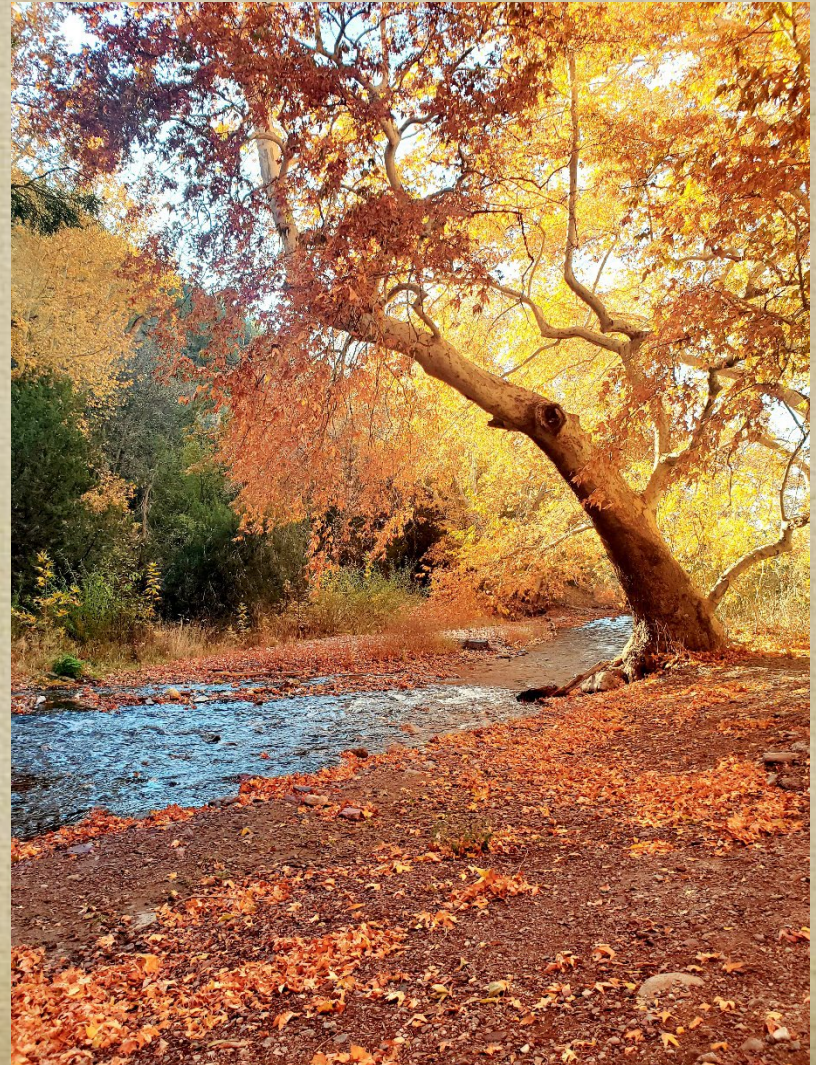
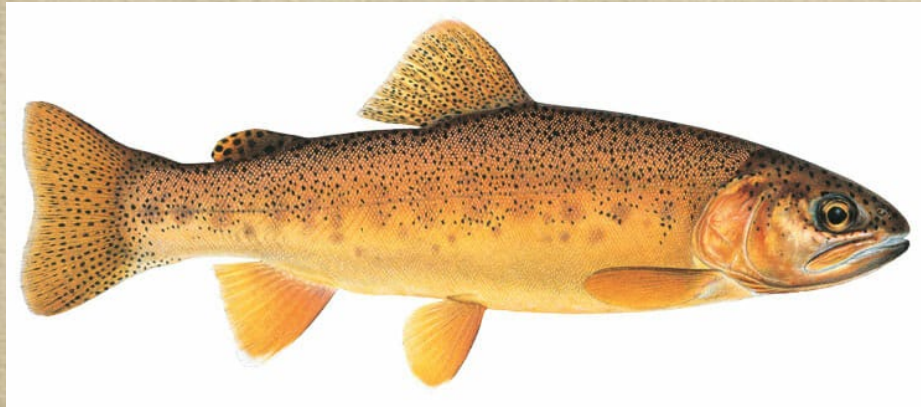


Whitewater Creek Habitat Restoration Project



Whitewater Creek Habitat Restoration Project



Jill Wick and Gila Trout. Photo courtesy of New Mexico Dept. of Game and Fish

Project Contacts:



