



## An Overview of the Pecos Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW) Petition

### **What are Outstanding Waters (ONRWs)?**

[Outstanding Waters or Outstanding National Resource Waters](#) (ONRWs) are rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands that receive special protections in the state's water quality standard to preserve water quality and ensure future generations of New Mexicans have access to clean water.

### **Who Makes the Decision to Designate ONRWs in New Mexico?**

The New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) is the decision-making body. We are directing public comment in support of the nomination to the WQCC.

### **Who are the Petitioners for the Pecos Nomination?**

San Miguel County, Village of Pecos, Upper Pecos Watershed Association, Molino de las Isla Organics llc., and the New Mexico Acequia Association.

**What waters in the Pecos have been nominated?** The nomination includes the mainstem of the Pecos River from Dalton Canyon upstream to the wilderness boundary, 15 named streams that are tributaries to this stretch of the mainstem of the Pecos (Bear Creek, Carpenter Creek, Dalton Canyon, Davis Creek, Doctor Creek, Holy Ghost Creek, Indian Creek, Jack's Creek, Macho Canyon, Panchuela Creek, Rio Mora, Sawyer Creek, Wild Horse Creek, Willow Creek and Winsor Creek), 96 unnamed tributaries to these streams, and 16 wetlands. This totals 179 miles of streams and 42 acres of wetlands.

### **Who benefits from Outstanding Waters protections?**

We all benefit from clean water. By protecting clean water, we preserve traditional uses essential to New Mexicans and our rich cultural heritage, including agriculture and ranching. Outstanding Waters also ensure all New Mexicans have access to clean water when fishing, rafting, and swimming. Our state's abundant fish and wildlife also benefit from clean water.

**To view the nominating petition to see the maps of nominated waters and how these waters more than meet the required criteria please visit: <https://ournmwaters.com/protecting-the-pecos-river/>**