



# News Release

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**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)** <http://southwest.fws.gov>

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## Recovery of the Arizona State Fish One Step Closer

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), announces the availability of a revised Apache Trout Recovery Plan. The recovery plan identifies actions to bolster populations in the wild, establishes benchmarks for measuring the progress of recovery, and estimates the costs of recovery.

Broad support for the plan was recently highlighted at a signing ceremony for the Recovery plan. The ceremony, hosted at the Sipe Wildlife Area south of Springerville, AZ, was attended by representatives of the Service, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, Arizona Department of Game and Fish, and the U.S. Forest Service.

“An updated Recovery plan provides the Service and all the partners in Apache trout recovery with the most up-to-date scientific information and assures we are on the right path,” said Benjamin N. Tuggle, PhD, director of the Service’s Southwest Region. “I’m excited to say, if a Recovery plan is a map to recovery – then we are well on our way to bringing the State Fish of Arizona back from the brink of extinction.”

The plan sets the benchmarks to achieving full recovery success under the Endangered Species Act. The final plan identifies a goal to establish at least 30 self-sustaining populations within the historic range and to minimize or reduce threats to the point that the populations are self-sustaining. Due to on-going recovery actions, the pure strains of the species are now found in 28 populations on the Tribe’s Fort Apache Indian Reservation and in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.

A copy of the Recovery Plan and additional information can be found by visiting <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/index.html#plans>.

The Apache trout’s scientific Genus name *Oncorhynchus* means “hook snout” referring to the hooked jaw of a breeding male, while the specific description *apache* refers to the Native American Apache Tribes that live in the trout’s range. The golden-colored trout, with black spots is native to the White Mountains in East-Central Arizona.

Originally placed on the endangered species list in 1967, the trout was restricted to 13 populations, all on lands administered by the White Mountain Apache Tribe. A recovery plan was originally completed for Apache trout in 1979 and updated in 1983.

The main threats to the species are adverse land use practices resulting in habitat destruction and negative interactions (predation, hybridization, and competition) with introduced nonnative species.