades of yellow, pink, red, purple and blue-gray. The area above Ghost Ranch attracts visitors from all over the world. They come to gaze, to photograph, to paint, and to hike into the canyons. Wild classification is appropriate.
Ca	3	Cañada del Baño	Headwaters to forest boundary	Not Eligible	There are 3 pit tanks on this segment that affect free-flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Ca	4	Cañada Fuertes	Headwaters to Canjilon Creek	Not Eligible	There are 2 pit tanks on this segment that affect free-flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Ca	9	Jaroso Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Ca	11	Rio del Medio	Headwaters to forest boundary	Not Eligible	There is a pit tank that affects free-flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Ca	13	Terrero Creek	Headwaters to forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Ca	14	Arroyo del Yeso	Headwaters to FR 138	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Er	30	Desague Aguita	Headwaters to forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	3	Bobcat Creek	From private land to Red River	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	15	Gallina Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Qu	27	Lake Fork	From Cabresto lake to Cabresto Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	30	Lobo Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Qu	47	Rio Hondo	Headwaters to Long Canyon	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Southern side is private land.
Qu	54	Shuree Creek	Headwaters to Middle Ponil Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified. Free flow has been affected by Shuree Ponds.
Tp	1	American Creek	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	4	Arroyo Aguaje de la Petaca	Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Carson reservoir and inholdings in the middle of this segment affect free flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	5	Arroyo Aguaje de la Petaca	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	6	Arroyo Gavilan	Forest boundary to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	7	Ashbury Arroyo	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	9	Cañada Biscara	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	Contains a pit tank which impounds water and affects free-flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	10	Cañada Comanche	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	A pit tank impounds water and affects free-flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	11	Cañada de la Agua	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	12	Cañada de los Comanches	Headwaters (in El Rito RD) to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	Several pit tanks impound water and affect free-flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	13	Cañada de los Ranchos	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	14	Cañada del Oso	Headwaters to Lola Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

RD	ID	River Segment	River Segment Location	Classification and ORVs	Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values
Tp	15	Cañada Embudo	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	This segment is not free-flowing. It contains 3 pit tanks that impound water. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	17	Cañada las Lemitas	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	A pit tank impounds water and affects free-flow. No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	18	Cañada Tanques (both forks)	Headwaters to Lola Creek	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	21	Cruces Creek	Headwaters to Beaver Creek	Not Eligible	This is a tributary of Beaver Creek which was determined to possess no values that are outstandingly remarkable regionally. No additional ORVs have been identified in this tributary.
Tp	22	Deer Trail Creek	Headwaters to Rio Tusas	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	24	Dixie Creek	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	26	Escondido Creek	Headwaters to Diablo Creek	Not Eligible	This is a tributary of Diablo and Beaver Creeks which were determined to possess no values that are outstandingly remarkable regionally. No additional ORVs have been identified in this tributary.
Tp	29	Lobo Creek	Headwaters to Beaver Creek	Not Eligible	This is a tributary of Beaver Creek which was determined to possess no values that are outstandingly remarkable regionally. No additional ORVs have been identified in this tributary.
Tp	31	Osha Creek	Headwaters to Beaver Creek	Not Eligible	This is a tributary of Beaver Creek which was determined to possess no values that are outstandingly remarkable regionally. No additional ORVs have been identified in this tributary.
Tp	48	Scott Arroyo	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.
Tp	50	Toltec Creek	Forest Boundary to private land	Wild (S, R)	The headwaters in Colorado are eligible for their scenic, recreational, and historic values. The Cumbres and Toltec railroad is not within the ¼ mile corridor on the Carson NF, and there are no other outstandingly remarkable historic values on the New Mexico side. Toltec canyon is a remote, steep, and narrow canyon that is outstandingly remarkable for its scenic and recreational values. Wild classification is appropriate, as the surroundings are generally primitive.
Tp	51	West Fork Rio Brazos	Headwaters to Forest boundary	Not Eligible	No outstandingly remarkable values identified.

Appendix A: Process and Background Response to Comments

Comment: If rivers have already been evaluated under previous processes, rivers do not need to be reevaluated unless they have had changed circumstances. “Changed circumstances are changes that have occurred to the river or the river corridor that have affected the outstandingly remarkable values” ...Therefore, unless a river has had changed circumstances to the river that have affected the outstandingly remarkable values, rivers should not be reevaluated by the Carson NF under the Forest Plan revision process. Only rivers that have not been previously evaluated and meet the criteria identified by the USFS Handbook 1909.12 Chapter 80 should be evaluated. (NM Department of Agriculture)

Response: It is true that rivers must be reevaluated when changed circumstances exist, and do not need to be reevaluated if they have been previously studied and determined to be eligible. However, this does not prevent the Carson NF from reevaluating previously studied rivers. In fact, during plan revision, “The Responsible Official shall: Identify the eligibility of rivers for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, unless a systematic inventory has been completed and documented, and there are no changed circumstances that warrant additional review.” (FSH 1909.12 Sec. 82.2) Under the exception for an existing inventory the study process “can be limited to evaluation of any rivers that were not previously evaluated for eligibility and those with changed circumstances.” (FSH 1909.12 Sec. 82.2) In other words, changed circumstances require reevaluation during plan revision, but reevaluation is not limited to only those rivers with changed circumstances.

Comment: The planning directives provide clear guidance that each river segment found eligible during previous evaluation should retain eligibility unless it is specifically subject to significant changed circumstances....Changed circumstances that may warrant reconsideration of existing eligibility are limited to actual changes to the river or the river corridor’s structure or condition that have affected the outstandingly remarkable values....The CNF previously completed an inventory of eligible rivers and amended the existing forest plan in 1998-2001 to reflect the results of this study. We maintain that the CNF need not reevaluate existing eligible rivers unless a legitimate changed circumstance exists....Unless a river has been subject to a legitimate changed circumstance, it should retain its existing eligibility determination. (TWS et al.)¹³

Response: We agree there is no requirement that previously studied rivers without changed circumstances be reevaluated. However, as the Forest Service Handbook states, “The Responsible Official may choose to evaluate or reevaluate a river for eligibility at any time through a plan amendment.” (FSH 1909.12 82.3) The adoption of plan direction regarding eligible rivers and the existing inventory was a decision made as part of the 1986 plan (Amendment 12). That plan, and its associated amendments including the evaluation of river eligibility, is being replaced through this plan revision process with a new plan. “A plan revision creates a new plan for the entire plan area....” (36 CFR 219.7(a)) The Carson views plan revision as the correct time to, as the commenter suggests, “integrate new river-related outstandingly

¹³ Joint comment submitted by The Wilderness Society, American Rivers, Rivers & Birds, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Amigos Bravos, Western Environmental Law Center, and New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

remarkable value information into the assessment [to] accurately and objectively reflect eligible rivers.”

Comment: The Forest Service’s rationale provided in the Background and Policy document for why it is reevaluating existing eligible rivers is inadequate....[F]indings of eligibility resulting from analyses completed before 2012 are, of course, not subject to the provisions of the 2012 National Forest planning rule. The validity and durability of existing eligibility must be considered only in the context of planning rules and other administrative controls in place at the time of the previous eligibility analysis. In fact, the current directives address this issue directly where, as explained above, they state that rivers found previous eligibility need not be reevaluated unless it has been subject to a changed circumstance. (TWS et al.)

Response: We disagree that the eligibility of administratively identified eligible rivers “must be considered only in the context of planning rules and other administrative controls in place at the time of the previous eligibility analysis.” Again, the Responsible Official may reevaluate a river for eligibility at any time. We do not provide inconsistencies between the existing Carson NF evaluation and the 2012 planning rule as justification for the authority to reevaluate, but rather as clarification of why the Carson NF has determined that reevaluation is appropriate.

Comment: The CNF states that the “previous eligibility evaluation process did not fulfill the evaluation requirements under the 2012 planning rule as described in the Forest Service Land Management Planning Handbook....” ...The document then lists four examples of how the existing eligibility process does not comply with the 2012 rule. Even though we do not agree with the CNF’s conclusion that a reevaluation of existing eligible rivers is required, we provide a response for each of the examples that the agency provides:

Previous evaluation did not involve the public. Public involvement in the previous evaluation was accomplished through the NEPA process associated with the previous land management plan revision. It’s not necessary for the 2001 evaluation to be compliant with 2012 process.

ORVs and eligibility were identified on private land. Findings of eligibility that encompass private land is not prohibited, either by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act or by the Forest Service (FS) Handbook. The FS does not, of course, have authority to unilaterally implement ORV protections on private land, but findings of overlapping ORVs (public and private lands) happen very often, sometimes prompting partnerships in pursuit of ORV protections that work for landowners.

State water rights were not considered. Since eligibility (and suitability, for that matter) do not involve a federal water right, there is no conflict between those categories and existing water rights, state-held or otherwise. Further, there’s nothing in the planning directives that requires the FS to consider state water rights in the Chapter 80 process.

Region of comparison was not explicitly defined. The region of comparison element of the planning directives is quite flexible. In fact, units can use multiple regions of comparison to evaluate one river. FSH 1909.12, Ch. 80, sec. 82.73. For example, for a single river, the appropriate region of comparison for scenic values may be an entire national forest, while for cultural values it may be the northern portion of the state within which the river is located. The CNF has tremendous discretion when establishing the region of comparison. With this much flexibility, the region of comparison in the existing eligibility evaluation is sufficient. (TWS et al.)

Response: Regarding public involvement, the previous evaluation did not solicit public input during the determination of eligibility or the identification of ORVs. Amendment 12 to the 1986 plan was adopted in 2002. The determination of eligibility was completed in 2001. The Scoping and Public Participation section of the Amendment 12 Environmental Assessment (NEPA document) specifically states, “This analysis and decision does not select which rivers are eligible or identify which rivers the Forest Service will formally recommend to Congress for

designation.” (p. 3) The Carson NF agrees with the commenter that, “Opportunities for public engagement and feedback foster a more transparent process.” We have provided, and will continue to provide, opportunities for public feedback in person, online, and through mailed written comments. The draft Background and Process document was posted to the forest plan revision website and presented at public meetings. The broad public was encouraged to make comments through a notice on the website, and through a mass email to the forest plan revision mailing list. The Carson NF will objectively assess information provided by the public throughout the evaluation process and adjust or clarify documentation or determinations as appropriate.

Regarding private land, decisions made as part of this plan revision are applicable to NFS lands. The Carson NF supports protection of ORVs across ownership boundaries, but only has the authority to manage rivers and other resources on NFS lands. The Carson NF is not opposed to developing partnerships that protect ORVs across ownership, but that process is outside the scope of this plan revision. ORVs that would not be affected by wild and scenic river eligibility on NFS lands should not be used as rationale for an eligibility determination. Effects of eligibility to values immediately adjacent to Carson NF lands may be considered. For example, when the Carson NF manages only one bank of a river, or when an ORV extends into adjacent lands, the full extent of the ORV may be evaluated.

Regarding State water rights, there is a conflict only in so far as water rights protect river diversions (e.g., acequia headgates) that detract from the free-flowing nature of a river. It is more accurate to say that the previous evaluation did not account for the impact of diversions on free flow. Those diversions are a State water right that is outside the control of the Carson NF. The draft language in the evaluation process section has been clarified.

