

22330-2012-080 Barrier construction on Tributaries of the Rio Hondo

State(s): New Mexico

Managing Agency/Organization: New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Type of Organization: State Government

Project Status: In Progress

Project type: WNTI Project

Project action(s): Fish passage, In-stream and riparian habitat

Trout species benefitted: Rio Grande Cutthroat

Population: Rio Grande River

Modify existing road culverts to secure populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in Yerba Creek, Manzanita Creek, and Italianos Creek the Rio Hondo, New Mexico.

The importance to the Resource: Without continued efforts to conserve Rio Grande cutthroat trout, threats posed by nonnative species and habitat degradation may place this species in jeopardy; Rio Grande cutthroat trout is a candidate species under ESA.

The problem: Historical fisheries programs have emphasized nonnative salmonids to the detriment of natives. Brown trout and brook trout continue to increase their range in habitats historically occupied by Rio Grande cutthroat trout. Despite historic efforts, some populations are still unprotected and thus at risk of population extinction.

The objective: Preclude brown trout from invading small tributaries of the Rio Hondo by modifying existing road culverts to create fish migration barriers. Project completion will secure three core conservation populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

The method: The existing culverts will be extended to create leap barriers near the confluence with the Rio Hondo. Where feasible, concrete aprons will be installed to inhibit fish jumping ability and debris removed from culverts. Non-native trout will be removed via electrofishing in Yerba Creek. Improve capability of barriers on tributaries of the Rio Hondo by modification of existing road culverts.

Partners:

- New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish
- US Forest Service

Measures:

- Number of culverts modified

Funding Source(s):

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Project cost: \$30,000.00

Start Date: 08/01/2012 **Completion Date:** Underway

Project Contact:

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