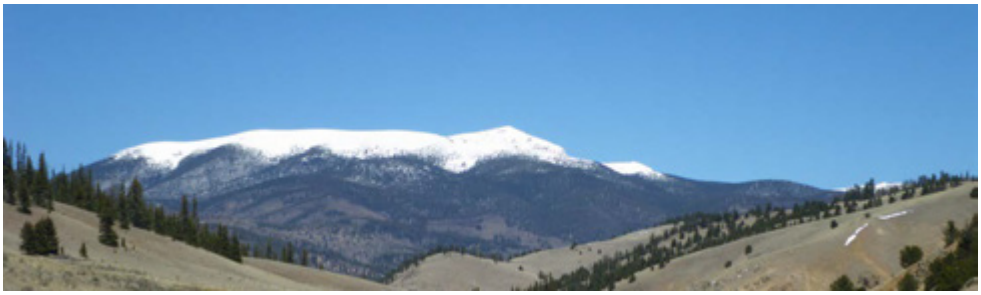
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

2016 Statewide Fisheries Management Plan

Approved by the New Mexico State Game Commission on April 14, 2016

Conserving New Mexico's Wildlife for Future Generations



Welcome to the Fisheries of New Mexico!

New Mexico offers abundant angling opportunities for the public to enjoy. We have isolated mountain lakes, montane meadow streams, the rugged Rio Grande Gorge, large reservoirs with monster striped bass or lake trout, and the list goes on and on. New Mexico also supports a unique and diverse native fish fauna. Despite this diversity and the Department's long contributions to wildlife conservation efforts, the Department has never developed a comprehensive plan which describes overarching vision for contemporary and future management for all fisheries in the state. Considering the modern challenges and conflicts within natural resource management, the Department recognized a clear need to better communicate with anglers, resource users, and the general public how we plan to manage a particular lake, stream, or river. I believe this Statewide Fisheries Management Plan does just that.

While this is the first ever plan of such comprehensive scope in New Mexico, it really is a summary of the conventional knowledge, vision, and decades of work by the Department and its partners who work to conserve our aquatic resources. Our collective knowledge and vision is now readily available to all interested individuals. By being available to the general public, this document will help to explain the "why" behind our activities.

I hope you find it useful to join the Department in conserving New Mexico's wildlife for future generations.

-Alexandra Sandoval, Director

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Introduction and Purpose of Plan

Despite our arid landscape, New Mexico is home to dozens of fish species that provide quality and unique angling opportunities. Our state also hosts a high diversity of native fish, many of which are only found within our borders. Ranging from world-class rainbow trout angling, to high mountain Rio Grande cutthroat trout, to pupfish tolerant of salt levels greater than seawater, our fisheries truly fit New Mexico's landscape. Such diversity also presents ever-growing challenges to fisheries management and conservation. Each year, approximately 160,000 anglers spend nearly 2.4 million days fishing in New Mexico and contribute approximately $268 million to our state's economy. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (Department) is the primary steward of these fisheries resources within the state and is charged with managing fish in New Mexico. In close collaboration with local, state, federal, tribal, and non-governmental organizations, the Department actively engages in various management programs and activities at statewide and regional levels to invest in the long-term conservation and management of our fisheries.

Management of fisheries in New Mexico is a complex and challenging venture. Population growth, resource development, habitat alteration, competing resource interests, and conflicting management directions all create programmatic challenges at a statewide level. In addition, competing species, hybridization, aquatic invasive species, illegal bait bucket introductions, and the occurrence of threatened or endangered species present challenges for management of individual waters or at the watershed scale. Faced with these challenges, the Department and its partners must consider dozens of factors when implementing current actions and planning for the future. Demands placed upon our fisheries resources require a clear definition and communication of current and future management expectations for a water to ensure continued angling opportunities, consistent planning expectations, and pursuit of the Department's mission.

The purpose of this Statewide Fisheries Management Plan is to express the Department's vision for the fishery resources of the State. At the core of this vision is a balance between providing angling opportunity and conservation for native fisheries. This balance will assist the continued economic and cultural vitality of the State by maintaining angling opportunities and working to recover or stabilize state or federally protected species and prevent the need for new listings. This plan identifies broad management classifications and, in some cases, specific actions for individual waters to clearly define priorities, actions, and possible changes to current management. The Department has never adopted a comprehensive fisheries management plan which considers all native and non-native fishes in New Mexico. The Department's last operational plan for aquatic management and non-game management lapsed in 1995 and was limited to sportfishing. With the approval of the New Mexico State Game Commission, this plan

will provide a clearer picture of what to expect in particular waters to secure New Mexico's fishery resources now and into the future.

Scope and Organization of Plan

This plan is intended to identify the priority species for a water, the general management type used to support a species or community, and designate general management direction for all waters within the jurisdiction of the Department. The general management direction also intends to identify areas which have been or may be considered for expanding sportfishing opportunities or to implement federal or state recovery plans for fishes in New Mexico. This plan is not intended to identify a comprehensive list of activities or research needs at the individual water or species scale. The Department has and will continue to develop water or species specific management or recovery plans to provide fine-scale detail, where warranted, and potentially adopt or coordinate with federal recovery plans. This plan does not override previously adopted plans unless otherwise noted.

Several waters within New Mexico, in whole or part, fall within the jurisdiction of Native American tribes, nations, or pueblos. This plan is not intended to set any management direction for those waters under sole jurisdiction of tribes, nations, or pueblos. The Department will, however, work cooperatively to seek common management direction and coordinate joint activities for all waters especially those which cross jurisdictional boundaries. The Department has successfully planned and implemented fisheries management actions with multiple pueblos, tribes and nations in recent years and hopes to continue and expand this coordination into the future.

This plan is divided into two major sections. The first section includes a description of the fisheries management and conservation program within the Department's Fisheries Management Division, angler survey information, and a summary of funding sources. This information provides a background on the organizational structure and funding available for Department activities and contributions in the state. This section also describes the Department's ongoing management efforts for specific taxa or groups of fishes. Objective parameters are listed for some species to demonstrate desired population abundance or angler catch rates for some sportfisheries, where appropriate. The Department can use these parameters to assess the status of particular taxa and guide potential management actions such as stocking or angling regulation changes.

The second section includes delineations of specific waters with focal species identified, a management type associated with each species, as well as brief descriptions of management directions for each water. These directions may include current and future management such as stocking rates, special regulation potential, restoration needs, among others. In some cases,

the management direction is a departure from past management or clarifies past inconsistencies between Department activities. This section is a collection of most recent fisheries data, environmental and social realities, and future possibilities for fisheries in New Mexico. This information was developed through extensive discussions among Department staff, partner agencies, researchers, anglers, and the general public and has continually evolved over the past several decades into its current form. Overall, this section defines the Department's long-range planning and intentions for management within a particular water or water segment.

Overview of NMDGF Fisheries Program

Statutory Authority

Enabling legislation for the New Mexico State Game Commission and the Department is found in Chapter 17 of New Mexico Statutes Annotated. This chapter empowers the State Game Commission to set regulations for open or closed seasons, establish bag or possession limits, authorize or prohibit the killing or taking of game fish, and prescribe the manner and method for taking game fish (17-2-1 NMSA 1978 *et seq.*). In addition, generally protected species are limited to trout, pike, catfish, striped and white bass, sunfish, black bass, walleye, and perch, typically known as game or sportfish, and hereinafter referred to as sportfish. Specific fishing regulations adopted by the State Game Commission include Fisheries (19.31.4 NMAC), Hunting and Fishing – Manner and Method of Taking (19.31.10 NMAC), Commercial Use of Fish (19.31.9 NMAC), and Importation of Live Non-domesticated Animals, Birds, and Fish (19.35.7 NMAC). The Department typically seeks renewal of the Fisheries regulation by the State Game Commission on a four year cycle with the most recent version taking effect on April 1, 2014.

The Wildlife Conservation Act (17-2-37 NMSA 1978) empowers the State Game Commission to adopt a list of species of wildlife indigenous to the state that are determined to be threatened or endangered within the state. Once listed as threatened or endangered by the State Game Commission, it is unlawful for any person to possess, transport, export, process, sell or offer for sale any species of listed wildlife. The Wildlife Conservation Act also prescribes a listing or delisting process, a biennial review process to evaluate species status, and drafting of state recovery plans.

NMDGF Fisheries Program

The Fisheries Management Division is divided into a Hatchery Section and a Research and Management Section. Six state hatcheries rear fish to support ongoing fisheries management activities in New Mexico. The Lisboa Springs, Los Ojos, Red River, Glenwood, and Rock Lake State Hatcheries all rear rainbow trout to provide both annual and seasonal trout angling

throughout the state. The vast majority of rainbow trout produced exceed nine inches in length and are considered a “catchable” sized fish. Beginning in 2008, the Department switched to rearing only all-female, triploid rainbow trout. These fish are sterile and minimize hybridization concerns with native trout. In total, the Department’s hatcheries produce nearly 4.0 million rainbow trout per year. The Rock Lake State Hatchery was expanded in the mid-2000s to provide warmwater rearing capabilities. Los Ojos Hatchery produces Kokanee fry to stock in large coldwater reservoirs. Warmwater species reared at the Rock Lake State Hatchery include channel catfish, largemouth bass, tiger muskie, and walleye. The Seven Springs State Hatchery is dedicated to rearing New Mexico’s state fish, the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, for conservation and angling purposes.

The Research and Management Section is divided into teams of sportfish biologists, native fish biologists, aquatic invasive species biologists, and an environmental compliance specialist . The Sportfish Program is charged with managing fisheries that provide recreational angling opportunities for warmwater species such as bass and catfish and coldwater species such as trout and salmon. The Native Fish Program is charged with managing New Mexico’s native fisheries and invertebrates such as Gila chub, Arkansas river shiner, Texas hornshell (a freshwater mussel), and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. The Sportfish and Native Fish Programs are currently composed of ten and eight full-time permanent employees, respectively. Current aquatic invasive species intervention efforts include education and outreach, coordination of intervention efforts, seasonal watercraft inspection and decontamination, and statewide fish health testing. Coordination of aquatic invasive species intervention at the state and regional levels helps to protect New Mexico fisheries as well as significant water resources infrastructure; this is a benefit to all New Mexicans. Annual fish health testing is completed at all hatcheries to ensure they are free of significant fish pathogens such as whirling disease and bacterial kidney disease, among others. Fish health testing for wild fish is completed on select waters when fish or eggs are transported among watersheds or to a hatchery facility. Biologists are typically assigned a watershed or suite of species though coordination among biologists is necessary to consider all aspects of the Department’s management efforts. Most if not all divisional activities are implemented in close coordination with local, state, or federal agencies as well as non-governmental organizations who own land, water or are actively engaged in aquatic conservation efforts in New Mexico. Together, these programs provide a comprehensive management approach for New Mexico’s aquatic resources.

Fisheries Management Division Programmatic Priorities

Priorities for the entire Department are identified in the Department’s Strategic Plan (NMDGF 2013). Identified Objectives and Strategies specifically relevant to the Fisheries Management Division include:

- That by 2018, the Department develops appropriate population objectives based on sustainable wildlife management practices (Objective 2, pg. 8).
    - Collaborate with sportsmen, land management agencies, landowners and other affected interests to establish broadly supported resource-based management objectives for game animals and game fish (Strategy 2.1)
- Maintain an overall angler satisfaction rate of 80% regarding angler opportunity, fishing experiences, and the Department's management of sport fishing issues through 2018 (Objective 4, pg. 10)
    - Monitor angler issues, interests, and satisfaction and employ findings to inform and evaluate management decisions (Strategy 4.1)
    - Maintain a hatchery system and associated facilities to culture fish and supplement fish populations through stocking in accordance with fisheries management plans (Strategy 4.2)
    - Construct, operate, and maintain, a warmwater fish hatchery and associated Watershed Education and Training (WET) Center (Strategy 4.3)
    - Continue to promulgate rules that protect fish stocks from overexploitation and equitably distribute fishing opportunity. (Strategy 4.4)
    - Minimize losses of fish populations and hatchery stocks due to diseases (Strategy 4.5)
    - Increase opportunities for anglers to pursue native game fish (Strategy 4.6)
- By 2018 realize a level of public opportunity for recreational hunting and fishing as indicated by 110,000 and 200,000 certified annual licensees, respectively (Objective 5, pg. 11)
    - Identify and implement methods by which hunting and fishing opportunity and participation might be increased (Strategy 5.1)
- Restore up to 70 user-days of public hunting and up to 200 user-days of fishing opportunity for selected diminished game species and furbearers by 2018 (Objective 6, pg. 12)
    - Develop and implement long-range and operational plans for the restoration, management, and use of selected diminished game species and furbearers for which limited sport fishing, hunting, or trapping opportunity may be restored without compromising species conservation (Strategy 6.1)
- That through 2018 hunting and fishing opportunities are maintained through prevention and control of wildlife disease and invasive species (Objective 7, pg. 12)

    - Detect, monitor, manage, and prevent the spread of wildlife diseases and invasive species through coordination with the New Mexico Department of Health, the New Mexico Livestock Board, the New Mexico Department of Agriculture, USDA Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service, USDA Wildlife Services, and USDA Veterinary Services and other appropriate agencies. (Strategy 7.1)
- Conserve, enhance, or positively affect an additional 500,000 acres of wildlife habitat statewide by 2018 (Objective 8, pg. 13)
    - Collaborate with federal, state, and local agencies, tribal governments, non-governmental organizations, and private interests that manage significant land and water areas in New Mexico to plan and implement habitat improvement projects consistent with the habitat enhancement prescriptions in the State Wildlife Action Plan (Strategy 8.1)
- By 2018, attain measurable progress toward the restoration of wildlife identified as being at risk of depletion or extinction (Objective 10, pg. 16)
    - Pursuant to the Wildlife Conservation Act (WCA), conduct biennial reviews of all indigenous wildlife currently listed as threatened or endangered by the state, investigate and assess the status of species the Department suspects to be threatened or endangered, and recommend changes to the status if warranted (Strategy 10.1)
    - Develop and implement plans for the management and recovery of state listed threatened or endangered species (Strategy 10.2)
    - Provide public, state, and private entities with guidance for conserving and improving populations of threatened or endangered wildlife (Strategy 10.3)
    - Collaborate with state, federal, and tribal governments in the recovery of federally listed species occurring in , or extirpated from, New Mexico (Strategy 10.4)

In furtherance of the Department's Strategic Plan, the Fisheries Management Division developed a set of divisional priorities to focus management and conservation efforts for division staff and resources:

1. Rearing and Stocking Fish – This priority includes all efforts at the six Department hatcheries to meet developed stocking schedules for rainbow trout, Rio Grande cutthroat trout, channel catfish, striped bass, and tiger muskie. Future schedules will include largemouth bass and Gila trout. Stocking schedules are routinely modified to reflect changing environmental conditions, altered angler use, changing priority areas,

and addition or loss of angler access. This priority specifically addressed Department Strategies 4.2 and 4.3.

2. Evaluation of Hatchery Stocking – This priority includes investigating and altering the use of hatchery produced resources to more efficiently stock waters, and maximize angler catch rates, and ensure equitable distribution of fish. Examples of such investigations include fingerling versus catchable channel catfish or rainbow trout in appropriate waters, appropriate stocking rates for tiger muskie, and put, grow and take opportunities for Rio Grande cutthroat trout. This priority specifically addressed Department Strategies 2.1, 4.1, 4.4, 4.6, 5.1, and 6.1.
3. Species Recovery Efforts – This priority includes development and implementation of various aquatic species recovery efforts to improve or stabilize the status of Federal or State protected species. Specifically, priority actions will include augmentation programs, habitat restoration, removal or exclusion of competing or hybridizing species, and restoring habitat connectivity. In addition, significant efforts are directed towards addressing or preventing the further decline of other species that could need State or Federal protection in the future. This priority specifically addressed Department Strategies 4.6, 6.1, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, and 10.4.
4. Aquatic Invasive Species – This priority seeks to galvanize support by State, Federal, and non-governmental entities to collaboratively protect the states waters from Aquatic Invasive Species and prevent the spread or negative effects from previously established fish pathogens. The introduction or spread of species such as zebra or quagga mussel, rocksnot, or whirling disease could produce devastating effects on individual fisheries, local or state economies, and/or water resource infrastructure. This priority specifically addresses Department Strategy 4.5 and 7.1.
5. Habitat Restoration – The Department has expended significant resources restoring and augmenting riparian habitats for the benefit of fish and wildlife. Specific examples include habitat enhancement in the San Juan River tailwater fishery, wildlife management areas on the Pecos River, and the Red River. This priority specifically addresses Department Strategy 5.1, 8.3 and 10.4.
6. Statewide Fisheries Management – This priority refers to ongoing efforts to constantly adapt to changes in environmental conditions and provide the best possible angling opportunities to New Mexico anglers. This priority specifically addresses Department Strategies 4.1 and 4.3.

Angler Survey Data

Dating to the 1970s, the Fisheries Management Division has assessed angler days, catch rates, species preference, and/or angler satisfaction via mail or phone surveys. Since 2000, annual phone surveys of resident and non-resident anglers have been completed. The purpose of

these surveys is to assess annual angler satisfaction, seek input on current topics, and refine existing management programs. New web-based surveys will be employed in the near future to measure annual angler effort on all waters statewide. For example, individualized surveys could be conducted for topics such as bait fishing, Gila trout angling, or fish importation.

New Mexico anglers consistently prefer to fish for coldwater species such as trout and salmon with only approximately 20% preferring solely warmwater species (Figure 1). A significant percentage of anglers prefer both warmwater and coldwater species. Of the coldwater species in New Mexico, rainbow trout and brown trout are consistently pursued over other coldwater species (http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/fishing/fisheries-management/). Black Bass, Catfish, and Walleye are the most preferred species of warmwater fish. Since 2007, an average of 48% of anglers release most of the fish they catch compared to 34% who prefer to harvest most of their catch (Figure 2). Similar proportions of anglers pursue stocked fish compared to wild produced fish (Figure 3). These data are essential to proactively address the desires and preferences of New Mexico anglers within the environmental and sociopolitical context of our state.

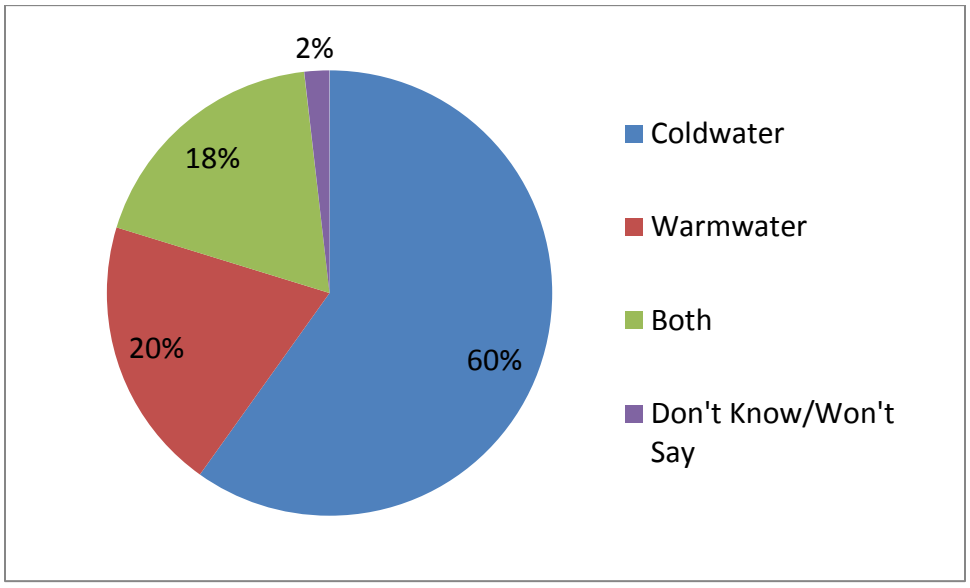

Figure 1. Summary of New Mexico angler preferences for coldwater (e.g. trout and salmon) or warmwater (bass and catfish) angling in the state. Percentages represent a mean derived from annual angler phone surveys, 2000 to 2014.

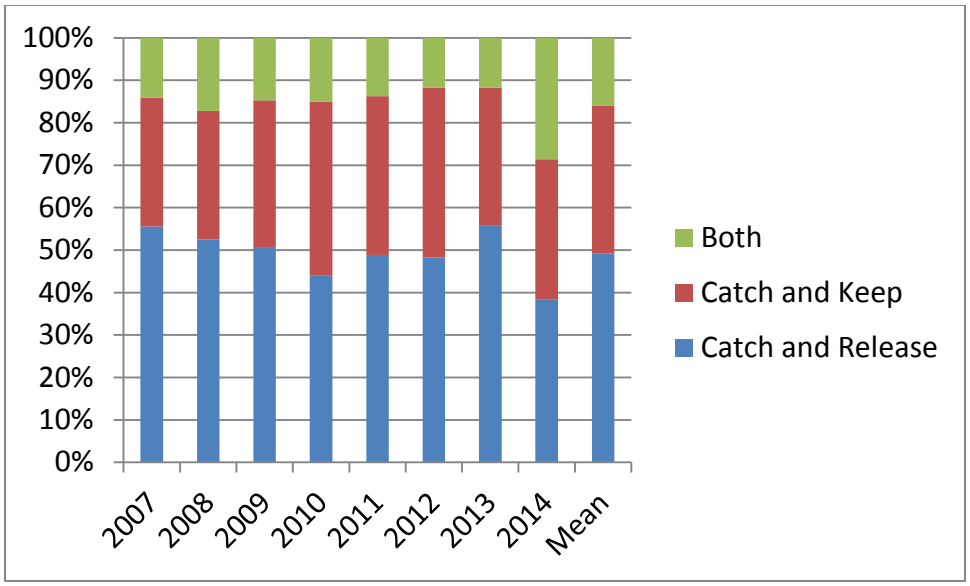

Figure 2. Summary of New Mexico angler preference for harvesting game species derived from annual angler phone surveys, 2007 to 2014.

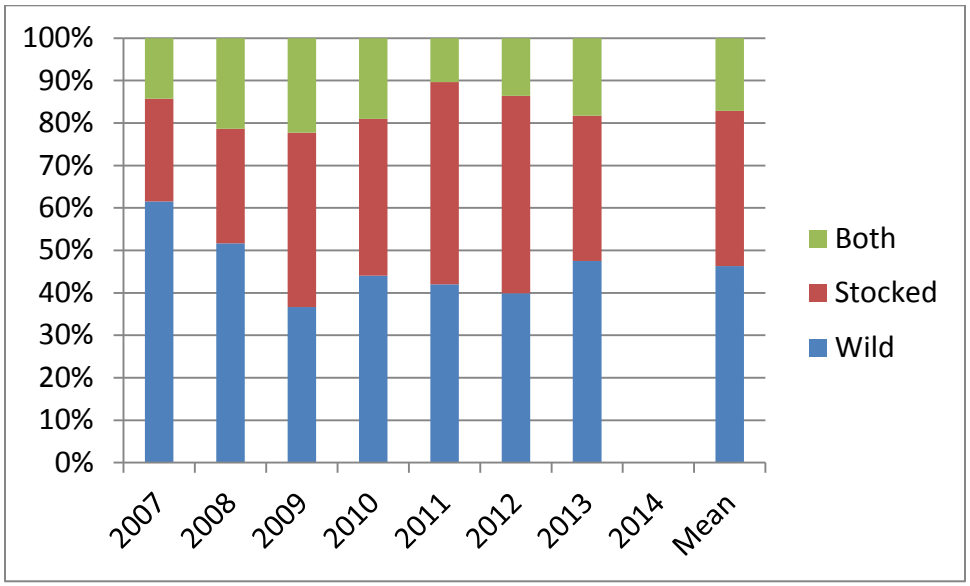

Figure 3. Summary of New Mexico angler preference for fishing in areas they expect to find stocked fish, wild fish, or both, 2007 to 2014. This question was not asked in 2014.

Funding

The Fisheries Management Division receives a portion of the Department's annual budget which is primarily funded by legislative appropriations from the Game Protection Fund. The Game Protection Fund is funded entirely through the sale of hunting and fishing licenses. The Fisheries Management Division leverages expenditures from the Game Protection Fund for reimbursement from various federal grant programs. The primary source of federal funds is the

Sportfish Restoration Act program administered by the Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This federal grant program is funded via federal excise taxes on fishing tackle and motorboat fuel. For every dollar of Game Protection Fund spent, the Department is reimbursed $0.75 through the Sportfish Restoration Act program. This program is the primary funding source for the Department's hatchery operations, sportfish research and management, aquatic invasive species outreach and education, Gila and Rio Grande cutthroat trout conservation efforts, habitat restoration, and fish health investigations.

Various federal grant programs also provide cost share opportunities for recovery efforts of sensitive, as well as state or federally threatened and endangered species. In all cases, the Game Protection Fund provides the base funding until reimbursement is obtained from the federal program. The Department receives an annual allocation of Section 6 funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to implement conservation activities for threatened or endangered species with the same reimbursement requirements as the Sportfish Restoration Act program discussed above. The Department also receives an annual allocation of State Wildlife Grant funding to support conservation programs for Species of Greatest Conservation Need as identified in the Department's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. The total amount of State Wildlife Grant funds used by the Fisheries Management Division varies annually. The Department also supports several ongoing research efforts either through State Wildlife Grant or Section 6 funds. Lastly, the Department receives funding through different Bureau of Reclamation project mitigation programs such as Central Arizona Project mitigation funds and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program funds. Species that benefit from these state and federal funding sources include loach minnow, spikedace, Colorado pikeminnow, Arkansas River shiner, Pecos pupfish, Texas hornshell, Socorro isopod, and dozens of others throughout the state.

In 2013, funding for the Fisheries Management Division was primarily derived from Sportfish Restoration Act and the unreimbursed Department costs such as administrative support staff salary and benefits charged to the Game Protection Fund (Figure 4). State Wildlife Grant and Section 6 funding provided 8% of the Fisheries Management Division's budget. Less than 2% of the budget was supported by other federal mitigation programs.

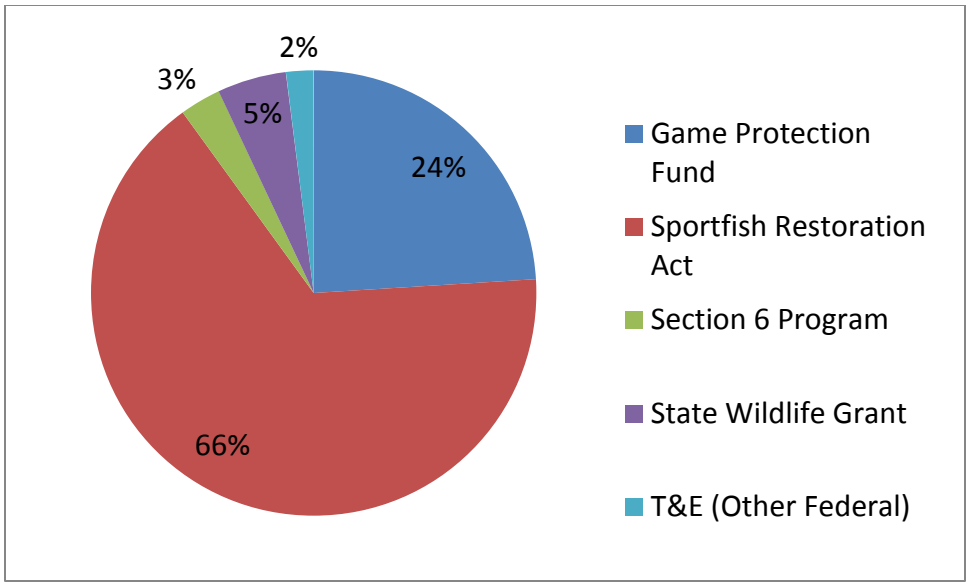

Figure 4. Summary of 2013 funding sources for the Fisheries Management Division.

Specific Information for Fish Species, Taxa, or Communities

The individual characteristics of a particular water in New Mexico along with active management such as stocking or regulation development help determine community composition and available management actions to sustain, suppress, or expand a particular fishery. Below are descriptions of individual species or groups of fish which are popular sportfish species for a water, a focal species for management at a particular water, or the focus of a significant recovery program in which the Department participates. Individual abundance or density indices, growth rates, angler catch rates, and other metrics are identified for some species to provide objective criteria for measuring management success and possible indicators of challenges within a fishery. For some sportfish, individual demographic criteria are not available or the species is too rare to effectively monitor. For others, state or federal recovery plans are better suited for identifying such criteria.

Catfish

Three species of catfish provide recreational angling opportunities in New Mexico. Channel catfish are native to the central United States, south central Canada, portions of the Atlantic Coast of the United States, and have been widely introduced throughout the United States and northern Mexico. In New Mexico, channel catfish are native to the Canadian drainage and widely introduced to all other drainages in the state except the Tularosa basin. Blue catfish are native to the Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio drainages of the central and southern United States and along the Texas Gulf Coast. In New Mexico, it is considered native to the Rio Grande downstream of Bernalillo County and in the Pecos River downstream of Puerto de Luna. In the

Rio Grande drainage, blue catfish is currently known to occur in Elephant Butte and Caballo reservoirs. Flathead catfish are found in the central United States south into eastern Mexico. Flathead catfish are native to the Rio Grande and Pecos River drainages and were introduced to the Gila River prior to 1950.

The Department has four management classes for catfish in New Mexico. These management classes are primarily focused on channel catfish though blue and flathead catfish provide quality angling opportunities in select waters. Management classes for catfish in New Mexico are: Wild, Put and Take, Big Cat Waters, and Put, Grow and Take waters. Wild catfish fisheries, which consist of channel, blue, or flathead catfish, are present in many large reservoirs and rivers around New Mexico. Some Wild populations are supplementally stocked with channel catfish. Put and Take consists of waters where catchable size channel catfish are stocked but are subject to statewide harvest regulations. Big Cat Waters, also referred to as Special Summer Catfish Waters, are small urban waters stocked with large, catchable channel catfish (approximately 17+ inches) multiple times per year (May to September) with harvest limited to two fish per day. Put, Grow and Take waters consist of medium size reservoirs stocked with small sub-catchable (6 to 8 inches in length) or fingerling (< 6 inches in length) channel catfish that grow in the waterbody to catchable size. Most Put, Grow and Take waters have insufficient natural reproduction rates to support existing angler harvest. Channel catfish are acquired from other state and federal agencies, purchased from private producers, and grown at the Rock Lake State Fish Hatchery. Blue and flathead catfish are not stocked by the Department at this time.

Both Wild and Put, Grow and Take waters are typically managed with statewide bag limit of 15 fish per day. In some waters, channel catfish populations are purposefully suppressed to facilitate native species recovery (e.g., San Juan River downstream of Farmington, NM). Current suppression efforts are implemented with mechanical means (e.g., electrofishing) by recovery program and Department staff.

Management strategies for Put and Take waters and Big Cat Waters are focused on maximizing stocked fish return to the angler and equitable distribution of angling opportunity, predominantly in an urban environment. Alternatively, strategies for Put, Grow and Take and Wild waters are focused on maintaining viable populations through time especially those that are entirely dependent upon natural reproduction. As a result, the objective parameters established for Put and Take and Big Cat Waters relate to angler catch rates compared to population statistics documented during Department monitoring efforts for Wild and Put, Grow and Take waters.

Channel Catfish Parameters:

Big Cat Waters and Put and Take

- Average angler catch rate of 0.5 fish/angler hour during stocking season (late May to early September)

Put, Grow and Take

- Catch Per Unit Effort of 7 fish/set night (i.e. number of nets set for a night)
- Mean length of 11 inches by Age-3
- Multiple size-classes of adults

Wild

- Multiple size-classes of adults present exhibiting a balanced population and consistent natural reproduction.

Black Bass

Black bass collectively refers to a group of popular sportfish including largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and various species or subspecies. In New Mexico, black bass include smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, and spotted bass. The native range of smallmouth bass includes southern Canada, south to the Tennessee River and Alabama and west to eastern Oklahoma and western Arkansas. In New Mexico, smallmouth bass were first stocked into Throttle Reservoir (Colfax County) in 1914 and since that time have been stocked throughout the state. Smallmouth bass now occur in every major basin in New Mexico including river systems such as the lower Gila River and upper Rio Grande. Two subspecies of largemouth bass exist or have been stocked in New Mexico: the northern largemouth bass and the Florida largemouth bass. Florida largemouth bass were stocked into reservoirs within the southern part of the state in the 1980s with limited long-term success in terms of contributing to the fishery. Northern largemouth bass are native to New Mexico's lower Pecos drainage and possibly the Rio Grande drainage but have been introduced to all other basins in the state. Spotted bass were stocked into Lake Sumner and Cochiti Reservoir in the 1980s and currently exist in Lake Sumner, Brantley Reservoir, and Lake Carlsbad. Largemouth bass are the most popular warmwater species in the state followed consistently by smallmouth bass.

Most populations of black bass are self-sustaining in the state though many receive supplemental stockings when necessary and fish are available. Local conditions of a particular water, however, can limit or inhibit consistent reproduction. For example, sudden reservoir level decreases that negatively affect nests built in shallow areas can reduce or eliminate fish spawning and recruitment. Largemouth bass populations are intermittently supplemented via stocking when fish are available. A brood population of largemouth bass is being raised at Rock

Lake State Fish Hatchery but production is limited. Generally, smallmouth bass are not stocked by the Department except when obtained from other states. Spotted bass are not stocked by the Department at this time.

Statewide regulations vary for black bass among species and management direction. Harvest in all waters is limited to five fish per day. The minimum length limit for largemouth and spotted bass is 14 inches statewide. The statewide minimum length limit for smallmouth bass is 12 inches with the exception of 14 inches at Ute and Conchas Reservoirs. The purpose of this regulation is to protect fish from harvest until reaching a more desirable length.

The Department has four black bass management types: Trophy, Recreational, Low Density, and Urban Management. These management types were recently developed to help set or maintain realistic expectations for black bass populations in the state. Once set, the Department may seek to manipulate physical, biological, or social variables to attain the desired outcomes via, for example, habitat manipulations, forage or other species management, or harvest regulations. Each parameter is used as an indicator for different aspects of overall population health and can be measured differently as indicated by the different measurement units. For example, overall abundance of bass is measured differently for Trophy waters (where overall abundance of larger fish is desired) compared to a larger proportion of the bass population in Recreational bass waters. Alternatively, parameters for recruitment are based upon the survey catch rate of Age-1 bass whereas Catch Per Unit Effort is based upon catch rates of fish greater than a particular length. Proportional Stock Density is a commonly used index to describe a “balanced” population of fish composed of young and adult fish. Low or high Proportional Stock Density indicates a skewing of the population towards small or large fish, respectively. All of these parameters are used to measure different elements of the population. Below are specific descriptions of black bass management types and objective parameters for each management type. All smallmouth bass waters are designated as Recreational Bass Waters with no specific criteria developed for stream systems.

Trophy – Trophy bass waters provide ideal conditions for producing fish larger than 5 pounds and provide opportunities to catch fish exceeding 8 pounds. These waters are highly productive, have high growth rates, and excellent habitat for all life stages of bass. These waters often produce fish at or near state records. Management strategies will focus on promoting and protecting large fish.

Recreational - Recreational bass waters exhibit conditions for producing fish that reach legal length limits. In most instances these waters maintain self-sustaining populations, and are occasionally stocked. Management strategies will focus on maintaining suitable populations that provide satisfactory catch rates and sizes for anglers.

Low Density – Low density waters may maintain a population of bass, however this population is often limited by extreme environmental conditions. Often these populations experience a boom or bust progression driven by environmental conditions. Management strategies will follow statewide regulations.

Urban Management Waters - Bass may occur in these waters or may be stocked as a tool to manage other fish species. While bass in these waters may provide angling opportunities they are not the focal species and population parameters have not been set for Urban Management waters.

Black Bass Parameters:

Trophy Bass Waters (largemouth bass only)

- Catch Per Unit Effort: > 5 fish/hour of electrofishing that are > than 20 inches in length
- Recruitment: > 20 Age-1 bass/hour of electrofishing
- Size Structure: Proportional Stock Density between 50 and 70
- Growth: Mean length of Age-3 bass > 14 inches

Recreational Bass Waters

- Catch Per Unit Effort: 20 to 40 fish/hour of electrofishing (minimum size = 7 inches for smallmouth bass, 8 inches for largemouth bass)
- Recruitment: 10 to 20 Age-1 bass/hour of electrofishing
- Size Structure: Proportional Stock Density between 40 and 60

Low Density Bass Waters

- Catch Per Unit Effort: 0 to 20 fish/hour electrofishing (minimum size = 7 inches for smallmouth bass, 8 inches for largemouth bass)

Temperate Basses

The temperate basses include striped bass and white bass. Striped bass are native to the Atlantic Coast and the eastern part of the Gulf of Mexico (Sublette et al. 1990). Striped bass have been stocked in Elephant Butte Reservoir intermittently depending on availability. Striped bass also inhabit Lake Powell, AZ/UT and could potentially swim upstream into the San Juan River. There is no evidence that striped bass have successfully reproduced in New Mexico and the population in Elephant Butte Reservoir is maintained by stocking fry obtained from other state hatcheries. White bass are native to the central Mississippi drainage down to the Gulf of Mexico and a few watersheds in Texas. They were first introduced into New Mexico in 1969 into Willow Lake and can be found in many lakes and reservoirs throughout the state, excluding the Gila basin. White bass successfully reproduce in New Mexico reservoirs and are not stocked by the Department.

Management strategies for white and striped bass are quite different due to differences in life history and “trophy” fish potential. The Department has managed the striped bass fishery at Elephant Butte Lake to increase the likelihood of fish growing to trophy size. Such a size structure is slightly biased towards a greater proportion of adults in the population compared to juveniles as measured by Proportional Stock Density. Regulations for striped bass at Elephant Butte Reservoir are currently set as one fish per day and no length limit. There is no harvest, possession or length limit for any striped bass in the San Juan River to support endangered fish recovery efforts in that basin. Because white bass populations are highly cyclical, current

regulations limit harvest to 25 fish per day with no length limit. This management approach is intended to support liberal harvest of white bass when abundant. Considering the cyclical nature of white bass, no specific management parameters have been developed.

Striped Bass Parameters at Elephant Butte Reservoir

- Catch Per Unit Effort: 1 fish/net night
- Size Structure: Proportional Stock Density between 50 and 70

Walleye

Native to the upper midwestern United States and Canada, walleye were first introduced into New Mexico in 1959 to expand angling opportunity in the State's reservoirs. Walleye are highly piscivorous (i.e., fish eating) with gizzard shad and yellow perch as their dominant prey. In New Mexico, natural spawning success is typically low to nonexistent and populations are dependent upon annual stocking. The Department has conducted walleye field spawns (i.e., egg collection) from various reservoirs since the 1970's. In the spring, eggs are collected, fertilized, and transported to the Rock Lake State Fish Hatchery for incubation and hatching. When local spawns provide inadequate egg collection, eggs are obtained from other state or federal hatcheries. Walleye are then stocked into reservoirs as fry typically at a rate of 500 per surface acre. All walleye populations are currently managed with statewide regulations of five fish per day and a minimum length of 14 inches.

Walleye Parameters

- Catch Per Unit Effort: 4 fish/net night
- Size Structure: Proportional Stock Density between 40 and 60

Tiger Muskellunge and Northern Pike

Tiger muskellunge or "tiger muskie" are a sterile hybrid (i.e., cannot produce fertile offspring) between northern pike and muskellunge. Both northern pike and muskellunge are native to the upper midwest and northeast United States. Northern pike were first introduced into New Mexico in the 1960s and tiger muskie were first introduced in the early 2000s. Several self-sustaining populations of northern pike exist in the state and the Department does not stock them. The Department stocked tiger muskie in Bluewater and Quemado reservoirs in the early 2000s to control goldfish and white sucker. These are still the only waters the Department manages with this hybrid and a popular sport fishery has grown around the opportunity. Because tiger muskie is a sterile hybrid, the Department must continually stock them to maintain a population. Challenges with tiger muskie management include maintaining enough

tiger muskie to control unwanted fish, providing a unique angling experience for tiger muskie, and maintaining or expanding angling for other species including trout.

Statewide regulations for northern pike are 10 fish per day with no length limit. No specific population parameters have been developed for northern pike. Regulations at Eagle Nest Lake for northern pike are unlimited and mandatory harvest by anglers. These regulations are intended to suppress the illegally introduced species and minimize potential deleterious effects on the popular trout and salmon fisheries.

Current regulations for tiger muskie are one fish over 40 inches per day at Bluewater and Quemado Lakes. The Department conducts routine surveys of tiger muskie at each lake to estimate the density of fish (number of fish/surface acre of lake habitat) and evaluate population size structure. Coupled with carefully developed stocking rates, the Department hopes to refine the balance between tiger muskie density, potential harvest, trophy fishing opportunities, and other recreational angling opportunities.

Tiger Muskie Parameters

- Density: Minimum of 4 fish/surface acre of habitat
- Unwanted Fish Density: Maintain low abundance of unwanted goldfish and white sucker in target waters

Other Warmwater Species

Several additional sportfish species inhabit New Mexico waters which provide alternative yet less popular fisheries. They also provide important forage sources for larger predatory fishes. These species include yellow perch, white and black crappie, and several species within the sunfish family such as bluegill and green sunfish. Active management specifically for these species is not common though some waters have one or more of these species identified as a focal species. Some urban fishing ponds provide excellent habitat for sunfish species and provide exciting opportunities for young anglers. Sunfish can overpopulate small ponds. Where warranted, largemouth bass can be stocked to reduce sunfish density and increase growth rates. The Department does not typically rear these species at Rock Lake State Fish Hatchery but has obtained them from private or public hatcheries in the past. Currently, yellow perch are managed as self-sustaining populations and by statewide regulation of 30 fish per day with no length limit. The Department occasionally transplants yellow perch within the state to establish or supplement prey base and could do this for other species. Sunfish in New Mexico are not actively managed other than by a statewide limit of 20 fish per day with no size limit. Crappie are managed by a statewide regulation of 20 fish per day with no length limit. No specific parameters have been developed for these fish species.

Trout and Salmon

Several salmonid species inhabit New Mexico waters. Trout native to New Mexico include Gila trout, historically found in coldwater reaches within the Gila River basin, and Rio Grande cutthroat trout, historically found in coldwater reaches of the Pecos, Rio Grande, and Canadian River basins. Both species have declined considerably from their historic distribution and Gila trout are currently listed as "Threatened" under the federal Endangered Species Act and the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act. Colorado River cutthroat trout may have inhabited limited coldwater reaches within the San Juan drainage though are now considered extirpated from New Mexico.

Introduced species include rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, other subspecies of cutthroat trout, lake trout, and Kokanee. Rainbow trout are native to Pacific slope drainages in North America and were first introduced to New Mexico in 1896. Due primarily to stocking, rainbow trout are the most widely distributed and sought after trout in the state. Brown trout were transplanted from Europe while brook trout are native to lakes and streams in eastern North America. Other subspecies of cutthroat trout which have been stocked in New Mexico include Yellowstone cutthroat trout and Snake River cutthroat trout. Lake trout have been introduced to several lakes in New Mexico but currently inhabit Heron and El Vado lakes. Kokanee are inland sockeye salmon and have been introduced into several large coldwater reservoirs in the state. The Department conducts annual field spawns for Kokanee to maintain these populations. While wild populations of rainbow trout exist in the state, the majority of rainbow trout angling opportunities are maintained via stocking. The Department currently stocks rainbow trout in approximately 150 waters statewide.

The Department employs three management strategies for all trout and salmon species. Management strategies include: Put and Take, Put, Grow and Take, and Wild waters. In some cases, different management strategies may be employed for different species within the same water. Put and Take trout waters involve stocking catchable (> 9 inches in length) rainbow trout to be immediately harvested by anglers especially where angler demand significantly exceeds natural production. Put and Take waters range from popular mountain streams with high angler use to large reservoirs and urban ponds. Winter Trout Waters are a subset of Put and Take trout waters where the Department stocks trout during cooler months when water temperatures are suitable for trout. In nearly all cases, Put and Take trout waters are stocked consistently throughout a stocking season with catchable rainbow trout. In limited cases, surplus catchable Rio Grande cutthroat trout are stocked to increase recreational angling opportunities. Gila trout that are surplus to recovery efforts have been stocked into select waters in the past. A Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling was approved by both the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which includes waters which will be

stocked with Gila trout for recreational purposes as well as recovery waters which are open to angling. Different regulations are in place for Put and Take trout waters though the daily bag limit is generally 5 fish per day for rainbow trout and 2 fish per day for cutthroat trout. In some cases, Special Trout Water regulations are in place to equitably distribute angling opportunities and increase the retention time of stocked catchable trout within a waterbody.

Put, Grow and Take trout waters involve stocking subcatchable (6 to 8 inches in length), fingerling or fry trout into waters with the expectation that the fish will grow to larger sizes within the receiving water. These waters may have limited habitat to support natural reproduction or angler harvest exceeds the number of fish produced via natural reproduction. In other cases, the Department stocks native trout with hopes of increasing the opportunity for anglers to catch a native trout within historic habitats. Waters managed as Put, Grow, and Take trout fisheries range from high mountain lakes, large coldwater reservoirs, to small streams. Kokanee, triploid rainbow trout, recreational Rio Grande cutthroat trout, and recreational Gila trout are managed as Put, Grow and Take species. Rio Grande cutthroat trout that are surplus to restoration needs, discussed below, are stocked with hopes of contributing 5 to 15% of the overall trout abundance in select reaches. Harvest regulations are similar to Put and Take waters stocked with rainbow trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Daily bag limit for Kokanee during the non-snagging season is 5 fish per day. During the annual snagging seasons at select waters, the daily bag limit is 12 fish per day. Snagging of Kokanee is permitted because these fish will die after reaching spawning condition. In some cases, Special Trout Water regulations are in place to increase growth potential of stocked fish to larger sizes (e.g. San Juan River Quality Waters).

Wild trout waters include populations of trout that are maintained entirely via natural reproduction. Populations may be composed of a single species or include several species. Wild trout waters include rainbow trout, brook trout, brown trout, cutthroat trout, Gila trout, and lake trout. Recovery populations of Gila trout that are open to angling as well as Conservation Populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout are also considered Wild trout waters. At this time, only two wild populations of Gila trout are open to angling in New Mexico compared to dozens open for Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Considering the conservation status of these species, these waters are formally designated as Native Fish waters and are discussed further below. Specific criteria for both Conservation Populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout and Gila trout populations which are open to angling are discussed in the relevant conservation and recovery planning documents for each species. Since Wild trout populations are entirely supported by natural reproduction, avoiding overfishing, via harvest regulations, is of significant importance. The Wild lake trout population in Heron Reservoir is managed to limit harvest and promote a stable population with a limited daily bag limit of 2 fish per day. Most Wild trout waters are

subject to the statewide daily bag limit of 5 fish per day while others have Special Trout Water regulations.

Waters managed with Special Trout Water regulations embody a set of waters with special regulations intended to manipulate the population through reduced bag limits, various length limits, and/or restrictions of allowable terminal tackle. Some Special Trout Waters are geared towards producing trophy size trout such as the San Juan River quality waters. Special Trout Waters with prohibited harvest and limited terminal tackle (e.g. artificial lure or fly only, single barbless hook) include Gila trout recovery waters which are open to angling, select Rio Grande cutthroat trout waters, the quality waters of the San Juan River, or waters with special angling interests such as certain reaches of the Rio Guadalupe. Examples of Special Trout Waters where terminal tackle is restricted yet some harvest of larger fish is permitted include the Cimarron River and Shuree Ponds. Several waters have restrictive harvest yet any terminal tackle is permitted; in this case the regulations were created to distribute angling opportunity to more anglers. The overall success of meeting management goals for these waters depends upon the purpose of the regulations. The Department has begun to review many of the Special Trout Water regulations to determine whether the original goals were attained and whether it is appropriate to adjust existing regulations or restructure the Special Trout Water program.

Management strategies for Put and Take trout waters are focused on maximizing stocked fish return to the angler and spreading angling opportunity throughout an entire season and among anglers. Conversely, Put, Grow and Take waters and Wild populations seek to provide angling opportunity yet ensure populations are maintained through time. As a result, objective parameters for Put and Take trout waters are focused on angler catch rates and stocking rates. These parameters measure how effectively the Department allocates catchable rainbow trout and how those fish return to anglers. Objective parameters for Put, Grow and Take waters are intended to establish desired population density and growth rates of stocked fish. Considering the diversity of Wild trout waters in the state, no single population criteria will fit all populations. In this case, general indicators of desired population status were developed for Wild trout waters.

Trout Parameters

Put and Take:

- Angler Catch Rate: 0.5 fish/angler hour during stocking season
- Stocking Rate: Stock 1 fish/angler day

Put, Grow, and Take:

Rainbow Trout

- Catch Per Unit Effort: 10 fish/hour of electrofishing
- Size Structure: 50% of rainbow trout surveyed > 10 inches in length

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout

- Trout Community: > 5% of trout abundance composed of Rio Grande cutthroat trout

Kokanee

- Catch Per Unit Effort: 20 fish/net night
- Age structure: Equal contribution of Age-3 and Age-4 fish in annual spawning population

Wild:

Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout, Gila Trout

- Size Structure: Multiple year classes of trout including young of year
- Density: > 80 trout/acre of habitat

Trophy Trout Waters

- Trophy Potential: 5% of trout ≥ 20 inches
- Angler Catch Rate: ≥ 1 fish/hour
- Density: ≥ 1,250 trout/acre of habitat

Quality Trout Waters

- Quality Potential: 5% of trout ≥ 12 inches
- Density: ≥ 400 trout/acre of habitat

Native Species

New Mexico waters historically supported at least 66 native fish species. Several species or subspecies have been extirpated though over 50 still exist in the state. Many of these native species have declined from historic levels due to a variety of factors and are protected under the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act or the federal Endangered Species Act. Some native species such as Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout are better known to the public compared to rare endemic fishes such as White Sands pupfish or loach minnow. In some areas, there is significant interaction between conservation efforts for native fish and maintaining recreational angling for these unique native trout. The Department allocates significant resources to native fish conservation efforts for Rio Grande cutthroat trout, Gila trout, Gila River Basin native fishes, Colorado pikeminnow, and razorback sucker. Other active conservation efforts include native sucker, Texas hornshell (a native mussel), and Pecos pupfish

in the lower Pecos River. The Department has proactively included species that are not currently protected by state law in ongoing projects such as Rio Grande sucker and Rio Grande chub. The purpose of Departmental conservation efforts for native fishes is to address or mitigate existing threats to species to preclude the need to list a species, increase the distribution of species to warrant downlisting or removal from listing status, and maintain the ecological roles that many of these species play in our landscape. Improving the status of these taxa also benefit New Mexico anglers by minimizing potential restrictions imposed on sportfish activities where conflicts exist with listed species.

Native fish management in New Mexico varies by species, drainage, and available resources to improve species status. They are also part of a fish assemblage that could include native, non-native, and sportfish species. In many cases, some native fish coexist with other species or can thrive in a modified environment. In those cases, native fish are managed in conjunction with typical management activities such as monitoring, regulation of sportfish take, alteration of species stocking or location, or species importation evaluations. In areas with no known direct conflict between sportfish and native fish management, the Department does not specifically take actions to the detriment of native fish though species management is typically focused on sportfish. In others, the aquatic environment has been altered to a degree where certain native fish do not persist in any significant manner. Sportfish management can be in direct conflict with native fish or communities due to predation, interbreeding, or competition. How Department management is focused in instances of altered waters and species hinges upon the feasibility of certain management actions to benefit a species or community, competing resource development (e.g. dams and water withdrawals), and existing programs currently addressing a particular species. All of this must be carefully balanced with existing or potential angler use within all watersheds in the state. To facilitate species recovery for some native fishes, sport fisheries have been targeted for suppression or complete removal.

The Department is currently focusing on native trout and associated native fishes as well as native fishes in the Gila River and San Juan Basins. Department staff work specifically on native trout and native fishes in the Gila and San Juan Basins. Significant resources are also being allocated to native suckers and the Texas hornshell in the lower Pecos River Drainage. This list is certainly not exhaustive with other ongoing monitoring and conservation efforts across the state though these are the Departmental priorities for native fisheries at this time.

Gila trout is listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act and the New Mexico Wildlife Conservation Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service downlisted Gila trout from endangered to threatened in 2006 and issued a special rule, also known as a“4d” rule. This special rule permits take of Gila trout when conducted in accordance with applicable state fish and wildlife conservation laws including fishing activities under state laws and regulations,

educational and scientific purposes, the enhancement of propagation, and other conservation actions consistent with Endangered Species Act. The Department has been engaged in Gila trout recovery efforts for decades. Downlisting and delisting criteria for Gila trout are defined in the Gila Trout Recovery Plan (2003). The Department plans to continue to conduct restoration efforts including piscicide treatments to remove competing or hybridizing non-native trout species, habitat protection via fish barriers, and development of angling regulations, in accordance with the recovery plan and future revisions. The above referenced Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling provides additional guidance for recreational stocking efforts as well as angling in recovery waters.

Warmwater reaches of the Gila River Basin support several endemic species including the federally protected Gila chub, loach minnow, and spikedace. These species are negatively affected by non-native predators and their distribution has declined significantly from historic levels. While non-native predators are a threat to some Gila River fishes, other activities have altered habitats that negatively affect native fisheries. Active conservation efforts in the Gila River Basin for native fish include active suppression of non-native fishes in certain reaches and repatriating rare fishes to historically occupied habitats. Future activities to benefit native species could include angling regulations to encourage removal of non-native predators from priority reaches, nonnative fish removal via piscicide treatments, and habitat protection via fish barriers. The Department participates in various recovery activities for fish as described in the Colorado Basin Chub Recovery Plan, recovery plans for spikedace and loach minnow, and the Gila River Basin Native Fishes Recovery Program.

Federal listing of Rio Grande cutthroat trout was determined to be not warranted in 2014 and it was removed from the candidate species list under the Endangered Species Act. The Department has been a signatory to the Rangewide Conservation Agreement for Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout since 2002 and recently signed a complimentary Conservation Strategy. The purpose of these documents is to memorialize formal commitments by the Department and other federal, state, and tribal cooperators to Rio Grande cutthroat trout conservation efforts including desired population numbers within certain watersheds. The Department will continue ongoing restoration efforts that benefit Rio Grande cutthroat trout similar to that described under Gila trout above. This will include mechanical suppression efforts and angling regulations intended to suppress non-native trout in designated reaches.The Department has also included Rio Grande sucker and chub into restoration planning efforts to move towards restoring the native fish community when appropriate.

Warmwater reaches of the San Juan River and tributaries currently support Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, and, to a lesser extent, roundtail chub. Both Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker are federally protected and their recovery is the primary

purpose for the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program in which the Department participates. Management activities conducted as part of that program include annual monitoring, non-native fish suppression (catfish removal), and participation in the recovery program Biology Committee meetings. The Department plans to continue participation in these efforts, craft new approaches to recovery, as well as develop other potential conservation efforts that could benefit roundtail chub.

Multiple other conservation plans, agreements, and state and federal recovery plans also guide Department actions for native fishes management and conservation. These include, but are not limited to:

- Colorado Basin Chub Recovery Plan (State)
- Colorado Pikeminnow Recovery Plan (Federal)
- Razorback Sucker Recovery Plan (Federal)
- Spikedace Recovery Plan (Federal)
- Loach Minnow Recovery Plan (Federal)
- Rangewide Conservation Agreement and Strategy for Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout
- Gila Trout Recovery Plan (Federal)
- Conservation Agreement for Pecos Pupfish
- Conservation Agreement for White Sand Pupfish
- Conservation Agreement for Rountail Chub, Bluehead Sucker, and Flannelmouth Sucker
- Zuni Bluehead Sucker Recovery Plan (State)
- Texas Hornshell Recovery Plan (State)
- Chihuahua Chub Recovery Plan (Federal)
- Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling

Identified Priority Projects and Needs for Further Investigation and Research

Programmatic fisheries priorities include evaluation of hatchery stocking, habitat restoration, aquatic invasive species monitoring and prevention, species recovery efforts, and statewide fisheries management. Any one of these priorities could consume nearly all divisional resources considering the breadth of needs in each area. Implementation of each priority area in all waters listed in Watershed Descriptions and Fisheries Management below is impractical. As a result, the Department has identified priority projects and or topics for future consideration to serve as a guide for allocating Department resources and provides expectations for future activities. This list is not comprehensive but rather focused on realistic opportunities that could improve New Mexico's fishery resources. Actual development, approval, and implementation of projects in pursuit of these priorities will require significant input from members of the public

and cooperating agencies as well as possible environmental compliance. Below are identified priority projects or topics to further refine expected activities by the Department.

Evaluation of Hatchery Stocking

Trout

- Continue to evaluate allocation of catchable and subcatchable trout
- Investigate potential for reducing or eliminating stocking of catchable trout from some river systems which support wild trout and reallocate to higher use systems
- Continue to investigate areas where native trout, surplus to recovery efforts, can be used to increase angling opportunities for native trout
- Monitor and adjust Kokanee stocking strategies in accordance with varying reservoir levels and differing spawning success.

Catfish

- Investigate use of subcatchable and fingerling channel catfish instead of catchable catfish, where appropriate

Walleye

- Evaluate the benefit of utilizing fingerling (advanced fry) walleye in certain lakes to improve walleye fisheries.

Habitat Restoration

- Working with partners and volunteers, design and implement instream and riparian habitat restoration efforts on Commission owned Wildlife Management Areas including properties in the Rio de Los Pinos, Pecos, Red River, Rio Chama, Chamita, Gila and Mimbres watersheds.
- Working with partners and volunteers, design and implement instream, riparian, and reservoir habitat restoration efforts on non-Commission owned properties.

Aquatic Invasive Species

- Coordinate and conduct intervention efforts to prevent the introduction of zebra and quagga mussels into New Mexico waters
- Improve the current understanding of fish pathogen distribution in waters and hatcheries in New Mexico

Species Recovery Efforts

Native Trout Restoration

- Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration in the Rio Costilla and Rio las Animas watersheds (ongoing) as well as the Pecos River watershed (future)
- Gila trout restoration in the Gila River Basin (ongoing)
- Install, enhance, and maintain fish migration barriers used to protect restored and existing populations of native trout
- Investigate potential use and effects of supermale trout to aid in native trout restoration efforts
- Incorporate other native fishes into restoration efforts including warmwater reaches, where possible. Examples include Rio Grande sucker, Rio Grande chub, spikedace, and loach minnow.

Gila River Basin Warmwater Fishes

- Identify potential restoration and repatriation opportunities for spikedace, loach minnow, and native chubs including the Middle Fork Gila River and possibly others.
- Incorporate native trout into restoration efforts to compliment coldwater reaches and other sensitive or listed taxa recovery efforts, where possible

San Juan River Basin Fishes

- Investigate the importance of roundtail chub for successful recovery of Colorado pikeminnow
- Investigate potential use and effects of supermale fish to aid non-native fish removal efforts

Lower Pecos Aquatics

- Texas hornshell mussel and gray redhorse repatriation to the Delaware River (ongoing)
- Protection of Pecos pupfish from further expansion of sheepshead minnow in New Mexico

Statewide Fisheries Management

- Investigate amendments to regulations and develop management actions (including consistent stocking sources of largemouth bass) to enhance black bass angling opportunities including Trophy waters.
- Evaluate and consider amendments to Special Trout Water regulations throughout the state

- Investigate optimal densities of tiger muskie that suppress unwanted fish populations yet provide trophy angling opportunities
- Work to encourage expanded youth angling opportunities.

Watershed Descriptions and Fisheries Management

To initiate the management reach delineations below, the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) flowline and waterbody files for New Mexico were imported into existing Department geodatabases. Department staff identified management reaches based upon available fish distribution datasets and management activities. Management reaches were based upon individual waters, in some cases, but also grouped into watersheds or sub-watersheds where feasible. Once identified, corresponding features from the NHD datasets were exported into a new dataset. Additional spatial information, including hydrologic unit codes and geographic names information system (GNIS) codes, were appended into the new dataset. Non-spatial information including priority fish species, management type, and management direction for each were then incorporated. Some reservoirs were not included in the NHD and were digitized using the National Agriculture Imagery Program (U.S. Department of Agriculture) aerial photography from 2011 to 2014.

The term "Fish Species" in the tables below refers to individual species that are a management focus for the water identified. The management reaches that are identified for a species or suite of species does not necessarily mean that the entire reach is occupied by those species due to variation in water quality, flow regime, and habitat availability. Some of the mapped reaches could be dry or wet depending upon an individual water year. In many cases, the species identified are not a comprehensive list of species present within the water or could identify a species that does not yet inhabit a water. Activities such as monitoring or restoration will be focused on the focal species identified with potential community benefits for others when possible. Failure to mention a species does not imply that the Department intends to actively remove a species from a water. The maps included are intended for management direction only and do not reflect absolute distribution. Individual species accounts, datasets, and distributions are available from the Department, other state or federal agencies, and the BISON-M database maintained by the Department.

"Management Type" refers to general categories of activities such as stocking strategy, self-sustaining populations, or population suppression. Suppression refers to actively removing unwanted fish via angling regulations or mechanical means such as electrofishing or nets. The Native Fish designation includes all activities which could help to monitor, support, or restore the identified species as well as other members of the community.

"Management Direction" includes a brief synopsis of the Department's expected management for a water or species in that water. Stocking rates will generally follow the Department's stocking schedule (Appendix I) which may be modified over time. Stocking rates that vary by year or water levels is specifically noted in the tables below.

The Fish Species, Management Type, or Management Direction is a statement of past management for many waters with the intention to continue those practices in the future. As this plan is also intended to identify desired future conditions, waters were highlighted in **bold** to call out significant changes from past or future fish species and management directions. For example, brown trout currently inhabit most watersheds in the upper Pecos River with Rio Grande cutthroat trout currently limited to small headwater reaches. To help secure additional populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout from competition with brown trout, the Department plans to remove brown trout and replace them with Rio Grande cutthroat trout at some point in the future. Similar waters are highlighted in bold type for expected changes for Gila trout, expanded walleye angling, and native fish conservation among many others.

Canadian Watershed and Clovis Area Waters

The Canadian Watershed, in northeast New Mexico, encompasses about one-sixth of the land area of the state or about 10.9 million ac (4.4 million ha) (New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission 2002). Canadian River tributaries flow east and southeast from their origins on the east slopes of the Sangre de Cristo cordillera of northern New Mexico and southern Colorado. As it traverses the Great Plains in a southerly and then easterly direction several perennial tributaries, including the Vermejo, Cimarron, Mora, and Conchas Rivers, join the South Canadian River before it exits New Mexico near the town of Logan. The Upper Canadian, Middle Canadian, Upper Beaver, and the Dry Cimarron are the only perennial sub-basins.

Settlement and irrigation withdrawal along high mountain valleys in the Mora River dates back to the 1700's. Numerous impoundments and diversions have been built throughout the upper drainage for irrigation and municipal water. Livestock grazing continues to be the primary land use throughout the drainage. Two large dams, Conchas Dam (constructed 1938) and Ute Dam on the Canadian River (constructed 1962), impound reservoirs and modify natural flows as the river approaches the New Mexico-Texas border. These reservoirs provide suitable habitat for sportfish such as walleye, smallmouth bass, and largemouth bass.

Historical fisheries management in the Canadian River Watershed has focused primarily on trout management in the headwaters with warmwater species in lower elevation habitats. Popular trout populations open to the general public include Eagle Nest, Cimarron River, Lake Maloya, and Morphy Lake. Primary sportfish in warmwater habitats include Ute and Conchas Lake. Significant portions of the Canadian Watershed are privately owned which limits general public access to these areas without landowner permission. The Department also leases several waters from landowners to expand angling opportunities either through long-term leases or the Department's Open Gate Program. For example, the Department pays the Interstate Stream Commission $100,000 annually to obtain access to Ute Lake for the general public. Other examples of the Department leasing fishing access include Springer Lake and Morphy Lake.

Only one federally listed fish and four state listed fish inhabit the New Mexico reaches of the Canadian River watershed. Arkansas River shiner, federally threatened, inhabits the reach below Ute Dam to the stateline. The state endangered southern redbelly dace inhabit a small reach of Coyote Creek and is a disjunct population from other populations in the Mississippi River drainage. Other state threatened species are the suckermouth minnow and peppered chub. Given the lack of protected species in the watershed, there is limited conflict among sportfish and native fish management at this time. Where some overlap exists, introduced species such as brown trout and southern redbelly dace seem to co-exist. Nevertheless, the Department has identified reaches to monitor and proactively manage the fish communities.

HUC 11080001 Canadian Headwaters, HUC 11080002 Cimarron

Management Direction for HUC 11080001 Canadian Headwaters

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Canadian River and Tributaries (headwaters downstream to Cimarron River confluence)	Central Stoneroller	Native Fish	Central stoneroller present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Creek Chub	Native Fish	Creek chub present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Lake Maloya (Sugarite Canyon)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Lake Alice	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Vermejo River and Tributaries (headwaters downstream to Canadian River confluence)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in Ricardo, Leandro, and Little Vermejo drainages. Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in the Vermejo River down to approximately Vermejo Park Ranch headquarters. The entire watershed is privately owned. Numerous Class A Lakes are managed for recreational trout angling on Vermejo Park Ranch.
	Central Stoneroller	Native Fish	Central stoneroller present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Creek Chub	Native Fish	Creek chub present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Brook Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brook trout in collaboration with private landowner to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population. Unlimited brook trout harvest regulation.
Stubblefield Reservoir	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 500 fry/surface acre. Actual stocking varies with reservoir elevation. Prone to drying during drought necessitating supplemental stocking of all species such as bluegill, crappie, green sunfish, fathead minnow, and yellow perch.
	Channel Catfish	Put, Grow and Take	Stock channel catfish every 3rd year. Monitor to assess growth rate and recruitment.
	Yellow Perch	Wild	Known to grow large yellow perch. Supplement yellow perch from other sources as necessary during drought periods.

