

## Wolf Creek Barrier Reconstruction Completion Report

Rio Grande cutthroat trout are the only native trout species found in the Rio Grande drainage of south central Colorado. This once abundant species is now found primarily in high elevation headwater streams in Colorado and New Mexico, including 30 streams on the Rio Grande National Forest. One of the historic populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout on the forest had been protected from nonnative trout by a railroad culvert that was constructed in 1882. The railroad culvert had an outfall drop of approximately 3.5 feet, which had been adequate to prevent invasion by undesirable nonnative trout until a deep scour pool formed below the pool. Trout surveys conducted in 2006 and 2007 documented a few brown trout above the culvert. It is believed that the scour pool provide habitat that enable brown trout to jump the existing outfall.

The goal of this project is to construct a concrete splash pad where the scour pool has formed and construct concrete walls to support the existing concrete culvert outfall pad and stabilize the stream banks on either side of the splash pad. Engineered drawings have been designed to construct the splash pad/walls and were let out for bid. The project was awarded to a contractor to be completed in 2009, but work had to be delayed until 2010 due to weather conditions.

The project was completed in 2010.

Wolf Creek Barrier before project completion:



Wolf Creek Barrier after completion:



Photos Courtesy of Barry Wiley, USFS