Mora
National Fish Hatchery


Stocking by Helicopter in the Gila National Forest


Spruce Creek Lineage in the Cibola National Forest


The hatchery has over 200 rearing units

Station Facts

- Mora NFH was founded in 1994.
- Mora NFH currently has a staff of 6 employees.
- Mora NFH is a recirculation facility and relies on water re-use technologies to reduce the quantity of influent water by approximately 95%.
- Mora NFH is the only facility which cultures the threatened Gila trout.
- The Gila trout has five distinct surviving lineages; Main Diamond, South Diamond, Whiskey, Iron, and Spruce.
- Mora NFH raises all five of the distinct lineages of Gila trout, some of which have been extirpated from the wild.
- Mora NFH uses naturalistic rearing techniques and polyculture to produce the Gila trout.
- Mora NFH has an annual operating budget of approximately $700,000.
- Mora NFH annually produces 15,000 to 30,000 Gila trout for recovery efforts in the Gila Wilderness.
- Mora NFH has four isolation units and serves as an emergency refugia for Gila trout when needed.

Contact Information

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Directions:
Two miles north of Mora, NM on HWY 434

Who We Are
The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) is comprised of a network of 71 National Fish Hatcheries which propagate imperiled species for restoration and recovery programs, provide emergency refugia for species whose habitat is threatened, provide fish to benefit Tribes, and mitigate for federal water projects.

How We Help
The Mora National Fish Hatchery is dedicated to the restoration and recovery of the threatened Gila trout, a fish found only in the high desert and mountain watersheds of the Gila/Salt/Verde drainages in New Mexico and Arizona. The hatchery currently has 5 surviving genetic lineages.

Recovery Success
The Mora NFH has produced genetically appropriate fish for recovery sites in New Mexico and Arizona. Fish considered excess to the annual recovery needs are provided for use in highly valued recreational fishing programs in both New Mexico and Arizona. Our recovery efforts led to the downlisting of the Gila trout in 2005.

Naturalistic Rearing and Polyculture
Biologists maintain wild broodstocks of the rare trout, keeping them in as much a natural setting as possible. Gila trout live in tanks with rocky substrate, woody cover, and even fishes that naturally co-occur in the wild, like desert and Sonoran sucker. The tank design contains pools and riffles with current flow and the Gila trout are even supplemented with a variety of live diets. This new culture procedure is meant to maintain wild characteristics in the rare trout so the offspring are well-suited to face the rigors of the wild.

Water Resources in the Southwest
When the plans for the facility were developed the region pushed for a facility to assist in tackling water resource issues. The result is an innovative hatchery that is the only facility in the National Fish Hatchery system that relies 100% on recirculated water. The facility also has 3 major and 5 minor water reuse systems. These award-winning, leading-edge water recirculation technologies' allows the Mora facility to recirculate 95 % of its water.

Overview of Mora National Fish Hatchery