

# Wild and Scenic Rivers

The National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act (Public Law 90-542; 16 U.S.C. 1271-1287) is the nation's primary river conservation law. Enacted in 1968, the Act was specifically intended by Congress to balance the existing policy of developing rivers for their water supply, power, and other benefits, with a new policy of protecting the free flowing character and outstanding values of other rivers. The Act concluded that selected rivers and streams should be preserved in a free-flowing condition for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Since 1968, many rivers and streams have been added to the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System, including 16 rivers<sup>1</sup> (and many forks and tributaries) in California, totaling more than 1,900 miles.

The Wild & Scenic Rivers Act seeks to maintain a river's free flowing character, protect and enhance outstanding natural and cultural values, and provide for public use consistent with this mandate. Designation prohibits approval or funding for new dams and diversions on designated river segments, and requires that designated rivers flowing through federal public lands be managed to protect and enhance their free flowing character and outstanding values. Where private lands are involved, the federal management agency works with local governments and property owners to develop protective measures, but the Act grants no additional federal authority over private property or local land use.

Rivers are primarily added to the National System by Act of Congress, often in response to a study and recommendation submitted by a federal land management agency. To be considered for federal protection, a river must be free flowing and contain one or more outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other values (including botanical, ecological, hydrological, paleontological, scientific).

## The Study Process

The Act requires federal land management agencies such as the Forest Service to identify, study, and recommend rivers and streams to Congress for potential inclusion in the System. Forest Service planning regulations direct the agency to conduct such studies as part of its land and resources planning process, which results in the development of forest plans that guide the management of each National Forest. In addition, the agency may conduct Wild & Scenic studies separate from the forest planning process.

The first step of the Wild & Scenic study requires determination of whether a river or stream is eligible for federal protection. Rivers are eligible if they are free flowing<sup>2</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> The 16 components of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System in California include the Smith (and its forks and tributaries), Klamath, Scott, Salmon (and its forks), Trinity (and its forks), New, Eel (and its forks), Van Duzen, Middle Fork Feather, American (two separate forks), Tuolumne, Kings, Kern (and its forks), Big Sur, Sisquoc, and Sespe.

<sup>2</sup> The Act defines a river as "a flowing body of water or estuary, or a section, portion, or tributary thereof, including rivers, streams, creeks, runs, kills, rills, and small lakes." A river or stream is considered free flowing if its flows are sufficient to maintain outstanding values. Rivers with flows modified by dams or

possess one or more outstanding values<sup>3</sup>. The eligibility determination also includes establishment of river area boundaries<sup>4</sup>, segmentation, and classification of segments as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational (based on the existing level of development). Agency guidelines also require interim protection of the free flowing character, outstanding values, and classification for all eligible rivers.

The second step of the study process is the determination of suitability. Suitability requires consideration of existing and reasonably foreseeable potential land uses, values foreclosed or diminished if not protected, public and agency interest in designation, land ownership status, management needs and costs, and alternative management. A river found suitable is recommended to Congress for designation. Interim protection of suitable rivers continues until Congress acts on the recommendation. Rivers not recommended by the agency are no longer subject to interim protection. Suitability decisions are considered a major federal decision – it is therefore desirable for the agency to utilize the forest plan EIS process to complete the suitability study and make recommendations to Congress.

### **Theme/Desired Future Condition**

The primary goal of the forest plan update and resulting desired future condition is to include rivers and streams in bioregions that are currently un- or under-represented in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. A secondary goal is to ensure the protection of a significant number of free flowing streams and outstanding river-based values in a region that has undergone extensive water resource development and degradation of river values. The third goal is to manage free flowing rivers and streams for their recreational and interpretive values, while ensuring the protection and enhancement of other outstanding natural and cultural values that may be susceptible to degradation due to overuse and lack of management.

The Los Padres National Forest is located in portions of two of California's ten bioregions – the South Central Coast and South Coast. The Angeles, San Bernardino, and Cleveland National Forests are located in the South Coast bioregion. The South Coast bioregion is completely un-represented in the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System. Three streams on the Los Padres Forest within the South Central Coast bioregion are components of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers System – the Big Sur River, Sisquoc River, and Sespe Creek. Given the size and diversity of this bioregion, its rivers and streams are under-represented in the System.

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diversions, small creeks or streams, or even seasonally flowing streams, may be considered free flowing as long as the flows maintain outstanding values.

<sup>3</sup> Outstanding values may include scenic, recreational, historical, cultural, fish, wildlife, ecological, botanical, geological, hydrological, and others. Outstanding values must be river related; unique, rare, or exemplary with a comparative region; be located generally within 1/4 mile of the rivers; contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem; or owe their location to the existence or presence of the river.

<sup>4</sup> River area or corridor boundaries for rivers and streams under study encompass 1/4 mile on each side of the river measured from the ordinary high water mark. The corridor boundary for designated rivers encompass an average of 320 acres per mile as measured from the ordinary high water mark. Boundary widths for designated rivers may vary within the 320 acre/mile standard in order to address land ownership patterns, adjacent resources and natural values, viewsheds, and other concerns.

Rivers and streams in the both bioregions have undergone extensive development and degradation by dams, reservoirs, modification of flows from large and small diversions, channelization, reduction of sediment transport capabilities, vegetation removal, road and other structural construction on river banks, water pollution, and introduction of non-native species. Consequently, few rivers and streams in the bioregion remain free flowing (within the definition of the Act) or possess outstanding values. Continued development threatens the few remaining natural streams with potential degradation.

The desired future condition will be the inclusion in the System of rivers and streams on the National Forest lands in the South Central Coast and South Coast bioregions that meet the requirements of the Act. These rivers will be managed to protect and enhance their free flowing character and outstanding natural and cultural values. Rivers and streams with critical aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitat for sensitive, threatened, and endangered species; as well as outstanding recreational, scenic, cultural, historical, water quality, and other natural values, will be protected and enhanced. These protected rivers and streams will contribute to the overall biodiversity, ecological health, and sustainable economy of the region.

