



Bill Richardson  
Governor

**NEW MEXICO  
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**

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For Immediate Release

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**Environment Secretary to Tour Valle Vidal on Friday**

*Tour will Serve to Provide a Status Update on the Area's Designation as ONRW and will Highlight the Future Designation of Roadless Areas in the State as ONRW*

**WHAT:** Secretary Curry and other members of the department will conduct a field tour of the Valle Vidal in Northern New Mexico. The tour will highlight Governor Richardson's recent commitment to designate the state's most valuable water resources as Outstanding National Resource Waters. The Valle Vidal, which serves as an example of a recent ONRW, received that designation in 2006. Surface waters of this area were recognized for their special recreational and wildlife uses.

Governor Bill Richardson on Earth Day on April 22 announced his plan to pursue protection for all surface waters within national forest wilderness and inventoried roadless areas in New Mexico. By seeking The designation for those waters as ONRW under the Federal Clean Water Act, these vital headwater streams will remain pristine and protected far into the future. The designation, if approved by the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission, will protect the state's headwater streams that flow from mountain forests. It will also help counter efforts by the Bush Administration to weaken protections in inventoried roadless areas.

**WHEN:** On Friday, June 27. The department will meet members of the state Department of Game and Fish at 10 a.m. on N.M. 58 in Cimarron, N.M. Please call Marissa Stone for details.

**WHERE:** Valle Vidal in Northern New Mexico

**WHO:** Secretary Curry, other members of the department and members of the Department of Game and Fish.

For more information, call Marissa Stone at (505) 827-0314.

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