

22330-2006-026 - [Restoration of Rio Grande cutthroat trout within the Costilla Basin per WNTI management priorities.](#)

Proposed Accomplishment Summary:

Increase the occupied range of Rio Grande cutthroat trout by 150 stream miles and 25 lakes.

The importance to the Resource:

Without continued efforts to conserve Rio Grande cutthroat trout, threats posed by nonnative species and habitat degradation may place this species in jeopardy; requiring listing under ESA.

The problem:

Historical fisheries management programs have emphasized use of nonnative salmonids to the detriment of natives through hybridization, predation, and competition impacts. In addition, land use practices by public agency and private landowners have contributed to habitat degradation.

The objective:

This project would ensure completion of stream renovation and habitat improvement to benefit ongoing Rio Grande cutthroat trout conservation efforts in Costilla Basin.

The method:

Stream habitats will be broken into segments with temporary barriers and treated with piscicide to remove nonnative salmonids. Permanent barriers will be constructed as needed to prevent nonnative encroachment. Pure Rio Grande cutthroat trout will be introduced once treatment is completed and stream habitats secure.

Further description:

The upper Rio Costilla is jointly owned by Turner Enterprises, Inc., Carson National Forest, and the Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association. Rio Grande cutthroat trout were restored in two independent segments of the project area in 1998 and 2002. Both areas now support native trout populations. The purpose of this larger project is to expand the current range and connect populations secured during past restorations. All environmental

Fund	Totals
Totals	\$85,400

Estimated length: 3

Partner	Matching	In Kind
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	\$0	\$150,000
Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association	\$10,000	\$0
Trout Unlimited	\$15,000	\$0
Turner Enterprises Incorporated	\$30,000	\$0
U. S. Forest Service	\$0	\$20,000
Total:	\$55,000	\$170,000

TOTAL Partner + FWS across all years: \$310,400

Plan #1: Conservation Agreement for the Range-Wide Preservation and Management of the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout among Colorad...

Plan #1 tasks to be worked on by this project:

Number: 3

Type: Stocking: Marking/Tagging

Number: 6

Type: Other

Number: 7

Type: Other

Measure	Totals
Number of instream miles enhanced	99.0
Number of population assessments completed	7.0

compliance to construct temporary and permanent barriers, apply piscicide, and re-establish the native fish community has been obtained. Additional support to cooperators is required to ensure timely completion of the project which satisfies WNTI's goal of supporting collaborative conservation efforts.

Primary Species/Population Benefited:

Rio Grande cutthroat trout ([Oncorhynchus clarkii virginalis](#))

Population:

Rio Grande Basin, NM-3 [\[view\]](#)

Secondary Species/Populations Benefited:

None specified

Nuisance Species Managed:

Brown trout ([Salmo trutta](#))