### **General Management Prescriptions for Eligible, Suitable, & Designated Rivers**

**Water Resource Projects** – Federal hydroelectric licenses for new dams and diversions are prohibited on designated rivers. No federal agency may permit or otherwise assist any water resource project on a designated river that would have a direct and adverse effect on the values for which the river was designated. Water resource projects located upstream, downstream, or on tributaries of a designated river, must not invade the designated river area or unreasonably diminish its scenic, recreational, fish, and wildlife values. Water resource projects are defined as any federally assisted project or activity (generally but not always located or occurring instream) that may affect the free flowing character of the river.

**Public Lands & Outstanding Values** – The public lands along each segment shall be managed to protect and enhance the free flowing character, outstanding values, and water quality for which the river was designated. Management of multiple outstanding values shall be balanced. Potential management conflict between the protection and enhancement of two different outstanding values (i.e. – intensive recreation and endangered species/critical habitat) shall be resolved in favor of the value that would face irreversible loss or degradation if the other value were to be protected or enhanced. Where wild rivers and wilderness overlap, management will be consistent with both designations.

**Private Lands** – Fee title acquisition of, or purchase of scenic easements on, private lands within the river area is encouraged to ensure protection of outstanding values, provide public right of way, and increase management efficiency. Acquisition will be primarily through willing seller or exchange. Condemnation of fee title or scenic easements will be used only as a last resort to prevent unacceptable impacts on an eligible or designated river.

**Classification** – River areas shall be classified as Wild, Scenic, or Recreational based on the level of existing development, and managed accordingly. Management of the public lands in these river areas shall ensure the maintenance of the existing Wild, Scenic, or Recreational classification. Activities that diminish existing classification on public lands are prohibited. Regardless of classification, management shall protect and enhance the outstanding values of the designated river.

1. **Wild** river areas are free of impoundments, generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive, having unpolluted waters. Motorized travel is prohibited, except for public safety emergencies. Discrete roads or motorized trails that end at the boundary of the area are permitted. Wild river areas are withdrawn from new mineral entry, and existing mining is permitted subject to valid existing rights. Road construction, logging, and extensive mechanical manipulation of vegetation within the river area is prohibited. The visual quality objective for Wild river areas is Preservation or Retention. The visual quality objective for areas outside of Wild river areas but are visible from within the river area is Partial Retention. The recreational opportunity spectrum classification for Wild river areas is Primitive or Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized.
- **Scenic** river areas are free of impoundments, having shorelines or watersheds largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads (i.e., roads may cross but generally not parallel the river). Motorized travel may be permitted, subject to area-specific prescriptions. Mining and other uses are subject to valid existing rights and maintenance of visual quality along the shoreline. Water quality should meet, or be able to meet, federal standards. The visual quality objective for Scenic river areas is Retention along the shoreline and generally throughout the river area, but Partial Retention is permitted in portions of the river area not directly visible from the river. The recreation opportunity spectrum classification is Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized or Semi-Primitive Motorized. Bridge crossings may be Roded Natural.
1. **Recreational** river areas are readily accessible by road or railroad, may have some development along the shoreline, and may have some small existing diversion dams or structures. Motorized travel is permitted, subject to area-specific prescriptions. Mining and all other uses are subject to valid existing rights. Water quality should meet, or be able to meet, federal standards. The visual quality objective is Partial Retention. The recreation opportunity spectrum classification is Roded Natural.

**Comprehensive Management Plans** – Upon designation by Congress, the agency shall complete and implement a comprehensive management plan for each designated river and stream, to guide management activities and ensure the protection of free flowing character and outstanding values.

## **Specific River and Stream Segments**

### **CLEVELAND NATIONAL FOREST**

RIVER: San Luis Rey River – Main Stem

TOTAL LENGTH: 4 miles from Henshaw dam to National Forest boundary

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Henshaw dam to National Forest boundary/4 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Wildlife/Ecological – Riparian habitat supports the largest southwestern willow flycatcher population (FE) in the Southern California National Forests.

RIVER: San Luis Rey River – West Fork

TOTAL LENGTH: 6 miles from source to National Forest boundary

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to National Forest boundary/6 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Wildlife, Fish, & Ecological – Significant populations of arroyo toad (FE), pond turtle (S), and arroyo chub (S).

RIVER: Pine Valley Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 28 miles from source to Barrett Reservoir

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to Pine Creek Wilderness boundary/12 miles/Recreational
2. Wilderness boundary to Barrett Reservoir/6 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Hydrological – One of the longest free flowing low elevation streams in the Southern California National Forests.

Ecological – High quality riparian habitat supporting numerous TES species

Wildlife – Largest arroyo toad (FE) population on the Cleveland NF; one of the largest pond turtle (S) populations in the Southern California National Forests; significant population of least Bell's vireo (FE); historical red legged frog (FT) habitat.

Botanical – *Poa atropurpurea* (FE)

Recreation: Diverse recreational opportunities, high level of use.

RIVER: Noble Canyon & Lake of the Woods Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 6 miles from source to Pine Valley Creek

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source in Laguna Meadows to Pine Valley Creek confluence/6 miles/Scenic

VALUES:

Botanical – *Poa atropurpurea* (FE)

Wildlife – California spotted owls (FC)

Recreation – Noble Canyon National Recreation Trail

Historical – Significant gold mining history

RIVER: Cottonwood Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 13 miles

**SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:**

1. Source to Lake Morena County Park/9 miles/Recreational
2. Lake Morena County Park to Barrett Reservoir/4 miles/Wild

**VALUES:**

Ecological – High quality riparian habitat supporting numerous TES species

Wildlife – Significant populations of arroyo toad (FE), pond turtle (S), and least Bell's vireo (FE), historical red legged frog habitat (FT).

Scenic & Recreation – Schad describes Cottonwood Creek Falls as “one of many secret beauty spots tucked away in the Southern California's mountainous folds.” Brown describes Cottonwood Creek Falls as “a gorgeous freefall...”

**RIVER:** Upper San Diego River

**TOTAL LENGTH:** 11 miles from source to Capitan Reservation boundary

**SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:**

1. Source to 1/4 mile upstream of Cedar Creek/10 miles/Wild
2. 1/4 mile upstream of Cedar Creek to Capitan Grande Reservation boundary/1 mile/Scenic

**VALUES:**

Scenic & Recreation – Spectacular waterfalls in a remote setting, outstanding opportunities for primitive and trail-less recreation.

