

AZ Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation GRANT COMPLETION REPORT

Project Title: 15th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference

Organization: Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited

Grant #: 2024-Q1-04 (Found on February 27, 2024 meeting minutes)

Event/Project Completion Date: April 11, 2024

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

Submitted By: Jim Walker & Nate Rees

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Today's Date: June 10, 2024

AZSFWC Recognition:

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

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

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

AZSFWC recognized in all marketing materials & post event articles? (attach all samples) Yes 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

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):

108 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): **108 AZSFWC License Plate postcards.**

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
Beverages (coffee, soda & water)	\$110	\$163.65
Food: Sandwiches, chips & cookies	\$1,175	\$1,135.04
Awards/Plaques: Apache & Gila awards	\$175	\$144.41
Printing expenses, displays, signs, name tags & paper	\$585	\$392.75
Registration Processing: Portal Fee	\$0	\$24.99
TOTAL	\$2,045	\$1,860.84
AZSFWC Grant Approved		\$900.00

% of AZSFWC Grant to Total		48%

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

Cooperator (no abbreviations)	Amount Contributors \$
Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited	\$760.84
Fly Fishers International – Eastern Rocky Mountain Council	\$200.00
Arizona Game and Fish Department (In-kind)	\$5,000+
Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited (In-kind)	\$13,800+

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. Phone: 602-361-6478.

**Summary Report
To
Arizona Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation**

**\$900 Grant
for
15th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference
April 11, 2024**

The 15th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference was another success with 108 individuals registering from various conservation organizations, state and federal agencies. The survey ratings are consistent with the past several years where over ninety-eight 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 value 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.

Fifteen presentations from various conservation organizations and governmental agencies professionals addressed topics such as protecting 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 2024 Apache Trout Award was presented to the Mora National Fish Hatchery (MFH) team. The Mora NFH team has dedicated the past 20-plus years to Gila Trout conservation efforts and has made huge strides toward recovery. In 2006 the efforts of the hatchery team, along with many great partners, resulted in the Gila Trout being downlisted from endangered to threatened. The team is continuing to make huge strides in working with partners to delist and fully recover Gila Trout.

The 2024 Gila Trout Award was presented to Tim Gatewood, the fisheries program manager for the White Mountain Apache Tribe Game and Fish Department. He has been a cornerstone of Apache Trout Recovery in Arizona. Tim has been the consistent driving force behind Apache Trout recovery efforts on behalf of the tribe for the past 20 years.



**15th Annual Native Trout Conference Attendees
April 11, 2024**

The \$900 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, and a postcard promoting the conservation license plate was included in each registrant's bag. 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 agenda, information and presentations are available to the public for viewing at the Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited website at www.az-tu.com.

The Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited thanks AZSFWC for their continued support in presenting this annual conference.

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

Alec Young
Trout Unlimited
Alec.Young@tu.org
520-247-1488

Jim Walker
AZ TU State Council
James.L.Walker@cox.net
602.741.1449



15th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference
April 11, 2024; 8:30a.m. - 3p.m.
AGENDA

- 8:30am **Welcome – AZGFD**
Ty Gray, Director
Julie Carter, Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief
- 8:50am **Welcome – Trout Unlimited (recorded)**
Chris Wood, CEO Trout Unlimited
- 9:00am **Apache Trout Recovery in Arizona**
Chuck Mordhorst – AZGFD Region 1 Streams Specialist
- Population monitoring
 - Barrier projects
 - Recovery plans
- 9:20am Kristy Manuell – USFWS Apache Trout Biologist
- Population monitoring
 - Barrier projects
 - Recovery plans
- 9:40am **Effects of Clean Water Act Repeals**
Erin Jordan – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
- 10:00am **Brown Trout Management in River Reservoir**
Riley Young – AZGFD Region 1 Reservoir Specialist
- 10:20am **Gila Trout Challenges & Recovery in New Mexico**
Dan Trujillo – NMDGF Statewide Gila Trout Biologist
- Break**
- 10:40am **Canyon Creek Brown Trout: Recent Population Trends**
Kassie Kole - AZGFD Region 6 Streams Specialist
- 11:00am **Gila Trout Recovery in Arizona**
Alex Loubere - Native Trout and Chub Coordinator
- 11:20am **KP Creek Gila Trout Stockings and Monitoring**
Emily Keister – Native Trout and Chub Specialist

