**Rare trout on a “sky island”**

On November 4, 2009, about 500 threatened Gila trout were stocked in their native range in Frye Creek on the “sky island” of Mount Graham in southeastern Arizona. Mora National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center transported the fish to the Arizona Game and Fish Department’s Cluff Ranch Wildlife Area near Pima, Arizona. After the fish were loaded into three 55-gallon drums, a helicopter transported them to biologists from multiple agencies that had hiked to drop zones along the rugged terrain on Mount Graham. Following a short acclimation period, the fish were stocked into pools within a five-mile reach of Frye Creek. “With a load of fish, this was physically taxing, but well worth the effort,” said Jason Kline, an AGFD fisheries biologist. “It is a historic occasion, as it will not only provide five miles of recovery habitat for Gila trout, it may also be the first fishable population of Gila trout in Arizona when the population becomes established.” The Gila trout recovery program is a joint effort among the Arizona and New Mexico departments of game and fish, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, and other conservation organizations. ✪ Jeremy Voeltz

**Scientific study reveals utility of modern fish tagging technique**

Tagging in some fashion is a long-practiced method used to manage fisheries. It works best when the marks made on fish are long-lasting and reliable. A study by biologists, Dr. Catherine Phillips and Joe Fries at the San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center, of tags on two endangered species, the fountain darter and San Marco salamander, was recently published in the scientific journal, the *North American Journal of Fisheries*. They researched the utility of a visible elastomer tucked slightly under the animal’s skin. Think of it as a small piece of colorful liquid plastic. Having marked and monitored many darters and salamanders, Phillips and Fries learned that the method was useful for management. Moreover, the method did not hamper survival or growth of either animal, something essential for endangered species conservation. ✪ Craig Springer