

News Release



**U.S. Forest Service, Gila National Forest, Black Range Ranger District
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southwest Region
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish**

For Release: February 18, 2014

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**Public Invited to Comment on Draft EA for the
Restoration of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout to Las Animas Creek Watershed**

(Sierra County, New Mexico) The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service, Gila National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Turner Ranch Properties LP, announces the availability of a preliminary environmental assessment (EA) for Restoration of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout to Las Animas Creek Watershed.

The proposed project will restore native Rio Grande cutthroat trout to approximately 32 miles of stream in the Las Animas Creek watershed located on the Gila National Forest and the Ladder Ranch in Sierra County, New Mexico. Nonnative fish will be removed from the project area prior to restoration of the native trout.

For a complete copy of the preliminary EA contact one of the participating agencies:

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87504
Phone: 505-476-8058

Gila National Forest – Black Range Ranger District
1804 N. Date Street, Truth or Consequences, NM 87091
Phone: 575-388-8201

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
500 Gold Ave. SW, Suite 8514, Albuquerque, NM 87102
Phone: 505-248-7457

The preliminary EA is also available on-line at:

www.fs.usda.gov/projects/gila/landmanagement/projects

<http://wildlife.state.nm.us/recreation/fishing/index.htm>

http://www.fws.gov/southwest/federal_assistance/index.html

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments concerning this action will be accepted at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office for 30 calendar days following publication of the Legal Notice in the Truth or Consequences Herald (anticipated to be on or about February 19). Only individuals and entities who have submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project are eligible for objection (36 CFR §218.5) under the Forest Service's Predecisional Administrative Review Process (36 CFR Part 218).

Address correspondence to:

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program
500 Gold Ave. SW, Suite 8514
P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103
fax: 505-248-7471
e-mail: fw2_wsfr@fws.gov

Please include in correspondence the title: "NMDGF Las Animas Project Draft EA"