Regarding the region of comparison, the Carson NF agrees that there is tremendous discretion provided in the Forest Service directives. We disagree that the region of comparison in the existing eligibility evaluation sufficiently meets the intent of either the planning rule or the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The region of comparison was not previously explicitly defined and in some cases can be clearly inferred to be the ranger district, which for the purposes of the current evaluation is viewed as an insufficient representation of similar rivers. The 2012 planning rule requires that, “The Interdisciplinary Team shall identify the “region of comparison” for each outstandingly remarkable value.” (FSH 1909.12 82.73) Also, that “region of comparison should be large enough to encompass similar type rivers that provide a wide representation of river values so that rivers with outstandingly remarkable values can be identified.” (FSH 1909.12 82.73) ORVs are meant to be significant when compared to “similar values from other rivers at a regional or national scale.” (FSH 1909.12 82.73)

Comment: The CNF erroneously states that “[t]he previous Carson eligibility evaluations considered an additional 39 rivers that are unnamed, and therefore are not required to be reconsidered...” The CNF goes on to state that “8 [...] streams that were previously determined to be eligible, but are not named and are not perennial and so were excluded from this evaluation.” The eight river segments mentioned must either retain their eligibility (unless

subject to legitimate changed circumstances, as noted above) or be fully analyzed for reaffirmed eligibility in the new evaluation.... (TWS et al.)

Response: We disagree that any rivers not named on a 7.5 minute USGS quad are required to be evaluated. However, we concede that some canyons without a named river may in fact contain a “flowing body of water” and thereby be considered a river per the Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12 80.5). The intent behind not considering intermittent or ephemeral unnamed rivers was to narrow the analysis by eliminating dry canyons that do not contain rivers, not to suggest that only perennial rivers should be considered. However, from closer examination of the canyons in question it is clear that some may have sufficient flow to sustain or compliment ORVs. All previously eligible rivers will be fully analyzed as part of this evaluation.

Comment: We have some concerns with the CNF’s region of comparison. First, the CNF’s Background and Policy document does not justify the different regions of comparisons for different values. Second, the CNF attempts to define that a river possesses an ORV when compared with other rivers in the region when the value is “conspicuously dissimilar from the class of feature to which it belongs.” ...The assertion that a river must be “conspicuously dissimilar” appears to be too extreme and too limiting to candidate values. In addition, the Background and Policy document does not cite from where they are getting this standard of “conspicuously dissimilar”. In any case, the assertion demonstrates that this, too, is a subjective analysis and thus should also be subject to review of the best available scientific and ecological information and to extensive public comment and participation. (TWS et al.)

Response: The region of comparison is defined individually for each value on pages 4 and 5. We agree that the definition of this region is subjective; therefore, we have, to the extent possible, defined regions based on some existing mapping unit (drainage subregions, ecoregional provinces, physiographic provinces). The analysis of any river need not (and in this evaluation does not) consider every other river in the region of comparison. Enough similar type rivers are considered so that the river’s values can be analyzed, up to all the rivers in the region of comparison. In an attempt to be transparent and specific, the description of the regions of comparison, and the process for judging the outstanding remarkableness of river values is provided to clarify for the public the Interdisciplinary Team’s reasoning. “Conspicuously dissimilar” is the Carson NF’s interpretation of what is meant by “a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant when compared with similar values from other rivers at a regional or national scale.” (FSH 1909.12 82.73)

Any river may be considered outstandingly remarkable if the region of comparison is sufficiently confined, or the river type to which it belongs is narrowly defined. On the other hand, nearly every river may be unremarkable when compared to every other river in the nation. The Carson NF’s previous approach of comparing rivers to only those rivers on a Ranger District or smaller area resulted in an overly inclusive interpretation of ORVs. As evidence that the Carson NF’s definition of ORVs was previously inconsistent with the general interpretation of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the number of eligible rivers by national forest is graphed below (Figure 7). This data is publically available from American Whitewater, and its accuracy or completeness cannot be guaranteed. In fact the way that rivers are counted, the Carson NF is shown with only 57 eligible rivers, when in fact there are more. This graph counts “river X and tributaries” as one

eligible river. Nonetheless, the Carson NF is clearly an outlier. This should not be interpreted as setting any goal for the number of eligible rivers identified on any forest, only as evidence of the Carson NF's inconsistent previous interpretation of "outstandingly remarkable".

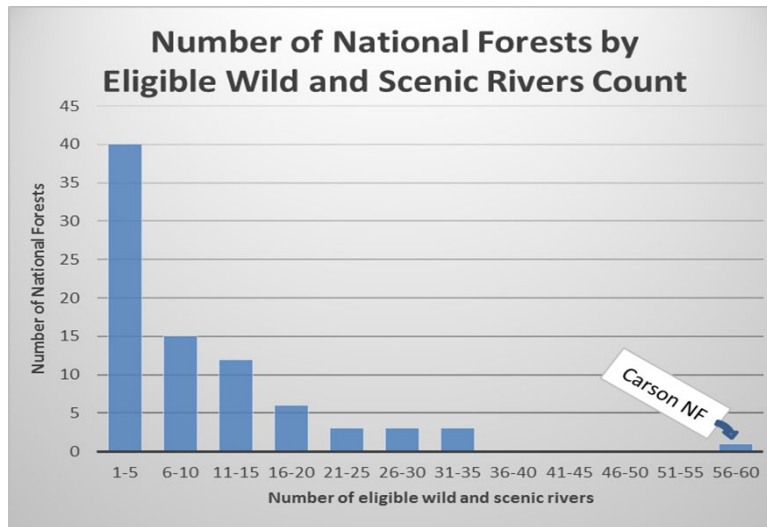


Figure 7. Number of national forests grouped by the number of eligible wild and scenic rivers that they have identified

Comment: As previously discussed, eligibility determinations must be based on only two factors:

- Free-flowing condition of the candidate stream segment; and
- Presence of at least one river-related ORV.

Proposed or prospective projects or intrusions that are inconsistent with wild and scenic protections or managements must not be considered when evaluating, analyzing, or making decisions regarding wild and scenic eligibility, including assigning a preliminary classification. Such things are considered at the suitability study phase. (TWS et al.)

Response: We agree that eligibility is based only on the condition of the river as it currently exists. In addition to the two factors listed, the stream must have sufficient flows to sustain or compliment the river's outstandingly remarkable values.

Comment: A good process will facilitate sound eligibility determinations. A good process entails transparency, objectivity, and specificity. It is important that the agency 'show its work' to ensure transparency. For each river, the agency must document its rationale for whether a river is eligible. Regarding objectivity, as we discussed in the previous section, the evaluation should consider only free-flowing and outstandingly remarkable values. Considerations outside of these two factors would not be compliant with the directives and would not ensure an objective process. Lastly, it is important that the CNF describe ORVs rather than just categories like 'recreation.' It is important that the CNF provide this level of detail so that the public can track the agency's rationale. (TWS et al.)

Response: We agree. As noted above, this evaluation also considers sufficient flow, per the Forest Service Handbook (FSH 1909.12 82.72). We agree that ORVs were not fully described in the previous evaluation. This evaluation will attempt to provide sufficiently detailed ORV descriptions, and the public is encouraged to assist by adding specific examples.

Comment: The Background and Process document provides background information on the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This background summary includes the following statement:

Designated Wild and Scenic Rivers “must be administered in such a way as to protect and enhance the values that made [them] eligible for the National System...”

While this summary of the requirements for, and effects of, congressional designation of wild and scenic rivers is useful context and perspective, it must be remembered that the question at hand in the larger document is the consideration of river segments for possible wild and scenic eligibility. Caution should be taken to avoid conflating requirements or consequences of legislative designation with those associated with eligibility. (TWS et al.)

Response: The quoted sentence is from the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act Background section, which is intended to provide context and an introduction to the Act and its intent. The management direction refers to designated wild and scenic rivers. The management of eligible wild and scenic rivers is detailed in the Interim Management of Eligible Rivers section beginning on page 11.

Comment: Fish barriers are an important tool in meeting and maintaining the river's Outstandingly Remarkable Values (ORVs), and may be necessary to retain the river's character between the evaluation process and ultimate formal designation as a Wild and Scenic River. The Department recommends that the Forest re-evaluate its standards for free-flowing river determinations, and consider the value of appropriately designed fish barriers as an integral and eligible component of ORVs for Wild and Scenic Rivers. Additionally, we recommend that habitat enhancement projects for native fish and wildlife also are considered an eligible component of ORVs for Wild and Scenic Rivers. (NM Department of Game and Fish)

Response: The standards for free-flowing are defined by the WSRA and have been subsequently clarified as described in the Free-Flowing Determination section of this document. There remains a level of subjectivity when evaluating the effects of any water resources project on free-flow. In the Preliminary Draft Proposed Forest Plan the Carson NF has attempted to further clarify how those effects will be analyzed for future projects, and the same approach has been applied during this evaluation.

Any authorized water resources project in an eligible river segment must not adversely modify the river's free-flowing character. Water resources projects include all modifications to the stream channel or banks below the ordinary high water mark of a river. Proposed water resources projects must be analyzed to determine their effects on free flow, specifically whether they alter or restrict the natural function of the river (i.e., bank erosion, channel shifting, bed-load, or debris movement). Water resources projects that modify free-flowing character may occur only when they mimic natural river processes, restore more natural river function, and are otherwise consistent with the river's eligibility.

With respect to fish barriers in particular, they must mimic natural processes, be consistent with the river's natural function, and not conflict with the user experience required by the river's classification. The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council explicitly permits a “range of projects to restore natural channel processes and habitat” (IWSRCC 2017). However those projects should, “[m]imic the effects of naturally occurring events such as trees falling in and across the river (including the formation of wood jams), boulders tumbling in or moving

down the river course” and should be “made of native materials, e.g., wood, rock, vegetation, and so forth that are similar in type, composition or species to those in the vicinity of the project.” (IWSRCC 2017) Projects “are most harmonious with river ecosystems” when “the resulting channel width, depth, slope, and substrate matches that of upstream and downstream reaches or that of a nearby comparable and undisturbed river system.” (IWSRCC 2017)

Appendix B: Evaluation Response to Comments

Over 80 comments were received as of the November 15th, 2017 priority deadline for inclusion in this revised version of the evaluation. Those comments are summarized by theme below. Some portions of comments are quoted directly, others are summarized or grouped with similar comments under a common theme. Comments that relate directly the eligible river evaluation are responded to below, and any updates to the evaluation that resulted are highlighted in **bold**.

***Comment Theme:** General support of the evaluation process and results.*

***Comment Theme:** General opposition to the evaluation process and results.*

***Comment Theme:** Rivers and riparian areas generally are important and valued by local communities. Water is life. Water ecosystems are scarce and fragile. Rivers provide unique recreational opportunities including fishing, hiking, hunting, photography, rock climbing, horseback riding, and camping. Hunting, camping, hiking, or engaging in other recreational activities near a river or stream, especially in arid New Mexico where water resources are comparatively rare and highly treasured, is a qualitatively different experience than engaging in these activities in a non-riparian area. Rivers have sentimental and traditional value. They are important for wildlife and biodiversity. They are important for downstream users who rely on clean water that originates on the Carson NF. The importance of rivers and streams to New Mexico citizens' quality of life and very existence cannot be overstated, they are the lifeblood of our communities and our traditions.*

***Comment Theme:** Nature generally, the beauty of the landscape, and opportunities for solitude and serenity are important and valued by local communities.*

***Comment Theme:** The Carson NF is a special area.*

***Comment Theme:** Natural resources generally, and rivers in particular attract tourism and are an economic driver for Northern New Mexico.*

***Comment Theme:** Public lands should remain public and should be maintained for future generations.*

***Comment Theme:** Global warming places increased stress on our very limited water resources.*

***Comment Theme:** Areas should be off limits because the Forest Service cannot police commercial activities. Commercial activities are exploitive.*

***Comment Theme:** The Forest Service should help clean up polluted aquifers.*

***Comment Theme:** Corporations and lobby groups dominate and dictate how our government is run.*

***Comment Theme:** There is a need for more aggressive forest management.*

***Comment Theme:** Regardless of the Wild and Scenic eligibility the Carson deems prudent for particular stream reaches, the healing and protection of stream function should be the primary USFS priority as its forest plan is implemented. We ask the Forest to utilize other plan components crafted during the Draft Plan Revision in conjunction with the Wild and Scenic management to the best benefit of the waterways of the Carson.*

Response: Watershed, riparian, and stream condition and function are all addressed in the revised forest plan, as are activities and uses that may impact that condition and function. Wild and scenic river eligibility and/or designation is one potential management tool among a suite of law, policy, and regulation (including that being developed as part of plan revision) that guide the management of the Carson NF.

