

# AZ Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation

## GRANT COMPLETION REPORT

**Project Title:** 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference

**Organization:** Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited

**Grant #:** 2023-Q2-05 (Found on May 23, 2023 meeting agenda)

**Event/Project Completion Date:** April 6, 2023

**Project Location** (Include info such as event center, hunting unit, etc.):

**Submitted By:** Jim Walker & Nate Rees

**E-mail:** James.L.Walker@cox.net & Nathan.Rees@tu.org

**Phone #:** 602.741.1449 & 480.236.2479

**Today's Date:** May 30, 2023

### AZSFWC Recognition:

**AZSFWC Logo and Link to AZSFWC on organization's website?** (attach screen print image) Yes **X** No ☐

**License Plate Image w/link to MVD on organization's website?** (attach screen print image) Yes **X** No ☐

**AZSFWC Logo displayed at event?** (attach photo(s)) Yes **X** No ☐

**AZSFWC recognized in all marketing materials & post event articles?** (attach all samples) Yes **X** No ☐

**List any social media recognition of AZSFWC** (include all screen print images) **See attached.**

**Was there any media or press coverage?** (attach copies if available) Yes ☐ No **X**

**List any other recognition?** **See attached.**

**Summarize Project Accomplishments :** **See attached.**

### Measurable Results (Fill in all that are applicable):

**Attendees** (If project was an event, list total # of participants, excluding staff, visiting parents, etc):

**121 registrations. See attached.**

**Visitors** (If the project is an interpretive display, list total # of annual visitors): **Not Applicable – see attached.**

**Brochures, Pamphlets, etc.** (If the project is a brochure, publication, poster or video, list the total produced and distributed): **121 AZSFWC License Plate postcards; 121 Salt River – Tonto National Forest: Habitat**

**Destruction by Feral Habituated Horses brochures.**

**Other** (please explain): **Attendee Survey: See attached.**

**Budget** (specifically describe how AZSFWC funds were used; e.g., program promotion, type of equipment, materials and/or supplies, etc.) ATTACH COPIES OF ALL RECEIPTS:

"Budget Item"	Planned	Actual
<b>Beverages (coffee &amp; water)</b>	<b>\$155.00</b>	<b>\$55.00</b>
<b>Lunch: Sandwiches, chips &amp; cookies</b>	<b>\$1020.00</b>	<b>\$1,104.56</b>
<b>Awards/Plaques: Apache &amp; Gila awards</b>	<b>\$175.00</b>	<b>\$214.75</b>
<b>Printing, displays, signs, name tags &amp; paper</b>	<b>\$150.00</b>	<b>\$237.76</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>	<b>\$1,612.07</b>

<b>AZSFWC Grant Approved</b>		<b>\$600.00</b>
<b>% of AZSFWC Grant to Total</b>		<b>37%</b>

**Project Cooperator(s)** (please include any in-kind contributions):

<b>Cooperator (no abbreviations)</b>	<b>Amount Contributors \$</b>
<b>Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited</b>	<b>\$812.07</b>
<b>Fly Fishers International – Eastern Rocky Mountain Council</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Arizona Game and Fish Department (In-kind)</b>	<b>\$5,000+</b>
<b>Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited (In-kind)</b>	<b>\$13,800</b>

## Photographs

*Visuals are **critical** to effectively communicating project accomplishments and are a requirement of AZSFWC project reporting*

Following are a few photo guidelines:

- Please copy photos directly into this document. **(See attached).**
- Include information regarding photo credits if needed.

Please return this completed form and supporting documentation and send along with photos to: **AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant Program PO Box 75731 New River, AZ 85087** or e-mail to [info@azsfwc.org](mailto:info@azsfwc.org). Phone: 602-361-6478.

**Summary Report  
To  
Arizona Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation  
  
\$600 Grant  
for  
14th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference  
April 6, 2023**

The 14th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference was deemed to be another success with 121 individuals registering from various conservation organizations, state and federal agencies. The survey ratings are consistent with the past several years where over ninety-five percent of the surveys rated the conference Good to Excellent.

The annual event has grown from 42 attendees in 2010 over the years representing a variety of conservation organizations, state and federal agencies.

This year Ty Gray, Director - AZGFD, and Chris Wood, CEO and President of Trout Unlimited, provided comments on the in-person return of the conference and the success of projects and programs over the years by the various organizations including the recently proposed delisting of the Apache trout from the endangered species list.

Sixteen presentations from various professionals of conservation organizations and governmental agencies addressed topics such as the protection of wildlife from the challenges of forest fires, native and wild trout protections and restorations (see attached agenda).

Two conservation awards instituted in 2014 to honor an organization (Apache Award) and an individual (Gila Trout) *"for their dedication to the conservation, protection and restoration of native and wild trout"* continued.

The 2023 Apache Trout Award was presented to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). An under-recognized aspect of NFWF is the support provided that has been a true catalyst for productive collaboration among agencies, NGOs, universities, landowners, tribes, and the public. The synergy behind the above collaborative efforts, enabled by NFWF, continues to provide a critical push for more effective conservation of southwest trout.

The 2023 Gila Trout Award was presented to Kurt Davis. Prior to becoming an Arizona Game and Fish Department Commissioner, he volunteered his time, skills, and funding to help with conservation projects related to trout and other aquatic species in Arizona. He was a Commissioner for over eleven years, providing leadership to both the Commission and the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) related to aquatic wildlife.

The agenda, information and presentations are available to the public for viewing at the Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited website at [www.az-tu.com](http://www.az-tu.com).



**14<sup>th</sup> Annual Native Trout Conference Attendees  
April 6, 2023**

The \$600 grant from AZSFWC was directed to sharing costs for providing awards, food, beverages and paper products for the event. Acknowledgment of the AZSFWC grant was made throughout the event, a postcard promoting the conservation license plate was included in each registrant's bag, and the brochure Salt River – Tonto National Forest: Habitat Destruction by Feral Habituated Horses. Recognition was also included on the *Thank You Funding Supporters* slides that were shown throughout the presentation, flyers displayed on the registration website and at the food and conference registration tables (see various attachments).

The Arizona Council and four Arizona chapters thank you for your continued support in presenting this annual conference.

Any questions or additional information regarding the event or this report can be directed to:

Nate Rees  
Trout Unlimited  
[Nathan.Rees@tu.org](mailto:Nathan.Rees@tu.org)  
480.236.2479

Jim Walker  
AZ TU State Council  
[James.L.Walker@cox.net](mailto:James.L.Walker@cox.net)  
602.741.1449



# Native and Wild Trout Conference



**What:** The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Trout Unlimited Council invite you to attend the 14th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference.

**When:** Thursday April 6th from 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m.

**Where:** Arizona Game and Fish Department Headquarters, 5000 W. Carefree Highway, Phoenix.

**Cost:** Free with a hosted lunch.

## **Topics Include:**

- *Apache Trout Recovery/Delisting in Arizona*
- *Gila Trout Recovery in Arizona*
- *Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Recovery in New Mexico*
- *Gila and Apache Trout Awards/Distinguished Service for Conservation*
- *Legislation Affecting Conservation*
- *Lees Ferry Trout Fishery*
- *Impacts of Forest Fires on Streams and Watersheds*
- *Arizona Trout Challenge*

The last in-person conference, in April 2019, gathered over 150 individuals from more than 50 agencies and organizations.

