FY2025 Fisheries Habitat Restoration Project Opportunity

El Rito Fish Barrier



El Rito Fish Barrier Designs Background Information

- El Rito above the current barrier contains an aboriginal population of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT) with the highest conservation status (core conservation population)
- In spring 2023, the barrier was breached during a high flow event. Water flowed around the barrier allow nonnatives to migrate upstream. That fall, Trout Unlimited and the Carson National Forest completed a temporary fix to the berm to stop water from moving around the barrier
- The Department hired an engineering firm to evaluate the current barrier in which they determined that it did not meet standards and needed to be replaced
- FMD Standards: to protect the species for a 50-year flood and for the structure to withstand a 100-year flood

Project Contacts

Department of Game and Fish

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Proposed Action

- Contract an engineer to complete designs for a new fish barrier that meets FMD standards
- Estimated Budget: \$80,000



Project Name:
Project relation to CAC advice or prioties:
Project Specific Details:
Historical Data:
Itemized Use of Funds:
Comprehensive Project Analysis:
Monitoring Plan/ Strategy:
Project Emphasis Species:
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El Rito Fish Barrier

North of El Rito, New Mexico, Carson National Forest





El Rito Fish Barrier

Project Contacts

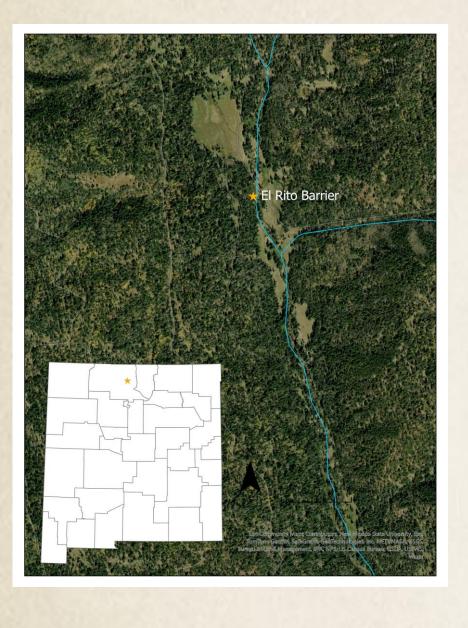


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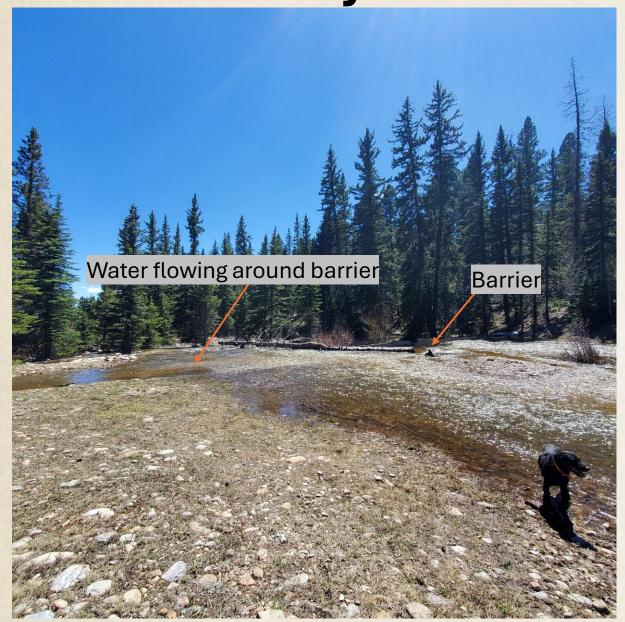


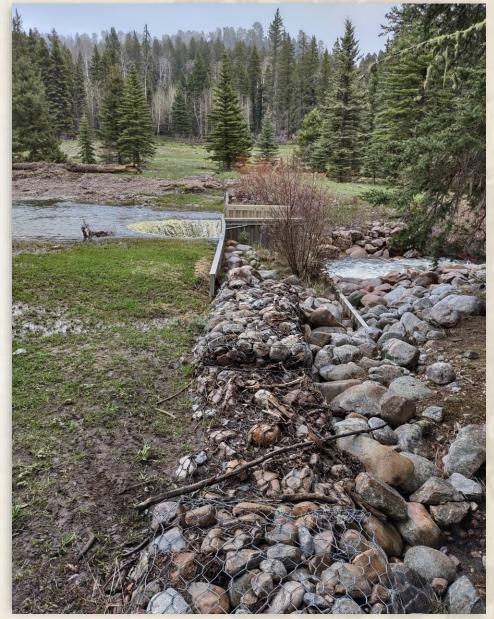


- Tributary to the Rio Chama
- Core Conservation population of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout above barrier near Salvador Canyon

Core Conservation Population (Highest Conservation Status): Those populations with 1 percent or less introgression (hybridization) from nonnative trout

Why is a New Barrier Needed?





Summary of Project-\$80,000

The current barrier failed at high flows

 Engineer determined that a new barrier was the best approach at ensuring the RGCT population above the barrier was secure

 Complete design for a barrier that meets FMD Standards (a 50year flood and for the barrier to withstand a 100- year flood)