



17th Annual Native and Wild Trout Conference
April 23rd, 2026; 8:30am – 3pm
AGENDA

- 8:30am **Welcome – AZGFD**
Josh Hurst, Deputy Director
Julie Carter, Aquatic Wildlife Branch Chief
- 8:40am **Welcome – Trout Unlimited**
Chris Wood, CEO Trout Unlimited
- 8:55am **Region 1 Trout Fishing Waters**
Ryan Follmuth – AZGFD, Region 1 Aquatics Program Manager
- 9:15am **Arizona Fish Advisory Program**
Josh Goodfellow – Arizona Department of Environmental Quality,
Water Laboratory Manager
- 9:35am **Gila Trout Recovery Update**
Emily Keister – AZGFD, Native Trout and Chub Specialist Senior
- 9:55am **Apache Trout Updates on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation**
Kristy Kiehne – US Fish and Wildlife Service, Fish Biologist

Break

- 10:25am **Abandoned Mines Project**
Jason Willis – TU, Western AML Program Director
Chase Gruber – TU, Southwest Conservation Engineer

- 11:05am **Oak Creek Management, Fishing, and More!**
Matt Rinker – AZGFD, Region 2 Aquatic Wildlife Specialist Senior
Andy Stites – AZGFD, Region 2 Native Aquatic Wildlife Specialist Senior
- 11:25am **Thompson Meadow Restoration & TU Projects Across AZ**
Nate Reese – TU, Arizona State Director
- 11:45am **OdySea Display & Trout Unlimited Video**
Alec Young – TU, Arizona Engagement Manager
- 11:50pm **Group Photo / Lunch at Ben Avery Clay Target Pavilion**
- 1:30pm **Gila Trout & Apache Trout Awards Presentations**
Julie Carter – AZGFD
Alan Davis – Arizona Council of TU
- 1:40pm **Trout Challenge: Tactics for Successful Trips**
Alex Loubere – AZGFD, Native Trout and Chub Coordinator
- 2:00pm **Region 6 Trout Fishing Waters**
Sam Simmons – AZGFD, Region 6 Streams Specialist
- 2:20pm **R3 Program - Volunteer Involvement**
Chase Newlon – AZGFD, Fishing Recruitment, Retention, & Reactivation Coordinator
- 2:40pm **Lee's Ferry Rainbow Trout Recruitment**
Dale Fonken – AZGFD, Wildlife Research Specialist
- 3:00pm **PSA: Fishing Gear Decontamination**
Alex Loubere – AZGFD, Native Trout and Chub Coordinator
- 3:05pm **Wrap Up**