Management Direction for HUC 11080001 Canadian Headwaters

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
	Largemouth Bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Manage as Low Density Bass water and maintain statewide bass regulations. Supplement largemouth bass from other sources as necessary during drought periods.
Maxwell Lake 13	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout during spring and fall. Fishing season is March 1 through October 31. Lake closed during winter for waterfowl resting. Prone to drying during drought necessitating supplemental stocking of all species such as bluegill, crappie, green sunfish, fathead minnow, and yellow perch.
	Channel Catfish	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling channel catfish every 3rd year. Monitor to assess growth rate and recruitment.
	Yellow Perch	Wild	Supplement yellow perch from other sources as necessary during drought periods.
	Largemouth Bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Manage as Low Density Bass water and maintain statewide bass regulations. Supplement largemouth bass from other sources when available during drought periods.
	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 500 fry/surface acre. Actual stocking varies with reservoir elevation.
Maxwell Lake 14	Channel Catfish	Put, Grow and Take	Stock channel catfish. Fishing season is March 1 through October 31. Lake closed during winter for waterfowl resting. Prone to drying during drought necessitating supplemental stocking of all species such as bluegill, crappie, green sunfish, fathead minnow, and yellow perch.
	Yellow Perch	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Supplement yellow perch from other sources as necessary during drought periods.
	Largemouth Bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Manage as Low Density Bass water and maintain statewide bass regulations. Supplement largemouth bass from other sources when available during drought periods.
	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 500 fry/surface acre. Actual stocking varies with reservoir elevation.
Laguna Madre	Channel Catfish	Put, Grow and Take	Stock channel catfish. Prone to drying during drought necessitating supplemental stocking of all species such as bluegill, crappie, green sunfish, fathead minnow, and yellow perch.
	Yellow Perch	Wild	Supplement yellow perch from other sources as necessary during drought periods.

Management Direction for HUC 11080001 Canadian Headwaters			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
	Largemouth Bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Manage as Low Density Bass water and maintain statewide bass regulations. Supplement largemouth bass from other sources when available during drought periods.
	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 500 fry/surface acre. Actual stocking varies with reservoir elevation.
Management Direction for HUC 11080002 Cimarron			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Cimarron River and Tributaries (Eagle Nest Dam downstream to Cimarron, NM)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Special Trout Water regulation (one trout, > 16 inches, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook) from east end of Tolby Campground downstream 1.4 miles to the first Highway 64 bridge**. Investigate effectiveness of Special Trout Water regulation and alternatives.**
Gravel Pit Lakes	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Clear Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout
Cimarron River and Tributaries (Cimarron, NM downstream to confluence with Canadian River)	Central Stoneroller	Native Fish	Central stoneroller present in this reach. Significant portions of this area are on private land. Seek to maintain their distribution
	Creek Chub	Native Fish	Creek chub present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Eagle Nest Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling triploid rainbow trout. Consistently monitor to document effects of northern pike.
	Kokanee	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fry Kokanee. Consistently monitor to document effects of northern pike.
	Yellow Perch	Wild	Yellow perch source for transplants to other waters.

Management Direction for HUC 11080001 Canadian Headwaters

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
	Northern Pike	Suppression	Unlimited and mandatory harvest on northern pike to manage as unwanted species. Illegally introduced into the lake and could negatively affect trout and salmon fishery.
Springer Lake	Channel catfish	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling channel catfish annually. Monitor to assess growth rate and recruitment.
	Northern Pike	Wild	Maintain regulations to support northern pike fishery.
	Largemouth Bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Manage as Low Density Bass water and maintain statewide bass regulations. Supplement largemouth bass from other sources as necessary during drought periods.
Ponil Creek and Tributaries	Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Creek Chub	Native Fish	Creek chub present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
South Ponil Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout on Philmont Scout Ranch.
McCrystal Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook).
	Creek Chub	Native Fish	Creek chub present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Rayado Creek	Creek Chub	Native Fish	Creek chub present in this reach. Trout present in headwaters on Philmont Scout Ranch. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Shuree Ponds	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock triploid rainbow trout annually. Size at stocking is typically > 15 inches in length. Special Trout Water regulation (two fish > 15 inches, artificial fly or lure, single barbless hook). One pond reserved for anglers under 12 years of age.
Middle Ponil Creek (Headwaters downstream to Shuree Creek)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. **Investigate potential to restore area to support Core Conservation Population.**
North Ponil Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Thermal barrier present at Seally Canyon confluence. Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout present from McCrystal Creek downstream to FS Road 1950.
	Creek Chub	Native Fish	Creek chub present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.

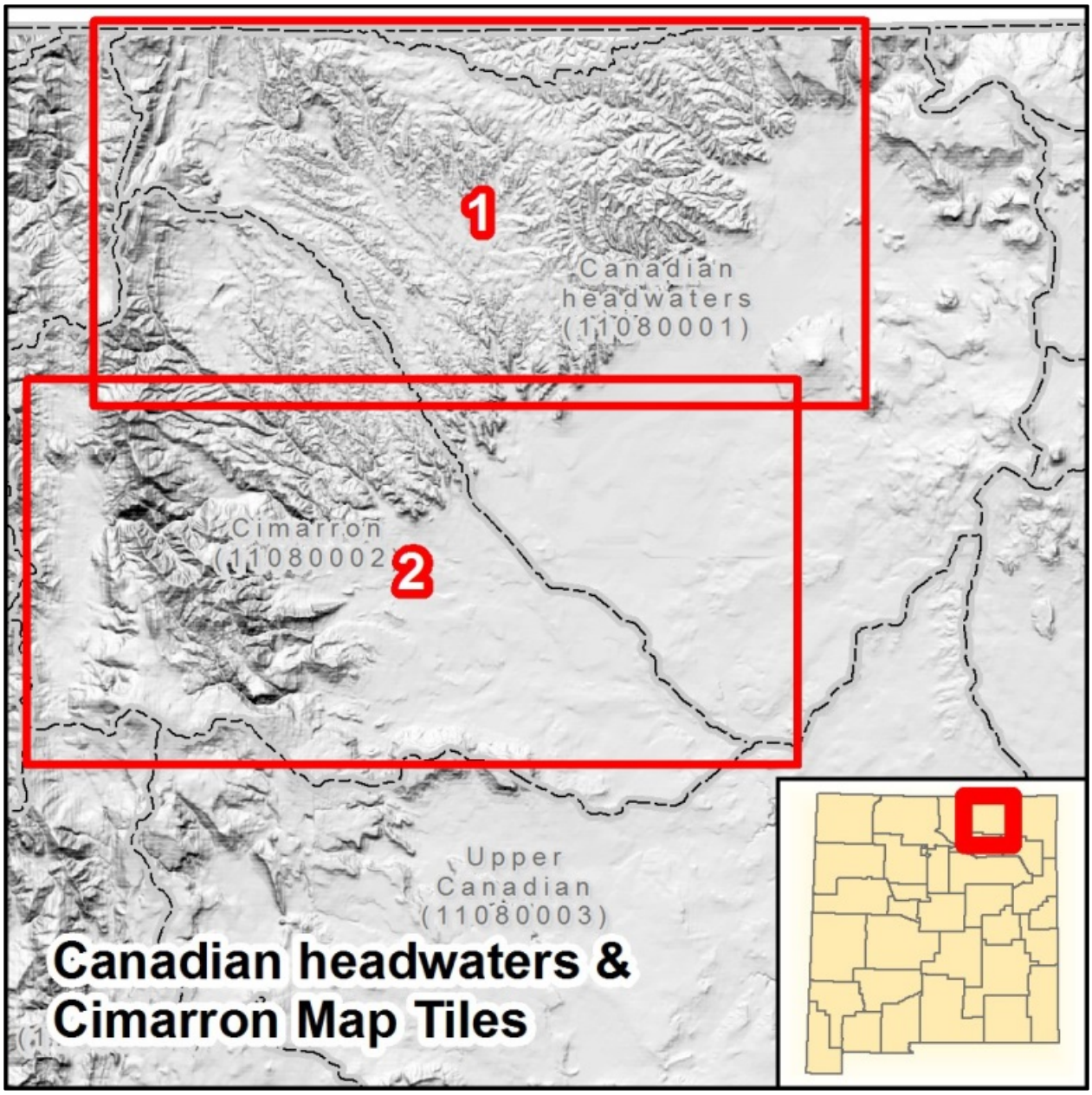

Figure 5. Canadian Headwaders and Cimarron Map Tiles

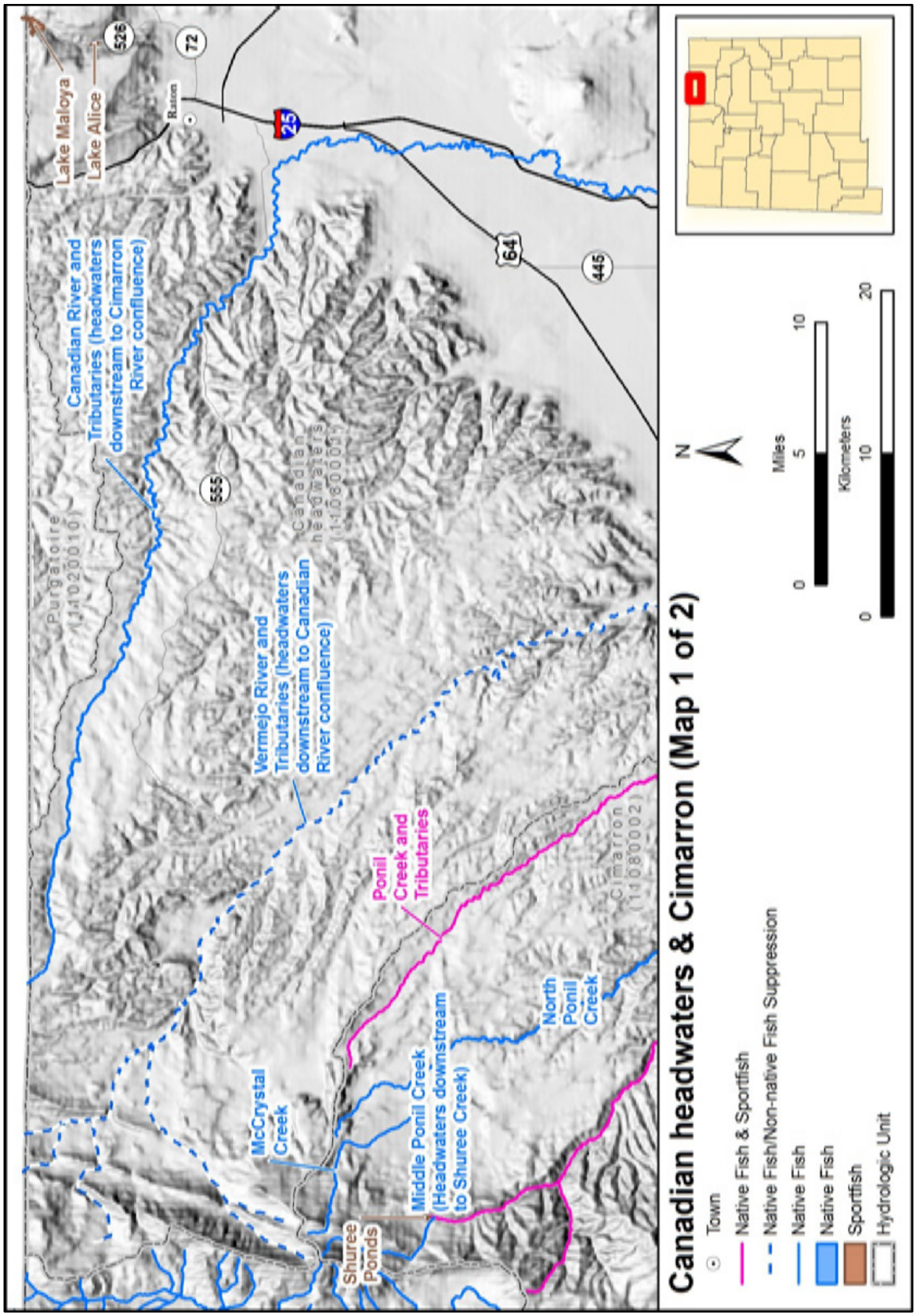

Figure 6. Canadian headwaters and Cimarron (Map 1 of 2)

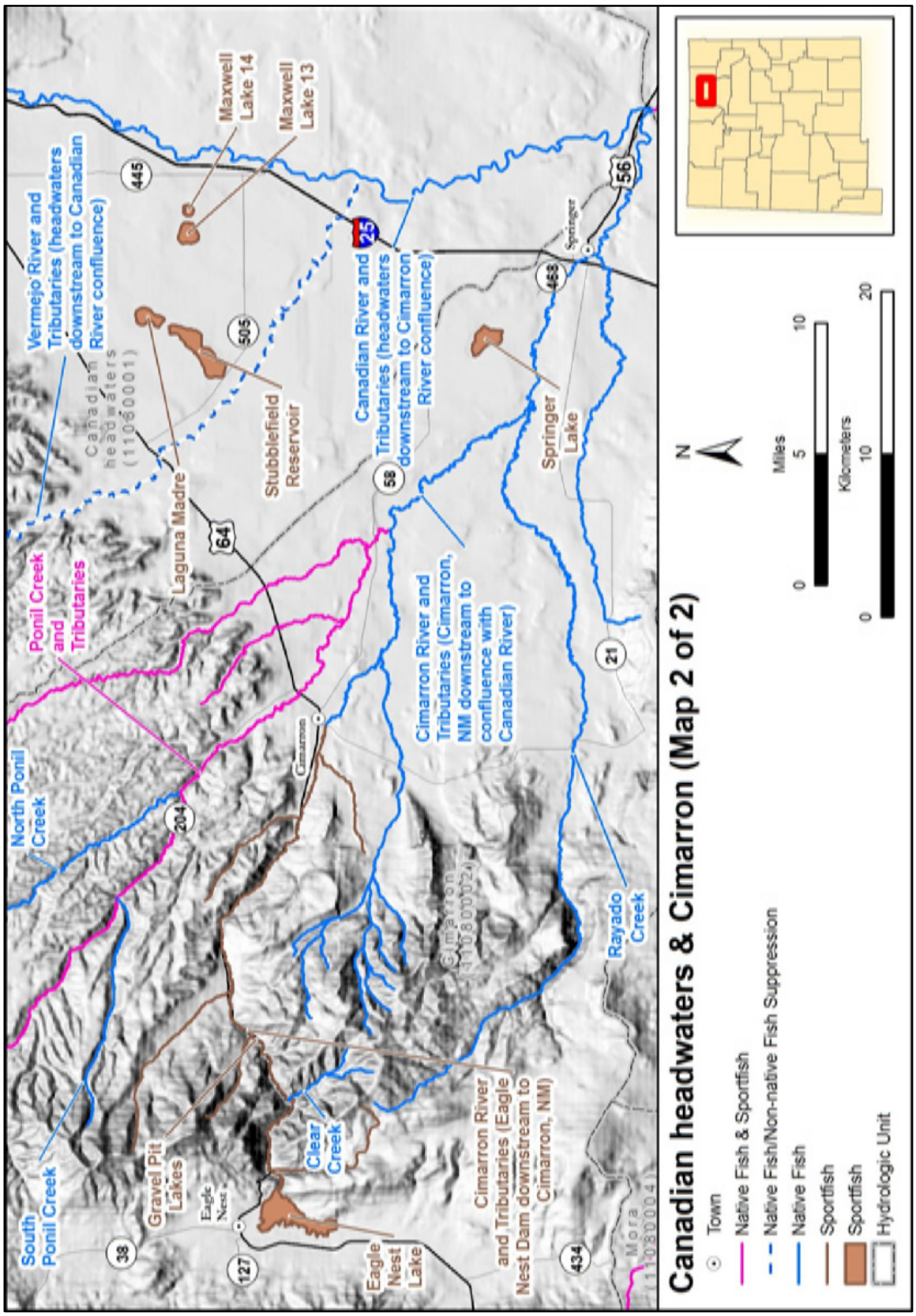

Figure 7. Canadian headwaters and Cimarron (Map 2 of 2)

HUC 11080003 Upper Canadian, 11080005 Conchas

Management Direction for HUC 11080003 Upper Canadian, 11080005 Conchas

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Canadian River and Tributaries (Cimarron River confluence downstream to Conchas Lake)	Channel Catfish	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for channel catfish.
	Sand Shiner	Native Fish	Sand shiner present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Suckermouth Minnow	Native Fish	Suckermouth minnow present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Ocate Creek and headwaters	Brown Trout	Wild	Almost entirely on private land. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Creek Chub	Native Fish	Creek chub present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Central Stoneroller	Native Fish	Central stoneroller present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Lower Charette Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Yellow Perch	Wild	Yellow perch source for transplants to other waters.
	Walleye	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate the potential for stocking walleye in the future.**
Conchas Lake	Largemouth bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Manage as a Recreational Bass water. Supplement with largemouth bass fry as available.
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water. Special regulation for smallmouth bass (14 inch minimum size limit).
	White Bass	Wild	Maintain regulations to support white bass fishery.
	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 500 fry/surface acre. Actual stocking varies with reservoir elevation.

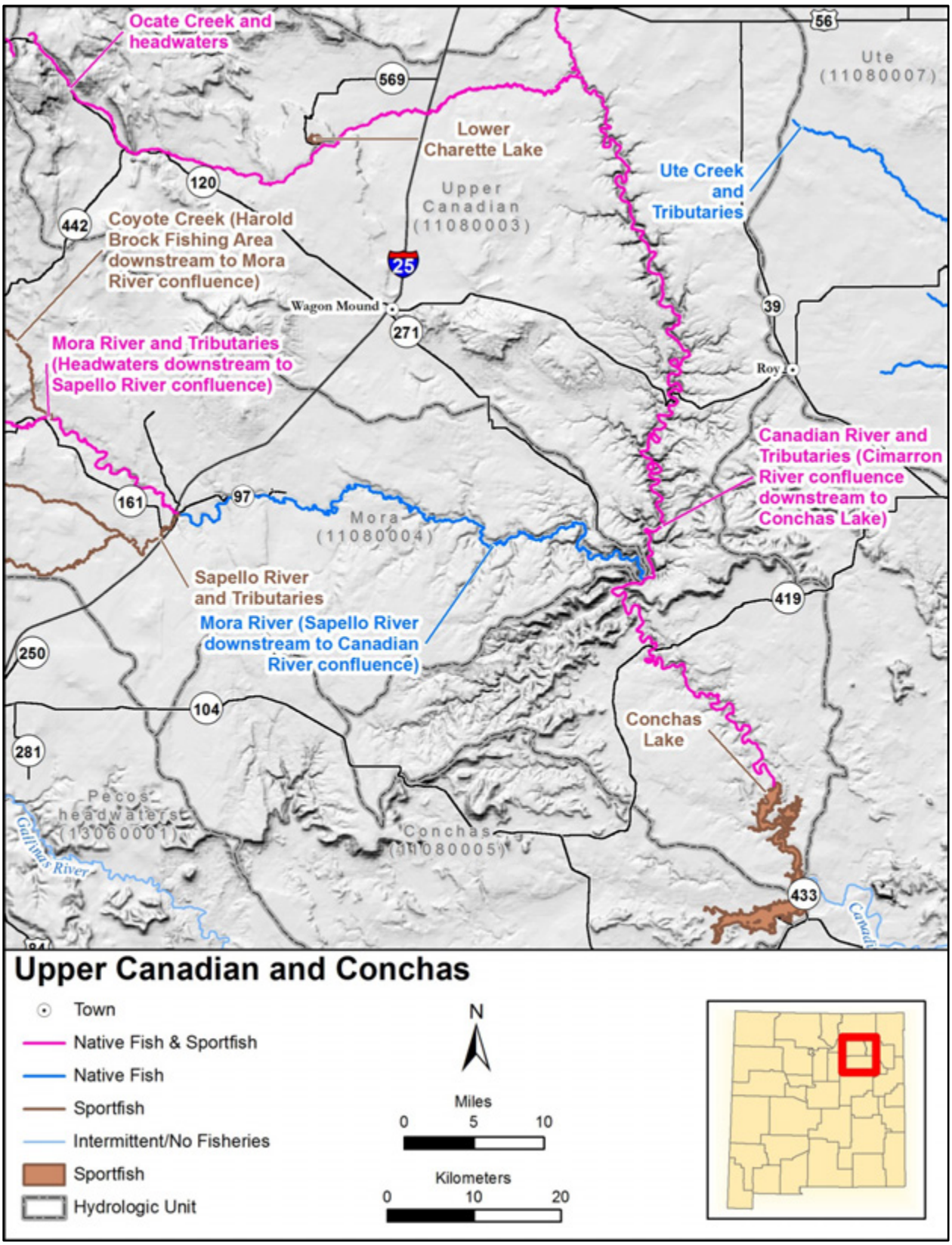

Figure 8. Upper Canadian and Conchas

HUC 11080004 Mora

Management Direction for HUC 11080004 Mora

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Luna Creek and Tributaries	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brown trout to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population.
Mora River and Tributaries (Headwaters downstream to Sapello River confluence)	Brown Trout	Wild	Predominantly on private land with the exception of extreme headwaters. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Central Stoneroller	Native Fish	Central stoneroller present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Creek Chub	Native Fish	Creek chub present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Sand Shiner	Native Fish	Sand shiner present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Sapello River and Tributaries	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Santiago Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rito Morphy	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Morphy Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock triploid rainbow trout annually. Investigate methods to control nuisance goldfish population.
Pacheco Lake	**Trout**	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate suitability for stocking trout.**
Santiago Lake	**Trout**	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate suitability for stocking trout.**
Enchanted Lake	**Trout**	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate suitability for stocking trout.**
North Fork Lake	**Trout**	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate suitability for stocking trout.**
Middle Fork Lake	**Trout**	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate suitability for stocking trout.**

Management Direction for HUC 11080004 Mora			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Coyote Creek and Tributaries (Headwaters downstream to Harold Brock Fishing Area)	Brown Trout	Wild	Entirely on private land. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Southern Redbelly Dace	Native Fish	Only known distribution of southern redbelly dace in New Mexico. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Coyote Creek (Harold Brock Fishing Area downstream to Mora River confluence)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout including Coyote Creek Ponds.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.

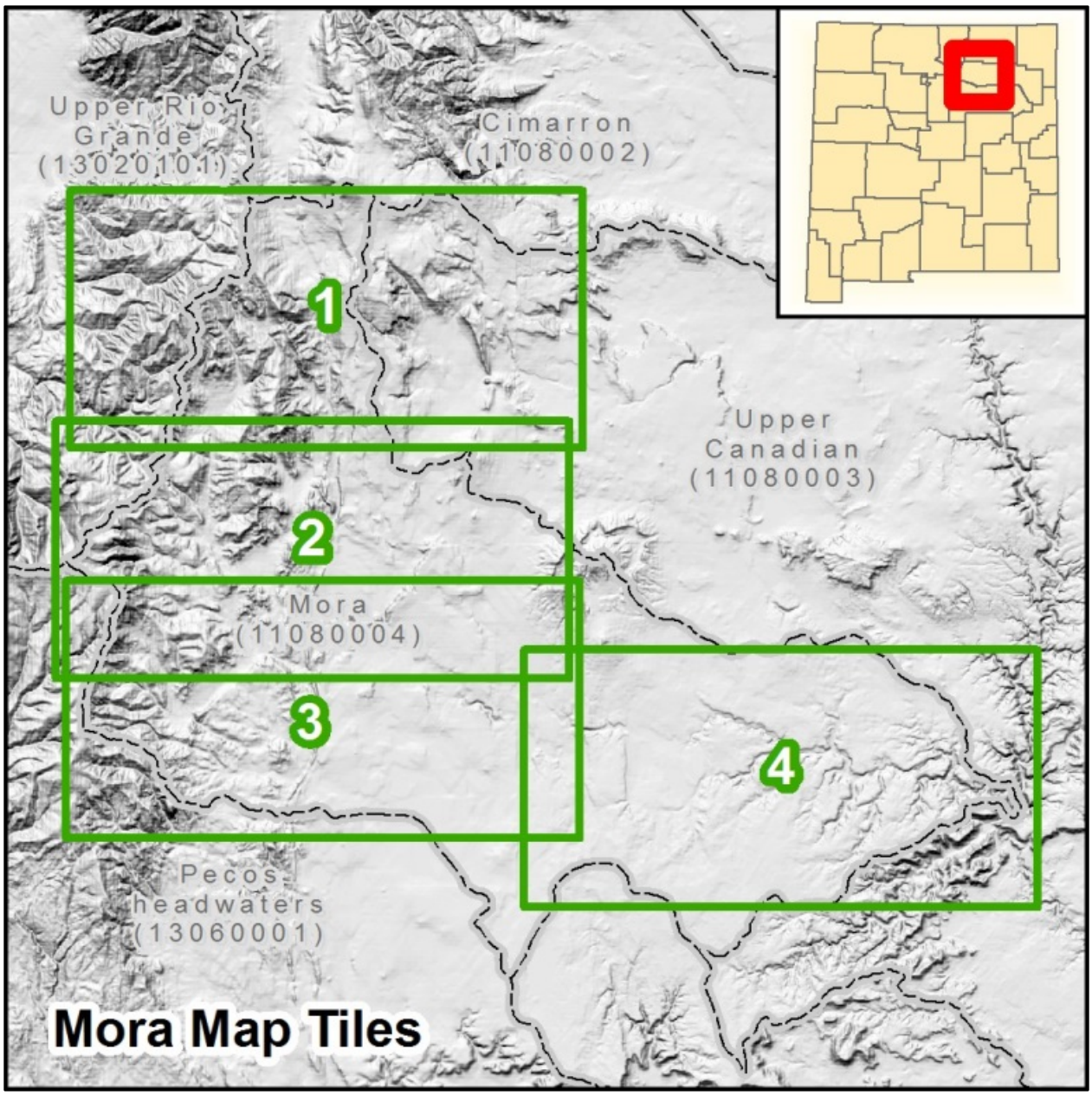

Figure 9. Mora Map Tiles

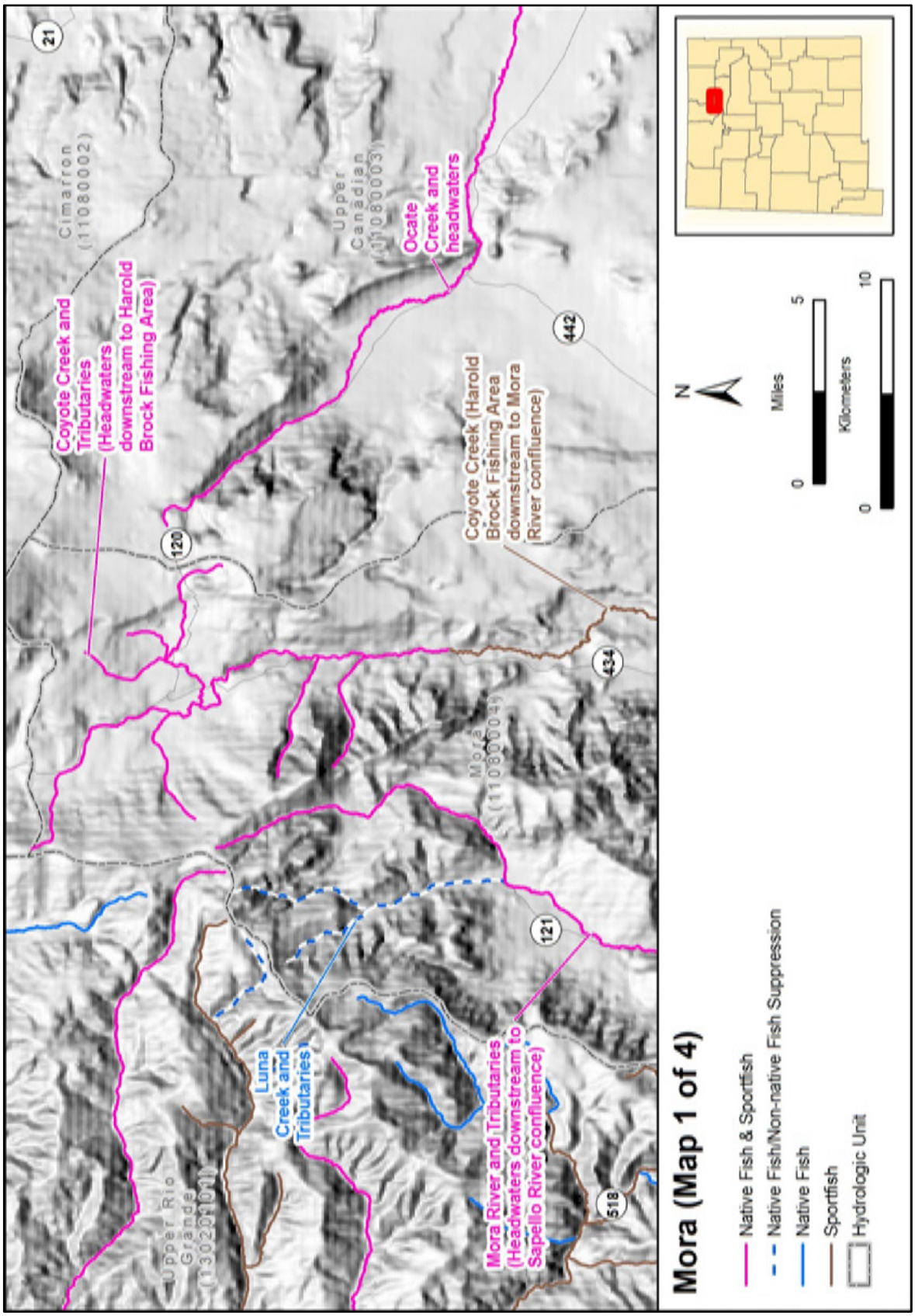

Figure 10. Mora (Map 1 of 4)

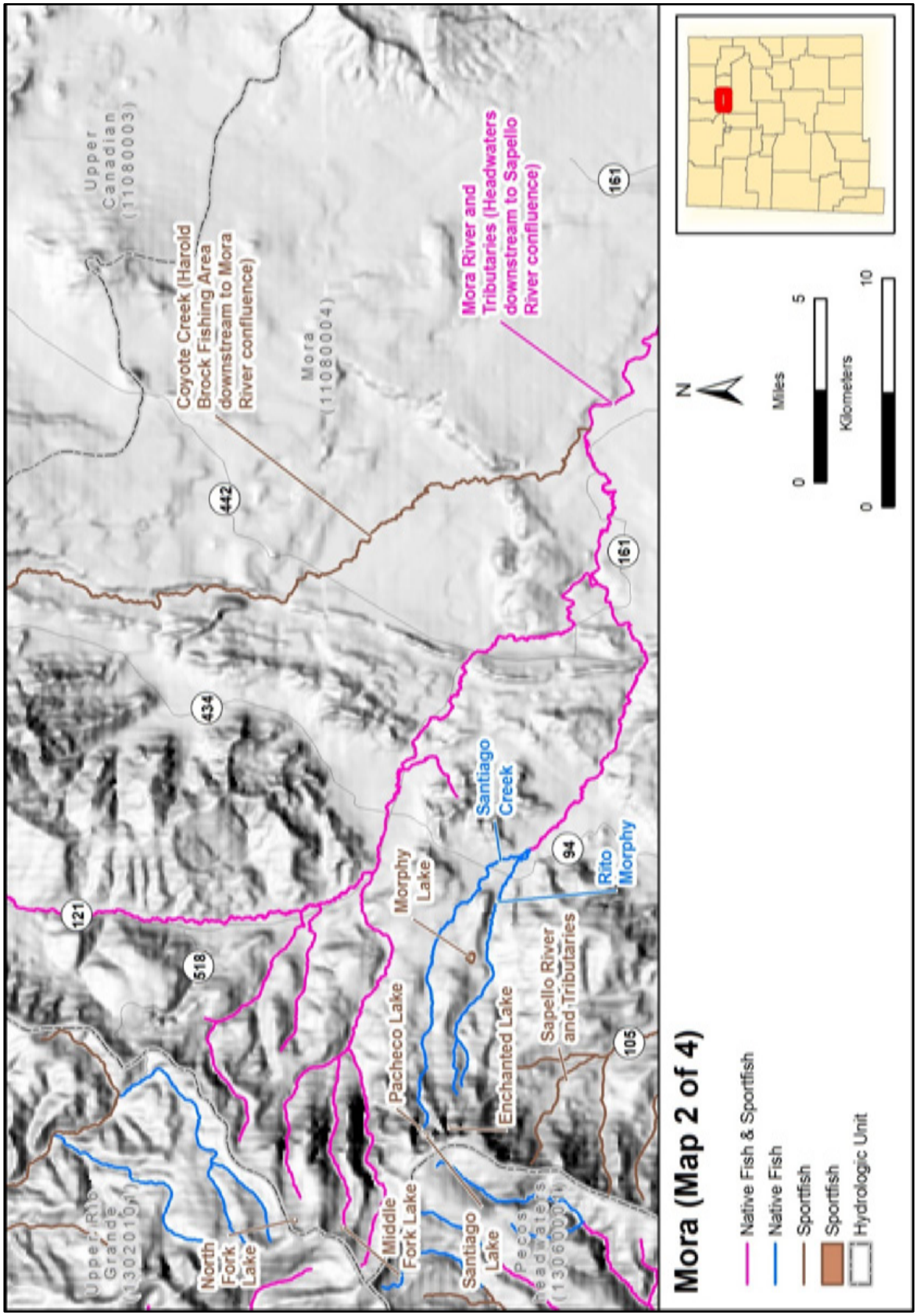

Figure 11. Mora (Map 2 of 4)

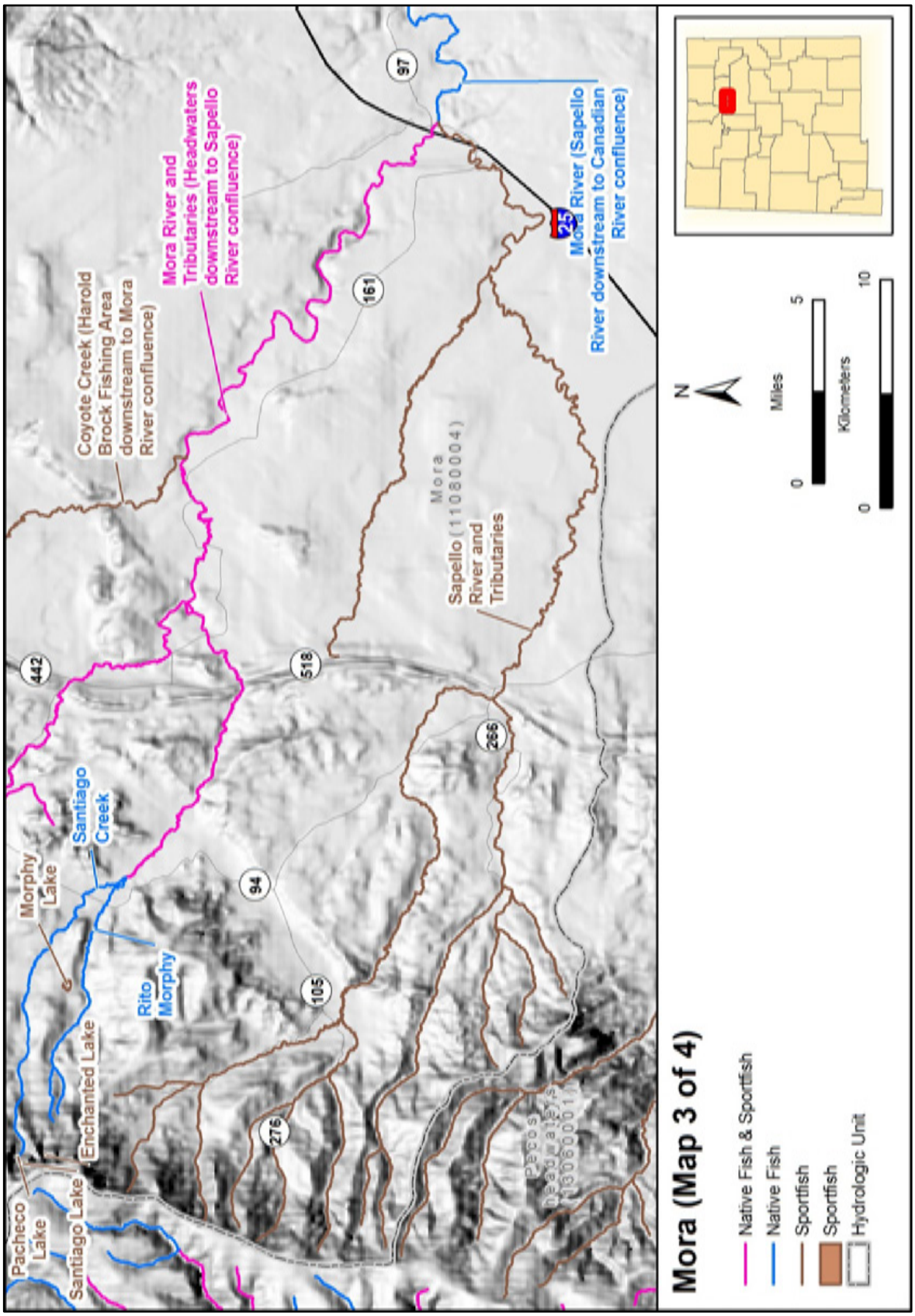

Figure 12. Mora (Map 3 of 4)

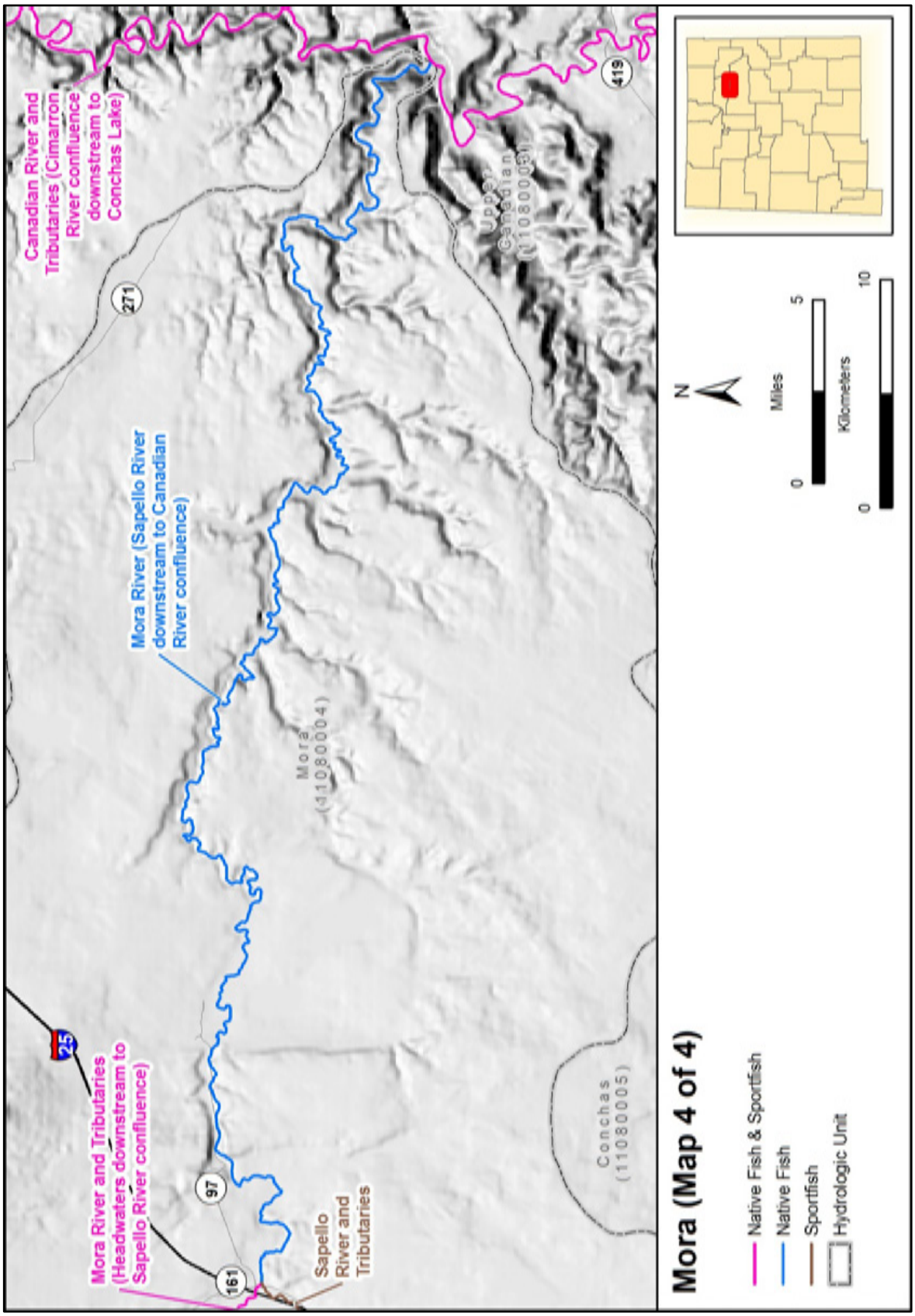

Figure 13. Mora (Map 4 of 4)

HUC 11080006 Upper Canadian – Ute Reservoir and 11080007 Ute Creek

HUC 11080006 Upper Canadian – Ute Reservoir and 11080007 Ute Creek

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Ute Creek and Tributaries	Sand Shiner	Native Fish	Sand shiner present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Suckermouth Minnow	Native Fish	Suckermouth minnow present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Canadian River (Conchas Dam downstream to Ute Lake)	N/A	N/A	Entirely on private land. Status of fishery within this reach unknown due to limited access.
Ute Lake	Largemouth bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Manage as a Low Density Bass water due to low abundance of largemouth bass. Supplement with largemouth bass fry as available.
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water. Special regulation for smallmouth bass (14 inch minimum size limit).
	White Bass	Wild	Maintain regulations to support white bass fishery.
	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 500 fry/surface acre. Actual stocking varies with reservoir elevation.
Canadian River and Tributaries (Ute Dam downstream to stateline)	Arkansas River Shiner	Native Fish	Only known distribution of Arkansas River shiner in New Mexico. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Peppered Chub	Native Fish	Only known distribution of peppered chub in New Mexico. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Plains Minnow	Native Fish	Plains minnow are present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.

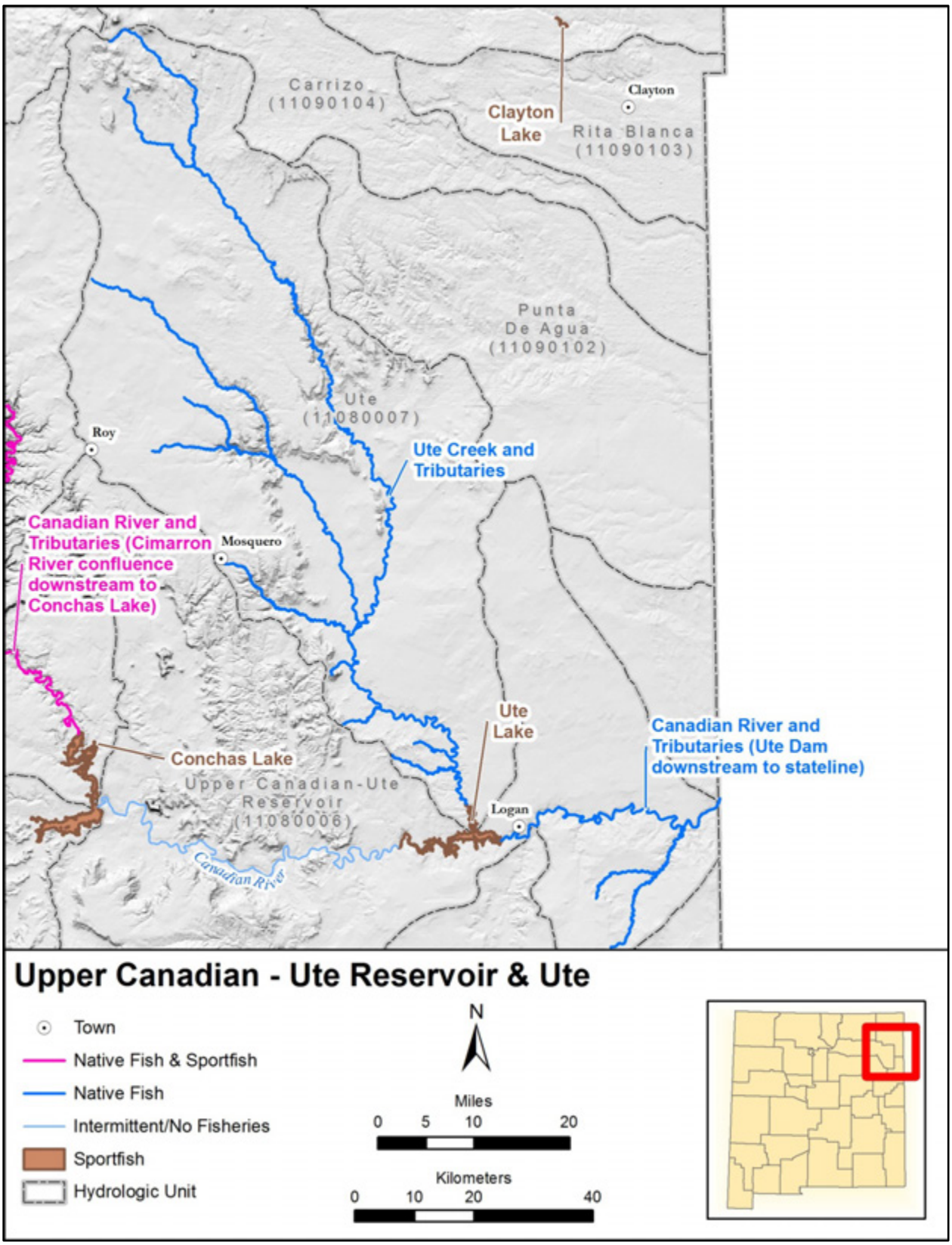

Figure 14. Upper Canadian - Ute Reservoir and Ute

HUC 11040001 Cimarron Headwaters and 11100101 Upper Beaver

Management Direction for HUC 11040001 Dry Cimarron and 11100101 Upper Beaver			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Dry Cimarron and headwaters	Central Stoneroller	Native Fish	Central stoneroller present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Clayton Lake	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 100 advanced fry/surface acre. Actual stocking varies with reservoir elevation. Brood source for walleye.
	Largemouth Bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	**Manage as Trophy Bass water and investigate regulations to attain trophy potential.**
	Channel Catfish	Put, Grow and Take	**Stock sub-adult channel catfish annually. Monitor to assess growth rate and recruitment.**
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Flathead Catfish	**Wild**	**Investigate transplanting flathead catfish to control bullhead population.**

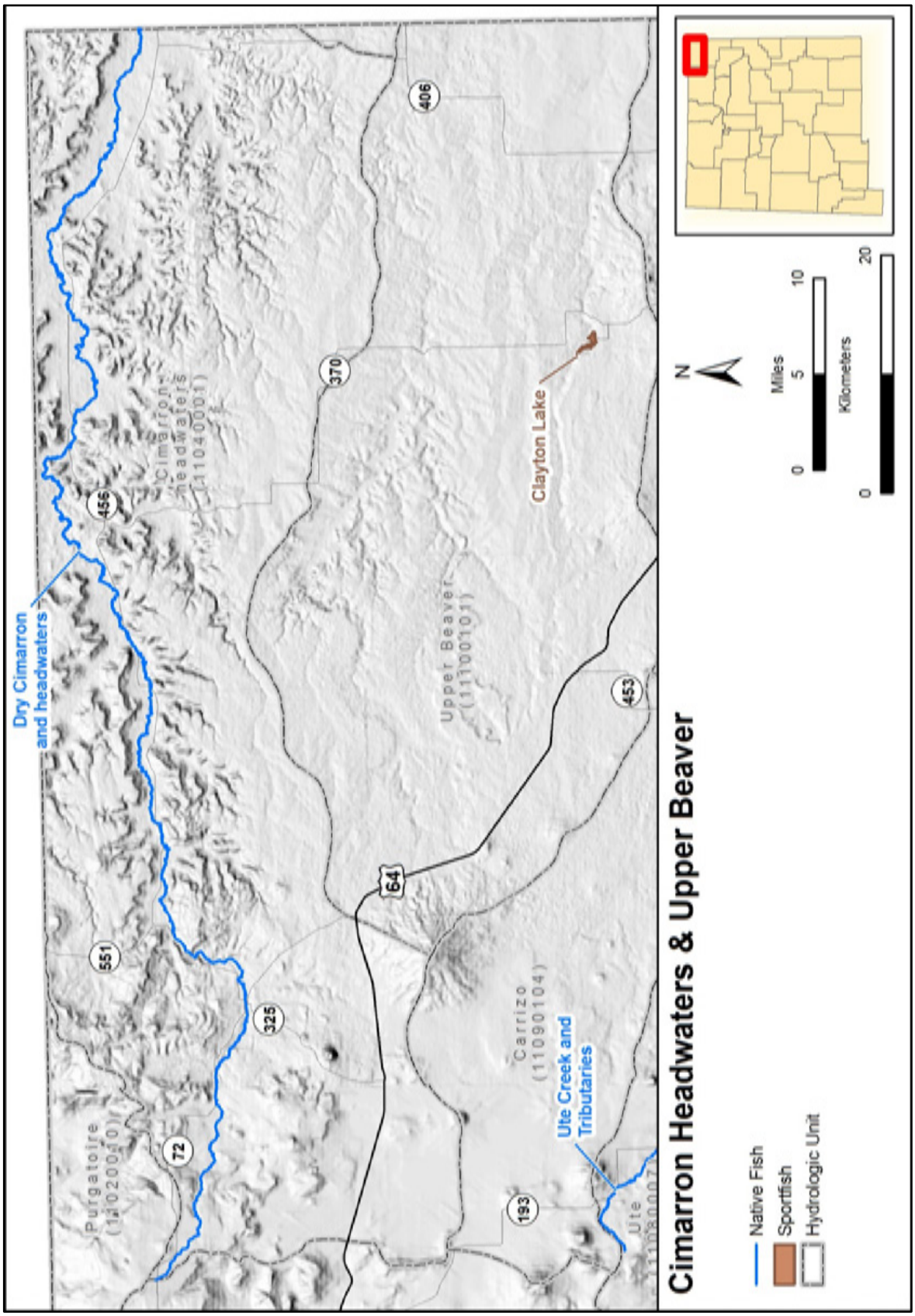

Figure 15. Cimarron Headwaters and Upper Beaver

HUC 12050001 Yellow House Draw, 12050002 Blackwater Draw, 12050005 Running Water Draw

Management Direction for HUC 12050001 Yellow House Draw, 12050002 Blackwater Draw, and 12050005 Running Water Draw

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Greene Acres Lake	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Ned Houk Ponds	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Oasis Park Lake	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
	Sunfish	**Suppression**	**Stock and maintain largemouth bass to control overpopulated sunfish population.**
Dennis Chavez Pond	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
	Sunfish	**Suppression**	**Stock and maintain largemouth bass to control overpopulated sunfish populations.**

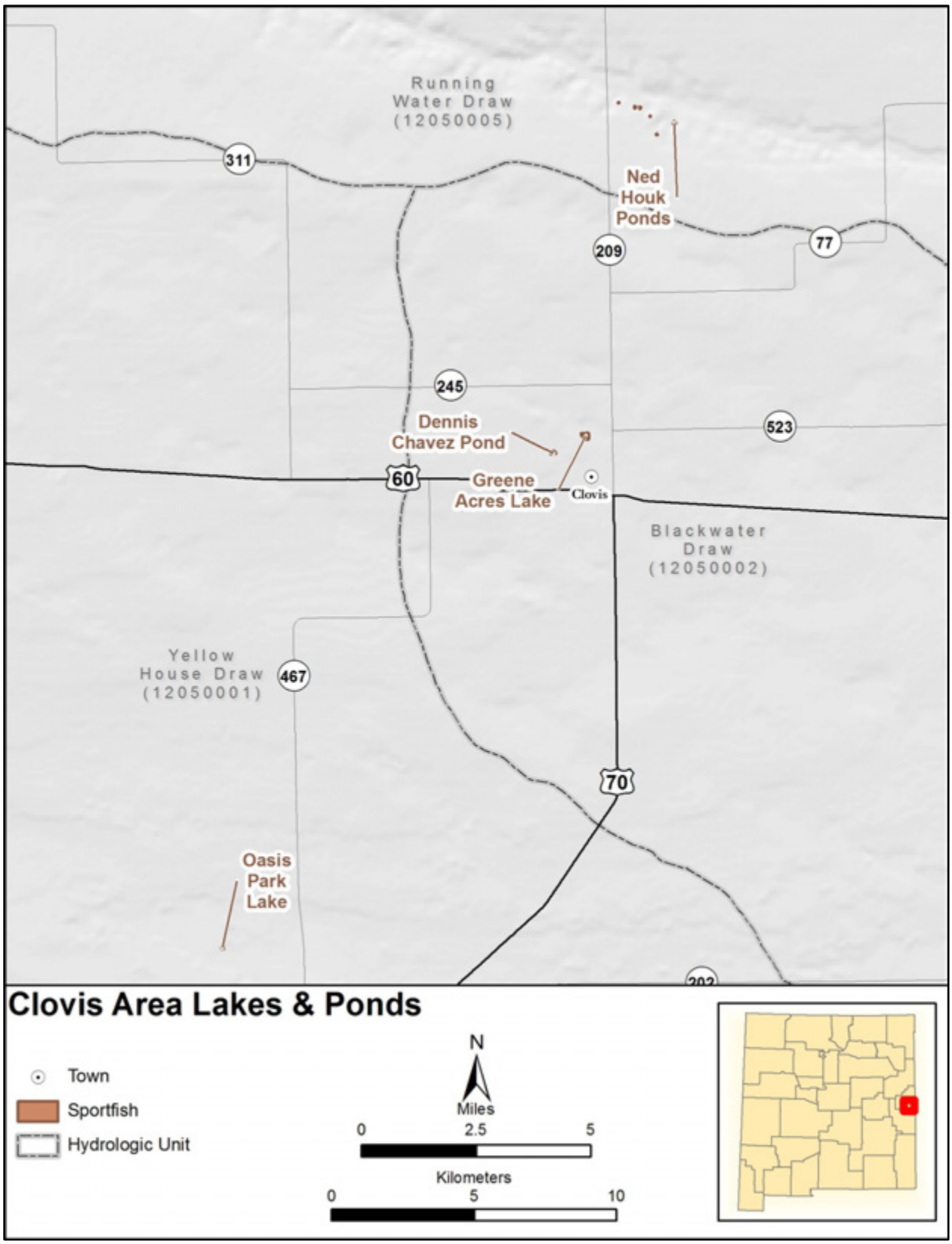

Figure 16. Clovis Area Lakes and Ponds

Pecos Watershed

The Pecos River arises on the southern slope of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range in San Miguel County, New Mexico, and runs south through Guadalupe, De Baca, Chaves, and Eddy counties before it enters Texas. The Pecos Watershed encompasses 12.3 million acres in New Mexico. Principal New Mexico cities in the watershed include Las Vegas, Santa Rosa, Fort Sumner, Roswell, Artesia, and Carlsbad. Land use in this watershed is mainly rangeland, with some irrigated cropland and pastureland along the Pecos River. Roughly 10% of the industry in the lower Pecos Valley is agriculture based (De Baca, Chavez, and Eddy Counties). Primary crops include small grains, alfalfa, and other hay crops. Oil and gas development occurs within the lower Pecos River valley.

Fisheries management in the Pecos Watershed has focused on trout management in the headwaters and warmwater species in the lower reaches and man-made reservoirs. Popular trout fisheries include the Pecos Canyon and Monastery Lake. Populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout occur in Pecos River tributaries providing unique angling opportunities and significantly contributing to the status of this native trout. In 2012, the Department and other federal and state partners committed to restoring Rio Grande cutthroat trout to portions of the Pecos Watershed in the Rangewide Conservation Strategy for Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. Specific waters are identified below where all or part will be restored to fulfill those commitments.

Several moderate to large reservoirs impound the Pecos River beginning with Santa Rosa Lake and ending with Avalon Dam near the New Mexico/Texas state line. Several urban ponds are intensively managed via seasonal stocking of channel catfish or rainbow trout. Golden algae blooms have negatively affected fisheries in several reservoirs in the lower Pecos since the early 2000s and continue to negatively affect some fisheries as blooms occur.

Several state or federally protected and sensitive fish species occur within the Pecos River. Designated critical habitat for Pecos bluntnose shiner includes significant reaches of the Pecos River between Lake Sumner and Brantley Reservoir. Pecos pupfish inhabit multiple locations in the lower Pecos including waters on the Bottomless Lakes Sate Park. Gray redhorse and Texas hornshell, a native mussel, occupy the Black River and the Department is attempting to transplant both species to the Delaware River. Golden algae has also negatively affected native fish within the Pecos River particularly downstream of Brantley Reservoir.

HUC 13060001 Pecos Headwaters – Headwaters to Santa Rosa

Management Direction for HUC 13060001 Pecos Headwaters – Headwaters to Santa Rosa Lake

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Pecos River (above Pecos Falls)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook).
Pecos River and Tributaries (headwaters downstream to Cowles)	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Native Fish**	**Significant portions of this drainage to be considered for Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration in the future.**
Holy Ghost and Tributaries	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Special Trout Water regulation in Doctor Creek (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single barbless hook) from 0.25 miles upstream of confluence with Holy Ghost Creek to headwaters.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Native Fish**	**Significant portions of this drainage to be considered for Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration in the future.**
Holy Ghost Creek (Holy Ghost Campground downstream to Pecos River confluence)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Forest Service currently issuing seasonal closures due to Tres Lagunas fie (2013) and unstable slopes. May need to reassess stocking strategy during closures.
Bear Creek (Upstream of Barrier)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rito los Esteros	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rio Valdez (Above Barrier)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Special Trout Water regulation in the Rio Valdez (catch and release only, artificial fly or lure, single barbless hook) from 0.25 mi. below Smith Cabin to headwaters.
Rio Mora Headwaters	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

Management Direction for HUC 13060001 Pecos Headwaters – Headwaters to Santa Rosa Lake

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Cave Creek (Above Barrier)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rito del Padre and Tributaries	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
	Brown Trout	**Suppression**	**Investigate regulations to help suppress brown trout in the Rito del Padre drainage.**
Dalton Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Macho Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Jack's Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook) from waterfalls 0.25 miles downstream of Highway 63 crossing to headwaters.
Cowles Ponds (Mt. View Ponds)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Panchuela Creek and Tributaries	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout persists in Cave Creek. Other species of trout such as brook trout are present in the watershed.
	Brook Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Native Fish**	**Significant portions of this drainage to be considered for Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration in the future.**
Rio Mora adjacent to Mora Campground	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.

Management Direction for HUC 13060001 Pecos Headwaters – Headwaters to Santa Rosa Lake

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Rio Mora and Tributaries (Upstream of Mora Campground)	Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Native Fish**	**Significant portions of this drainage to be considered for Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration in the future.**
Lake Katherine	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock periodically with Pecos strain Rio Grande cutthroat trout, as available.
Johnson Lake	Cutthroat Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Pecos Baldy Lake	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock periodically with Pecos strain Rio Grande cutthroat trout, as available.
Stewart Lake	Cutthroat Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Truchas Lakes	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock periodically with Pecos strain Rio Grande cutthroat trout, as available.
Monastery Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Pecos River and Tributaries (Cowles downstream to Village of Pecos)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Special Trout Water regulation in two reaches (two trout, >12 inches, artificial fly or lure with single, barbless hook) in the box canyon 0.5 miles above the confluence with the Mora River and upstream 1.0 mile to 0.25 miles below Cowles Bridge. **Investigate the effectiveness of the Special Trout Water regulations.** Other species of trout exist in tributaries though the predominant species in brown trout. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.

Management Direction for HUC 13060001 Pecos Headwaters – Headwaters to Santa Rosa Lake

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Cow Creek and Tributaries	Trout	Wild	Brown, brook, and cutthroat trout are present depending upon individual watersheds. Need to investigate fishery status in lower reach of Cow Creek downstream of North San Ysidro.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout near Cow Creek campground.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Native Fish**	**Portions of this drainage to be considered for Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration in the future.**
Pecos River (Village of Pecos downstream to Interstate 25)	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Collaborate with National Park Service to maintain angler opportunities with the Pecos National Historic Park.
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub are abundant throughout this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Pecos River (Interstate 25 downstream to Santa Rosa Lake)	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub are abundant in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Flathead Chub	Native Fish	Flathead chub are abundant in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March within Villanueva State Park.
	Channel Catfish	**Put and Take**	**Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish between May and September within Villanueva State Park. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.**
Gallinas Creek (River) and Tributaries (Headwaters downstream to Interstate 25)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.

Management Direction for HUC 13060001 Pecos Headwaters – Headwaters to Santa Rosa Lake			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Limited wild trout potential in lower reaches due to dewatering and increased temperatures.
Gallinas River (Downstream of Interstate 25)	N/A	N/A	Limited information is available about the status of this reach.
Gallinas Ice Pond	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
El Porvenir Creek (Headwaters downstream to El Porvenir Campground)	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Limited information on the status of this watershed.
El Porvenir Creek (El Porvenir Campground downstream to confluence with Gallinas Creek)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Storrie Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling and catchable triploid rainbow trout. Investigate effectiveness of fingerling stocking strategy.
Harris Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Tecolote Creek (Headwaters downstream to confluence with Falls Creek)	Trout	Wild	Brown, brook and cutthroat trout are present in different reaches of this watershed. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.

Management Direction for HUC 13060001 Pecos Headwaters – Headwaters to Santa Rosa Lake

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Tecolote Creek (Falls Creek confluence downstream to Pecos River)	N/A	N/A	Limited information is available about the status of this reach.
El Rito Creek (Santa Rosa)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Roundnose Minnow	Native Fish	Roundnose minnow are present in this reach.
Santa Rosa Lake	Channel Catfish	Wild	Reservoir subject to significant water level fluctuations both within and between years. Stock channel catfish as necessary.
	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 500 fry/surface acre. Actual stocking varies with reservoir elevation. Brood source for walleye.
	Largemouth Bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Manage as a Recreational Bass water. Supplement with largemouth bass fry as available.
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water.
Pecos River (Santa Rosa Lake to Lake Sumner)	N/A	N/A	Limited access, limited use and no native species of concern occur in this reach. Located primarily on private land.
Lake Sumner	Channel Catfish	Wild	Reservoir subject to significant water level fluctuations both within and between years. Stock channel catfish as necessary.
	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 250 fry/surface acre. Actual stocking varies with reservoir elevation. Brood source for walleye.
	Spotted Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water. One of two lakes in NM with spotted bass fisheries.
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water.
Blue Hole Park Ponds	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish between May and September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from September to May.
Tres Lagunas	N/A	N/A	Often dry. Some interest from the City of Santa Rosa in stocking but no current plans in place.

