



Truchas Chapter Conservation and Advocacy Efforts

The Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited is dedicated to coldwater fisheries conservation in northern New Mexico. It currently is involved in the following conservation projects.

RGCT Restoration Fund

Our chapter has formed a Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Restoration Fund to raise significant funds for our RGCT restoration efforts. The RGCT, New Mexico's state fish, originally occupied nearly all mountain streams over 5,500 feet in northern and central New Mexico and southern Colorado that drain to the Rio Grande, the Pecos or the Canadian. Due to habitat degradation, predation from exotic fish, and inter-breeding with rainbow trout, they have now disappeared from all but the smallest, most isolated tributary streams. The restoration of this fish to more of its historical range is a major goal of the Truchas Chapter. Both state and federal agencies need outside funding for RGCT projects. We are soliciting donations from organizations and individuals, from foundations and other funding sources, and from the sale of our new merchandising line, shirts and baseball hats with our chapter's logo. All funds raised for this effort will be used only for RGCT restoration efforts. **For more information call Ed Schulz at 995-1963, call Bob O'Connor at 603-0797, or send an e-mail to info@truchas-tu.org.**

Alamitos Creek

Our chapter's board of directors has committed to help fund a fish-passage barrier on Alamitos Creek, a tributary of the Rio Pueblo. A population of approximately 4,500 genetically pure RGCT inhabits 7.1 miles of Alamitos Creek. If the population can be protected by a fish-passage barrier now before introgression from rainbow trout or depredation from brown trout occurs, the population can be saved. The federally-funded Western Native Trout Initiative ranked this project as the eighth most important western native trout project in the United States for 2008 and has contributed \$52,500 for the barrier. The Carson National Forest does not have the resources to do the environmental analysis of the project, an analysis that must be done before the barrier can be built. Our chapter's board has committed to raise funds for that analysis. The Guadalupe River Chapter of TU, based in Texas, has donated \$3,000 for the project, and New Mexico Trout has donated and pledged a total of \$5,000 for it. **For more information, call Arnold Atkins at 466-4375, call Ed Schulz at 995-1963, or send an e-mail to info@truchas-tu.org.**

Rio Costilla Restoration Project

The Truchas Chapter is an active partner in an ambitious effort of agencies and private organizations to restore RGCT to about 120 miles of the Rio Costilla watershed in northern New Mexico. That watershed includes streams that drain Ted Turner's Vermejo Park Ranch, the west-slope of the Valle Vidal Unit of the Carson National Forest, and the land of the Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association. The project will take approximately 10 years to complete. Working with TU national, we obtained a \$101,700 grant for this project, and most of that grant was used in 2007 to install a temporary fish-passage barrier on Comanche Creek, a tributary of the Rio Costilla. The trout in Comanche Creek were removed by Game and Fish, fin-clips were taken for genetic testing, and those that are pure RGCT will be put back into Comanche Creek. Game and Fish then treated Comanche Creek to remove any remaining fish. RGCT will be restored to the creek in 2009. The balance of the grant has been used to fund genetic testing of the trout removed from Comanche Creek and macro-invertebrate surveys. When completed, the Costilla restoration will go a long way toward assuring that future generations of New Mexicans will be able to fish for one of our two surviving native trout. **For more information, call Arnold Atkins at 466-4375, call Kevin Reilly at 466-3786, or send an e-mail to info@truchas-tu.org.**

Comanche Creek

For years, the Chapter has supported restoration efforts on Comanche Creek with funds and volunteers. Each year, our volunteers help install post vanes and other structures to improve the meander of the stream and cow and elk exclosures to encourage the growth of streamside vegetation. **For more information, call Art Vollmer at 474-1495, call Dave Gratson at 662-0707 ext. 29, or send an e-mail to info@truchas-tu.org.**

Rio Pecos

Truchas Chapter board members Doug Jeffords and Frank Adelo are actively involved in the Upper Pecos Watershed Association (UPWA), a major initiative to improve the water quality and habitat of the upper Pecos. The UPWA has obtained funding to form the association and has completed its watershed restoration action strategy, which identified strategies for addressing non-point-source pollution on the upper river. The UPWA, which has an office in Pecos, is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions to the Association are tax deductible. Along with the UPWA, the Chapter is supporting the transfer of the management of the undeveloped Game and Fish campgrounds along the Pecos to the State Parks Division, where they will be managed as part of a new Pecos Canyon State Park. The Chapter also is a partner in two clean-up days on the River, one in the spring and one in the fall, and is the River Keeper for a section of the Pecos. **For more information, call Doug Jeffords at 424-0644, call Frank Adelo at 757-8567 or send an e-mail to info@truchas-tu.org.**

Rio Jemez

The Chapter has worked to increase the opportunity for public involvement in the planning and operation of the Valles Caldera National Preserve and to increase public access to the Preserve. The Chapter has funded, through an Embrace-a-Stream grant from TU national, research by Mike Anderson of NMSU into the effects of grazing on trout populations on the Preserve. The Chapter is also continuing to work to restore RGCT to the waters of the Preserve, part of the RGCT's historical range, and to improve the habitat of those streams. **For more information, call Bob O'Connor at 603-0797 or send an e-mail to info@truchas-tu.org.**

The Chapter is supporting the efforts of New Mexico Trout to have the Rio Guadalupe classified as Outstanding National Resource Water. We have also worked with the Forest Service and New Mexico Trout to improve stream habitat in the Jemez streams. There will be volunteer opportunities available on the Jemez streams. We will announce those opportunities as the dates become available. **For more information, call Dave Gratson at 662-0707 ext. 29 or send an e-mail to info@truchas-tu.org.**

Tio Grande and Tanques Creeks.

The Chapter has committed \$8,000 to match funding now being sought from the Western Native Trout Initiative to replace two fish-passage barriers on Tio Grande and Tanques Creeks in the Carson National Forest. These creeks are tributaries of the Rio San Antonio, which flow north into Colorado near Antonito. The existing barriers protect pure populations of RGCT, but they are failing and need to be replaced. **For more information, call Dave Gratson at 662-0707 ext. 29, call Kevin Reilly at 466-3786, or send an e-mail to info@truchas-tu.org.**

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