22350-2009-089 - NFHAP: Gila Trout Restoration in the Pinaleno Mountain Streams: Ash, Frye, and Marijilda Creeks

Proposed Accomplishment Summary:

Three streams on Mt. Graham were identified by the Gila Trout Recovery Team as potential recovery streams for Gila trout: Ash Creek, Frye Creek, and Marijilda Creek. Each flows into the Gila River drainage, offers suitable habitat for the species, and 2 currently contain self-sustaining populations of hybrid Apache trout (the 3rd is fishless). This proposed project would establish Gila trout into over 23 miles of streams.

The *importance* to the Resource:

This project will establish threatened Gila trout into 3 streams within historical habitat, providing over 23 miles of stream in the San Francisco-Gila River mixed lineage population region identified in the Gila Trout Recovery Plan. All 3 streams provide excellent trout habitat and are protected from non-native trout because of natural barriers.

The *problem*:

To date, there are no Gila trout streams in Arizona that count towards recovering the San Francisco-Gila River mixed lineage population region. The establishment of Gila trout in these streams would bring Gila trout closer to recovery and meet almost 1/3 of the criteria for delisting identified in the recovery plan.

The *objective*:

Ash, Frye, and Marilida creeks will provide 23 miles of excellent trout habitat for mixed lineages of Gila trout by removal of hybrid trout and stocking Gila trout. Each stream has a low possibility of impacts or loss from high severity fire due to recent fire history.

The *method*:

Ash Creek will be chemically renovated with a piscicide in fall 2009 and subsequently stocked with Gila trout. Marijilda will be chemically renovated with a piscicide in fall 2010 and subsequently stocked with Gila trout. Frye Creek has been surveyed and confirmed fishless; Gila trout will be stocked in fall

Fund	Totals
Totals	$129,300

Estimated length: 3

Partner	Matching	In Kind
Arizona Game and Fish Department	$0	$25,000
Federation of Fly Fishers	$0	$0
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish	$0	$10,000
Old Pueblo Trout Unlimited	$0	$10,000
Trout Unlimited	$50,000	$0
U. S. Forest Service	$0	$25,000
Western Native Trout Initiative	$0	$0
Total:	$50,000	$70,000

TOTAL Partner + FWS across all years: $249,300

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: 1.3
Type: Science & Technology Development
Number: 2.3
Type: Science & Technology Development
Number: 2.3
Type: Stocking: Post Stocking Survival
Number: 2.4
Type: Other
Number: 2.4.3
Type: Other
Number: 4
Type: ANS

2009.

Further description:

The NEPAESA compliance for this project is currently under contract and will be completed spring 2009; thus, no funds will be sought for environmental compliance. This project satisfies the NFHI and WNTI Joint Venture's goal of building, funding, and implementing collaborative conservation efforts. This is consistent with the Service's Fisheries Program Vision for the Future and the NFHI.

Primary Species/Population Benefited:

Gila trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*)

Population:

Gila trout - San Francisco [view]

Secondary Species/Populations Benefited:

None specified

Nuisance Species Managed:

Rainbow trout (outside native range) (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Measure		Totals
5.1.3	Number of habitat assessments completed (not acres)	6.0
5.1.4	Total number of miles of in-stream/shoreline habitat assessed	46.0
5.1.10	Total number of in-stream/shoreline miles restored	23.0
P-5.3.1.1	Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Fishery Management Plans (Fisheries PART)	12.0
P-5.3.1.7	Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Fishery Management Plans (FWMA)	12.0
P-7.12.5.1	Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Recovery Plans (Fisheries PART)	12.0
P-7.12.5.7	Number of all tasks implemented, as prescribed in Recovery Plans (FWMA)	12.0
	Number of instream miles restored	23.0
	Number of instream/shoreline miles restored for populations of management concern	23.0
	Number of miles of in-stream habitat assessed	46.0
	Number of miles of in-stream/shoreline habitat assessed to benefit populations of management concern	46.0