Ecological – High quality riparian habitat supporting numerous TES species

Wildlife – Arroyo toad (FE), pond turtle (S), coastal rosy boa (S), horned lizard (S), orange throated whiptail (SC), two-striped garter snake (S), historical red legged frog habitat (FT).

**RIVER:** Cedar Creek

**TOTAL LENGTH:** 6.5 miles from Inaja Reservation boundary to San Diego River

**SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:**

1. Inaja Reservation boundary to 1/8 mile upstream of Cedar Ck road crossing/4 miles/Wild
2. 1/8 mile upstream of Cedar Ck road crossing to 1/8 mile downstream of road crossing/.25 miles/Scenic
3. 1/8 mile downstream of Cedar Ck road to 1/8 mile upstream of road 13S06/2 miles/Wild
4. 1/8 mile upstream of road 13S06 to San Diego River confluence/.25 miles/Scenic

**VALUES:**

Scenic & Recreational: Cedar Creek Falls is one of the most visited water falls in San Diego County, Schad considers the falls to be “one of the most attractive and accessible” in the region. Doll describes the falls as “A place of startling beauty...”

Wildlife: arroyo toad (FE), southwest pond turtle (S), Coast Range newt (S).

**RIVER:** Boulder Creek

**TOTAL LENGTH:** 9 miles

**SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:**

1. Cuyamaca State Park boundary to 1/4 mile upstream of Road 13S08/4 miles/Wild

2. 1/4 mile upstream of Road 13S08 to western private property boundary in Sec. 9/1.5 miles/Scenic

3. Private property boundary in Sec. 9 to Capitan Grande Reservation boundary/3.5 miles/Wild

**VALUES:**

Wildlife – Southwest pond turtle (S), Coast Range newt (S)

Recreation & Scenic – Popular dayhike destination to view Three Sisters Falls. A triple set of waterfalls, Brown notes that the “Three Sisters creates an impressive display of white water on smooth granite.”

**RIVER:** San Mateo Creek

**TOTAL LENGTH:** 27 miles from source to Pacific Ocean

**SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:**

1. Source to San Mateo Wilderness boundary/12 miles/Wild

2. Wilderness boundary to Pacific Ocean/15 miles/Recreational (note: includes Camp Pendleton and State Park lands)

**VALUES:**

Hydrological & ecological – The most pristine free flowing river south of the Santa Monica Mountains

Scenic & Recreation – Scenic canyon, waterfalls, extensive wilderness trail system in upper segment. Schad considers Tenaja Falls to be “the most interesting feature in the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness.” Stienstra and Brown describe Tenaja Falls as “magnificent when flowing full.”

Fish – Southern-most known population of southern steelhead (FE)

Wildlife – Significant populations of arroyo toad (FE, pond turtle (S), Coast Range newt (S), historical red legged frog habitat (FT).

Botanical – Significant population of *Dudleya viscida* (S), *Broadiaea orcuttii* (S)

**RIVER:** San Juan Creek

**TOTAL LENGTH:** 7 miles from confluence of Morrell/Long canyons to National Forest boundary

**SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:**

1. Confluence of Morrell/Long canyons to National Forest boundary/7 miles/Recreational

**VALUES:**

Wildlife & Ecological – Significant arroyo toad (FE) population, historical red legged frog habitat (FT).

Fish – Potential reintroduction habitat for southern steelhead (FE)

Wildlife – Coast Range newt (S)

Botanical – Significant population of *Dudleya viscida* (S)

Recreation – Heavy day use recreation associated with Hwy 74, popular San Juan loop trail. Brown describes San Juan Falls as “one of the many fine features of the San Juan Loop Trail...”

**RIVER:** Trabuco Canyon

**TOTAL LENGTH:** 5.5 miles from source to National Forest boundary

**SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:**

1. Source to road 6S13 end/2.5 miles/Wild
2. Road 6S13 end to National Forest boundary/3 miles/Recreational

**VALUES:**

Fish – Possible reintroduction habitat for southern steelhead (FE)

Recreation – Diverse recreation opportunities in a primitive setting, Schad considers the canyon to be “one of the more varied and interesting hikes” in Southern California, trail to popular Holy Jim Falls. Brown describes the falls as being set in a “terrific little grotto.”

Wildlife – Arroyo toad (FE), historical habitat for California red legged frog (FT), southwestern pond turtle (S), Coast Range newt (S)

Historical – Significant mining history, site of the killing of California’s last wild grizzly bear in 1908. According to Stienstra and Brown, Holy Jim Falls was named after “Cussin’ Jim” Smith, a colorful homesteader and beekeeper who lived in Trabuco Canyon in the 1890s.

## **SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST**

RIVER: San Jacinto River – North Fork (including Black & Fuller Mill Creeks)

TOTAL LENGTH: 12 miles from source to South Fork confluence

**SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:**

1. Source to State Park boundary/2/Wild
2. State Park boundary to 1/8 mile downstream of Hwy 243/2 miles/Scenic
3. 1/8 mile downstream of Hwy 243 to water diversion in Sec. 7/7 miles/Wild
4. Water diversion in Sec. 7 to South Fork confluence/1 mile/Recreational
5. Source of Black Creek to North Fork confluence/2 miles/Scenic
6. Source of Fuller Mill Creek to North Fork confluence/3 miles/Scenic

**VALUES:**

Ecological – High quality mixed conifer/big cone Douglas fir forest habitat

Wildlife – One of the last remaining mountain yellow frog populations (FC) in Southern California; southern-most population of southern rubber boa (S), California spotted owl (FC)

Recreation – Upper segment has numerous popular trails, including the Pacific Crest Trail. Robinson describes the upper North Trail as “no better place to explore the riparian delights of the San Jacintos...”

Historical – Historic Webster trail (2E16), named after local cattle rancher characterized in Helen Hunt Jackson’s 1884 novel, *Ramona*.

