San Juan Plan Revision
Public Meeting Handout—May 2006

Brief list of evaluation methods used to determine Outstandingly Remarkable Values for Wild and Scenic Rivers.

Archeology
- Sites (not isolated finds) eligible for the National Register of Historic Places within ¼ mile of the river
- Road and railroad crossings not included
- Lithic scatters not included

Ecology
Our analysis was based on information in San Miguel County and San Juan County Biological Assessments completed by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program. To decide what was unique/rare, we used Colorado Natural Heritage Program/TNC rankings of species and communities based on global occurrences and species of state concern using Heritage program protocol. To determine what was river-related, we only used species and communities that are obligate to water resources, wetlands and riparian areas within river canyons.

Fish
- Occupied Roundtail Chub habitat
- Occupied Colorado River Cutthroat habitat
- Network of streams in Hermosa Watershed (occupied and potential Colorado River Cutthroat habitat) that could lead to a meta-ppopulation

Geology
Outstanding geological and mining-related were identified. Exemplary examples were selected on streams that also had other values.

Recreation
To determine if "recreational opportunities are popular enough to attract visitors from throughout or beyond the region of comparison" or "provide settings for national or regional usage or competitive events", we utilized the following information sources:
> Forest Service recreation and Special Uses Staff
> Guidebooks for rafting, fishing and general recreation in the southwest US or Colorado
> Commercial fishing and rafting companies in Durango, Pagosa Springs, Dolores
> Internet resources of American Whitewater and Riversearch

Wildlife
- Black Swift nesting colonies in or within the corridors of rivers analyzed
- Canyon Tree Frog

Visual Resources and scenery
Landscape elements of landform vegetation water and color for streams being analyzed. Number of viewers and time spent viewing were considered.