Don't miss this highly informative networking event. Seating is limited.

**Registration closes on April 1<sup>st</sup>**

Details on registration and topics can be found at [www.az-tu.org](http://www.az-tu.org).



***14th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference***  
***April 6, 2023; 9a.m. - 4p.m.***  
**AGENDA**

- 9:00am     **Welcome – AZGFD**  
Ty Gray, Director  
Clay Crowder, Assistant Director of Wildlife Management Division  
Julie Carter, Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief
- 9:20am     **Welcome – Trout Unlimited**  
Chris Wood, CEO Trout Unlimited
- 9:30am     **Apache Trout Recovery in Arizona**  
Ryan Follmuth – AZGFD Region 1 Aquatic Wildlife Program Manager  
    ◦ Population monitoring  
    ◦ Barrier projects  
    ◦ Recovery plans  
Kristy Manuell – USFWS Apache trout biologist  
    ◦ Population monitoring  
    ◦ Barrier projects  
    ◦ Recovery plans
- 10:00am     **Case Study of an Apache Trout Stream - After the Wallow Fire**  
Zach Beard – AZGFD Native Trout and Chub Coordinator  
    ◦ Population monitoring  
    ◦ Recovery plans
- Break**
- 10:35am     **Gila Trout Recovery in Arizona**  
Zach Beard – AZGFD Native Trout and Chub Coordinator
- 10:55am     **Fate of the Stocked Gila Trout**  
Alex Loubere – AZGFD Sport Fisheries Biologist  
    ◦ Telemetry study & life expectancy results
- 11:10am     **Gila Trout Challenges & Recovery in New Mexico**  
Matt Zeigler – NMDGF Colorado River Basin Native Fish Supervisor  
    ◦ Hybridization  
    ◦ Removal of non-natives
- 11:30am     **Group Photo / Lunch at Pavillion at Clay Target Range**

- 1:00pm **Gila and Apache Trout Awards Presentations**  
Julie Carter – AZGFD  
Alan Davis – Arizona TU Council
- 1:15pm **Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Recovery in New Mexico**  
Bryan Ferguson – NMDGF Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Biologist
- Removal of non-natives
  - Supply chain (hatcheries)
  - Hybridization
  - Habitat conservation
- 1:25pm **AZGFD Cold Water Strategic Vision**  
Julie Carter - AZGFD
- 1:55pm **Trout Unlimited: Black River - Bureau of Reclamation Grant**  
Dr. Caroline Nash – Blue Shift
- 2:10pm **East Verde River**  
Amberle Jones- AZGFD Aquatic Wildlife Program Manager
- Break**
- 2:45pm **Legislation Affecting Conservation**  
Michael Cravens – Arizona Wildlife Federation  
Nate Rees – Trout Unlimited
- Uranium mining / Grand Canyon protection video
  - Recovering America’s Wildlife Act (RAWA)
  - Public Lands
  - Waters of the United States (WOTUS)
- 3:05pm **Lees Ferry Trout Fishery – Present & Future**  
Scott Rogers – AZGFD Aquatic Wildlife Program Manager, Region II
- 3:20pm **Lees Ferry - Emerging Water Quality Concerns**  
Dr. Charles Yackulic - Glen Canyon Monitoring and Research Center
- 3:35pm **Lees Ferry - Brown Trout Incentivized Harvest Program**  
Jeff Arnold – National Park Service
- 3:50 pm **Arizona Trout Challenge / Interactive Challenge Map**  
Emily Keister – AZGFD Native Trout and Chub Specialist
- 4:00pm **Closing Comments**



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference

Arizona Game & Fish Department  
Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited  
April 6, 2023

# Arizona Game & Fish Department



To conserve, enhance and restore Arizona's diverse wildlife resources and habitats through aggressive protection and management programs.

# Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited



To conserve, enhance and restore Arizona's coldwater fisheries and their watersheds through the efforts of dedicated volunteers working through TU chapters and conservation organizations.



# Apache Trout



Let's restore Arizona's official fish



# Get to Know Your Native APACHE TROUT

**DIET** Apache trout feed on aquatic and terrestrial insects and invertebrates.

## Fishing Tips For APACHE TROUT

**LAKES & STREAMS** — Depending on where you fish, regulations and allowable tackle may vary, so be sure to check your local regulations. Using light tackle, Apache trout can be caught by a variety of methods, including wet or dry flies, small lures, or natural baits. Any gnat, mosquito, mayfly, caddisfly or stonefly imitation will work, as well as terrestrial patterns such as ants, beetles or hoppers. Those fishing with lures should try small spinners and those looking for an authentic “kid and a cane pole” experience can try worms or grasshoppers. In any case, but especially in small streams, Apache trout are wary, so take your time and be stealthy when approaching promising habitat.

**ETIQUETTE** — Catch and release is an important way to conserve the resource and ensure angler access in the future. Barbless hooks and rubberized nets will reduce injury to the fish. Keep the fish in the water and get your hands wet before touching them.

## Fly Box

**DRY FLIES** — Royal Coachman, Adams, Royal Wulf, Parachute Adams

**WET FLIES** — Peacock Lady, Pheasant Tail, Hare's Ear, Zug Bug, Woolly Bugger, Woolly Worm, Mudler Minnow

**LURES** — Pather Martin, Super Duper, Rooster Tail

**HABITAT** Apache trout are generally found in small, cool, streams at higher elevations.

**SIZE** Apache trout size varies depending on available habitat. In smaller headwater streams adults are generally 6–10" in length, while stocked fish in lakes can exceed 20".

## A Species in Time

The Apache trout along with the native Gila trout likely represent the earliest living branch of ancestral trout with origins in the Gulf of California. During one of the earlier glacial periods, perhaps as much as a million years ago, these trout ascended up the Colorado River and into the headwaters of the Gila River basin. Later, in a warmer, drier time between glacial periods, the two groups of fish were isolated from each other with those in the Salt River portion of the basin evolving into the Apache trout, and those in the upper Gila, upper Verde and other tributaries of the Gila basin becoming Gila trout.

## SPAWNING SEASON

Spring — Typically beginning in April below 7000' and in May at higher elevations when water temperature is rising and runoff flows are declining.