RIVER: Palm Canyon

TOTAL LENGTH: 10 miles from Hwy 74 to National Forest boundary

**SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:**

1. Hwy 74 to National Forest boundary/10 miles/Wild

**VALUES:**

Ecological – Rare palm oasis

Wildlife – Habitat for Peninsular bighorn sheep (FE)

Recreation – Popular hiking trail

RIVER: Bautista Creek



TOTAL LENGTH: 13 miles from its source to the National Forest boundary

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to National Forest boundary/13 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Ecological – High quality low elevation riparian habitat supporting diverse species

Wildlife – Swainson's thrush, yellow breasted chat, greenest tiger beetle (SC), historical arroyo toad (FE) habitat.

Scenic & Recreation – Scenic waterfalls, springs, and desert canyon. Robinson describes the Palm Canyon trail as offering “spectacular canyon scenery” and a “rich and varied desert flora.”

RIVER: Deep Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 25.5 miles from source to high water limit of Mojave flood control dam

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to Running Springs/4 miles/Recreational

2. Running Springs to 1/4 mile upstream of T-6 road crossing/6.5 miles/Wild

3. 1/8 mile upstream of T-6 road crossing to 1/8 mile downstream/.25 miles/Scenic/.25 miles

4. 1/8 mile downstream of T-6 road to 1/8 mile upstream of OHV Trail 2W01/2.75 miles/Wild

5. 1/8 mile upstream of Trail 2W01 to 1/8 mile downstream of Trail 2W01/.25 miles/Scenic/.25 miles

6. 1/8 mile downstream of Trail 2W01 to high water limit of Mojave flood control dam/10 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Scenic – Rugged and highly scenic canyon, Robinson describes it as cutting “an impressive swath through the north-slope country of the San Bernardino.” Stienstra and Brown note that “Deep Creek has many personalities.”

Recreation – Route of the Pacific Crest Trail, popular hot springs, popular backcountry fishing stream. According to Doll, “Deep Creek is a hall of champions. It's easily the best swimming river in the State of California.”

Fish – Mojave chub (FE) population in lower segment, State designated Wild Trout Stream

Ecological – High quality aquatic and riparian habitat and mountain/desert transition zone supporting diverse species

Wildlife – Significant population of arroyo toad (FE), historical red legged frog (FT) habitat, San Bernardino flying squirrel (S), Northern goshawk (S)

RIVER: Holcomb Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 20.5 miles from its source in Holcomb Valley to Deep Creek

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to 1/8 mile downstream of Road 3N16/15 miles/Recreational

2. 1/8 mile downstream of Road 3N16 to Deep Creek/5.5 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Wildlife – Flammulated owl (S), San Bernardino flying squirrel (S)

Ecological – Upper segment in Holcomb Valley is located in a region that supports the largest concentration of endemic plants in California

Botanical – *Castilleja cinerea* (FE), *Taraxacum californicum* (FE), *Eriogonum kennedyi* v. *austromontanum* (FT)

Recreation – Lower segment is the route of the Pacific Crest Trail. Robinson describes it as “the longest hike in the western half of the San Bernardinos” with opportunity for solitude that is “quite an experience in this generally overused part of the range.”

RIVER: Santa Ana River

TOTAL LENGTH: 17.25 miles from source to confluence with Bear Creek

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to Filaree Flat/13.5 miles/Recreational
2. Filaree Flat to Bear Creek confluence/3.75 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Recreation – Popular recreation area supporting a wide variety of uses, including developed campgrounds, organized youth camps, hiking trails, and the Rim of the World Scenic Byway (Hwy 38), according to Robinson, the Santa Ana headwaters as viewed from the Heart Bar Creek trail “are a delight to behold.”

Ecological – Flows through a region that supports the largest expanse of conifer forest in Southern California, providing key habitat for several forest dependent species.

Wildlife – Significant California spotted owl (FC) population, San Bernardino flying squirrel (S), southern rubber boa (CT), flammulated owl (S), Northern goshawk (S)

RIVER: South Fork Santa Ana River

TOTAL LENGTH: 3 miles from source to Santa Ana River

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to San Gorgonio Wilderness boundary/2.25 miles/Wild
2. Wilderness boundary to Santa Ana River/1.75 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Recreation – Major trail route into the San Gorgonio Wilderness

Ecological – Flows through a region that supports the largest expanse of conifer forest in Southern California, providing key habitat for several forest dependent species.

Wildlife – Significant California spotted owl (FC) population, San Bernardino flying squirrel (S), southern rubber boa (CT), flammulated owl (S)

RIVER: Bear Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 9 miles from Big Bear dam to Santa Ana River confluence

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. 1/4 mile downstream of Big Bear dam to Santa Ana River confluence/9 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Wildlife – California spotted owl (FC), San Bernardino flying squirrel (S)

Recreation – State designated Wild Trout Stream, providing outstanding opportunities for backcountry fishing, Camp Creek National Recreation Trail, Robinson describes the destination of Bear Creek as “Here, smack in the middle of the overused San Bernardinos, nature reveals her quiet, pristine best.”

RIVER: Whitewater River (including North, Middle, South, & East Forks)

TOTAL LENGTH: 28.5 miles from the sources of the South, East, Middle, and North Forks to the San Geronio Wilderness boundary

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source of the South Fork to 1/8 mile upstream of Road 2S01 crossing/1 mile/Wild
2. 1/8 mile upstream of Road 2S01 to 1/8 mile downstream of Road 2S01/.25 mile/Recreational
3. 1/8 mile downstream of Road 2S01 to Middle Fork confluence/7 miles/Wild
4. Source of the East Fork to 1/8 mile upstream of Road 2S01/2 miles/Wild
5. 1/8 mile upstream of Road 2S01 to 1/8 mile downstream of Road 2S01/.25 miles/Recreational
6. 1/8 mile downstream of Road 2S01 to South Fork confluence/1 mile/Wild
7. Source of the Middle Fork to North Fork confluence/5 miles/Wild
8. Source of the North Fork to Middle Fork confluence/4 miles/Wild
9. North/Middle Forks confluence to San Geronio Wilderness boundary in Sec. 15 T2S R3E (includes 6 miles of BLM land)/8 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Scenic – The river canyons provide spectacular views of the surrounding mountains and desert.