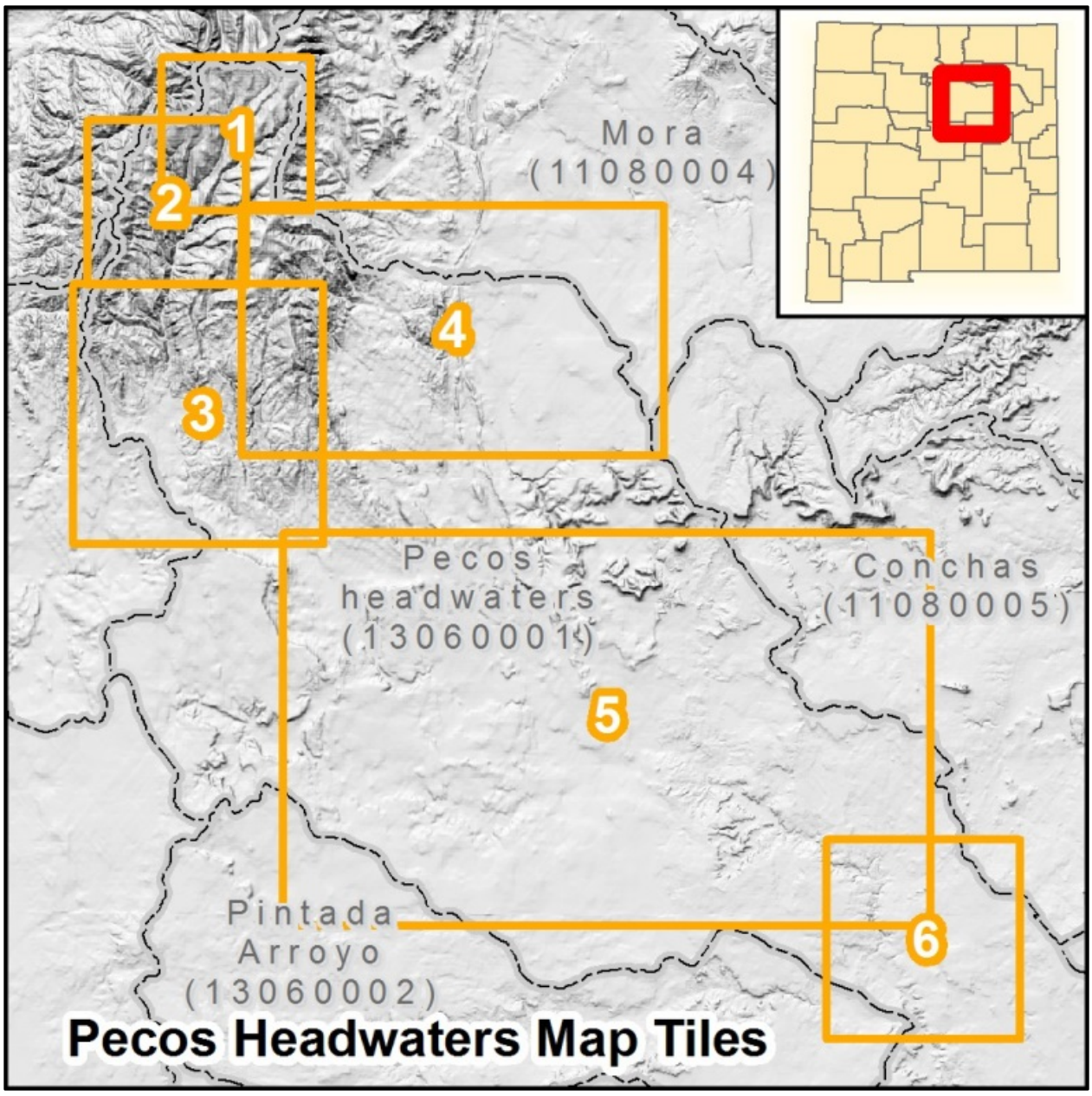

Figure 17. Pecos Headwaters Map Tiles

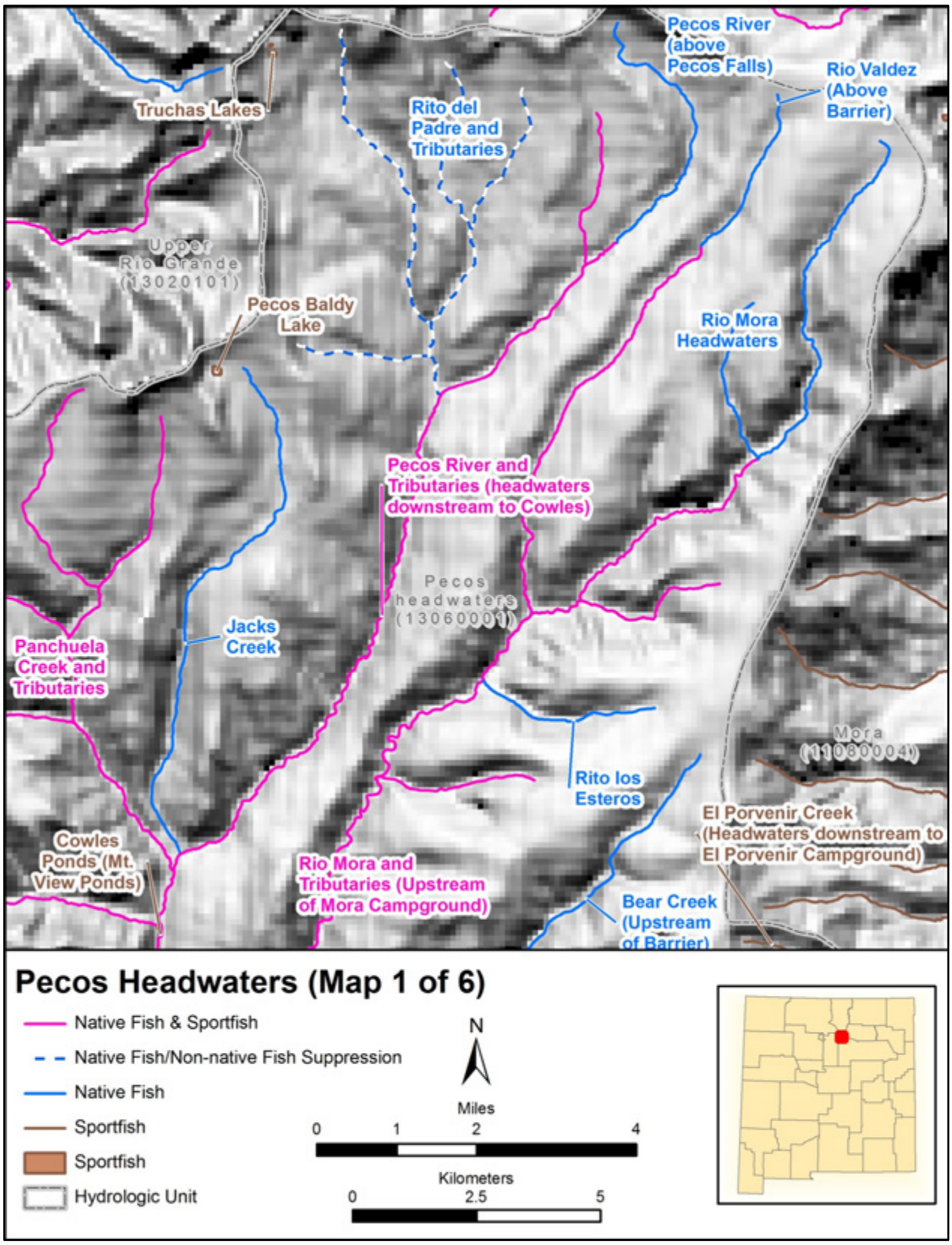

Figure 18. Pecos Headwaters (Map 1 of 6)

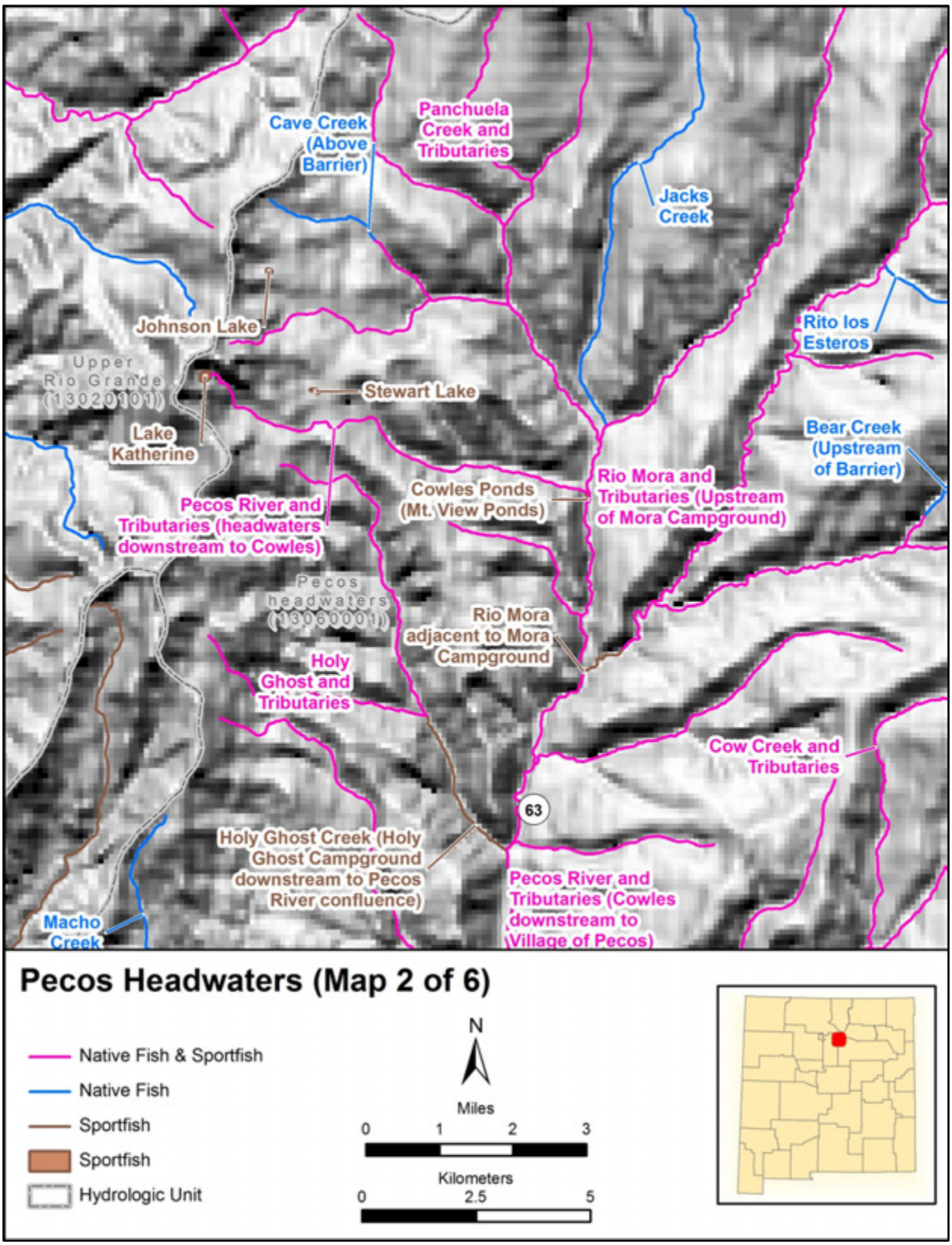

Figure 19. Pecos Headwaters (Map 2 of 6)

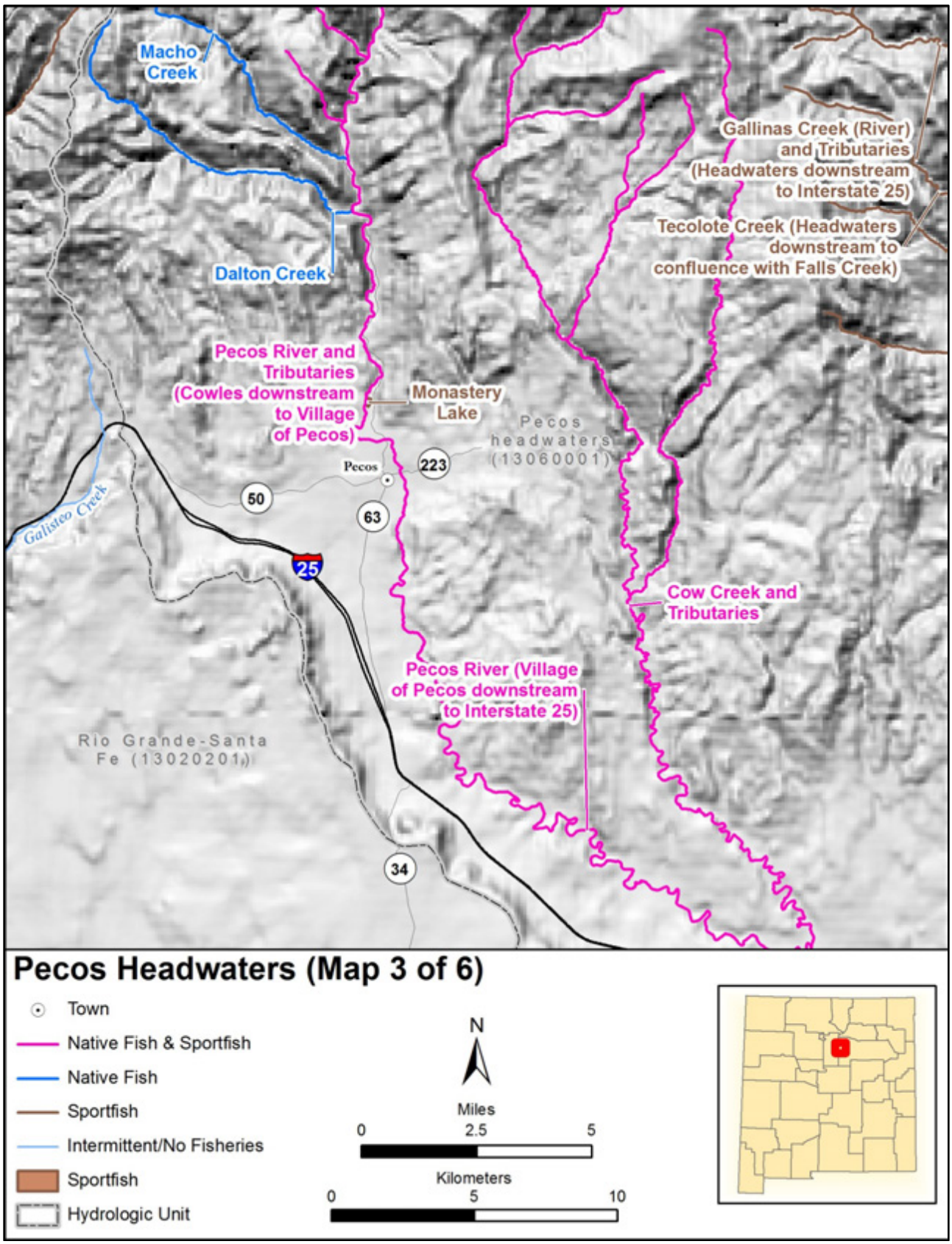

Figure 20. Pecos Headwaters (Map 3 of 6)

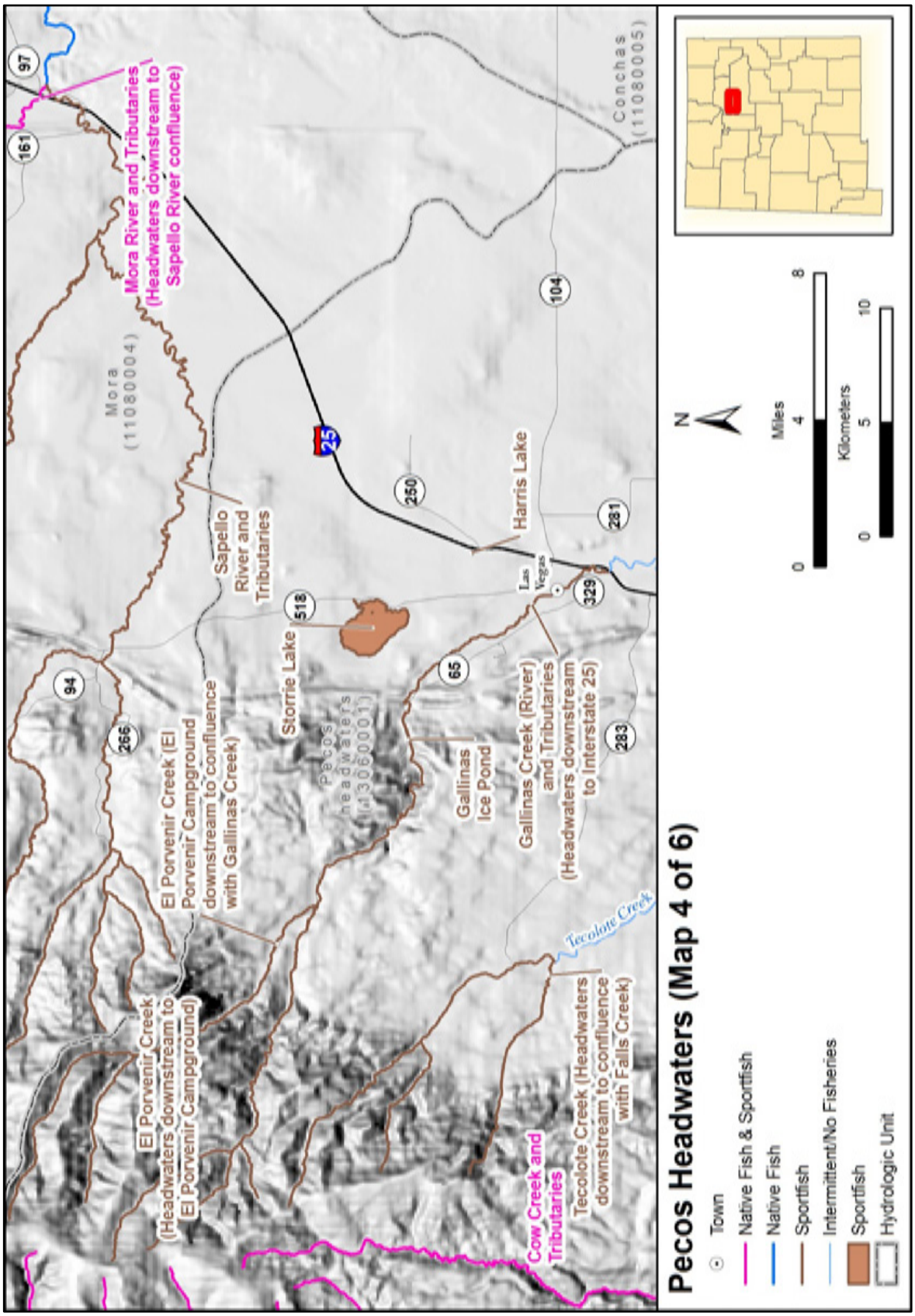

Figure 21. Pecos Headwaters (Map 4 of 6)

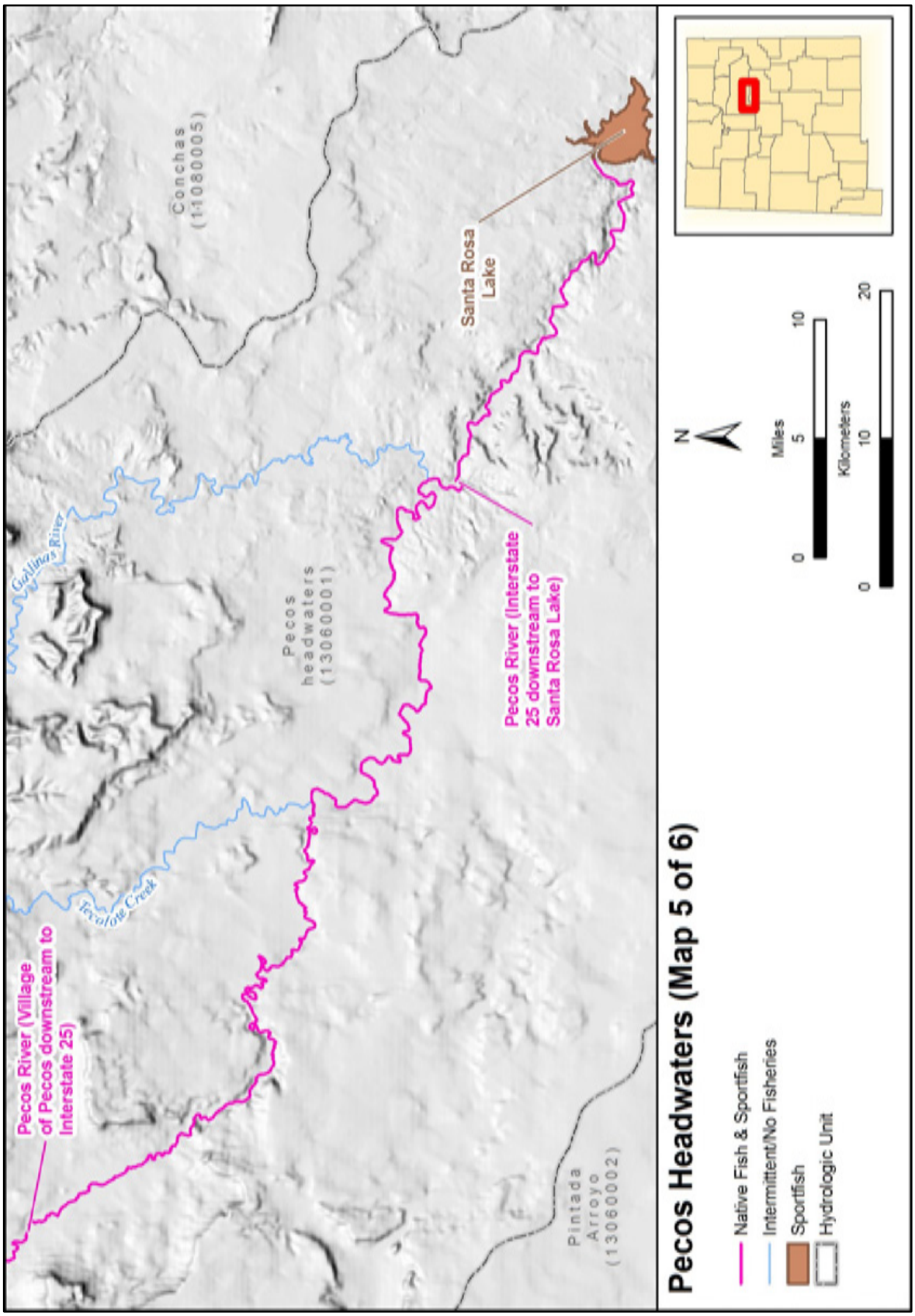

Figure 22. Pecos Headwaters (Map 5 of 6)

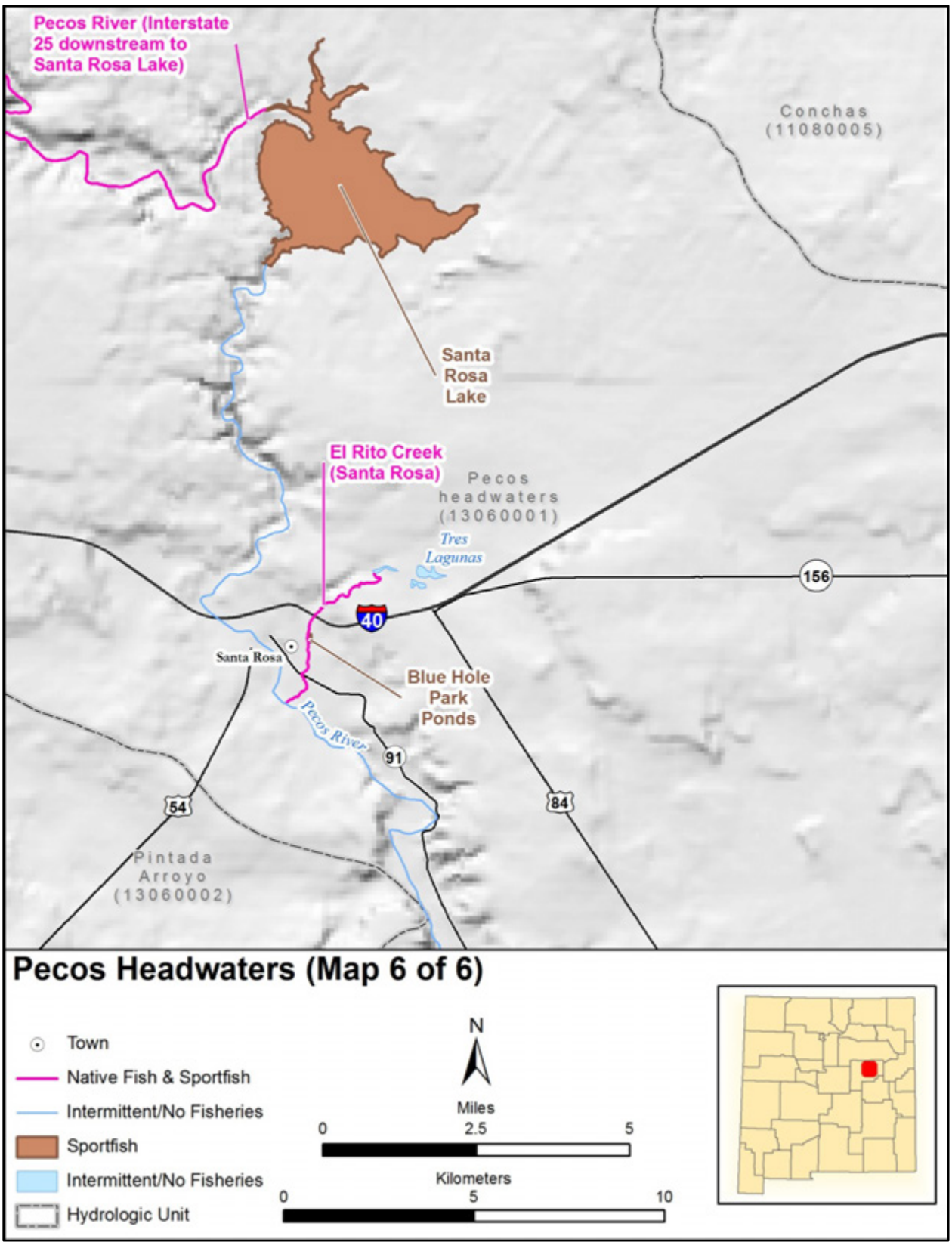

Figure 23. Pecos Headwaters (Map 6 of 6)

HUC 13060003 Upper Pecos, 13060005 Arroyo del Macho, 13060006 Gallo Arroyo, 13060007 Upper Pecos – Long Arroyo, 13060008 Rio Hondo, 13060010 Rio Penasco, 13060011 Upper Pecos Black, 13070002 Delaware, 13070007 Landreth-Monument Draws, and 12080003 Monument Seminole Draws

Management Direction for HUC 13060003 Upper Pecos, 13060005 Arroyo del Macho, 13060006 Gallo Arroyo, 13060007 Upper Pecos – Long Arroyo, 13060008 Rio Hondo, 13060010 Rio Penasco, 13060011 Upper Pecos Black, 13070002 Delaware, 13070007 Landreth-Monument Draws, , and 12080003 Monument Seminole Draws

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Pecos River (Lake Sumner to Fort Sumner)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Pecos River (Fort Sumner to Brantley Reservoir)	Pecos Bluntnose Shiner	Native Fish	Designated Critical Habitat for Pecos bluntnose shiner.
	Pecos Pupfish	Native Fish	Pecos pupfish occupy habitats on Bureau of Land Management, Bitter Lakes National Wildlife Refuge, and Bottomless Lakes State Park. Implement actions identified in the Pecos Pupfish Conservation Agreement. All Pecos pupfish downstream of Brantley Reservoir are sheephead minnow/Pecos pupfish hybrids.
	Rio Grande Shiner	Native Fish	Rio Grande shiner present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Speckled Chub	Native Fish	Speckled chub present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Flathead Catfish	Wild	Maintain regulations to support flathead catfish.
Brantley Lake	Channel Catfish	Wild	Catch and release regulations due to DDT contamination. Evaluate periodically in collaboration with Environment Department and review consumption advisories. **Propose regulation amendments to permit some harvest with concurrence from Environment Department and Department of Health regarding consumption advisories.** Regular golden algae blooms limit fishery potential and not consistently stocked. Subject to significant water level fluctuation. Investigate mitigation measures for golden algae.
	White Bass	Wild	**Propose regulation amendments to permit some harvest with concurrence from Environment Department and Department of Health regarding consumption advisories.**
	Largemouth Bass	Wild	**Manage as a Recreational Bass.**

Management Direction for HUC 13060003 Upper Pecos, 13060005 Arroyo del Macho, 13060006 Gallo Arroyo, 13060007 Upper Pecos – Long Arroyo, 13060008 Rio Hondo, 13060010 Rio Penasco, 13060011 Upper Pecos Black, 13070002 Delaware, 13070007 Landreth-Monument Draws, , and 12080003 Monument Seminole Draws

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Pecos River (Brantley Dam downstream to and including Lake Avalon)	N/A	N/A	Historic stronghold for blue sucker, gray redhorse and black bass. Currently no to limited potential for any fisheries management due to golden algae. Investigate mitigation measures to reduce the effects of golden algae.
Lake Carlsbad	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout annually. Subject to periodic golden algae blooms.
	Spotted Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water.
	Largemouth Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water.
	Channel Catfish	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Previous catfish stocking ceased due to fish consumption advisory for PCBs. Consider stocking fingerling channel catfish. Monitor to document growth rate, recruitment, and PCB levels in fish tissue. Discontinue stocking if fish consumption advisories result in zero meals per month.**
Bataan Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout annually. Subject to periodic golden algae blooms. Other sportfish species present but not managed due to limited habitat.
	Channel Catfish	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Previous catfish stocking ceased due to fish consumption advisory for PCBs. Consider stocking fingerling channel catfish. Monitor to document growth rate, recruitment, and PCB levels in fish tissue. Discontinue stocking if fish consumption advisories result in zero meals per month.**
Pecos River (Lower Tansill Dam dowsntream to State Line including Six Mile and Ten Mile Dam Lakes)	Largemouth Bass	Wild	Manage Six Mile Dam as a Recreational Bass water and Ten Mile Dam as a Low Density Bass water. Subject to periodic golden algae blooms.

Management Direction for HUC 13060003 Upper Pecos, 13060005 Arroyo del Macho, 13060006 Gallo Arroyo, 13060007 Upper Pecos – Long Arroyo, 13060008 Rio Hondo, 13060010 Rio Penasco, 13060011 Upper Pecos Black, 13070002 Delaware, 13070007 Landreth-Monument Draws, , and 12080003 Monument Seminole Draws

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Pecos River (Lower Tansill Dam dowsntream to State Line including Six Mile and Ten Mile Dam Lakes)	Channel Catfish	Wild	Maintain regulations to support channel catfish fishery. Consumption advisory for channel catfish - no catfish should be consumed from this reach.
	Blue Sucker	**Native Fish**	**Investigate potential for repatriation of blue sucker to Six Mile Dam.**
	Gray Redhorse	Native Fish	Gray redhorse present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Smallmouth Buffalo	**Native Fish**	**Investigate potential for repatriation of smallmouth buffalo to Six Mile Dam.**
Rio Bonito (Headwaters downstream to Bonito Lake)	**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout**	**Native Fish**	**Severely impacted by Little Bear Fire. Non-native salmonids believed to have been extirpated or greatly reduced throughout watershed. Consider for repatriation of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Brook trout and rainbow trout present prior to fire.**
Bonito Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Severely impacted by Little Bear Fire. Upon watershed recovery and dredging of reservoir, stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Rio Bonito (Downstream of Bonito Lake)	Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Not stocked in recent years due to drought.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Limited brown trout. Maintain regulations to support wild trout angling.
Copeland Creek	Brook Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support wild trout angling.
Rio Ruidoso and Tributaries	Brown Trout	Wild	Significant portions of the watershed within the jurisdiction of Mescalero Apache Tribe or on private land. Special Trout Water regulation (Three trout only, any legal tackle or bait) from Mescalero Reservation boundary downstream to Friedenbloom Drive.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.

Management Direction for HUC 13060003 Upper Pecos, 13060005 Arroyo del Macho, 13060006 Gallo Arroyo, 13060007 Upper Pecos – Long Arroyo, 13060008 Rio Hondo, 13060010 Rio Penasco, 13060011 Upper Pecos Black, 13070002 Delaware, 13070007 Landreth-Monument Draws, , and 12080003 Monument Seminole Draws

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Pine Lodge Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Population status unknown due to drought.
Grindstone Reservoir	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Copper sulfate treatments during the summer by Village of Ruidoso can cause fish kills.
	Channel Catfish	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Stock fingerling channel catfish. Monitor to document growth rate and recruitment.**
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Manage as a Recreational Bass water. Transfer smallmouth bass from other waters as necessary to supplement population.
Eagle Creek	Brook Trout	Wild	Headwaters of the watershed within the jurisdiction of Mescalero Apache Tribe. Maintain regulations to support wild trout angling.
Alto Lake	**Channel Catfish**	**Put, Grow and Take and Put and Take**	**Recently reopened to public angling. Management direction reflects uncertainty of species management in the future but will be adapted based upon evaluation of management actions. Stock fingerling and catchable channel catfish. Adopt Big Cat Water regulations if necessary. Also consider stocking other species such as bluegill as necessary to establish forage for predatory fish.**
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	**Put and Take**	**Stock catchable rainbow trout.**
	Largemouth Bass	**Wild/Supplemental Stocking**	**Manage as a Recreational Bass water. Also consider stocking smallmouth bass if appropriate.**
Aqua Chiquita	Brook Trout	Wild	Prone to drying. Maintain regulations to support wild trout angling.
Rio Penasco	Brown Trout	Wild	Primarily private property. Single Open Gate property near Mayhill, NM. Investigate additional Open Gate properties. Maintain regulations to support wild trout angling.
	Rainbow Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling triploid rainbow trout on Open Gate Property.
Bosque Redondo Lake	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish between May and September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March.

Management Direction for HUC 13060003 Upper Pecos, 13060005 Arroyo del Macho, 13060006 Gallo Arroyo, 13060007 Upper Pecos – Long Arroyo, 13060008 Rio Hondo, 13060010 Rio Penasco, 13060011 Upper Pecos Black, 13070002 Delaware, 13070007 Landreth-Monument Draws, , and 12080003 Monument Seminole Draws			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Bottomless Lakes	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March. Maintain prohibition of fishing with baitfish. Triploid rainbow trout stocking locations limited to reduce negative interactions with Pecos pupfish.
	Pecos Pupfish	Native Fish	Implement actions identified in the Pecos Pupfish Conservation Agreement.
Lake Van	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Roswell Kids Pond	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Corona Pond	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Black River	Blue Sucker	Native Fish	Limited public access. Few blue sucker collected over the past several years. Investigate the feasibility of replacing road culverts (2) fragmenting population.
	Gray Redhorse	Native Fish	Investigate the feasibility of replacing road culverts (2) fragmenting population.
	Largemouth Bass	Wild	Maintain angling regulations to support Recreational Bass water.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Pecos River (Avalon Dam to Lake Carlsbad)	N/A	N/A	Often dry, limited angling opportunities.

Management Direction for HUC 13060003 Upper Pecos, 13060005 Arroyo del Macho, 13060006 Gallo Arroyo, 13060007 Upper Pecos – Long Arroyo, 13060008 Rio Hondo, 13060010 Rio Penasco, 13060011 Upper Pecos Black, 13070002 Delaware, 13070007 Landreth-Monument Draws, , and 12080003 Monument Seminole Draws

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Eunice Lake	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Jal Lake	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Delaware River	**Gray Redhorse**	**Native Fish**	**Continue to transfer gray redhorse from the Black River to the Delaware River to expand current range and enhance Texas Hornshell repatriation efforts.**
Chaparral Park Lake	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
	Sunfish	**Suppression**	**Stock and maintain largemouth bass to control overpopulated sunfish populations.**
Green Meadow Lake	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Harry McAdams Park Pond	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.

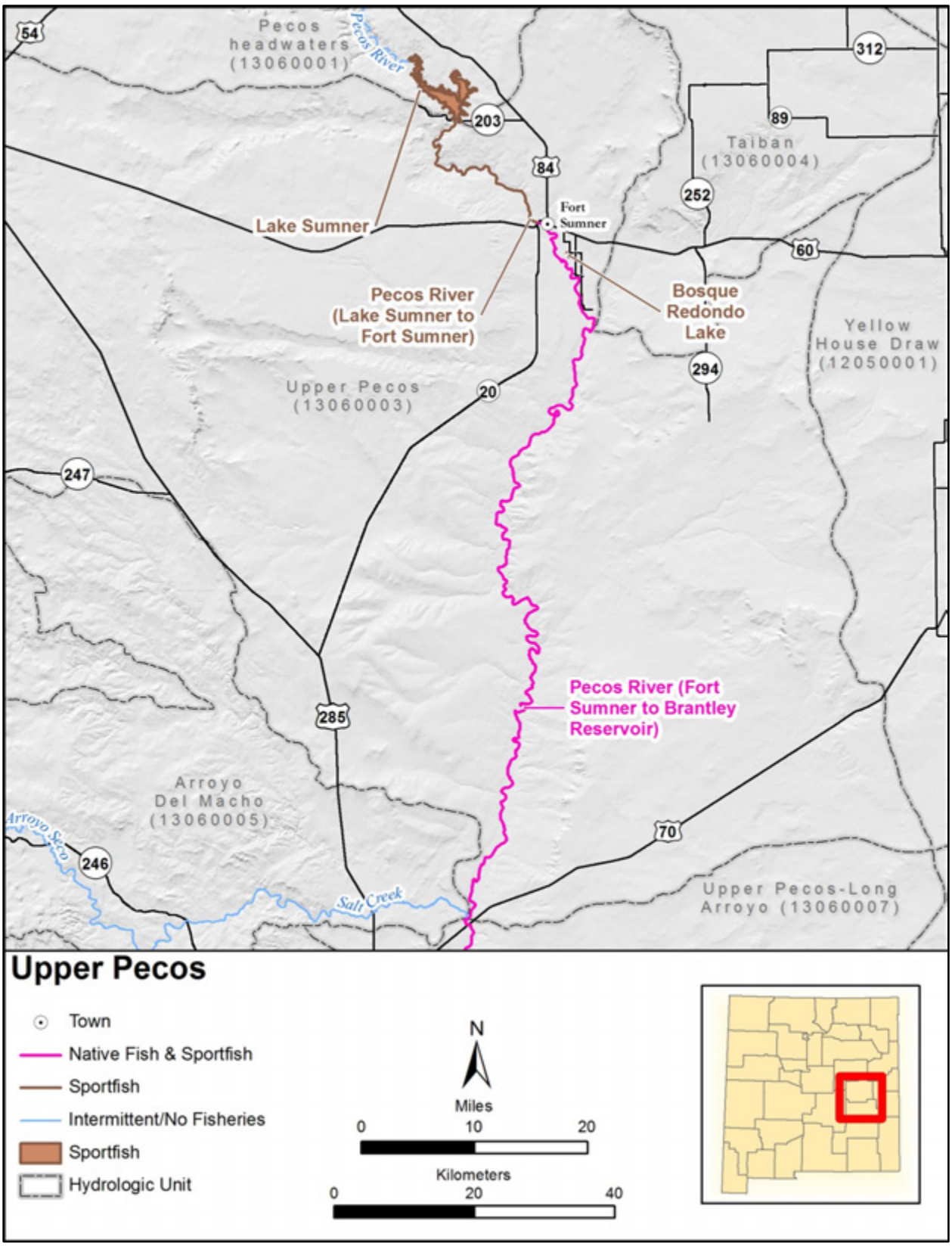

Figure 24. Upper Pecos

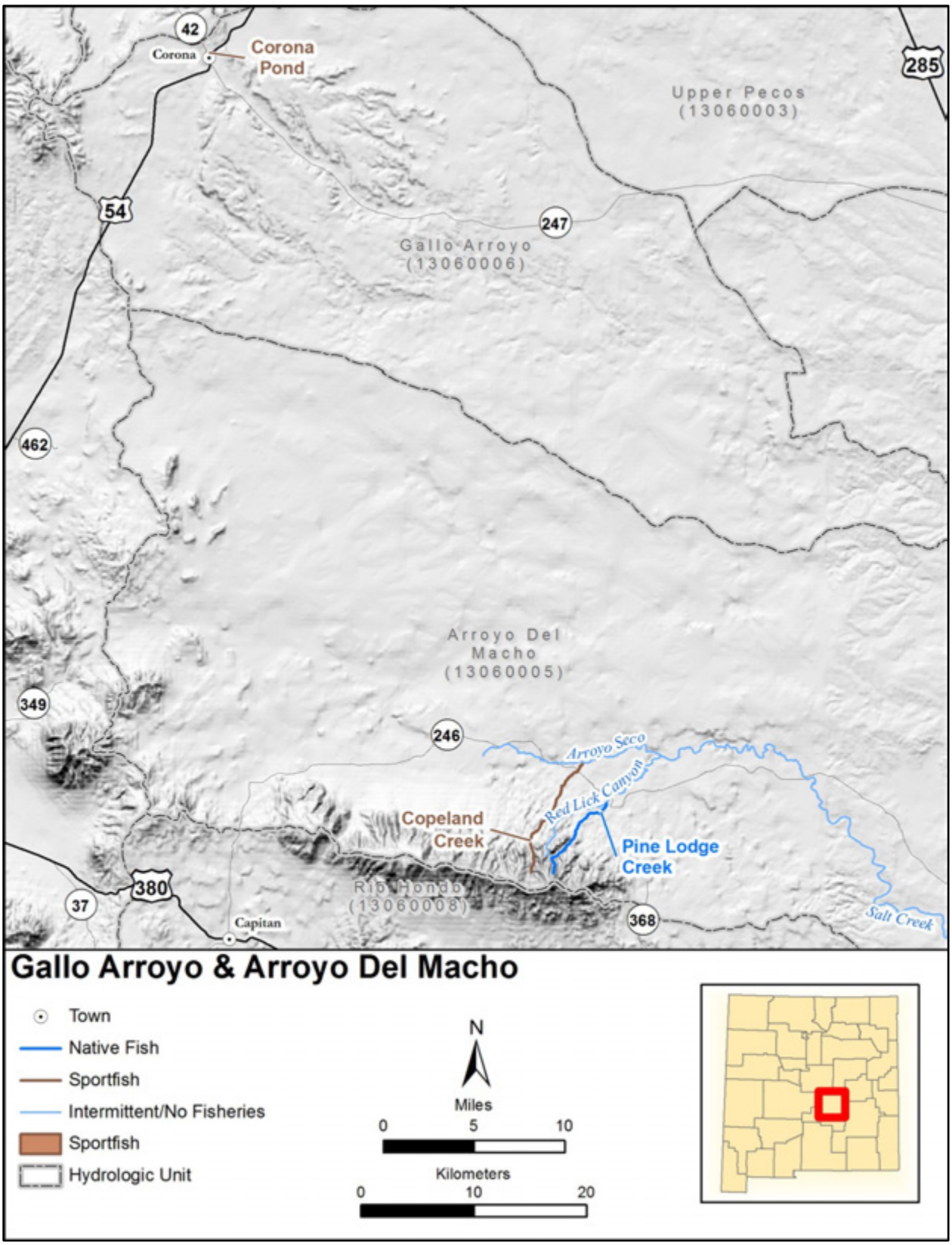

Figure 25. Gallo Arroyo and Arroyo Del Macho

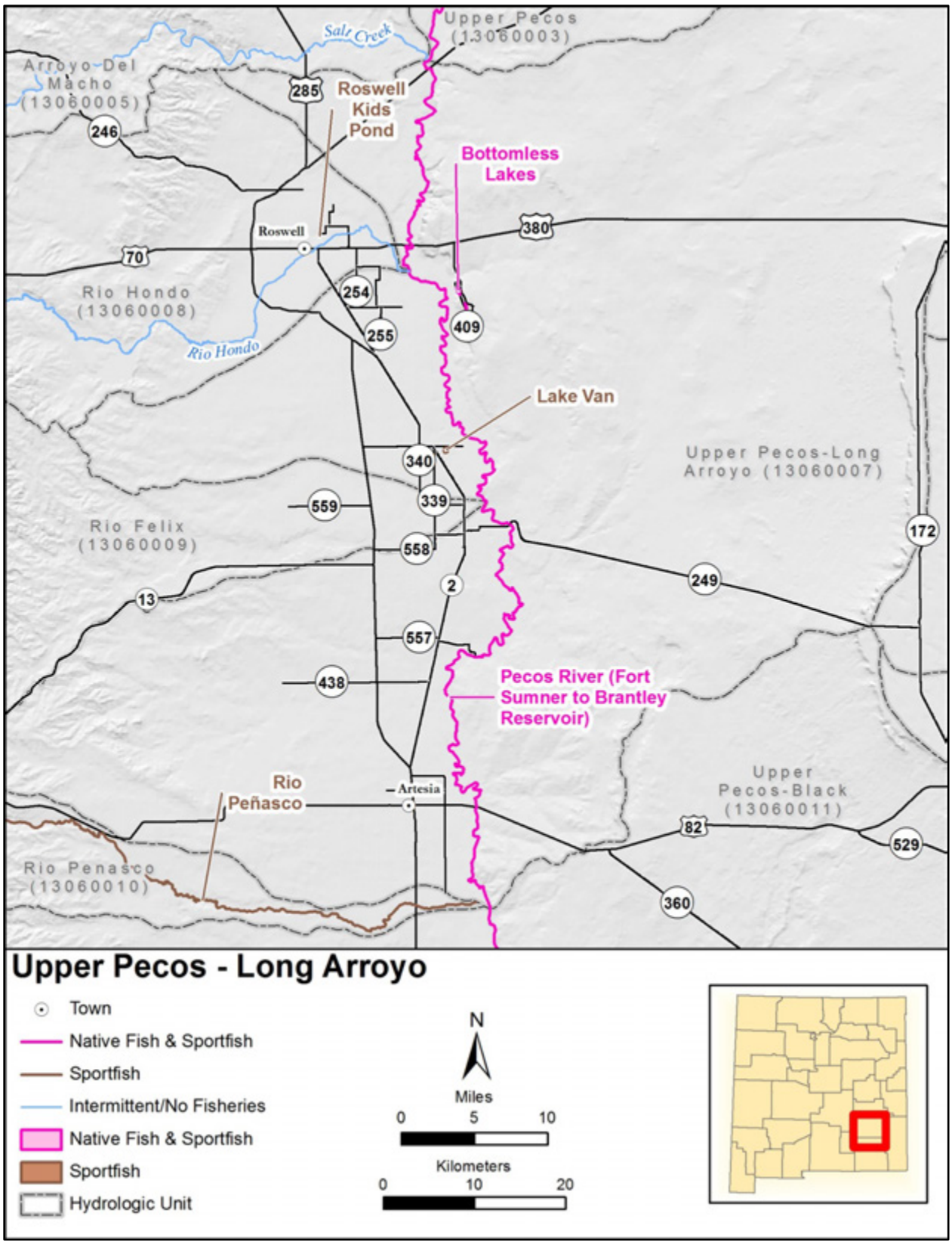

Figure 26. Upper Pecos - Long Arroyo

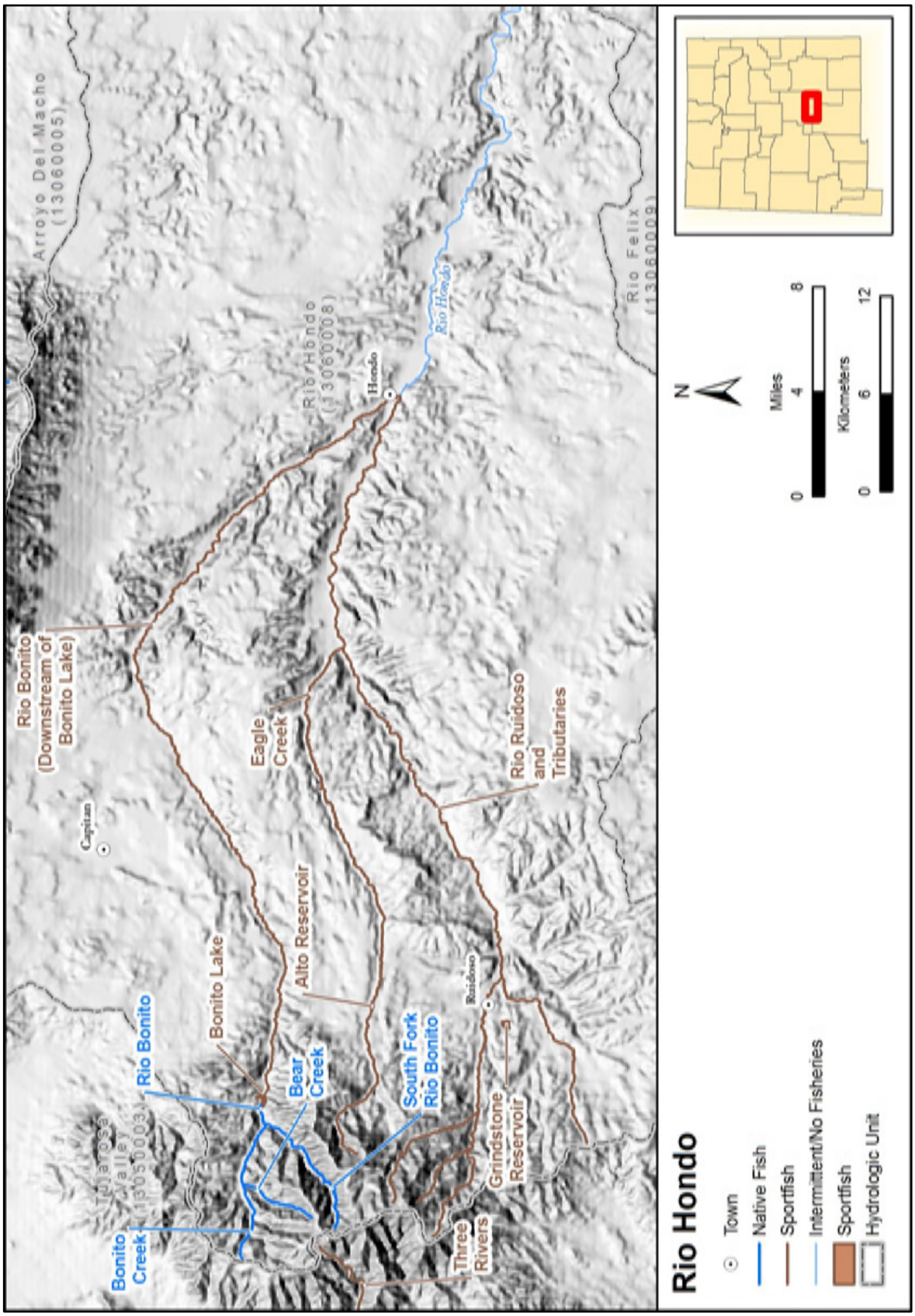

Figure 27. Rio Hondo

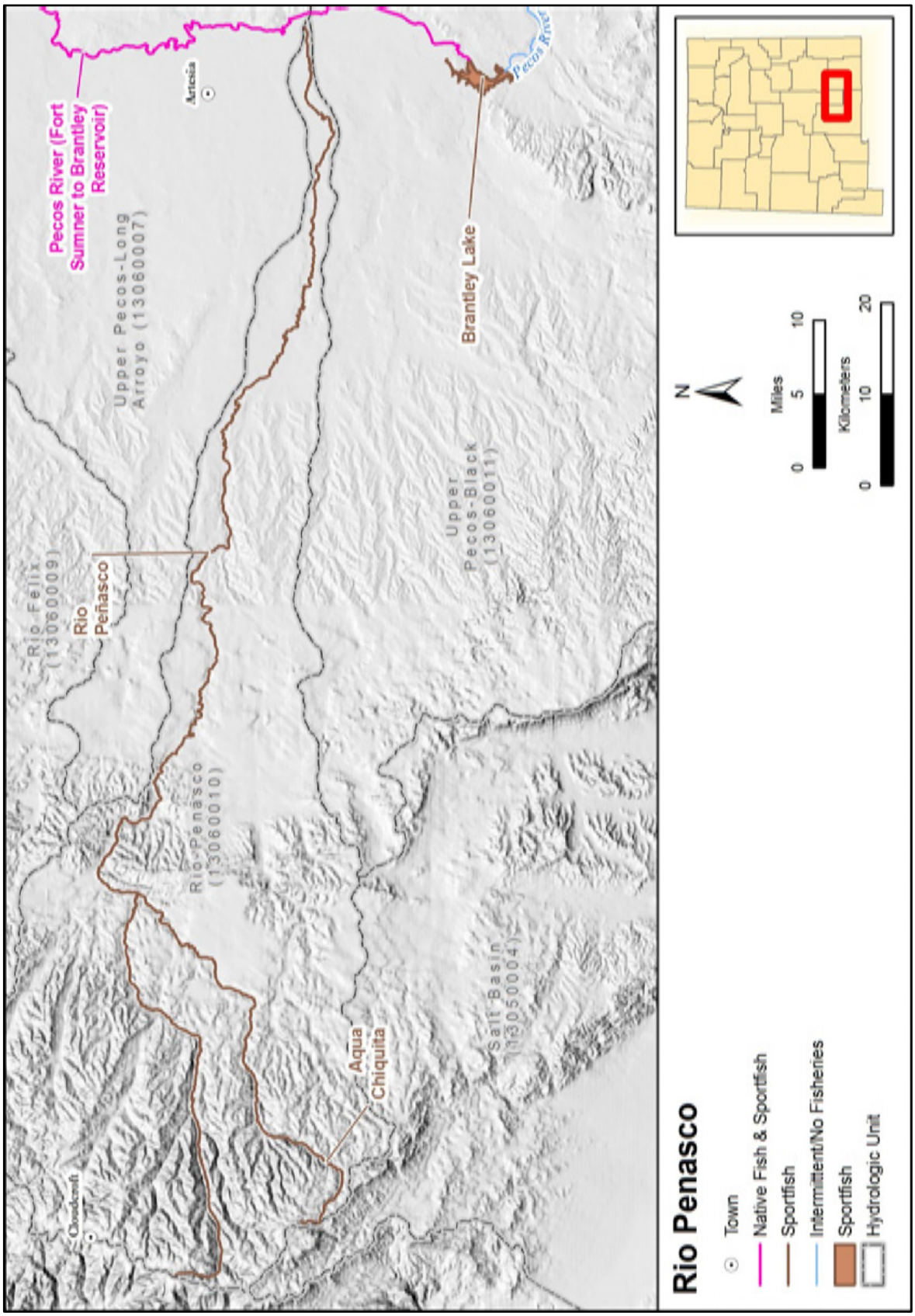

Figure 28. Rio Penasco

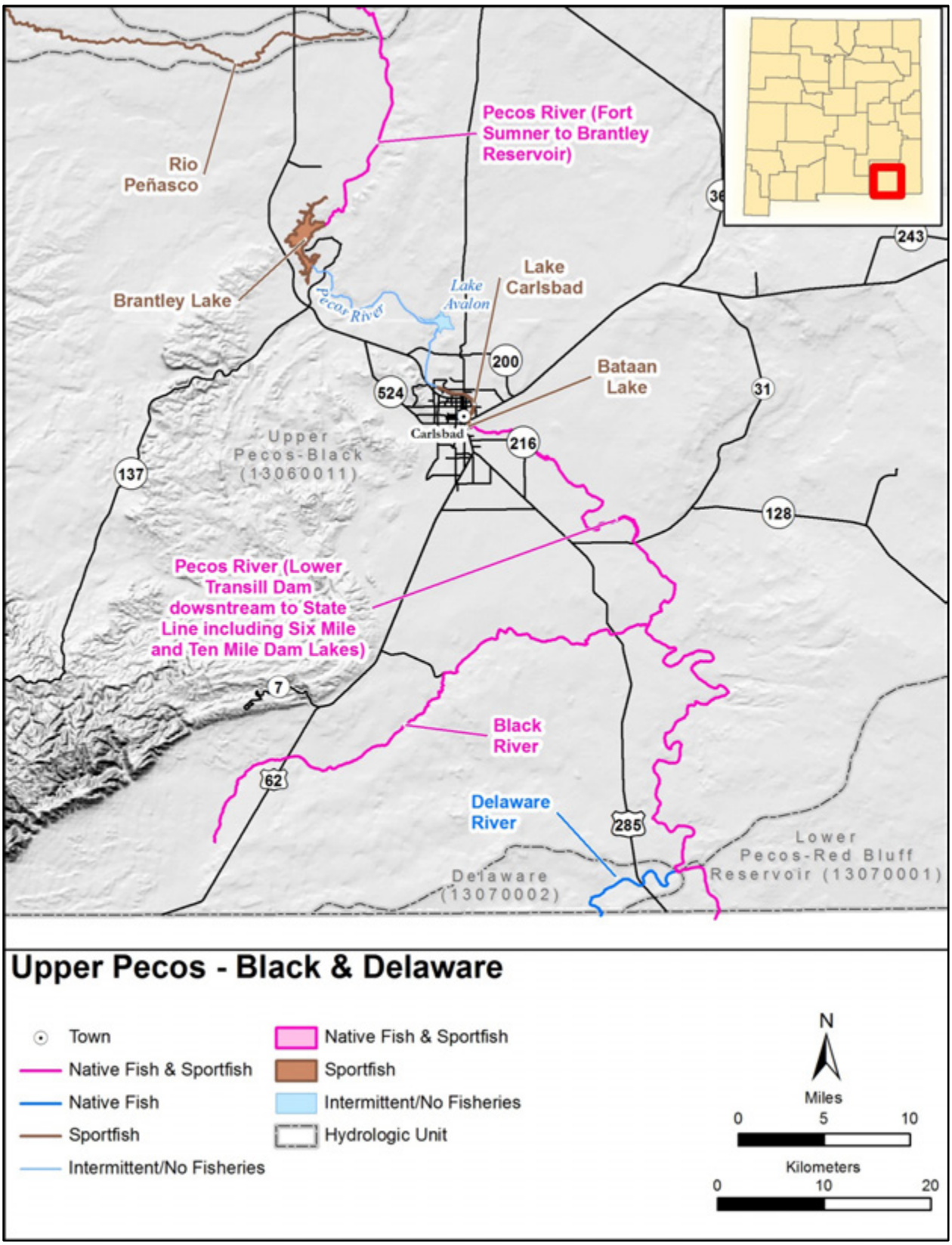

Figure 29. Upper Pecos - Black and Delaware

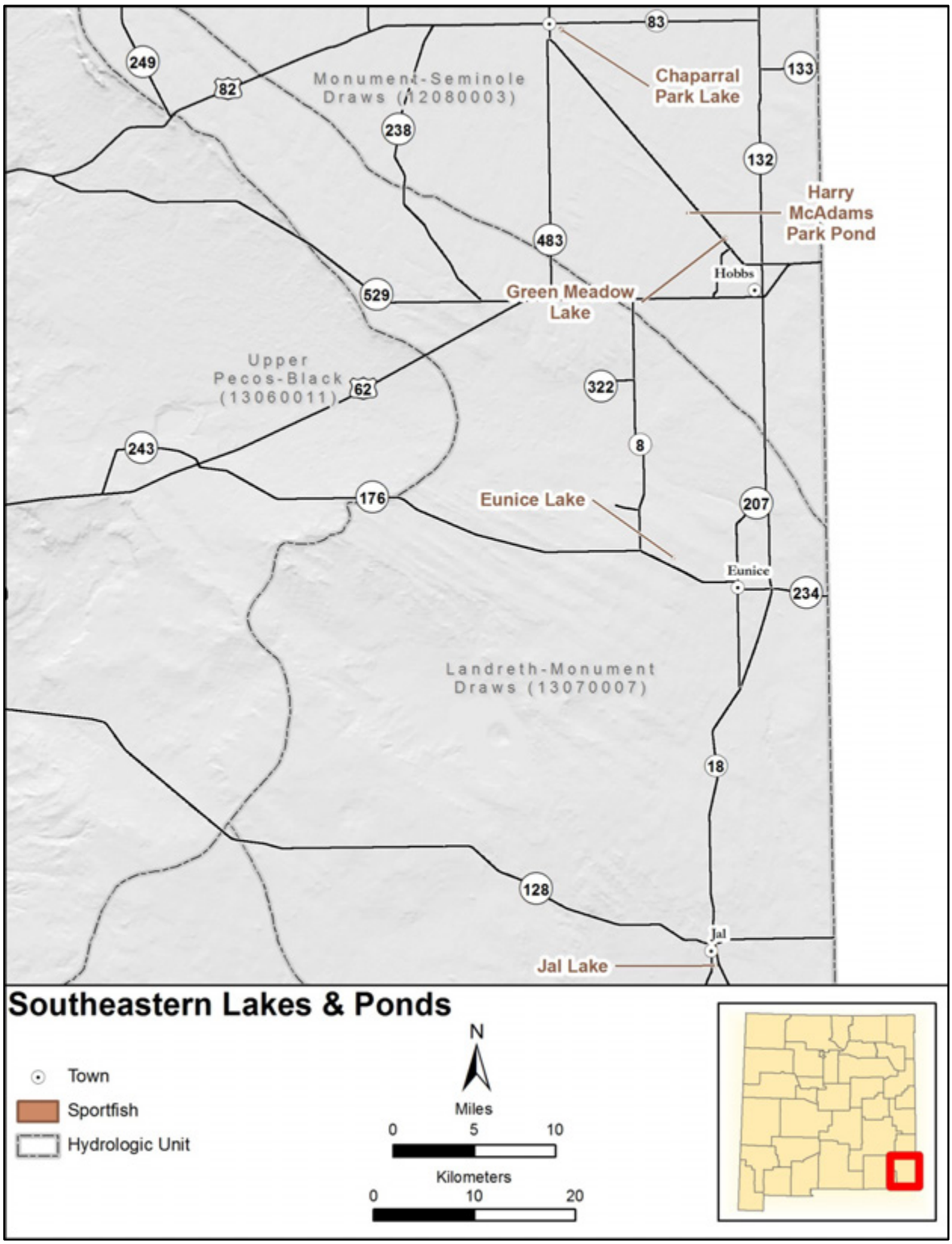

Figure 30. Southeastern Lakes and Ponds

Tularosa Watershed

The Tularosa Basin encompasses approximately 3.2 million acres in south central New Mexico and is a closed basin. Because much of the Tularosa Basin is federal government property (White Sands Missile Range, Holloman Air Force Base, White Sands National Monument), there has been limited development in the watershed. Due to limited perennial habitats in the Tularosa Watershed, fisheries activities are limited to monitoring of White Sands pupfish and associated coordination with federal agencies and regulation enforcement for the trout in the Three Rivers drainage near Alamogordo and Carrizozo Recreation Lake.

HUC 13050003 Tularosa Valley

Management Direction for HUC 13050003 Tularosa Valley

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Carrizozo Recreation Lake	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish from May to September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November to March.
Lost River	White Sands Pupfish	Native Fish	Investigate refugial sites.
Three Rivers	Brook Trout	Wild	Maintain angling regulations to support wild trout angling.

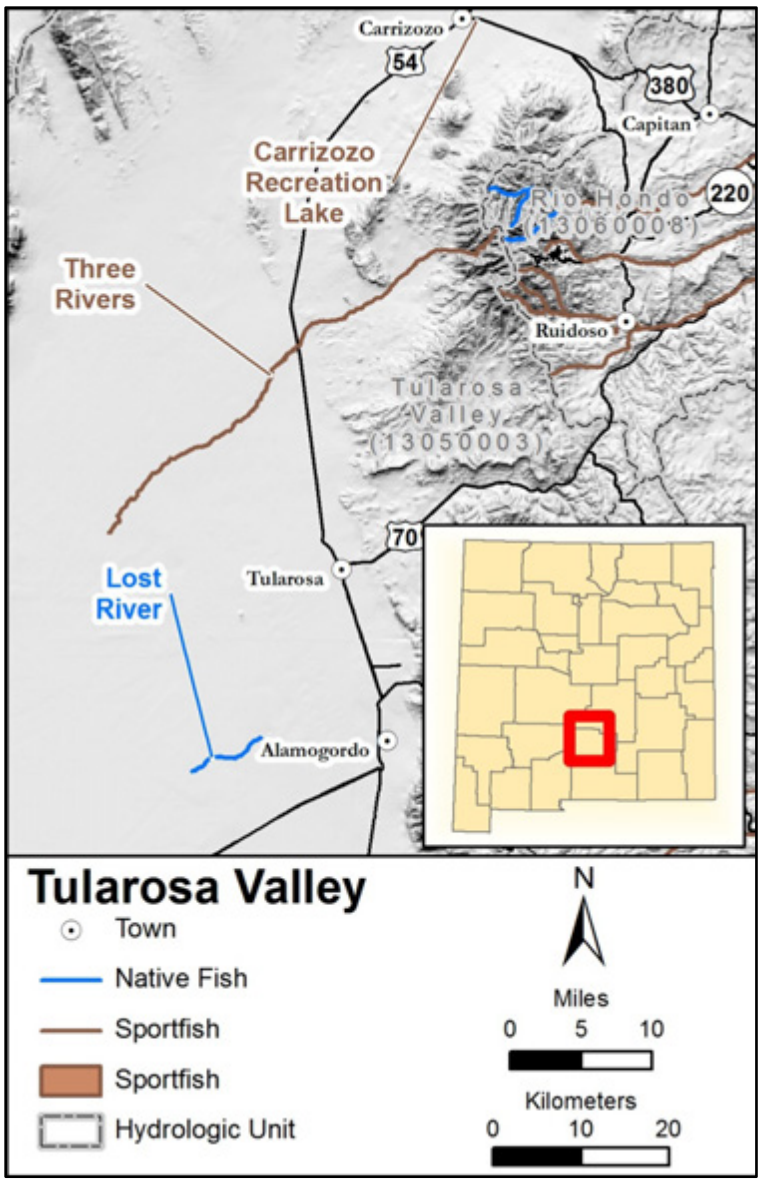

Figure 31. Tularosa Valley

Rio Grande Watershed

The Rio Grande Watershed originates in the San Juan Mountains of southern Colorado and flows south through central New Mexico for the entire length of the State. At El Paso, Texas, the drainage area is approximately 20.1 million acres, including the drainage area in Colorado (US Geological Survey 1996). There are a number of streams that drain into the Rio Grande. These include: 1) the Rio Chama, which joins the Rio Grande in north central New Mexico and is the most significant tributary, 2) the Jemez River which joins the Rio Grande near Bernalillo, and 3) the San Jose/Rio Puerco Drainage which also joins the Rio Grande south of San Antonio, NM. Smaller watersheds drain mountains in southern New Mexico. These drainages lack the diversity of those to the north, and many of them are ephemeral. Flow in the Rio Grande, typically low in the winter, is most significantly affected by snowmelt and summer rain events. A spring peak generally occurs between early April and mid-May from snow melt. Low flow returns in June followed by smaller peaks of shorter duration associated with monsoonal rain events. This historic flow regime has been greatly affected by irrigation diversions and agricultural reservoirs in the lower part of the system. Irrigation flows have increased the relative magnitude and duration of summer peaks and reduced the peak associated with snowmelt.