**LIFESPAN** Apache trout typically live 4–6 years.



*Oncorhynchus apache*

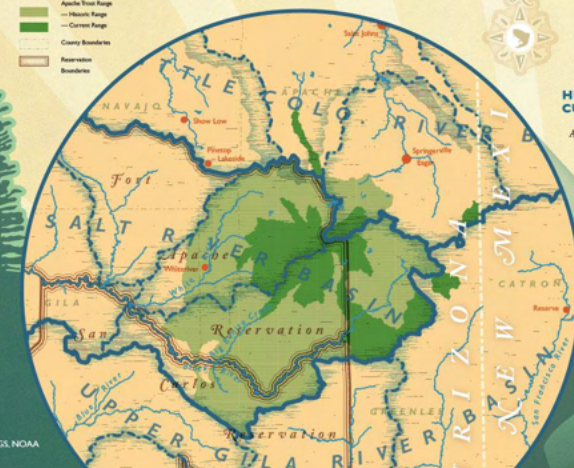
**COLOR** Apache trout are typically yellowish-gold with a darker olive back and a yellowish underbelly, lending to the pioneer name “Yellowbelly.” Dark bold spots occur on dorsal and tail fin, irregular spots on the body sometimes extend below the lateral line. The fins are yellow to orange. In the pure strains, two black dots on each side of the pupil give the fish a “masked bird” look.

Apache trout have a signature yellowish underbelly.

The fins typically have a lighter colored leading edge with a white or yellowish tip.

## Legend

- Stream
- Water-shed Basin
- Water-shed Sub-Basin
- Apache Trout Range
- Historic Range
- Current Range
- County Boundaries
- Reservation Boundaries



## HISTORIC AND CURRENT RANGE

Apache trout are found only in the streams and stocked lakes of the White Mountains in East-Central Arizona. These fish were favorites of pioneers in the region in the late 1800s with historic photos and accounts showing early settlers harvesting hundreds of “Yellowbellies” in a single trip. Apache trout currently occupy about 170 miles of streams in this region making up approximately 25% of their historic range in the watersheds of the upper Salt and Little Colorado rivers.

Current range is about 25% of historic range.

# It's an Arizona Treasure!

## Fishing Fish Natives

The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the White Mountain Apache Tribe in eastern Arizona separately manage all the Apache trout fisheries in the state. After the initial listing as an endangered species, fishing was reintroduced in 1975 when the Apache trout was downgraded to the “threatened” category. The purest strains of Apache trout are found in the Mount Baldy Wilderness and continue to be closely monitored with limited fishing managed by the White Mountain Apache Tribe. In addition to ongoing recovery efforts to increase the wild and naturally reproducing populations, Apache trout are raised at the Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery and in Arizona's state hatcheries at Silver Creek and Tonto Creek for stocking in select Arizona lakes and streams for recreational fishing.

## Threats and Current Status

Isolation in small fragmented streams and a very limited range leave the Apache trout particularly vulnerable to habitat loss from forest fires and human development, hybridization with rainbow trout, and competition from non-native species.

After being listed as one of the first “endangered” species in 1969, successful conservation work increased the range of the Apache trout from about 30 to 170 miles of streams in Arizona, and the current listing as a “threatened” species. This work continues through the efforts of Trout Unlimited, the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. If you would like to help with these conservation efforts please contact [www.azgfd.org](http://www.azgfd.org).

In 1986, the Apache trout was designated as the State Fish of Arizona.

Don't forget!

- Check your local fishing regulations —
- AZ [www.azgfd.com](http://www.azgfd.com)
- WM [www.wmatoutdoors.org](http://www.wmatoutdoors.org)
- SC [scatrecreation.org](http://scatrecreation.org)

Map data sources: ESRI, USGS, NOAA

ORVIS



This poster is funded by Trout Unlimited and the Western Native Trout Initiative. For more information, please go to [www.azgfd.org/statefishtrout](http://www.azgfd.org/statefishtrout) or [fish.wmata.us/apache](http://fish.wmata.us/apache)

POSTER BY JERRY CARLSON



# Gila Trout



Let's work together to bring back the Gila



# Get to Know Your Native

# GILA TROUT

*Oncorhynchus gilae*

**DIET** Gila trout feed on aquatic and terrestrial insects and invertebrates. Larger adults will also feed on other fish.

**HABITAT** Gila trout are generally found in small, cool, streams at higher elevations.

**SIZE** Gila trout size varies on available habitat. Adults are generally less than 15" in small headwater streams, but can reach 15" in larger streams and up to 20" in stocked lakes.

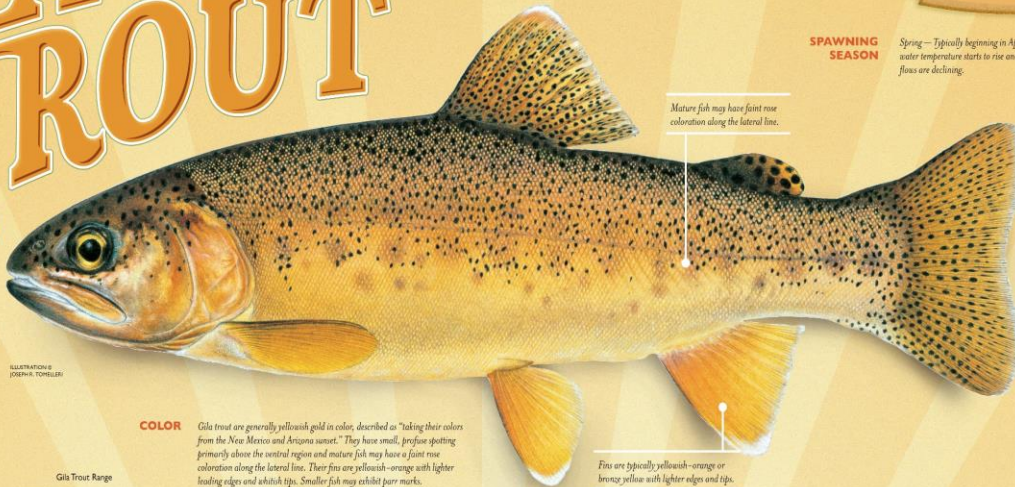
**SPAWNING SEASON**

Spring—Typically beginning in April when water temperature starts to rise and runoff flows are declining.

**LIFESPAN** Gila trout typically live 4–6 years.

## A Species in Time

Native Gila trout along with the closely related Apache trout likely represent the earliest living branch of ancestral trout with origins in the Gulf of California. During one of the earlier glacial periods, perhaps as much as a million years ago, these trout ascended up the Colorado River and into the headwaters of the Gila River basin. Later, in a warmer, drier time between glacial periods, the two groups of fish were isolated from each other with those in the Salt River portion of the basin evolving into the Apache trout, and those in the upper Gila, upper Verde and other tributaries of the Gila basin becoming Gila trout.



Mature fish may have faint rose coloration along the lateral line.

Fins are typically yellowish-orange or bronze yellow with lighter edges and tips.

**COLOR** Gila trout are generally yellowish gold in color, described as "taking their colors from the New Mexico and Arizona sun." They have small, profuse spotting primarily above the ventral region and mature fish may have a faint rose coloration along the lateral line. Their fins are yellowish-orange with lighter leading edges and whitish tips. Smaller fish may exhibit parr marks.

## Legend

Rivers  
Watershed Sub-basins  
County Boundaries

Gila Trout Range  
— Historic Range  
— Current Range

## Threats and Current Status

Today, Gila trout are listed as "threatened" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and can be found in 16 streams across New Mexico and Arizona. Work continues to increase and connect these populations to protect the species and ensure healthy, robust, fishable numbers of Gila trout for generations to come.

