

## **R3 Plan Revision Guidance: Research Natural Areas – Representative Aquatic Habitats**

Operational Draft: This document is prepared to provide guidance to Forest Plan revision teams. As this guidance is implemented, we expect to learn improved ways to do this work. As we learn, this document will be updated. This document was reviewed and revised as appropriate in April 2010 to conform to the requirements of the 1982 Planning Rule provisions.

Aquatic habitats from the Arizona and New Mexico State Comprehensive Wildlife plans that may serve as good “representative areas” to be considered when assessing potential RNAs:

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> order streams, perennial and/or intermittent or ephemeral
- 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> order streams, perennial
- 5<sup>th</sup> order stream
- Marsh/Cienega – Water saturated, poorly drained wetland area that is permanently inundated to a depth of 7 ft (2 m) and supports an extensive cover of emergent, non-woody vegetation, without peat-like accumulations (marsh) and associated with perennial spring and seep systems in isolated arid basins of the southwest (cienega).
- Spring/Seep – an area where groundwater continuously flows naturally from a rock or soil substrate to the surface to form a stream, pond, marsh or other type of water body. May include hydrothermal as well as cold water springs. A seep may not visibly flow, as compared to a spring.
- Wet meadow
- Playa (body of water formed in depression or basin, an internally drained lake found in a sandy, salty, or muddy flat floor of an arid basin occupied by shallow water)
- Natural lake