

| River Name | Segment Start Point | Segment End Point | Classification ¹ | Outstandingly Remarkable Values ² | | | | | | | | Narrative Description of Values Classification |
|------------------------|--|--|-----------------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | | | S | R | G | F | W | C | H | E | |
| WHITEWATER CREEK | Headwaters | Trail 810 | WILD | | X | | | | | | X | <p><u>ELIGIBLE</u> – Whitewater Creek is historically significant as the location of numerous mining-related materials dating to the 1890s and later, including remains of the town of Graham, and picturesque and intriguing remnants of a water pipeline running for at least four miles along the creek (i.e., the original catwalk). CCC activities are also represented and the modern engineering feat of the hanging Catwalk in Whitewater Canyon is an attraction of much human interest. Together, these materials form a unique historic district that is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, and is interpreted on site by the Gila National Forest. Not only is there no comparable historic place in the State of New Mexico, Whitewater Creek is a destination for many people interested in the 19th century mining history and associated geology of the region, and the journey of discovering these things they can take in hiking along the creek on the Catwalk National Recreation Trail. Each year, the Catwalk becomes more popular with visitors to the Gila. Thousands take the thrilling walk along the cool and colorful Whitewater Canyon, and many use the pleasant picnicking facilities at the Whitewater Picnic Grounds.</p> |
| | Trail 810 | Private boundary (T11S, R19W, S6) | RECREATION | | | | | | | | | |
| SPRUCE CREEK | Headwaters | Confluence with Big Dry Creek | WILD | | | | X | | | | | <p><u>ELIGIBLE</u> - There is an original relict population of endangered Gila Trout that is genetically distinct from all other Gila Trout lineages. This river segment currently serves as a source population for this lineage.</p> |
| MIDDLE FORK GILA RIVER | Gila Wilderness Boundary below Snow Lake | Gila Wilderness Boundary (T12S, R14W, S23) | WILD | X | | | | | | | | <p><u>ELIGIBLE</u> – The Middle Fork of the Gila River is one of the most visited locations in the Gila Wilderness, the first designated wilderness in the world. The Middle Fork has outstanding views of rock formations along the middle third of its 36-mile length. The Gila conglomerate has been weathered into spiracle formations in some locations and sheer rock walls of several hundred feet depth in others.</p> <p>The entire length has a rich growth of diverse riparian species intermixed with ponderosa pine and occasional stringers of mixed conifers. The riparian species, along with Virginia creeper and various species of wildflowers, adds considerable color in the fall. The trail is in the canyon bottom and crosses the meandering river about four times per mile. Because of the rugged topography and steep cliffs, there are few entry/exit opportunities along the canyon.</p> |

¹ Classification:

Wild river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.

Scenic river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.

Recreational river areas: Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad, that may have some development along their shorelines, and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

²Outstandingly Remarkable Values:

S = Scenic, R = Recreation, G = Geology, F = Fish, W = Wildlife, C = Cultural, H = Historic, E = Ecology

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| WEST FORK GILA RIVER | Headwaters | North boundary of Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument | WILD | X | | | | | | | X | <p>ELIGIBLE – The West Fork of the Gila River is the most visited location in the Gila Wilderness, the first designated wilderness in the world. The biggest attraction is the scenery. In the upper portions, there are sheer rock cliffs about 500’ tall. At other locations, the cliffs have been weathered into spiracle formations. The entire length has a rich growth of diverse riparian species intermixed with ponderosa pine and occasional stringers of mixed conifers. The riparian species, along with Virginia Creeper and various species of wildflowers, adds considerable color in the fall. The trail is in the canyon bottom and crosses the meandering river about four times per mile. Because of the steep cliffs, there are few entry/exit opportunities along the canyon.</p> <p>White Creek Cabin is a nationally important historic site located in the upper reaches of the West Fork. The site first served as a homestead for the Jenks family prior to the establishment of the Gila National Forest. Aldo Leopold, one of the fathers of the wilderness movement, visited White Creek in 1922; two years later the Gila Wilderness was administratively designated as the first Forest Service wilderness area, forty years before passage of the National Wilderness Act. The New Mexico Fish and Game Department took over the abandoned Jenks log cabins and barns in 1923 and established a fish hatchery for restocking native Gila Trout. The present two-story log cabin was built for hatchery use in 1933, but the hatchery was discontinued in 1937 and White Creek became the summer headquarters for administration of the McKenna Park (Wilderness) Ranger District. In 1939, the CCCs added electrical and water systems and built an architecturally impressive 60 foot-long log barn inside America's first wilderness. In the 1950's, White Creek Cabin was a favorite backcountry destination of Senator Clinton P. Anderson, a major sponsor of the Wilderness Act of 1964. White Creek Cabin has been determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places because of its association with the history of the Gila Wilderness and the Civilian Conservation Corps.</p> <p>The West Fork contains outstandingly remarkable sites associated with the prehistoric Mogollon Culture that are interpreted at the Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument, a national and international destination for visitors interested in the prehistory of the southwest. There are over 50 prehistoric sites recorded along the lower reaches of the West Fork, including pueblos, farmsteads, fieldhouses, agricultural fields, rock art, rock shelters, cliff dwellings, granaries and campsites. The Gila Cliff Dwellings, a southern outpost of the Tularosa Phase of the Mogollon Culture, are the focus of interpretation at the National Monument, but Mimbres-Mogollon, Archaic and Apache sites are present along the West Fork and are also interpreted at the Monument.</p> |
| | North boundary of Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument | Eastern boundary of National Monument | RECREATION | | | | | | | | | |

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| HOLDEN PRONG and LAS ANIMAS CREEK | Headwaters Junction of Water Canyon and Holden Prong Wilderness Boundary | Confluence with Las Animas Creek Aldo Leopold Wilderness Boundary Forest Boundary | WILD SCENIC WILD | | | | X | | | | X | | <p>ELIGIBLE -Historically the southernmost location of Rio Grande Cutthroat trout in New Mexico. Low elevation trout fishery unlike most Rio Grande Cutthroat trout streams. Unique native fishery including Rio Grande Sucker, Rio Grande Chub and Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. This assemblage is only found in this stream.</p> <p>Las Animas Creek is historically significant as the location of a battle between the U.S. Army 9th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers and Victorio’s band of Chiricahua Warm Springs Apaches. This battle occurred in September of 1879, and two men received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their heroism. Soldiers are buried on the site; and today it is marked by a monument commemorating the Battle of Las Animas. In addition, this place is considered important by the Fort Sill Warm Springs Apache living descendants of the Indian people who fought there. This is also a destination point for those interested in the Indian Wars period of American history. No historic values in Holden Prong.</p> |

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