Recreation – Route of the Pacific Crest Trail, Robinson describes the Raywood Flat trail to Silverwood Falls as “superb, particularly in the springtime.”

Hydrological – One of the most remote, unroaded watersheds in the Southern California.

Wildlife – Arroyo toad (FE).

Historical – Raywood Flat sawmill and flume (circa 1870s).

RIVER: Lytle Creek (including North, Middle, & South Forks)

TOTAL LENGTH: 23.5 miles from the sources of the North Fork, Middle Fork, and South Forks to the Lytle Creek Ranger Station.

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source of the North Fork to the Lytle Creek Ranger Station/12 miles/Recreational
2. Source of the Middle Fork to 6W01 trailhead/4.25 miles/Wild
3. Middle Fork from trailhead to North Fork confluence/3 miles/Scenic
4. Source of the South Fork to 1/8 mile upstream of Middle Fork confluence/3.75 miles/Wild
5. South Fork from 1/4 mile upstream of confluence to the Middle Fork confluence/.25 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Scenic & Recreation – Diverse landscape and vegetation provides outstanding scenery, scenic Bonita Falls adjacent to the South Fork Lytle Creek, heavily used developed and primitive recreation area with use focused along the creeks.

Wildlife – Important habitat for Nelson’s bighorn sheep, San Gabriel slender salamander (S), historical habitat for California red legged frog (FT).

## **ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST**

RIVER: Upper San Gabriel River (including West Fork, North Fork, & East Fork)

TOTAL LENGTH: 34.5 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. West Fork – Source to powerline in Sec. 22/5 miles/Scenic
2. West Fork – Powerline to Cogswell reservoir/2 miles/Wild
3. West Fork – Cogswell dam to San Gabriel reservoir/6.5 miles/Recreational
4. North Fork – Source to West Fork confluence/6.5 miles/Recreational
5. East Fork – Source to Heaton Flat/10 miles/Wild
6. East Fork – Heaton Flat to San Gabriel reservoir/4.5 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Fish – Refugia for imperiled native fish, including unarmored three-spined stickleback (FE), Santa Ana sucker (FT), Santa Ana speckled dace (S), arroyo chub (S).

Wildlife – Mountain yellow legged frog (S) populations in upper watershed, large pond turtle (S) population, Coast Range newt (S), historical California red-legged frog habitat (FT).

Ecological – Combination and diversity of fish and wildlife habitat values.

Recreation – Popular and intensively used dispersed and developed recreation area with numerous public and private campgrounds and picnic areas, the lower West Fork is managed for its wild trout fishery, upper West Fork is the route of the Gabrieleno National Recreation Trail and lower West Fork is the route of the West Fork National Recreation Trail. Schad considers the East Fork to be “one of the liveliest and most remote streams in the San Gabriels.” According to Doll, “The Narrows is the deepest gorge in Southern California.”

RIVER: Little Rock Creek & Cooper Canyon

TOTAL LENGTH: 14.5 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to Road 5N04/6 miles/Wild
2. Road 5N04 to Little Rock reservoir/7 miles/Recreational
3. Source of Cooper Canyon to Little Rock Creek confluence/1.5 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Ecological – Upper segment has high level of ecological integrity, high quality riparian habitat.

Wildlife – Substantial arroyo toad (FE) and mountain yellow legged frog (S) populations

Recreation – Rare southern California class IV-V whitewater kayak stream, Pacific Crest Trail follows upper segment, Schad considers Cooper Canyon Falls to be “one of the best unheralded attractions of the San Gabriel Mountains...”

Scenic – Cooper Canyon Falls, rugged canyon transitioning from mountains to desert.

RIVER: Big Tujunga Creek, Fox Creek, Trail Canyon

TOTAL LENGTH: 41 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Big Tujunga Creek – Source to Big Tujunga reservoir/12 miles/Recreational
2. Big Tujunga Creek – Big Tujunga dam to National Forest boundary/9 miles/Recreational
3. Fox Creek – Sources of the main stem and West Fork to Tujunga reservoir/10 miles/Wild
4. Trail Canyon – Source to road end in sec. 33, T3N, R13W/4.5 miles/Wild

5. Trail Canyon – Road end to confluence with Big Tujunga Creek/.5 miles/Recreational VALUES:

Fish – Lower Big Tujunga Creek supports significant populations of unarmored three-spined stickleback (FE, CE), Santa Ana sucker (FT), arroyo chub (S), historical habitat for Santa Ana speckled dace (S)

Wildlife – Existing and potential habitat for arroyo toad (FE), historical habitat for California red legged frog (FT), southwestern pond turtle (S)

Botanical – Known populations of the rare ocellated Humboldt lily (*Lilium humboldtii* ssp. *Ocellatum*) found in riparian habitat along Big Tujunga and Trail creeks.

Recreation – Big Tujunga Creek is a popular and intensively used recreation area with several picnic areas, one developed and undeveloped campground. Fox Creek is trail-less and offers a true opportunity for primitive recreation. Trail Canyon is a popular hiking route to view waterfalls.

Scenic – Trail Canyon Falls. Stienstra and Brown describe that falls as “so beautiful in winter and early spring that it can take your breath away.”

RIVER: Arroyo Seco Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 10.5 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Sources (including Bear and Little Bear Canyons) to 1/8 mile upstream of debris dam in section 19/7.5 miles/Wild

2. 1/8 mile downstream of debris dam to Gould Mesa Picnic Area/1.5 miles/Wild

3. Gould Mesa Picnic Area to National Forest boundary/1.5 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Wildlife – Arroyo toad (FE), historical habitat for California red-legged frog (FT) and southwestern pond turtle (S).

Recreation – Route of the Gabrieleno National Recreational Trail, Schad considers the canyon to be a “scenic treasure” with “astounding...sylvan glens and sparkling brook...”

Stienstra and Brown note that “The Gabrieleno National Recreation Trail is your ticket to visiting the waterslides, mini-cascades, and pools of spectacular Bear Canyon.”

Scenic – Switzer Falls

Historical – Switzer Camp historic resort site used by Hollywood stars in the 1920s.

