



# Mora National Fish Hatchery

ADJUSTING THE MULE PANNIERS ALONG THE TRAIL

## Gila Trout Stocking in the Wilderness

After the large Whitewater/Baldy fire both Main Diamond and South Diamond fish were stocked into the West Fork River inside the Gila Wilderness. The Upper West Fork was one of the areas most impacted by the fire.

The crew consisted of 6 people from New Mexico FWCO, Mora NFH, New Mexico G&F and the US Forest Service. The substantial effort took 18 horses and mules provided by New Mexico FWCO and the US Forest to stock the 3,000 Gila trout 18 miles deep inside the Gila Wilderness.

The fish were stocked just below the falls on the West Fork of the Gila River. A predetermined spot picked by the Gila Recovery Team.

The stocking sites were reached just before darkness and crews split up to spread the stocking throughout the river. The fish were stocked successfully and the crews rode the last 1.5 miles in the dark to reach the campsite.

The trip lasted 3 full days as the next day consisted of crews splitting up and riding to key habitat areas throughout the wilderness. Instruments to collect water quality data were installed which includes devices to take pictures and video to document the environmental effects after the fire.

On the last day the rest of the devices were installed before the long ride out.



### Mule loaded with Fish

These panniers are specially designed for these long trips. Each pannier weighs 90 pounds, contains 7 gallons of water, can hold up to 7 pounds of fish, and has a pure oxygen delivery system.



### Dry, Dusty Conditions

The photo displays some of the dry dusty conditions that were endured over the long 18 mile ride.

## Mora NFH Participates in the Festival of the Cranes

Teresa Martinez and Jeff Powell displayed the living stream during Bosque del Apache NWR, Festival of the Cranes event.

This event provided an outstanding outreach opportunity for the hatchery. The display mimicked our naturalistic rearing units, filled with Gila trout and desert suckers. The display was very welcomed with high remarks about Gila trout recovery and Mora NFH operations.



The staff also assisted with efforts for the kids fishing pond by monitoring the system throughout the night, providing

the oxygen system, and overall help with the derby set-up and operation.

### CURRENT STAFF

Jeff Powell, Project Leader  
 Teresa Martinez, Administrative Assistant  
 Jeff Conway, Fish Biologist  
 Grant Langmaid, Fish Biologist  
 E. "Richie" Garcia, Maintenance Worker  
 Daniel Gallegos, Biological Science Aid

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

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## Additional Activities

- Staff started to move the wild Whiskey Gila trout into their new isolation system. This has to be done in stages so the bio-filters can properly charge.
- Grant Langmaid was converted to a Permanent Fish Biologist
- Daniel Gallegos a former YCC student was hired as an emergency hire to assist with the new lots of wild fish