Most lands within the Rio Grande Watershed are under federal and quasi-federal ownership. The headwaters typically occur in National Forests (Carson, Santa Fe, Cibola, and Gila). The Rio Grande flows through large tracts of Bureau of Land Management holdings, the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, and the Elephant Butte Irrigation District. Cultivated cropland or orchards occupy about 7% of the basin. This form of agriculture is particularly dense in the Española Valley, Middle Rio Grande Valley, and the Mesilla Valley. Other reaches are used extensively for livestock grazing. Several large reservoirs impound water within the Rio Grande basin for flood control and water storage.

The Rio Grande offers a diversity of angling opportunities in New Mexico. Many high alpine lakes are located within the headwaters and offer exceptional opportunities for catching large Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Trout angling opportunities include scores of small streams inhabited by rainbow trout, brown trout, brook trout, and cutthroat trout as well as trophy angling opportunities in large rivers such as the Rio Grande and Rio Chama. Heron Reservoir offers exceptional Kokanee angling and is the only lake trout fishery in the state. Elephant Butte Lake, the state's largest reservoir, receives significant angling pressure for largemouth bass, striped bass, and white bass. Current conditions have also increased opportunities for walleye and blue catfish. Popular urban fisheries include Tingley Beach in Albuquerque and Alumni Pond in Las Cruces.

A single federally protected fish, Rio Grande silvery minnow, and several state protected or

sensitive fish inhabit the Rio Grande watershed. Active restoration efforts for Rio Grande cutthroat trout, Rio Grande sucker, and Rio Grande chub are ongoing in the Rio Costilla Watershed. Many reaches within the drainage are inhabited by Rio Grande sucker and chub though these are not considered focal species. Existing focal species, in most cases either rainbow trout or brown trout, do not seem to have deleterious effects on native fish in those reaches. The entire middle Rio Grande is designated for Rio Grande silvery minnow recovery and, other than regulation enforcement, the Department has little active management (e.g. stocking) for other species in this reach. Rainbow trout are seasonally stocked into the drains in this reach. Overall, reach designations for native and sportfish management presents little conflict among the management types.

HUC 13010005 Conejos

Management Direction for HUC 13010005 Conejos

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Rio de Los Pinos and Tributaries	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stocked catchable triploid rainbow trout in lower sections.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Special Trout Water regulation (two trout only, artificial fly or lure, single barbless hook) from Forest Service Roads 284 and 87a, 2.5 miles upstream to private land.
Beaver Creek and Tributaries	Brook Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Laguna Larga	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout in early summer.
Lagunitas	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout in early summer.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate stocking fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout as part of recreational stocking study.**
Rio San Antonio and Tributaries (Headwaters to Rio Nutrias)	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Cutthroat Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub and sucker present. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub and sucker present. Seek to maintain their distribution.

Management Direction for HUC 13010005 Conejos			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Rio San Antonio and Tributaries (Rio Nutrias to State Line)	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Tanques Canyon	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brown trout to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population. **Investigate regulations to help suppress brown trout in Tanques Canyon .**
Tio Grande Canyon	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brown trout to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population. **Investigate regulations to help suppress brown trout in Tio Grande Canyon.**

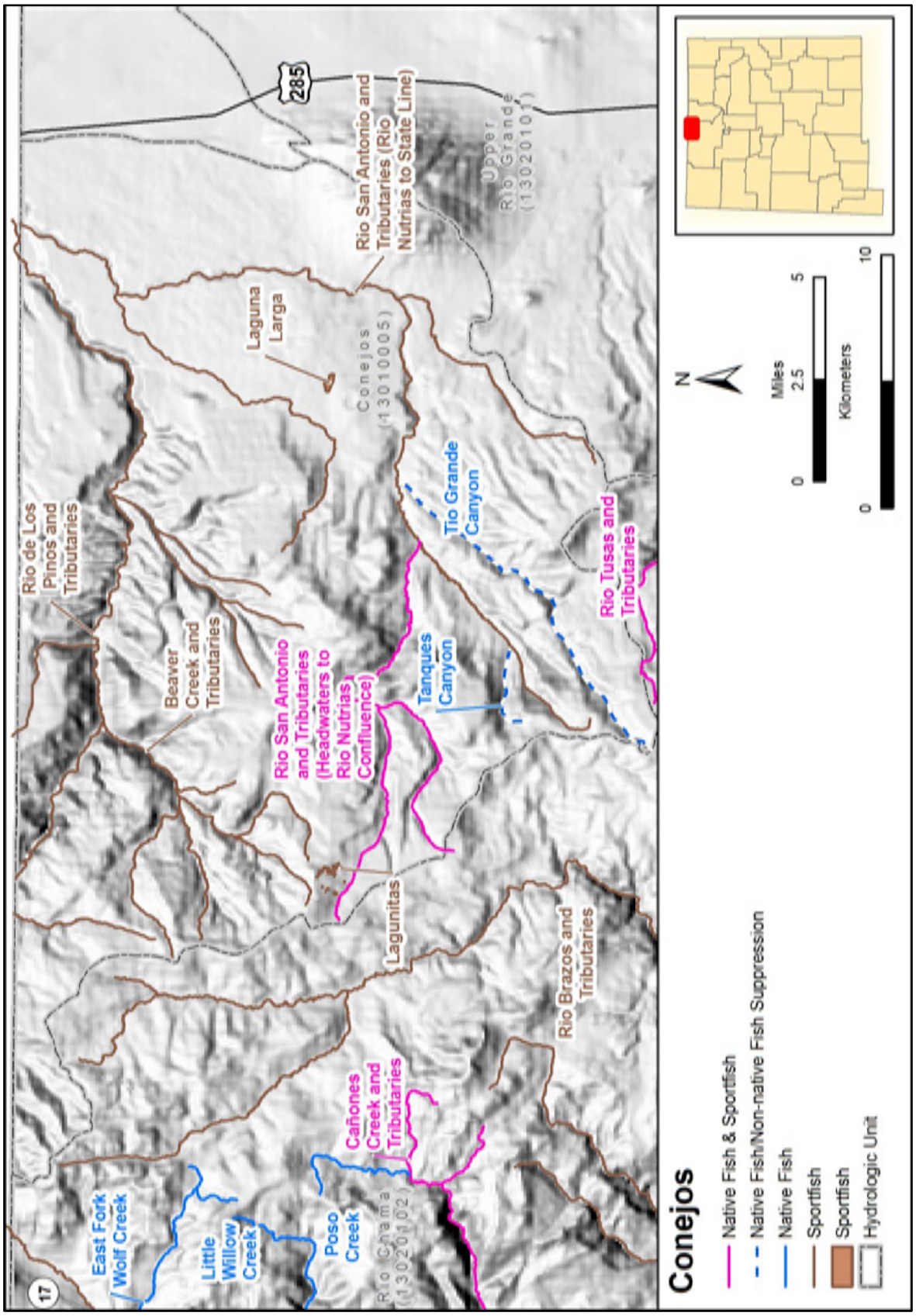

Figure 32. Conejos

HUC 13020101 Upper Rio Grande

Management Direction for HUC 13020101 Upper Rio Grande

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Rio Grande (Colorado border downstream to Pilar)	Brown Trout	Wild	Special Trout Water regulation (three fish, any length) from Colorado stateline downstream to Taos Junction Bridge. **Investigate the effectiveness of the Special Trout Water regulations.** Maintain regulations to support Quality angling experience for wild trout.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between Taos Junction Bridge and Pilar.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout in Rio Grande Gorge and monitor to document recruitment.
Rio Grande (Pilar downstream to confluence of Rio Chama)	Brown Trout	Wild	**Maintain regulations to support Quality angling experience for wild trout.**
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between Pilar and Embudo.
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	Maintain statewide smallmouth bass regulation.
Rio Grande (Rio Chama confluence downstream to Cochiti Lake)	Channel Catfish	Wild	Limited public access. Flows through Santa Clara and San Ildelfonso Pueblos before entering White Rock Canyon. Upstream of White Rock Canyon water too warm for year round salmonids fishery, dominated by centrachids and cyprinids. In canyon, upstream of Capulin Canyon, brown trout are self-sustaining. Downstream of Capulin Canyon fishery is predominantly a warmwater fishery. Channel catfish are present throughout reach.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Costilla Creek (Headwaters downstream to Costilla Dam)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Ongoing Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration project for all waters upstream of Costilla Dam. Lower reaches may include Rio Grande sucker and Rio Grande chub repatriation efforts, as appropriate.
Costilla Creek and Tributaries (Valle Vidal Unit of Carson National Forest)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single barbless hook).
	Rio Grande Chub	**Native Fish**	**Repatriate to appropriate habitats including Comanche Creek watershed.**
	Rio Grande Sucker	**Native Fish**	**Repatriate to appropriate habitats including Comanche Creek watershed.**

Management Direction for HUC 13020101 Upper Rio Grande			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Costilla Creek and Tributaries (Valle Vidal Unit boundary downstream to confluence with Rio Grande)	Cutthroat Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single barbless hook) from Valle Vidal boundary downstream to Latir Creek.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Long-term stocking efforts will be dependent upon renewal of private land lease. **Investigate long-term transition from rainbow trout to Rio Grande cutthroat trout catchable stocking.**
Powderhouse Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Planned as part of the Costilla restoration project upon completion.
La Cueva Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Planned as part of the Costilla restoration project upon completion.
Cabresto Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook) for Rio Grande cutthroat trout
	Brook Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brook trout to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population. Unlimited harvest for brook trout. Maintain regulations to assist with suppression efforts.
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brown trout to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population. Unlimited harvest for brown trout. Maintain regulations which assist with suppression efforts.
Cabresto Lake	Trout	Wild	Rainbow, brook and cutthroat trout are present in this drainage. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Investigate need for stocking catchable rainbow trout or fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Lake Fork Cabresto	Trout	Wild	Brook trout and cutthroat trout are present. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Red River and Tributaries (Headwaters downstream confluence of Pioneer Creek)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.

Management Direction for HUC 13020101 Upper Rio Grande

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Red River and Tributaries (Headwaters downstream confluence of Pioneer Creek)	Trout	Wild	Special Trout Water regulation (two fish > 12") for a one mile reach upstream of Goose Creek confluence. **Investigate the effectiveness of the Special Trout Water regulation**. Brown, brook and cutthroat trout are present in the reach.
Red River and Tributaries (Pioneer Creek confluence downstream to Red River Hatchery)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock triploid rainbow trout.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Natural thermal scarring as well as molybdenum mine effects limits wild trout potential.
Red River (Red River Hatchery downstream to Rio Grande)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock triploid rainbow trout.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Special Trout Water regulation (three trout, any length) from 0.5 miles below the walking bridge at Red River Hatchery downstream to confluence with Rio Grande. **Investigate the effectiveness of the Special Trout Water regulation and seek to manage as a Quality water.**
Red River Hatchery Pond	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Special Trout Water regulation (three trout, any length). Youth, senior, and persons with disabilities designated water.
Columbine Creek and Tributaries	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brown trout to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population. **Investigate regulations which assist with suppression efforts**.
San Cristobal Creek and Tributaries	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rio Pueblo de Taos	Brown Trout	Wild	Primarily on Pueblo of Taos. Maintain angling regulations to support wild trout angling opportunity

Management Direction for HUC 13020101 Upper Rio Grande

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Rio Hondo Tributaries (Yerba Creek, Italianos Creek, Gavilan Creek, South Fork Rio Hondo)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Brown trout present in Yerba and Gavilan Creeks, and South Fork Rio Hondo but not Italianos Creek.
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brown trout to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population. **Investigate regulations which assist with suppression efforts.**
Rio Hondo (Headwaters downstream to Highway 522)	Trout	Wild	Brown and cutthroat trout present in this drainage. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Rio Hondo (Highway 522 downstream to Rio Grande)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock triploid rainbow trout.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Rio Fernando de Taos	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock triploid rainbow trout during spring and early summer months. Most of this creek is ephemeral which limits angling potential.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Rio Grande del Rancho (Little Rio Grande) and Tributaries	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Small Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in extreme headwaters of the Little Rio Grande.
Pot Creek (Rito de la Olla) and Tributaries	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Palociento Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brown trout to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population. **Investigate regulations which assist with suppression efforts.**

Management Direction for HUC 13020101 Upper Rio Grande

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Frijoles Creek (Taos)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brown trout to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population**. Investigate regulations which assist with suppression efforts.**
Rio Pueblo and Tributaries	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Special Trout Water regulation (two fish, any length, artificial fly or lure with single, barbless hook) from Mile Marker 55 on N.M. Highway 518 upstream 1 mile to Canon Tio Maes trailhead. **Investigate the effectiveness of Special Trout Water regulations.**
La Junta Canyon (Rito la Presa)	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Small Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in extreme headwaters of Sardinas and La Presa.
Alamitos Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Policarpio Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rio Santa Barbara and Tributaries	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in headwaters of East, Middle and West Forks of the Rio Santa Barbara and Jicarita and Indian Creek, inhabiting same reaches as brown trout. **Investigate regulations to support persistence of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.** Barriers to brown trout movement are not present in the watershed.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout in reaches downstream of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rio de las Trampas	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Wild	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout suspected of hybridization.
Embudo Creek (Rio Embudo) and Tributaries	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Rio de Truchas	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rio Medio and Tributaries (Santa Fe)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in extreme headwaters.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.

Management Direction for HUC 13020101 Upper Rio Grande

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Rio Molino	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rio Frijoles (Santa Fe)	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in extreme headwaters.
Santa Cruz River	Brown Trout	Wild	Primarily private property below Reservoir and not managed by the Department. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Santa Cruz Reservoir	Brown Trout	Wild	Irrigation withdrawals cause lake to drop dramatically through the summer thereby limiting wild trout potential.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Rio Quemado	Brown Trout	Wild	Primarily on private land. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
South Fork Rio Quemado and Tributaries	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout though no barrier present to limit movement of brown trout from downstream areas.
Guaje Creek	**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout**	**Native Fish**	**Severely impacted by Cerro Grande and Las Conchas wildfires. Non-native salmonids believed to have been extirpated. Consider for repatriation of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.**
Los Alamos Reservoir	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Severely impacted by Los Conchas and Cerro Grande wildfires and not suitable for stocking since 2000. Upon recovery, stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate stocking fingerling Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout.**
Tesuque Creek and Tributaries	Rainbow Trout	Wild	Lower reach almost entirely within and under the jurisdiction of Tesuque Pueblo. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout in areas under NMDGF jurisdiction.
Rio Nambe and Tributaries	**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout**	**Native Fish**	Lower section entirely within and under the jurisdiction of Nambe Pueblo (Rainbows stocked by Pueblo in Nambe Lake). Upper sections of Rio Nambe and Rio Capulin severely impacted by Pacheco wildfire. Non-native salmonids severely impacted, but not extirpated. **Consider for repatriation of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in collaboration with Nambe Pueblo.**

Management Direction for HUC 13020101 Upper Rio Grande

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Rio en Medio	Rainbow Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Brook Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Eagle Rock Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Fawn Lakes	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Middle Fork Lake	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
	Brook Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Williams Lake	N/A	N/A	Habitat is limited and winterkill conditions are likely common. Not stocked since 1998. Cease stocking.
Lost Lake (East Fork Red River)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Horseshoe Lake (East Fork Red River)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Trampas Lakes (Upper)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout every other year.
Hidden Lake	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout when possible.
Trampas Lakes (Lower)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout every other year.
San Leonardo Lake	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Habitat is limited and winterkill conditions are likely common. Not stocked since 1999. Cease stocking.
Goose Lake	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout when possible.
Jose Vigil Lake	**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout**	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Has not been stocked in >15 years. May be a potential site to stock recreational Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Investigate stocking with Rio Grande cutthroat trout.**
Osha Canyon	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rito Angostura	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

Management Direction for HUC 13020101 Upper Rio Grande

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
La Cueva Canyon	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Existing waterfall barrier present. Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Sardinas Canyon	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rito la Presa Headwaters	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Tienditas Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Pojoaque River and Tributaries	N/A	N/A	Intermittent throughout reach, no current data. Located across four pueblos (Tesuque, Nambe, Pojoaque, and San Ildefonso).

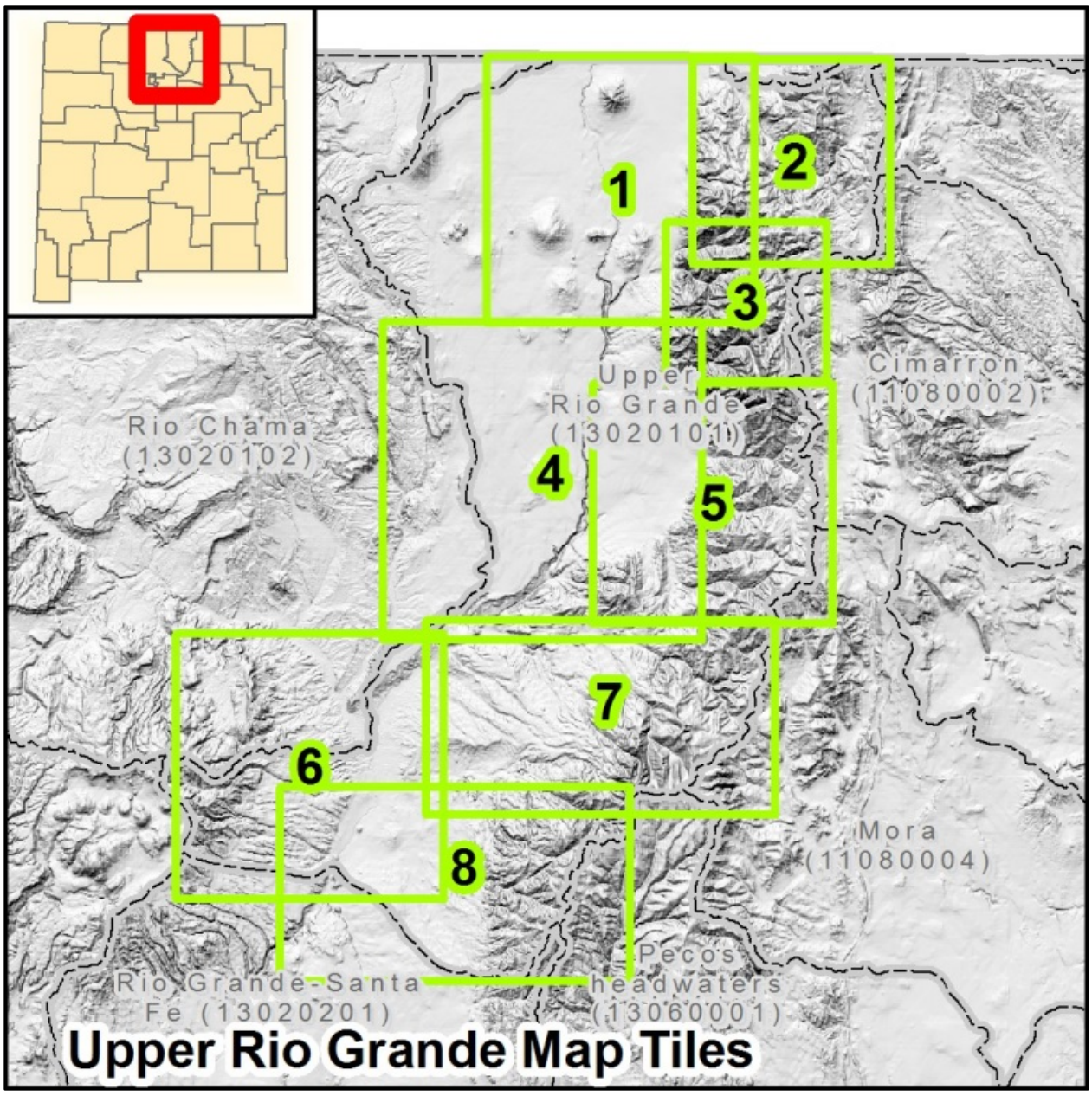

Figure 33. Upper Rio Grande Map Tiles

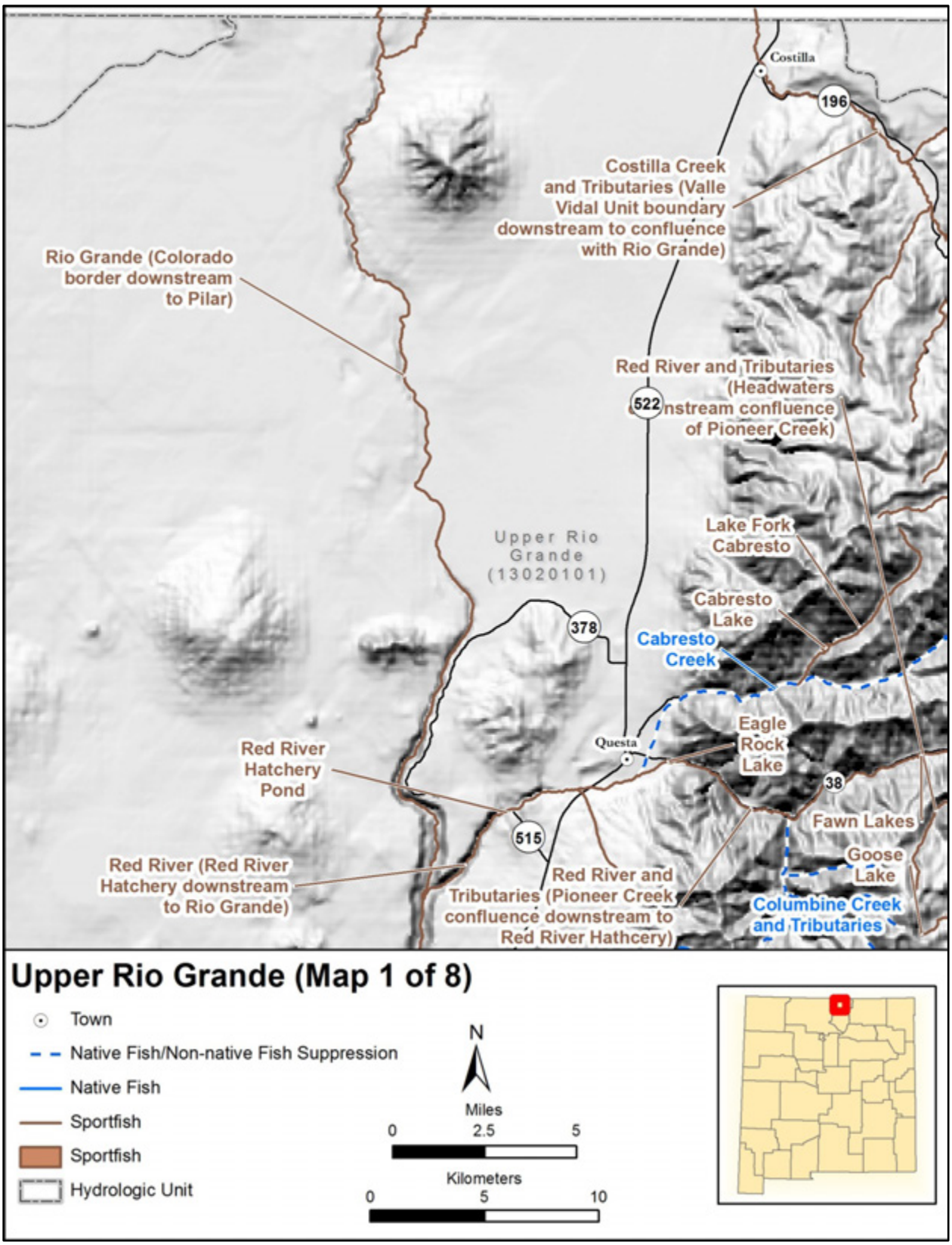

Figure 34. Upper Rio Grande (Map 1 of 8)

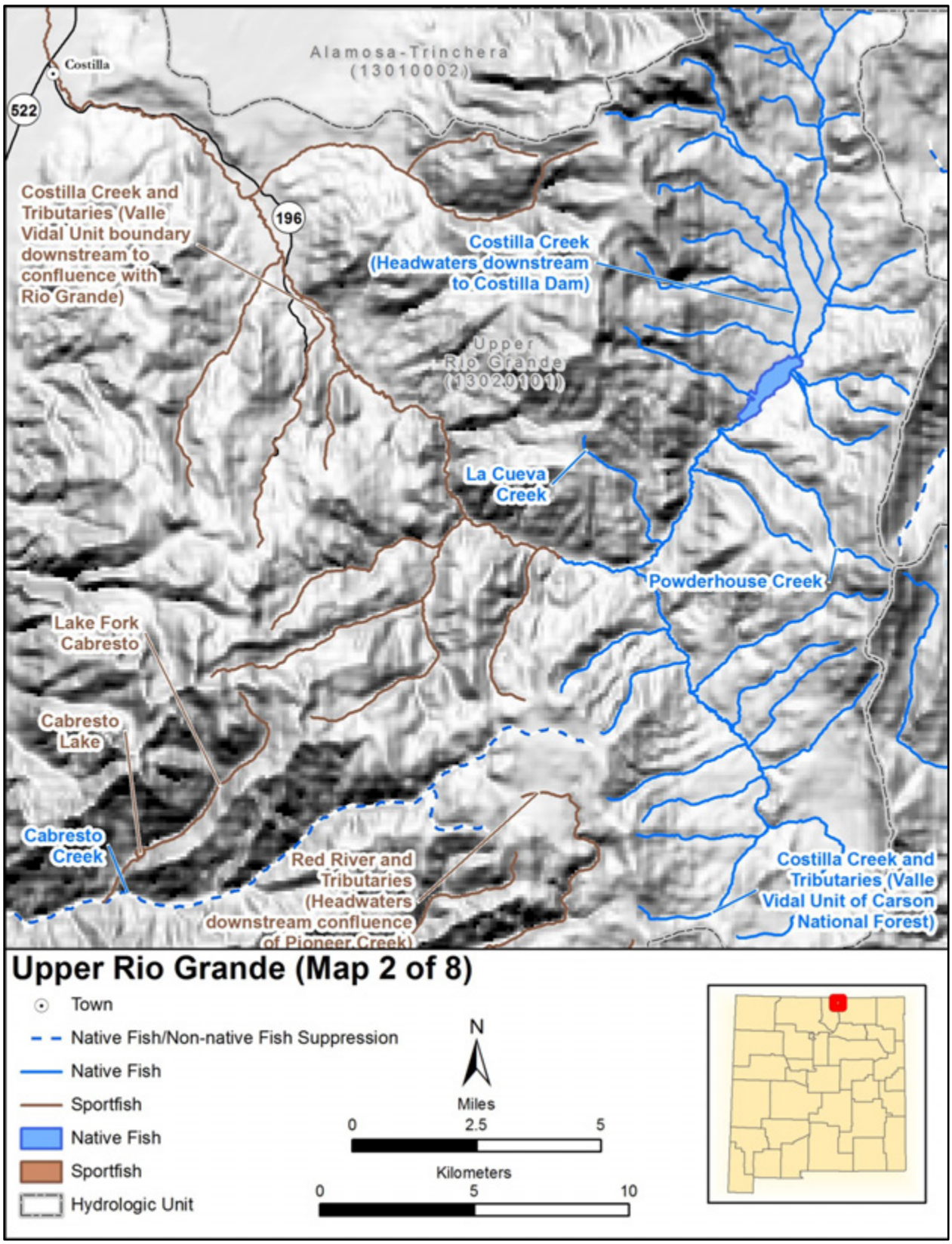

Figure 35. Upper Rio Grande (Map 2 of 8)

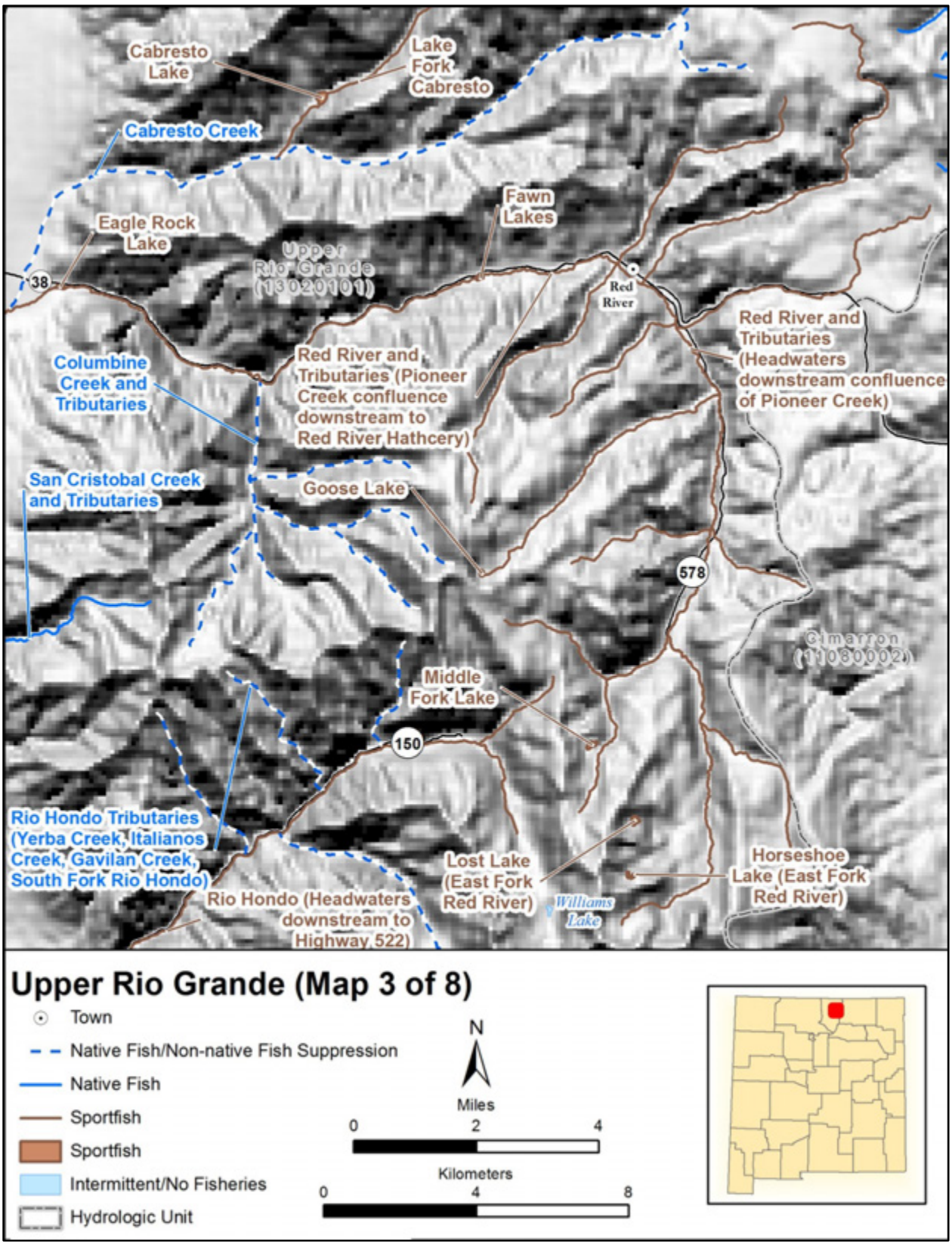

Figure 36. Upper Rio Grande (Map 3 of 8)

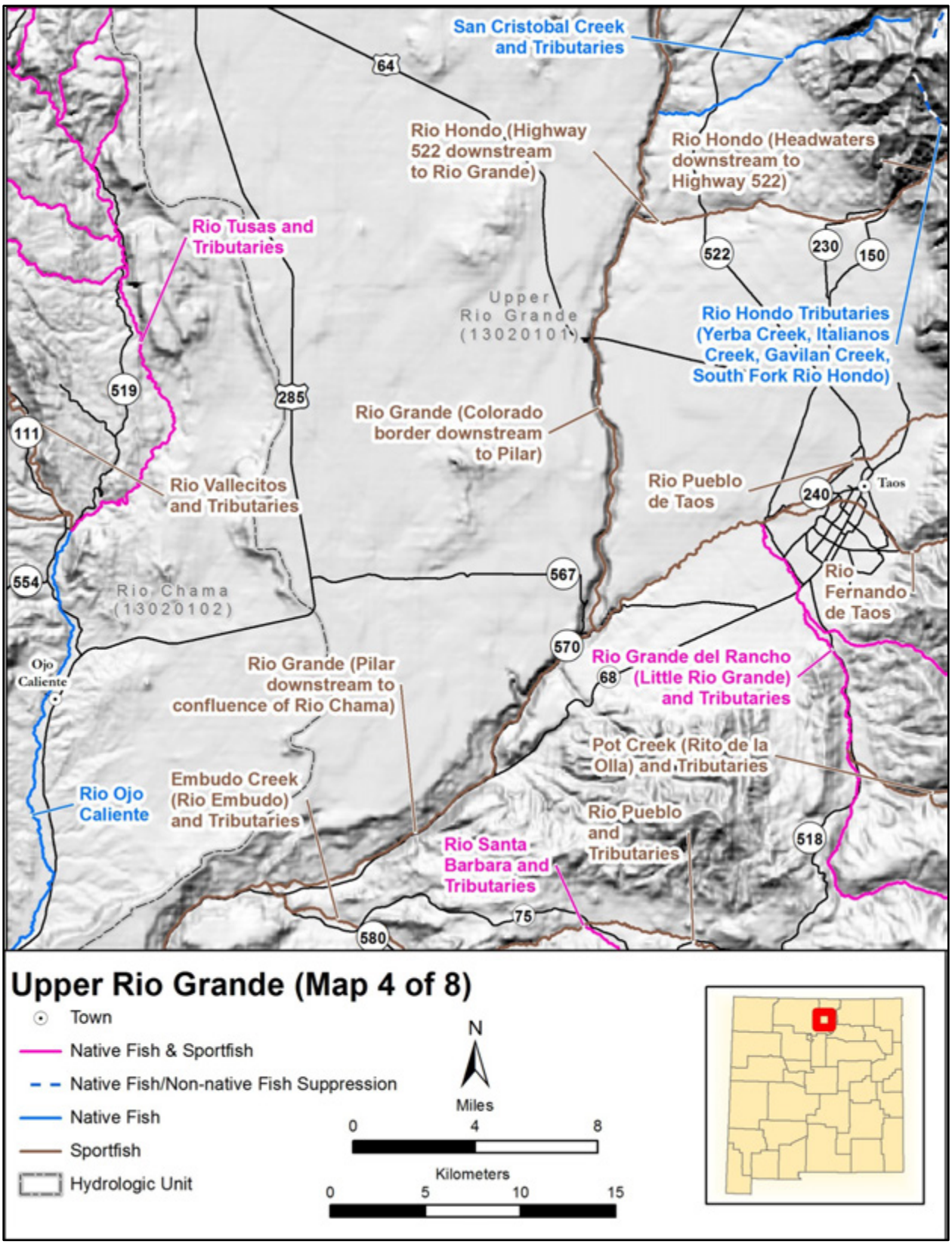

Figure 37. Upper Rio Grande (Map 4 of 8)

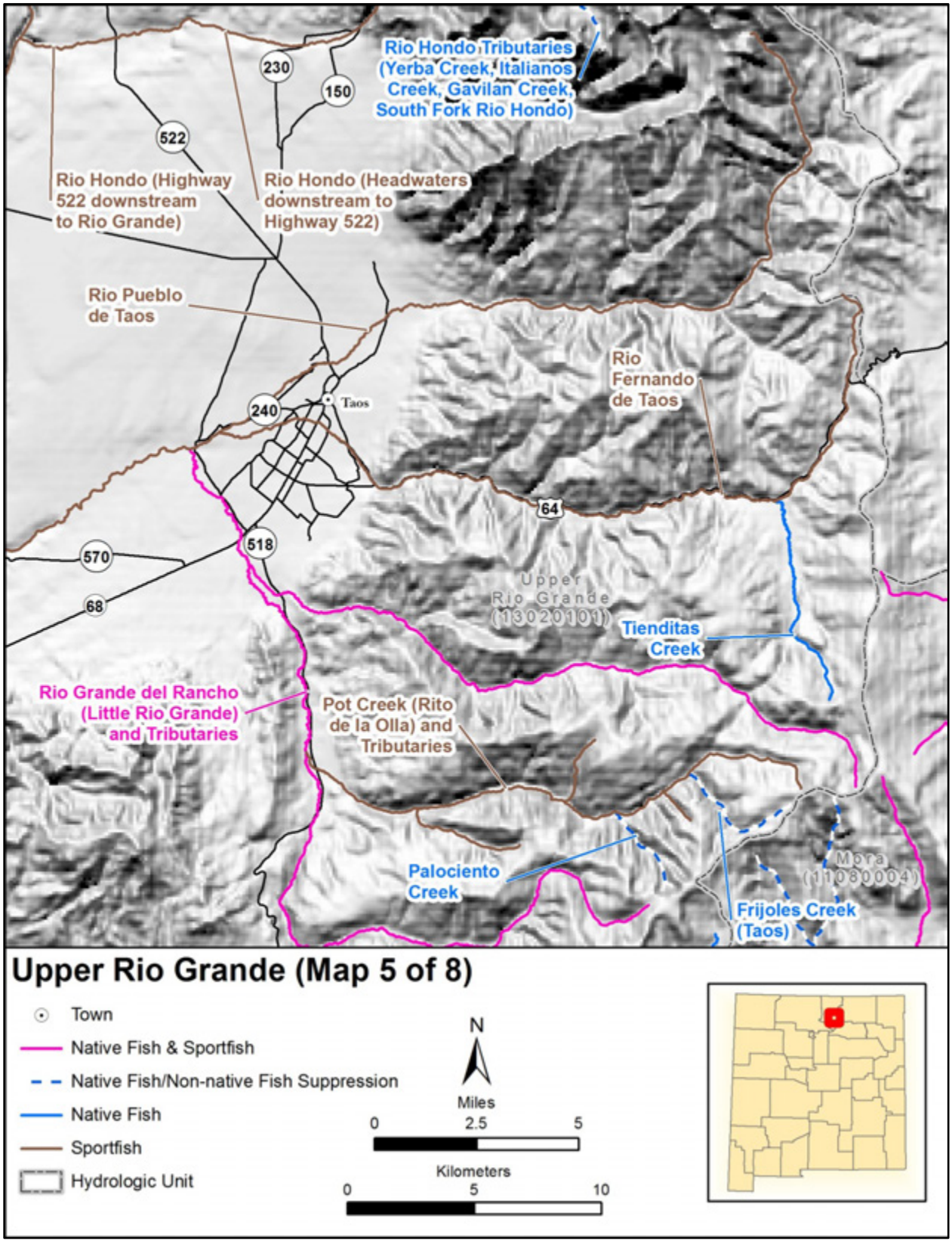

Figure 38. Upper Rio Grande (Map 5 of 8)

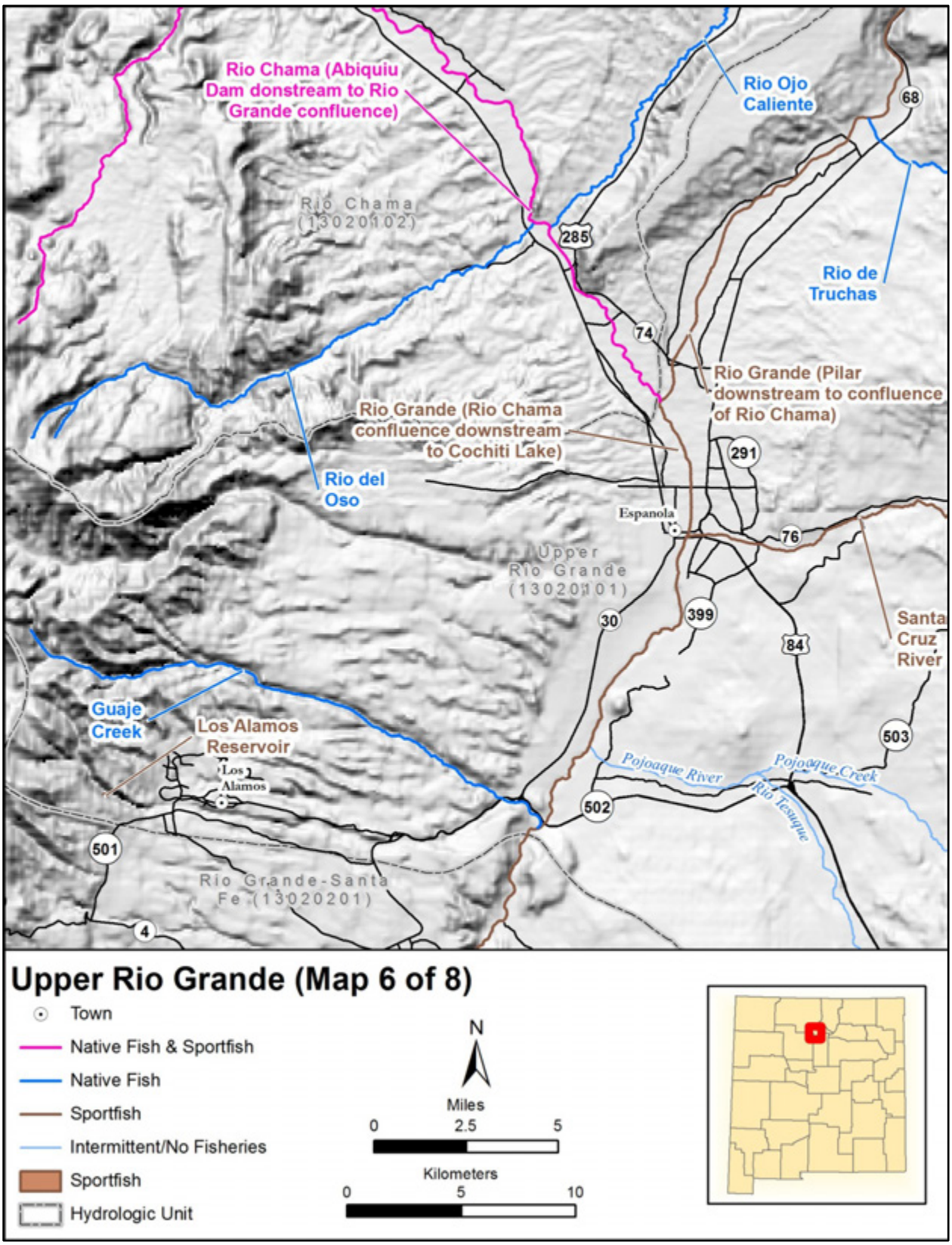

Figure 39. Upper Rio Grande (Map 6 of 8)

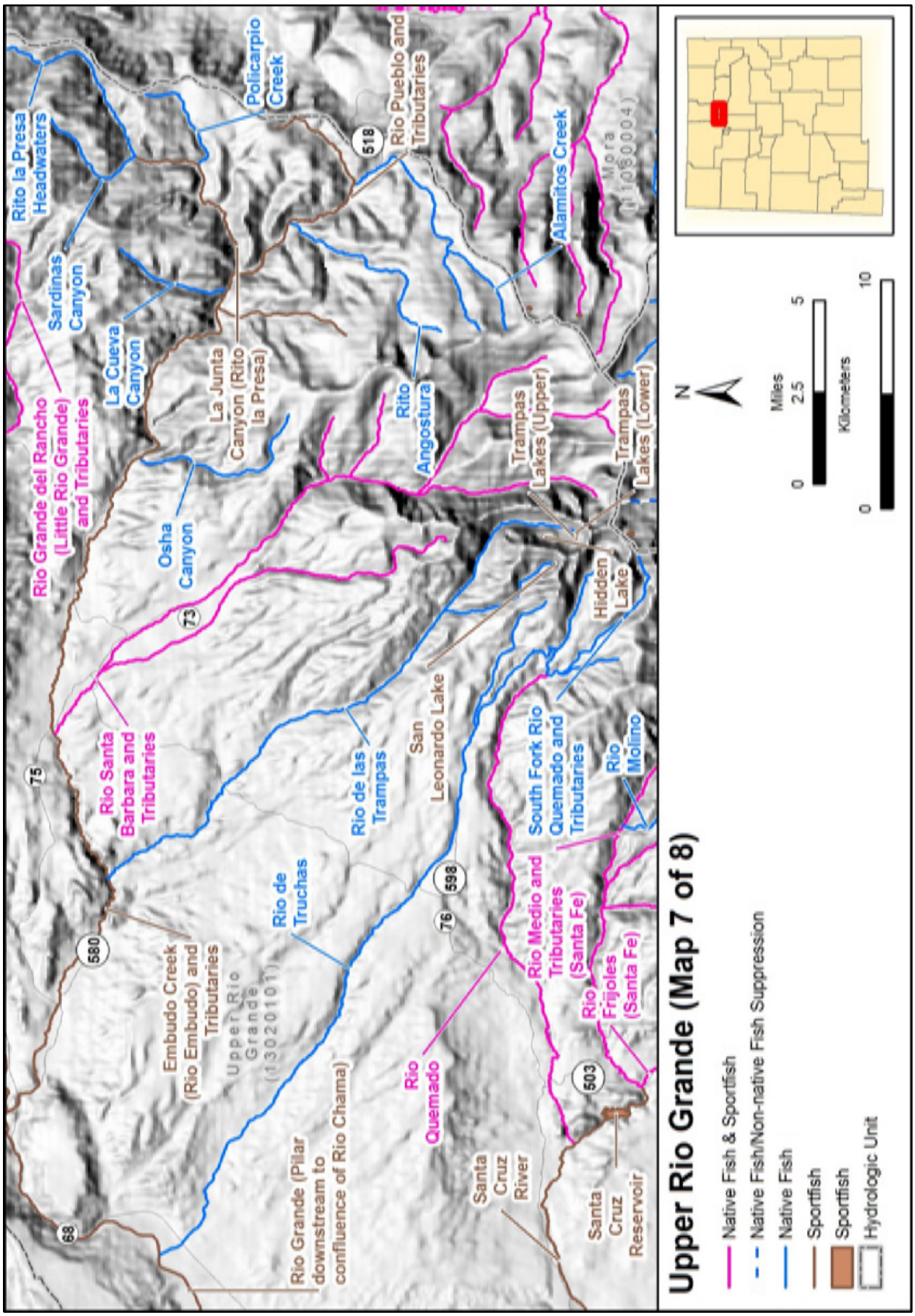

Figure 40. Upper Rio Grande (Map 7 of 8)

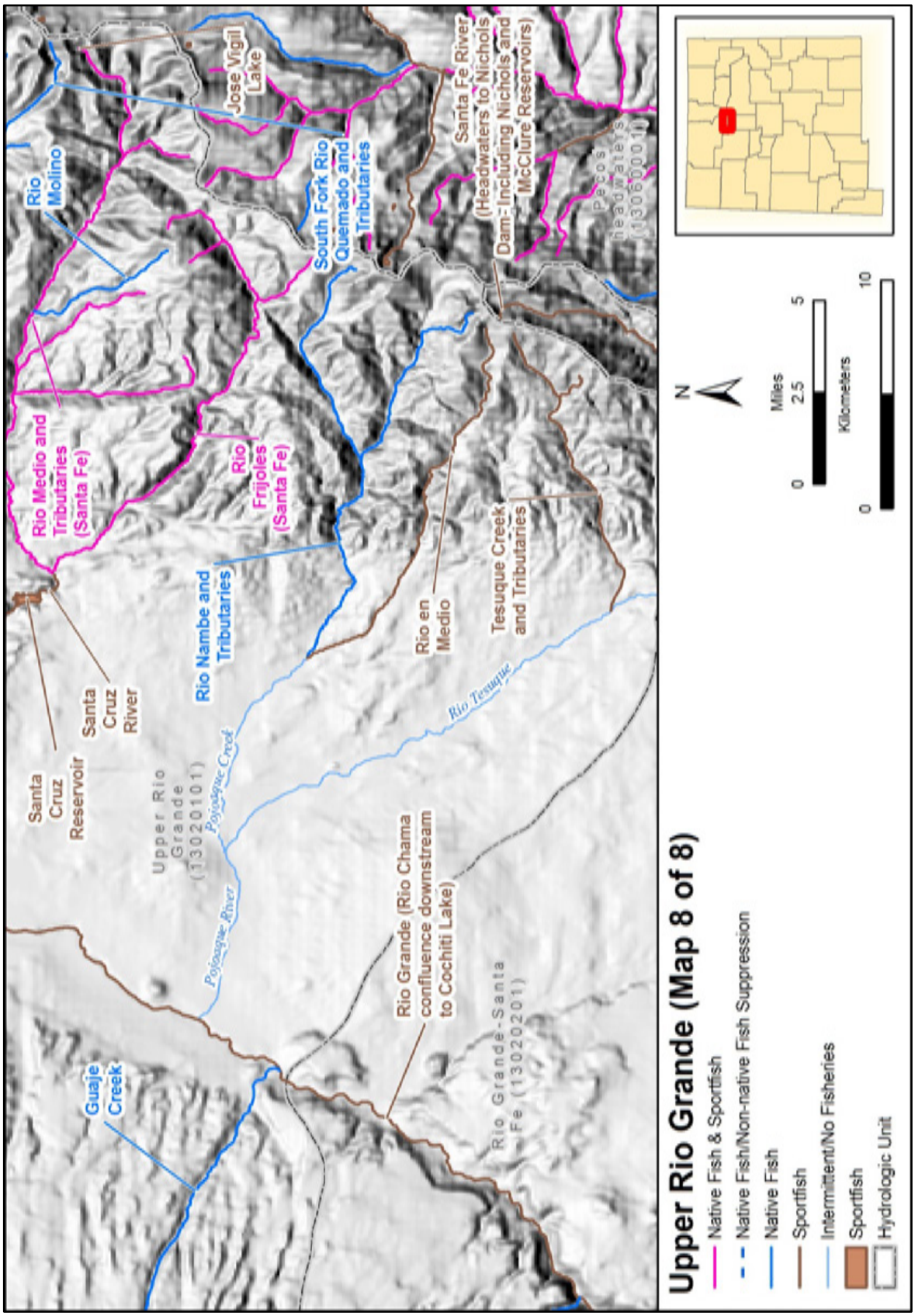

Figure 41. Upper Rio Grande (Map 8 of 8)

HUC 13020102 Rio Chama

Management Direction for HUC 13020102 Rio Chama

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Placer Creek	Brook Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Hopewell Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Brook Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Abundance of brook trout uncertain.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate stocking fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout as part of recreational stocking study.**
Rio Tusas and Tributaries	Rainbow Trout	Wild	Rainbow trout and cutthroat trout population in upper drainage. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub and sucker present in lower drainage. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub and sucker present in lower drainage. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Rio Vallecitos and Tributaries	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Jaroso Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
El Rito Creek and Tributaries	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout upstream of fish migration barrier near Salvador Canyon. Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout downstream of barrier. **Investigate stocking fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout as part of recreational stocking study in lower reaches.**
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub present in lower drainage. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Rio Ojo Caliente	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub and sucker present. Lower sections are ephemeral during dry season. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub and sucker present. Lower sections are ephemeral during dry season. Seek to maintain their distribution.

Management Direction for HUC 13020102 Rio Chama			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Rio Chama and Tributaries (Stateline downstream to Village of Chama)	Brown Trout	Wild	No stocking upstream of Village of Chama. No current population data. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rainbow Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
East Fork Wolf Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rio Chama between Village of Chama and El Vado Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout annually. Leased access in Village of Chama.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Special Trout Water regulation (two trout >12 inches, artificial fly or lure with single, barbless hook) within posted portion of Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. **Investigate effectiveness of Special Trout Water Regulation.**
Rio Chama (El Vado Dam downstream to Abiquiu Lake)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Brown Trout	Wild	**Investigate and propose amendments for regulations which support Quality angling experience for wild trout.**
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout annually and monitor to document recruitment.
Rio Chama (Abiquiu Dam donstream to Rio Grande confluence)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Special Trout Water regulation (three trout, any length, any legal tackle or bait) from Abiquiu Dam downstream 7 miles to U.S. Highway 84 bridge. Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout annually in tailwater.
	Brown Trout	Wild	**Investigate and propose amendments for regulations which support Quality angling experience for wild trout.**
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub collected during previous surveys. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Flathead Chub	Native Fish	Flathead chub collected during previous surveys. Seek to maintain their distribution.

Management Direction for HUC 13020102 Rio Chama

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Heron Reservoir	Kokanee Salmon	Put, Grow and Take	Primary source for statewide Kokanee broodstock. Kokanee season closed October-mid Nov for Kokanee spawn. Stock at 100 fingerlings/surface acre. Annual stocking rate varies by reservoir elevation.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Rainbow trout stocked by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service per mitigation measures for the Colorado River Storage Act. Continued stocking uncertain due to federal reduction in recreational hatchery budget.
	Lake Trout	Wild	Lake trout introduced in the 1980s and is the only lake trout fishery in New Mexico. Maintain regulations to support angling for lake trout.
El Vado Reservoir	Kokanee Salmon	Put, Grow and Take	Lake experiences large fluctuations due to irrigation demands limiting fishery potential. Stock at 100 fingerlings/surface acre. Annual stocking rate varies by reservoir elevation.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling triploid rainbow trout.
Abiquiu Reservoir	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 100 advanced fry/surface acre. Annual stocking varies with reservoir elevation.
	Channel Catfish	Wild	Maintain regulations to support catfish angling.
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water.
	Kokanee Salmon	Put, Grow and Take	Stock Kokanee at 100 fingerlings/ surface acre. Annual stocking varies with reservoir elevation. Low priority water for Kokanee stocking.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling triploid rainbow trout. Investigate success of triploid rainbow trout recruitment.
Rio Chamita and Tributaries	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Investigate riparian restoration opportunities on Sargent Wildlife Management Area to benefit aquatic and terrestrial species and restoration for Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Special Trout Water regulation (two trout, any length, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook) on Sargent Wildlife Management Area. **Investigate effectiveness of Special Trout Water regulation.**
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub present.

Management Direction for HUC 13020102 Rio Chama

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Nabor Creek to below Nabor Dam (including Nabor Lake)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook).
Canones Creek (San Juans) and Tributaries	Brown Trout	Wild	Almost entirely on private and Jicarilla Apache property.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Almost entirely on private and Jicarilla Apache property. Small population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in headwaters of Poso Creek.
Laguna del Campo	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Special Trout Water regulation (three trout, any length).
Rio Brazos and Tributaries	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout annually on Department leased access on the Rio Brazos. Predominantly privately owned.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Rito Tierra Amarilla and Tributaries	Cutthroat Trout	Wild	Almost entirely on private property. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout
	Rainbow Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Nutrias (Trout) Lakes	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Reintroduction of boreal toad attempted here.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate stocking fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout as part of recreational stocking study.**
Canjilon Lakes	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Carson NF working on large-scale dredging/renovation project at these lakes.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Investigate stocking fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout as part of recreational stocking study.**
Canjilon Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rio Cebolla (Rio Arriba) and Tributaries	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub present. Seek to maintain their distribution.

Management Direction for HUC 13020102 Rio Chama

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
	Trout	Wild	Almost entirely on private land. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Rio Nutrias (Rio Arriba) and Tributaries	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub present. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Trout	Wild	Almost entirely on private land. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Rio Puerco (East) and Tributaries	Cutthroat Trout	Wild	Hybridized cutthroat trout population in the headwaters. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rainbow Trout	Wild	Rainbow trout present in lower reaches. Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Coyote Creek (Rio Arriba)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout in the spring.
Cañones Creek (Jemez) and Tributaries	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Polvadera Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Population possibly lost after the South Fork wildfire. Repatriate Rio Grande cutthroat trout after the watershed recovers.
Chihuahueños Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rio del Oso	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Severely impacted by the Las Conchas wildfire. Previously inhabited by a small Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Repatriate Rio Grande cutthroat trout if habitat is suitable in the future.
Rio Gallina and Tributaries	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout in the spring. Assess whether stocking is still prudent due to limited access.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Brazos Lodge Pond	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout in the early summer.
Little Willow Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout almost entirely on Jicarilla Apache property.

