

22330-2008-057 - Habitat Restoration in Polvadera Creek, New Mexico, for 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): In-stream and riparian habitat

Trout species benefitted: Rio Grande Cutthroat

Population: Polvadera Creek

Riparian protection and restoration, needed due to grazing impacts will be implemented on Polvadera Creek. This stream currently harbors a small population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout that is impacted by sedimentation due to degraded riparian conditions. This project will restore stream habitat thru cattle exclusion and revegetation of stream banks.

The importance to the Resource: Secure populations of Rio Grande cutthroat trout require suitable habitat conditions to maintain species distribution and avoid need to list under ESA.

The problem: Unrestricted livestock grazing within Polvadera Creek watershed has resulted in degraded riparian vegetation, bank destabilization and cutting, and heavy sedimentation of the stream.

The method: Livestock will be excluded from the stream by fencing. Plantings of riparian vegetation will be implemented within the fencing enclosure. Baseline fish community assessment will characterize initial population levels for use in long-term evaluation of project success.

Objectives:

- The primary objective of this project is to restore riparian and stream conditions so that habitat quality for Rio Grande cutthroat trout is increased.

Partners:

- New Mexico Department of Game and Fish - Matching \$0 - In Kind \$1,000
- Trout Unlimited - Matching \$0 - In Kind \$0
- U.S. Forest Service - Matching \$0 - In Kind \$5,000

Measures:

- Number of other Fishery Management Plan tasks implemented for populations of management concern. - 1.0
- Number of habitat assessments completed - 1.0
- Number of instream miles restored - 1.5
- Number of riparian miles restored - 1.5

Funding Source(s):

- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Project cost: \$60,900.00