



NEW MEXICO TROUT

Newsletter

Nov 2010

In This Issue

[Valles Caldera Fish Survey](#)

[Conservation Update](#)

[Fly of the Month](#)

[Interpretive Panels](#)

[Meet the Board](#)

[Restoration Monitoring Project](#)

[Elections for NMT Board](#)

[Calendar](#)

[About Us](#)

Quick Links

[NM Trout Website](#)
[Last Month's Newsletter](#)
[NMT on Facebook](#)

Greetings E-Members of New Mexico Trout,

Seems like the one day I had to go fish the Upper Cebolla the weather decided, while I was on my way there, to make a drastic change. I was witness to rain, snow, thunder and lightning all within a 4 mile drive along 126.

Well, upon arriving at the gate at the end of the hatchery road and not being a huge fan of lightning or hail, I decided just to eat lunch, let the dog run around since there was no one there, and to relax and maybe paint a watercolor or two. Funny thing was the cattle had been taken out two weeks before and there were these two forlorn looking bovines that seemed to be waiting for some forgotten train or lost love. Couldn't tell you how long they had been there but they didn't seem to mind the inclement weather. Of course the dog was having blast barking and carrying on like nobody's business.

After wiping down the dog and cleaning off his paws, we headed back to see what was going on the lower San Antonio near Dark Canyon. This day should have kept any sane person home (fly fishermen are not known for sanity - see Rudy) but upon my arrival at the Dark Canyon parking area the dang lot was full of fools. Divine providence was telling me that today was not my day to fish since my favorite spots were already coveted by others.

It seems like the best thing to do was to head down to Jemez Springs and stop in at Los Ojos and grab a green chile cheeseburger and an adult frosty beverage. The dog was happy to wait in the now warm truck and wouldn't even move toward the door. This stop was the best event of the day and sure did make for a good day spent in R&R.

Oh by the way, see ya at the monthly meetings still happening at Sandia Prep at 7:30pm on the First Tuesday of the month and don't forget about the Fly Tying Symposium coming up.

Rudy Rios
President

Valles Caldera Fish Survey

by Dennis Clark

photos by Stacy Urich

On October 7th, I worked with a team led by Valles Caldera Biologist Sarah Kindschuh and Education Coordinator Stacy Urich to perform an electroshock survey of the Valles waters. We surveyed Reaches 1 and 2 on the San Antonio and one reach on the upper East Fork that day. The San Antonio reaches yielded roughly 100 browns in each 100 meter test area, with the largest fish being 13+" in length. The San Antonio results were about what I expected, based on a San Antonio survey I participated in last year. To my surprise, the East Fork yielded about 200 browns and rainbows in the 100 meter stretch, including two 18"



browns, like the one pictured here!

This 18+" brown was captured, cataloged, and released in the headwaters of the East Fork in Valles Caldera. Believe it or not, there was another 18" brown netted less than 20 yards from where this guy was taken. Remember, the Valles Caldera has extended its season this year and will be open Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 AM to 5 PM through 18 December. See if you can get out there and catch one of

these beauties. Reservations at <http://www.vallescaldera.gov/comevisit/fish/index.aspx>

Fish count is my own rough estimate. Official survey results are still being tabulated by Valles Caldera.

Conservation Update

Ron Loehman

NM Trout Conservation Chairman

Previously I reported on the proposal by the New Mexico Environment Division (NMED) to designate the streams in New Mexico's wilderness areas as Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRWs), thereby granting them an extra level of protection against degradation of their water quality. The State Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC), which has jurisdiction, conducted public hearings in Santa Fe in mid-September and mid-October. In addition to NMED, the proponents comprised a group of environmental, sportsmen's, and outdoor organizations, including New Mexico Trout, who gave both oral and written testimony before the WQCC. The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association and a few individual ranchers opposed the ONRW designation in testimony that to my biased ears was weak and ill prepared. Closing arguments before the WQCC are scheduled for November 15, with a decision by the Commission due on November 30.

During a hearing recess in September we (Rudy and Ron) were part of a negotiation that improved the proposal with strengthened non-degradation language and that added the streams in adjacent roadless areas as part of the

ONRW proposal. That latter addition was particularly important to the NM Trout participants.

The hearings have gone as well as we could have hoped. However, the process is very political and it is apparent that the cattle growers are working very hard to defeat the ONRW proposal. Our lawyers are optimistic that the WQCC will approve some form of ONRW designation for our most pristine headwater streams. Tune in to the December newsletter to learn how it turned out, or monitor the status at <http://www.nmenv.state.nm.us/swqb/onrw/>

For more Conservation information: <http://newmexicotrout.org/conservation.html>

Fly of the Month - Copper Jude

Tied by Jeff Duran

Photo by Jeremy Barela

Hook: Daiichi 1130 (or equivalent scud hook) in sizes 14-20

Thread: UTC 70 Olive Brown

Ribbing: Fine Copper Wire

Tail: Pheasant Tail Angel Hair

Wingcase: Black thin skin with 1 strip of pearl Krystal Flash in the middle

Thorax: Chocolate superfine dubbing

Over Wingcase: 1 drop of Loon's Knot Sense to simulate bubble



More NM Trout patterns at <http://newmexicotrout.org/patterns.html>

Interpretive Panels Installed

By Amanda L. Webb

Respect the Rio

Santa Fe National Forest

I am pleased to share with you that the newest in a series of interpretive panels for the Jemez Watershed has been installed along FR 376, adjacent to a wet meadow near the Rio Cebolla. This ongoing project is a partnership between the Santa Fe National Forest and New Mexico Trout and is additionally supported through Respect the Rio grant funding.



