

**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

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### Project Contacts

#### Department of Game and Fish

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#### Gila National Forest

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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:

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Project relation to CAC advice or priorities:

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Project Specific Details:

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Historical Data:

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Itemized Use of Funds:

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Comprehensive Project Analysis:

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Monitoring Plan/ Strategy:

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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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# 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 50-year flood and for the barrier to withstand a 100- year flood)