RIVER: Big Santa Anita Canyon

TOTAL LENGTH: 9.5 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

Source to Santa Anita reservoir/3.5 miles/Recreational

Source of the North Fork to main stem confluence/1.5 miles/Wild

Source of the East Fork to main stem confluence/2.25 miles/Wild

Source of Winter Creek to main stem confluence/2.25 miles/Scenic

VALUES:

Recreation – Route of Gabrieleno National Recreation Trail. Popular dayhiking destination.

Scenic – Sturtevant Falls, described by Brown as “the crown jewel of Big Santa Anita Canyon.” Brown further describes the canyon as “a lush, almost magical gulch just a handful of miles from the Pasadena Freeway.”

RIVER: San Francisquito Canyon

TOTAL LENGTH: 12 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to National Forest boundary/12 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Fish – Significant habitat for unarmored threespine stickleback (FE), Santa Ana sucker (FT)

Ecological – High quality low elevation riparian habitat.

Wildlife – Southwestern willow flycatcher (FT) and other riparian species, including Swainsons thrush, yellow-breasted chat, California red-legged frog (FT).

Botanical: *Ferberis nevinii* (FE)

Historical: Site of William Mulholland's Saint Francis dam disaster in 1928.

RIVER: Elizabeth Lake Canyon

TOTAL LENGTH: 10 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Confluence with Hiatt Canyon to Castaic reservoir/10 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Ecological – High quality low elevation riparian habitat.

Wildlife – Arroyo toad (FE), historical populations of foothill yellow-legged frog (S), high quality riparian habitat supports several riparian dependent species, including Swainson's thrush, yellow-breasted chat, historical populations of Tehachapi white-eared mouse (S).

## **LOS PADRES NATIONAL FOREST**

RIVER: Piru Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 56.5 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. North Fork source to private property in S4 T6N R24W/9 miles/Wild

2. Private property to South Fork confluence/1 mile/Scenic

3. South Fork source to Thorn Meadows/3.5 miles/Wild

4. Thorn Meadows to North Fork confluence/1 mile/Scenic

5. NF/SF confluence to 1/8 mile downstream of Road 18N01 crossing/15 miles/Scenic

6. 1/8 mile downstream of Road 18N01 crossing to 1/8 mile upstream of Castaic Mine/3 miles/Wild

7. 1/8 mile downstream of Castaic mine to Pyramid reservoir/6 miles/Scenic

8. 1/8 mile downstream of Pyramid dam to Osito Canyon/3 miles/Recreational

9. Osito Canyon to Sespe Wilderness boundary/11 miles/Wild

10. Wilderness boundary to Piru reservoir/2 miles/Scenic

VALUES:

Wildlife – Important riparian and aquatic habitat supporting large arroyo toad (FE) and southwest pond turtle (S) populations, as well as California red-legged frog (FT).

Fish – Santa Ana sucker (FT), historical habitat for southern steelhead (FE).

Botanical – Known population of the rare ocellated Humboldt lily (*Lilium humboldtii* ssp. *Ocellatum*) along the South Fork in the Thorn Meadows area.

Scenic – Variety class A.

Recreational – Diverse recreational opportunities close to urban population, documented in various guidebooks, including the popular Fishbowls swimming holes in upper segment, rugged trail-less lower canyon.

Historical/Cultural – High density of sites, some of which are on or eligible for the National Register, established traditional cultural use by Native Americans.

Geological – Unique geological features, as well as textbook examples.

Ecological – Important ecological community, unique assemblage of species.

Spiritual – Landscape that evokes emotion, sense of history and wonder of the universe.

RIVER: Upper Sespe Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 20 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to private property in S10 T6N R24W/1.5 miles/Scenic
2. Property boundary to Hartman Ranch boundary in S14 T6N R24W/2miles/Wild
3. Hartman Ranch to 1/8 mile downstream of Beaver Campground/14.5 miles/Recreational
4. 1/8 mile downstream of Beaver Campground to Rock Creek confluence/2/Scenic

VALUES:

Wildlife – High quality riparian and aquatic habitat, supporting important populations of arroyo toad (FE), California red-legged frog (FT), southwestern pond turtle (S).

Fish – Important population of southern steelhead (FE).

Botanical – Potential habitat for the rare ocellated Humboldt lily (*Lilium humboldtii* ssp. *Ocellatum*).

Scenic – Dramatic and scenic gorge along Hwy 33, highly scenic sandstone formations

Recreation – Diverse recreational opportunities adjacent to urban area, easy recreational access for hikers, campers, picnickers, and rock climbers along Hwy 33.

Historical/Cultural – Sites potentially eligible for the National Register

Geological – Combination of unique geological features.

Ecological – Rare free flowing stream supporting a unique assemblage of species and unusual ecological community.

RIVER: Santa Paula Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 13 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. East Fork source to confluence with Santa Paula Creek/3 miles/Wild
2. Source to private property boundary in S10 T4N R21W/8 miles/Wild
3. Private property boundary to National Forest boundary/2 miles/Scenic

VALUES:

Wildlife – Southwestern pond turtle (S), upper segment supports an incredible diversity of large mammals, including mountain lion, bear, and coyote.

Fish – Historical habitat for southern steelhead (FE)

Scenic – Variety class A, scenic waterfalls

Recreation – Diverse and high quality recreational opportunities close to urban area, Brown considers Santa Paula Creek to provide some of the best swimming holes and waterfalls in California, describing its as one of the few “High-quality, easy backpacking trips...brief in length...” in the region.

Historical/Cultural – Historic sites 50 years or older.

Ecological – Pristine and important ecological community supporting a diverse species assemblage.

Spiritual – Landscape that evokes emotion, uplifting or awe-inspiring.

RIVER: Matilija Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 16 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. North Fork source to confluence with Matilija Creek/7 miles/Wild
2. Source of the main stem to confluence with Old Man Canyon/7 miles/Wild
3. Old Man Canyon to Murrieta Canyon/2 miles/Scenic

VALUES:

Wildlife – arroyo toad (FE), California red-legged frog (FT)

Fish – Historical habitat for southern steelhead (FE)

Scenic – Variety class A, scenic waterfalls and creek pools

Recreation – Diverse recreational opportunities close to urban area, exceptional interpretive opportunities. According to Doll, “If you’ve only got one day in the Ventura County backcountry, spend it here.”

