



Newsletter

Jul-Aug 2011

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Greetings,

I hope you are all enjoying your summers, perhaps fishing, even with our record drought, high temperatures and fire ravaged forests. Due to these conditions, we have had to cancel some of our conservation projects. A few new projects have been re-scheduled (see the article below), and more may be arranged once the environmental conditions permit.

On another note, we are in need of a secretary once more. As luck would have it Neal Swanson, who generously volunteered to serve in this position, has had to resign. Needless to say we are without a secretary once again. If any of you have a candidate in mind please speak with them and see if you can convince them to come on board. Anyone who is interested can contact me, or any member of the NMT Board.

CYa,

Pat Mileschosky

Las Conchas Fire and NMT Conservation Projects

Ron Loehman, Conservation Chairman

The Las Conchas fire has forced some changes in our remaining conservation projects and will most likely influence our conservation work in the Jemez area for many seasons to come. As most of you know, at more than 150,00 acres, the Las Conchas fire is the largest in New Mexico's history. In the Valles Caldera it burned areas containing the headwaters of the Rio San Antonio, the East Fork of the Jemez River, and the Rio de los Indios. The canyons and streams that run southeast off the Jemez high country toward the Rio Grande, such as Frijoles, Bland, and Cochiti, are in some of the most severely affected areas. The canyon containing Peralta Creek was burned, but very fortunately the riparian area is mostly unscathed. Pat and I have done projects in past years and which contain native Rio Grande cutthroat trout. The streams on the west side of the Jemez mountains, such as the Rio Cebolla, the Rio de las Vacas, and our home water, the Rio Guadalupe, were fortunately unaffected by the fire. You can check maps of the extent and severity of the fire at the following sites: www.inciweb.org/incident/2385/ and www.inciweb.org/state/maps/32/.



Elk enclosure on the Rio Peralta built by NM Trout volunteers in May 2009. Note the burned trees in the left foreground, but that the riparian area is mostly unscathed. Photo courtesy of Pat Mileschosky.

The major near term effect of the fire on watersheds will be from silt and ash carried into the streams by heavy rains on newly bare slopes. This has already been seen in the Rio de los Indios and the upper San Antonio on the Valles Caldera. Ash and silt will fish and aquatic insects and streams can take years to recover from their effects.

kill fish and aquatic insects and streams can take years to recover from their effects. Runoff from the 1996 Dome Fire in Bandelier National Monument killed all the fish in Capulin Creek and it wasn't until 2006 that the NM Game and Fish Department was finally able to restock it with Rio Grande cutthroat trout. At the present time we do not know how severely the streams in the burned area will be affected. The Santa Fe National Forest already has let contracts for aerial reseeding and mulching, which with luck may reduce runoff and erosion.

New Schedule and project descriptions:

Please RSVP to Ron Loehman (ronloehman@gmail.com) by the Wednesday before the project date. The club will provide lunch for volunteers. Further details will be posted on the NM Trout website as they become available.

September 17: Riparian Exclosure Construction on the Upper Rio Cebolla. Contact Jo Wargo, Jemez District USFS (575) 829-3535.

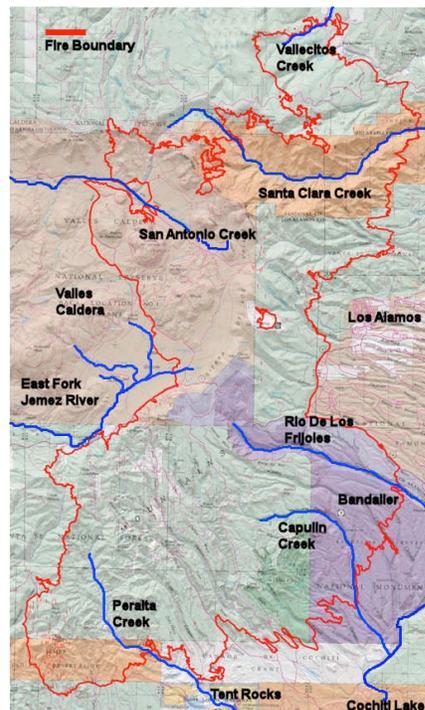
This project was originally scheduled for the Rio San Antonio, just downstream from the Valles Caldera boundary. The exclosure will now be built on the Rio Cebolla above the Seven Springs picnic ground off SR 126. We have built cattle fences on this stretch in past years, but this will be the first construction of an elk exclosure on the Cebolla.

