

Slinkard Creek Fencing Project



Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, photo by Michael Graybrook.

The Slinkard Creek fencing project was implemented to protect riparian vegetation along a designated Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki henshawi*) Section of Slinkard Creek in the California Department of Fish and Game's (DFG's) Slinkard/Little Antelope Wildlife Area, Mono County.

The Lahontan cutthroat trout is native to drainages in the eastern Sierra. Introduced rainbow, brook, and brown trout have replaced the Lahontan cutthroat in most of its native range. Over-harvesting, degraded habitats, and competition with introduced trout species are some of the factors that have led to the extirpation of these trout from their native waters. These trout are listed as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act.

The project consisted of rebuilding an old fire damaged rangeland fence on the east side of the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout section of Slinkard Creek to exclude the stream from the Slinkard Valley livestock grazing allotment. The total section of fencing that was rebuilt was approximately one mile.

A contractor was retained to build 3500 feet of rangeland fence to DFG specifications. DFG staff removed the old fence. The fence was constructed of three strands of domestic 2-point barbed wire and one strand of smooth wire on the bottom.