Historical/Cultural – Connectedness of cultural sites, established traditional use by Native Americans

Geological – Unique geological value associated with a combination of features

Ecological – Unusual ecological community

RIVER: Santa Ynez River

TOTAL LENGTH: 25 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to Jameson reservoir/3 miles/Scenic
2. .5 miles downstream of Juncal dam to Gibraltar reservoir/10 miles/Scenic
3. 5 miles downstream of Gibraltar dam to 1/4 mile upstream of road 5N18/2 miles/Scenic
4. 1/4 mile upstream of road 5N18 to National Forest boundary/10 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Wildlife – High quality riparian habitat supports the largest population of least Bell’s vireo (FE) on Southern California National Forests (combined with lower Mono and Indian Creeks), as well as arroyo toad (FE), California red-legged frog (FT), southwestern pond turtle (S)

Scenic – Variety class A.

Recreation – Diverse recreational opportunities with special attractions to urban and local residents, considered the longest stretch of free-flowing river with public access in southern California, popular developed recreation area with several campgrounds and picnic areas, trailheads for the Aliso National Recreation Trail and other trails.



Historical/Cultural – Sites that are on or eligible for the National Register, established traditional cultural use by Native Americans.

Geological – Unique geologic features and classic textbook examples.

Ecological – Important and unusual ecological community.

RIVER: Mono Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 24 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to 1/8 mile upstream of road 7N05/5 miles/Wild
2. 1/8 mile upstream of road 7N05 to 1/8 mile downstream of unnamed tributary confluence in S34 T7N R25W/2 miles/Scenic
3. 1/8 mile downstream of unnamed tributary confluence to Ogilvy Ranch property boundary/14 miles/Wild
4. Ogilvy Ranch property boundary to Mono debris dam high water mark/3 miles/Scenic

VALUES:

Wildlife – High quality riparian habitat supports the largest population of least Bell's vireo (FE) on Southern California National Forests (combined with Santa Ynez river and lower Indian Creek), highly significant population of arroyo toad (FE), California red-legged frog (FT), southwestern pond turtle (S).

Scenic – Variety class A.

Recreation – Opportunities for exceptional and high quality diverse recreation with special attraction to urban and local residents, remote trail-less upper canyon offering truly primitive recreation.

Ecological – Important and pristine ecological community.

Spiritual – Landscape scale that creates feelings of significance/insignificance.

RIVER: Indian Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 19.25 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to 1/8 mile upstream of road 9N11/.5 miles/Wild
2. 1/8 mile upstream of road 9N11 to 1/4 mile downstream of road 9N11/.75 miles/Scenic
3. 1/4 mile downstream of road 9N11 to Buckhorn Creek confluence/10 miles/Wild
4. Buckhorn Creek confluence to 1/8 mile downstream of road 6N24/.5 miles/Scenic
5. 1/8 mile downstream of road 6N24 to Mono debris dam high water mark/3 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Wildlife – High quality riparian habitat supports the largest population of least Bell's vireo (FE) on Southern California National Forests (combined with Santa Ynez river and lower Mono Creek), arroyo toad (FE), California red-legged frog (FT), highly significant population of southwestern pond turtle (S).

Scenic – Variety class A.

Recreation – Opportunities for exceptional and high quality diverse recreation with special attraction to urban and local residents, popular trail route into the Dick Smith Wilderness, exceptional interpretive opportunities.

Ecological – Pristine ecological community.

Spiritual – Landscape that evokes emotion, presence of history, wonder of the universe, and creates feelings of significance/insignificance.

RIVER: Santa Cruz Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 19.5 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

West Fork source to East Fork confluence/7 miles/Wild

East Fork source to West Fork confluence/8 miles/Wild

WF/EF confluence to 1/8 mile upstream of Santa Cruz campground/1 mile/Wild

1/8 mile upstream of Santa Cruz campground to Black Canyon/.5 miles/Scenic

Black Canyon to National Forest boundary/3 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Wildlife – California red-legged frog (FT), highly significant population of southwestern pond turtle (S).

Scenic – Variety class A.

Recreation – Exceptional and high quality diverse recreational opportunities close to urban and regional populations, exceptional interpretive opportunities.

Ecological – Pristine ecological community.

Spiritual – Landscape that is uplifting or inspiring, creates a sense of history and wonder of the universe.

RIVER: South Fork Sisquoc River

TOTAL LENGTH: 4 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to confluence with the Sisquoc River/4 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Wildlife – High quality habitat and reintroduction site for the California condor (FE), probable habitat for arroyo toad (FE), California red-legged frog (FT), and southwestern pond turtle (S).

Scenic – Variety class A.

Recreational – Provides diverse and high quality recreational opportunities.

Ecological – Pristine ecological community.

Spiritual – Landscape that evokes emotion, uplifting or awe-inspiring, offers feeling of significance/insignificance.

RIVER: Manzana Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 15

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to 1/4 mile upstream of Nira Campground/ 8.5 miles/Wild

2. 1/4 mile upstream of Nira Campground to 1/4 mile downstream of campground/.5 miles/Scenic

3. 1/4 mile downstream of Nira Campground to private property boundary in S1 T8N R30W/4 miles/Wild

4. Private property boundary in S1 to Sisquoc River confluence/2 miles/Scenic

VALUES:

Wildlife – Highly significant populations of California red-legged frog (FT) and southwestern pond turtle (S).

Scenic – Variety class A.

Recreational – Exceptional, high quality, and diverse recreational opportunities, including angling. Stienstra and Brown note that Manzana Creek is popular with anglers.  
Spiritual – Evokes emotion, sense of history, wonder of the universe.