**Isolation and fragmentation** in small streams and very limited range leave them particularly vulnerable to habitat loss, climate change, and intense wildfires.

**Nonnative trout**—Gila trout do not compete well with brook and brown trout, and they readily breed with rainbow trout.

**Habitat degradation**—Roads, logging, grazing, mining and development pose risks to Gila trout populations.

**Climate change**—More severe drought, more frequent and intensive wildfire and warmer water temperatures can destroy entire populations of Gila trout.

## HISTORIC AND CURRENT RANGE

Gila trout are endemic to mountain streams in the Gila, San Francisco, Agua Fria and Verde River drainages in Arizona and New Mexico. Although in previous days their range included over 600 miles of streams, Gila trout are now limited primarily to the headwaters of those drainages.

# It's a Southwest Treasure!

## Fishing for Natives

The Game and Fish Departments of Arizona and New Mexico manage all the Gila trout fisheries in the Southwest. Gila trout broodstock are kept at the Montezuma National Fish Hatchery and fishable trout are reared in limited numbers in a few New Mexico and Arizona state hatcheries. Currently, fishing for Gila trout is limited to only a few streams so check with your local game and fish department to confirm stocking schedules and regulations.

## Fishing Tips for GILA TROUT

**LAKES & STREAMS**—Depending on where you fish, regulations and allowable tackle may vary, so be sure to check your local regulations. Using light tackle, Gila trout can be caught by a variety of methods, including wet or dry flies, small lures, or natural baits. Any gnat, mosquito, mayfly, caddisfly or stonefly imitation will work, as well as terrestrial patterns such as ants, beetles or hoppers. Those fishing with lures should try small spinners and those looking for an authentic "kid and a cane pole" experience can try worms or grasshoppers. In any case, but especially in small streams, Gila trout are wary, so take your time and be stealthy when approaching promising habitat.

**HANDLE WITH CARE!**—Catch and release fishing is recommended and may be required in many areas. Keep the fish in the water at all times, handle fish only with wet hands and as little as possible, and use barbless hooks and rubberized nets. Good angling practices like these conserve the resource and ensure angler access in the future.

## Fly Box

**DRY FLIES**—Royal Coachman, Adams, Royal Wulf, Parachute Adams  
**WET FLIES**—Peacock Lady, Pheasant Tail, Hen's Ear, Zug Bug, Woolly Buggie, Woolly Worm, Muddler Minnow  
**LURES**—Fatter Martin, Super Duper, Rooster Tail

— Check your state fishing regulations —  
www.azgfd.com AZ NM www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Don't forget!

Map data sources: ESRI, USGS, NOAA



This poster is funded by Trout Unlimited and the Western Native Trout Initiative. For more information, please go to [www.tn.org/gila](http://www.tn.org/gila) or [www.westernnativetrout.org/gila-trout](http://www.westernnativetrout.org/gila-trout)





# Rio Grande Cutthroat



Let's work together to Restore



# Get to Know Your Native

# RIO GRANDE CUTTHROAT TROUT

*Oncorhynchus clarki virginalis*



**SIZE** Rio Grande cutthroat size is variable, and based on the available habitat. In small headwater streams adults are generally 6-10" in length. In larger streams and rivers, adults can reach sizes of 14-15". In lakes they can reach lengths of over 20" and weights up to 5 lbs.

**HABITAT** Rio Grande cutthroat trout prefer to live in clear, cold, well-oxygenated streams that have an abundance of pools and runs, clean gravel, and aquatic insects.

**DIET** Rio Grande cutthroat primarily feed on aquatic and terrestrial insects, although at larger sizes they can be piscivorous, eating small fish.

**SPAWNING SEASON** Rio Grande cutthroat spawn in the spring following runoff, when water temperatures approach 50° F. This takes place from March through July across their range.

ILLUSTRATION BY JOURNAL & TOPPELLER

The bright red slash under the jaw is a key identifier.

**COLOR** Rio Grande cutthroat display a variety of colorations including bright crimson red and orange on the belly. The sides of the fish are golden yellow tending to a greenish hue on the back. They have large spots concentrated near the tail.

**LIFESPAN** Rio Grande cutthroat typically live 5-8 years.

Larger spots near the tail are often club-shaped.

## A Species in Time

The Rio Grande cutthroat was the first trout to be encountered by Europeans in the West. In 1541, Francisco de Coronado's expedition to find the mythical cities of gold came across the Rio Grande cutthroat in the upper Pecos River near what is now Santa Fe, New Mexico.

All 14 cutthroat trout subspecies (two of them now extinct) share a common ancestor that branched off from the rainbow trout at the end of the Pliocene epoch around 2 million years ago. The Rio Grande cutthroat branched off from the Colorado River cutthroat into the previously unoccupied Rio Grande basin following the last glacial period around 70,000 years ago.

## Fishing Tips

For

**STREAMS** — Stealth, stealth, stealth! Take your time to sneak up to good habitat. You can often see your quarry before you cast. Light (2-3wt) fly rods that are 6-8ft. long are perfect for tight high country streams. Approach from downstream, keep a low profile, and pay attention to your shadow.

**LAKES** — RGCT in lakes can reach lengths over 20". Personal watercraft is a nice option if feasible. Dry fly fishing tends to be better in low light conditions. Try fishing nymph patterns and streamers when the fish are not feeding on the surface. 9-10 ft 5 or 6 wt fly rods are a good choice for lakes.

**ETIQUETTE** — Catch and release is an important way to conserve the resource and ensure angler access in the future. Barbless hooks and rubberized nets will reduce injury to the fish. Keep the fish in the water, and get your hands wet before touching them.

## Fly Box

**DRY FLIES** — Parachute Adams, Yellow Sallys, stimulators, Royal Wulfs, hoppers, ants, beetles, elk hair caddis, Griffith's and other midges

**NYMPHS** — Prince Nymphs, Copper Johns, stonefly nymphs, caddis (burro & pupae), Hare's Ear, damselfly fly nymphs, Chironomid nymphs & emergers, Woolly Buggers, streamers (minnows, crayfish, frog, salamander) etc.

## It's a Southwest Treasure!

### HISTORIC AND CURRENT RANGE

This map of the upper Rio Grande River Basin shows how the Rio Grande cutthroat range has receded over time. Note: some pockets of the Rio Grande cutthroat's historic range are not shown, to the South.

Current range is 10-12% of historic range.

### Legend

- Basins
- International Streams
- Watershed Sub-basins
- Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Range
  - Historic Range
  - Current Range
- County Boundaries

### Fishing with Natives

Colorado Parks and Wildlife manages over 80 recreational populations of Rio Grande cutthroat in Colorado. Established in the high mountain lakes and streams of the Sangre de Cristo and San Juan Mountains, these populations are maintained through stocking by plane, pack animals, and vehicles. A list of populations can be found by searching for "cutthroat trout" at [cpw.state.co.us](http://cpw.state.co.us).

In New Mexico, angling opportunities for wild Rio Grande cutthroat occur in many streams within the Rio Grande, Pecos, and Canadian River basins. In addition, nearly 300,000 RGCT raised at New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Seven Springs Hatchery are annually stocked in large rivers, streams, and mountain lakes throughout the state.

