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## PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

### **Project: Riparian Enhancement on Bitter Creek; Terrestrial**

**Objective:** To improve habitat for terrestrial and aquatic species in the upper 2.25 miles of Bitter Creek.

**Description:** The upper 2.25 miles of Bitter Creek contain a degraded population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout and a degraded riparian corridor from excess cattle grazing. This project involves the construction of a fence to exclude cattle to allow for natural recovery of the Rio Grande cutthroat trout, vegetation, and wildlife habitat.

**Benefits:** The project will protect the existing population of cutthroat trout, allowing for a possible increase in population in response to habitat improvements. It will also stabilize the riparian corridor and promote new vegetation and wildlife habitat.

**Spatial Extent of Project:** The project will improve habitat in the upper 2.25 miles of Bitter Creek.

### **Time Frame:**

**Probability of Success:** The probability of success of this project is extremely high. The main cause of terrestrial and aquatic habitat degradation is cattle grazing; therefore fencing out cattle will greatly enhance the habitat.

**Performance Criteria and Monitoring:** The performance criteria is based on improvement of habitat and will be monitored periodically. The fence will also be monitored periodically and maintenance will be conducted as needed.