Comment Theme: *Administrative protections should not prohibit restoration if it can be implemented within formal regulations to the benefit of stream function and at no expense or diminishment to a stream's established eligibility criteria. As we have stated in official comments and at in person meetings, we believe that there are many forms of restoration work that are currently permissible under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.*

Response: The Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers Management Area section of the revised plan clarifies what must be considered if restoration activities are to be implemented in eligible streams.

Comment Theme: *Certain rivers should be designated as Wild and Scenic. Rivers that are designated should remain so.*

Response: The Carson NF does not have the authority to *designate* Wild and Scenic Rivers. Congress has reserved that authority. No rivers are being designated during this process. No existing designations are being removed or altered during this process.

Comment Theme: *Once a river is determined as eligible as wild, scenic or recreational it shows federal agency support and backing for any future legislation that may seek to designate the river under the Act.*

Response: Eligible rivers are not recommendations for designation. "A suitability study provides the basis for determining which eligible rivers or rivers segments should be recommended to Congress as potential additions to the National System." (FSH 1909.12 83.2) A suitability study may be conducted "after approval of the land management plan or revision, sometimes in response to a project proposal that could potentially affect the river's eligibility." (FSH 1909.12, 83.1) The Carson NF is not studying the suitability of any rivers as part of this current evaluation or plan revision process and will not make any recommendations for designation in the revised plan.

Comment Theme: *If a river is deemed eligible then there are various restrictions and limitations regarding development of roads, timber production, mining and oil and gas. Along these lines, if a river is deemed eligible as wild, scenic or recreational then it must also be managed as a wild, scenic or recreational river for the life of the federal agency's plan.*

Response: The limitations listed by the commenter may or may not apply to a particular eligible river depending on its classification and ORVs. Agency determinations of eligibility may be reexamined at any time through a plan amendment or suitability study. (FSH 1909.12 82.3)

Comment Theme: *If a river is deemed eligible the agency must manage the river and the river corridor exactly as though the river actually has been designated as wild, scenic or recreational. Along these lines, any developer seeking to engage in activities not permitted by the WSA for wild, scenic or recreational rivers would bear the burden of proof to show why the activity should be allowed and thus must conduct a full suitability study.*

Response: Eligible rivers are not managed exactly as if they were designated. Eligible and suitable rivers are managed under interim protection measures (FSH 1909.12, 84). Only congress may designate a wild and scenic river. Designated rivers are managed under a river management plan that defines a designated corridor and requires specific management in that corridor. Water resources projects in a designated river or legislative study river, but not in a Forest Service identified eligible or suitable river, require a section 7 review as defined in the Act. Suitability is

a determination that must be made by the agency, “the outcome will be a finding by the Responsible Official” (FSH 1909.12, 83.3). Eligible rivers may be studied for suitability by the agency at any time (FSH 1909.12, 83).

Comment Theme: *All rivers should be granted the most protection possible. The intent of this process seems to be to eliminate the need for the CNF to be required to protect and manage resources on the Forest. Lack of management along these rivers could have significant impacts to the area’s wildlife, fisheries, outdoor recreation, and cultural values.*

Response: The reevaluation of river eligibility is being conducted as part of the overall revision of the Carson NF forest plan. There are a suite of regulatory, policy, and legal considerations with which management must comply along all rivers on the forest. Changes to river eligibility fit within the revised approach to river management described by the totality of the new plan. By refining the evaluation and management direction for eligible rivers, the Carson NF believes it is managing more in line with the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, providing clearer management guidance, and stronger protections of those values which make a river eligible. Refining the evaluation and providing consistent management direction for eligible rivers improves the Carson NF’s ability to effectively protect and enhance those values that make them eligible.

Comment Theme: *In addition to downgrading the classification of several rivers, the Carson is also proposing to remove many ORVs and in many cases, even if a river maintains its eligibility under the new analysis, is listing rivers with far fewer ORVs. When ORVs are removed, protections are lost.*

Response: The definition of ORV has been aligned with the requirement under the Act and the 2012 planning rule that the value be river related and a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant when compared with similar values from other rivers at a regional or national scale. Including ORVs that are more common or ordinary than this requirement may actually lessen the level of protection afforded to other, more significant ORVs by lowering the standard to which those more significant values are managed.

Comment Theme: *No existing river eligibility should be changed. Rivers should not be reevaluated. It is unnecessary for the Carson to undertake a new eligibility evaluation for wild and scenic rivers because a comprehensive evaluation was already completed. While the rules do not preclude USFS from reevaluating rivers that were previously evaluated, such unnecessary analysis is at best redundant and a poor use of limited agency resources. There are not changed circumstances that require reevaluation. The Carson NF may not reevaluate previously evaluated rivers unless there are changed circumstances.*

Response: We agree there is no requirement that previously studied rivers without changed circumstances be reevaluated. However, as the Forest Service Handbook states, “The Responsible Official may choose to evaluate or reevaluate a river for eligibility at any time through a plan amendment.” (FSH 1909.12 82.3) The Carson NF is reevaluating eligible rivers as part of the broader revision of the forest plan. By refining the evaluation and management direction for eligible rivers in the plan, the Carson NF believes it is managing more in line with the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act the Carson NF, providing clearer management guidance, and stronger protections of those values which make a river eligible.

Comment Theme: *What management has occurred to degrade these rivers between the previous evaluation and now that caused them to no longer be eligible? We would like to know what the agency should have done better to protect their values, so we can assure we do not continue to lose those values over time.*

Response: The reevaluation does not find that any values listed in the previous evaluation have been degraded. Revision of the forest plan, and the clarification regarding eligible river management that it provides will provide better protection for outstandingly remarkable values, as well as other values that are not necessarily associated with an eligible river.

Comment Theme: No existing eligible river classifications should be changed. While some reclassifications may be warranted based on changed circumstances, we believe that some of the proposed reclassifications are in error. If the Carson modifies its ORV criteria so they are consistent with the national recommendations, as it must, and adjusts the regions of comparison in line with our suggested changes above, we believe that many of the downgraded rivers would retain their original classifications.

Response: Most adjustments to river classifications were not based on changed circumstances, but were made to reflect “the condition of the river and the development level of adjacent lands as they exist at the time of the study.” (FSH 1909.12, 82.73) Classification is independent of ORVs or region of comparison.

Comment Theme: Streams need to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, not reclassified en masse.

Response: Each river in the evaluation was considered individually based on free-flow and outstandingly remarkable values. Those found eligible were considered individually to determine their appropriate classification.

Comment Theme: Certain rivers should be eligible based on their remoteness or wildness.

Response: Wilderness is protected only through a wilderness designation made by Congress. Wild classification of a wild and scenic river protects the “essentially primitive” experience in the river corridor. Wildness or remoteness are not themselves resources that are included in the Forest Service directives baseline set of criteria to establish ORVs, and were not directly evaluated. The Carson NF added “exceptional opportunities for solitude and to experience unaltered aquatic and riparian habitats” to the planning rule’s list of recreational criteria in an attempt to clarify what would constitute an example of unique or rare camping, hiking, or other recreational opportunities.

Comment Theme: All of the previously evaluated rivers were then, and remain free flowing.

Response: Free flowing is defined in the Act as flowing in a natural condition without impoundment, diversion, straightening, riprapping, or other modification of the waterway. Some rivers previously determined to be eligible do have, and did have at the time of the previous evaluation, modifications that affected, and continue to affect, their free flowing nature.

Comment Theme: The criteria used to evaluate ORVs was too focused on the presence/absence of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, while ignoring recreational values.

Response: Recreational values were evaluated for all rivers. Recreational values were evaluated independently of fish values or any other river related value. The Carson NF Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout populations are unique in the nation, and the value of those rivers that support them is recognized in this evaluation. The evaluation criteria identify wild stocks of species of conservation concern as a value of particular significance.

Comment Theme: It is not clear if the Carson considered other fish species besides RGCT in their analysis. Regardless we urge the Carson to take into account populations of Rio Grande Sucker and Rio Grande Chub and assign fish ORVs to rivers in which one or both are present. For example:

Rio Tulas – Rio Grande chub and sucker

San Antonio River – Rio Grande chub

Tio Grande Creek – Rio Grande chub

El Rito Creek – Rio Grande chub

Response: Other fish species were considered, including Rio Grande Sucker and Rio Grande Chub. In addition to the rivers listed in the comment Rio Grande Suckers have been identified in Rio San Antonio, and Rio Grande Chubs have also been found in Rio Vallecitos. In all cases non-natives are also present in these rivers. (Rio Grande Chubs have only been detected below the barrier on El Rito Creek.) Negative interactions with non-native fishes include competition for space and food, and predation by non-natives. None of these rivers were determined to provide outstandingly remarkable high quality habitat due to this hybridization, competition, and predation. More extensive and successful populations of both species exist elsewhere in the region of comparison, for example in the Jemez Mountains and Valles Caldera. Both are potential species of conservation concern under the new plan which contains specific plan components designed to maintain the species' capability to persist within the planning area.

Comment Theme: The Carson has portrayed the national ORV recommendations in a confusing and misleading way, making it difficult for the public to compare the proposed criteria to the national ones. The exact text included in the left column of Table 1 does not appear verbatim in either the Forest Service Handbook or the Interagency Council recommendations; instead, it appears to be a combination of the two sources, with some of the relevant text omitted. This is highly confusing and misleading, and makes it very difficult for the public to understand how the Carson's proposed criteria differ from those recommended in the Handbook or by the Council.

Response: Table 1 has been revised to include only criteria verbatim from the Forest Service Handbook and the Carson NF's modifications to that criteria.

Comment Theme: The Carson has impermissibly deviated from the recommended ORV evaluation criteria established in the Forest Service Handbook and recommended by the Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council. The criteria for evaluating outstandingly remarkable values must follow national guidelines. These revisions are a major shift from the national guidelines and not only significantly impact the substantive definitions and subsequent application of the ORVs in assessing a river, but also run counter to northern New Mexico's context. The proposed criteria are unethical and illegal. Specifically, for recreation the language should be unchanged from the baseline criteria established in the planning rule. The recreational uses of hunting, camping, and hiking have been omitted. We suspect that the Carson omitted these important recreational uses based on the spurious reasoning that they are not river-dependent because they do not occur in the water. On the contrary, these recreational uses can be, and often are, river dependent because recreationists specifically seek out opportunities to engage in these activities in the riparian corridor where they can enjoy the presence of a nearby river or stream.