- 11:30am **Group Photo / Lunch at Pavilion at Clay Target Range**
- 1:00pm **Gila and Apache Trout Awards Presentations**
Julie Carter – AZGFD
Alan Davis – Arizona Council of TU
- 1:15pm **Restoration of a Fire-Impacted Gila Trout Watershed**
Eric Head - Gila Trout Project Manager
Jeff Arterburn - President, Gila/Rio Grande Chapter
Jim Brooks - JEB Outfitters LLC
- 1:25pm **New Zealand Mudsail in Arizona, Best Gear Cleaning Practices**
Kate Dukette - AZGFD Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator
- 1:45pm **Thompson Meadow Restoration (recorded)**
Caroline Nash - Oxbow Engineering
- 2:05pm **AWF Legislative Update**
Michael Cravens - Arizona Wildlife Federation
- 2:25pm **Lees Ferry Trout Fishery – Present & Future (recorded)**
Dale Fonken – AZGFD Research Biologist, Grand Canyon Work Unit
- 2:45pm **New Mexico Trout Challenge**
Dan Trujillo – NMDGF Statewide Gila Trout Biologist
- 2:55pm **Arizona Trout Challenge**
Emily Keister – AZGFD Native Trout and Chub Specialist
- 3:05pm **Closing Comments**

Native and Wild Trout Conference



What: The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited invites you to attend the 15th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference.

When: Thursday April 11, 2024 from 8:30a.m. - 3:00p.m.

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

Cost: Free - with a hosted lunch.

Topics Include:

- *Apache Trout Delisting in Arizona*
- *Gila Trout Recovery in Arizona & New Mexico*
- *Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Recovery in New Mexico*
- *Gila and Apache Trout Awards - Distinguished Service for Conservation*
- *Events and Legislation Affecting Conservation*
- *Arizona Department of Environmental Quality*
- *Lees Ferry Trout Fishery*
- *Arizona & New Mexico Trout Challenge Programs*

Over 115 individuals attended the April 2023 conference from more than 50 agencies and organizations.

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

Registration closes on April 4th

Details on registration and topics can be found at www.az-tu.org.

Thanks to Our Funding Supporters



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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.

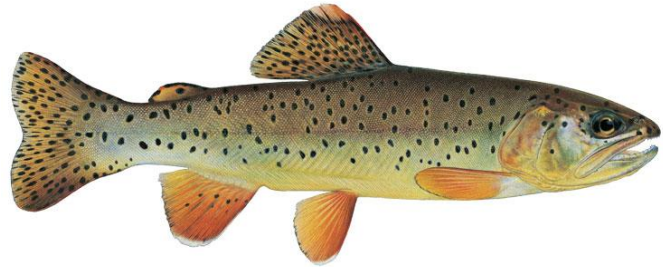
Except for a small administrative fee, all money generated from the wildlife plate allows the AZSFWC to award grants to fund Wildlife Conservation Habitat Projects, Wildlife Education Programs and Youth Recruitment activities in Arizona.

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

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15th Annual Native & Wild Trout Conference



Apache Trout

Distinguished Service Award



Gila Trout

Distinguished Service Award



15th Annual Native & Wild Trout Conference



Apache Trout Distinguished Service Award

Mora National Fish Hatchery Team



15th 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

2024: Mora National Fish Hatchery Team



15th Annual Native & Wild Trout Conference



Gila Trout

Distinguished Service Award

Tim Gatewood

White Mountain Apache Tribe Game & Fish



15th 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)

2024: Tim Gatewood (White Mountain Apache Tribe Game & Fish)

Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference
Survey Results - 44 Responses
April 11, 2024

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

	<u>2024 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%
Total	44	100%

2. Overall, how would you rate the event?

	<u>2024 Conference</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Excellent	23	52%
Very Good	16	36%
Good	4	9%
Fair	1	2%
Poor	0	0%
Total	44	100%

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

	<u>2024 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%
Total	44	100%

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

	<u>2024 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%
Total	44	100%

5. How engaging were the speakers at the event?

	<u>2024 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%
Total	44	100%

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

	<u>2024 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%
Total	44	100%

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

	<u>2024 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%
Total	44	100%

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

	<u>2024 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%
Total	43	100%

9. How could future events be improved? Select all that apply.

	<u>2024 Conference</u>	
	<u>Number</u>	<u>%</u>
Make the event more interactive	16	50%
Take more breaks during the event	5	16%
Take fewer breaks during the event	1	3%
Have more knowledgeable speaker(s)	4	13%
More convenient location	1	3%
Better food and drinks	2	6%
Address more relevant topics	3	9%
Total	32	100%

Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited

Website: www.az-tu.org



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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.