

Glossary for Amalia y El Ventero (USGS Amalia)

La Mesa

[the tableland]

Labeled San Pedro Mesa on government maps. The official name is likely a partial translation from a Spanish antecedent *Mesa de San Pedro*. That antecedent name seems to no longer be in common usage in Costilla, Amalia or El Ventero. It may still be in use in San Luis, CO, and its satellite villages.

El Ventero (valley)

[the wind funnel]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito en Casa

[creek on house]

Labeled Jarocito Creek on government maps. The official name is likely a partial translation from a Spanish antecedent [?]**Rito del Jarosito** [creek of the little willow grove] or [?]**Rito Jarosito** [willow-rich little creek]. *Jarocito* spelled with a *c* is a nonsense word: *-cito* is a diminutive suffix for mono- or bi-syllabic Spanish nouns, but the noun in question *jara* is feminine and would give *jaracita*. *Jaroso* can function both as an adjective meaning *full of jaras* [willows] or a noun denoting a place full of jaras, a *willow grove*. The derivational suffix *-oso* can be attached to plant nouns to create nouns and adjectives denoting an abundance of the plant in a given area, a meaning which lends itself easily to becoming part of a place-name. The naming scheme in [?]**Rito (del) Jarosito** would have cousins in the nearby Rito del Alamosito and the far-off Rito de los Cebadillosos, in the Río Pecos watershed.

El Ventero (village)

[the wind funnel]

Labeled Ventero on government maps. The official name lacks the definite article which is an obligatory part of the name in Spanish discourse.

To mean they are going to the village of El Ventero, local Spanish speakers will say ‘voy *pal* (para+el) Ventero’ rather than ‘voy *pa* (para) Ventero.’ In the English usage of the same

speakers, the article is optional; they say both ‘I’m going to Ventero’ and ‘I’m going to El Ventero’.

El Vallecito

[the little upland glade]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Bosque del Medio

[forest in the middle]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

El Rincón

[the inside corner]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

This high grassland expanse is hemmed in by trees on the north, south and east and by bushy hills on the west. It carries an unusual place-name where *rincón* is used in its common *inside corner* sense rather than the specialized *box canyon* sense.

Ladera del Varro

[slope of the clay]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Río Costilla

[rib river]

Labeled Costilla Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

Cañada Bonita

[pretty glen]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Cerro Alto

[high hill]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Cañón de Amalia

[canyon of Amalia]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito del Yuta

[creek of the Ute Indian]

Labeled Ute Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

El Puertecito

[the little pass]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Resolana del Oso

[sunny place of the bear]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito del Oso

[creek of the bear]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

La Otra Banda

[the other bank]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Morada del Santo Niño

[dwelling place of the Santo Niño]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Iglesia del Santo Niño de Atocha

[church of the Santo Niño of Atocha]

Labeled Santo Niño Church on government maps.

Las Pilas de Arena

[the piles of sand]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Amalia

Labeled Amalia on government maps. This village bears a post office related place-name, the post office having been renamed in 1919 from *Pina* to *Amalia* for the daughter of the postmaster at the time. It is unclear what antecedent gave rise to the earlier name of the post office (Pina; 1900-1919) but El Pino [the pine] or La Piña [the pinecone] are possible candidates; going off regional patterns for settlement naming, it is unlikely the village lacked an article in its name.

Cañada de los Gallegos or Poacher's Paradise

[glen of the Gallegos family]

This place is unnamed government maps.

Cañada de Lilio Rivera

[Lilio Rivera's glen]

This place is unnamed government maps.

Cañada de la Olivia

[Olivia's glen]

This place is unnamed government maps.

Cañada de Ambrosio Rivera

[Ambrosio Rivera's glen]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

El Pozo

[the pit]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Ojito del Oligario

[little spring of Oligario]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Amalia Rch

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

El Chupadero

[the sucking-place]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Based on my consultant's explanation of the name, it may instead be called **El Jumadero** [the smoking-place]. There is no stream that goes underground at this location, which is the usual reason for calling a place a *chupadero*.

