

Wallow Fire Impacts on Fish Populations
Arizona Game and Fish Department Survey Results
September-October 2011

Rivers and Streams with High Impact

Bear Creek – Most fish (brown trout) killed throughout stream (possible complete kill, no fish found)

Bear Wallow Creek (Apache trout recovery stream) – Most fish (Apache trout) killed throughout stream (possible complete kill, no fish found); Habitat looks relatively intact; Barriers relatively intact

Black River – Most fish (brown trout, dace, suckers) killed downstream of Beaver Creek; Habitat looks relatively intact; Should recover quickly

Buckelou Creek (Gila trout candidate stream) – Most fish killed throughout, no fish collected

Colter Creek – Most fish (hybrid rainbow-Apache trout) killed throughout stream (possible complete kill, no fish found); Habitat looks relatively intact

Fish Creek (Apache trout recovery stream) – Most fish (Apache trout) killed throughout stream; Habitat severely impacted; fish barrier blown out; Loss of canopy cover in upper reaches

Hannagan Creek (Apache trout stream, nonrecovery) – Most fish killed throughout stream (possible complete kill, no fish found); Habitat impacted in upper and middle reaches

KP Creek (Gila trout candidate stream) – Most fish (hybrid rainbow-Apache trout) killed throughout stream, only two live trout collected in extreme headwaters; Habitat severely impacted throughout most of stream; Barrier intact

Lower East Fork Little Colorado River (LCR) – Most fish (brown trout) killed in short lower reach just above Church Camp in Greer; Habitat severely impacted for short reach

Lower Grant Creek (Gila trout candidate stream) – Most fish (hybrid rainbow-Apache trout) killed throughout lower reaches, no fish found in lower surveys; Habitat looks relatively intact

Paddy Creek – Most fish (hybrid rainbow-Apache trout) killed throughout stream (possible complete kill, no fish found); Habitat looks relatively intact

Raspberry Creek (Gila trout recovery stream) – Most fish killed throughout stream (possible complete kill, no Gila trout found); Moderate impact to habitat, many pools filled in; Barrier intact

Snake Creek – Most fish killed throughout stream

South Fork LCR (Apache trout recovery stream) – Most fish (Apache trout) killed throughout, only three trout collected; Barriers intact; Habitat relatively intact

Upper Coleman Creek (Gila trout candidate stream) – Most fish (Apache trout) killed in upper reaches above barrier falls (possible complete kill, no fish found); Habitat severely impacted, scoured to bedrock in some places

Upper Nutrioso Creek – Most fish (spinedace, dace, suckers, fathead minnows, green sunfish) killed from headwaters to Nelson Reservoir, no fish (hybrid rainbow-Apache trout) found upstream of Nutrioso, no spinedace collected; Habitat severely impacted upstream of Nutrioso

Upper Rudd Creek – Most fish (brook trout) killed throughout upper reaches, moderate density of brook trout found in very short reach of headwaters, no trout below that down to Sipe Wildlife Area

Rivers and Streams with Moderate Impact

Beaver Creek – Lower numbers of fish collected, but most species present

Castle Creek – Brown trout impacted in upper reaches and lower reaches, moderate numbers collected in middle reach

Hayground Creek (Apache trout recovery stream) – Lower numbers of fish collected, but all species present

Lower Coleman Creek – Native fishes in good numbers, but no young fish, no brown trout collected

Lower West Fork Black River (Apache trout candidate stream/reach) – Lower numbers of fish collected, but all species present in variety of size classes; Habitat relatively intact

Middle LCR – Lower numbers of all species collected, but all present, spinedace in low numbers

Rivers and Streams with Low Impact

Boneyard Creek – Fish densities good

Coyote Creek – Fish densities good in lower reaches, unknown in upper reaches

East Fork Black River – Fish densities good for most species (dace, suckers), young-of-year brown trout impacted in lower reaches, juvenile and adult brown trout okay, all brown trout okay in upper reaches, no loach minnow found; Habitat looks relatively intact

Lower Nutrioso Creek – Fish densities good downstream of Nelson Reservoir, no spinedace collected

Lower Rudd Creek – Fish densities good downstream of Sipe Wildlife Area, spinedace in good numbers

North Fork East Fork Black River – Fish densities good

Reservation Creek – Fish densities good

Soldier Creek (Apache trout recovery stream) – Fish densities very good; Barrier intact

Stinky Creek (Apache trout recovery stream) – Fish densities good; Barrier intact

Upper East Fork LCR (Apache trout recovery stream) – Fish densities good through middle and upper reaches

Upper Grant Creek (Gila trout candidate stream) – Fish densities (hybrid rainbow-Apache trout) good in upper reach

Upper Little Colorado River – Fish densities (brown trout) good through Greer Valley and downstream of River Reservoir to South Fork confluence, including X-Diamond Ranch

Upper West Fork Black River (Apache trout recovery stream above barriers) – Densities of all species good; Barriers intact

West Fork LCR (Apache trout recovery stream) – Fish densities very good throughout

Lakes

Ackre Lake – Total loss, nearly drained during fire suppression, resulted in fish kill

Big Lake – No impact, very small watershed; Concession intact

Bunch Reservoir – No impact, located off channel of LCR, no ash flows

Crescent Lake – No impact, very small watershed

Hulsey Lake – Total loss, drained prior to monsoon rains to buffer flood flows from Escudilla Mountain, expected to fill with sediment

Luna Lake – Moderate fish kill reported prior to monsoon rain, not related to fire, concerned about nutrient loading

Nelson Reservoir – Moderate fish kill in July, great fish in fall, concerned about nutrient loading

River Reservoir – No fish kill reported, concerned about nutrient loading

Tunnel Reservoir – No impact, located off channel of LCR, no ash flows

Outside of fire area, no impact

Lee Valley Lake, Carnero Lake, Becker Lake

Fort Apache Indian Reservation streams and lakes (except for Black River)

Streams surveyed by others – Blue River, Campbell Blue River, Eagle Creek