

La Garita Creek, Colorado, Native Fish Restoration Project – Rio Grande cutthroat trout

State(s): Colorado

Managing Agency/Organization: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Type of Organization: Federal Government

Project Status: Completed

Project type: WNTI Project

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

Trout species benefitted: Rio Grande Cutthroat

Population: La Garita creek Rio Grande Basin

Reconnect stream habitat in the La Garita drainage of the upper Rio Grande by replacing road culverts that have fragmented fish populations. By replacing the road culverts, approximately 5.5 miles of additional stream habitat and important over-wintering habitat will become available for use.

The project encompasses approximately 40 stream miles in a complex drainage that includes four major tributaries to the La Garita Creek. During the summer of 2007, all road crossings within the La Garita drainage were evaluated to determine if the culverts were barriers to fish passage. Three culverts were determined to be impediments to fish movement for both adult and juvenile salmonids. The culverts will be replaced with larger culverts that would be set on grade with streambed substrate throughout the culvert, and the culvert width would be greater than or equal to bankfull width.

Objectives:

- The objective is to restore fish passage within the La Garita drainage, by removing three existing fish barriers.

Partners:

- Colorado Division of Wildlife

Funding Source(s):

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Project cost: \$73,000.00