La Maquinita (historical)

[the little machine]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

The historical site of a saw-mill now disappeared.

Cañón de Sánchez

[Sánchez's canyon]

Labeled Sanchez Canyon on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation and accent marks are deliberately omitted.

Rito Sánchez

[Sánchez creek]

This place is unnamed on government maps, which identify the canyon but not its stream.

Vega Escondida

[hidden meadow]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito de los Vallejos

[creek of the Vallejos family]

Labeled Ballejas Creek on government maps. The nonsense word *Ballejas* in the official name is a failed approximation of the local surname Vallejos; the USGS field crew that was active in the area during the late 1950s and early 1960s was likely unaware of the presence of a Vallejos family.

Cañada del Peñasco

[glen of the great big rock]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

El Ogadero

[the throat band]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito de los Vigiles

[creek of the Vigil family]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Glossary for La Sierra Pelada (USGS Big Costilla Peak)

As a result of historical disenfranchisement, Nuevomexicanos in the communities of Costilla, Amalia and El Ventero remember little of their ancestral geographies of the area depicted on the eastern half of this map. The land to the east of the Sierra Pelada and north from El Depósito was bought up by William H. Bartlett in 1902. Bartlett evicted the Manitos living on ‘his’ land and created the Vermejo Club, a hunting club for the social elite, whose membership included early Hollywood actors and past presidents of the US. Today, Vermejo Park Ranch is owned by billionaire media mogul Ted Turner who runs it as a luxury guest ranch. Rich visitors can cynically go see “abandoned turn-of-the-century coal mines and logging operations with remnants of the communities that worked them” ([Vermejo Property Guide](#)). The only Manitos that still visit the land are those working for the state water authorities.

Cerro Bole

¿[bald hill]?

Labeled State Line Peak on government maps. The official name is unrelated to the name in oral tradition and makes explicit reference to State geographies.

Glacier Lake

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

West Fork Costilla Creek

[west fork rib creek]

The antecedent for this name is not remembered by Nuevomexicanos along the Río Costilla watershed. The place is located on Ted Turner’s Vermejo Park Ranch.

Las Zoteas

[the flat-top roofs]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito en Casa

[creek on house]

Labeled Jarocito Creek on government maps. The official name is likely a partial translation from a Spanish antecedent [?]**Rito del Jarosito** [creek of the little willow grove] or [?]**Rito Jarosito** [willow-rich little creek]. *Jarocito* spelled with a *c* is a nonsense word: *-cito* is a diminutive suffix for mono- or bi-syllabic Spanish nouns, but the noun in question *jara* is feminine and would give *jaracita*. *Jaroso* can function both as an adjective meaning *full of jaras* [willows] or a noun denoting a place full of jaras, a *willow grove*. The derivational suffix *-oso* can be attached to plant nouns to create nouns and adjectives denoting an abundance of the plant in a place, a meaning which lends itself easily to becoming part of a place-name. The naming scheme in [?]**Rito (del) Jarosito** would have cousins in the nearby Rito del Alamosito and the far-off Rito de los Cebadillosos, in the Río Pecos watershed.

Lagunita Azul or Little Blue

[little blue lake]

Labeled **Lake No 2** on government maps. The official name is unrelated to the names in oral tradition; it likely reflects place-name usage by the people who own or work for Vermejo Park Ranch.

Lake No 1

No Spanish antecedent for this English name is remembered. The name likely reflects place-name usage by the people who own or work for Vermejo Park Ranch.

Rito del Alamoso o del Alomosito

[creek of the cottonwood grove] or [of the little cottonwood grove]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Campadero del Rito Alamoso

[camp spot of the willow grove creek]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

La Sierra Pelada or La Pelada or Las Peladas

[the bald mountain] or [the bald one] or [the bald ones]

These names are applied to the entire ridge that includes the summit labeled **Big Costilla Peak** on government maps. As a ridge, it is unnamed on government maps.

