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## STATE OF NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF GAME & FISH

One Wildlife Way, Santa Fe, NM 87507  
Post Office Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504  
Tel: (505) 476-8000 | Fax: (505) 476-8123  
For information call: (888) 248-6866

[www.wildlife.state.nm.us](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us)

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April 15, 2015

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Conservation Team

Pamela Sponholtz, USFWS Region 6  
Melissa Mata, USFWS Region 2  
Yvette Paroz, USFS Region 3  
Barry Wiley, USFS Region 2  
John Alves, CPW  
Michael Sloane, NMDGF  
Joel Humphries, BLM  
Ryan Besser, BLM  
Fred Bunch, NPS  
Jacob Mazzone, Jicarilla Apache Nation  
Robby Henriksen, Taos Pueblo  
Michael Montoya, Mescalero Apache Nation

Dear Conservation Team,

This letter is intended to inform team members and summarize the 2014 rangewide activities for the conservation of the Rio Grande cutthroat trout (RGCT). The activities below are divided into eight main categories identified in the rangewide agreement. The following is a brief summary of those activities that occurred in 2014.

### **Population Inventory**

In 2014, 37 waters (65 individual surveys) were inventoried within the historic range of RGCT. The purpose of the inventories was to survey potentially occupied RGCT waters (15), monitor known populations (37), assess the genetic status of RGCT populations (11), and collect disease information (2).

### **Population Maintenance**

In New Mexico, a culvert barrier was installed on Long Canyon Creek and the preliminary design for the Rio Costilla terminal barrier was completed. In Colorado, a barrier was constructed on South Fork Trinchera Creek.

### **Population Expansion**

Chemical reclamations were completed on Beaver Creek, Beaver Lake, Long Canyon, Seven Lakes, and upper Costilla Creek totaling 26 stream miles and 15 mountain lake treatments. Two culverts were removed and the road was closed and reseeded along East Pass Creek. Stocking of RGCT to found new populations occurred in Allen Creek, Beaver Creek, Seven Lakes #2, and upper Costilla Creek. To increase recreational angling opportunities, 72,000 and 508,000 RGCT were stocked in Colorado and New Mexico, respectively.

### **Protecting/Restoring Habitat**

Barrier maintenance and road drainage improvements occurred on Big Springs Creek in Colorado. Post-wildfire surveys were conducted on 7 waters to determine if nonnative fish were extirpated for potential RGCT reintroduction.

### **Education**

RGCT conservation was discussed on local radio programs in both Colorado and New Mexico. Brochures containing RGCT conservation and angler opportunities were produced and distributed in Colorado. Two public meetings were attended and RGCT outreach was conducted at a high school.

### **Database Sharing**

The annual RGCT range-wide database workshop was well attended and included representatives from all signatory agencies.

### **Coordination**

The annual range-wide meeting was well attended by all signatory agencies.

### **Miscellaneous**

Miscellaneous activities included the continued wild and hatchery spawning operations in both Colorado and New Mexico.

Thank you for your participation in developing this report. The conservation and persistence of Rio Grande cutthroat trout would not be possible without the continued cooperation, dedication, and professionalism of every team member and their respective agencies.

Sincerely,

Bryan Bakevich  
Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Biologist

## RGCT Rangewide Report 2014 - Summary by Strategy, January 1 to December 31, 2014

Strategy	Subhead	Title	Waters/Events	Total	Description
1	Survey	Population Inventory	4	15	Survey potential RGCT waters within historic range; maintain database
1	Monitor	Population Inventory	20	37	Monitor RGCT populations to detect changes; maintain database
1	Taxonomy	Population Inventory	11	11	Collect genetic information within historic range, maintain database
1	Habitat Inventory	Population Inventory	0	0	Collect habitat information within historic range; maintain database
1	Disease	Population Inventory	2	2	Conduct fish health surveys including WD
2	Identify	Population Maintenance	0	0	Identify Core Conservation and Conservation populations
2	Secure	Population Maintenance	4	4	Secure and enhance distribution and abundance of Core and Core Conservation populations
2	Metapopulation	Population Maintenance	0	0	Identify, maintain, and expand connectivity within metapopulations
3	Restore	Population Expansion	7	41	Increase RGCT populations by restoring RGCT habitat through chemical reclamation
3	Augment	Population Expansion	0	0	Augment pure populations within historic range by stocking or transplanting RGCT

