

22330-2009-060 - [Renovation of a Barrier to Protect Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout in Tanques Creek per WNTI Priorities](#)

**Proposed Accomplishment Summary:**

Secure a population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout in 3 stream miles of occupied stream habitat.

**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; Rio Grande cutthroat trout is a candidate species 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 replace a dilapidated barrier in Tanques Creek with a permanent structure and increase security of a core conservation population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

**The method:**

The existing barrier will be removed and replaced with a permanent structure. Non-native trout will be blocked from currently occupied habitat by native trout. This barrier will help to protect a core conservation population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout to be used as a donor population for population expansion projects.

**Further description:**

The Tanques Creek watershed is predominantly owned by Carson National Forest. Tanques Creek contains a small, isolated population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout that is vital to range-wide recovery efforts. Protection of this habitat from non-native trout encroachment has been identified as a priority by project partners. All environmental compliance to construct the original barrier is complete. Additional

Fund	Totals
Totals	\$79,300

Estimated length: 1

Partner	Matching	In Kind
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	\$0	\$12,000
Trout Unlimited	\$0	\$7,500
U. S. Forest Service	\$0	\$5,000
Total:	\$0	\$24,500

**TOTAL Partner + FWS across all years: \$103,800**

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

Measure		Totals
5.1.10	Total number of in-stream/shoreline miles restored	6.0
5.1.3	Number of habitat assessments completed (not acres)	2.0
5.2.4	Total number of population assessments completed	2.0

environmental compliance and archaeological permits are expected to be obtained in 2009. 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](#))