Vintrero

[nonsense word]

This name is included on some government maps at the location of a 1945 survey benchmark placed by the U.S. Coast & Geodetic Survey. It is a failed approximation of the word *ventero*, as featured in the name of the nearby village of **El Ventero**.



[Vintrero Benchmark](#)

Rito de los Casías

[creek of the Casías family]

Labeled Casias Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation and accent marks are deliberately omitted. The original reference to the Casías family is obscured by these alterations.

Río Costilla

[rib river]

Labeled Costilla Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

Rito del Oso

[creek of the bear]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Bañadero del Oso

[bathing place of the bear]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Campadero del Rito del Oso

[camp spot of the creek of the bear]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Beaver Lake

No Spanish antecedent for this English name is remembered.

Costilla Lodge

[rib lodge]

This place-name reflects the usage of the people who own or work for the Vermejo Park Ranch.

Rito del Yuta

[creek of the Ute]

Labeled Ute Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

Big Costilla Peak

[big rib peak]

There is no indication that this high point is differentiated from the rest of **La Sierra Pelada/La Pelada/Las Peladas** in Spanish. The name likely reflects place-name usage by the people who own or work for Vermejo Park Ranch.

Long Canyon

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name, though **’Cañón Largo** or **’Cañada Larga** are both likely candidates.

Seven Lakes

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name, though **’Las Siete Lagunas** is a likely candidate. This hypothetical antecedent would have a cousin in nearby **Las Nueve Lagunas**.

Rito de los Vigiles

[creek of the Vigil family]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito Santistevan

[Santistevan creek]

Labeled Santistevan Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

El Depósito

[the reservoir]

Labeled Costilla Reservoir on government maps. The official name is unrelated to the name in oral tradition.

Allen Creek

No Spanish antecedent for this English name is remembered. The name likely reflects place-name usage by the people who own or work for Vermejo Park Ranch.

Lost Lake

No Spanish antecedent for this English name is remembered. It may derive from an antecedent **’Laguna Perdida** or **’Laguna Escondida**. The name likely reflects place-name usage by the people who own or work for Vermejo Park Ranch.

Glossary for Las Nueve Lagunas (USFS Latir Peak)

Cañón de Sánchez

[Sánchez's canyon]

Labeled Sanchez Canyon on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation and accent marks are deliberately omitted.

Rito Sánchez

[Sánchez creek]

This place is unnamed on government maps, which identify the canyon but not its stream.

La Quemazón (historical)

[the burn]

This place is unnamed on government maps. It was the site of a forest fire in the 1950s.

Rito Córdova or Rito Maximiliano or Rito Masiano

[Córdova creek] or [Maximiliano creek] or [Masiano creek]

Labeled Cordova Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation and accent marks are deliberately omitted.

Endless Blue Resort (historical)

This place is unnamed on government maps.

The Endless Blue Resort was a ski resort owned and operated by the Río Costilla Cattle and Livestock Association. It was open for business 1982-1990 and 1995-2000

Cerro de las Moras

[hill of the berries]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Cerro Carmelo

[Carmel hill]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

The name could be a biblical reference to Mount Carmel in the Holy Land, or a reference to a local man by the name of Carmelo (in which case a gloss as [Carmelo's hill] would be appropriate).



The biblical Mount Carmel at sunset.

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/5/5b/Caiobadner_-_mount_carmel.JPG/450px-Caiobadner_-_mount_carmel.JPG

Rito de los Vallejos

[creek of the Vallejos family]

Labeled Ballejas Creek on government maps. The nonsense word *Ballejas* in the official name is a failed approximation of the local surname Vallejos; the USGS field crew that was active in the area during the late 1950s and early 1960s was likely unaware of the presence of a Vallejos family.

Cañada Escura

[dark glen]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Escura is a dialectal variant of the word for *dark* traditionally listed as *oscuro* in dictionaries of Spanish.

El Vallecito

[the little upland glade]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Río Costilla

[rib river]

Labeled Costilla Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation and accent marks are deliberately omitted.

