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Comments: New Mexico Trout strongly supports approval of Alternative B of the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Northern New Mexico Riparian, Aquatic and Wetland Restoration Project (NNM RAWR) on the Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests and the Kiowa National Grasslands.

The plan recognizes that, although riparian and wetland areas occupy only 2% of these forests' 4.7 million acres, they are among the most important for wildlife habitat, species diversity, and as sources for clean water. Additionally, many riparian and wetland areas have been degraded over the years and are particularly at risk from climate change. We believe that the NNM RAWR Project is an important, innovative approach to increasing the efficiency and lowering the costs of restoration projects on these areas by adopting a tool kit of validated techniques that can be applied across multiple projects.

We in New Mexico Trout have first-hand experience in how well-established restoration techniques can be applied to different streams and riparian areas. Many of those techniques were developed by Bill Zeedyk, who has been a leader over decades in developing and applying them to streams the Southwest. We have done numerous restoration projects under Bill Zeedyk's guidance. In 2015 Bill conducted a day-long stream restoration workshop for the Club. His book, "Let the Water do the Work: Induced Meandering, an Evolving Method for Restoring Incised Channels", is a manual for applying consistent, scientific principles for stream restoration. The process described in the draft EA represents an expansion and formal application of the principles that Bill Zeedyk has taught and applied successfully to Southwest streams over many decades. The approval of this draft EA should allow more restoration work to be done at less cost, according to accepted scientific principles. It has our unqualified support.

Sincerely yours,

New Mexico Trout