

CARSON WILD AND SCENIC OUTSTANDINGLY REMARKABLE VALUES

For a river to be eligible for Wild and Scenic protections, the river and its adjacent land area must have one or more outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs). Specific outstandingly remarkable values on the Carson include:

- Scenery**
- Recreation**
- Geology**
- Fish**
- Wildlife**
- Historic/Cultural**
- Other Values**

These values must be outstandingly remarkable in the region of comparison that is specific to each value. To be considered outstandingly remarkable, a river related value must be a unique, rare, or exemplary feature that is significant when compared with similar values from the region of comparison. A description of each outstandingly remarkable value and the region of comparison is included below and on the flip side of the paper.

Scenery: *Region of Comparison: Public lands in northern NM and southern CO within 100 miles of the Carson National Forest*

The landscape elements of land-form, 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: 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: *Region of Comparison: Public lands in Northern NM and Southern CO*

Unique, rare, or exemplary recreational opportunities are available in the river corridor. These features include the following: 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 only on a seasonal basis).

Geologic: *Region of Comparison: Southern Rocky Mountains and Colorado Plateau*

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 rarer with 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 (erosion, volcanic, glacial, or other geologic structures).



Fish: *Region of Comparison: Intersecting watersheds on the Carson*

Fish values may be judged on the relative merits of either fish populations or habitat, or a combination of these river-related conditions. 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 species would be of particular significance. Habitat: The River provides uniquely diverse or high quality habitat for fish species indigenous to the region of comparison.

Wildlife: *Region of Comparison: intersecting eco-regional provinces (includes the Rocky Mtns. from southern WY south to southern NM and four corners region extending south toward Phoenix)*

Wildlife values may be judged on the relative merits of either terrestrial or aquatic wildlife populations or habitat, or a combination of these conditions. 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. Populations – The river or river corridor contains nationally or regionally important meta-populations necessary for providing diversity, resiliency, or redundancy. Consider the following species: At risk riparian-dependent species. Other indigenous wildlife species, particularly federal or state listed or endangered species, or species of conservation concern.

Historical: *Region of Comparison: New Mexico and Colorado*

The river or the area within the river corridor, contains important evidence of historic or prehistoric 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. Historic sites: AD 1539 – 50 years ago. Prehistoric Sites: prior to AD 1539.

Cultural: *Region of Comparison: New Mexico and Colorado*

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.

Other: *Region of Comparison: 4-Corner States*

Riparian- The river or the river corridor contains nationally or regionally important or unique riparian systems necessary for providing extraordinary high biodiversity, species resiliency, or species redundancy. Consider the following species: At risk riparian-dependent species and other indigenous species, particularly federal or state listed threatened or endangered species or species of conservation concern.

