



San Juan Tailwater Research Project 2025 - 2026



The New Mexico Department of Game & Fish has partnered with New Mexico State University to study Rainbow and Brown Trout. This research will help us understand interactions between Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout and the overall health of populations.

What Are We Studying?

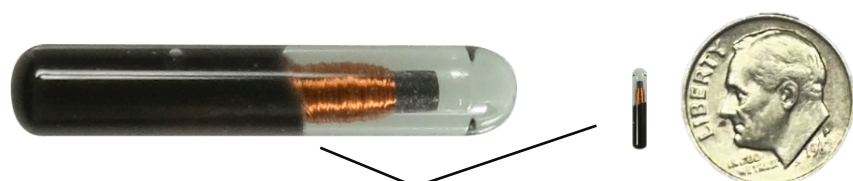
- Abundance of Brown and Rainbow Trout
- Growth and Survival
- What trout eat
- Angler catch rates

How Are We Studying It?

- Electrofishing
- Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags
- Information from anglers and guides

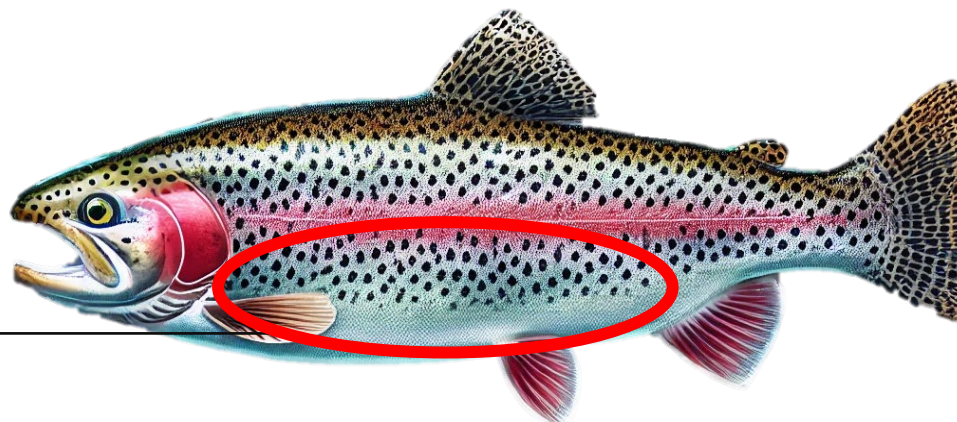
What is a PIT tag?

- A PIT tag is a tiny microchip identical to those used for pets
- PIT tags will allow scientists to later identify individual fish



PIT tag

Approximate PIT tag location



What to do before consuming a fish?

- PIT tags will be placed in the body cavity and will likely be removed with viscera when the fish is cleaned
- PIT tags should not be found in the flesh of the fish but you can inspect the meat before cooking or consuming the fish
- PIT tags aren't toxic and don't contain batteries but should not be intentionally eaten
- If you find one, please let us know!

Will this research affect fishing?

Nope! Most research will occur at night, and only a small number of fish will be caught. All captured fish will be returned to the river. Fishing should stay as good as ever.

Questions?

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