

A wide landscape photograph of a grassy plain with mountains in the background under a cloudy sky. The foreground is filled with tall, golden-brown grasses. In the middle ground, there's a small, dark structure, possibly a barn or shed. The background features rolling hills and mountains covered in dense green forest. The sky is filled with large, white and grey clouds, with some blue visible between them.

New Mexico Trout Conservation Program

Ron Loehman

Conservation Chairman

New Mexico Trout Conclave, March 2, 2013

Our Mission Statement Defines Our Conservation Objectives

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 the education of the public about trout fishing and the value of trout habitats



We focus on maintenance and restoration of natural riparian habitats

- Volunteer work
- Financial contributions
- Advocacy
- Endangered species protection and restoration
- Support of scientific studies

Work in all of these areas furthers our mission

Our volunteer projects include the following objectives:

- reduce sediment loads to streams
- replace exotic plant species in the floodplain with native species
- stabilize riverbanks in areas damaged by livestock grazing
- lower water temperatures to create better aquatic habitat
- reconnect streams to their floodplains
- raise the water table in the riparian zone
- educate the public



In June, about 30 volunteers helped install bollards to restrict vehicle access to overused areas along the Rio Cebolla



People were moving the old buck and pole barriers and driving down to the creek



A power auger dug the holes for the posts



The Rio Cebolla is being degraded by by vehicles that are driven to the water's edge

We installed interpretive panels near where FR 376 crosses the Rio Cebolla



A power auger dug the holes for the posts and frames, but a lot of hand work was required to position them



NM Trout contributions paid for the panels that were designed and built by the USFS

The Club provides a BBQ lunch for volunteers on the season's first big project



Lunch break of Rudy's BBQ with all the trimmings



In August we relocated brown trout that were being removed from the upper Rio Cebolla by electroshocking



The browns were in the part of the creek designated for Rio Grande Cutthroat trout

Without our intervention the brown trout would have been thrown on the bank to die



Instead, the rescued browns were relocated to Fenton Lake

At the end of each season we thank our volunteers
with a prize drawing

Each volunteer- day receives one ticket in the drawing

This year's winners

\$100	Jena Wilmoth
\$100	Ed Biskis
\$100	Jesse Hawkins

See me for your awards



This year's volunteer schedule includes interesting and worthwhile projects

Scheduled

April 20	Rio Guadalupe corridor cleanup
June 1	Annual NMT conservation barbeque. Build vehicle barriers along Rio Cebolla, remove streamside campfire rings
July date tbd	trout relocation on Valles Caldera creeks
July 26-28	Riparian restoration on Comanche Creek (Valle Vidal)
August 16-18	Riparian restoration on Comanche Creek

Tentative

Repair/build cattle enclosure on Rio San Antonio just downstream of the Valles Caldera west boundary



See website www.newmexicotrout.org for schedule updates.

General contact: ronloehman@gmail.com



Come join us on this year's
conservation projects

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