Response: The Forest Service Handbook criteria are identified in order "to establish a baseline that fosters greater consistency within the Agency and with other Federal river-administering agencies in evaluating eligibility." However, "criteria within the category may be modified and additional criteria may be included to make them more meaningful in the region of comparison." (FSH 1909.12, sec 82.73a). **The Carson NF has clarified how the national criteria are being applied for the relevant region of comparison and through their application has evaluated rivers in a manner that is more consistent with evaluations by other National Forests or other Federal river-administering agencies. Clarification of the process for evaluating values has been added to the introduction for this section. The Carson NF criteria have**

been updated to clarify that they include recreational uses such as hunting, hiking, camping, and rock climbing.

***Comment Theme:** We are concerned that the common theme of installing fish dams (or the lack thereof in various rivers) seems to be the only justification for downgrading various rivers (e.g. Yerba, Gavilan, Columbine Creek below Deer Creek). We have and will continue to publicly express serious concerns about the downgrading of long-term eligibility protections and management in the name of restoration work, especially when this work is driven by and funded by large corporate interests.*

Response: Funding or the need for restoration work was not a consideration in the evaluation of ORVs. Yerba and Gavilan were previously eligible for several ORVs that were determined to not meet the criteria under the current evaluation. These include scenery, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, and Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. The scenery is similar in all the Rio Hondo tributaries, including Italianos Canyon, Manzanita Canyon, the South Fork of the Rio Hondo, Long Canyon, and arguably more outstanding in Lake Fork. Similar scenery exists in the upper Red River basin, in the Columbine Canyon Basin, in the Latir Wilderness, and in the Pecos Wilderness on the Carson NF alone. Other similar, or more outstandingly remarkable alpine and high alpine, remote scenery can be found elsewhere in the region of comparison. Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep may be found in many river corridors on the Questa Ranger District, on the Carson NF, and in the region of comparison. There is nothing about these particular rivers that provides uniquely high quality habitat for the species. It is true that Yerba and Gavilan do not meet the criteria for a fish value due to the lack of a fish barrier to protect the Rio Grande Cutthroat population. However it is not the lack of a barrier that makes those populations not outstandingly remarkable, but rather the presence of, and lack of protection from non-native hybridizing species.

Columbine Creek and Deer Creek were previously and are still eligible for fish values above the fish barrier that protects Rio Grande Cutthroat populations from non-natives. Below the barrier, where this protection is not in place Columbine Creek does not have a fish ORV. Both rivers previously had a Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep ORV. For the same reasons detailed above these rivers were determined to not be outstandingly remarkable for wildlife.

***Comment Theme:** Active management as well as protections are necessary for the future of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. We do not believe that fish barriers, when done thoughtfully, should prohibit eligibility of any rank. We also feel that, in fact, the improvement of these fish's habitat and their presence on the landscape is grounds for improvement of ORV's and that in the vast majority of cases that restoration work should qualify stream reaches for higher eligibility designation.*

Response: Fish barriers may be allowed in rivers of any classification so long as they restore or maintain the natural free-flowing condition of the river and are consistent with the river's classification. In many cases fish barriers do not mimic a natural river process and therefore have a negative impact on free-flow. Classification is based on the level of development in the river and its surroundings, not the quality of ORVs. Wild and scenic river management does not allow for balancing of benefits to ORVs with impacts to free-flow. Both ORVs and free flowing condition must be protected.

***Comment Theme:** I am concerned that not enough weight is being placed on the importance of recreational fishing on all streams inside the Carson NF. The Carson is blessed with streams of all size, and almost every one of them hold trout. These places offer fisherman a chance at un-pressured trout and solitude-Something we have plenty of in the Carson but is rare in other western states. Every inch of stream containing trout in the Carson should be*

managed with recreation in mind, as fly fisherman will wade up and down these streams fishing. Not recognizing all streams recreational nature would be a mistake.

Response: As stated in the comment, un-pressured trout and solitude are plentiful on the Carson NF. These values may also be found in other places in the region of comparison. Therefore, generally these do not qualify rivers on the Carson NF as outstandingly remarkable for recreation, that is, they are not unique or rare within the region of comparison. The importance of the recreational value of these rivers on the Carson NF, collectively, is not being challenged.

***Comment Theme:** We urge the Carson to include Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep in the criteria for the wildlife ORV. The Carson houses important metapopulations of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep and although Bighorn Sheep obviously are not an aquatic species, they rely heavily on the Carson's rivers and streams as a source of drinking water, and recreationists of all kinds, from photographers to hunters, treasure the opportunity to view these animals in the riparian corridor. Further, river corridors, steep river canyons and rocky cliff faces provide essential habitat, especially in the Columbine Hondo, as well as offer "critical escape terrain" to the sheep. Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep are currently recognized as a species that is critically impaired according to Heritage New Mexico and the USFS recognizes them as a "sensitive species" in Regions 1, 2, 4, 5 and portions of regions 6. The State of New Mexico, tribes, USFS, local communities, and nonprofit organizations have allocated many resources to reintroducing and establishing Bighorn Sheep throughout the state, including in the Carson.*

Response: The requirement for wildlife values is not that they be aquatic species, but that their habitat or population be directly river related. Wildlife must either live in the river or river corridor, or the river or its corridor must provide uniquely diverse or high quality habitat. Bighorn Sheep are found near many rivers in the region of comparison. No uniquely diverse or high quality habitat was identified on any rivers on the Carson NF. The importance of rivers, other riparian areas, and upland habitats to Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep on the Carson NF, collectively, is not being challenged. Bighorn sheep and their habitat needs are addressed by plan components in the revised plan.

***Comment Theme:** It is incredibly problematic to compare Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep populations and elk wintering/calving areas in New Mexico to the Four Corners states. In the previous Wild and Scenic River Eligibility Evaluation conducted in 1998, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Elk Calving/Wintering Areas and landscape features were considered to be wildlife, recreational and historical ORVs and thus deeming many of the rivers and segments eligible. We ask that the Carson provide rationale and scientific studies supporting why these formerly recognized ORV's, especially with regards to wildlife— particularly Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep and Elk Calving/Wintering Areas have been excluded from the Carsons current Wild and Scenic River Draft Eligibility Evaluation. In essence if the Carson is going to move away from the previous evaluation with regards to claims about Wildlife, then it must justify this reasoning with proof and data using the best available science and make this proof, data and reasoning available to the public for review and comment.*

Response: The wildlife region of comparison was adjusted to include only the four ecoregional provinces that intersect the Carson NF. This still resulted in the conclusion that no rivers on the Carson NF provide outstandingly remarkable Bighorn Sheep or elk habitat. The rationale is that no single river or small number of rivers provide uniquely high quality habitat for either species when compared to other rivers in the region of comparison, or even just other rivers on the Carson NF. The importance to these species of rivers, other riparian areas, and upland habitats on the Carson NF, collectively, is not being challenged. Bighorn sheep and their habitat needs and elk calving and wintering range are addressed by plan components in the revised plan.

***Comment Theme:** The region of comparison is too large for certain values. Northern New Mexico is unlike other Four Corners states. What is important here may not be important in other places. We do not believe the Four*

Corners states are appropriately scaled for geologic, fish, wildlife, historic, cultural, and other values because these states possess distinct ecological, historic, and cultural attributes that cannot easily be compared. Rivers on the Carson are much less likely to possess ORVs if they must be compared to all other rivers in New Mexico, plus all other rivers in three additional states. This inappropriately raises the bar for eligibility by requiring rivers on the Carson to meet a very high standard.

Response: The Four Corners states were used as an approximation of the more specific value-related region identified for each resource. The evaluation was always limited to similar types as required by the Forest Service directives (FSH 1909.12, sec. 82.73). **The region of comparison for each resource has been revised to instead include those specific regions that are similar for a given resource. Cultural and historic values use only Colorado and New Mexico as the region of comparison. Other values are still compared to the Four Corners states since that region of comparison is inclusive of all regions for each resource.** We disagree that rivers are much less likely to possess ORVs when compared to a larger region. A larger region of comparison may actually raise the remarkableness of a unique value because it becomes more unique as it is compared to other dissimilar values. For example, many rivers on the Carson have Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, they are somewhat common on the forest. But few rivers in the west have Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. Those rivers with the trout on the Carson are therefore very unique within that region of comparison.

***Comment Theme:** We agree that the proposed region of comparison for scenic and recreational values is generally appropriate and would provide a meaningful basis for comparison, but suggest that the Carson specifically limit the region to the Tri-Forest area of the Carson, Santa Fe, and Rio Grande National Forests. Notably, the Santa Fe National Forest has proposed using the Tri-Forest area as the region of comparison for scenic and recreational values, as well as other values.*

Response: The region of comparison proposed in the Santa Fe NF draft criteria is actually a buffer around all three forests that includes other land ownership, and results in a very similar region of comparison to what the Carson NF is using. The Carson NF has chosen to include only public lands since access to private or BIA lands may be limited and therefore they do not provide the same recreational or scenic viewing opportunities. The Santa Fe NF uses that same region for fisheries and geology. **We have chosen to use watersheds and physiographic regions for those values because we believe those better reflect the variability in those values which are less related to land ownership.**

***Comment Theme:** A critical component of the 2012 Forest Planning Rule is maintaining and promoting habitat connectivity throughout the forest. The region of comparison for "wildlife values" is much too large given the ever increasingly fragile environment and obvious development that segregates wildlife from areas that long ago but no longer support or allow wildlife movement and mobility to adjust to changes resulting from human and "natural" environmental causes. Using the Four Corners states as the "region of comparison" for several ORVs has prevented protection of critical wildlife habitat for many species of regional and economic importance that use various rivers and river corridors that the Carson is proposing to remove from eligibility. We ask that the Carson use the state of New Mexico as the region of comparison for wildlife.*

Response: Protection of wildlife habitat is accomplished through multiple means in the new forest plan. A finding of wildlife values that are not ORVs does not in any way prevent their protection. The importance of rivers, other riparian areas, and upland habitats for wildlife habitat or secondary economic benefit on the Carson NF, collectively, is not being challenged. **The wildlife region of comparison has been revised to include the four ecoregional provinces that intersect the Carson NF.** We believe this more appropriately reflects the variability in habitat than do geopolitical boundaries.

Comment Theme: *A common perspective we have heard is that reducing eligibility of rivers in Wilderness areas is benign since the rivers still maintain wilderness protections. However, it is important to note that the Wilderness Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act are two independent statutes that provide their own unique set of protections and that, while complimentary, are not intended to supplant one another since each statute requires its own independent evaluation and has its own unique criteria.*

Response: The location of a river relative to designated wilderness was not a criteria in the eligibility evaluation.

Comment Theme: *Another major concern is how the Carson decided to segment various rivers. Breaking rivers into various segments is given little explanation in the evaluation and it is unclear what criteria and reasoning the Carson uses to break up various rivers into certain segments. For example, many river segments that fall within congressionally designated Wilderness areas also include small segments that occur outside of the wilderness boundaries.*

Response: Generally presence/absence of ORVs or changes in the appropriate classification dictated how rivers were segmented. Whether a river is inside or outside of a designated river did not factor into the location of eligible segments. River segments within designated wilderness have a wild classification, but so do segments that are outside of wilderness areas.

Comment Theme: *Public input, meetings, and workshops focused on the Carson's wild and scenic river eligibility evaluation process are critical to ensure that the process and the Carson's ultimate determinations are well informed and reflect public knowledge and expertise. The general public has much to offer in terms of experience and expertise. Please slow down the process and hold open public meetings regarding any proposed changes.*

Response: The current draft evaluation has been available for the public to review and provide input on since September 19th, 2017. The Evaluation Process and Background portion of the evaluation has been available for the public to review and provide input on since April of 2017. The evaluation is currently in draft form. It will not be finalized until a Record of Decision is signed for the revised forest plan (approximately summer 2019), and until that time the public may continue to offer comments and expertise.

