

Outdoor Recreation

is

Outdoor Education

The Gila trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*)

The Gila trout is common in the mountainous headwaters of the Gila River drainage in southwestern New Mexico and southeastern Arizona. This fish is one of only two native trout in New Mexico and is presently limited to several small streams in the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wilderness areas.

Outstanding characteristics used in recognition of the Gila trout are the extremely fine and profuse spotting on the dorsal (back) and caudal (tail) fine and spotting that is almost limited to the upper third of the body.

Gila trout inhabit small, cool, clear mountain streams under shady bushes and trees. Deep pools are important for their survival during droughts. Their food consists of aquatic insects, in particular caddis flies, mayflies, true flies and beetles. This fish also preys on its own young and on other fish species, including on the longfin dace (*Agosia chrysogaster*).



**Learning About New Mexico's Wildlife
Gila trout**



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

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