

WILD AND SCENIC ELIGIBILITY ANALYSIS FOR SCENERY AND VISUAL
VALUES
San Juan Forest and BLM

DRAFT 5/3/06

I. Region of comparison:

“The interdisciplinary team must identify the area of consideration that will serve as the basis for meaningful comparative analysis. This area of consideration is not fixed; it may be a national forest, grassland, prairie, or comparable administrative unit, a portion of a state, or an appropriately scaled physiographic or hydrologic unit. Once the area of consideration is identified, a river’s values can then be analyzed in comparison with other rivers.” (FSH 1909.12-80)

For this resource, we used the following area of consideration.

- SW Colorado
- Southern Rocky Mountains Province
- Colorado Plateau Province
- other (explain)

II. Analysis procedure

“There are a variety of methods to determine that certain river-related values are so unique, rare, or exemplary as to make them outstandingly remarkable. The determination that a river area contains outstanding values is a professional judgment on the part of an interdisciplinary team, based on objective, scientific analysis.” (FSH 1909.12-80)

In order to be assessed as outstandingly remarkable, a river-related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant at a comparative regional or national scale. A river-related value would be a conspicuous example of that value from among a number of similar examples that are themselves uncommon or extraordinary. (FSH 1909.12-80)

“The following eligibility criteria are offered to foster greater consistency within the agency and with other federal river-administering agencies. They are intended to set minimum thresholds to establish outstandingly remarkable values and are illustrative and not all-inclusive. These criteria may be modified to make them more meaningful in the area of comparison, and additional criteria may be included” (FSH 1909.12-80)

Scenery. The landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water, color, and related factors result in notable or exemplary visual features and/or attractions. When analyzing scenic values, 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 the majority of the river or river segment. (FSH 1909.12-80)

Landscape elements of landform, vegetation, water and color were considered for streams being analyzed. Number of viewers, and length of time spent viewing (i.e., driving and hiking) were considered.

III. Justification for each ORV

Dolores above McPhee - Skyway: (Recreation) Many people see the canyon/river from the Skyway.

Dolores River McPhee to Bedrock: cliffs, canyons, groves (Recreation) Dam to Far Draw; (Wild) Below Big Spring Gulch; (Scenic) to WSA boundary; (Wild) within WSA.

Leach Creek: (Wild) Within WSA

McIntyre Canyon : Scenic ORV's are the same as ecology (hanging gardens).

La Sal Creek – Montrose BLM will analyze this. No longer on San Juan list to analyze
Summit Canyon - slickrock

Wild Steer Canyon – Montrose BLM will analyze this. No longer on San Juan list to analyze

Animas River Bakers Bridge to Silverton – canyon, train. The train goes through this canyon and is one of the highlights of the train ride.

Animas River Silverton to Animas Forks - Alpine Loop, and the historic mining, red mountains of the Silverton Caldera.

Cinnamon Creek - Alpine Loop: (Scenic or Rec)

Mineral Creek – Skyway: (Scenic) Many viewers. Canyons and beaver ponds.

South Fork Mineral Creek – canyon

West Fork Animas California Gulch – valley, meadow, peaks (Scenic)

Los Pinos above Vallecito Reservoir (Scenic)

Vallecito Creek – (Scenic) Mountain views, geology

Piedra River above Hwy 160 – box canyons: (Scenic or Rec.) Previous Wild and Scenic

East Fork Piedra River - waterfalls: (Scenic or Rec.) Previous Wild and Scenic

Williams Creek – waterfalls (Wild in wilderness, Scenic outside wilderness)

Wolf Creek and Fall Creek – Treasure Falls (Recreation)