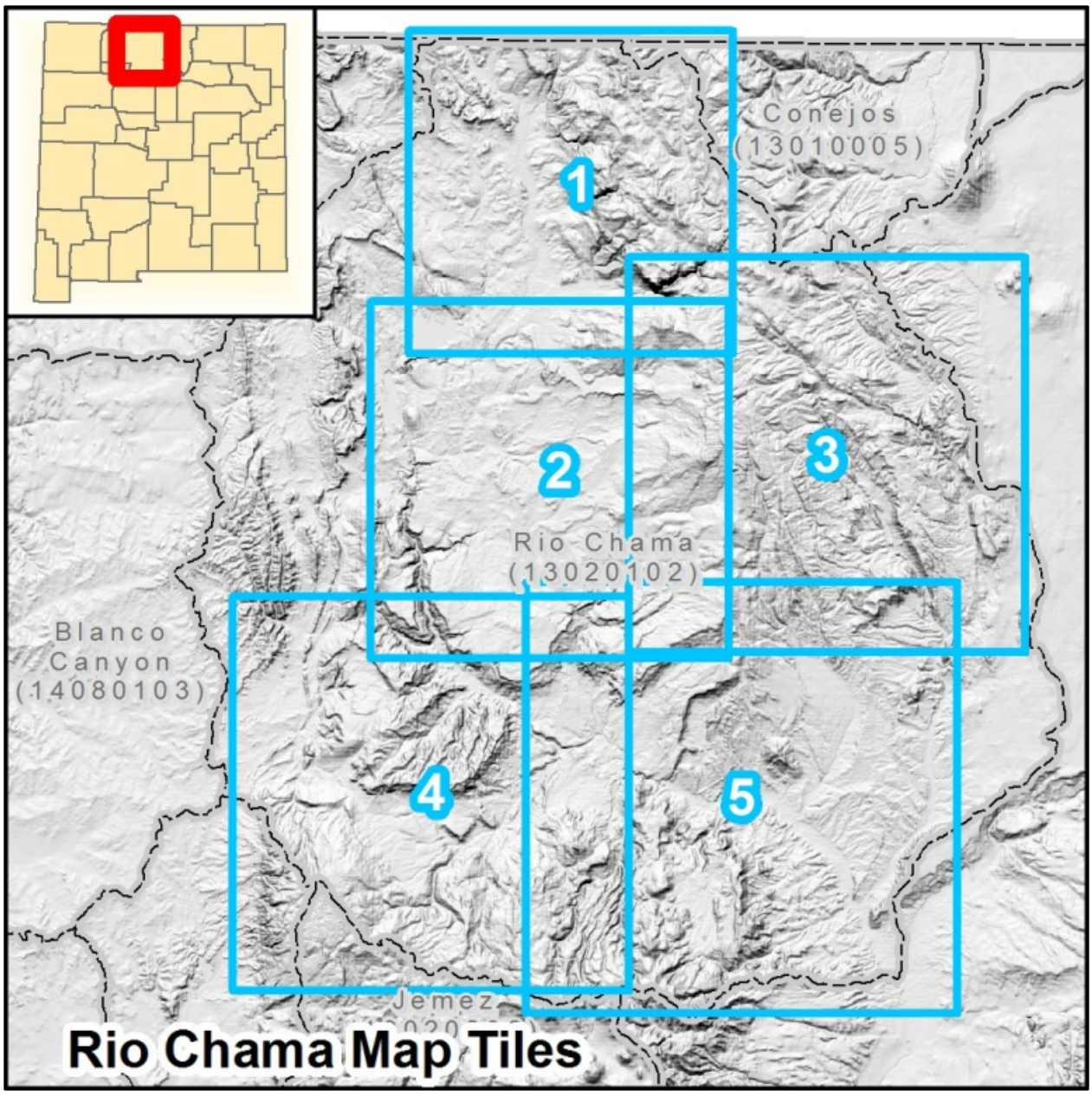

Figure 42. Rio Chama Map Tiles

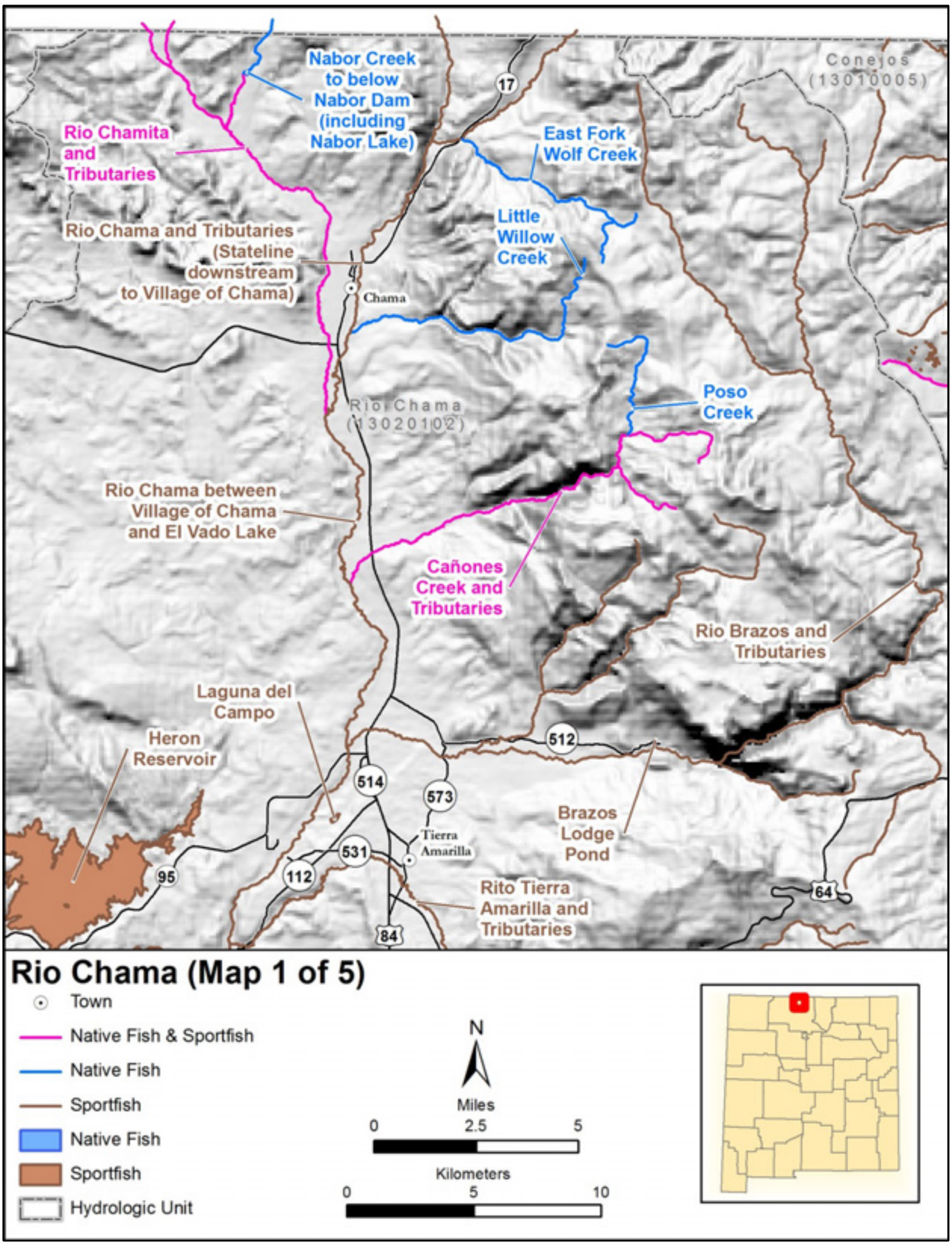

Figure 43. Rio Chama (Map 1 of 5)

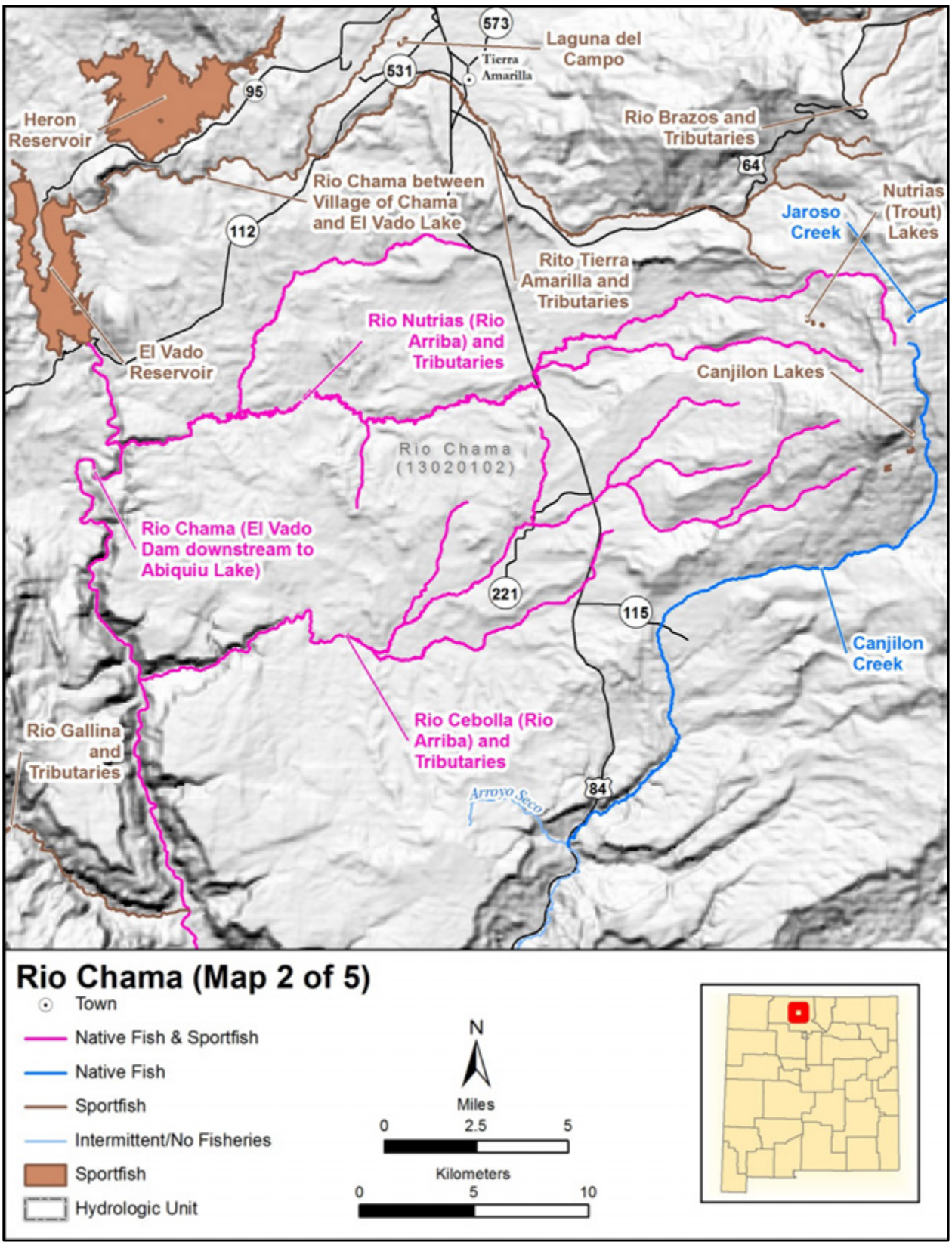

Figure 44. Rio Chama (Map 2 of 5)

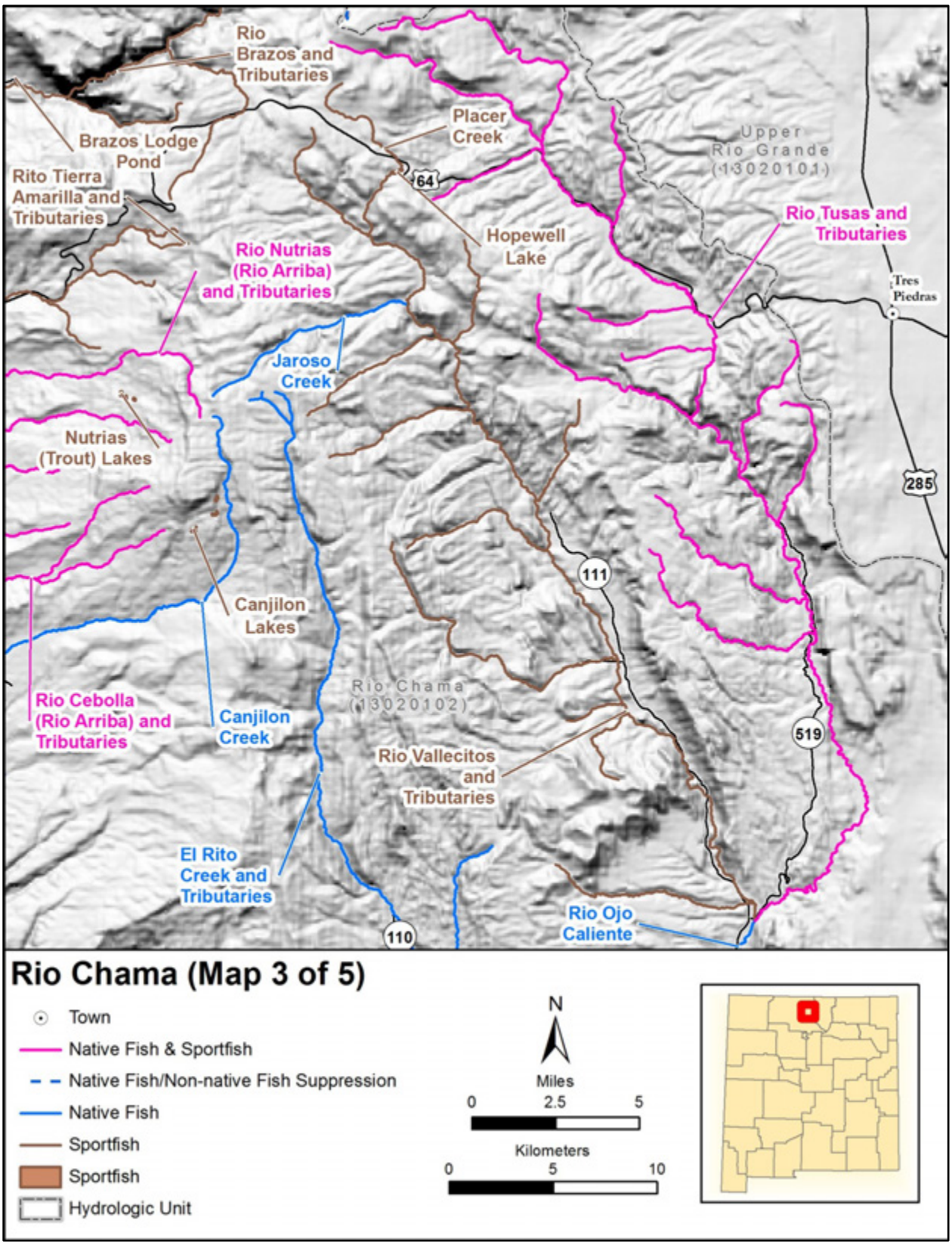

Figure 45. Rio Chama (Map 3 of 5)

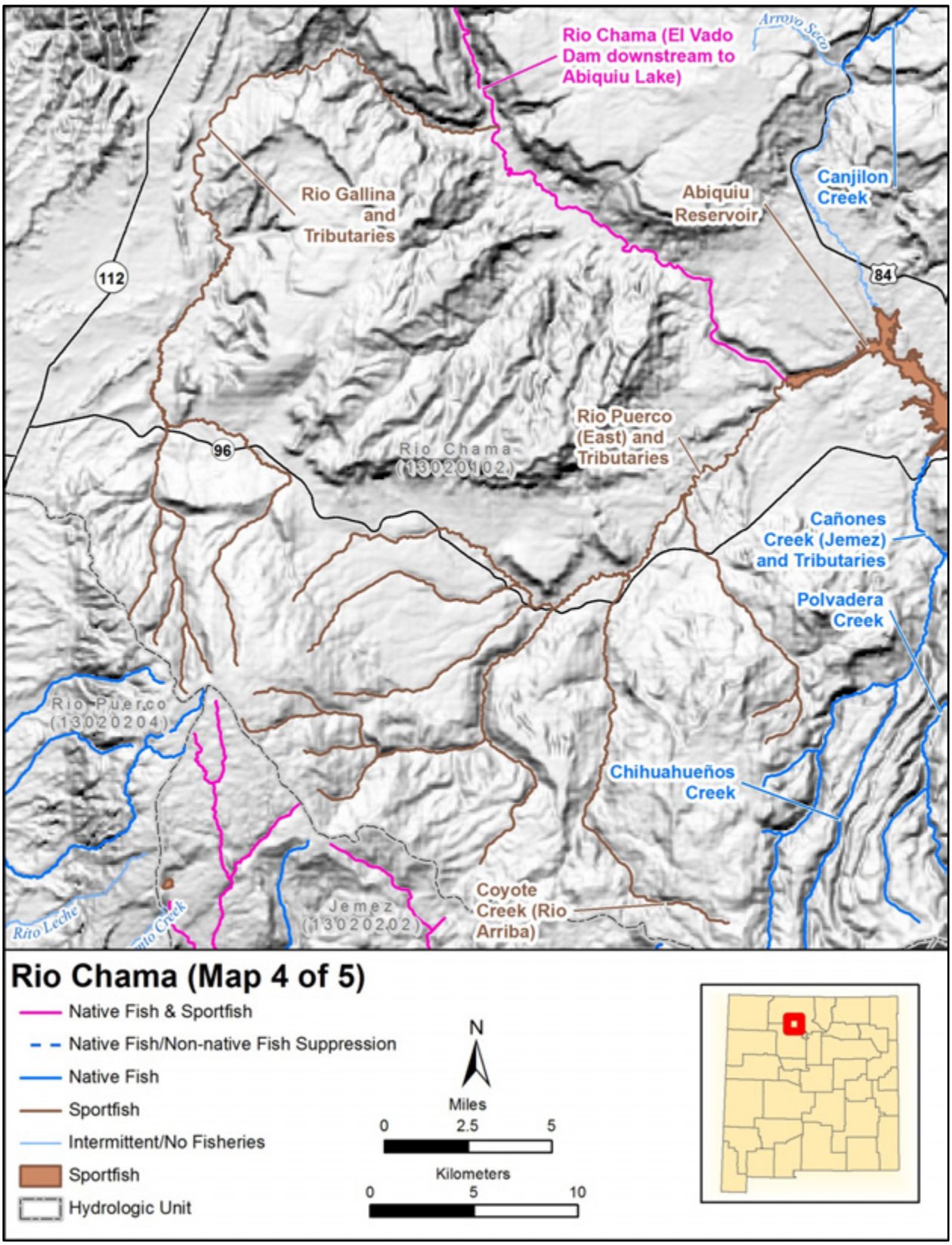

Figure 46. Rio Chama (Map 4 of 5)

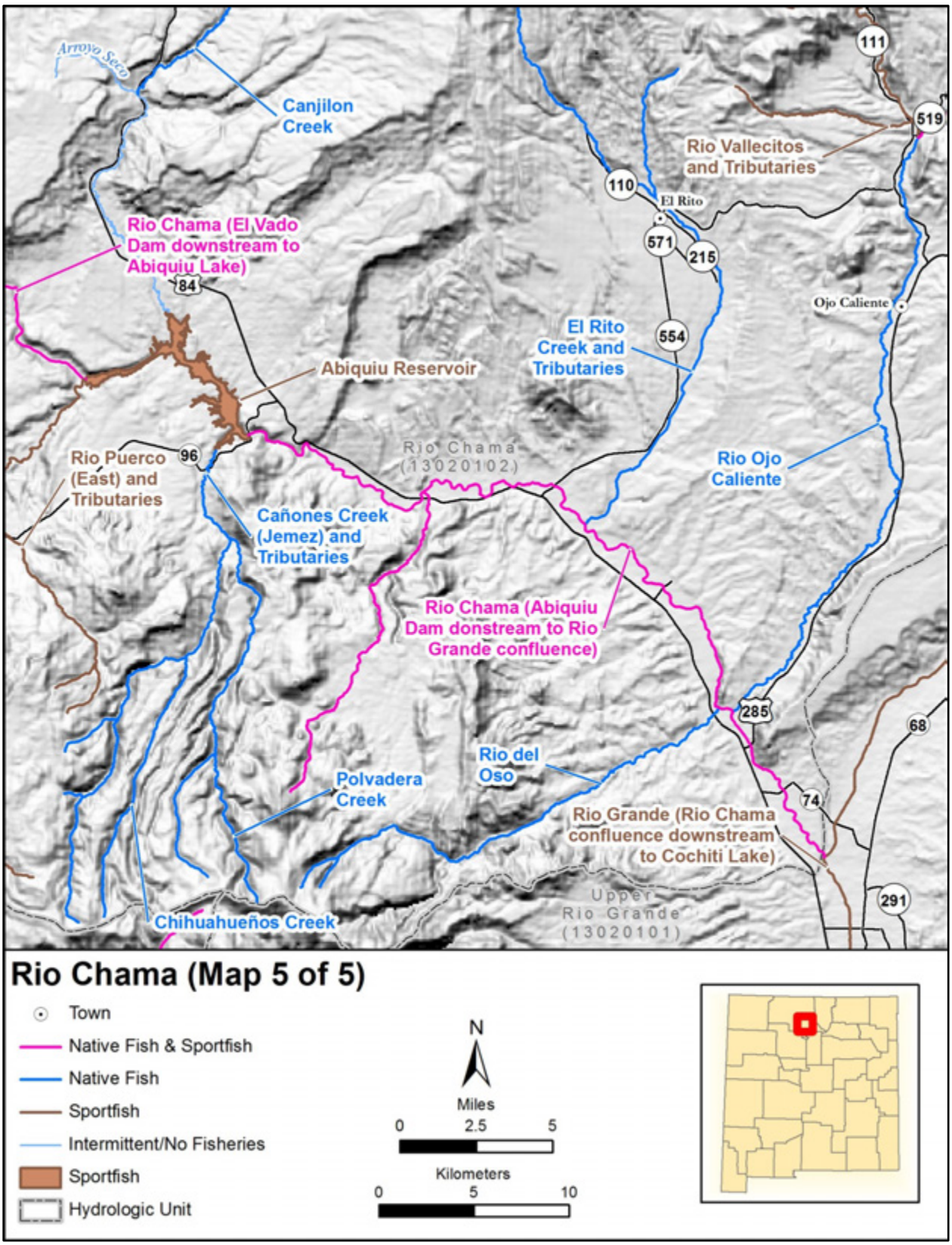

Figure 47. Rio Chama (Map 5 of 5)

HUC 13020201 Rio Grande - Santa Fe

Management Direction for HUC 13020201 Rio Grande-Santa Fe

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Cochiti Lake	**Walleye**	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Collaborate with Cochiti Pueblo and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to investigate potential for stocking walleye. If stocked, monitor in the reservoir and in downstream areas to document recruitment and assess reservoir escapement to Rio Grande silvery minnow Critical Habitat. Maintain statewide walleye regulations.**
	Largemouth Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water.
	Northern Pike	Wild	Maintain regulations to support northern pike fishery.
Rito de los Frijoles (Frijoles Creek - Los Alamos)	**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout**	**Native Fish**	**Entirely within Bandelier National Monument. Heavily impacted by Los Conchas wildfire and subsequent flooding and non-native salmonids believed to have been extirpated. Considered for repatriation of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in collaboration with the National Park Service.**
Capulin Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Severely impacted by Dome and Las Conchas wildfires. Contained Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout prior to the Las Conchas wildfire. Will be restocked with Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook) through entire watershed.
Santa Fe River (Headwaters to Nichols Dam-Including Nichols and McClure Reservoirs)	Rainbow Trout	Wild	Upper Santa Fe River from near Randall Davey Audubon Center upstream to headwaters is closed to the public. Rainbow trout inhabit this reach including both Nichols and McClure Reservoirs.
Santa Fe River (Nichols Dam to wastewater treatment plant)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout in coordination with the City of Santa Fe fishing derby. Stream routinely dries between Nichols Reservoir and wastewater treatment plan.
Santa Fe River (Wastewater treatment plant to Rio Grande)	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub are abundant in the reach between wastewater treatment plant and the Rio Grande. Reach is partially within the jurisdiction of Cochiti Pueblo. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande sucker are abundant in the reach between wastewater treatment plant and the Rio Grande. Seek to maintain their distribution.

Management Direction for HUC 13020201 Rio Grande-Santa Fe			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Peralta Creek	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Severely impacted by the Las Conchas wildfire. Cutthroat trout population believed to have been extirpated. Will be stocked with Rio Grande cutthroat trout when watershed recovers.
Cochiti Creek and Tributaries	**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout**	**Native Fish**	**Severely impacted by the Las Conchas wildlfire. Brook trout and rainbow trout present prior to Las Conchas wildfire with small Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout also present in Medio Dia Creek. Will be stocked with Rio Grande cutthroat trout when watershed recovers.**
Las Huertas Creek (Ellis Creek)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Formerly stocked once per year with catchable sized rainbow trout. Last stocked in 2010 and subject to drying.
Sanchez Canyon	**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout**	**Native Fish**	**Severely impacted by Dome and Las Conchas wildfires. Has existing natural barrier. Evaluate for Rio Grande cutthroat trout repatriation.**

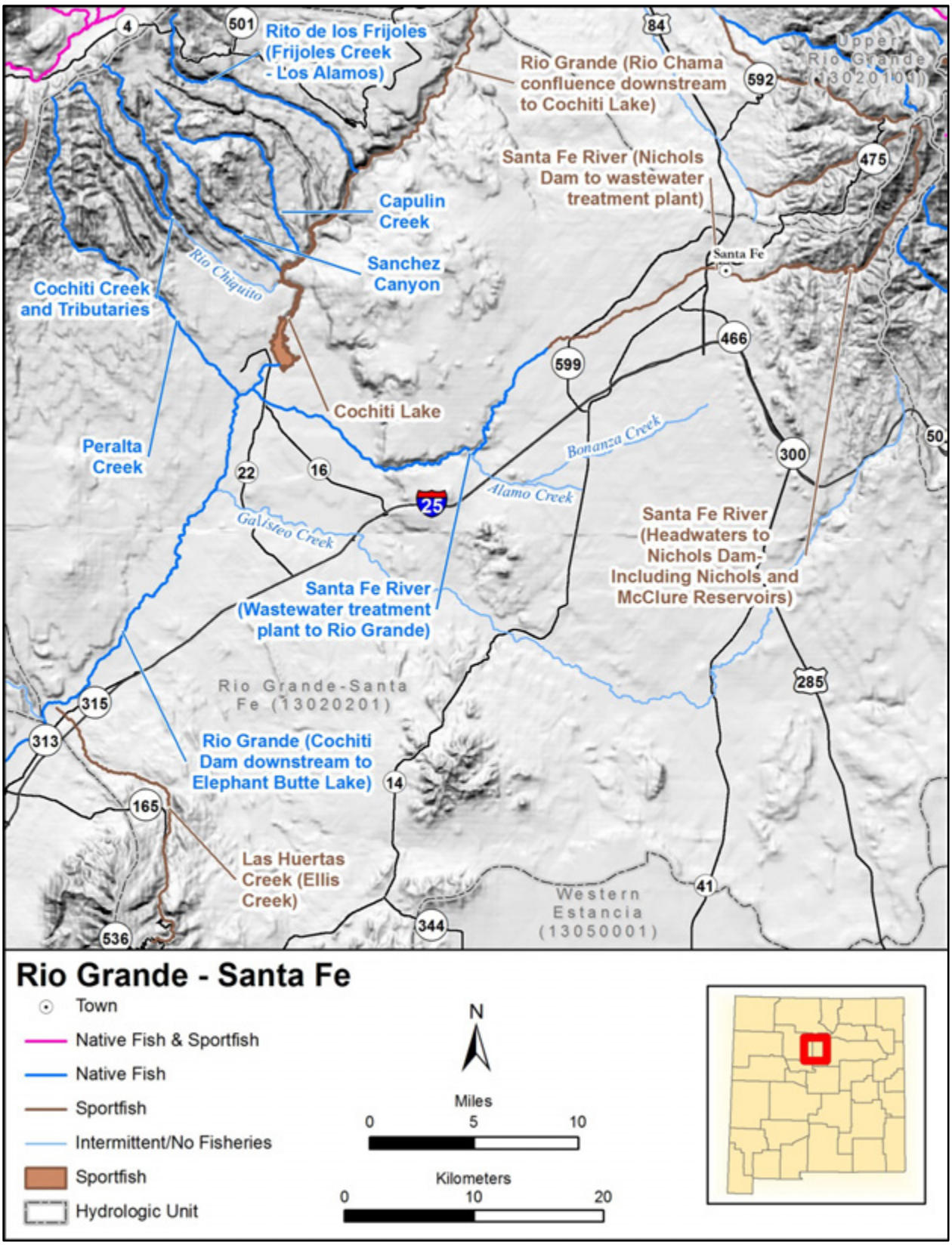

Figure 48. Rio Grande - Santa Fe

HUC 13020202 Jemez, 13020204 Rio Puerco, 13020207 Rio San Jose

Management Direction for HUC 13020202 Jemez, 13020204 Rio Puerco, 13020207 Rio San Jose

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
San Gregorio Reservoir	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout in early summer. U.S. Forest Service restrictions on stocking methodology. Consistent winterkill conditions necessitates annual catchable stocking.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	**Put and Take**	**Investigate stocking fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout as part of recreational stocking study.**
East Fork Jemez River and Tributaries	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Upper reaches are within the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout downstream of East Fork Trailhead and Valles Caldera boundary.
	Brown Trout	Wild	**Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Special Trout Water regulation (two fish per day, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook) on Valles Caldera National Preserve.**
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout on Forest Service property as part of recreational stocking study.
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Populations of Rio Grande chub present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Populations of Rio Grande sucker present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
San Antonio Creek and Tributaries	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Upper reach and tributary (Rio de los Indios) are within Valles Caldera National Preserve. Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout downstream of Valles Caldera boundary.
	Brown Trout	Wild	**Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Special Trout Water regulation (two fish per day, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook) on Valles Caldera National Preserve including 2.0 miles downstream of Preserve boundary..**
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout as part of recreational stocking study.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Populations of Rio Grande sucker present within this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Populations of Rio Grande chub sucker present within this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.

Management Direction for HUC 13020202 Jemez, 13020204 Rio Puerco, 13020207 Rio San Jose			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Rio de Las Vacas and Tributaries (Fish Barrier near NM 126 crossing to confluence with Rio Cebolla)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Turbidity and temperature limit wild trout opportunities.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout downstream of the Rio de Las Vacas Campground as part of recreational stocking study.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande sucker are abundant in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub are abundant in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Rio de Las Vacas and Tributaries (Headwaters downstream to Fish Barrier near Highway 126)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Suppression is difficult due to high habitat complexity and length of stream containing Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
	Brown Trout	Wild	**Investigate regulations which assist with suppression efforts.** Suppression of brown trout is difficult due to habitat complexity and stream length.
Rito de Las Palomas	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Rio Cebolla (Headwaters downstream to and including McKinney Pond)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. McKinney Dam needs refurbishment (USFS). Non-native suppression occurred here annually from 2005-2013 and will likely continue, although not as frequently. Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook) for the entire reach.
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Periodically remove brown trout to maintain the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population. Suppression occurred annually from 2005-2013. Less frequent removals will continue. **Maintain regulations which assist with suppression efforts**.

Management Direction for HUC 13020202 Jemez, 13020204 Rio Puerco, 13020207 Rio San Jose			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Rio Cebolla (below McKinney Pond to Fenton Lake)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout downstream of Seven Springs Hatchery.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout. Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook) upstream of Seven Springs Day Use area. **Investigate effectiveness of Special Trout water regulation**.
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout annually as part of recreational stocking study.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande sucker are present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub are present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Fenton Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Excessive sedimentation resulting from the Lake wildfire will require future dredging.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Rio Cebolla (Fenton Lake to Rio Guadalupe)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout as part of recreational stocking study (Part of Rio Guadalupe stocking).
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande sucker are present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub are present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Rio Guadalupe	Brown Trout	Wild	Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release only, artificial fly or lure, single barbless hook) from Porter Landing Bridge 1.3 miles downstream to Llano Loco Spring. **Investigate effectiveness of Special Trout Water regulation and consider regulations which support a Quality wild trout angling experience.**
	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout as part of recreational stocking study.
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub are present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande sucker are present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.

Management Direction for HUC 13020202 Jemez, 13020204 Rio Puerco, 13020207 Rio San Jose			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Jemez River (Battleship Rock downstream to confluence with Rio Guadalupe)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Scheduled for stocking year round though only suitable from September to May.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout though water quality (temperature) limits potential downstream of Jemez Springs.
	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub are present. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande sucker are present though white sucker abundance increasing downstream of Jemez Springs. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Jemez River (Rio Guadalupe confluence downsream to Rio Grande)	N/A	N/A	Almost entirely within boundaries of Zia, Jemez, and Santa Ana Pueblos. Not actively managed by NMGF.
Seven Springs Kids Pond (Brood Pond)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout annually. Access restricted to anglers less than 12 years of age.
Paliza Creek	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout.
Rio Puerco (West) and Tributaries (San Pedro Parks Wilderness)	Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Native Fish	Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Brook trout present in Rito de los Pinos.
Bluewater Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Investigate appropriate stocking rate and season for catchable rainbow trout.
	Channel Catfish	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Stock fingerling channel catfish every other year and monitor for recruitment.**
	Tiger Muskie	Put, Grow and Take	Maintain target density of 4 fish/acre to maximize growth, suppress unwanted goldfish and white sucker, and provide a quality tiger muskie fishery. Stock fingerling tiger muskie annually (possibly less often) to attain target density.
Grant's Riverwalk Pond	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish between May and September. Maintain 2 fish daily bag limit.
Rio Puerco (Nacimiento Creek to Rio Grande)	N/A	N/A	No current data and is primarily ephemeral.

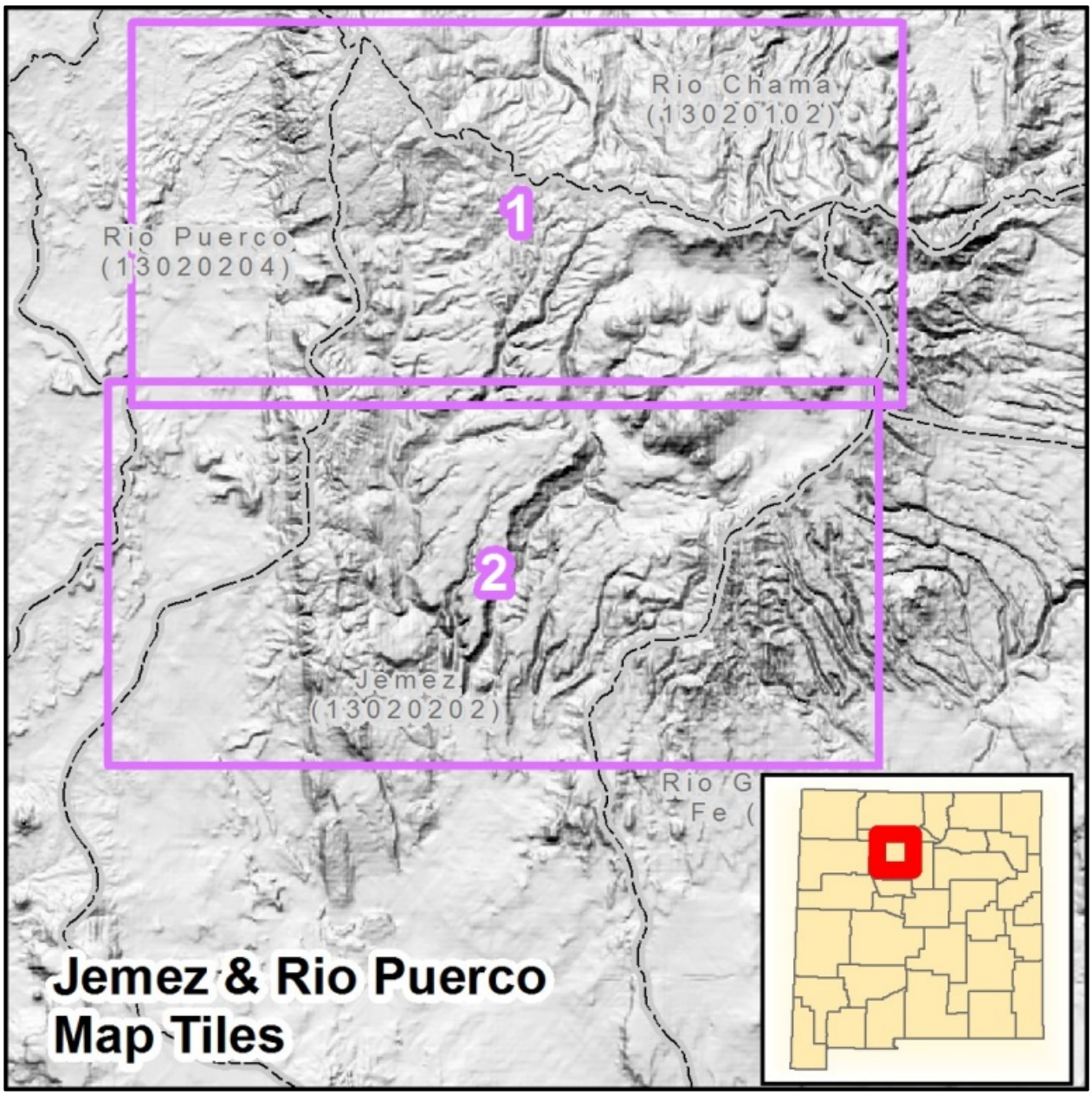

Figure 49. Jemez and Rio Puerco Map Tiles

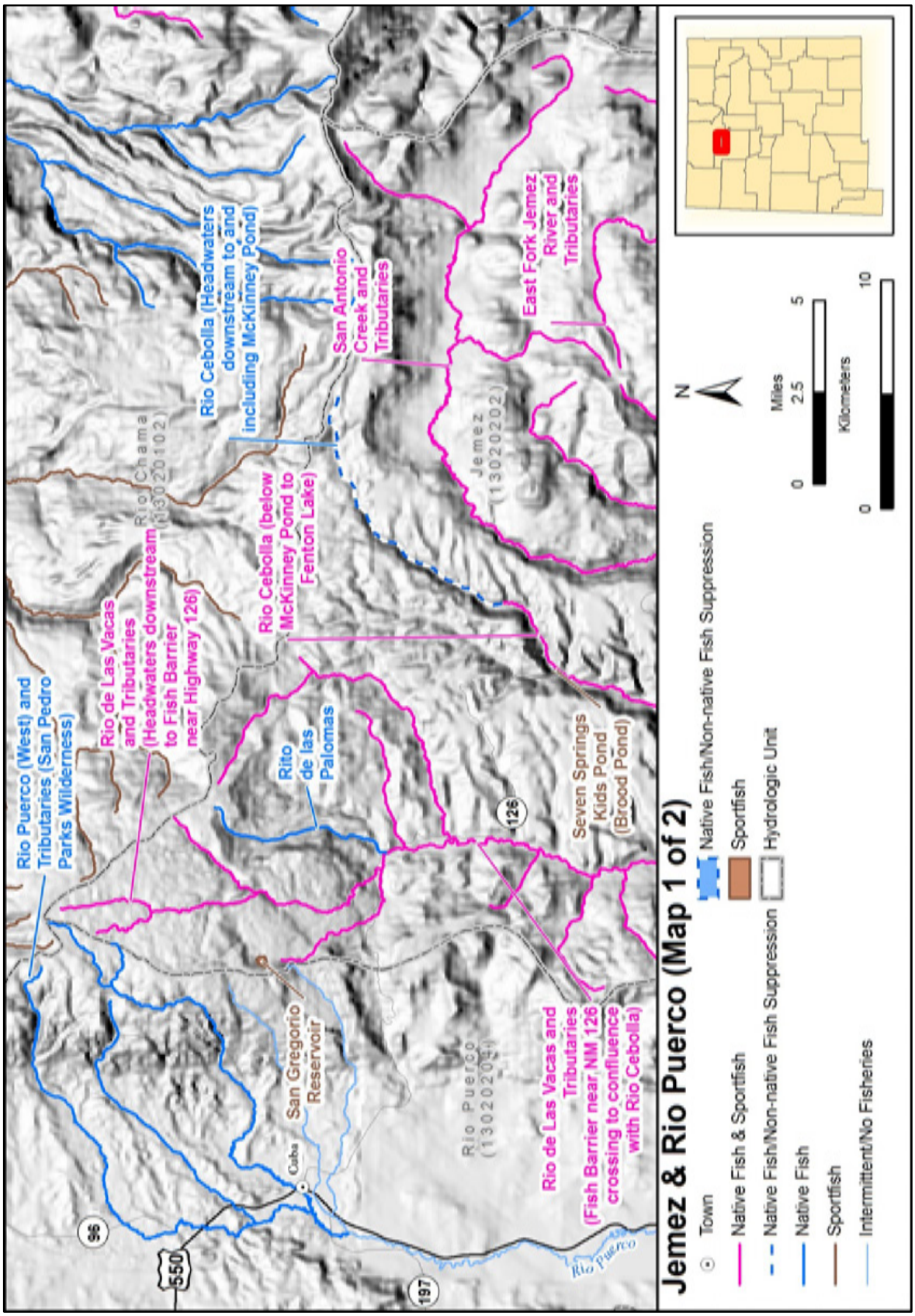

Figure 50. Jemez and Rio Puerco (Map 1 of 2)

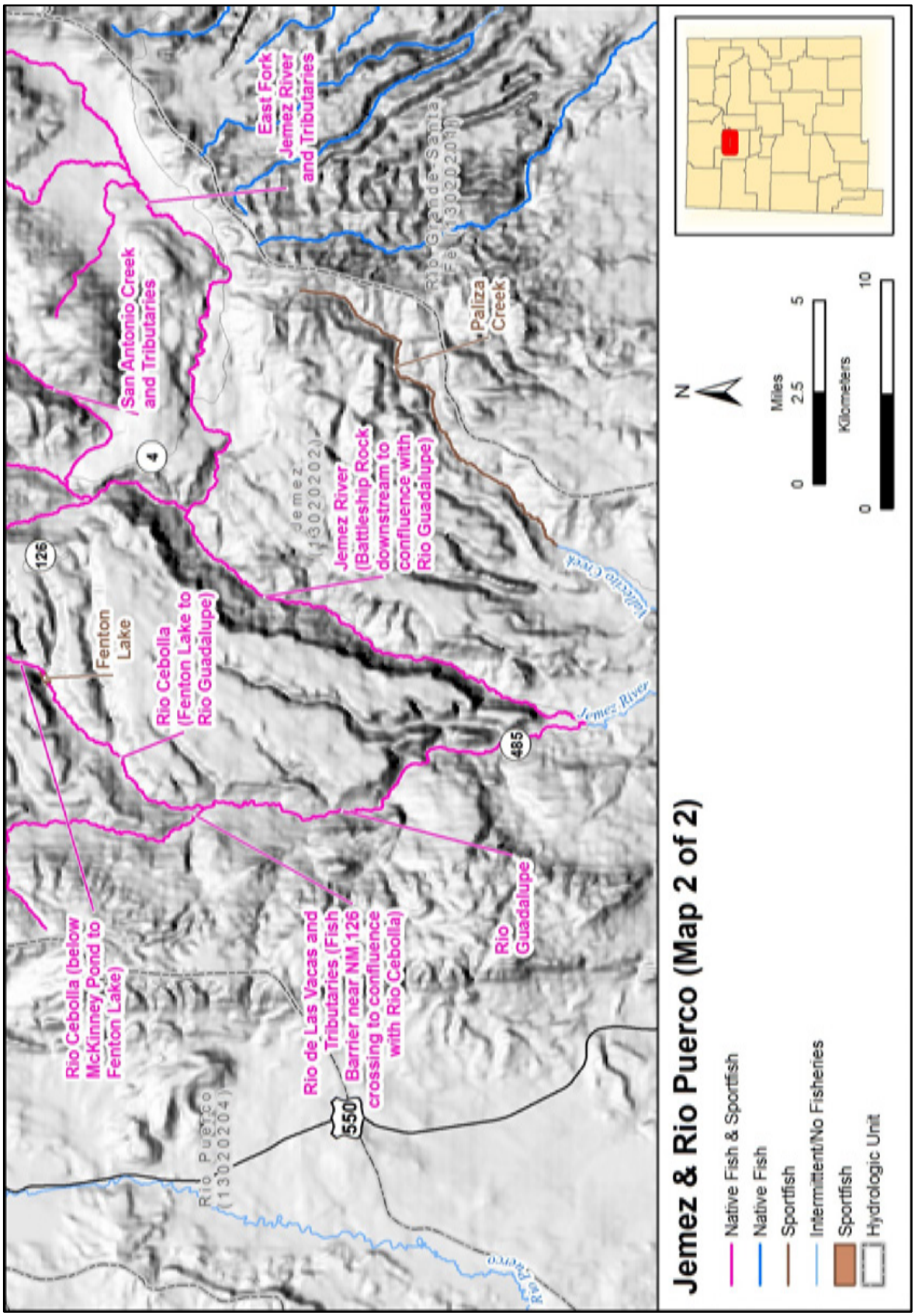

Figure 51. Jemez and Rio Puerco (Map 2 of 2)

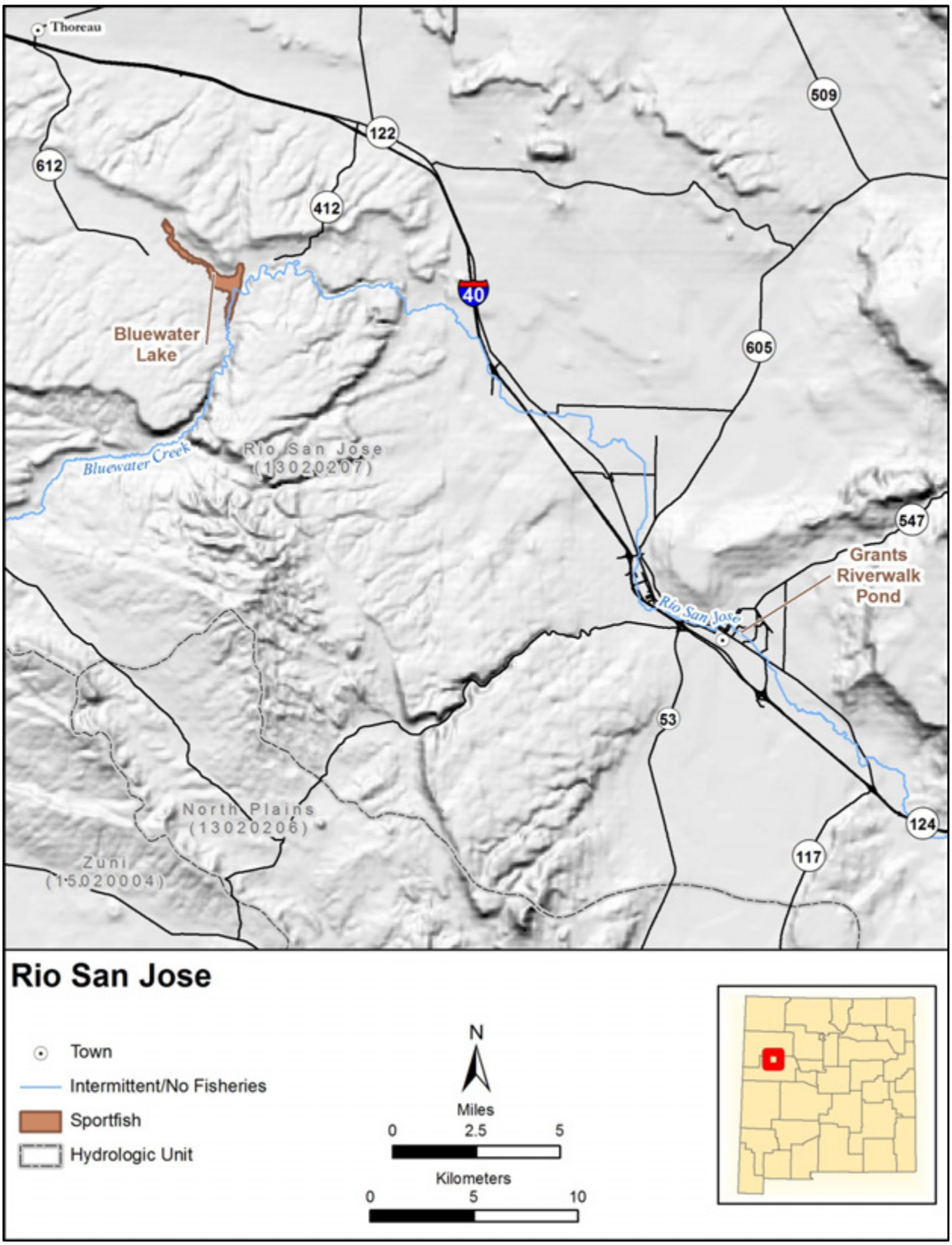

Figure 52. Rio San Jose

HUC 13020203 Rio Grande-Albuquerque, 13020211 Elephant Butte Reservoir, 13030101 Caballo and 13030102 El Paso-Las Cruces

Management Direction for HUC 13020203 Rio Grande-Albuquerque, 13050001 Western Estancia, 13020211 Elephant Butte Reservoir, Rio Grande from Cochiti Dam downstream to Elephant Butte Lake, 13030101 Caballo, and 13030102 El Paso-Las Cruces

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Rio Grande (Cochiti Dam downstream to Elephant Butte Lake)	Rio Grande Silvery Minnow	Native Fish	Designated Critical Habitat for Rio Grande silvery minnow. Intensively managed via the Middle Rio Grande Collaborative Endangered Species Program for Rio Grande silvery minnow recovery.
Tingley Beach	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between October and March. Special Trout Water regulation for Central and Kids Ponds only (four trout, any length, any legal tackle or bait) and southernmost pond (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single, barbless hook).
	Largemouth Bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Stock largemouth bass as necessary to supplement population.
	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish between May and September. Maintain two fish daily bag limit.
Albuquerque Riverside Drain (Upper)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March.
Upper Corrales Riverside Drain	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March.
Bernalillo Riverside Drain	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March.
Albuquerque Riverside Drain (Lower)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March.
Belen Riverside Drain	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March.
Peralta Riverside Drain	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout from November through March.
Escondida Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March.
	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish between May and September. Maintain two fish daily bag limit.

Management Direction for HUC 13020203 Rio Grande-Albuquerque, 13050001 Western Estancia, 13020211 Elephant Butte Reservoir, Rio Grande from Cochiti Dam downstream to Elephant Butte Lake, 13030101 Caballo, and 13030102 El Paso-Las Cruces

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Manzano Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Alamosa Creek	Rio Grande Chub	Native Fish	Rio Grande chub are present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande sucker are present in this reach. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Elephant Butte Lake	Largemouth Bass	Wild/Supplemental stocking	Manage as Recreational Bass water. Supplement largemouth bass population when available.
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	Maintain regulations to support Recreational Bass fishery.
	White Bass	Wild	Maintain regulations to support white bass fishery.
	Catfish (Channel, Blue, Flathead)	Wild	Maintain regulations to support catfish angling.
	Striped Bass	Put, Grow and Take	Stock striped bass at 45 fry/surface acre every other year. Maintain regulations to maintain trophy striped bass potential.
Rio Grande (Elephant Butte Dam downstream to Caballo Lake)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable Triploid Rainbow Trout between November and March. Special Trout Water regulation (three fish, any length).
Caballo Lake	Largemouth Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water.
	White Bass	Wild	Maintain angling regulations to support white bass fishery.
	Walleye	Put, Grow and Take	Stock walleye at 500 fry/surface acre annually. Annual stocking varies with reservoir elevation.
	Channel Catfish	Wild	Maintain angling regulations to support catfish angling.
Ralph Edwards Park Pond	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable rainbow trout for fishing derbies.
	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Stock catchable channel catfish for fishing derbies.
Las Animas Creek and Tributaries	**Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout**	**Native Fish**	**Upper reaches planned for native fish restoration. Severely impacted by Silver Fire (2013) and salmonids are believed to be eliminated. Repatriate with Rio Grande cutthroat trout upon watershed recovery or piscicide treatment (if necessary). Special Trout Water regulation (catch and**

Management Direction for HUC 13020203 Rio Grande-Albuquerque, 13050001 Western Estancia, 13020211 Elephant Butte Reservoir, Rio Grande from Cochiti Dam downstream to Elephant Butte Lake, 13030101 Caballo, and 13030102 El Paso-Las Cruces

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
			release, artifical fly or lure, single, barbless hook) within Gila National Forest boundary.
	Rio Grande Sucker	**Native Fish**	**Believed to be eliminated. Repatriate upon watershed recovery.**
	Rio Grande Chub	**Native Fish**	**Believed to be eliminated. Repatriate upon watershed recovery.**
Palomas Creek	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Grande sucker are present. Seek to maintain their distribution.
Young Pond	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between October and March.
	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish between May and September. Maintain two fish daily bag limit.
Alumni Pond	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between October and March.
	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish between May and September. Maintain two fish daily bag limit.
Burn Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between October and March, water level permitting.
	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish between May and September, water level permitting.
Rio Grande (Caballo Dam to State Line)	N/A	N/A	Dry most of the year.

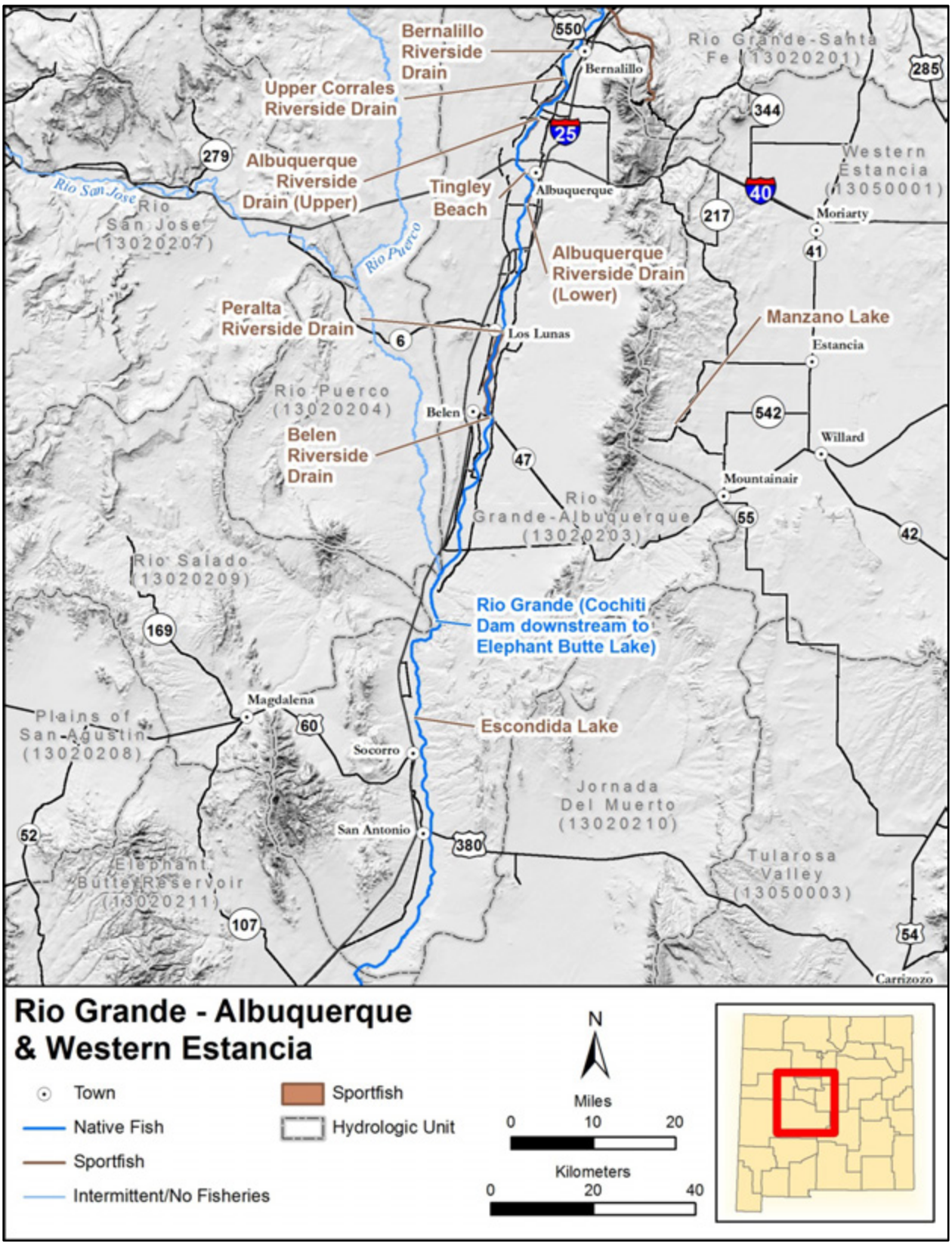

Figure 53. Rio Grande - Albuquerque & Western Estancia

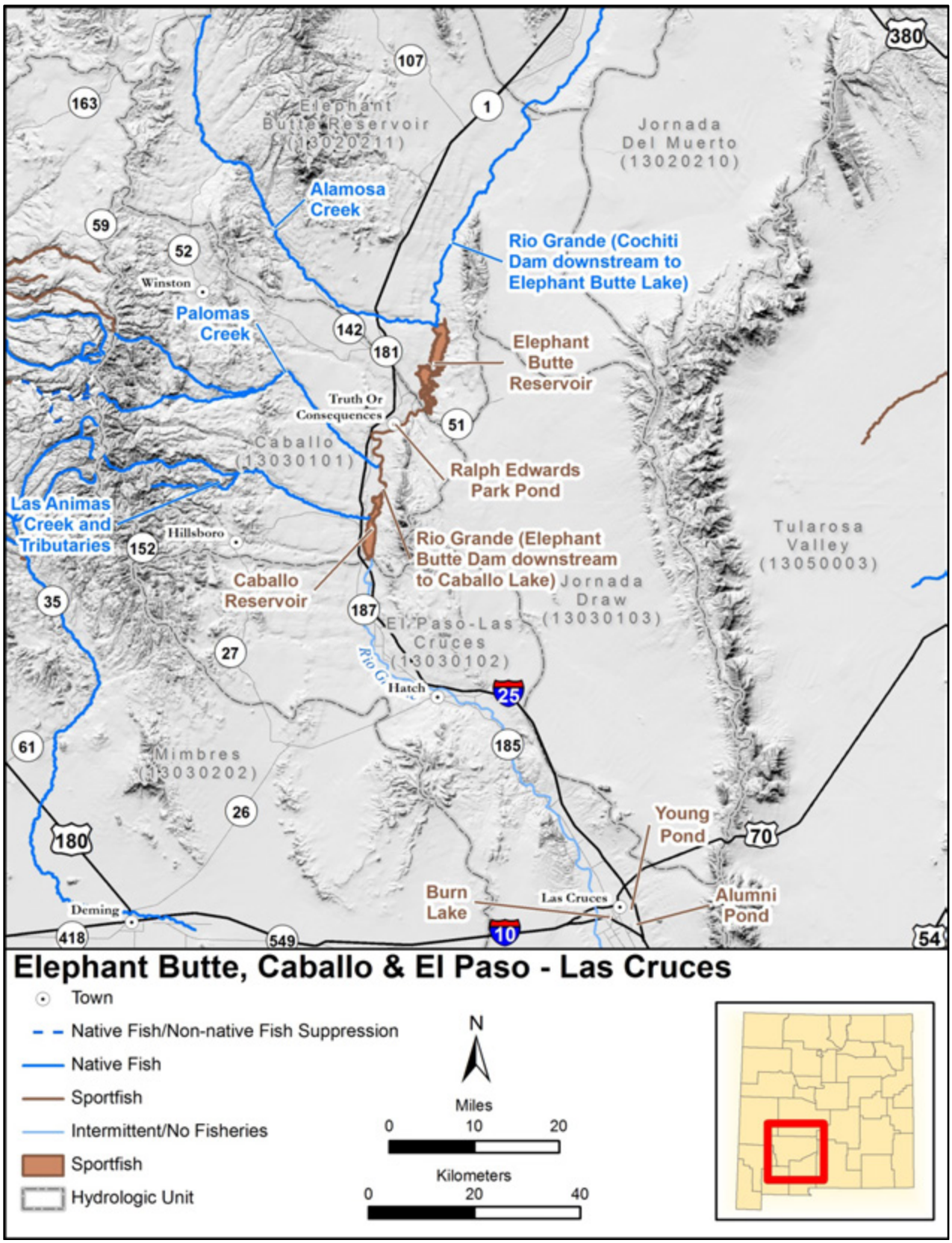

Figure 54. Elephant Butte, Caballo and El Paso - Las Cruces

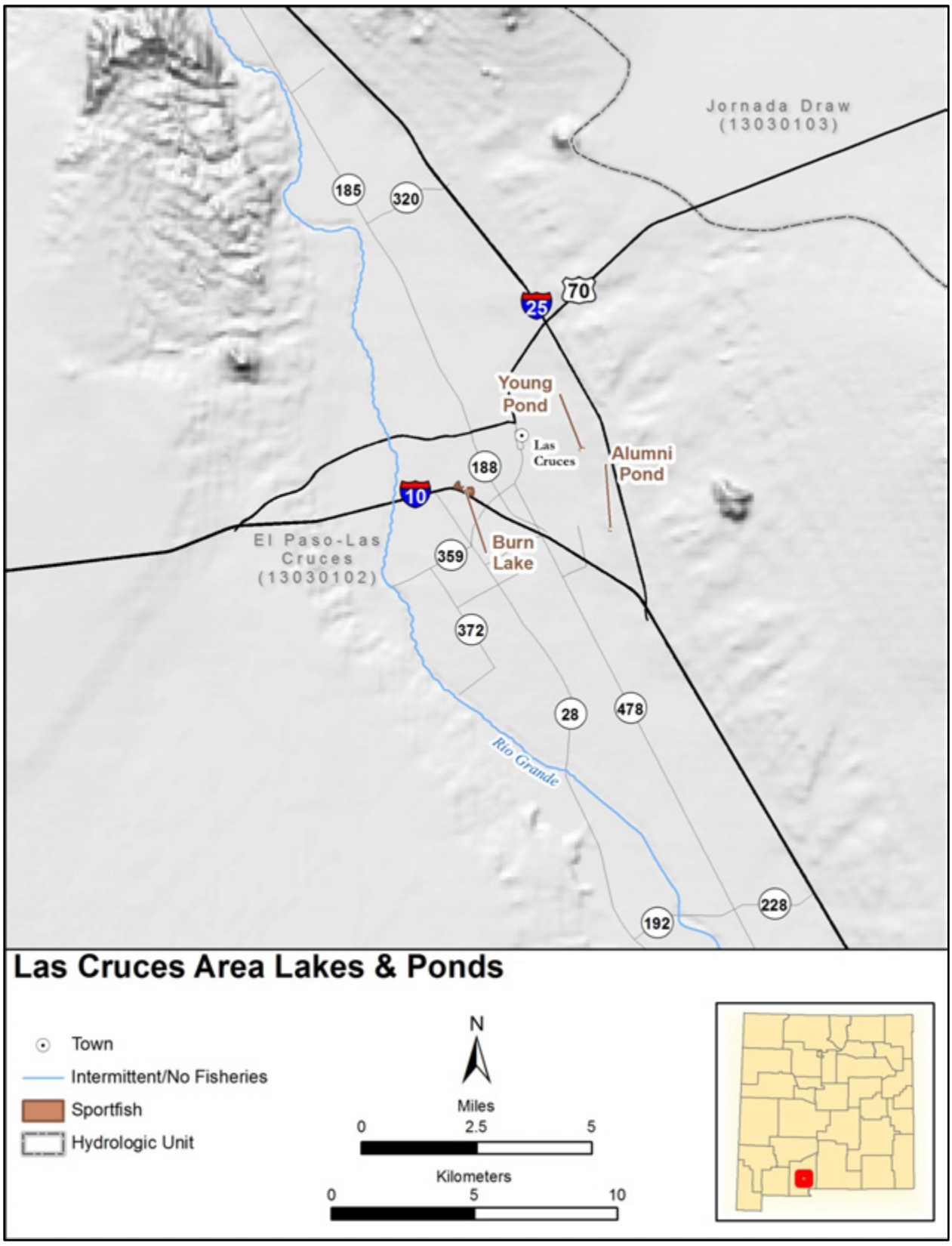

Figure 55. Las Cruces Area Lakes & Ponds

Mimbres Watershed

The Mimbres River occupies a small endorheic basin in Hidalgo, Luna, and Grant Counties in southwest New Mexico. Headwaters are along west- and south-facing slopes of the Black Range, flow southward, and dissipate onto the desert north of Deming. Much of the permanently watered portion of the river is in the Mimbres Valley, where the system is more cienega in character than riverine. Uplands are largely under Forest Service jurisdiction and valley lands are largely privately owned. Although rural, the valley has been subdivided into numerous small tracts, many of which have dwellings with private wells and septic systems. On private lands, the river channel is frequently mechanically realigned and woody riparian vegetation removed. The Nature Conservancy and NMDGF manage small tracts along the river, which provide some protection for aquatic habitats.

Due to the small size of the Mimbres Watershed, fisheries management is limited. Bear Canyon Lake provides recreational fishing opportunities including largemouth bass, channel catfish, and seasonally stocked rainbow trout. The federally threatened Chihuahua chub inhabits perennial warmwater reaches and Gila trout, not native to the Mimbres, was stocked into McKnight Creek in the 1970s. Fire induced flooding and ash flows eliminated Gila trout from McKnight Creek and nearly eliminated Chihuahua Chub in 2013.

HUC 13030202 Mimbres

Management Direction for HUC 13030202 Mimbres

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Mimbres River and tributaries	Chihuahua Chub	Native Fish	Proposed Critical Habitat. Stock hatchery reared Chihuahua chub to maintain population and expand range with intention of creating a self-sustaining population(s). Severely impacted by the Silver Fire (2013). Document post-fire recovery of Chihuahua chub prior to stocking other fish in the drainage.
	Rio Grande Sucker	Native Fish	Eliminated by Silver Fire. Repatriate upon watershed recovery.
Bear Canyon Reservoir	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March.
	Channel Catfish	Put, Grow and Take	Stock subadult channel catfish. Monitor to assess growth rate and recruitment.
	Largemouth Bass	Wild	**Manage as a Recreational Bass water. Investigate potential as a Trophy Bass water.**

Figure 56. Mimbres

Gila Watershed

The Gila River watershed lies within southwestern New Mexico, and is comprised of two major streams, the Gila and San Francisco Rivers. Headwater streams of the Gila join to form three

forks (West, Middle, and East) in the Mogollon Mountains. From their juncture, the Gila River flows westerly and exits the Mogollon Mountains just east of Gila. Along its mountain course, the river is bordered by ponderosa, piñon, juniper, cottonwood, Arizona sycamore, boxelder, and Arizona walnut.

The primary land uses along the river in the Cliff-Gila Valley are livestock grazing and some irrigated cropland. Water is seasonally diverted from the river. At the western end of the valley, the river is narrowly confined as it flows through the Middle Box. Downstream of the Middle Box, the Gila River flows across desert grasslands and shrublands to exit New Mexico.

Livestock grazing is the primary land use in the lower reaches of Gila River in New Mexico, but some irrigated cropland is present near Virden. The US Forest Service administers mountainous portions of the Gila Watershed. Substantial portions of this watershed are within the Gila and Aldo Leopold wildernesses. The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service administer portions of the lower watershed, but most lands are privately owned. The Department also owns several properties including the Heart Bar and Red Rock Wildlife Management Areas. The Gila River is the last mainstem in New Mexico without a major water development.

Historical fisheries management in the Gila River Basin has focused primarily on traditional sportfish management though significant resources have been expended on Gila Trout recovery efforts. Popular coldwater fisheries have included reaches within the Gila Wilderness and Snow Lake. The Department ceased stocking rainbow trout in streams and rivers within the Gila River Basin in the early 2000's due to conflicts with native fish populations but continues to stock rainbow trout seasonally in lakes. Two Gila trout populations have been opened to fishing since 2006 and excess broodstock have been stocked from the Mora National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center in other select waters. Popular warmwater fisheries include Lake Roberts, Bill Evans Lake, East Fork of the Gila River, and the wilderness reach of the Gila River between Grapevine Campground and Turkey Creek. Warmwater fisheries management within river reaches was primarily regulated via angling rules with little active management over the past decade (i.e. no stocking).

Five species of fish are federally protected in the Gila River while seven are state protected. Most streams with Gila trout are currently closed to angling to protect them from even minimal losses associated with angling. Designated critical habitat for spikedace and loach minnow is widely distributed throughout the Gila River Watershed though the current distribution of these fish is significantly less than the critical habitat designation. Predatory sportfish such as smallmouth bass, flathead and channel catfish have been partially implicated in the overall decline of rare Gila Basin fishes such as spikedace and loach minnow. As a result, sportfish and native fish management routinely conflict. While all conflicts cannot be easily resolved, reach designations with focal species management will at least help to identify Departmental

priorities. The Department expects to continue with Gila trout restoration within reaches identified below. The Department also plans to focus conservation efforts in reaches designated as Native Fish which could include active suppression or removal of non-native fishes or regulations intended to encourage suppression of predatory fish via angling.

HUC 15040001 Upper Gila

Management Direction for HUC 15040001 Upper Gila

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
White Creek (Above Barrier)	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream. Severely impacted by the Whitewater-Baldy wildfire in 2012. Stock with Gila trout 2014 to 2016.
Whiskey Creek (Unnamed tributary to West Fork Gila River)	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream and relict population. Severely impacted by Whitewater-Baldy wildfire in 2012. Currently fishless. Restock with Whiskey Creek lineage Gila trout upon restoration of the West Fork Gila river above falls near White Creek cabin.
Langstroth Creek (Above Barrier)	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream. Stocked with Gila trout in 2015.
West Fork Gila River and Tributaries (Headwaters to waterfalls near White Creek Cabin)	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream(s). Severely impacted by the Whitewater-Baldy wildfire in 2012. Non-native trout migrated through waterfall in 2013 and 2014. Investigate potential for augmenting waterfall to secure this reach. Complete necessary environmental compliance and restore for Gila trout. **Investigate potential for opening to angling.**
McKenna Creek	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream. Stocked with Gila trout in 2012. Investigate potential for opening to angling.
West Fork Gila River (Waterfalls near White Creek Cabin downstream to Hells Hole Canyon)	Gila Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Gila trout recreation water. Investigate potential for Gila trout recovery stream.
	Trout	Wild	Brown and rainbow trout present. Maintain regulations to support wild trout angling.

Management Direction for HUC 15040001 Upper Gila			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
West Fork Gila River (Hells Hole Canyon downstream to Heart Bar WMA)	**Gila Trout**	**Put, Grow and Take**	**Gila trout recreation water. Investigate potential for native species recovery efforts including Gila trout. A barrier and renovation would be required for repatriation of Gila trout.**
	Trout	Wild	**Brown and Rainbow trout present. Maintain regulations to support wild trout angling.**
	Loach Minnow	Native Fish	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow and they are present in this reach.**
	Spikedace	Native Fish	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for spikedace and they are present in this reach.**
	Headwater Chub	Native Fish	**Currently occupied by headwater chub.**
West Fork Gila River (Heart Bar WMA)	**Gila trout**	**Put and Take**	**Gila trout recreational water. Stock with catchable Gila trout.**
	Non-native Fish	Suppression	**Annually conduct non-native removals to maintain native endangered fishes.**
	Loach Minnow	Native Fish	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow and they are present in this reach.**
	Spikedace	Native Fish	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for spikedace and they are present in this reach.**
	Headwater Chub	Native Fish	**Currently occupied by headwater chub.**
West Fork Gila River (Heart Bar WMA downstream to East Fork Gila River)	**Gila Trout**	**Put and Take**	**Stock with catchable Gila trout.**
	Loach Minnow	Native Fish	Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow and they are present in this reach.
Little Creek (Above Barrier)	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream.
Little Creek (Below Barrier)	**Loach Minnow**	**Native Fish**	**Repatriate loach minnow 2014-2020 and monitor to assess effectiveness. Source loach minnow from West Fork Gila River or Bubbling Ponds Hatchery (AZ).**
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support wild trout angling.