<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Subhead</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Waters/Events</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Description</b>
3	Connectivity	Population Expansion	1	7.5	Promote and restore connectivity of populations to enhance metapopulation function
3	Stock RGCT	Population Expansion	8	7	Stock lakes and streams with RGCT for angler recreation (sum of lakes and streams stocked)
4	Improve	Protect sustaining habitat and restore degraded habitat	3	7	Inventory, maintain, protect, and improve existing habitat; improve fluvial/ hydrological processes
4	Unoccupied	Protect sustaining habitat and restore degraded habitat	7	9	Identify unoccupied habitat for restoration with RGCT
5	Education	Conservation Education and Interpretation	6	11	Subcommittee to develop education and interpretation program providing deliverables and a consistent message regarding RGCT conservation efforts
6	Database	Database Sharing	3	3	Summarize distribution, population genetics and habitat data; centralize data into a database; allow rangewide integrated data analysis, summaries, and comparisons
7	Coordinate	Planning/ Coordination	7	7	Share information; identify/ discuss/ solve common conservation problems; prioritize issues;
A*	Miscellaneous	Other Activities/ Actions	5	5	Accomplishments that are not listed in the other titles or strategies
B	Habitat	Private Land Protection or Restoration (stream miles)	0	0	Landowner/ private land habitat protection or restoration

## RGCT Rangewide Report 2014 - Summary by Signatory Agency, January 1 to December 31, 2014

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
<b>Colorado Parks and Wildlife</b>												
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp021	Placer Creek	44711	13010002	Nehring / Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Whirling Disease Monitoring	3	No whirling disease detected at sites upstream of the barrier.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp021	Middle Fork Placer Creek	49305	13010002	Nehring / Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Whirling Disease Monitoring	1	No whirling disease detected.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp021	South Fork Placer Creek	49292	13010002	Nehring / Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Whirling Disease Monitoring	1	No whirling disease detected.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010001cp001	Haypress Lake	90388	13010001	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Disease Sampling of 60 RGCT from Haypress Lake	1	All fish were negative for all pathogens tested for including bacterial kidney disease and whirling disease.
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp001	East Fork Costilla Creek	39390	13020101	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Post-reclamation spot shocking of creek to verify project success	1	No fish sampled.
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp001	West Fork Costilla Creek	33890	13020101	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Post-reclamation spot shocking of creek to verify project success	1	No fish sampled.

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp018	Cuates Creek	38141	13010002	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Three Pass Removal Population Estimate	1	RGCT density of 463 fish / mile. No non-natives in sample.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp008	Jaroso Creek	48066	13010002	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Two Pass Removal Population Estimate	1	RGCT density of 94 fish / mile. Brook trout density of 624 fish / mile.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp009	Torcido Creek	38137	13010002	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Two Pass Removal Population Estimate	1	RGCT density of 610 fish/mile. No non-natives in sample.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp004	Torsido Creek	43668	13010002	Felt / Terry	CPW / TU	1	Monitor	Two and Three Pass Removal Population Estimates	3	Average RGCT density of 46 fish/mile. Average brook trout density of 69 fish/mile.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp005	Jim Creek	44254	13010002	Felt / Terry	CPW / TU	1	Monitor	Two and Three Pass Removal Population Estimates	4	Average RGCT density of 23 fish / mile. Average brook trout density of 311 fish / mile.
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020102cp001	Nabor Creek	43648	13020102	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Two Pass Removal Population Estimate	2	Average RGCT density of 207 fish / mile. No non-

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
												natives in samples.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	11080001cp001	Ricardo Creek	30635	11080001	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Two and Three Pass Removal Population Estimates	3	Average RGCT density of 125 fish / mile. No non-natives in samples.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010004cp005	Tuttle Creek	45890	13010004	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Two Pass Removal Population Estimate	3	RGCT were not documented at any of the 3 sites. Average brook trout density of 14 fish / mile.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010004cp006	Big Springs Creek	38281	13010004	Felt / Jones	CPW	1	Monitor	Two Pass Removal Population Estimate	4	Average RGCT density of 139 fish / mile. No non-natives were found upstream of the fish barrier.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010004cp002	East Pass Creek	42022	13010004	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Two and Three Pass Removal Population Estimates	3	Average RGCT density of 50 fish / mile. No non-natives in samples.

