

Coldwater Creek Post-Fire Restoration

Organization: Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District

Project Period: January 2019 – December 2020

Amount: \$39,145.85

Location: Trabuco Ranger District of Cleveland National Forest, Riverside County

Project Description: Coldwater Creek is a functionally isolated creek that supplies year-round, high-quality water for one of only a few populations of pure coastal steelhead trout (*Orcorhynchus mykiss*) in Southern California. This creek provides complex aquatic habitat, cool water temperatures, and dense canopies of riparian vegetation. The aquatic habitat and water quality of the creek has been compromised due to the Holy Fire that burned a total of 22,000 acres, including canopy within the canyon. Because post-fire conditions threaten this population of fish through sedimentation, flooding, and reduced habitat quality, the Riverside-Corona Resource Conservation District (RCRCD), in partnership with the California Department Fish and Wildlife proposes to provide active management to help prevent the extirpation of the fish in the creek. This will be done through the rescue and relocation of fish, active restoration of aquatic habitat and canopy cover, monitoring of the watershed, and the development of a Long Term Management Plan (LTMP).

Recovered fish will be held and maintained until the watershed is determined to be safe for re-introduction. Recovery of the watershed is expected to take approximately 2 years. The RCRCD will implement the LTMP to provide long term management activities in the watershed and will conduct annual population assessments after reintroduction to determine breeding success.



Representative trout from Coldwater Creek



Coldwater Creek Post Fire Conditions