

Protection of Alamitos Creek, NM, population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout

State(s): New Mexico

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, In-stream and riparian habitat

Trout species benefitted: Rio Grande Cutthroat

A barrier will be constructed to protect of 7.5 stream miles inhabited by pure Rio Grande cutthroat trout from encroachment by nonnative salmonids. Construction of a permanent barrier would negate upstream movement of nonnative salmonids and protect of the resident Rio Grande cutthroat trout population.

Alamitos Creek Barrier Construction – A grant agreement was recently completed with the national office of Trout Unlimited, with assistance by the Truchas TU Chapter based in Santa Fe. U.S. Forest Service personnel are in the process of completing NEPA documentation and engineering design for the project. TU currently holds the funding for use in barrier construction during 2009.

Alamitos Creek supports a large core population of pure Rio Grande cutthroat trout threatened by invasion of nonnative salmonids leading to hybridization, predation and competition impacts. Alamitos is a multi-year project where environmental compliance will be acquired the first year with barrier construction immediately following. This project satisfies the WNTI Joint Venture's goal of building, funding, and implementing collaborative conservation efforts. Nonnative salmonids threaten this population of several thousand Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

Objectives:

- The project would ensure protection of the existing population and benefit ongoing Rio Grande Cutthroat trout conservation efforts.

Partners:

- Trout Unlimited
- U.S. Forest Service
- New Mexico Game and Fish Department

Project cost: \$111,625.00

Start Date: 01/01/2008 **Completion Date:** 12/31/2008