



OUTSTANDING WATERS HEARING  
RIO GRANDE, RIO HONDO, LAKE FORK, SAN ANTONIO  
CREEK, EAST FORK JEMEZ, AND REDONDO CREEK

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Direct Testimony  
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There are 6 requirements for nominating an ONRW set forth in Section 20.6.4.9.A NMAC:

- (1) a map of the surface water of the state, including the location and proposed upstream and downstream boundaries;
- (2) a written statement and evidence based on scientific principles in support of the nomination, including specific reference to one or more of the applicable ONRW criteria listed in Subsection B;
- (3) water quality data including chemical, physical or biological parameters, if available, to establish a baseline condition for the proposed ONRW;**
- (4) a discussion of activities that might contribute to the reduction of water quality in the proposed ONRW;
- (5) any additional evidence to substantiate such a designation, including an analysis of the economic impact of the designation on the local and regional economy within the state of New Mexico and the benefit to the state; and
- (6) affidavit of publication of notice of the petition in a newspaper of general circulation in the affected counties and in a newspaper of general statewide circulation.

20.6.4.9.A(3): water quality data including chemical, physical or biological parameters, if available, to establish a baseline condition for the proposed ONRW;





## WATER QUALITY DATA RIO GRANDE

- All available water quality data, including chemical and physical water quality data, monitoring locations, and the assessment rationale history, for the upper Rio Grande is set forth in Exhibits 8-A to 8-E.
- Water quality in Rio Grande is equal to or better than the numeric water quality criteria except for temperature for entire stretch and pH between Red River and Rio Pueblo de Taos.



## WATER QUALITY DATA RIO HONDO AND LAKE FORK

- All available water quality data, including chemical and physical water quality data, monitoring locations, and the assessment rationale history, for the Rio Hondo and Lake Fork is set forth in Exhibits 8-A to 8-E.
- Based on available and defensible water quality data, water quality is equal to or better than the numeric water quality criteria for the nominated segments of the Rio Hondo and Lake Fork.



## WATER QUALITY DATA - JEMEZ

- All available water quality data, including chemical and physical water quality data, monitoring locations, and the assessment rationale history, for the East Fork Jemez River, San Antonio Creek, and Redondo Creek is set forth in Exhibits 8-A to 8-E.
- Based on the available and defensible water quality data, water quality is equal to or better than the numeric water quality criteria according to 20.6.4.108 NMAC for the nominated segments except for the following:
  - East Fork (VCNP to headwaters): turbidity, nutrients, aluminum;
  - East Fork (San Antonio Creek to VCNP): temperature, aluminum;
  - San Antonio Creek (East Fork to VCNP): temperature, turbidity, aluminum;
  - San Antonio Creek (VCNP to headwaters): temperature, turbidity, nutrients, aluminum;
  - Redondo Creek (Sulphur Creek to headwaters): temperature, nutrients.





## CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATION

**B.** Criteria for ONRWs: A surface water of the state, or a portion of a surface water of the state, may be designated as an ONRW where the commission determines that the designation is beneficial to the state of New Mexico, and:

**(1)** the water is a significant attribute of a state special trout water, national or state park, national or state monument, national or state wildlife refuge or designated wilderness area, or is part of a designated wild river under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act; or

**(2)** the water has exceptional recreational or ecological significance; or

**(3)** the existing water quality is equal to or better than the numeric criteria for protection of aquatic life and contact uses and the human health-organism only criteria, and the water has not been significantly modified by human activities in a manner that substantially detracts from its value as a natural resource.

20.6.4.9.B NMAC (emphasis added).

**20.6.4.9.B(3): EXISTING WATER QUALITY IS  
EQUAL TO OR BETTER THAN NUMERIC  
CRITERIA FOR AQUATIC LIFE AND  
CONTACT USES AND HUMAN HEALTH-  
ORGANISM ONLY CRITERIA, AND WATER  
HAS NOT BEEN SIGNIFICANTLY  
MODIFIED BY HUMAN ACTIVITIES**





## WATER QUALITY

Both the Rio Hondo and Lake Fork meet or exceed water quality criteria associated with aquatic life and contact uses, as set forth in Exhibits 8-A to 8-E.

While there is human development along the Rio Hondo and Lake Fork, the road provides access for fishing and the ski area and hiking trails increase the recreational opportunities of the river.

Therefore, these two rivers meet the ONRW water quality designation criterion found at 20.6.4.9.B(3).



THANK YOU

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