Management Direction for HUC 15040001 Upper Gila			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Snow Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Dam spillway needs repair, dredging sediment from lake would improve reservoir conditions. Investigate suppression and/or eradication of green sunfish and common carp. Investigate feasibility for Put, Grow and Take trout fishery.
	Gila Trout	**Put and Take**	**Replace some rainbow trout stocking with Gila trout with long-term goal of switching entirely to Gila trout, if possible.**
Gilita Creek (Headwaters downstream to Snow Creek confluence)	Brown Trout	Suppression	Maintain unlimited harvest regulation for brown trout to promote recruitment potential for Gila trout.
	Gila trout	Put and Take	**Gila trout recreational water. Special Trout Water regulation (Two Gila Trout, any legal tackle or bait) for entire reach. Stock catchable Gila trout annually.**
Willow Creek and Tributaries	Gila trout	Native Fish	**Gila trout recreational water and will be considered a recovery population upon construction of a fish migration barrier in 2016.** Special Trout Water regulation (Two Gila Trout, any legal tackle or bait) for Willow Creek. Identified as potential Gila trout recovery stream in the Gila Trout Recovery Plan (2003). Non-native trout were not eliminated by Whitewater Baldy Fire (2012).
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Maintain unlimited harvest regulation for brown trout to promote recruitment potential for Gila trout.
Iron Creek (Above Barrier)	Gila trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream. Maintain current angling closure.
Iron Creek (Below Barrier)	Brown Trout	Wild	**Maintain regulations to support wild trout fishery. Investigate potential for incorporating Iron Creek into a native fish restoration effort in the Middle Fork Gila River.**
Middle Fork Gila River and Tributaries	**Gila Trout**	**Native Fish**	**Investigate native fish restoration to include both coldwater and warmwater habitats with barrier construction.**
	Headwater Chub	Native Fish	**Headwater chub are present in low numbers in this reach.**
	Spikedace	Native Fish	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for spikedace.**
	Loach Minnow	Native Fish	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow.**
	Non-native Fish	**Suppression**	**Investigate regulations to promote harvest of non-native predators.**

Management Direction for HUC 15040001 Upper Gila			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Main Diamond Creek	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream and relict population. Maintain angling closure.
South Diamond Creek	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila Trout recovery stream and relict population. Maintain angling closure.
Black Canyon (Above Barrier)	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila Trout recovery stream. Special Trout Water (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single barbless hook) upstream of waterfall barrier - Open July 1 to October 31. Gila Trout severely impacted by Silver wildfire (2013). Stock Gila trout as necessary post-fire. **Investigate extending angling season. Investigate Open Gate opportunities for improved angler access.**
	Brown Trout	Suppression	Brown trout impacted or extirpated by Silver wildfire (2013). Periodically remove brown trout to maintain Gila trout population.
Black Canyon (Below Barrier)	**Gila Trout**	**Put and Take**	**Stock catchable Gila trout annually. Investigate status of fishery in Lower Black Canyon near confluence of East Fork Gila River.**
East Fork Gila River and Tributaries	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	**Maintain regulations to support smallmouth bass angling. Investigate regulations to promote trophy fishery. Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow and spikedace but not currently occupied. Investigate Open Gate opportunities for improved angler access.**
	Channel Catfish	Wild	**Maintain regulations to support catfish angling.**
Gila River (East Fork confluence downstream to Mogollon Creek)	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	**Maintain regulations to support smallmouth bass angling. Investigate regulations to promote trophy fishery. Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow and spikedace.**
	Catfish	Wild	**Channel and flathead catfish present. Maintain regulations to support catfish angling.**
Lake Roberts	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Winter Trout Water - Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between September and May.
	Gila Trout	**Put and Take**	**Stock catchable Gila trout.**
	Channel Catfish	Put, Grow and Take	**Stock sub-adult channel catfish. Monitor to assess growth rate and recruitment.**
	Largemouth Bass	Wild	**Manage as a Trophy Bass water and investigate regulations to attain trophy potential.**

Management Direction for HUC 15040001 Upper Gila			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Sapillo Creek and Tributaries (Lake Roberts to Gila River)	**Gila Trout**	**Put and Take**	**Gila trout recreational water. Stock with catchable and subcatchable Gila trout annually. Investigate Open Gate opportunities to increase angler access.**
	Trout	Wild	Maintain angling regulations to support wild trout angling. Brown and rainbow trout present.
Trout Creek	Rainbow Trout	Wild	Potential Gila trout recovery stream, has perennial water and a barrier at lower end. Habitat assessment needed and renovation would be required to repatriate Gila trout.
Cow Creek	Rainbow Trout	Wild	Identified as a potential Gila trout recovery stream in the Gila Trout Recovery Plan (2003). **Investigate habitat and restoration potential for Gila trout.**
Sheep Corral Canyon	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream.
Turkey Creek and Tributaries	Gila Chub	Native Fish	Gila chub recovery stream. Barrier construction is needed to inhibit migration of non-native fish from the Gila River.
	Gila Trout	**Native Fish**	**Investigate potential for Gila trout restoration. Currently occupied by rainbow trout.**
Mogollon Creek and Tributaries (Headwaters downstream to West Fork Mogollon)	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream. Special Trout Water regulation (catch and release, artificial fly or lure, single barbless hook) from barrier waterfalls to confluence of Trail Canyon - Open July 1 to October 31. Upstream of Trail Canyon is closed to angling. **Investigate potential for opening entire stream to angling or extending season.**
West Fork Mogollon	**Gila Trout**	**Native Fish**	**Identified as potential Gila trout recovery stream in the Gila Trout Recovery Plan (2003). Complete necessary environmental compliance and restore for Gila trout. Currently occupied by rainbow trout.**
Rain Creek	**Gila Trout**	**Native Fish**	**Identified as potential Gila trout recovery stream in the Gila Trout Recovery Plan (2003). Complete necessary environmental compliance and restore for Gila Trout. Currently occupied by rainbow trout.**
Sapillo Creek (Headwaters to Lake Roberts)	N/A	N/A	Intermittent throughout reach. No current data.

Management Direction for HUC 15040001 Upper Gila			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Mogollon Creek (West Fork Mogollon confluence to Gila River)	N/A	N/A	Intermittent throughout reach. No current data.

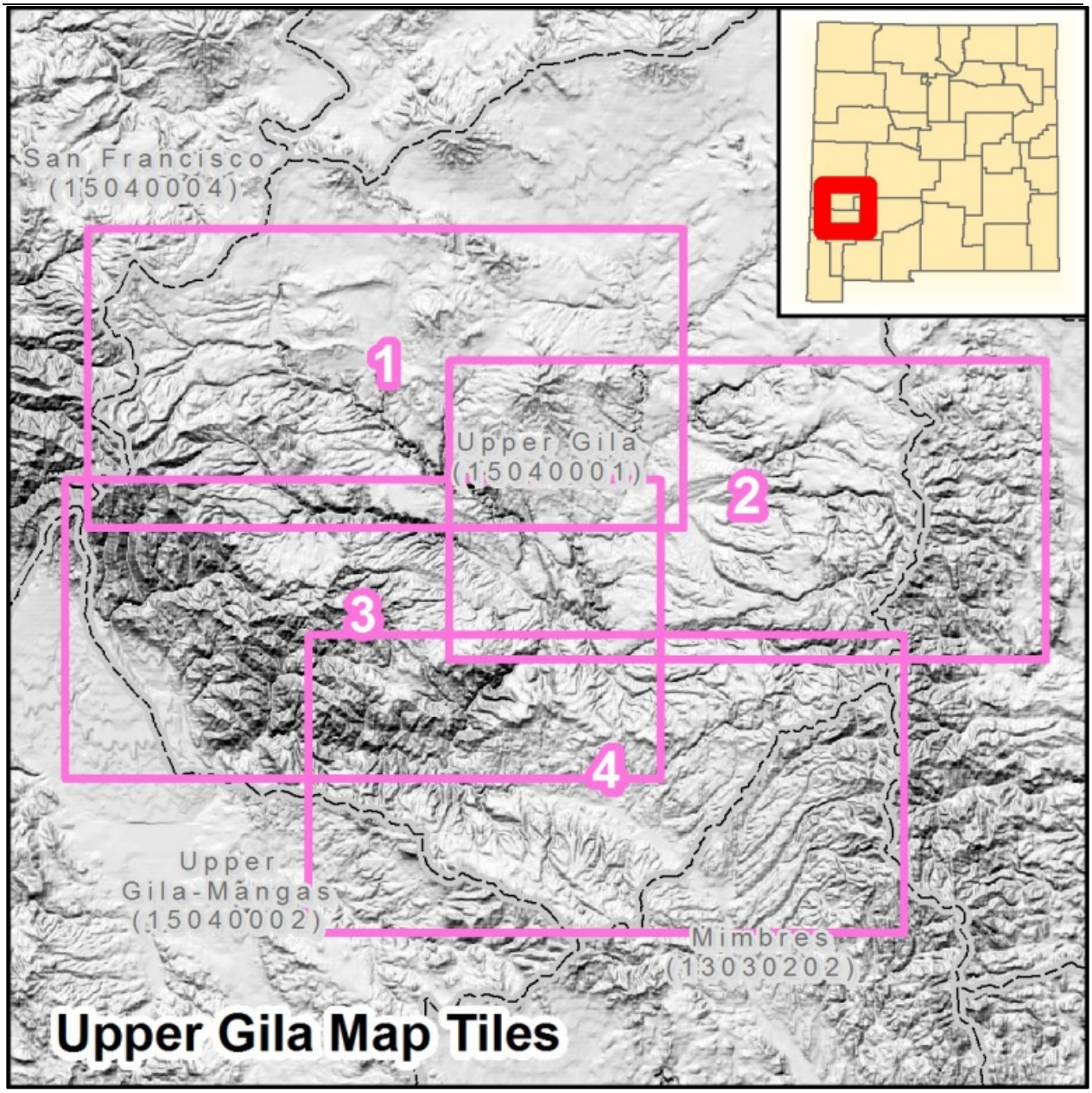

Figure 57. Upper Gila Map Tiles

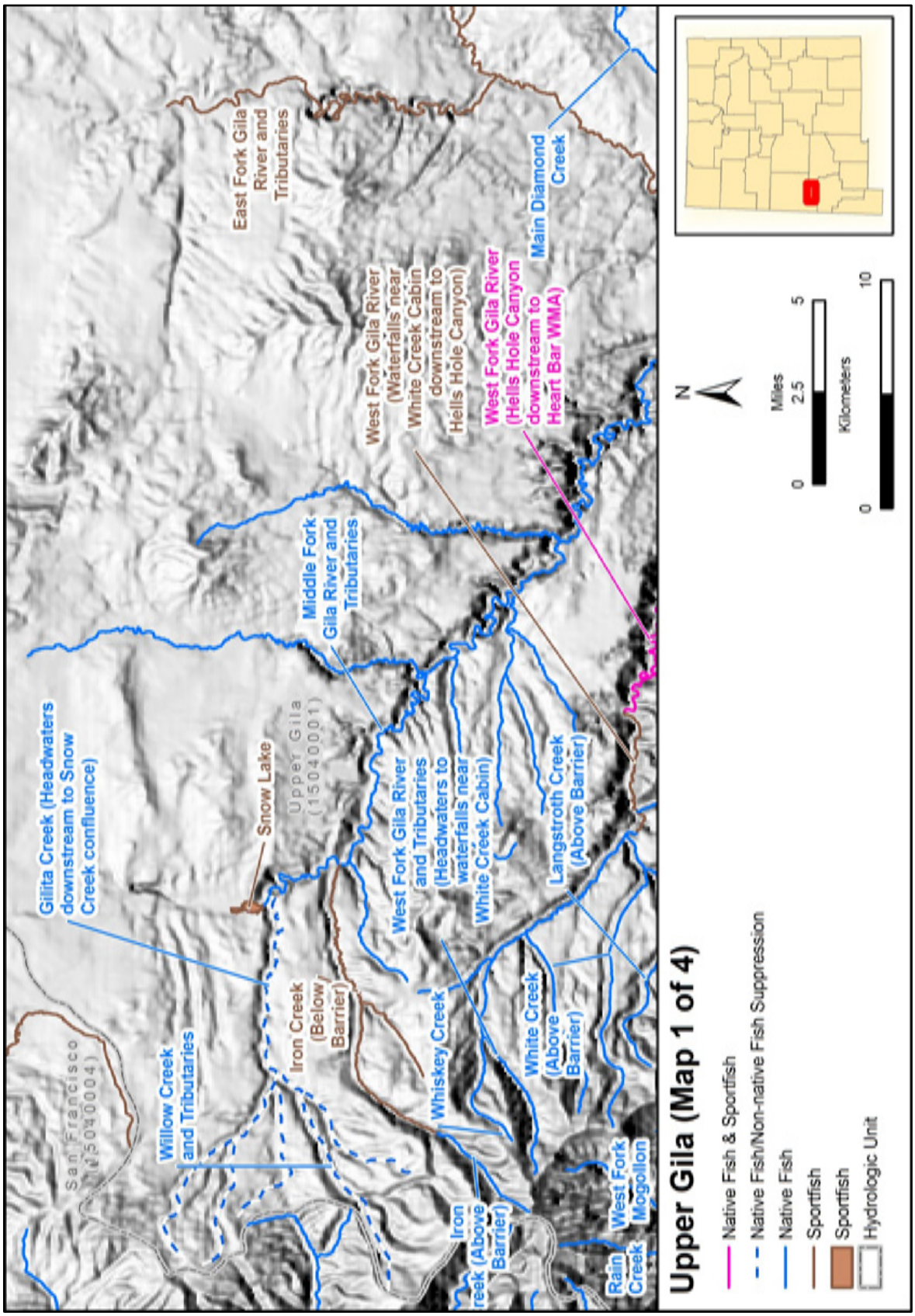

Figure 58. Upper Gila (Map 1 of 4)

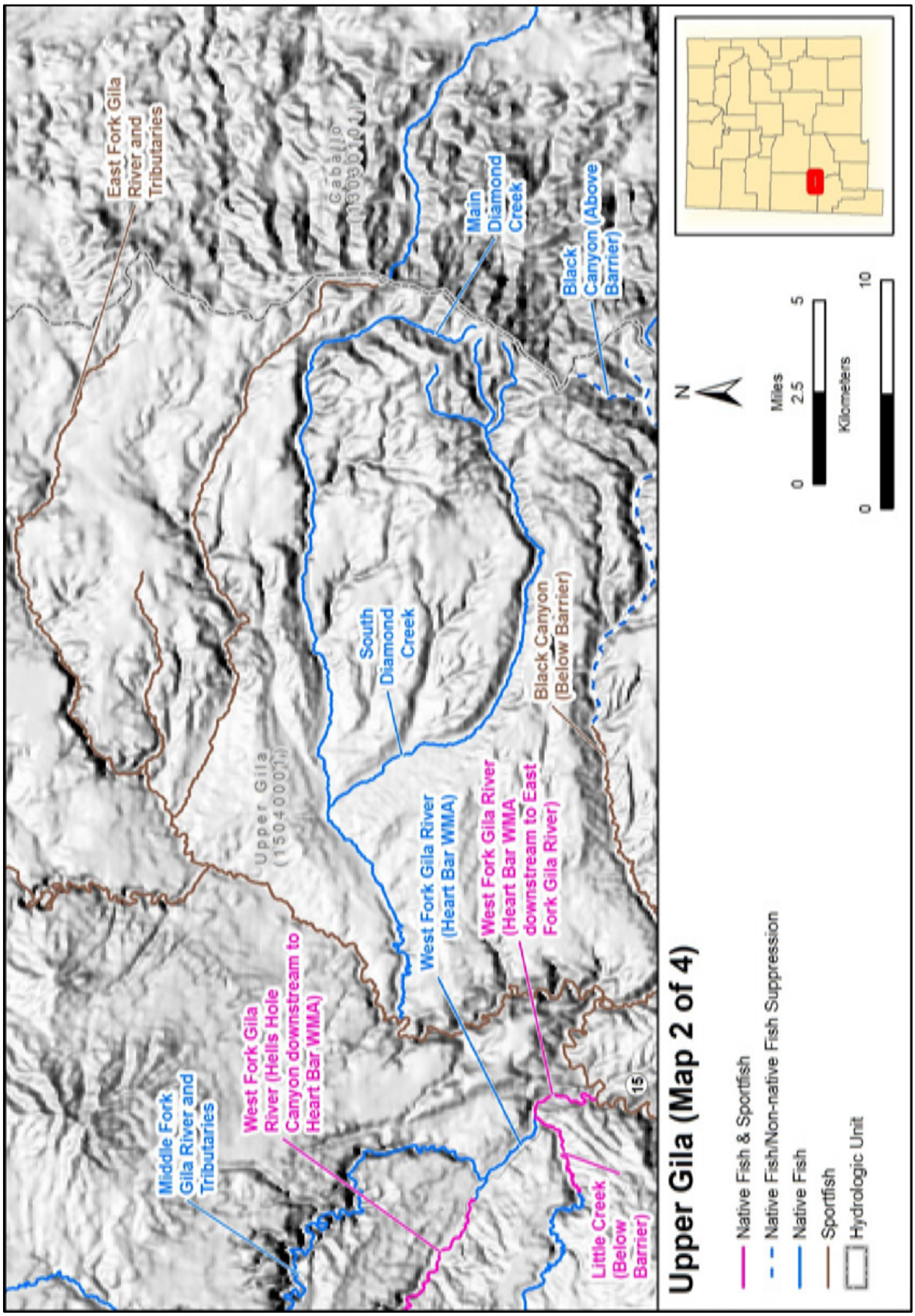

Figure 59. Upper Gila (Map 2 of 4)

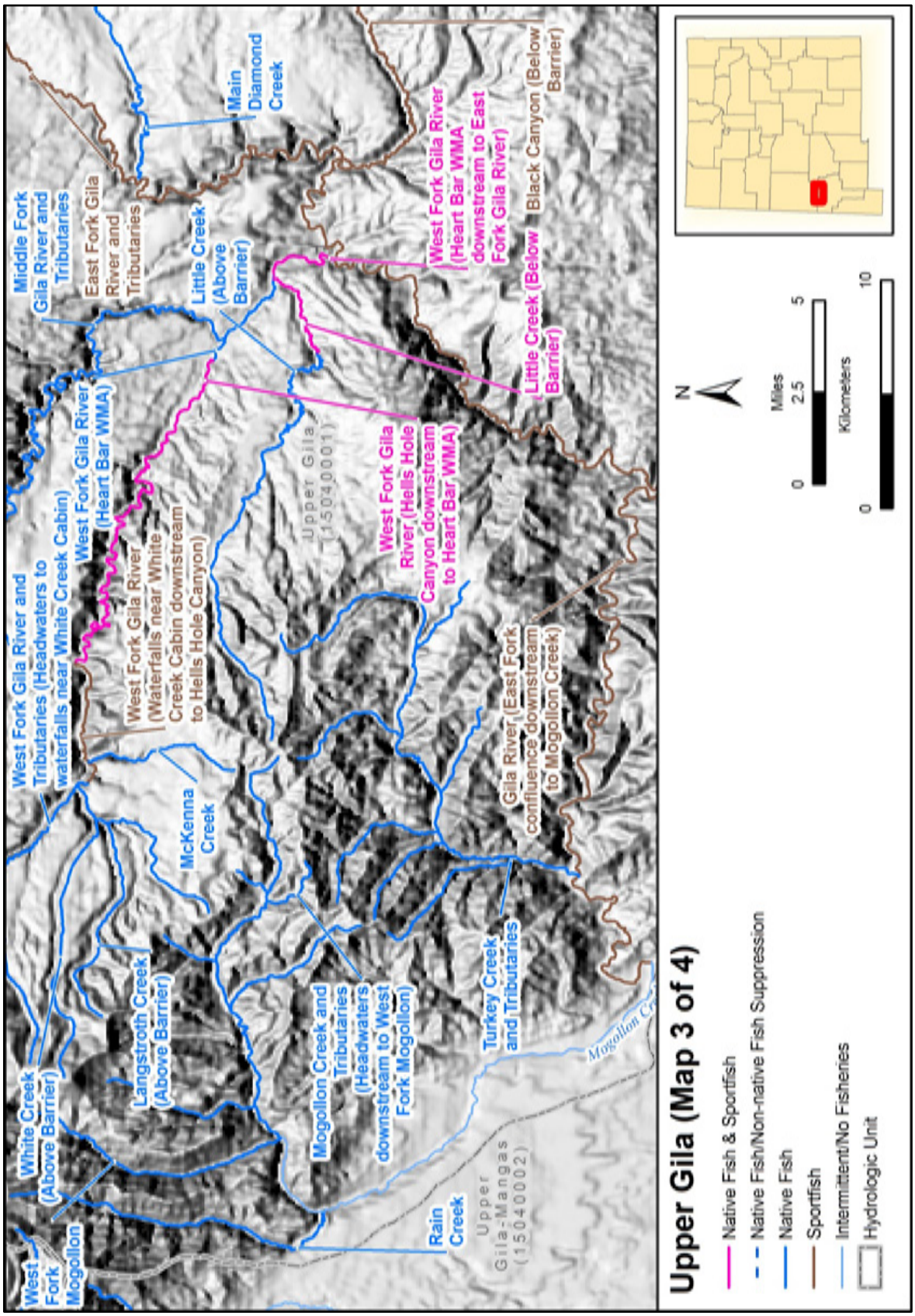

Figure 60. Upper Gila (Map 3 of 4)

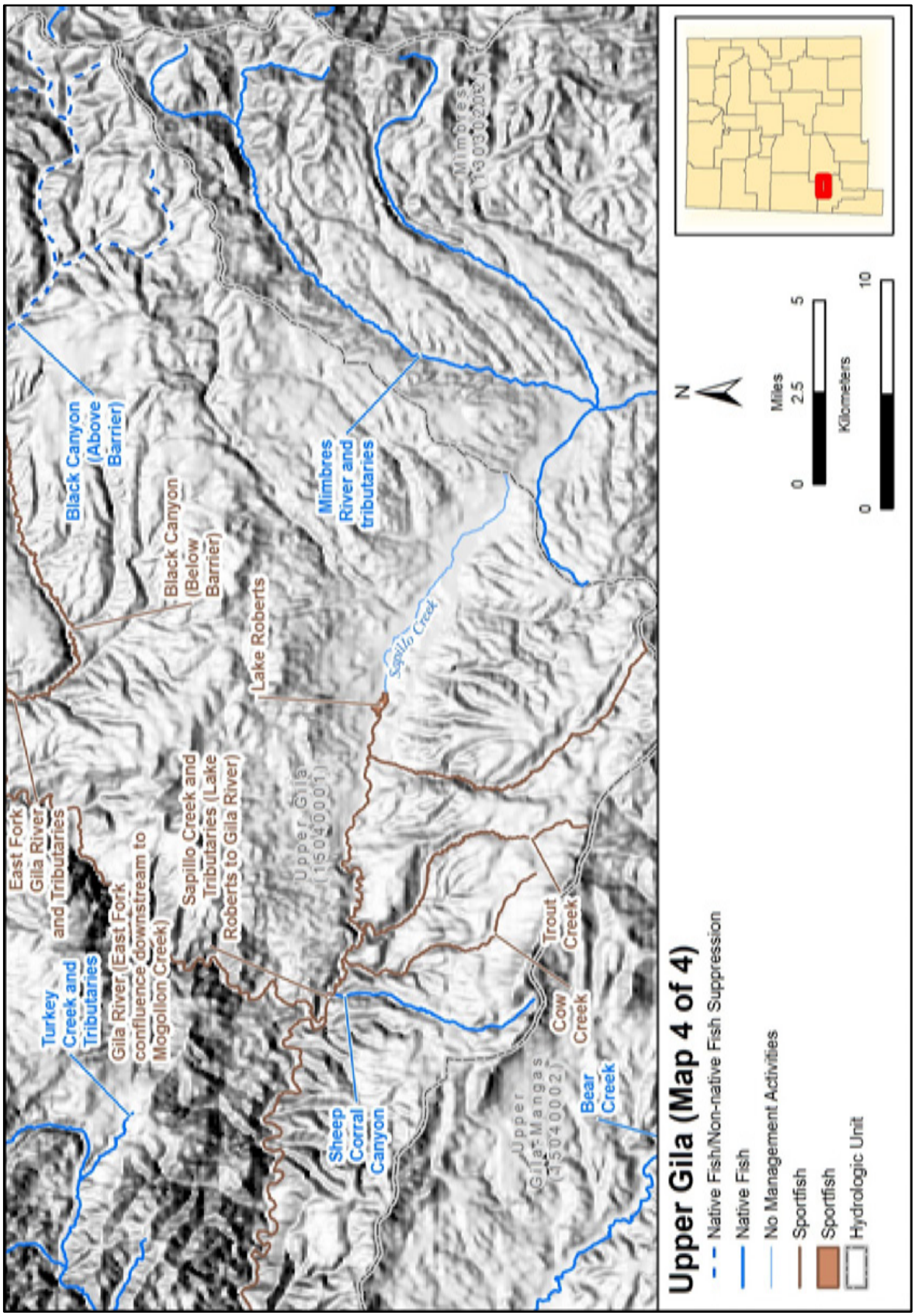

Figure 61. Upper Gila (Map 4 of 4)

HUC 15040002 Upper Gila - Mangas

Management Direction HUC 15040002 Upper Gila - Mangas

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Gila River (Mogollon Creek downstream to Foxtail Creek)	**Loach Minnow**	**Native Fish**	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow and they are present in this reach.**
	Spikedace	**Native Fish**	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for spikedace and they are present in this reach.**
	Non-native fish	**Suppression**	**Investigate regulations to promote harvest of non-native predators up to and including unlimited take.**
Bear Creek	**Loach Minnow**	**Native Fish**	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow and they are present in this reach. NMDGF recently purchased large ranch with perennial section of Bear Creek.**
Mangas Creek	Loach Minnow	Native Fish	Includes Designated Critical habitat for loach minnow. Almost entirely on private land.
Sacaton Creek (Headwaters to Diversion Ditch)	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Previously occupied by Gila trout but believed to be extirpated by wildfire. Investigate potential for stocking Gila trout.
Bill Evans	Channel Catfish	Put, Grow and Take	**Stock subadult channel catfish annually. Monitor to assess growth rate and recruitment.**
	Largemouth Bass	Wild	**Manage as a Trophy Bass water and investigate regulations to attain trophy potential.**
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout between November and March.
Gila River and Tributaries (Foxtail Creek downstream to State Line)	Catfish	Wild	**Channel and flathead catfish present. Maintain angling regulations to support catfish angling.**
	Spikedace	Native Fish	Includes Designated Critical Habitat for spikedace.
	Loach Minnow	Native Fish	Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow.
Duck Creek and Tributaries	N/A	N/A	Intermittent throughout reach. No current data.
Red Rock Pond	Gila Chub	Native Fish	Establish refuge populations of Gila chub.
	Gila Topminnow	Native Fish	Establish refuge population of Gila topminnow

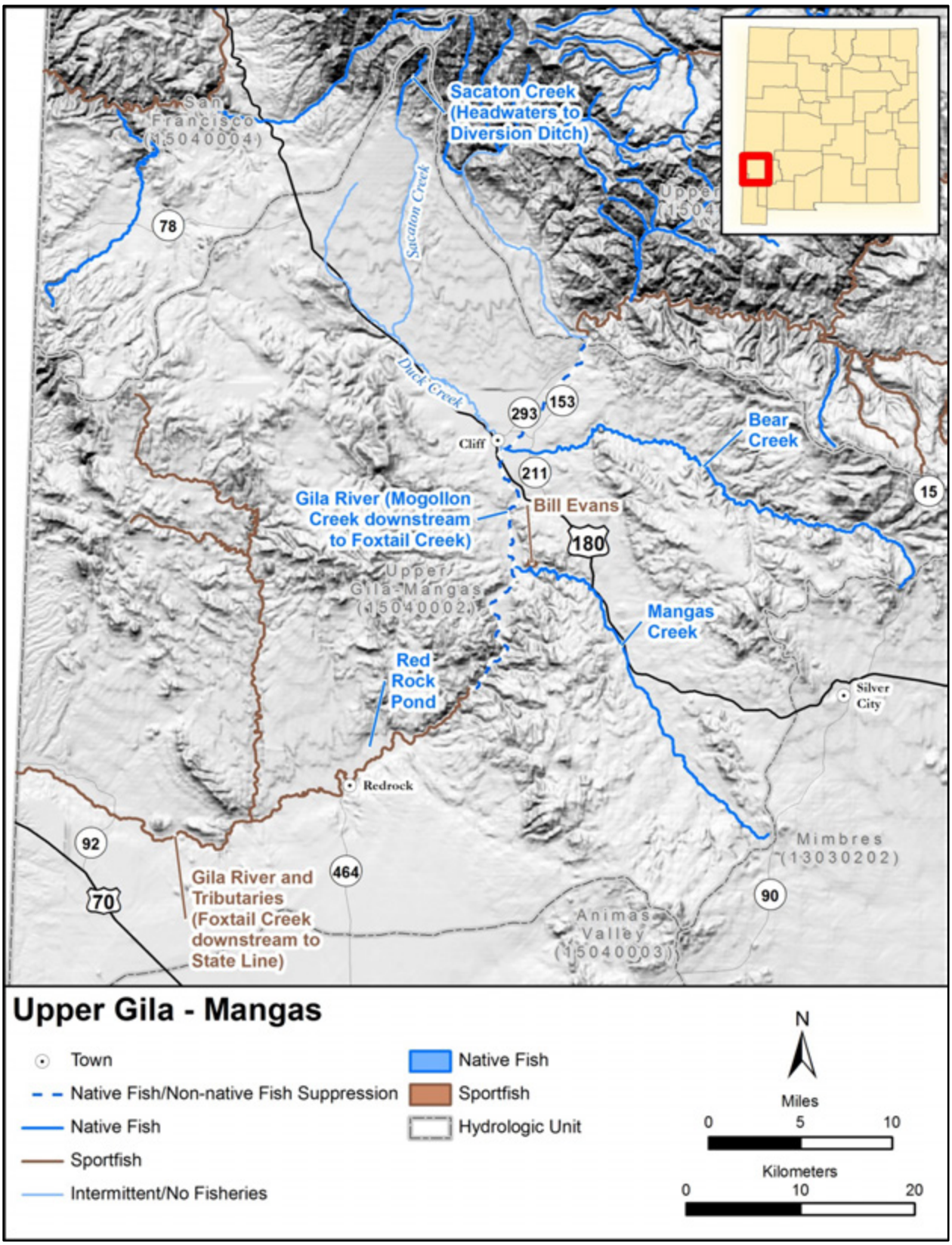

Figure 62. Upper Gila - Mangas

HUC 15040004 San Francisco

Management Direction for HUC 15040004 San Francisco			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Tularosa River	**Loach Minnow**	**Native Fish**	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow and they are present in some reaches.**
Lower Negrito Creek	**Loach Minnow**	**Native Fish**	**Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow.**
Upper Negrito Creek	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stocking ceased in 2003 due to low water conditions. Resume spring stocking as conditions permit.
Saliz Canyon	**Loach Minnow**	**Native Fish**	**Repatriate loach minnow 2016-2020 and monitor to assess effectiveness. Source loach minnow from San Francisco River or Bubbling Ponds Hatchery (AZ).**
San Francisco and Tributaries (Headwaters downstream to Pleasanton Diversion)	Loach Minnow	Native Fish	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow.**
	Spikedace	**Native Fish**	**Includes Designated Critical Habitat for spikedace. Spikedace repatriation conducted in the past though inconsistent stocking limited effectiveness. Need to repeat stocking over multiple years and evaluate.**
Mineral Creek	**Gila Trout**	**Native Fish**	Identified as a potential Gila Trout recovery stream in the Gila Trout Recovery Plan (2003). Severely impacted by the Whitewater-Baldy fire in 2012 and non-native trout were eliminated. **Stock appropriate lineage of Gila trout 2016 to 2018.**
Whitewater Creek and Tributaries (Headwaters to Catwalk)	**Gila Trout**	**Native Fish**	**Identified as a potential Gila trout recovery stream in the Gila Trout Recovery Plan (2003). Severely impacted by the Whitewater-Baldy fire in 2012. Non-native trout nearly eliminated (2014). Complete necessary environmental compliance and restore for Gila trout. South Fork Whitewater is currently occupied by small number of brook trout.**
Glenwood Pond	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout annually. Investigate feasibility of stocking Gila trout in Glenwood Pond.
Big Dry Creek	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila trout recovery stream. Severely impacted by the Whitewater-Baldy wildfire in 2012 though population persisted.
Spruce Creek	Gila Trout	Native Fish	Gila Trout recovery stream and relict population. Severely impacted by the Whitewater-Baldy fire in 2012 and Gila Trout were eliminated. Repatriate Gila trout upon watershed recovery. Maintain angling closure.

Management Direction for HUC 15040004 San Francisco			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Mule Creek	Gila Chub	Native Fish	Stocked with Gila chub 2012-2014 and planned through 2015. Gila chub recovery stream. If successful, will meet objectives for Colorado River Basin Chubs Recovery Plan.
San Francisco River and Tributaries (Pleasanton Diversion downstream to Stateline)	Catfish	Wild	**Channel and flathead catfish present. Maintain regulations to support flathead and channel catfish fishery. Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow and spikedace but not occupied.**
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	**Maintain regulations to support smallmouth bass fishery.**
Blue River and Tributaries	Loach Minnow	Native Fish	Includes Designated Critical Habitat for loach minnow.
	Spikedace	Native Fish	Includes Designated Critical Habitat for spikedace.

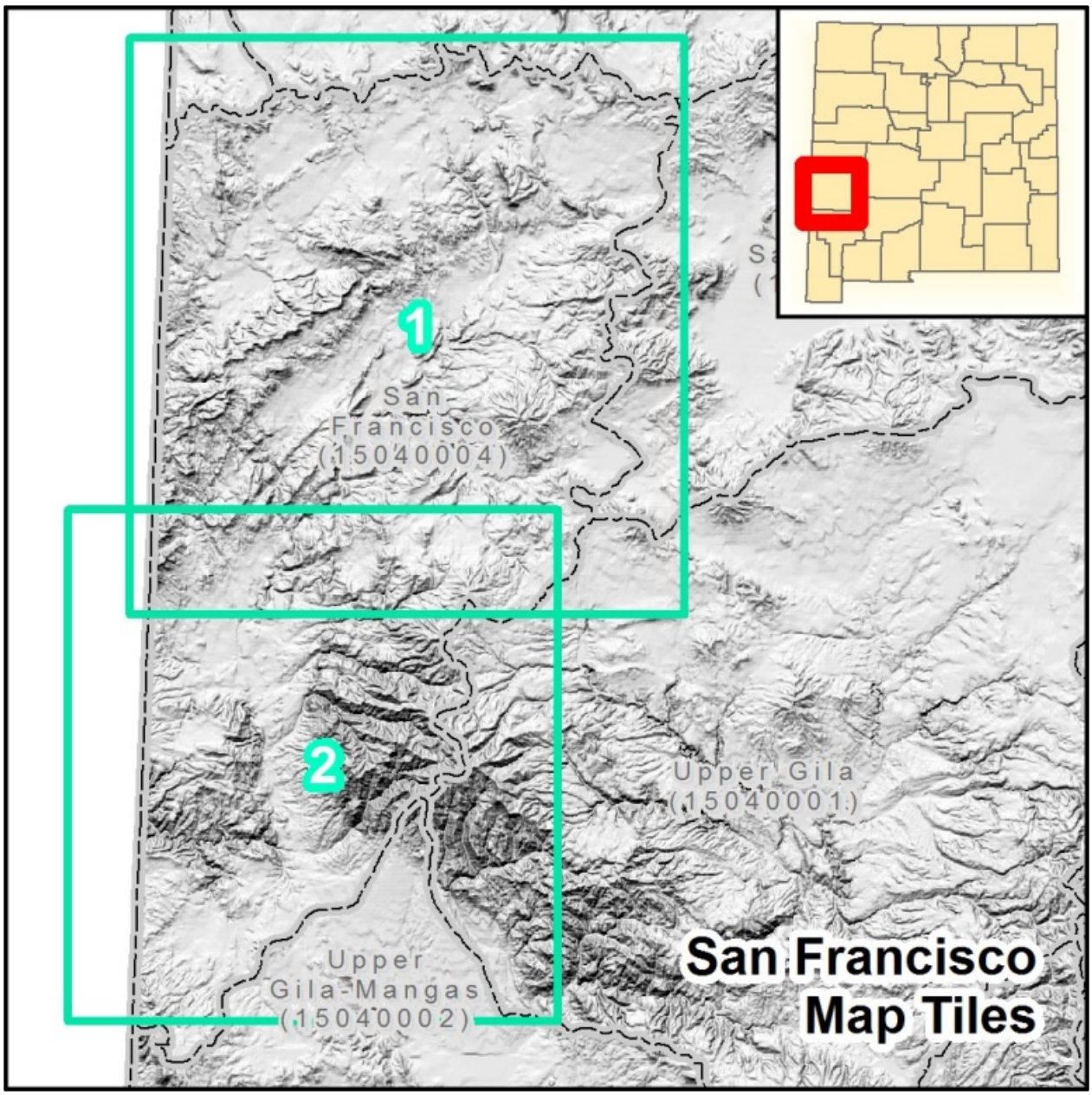

Figure 63. San Francisco Map Tiles

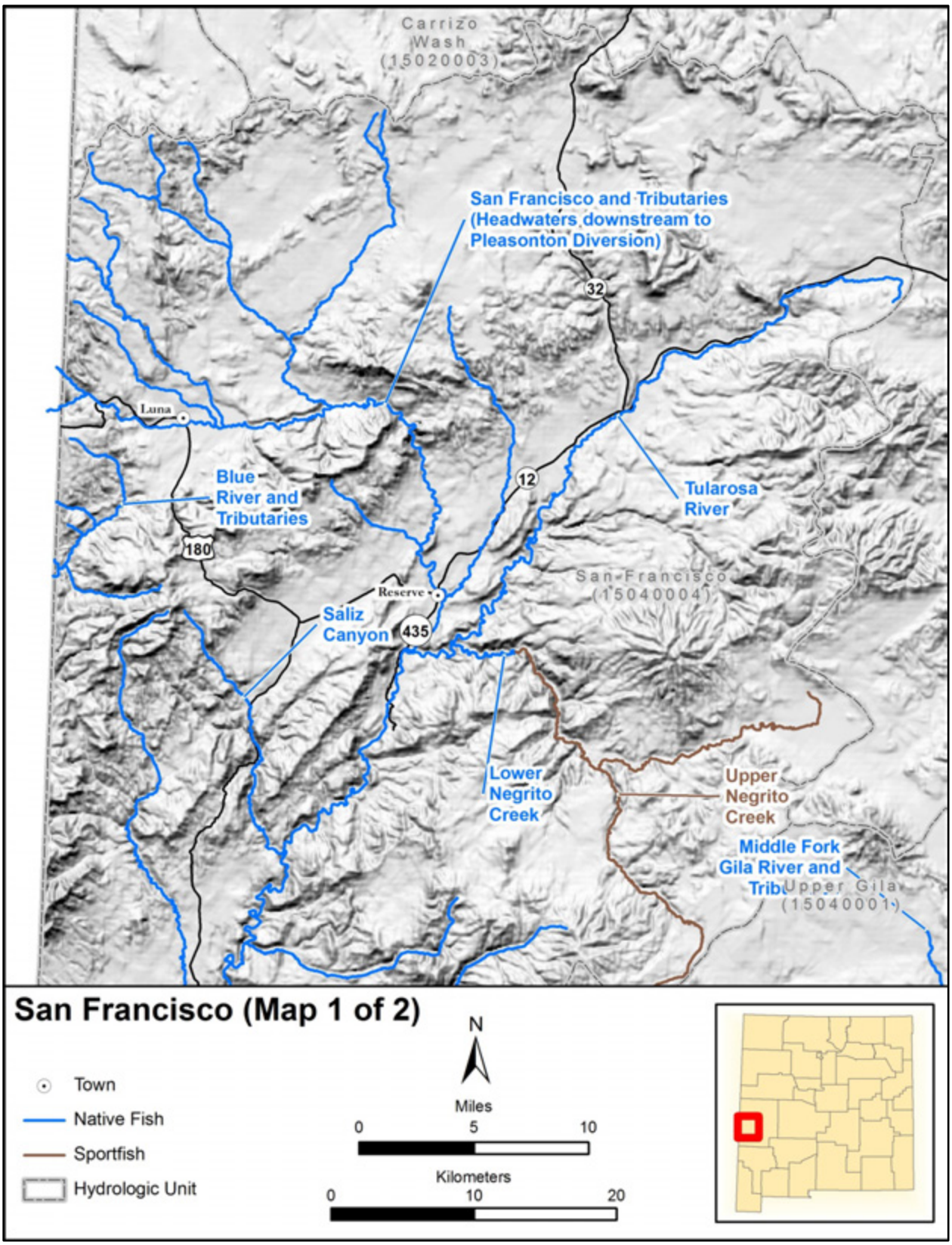

Figure 64. San Francisco (Map 1 of 2)

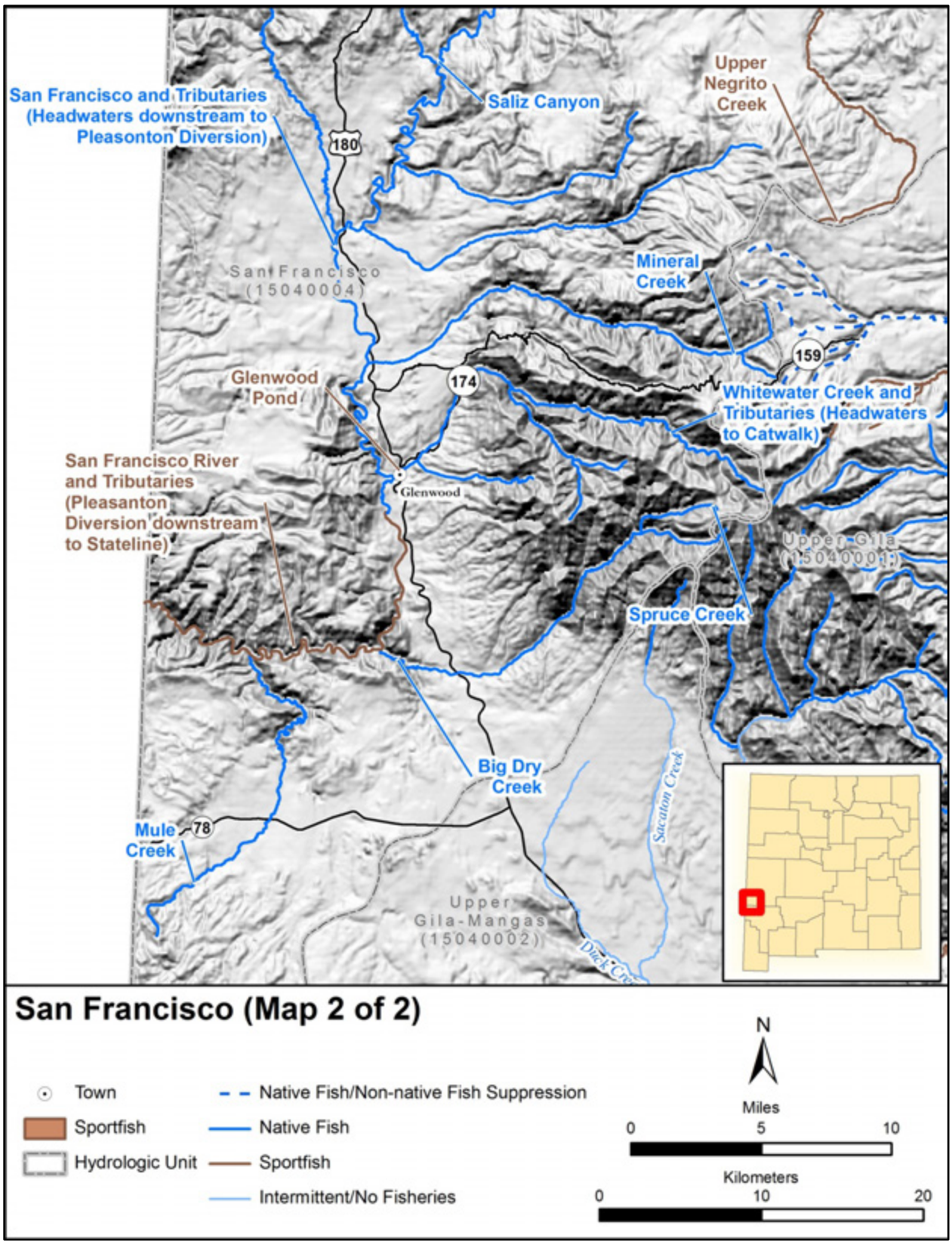

Figure 65. San Francisco (Map 2 of 2)

San Juan Watershed

In New Mexico the San Juan River Watershed occurs almost entirely within San Juan County. The San Juan River originates in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado, enters New Mexico northeast of Farmington, and flows westward for about 93 miles to exit the state near the Four Corners area. Navajo Dam impounds the upper 19 miles of the river in New Mexico. From Navajo Dam downstream to Farmington the river is restricted to a single, moderately incised channel and habitats are mainly cobbled riffles, moderately deep runs, and large pools. Gradient diminishes as the river progresses downstream from Farmington to Shiprock, but flow remains mostly in a single channel. Downstream of Shiprock the channel is frequently divided among two, three, or four courses. Habitat diversity increases with channel complexity. In addition to habitats common in upstream reaches backwaters, embayments, shoals, and secondary channels (having their own mix of habitats) are present. The San Juan River within New Mexico is permanently-watered, but permanently flowing tributaries are currently limited to the Navajo, Animas, and Mancos rivers. The San Juan River upstream of Four Corners drains about 6.9 million acres including portions of the system in Colorado. The Bureau of Land Management administers much of the watershed upstream of Farmington and large portions of the watershed are within Navajo Nation and Jicarilla Apache jurisdiction.

Aquatic habitats of the San Juan Watershed are influenced by regulated flows, channelization, water diversion, runoff from municipalities, roads, row-cropped agricultural lands, and petroleum-extraction activities. Currently, Navajo Reservoir operates to mimic a natural hydrograph per conditions of a Biological Opinion issued to Bureau of Reclamation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Considerable data on water quality and habitats of the main stem of the San Juan River are available in various reports produced by the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program. Hypolimnetic releases from Navajo Dam maintain coldwater habitats downstream until approximately the Hammond Diversion upstream of Bloomfield.

Two major sportfisheries exist within the San Juan watershed, Navajo Reservoir and the San Juan tailwater trout fishery. Navajo Reservoir provides opportunities for a variety of warmwater and coldwater fish species. The Special Trout Water reach of the San Juan River is world-renowned for both the density and size of both Rainbow and Brown Trout.

Critical habitat for the federally endangered Colorado pikeminnow (also state endangered) and razorback sucker includes currently occupied reaches between Farmington and the Navajo Nation boundary. The Department actively participates in the recovery program activities for both of these species including non-native fish suppression, annual monitoring trips, and development of research projects that could assist with recovery of both species. The Department is also a signatory to the Rangewide Conservation Agreement for Roundtail Chub, Flannelmouth Sucker, and Bluehead Sucker. Activities under this agreement primarily include

sharing of data and coordination among signatory agencies.

HUC 14080101 Upper San Juan, 14080104 Animas, 14080105 Middle San Juan

Management Direction HUC 15040001 Upper San Juan, 15040002 Animas, 15040004 Middle San Juan

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Los Pinos River /Pine River	Kokanee	Put, Grow and Take	Kokanee run out of Navajo Reservoir into the Pine River. Historic Kokanee broodstock water.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support wild trout fishery.
Navajo Reservoir	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock subcatchable triploid rainbow trout. An additional 80,000 fingerling triploid rainbow trout stocked by USFWS as mitigation, annually. Due to USFWS hatchery priority shifts, future of mitigation stocking uncertain.
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	Manage as a Recreational Bass water.
	Kokanee	Put, Grow and Take	Stock fingerling Kokanee. Historic Kokanee broodstock water.
San Juan River (Navajo Dam downstream 3.5 miles to end of Special Trout Water)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock subcatchable triploid rainbow trout annually. Managed as a Trophy Trout fishery. Special Trout Water (Catch and Release, Artificial Fly or Lure, Single Barbless Hook) from Navajo Dam downstream 3.5 miles.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Manage as a Trophy Trout fishery.
San Juan River (Downstream Boundary of Special Trout Water downstream to Hammond Diversion)	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put, Grow and Take	Stock catchable and fingerling triploid rainbow trout annually.
	Brown Trout	Wild	Maintain regulations to support wild trout fishery.
San Juan River (Hammond Diversion downstream to Animas River confluence)	Roundtail Chub	Native Fish	Investigate the potential for restoring roundtail chub as identified in the Colorado River Basin Chubs Recovery Plan
	Mottled Sculpin	Native Fish	Investigate the status of mottled sculpin in this reach.

Management Direction HUC 15040001 Upper San Juan, 15040002 Animas, 15040004 Middle San Juan			
Water	**Fish Species**	**Management Type**	**Management Direction**
Jackson Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Lake Farmington	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Smallmouth Bass	Wild	Manage as a Low Density Bass water.
	White Bass	Wild	Maintain regulations to support white bass fishery.
Aztec Pond	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
Tiger Park Pond	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
La Plata River	Roundtail Chub	Native Fish	Roundtail chub do not currently inhabit this reach. La Plata River was specifically identified as a potential restoration site in the Colorado River Basin Chubs Recovery Plan (2006).
	Bluehead Sucker	Native Fish	Investigate potential for restoring habitat to benefit native fishes in the San Juan Basin on Department owned Wildlife Management Areas.
Animas River	Mottled Sculpin	Native Fish	Investigate the status of mottled sculpin in this reach.
	Roundtail Chub	Native Fish	Investigate the potential for restoring roundtail chub as identified in the Colorado River Basin Chubs Recovery Plan.
	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
San Juan River (Animas River downstream to State Line)	Colorado Pikeminnow	Native Fish	Designated Critical Habitat for Colorado Pikeminnow. Participate in the San Juan River Basin Implementation Program (SJRIP) activities.
	Razorback Sucker	Native Fish	Designated Critical Habitat for razorback sucker.
	Roundtail Chub	Native Fish	Investigate the potential for restoring Roundtail chub as identified in the Colorado River Basin Chubs Recovery Plan.
	Non-native Fish	Suppression	Participate in non-native fish removal efforts in collaboration with the SJRIP program. Target species are primarily channel catfish and carp though all non-native species are removed in this reach.

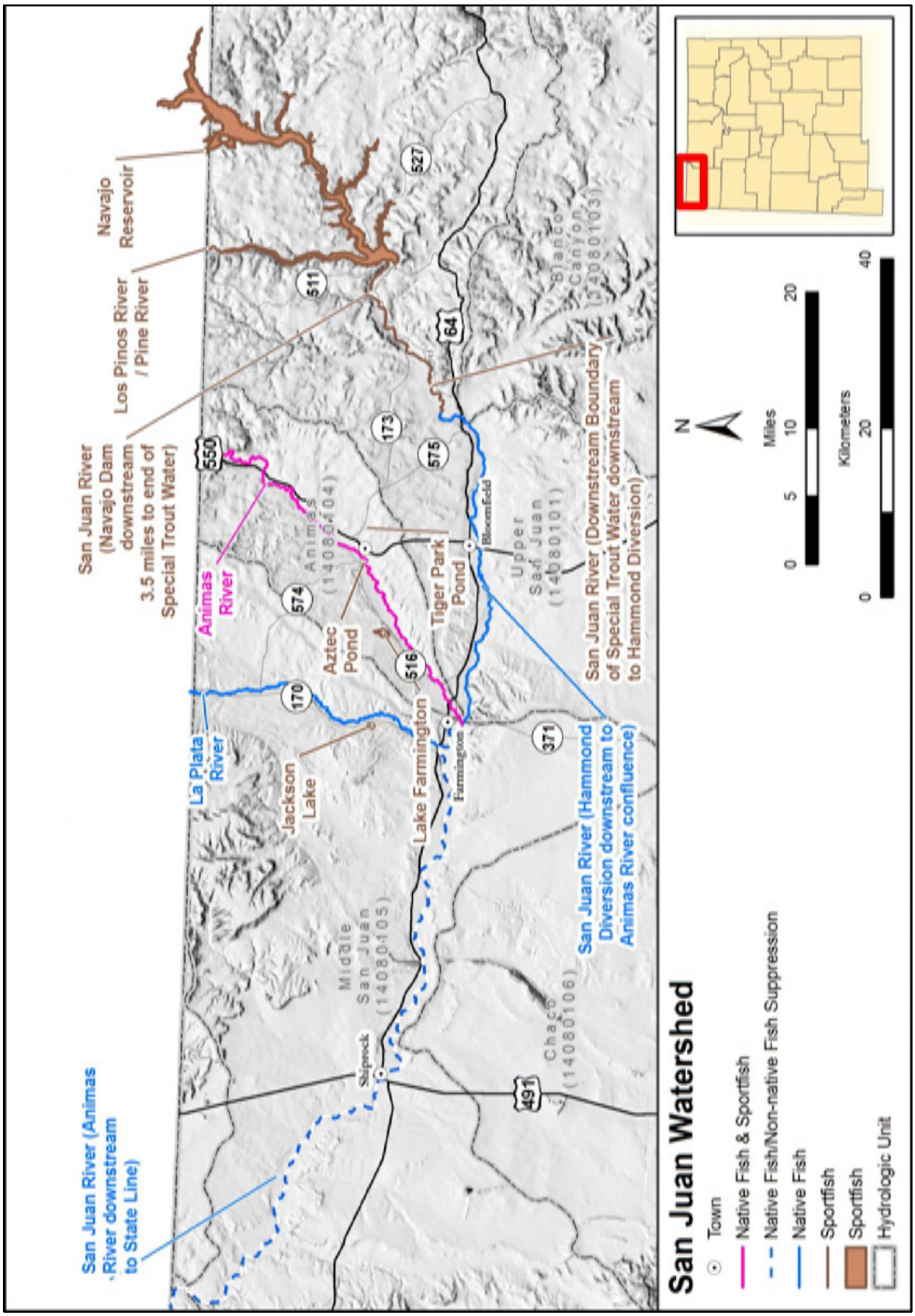

Figure 66. San Juan Watershed

Zuni Watershed

The Zuni River drains about 800,000 acres as it flows from its headwaters in west- central New Mexico to the Little Colorado River in Arizona. Continuous flow is absent from the headwaters downstream to the Arizona/New Mexico border and surface flow is generally only continuous during heavy spring run-off. Many stream reaches are dry except near perennial springs. Headwaters of the Zuni River watershed include 1st and 2nd order streams such as Rio Nutria and Tampico Draw. Lower areas of the watershed include the main stem of the Zuni River, a 3rd and 4th order system, and associated impoundments such as Black Rock Reservoir. Landownership is primarily private and Forest Service in the upper watershed and tribal in the lower areas. Limited water within the watershed has resulted in minimal fisheries activity within the drainage. The federally and state endangered Zuni bluehead sucker inhabits perennial reaches in the upper watershed. The only sportfishery within the drainage is McGaffey Lake. Quemado Lake is located in the Carrizo Wash HUC and provides exceptional trout and tiger muskie angling opportunities.

HUC 15020003 Carrizo Wash, 15020004 Zuni

Management Direction for HUC 15020003 Carrizo Wash, 15020004 Zuni

Water	Fish Species	Management Type	Management Direction
Zuni River and Tributaries	Zuni Bluehead Sucker	Native Fish	Rio Nutria, Tampico Draw, and private property reach are occupied by Zuni bluehead sucker. Significant portions of the watershed are on private and Zuni Pueblo land.
	Green Sunfish	Suppression	Periodically remove green sunfish to reduce predation on Zuni bluehead sucker. Investigate other means to remove green sunfish from the drainage.
McGaffey Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout. Lake has been low and unsuitable to stock for past several years.
	Channel Catfish	Put and Take	Big Cat Water - Stock catchable channel catfish between May and September. Maintain two fish daily bag limit.
Quemado Lake	Triploid Rainbow Trout	Put and Take	Stock catchable triploid rainbow trout.
	Tiger Muskie	Put, Grow and Take	Maintain target density of 4 fish/acre to maximize growth, suppress unwanted goldfish, and provide a quality tiger muskie fishery. Stock fingerling tiger muskie annually (possibly less often) to attain target density.

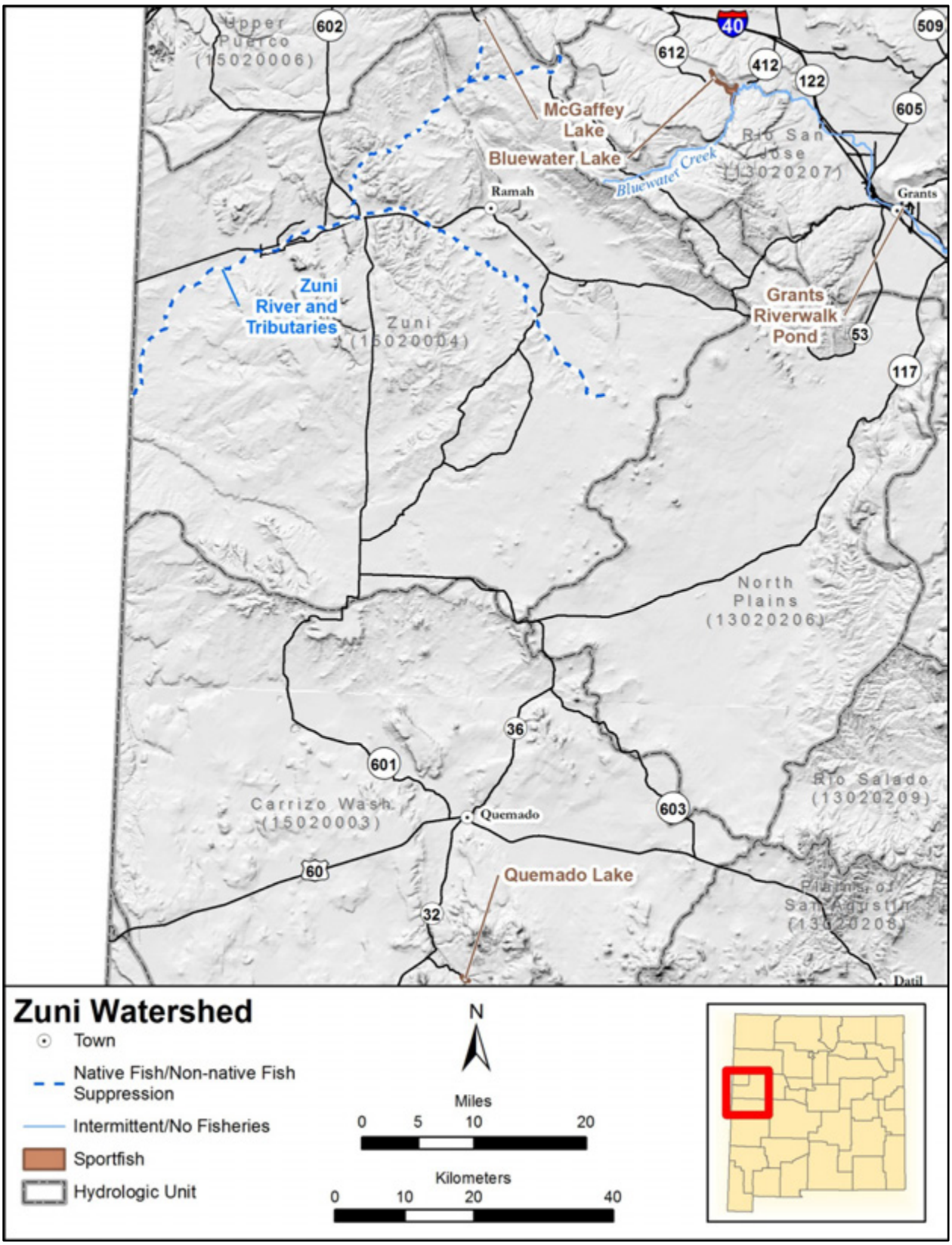

Figure 67. Zuni Watershed

Appendix I. 2015 Stocking Schedule

Species	Water	Length (inches)	Annual Stocking Rate
Channel Catfish	Alumni Pond	16	300
	Bataan Lake	16	2,100
	Bear Canyon Reservoir	8	1,100
	Bill Evans Lake	8	3,100
	Blue Hole Park Pond	16	542
	Bluewater Lake	6	150,000
	Bosque Redondo	16	542
	Burn Lake	16	1,968
	Carrizozo Recreation Lake	16	542
	Chaparral Park Lake	16	1,142
	Clayton Lake	8	4,400
	Conoco Pond	16	542
	Tingley Beach	16	2,908
	Corona Pond	16	602
	Dennis Chaves Pond	16	542
	Escondida Lake	16	1,142
	Estancia Park Lake	16	542
	Eunice Lake	16	542
	Grands Riverwalk Pond	16	602
	Green Meadow Lake	16	1,742
	Greene Acres Lake	16	1,742
	Grindstone Reservoir	6	4,500
	Jal Lake	16	542
	Lake Roberts	8	3,550
	Lake Van	16	2,370
	Ned Houk Ponds	16	542
	Oasis Park Lake	16	1,742
	Recos River	16	542
	Perch Lake	16	542

Species	Water	Length (inches)	Annual Stocking Rate
Channel Catfish	Roswell Kids Pond	16	542
	Young Pond	16	542
Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout	Middle Fork Lake	2	3,500
	Trampas Lakes Upper	2	1,500
	Hidden Lake	2	1,000
	Trampas Lakes Lower	2	15,000
	Goose Lake	2	3,500
Triploid Rainbow Trout	Abiquiu Reservoir	3	490,000
	Albuquerque Drain	10	2,000
	Albuquerque Drain (South)	10	4,500
	Alumni Pond	10	3,300
	Animas River	10	4,000
	Aztec Pond #1	10	2,330
	Aztec Pond #1	15	70
	Bataan Lake	10	15,000
	Bear Canyon Reservoir	10	13,750
	Belen Riverside Drain	10	4,000
	Bernalillo Drain	10	1,200
	Bill Evans Lake	10	35,926
	Black River	10	2,000
	Blue Hole Park Pond	10	2,888
	Bluewater Lake	3	415,000
	Bonito Lake	10	48,000
	Bosque Redondo	10	4,000
	Bottomless Lakes	10	4,000
	Brazos Lodge Pond	10	330
	Brazos River	10	7,250
	Burn Lake	10	22,000
	Canjilon Lakes	10	10,500
	Canjilon Lakes	15	920

Species	Water	Length (inches)	Annual Stocking Rate
Triploid Rainbow Trout	Carlsbad Municipal Lake	10	15,000
	Carrizozo Recreation Lake	10	3,000
	Cebolla River	10	14,550
	Chama River (Above El Vado)	10	12,600
	Chama River (Below Abiquiu)	10	9,000
	Chama River (Below El Vado)	10	5,800
	Chaparral Park Lake	10	4,000
	Charette Lake Lower	10	12,000
	Charette Lake Lower	15	500
	Cimarron River	10	26,675
	Gravel Pit Lakes	10	3,995
	Gravel Pit Lakes	15	405
	Clayton Lake	10	19,200
	Clayton Lake	15	800
	Tingley Beach	10	50,040
	Tingley Beach	15	960
	Corona Pond	10	2,000
	Corrales Riverside Drain	10	2,400
	Rio Costilla	10	4,800
	Cow Creek	10	5,000
	Coyote Creek (Rio Arriba)	10	1,700
	Coyote Creek (nr Guadalupita)	10	8,000
	Coyote Creek Pond	10	6,000
	Dennis Chaves Pond	10	2,000
	Eagle Nest Lake	3	600,000
	Eagle Rock Lake	10	5,568
	Eagle Rock Lake	15	432
	El Rito Creek (Santa Rosa)	10	1,200
	El Vado Lake	3	320,000
	Escondida Lake	10	8,000

Species	Water	Length (inches)	Annual Stocking Rate
Triploid Rainbow Trout	Estancia Park Lake	10	1,650
	Eunice Lake	10	4,000
	Fawn Lakes	10	4,224
	Fawn Lakes	15	476
	Fenton Lake	10	28,180
	Fenton Lake	15	1,120
	Gallinas Creek	10	11,200
	Gallinas Ice Pond	10	2,000
	Glenwood Pond	10	5,760
	Goose Lake	10	3,600
	Green Meadow Lake	10	9,000
	Greene Acres Lake	10	8,000
	Grindstone Reservoir	10	51,000
	Harris Lake	10	1,500
	Harry McAdams Park Pond	10	1,000
	Heron Reservoir	4	0
	Holy Ghost Creek	10	3,600
	Rio Hondo	10	1,000
	Hopewell Lake	10	10,020
	Hopewell Lake	15	1,110
	Jackson Lake	10	15,500
	Jal Lake	10	4,000
	Jemez River	10	25,000
	East Fork Jemez River	10	2,200
	Laguna del Campo	10	4,320
	Laguna del Campo	15	630
	Laguna Larga	10	800
	Lagunitas Lakes	10	3,000
	Lake Alice	10	5,000
	Lake Farmington	10	24,500

Species	Water	Length (inches)	Annual Stocking Rate
Triploid Rainbow Trout	Lake Maloya	10	26,900
	Lake Maloya	15	1,600
	Lake Roberts	10	22,500
	Lake Van	10	20,000
	Los Pinos River	10	14,400
	Manzano Lake	10	7,600
	Maxwell Lake 13	10	6,000
	McGaffey Lake	10	16,900
	Monastery Lake	10	23,990
	Monastery Lake	15	1,330
	Rio Mora (Pecos)	10	12,600
	Morphy Reservoir	10	22,500
	Morphy Reservoir	15	1,500
	Cowles Ponds	10	1,280
	Cowles Ponds	15	120
	Navajo Reservoir	5	362,500
	Ned Houk Ponds	10	5,000
	Nutrias Lakes (aka Trout Lakes)	10	5,910
	Oasis Park Lake	10	8,000
	Pecos River (Cowles to Village of Pecos)	10	55,132
	Pecos River (Lake Sumner to Roswell)	10	3,000
	Pecos River (Village of Pecos to Villanueva)	10	5,800
	Pecos River (Villanueva to I-40)	10	3,400
	Peralta Drain	10	5,000
	Perch Lake	10	5,000
	Quemado Lake	10	20,000
	Red River	10	41,800
	Red River Hatchery Pond	10	3,760
	Red River Hatchery Pond	15	640
	Rio Bonito	10	4,000

Species	Water	Length (inches)	Annual Stocking Rate
Triploid Rainbow Trout	Rio Grande (Elephant Butte to Caballo)	10	10,400
	Rio Grande (Pilar to Cochiti Lake)	10	27,650
	Rio las Vacas	10	9,250
	Rio Pueblo	10	17,000
	Roswell Kids Pond	10	3,000
	Rio Ruidoso	10	20,000
	Rio San Antonio	10	9,000
	San Gregorio Lake	10	8,000
	San Juan River (below Quality Waters)	10	59,500
	San Juan River (below Quality Waters)	3	140,000
	San Juan River (Quality Waters)	6	100,000
	Santa Cruz Reservoir	10	32,400
	Santa Cruz Reservoir	15	600
	Santa Fe River	10	500
	Seven Springs Brood Pond	10	3,828
	Seven Springs Brood Pond	15	672
	Shuree Ponds	15	2,000
	Sipapu Pond	10	364
	Sipapu Pond	15	36
	Snow Lake	10	10,000
	Snow Lake	3	22,000
	Storrie Reservoir	10	30,810
	Storrie Reservoir	15	900
	Storrie Reservoir	3	96,000
	Rio Fernando de Taos	10	2,100
	Tiger Park Pond	10	10,700
	Tiger Park Pond	15	300
	Young Pond	10	3,300

Appendix II. Summary of Public Involvement and Comments

Public review of the draft Statewide Fisheries Management Plan was initiated by presenting the purpose and need of the plan to the State Game Commission at a regular meeting on August 27, 2015. A draft plan was subsequently published on the Department website with the initial comment period running through October 31, 2015. A specific email address was established to send written comments on the plan. Public meetings were held at Department area offices in Albuquerque (September 29), Roswell (September 30), Las Cruces (October 7), and Raton (October 8) as well as Glenwood (November 10). After substantial public comment, the Department extended the comment period through December 31, 2015. A total of 45 members of the public signed in and provided contact information at these meetings. Department staff took notes on public comment at each of these meetings. Only three individuals provided written comment at the meetings. The Department received 130 written comments during the comment period. Substantive comments, a brief response, and a how the final plan was amended to address the comment are summarized below.

