

22330-2007-040 - [Restoration of Gila trout in McKenna and Iron Creeks per WNTI management priorities](#)

**Proposed Accomplishment Summary:**

The project will increase occupied range of Gila trout by 5 miles, support de-listing criteria identified in the Recovery Plan, and support continued development of partnerships between U.S. Forest Service and NM Game and Fish Department through WNTI.

**The importance to the Resource:**

Protection and range expansion for two lineages of Gila trout which currently have limited distribution.

**The problem:**

Hybrid salmonid populations currently existing in both streams do not count towards recovery of the species. Identification and restoration of recovery streams that can support self-sustaining Gila trout populations is imperative to increasing distribution of lineages. One lineage of Gila trout currently has very limited distribution.

**The objective:**

McKenna and Iron Creeks will provide a total of 5 miles of stream habitat for Gila trout if hybrid salmonid populations are removed.

**The method:**

Stream habitats will be treated with piscicide to remove hybrid salmonids. Gila trout will be introduced into McKenna and Iron Creek after treatment completion. Populations will be monitored and subsequent stocking provided as necessary until the populations are stable.

**Further description:**

This is a multi-year project in which environmental compliance will be obtained in the first year, followed by restoration and subsequent stocking. Whiskey Creek Gila trout exist in only one remnant and one replicate stream. Expansion of this lineage into McKenna Creek would almost double the amount of stream currently occupied. Iron Creek occurs in the Middle Fork Gila River which did not have a relict lineage of Gila trout, so a mixed lineage (Main

Fund	Totals
Totals	\$61,000

Estimated length: 3

Partner	Matching	In Kind
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	\$25,000	\$0
Trout Unlimited	\$0	\$0
U. S. Forest Service	\$25,000	\$0
Total:	\$50,000	\$0

**TOTAL Partner + FWS across all years: \$111,000**

**Plan #1: Gila Trout Recovery Plan**

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

**Number: 1.2**

**Type:** Science & Technology Development

**Number: 1.3**

**Type:** Stocking: Marking/Tagging

**Number: 2.3**

**Type:** Stocking: Post Stocking Survival

**Number: 2.4**

**Type:** Other

**Number: 4**

**Type:** ANS

Measure		Totals
7.1.12	Number of instream miles restored	5.0
7.1.16	Number of habitat assessments completed	1.0
13.1A.18.1	Number of other Recovery Plan tasks implemented for T&E populations	3.0

Diamond and South Diamond) population will be stocked. This project satisfies the WNTI Joint Venture's goal of building, funding and implementing collaborative conservation efforts. Nonnative and salmonids have caused the extirpation of and continue to threaten Gila trout populations through hybridization, competition, and predation. Re-establishment of Gila trout within McKenna and Iron Creeks will increase occupied range and support recovery of the species.

**Primary Species/Population Benefited:**

Gila trout ([Oncorhynchus gilae](#))

**Population:**

Gila trout - Main Diamond Creek [\[view\]](#)

**Secondary Species/Populations Benefited:**

None specified

**Nuisance Species Managed:**

Rainbow trout (outside native range)  
([Oncorhynchus mykiss](#))