Jennifer D'Annibale
Jennifer.dannibale@dgf.nm.gov

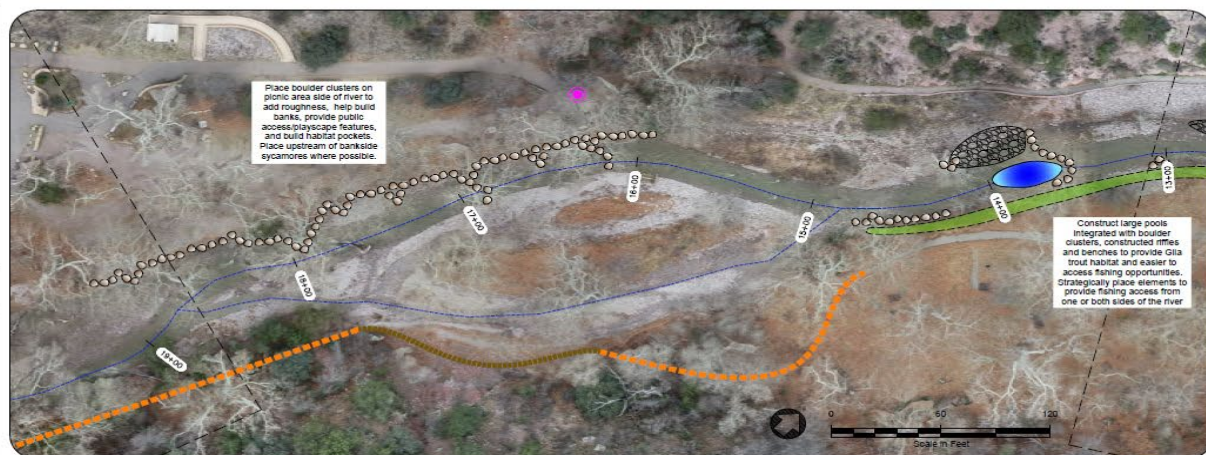
Jill Wick
Jill.wick@dgf.nm.gov












Sandy Taylor
Gila National Forest
Glenwood District
Sandra.Taylor1@usda.gov

The Catwalk Recreation Area along Whitewater Creek is a popular site for fishing and general recreation. This area is also one of the most visited sites by people and anglers in the state of NM. Whitewater Creek is open to angling for Gila trout.

However, fish habitat was heavily impacted by massive floods after the Whitewater Baldy fire of 2012. After the Whitewater Baldy Fire, the Department and it's partners restored Gila Trout to Whitewater Creek, one of the largest and most complex drainages available for Gila Trout conservation. In order to continue this work, the Department, along with the Forest Service, would like to create in-stream complexity to promote a more robust Gila Trout population and provide better angler access. Last HSP cycle, the CAC funded an conceptual design for Whitewater Creek at the Catwalk Recreation Area. The final engineered design will be completed soon, the draft design is showcased below.




Legend

	Excavated Pool
	Habitat Boulders
	Habitat Logs
	Constructed Bench
	Riparian Planting Area
	Formalized Trail
	Trail Boardwalk/Catwalk
	Access Ramp
	Access Staircase

Notes

1. This conceptual design provides an initial planning tool for the project. At this early stage there are significant uncertainties. This package serves as a jumping off point to explore the overall scope of the project. Location, size, quantity and extent of the conceptual design elements are for baseline guidance/reference.
2. The final improvement plans may vary based off stakeholder input, site assessment findings, final restoration grading and design and modeling compliance requirements, and/or budget considerations.
3. Construction access will be challenging and will likely require using the creek bed as the travel corridor for equipment and materials.
4. Finding properly sized habitat boulders may be challenging and this work will be explored in detail in further design phases.

Page 1 of 2 of the
Draft Design for the
in-stream habitat
restoration project
at the Catwalk
Recreation Area on
Whitewater Creek



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 (520) 266-1192 • www.oxbow-eceng.com

PROJECT NAME:
Catwalk


Recreation Area:
 Whitewater Creek
 Habitat & Access
 Improvement

LOCATION:
 Catwalk Recreation Area
 Gila National Forest
 Catron County, NM

PROJECT NUMBER:
 NMDOT Purchase Order No.
 51600-0000084759 (1-1)

PROJECT PHASE:
 Assessment &
 Conceptual Design

CLIENT:
 New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
 1 Wildlife Way
 Santa Fe, NM 87507
 (505) 476-6000