Comment Theme: *The eligibility evaluation should include citations to the United States Code (U.S.C.), the Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) and other relevant authorities, such as the Forest Service Handbook, as applicable. This will make it easier for the public to locate the relevant statutory, regulatory, or policy language. For example, the draft evaluation refers to WSRA Section 2(b), which is codified at 16 U.S.C. § 1273(b), but does not include the U.S.C. citation. We urge USFS to change this in the final evaluation document. A citation to the U.S.C. provision should be included in all citations to the WSRA, and citations to other regulatory and policy materials should be included where appropriate.*

Response: A citation to the U.S.C is included at the first reference to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Throughout the remainder of the document the Act is referred to with the abbreviation WSRA. The Code of Federal Regulations and Forest Service Handbook are referenced throughout the document, as applicable and appropriate.

River Specific Comment: *Many of the tributaries to the Rio del Pueblo (Tres Ritos area) like Angostura Creek, Polocarpio Creek, Duran Creek, Upper La Junta Creek, etc. used to contain pure Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout and still do in some places. Because of the importance of these high elevation headwater streams for wildlife and biodiversity we believe they should be included in the Wild and Scenic designation- not merely Recreational or historic Rivers.*

Response: The requirements for outstandingly remarkable fish values are detailed in the evaluation criteria (Table 1). Pure Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout is, on its own, an insufficient

value. Classification is not based on the importance of rivers or their ORVs, but on the level of development as it currently exists.

River Specific Comment: *Some streams that are tributaries to the Rio del Pueblo mentioned above were omitted—such as Commales Creek. This is a very wild and intact River and often popular with hikers and rock climbers who appreciate it's wild, rocky character.*

Response: Commales Creek is not a named river on USGS quad maps and was therefore not required to be evaluated for eligibility. It was not previously evaluated and was not included in this evaluation.

River Specific Comment: *Arrellano Canyon (Upper La Junta Canyon) was designated a Research Natural Area (RNA) under the Carson forest Plan and should still be protected.*

Response: An RNA was recommended in Arellano Canyon under the existing forest plan but has never been designated. The river in Arellano Canyon was previously eligible, but no outstandingly remarkable values were identified by this evaluation. The existence of RNAs or proposed RNAs was not a consideration in the evaluation of ORVs.

River Specific Comment: *Gallegos, Tio Maes, Flechado, La Cueva, and Agua Sarca (runs part of most years) all deserve protection as vital tributaries to the Rio del Pueblo.*

Response: Agua Sarca is not a named river on USGS quad maps and was therefore not required to be evaluated for eligibility. It was not previously evaluated and was not included in this evaluation. The rivers in Gallegos, Tio Maes, Flechado, and La Cueva canyons were previously eligible with a recreational ORV because they have heavily used trails. This evaluation determined that neither the trails themselves nor their popularity were outstandingly remarkable. More popular trails that offer a similar experience exist on the Camino Real Ranger District, let alone on the Carson NF, or in the region of comparison. No other outstandingly remarkable values were identified. The importance of these rivers as tributaries to the Rio Pueblo is not being challenged.

River Specific Comment: *Cordova Canyon is an important tributary to the Rio del Pueblo (near Agua Piedra campground) and should be included in protections as wild or at least recreational + historic. (early Sipapu ski area)*

Response: Agua Sarca is not a named river on USGS quad maps and was therefore not required to be evaluated for eligibility. It was not previously evaluated and was not included in this evaluation. The importance of this river as tributaries to the Rio Pueblo is not being challenged.

River Specific Comment: *Agua Piedra Creek is a vital tributary to the Rio del Pueblo and used to contain pure Rio Grande Cutthroat trout, it is not designated motorized (except for a variance granted to the livestock permittee to use his ATV due to a disability) and popular with hikers + horse riders. It is very wild and deserves protection.*

Response: Agua Piedra Creek was previously eligible because it contains Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, however the fish in this river are genetically hybridized and it does not meet the criteria for a fish ORV. The upper portion is paralleled by a motorized trail, 19A. The opportunity for solitude is less exceptional than, and other recreational values are similar to many other rivers on the district, on the Carson NF, and in the region of comparison.

***River Specific Comment:** The Rio Trampas, including San Leonardo headwaters deserves the highest level of protection as well it is a critical Riparian area for the Pecos Wilderness. (as is the Rio Santa Barbara, Rio del Pueblo headwaters, etc.)*

Response: None of the riparian values along any of the rivers listed were determined to be any more critical than riparian areas that exist along other rivers on the Carson NF and within the region of comparison. There was nothing about these riparian areas that was determined to be particularly unique or uniquely necessary for providing species diversity, resiliency, or redundancy. The importance of riparian areas in the Pecos Wilderness, on the district, or on the Carson NF, generally, is not being challenged.

***River Specific Comment:** Rio de las Trampas (ID 45) and Rio San Leonardo (ID 52) river segments on the Camino Real Ranger District: These segments were previously classified as wild because of their outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, and geologic values. However, the Carson now finds that the geologic values are not outstandingly remarkable when compared to the Four Corners region.*

Response: The previous evaluation said that these rivers are good examples of “a high elevation headwater system cutting through glacial terrain.” Other similar rivers on the district include the three Rio Santa Barbara forks, Alamitos Creek, and Rito Angostura. There are more on the Questa Ranger District, and many others just to the south on the Santa Fe National Forest. Comparison to these rivers alone means that Rio de las Trampas and Rio San Leonardo are not outstandingly remarkable.

***River Specific Comment:** Rio de las Trampas, Rio Santa Barbara, Red River, Rio Bravo and feeders are highly esteemed, and attract fishermen — and therefore \$ — to the region*

Response: Rio de las Trampas was previously eligible for historic and social values related to the extensive acequia system that it supports. Those acequia diversions along with the other extensive development in the surrounding communities detract from the river’s free-flowing nature. Rio Santa Barbara is eligible with a recreational ORV. **Fishing has been specifically added to the list of recreational uses, and a fish ORV has been added for high quality fish habitat.** Most of the Red River is not free-flowing and does not meet the criteria for eligibility. We assume that Rio Bravo refers to the Rio Grande which is currently a designated Wild and Scenic River where it touches the Carson NF.

***River Specific Comment:** Please protect the following streams so as not to impact the important natural reproducing trout: Tucas, Vallecitas, Red, Cabresto, Santa Barbara.*

Response: The free-flow of Rio de Truchas is impacted by diversion and barriers and the native fish in the river are hybridized. A portion of the Rio Vallecitos is eligible with a recreational ORV that specifically includes fishing. Most of the Red River is not free-flowing and does not meet the criteria for eligibility. **The lower section, from the mouth of the canyon to the fish hatchery is eligible with ORVs of geology, and recreation.** Much of Cabresto Creek is not free-flowing. Rio Santa Barbara is eligible with a recreational ORV. **Fishing has been specifically added to the list of recreational uses, and a fish ORV has been added for high quality fish habitat.**

***River Specific Comment:** The segment of the Red River from the Highway 522 bridge to the Wild and Scenic River designation boundary includes numerous recreational and scenic values. This stretch of the river, especially the lower portion immediately adjacent to and above the fish hatchery, provides some of the best recreational fishing opportunities in the area. In fact, millions of dollars have been spent in this area on restoration in order to make it*

an exceptional fishing location. Local fly-fishing guides, including Nick Streit, owner of the Taos Fly Shop, recognizes this as an important recreational spot as it sometimes is the only place they can take their clients and visitors to reliably catch fish as well as offer excellent recreational access. This area is also heavily fished during the annual Trout Unlimited Enchanted Circle fishing tournament. In addition, this stretch provides outstanding remarkable opportunities for consistently viewing the newly reintroduced river otter. This segment should be listed as eligible.

Response: The lower section, from the mouth of the canyon to the fish hatchery is eligible with an ORV of recreation. The scenic and geologic values are less remarkable than in the designated segment below the fish hatchery.

River Specific Comments: San Cristobal Creek - Primitive, wild, pristine, steep and narrow, one of the least trafficked canyons on the Carson NF, provides solitude, the headwaters are in wilderness, 99% pure RGCT, it is inaccessible except by trail, the water originates from high elevations, There exists a large barrier to fish movement where the stream is dewatered by acequias, it is vulnerable to flooding and drought, it provides potential beaver habitat, the trail is unique, it traverses cottonwoods, meadows, aspen, and spruce, there are sheer cliffs and rock outcrops that provide habitat for bears and other animals, there are waterfalls, there are wildflowers and riparian plants, snow avalanches from the north slope and covers the trail, there are wetlands nearby, different flowers bloom throughout the summer, the water is clean enough to drink, there are opportunities for mushroom collecting, views from the high meadows span 100 miles, there is no evidence of civilization in the wilderness, in winter the snow is deep and the meadows and forests are silent and still, elk graze in the meadows, blonde bears and shrews inhabit the area, hermit thrushes nest here along with many other bird species, there are Precambrian and lichen covered rocks, there are clay deposits that have been used for centuries, there are petroglyphs at the confluence with the Rio Grande, there are lithics and pottery sherds, there are historic aspen carvings from the 1930's.

San Cristobal Creek has some of the purest strains of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout in the region, according to New Mexico Department of Game and Fish officials. The stream has never been stocked and has natural barriers that have kept out brown and rainbow trout. This stream should be listed as eligible based on its remarkable fish value, and classified as wild.

Response: San Cristobal Creek is not free-flowing just below the wilderness boundary. It is impounded and diverted. The diversion does not provide an effective fish barrier, and the separation of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout from non-native fish cannot be guaranteed. Therefore the river does not meet the criteria for a fish ORV. Similar values to those listed that occur in the wilderness may be found on other rivers in the Columbine-Hondo wilderness, in other wilderness areas on the district, in other wilderness areas on the Carson NF, and in other rivers in the region of comparison. The value of the river for primitive recreation and untrammeled natural scenery, as wildlife habitat and a vital water source for the community of San Cristobal, and as a record of local history is not being challenged.

River Specific Comments: Gavilan, Yerba, Manzanita, Long Canyon – these trails are close together, amazing views, they all reach high altitudes, dense aspen, mushroom collecting, can ridge hike from one to another, hiking, horseback riding, not crowded. Headwaters for the Rio Hondo and ultimately the Rio Grande. These streams are wild and scenic and offer outstanding recreational opportunities.

The hikes along Gavilan and Long Canyons provide some of the most spectacular scenic views in the area and many hikers choose these hikes specifically because they occur along the river. People all over Taos County hike along these canyons in the fall for the views of golden aspen and peaks tinged with the first dusting of autumn snows. Individually, as well as in combination with the other two river systems on the north slope of the Hondo watershed, these three rivers provide outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, and riparian values. Ironically, while these rivers fall within Wilderness, which by definition is an area recognized by Congress for its solitude, all of these rivers fail to meet the recreational ORV as defined by the Carson to include "exceptional solitude." Wildlife in the region use these river systems extensively and many hikers have seen or heard the eerie screech of the mountain lion or the quick steps of the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep while hiking in these canyons. While these species may

exist elsewhere in the Carson, these canyons provide the most consistent and reliable opportunity to view these animals. Having five free-flowing rivers systems so closely clustered together that are pristine without a sign of development save for trails (and in the case of Gavilan Canyon, the view of a few houses at the base of the canyon), is a rare treasure in the arid southwest. These river systems are connected by a ridge line trail and people often hike loops going up one canyon, climbing the nearby Lobo Peak and then descending down another canyon. Where else in the region can one find five perennial streams all clustered close together and all with good Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) habitat, high quality riparian habitat, and recreational opportunities that provide exceptional opportunities to experience unaltered aquatic and riparian habitats, exceptional wildlife viewing, and opportunities for solitude?