El Carnero

[the ram]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

This name is applied to a rock formation construed as looking like a ram when viewed from the North.

Cañada del Carnero

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito del Carnero

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Cañada del Carnerito

[glen of the little ram]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito del Carnerito

[creek of the little ram]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Culebra Range

[water snake range]

It is unclear whether locals apply this name to this area at all.

Rito Lemos

[Lemos creek]

Labeled Lemos Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

Sangre de Cristo Grant

[blood of Christ Grant]

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Cañón del Burro (?)

[canyon of the donkey]

This place is unnamed on government maps. The location currently identified on the map is uncertain.

Virsylvania Peak

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Latir Rock Cairn

[pulse rock cairn]

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Cerro del Latir

[hill of the pulse]

Labeled Latir Peak on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

Las Nueve Lagunas

[the nine lakes]

Labeled Latir Lakes on government maps. The official name is unrelated to the name in oral tradition.

Rito del Latir or Rito de las Lagunas

[creek of Latir] or [creek of the lakes]

Labeled Latir Creek on government maps. The official name derives from the **Rito del Latir** variant, Anglicized through partial translation.

Venado Peak

[deer peak]

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name. It is likely to be a partial translation from an earlier Spanish name.

Virgin Canyon

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Latir Mesa

[pulse table-land]

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Though the individual elements of the name **Latir Mesa** are both Spanish, the name must be analyzed as being in English because of the word order. Furthermore, the alpine tundra ecosystem here would normally preclude the geographic term *mesa* being used in a Spanish language name for this place. To the best of my knowledge, *mesa* is applied within the Nuevomexicano dialect area only to plateaus in the high desert biome. In English, by contrast, *mesa* can be applied to any plateau, regardless of biome.

Laguna del Corazón

[lake of the heart]

Labeled Heart Lake on government maps. The official name is a full translation of the Spanish antecedent.

Baldy Cabin

This name was bestowed by the rangers of the Carson National Forest.

Baldy Blue Lake

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Bear Lake

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Ciénega de la Medianoche

[wetlands of midnight]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito de la Medianoche

[creek of midnight]

Labeled Midnight Creek on government maps. The official name is a full translation of the Spanish antecedent.

Bull Creek Fork

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Lagunitas fork

[little lakes]

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name, though 'Rito de las Lagunitas' seems likely.

The USFS and USGS maps show only one lake at 11,620ft, but a second, smaller lake is clearly visible on satellite images at 11,420ft just west of the course of the stream, at the foot of a scree slope.

Lake Fork

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Italian Canyon

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Rito Claro

[clear creek]

Labeled Rito Claro on government maps. The official name is an accurate representation of the name in oral tradition.

Rito del Cabresto

[creek of the halter]

Labeled Cabresto Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

Jiron Canyon

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Greenie Peak

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

La Cuerva Park

[the female crow park]

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name, though it is related to a verified **Cañada de la Cuerva**.

La Cuerva Winter Sports Area

[the female crow winter sports area]

This English name is related to a verified **Cañada de la Cuerva**.

Glossary for El Comanche (USFS Comanche Point)

Rito del Carnero

[creek of the ram]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Rito del Carnerito

[creek of the little ram]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Culebra Range

[water snake range]

It is unclear whether locals apply this name to this area at all.

Cañada de la Cuerva

[glen of the female crow]

Labeled La Cuerva Canyon on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

Río Costilla

[rib river]

Labeled Costilla Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation and accent marks are deliberately omitted.

Powderhouse Canyon

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Blind Canyon

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

La Tierra Blanca

[the white earth]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

This place was once used to quarry white dirt to plaster the inside of adobe homes, churches and moradas.