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
M. Abeyta	**Comment 1.1** - I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	Thank you for your comment. We received significant public support for additional Special Trout Water regulations in the Rio Chama particularly below Abiquiu and El Vado Dams. The Management Direction for both of these waters was updated to investigate, develop, and seek State Game Commission approval for appropriate regulations in these areas.
Aaron Hyder	**Comment 2.1** - I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Adrian Baca	**Comment 3.1** - I am writing in to support the plan for turning the Chama River sections into catching release only areas. Now that fishing pressure gets heavier and heavier every year it would be nice to have some places that carry quality fish for just the sport of fishing. I am not against people harvesting fish for themselves to eat but I would like some places to fish that are not fished out and have some quality size fish in them to enjoy fishing for.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Chris Toensing	**Comment 4.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and	See response to Comment 1.1.

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
	Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	
Alan Franzoy	**Comment 5.1 -** I like what has been done with the Gila trout in the Gila after the fires. I would like to see more streams restocked with GilaTrout in the future that can be fished year-round.	Thank you for your support. As stated in the plan, the Department is working diligently with its partners to expand the current range of Gila trout and provide year round angling opportunities.
	Comment 5.2 - I would also like to see more Rio Grande cutthroats stocked in northern streams and have those fisheries available year-round.	The Department is continually evaluating stocking locations for Rio Grande cutthroat trout and hopes to continue to expand recreational angling for this species in New Mexico.
	Comment 5.3 - I would also like to see more enforcement on the quality water streams in New Mexico.	Though most anglers obey regulations, enforcement is a continual challenge. We encourage you to contact Operation Game Thief if you observe a violation of any State Game Commission regulations including Special Trout Waters.
	Comment 5.4 - I really like most aspects of the new fisheries management plan and am appreciative of the work that has gone into it. It is a great product and will benefit fishermen in New Mexico.	Thank you for your support.
Alan Hamilton	**Comment 6.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. . . I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Alan Morgan	**Comment 7.1 -** Having certain areas of every stream and river protected to mandate "catch and release" is prudent in our day and time. I fully support the creation of those areas on the Chama River particularly in the tail water areas below the dams.	See response to Comment 1.1
Larry Anderson	**Comment 8.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
Andrea Pender	**Comment 9.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1
Andy Dennison	**Comment 10.1 -** I fully support catch and release areas on the Rio Chama, and would like to see several river miles below El Vado and Abiquiu dams included in the program.	See response to Comment 1.1
Truchas Chapter, Trout Unlimited	**Comment 11.1 -** We are asking you to improve the quality of the wild trout fishing experience in New Mexico by instituting "catch and release" fishing areas in appropriate sections of the Chama River, most notably in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. We would further suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of lures and flies each having a single barbless hook, and that the special restriction areas be of sufficient length, perhaps four continuous river miles, to ensure adequate protection and reproduction of wild trout as well as the quality of the angling experience.	See response to Comment 1.1
NM Council, Trout Unlimited	**Comment 12.1 -** Despite TUNM's seemingly limited focus, we support the Department's need to strike a balance between providing angling opportunity for all sportfish and conservation for native trout fisheries.	Thank you for understanding the need to balance between angling opportunity and native species conservation. This is a difficult task and we need public assistance with finding the appropriate balance across the state.
	Comment 12.2 - TUNM is pleased to see the Department will continue ongoing restoration efforts that benefit RGCT and Gila trout.	Thank you for your support with these restoration plans.
	Comment 12.3 - And we support the Department's commitment to facilitate recovery of some native fishes by considering targeting some sport fishes for suppression or complete removal.	Thank you for your support with the proposed restoration opportunities as identified in the plan.
	Comment 12.4 - Under Wild Trout, Gila trout are not listed.	Considering the conservation status of Gila trout and the limited angling opportunities for wild Gila trout at this time, we struggled with whether to include Gila trout in the category. Based upon your comments, we have added Gila trout to the list of Wild trout species on pg. 27.
	Comment 12.5 - Under Special Regulation Trout Waters, parameters are given for	The heading in the draft plan of "Special Regulation Trout Waters" unintentionally

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
	Trophy and Quality Trout Waters. While the plan mentions that a 3.5-mile reach of the San Juan River is managed as a Trophy Trout Water, there is no mention of any Quality Trout Waters. In addition there are no such waters specifically identified in the NM Fishing Rules & Info publication.	implied that a quality water was only attainable via a Special Trout Water regulation. The Rio Grande from the stateline to the Rio Chama confluence was identified as a potential Quality water in the draft and final plans. Waters that currently meet, or could meet in the future, the identified Quality criteria, under current or amended regulations, were identified in the final plan. These waters include Red River (below the hatchery), the Rio Chama, Pecos River, Cimarron River, and Rio Guadalupe. As discussed in the priority projects, the Department plans to evaluate Special Trout Water regulations over the next several years and will seek public input during that process.
	Comment 12.6 - In addition to parameters for Wild Trout Waters, the Department should include parameters for a Wild Native Trout Water. For example, Size Structure: Multiple year classes of native trout including young of year, Density: > 80 trout/acre of habitat, Native trout present are considered a core conservation or recovery population, and >75% of trout are native trout.	We appreciate the need for a special designation for native wild trout waters with specific criteria for these areas. Rio Grande cutthroat trout is currently managed under a Rangewide Conservation Agreement and Strategy which includes desired population criteria. Gila trout are managed under a Federal Recovery Plan and an approved Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling. All of these documents provide significant detail for desired population criteria and are referenced in the final plan. To avoid duplication and potential conflict with future iterations of the above referenced documents, we did not adopt a wild native trout water criteria as suggested.
	Comment 12.7 - The plan states the current distribution of RGCT is significant enough to actively manage RGCT through recreational stocking and angling. This statement understates the risk to RGCT from non-native trout. While the RGCT can be managed by stocking and angling, special regulations are urgently needed also to suppress non-native trout in waters where RGCT core conservation and conservation populations are threatened by commingling with non-native trout	A statement clarifying this threat was added to the plan. Further, the management direction of several waters was edited to include potential suppression of non-native trout in Rio Grande cutthroat trout Conservation Populations which could include regulations and mechanical removal.
	Comment 12.8 - The plan states the Department will continue ongoing restoration efforts that benefit RGCT and Gila trout, including use of piscicides, barriers, and angling regulations. The Department should add habitat restoration and periodic removals as	In most cases, the State Game Commission does not own habitats occupied by Rio Grande cutthroat trout and these areas are beyond the authority of the Department. The Department encourages habitat restoration for occupied habitat yet refrained from

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
	tools.	including this as a management direction for areas beyond its jurisdiction (e.g. Forest Service lands). We added periodic suppression to occupied habitats for Rio Grande cutthroat trout and Gila trout which are inhabited by non-native trout as well as investigation of regulations to support suppression efforts.
	Comment 12.9 - Also the term "angling regulations" is too vague. The plan should mention specific regulations such as increased and mandatory harvest of undesirable species, and decreased bag and possession limits and catch and release designation for desirable species.	The language for specific regulations was intentionally left vague to provide the greatest flexibility in regulation development to attain the desired management outcome.
	Comment 12.10 - We look forward to working with the Department to help prioritize, develop and implement those projects with the highest chances of success, e.g., minimum regulatory hurdles and lowest cost or use of Department resources such as applying catch and release requirements on new areas, or those projects that address the most imminent threats to native fish, e.g., areas with commingling of native and non-native trout. A prime example would be adopting unlimited or greatly increased harvest limits on brown trout in areas being considered for RGCT restoration such as tributaries in the upper Pecos watershed or catch and release rules for parts of the Rio Chama. This would minimize use of Department staff while at the same time enlisting the help of anglers to at least try to stem the tide of the brown trout depredation until a more permanent solution can be implemented.	Thank you for your support.
	Comment 12.11 - "Continue to evaluate allocation of catchable and subcatchable trout." The Department should be able to immediately select a few waters which are not suitable for native trout conservation or recovery populations, e.g., the Rio Chama tailwaters and lower Red River, for designation as Trophy or Quality Waters and begin stocking accordingly. However, when stocking rainbows in waters with Trophy or Quality Water potential for wild brown trout, the Department should consider lowering the harvest limits, including catch and release only, for browns at the same time.	We agree though immediate implementation could have unintended consequences. The Department will methodically evaluate areas for changes to stocking practices and propose appropriate regulations amendments to the State Game Commission.

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
	Comment 12.12 - "Investigate potential for reducing or eliminating stocking of catchable trout from some river systems which support wild trout and reallocate to higher use systems." The Department should have enough knowledge of a few waters to immediately implement this management practice. Wherever applied this is not an irreversible action; stocking can always be resumed in the event a trial was a failure. In addition, the Department should follow the lead of other states and develop an official "stocking policy" to govern its stocking practices.	Prior to implementing any significant change in management practices such as ceasing stocking in high use areas, the Department will seek public input for a specific water. Identifying this topic as a priority is the first step towards implementation. Adopting a formal stocking policy is beyond the scope of this plan.
	Comment 12.13 - "Continue to investigate areas where native trout, surplus to conservation and recovery efforts, can be used to increase angling opportunities for native trout." Again the Department should have enough knowledge of a few waters to immediately implement this management practice. More recreational stocking of native trout is important to promote awareness of these species. (The 2015 angler survey found that at least 20 percent of angler who said they fish for native trout misidentified non-native species as natives.) Obvious additional waters for such recreational stocking of RGCT include Shuree Ponds, Eagle Nest and Eagle Rock Lakes, Maxwell #13, Red River below the hatchery and various winter trout waters around the state. A similar inventory of waters suitable for Gila trout recreational angling should be accomplished too.	The Department has sufficient knowledge to identify areas which could be stocked with native trout for recreational purposes. The waters identified in your comment require consistent stocking of catchable trout which exceeds hatchery space. The current production of Rio Grande cutthroat trout at the Seven Springs Hatchery is focused on restoration efforts with limited production of catchable sized fish. Production to meet the stocking needs for the waters identified in your comment will detract from restoration efforts. Stocking of catchable Rio Grande cutthroat trout in those waters may be possible in the future but is not possible at this time. Waters which could be stocked with Gila trout have been identified in the approved Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling and are currently stocked by Mora National Fish Hatchery.
	Comment 12.14 - Reaches below trout migration barriers should be stocked with surplus native trout, coupled with increased harvest of non-native trout, to provide a biological buffer for core conservation and recovery populations upstream of barriers because there is always a chance non-natives will get above barriers and contaminate native trout population either by natural processes or with the help of "bucket biologists."	At this time, native trout produced at a hatchery are primarily allocated to restoration areas and secondarily areas where they could provide recreational opportunities for native trout angling.
	Comment 12.15 - "Design and implement in-stream and riparian habitat restoration efforts." TUNM and our individual TU chapters strongly support these projects. Prioritization should be based on waters with	Thank you for your support.

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
	high use, waters with potential for designation as Trophy or Quality Waters (e.g., Rio Chama tailwaters), wild trout waters (especially those being considered for reduced or no stocking or native trout restoration), and areas that have been heavily impacted by flooding following catastrophic wildfires. In addition we see these projects as a great opportunity to create hands-on opportunities for volunteers from our chapters and other groups to help implement. Thus creating public buy-in and ownership, not to mention in-kind match for grants, etc.	
	Comment 12.16 - "Maintain current understanding of the distribution of fish pathogens in waters and hatcheries in New Mexico." This is too passive; rather the Department should be striving to "continually improve" its understanding of all aquatic invasive species threat, not just fish pathogens.	Your suggested language was added in the final plan to improve our understanding of fish pathogens in New Mexico..
	Comment 12.17 - "RGCT restoration in the Rio Costilla and Rio las Animas watersheds (ongoing) as well as the Pecos River watershed (future)." These watersheds only represent near-term planning currently underway. What about other waters such as the Jemez Mountains and Taos area watersheds, and the Rio Embudo, Red River and Rio San Antonio watersheds? The SFMP should not limit itself to the near-term if it is to present an "overarching vision."	The Rio Costilla restoration efforts began in 1999 and expected to be completed in 2018, at the earliest. As identified in the Rangewide Conservation Strategy for Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout and this Plan, the Pecos River watershed is in need of significant restoration efforts for Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Considering the complexities and remote terrain in the Pecos River basin, these efforts will span a significant timeframe for implementation. The Department has consistently identified the Pecos River basin as the future priority area and the draft and final plans include areas that may be considered for restoration. Identifying any other restoration projects beyond this is conjecture at this time. The Department also identified several streams in the Jemez mountains where non-native trout populations were removed by post-fire flooding caused by the Las Conchas Fire. The Department plans to take advantage of these opportunities to restore Rio Grande cutthroat trout to the identified streams.
	Comment 12.18 - "Investigate potential use and effects of supermale trout to aid in native trout restoration efforts." This is an intriguing option especially for control/suppression of brown trout. But	We agree. This is an experimental process and we will approach the technology with great caution.

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
	tread lightly before introducing genetically modified fish.	
	Comment 12.19 -"Incorporate other native fishes into restoration efforts including warmwater reaches, where possible. Examples include Rio Grande sucker, Rio Grande chub, spikedace, and loach minnow." TUNM strongly supports efforts to re-establish native fish communities where possible. Such assemblages are important to restoring and maintaining ecosystem health.	Thank you for your support. The Department believes that these efforts will proactively address the restrictive implications of the Endangered Species Act on activities in New Mexico.
	Comment 12.20 - "Incorporate native trout into restoration efforts in warmwater reaches of Gila River Basin to compliment coldwater reaches and other sensitive or listed taxa recovery efforts, where possible." TUNM strongly supports all efforts to expand angling opportunities for Gila trout, including those designated for recreational populations.	Thank you for your support.
	Comment 12.21 - In this plan the Department should commit to establishing more metapopulations of native trout as is currently being done on the Rio Costilla watershed. We cannot keep these species bottled up in small headwater streams where entire populations can be wiped out almost overnight as happened to the Gila trout after recent wildfires. This is critical to build resiliency into native trout restoration efforts in the face of threats from increased temperatures, prolonged drought and devastating flash flooding following catastrophic wildfires.	Several large watersheds, both for Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout, were identified in the draft and final plans that fall within the metapopulation concept for restoration. The Department also recognizes the need for redundancy and representation in restoration efforts which may include smaller and isolated habitats.
	Comment 12.22 - "Evaluate and consider amendments to Special Trout Water regulations throughout the state." As we have stated elsewhere in these comments, the Department should expand and promote formal subcategories of Special Trout Waters to include Trophy, Quality, and Wild Native Trout Waters.	Thank you for your comment. This priority identifies the need for the Department to evaluate existing Special Trout Water regulations and propose new regulations to the State Game Commission.
	Comment 12.23 – Such designations should be clearly identified in the Department's Fishing Rules & Info and with signage along streams. The current signage for Special Trout Waters is too vague as it primarily just refers the angler to the Fishing Rules & Info. The reality is that most anglers do not know the rules or carry them around while fishing.	We agree and will work towards simplifying current Special Trout Water regulations in the future.

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
	Currently there are so many nuances to the Special Trout Waters rules, it is hard to remember what the rules are for different waters.	
	Comment 12.24 - The Department needs to commit to more catch and release waters. It is well known that catch and release regulations can increase the quality of a fishery by increasing both numbers and size of fish. Both of which were identified as preferences in the recent angler survey. Much footwork has already been laid for applying these regulations to the Rio Chama: on- stream surveys and signed petitions show strong support from the angling community. The lower Red River below the hatchery is also a prime candidate that has strong local support catch and release regulations.	The Department cannot commit to adopting more catch and release waters as this authority lies with the State Game Commission. We received significant public comment that encouraged the adoption of additional catch and release areas or other Special Trout Water reaches throughout the state. Again, this priority identifies the need to develop additional areas in the future which could include the lower Red River. See also response to Comment 1.1.
	Comment 12.25 - The Department needs to commit to increased enforcement, especially on Special Trout Waters receiving new designations as Trophy or Quality Waters and new rules such as catch & release or reduced bag and possession limits.	Though most anglers obey regulations, enforcement is a continual challenge. We encourage you to contact Operation Game Thief if you observe a violation of any State Game Commission regulations including Special Trout Waters.
	Comment 12.26 - At a minimum, this section should identify all the core conservation and recovery populations of native trout known to the Department; there seem to be a few missing, e.g., the upper Rio Chiquito in the Rio Grande del Rancho watershed.	Yes some Rio Grande cutthroat trout waters are intentionally omitted. This document is intended to communicate current and future management direction for reaches and not depict distribution of fish species. For an accurate depiction of Rio Grande cutthroat trout distribution, we recommend viewing the Rangewide Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Database or the Conservation Strategy. The Rio Grande del Rancho is discussed on pg. 93 of both the draft and final plans. The Department is aware of a small cutthroat trout population in the Rio Chiquito drainage but possesses insufficient data to determine the genetic status of this population. We added language to the management direction for Pot Creek and tributaries to reflect the existence of this population and potential for future suppression of brown trout.
	Comment 12.27 - This section should identify all of core conservation and recovery populations that are thought to be protected by barriers, etc. from non-natives. In addition, known or planned barriers in reaches with potential for native trout restoration populations should also be identified. There	Yes this section does not include information on all barriers for Core or Conservation Populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout or Recovery Populations of Gila Trout. This sort of information is beyond the scope of this plan and is included in Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Database or the Conservation Strategy.

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
	seem to be a few missing, e.g., barriers on Cow Creek and Willow Creek in the Pecos watershed and the barrier enhancements being planned for the Rio Hondo tributaries. Where barriers either do not exist, are inadequate, or the barrier status is unknown, the management direction should include investigating the potential for barrier installation/enhancement. This is critical information because the Department cannot effectively manage for natives without protection from non-natives?	Further, the Native Trout Restoration priority on pages 31 and 32 includes installation of barriers to protect populations. Language was added to the final plan to clarify the need to install, enhance, and maintain fish migration barriers for all native trout populations, as applicable.
	Comment 12.28 – A common management direction found throughout this section is: "Maintain regulations to support angling for wild trout." The Department should be striving to improve angling not just maintain the status quo. Rather than "maintain," the direction should be to "change regulations to improve angling for wild trout." For example, where brown trout do not threaten native trout populations, the Department could easily lower harvest limits or adopt catch and release rules.	In many cases, current regulations are adequate to meet angler demands, meet desired population criteria, and adequately protect the resource. This may change in the future so this management direction creates greater flexibility for regulation development, including maintenance of existing or more restrictive regulations. Maintaining regulations refers to consistently having regulations in place that maintain the wild trout population with respect to a desired criterion. As stated in Response to comment 12.24, the Department cannot commit to changing regulations as the State Game Commission has authority to amend angling regulations. More restrictive regulations will not necessarily obtain the desired results as many environmental factors affect the overall productivity of a population. Several waters were identified as Quality waters in the final plan (see response to comment 12.5) though adoption of restrictive regulations may not be necessary.
	Comment 12.29 - Suppression of non-native trout and other non-native predators should be identified as a management type where they commingle with core conservation and recovery populations of native trout. All forms of suppression, e.g., systematic mechanical or chemical removal by the Department and increased, unlimited or mandatory harvest by anglers, should be on the table for management direction, not just "periodically remove" non-native trout. This management type should also be expanded to streams with significant reaches that are under consideration for RGCT or Gila trout restoration in the future, e.g., upper Cow and	This plan is intended to identify priority actions and not every possible action. Many Rio Grande cutthroat trout waters are too remote to feasibly conduct mechanical suppression without diverting significant resources away from restoration efforts such as piscicide treatments. Waters that are identified for suppression are accessible to conduct routine suppression efforts. Several waters were identified in the draft plan to consider for regulation development to allow unlimited harvest of non-native trout (e.g. Rio Santa Barbara and tributaries, Rio las Vacas, Rito del Padre) and several are already subject to regulations permitting unlimited harvest of

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	Holy Ghost Creeks and potentially other creeks in the Pecos watershed to name just a few. In addition, suppression of non-native trout and other non-native predators should be identified as a management type where they occur downstream of fish movement barriers with core conservation and recovery populations of native trout above with the ultimate goal of eliminating nonnative trout in such stream reaches. As long as there is a nonnative trout below a barrier, there is a chance it will get above and contaminate native trout population. These reaches also should be stocked with surplus native trout to provide a buffer for recovery populations upstream of barriers.	non-native trout (e.g. Rio Cebolla and, Leandro Creek, Cabresto Creek). The final plan includes several additional waters to consider for development of unlimited harvest regulations including Palociento, Frijoles, and Columbine Creek as well as tributaries to the Rio Hondo that contain Rio Grande cutthroat trout populations.
	Comment 12.30 - This section should identify for watersheds where establishment of secure metapopulations might be a feasible management direction. For example, the Rio Mora in the Pecos Wilderness might be a candidate.	The opportunity for restoring metapopulations of the same scale as in the Rio Costilla watershed is limited in New Mexico. The draft and final plans have identified several potential restoration or currently occupied areas of different scales and hydrologic complexity for both Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Examples include Whitewater Creek and West Fork Gila River for Gila trout along with the Rio Costilla, Panchuela Creek, Rio Mora (Pecos), and the Rio de las Vacas.
	Comment 12.31 - This section should expand the use of Put & Take and Put, Grow & Take of native trout as a management type to more waters such as Shuree Ponds, the lower Red River and various winter trout waters around the state.	Areas identified for stocking of native trout for recreational purposes is limited by hatchery space and is experimental at this time. Waters identified include areas Department staff feel stocking of native trout is feasible (based upon current hatchery availability) and has some chance for meeting or exceeding the identified parameters for trout management. Stocking Rio Grande cutthroat trout in Shuree Ponds would detract from the fish available for restoration purposes and the Department does not have Canadian strain broodstock. The Department does not have the capacity to stock catchable Rio Grande cutthroat trout into winter trout waters throughout the state. The draft plan was amended to include potentially stocking Rio Grande cutthroat trout into the lower Red River, Lagunitas Lake, San Gregorio Reservoir, El Rito (lower), Canjilon Lakes, Trout Lakes, Hopewell Lake, and additional sites in the Rio San Antonio.
	Comment 12.32 - This section needs to	See response to Comment 12.24.

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	identify and designate more waters that can be managed to meet our suggestions for new categories of Special Trout Waters, e.g., the Rio Chama below El Vado and Abiquiu dams, Rio Chama Wildlife and Fishing Area, Red River below the fish hatchery, Rio Grande in the Wild and Scenic River section, as well as smaller reaches on smaller waters. To accomplish this, the Department should commit to implementing, not just consider, new regulations to include reduced bag limits, minimum size limits, catch and release only sections, and suppression of non-native predators such as pike on the Rio Grande as a management direction. This commitment should include adopting regulatory changes at the earliest opportunity as this is the quickest, widest reaching, lowest cost, least staff resource intensive tool available.	
	Comment 12.33 - It is inappropriate and counter-productive to promote quality fishing for nonnative species in waters that have been designated critical habitat for federally-protected species such as is proposed for the East Fork Gila River.	Thank you for your comment. The appropriateness of promoting one fishery over another is a matter of opinion. This topic is central to the challenge posed by the dual mission of the Department to continually provide recreational angling and conserve species. This multi-use mission is similar to ederal agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service mission for land management. The tradeoffs were carefully considered by Department biologists and vetted through discussions with researchers, members of the public, and other agencies and we believe they provide areas that currently contribute to recovery needs or will contribute in the future.
	Comment 12.34 - Adopt a more aggressive approach to suppression of non-native trout. This includes adopting greatly reduced or unlimited harvest of non-natives, especially brown trout. Increased harvest regulations for brown and rainbow trout should not only be adopted for waters where they commingle with conservation and recovery populations of native trout but also below barriers. The ultimate goal should be eliminating non-native trout from these reaches. The Department should commit to making such changes at the earliest opportunity; hopefully even in time to be included in the 2016-2017 NM Fishing Rules and Info.	See response to Comment 12.29.
	Comment 12.35 - Revise the Special Trout rules	See response to Comment 12.24.

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	to include more catch and release waters, especially for wild native trout waters and high-use waters with the potential to be quality or trophy fisheries. Again the Department should commit to making such changes at the earliest opportunity for the Rio Chama tailwaters and the Red River below the hatchery; hopefully even in time to be included in the 2016-2017 NM Fishing Rules and Info.	
	Comment 12.36 - Increase awareness of our native Rio Grande cutthroat and Gila trout by expanding recreational stocking of these species throughout the state and adopting a Special Trout Water designation of "Wild Native Trout Water."	See responses to Comment 12.22 and 12.31.
	Comment 12.37 - The Department needs to commit to an increased enforcement presence in the field, especially on Special Trout Waters receiving new rules. Compliance suffers without a strong enforcement presence, at least until new rules become ingrained in the angling public.	See response to Comment 12.25.
	Comment 12.38 - The SFMP should also include the Departments adaptive management strategy to deal with future changes to our fisheries whether they are the result of Department actions or natural events such as drought or catastrophic wildfire aftermath. The plan should include means of measuring progress toward goals and options for dealing with unanticipated outcomes. If the SFMP is not the appropriate document, the plan should point to the Department documents, e.g., the Strategic Plan and species-specific plans, where specific timelines and actions are spelled out and identify review or revision cycles so the public can follow and have input	This is beyond the scope of this plan. Adaptive management strategies are thoroughly identified in individual species conservation plans, strategies or recovery plans. The Department always welcomes and seeks public input on native trout management and conservation as evidenced by the long-standing Rio Grande cutthroat trout working group, Rangewide Conservation Team for Rio Grande cutthroat trout, and Gila Trout Recovery Team meetings.
	Comment 12.39 - TUNM and our chapters support the Department's commitment to not just maintaining but improving New Mexico's fisheries. However we feel this plan does not go far enough to delineate how this commitment will be carried out. The dSFMP is too much a statement of what the Department is doing now and not so much of a plan of what it can be doing in the future to improve our fisheries. We are confident the	Thank you for your comment as it indicates the draft plan fell short of communicating the significant changes in management direction for waters across the state. In addition, the draft plan did not adequately clarify conflicting management approaches over the past several decades. In many cases, the Department believes current management is adequate to meet current demands requiring no changes in management direction at this

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	Department can better articulate its vision for the future by adopting a more proactive rather than passive approach to the management direction contained in a truly comprehensive vision for contemporary and future management for all fisheries in the state. And we welcome a chance to actively participate in these efforts. Our leaders are willing to discuss these comments and our ideas with the Department staff, identify and provide funding and in-kind match for projects, otherwise help facilitate implementation of the vision expressed in this management plan.	time. Based upon discussions with your membership, the Department identified waters with significant changes in or needed clarification for management direction in **bold** type. We believe this approach coupled with the priority projects provides a clearer picture of the future for fisheries management for all New Mexicans.
Arturo Anaya	**Comment 13.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Austin Ayers	**Comment 14.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would be overjoyed to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks. Similar to the catch and release areas along the San Juan river.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Aztec Anglers	**Comment 15.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Bernie Reynolds	**Comment 16.**1 - After some time it became apparent that fishing is not as high on the Game and Fish choices , hunting to you is paramount, that impression would be no surprise to the fishermen in the southern part of the state.	Thank you for your comment.
	Comment 16.2 - My questions were only about Elephant Butte and lake Caballo which in my opinion with many others is a disgrace, when	You are correct that the Department believes the primary challenge to fisheries management in both Elephant Butte and

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	one considers the fishermen in the second largest city in the state and surrounding areas have these two lake to fish in, I asked many questions why there is a huge lack of smaller fish to catch with-out to much of an answer, only being told the rise and fall of water levels are the main problem.	Caballo Lakes is rapidly fluctuating water levels. The primary purpose of these reservoirs is water storage with recreational angling and boating being added benefits.
	Comment 16.3 - When really in Elephant butte the fishing reached a miserable level about 4 years after you introduced Striped bass, I researched the date the Striped bass were first introduced that was 1976 when speaking with residents of the lake they will tell you the lake started to produce less fish 4-5 years after the bass were in there, now Striped bass can be caught up to 50 pounds with many close in weight, in case their is some confusion in Santa Fee these Stripers did not get big by lifting weights they are big because they have decimated the small fish population of Elephant butte. It is now unusual to catch fish in the Butte, the only people to benefit from the striped bass were and are the fishing guides.	We are uncertain what species of fish you perceive to be less abundant after the introduction of striped bass. We are pleased to hear that striped bass approaching 50 pounds. This result was the purpose for their introduction and supports the management direction to produce trophy angling opportunities. These fish were introduced to provide opportunities for all anglers and not just guides. Population surveys indicate both white bass and catfish are abundant at Elephant Butte.
	Comment 16.4 - One of the G&F speakers mentioned the lake is full of predators, which makes matters clear, you are not providing fishing opportunities for anglers in the southern part of the state you are blaming the water levels for the failure to give us the angling we should expect to experience. Finding Bluegill, Crappie, White Bass is rare.	Yes, several predatory species are present in Elephant Butte Lake including walleye, largemouth bass, channel catfish, blue catfish, white bass, and striped bass. White bass is one of the most common predatory species in the lake. These predators are not a problem for Elephant Butte Lake but rather essential to the fishery. Species composition or abundance will change with water levels with continued, albeit, different angling opportunities.
	Comment 16.5 - If you have to many predators in the lake remove a large amount of them or kill the lake out and stock in from scratch, few would notice, at least get the Striped Bass out, I was most upset to see you intend to introduce more Striped bass.	We do not believe there are too many predators in Elephant Butte Lake.
	Comment 16.6 - Now Caballo This lake is almost a candidate for a dying slew as fishing is almost non existent, I have spoken with many anglers who catch nothing there, I have had a boat stored and used weekly on Caballo during the last 3 years I have caught zero I had the boat on the Butte for 5 years used weekly catching 3 fish.	See response to Comment 16.2.
	Comment 16.7 - Again the water levels were blamed,I spoke of cover for fish I was told when they do put in cover its left high and dry in the	The Department does not have the resources to place fish habitat structures throughout Caballo Lake. The Department has supported

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	summer, perhaps I am missing something but does one then put the fish cover in deeper water to over come this problem.	recent habitat development efforts in Elephant Butte Lake by local anglers and NM BASS. We encourage you to join these collaborative efforts.
	Comment 16.8 - By the biologists admission there are not enough hatcheries in the state, while most aquatic attention is centered north of Albuquerque, along with most of the fish fry	Department hatcheries are focused on rearing rainbow trout which are not suited for Elephant Butte or Caballo Lake temperature regimes. Stocking these lakes with trout would waste public resources and do little to establish fishing opportunities at the lakes. Most largemouth bass stocked by the Department over the past decade have been placed in Elephant Butte Lake. The Department is also planning to expand the warmwater facilities at the Rock Lake State Hatchery.
	Comment 16.9 - I am a 40 year trout fisherman, so I do have experience of fishing in many countries and many states in the union, a lot of them in very hot climates, they provide fishing with-out having the luxury of 2 large bodies of water, I have lived and fished in North Dakota were the temps reach 105f for long periods they can provide fishing I understand from reading you web page information issues that you put about 100 trout in the river between the two lakes and they are promptly caught and killed as soon as the word is out, why not put them in the lake what is the difference other than they would stand more of life.	The Department seeks to provide a wide range of fishing opportunities including limited trout fishing below Elephant Butte Dam. Stocking those fish into a waterbody the size of Elephant Butte Lake would result in little probability for angler harvest. Other species such as largemouth bass, catfish, and striped bass are better suited to Elephant Butte Lake and provide better angling opportunities than rainbow trout.
	Comment 16.10 - We anglers in the of the state are anglers too we would like to fish with-out first having to drive 6 hours, we pay the same license fees as the angler northern part of the state we ask you provide us with fishing also, we have 2 great lakes that are for all intents currently useless to us. Other states deal with heat, low water period why do you have so much trouble.	We understand your desire to fish in waters closer to your home. There are several waters identified in the plan that are close to these lakes. We encourage you to pursue those areas as alternatives. The Department has recently collaborated with the local community surrounding Elephant Butte Lake to stock additional largemouth bass, install habitat improvement structures, and encourage no angling in some areas used by largemouth bass during spawning season. We encourage you to join these efforts to help improve the angling opportunities at Elephant Butte.
	Comment 16.11 - The Gila project is a credit to you but how about you supply fee paying folks in the south with some reasonablefishing.	Thank you for your comment.
Enchanted Circle Trout Unlimited	**Comment 17.1 -** From experience at the RGCT working group and elsewhere I know that the Department shares TU's passion for Native Fish	The Department supports the addition of most all fish migration barriers on tributaries to the Rio Hondo to protect Rio Grande

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	issues. There are many active projects in the state, and we would like to make sure that our efforts for fish barriers on the Hondo tributaries are supported and kept on the "front burner". We continue to push the USFS to do the things that only they can do that has kept us from moving forward. Any help from the Department in this matter would be welcome.	cutthroat trout populations. This is reflected in the priority project identified under Native Trout on pg. 31.
	Comment 17.2 - We noted that in discussion of Cabresto Creek, p. 91, mention was made of special trout water, but nothing about unlimited take of non native species. We assume that was an oversight, and not an indication that there will be a change in regulations (?) (I am reminded of the need to go back to the Cabresto area to see if sign maintenance, explaining the regulation, is needed!)	Yes this was an oversight and thank you for pointing it out. The intent to maintain this regulation allowing unlimited non-native trout harvest in Cabresto Creek has been reflected in the final plan.
	Comment 17.3 - In general we feel that "catch and release" fishing is not receiving the interest it deserves. In regards to "Special Trout Water", the Chapter recommends that the Red River from the hatchery to its confluence with the Rio Grande be declared catch and release with single, barbless hooks. Information collected by the Department's Angler Satisfaction Survey would support this. (a majority of stream fishermen practice C&R and want larger and more fish). Success of C&R stream designations on the San Juan and all over the US (financial impact, angler satisfaction, etc.) also supports this. With the recently completed $750,000 project on the Red River to make a "put and take" fishing park in Questa, it seems only fair to give consideration to the majority interest. The Red River attracts fishermen all year long, and is heavily fished. Spawning Rainbows and Browns are often targeted in the lower section by a minority of anglers that "catch and eat".	Thank you for your comment as it highlights the challenges with meeting multiple angler interests. Based upon public comment, the final plan has identified several waters which will be considered for proposed regulation amendments which include the lower Red River along with all Special Trout Waters.
	Comment 17.4 - From personal experience, the designation of "Special Trout Water" with various "fine print" regulations is confusing to virtually every angler. In our opinion, the STW designation should mean C&R with single barbless hook wherever that term is used. Our observation is that without periodic G&F presence and enforcement, STW is not effective. Trout Unlimited could be a valuable education resource to the Dept. in our various community outreach and school programs.	As identified in the priority projects on pg. 32, the Department intends to review and propose amendments to Special Trout Waters throughout the state. The Department received substantial comments on the need for additional catch and release or other restrictions during the comment period and feel this is reflected in the final plan. We look forward to discussing these options with you in the future.

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	Comment 17.5 - We support the Department's stated commitment to habitat improvement on the Los Pinos, Red, Chama, and other areas. Again, Trout Unlimited would welcome a chance to participate in these efforts	Thank you for your support.
Bill Kipnis	**Comment 18.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks. I would like to see the catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each.\\	See response to Comment 1.1.
Billie Cantwell	**Comment 19.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1
Vernon Billingsley	**Comment 20.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Bob Knight	**Comment 21.1 -** The Chama tailwaters of Abiquiu and El Vado dams need to have the same regulations as the San Juan below Navajo Dam, for at least 4 miles each. Single barbless hook, catch and release only. Overharvesting is a problem and needs to be addressed.	See response to Comment 1.1
	Comment 21.2 - As well, the Pecos deserves more protection and enforcement. It is a river in distress.	Thank you for your comment.
Tommy Boylan	**Comment 22.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of	See response to Comment 1.1

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	artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	
	Comment 22.2 - Given the opportunity to keep trout as long as they are stockers and putting size restriction a on put and take fish.	This comment seems to conflict with the catch and release approach and supports some harvest by anglers.
NMDGF Notes from Albuquerque Meeting	**Comment 23.1 –** Expand tiger muskie fishing	The Department's current approach is to use tiger muskie to control unwanted species in reservoirs. We may consider other areas for introduction but must approach carefully to avoid unwanted effects of tiger muskie on existing fishery.
	Comment 23.2 – Catch and release regulations on Chama River below El Vado and Abiquiu Dams.	See response to Comment 1.1
	Comment 23.3 – Recognize the balance of interests of anglers who want catch and release regulations and those who want to keep their catch.	Thank you for your comment.
	Comment 23.4 – Interest groups want greater distribution of Special Trout Water regulations throughout the state.	See response to Comment 12.22.
Brent Feulner	**Comment 24.1 -**I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 3 to 5 continuous river miles. I would also urge that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial Flies with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1
	Comment 24.2 - I also urge that other sections of heavily fished rivers in N.M. such as the Pecos be considered for similar regulations.	Thank you for your comment.
Benjamin Brock	**Comment 25.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Charlie Farrell	**Comment 26.1 -**One major step in that direction would be to designate a meaningful section of the Chama River as catch and release. Specifically, the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams should be protected as catch and release. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.

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Milo Chavez	**Comment 27.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tail water sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I also suggest these areas be restricted to the use of artificial flies and lures with single, barbless hooks, that are of at least 4 continuous river miles each.	See response to Comment 1.1.
	Comment 27.2 - I truly believe that all NM trout streams and rivers should be catch and release and harvesting of fish prohibited for a period of time to allow fish populations to replenish. I feel that, now more than ever, we need to protect our rivers from the over-harvesting/keeping of too many fish.	We recognize your support for catch and release regulations.
	Comment 27.3 - I fully support the creation of catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River and feel that these areas would benefit the trout fishery and the environment. I also propose and support that limits be placed on the number of guides in all tail water areas especially the San Juan river as there are currently too many who think they own the river. They ruin the experience for the casual fishermen who just want to enjoy the outdoors without the attitudes of those who exploit the sport of trout fishing.	See response to Comment 1.1. The San Juan tailwater fishery is a popular fishery. Guide services on the San Juan River are regulated by NM State Parks and not the Department.
Chris Anderson	**Comment 28.1 -** Catch and release fishing water is important to the future of recreational fishing in New Mexico. Other fisheries have benefited from the implementation of catch and release water - and it is an important part of modernizing our fishing economy. We all know there is absolutely nothing wrong with bagging fish to be eaten - but as our waters see greater fishing pressure, it's important to protect our fisheries (and our recreational economy) with special catch and release water. The Chama is a special fishery - with some of the biggest wild brown trout in the area. Tailwater sections below El Vado and Abiquiu dams should be catch and release for at least 4 to 5 miles below the dams. Having these sections be closed to bait fishing, and 'barbless' would be smart, in-line with other well-managed fisheries in the West. Let's be leaders in New Mexico on this front - there are plenty of places in the state to go to kill and eat fish. Let's protect some areas so we can sustain world-class fisheries for future generations of New Mexicans.	See response to Comment 1.1.

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Kit Bruttig	**Comment 29.1 -** My wife and I have fished New Mexico the last two seasons on the San Juan and Valles Caldera. We have had a wonderful time and hope to continue to return to fish the many different and unique waters New Mexico has to offer. I would like the Department to consider implementing catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tail water sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
	Comment 29.2 - I also hope DGF New Mexico will continue to implement the restoration of Gila trout in the Gila Wilderness areas.	The draft and final plans identify priorities to continue with native trout restoration and areas for such implementation. Thank you for your support for Gila trout restoration.
Chris Scott	**Comment 30.1 -** I have just learnt that the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is seeking public comment on the draft of a new fisheries management plan. As an angler from the UK who visits North America regularly to fly fish, I write to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I suggest these areas should measure at least 4 continuous river miles each & fishing within them be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Clay Wallis	**Comment 31.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Dirk Kortz	**Comment 32.1 -** In response to your call for public comment on the future fisheries management plan, I would like to suggest added protection for the fish and habitat of the Rio Chama - particularly below Abiquiu Dam. I have fished and guided on this seven miles of river for the last 25 years and have seen it go through some good and bad times but it is presently in need of greater protection to insure it's future.	See response to Comment 1.1.
	Comment 32.2 - I urge you to consider	See response to Comment 1.1. Any closure

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	implementing some catch-and release sections on the river below Abiquiu Dam and El Vado Dam in order to protect the resident Browns (Since Rainbows are stocked non-residents, there is no need for them to be included but fishing with artificial flies and lures with single barbless hooks should be mandatory). I also think it would be worth considering closing the river to fishing a mile or two immediately below the dam during the months of October, November and December for several years to see the effect this would have on the fish population. The spawning Browns are stressed enough by the difficult conditions of this river without being caught or killed during this time and having their redds walked on. This protection is common practice in some states and, because of the low Fall flows in the Chama, the fish are particularly vulnerable then.	would be limited to State Game Commission regulations that regulate fisheries limits, manner and method of angling, and other regulations as provided for in Chapter 17 NMSA.
Daniel Gibson	**Comment 33.1 -** I am writing you to urge you to designate catch and release waters on the Rio Chama, particularly the section below Abiquiu Dam.	See response to Comment 1.1.
David Marsh	**Comment 34.1 -** As a sport fisherman I would like to see you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tail water sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
David Robinson	**Comment 35.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks. I would like to see the catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each.	See response to Comment 1.1.
David Sullivan	**Comment 36.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.

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Deb Robinson	**Comment 37.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Dennis Sanchez	**Comment 38.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Diego Jaramillo	**Comment 39.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Doug Williams	**Comment 40.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Dutch Salmon	**Comment 41.1 -** I am generally well pleased with the state fish management plan as it relates to the Gila/SF/Mimbres drainages. Thanks for the hard work and common sense! I offer just a few comments.	Thank you for your support.
	Comment 41.2 - I defer to Tom Hines and his good thoughts on developing some easier access trout fishing, including the conversion of Glenwood hatchery to Gila trout. The Forks area and Willow Creek area offer great potential for this easier access fishing.	The Department is considering raising Gila trout at Glenwood Hatchery for recreational purposes as well as securing long-term stocking of Gila trout in the Gila drainage. Areas identified in the approved Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling include both the Forks Area and Gilita Creek.

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	Comment 41.3 - Would like to see the wild brook trout in southfork Whitewater Creek left alone.	The brook trout in South Fork Whitewater Creek were decimated by the Whitewater Baldy Fire. As a result, the Department is proposing to restore this area to Gila trout. Brook trout would conflict with the identified management direction.
	Comment 41.4 - Would like to see Gila Trout, or Rio Grande Cutthroat, stocked in the upper Mimbres, from Cooney Canyon upstream; otherwise we have some 30 miles of stream with no gamefish at all.	The introduction of either Rio Grande cutthroat trout or Gila trout into the Mimbres basin could negatively affect Chihuahua chub which is identified as a focal species in the Mimbres drainage. Neither species were included for introduction in the final plan.
	Comment 41.5 - On Gila middle fork, if you suppress non-native sport fish, do by way of a loosened take rather than poison or electro-shock; indeed, I'd prefer a loosened take in most streams or reaches where suppression is the plan.	Thank you for your comment. The draft and final plans included investigating regulations which would promote the harvest of non-native fish for suppression efforts. Prior to any implementation of either regulation changes or proposed piscicide use, the Department would seek public input on the proposed actions.
	Comment 41.6 - Particularly like your plan for bass and catfish in the mainstem Gila and San Francisco Canyon while reserving reach from Mogollon Creek to Billings Vista (my preference instead of Foxtail Canyon) for Loach Minnow and other T&E species.	Thank you for your support.
Eddie Jones	**Comment 42.1 -** Please consider adding more catch and release areas on our rivers.The people taking too many fish will ruin the fishing for those who practice catch and release which in turn hurts the economy. Please implement catch and release below the dams thus insuring the survival of more fish.	See response to Comments 1.1 and 12.5.
Len J.J. Lo Presto	**Comment 43.1 -** First of all I am in favor of Catch and Release, but it is not my first option.	We recognize your support for catch and release regulations.
	Comment 43.2 - Some of the countries in Central Africa permit no bait fishing except artificial bait. No cheese, no corn, no liver, no live minnows, no power baits and no live worms. This kept things at a level pace in their area. In Kazakhstan they permit only four kinds of bait and let the people keep the fish they catch (with a limit) only on Wednesday. I worked with a Kazakhstani Captain and he told me that by having Catch and Release every day (especially the weekends) except Wednesday they rarely have to re-stock the lakes. For those who are really Catch and Release advocates, it is easy to release the fish without harming them and especially trout.	Thank you for your comment. Many anglers in New Mexican wish to fish with bait and harvest the fish they catch. The Department wishes to support these activities though certain areas have been identified or designated for Special Trout Water regulations. We feel this approach, with potential modifications in the future, will ensure all angler preferences are met. Adopting regulations permitting harvest only on certain days of the week would limit harvest to individuals who could fish on those days rather than all anglers. No revisions were made to the plan which would limit harvest to certain days of the week.

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Frank Grad	**Comment 44.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Earl Conway	**Comment 45.1 –** An extensive comment letter was sent by NM BASS which included these and other comments. These comments are addressed under Comment 121.	
Gil Trujillo	**Comment 46.1 -**I am writing this letter to request consideration for implementing a catch and release fishing area on the Chama River below both the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I'd like to see the area to be similiar to the San Juan and extend at least 4 miles below the dam and only allow the use of artificial lures and flies with a single barbless hook.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Pierre Lorillard	**Comment 47.1 -** Several weeks ago, I was fishing the lake right after the fish hatchery truck arrived. It dumped some real lunkers. The fish were not aclimated to their surroundings. I saw dozens of people wading into the water and simply catching them with their hands and or nets. Not very sporting and I believe illegal? You might as well have them stand at the end of the truck with a basket.	Yes, collection of these fish by the methods you describe is illegal. If you observe this activity in the future, please contact the Department. The suitability for stocking rainbow trout is continually changing during a season. It is possible that conditions were not suitable and the fish were stressed post-stocking.
	Comment 47.1 – Perhaps, NM game & fish should rethink how they deliver their fish?Maybe train the fish to be scared of humans? Maybe deliver the fish after the lake is closed to give the fish time to adapt to their new environment?	Thank you for your suggestions on how to stock fish in the future.
Jerry Hendon	**Comment 48.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Richard Hertz	**Comment 49.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and	See response to Comment 1.1.

Commentor Name/Org.	Comment Identified	Response to Comment
	release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	
Jack Brown	**Comment 50.1 -** I am writing this e-mail to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Jay Cox	**Comment 51.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Gila/Rio Grande Chapter Trout Unlimited	**Comment 52.1 -** The GRG-TU Chapter is in full support of the comments submitted by the New Mexico State Council of Trout Unlimited.	The comments provided by the New Mexico State Council of Trout Unlimited were addressed above.
	Comment 52.2 - The recent occurrence of devastating forest fires in the forests of southern NM have severely damaged watersheds and negatively impacted recreational fisheries, but have also created a rare opportunity to expand the range and extent of native trout recovery and restoration efforts for both Gila and RGCT species. We believe that it is critically important to achieve a balance between conservation and recreational sport fishing that benefits the status of the species and ensures their survival, while also engaging broad public support and providing economic benefits to our region.	We agree that these forest fires damaged watersheds and fisheries but have also created opportunities to expand the range of both Gila and Rio Grande cutthroat trout. The draft and final plans both identified management directions for several waters which balance the need for native trout restoration and recreational angling opportunities. In many cases, both interests are served. We look forward to working with you in implementing these restoration efforts in the future.
	Comment 52.3 - We applaud the efforts to expand Gila Trout populations into streams such as Iron Creek below the barrier, Whitewater Creek, Mineral Creek, and Gilita Creek among others, to provide wild, native Gila Trout populations that help meet the goals of both recovery and recreational fishing.	Thank you for your support.
	Comment 52.4 - We support the use of all necessary tools for removing non-native fish	Thank you for your support for restoration efforts, potential temporary closures to

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	from streams to prepare them for introduction of Gila Trout, including the use of piscicides and physical removal through electrofishing, angling with increased harvest limits, etc. We recognize that these efforts may require temporary closure of streams to angling during the treatment and initial stocking periods, and support these restrictions in order to achieve the long term goals for the recovery of viable populations of Gila Trout. We encourage appropriate regulation of harvest, including catch and release, and requiring barbless fly/lure restrictions.	angling, and the potential need for restrictive regulations as necessary. The recently approved Framework for the Management of Gila Trout Angling promotes the need for reduced bag limits for Gila trout in recovery waters open to angling. This framework was added to the final plan. Regulation proposals will be proposed to the State Game Commission in the future.
	Comment 52.5 - Continued stocking of surplus and broodstock fish in accessible recreational waters such as the Gila Forks, Sapillo Creek, etc. could establish high quality trophy fishing opportunities that would yield multiple benefits.	The Department expects Gila trout that exceed annual recovery needs will be stocked by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the near future including the areas you identified. These fish will create exceptional angling opportunities for Gila trout.
	Comment 52.6 - We strongly support a similar position for the restoration of RGCT to the Rio Grande drainage that includes the Lincoln National Forest to the east, and the Black Range, Aldo Leopold Wilderness, Gila National Forest on the west. The South Fork of Bonito Creek would be an excellent site for restoration of RGCT, and we have been actively supported the plan for reintroduction of RGCT in Las Animas Creek.	Both the draft and final plans identified Bonito Creek as a potential Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration area. Las Animas Creek is expected to be stocked with Rio Grande cutthroat trout upon watershed recovery. Thank you for your support.
	Comment 52.7 - Our Chapter members are dedicated and willing volunteers who are eager to work with State and Federal agencies to improve our fisheries and watersheds. We strongly support the NMDGF in designating trophy fishing and quality waters in our region and across the State, and we welcome angling restrictions that enhance the value of these fisheries including requirements for catch and release, and stream closures during spawning. We support the implementation of catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams, and would like to see designated catch and release areas that are of at least 4 continuous river miles each. We also recognize the need for increased enforcement of angling regulations, and recommend that funding be specifically designated for additional dedicated NMDGF Staff for enforcing angling rules.	See response to Comments 1.1 and 12.5.

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Jenny Arfmann	**Comment 53.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Jesse Knight	**Comment 54.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks. I would like to see the catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Jim Treadwell	**Comment 55.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Joe Retoff	**Comment 56.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
John Bateman	**Comment 57.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
	Comment 57.2 - This last one is a story. I also fish the South Platte at Eleven Mile Canyon in Colorado. A wonderful stream. The catch and release area is healthy and produces great fishing. Many of the community in Colorado are	We recognize the challenge between balancing interests such as harvesting or releasing fish. We believe the final plan adequately addresses these conflicts with opportunities for modification in the future..

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	constantly clamoring for that area to be open to bait fishing, catch and keep. The reason they want it open is “that is where all of the fish are.” Well the entire stream is basically very healthy, so why are fish mostly in that stretch? Because they can’t fish it out! If they did open it, it would fish out in a season, then where would they go?	
John Egbert	**Comment 58.1 -** Gila River Plan needs to bolster the future for the native chubs. Assess needs and create recovery plan in 2016. Do not wait. These fish are threatened with extirpation now. Take corrective actions in 2016 to eliminate predators in the most threatened zones.	The Department adopted a Colorado River Basin Chubs Recovery Plan in 2006. The draft and final plans identified areas where the Department believes non-native species removal or suppression is feasible and warranted.
	Comment 58.2 - Commentary: Plan does not state the need to eliminate, or at least minimize exotic fish that predate chubs. NMDGF biologists know this is occurring but your plan does not address this pressing issue. Plan fails to mention the rapid decline of native chubs. Why is the state failing these native species that have not historically been considered target game fish, but rather trash fish by locals? Why is the state not representing the native fish as it would for native game fish such as Gila or Rio Grande Cutthroat trout? Are we the people of NM okay with letting out local fish fauna succumb to smallmouth, channel, and flathead catfish? Let's be honest and not political based on past human priorities(game species tolerated or appreciated versus their effects on native fish), but rather side with native fish. The situation is dire.	The need to eliminate or suppress non-native predators is identified as management directions for several waters on pages 137 through 154. Again, the purpose of this plan is to express the importance of all species and find a balance between competing interests in New Mexico.
	Comment 58.3 - Pecos River Upstream from Pecos to Cowles, please simplify the regulations. Catch and release for all brown trout. Many fishermen prefer catching larger browns and the size has dwindled over the years due to "take" pressure. In other words, create two niches. This is common practice in other western states for browns and rainbows. This proposal would create renewed interest in the Pecos fishery. Continue your rainbow program and aggressive headwaters Rio Grande cutthroat programs as per the proposals. Alternatively, consider what size browns would be allowed for harvest, as per 2 over 16". That reg. would allow most browns to grow but still give fishermen opportunities to keep some browns.	The identified priority projects include evaluation and proposed amendments to the Special Trout Water regulations throughout the state. The Department wishes to simplify regulations in the future. Thank you for your support for Rio Grande cutthroat trout restoration.
John Morrison	**Comment 59.1 -** I am writing this email to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially on	See response to Comment 1.1.

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	the tailwater sections below El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are 4 to 5 contiguous river miles each. Further, I would like to see these areas restricted to the use of artificial lures with single barbless hooks.	
John McKinley	**Comment 60.1 -** No specific comments on the draft plan included in this correspondence.	N/A
Johnny Sanchez	**Comment 61.1 -** Yall are doing a great job keep up the good work new Mexico will soon be one of the best fresh water fishing in the states	Thank you for your support.
Jon Goeke	**Comment 62.1 -** In regards to your new fisheries management plan, I feel very strongly that we as a state really need to take as much money as needed to support the policing of our laws first. I feel that passing more laws and making more fishing areas catch and release or fly fishing only is very counter productive at this time. It is obvious that we can not keep up with the laws that are presently written on the books as we have so much poaching going on at this time	Thank you for your comment. The Department agrees that some angling regulations are complicated and has identified a review of Special Trout Water regulations as a priority project in both the draft and final plans.
	Comment 62.2- There are more folks who fish other than flies and catch and release, and purchase more fishing products and do more to fund fishing than the few fly fishermen in this state, and they need to be taken care of also.	The Department recognizes the interests of all anglers in New Mexico and believes the draft and final plan adequately represent their interests.
	Comment 62.3 - A few months ago we had a vote on the management of waters on private land and decided to disallow folks access to these waters. This limits the amount of fishing water left to all fishing people, so I feel it unfair to regulate any more water to such a limited amount of fishers. There are many areas already set for limited fishing witch may I say are also unmanageable.	Thank you for your comment.
	Comment 62.4 - So in conclusion, I feel that we really need to highly support policing and teaching fishing conservation first before trying to make new laws that are already unmanageable.	Thank you for your comment.
Jonathan Garcia	**Comment 63.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Joseph Hart	**Comment 64.1 -** I am writing this letter to	See response to Comment 1.1.

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	request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	
Joe Jones	**Comment 65.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
John Cabala	**Comment 66.1 -** I am writing this letter in support of protecting the trout fishing resource for not just fish guides interested in their business, but also for us fisherman who need places we can rely on to relax, fish, and spend quality time with family and friends. So please implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Julius Webster	**Comment 67.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Kathy Schermerhorn	**Comment 68.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Ken Tillman	**Comment 69.1 –** I am writing this letter to	See response to Comment 1.1.

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	request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	
Lane Haygood	**Comment 70.1 –** I am writing this letter in support of the proposal to implement designated catch and release fishing areas along the Chama River, especially in the tailwaters below El Vado and Abiquiu dams. Catch and release areas provide some of the finest fishing available, and as a non-resident of New Mexico, I make sure to bring my tourist and angler dollars to your state specifically for the great fishing. Even with New Mexico's superb stocking efforts, anglers are able to quickly deplete the fish stock of a river if sensible regulations are not imposed. In addition, I would request that these designated areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with a single, barbless hook to reduce risk of damage or injury to the fish. I believe that designated 4-5 mile sections will increase the desirability to fish in the area, and smart enforcement of a catch and release paradigm will ensure that there are always fish to bring in anglers like myself, anglers who might otherwise forgo the trip to New Mexico.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Larry Fallin -	**Comment 71.1 -** Can't think of anything more important or valuable than this initiative. Please move forward	See response to Comment 1.1.
Larry Ydens	**Comment 72.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks. The economic impact will far exceed the riparian protection our state so desperately need.	See response to Comment 1.1.
M2	**Comment 73.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and	See response to Comment 1.1.

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	Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	
Frank Marcelli	**Comment 74.1 -** Hello, I'm writing this letter to request catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River for Cottonwood Flats and below El Vado dam. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Mark Johnson	**Comment 75.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Mark Kalin	**Comment 76.1 -** I support your implementation of catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I favor catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. Please consider restricting fishing in these areas to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks. I think that this would benefit the trout fishery, the environment, and the local economy	See response to Comment 1.1.
Matt Newsum	**Comment 77.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater section below Abiquiu dam. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks. We would like to see the catch and release areas that are of at least 4 continuous river miles each.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Matt Martin	**Comment 78.1 -** I am an out-of-state angler who frequents NM rivers often. I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of	See response to Comment 1.1.

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	artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	
Michael McGrail	**Comment 79.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Michael Sisneros	**Comment 80.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures. I would like to see the catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Mike Maurer	**Comment 81.1 -** Where there are wild fish (Bass, Trout, esp. Rio Grande's and etc.) that catch and release be implemented for the wild fish and only stock catchable triploids in the same waters. All watersheds have some areas and/or tributaries that have wild fish, these should be catch and release for the wild fish.	This plan is intended to balance the desires of multiple angling groups including those individuals who wish to keep the fish they catch. The draft plan included a priority project to review existing Special Trout Waters in the future. In addition, the Department received significant comment in support of additional catch and release areas throughout the state and we will seek your input on proposed amendments as they arise.
	Comment 81.2 - I think it is commendable that they list stocking only triploid rainbows that won't be able to hybridize. I feel this should be encouraged and voice opposition to stocking normal rainbows.	Thank you for your support.
	Comment 81.3 - In the stocking schedule they only list stocking Rio Grande Cutts in 4 lakes. (I've made this pitch to the head of G&F twice before and was turned down both times, however they did stock some Rio Grande's one year in several drainages). I feel they should stock Rio Grand Cutthroats in many of the watersheds and where they can be wild (such as the Chama in several stretches) employ catch and release for them and all wild fish.	The draft and final plans identify stocking Rio Grande cutthroat trout in several areas including the Rio Chama, Rio Grande, and several streams in the Jemez Watershed. At this time, the Department is uncertain whether these efforts will be successful. As available and based upon new information, the Department wishes to expand stocking of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
	Comment 81.4 - Stock Rio Grande's or (Fingering Browns) in some of the winter fisheries such as the Corrales drain. Fish that survive may be more resilient than Rainbows. I. Many people who fish don't even know what a	At this time, only fingerling Rio Grande cutthroat trout are available for consistent recreational stocking. Fingerling trout will not likely survive warmer seasons especially Rio Grande cutthroat trout. The Department has

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	Rio Grande Cutthroat looks like, even though it is the state fish. By stocking it, anglers would get to see them (and how really beautiful they are) and appreciate them more.	identified areas to determine whether recreational stocking of fingerlings will enhance recreational opportunities for Rio Grande cutthroat trout.
Mike Maurer	**Comment 82.1 -** I agree with many of the proponents of making the Chama river Catch and release below El Vado and Abiquiu. It will do much to improve the fishery and as we've seen on the San Juan the local economy will benefit greatly.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Mike Prime	**Comment 83.1 -** If key sections are managed as Special Trout Water, the Chama river has the potential to be a premier trout fishery for both New Mexico residents and also to bring quality tourists to the area. Specifically, the tailwater sections for 4-5 miles below the El Vado and Abiquiu Dams could support national-caliber trout fishing. Put and take areas could be strategically placed on nearby regions of the Chama to accommodate those that wish to take fish home. Done well, everyone could be happy and the local economy could benefit.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Mike Steinzig	**Comment 84.1 -** I am a long time fisherman in New Mexico, and would like to see more trophy class fishing areas in the state. One of the best ways to achieve this would be designating sections of river with good habitat as catch and release only areas, with restrictions on fishing to only allow only single barbless hooks. To be successful, a minimum of 5 mile stretches should be designated as such, but it could be started with shorter lengths of river. A good place to start would be the Chama river below Abiquiui and below El Vado dams. These streams could also use the Habitat Stamp program funds to provide habitat for spawning.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Morris Burns	**Comment 85.1 -** Catch and release on Chama	See response to Comment 1.1.
Nicholas Nielsen	**Comment 86.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River,Pecos river and the rio grande. especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams from john dunn bridge to red river confluence, pecos river through out the existing quality waters. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1. In addition, the Department received significant comment in support of additional catch and release areas or other special regulation areas throughout the state and we will seek your input on proposed amendments as they arise.
	Comment 86.2 - I fully support the creation of	See response to Comment 81.1.

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	catch and release fishing areas on the all rivers in mew mexico and feel that these areas would benefit the trout fishery, the environment and the local economy.	
	Comment 86.3 - I also feel that there needs to be much more enforcement of existing laws.	Thank you for your comment.
Nick Streit	**Comment 87.1 -** The proposed fish plan seems to be more of a report of what the department is already doing, rather than a new approach at management. As we continue to witness a changing climate, and greater angler use, I believe the department will need to make some major changes to its management plan to keep angler satisfaction high.	You are correct in that the management direction has not changed in many waters. The Department concluded that the management approach for many waters was appropriate and has made not changes. Alternatively, the draft plan identified several waters with significant changes in the overall management direction. In the final plan, the waters with changes in management direction were specifically highlighted in **bold** to better identify the changes.
	Comment 87.2 - Quality over quantity. In particular the red river hatchery produces a very poor quality of trout. While we appreciate the abundance of fish produced there, many of the "catchables" aren't worth catching. In contrast the fish that are stocked in the chama (particularly the Brazos) watershed that I assume come from Los ojos are bigger, stronger and much better looking. Stocking larger trout- even if that means fewer of them- will provide anglers with a higher quality of experience.	The Department continually strives to produce the highest quality fish from its hatcheries considering local environmental conditions and hatchery constraints. The draft and final plans identified continual evaluation of catchable rainbow trout as a priority project with hopes of most efficiently allocated stocked trout.
	Comment 87.3 - As is, many rivers are over stocked at times. The Los pinos, for example, is so full of stockers right now that a) the Browns have no room to be there and b) anglers catch rates are way too high. Our clients average catch rate there this season is upwards of 100 fish per day, per angler! While this is a great problem for us to have I think folks would be happy to cutt that number at least in half, but have a better shot at larger trout.	We agree that an angler catch rate of 100 fish per day is a good problem to have and note that this exceeds management criteria identified in the management plan. As stated in response to Comment 87.2, the Department will continually evaluate the allocation of catchable rainbow trout. Further, the Department plans to evaluate whether stocking catchable rainbow trout in river reaches is an appropriate management action for all rivers currently stocked.
	Comment 87.4 - Other waters are under stocked. I would enjoy a thorough conversation and study on the stocking schedules of northern NM waters. With my two stores and guide operations, I get a lot of feedback from anglers. Other guides and outfitters could also be of help here. There are certain things we could help the department be aware of that could help the stocking of trout be more efficient and effective. One such example, the red river at the hatchery	The Department has expended and will continue to expand significant resources to best allocate hatchery product. We welcome your input which could help efficiency but this must be weighed against available scientific data and years of observations by Department staff. The stocking schedule is considered a living document and evolves with input from Department staff and the public. The schedule included in the draft and final plans is used for

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	sees a huge influx of pressure in mid-March because of spring break in Texas, and the stocking schedule should take this into consideration.	reference purposes only and could be changed in the future.
	Comment 87.5 -The designation "special trout water" does not resonate with the angling community. In some cases STW regulations are so similar to non STW regs that people ignore the STw signs. The lower red and rio grande for instance, have regs that still allow bait and the only difference is how many can be kept. I frequently am told that this is confusing. A clearer message moving forward - that special trout water is special an that there is a consistent set of regs for STW across the state. I believe that if STw was moved to completely catch and release, we would see some big gains in angler satisfaction. The angler survey shows that there are more people that prefer catch and release water, but the allocation of these regs is only to a very small percentage of NM waters.	See responses to Comment 12.22 and 12.23.
	Comment 87.6 - In Reference to specific waters. We would love to see (and support however we could) a habitat improvement project on the Los Pinos	The Department is actively pursuing a habitat restoration project on the Rio de los Pinos Wildlife Management Area owned by the State Game Commission. The proposed project will enhance instream and riparian habitat throughout the two mile reach.
	Comment 87.7 - The red river from the hatchery downstream to the confluence should be managed as a wild trout/catch and release fishery. With the high quality habitat and new angling opportunities upstream, I feel that now is a great time to protect the wild resident fish of the canyon, and especially the migratory spawning trout of the Rio grande that spawn in the red river.	The Department received significant comment in support of additional catch and release areas or other special regulation areas throughout the state and we will seek your input on proposed amendments as they arise.
	Comment 87.8 - The lower rio grande near pilar could benefit immensely from a more robust stocking schedule, especially with fish over 14". As is, the smaller stocked fish don't seem to survive the pike and bass to well. Stocking a larger trout should result in better hold over rates but also better trophy catches.	Based upon Department evaluations over the past several years, catchable trout do not persist in riverine environments for any length of time. The Department has recently focused stocking of larger trout into smaller lakes and ponds thereby increasing the opportunity for these fish to be caught by anglers.
	Comment 87.9 - The Rio grande del rancho along hwy 518 is in desperate need of stocking. It would make a fabulous fishing destination as its only 5 minutes from Taos. Also this stretch is above irrigation and has a healthy riparian zone	Thank you for your comment.