### Threats and Current Status

Today, due to a host of pressures, the Rio Grande cutthroat occupies only 10-12% of its historic range.

The primary threats to Rio Grande cutthroat include:

**Nonnative trout:** Rio Grande cutthroat trout do not compete well with brown and brook trout, and readily breed with rainbow trout. In order to have viable populations long term, Rio Grande cutthroat trout are often isolated from these non-native trout above physical barriers in the streams.

**Habitat degradation:** Roads, logging, grazing, mining and development can all impact habitat.

**Climate change:** More severe drought, more frequent and intense wildfire, warmer water temperatures

Check your state fishing regulations —

**CO** [www.cpw.state.co.us](http://www.cpw.state.co.us)

**NM** [www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

Don't forget!



This poster was funded by the Western Native Trout Initiative's small grants program. For more information, go to [fish.wnti.us/rغت](http://fish.wnti.us/rغت)

POSTER BY JEREMY CARLSON



# Arizona's conservation license plate



Arizona's conservation license plate helps make a contribution to Arizona's wildlife and wildlife habitat.

Order yours today!

# Thanks to Our Funding Supporters



# Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited

Website: [www.az-tu.org](http://www.az-tu.org)



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Your Conservation License Plate Supports TU Programs thanks to the generosity of the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC)



## **Zane Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

### **Monthly Newsletter Content**

(Distribution: 1,800)

## **REMEMBER:** Your Conservation License Plate Supports TU Programs



The Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) license plate fund is derived from the sale of wildlife conservation license plates and member organizations as well as non-member organizations are eligible to apply for those funds.

The Arizona TU Council and Chapters have received funds over the past seven years in support of the Annual Native and Wild Trout Conferences and the Trout-In-the-Classroom programs.

The next time your registration comes up for renewal, choose the conservation license plate option at [registration](#) to show your support for conservation and our projects.



# LUNCH HOSTS



**Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference**  
**Survey Results**  
**2023**

**1. How likely is it that you would recommend the event to a friend?**

	<u>2023 Conference</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Extremely Likely	25	57%
Very Likely	15	34%
Somewhat Likely	4	9%
Not so Likely	0	0%
Not at all likely	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

**2. Overall, how would you rate the event?**

	<u>2023 Conference</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Excellent	23	52%
Very Good	16	36%
Good	4	9%
Fair	1	2%
Poor	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

**3. How helpful was the content presented at the event?**

	<u>2023 Conference</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Extremely Helpful	16	36%
Very Helpful	26	59%
Somewhat Helpful	2	5%
Not So Helpful	0	0%
Not at All Helpful	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

**4. How likely are you to attend a similar event again in the future?**

	<u>2023 Conference</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Extremely Likely	30	68%
Very Likely	13	30%
Somewhat Likely	1	2%
Not So Likely	0	0%
Not At All Likely	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>



**5. How engaging were the speakers at the event?**

<u>2023 Conference</u>		
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Excellent engagement	15	34%
Very engaging	19	43%
Somewhat engaging	10	23%
Not so engaging	0	0%
Not at all engaging	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

**6. Do you think the event was too long, too short, or, about right?**

<u>2023 Conference</u>		
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
For too long	0	0%
Too long	1	2%
About right	41	93%
Too short	2	5%
Far to short	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

**7. How well did the event meet your expectations? Was it...?**

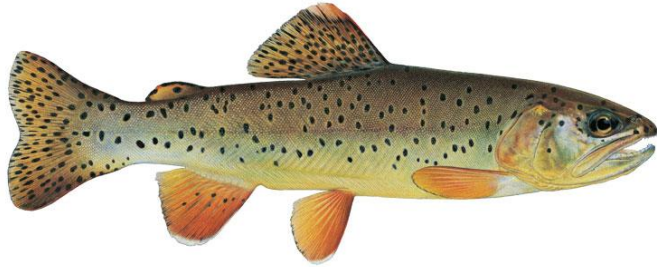
<u>2023 Conference</u>		
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
A lot better than expected	14	32%
Better than expected	18	41%
About what I expected	12	27%
Worse than expected	0	0%
A lot worse than expected	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>100%</b>

**8. How valuable were the networking opportunities at the event?**

<u>2023 Conference</u>		
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Extremely valuable	11	26%
Very valuable	18	42%
Somewhat valuable	14	33%
Not so valuable	0	0%
Not at all valuable	0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>100%</b>



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Native & Wild Trout Conference



**Apache Trout**  
Distinguished Service Award



**Gila Trout**  
Distinguished Service Award



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Native & Wild Trout Conference

## *Apache Trout Distinguished Service Award*

**2014: White Mountain Apache Tribe Game & Fish**

**2015: New Mexico Game & Fish Department**

**2016: Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission**

**2017: White Mountain Lakes Foundation**

**2018: Mora National Fish Hatchery**

**2019: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest**

**2021: Arizona Game and Fish Department- Canyon Creek Hatchery**

**2022: New Mexico Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited**

**2023: National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Native & Wild Trout Conference



## Apache Trout Distinguished Service Award

---

**National Fish and Wildlife Foundation**



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Native & Wild Trout Conference

## *Gila Trout Distinguished Service Award*

*2014: Dr. Robert Behnke*

*2015: Jennifer Johnson & Jeremy Voeltz (USFWS)*

*2016: Kelly Meyer (AZGFD) & Kevin Terry (Trout Unlimited)*

*2017: Jim Brooks (USFWS) & Dave Probst (NM Game & Fish)*

*2018: Yvette Paroz (USFS) & Jack Williams (Trout Unlimited)*

*2019: Julie Meka Carter (AZGFD) & Jill Wick (NM Game & Fish Department)*

*2021: Scott Murphy (City of Montrose) & Dr. Thomas Turner (University of NM)*

*2022: Joe Miller (Desert Fly Casters, Payson Flycasters & Trout Unlimited)*

*2023: Kurt Davis (AZGFD)*



# 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Native & Wild Trout Conference



## Gila Trout Distinguished Service Award

---

**Kurt Davis**

*Arizona Game and Fish Department*







9th Annual

Apache Trout  
Distinguished Service Award

Presented to

National Fish and Wildlife  
Foundation

*For dedication to the  
conservation, protection and restoration  
of native and wild trout.*

April 2023

Arizona Game  
and  
Fish Department

Arizona Council  
of  
Trout Unlimited

9th Annual

Gila Trout  
Distinguished Service Award

Presented to

Kurt Davis

*For dedication to the  
conservation, protection and restoration  
of native and wild trout.*

April 2023

Arizona Game  
and  
Fish Department

Arizona Council  
of  
Trout Unlimited







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## Not Just Another Pretty Plate