September 24: Installation of three interpretive panels above the Gilman Tunnels on FR 376. Contact Amanda Webb Jemez District USFS (575) 829-3535.

Over the past several years NM Trout has donated money to the USFS to design and construct interpretive panels that highlight the importance of healthy streams and the need to use them wisely. They have been completed and should be received by the end of August. I've seen the design proofs and the panels are something we can be proud of and that give NM Trout very nice credit for our conservation work.

Las Conchas Fire - Public Lands Status

The Las Conchas fire started on 26 June and was declared fully contained on 3 August, after burning 156,593 acres (see map). Public lands that were most impacted by the fire include the Santa Fe National Forest, Valles Caldera National Preserve, and the Bandelier National Monument. In the Santa Fe Forest and the Valles Caldera, the burn areas remain under Stage III Fire Restrictions. The Las Conchas fire has created significant safety hazards for anyone entering the burned area, including threats from flash flooding, falling trees and rolling rocks. The Valles Caldera has resumed normal summer activities excluding those which normally occur in the burned areas, but fishing programs remain suspended until further notice. The fire burned over 50% of the Bandelier National Monument's landscape and has left Frijoles Canyon, where the visitor center and main sites are located, subject to flash flooding. At one time the fire threatened the city of Los Alamos and the Los Alamos laboratory, but did not advance into the city.



Fly of the Month - San Juan Flasher

Pattern and Notes by Deward Yocum
Photographs by Hans Weilenmann
Used by permission

Hook: DAI-RIKI 270 18-24

Thread: Coats + Clark brown 54a / Black
8/0

Rib: Krystal Flash



Body: Coats + Clark brown 54a
Head: Black 8/0



I specialize in tying midge patterns for the San Juan River in Northern New Mexico. Many of the flies I tie come from building on what other fellow fly tiers have done. Although many of the flies I tie are unique and cannot be found in fly fishing shops like the San Juan Flasher, Brown Emerger and Crippled Mosquito. These flies are very small 30-18 and deadly. All my flies are tested on the San Juan River and surrounding rivers and streams throughout the southwest. The San Juan Flasher has proven to be a very hot fly. In the first 10 minutes of testing this fly out on the San Juan River I landed 8 brown and rainbow trout and was hot all day long. So keep tying and don't give up!

More flies by Deward are at <http://www.danica.com/flytier/dyocum/dyocum.htm>

More NM Trout patterns at <http://newmexicotrout.org/archives/category/fly-patterns>

Legal Victory for Natural Waters

Last Spring the Water Quality Control Commission ruled in favor of our (NMT plus four other orgs) petition to declare headwater streams in NM Wilderness areas as Outstanding National Resource Waters, a designation allowed to states by the Clean Water Act. The main opposition was the NM Cattle Growers Association, who went to court to overturn the WQCC decision. Lower courts ruled, wrongly as it turns out, that our environmental coalition lacked standing to argue in the appeal. Yesterday's Supreme Court decision puts us back in the case. Congratulations and extreme thanks are due to Erik Schlenker-Goodrich, our lead attorney from the Western Environmental Law Center in Taos.

Calendar

NMT General Meeting - No meetings during the Summer, Go Fish!

Fly Tyer's Roundtable

Every Monday, 7:00pm excluding holidays

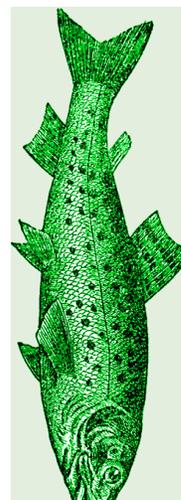
Sandia Prep Lab classroom

The Flytyer's Roundtable brings new and experienced tyers together to exchange ideas, techniques and materials.

NMT Trout 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.

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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 4 Sept.

Forward email



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