

**APACHE TROUT**  
*(Oncorhynchus apache)*

**STATUS:** Threatened (40 FR 29864, July 19, 1975) without critical habitat.

**SPECIES DESCRIPTION:** This yellow or yellow-olive cutthroat-like trout has large dark spots on its body. Its dorsal, anal, and caudal fins are edged with white. It has no red lateral band.

**HABITAT:** Occurs in small, cold, high-gradient streams above 1,524 m (5,000 ft) elevation. These streams have substrates consisting of boulders, rocks, and gravel, with some sand or silt, and flow through mixed conifer forests and mountain meadows.

**RANGE: Historical:** Headwater streams of the Black, White, San Francisco, and Little Colorado rivers in the White Mountains of eastern Arizona.

**Current:** Species found in Apache, Gila, Graham, Greenlee, and Navajo counties. Restricted to streams in the upper Salt, Gila, Blue, and Little Colorado drainages in the White Mountains. Approximately 30 sites are known to support natural or reintroduced populations on the White Mountain Apache Indian Reservation and the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and some Tribal lands. Populations introduced outside the historical range may still exist on the Coronado National Forest and the northern portion of the Kaibab National Forest.

**REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY:** Hybridization with introduced rainbow and cutthroat trout, predation and competition by introduced fishes, and habitat degradation.

**LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP:** U.S. Forest Service and White Mountain Apache Reservation.

**NOTES:** Recovery Plan completed in August 1979 and revised in 1983. A second revision is currently in progress.

A breeding stock is maintained at Alchesay Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery near Whiteriver, Arizona.

Genetic purity of some populations is in question.

Special regulations (4d Rule) allow Arizona to manage this species as a sportfish.

De-listing of the Apache trout can be proposed when all known natural stocks are replicated and all threats that initiated protection through listing under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 are adequately addressed. Delisting could be initiated as early as 2008 if recovery criteria are met.

Listed as a Species of Special Concern by the State of Arizona.