This panel highlights the importance of wet meadows to water quality and watershed health. When you get a chance take a look at it on the east side of FR 376, north of Porter Landing and just south of the large wet meadow cattle

exclosure along the Rio Cebolla.

Meet the Board

Ron Loehman

Ron Loehman's position as Conservation Chairman for New Mexico Trout is allowing him to combine his life-long interests in the outdoors, fishing, and conservation of natural resources. He particularly appreciates the opportunity to coordinate the work of the Club's enthusiastic volunteers and to see all the good they achieve. Ron retired as a Senior Scientist from Sandia Labs two years ago, but still maintains his faculty appointment in the Chemical Engineering Department at UNM. His favorite trout streams are the more remote parts of the Guadalupe, San Antonio, East Fork, and Cebolla that require some hiking to reach.



More about Board Members at <http://www.newmexicotrout.org/directors.html>

Restoration Monitoring Project

By Rudy Rios



Well it is really becoming a beautiful fall with the cold weather holding back so that we can all enjoy a drive through the Jemez Canyon and enjoy the Cottonwoods changing from their green summer dress to yellow fall splash and then one day blushing stark naked. If you have an afternoon it would be nice to just drive up and see this before it's gone. In case you can not make it, here is a photo I took heading back to Albuquerque after going to teach a MESA youth group at the Valles Caldera.

This group of teenagers was brought to the Blanco Bonito staging area to learn from the Restoration Monitoring Project (RMP) The Restoration Monitoring Project allows students to study the response of wildlife to forest restoration treatments (thinning and prescribed fire) in restored and unrestored forests on the Preserve. Students will learn how to make field wildlife observations, use problem-solving techniques, develop research skills, and employ decision making skills to test hypotheses and evaluate forest restoration success. Studies will be conducted through surveying, monitoring, and field data collection,

followed by sample processing and data analysis in the laboratories at the Science and Education Center in Jemez Springs. This study also helps teens understand how the whole forest systems works including impacts to fish and wildlife. If you have an opportunity and would like to volunteer for this awesome pilot program contact Staci Urich at the Valles Caldera; surich@vallescaldera.gov.

New Mexico Trout Board of Directors Elections

By now I know that the word "elections" will cause some folks to cringe and head for a dark, quiet spot in the house. The call for nominations for the positions of President and Secretary for New Mexico Trout yielded no brave volunteers. Since Rudy Rios has agreed to stay on for another two year stint as the President and I have done the same as Secretary, there will obviously be no need for elections this year. Please consider the opportunity to serve on the board, either as Vice President (a currently vacant position) or when elections for officers are held next year.

Pat Mileskosky
Secretary, NM Trout

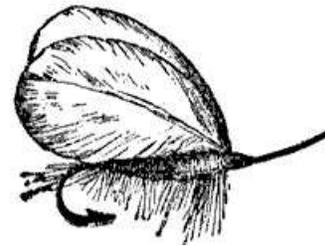
Calendar

New Mexico Trout General Meeting
9 November, 7:30pm
Sandia Prep School Commons Building
<http://newmexicotrout.org/meetings.html>

Quivira Coalition's 9th Annual Conference
10-12 November
Pioneers around the country and the world are building soil, increasing local food production, improving the water cycle and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Hear and meet them in one place at The Carbon Ranch: Using Food and Stewardship to Build Soil and Fight Climate Change, the Quivira Coalition's 9th annual conference.
http://quiviracoalition.org/2010_Conference/index.html

Fly Tying Symposium - Sponsored by NM Trout
4 December, 9:30am - 2:30pm
Sandia Prep Student Center

Fly Tyer's Roundtable
Every Monday, 7:00pm excluding holidays
Sandia Prep Lab classroom
The Flytyer's Roundtable brings new and experienced tyers together to exchange ideas, techniques and materials.



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NMTrout Business Sponsors

Yearly business membership entails the sponsor to a link on the NMT Newsletter. Contact the membership chair for more information if you or a business owner you

know would like to become a sponsor.

- Alpha Home Improvements
- [Custom Fly Rod Crafters](#)
- [Jicarilla Game and Fish](#)
- [Land of Enchantment Guides](#)
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- Norman & Angela Drury
- [Royal Gorge Anglers](#)
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- [Tom Sawyer Enterprises](#)
- Bruce Taylor Studio
- [James E. Lucero Ins. Agency](#)
- [Jiffy Lube](#)
- [MW Bar Ranch](#)
- Mountain Hideaway
- Robert H. Bean
- [Sandstone Anglers](#)
- [Valles Caldera/NM](#)
- [Solitary Angler](#)

About Us

New Mexico Trout is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of trout fishing in New Mexico's waters through restoration of riparian habitats and through education of the public about trout fishing and the value of trout habitats. New Mexico Trout is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization, and we welcome your tax deductible contributions.



Comments/Suggestions

If you have comments or suggestions about the Newsletter, or an article you would like to submit, please email to newmexicotrout@gmail.com. Articles will be considered based on suitability, general interest and succinctness (please limit content to approximately 500 words). Deadline for the next issue is 5 November.

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