

2023 AZGFD Apache Trout Update

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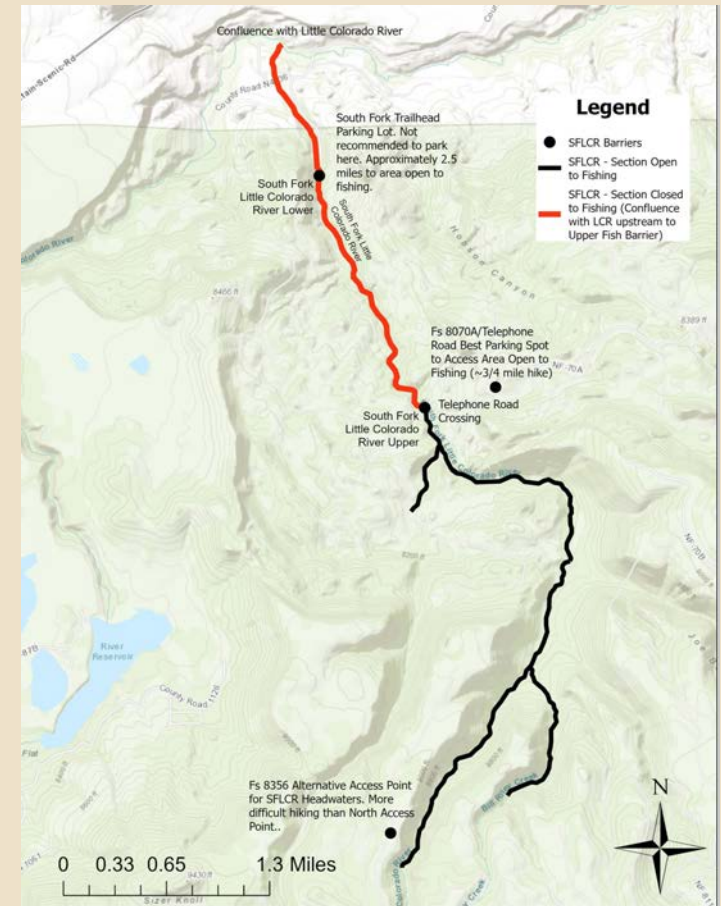
Topics

- New Apache Trout Water to Fish!
- West Fork Black River Update
- Population Surveys
- Non-Native Removals
- Habitat Projects/Barrier Removals
- 2023 Field Work Plans



New Apache Trout Water to Fish!

- South Fork Little Colorado River near Eager, Arizona.
- Population Estimate in 2021 = 507 Adult Fish.
- Opening SFLCR to fishing approved by Commission in 09/2022.
- Department's native trout regs from upper fish barrier to headwaters. Can fish starting May 1st.
- Though access not easiest, fishing should be good!



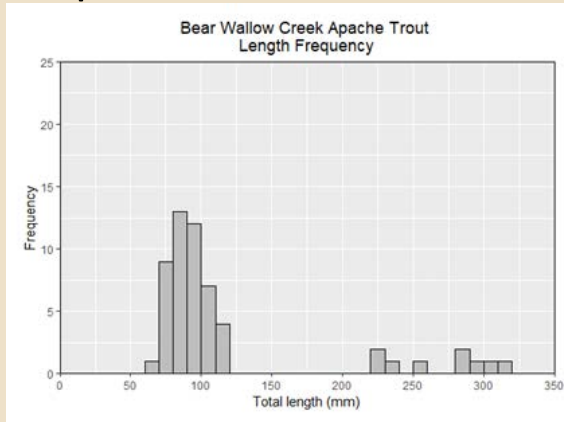
West Fork Black River Update

- Chemical removal using rotenone of non-native species originally planned for both 2023 and 2024.
- Department decided to cancel project in fall 2023.
- Overall management objectives/plans for WFBR as listed in Salt River watershed management plan have not changed.
- Department will seek alternative removal methods for upper WFBR (YY Male Brook Trout).



Population Surveys

- Mineral Creek
 - May 2022
 - No fish captured
 - Poor habitat and stream temps – minimal pool habitat
- Bear Wallow Creek
 - One day of sampling, cancelled due to theft of gear.
 - Six sites
 - 55 fish captured, 69 mm – 320 mm



Non-Native Removals and Surveys

- West Fork Black River/Thompson Creek
 - Two full passes
 - 172 Brook Trout removed
 - Department pursuing alternative removal methods
- West Fork Little Colorado River
 - 106 Brown Trout removed between barriers
 - No Brown Trout found above upper barrier.
 - New barrier needed to help prevent upstream movement of Brown Trout.
- South Fork Little Colorado River
 - No non-native trout found between upper and lower barrier.



Habitat Projects/Barrier Removals

- Department partnering with USFWS and ASNF to improve connectivity in lower WFBR watershed by removing four existing fish barriers.
 - Home Creek, Hayground Creek, and Stinky Creek.
- Designs funded through Resource Legacy's Open Rivers Fund and implementation through BIL Fish Passage Funding.
- Currently developing designs for barrier removals.
- Barrier removal could begin as early as 2024.
- Removal of barriers will occur on one tributary per year.



2023 Field Work Plans

- April – West Fork Black River fish health survey/Brook Trout removal project.
- May – West Fork Little Colorado River population estimate.
- June – Bear Wallow Creek population estimate.
- July – West Fork Black River Brook Trout removal project.
- August – West Fork Black River Brook Trout removal project and West Fork Little Colorado River non-native trout removal.
- September - West Fork Black River Brook Trout removal project.





Discussion

Questions?