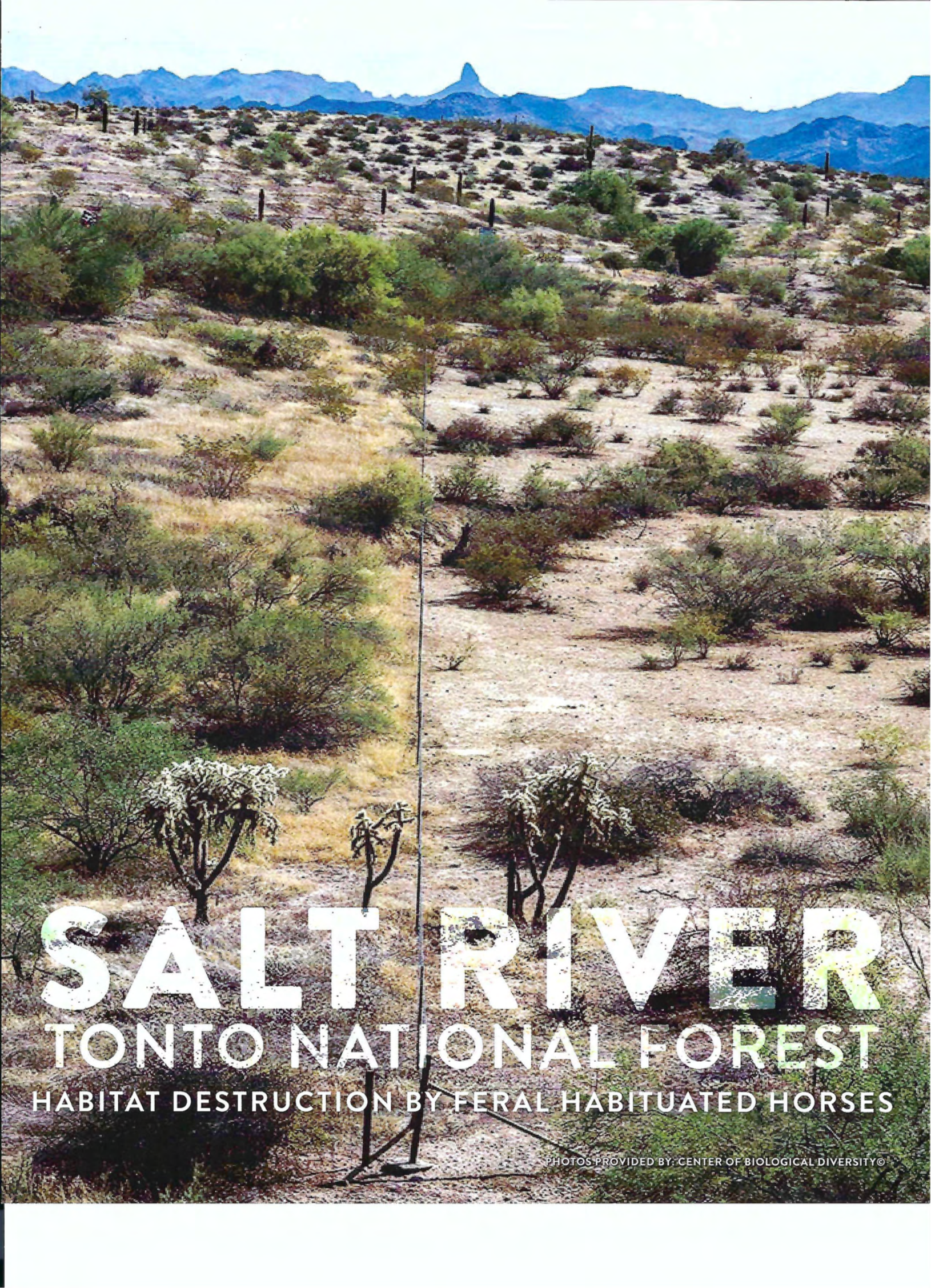
Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation (AZSFWC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that sponsors the "Conserving Wildlife" license plate issued through the Arizona Department of Motor Vehicles.

Except for a small administrative fee, all money generated from the wildlife plate allows the AZSFWC to award grants to fund Wildlife Conservation Habitat Projects, Wildlife Education Programs and Youth Recruitment activities in Arizona.

***Help us "Conserve Wildlife" by ordering your plate today!***

**Order your plate here:  
[www.servicearizona.com](http://www.servicearizona.com)**





# SALT RIVER TONGO NATIONAL FOREST

HABITAT DESTRUCTION BY FERAL HABITUATED HORSES

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY: CENTER OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY©





PHOTOS PROVIDED BY: CENTER OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY©

## WHY ARE WE REQUESTING THE ***HUMANE REMOVAL*** OF THE HORSES?

The Salt River area has become a barren moonscape of too many horses who have moved into the area from the adjoining Tribal lands. The unowned, feral horses are needing to be artificially fed to prevent mass starvation as they have denuded the area of natural forage that can only support approximately 40 horses at most according to the USDA livestock scientists. Even any essence of wildness has been lost to these horses as they now are habituated, equating humans with food. The area has now become a horse feedlot zoo.

While some humans desire to see “wild” horses, humans are responsible for taking care of the land.

And there are OTHER creatures, native wildlife, that deserve the land as well, but have been forced to abandon the area because of the lack of ground cover and food.

Healing the impact from these excessive numbers of horses will take decades to repair, even after the herd size has been reduced to a sustainable level.

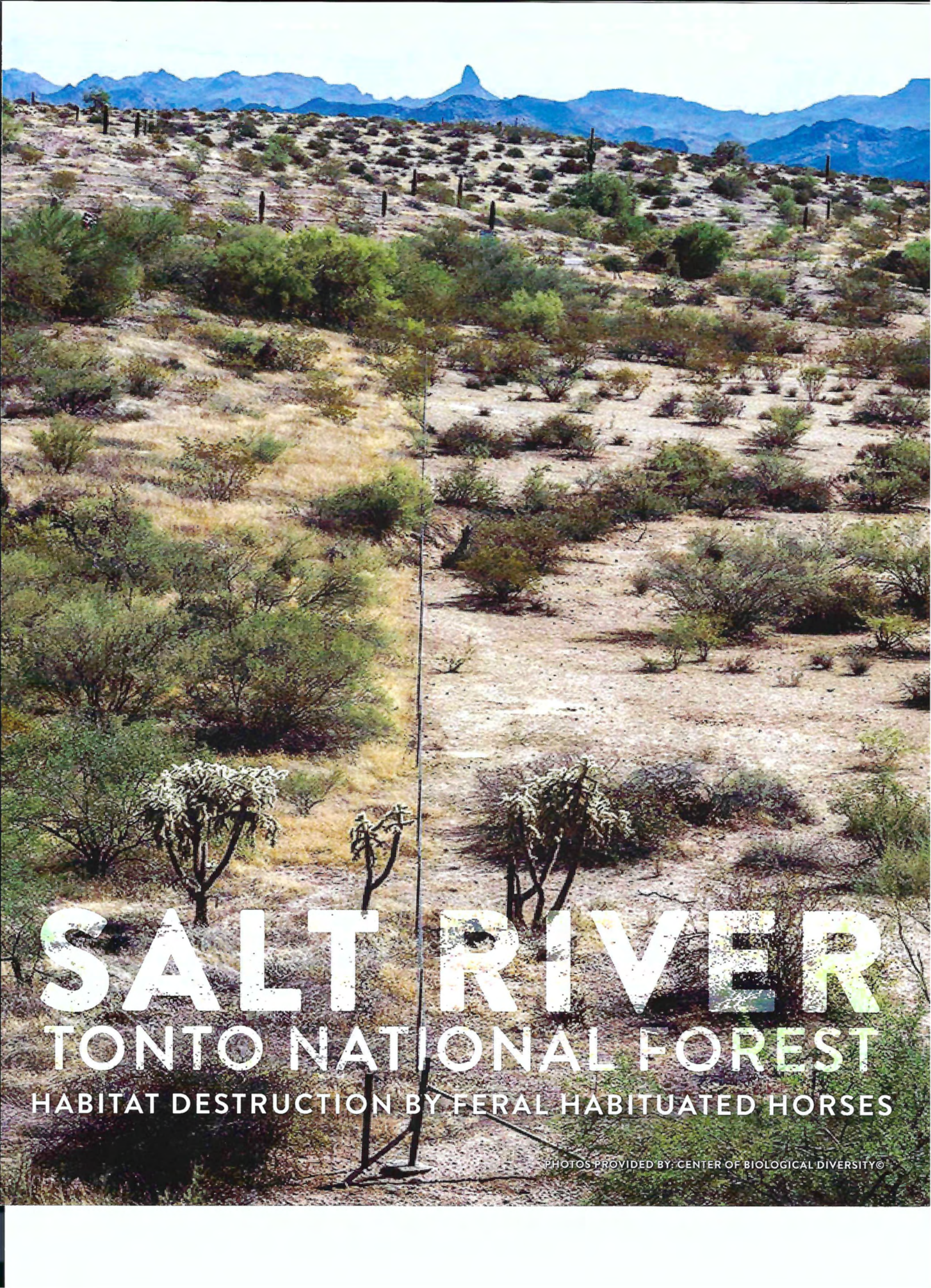
Horses beyond a sustainable level, need to be removed through adoption and or to horse sanctuary areas.