Currently the Rio Hondo tributaries including Long, Gavilan, Italianos, Manzanita, South Fork, and Yerba are classified as “wild” with five ORVS – scenic, recreation, fish, wildlife, and other. The Draft Evaluation proposes to delist four of these six canyons from eligibility completely and to reduce the ORVs on the remaining two (Italianos and Manzanita) down to one ORV (fish). As detailed above in our comments above, scenic, recreation, and wildlife ORVs are appropriate for these tributaries.

Response: The South Fork of the Rio Hondo and the rivers in Yerba, Gavilan, Italianos, Manzanita, and Long Canyons were previously eligible for several ORVs that were determined to not meet the criteria under the current evaluation. The scenery is similar in all the Rio Hondo tributaries, including Italianos Canyon, Manzanita Canyon, the South Fork of the Rio Hondo, Long Canyon, and arguably more outstanding in Lake Fork. Similar scenery and recreational opportunities exist in the upper Red River basin, in the Columbine Canyon Basin, in the Latir Wilderness, and in the Pecos Wilderness on the Carson NF alone. Other similar, or more outstandingly remarkable alpine and high alpine, remote scenery can be found elsewhere in the region of comparison. Rivers in designated wilderness areas do provide opportunities for solitude, but because a river is in wilderness does not mean that the opportunity for solitude is exceptional or outstandingly remarkable. In fact there are many places on the Carson NF alone that may offer more solitude than any of the popular rivers that are accessible from Highway 150 along the Rio Hondo. Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep may be found in many river corridors on the Questa Ranger District, on the Carson NF, and in the region of comparison. There is nothing about these particular rivers that provides uniquely high quality habitat for the species. Yerba and Gavilan do not meet the criteria for a fish value due to the presence of, and lack of protection from non-native hybridizing species. There are four streams with all the values listed in the Columbine Creek watershed just over the ridge. The Costilla Creek watershed in the Valle Vidal contains many streams with arguably better Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout habitat, high quality riparian habitat, and recreational opportunities that provide exceptional opportunities to experience unaltered aquatic and riparian habitats, arguably more exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities, and opportunities for solitude. The four streams in the Columbine Creek watershed offer all these same values in the same wilderness area. The importance of the Rio Hondo watershed and the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness for wildlife habitat, recreation, and wilderness values is not being challenged.

River Specific Comment: *Many river segments that fall within congressionally designated Wilderness areas also include small segments that occur outside of the wilderness boundaries. For example, the majority of the Yerba, Gavilan, and Columbine Creek from Deer Creek all occur in wilderness and only a small portion of these rivers in their very lowest sections occur outside the wilderness boundary. One could argue that the segment of Columbine Creek from Deer Creek to the Columbine Hondo Wilderness boundary is inline with Act’s definition of a “wild segment” and thus should be evaluated as such. Whereas the area of Columbine Creek below the wilderness boundary, which is heavily utilized by campers, hikers, anglers, and other outdoor recreationists and has a road running next to it would fall in line with the understanding of a “recreational segment.” Interestingly, it seems the*

Carson evaluated the whole of Columbine Creek from Deer Creek, which is nearly two miles and predominately in Wilderness, based on the .5 miles nearest to the parking lot.

Response: Generally ORVs or changes in the appropriate classification dictated how rivers were segmented. Whether a river is inside or outside of a designated river did not factor into the location of eligible segments. River segments within designated wilderness have a wild classification, but so do segments that are outside of wilderness areas. The rivers in Yerba and Gavilan canyons were determined to have no associated outstandingly remarkable values either inside or outside the wilderness. The Columbine Creek segment below Deer Creek begins below a fish barrier. This segment does not have the same fish ORV as the segment above. **However, it has been included as eligible based on the recreational ORV of the Columbine-Twining National Recreational Trail and Columbine Campground. The Columbine –Twining trail has also been added as a recreational ORV to Deer Creek.**

***River Specific Comments:** Columbine Canyon – the stretch from Deer Creek to the Red River is also deserving. Popular and accessible for the casual hiker, wildlife viewing and fishing, hiking, picnicking in a pristine area, recreational opportunities are outstandingly remarkable, adjacent to a campground that provides amenities, Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep.*

It appears that USFS found only one outstandingly remarkable value for Columbine Canyon and its tributaries—the presence of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. The bottom stretch of Columbine Creek below the fish barriers, from the confluence with Deer Creek 1.8 miles downstream to the confluence from the Red River, has been removed from the list of eligible rivers because “[b]elow the barrier RGCT populations are not genetically pure, non-native species are present, and there is not a full barrier that separates this section.” Delisting rivers without fish barriers appears to be a common theme in the Carson’s analysis across the forest. This approach is faulty both for the segments that have pure RGCT populations and for the ones that have been removed from eligibility for lack of them. Many of these systems have many other outstandingly remarkable values. Columbine Creek is a perfect example. Columbine Canyon, both above and below the fish barriers, has many outstanding recreational opportunities including hiking, hunting, photography, camping, and sightseeing. Columbine Canyon provides a unique hiking opportunity because the canyon is wide and bright, unlike most other canyons in the area, which are narrow and steep. The bottom quarter mile below the wilderness boundary also has a highly treasured campground with opportunities for picnicking and camping near the river. The bottom stretch of Columbine Creek should be listed as eligible and additional ORVs (beyond just RGCT) should be acknowledged for the headwater segments.

Response: The segment of Columbine Creek below the fish barrier does not meet the criteria for a fish ORV due to the presence of, and lack of protection from non-native hybridizing species. For the most part, the recreational experience along Columbine Creek and its tributaries is similar to other opportunities in the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness, on the Camino Real Ranger District, and in the region of comparison, and not outstandingly remarkable. The combination of a developed campground and trailhead for the Columbine-Twining National Recreational Trail are rare, similar to those available at Santa Barbara campground which was found eligible for recreational values. **Therefore, the lower section of Columbine Creek is eligible with a recreational ORV. A recreational ORV was also added to Deer Creek and the rest of Columbine Creek.**

***River Specific Comments:** Cruces Basin Rivers – scenery and geology is remarkable, fishing is good, the experience is different from most others to be found in the region, always provides unexpected pleasures. Nothing but wilderness designation has changed since its initial eligible listing.*

Rio de los Pinos tributaries (Beaver Creek, ID 8, and Diablo Creek, ID 23) on the Tres Peidras Ranger District: These segments were previously classified as wild for their outstandingly remarkable fish (abundance of large fish), wildlife (good diversity) and historic (structures, cabins, gold mining and panning) values, but the Carson is

proposing to eliminate eligibility because these values are not outstandingly remarkable when compared to the Four Corners region.

Response: Neither scenery nor geology were previously identified as ORVs. The fishing value was previously remarkable due to an “abundance of large fish”. Better fishing opportunities are available on the Carson NF and in the region of comparison.

River Specific Comment: *Rito de la Olla – well known for Dusky Grouse production and hunting, riparian areas are important for chick production. The Carson is the Grouse factory of New Mexico. Reductions in the bird’s range would be a tragic loss.*

Response: The grouse habitat in Rito de la Olla is similar to habitat in other areas of the district, forest, and region of comparison. The importance to grouse of rivers, other riparian areas, and upland habitats on the Carson NF, collectively, is not being challenged.

River Specific Comment: *Please designate the stretch of the Rio Grande del Rancho along Highway 518 as a wild and scenic river. This area is a very important part of the watershed. This area shelters birds, fish, and all types of mammals, plus many rattlesnakes. It also shelters some archeological sites, including the St. Vrain Mill, that need to stay protected.*

Response: This section is eligible with wildlife and riparian ORVs. The historic values were determined to be representative of others in the region of comparison. Protections for archeological sites generally, including these sites in particular are not being challenged.

River Specific Comment: *Warm Springs and Tierra Amarilla Canyon river segments on the Camino Real District: These segments are classified as wild because of their scenic, geologic, and wildlife values, but the Carson is proposing to eliminate eligibility because the geologic and wildlife values are not outstandingly remarkable when compared to the Four Corners region.*

Response: The geology, scenery, and wildlife values are similar to every river that drains from the west side of the Camino Real Ranger District or adjacent BLM lands to the Rio Grande. Based on that comparison alone, these rivers are not outstandingly remarkable.

River Specific Comment: *Cabresto Canyon (ID 2) on the Jicarilla Ranger District: This segment was previously classified as recreational based on four ORVs, including scenic, wildlife, cultural, and other values. Under the new analysis the Carson is claiming that none of these ORVs apply and therefore is proposing to remove the eligibility of the river. In the new analysis the Carson states that while there are archeological sites and features that are unique to the district, they are not unique to the Four Corners region. As previously stated, we suggest using the Tri-Forest Region for historic and cultural values.*

Response: We do not believe that Forest Service lands provide a meaningful region of comparison for historic or cultural values which are not necessarily related to current land ownership. For example, archeological sites in Cabresto Canyon represent the northeastern most example of a type (Navajo Pueblito). No other examples would be found on the Santa Fe or Rio Grande NFs, though many may be found to the south and west. Outstandingly remarkable values must be “significant when compared with *similar values* from other rivers at a regional or national scale [emphasis added].” (FSH 1909.12, sec 82.73) **Colorado and New Mexico were determined to provide an adequate region of comparison for the wide range of historic and cultural river related values represented on the Carson NF.**

The headwaters of the Middle Ponil provide one of the most exceptional opportunities for solitude and unaltered aquatic and riparian habitats in the Carson. No trail leads to the long wide valley that sits between Ash Mountain and Little Costilla Peak and that makes up the headwaters of the Middle Ponil. Hiking to the headwaters involves

bushwhacking along the ridge past the largest bristlecone pine tree in the state and dropping into the wild beautiful valley of the upper Middle Ponil. Ash Mountain, a stunning long ridge of shale that soars above to the east, provides exceptional geologic and scenic values. Little Costilla Peak towers above the northwest side of the valley, providing stunning views and recreational opportunities. Looking downstream out the notch made by Middle Ponil as it flows south, one can view the towering peaks of the Wheeler Peak and Columbine Hondo Wildernesses, home to the highest peaks in New Mexico. This segment of the Middle Ponil should be listed as eligible.

Response: The bristlecone pine population in this part of the Valle Vidal is rare on the Carson NF, but less rare in the region of comparison and not directly river related. The geologic, scenic, and recreational values associated with Little Costilla Peak and Ash Mountain are outside the river corridor and not directly river related. The solitude and recreational experience along the river itself are not unique among other rivers in the Valle Vidal or in the region of comparison. Rivers in the Cruces Basin, Weminuche Wilderness, or Valles Caldera are other similar examples.