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cd038	Kerr Lake	90794	13010002	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Gillnet sampling of a RGCT recreation water	1	Catch per unit effort of 2.33 RGCT captured per net-hour.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cd039	La Jara Reservoir	90833	13010002	Felt	CPW	1	Monitor	Gillnet sampling of a RGCT recreation water	1	No RGCT were sampled.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010004cp002	East Pass Creek	42022	13010004	Rogers	CPW	1	Taxonomy	AFLP Analysis	1	100% pure RGCT.
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020102cp001	Nabor Creek	43648	13020102	Rogers	CPW	1	Taxonomy	AFLP Analysis	1	100% pure RGCT.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	11080001cp001	Ricardo Creek	30635	11080001	Rogers	CPW	1	Taxonomy	AFLP Analysis	1	100% pure RGCT.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp018	Cuates Creek	38141	13010002	Rogers	CPW	1	Taxonomy	AFLP Analysis	1	100% pure RGCT.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp009	Torcido Creek	38137	13010002	Rogers	CPW	1	Taxonomy	AFLP Analysis	1	100% pure RGCT.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters		Las Cruces Creek	30006	13010002	Rogers	CPW	1	Taxonomy	AFLP Analysis	1	100% pure RGCT.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010002cp012	South Fork Trinchera Creek	48682	13010002	Kanuckel	Tinchera Ranch/ USFWS	2	Secure	Constructed Barrier	1	
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp001	East Fork Costilla Creek	39390	13020101	Felt	CPW	3	Stock RGCT	Stocked RGCT in Costilla Creek drainage	3	



Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
										following reclamation project		
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp001	West Fork Costilla Creek	33890	13020101	Felt	CPW	3	Stock RGCT	Stocked RGCT in Costilla Creek drainage following reclamation project	3	
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters					Felt	CPW	3	Stock RGCT	Stocked 72,000 RGCT into recreation waters	1	
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp001	East Fork Costilla Creek	39390	13020101	Felt	CPW	3	Restore	Rotenone Reclamation	3	Chemically reclaimed approximately 2.5 miles of stream habitat.
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp001	West Fork Costilla Creek	33890	13020101	Felt	CPW	3	Restore	Rotenone Reclamation	3	Chemically reclaimed approximately 2.5 miles of stream habitat.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters		Hope Creek / Kitty Creek	47337	13010001	Felt / Terry	CPW / TU	4	Unoccupied	Scouting of Hope Creek and Kitty Creek which burned during West Fork Fire	1	No fish were found and substantial barrier was found on Hope Creek, potential for RGCT introduction in

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
												future
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters					Alves	CPW	5	Education	Public Meetings	4	2 Public Meetings on RGCT status (County Commisioners meeting and Rio Grande Water Conservation District), 2 radio interviews to discuss RGCT listing decision
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters					Terry	TU	5	Education	Educate public on history and importance of RGCT	1	Produced and distributed RGCT brochures
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters					Felt	CPW	5	Education	Public Meetings	2	Presented on RGCT conservation at Costilla County Youth Camp and Trout Unlimited Meeting
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters							6	Database	RGCT Database Workshop	1	

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters					Alves / Felt	CPW	7	Coordinate	Coordinated and attended annual RGCT conservation team meeting. Gave updates on accomplishments in Rio Grande headwaters GMU.	1	
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters					Felt	CPW	7	Coordinate	Filled out this form and summarized accomplishments in annual Accomplishments Report	1	
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010001cp001	Haypress Lake	90388	13010001	Felt / Alves	CPW	7	Coordinate	Coordinated with USFS (Barry Wiley) and landowner regarding the 2015 chemical reclamation of Haypress Lake and the Roaring Fork	1	
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters	13010001cp001	Haypress Lake	90388	13010001	Felt	CPW	A	Miscellaneous	Wild spawntake at Haypress Lake	1	58,593 eggs collected
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters		Pitkin Fish Hatchery			Lamar	CPW	A	Miscellaneous	Hatchery spawning operation at Pitkin Fish	1	51,359 eggs collected

