



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

CITATION

PARTNERS IN CONSERVATION AWARD
APACHE TROUT HABITAT RESTORATION

In recognition of the outstanding contributions to Apache Trout habitat restoration by the White Mountain Apache Tribe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Apache Trout (*Salmo apache*) is federally listed as a threatened species. Its native, historic range is exclusively within the White Mountains of Arizona, with over fifty percent of that range located on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. During the fall of 2008, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in cooperation with the White Mountain Apache Tribe were looking for logs to improve Apache Trout habitat within Firebox Creek. The Bureau of Indian Affairs was contacted to see if logs could be provided. A 216-acre ponderosa pine stand, in need of thinning due to mistletoe infection and tree spacing requirements, was selected to provide the needed logs. A silviculture prescription designed to improve the health and vigor of the stand was written and a fuels crew was employed to thin the stand. Trees that were designated to be removed were limbed and bucked leaving a 10-foot butt log on the ground for use by the fisheries biologists. The Tribe's Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Department picked up the logs and transported them to Firebox Creek where a tribal crew was employed to place the logs in chosen locations along the creek. Approximately 300 of these butt logs were removed from the ponderosa pine stand and used in the Apache trout restoration. Samples have already shown Apache Trout using these log structures. This simple but effective example of cooperation and coordination had many positive dividends. The project dividends are several. An important tribal stream (which is one of only thirteen streams with genetically pure Apache Trout) was restored. The project thinned a ponderosa pine stand, which is commercially important to the Tribe, to improve its health, vigor, and growth rate. The butt logs from the ponderosa pine stand were removed, helping to avoid future fire hazards and improving the visual character of the stand. The team employed tribal members in both the thinning and the stream restoration. For its collaborative work in restoring habitat for the Apache Trout, the Apache Trout Habitat Restoration team is granted the Department of the Interior's Partners in Conservation Award.