

Haigler Creek Habitat Project

State(s): Arizona

Managing Agency/Organization: Arizona Game and Fish Department

Type of Organization: State Government

Project Status: Completed

Project type: WNTI Project

Project action(s): Fish passage, Watershed, In-stream and riparian habitat

Trout species benefitted: Gila Trout

Population: Gila Trout restoration population

The stream (~5 miles) is currently under investigation for Gila trout restoration. An artificial barrier resides on private land and landowners support Gila trout restoration and are very active in the development of this project. In June 2009, AZGFD funded Natural Channel Design (NCD) to conduct a barrier evaluation to determine if the existing structure is effective and/or what modifications are necessary. Haigler Creek is currently occupied by rainbow and brown trout, and headwater chub are located below the barrier. NCD did additional barrier surveys in 2010 to develop a modification design.

Update 2011

In January 2011, NCD submitted completed the barrier evaluation and gave three construction options that would make the barrier effective. The recommended option was to construct a new concrete diversion with an estimated cost of \$300,000, and the landowners were concerned about the size of the structure. AZGFD, NCD, and the landowners met and discussed options. We requested that NCD look for alternative barrier designs that were more cost efficient. Two additional site visits were conducted (June and November) and a new design has been selected (see photo). NCD is completing the barrier design and we hope it is finished mid 2012. A habitat and fish population survey were conducted on Haigler Creek in July using the Basinwide Visual Estimation Technique (BVET).

This project is now funded by a grant from the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP).

March 2013 Update:

The company we contracted with to do the barrier design will give us the final design by 3/23. NEPA and construction will be completed in 2014. The chemical treatment will be in 2014 or 2015. The WNTI grant will pay for the construction, so all funds should be spent by next fall.

Objectives:

- Design and build a fish barrier

Partners:

- US FWS, US FS, AZGFD

Funding Source(s):

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan

Project cost: \$100,000.00

Start Date: 02/01/2012 **Completion Date:** Completed

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