El Comanche

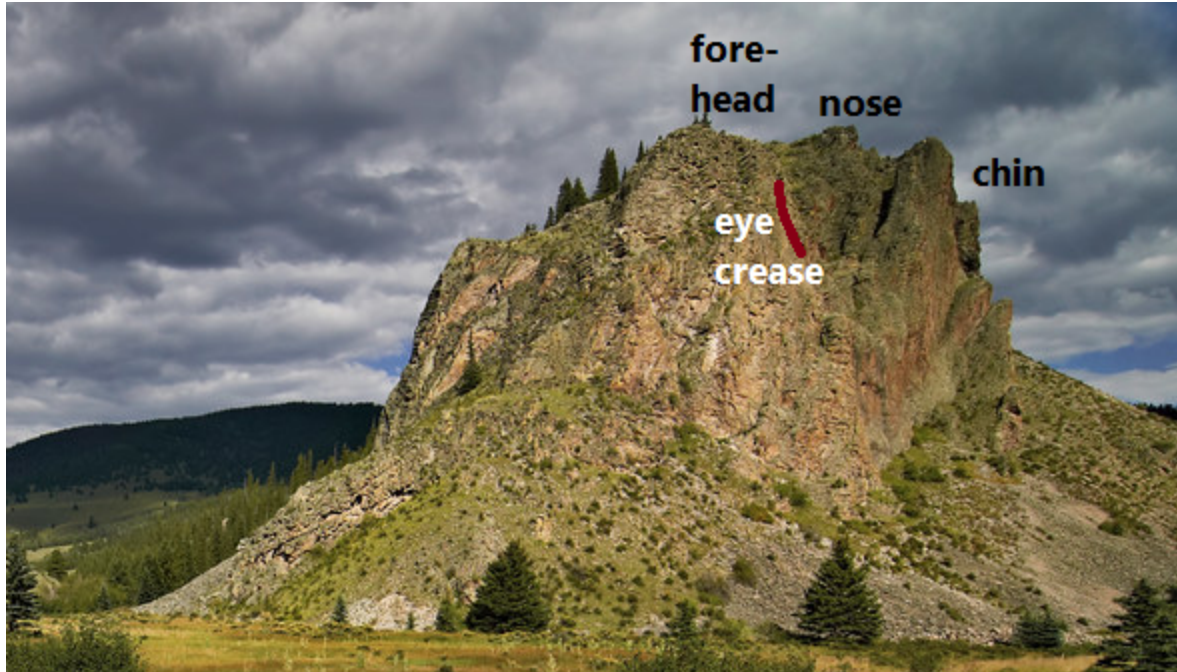
[the Comanche]

Labeled Comanche Point on government maps.

This mountain is construed locally as looking like the head of a Comanche Indian lying on his back.



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/scavengercat/7927757460/>



Gate Creek

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Rito de los Tanques

[creek of the beaver ponds]

This place is unnamed on government maps.

Fernandez Canyon

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Little Costilla Creek

[little rib creek]

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

North Hole Spring

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

The Sánchez

This English name is applied by people from Costilla to the plot of private land at Cabresto Park.

Cabresto Park

[halter park]

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Ortiz Peak

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

I have heard claims that this mountain was named for a man from Questa.

Chuckwagon Canyon

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Rito Comanche

[Comanche creek]

Labeled Comanche Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

Springwagon Creek

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Holman Creek

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Grassy Creek

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Lagunita Saddle

[little lake saddle]

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Bitter

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Midnight Mine

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Gold Creek

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

La Cuerva Winter Sports Area

[the female crow winter sports area]

This English name is related to a verified **Cañada de la Cuerva**.

Jiron Canyon

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name. The official name includes the local surname Jirón but with the accent mark deliberately omitted.

La Cuerva Park

[the female crow park]

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name, though it is related to a verified **Cañada de la Cuerva**.

Anderson Park Winter Sports Area

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Anderson Park

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

La Belle Lodge

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Supposedly, this lodge was home to a 19th century brothel.

La Belle Creek

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Clayton Camp

No antecedent has been found to date for this English name.

Rito Vidal

[Vidal creek]

Labeled Vidal Creek on government maps. The official name is Anglicized through partial translation.

Valle Vidal

[Vidal's valley]

Labeled Valle Vidal on government maps. The official name is an accurate representation of the name in oral tradition.