ARIZONA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT: NATIVE TROUT PROGRAM

Gila Trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*)

Apache Trout (*Oncorhynchus apache*)

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Overview

- Background
- Gila Trout
  - Status
  - Upcoming projects
- Apache Trout
  - Status
  - Upcoming projects
- Trout Challenge
AZGFD Approach to native trout recovery

- **Goal** = Protect, enhance, and recover Apache and Gila Trout populations and habitats, and increase numbers of fishable populations

- Gila Trout – Listed as endangered in 1973; threatened in 2006

- Apache Trout – Listed as endangered in 1973; threatened in 1975
  - Recovery Plan (2009)
Recovery Strategy

- Meet recovery criteria (delisting)
- Create fisheries
  - Increase angling opportunity
- Optimize potential streams
  - Monitoring
  - Recovery prioritization
  - Environmental compliance
Gila Trout Recovery

- 2 Recovery Units in AZ
  - San Francisco River
    - 15 populations
    - 50 miles of stream
    - Status = 2 populations
  - Gila-San Francisco River
    - 4 populations
    - 25 miles of stream
    - Status = 4 populations
San Francisco River Recovery Unit (RU)
Upcoming Gila Trout Projects in San Francisco RU

- **Raspberry Creek**
  - Monitor barrier, stock fish in 2017
- **Coleman Creek**
  - Habitat project, stock fish in 2017-2018
- **KP Creek**
  - Barrier modification
- **Grant Creek**
  - Barrier modification
  - Piscicide treatment
- **Blue River watershed management plan**
Challenges – San Francisco RU

- Wildfire – Wallow 2011; Chitty 2007
- Drought
- Spruce Creek lineage
Status: Gila-San Francisco River Mixed Lineage RU

- Mount Graham
- Frye Creek (occupied 2009)
- Ash Creek (occupied 2012)
- Marijilda Creek
  - Mechanical removal
Status: Gila-San Francisco River Mixed RU

- Other drainages
  - Grapevine Creek (occupied 2009)
  - Dude Creek (occupied 2015)
  - Haigler Creek
  - Chase Creek
  - Cave Creek
Upcoming Projects in Mixed Lineage RU

- Haigler Creek
  - Work through environmental compliance
  - AZGFD Piscicide Process
  - Obtain funding for barrier
  - Construct barrier
  - Conduct piscicide treatment
Upcoming Projects in Mixed Lineage RU

- Chase Creek
  - Evaluate temperature, habitat
Upcoming Projects in Mixed Lineage RU

- Cave Creek watershed
  - Temperature and habitat monitoring
Gila Trout Recreational Populations

- Frye Mesa Reservoir
  - Since 2009
- West Fork Oak Creek
  - Started in 2015
- Goldwater Lake
  - June 2016-Kids Fishing Day

- More to come in the next few years
Apache Trout Recovery
Apache Trout Recovery

- Delisting goal: 30 populations in historic range
Challenges – Apache Trout

- Barrier failures
- Drought, wildfire, post-fire floods

Fish Creek barrier
Success by the Numbers

- 20 barriers constructed since 1980s
- 8 occupied streams on Apache-Sitgreaves NF
  - 4 reestablishment projects planned
  - >20 occupied streams on Fort Apache Indian Reservation
Upcoming Apache Trout Projects

- Stock Fishless Streams
  - Conklin Creek - 2017
  - Rudd/Benton creeks - 2017

- Barrier Maintenance
  - West Fork Little Colorado River
  - Mechanical removals between barriers

- Barrier Construction and Piscicide Treatment
  - West Fork Black River – 2017
  - Bear Wallow Creek - 2018
Upcoming Apache Trout Projects

- West Fork Black River
  - Barrier Construction
    - Complete spring 2016
    - Piscicide Treatment
      - May/June 2017
    - Restock 2017-18
Upcoming Apache Trout Projects

- Bear Wallow Creek
  - Barrier modification
    - San Carlos Apache Reservation
  - NEPA compliance
    - Piscicide application
  - Piscicide treatment
    - May/June 2018-2019
Apache Trout Recreational Populations

- East Fork Little Colorado River
- West Fork Little Colorado River (and Greer)
- West Fork Black River
- Lee Valley Lake
- Ackre Lake
Arizona Trout Challenge

- Developed in 2015
- Connects anglers with native and wild trout
- #1: Catch all five species of wild trout = Gila, Apache, Brown, Brook, Rainbow
- #2: Catch six of total trout species (includes stocked trout) = Gila, Apache, Brown, Brook, Rainbow, Cutthroat, Tiger, and Grayling
Websites for Information

- Interactive Trout Challenge Map

- In the Current native aquatic species blog
  - Inthecurrent.org
Questions?

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