



WATER IS LIFE.
It's Our Duty to Protect It.

Water Quality Control Commission
1190 Saint Francis Drive
Suite # South 2102
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Submitted via email to: Pamela.jones@state.nm.us

Re: Outstanding Waters Designations for Rio Hondo, Lake Fork of the Rio Hondo, Upper Rio Grande, and Jemez River Headwaters (Rio San Antonio, East Fork Jemez, River, and Redondo Creek) - WQCC 21-62(R)

Dear Commission:

As a statewide water conservation organization dedicated to protecting and restoring the waters of New Mexico, Amigos Bravos whole heartedly supports the designation of the Rio Hondo, Lake Fork of the Rio Hondo, the Upper Rio Grande and Jemez River Headwaters.

These nominated waters have long been treasured by the people of New Mexico as exceptional recreational waters that draw residents and visitors alike from near and far to fish, boat, camp, hunt, and hike. The Upper Rio Grande is one of the most fished water segments in the state and the exciting white waters of the Rio Grande gorge provide world class rafting opportunities and support numerous white water rafting companies. San Antonio Creek and the East Fork of the Jemez flow through the Valles Caldera preserve providing recreational opportunities and supporting a rich variety of native species. The Rio Hondo and Lake Fork flow past Taos Ski Valley and the most popular hiking trail in the state. All of these nominated waters are intricately tied to New Mexico's history, culture, and agricultural values. Protecting the nominated waters will benefit the state by protecting these values and protecting the economic benefits of some of the most popular fishing and hiking destinations in the state.

Amigos Bravos has been involved as a party in all previous New Mexico Outstanding Waters hearings and has long viewed Outstanding Waters protections as an important tool for ensuring that New Mexico's most treasured waters are protected for future generations. Please protect the nominated waters of the Upper Rio Grande, Rio Hondo, Lake Fork, and Jemez headwaters by designating them as Outstanding Waters.

For the Rio,

Joe Zupan
Executive Director

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