RIVER: La Brea Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 28 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

North Fork source to 1/8 mile upstream of Smith Canyon confluence/7 miles/Wild

Smith Canyon to confluence with South Fork/8 miles/Recreational

South Fork source to Wilderness boundary/10.5 miles/Wild

Wilderness boundary to North Fork confluence/2 miles/Recreational

NF/SF confluence to National Forest boundary/.5 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Wildlife – California red-legged frog (FT), southwestern pond turtle (S)

RIVER: Lopez Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 11 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source to Wilderness boundary/6 miles/Wild

2. Wilderness boundary to confluence with Big Falls Canyon/2 miles/Scenic

3. Big Falls Canyon to Lopez reservoir/3 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Scenic – Variety class A

Recreation – Diverse high quality recreation featured in various publications, with a special attraction to urban populations, popular trail route in the Santa Lucia Wilderness.

Geological – Feature, phenomenon, or process unique to area

Wildlife – California red-legged frog (FT), California spotted owl (FC), Coast Range newt (s), several species of sensitive riparian birds.

Ecological – High quality riparian and aquatic habitat, important ecological community

RIVER: Arroyo Seco River

TOTAL LENGTH: 18 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Headwaters to Ventana Wilderness boundary in Sec. 7/2.5 miles/Wild.

2. Ventana Wilderness boundary to Ventana Wilderness boundary in Sec. 1/2 miles/Recreational.

3. Ventana Wilderness boundary in Sec. 1 to Tassajara Creek confluence/8.5 miles/Wild.

4. Tassajara Creek confluence to Rocky Creek confluence/2.5 miles/Scenic.

5. Rocky Creek confluence to National Forest boundary/2.5 miles/Recreational.

VALUES:

Fish – South Central Coast steelhead (FT)

Wildlife – Southwest pond turtle (S), genetically unique regional population and unique assemblage of species

Botanical – Endemic groves of Santa Lucia fir

Scenic – Variety class A, scenic rocky gorge with numerous cascades and pools.

Recreation – Diverse high quality recreation including swimming, camping, youth camps, and class III-IV kayak run, competitive events, popular trailheads into Ventana Wilderness, exceptional interpretive opportunities, regional and urban attraction.

Schaffer describes the upper Arroyo Seco River trail as “a very pleasing one...”

Geological – Unique feature, phenomenon, process

Cultural/Historical – Cultural site on National Register, historic resources 50 or more years old

Spiritual – Landscape that evokes emotion, uplifting or inspiring, generates feelings of significance or insignificance.

RIVER: Tassajara Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 10.5 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. Source in Ventana Wilderness to Tassajara Hot Springs private property boundary/6 miles/Wild

2. Tassajara Hot Springs private property/.5 miles/Recreational

3. Tassajara Hot Springs property boundary to Arroyo Seco River confluence/4 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Fish – South Central Coast steelhead (FT)

Recreation – High quality regional recreation opportunity, exceptional interpretive opportunities

Historical – Special event or use site

Spiritual – Landscape that evokes emotion, is uplifting or inspiring, presence of history, wonder of universe.

RIVER: Willow Creek

TOTAL LENGTH: 12.75 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

1. North Fork from its source in Sec. 10 to unnamed tributary confluence in sec. 27/4 miles/Wild

2. Unnamed tributary from its source in Sec. 24 to North Fork confluence/3 miles/Wild

3. Main stem from the North Fork/unnamed tributary confluence to 1/4 mile upstream of Highway 1 crossing/2.25 miles/Wild

4. Main stem from 1/4 mile upstream of Highway 1 to Pacific Ocean/.25 miles/Recreational

5. South Fork from its source in Sec. 35 to main stem confluence/3.25 miles/Scenic

VALUES:

Fish – Central Coast steelhead (FT)

Wildlife – Smith’s blue butterfly (FE), California spotted owl (FT), Foothill yellow-legged frog (S), Coast Range newt (S)

Botanical – La Graciosa thistle (*Cirsium loncholepis*) (CT, FCE)

Hydrological – Undeveloped, nearly pristine coastal watershed

RIVER: Carmel River

TOTAL LENGTH: 12.5 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

Source of main stem to Ventana Wilderness boundary/6.5 miles/Wild

Source of Miller Fork to main stem confluence/6 miles/Wild

VALUES:

Wildlife – Southwest pond turtle (S), Coast Range newt (S), unique assemblage of species

Fish – Possible landlocked population of South Central Coast steelhead (FT)

Botanical – Endemic groves of Santa Lucia fir

Scenic – Variety class A

Recreation – Exceptional high quality diverse recreation, mentioned in guidebooks, exceptional interpretive opportunities

Geological – Unique feature, phenomenon, process

Cultural/Historical – Potential National Register quality cultural site, historic sites 50 years or older

Spiritual – Landscape that is uplifting or inspiring

RIVER: Little Sur River

TOTAL LENGTH: 19.25 miles

SEGMENT(S)/MILES/CLASSIFICATION:

Source of the North Fork to Pico Blanco Boy Scout Camp property boundary/6 miles/Wild  
Camp property boundary to confluence with unnamed tributary in sec. 25/.75

miles/Recreational

Unnamed tributary confluence in sec. 25 to .25 mile upstream of South Fork confluence/2 miles/Scenic

Source of the South fork to National Forest boundary at the southwest corner of sec. 35/7 miles/Wild

National Forest boundary to North Fork confluence/1.5 miles/Recreational

North/South Fork confluence to Pacific Ocean/2 miles/Recreational

VALUES:

Fish – South Central Coast steelhead (FT)

Wildlife – California red-legged frog (FT), California spotted owl (FC), southwest pond turtle (S), California tiger salamander (S), Coast Range newt (S), disjunct population of Pacific giant salamander, nesting and foraging habitat for several raptor species [Peregrin falcon (FT), prairie falcon (S), Golden eagle (S), osprey (S)], potential nesting habitat at the Little Sur River mouth for Western snowy plover (FT), potential nesting habitat for marbled murrelet (FT).

Botanical – Endemic groves of Santa Lucia fir, southern most stands of Coastal Redwood

Ecological – Combination of important and diverse ecological communities

Scenic – Variety class A, scenic redwood forest, white mountain top of Pico Blanco.

Schaffer describes the Little Sur “as a verdant, linear oasis...shaded by redwoods, bay trees, and tanbark oaks...”

Recreation – Exceptional high quality diverse recreation, mentioned in guide books, regional recreational opportunity

Geological – Pico Blanco mountain – a unique high grade limestone deposit

Cultural – Potential National Register quality sites

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