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
										Hatchery		
<b>New Mexico Game and Fish</b>												
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020102cp009	Polvadera Creek		13020102	Bakevich	NMDGF	4	Unoccupied	Post-fire spot EF survey	1	No fish detected in lower Polvadera.
2014	Caballo		Las Animas Creek		13030101	Bakevich	NMDGF/F S	4	Unoccupied	Post-fire spot EF survey	1	No salmonids detected. Longfin dace present in Cave Creek.
2014	Pecos		South Fork Bonito Creek		13060008	Bakevich	NMDGF	4	Unoccupied	Post-fire spot EF survey	1	No fish detected
2014	Pecos		Upper Bonito Creek		13060008	Bakevich	NMDGF	4	Unoccupied	Post-fire spot EF survey	1	No fish detected
2014	Pecos		Indian Creek		13060001	Bakevich	NMDGF	4	Unoccupied	Post-fire spot EF survey	2	Several suspected hybrids detected in two miles of sampling.
2014	Pecos	13060001cd011	Doctor Creek		13060001	Bakevich	NMDGF	4	Unoccupied	Post-fire spot EF survey	2	2 hybrids detected in two miles of sampling. Many brown trout present.

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020102cp001	Nabor Creek		13020102	Bakevich	NMDGF	1	Monitor	Two-pass population estimate	1	RGCT density 241/mile. No non-natives.
2014	Lower Rio Grande	11080002cp002	South Ponil Creek		11080002	Bakevich	NMDGF	1	Monitor	Two-pass population estimate	1	RGCT density 338/mile. No non-natives.
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020102cp001	Nabor Creek		13020102	Bakevich	NMDGF	1	Disease	Disease testing	1	Negative for all pathogens
2014	Pecos	13060001cp007	Jack's Creek		13060001	Peralta	NMDGF	1	Disease	Disease testing	1	Negative for all pathogens
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020102cp001	Nabor Creek		13020102	Bakevich	NMDGF	1	Taxonomy	AFLP analysis	1	100% RGCT
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp016	Gavilan Creek		13020101	Bakevich	NMDGF	1	Taxonomy	AFLP analysis	1	100% RGCT
2014	Lower Rio Grande		Rio Nambe		13020101	Bakevich	NMDGF	1	Taxonomy	AFLP analysis	1	50% RGCT, 23% RBT, 24%YSCT
2014	Canadian		American Creek		11080002	Bakevich	NMDGF	1	Taxonomy	AFLP analysis	1	88% RGCT, 11% RBT
2014	Pecos	13060001cd011	Doctor Creek		13060001	Bakevich	NMDGF	1	Taxonomy	AFLP analysis	1	50% RGCT
2014	Lower Rio Grande		Long Canyon		13020101	Bakevich/Krus e	NMDGF/TEI	2	Secure	Barrier construction	1	Culvert barrier constructed prior to piscicide

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
												renovation
2014	Lower Rio Grande		Rio Costilla		13020101	Bakevich	NMDGF	2	Secure	Barrier preliminary design	1	Terminal barrier preliminary design completed for Costilla project
2014	Lower Rio Grande		Beaver Creek		13020101	Bakevich/Krus e	NMDGF/TEI	3	Restore	Rotenone reclamation	5	2.5 miles treated twice
2014	Lower Rio Grande		Beaver Lake		13020101	Bakevich/Krus e	NMDGF/TEI	3	Restore	Rotenone reclamation	1	Second treatment
2014	Lower Rio Grande		Long Canyon		13020101	Bakevich/Krus e	NMDGF/TEI	3	Restore	Rotenone reclamation	5	2.5 miles treated twice
2014	Lower Rio Grande		7 Lakes		13020101	Bakevich/Krus e	NMDGF/TEI	3	Restore	Rotenone reclamation	14	7 mountain lakes treated twice
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp002	Upper Costilla Creek and tribs		13020101	Bakevich/Krus e	NMDGF/TEI	3	Restore	Rotenone reclamation	10	Retreated to remove CRCT hybrids
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp002	Upper Costilla Creek and tribs		13020101	Bakevich/Krus e	NMDGF/TEI	3	Stock RGCT	Post-reclamation stocking	10	Stocked age 0 to age 3 RGCT throughout system