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	with big pools and beaver ponds. Wild Browns have a hard time here because of (naturally-I think) high conductivity in the water.	
U.S. Forest Service	**Comment 88.1 -** We feel this plan does not adequately communicate the Department's vision, goals, or objectives for specific waters. In general the plan states what is currently happening in areas and only generally alludes to desired conditions in a few waters, and the language in the table is vague and inconsistent. We are hopeful that the decisions on management direction will be made after further input from public and partners. It would also be helpful to communicate what general timeframe that the plan is designed to be valid for, as far as understanding the Department's vision and anticipated activities that would be used to achieve this vision.	See response to Comment 12.39. After discussions with U.S. Forest Staff and other members of the public regarding how to better identify these changes, we believe this addresses your comment. In the final plan, the waters with changes in management direction were specifically highlighted in **bold** to better identify the changes.
	Comment 88.2 - We feel that description of habitat conservation need and activities could be better described, including more details on existing and needed authorities (e.g., instream flow, protecting habitat during development activities). The plan should also better describe how it integrates with other plans and strategies, not just the DGF strategic plan, such as SWAP, AIS plan and RG CTT strategy. It would be helpful to summarize (from the SWAP CC write-up) the potential impacts of climate change on fishery and habitat management.	A description of habitat conservation needs, activities, and needed authorities is beyond the scope of this plan. The Department does not have a State Wildlife Action Plan to reference in this plan. As stated on page 30, Department activities are guided by several other recovery plans, conservation strategies, or agreements.
	Comment 88.3 - There is little mention throughout the plan of collaborative efforts that are taking place for the benefit of New Mexico's fish, anglers and fish habitat. These partnerships have provided a multitude of beneficial projects in many areas of the state including habitat projects, angler accessibility projects, monitoring, education, research, and AIS management.	We agree. The final plan includes language which better recognizes the many collaborative efforts for fisheries and aquatic habitats in New Mexico.
	Comment 88.4 - The plan does little to describe the unique values of New Mexico's native fish fauna. It seems that the Department is attempting to downplay the fact that for most of the native fish, the "significant interaction" is negative with sport fish. In general the plan just identifies native fish as present in the reach with no indication that there is a desire to maintain or improve these species. Indicating a desire to improve the status of the species does not	We disagree. The plan is neither intended to fully describe the unique values of our native fish fauna nor downplay interactions among native and non-native species. A comprehensive description of all fisheries in New Mexico is beyond the scope of this plan. On pages 27 through 30, the plan explicitly recognizes the fact that some non-native and native species management directions can conflict. For waters with native species focus,

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	necessarily mean it is a department priority that they will commit resources to, but would indicate that management activities in the area should strive towards or not conflict with that goal.	the final plan includes the Department's intent to restore or maintain a species in a particular area. The final plan includes a statement which clarifies that failure to include a species as a focal species does not imply that the Department will actively remove a species from a particular water.
	Comment 88.5 - Pg. 10: The Plan needs to elaborate on how the department plans to achieve objectives and carry out strategies from the Strategic Plan. One example of this would be to discuss and identify specific issues that affect fishing opportunities such as access for those that are mobility impaired.	See pages 11, 30-32, individual species criteria in the plan, and individual management directions for specific waters.
	Comment 88.6 - Pg. 12: Does the Department feel that current angler surveys provide an adequate level of detail to understand potential effects of angling regulations or angler usage levels and return to creel of stocked or harvest of wild and native fish?	Yes, though, we always welcome opportunities to improve available information.
	Comment 88.7 - It is a little confusing to have the introduction for Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout in the trout and salmon section and have no mention of the negative interaction between nonnative trout and the native trout species. There seems like there needs to be some discussion connection between restoration efforts and ongoing management efforts for other salmonid species as well as promoting the unique angling opportunities that the department provides to catch native species. There is mention of fish barriers, but it should be explained that native trout populations must be managed in isolation from other trout species to be viable long term.	The final plan includes language which clarifies the need for isolation management of native trout.
	Comment 88.8 - Providing native trout recreation opportunities is very important for promoting goodwill within communities where native trout restorations are desired, especially in Gila Trout areas where recreational fishing opportunities were greatly affected by the recent fires. These fires have created a unique opportunity to provide more stream miles for Gila trout. We encourage the Department to work collaboratively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife to develop specific management objectives for Gila Trout recreation and recovery streams that will hasten recovery of the species and provide quality angling opportunities. The lack of an agreed upon management plan is not	A Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling was recently approved to facilitate recreational angling opportunities now and into the future. We agree that these stocking activities will assist with enhancing recreational angling and native trout restoration efforts in New Mexico.

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	only affecting the development of angling opportunities but the stocking of streams that would contribute to recovery as well.	
	Comment 88.9 - The plan does little to describe the unique values of New Mexico's native fish fauna. It seems that the Department is attempting to downplay that for many/most of the native fish the significant interaction is negative with sport fish. There are several types of native suckers that have conservation efforts; the plan should not group them all as one.	See response to Comment 88.4.
	Comment 88.10 - Just because native fish are coexisting for some amount of time with non-native fish does not mean there are not negative interactions. Many of these species persist for long time periods but often have reduced abundance and recruitment which makes them vulnerable for population wide declines. There is likely to be less of a negative response for native fish to stocking of sport fish species that are native to the area. We disagree that there are "many examples" of native fish thriving with nonnative species, especially predatory sportfish.	Thank you for your comment. The Department possesses empirical data which supports examples of native fish coexisting and, in some cases, thriving in areas with non-native species. There are certainly cases where non-native species are or have negatively affected native species. This is explicitly stated on pages 27 through 30 of the plan. This plan is not intended to identify whether a species is thriving, negatively affected, or somewhere in between in certain reaches. Rather, it is intended to identify focal species for a particular water and communicate the accompanying management direction.
	Comment 88.11 - Most of the native fish efforts that are mentioned on this page are collaborative efforts. The plan should better describe these programs and the partners that are involved. Describe what role the Department plays in the programs, whether it is the lead agency or a cooperator.	See response to Comment 88.3.
	Comment 88.12 - The Department is encouraged to work and engage partners, including the USFS on designing and implementing instream riparian habitat restoration efforts. We would like to see more needed habitat work identified in the watershed description sections.	The Department welcomes the opportunity to collaborate on improving riparian habitat on Forest System lands. Working with partners was added to the priority to design and implement instream and riparian habitats on non-State Game Commission owned lands.
	Comment 88.13 - The Department is encouraged to take the lead role for statewide AIS efforts. The discussion of AIS species of concern and current priorities for prevention and rapid response is inadequate. While zebra and quagga mussels are very high priority, other species have found their way into NM waters and have the potential for (or have had) profound effects on aquatic habitats such as golden algae, didymo, crayfish and pathogens	As identified in the plan, the top priority for aquatic invasive species efforts for the Department is combating the introduction of zebra and quagga mussel. The Department's Aquatic Invasive Species program is relatively new. Priorities will continue to evolve over time as we learn more and are able to garner additional support/resources in the future.

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	such as whirling disease as chitrid fungus. We encourage the department to not only maintain but improve their current distribution of AIS and pathogens in the state. It would be good to see AIS occupied areas identified in the management direction tables and any actions that are or could be taken to curb the spread of these species.	
	Comment 88.14 - We encourage the department to work with partners to develop a process for prioritizing future native trout restoration and conservation efforts. There needs to be more detail in this plan on the goals and proposed timelines for achieving these goals. What is the interaction with this plan and the Recovery Plan and Conservation Strategies? There should be priorities identified to preserve current Rio Grande cutthroat trout populations that are vulnerable. The status of the species is dependent on improving the number of populations that are secure and viable. The potential use of supermale trout is somewhat experimental and should not be the only tool identified that could aid native trout restoration efforts. There are many areas where brown trout suppression activities could improve the status of native trout until more permanent restoration activities are possible. We encourage the Department to work with partners to update and produce outreach materials on the value/benefits of restoring native trout and conserving their habitats as well as promoting angling for these unique trout species.	We agree and we look forward to prioritizing native trout restoration efforts. Detail on the goals and proposed timelines for achieving native trout restoration goals is beyond the scope of this plan. We view this plan as a means to identify areas for native trout restoration in the future. The Department priority for native trout restoration is identified on page 31 and includes restoration in several areas. We agree that expanding the number of secure populations via proven restoration methods is the best approach. We also view emerging technology such as supermale trout as an experimental opportunity worth pursuing. The plan identifies the need for restoration efforts, including piscicide use, in several watersheds throughout the state. Several waters have been identified for non-native trout suppression to support existing native trout fisheries.
	Comment 88.15 - Pg. 34: The Canadian is one example of a drainage where many of the sportfish are considered native to the drainage. This may reduce the negative interactions between game and non-game species if they evolved together. Again, coexistence does not mean there are not negative responses of native fish when non-natives are present.	Thank you for your comment.
	Comment 88.16 - The Rio Grande cutthroat trout conservation strategy identifies the Canadian drainage as needing additional secure populations. We encourage the Department to work with partners to secure existing populations in the drainage and identify areas where populations can be expanded.	Thank you for your support.
	Comment 88.17 - We would like to see an	The management direction for native species

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	identification of desired conditions for the warm-water native fisheries in the Canadian river. It is likely that a management balance is achievable for many areas in this drainage.	was amended to reflect the desire to maintain the focal species for a particular water.
	Comment 88.18 - Middle Ponil does not currently have a Core Conservation population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. It is difficult to discern if this is what the plan is indicating or if the Department would like to move towards this goal. The USFS is interested in working with the Department to restore this area to this Core Conservation population status.	Thank you for pointing out this error and it was corrected in the final plan. As well, this area was identified as a potential area for restoration of a Core Conservation Population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in the future.
	Comment 88.19 - We encourage the Department to work with the USFS on the investigations of suitability and stocking plans for wilderness lakes. The USFS have a priority to preserve wilderness values in these areas.	The Department will continue to coordinate stocking of wilderness lakes with Forest Service staff. The Department and the Forest Service have signed a Memorandum of Understanding which helps to preserve the wilderness values of these areas.
	Comment 88.20 - Are Blue sucker a special status species that is still presumed to be present in the Black River?	Yes though their abundance is extremely low.
	Comment 88.21 - The USFS is very supportive of the restoration of native species into the Rio Bonito headwaters. We encourage the Department to hasten the plans for restoration activities in the drainage while there is no municipal water being used from Bonito Lake and prior to restocking nonnative fish into the lake.	Thank you for your support. We look forward to working with the Forest Service in restoring Rio Grande cutthroat trout to this area in the future.
	Comment 88.22 - Are there opportunities to collaborate with the Village of Ruidoso to reduce fish kills in Grindstone Reservoir?	The primary purpose of this reservoir is for drinking water with recreational fishing an added benefit. The Department has coordinated stocking events to minimize these effects within the operating needs of the Village of Ruidoso.
	Comment 88.23 - Does the Department have examples of the evidence that rainbow trout and brown trout do not have a deleterious effect on native fish in these reaches. We know there are deleterious effects on Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Distribution of other native fish has also decreased in recent years.	The Department does not have evidence specific for these areas though native species, such as Rio Grande sucker and chub, inhabit other waters with brown trout and rainbow trout. While non-native trout could have contributed to the decline of native species in these specific areas, it is plausible that other stressors (such as drought or habitat degradation) have had a greater effect and caused the declines. Both brown trout and rainbow trout inhabit several larger systems in the state (e.g. the Pecos River, Jemez River, Rio San Antonio) with both Rio Grande chub and sucker.
	Comment 88.24 - The USFS is very supportive of	Thank you for your support.

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	the reintroduction of Rio Grande sucker and Rio Grande Chub into Comanche Creek.	
	Comment 88.25 - There are habitat projects in process in the Red River to attempt to improve habitat. What is the desired outcome for these project areas?	The desired conditions for the Red River project is to enhance pool space and improve riparian habitat conditions to support greater angling opportunities for both wild brown trout and stocked rainbow trout.
	Comment 88.26 - The USFS is obligated to work to preserve wilderness values surrounding San Gregorio Lake. The current planning process for Santa Fe National Forest may provide an opportunity to investigate opportunities to resolve some of the issues surrounding the management of San Gregorio Lake. It would be beneficial to collaborate with the Ditch Association as well to improve conditions of the lake. The Department should do more to promote the recreational fishing opportunities for Rio Grande cutthroat that are created with excess hatchery fish.	We look forward to addressing current hindrances to continued stocking at San Gregorio Lake. This is a popular lake with New Mexico anglers. The Department has expanded recreational stocking of Rio Grande cutthroat trout over the past 10 years.
	Comment 88.27 - The USFS is interested in working with the Department to improve the status of the Rio Grande cutthroat trout population in the Rio de las Vacas.	We look forward to identifying actions which could support Rio Grande cutthroat trout in the Rio de las Vacas.
	Comment 88.28 - Rio Grande chub and Rio Grande sucker are also present in Alamosa Creek. It would be good to work with the state land office to restrict motor vehicle traffic through the stream.	Thank you for pointing out this omission. The final plan includes Alamosa Creek with both Rio Grande chub and sucker identified as focal species. Restricting motor vehicle access is beyond the scope of this plan.
	Comment 88.29 - The goal for Chihuahua Chub in the Mimbres should be to move towards a self- sustaining population. Habitat improvement projects in the drainage may be appropriate. Rio Grande sucker were stocked in 2014 from a population that remains in Allie Canyon, unsure of status. What are the other fish that are planned to be stocked into the Mimbres once Chihuahua chub get re-established?	We agree and have added language to reflect the desire to move towards a self-sustaining population of Chihuahua chub. The Department is planning to improve instream and riparian habitat in the basin to benefit Chihuahua chub in the near future. The Department has not identified other species for introduction into the Mimbres basin at this time.
	Comment 88.30 - Proliferation of nonnative predatory game fish (i.e. catfish, Bass) across the Forest is not aligned with the direction of the Forest Management Plan. This is especially the case in reaches that contain T and E species and/or spikedace and loach minnow critical habitat. In certain streams, recommend changing management type from “wild” to “suppression“ (I.e. Turkey/Lower Little).	Thank you for your comment. Similar to the multiple use concept followed by the Forest Service in its land management and direction in forest plans, the Department is also tasked with providing both recreational angling and conserving native species. We believe the appropriate balance is to maintain recreational opportunities in this water. We look forward to working with the Forest Service in finding this balance between native species and sportfish conservation.

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	Comment 88.31 - There is a need to reclassify a few streams (Sacaton, Willow, and Mineral creeks) as "Recovery" streams.	Willow Creek will be considered a Gila trout recovery stream upon completion of a fish barrier in 2016. The management direction for Mineral Creek includes Gila trout. Language was added to the final plan to clarify this direction. The management direction for Sacaton Creek is Gila trout.
	Comment 88.32 - The Plan needs to identify individual Gila trout recovery streams (I.e. Separate Whiskey from upper WFG), because management of these recovery populations will likely have individualized goals (i.e. Whiskey=relic populations that won't be open to angling).	Whiskey Creek was identified separately with a specific management direction in the final plan.
	Comment 88.33 - Numerous water bodies (i.e. Snow Lake/WFG near hell's hole) that are identified in this plan as Gila Trout Recreational waters. We agree that these locations would serve as good recreational Gila trout populations; we encourage the Department to coordinate the management of these locations with partners to facilitate stocking of Gila Trout.	See response to Comment 88.8.
	Comment 88.34 - Under West Fork Gila River and Tributaries (Headwaters to waterfalls)- Suggest moving Whiskey Creek to its own stand-alone water body, similar to White Creek since it did not get invaded with nonnatives and will have a different management direction then the upper WFG.	See response to Comment 88.32.
	Comment 88.35 - ADD-Whiskey Creek (Headwaters to confluence with WFG) - Gila trout- Gila trout recovery stream and relict population. Severely impacted by the Whitewater-Baldy fire. Plans to repatriate when habitats recover and maintain angling closure.	See response to Comment 88.32.
	Comment 88.36 - ADD Langstroth Canyon (Falls upstream to headwaters)-Gila trout-Gila trout recovery stream. Severely impacted by the Whitewater-Baldy Fire. Stock with Gila trout 2015 to 2017.	Langstroth Creek and an appropriate management direction was added to the final plan.
	Comment 88.37 - West Fork River (Waterfalls near White Creek cabin downstream to Hells Hole Canyon)-Gila Trout- Identified as a Gila trout recreational water. It is doubtful that much supplemental stocking is needed to provide quality angling due to low angler pressure but stocking may aid in security of recovery areas above.	This area was included in the Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling. We believe this is an appropriate management direction though it does not mean the water must be stocked in the future.
	Comment 88.38 - West Fork River (Hells Hole Canyon downstream to Heart Bar WMA)-Gila	Thank you for your support.

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	Trout- The Forest supports management as a Gila trout recreational water.	
	Comment 88.39 - Little Creek (Below barrier)- Brown trout- Management type should be suppression. Repatriation of loach minnow into Little Creek was based on the suppression of brown trout to a density of < I brown/km of stream.	The Department believes this area can be managed both for brown trout and loach minnow.
	Comment 88.40 - Snow Lake- Gila trout-The Forest supports movement of the lake to a Gila trout recreational. What are the Department's strategies to potentially improve fish habitat and quality in the lake and reduce incidence of fish pathogens.	Thank you for your support. The Department is interested in working with the Forest Service to improve habitat in the lake. Specific methods for habitat improvement and disease concerns are beyond the scope of this plan. We look forward to working with the Forest Service to improve habitat in the future.
	Comment 88.41 - Willow Creek- Gila trout-Should be listed as a Recovery Stream that is open to angling	See response to Comment 88.31.
	Comment 88.42 - Black Canyon (Below Barrier)- Gila trout- The Forest supports management as a Gila trout recreational water and to stock fish annually. May provide some security for population above the barrier.	Thank you for your support.
	Comment 88.43 - East Fork Gila River and Tributaries- Smallmouth bass- Regulations that promote and support the proliferation of nonnative predatory gamefish are not consistent with the Forest Management Plan, especially within spikedace and loach minnow critical habitat. Headwater chub are also present in this reach.	See response to comment 88.30. Considering the fish community, the popularity of this fishery, and landowner status, we believe the appropriate balance is to maintain recreational opportunities in this water.
	Comment 88.44 - Need to add Headwater chub into East Fork Gila River and Tributaries and East Fork River down to Mogollon Creek.	Headwater chub was not identified as a focal species for this water.
	Comment 88.45 - East Fork Gila River and Tributaries- Channel catfish-Regulations that promote and support the proliferation of nonnative predatory gamefish are not consistent with the Forest Management Plan, especially within spikedace and loach minnow critical habitat.	See response to Comment 88.43.
	Comment 88.46 - Need to add East Fork Gila River and Tributaries-Loach Minnow-"Includes designated critical habitat and they are present in this reach."	This language is included in the management direction for the focal species in this water.
	Comment 88.47 - Need to add East Fork Gila River and Tributaries -Spikedace-"Includes designated critical habitat and they are present in this reach."	See response to Comment 88.46.
	Comment 88.48 - Gila River (East Fork River	See response to comment 88.30. Considering

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	down to Mogollon Creek) - Smallmouth bass-Regulations that promote and support the proliferation of nonnative predatory gamefish will not be consistent with the Revised Forest Land Management Plan, especially within spikedace and loach minnow critical habitat	the fish community as well as the popularity and remoteness of the fishery, we believe the appropriate balance is to maintain recreational opportunities in this water.
	Comment 88.49 - Gila River (East Fork River down to Mogollon Creek)-Catfish-Regulations that promote and support the proliferation of nonnative predatory gamefish will not be consistent with the Revised Forest Land Management Plan, especially within spikedace and loach minnow critical habitat.	See response to Comment 88.48.
	Comment 88.50 - Need to add Gila River (East Fork River down to Mogollon Creek) - Spikedace -"Includes designated critical habitat in this reach."	See response to Comment 88.46.
	Comment 88.51 - Need to add Gila River (East Fork River down to Mogollon Creek)-Loach Minnow-"Includes designated critical habitat in this reach."	See response to Comment 88.46.
	Comment 88.52 - Lake Roberts- Gila trout-We encourage movement of this lake toward a Gila trout recreational water and stocking of catchable Gila trout. May want to include something on holding outreach events to promote Gila trout recovery efforts?	The Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling that was recently approved includes stocking Lake Roberts with Gila trout.
	Comment 88.53 - Trout Creek - Location of barrier confirmed?	The Department needs to confirm the location of the waterfall barrier in Trout Creek.
	Comment 88.54 - Cow Creek– Potential water quantity concerns, intermittent at times with very little available habitat during low flow…	Thank you for the information.
	Comment 88.55 - Turkey Creek and tributaries-Map indicates "Sport fishery" (Pg. 145-Figure 60). What species? Pursue Gila trout Recovery stream designation.	The map in both the draft and final plans identify Turkey Creek for management of native species including Gila chub and trout. Rainbow trout currently inhabit Turkey Creek and would have to be removed prior to restoring Gila trout.
	Comment 88.56 - Sacaton Creek (Headwaters to Diversion Ditch) - Gila trout- Recovery stream impacted by past wildfire. Repatriate with Gila trout 2015 to 2017.	See response to Comment 88.31.
	Comment 88.57 - Gila River and Tributaries (Foxtail Creek to State Line)-Catfish- Regulations that support the proliferation of nonnative predatory gamefish are not consistent with the Forest Management Plan, especially within spikedace and loach minnow critical habitat.	See response to Comment 88.43.
	Comment 88.58 - Mineral Creek- Gila trout– Should be listed as a recovery stream. Severely	See response to Comment 88.30.

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	impacted by the Whitewater-Baldy Fire. Repatriate with Gila trout 2015 to 2017.	
	Comment 88.59 - Pleasanton spelled Pleasanton under "San Francisco and Tributaries"	Thank you for pointing out this error.
	Comment 88.60 - San Francisco River and Tributaries (Pleasanton Diversion downstream to Stateline)–Catfish-Regulations that support the proliferation of nonnative predatory gamefish are not consistent with the Forest Management Plan, especially within spikedace and loach minnow critical habitat.	See response to Comment 88.48.
	Comment 88.61 - San Francisco River and Tributaries (Pleasanton Diversion downstream to Stateline)–Smallmouth Bass-Regulations that support the proliferation of nonnative predatory gamefish are not consistent with the Forest Management Plan, especially within spikedace and loach minnow critical habitat.	See response to Comment 88.48.
	Comment 88.62 - Need to add. San Francisco River and Tributaries (Pleasanton Diversion downstream to Stateline) – Spikedace -"Includes designated critical habitat in this reach."	See response to Comment 88.46.
	Comment 88.63 - Need to add. San Francisco River and Tributaries (Pleasanton Diversion downstream to Stateline) – Loach Minnow- "Includes designated critical habitat in this reach."	See response to Comment 88.46.
Pat Rosenbloom	**Comment 89.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Paul Gonzales	**Comment 90.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Paul Trotman	**Comment 91.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and	See response to Comment 1.1.

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	release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	
Rob Ruff	**Comment 92.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks. We would like to see the catch and release areas that are of at least 4 continuous river miles each.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Ralph Bryan	**Comment 93.1 -** I am writing in regard to a proposed plan for catch-and-release only waters on the Chama River. I strongly support efforts to implement such restrictions on whatever sections of the river where it may be appropriate to do so, including tail water sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. Ideally, such sections would contain areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each, and would be restricted to flies and artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Randy Hock	**Comment 94.1 -** I enjoy spending time fishing the waters in the Land of Enchantment and will be enjoying my retirement years living in NM. I am writing to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are many miles long. I believe that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Randy Hutchins	**Comment 95.1 -** I am writing regarding your solicitation of public opinion on establishing some catch and release areas on the rio Chama. I am so glad that this matter is under your consideration and whole heartedly support the creation of some catch and release areas. The most critical areas in my opinion are the 4-5 miles of tailwater below El Vado and Abiquiu dams. Catch and release by single barbless hook would transform this River from a "put and take" fishery to a trophy wild trout fishery that would benefit the state environmentally and economically just as the San Juan fishery has.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Rex Johnson	**Comment 96.1 -** I see no need to stock triploids	The Framework for Management of Gila Trout

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	when one could just as well stock Gila trout.	Angling includes stocking more Gila trout. The Department hopes to expand recreational stocking in the future.
	Comment 96.2 - I might also mention that dynamiting the falls on W. Fork Gila above McKenna Creek isn't quite legal, as I see it, because of the Wilderness Act of 1984.	This is an action by the Forest Service and not the Department.
	Comment 96.3 - I would also be quite happy if the hatchery Gila trout could become naturalized in the streams and be shown to be able to reproduce, even if they aren't and perhaps never wiil be quite able to compete with the wild trout currently being destroyed.	The Department believes that the Gila trout reared at Mora National Fish Hatchery will be able to reproduce and thrive in the restored areas.
Richard Brackett	**Comment 97.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Richard Brownlee	**Comment 98.1 -** I am submitting comments regarding the proposed catch and release fishing regulation for the Chama River. I would recommend that catch and release focus on spawning waters and areas with more active current and cover. Typically, the bait fishermen will not favor those waters.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Rick Ayub	**Comment 99.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Robert Cunningham	**Comment 100.1 -** I would like to request implementation of catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. It would be preferable to establish catch-and-release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Ron Bellerose	**Comment 101.1 -** Do you have any plans to increase the open gate areas?	The Department continually seeks areas to expand angling opportunities through the

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		Open Gate Program. If the public is aware of willing landowners, we welcome suggestions for this program.
	Comment 101.2 - I would like to see more quality fly fishing waters available.	Evaluation of Special Trout Water regulations was identified as a priority project in the draft and final plans.
	Comment 101.3 - I would like to see more enforcement at the Las Cruces winter trout ponds(NMSU) (Young Park) a couple of days after they are stocked.	Thank you for your comment.
New Mexico Trout	**Comment 102.1 -** First, New Mexico Trout wishes to commend you and your organization for all the thought and hard work that is evidenced in the draft. It is comprehensive. It appears that every permanent body of public water in the State that holds fish is addressed. The draft plan clearly recognizes and attempts to balance the sometimes-competing interests of put and take anglers, wild trout anglers, and those anglers and non-anglers alike who are concerned about native fish and their habitats. The maps are excellent. We have recommended them to our members as destination guides. We applaud the addition of recreational stockings of Gila and Rio Grande Cutthroat trout to the native trout restoration plans documented in the draft.	Thank you for your support.
	Comment 102.2 - However, we believe that parts of the management plan can be strengthened. In general, we urge the Department to deemphasize stocking of triploid rainbows in streams with strong, self-sustaining populations of wild trout, particularly those streams that are not readily accessible by roads. A specific example is the plan to stock triploids in the Rio San Antonio below the Valles Caldera Preserve boundary. The two-mile reach from the boundary to the San Antonio Hot Spring is a Special Trout Water with a wild brown trout population. Access is by foot at the end of a rough 4WD road. The four mile reach downstream of the Hot Spring is in a rugged canyon and only partly accessible by trail from Highway 126. We see no benefit to the anglers who are likely to fish it from triploid stocking of that six-mile stretch of the San Antonio. There are other similar examples in the Draft, but this one is sufficient to illustrate our concerns.	The draft and final plans include a priority project to investigate the potential for reducing or eliminating stocking of catchable rainbow trout from some river systems which support wild trout. The Department plans to begin this investigation upon approval of this management plan.

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	Comment 102.3 - A second area where the plan can be strengthened, in our opinion, is to increase the opportunities for angling for trophy trout; as for example is presently the case on the San Juan Quality Water below Navajo Dam. The tailwaters below El Vado and Abiquiu Dams on the Rio Chama are obvious candidates for catch-and-release designation. These designations are consistent with the DG&F objectives and strategies stated on p. 10 of the draft and reflect the preferences of the majority of anglers surveyed by the department. Specifically, Strategy 2.1: "Collaborate with … [stakeholders] to establish broadly-supported resource-based management objectives". Strategy 4.1 "Monitor angler issues, interests, and satisfaction and employ findings to inform and evaluate management decisions." Strategy 4.5: "Continue to promulgate rules that protect fish stocks from overexploitation and equitably distribute fishing opportunity." Having additional trophy trout angling opportunities that would be facilitated by catch-and release regulations would be a huge attraction for local and out-of-state anglers. We strongly recommend implementing catch-and-release regulations on the Rio Chama below El Vado and Abiquiu dams.	See response to Comment 1.1. Further, a priority project was identified in both the draft and final plans to evaluate and consider amendments to Special Trout Water regulations throughout the state.
	Comment 102.4 - Another of our concerns is in several statements on p. 156 of the fisheries plan relating to the San Juan Quality Waters. The Management Type is listed as "Put, Grow, and Take". Since the "Take" designation in other sections also means, "Keep" there is a potential conflict with the Quality Waters' catch and release status that is stated in the following Management Direction. The Management Direction also states the plan is to stock "subcatchable' triploid rainbows. Our understanding from prior studies is that the survival rate of rainbows in that size range is too low to replace the attrition of the larger trout and that most of those small stockers end up as brown trout food. We recommend changing the Management Direction to support stocking of catchable triploid rainbow trout rather than the subcatchable size.	The Put, Grow and Take management type reflects the stocking strategy only. The management direction was amended in the final plan to clarify that the Department intends to maintain the catch and release regulations in the Special Trout Water. Generally, the Department stocks subcatchable rainbow trout in this reach with supplemental catchable rainbow trout as available. This approach has produced a world class trophy fishery in the past and we expect it to continue in the future.
	Comment 102.5 - A fourth area where the plan could be improved is in area of habitat	Thank you for your willingness to assist with habitat restoration efforts. The final plan

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	restoration and remediation. Department of Game and Fish resources are limited and habitat restoration needs are large. The Department could leverage those resources by making a greater effort to use volunteers from angling and conservation organizations in its habitat restoration activities. The plan would benefit by making volunteer participation a specific objective.	includes volunteer participation in the habitat restoration priority project.
Ronald Russell	**Comment 103.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Russ Pate	**Comment 104.1 -** Please consider having catch and release areas that are 4 continuous miles below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. These areas would need to be limited to artificial lures with single, barbless hooks and have a minimum 20 inches for any trout kept on a stringer with a 5 fish limit. The people who fish who are residents can possess a 2 day limit and non-residents can possess a 1 day limit.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Sean Zeigler	**Comment 105.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. As with other catch and release areas these should be 4-5 miles of continuous river. I also feel these areas should be restricted to barbless hooks and artificial tackle only.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Miguel Suazo	**Comment 106.1 -** Miguel Suazo left a message about how our Management Plan was looking for private partnerships. He would like to discuss these with you and make public comments.	The Department is always interested in partnering with landowners to improve angling opportunities in New Mexico.
Steve Van Lechene	**Comment 107.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. Catch and release areas should each be at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles. These areas should be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Steve Miller	**Comment 108.1 -** NMROA recommends that NMDGF implement catch and release fishing	See response to Comment 1.1.

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	areas on the Rio Chama in contiguous 4-5 mile segments downstream of El Vado and Abiquiu dams. We request that fishing in these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	
Steven Fernandez	**Comment 109.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Steven Almanzar	**Comment 110.1 -** I am writing to respectfully suggest and request that you seriously consider setting aside river sanctuary areas for catch and release waters on the spectacular Chama River, most especially on the tailwater sections below El Vado and Abiquiu dams. A living example of the recreational and economic impact of such river designations is the renowned catch and release tailwater section on the first few miles below Navajo Dam on the San Juan River fishery. A real jewel of New Mexico and a visionary decision. I am an avid fly fisherman and don't mind stating that I would like to see at least 4-5 miles of continuous river miles on both of these tailwater sections below the dams, restricted to the use of artificial lures with single barbless hooks. No one cares more about the health of our trout fisheries than fly fishing sportsmen, other than perhaps the indigenous people of New Mexico. In keeping with the traditions of our many First Nation citizens, we too, are faithful stewards of the land and waters of this state.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Stewart Alsop	**Comment 111.1 -** I own a house in Santa Fe and would love to see the state begin to adopt catch-and-release policies to help protect our rivers from over-harvesting, particularly of native fish. I fully support the creation of catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River and feel that these areas would benefit the trout fishery, the environment and the local economy.	See response to Comment 1.1. Further, a priority project was identified in both the draft and final plans to evaluate and consider amendments to Special Trout Water regulations throughout the state.

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	If you do down this road, I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks. That makes fishing more of a sport and less of a harvest.	
Rico Martinez	**Comment 112.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
T	**Comment 113.1 -** I think the designated catch and release stretch would greatly improve the fishery especially the tailwaters. (El Vado & Abiquiu) Thanks for asking for input and I hope this can lead the Rio Chama to be a top notch fishery.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Chuck Duncan	**Comment 114.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams.I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Thomas Carroll	**Comment 115.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Tom and Rita	**Comment 116.1 -** As a frequent visitor and angler to NM I am very in favor of C&R fishing on the Chama. I am undecided about barbless hooks, as there are pros and cons on that issue.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Tom Hines	**Comment 117.1 -** I found it interesting to note that anglers responding to your survey indicated that they prefer to fish for cold water species, with a significant percentage of anglers preferring both cold water and warm water species. Of the large number of anglers who	Yes, our data indicates more anglers typically pursue rainbow trout and brown trout over other coldwater species. The Department's approach in this plan is to find a balance between providing angling opportunities for both native and non-native trout.

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	prefer fishing for cold water species, you indicate that "rainbow trout and brown trout are consistently pursued over other cold water species." Yet, here in Southwestern New Mexico, your department has consistently over the years killed rainbow and brown trout in order to protect the native Gila trout.	
	Comment 117.2 - You provide the San Juan River as an example of habitat restoration. Having fished there numerous times, I can see the results of efforts being made to improve this habitat. Unfortunately, there is little evidence of such major restoration occurring in the streams here in Southwestern New Mexico. What efforts that have been made appear to be in areas that are largely inaccessible to anglers – or in areas that require major hiking and overnight camping to reach. Areas such as the Heart Bar and other segments of the Gila River near Grapevine campground have been purged of game fish in recent years, but no efforts have been made to restore fish to this area in 2015 (as far as I am aware). Few efforts have been made in recent years to stock trout that could be accessible to anglers in Southwestern New Mexico. With the fires and subsequent flooding that have occurred in the past several years, there is almost no accessible stream fishing for anglers in this area.	The Department has worked with other agencies to expand angling opportunities for trout in the southwestern part of the state including stocking of Gila trout in Willow Creek, Sapillo Creek, the Forks Area of the West Fork Gila River, and Lake Roberts. All of these areas are accessible to anglers. In addition, the Department hopes to stock Gila trout into Mineral Creek in 2016 though this water is not as accessible as those mentioned above.
	Comment 117.3 - Make a more sincere effort to balance the protection of endangered species with restoration efforts to make stream fishing once again more viable for anglers in this area. I would hate to see disgruntled anglers contact their legislators in efforts to limit funding for important endangered species work, but I fear that their perspective is that there are few significant efforts being made to restore good stream fishing for this area. While the work at the San Juan is impressive, I don't see any of those efforts being made in Southwestern New Mexico.	See response to Comment 117.2. There are several long reaches (e.g. East Fork Gila River, the Gila River between Grapevine Campground and Mogollon Creek) with an emphasis for warmwater angling opportunities.
	Comment 117.4 - Stock fish that can and are likely to reproduce in areas of Southwestern New Mexico that have been negatively affected by fires and subsequent flooding. Some of these areas may or may not need major restorative efforts to help the fish populations grow again. Why stock fish (triploid rainbow trout, for	The Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling was recently approved which enabled the consistent stocking of Gila trout from Mora National Fish Hatchery. All Gila trout stocked are diploid and will be able to reproduce. The Department is pursuing raising some Gila trout at the Glenwood Hatchery in

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	example) that are unable to propagate and thrive in the future? Why not heavily stock Gila trout that are capable of reproduction to restore and improve future fishing to this area? Let them hybridize as they have done naturally in our streams for hundreds of years. Raising Gila trout in the hatchery at Glenwood would be a good start at making this fish more available for local streams. I believe that we understand that the focus has been to stock Gila trout in areas that have been purged in the hope that they will not intermingle with other trout species. The net result, I believe, is that there are now few accessible streams that have any trout at all.	the future. These efforts, coupled with stream stocking mentioned under response to Comment 117.2, will expand stream angling opportunities in the arid southwestern part of the state.
	Comment 117.5 - Identify some areas of stream that, in the past, have supported populations of trout that have recently been purged (by natural events or by the NMGF Department). On a trial basis, stock hardy fish that are capable of reproduction. Allow the trout in these areas to hybridize and flourish. One stream in our area where this could be done is the Mimbres River. I believe the Chihuahua chub has been prevalent in specific areas of the Mimbres. Perhaps the Department should investigate the installation of a small "protected area" which might allow restocking of other game fish while the chub is recovering in that protected section of stream. The Department can continue to focus its endangered species work on areas that have few other negative impacts on viable game fish populations. Hopefully, these efforts can involve the use of natural barriers (such as falls) without having the need to remove other trout species from the water in question. From the input that I have received from anglers and other interested parties, their major objection is the removal of viable game fish with no subsequent stocking of fish to replace them.	Trout in the Mimbres drainage, including Gila trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout, were extirpated by Silver Fire in 2013. The focal species for the Mimbres drainage is Chihuahua chub. Stocking of any trout in the Mimbres will be difficult due to the threatened status of Chihuahua chub. As discussed in response to Comments 117.2, 117.3, and 117.4, there are several waters which are accessible to the public.
	Comment 117.6 - There is clear evidence from your survey information that there is support for "catch and release" as well as other types of sport fishing. There should be at least one section of stream here in the Silver City area that is managed as a catch and release area of stream that can provide anglers with that kind of fishing experience that involves using artificial flies and lures with barbless hooks.	A priority project was identified in both the draft and final plans to evaluate and consider amendments to Special Trout Water regulations throughout the state.
	Comment 117.7 - Increase the number of accessible streams with healthy game fish	The draft and final plans identify several streams in the Gila for sportfish management

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	populations in which no "suppression" is carried out.	including trout, bass and catfish. The Department also seeks to expand angling opportunities for Gila trout through restoration and expanded recreational stocking.
Tom Pagel	**Comment 118.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Tom Shillinglaw	**Comment 119.1 -** I'd like to state my support for a catch and release policy for the Chama River, below El Vado and Abiquiu dams, for several miles in each case	See response to Comment 1.1.
Wally Darneille	**Comment 120.1 -** As an out-of-state angler who has traveled repeatedly to fish in various parts of New Mexico over the last 11 years, I am writing to support current efforts to implement catch and release areas on the Chama River. I have seen first-hand the results of creating contiguous stretches of catch and release water where only single barbless hooks are allowed, and am pleased to share with you the results in the attached photos.	See response to Comment 1.1.
NM BASS Nation	**Comment 121.1 -** We would like to see a native Largemouth Bass instead of the state fish, the Rio Grande Cutthroat trout on the cover of the plan. (worth a try)	Thank you for your comment.
	Comment 121.2 - NM BASS Nation totally supports the purpose of the plan as stated. We recognize and respect the structure of fisheries management and the difficult challenges the department faces trying to balance priorities and manage conflicts. NM BASS Nation aspires to help the department in meeting the objectives stated in the plan and to not create conflicts that prevent or discourage collaboration.	Thank you for your support.
	Comment 121.3 - The organization of the plan is excellent. The decision to break down management by bodies of water is essential to deal with the diversity of issues and opportunities that each body provides. The plan addresses many of our concerns expressed by our membership about the lack of published goals, objectives and direction. Most	Thank you for your support.

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	importantly it will help manage expectations where the quality of the fishery is largely in the hands of nature and the reservoir water manager.	
	Comment 121.4 - The NMG&F needs to be involved with other issues that directly impact fisheries management. There is some discussion about collaboration and communication with other agencies, but some issues are important enough to warrant discussion in the plan. An example is sedimentation prevention, mitigation and recovery. Heavy sediment loads have impacted Fenton Lake, Bonito Lake, Ute Reservoir, Elephant Butte Reservoir, and Cochiti Lake. NMG&F needs to be vocal in discussions about the impact of sediment loads on the fisheries. Where possible, NMG&F needs to influence Federal actions that could prevent, mitigate, or recover from erosion and sedimentation. Dredging operations can be devastating to natural spawns and should be limited to other times of the year when stream flows and other conditions would mitigate the impact of the operations. Please add some discussion about what conflicts and issues might require NMG&F to engage other agencies on the behalf of anglers.	We agree that sediment can negatively affect fisheries and the habitats they occupy. The Department routinely engages in these discussions with landowners when appropriate. Identification of federal actions which the Department will attempt to influence is beyond the scope of this plan. Should NM BASS be aware of specific issues or practices, we encourage you to bring them to the Departments attention.
	Comment 121.5 - Volunteers are a tremendous untapped resource. Volunteer education and conservation programs should be leveraged throughout almost every aspect of the Fisheries Management Plan with identification and encouragement of both individual volunteers through habitat improvement programs and by encouraging non-profit organizations to work with or lead conservation and habitat improvement activities. It would be good to see a statement that the fisheries section of NMG&F will embrace volunteers as much as is done in the other sections.	See response to Comment 102.5. Language was added to the final plan to encourage working with private volunteers in improving aquatic habitats.
	Comment 121.6 - Youth fisheries and their value for recruiting new anglers should be discussed somewhere in the plan. Urban small waters serve many purposes in the development of our youth including the development of a passion for fishing, their respect for rules and law enforcement and the need to be good conservationist. Getting kids fishing is just a good way to “raise them right” and keep them	We agree this is an important addition to the plan. A bullet was added to the priority projects to support youth angling opportunities.

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	out of trouble. Our urban fisheries may be the only opportunity many youth have to experience fishing before they are adults. We applaud the Big Cat program and the vigorous stocking of winter trout waters so that our children have more opportunities to fish. Please consider a special objective supporting youth fisheries.	
	Comment 121.7 - Rearing and stocking fish & 2. Evaluation of Hatchery Stocking - Funding should be identified as an annual line item to purchase Largemouth Bass since the Rock Lake hatchery will be incapable of meeting management needs. Reliance on "available" fish stock from other state or federal hatcheries is not an adequate plan.	Thank you for your comment. Budget line items are beyond the scope of this plan. A priority project was added to secure a source for largemouth bass stocking in New Mexico.
	Comment 121.8 - Rock Lake production of black bass needs to be a high priority.	The Department is continually pursuing black bass production at its Rock Lake Hatchery with limited success.
	Comment 121.9 - There is not enough tangible emphasis on existing threats and fish kills. Golden algae, whirling disease, LMBV and other threats already exist and more emphasis on research and management strategies for these current threats is needed. Too much of the current AIS funding and effort is being directed to prevention of zebra and quagga mussels which have not been shown to have major impact on the fishery but rather the reservoir and municipal infrastructure. (see discussion of who should fund the prevention of mussels).	We appreciate the need for additional research on existing aquatic invasive species. As with all prioritization efforts, the Department has selected zebra and quagga mussel intervention as the top priority. The Department agrees that zebra and quagga mussel may not have direct effects on fisheries. The primary vector for the spread of zebra and quagga mussel is overland transport of watercraft. Most reservoirs in New Mexico were constructed for flood control or water storage with recreational angling an added but less important benefit. To avoid undesired reservoir closures to prevent aquatic invasive species introductions, the Department has identified these species as priorities to protect the interests of all New Mexicans including anglers.
	Comment 121.10 - It will be impossible to galvanize angler support without more practical methods of preventing the spread of microscopic organisms. Changes are needed in the current governing regulations. Invasive species legislation and regulation needs to be reviewed and reauthorized to remove unenforceable language concerning DNA and non-viable life forms. The legislation and regulation went far beyond enforceable law. For example, it is impossible for anglers to identify microscopic live or dead golden algae that are known to be present in many of the	The Department recognizes the difficulties in combating the spread of aquatic invasive species. The State Game Commission recently adopted new regulations to combat this spread including a requirement to pull all drain plugs which could serve as reservoirs for aquatic invasive species in watercraft. A key component of aquatic invasive species intervention efforts is educating the public and this is consistently incorporated into all aquatic invasive species activities.

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	lower Pecos river impoundments. There is no active program to prevent the spread of golden algae and it should be removed from the Aquatic Invasive Management Plan or identified as a concern that is not actively enforced. Currently, any boat leaving Brantley Lake and launching into another reservoir could be charged with illegally transporting the DNA of the golden algae. Setting anglers up for violations is not going to encourage cooperation or trust.	
	Comment 121.11 - Habitat Restoration – Reservoir fish habitat restoration needs to be discussed. New Mexico is far behind our neighboring states in reservoir fish habitat construction. NM BASS Nation has taken a lead role with the Bureau of Reclamation at Elephant Butte to enhance the fish habitat. It would be much better if NMG&F would identify reservoir habitat as a priority and lead similar efforts in the future.	Reservoir habitat restoration is difficult as the State Game Commission does not own these lands. Language was added to the final plan to include reservoir habitat restoration on non-State Game Commission owned properties.
	Comment 121.12 - ADA access for anglers needs to be discussed somewhere in the plan. Even though this represents a small population of anglers, it is extremely important that public access for everyone is a priority for the department. Special facilities and habitat enhancements should be considered for mobility-impaired anglers. This would be a great opportunity to leverage volunteers and non-profit organizations to help design and installed access facilities, enhanced fish habitat and fish attractors, especially on reservoirs. ADA access and fishing opportunities should be a required element of all concession contracts with State Parks.	The Department encourages ADA access where feasible. Several waters in New Mexico have specific regulations to support angling for individuals with disabilities. In many cases, the State Game Commission does not own the property.
	Comment 121.13 - Statewide Fisheries Management – NM BASS Nation totally supports the concept of adaptive management as long as the department does not revert to a "do nothing" approach when it seems that environmental conditions are impossible to overcome. In those situations, a strong emphasis should be put on trying new and innovative methods that may or have not been proven elsewhere.	The Department does not intend to adopt a do nothing approach yet recognizes the environmental constraints in our state. We look forward to identifying new and innovative methods that have some probability of success in the future.
	Comment 121.14 - The use of **new** surveys to inform future decisions, strategies and actions is highly recommended. New Mexico angler	We agree that new surveys to inform future management actions are appropriate. The Department initiated this approach in 2015 by

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	patterns of behavior and preference for cold water versus warm water species have been largely influenced by past fisheries management practices. The strong historical emphasis on Put and Take rainbow trout stocking raised New Mexicans on easy stocked trout and salmon. Over time, people will develop an individual preference for some species of fish but it is often where they can afford to go and what they can consistently catch that influences what kind of fish they prefer and how many days they will spend fishing. Historical skewing of warm water versus cold water angling data by historical management practices have led to a trout bias that needs to be reassessed. More emphasis should be placed on where opportunities exist to recruit new anglers rather than just maintaining the status quo. It is our belief that warm water reservoirs are largely untapped with respect to recruiting new anglers.	using web-based software to assess angler attitudes, preferences, and priorities. Based upon a single year of comparing old and new methods, angler preferences consistently focused on coldwater fisheries. The Department will continue to evaluate angler preferences into the future and adjust accordingly.
	Comment 121.15 - The plan should discuss education and encouragement of warm water angling opportunities. The current informational flyers and fishing proclamation have little about how to catch the individual species. Field posting of bag limits and identification guides are also lacking at public access points. With the emphasis on paperless proclamations, additional signage could help inform the anglers of size and bag limits but also encourage fishing.	The Department's Information and Education Division is working on web-based education materials to increase knowledge of warmwater fishing techniques. The Department still publishes angling proclamations to ensure anglers have applicable regulations.
	Comment 121.16- It is our fundamental belief that if people don't actively experience wildlife-related activities, wildlife and access to wildlife will vanish. Since NM fisheries management is funded almost entirely through license sales and matching/leveraged Federal funds, it is imperative that we get more people fishing and increase license revenues to accomplish the objectives put forth in the draft plan.	We agree. We hope this plan will help to sustain and improve angling opportunities through focused activities identified in the priority projects.
	Comment 121.17 - There should be an objective to increase the amount of Federal funding used every year for tangible facility, equipment and habitat improvements. It is unacceptable for New Mexico to leave Federal funds untapped due to an arbitrary limitation to just use license revenues to secure Federal funds. Whenever needed, state funds needed to leverage Federal funding beyond license revenues should be	The Department consistently spends the annual allocation of Sportfish Restoration Act funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Increasing this available funding source is beyond the scope of this plan. To implement some of the identified priority projects, the Department may seek special appropriations from the Game Protection Fund.

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	requested through the state legislature to maximize the recovery of funds derived from taxes on New Mexico anglers. If NMG&F is constrained in their pursuit of Federal funding by their authorities, then this responsibility should be shifted to another Division as an economic development initiative and mission. This is good not only for fisheries management but also for the New Mexico economy. Likewise, NMG&F should encourage other agencies and non-profit entities to seek Federal, corporate and private grants for coordinated access and habitat improvement initiatives.	
	Comment 121.18 - The plan lacks information on the type of activities that are included in the Research and Management section. It discusses what types of people are funded but does not provide much about what they do. In general we would like to see more applied field research funded with tangible results rather than paper studies. Also, we would like to see Federal funding used for more collaboration with neighboring states especially on warm water fisheries and reservoir fisheries partnerships. Our experience in neighboring states indicates they are much more open to adaptive management and habitat improvement rather than trying to preserve the status quo. Collaboration and communication with our neighbors will accelerate New Mexico's progress on this plan.	The final plan was amended to include additional information regarding the activities of Research and Management Section. The Department routinely conducts applied research which contributes to advancing fisheries conservation in the state. Further, the Department has solid working relationships with all neighboring states and collaborates on common management challenges.
	Comment 121.19 - A strong and diversified licensed angler base is foundational to New Mexico's fisheries management. It has become increasingly difficult for people to obtain a last-minute fishing license because of the Kiosk approach. Many people consider fishing as a secondary recreational opportunity while hiking, camping or boating and do not purchase their license in advance of the opportunity. Many of the fishing destinations do not have readily available license Kiosk or even internet access. A management priority should be placed on advertising and reminding people to purchase their license in advance and to make it easier for people to obtain a license using their cellular phone technology (Apps). A plan for increasing license sales through new and old approaches should be discussed. Some examples would include:	All Department angling licenses can be purchased online via a computer, tablet, smartphone, etc. This online service has improved the ability to purchases licenses. Both a license kiosk and a one day free introductory license are both interesting concepts.

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	Stronger collaboration with State Parks and Municipalities to grow the number of licensed anglers. There should be a license Kiosk at every state park office with easy instructions on how to obtain a license. "Fish New Mexico" , A one-day , free introductory license should be available for first time anglers. This serves as an incentive for people to try fishing and work through the challenge of putting their information into the license management database making it easier for future license purchases.	
	Comment 121.20 - Alternate funding should be used for the zebra and quagga mussel prevention and mitigation programs. While there will be impacts to anglers and fisheries, the primary beneficiaries of the prevention program are the agricultural communities and municipalities. A concentrated effort to require these entities to pay for the program should be started now rather than waiting until there is an infestation in one of the watersheds. Anglers should not be bearing the financial burden of prevention. In fact, many of the threats have resulted from houseboats and oil field activities, not anglers. However, detailed mitigation and recovery plans should be developed for each watershed that includes a first discovery response plan that details how boat and angler access will be impacted. The prior experience with Lake Sumner indicated that a deliberate plan for response and mitigation would be very helpful. A decision should be made now whether angler access will be controlled and whether boat cleaning stations should be installed at all state parks.	The Department has a statewide rapid response plan as well as specific rapid response plans for specific priority waters. The Department spends a small portion of the Boater Access Funds (which are part of the Sportfish Restoration Act funding) as well as a small annual aquatic invasive species apportionment on zebra and quagga mussel intervention efforts. The Department works with other federal and state agencies to coordinate available funding in the most efficient manner. While water infrastructure would be the primary resource affected if these species are introduced into the state, reservoirs could be closed to all boaters including anglers. This would have a negative effect on our anglers that the Department wishes to avoid.
	Comment 121.21 - New Mexico BASS Nation supports a managed fish community that is adapted to the current and predicted conditions, maintaining a balance between native fish and responsible management or exclusion of non-native species based on scientific data and management needs.	Thank you for your support in pursuing this balance.
	Comment 121.22 - Indigenous, invasive, native, wild and introduced species need to be defined and discussed with respect to the basis for the designation. Not even humans were native or indigenous to New Mexico at some point in	We recognize that other states are struggling with this same balance. Through this plan, the Department is seeking to identify those conflicts and work towards that balance. The Department typically relies upon Sublette et

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	history. Based on fossil and anthropologic research, it is likely that many species that did not exist in specific drainages in 1900 had existed either there or in other NM drainage basins in earlier times. Other states are locked in conflicts over whether they should protect only "native" species or manage the community of fish in our waters for fishing.	al. (2003) to determine a species native status.
	Comment 121.23 - The plan is largely silent on suppression of nuisance non-game fish (Gizzard shad, suckers, goldfish, carp, ……) with the exception of the discussion of Tiger muskies. To some extent the introduction of striped bass to Elephant Butte may have helped reduce the gizzard shad population. At the risk of crossing the line of declaring all non-native species as nuisances, NMG&F should develop a strategy and management philosophy for nuisance non-game species and encourage recreational or commercial activities ranging from responsible introduction of sterile (Tiger muskie) or non-reproductive predator species (striped bass) to bow/spear fishing and harvesting through netting or "round-up" competitions.	The draft and final plans typically do not address nuisance non-game species. Most if not all of these species provide an important food base for many predatory species including largemouth bass. The Department permits commercial activities for certain non-game species. Further, the Department already permits unlimited take of non-protected species (e.g. carp) via bow and spear fishing.
	Comment 121.24 - As the department shifts to more emphasis on natural "wild" reproduction, there may be a need to protect prime spawning grounds during certain times of the year. This should be discussed as a possible management strategy and how angler access will be impacted. The New Mexico BASS Nation supports reasonable efforts to protect a limited numbers of key spawning areas on either a voluntary or mandated basis.	The Department is currently working with NM BASS Nation on a pilot project at Elephant Butte Reservoir to make some coves, voluntarily, closed during bass spawning periods. Language specifically including these efforts was added to Elephant Butte Reservoir in the final plan.
	Comment 121.25 - Hunting (bow and spear fishing) take of game fish during spawning periods should be prohibited as the fish are too vulnerable and the impact on the fishery is disproportionate to the recreational benefit. The issue of spear fishing should be revisited through public comment. The harvesting of large adult bass during the spawn at the primary warm water reservoirs by divers is a heated topic and would be even more heated if spear fishing were allowable in trout quality waters. There seems to be inequity in how this type of "fishing" is regulated.	Spearfishing and bowfishing are legal methods for taking protected species in New Mexico assuming that daily limits and length limits are followed. The priority project for black bass was amended in the final plan to include potential regulations to prevent overharvest.
	Comment 121.26 - Fisheries management for a specific body of water should also include a discussion of the type of angling experience is	The angling experience is a subjective topic and will vary among anglers.

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	possible. Some streams and impoundments are extremely challenging to access due to difficult terrain or limited road access.	
	Comment 121.27 - In many cases, extreme water fluctuations, water quality issues or natural conditions severely limit management options. We encourage NMG&F to continue improving the information on the specific water bodies. We suggest identification of reservoir water managers and purpose of the impoundment. As many anglers believe that the state has control over water use and lake levels. It would also be useful to identify and explain seasonal water releases and how it may impact sport fish spawning or species recovery efforts whether the impact is good or bad.	Water resource management for specific waterbodies is beyond the scope of this plan.
	Comment 121.28 - Stocking of black bass. When available, smallmouth bass should be stocked on more than a recreational basis. Prey-base stocking should also be encouraged when needed to meet other management goals. It should be re-emphasized that the Rock Lake fish hatchery was originally authorized with an emphasis on Largemouth Bass production to mitigate the impacts of "free" fish not being available from other hatcheries. Knowing that the hatchery will be incapable of producing sufficient quantities of largemouth bass, there should be an annual line item for purchasing largemouth bass rather than relying on just the one New Mexico hatchery and fish available from other state or Federal hatcheries. Whenever possible, bartering for in-kind trades of walleye eggs and big game species should be leveraged to improve access to largemouth bass fry.	Smallmouth bass are not readily available for stocking. The management direction for this species is intended to provide reasonable expectations for stocking smallmouth bass. The Department is continually seeking opportunities to expand the source of largemouth bass for the state and plans to expand the warmwater facility at Rock Lake State Hatchery over the next few years.
	Comment 121.29 - Spotted bass still exist in Cochiti Lake and should still be considered a viable sport fish for several lakes throughout the state. There seems to be a concern with Section 7 consultation and approval to stock Black Bass in some reservoirs. If this is an issue, it should be discussed openly in the plan.	Spotted bass are considered a viable sportfish wherever they exist though they are not necessarily identified as a focal species in all of these waters. The Department must complete Section 7 consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for any stocking throughout the state to determine whether the proposed action will negatively affect a species listed under the Endangered Species Act. Such scrutiny of fisheries management actions underscores the fundamental purpose of this plan which is to balance competing interests and communicate future actions to the public..

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	Comment 121.30 - NMG&F should do everything in it's authority or influence to support the restoration of the Rio Puerco to prevent further erosion and sedimentation in Elephant Butte Reservoir. The reservoir has already lost almost one third of its capacity and the sedimentation is ruining the upper section of the lake.	Sedimentation is a significant concern for all reservoirs in New Mexico but is beyond the scope of this plan.
	Comment 121.31 - Page 71 typo on Pecos River "no to" should be "not to"	Thank you for pointing out this error. It was addressed in the final plan.
	Comment 121.32 - NM BASS Nation has decided not to comment directly on the individual water bodies but rather work with the department to better understand the opportunities and limitations of each water body. The management of each water body should be very fluid to respond to annual conditions. We have appreciated the opportunity to participate in local public meetings and we believe that is the best way to hear the diverse concerns of the angling public. We encourage future regional public meetings to discuss the specific issues at our major reservoirs.	The Department plans to continue public meetings throughout the state, as necessary.
Don Weldon	**Comment 122.1 –** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Bill Zenger	**Comment 123.1 -** catch and release on the chama Im in favor of this program of catch and release, because I've seen it work in other places across the US.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Will Pender	**Comment 124.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
William Geck	**Comment 125.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and	See response to Comment 1.1.

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	Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	
Wyatt Toolson	**Comment 126.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Leo Carson	**Comment 127.1 -** Please implement catch & release on the Chama below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see lures with barbless hooks only on those waters and others that are 4 to 5 miles long.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Conrad Cooper	**Comment 128.1 -** I am writing to show my support for having catch and release water on the Chama. It would be nice to have some water in NM where the fish are allowed to grow large and plentiful for the sake of sportfishing, rather than being harvested	See response to Comment 1.1.
Chris Scanlan	**Comment 129.1 -** I am writing this letter to request that you implement catch and release fishing areas on the Chama River, especially in the tailwater sections below the El Vado and Abiquiu dams. I would like to see catch and release areas that are of at least 4 to 5 continuous river miles each. I would also suggest that these areas be restricted to the use of artificial lures with single, barbless hooks.	See response to Comment 1.1.
Brad Alpers	**Comment 130.1 -** In my opinion the quality waters section of the river should be extended to the bridge in Navajo Dam. Fish are to valuable to be caught only once. I've seen too many stringers of trophy fish taken out of the river below the quality waters by bait fishermen. Expanding the quality waters would alleviate the crowding the San Juan is known for. The Juan is the crown jewel of NM fishing, make it better. It's almost embarrassing that people come from all over the world to fish it and then run into bait fishermen. Locals can fish somewhere else	The current regulations for the San Juan River trout fishery are intended to provide opportunities for both anglers who seek to harvest as well as release the fish they catch.
NMDGF Notes from Las Cruces Meeting	**Comment 131.1 –** Too many striped bass in Elephant Butte.	Striped bass are a popular sportfish in Elephant Butte and produce trophy angling opportunities.

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	Comment 131.2 – Need more special trout waters with catch and release regulations, including the Rio Chama. Expressed by several individuals at the meeting	The Department recognized the desire by many anglers to increase Special Trout Water areas including catch and release areas throughout the state. Both the draft and final plans identified a the need for the Department to evaluate existing Special Trout Water regulations and propose new regulations to the State Game Commission.
	Comment 131.3 – Like Gila trout stocking and not just in Special Trout Waters.	The Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling provides for stocking Gila trout in waters that are more accessible to the public.
	Comment 131.4 – Format of the draft plan is good, and support for transition to native fish/trout management in certain areas.	Thank you for your support.
	Comment 131.5 – Trout Unlimited is excited about Native Trout restoration as described in the plan	Thank you for yoru support.
	Comment 131.6 – Bluewater tiger muskies – why not add other prey species to feed the tiger muskies?	The Department would like to see whether the overabundance of tiger muskie (in 2014 and 2015) can be managed through angler harvest and natural mortality prior to stocking another species in the lake. Based upon survey results from fall 2015, the tiger muskie population declined significantly and the Department resumed stocking of rainbow trout.
	Comment 131.7 – Need for additional enforcement in Special Trout Waters.	Though most anglers obey regulations, enforcement is a continual challenge. We encourage you to contact Operation Game Thief if you observe a violation of any State Game Commission regulations including Special Trout Waters.
	Comment 131.8 – Burn Lake is dry, why maintain in the plan?	Conditions could change and the Department would like to identify this water for management in the future.
	Comment 131.9 – The Department needs to expand angling opportunities in the southern part of the state.	The Department is continually seeking to expand angling opportunities within the environmental constraints of our arid climate.
	Comment 131.10 – Need for additional enforcement at Young and Alumni Ponds in Las Cruces.	Though most anglers obey regulations, enforcement is a continual challenge. We encourage you to contact Operation Game Thief if you observe a violation of any State Game Commission regulations.
Mary Hoffman (Delivered in person at Las Cruces Meeting)	**Comment 132.1 –** Expressed a desire for the Department to adopt more catch and release trout waters in New Mexico.	See response to Comment 12.22.
	Comment 132.2 – Also supports designating	See response to Comment 1.1.

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	catch and release trout waters on the Chama River	
Edward Enriquez (Delivered in person at Las Cruces Meeting)	**Comment 133.1 –** Better enforcement at Alumni Pond/Young Pond when summer catfish and winter trout stocked.	Though most anglers obey regulations, enforcement is a continual challenge. We encourage you to contact Operation Game Thief if you observe a violation of any State Game Commission regulations including Special Trout Waters.
	Comment 133.2 – Renovate Burns Lake in Las Cruces. Work with City of Las Cruces**.**	Language was added to the final plan to include reservoir habitat restoration on non-Commission owned properties.
	Comment 133.3 – Don't let City of Alamogordo manage Bonito Lake!	Comment noted.
	Comment 133.4 – Keep up the great work!	Thank you for your support.
NMDGF Notes from Glenwood Meeting	**Comment 134.1 –** Mineral Creek and Gila Trout – effects on grazing allotment, angling opportunities, effects of fire.	The Whitewater Baldy Fire of 2012 likely eliminated all non-native trout from Mineral Creek. The Department identified this water for Gila trout stocking to serve as a recovery population as well as expand angling opportunities for Gila trout. The Department expects to recommend a reduced daily limit for Gila trout but the stream would be open to fishing. The Department agreed to seek additional information on whether Gila trout would affect the existing grazing allotment. Based upon a written answer from the Forest Service, there would be limited effects on the existing allotment.
	Comment 134.2 – Whitewater Creek and the need for Gila trout restoration.	The Whitewater Baldy fire of 2012 nearly eliminated all non-native trout from Whitewater Creek. The Department identified Whitewater Creek in the draft and final plans for Gila trout restoration. Questions from the public were answered regarding the means for remaining trout removal (i.e. piscicides), non-target effects, future angling opportunities, downstream effects on water quality. The Department held an additional meeting to further discuss this project in February 2016.
	Comment 134.3 – San Francisco River downstream of Pleasanton.	The Department explained to the public how it intends to manage this reach for both smallmouth bass and catfish. The Department was also questioned as to whether the area would be closed due to Forest Service travel management plans. We explained that travel management is subject to Forest Service decision-making.
	Comment 134.4 – Glenwood Hatchery – Effects	The Department told the public of its desire to

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	on downstream ponds, rearing of rainbows.	convert Glenwood Hatchery to produce some Gila trout to expand recreational angling opportunities. We explained that we would have to analyze the effects of rearing Gila trout which would include potential escapement into downstream ponds to avoid endangered species concerns for these areas. If escapement does occur, the Department will manage them under state angling regulations. The Department also explained a desire to expand Glenwood Hatchery to include rearing both Gila trout and rainbow trout.