DRAWN BY: GFC
 DESIGNED BY: GFC & CS
 REVIEWED BY: GFC & CS
 ENGINEER OF RECORD

CONCEPTUAL PLAN

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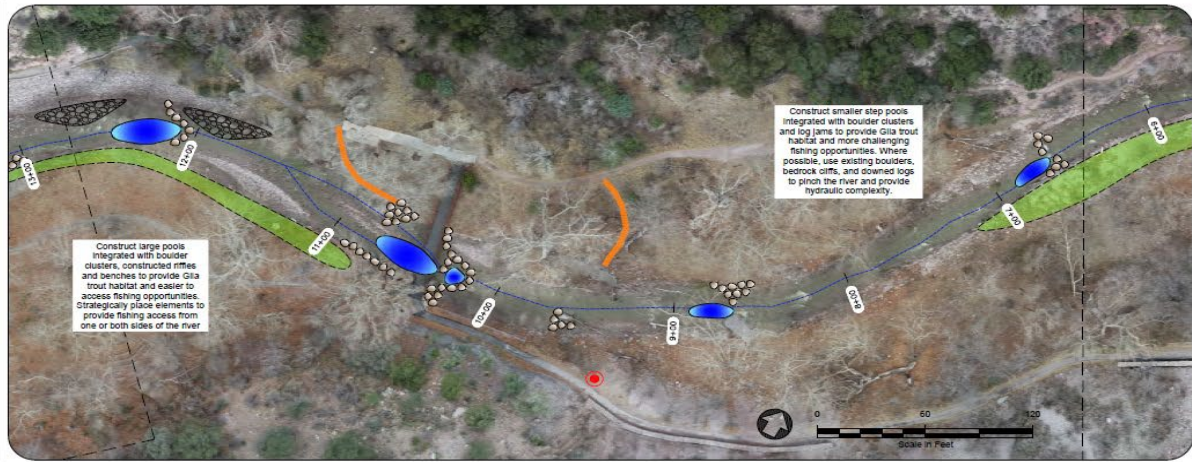
DATE: 04-24-2023
 PROJECT: NM-011-2
 DRAWING: Conceptual Improvement
 Sketches:
 AREA: 1.5
 SHEET: 6 OF 7
 REVISION: 0

The conceptual design includes multiple structures placed in the stream and along the banks, to create pools and complexity which will improve trout habitat, especially in low-flow conditions. The project reach is about a half mile of Whitewater Creek starting at the parking lot of the Catwalk Restoration Area and heading upstream.

The next steps will include compliance (NEPA, formal consultation, and a cultural evaluation). In order for the Forest Service to have this project on their priority list to complete compliance, we would like to ensure there are funds for implementation ready and available to them.

This project is a multi-phase project and the funds will extend over a multi-year period. Construction for this project will involve a lot of heavy boulders being placed in the stream, a possible constructed bench in the stream, native plantings along the banks, excavated pools and possible ADA access near the parking lot.

Conceptual Improvement Sketch: Area 3



Legend

- Excavated Pool
- Habitat Boulders
- Habitat Logs
- Constructed Bench
- Riparian Planting Area
- Formalized Trail
- Trail Boardwalk/Catwalk
- Access Ramp
- Access Staircase

Notes

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5. Finding properly sized habitat boulders may be challenging and this will need to be explored in detail in further design phases.

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PROJECT NAME:
Catwalk
Recreation Area:
Whitewater Creek
Habitat & Access
Improvement

LOCATION:
Catwalk Recreation Area
Gila National Forest
Catron County, NM

PROJECT NUMBER:
NMDGF Purchase Order No.
51600-0000084759 (1-1)

PROJECT PHASE:
Assessment &
Conceptual Design

CLIENT:
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505) 476-8000

NEW MEXICO
GAME & FISH

DRAWN BY: GFC
DESIGNED BY: GFC & CS
REVIEWED BY: GFC & CS
ENGINEER OF RECORD:

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CONSTRUCTION

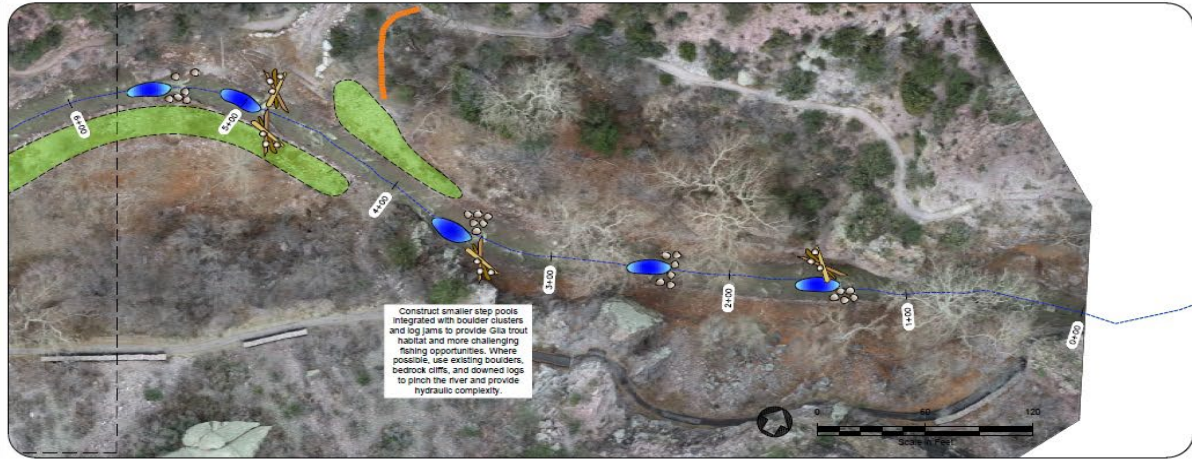
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811 Know what's below. Call before you dig.