Two populations of RGCT found in the Santa Barbara's East and Middle Forks (where barriers against upstream migration were secured in 1999) were genetically analyzed in 1997 and found to have greater than 99% genetic purity. In 2005 the Rio Santa Barbara was designated as New Mexico's first Outstanding National Resource (ONRW) water under the Clean Water Act. The Rio Santa Barbara's cutthroat trout populations, its good water quality, and exceptional riparian habitat were all listed as contributing factors in the ONRW designation. In August of 2002 the New Mexico Environment Department conducted a Regional Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (REMAP) inventory of the riparian habitat on the Rio Santa Barbara and found that the Rio Santa Barbara exceeded even the reference sites in many cases. The Santa Barbara REMAP data indicated that the Wilderness Santa Barbara is well above the "properly functioning" stream health thresholds used in the inventory in all cases. This wilderness segment of the Rio Santa Barbara is of exceptional quality in terms of geomorphic function, water quality, and wild trout habitat. Habitat quality is underlined by the excellent trout population, while ecological quality corresponds to the lack of major human impacts. These factors combined indicate that both a "fish" and "other/riparian" ORV should be assigned to this segment.

Response: The RGCT information used for this evaluation is more recent 2016 NM Department of Game and Fish data that shows suspected hybridization and the presence of non-natives. Barriers that were installed in the 1990s were temporary and are no longer functional. RGCT is not an ORV. **A fish ORV has been added for high quality habitat.**

Appendix C: Revised Evaluation Response to Comments

There were several additional comments received following the release of the revised January version of the evaluation. Specific comments are quoted directly below. Multiple comments expressed general opposition to any change to eligibility of any river and are grouped under a common theme, and addressed in the first response below. Any updates to the evaluation that resulted are highlighted in **bold**.

***Comment Theme:** I am writing in opposition to your proposal to remove Wild and Scenic protections from 61 rivers on the Forest. I strongly oppose downgrading river protections in the forest- please keep the Wild + Scenic protections for our 60 plus waterways previously found eligible in place. Please reconsider the 61 river segments that you are considering ineligible from the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and consider the long term impact, health of the forest, river, habitat, wildlife, and need for the community to protect the precious resource of free flowing water.*

Response: Watershed, riparian, and stream condition and function are all addressed in the revised forest plan, as are activities and uses that may impact that condition and function. Wild and scenic river eligibility and/or designation is one potential management tool among a suite of law, policy, and regulation (including that being developed as part of plan revision) that guide the management of the Carson NF. The reevaluation of river eligibility is being conducted as part of the overall revision of the Carson NF forest plan. There are a suite of regulatory, policy, and legal considerations with which management must comply along all rivers on the forest. Changes to river eligibility fit within the revised approach to river management described by the totality of the new plan. By refining the evaluation and management direction for eligible rivers, the Carson NF believes it is managing more in line with the intent of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, providing clearer management guidance, and stronger protections of those values which make a river eligible. Refining the evaluation and providing consistent management direction for eligible rivers improves the Carson NF's ability to effectively protect and enhance those values that make them eligible.

***Comment:** My wife and child and I lived in El Rito for years. We could walk from our house up a couple of roads to the east, and be in Carson Forest, up beyond various private lands. Walking the road south that Johnny Mutz dozed in illegally years ago, brings you to del Medio. I know there is a population cutthroat trout in del Medio, but don't tell anyone. In the fall there are a few mushrooms of the type, *Boletus barrosii*, but don't tell anyone. Hiking up a very steep trail along the creek brings you to Questa Dome. It is an amazing cliff, sheer and tall. It's a favorite of Taos County rock climbers, and draws climbers from other parts as well. I believe it is in Dennis Jackson's book; *Climbing New Mexico*. Down in Cerro and farms and ranches in the flat lands below to the west, it is known as the "Sleeping Bear".*

Hiking farther up brings you to the steep valley at the base of Virsylvia Peak and Venado Peak. Both are over 12000 feet.

The last time my wife and I climbed Virsylvia, we saw, among other animals and birds, an eagle, a herd of elk, and a small black bear. If you asked anyone standing by that little creek; "is this wild and scenic?" they would think you were a fool for asking. Or maybe suffering from altitude sickness.

I understand that the designation of Wild and Scenic is a complex set of requirements. But if you did succeed in bringing that designation to this river, you would not be wrong! You would have simply described very well exactly what is there. To delist this river, you would simply be wrong.

Response: The recreational value of Rito del Medio canyon is not being challenged. However, it is judged as being similar to recreational opportunities available along other rivers in the Latir Peak Wilderness, on the Questa Ranger District, on the Carson NF, and in the wider region of

comparison. The recreational value was not previously identified as being outstandingly remarkable. The previous eligibility evaluation identified a wildlife ORV for white-tailed ptarmigan and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. The current evaluation describes why these habitat values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally.

The genetic purity of cutthroat in Rito del Medio has not been tested, however there is no barrier present to protect the population from non-natives. *Boletus barrowsii* can be found in many ponderosa forests throughout New Mexico and Arizona and occurs less commonly throughout the Southwest. Shear, tall cliffs that attract rock climbers can be found throughout the region of comparison. While a popular climbing spot, locally, the Questa Dome is unremarkable for rock climbing regionally. Steep valleys and 12,000 foot peaks are common on the Questa Ranger District, in fact Cabresto Peak and Latir Peak in the same wilderness are also over 12,000 feet. Eagles, elk, and bear may be seen in many areas of the Carson NF, and are all common in the region of comparison.

Finally, the Carson NF does not make decisions regarding *designation* of Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Comment: 1. *[Agua Caliente Canyon] is a perennial free-flowing creek on the east side of the Rio Grande canyon/gorge. Between Velarde and Pilar, it is the ONLY watercourse of this kind. It is remarkable in that regard. Rio Embudo is of a different magnitude. Rito Cieneguilla is intermittent, as is Arroyo Hondo.*

2. *The geology in Agua Caliente Canyon is very different from that west of the Rio Grande (pace another evaluator's comment), as is the watershed (Picuris Range to Rio Grande). AC canyon is not characterized, as is the other side of the RG, by Servilleta basalt/mesa configuration. Instead, in this canyon the Picuris Range dramatically contacts the Santa Fe/Tesuque and RG Rift geologies.*

There is a visually arresting exposure of Bradley Conglomerate rising a short distance up AC canyon. Continuing a mile and beyond toward the Warm Springs source, Picuris geology is in high contrast to Santa Fe/Tesuque geology characteristic of the canyon nearer the RG. (An essential reference for geology here is Precambrian Geology of the Picuris Range, Arthur Montgomery; also see the Taos regional geology book containing more recent analyses of the area.)

3. *Historical and archaeological: Agua Caliente Canyon possesses a highly significant historical character. About a mile up this canyon occurred the Battle of Cieneguilla, 1840s, where an Apache village in AC canyon (recently excavated, 2012, by UNM archaeologists) was attacked by US Army Dragoons and the Dragoons were defeated. A major and dramatic episode in Jicarilla Apache history and US history. This is an artifact-rich canyon that needs care and protection.*

4. *Note: your language says "Headwaters to Forest Boundary." The Forest Boundary is at least 1 mile from the Rio Grande. You thus omit the flow from that point to the river. That's through BLM and a small zone of private land.*

Thanks for your consideration. I sympathize with your task. "Outstandingly remarkable"--I'd love to learn how that hugely problematic term was agreed upon in USFS circles.

Common sense says this little jewel of canyon should be on the Eligible list. It's got free flow, it's got geology, it's got history and archaeology to boot.

Response: While Agua Caliente Canyon Creek may be the only perennial stream that is smaller than Rio Embudo, is also east of the Rio Grande, and is also in the area between Velarde and Pilar that does not make it outstandingly remarkable in the region of comparison. There are many small perennial streams in the region of comparison.

While this area may represent a rare combination of geologies, the combination is not unique, the individual geologies are not rare, and neither is their contact. The portion of this canyon that is on the Carson NF lies almost entirely within the Picuris tuff formation.

The 1854 Battle of Cieneguilla is historically significant, and the site is important for its historical interpretive value among battle sites in the Apache Wars of the late 1800s. The battlefield is eligible for the National Register of Historic Sites.

The area around warm springs is also culturally important to many area tribes. There is unique traditional tribal importance tied to the springs, the creek, and the surrounding area.

Based on these two outstandingly remarkable values, Agua Caliente Canyon Creek is eligible. A classification of scenic is appropriate because the upper portion of the river has evidence of past timber harvest and there are many closed, inconspicuous roads that cross the river in places. The creek is confined in culverts in several locations.

This evaluation only considered Carson NF administered lands. In this case that includes only the river segment from the headwaters to the forest boundary. The Carson NF has no management authority on BLM or private lands.

The term outstandingly remarkable was agreed upon by the US Congress in the 1964 Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and applies to the US Forest Service as well as all other federal land management agencies, "...certain selected rivers of the Nation which, with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and...they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations."

***Comment:** Within the Outstandingly Remarkable Value Recreational Criteria, we do question the Carson's use of the term "exceptional" to modify the aforementioned recreational activities since this makes the criteria incredibly subjective thus allowing the Carson to be arbitrary and capricious on whether it believes a river segment should be given protection under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. For example, some the area's best anglers may argue that a certain river or river segment under consideration is "exceptional" only during the summer or the winter depending on the seasonal movement of fish or simply because the river or river segment offers anglers an opportunity to catch an iconic Rio Grande cutthroat trout it is thus inherently "exceptional." Similar arguments could be made for hunting and other recreational criteria.*

Response: We agree that no matter how the criteria are defined, the identification of ORVs is inherently subjective. Ultimately, the "determination that a river does or does not contain one or more outstandingly remarkable values is a professional judgement on the part of the Responsible Official as informed by the Interdisciplinary Team, best available scientific information, and public participation." (FSH 1909.12, sec 82.73)

***Comment:** We support the Carson's inclusion of hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, wildlife viewing, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, rock climbing, and photography as criteria for the recreational ORV. This is consistent with the national criteria, and is moreover critical to ensure that river segments that possess outstandingly remarkable examples of these attributes are eligible as wild and scenic rivers. Ensuring that hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, rock climbing, and photography are included as recreational criteria also recognizes the critical interplay between recreation and protection of watersheds, river segments, river corridors and critical habitat for many wildlife species.*

However, we seriously question the Carson's use of the term "exceptional" to modify the aforementioned recreational criteria. As we explained in our November 2017 comments, using the term "exceptional" makes the criteria incredibly subjective. The Carson does not define the term "exceptional", nor does it explain how it is able to determine whether river attributes are exceptional in a non-arbitrary way. Reasonable people may disagree on whether an attribute qualifies as exceptional or not, and allowing the Carson to make this determination without specifying what exceptional means in the context of a wild and scenic river eligibility evaluation is arbitrary and capricious.

Illustrating this point is the fact that the region's best guides and anglers may argue that a certain river or river segment under consideration is "exceptional" only during the summer or the winter depending on the seasonal movement of fish or simply because the river or river segment offers anglers an opportunity to catch an iconic Rio Grande cutthroat trout and thus is inherently "exceptional." Similar arguments could be made for the subjective nature of "exceptional" hunting as well as other criteria within the recreational ORV. Adding the term "exceptional" seems especially spurious in light of the fact that one of the primary reasons the Carson has repeatedly stated in public meetings on why it decided to disregard the prior wild and scenic river evaluation is that the previous evaluation was subjective and led to inconsistent results.

Accordingly, if the Carson is going to expend extensive staff time and taxpayer resources on reevaluating all the rivers on the forest, logic would dictate that the Carson would eliminate such subjective and unspecific terms from its evaluation criteria to avoid expending resources in a reevaluation that could easily be deemed subjective and inconsistent.

Response: See the previous response. In regard to inconsistencies in the previous evaluation, those arose from the lack of a defined region of comparison. The current evaluation has explicitly defined consistent regions of comparison for each ORV that are used to evaluate rivers across the forest.