1. BARREN GROUND IN ANY AREA THAT HAD NATIVE GRASSES
2. HUMANS WITH CHILDREN DANGEROUSLY CLOSE TO HORSES
3. BEELINE AND BUSH HIGHWAY FENCING SHOWING LAND DEVOID OF GRASSES
4. HORSES EATING MESQUITE TREE LEAVES FOR FOOD
5. HABITUATED HORSES FOLLOW VEHICLES FOR ALFALFA AND HAY FOR FOOD
6. HORSES IN RIVER FORCED TO EAT NON-NUTRITIOUS VEGETATION FOR SURVIVAL
7. FEEDLOT ENVIRONMENT IN LOCATIONS THAT HORSES GATHER FOR DAILY ARTIFICIAL FEEDINGS







# SALT RIVER TONGO NATIONAL FOREST

HABITAT DESTRUCTION BY FERAL HABITUATED HORSES

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY: CENTER OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY©



**14th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference  
Expenditures and Grant Summary  
April 6, 2023**

	<b><u>"Estimated" Costs Grant Request</u></b>	<b><u>"Actual" Event Costs</u></b>
Pre-conference dinner: Food, beverage & supplies	\$0	\$0
Breakfast Break:		
Coffee & Cups	\$20	\$50
Creamer / Sugar	\$15	\$5
Lunch:	\$1,140	
Food: Sandwiches (115)		948.16
Food: Snacks		156.40
Beverages/Soda/Water		
Paper Products: plates, napkins, table cloths (12)		61.81
Name Badges	0	0
Awards (annual & engraving)	175	214.75
Displays, signs & paper	0	0
Printing - Brochures (Tonto National Forest - Salt River)	150	175.95
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$1,500</u></b>	<b><u>\$1,612.07</u></b>
<b><u>AZSFWC Grant:</u></b>		
\$ Amount	<b><u>\$600</u></b>	<b><u>\$600</u></b>
% of AZSFWC Grant Request to Total Costs	<b><u>40%</u></b>	<b><u>37%</u></b>
<b><u>Other Funding/Sponsors:</u></b>		
Arizona Flycasters	\$ -	\$ -
Arizona TU Council	700	812.07
Arizona Wildlife Federation	-	
Fly Fishers International - Eastern Rocky Mountain Council	200	200.00
Old Pueblo TU Chapter	0	-
Trout Unlimited (National)	0	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$ 900</u></b>	<b><u>1,012.07</u></b>
% of Grant Request to Total Costs	<b><u>60%</u></b>	<b><u>63%</u></b>

Nadine S Walker  
James L Walker  
14939 N 114th PL  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255-1884

3412  
91-170/1221

April 11, 2023

PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF

JoAnn Hill

\$ 55.00

Fifty five and 00/100

DOLLARS



Security  
Features  
Details on  
Back.

Bank of America

FOR

-NUTC-

James Walker

MP

12221017061 00465286116913412

(Coffee, Creamer & Cups)

FRESH  
FOODS  
fruits  
FOR  
EVERYONE

2800 W. Dove Valley Rd.

480-994-6230

Your cashier was CHEC 533

VIP Customer

STARBUCKS COFFEE

YOUR SAVINGS

STARBUCKS COFFEE

YOUR SAVINGS

STARBUCKS COFFEE

YOUR SAVINGS

KRO ND CRMR

KRO HALF N HALF

KRO HALF N HALF

KRO HALF N HALF

INTD CREAMER

YOUR SAVINGS

Fuel Points

TAX

\*\*\*\*\* BALANCE

PHOENIX AZ 85085

CHASE VISA Purchase

\*\*\*\*\*7325 - C

REF#: 00664C TOTAL: 37.42

AID: A000000031010

TC: 574EE38F016471C

VISA

CHANGE

TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS SOLD =

VIP CARD SAVINGS

TOTAL COUPONS

TOTAL SAVINGS (24.1)

04/03/23 00:00:00 533 187 99959533

\*\*\*\*\*1733

4.00 6.99 B

4.00 6.99 B

4.00 6.99 B

4.00 6.99 B

4.00 6.99 B

3.49 B

2.99 B

2.99 B

2.99 B

3.99 B

0.30

0.00

37.42

COSTCO  
WHOLESALE

Surprise #1375

16385 W. Waddell Rd.

Surprise, AZ 85388

SELF-CHECKOUT

3B Member 111860050529

1456507 COM-ORTCLP80

GLN STR REN

1456507 COM-ORTCLP80

SUBTOTAL

TAX

\*\*\* TOTAL

XXXXXXX7325

1456507 COM-ORTCLP80

Seq# 206785 App# 07748C

Visa Resp: APPROVED

Trans ID# 309300206785....