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
2014	Lower Rio Grande		Beaver Creek		13020101	Bakevich	NMDGF	3	Stock RGCT	Post-reclamation stocking	2	Stocked age 0 and age 1 RGCT
2014	Lower Rio Grande		Allen Creek		13020101	Bakevich	NMDGF	3	Stock RGCT	Post-reclamation stocking	2	Stocked age 0 and age 1 RGCT
2014	Lower Rio Grande		7 Lakes #2		13020101	Bakevich	NMDGF	3	Stock RGCT	Post-reclamation stocking	1	Stocked age 0 to age 3 RGCT
2014	Lower Rio Grande					Bakevich	NMDGF	3	Stock RGCT	Recreational stocking		Stocked 508,000 RGCT in recreational streams and lakes
2014						Bakevich	NMDGF	5	Education	Radio appearance	1	Appeared on local radio station to talk about RGCT fishing opportunities
2014						Bakevich	NMDGF	5	Education	High school outreach	1	Talked about RGCT and careers in natural resources with high school students
2014						Bakevich	NMDGF	6	Database	RGCT database workshop	1	Updated RGCT database

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
2014						Bakevich	NMDGF	7	Coordinate	Attended annual RGCT conservation team meeting	1	
2014						Bakevich	NMDGF	7	Coordinate	Filled out Accomplishment form	1	
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp017	South Fork Rio Hondo		13020101	Bakevich	NMDGF	A	Miscellaneous	Wild spawn on SF Rio Hondo	1	Collected 806 eggs
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13020101cp016	Gavilan Creek		13020101	Bakevich	NMDGF	A	Miscellaneous	Wild spawn on Gavilan Creek	1	Collected 776 eggs
2014			Seven Springs Hatchery			Jacobson	NMDGF	A	Miscellaneous	Hatchery spawn	1	Collected 700,336 eggs
<b>United States Forest Service - Colorado</b>												
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters		East Pass Creek			Wiley	USFS	3	Connectivity	Reconnect population	7.5	Removed 2 culverts, ripped and seeded road, closed 2 miles of riparian road
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters		Big Springs Creek			Wiley	USFS	4	Improve	Redirected road runoff through filter strip and rehabed ditch that lead straight to stream	1	Work was performed near Big Springs Picnic area



Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters		Big Springs Creek			Wiley	USFS	4	Improve	barrier maintainence	1	Filled holes in the barrier that was due to some shifting of barrier boulders.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters		Roaring Fork			Wiley	USFS	7	Coordinate	Field visits and planning for CPW chemical treatment of Roaring Fork	1	Prepare NEPA analysis for the chemical treatment. Treatment planned for 2015
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters		Hope Creek			Gomez/Terry (TU)	USFS	4	Improve	Evaluate Hope Creek drainage for suitability of possible establishment of core population	5	Hope Creek dranlage was burned in the West Fork Complex Fire. Found esisting fish migration barrier (waterfall).
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters		Rio Grande			Wiley	USFS	5	Education	Designed/developed 2 signs discussing RGCT/nonnative trout interactions	2	Install signs at Wagon Wheel Gap area and near turn off if HWY 149 & Rio Grande Reservoir road
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters					Wiley	USFS	7	Coordinate	Coordinated and attended annual RGCT conservation	1	Coordinated and attended annual RGCT conservation

Year	GMU	Population Code	Water	WaterCode	HUC	Biologist	Agency	Strategy	Subhead	Activity	Units Accomplished	Comments
										team meeting. Gave updates on accomplishments in Rio Grande headwaters GMU.		team meeting. Gave updates on accomplishments in Rio Grande headwaters GMU.
2014	Rio Grande Headwaters							6	Database	RGCT Database Workshop	1	
<b>United States Forest Service - New Mexico</b>												
2014	Lower Rio Grande	13010005cp003	Tanques Creek		13010005	Gatlin	FS	2	Secure	Tanques barrier visually inspected and determined to be only a partial barrier	1	
2014	Lower Rio Grande		Beaver Creek		13020101	Paroz	FS	1	Survey	eDNA sampling in Beaver Creek after piscicide treatment. No fish detected.	3	
2014	Lower Rio Grande		Long Canyon		13020101	Paroz	FS	1	Survey	eDNA sampling in Long Canyon after piscicide treatment. Brook trout detected in lower Long Canyon	3	



