



# Agenda Item 10

## Proposed Changes to the Fisheries and Manner and Method Rules

NMAC 19.31.4  
NMAC 19.31.10

# Special Trout Water – Rio Chama

- ~ 3.5 mile reach below Cooper's Landing
- Catch and Release, Artificial Fly or Lure only





# Gila Trout Rules

- Two fish limit, any tackle, for Mineral Creek and Whitewater Creek
- Expand Free Gila Trout Permit to all recovery and recreational waters open to angling
- Open Upper West Fork Gila River to angling, maintain closures for all tributaries
- Clarify South Diamond Creek closure

Framework for Management of Gila Trout Angling

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

December 2015

## Introduction

Gila Trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*) is native to the Gila, San Francisco, and Verde River Basins in New Mexico and Arizona; however it is now restricted to only small first- to third-order streams in the Gila and San Francisco drainages. Primary threats to Gila Trout include introduction of nonnative salmonids resulting in competition, predation, and hybridization; habitat degradation



# Trout and Catfish

- “Big Cat” Waters
  - Alumni Pond and Alto Lake
- Winter Trout Waters
  - Corrales Community Pond
  - Dennis Chavez Pond
  - Grants Riverwalk Pond



# Kokanee Waters

- Open Pine River (near Navajo Reservoir) to snagging
- Close buoyed “no wake” areas at Pine and Sims boat ramps during spawning operations





# Public Outreach

- Posted on website – September 8, 2016
- Email to interested individuals and partners
- Public meetings for Gila trout regulations – November 2015 and February 2016
- Press release to publicize public meeting for Rio Chama STW – October 10, 2016
- Public meeting for Rio Chama STW – October 27, 2016



# Public Responses to Amendments

- Big Cat, Winter Trout, and Kokanee
  - Three in support
- Gila Trout Amendments
  - Four in support, FWS biologist concerns
- Rio Chama STW
  - Public meeting – 17 in support, 17 opposed
  - Written comments – 15 in support, 5 opposed
  - Rio Arriba Board of County Commissioners Resolution



# Recommendation

- Move forward with the Fisheries and Manner and Method rules with the exception of the proposed Special Trout Water on the Rio Chama.



# Questions?

