



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED COMANCHE CREEK RESTORATION PROJECT (IMPORTANT - DATE CHANGING)

Due to delays with NEPA documentation and other issues beyond our control, the Comanche Creek restoration workshop in the Valle Vidal this summer needs to be re-scheduled. At present we do not have a firm date but it looks like it will be **August 21-23**. The primary focus of the workshop will be placing in-stream structures along the upper reach of Comanche Creek to protect severely eroded banks (see photo). If time and number of volunteers permit, we may also work on maintaining grazing exclosures to protect woody vegetation and planting willow cuttings. Keep checking the Chapter web site for new date - <http://www.truchas-tu.org/conservation.htm>



Post vanes installed along Comanche Creek - note sedges and grasses re-establishing along raw right bank.

We are hoping for a large volunteer turnout this year. Volunteer help is especially important this year given an announcement last year the US Fish & Wildlife Service that the Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGCT) be formally proposed for protection under the Endangered Species Act. The EPA grants that have helped fund this project in recent years have ended. However, the Truchas Chapter has received a \$9,480 Embrace-A-Stream (EAS) grant from TU National to help fund this year's work to restore RGCT habitat. The fact that our proposal competed against 47 other proposals and was fully funded speaks well of the importance TU National thinks of this work. All Chapter members who have

supported this project should be proud. Our friends and partners with New Mexico Trout also provided \$500 in matching funds to the project. But the work required of you is not done. This grant will require the Chapter to match the EAS funds with volunteer in-kind labor. So this year more than ever **we need you to volunteer** to help continue TU's efforts with this multiyear project.

This is a great opportunity to learn first-hand about stream restoration from professionals. You can also view the fish barrier TU helped fund a couple of years ago. (NM Game & Fish hopes to be able to reintroduce pure RGCT to Comanche Creek above the barrier this summer.) After working on the creek, you can take the opportunity to fish for rainbows, cutthroats, and cutbows in the Rio Costilla or for 20" rainbows in Shuree Ponds. Please consider staying for the weekend and enjoying the beautiful Valle Vidal while helping to restore RGCT habitat. As in the past, the USFS will allow us to camp for free near the lodge at Shuree Ponds Friday and Saturday nights.

More information on the Comanche Creek Native RGCT Restoration Project can be found online at: <http://www.comanchecreek.org/> and <ftp://ftp.nmenv.state.nm.us/www/swqb/WPS/CTW/ClearingTheWaters-Spring2009.pdf>

If you are interested in volunteering for this project, please contact Art Vollmer by phone at 505-476-6004 (days) or 505-474-1495 (evenings) or by e-mail at flyfishn@peoplepc.com. He'll contact interested people once the date of the workshop is finalized.