APPROVED - Purchase

AMOUNT: \$164.90

04/03/2023 18:39 1375 206 306 706

VISA

CHANGE

164.90

0.00

8.5% Tax

TOTAL TAX

TOTAL NUMBER OF ITEMS SOLD =

04/03/2023 18:39 1375 206 306 706

04/03/2023 18:39 1375 206 306 706

04/07/2023

JERSEY MIKES 9062 PHOENIX AZ

\$948.16

Transaction date: 04/06/2023  
Card type: Visa (2156)  
Transaction type: Purchases  
Merchant description: EXPRESS PAYMENT SERVICE  
MERCHANTS--FAST FOOD  
Merchant information: PHOENIX , AZ  
Reference number: 0025  
Merchant Name: JERSEY MIKES SUBS Edit  
Transaction Category: Restaurants & Dining:

\$ 948.16

Reimbursement to Jim Walker

— Lunch sandwiches —

Native and Wild Trout Conference

April 6, 2023



## of Trout Unlimited's Subs by the Box




1x **Giant #3 Ham and Provolone / 1,490 Cal. ea.**  
White Bread, Onions, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Red Wine Vinegar, Olive Oil Blend, Or

1x **Giant #5 The Super Sub / 1,520 Cal. ea.**  
White Bread, Onions, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Red Wine Vinegar, Olive Oil Blend, Or

1x **Giant #7 Turkey and Provolone / 1,490 Cal. ea.**  
White Bread, Onions, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Red Wine Vinegar, Olive Oil Blend, Or

1x **Giant #8 Club Sub / 2,160 Cal. ea.**  
White Bread, Onions, Lettuce, Tomatoes, Red Wine Vinegar, Olive Oil Blend, Or  
Bacon, Mayo

 Deliver to AZGFD headquarters

11

+

\$78.95 ea.

 Edit

Boxes  
Ordered

Order for Attendees

- Native and Wild Trout Conference -

April 6, 2023

## Native and Wild Trout Conference

April 6, 2023

### Items purchased at COSTCO:

- **Assorted Snacks** (boxes)
- **Cookies** (Packs)

**TOTAL \$156.40**

04/05/2023

COSTCO BY INSTACART HTTPSINSTACARCA



\$156.40

Transaction date: 04/04/2023  
Card type: Visa  
Transaction type: Purchases  
Merchant description: GROCERY STORES,  
SUPERMARKETS  
Merchant information: HTTPSINSTACAR, CA  
Reference number: 8639  
Merchant Name: COSTCO [Edit](#)  
Transaction Category: Groceries: Groceries [Edit](#)

## Native and Wild Trout Conference

April 6, 2023

### Items purchased at Walmart:

- Plastic table covers (12)
- Napkins
- Cups
- Plastic silverware

**TOTAL \$61.81**

04/05/2023

[WALMART.COM 800-966-6546 AR](#)



\$61.81

Transaction date: 04/04/2023  
Card type: Visa  
Transaction type: Purchases  
Merchant description: DISCOUNT STORES  
Merchant information: 800-966-6546 , AR  
Reference number: 2354  
Merchant Name:  WALMART [Edit](#)



# Invoice

2006 E. 5TH ST., SUITE #101  
TEMPE, AZ 85281  
480-990-8575

Date	Invoice #
4/5/2023	107857

Bill To	Ship To:
Arizona Trout Unlimited 4510 E Joshua Tree Ln. Paradise Valley, AZ 85253	Jim Walker 602-741-1449 JAMES.L.WALKER@cox.net

**PAID**  
04/06/2023

P.O. Number	S.O. No.	Rep	Terms	Via	
	33684	DK	Due on receipt	Pickup	
Quantity	Description			Price Each	Amount
2	Arizona State Acrylic 9" - Clear			72.95	145.90
	15% Non-Profit Discount See wording attached			-15.00%	-21.89
	Send Proof - OS# 31731QB See wording attached				
				Subtotal	\$124.01
				Tax (0.0%)	\$0.00
				Total	\$124.01
				Payment	-\$124.01

\* Signature **X**

**Balance Due \$0.00**

\* By signing this invoice, you certify that you have received all merchandise created by Sun Devil Trophy and all items are in good condition. Sun Devil Trophy is not responsible for broken items once merchandise is removed from its location. Thank you for your business!





2006 E. 5TH ST., SUITE #101  
TEMPE, AZ 85281  
480-990-8575

# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
5/9/2023	108081

Bill To
Arizona Trout Unlimited 4510 E Joshua Tree Ln. Paradise Valley, AZ 85253

Ship To:
Jim Walker 602-741-1449 JAMES.L.WALKER@cox.net

P.O. Number	S.O. No.	Rep	Terms	Via	
	33816	DK	Due on receipt	UPS	
Quantity	Description			Price Each	Amount
1	Arizona State Acrylic 9" - Clear - Remake "National Fish and Wildlife Foundation"			72.95	72.95
	15% Non-Profit Discount See wording attached			-15.00%	-10.94
	Send Proof - OS# 33684QB See wording attached				
1				28.73	28.73
				Subtotal	\$90.74
				Tax (0.0%)	\$0.00
				Total	\$90.74
				Payment	\$0.00

* Signature <b>X</b>	<b>Balance Due</b> \$90.74
----------------------	----------------------------

\* By signing this invoice, you certify that you have received all merchandise created by Sun Devil Trophy and all items are in good condition. Sun Devil Trophy is not responsible for broken items once merchandise is removed from its location. Thank you for your business!



# Invoice

BCT Arizona  
1130 W. Geneva Drive  
Tempe, AZ 85282  
PHONE 480-829-8890  
FAX 480-921-1231

## SHIP TO

Koleszar Consulting  
6126 W Irma Ln  
Glendale, AZ 85308

INVOICE NO.

174691

INVOICE DATE

04/05/23

ROUTE NO.

08A.800

Page 1 of 1

## SOLD TO

Koleszar Consulting  
Customer Phone # 480-720-2393  
6126 W Irma Ln  
Glendale, AZ 85308

OUR JOB NO.	ORDER DATE	CUSTOMER NUMBER	SALES REP	YOUR PO NUMBER	SHIP DATE	SHIP VIA
270522	04/04/23	00616	099		04/05/23	Pick Up

QUANTITY ORDERED	QUANTITY SHIPPED	UNIT	ITEM NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	UNIT PRICE	EXTENDED PRICE
200	200	EA		Job : 270522 Koleszar Consulting-Digital Salt River Tonto National Forest - Habitat Destruction by Feral Habituated Horses Go ePower Order: 1300106 Stock: Gloss Text 100# : 4/1 & 4/4 : Score + Half Fold Folding: Single Fold Proof: Yes Size: Flat: 17" x 11" / Fold: 8.5" x 11" Job Name: Salt River Tonto National Forest - Habitat Destruction by Feral Habituated Horses	0.87975	175.95

Nadine S Walker  
James L Walker  
14939 N 114th PL  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85255-1884

3413  
91-170/1221

April 27, 2023

PAY TO THE  
ORDER OF

BCT Arizona

\$ 175.95

One hundred seventy five and 95/100

DOLLARS



Security  
Features  
Details on  
Back.

Bank of America

FOR

NKTC - Brochures

James Walker

1 2 2 1 0 1 7 0 6 0 0 0 4 6 5 2 8 6 1 1 6 9 1 3 4 1 3

SALE AMOUNT	175.95
DEPOSIT	0.00
FREIGHT	0.00
ADDITIONAL	0.00
SALES TAX	0.00

**TOTAL 175.95**

ORIGINAL