Apache trout metapopulation (see map, page 26). The plan requires removal of some existing barriers and construction of a new barrier farther downstream on the West Fork, thereby increasing Apache trout habitat within the streams from 33.4 to 53.1 km. Although some downstream habitat may be warmer during summer, it will also contain deep, shaded pools that offer cooler refuges. The new barrier will help isolate downstream non-native fishes from Apache trout. Non-native trout likely will have to be removed from the upstream area by chemical treatment. Regular stream monitoring will be needed to determine the relative status of native and non-native species as well as the effectiveness of barriers and control treatments.

State, federal, and tribal agencies typically lack sufficient funding to restore needed interconnected metapopulations such as in the West Fork of Black River. For Apache trout, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Trout Unlimited, and other nongovernmental groups are providing additional support to create a few larger interconnected stream systems that complement existing recovery programs. These efforts may afford the best opportunity for native southwestern trout to survive a future that is past peak water.

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References


Looking Ahead
Understanding and mitigating the effects of transformative landscape change will dominate and transform land and watershed management in the future. The rich and diverse legacy of research into the relationship between vegetation management and water yields will provide a solid foundation for building new strategies to meet these future challenges.

Native Trout, continued from page 27
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