Comment: The Carson must reevaluate all rivers using the updated ORV criteria to ensure that all river evaluations are consistent with the new criteria. It would also be useful for the Carson to explicitly identify how using the updated ORVs affected the Carson's eligibility determinations for specific river segments. There may be rivers that were deemed ineligible under the previous criteria but are eligible under the new criteria, or rivers that were deemed not to possess a particular ORV (such as recreation) that do possess the ORV under the new criteria.

Response: See Appendix B for changes to the evaluation under the clarified ORV criteria. All rivers have been evaluated using the criteria as currently written while factoring in information submitted by the public. We emphasize that, no matter how the criteria are defined, eligibility ultimately is a professional judgement on the part of the Responsible Official.

One additional change to the criteria has been made since the January version of this evaluation. **Based on the revised fish region of comparison the criteria for Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout as an ORV has been updated to include the requirement that a stream is part of a system that provides Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout habitat.** All streams have been evaluated using this new criteria. See the next answer for more detail.

Comment: We believe that the revised regions of comparison for these values are more appropriately tailored and will provide a more meaningful basis of comparison. However, we question whether using more narrowly tailored regions has actually affected the Carson's eligibility determinations for any specific river segments. The Carson must reevaluate all river segments using the updated regions of comparison, and it would be useful for the Carson to explicitly identify how using the updated regions of comparison affected the Carson's eligibility determinations for specific river segments. We believe a reevaluation should result in more river segments being found eligible because they are now being compared to other rivers within a more focused geographic area.

If using the revised regions of comparison has not affected ORVs for any river segments, or has only affected a few river segments, then we question whether the Carson actually engaged in a meaningful reevaluation of river

segments using the revised regions of comparison. Modifying the regions of comparison to a more appropriate scope must not be merely a paper exercise; it is a critical step that the Carson must use to inform its eligibility determinations for all river segments.

Response: The evaluation compares river-related values to “similar values from other rivers”. (FSH 1909.12, sec 82.73) Rivers are compared to other rivers with similar values, not to every river in the region of comparison. By removing, for example, most of Utah from the wildlife value region of comparison, those rivers that have wildlife values that are least similar to those on the Carson NF have been removed. Therefore, the list of rivers used for comparison changed little. That is, even when the region of comparison was larger the number of rivers with similar values was not necessarily proportionally greater. This is also true for geologic values; there was little difference among the list of rivers used for comparison under the two different regional definitions. The region of comparison for recreational, scenic, and other values has not changed. No evaluations have changed for these classes of ORV.

The region of comparison for cultural and historic values now excludes Arizona and Utah. This resulted in little change in the evaluation of these values. Many of the historic values identified by the previous evaluation (1994-2001) were for old cabins or evidence of mining or railroads, which are still common throughout the revised region of comparison. The historic value of the Elizabethtown ditch and Anchor/Midnight mine complex on the Questa RD are still judged to be outstandingly remarkable within the new region of comparison. The Old Spanish Trail and Navajo Pueblito sites on the Jicarilla RD are still judged to be outstandingly remarkable within the new region of comparison. Several rivers had historic or cultural values identified under the previous evaluation based on the presence of acequia diversions. While the current evaluation acknowledges the cultural importance and history of acequias, the diversion they create is not compatible with Wild and Scenic eligibility. The Anasazi and Navajo sites previously identified in Bancos Canyon are similar to others on the district and in northwestern NM and southwestern CO and are still judged to be outstandingly remarkable within the new region of comparison. The Vaqueros Ranger Station site is not remarkable. Removing rivers from Arizona did limit the number of similar rivers in the region with evidence from the Apache Wars of the late 1800s. **As a result, Agua Caliente Canyon Creek is eligible for historic values, see the response to previous comment above.** No other changes were identified for either historic or cultural values based on the revised region of comparison.

The region of comparison for fish was reduced from the four corners states to only the four drainage subregions that intersect the Carson NF. Those four drainage subregions have unique qualities among all subregions in the Four Corners region. They contain more water and more cold water habitat than many parts of the Four Corners. They include two out of the three subregions that contain native Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. By considering only those rivers in the revised region of comparison, the overall quality of habitat and intactness of populations used for comparison is higher, and the requirement for a finding of outstandingly remarkable value becomes stricter. Therefore, several streams that were previously eligible based on Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout habitat are no longer determined to be eligible. Whereas before, the presence of RGCT in a stream was very unique in the region, under the new region of comparison RGCT are found in a much larger percentage of similar streams. **The eligibility for those RGCT streams that are isolated, single tributaries has been removed. Only those RGCT streams that occur as part of a larger system that provides redundant habitat have been retained as eligible. This includes streams in the Costilla/Comanche Creek system, the Columbine Creek**

system, the Lake Fork system, the Alamitos Creek system, and the El Rito system. The fish ORV has been removed from five streams that are not part of these river systems; Policarpio Canyon, Allen Creek, Manzanita Canyon, Italianos Canyon, and Canjilon Creek. The only river with a fish ORV for high quality habitat for non-native species was the Rio Santa Barbara, however similar quality habitat may be found in many other streams in the revised region of comparison and that ORV has been removed. No other changes were identified for fish values based on the revised region of comparison.

***Comment:** Overall we are concerned that the text in the “Narrative Description of Outstandingly Remarkable Values” column included in Table 4 for proposed eligible rivers appears to contain more of a narrative description for what ORVs do not exist in specific stretches of rivers. This language is more appropriate for Table 5, which describes why previously eligible rivers are either now being considered ineligible or are eligible based on fewer ORVs. It appears that the language from Table 5 has been directly carried over to Table 4.*

In addition, in some cases, a narrative description for one or more of a segment’s ORVs is not included. For example, Costilla Creek (Qu-11) is categorized in the January 2018 version of the evaluation as being Recreational with Scenic (S), Recreation (R), and Fisheries (F) ORVs, yet the narrative description for this segment fails to mention two of the three applicable ORVs:

Riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. Recreational classification is appropriate.

Only a narrative description of the Fisheries ORV is included along with a narrative description of why a riparian ORV is not merited. Neither a narrative description of the Scenic ORV or the Recreation ORV is included.

We request that Forest Service remove all language summarizing why particular ORVs are not merited from Table 4 and add language to both Tables 4 and 5 so a narrative description is included for all ORVs listed in eligible river segments.

Response: Table 4 was previously copied directly from the entries in Tables 5, 6, and 7. Tables 5 and 6 include the previous evaluation for each river segment, and the narrative often references that previous evaluation. **Table 4 has been revised so that the narrative describes the rationale for each ORV listed. References to ORVs that do not exist (as a response to the previous evaluation) have been removed.**

***Comment:** Based on the updated ORV criteria we strongly oppose the following downgraded protection of the following river segments and seek further explanation with regard to these downgrades.*

- Middle Rio Pueblo - Cr-51
- Powerhouse Canyon - Qu-42

Response: Neither of these changes were based on changes to the ORV criteria, but on feedback from the public. The Middle Rio Pueblo was determined to not be free flowing based on existing diversions in this segment. The previous evaluation (1998) identified Powderhouse Canyon as eligible with a wild classification and ORVs for fish and wildlife. The wildlife ORV for “elk wintering and calving areas” is not outstandingly remarkable regionally and not directly river related. The September 2017 version of the current evaluation identified many roads in the area, making a wild classification inappropriate. The January 2018 version also identified a fish barrier in this segment that impounds water and impacts free flow, making a scenic classification inappropriate.

Comment: The current eligibility determination for Costilla Creek was Recreational with Recreation (R), Fisheries (F), and Other (O) ORVs. The Carson is now proposing to split the Costilla into two segments—both Recreational, but with different ORVs. Proposed ORVs for the upper section (Qu-11) include Scenic (S), Recreation (R), and Fisheries (F), but the lower section (Qu-64) includes only Scenic (S) and Recreation (R). The narrative description included for Qu-64: “Riparian values are not outstandingly remarkable regionally. RGCT populations are genetically pure, no non-native species are present, and there is a full barrier that separates this section. The deep narrow canyon was judged to be outstandingly remarkable for scenery. This is a very popular fly-fishing stream. Recreational classification is appropriate”, indicates that a Fisheries (F) ORV is also merited on the lower section.

Response: This description was incorrect. The purpose of the fish barrier is to separate genetically pure cutthroat upstream from hybridized cutthroat and non-native species downstream. **The narrative has been corrected.**

Comment: The Carson’s draft evaluation states that the Yerba, Gavilan, and Long Canyons (Qu-61, Qu-16, and Qu-66) lack ORVs and are therefore ineligible. In addition, if there were not fish barriers in place in Manzanita (Qu-32) and Italianos (Qu-21), neither of these canyons would be deemed eligible either as the only ORV proposed by the Forest Service for these two canyons is a Fisheries (F) ORV. We believe this is erroneous.

These canyons are arguably the most popular hiking trails along rivers in the entire Carson National Forest and merit eligibility with Recreation (R) and Scenic (S) ORVs. The hikes along Gavilan and Long Canyons provide some of the most spectacular scenic views of the high country in the area and many hikers choose these hikes specifically because they occur in canyons along rivers and provide scenic opportunities. People all over Taos County hike all of these canyons in the fall for the views of golden aspen (Italianos and Gavilan in particular have spectacular aspen viewing) and peaks tinged with the first dusting of autumn snows.

Individually, as well as in combination, these rivers provide outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, and riparian values. These river systems provide extensive use for wildlife in the region and these canyons provide the most consistent and reliable opportunity to view these animals. Having five free-flowing rivers systems so closely clustered together that are pristine and without a sign of development save for trails is a rare treasure in the arid southwest. These river systems are connected by a ridge line trail and people often hike loops going up one canyon, climbing the nearby Lobo Peak and then descending down another canyon. This ability to hike up one and down another alone merits eligibility under a Recreation (R) ORV, for where else in the region can one find five perennial streams all clustered close together, and all with good Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) habitat, high quality riparian habitat, and recreational opportunities that provide exceptional opportunities to experience unaltered aquatic and riparian habitats, exceptional wildlife and scenery viewing, and opportunities for solitude? In the previous evaluation the Carson correctly understood that these rivers should be viewed as a system when they listed a segment as “Rio Hondo Tributaries” that included all five of these rivers. We urge the Forest Service to return to this approach and list all five of these rivers under one segment as eligible as “Wild” with, at the very least, Scenic, Recreation, and Fisheries ORVs.

Response: While these trails may provide “some of the most spectacular scenic views of the high country in the area” that does not make them outstandingly remarkable regionally. As this statement implies, many trails in the area provide spectacular scenic views. Many other trails in the region of comparison “occur in canyons along rivers and provide scenic opportunities”. Trails on the north side of the Columbine-Hondo Wilderness are also popular for aspen viewing, especially during the annual Red River Aspencade Festival. People from Taos County and elsewhere also hike in the Pecos Wilderness to view aspen. Aspen in the region of comparison is often dusted with snow in autumn.

There are four streams with all the values listed in the Columbine Creek watershed just over the ridge to the north. The Costilla Creek watershed in the Valle Vidal contains many streams with arguably better Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout habitat, high quality riparian habitat, and recreational opportunities that provide exceptional opportunities to experience unaltered aquatic and riparian

habitats, arguably more exceptional wildlife viewing opportunities, and opportunities for solitude. The four streams in the Columbine Creek watershed offer all these same values in the same wilderness area. The ability to hike to a peak up one canyon and down another is neither unique nor rare in the region of comparison.

Based on the revised region of comparison the fisheries ORV has been removed from Manzanita and Italianos Canyons. They do not provide a system of connected habitat as they are fragmented by non-native trout in the Rio Hondo, see the detailed response above.