



An Apache trout gets a fin clipped while an Apache youth holds it steady. Her ancestors were the first conservators of this rare trout, found only in eastern Arizona. The White Mountain Apache Tribe closed off streams holding Apache trout in the 1940s.

Apache Youth, Apache Trout

For over 50 years, the Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office has worked with the White Mountain Apache Tribe in conservation on 17 lakes and 350 miles of trout water. But the tribe has a unique asset: the Apache trout. Once near extinction, the rare yellow trout is now a sport fish, but the species still needs much attention. Last summer, seven tribal youth worked on Apache trout conservation. They did population surveys, evaluated artificial barriers that keep competing nonnative trout at bay, and helped rid streams of nonnative trout where Apache trout need to go.

For all of these American Indian youth, the summer 2010 was more than just a job—they were engaged, making a difference in fisheries conservation in their own backyard. All in all, the men and women gained valuable experience in natural resources conservation and developed themselves for future careers in conservation. ♦ Jeremy Voeltz

Jennifer Johnson/USFWS