DATE: 04-24-2023
PROJECT #: NM-011-2
DRAWING: Conceptual Improvement Sketches:
Area 3 & 4
DRAWING #: CIP03
SHEET #: 7 OF 7
REVISION #: 0

Conceptual Improvement Sketch: Area 4



Page 2 of 2 of the Draft Design for the in-stream habitat restoration project at the Catwalk Recreation Area on Whitewater Creek

Summary of Project

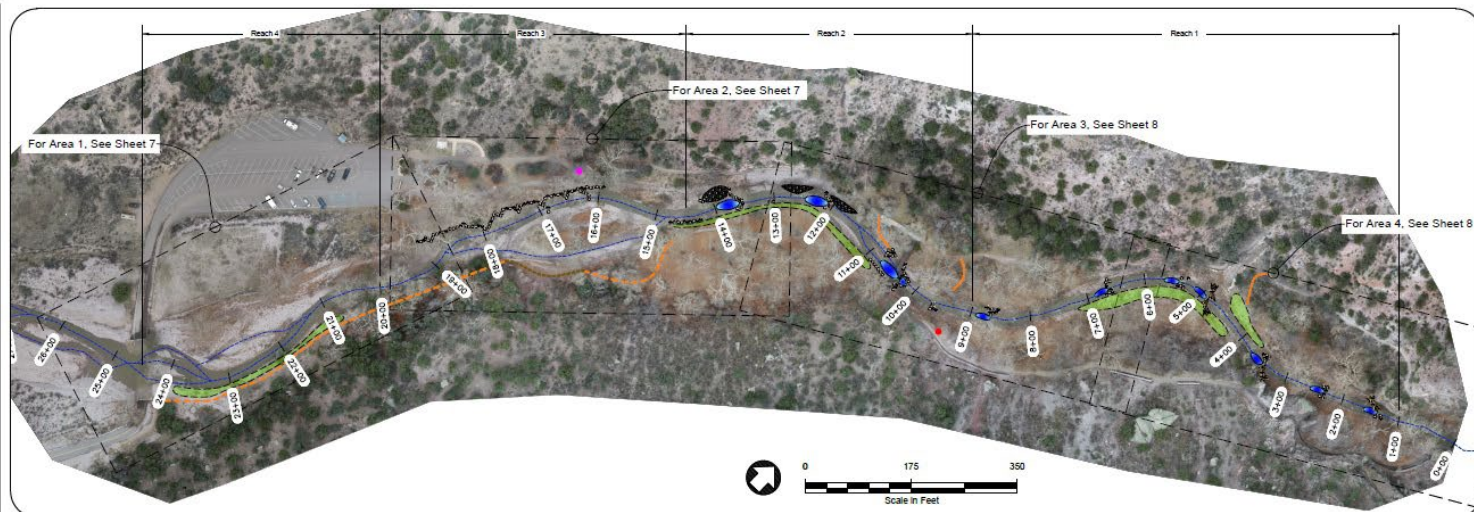
½ mile in-stream work to be completed

Budget estimate: \$450,000

Budget estimate is for implementation only

Compliance will be completed by the USFS

Conceptual Improvement Plan: Project Area Overview



PROJECT NAME:
Catwalk
Recreation Area:
Whitewater Creek
Habitat & Access
Improvement

LOCATION:
Catwalk Recreation Area
Gila National Forest
Catron County, NM

PROJECT NUMBER:
NMDGF Purchase Order No.
51800-000084759 (1-1)

PROJECT PHASE:
Assessment &
Conceptual Design

CLIENT:
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505) 476-0000



DRAWN BY: GFC
DESIGNED BY: GFC & CS
REVIEWED BY: GFC & CS
ENGINEER OF RECORD:

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DATE: 04.24.2023
SEE PROJECT #: NM-011-2

DRAWING:
Conceptual Improvement Plan:
Overview & Objectives

DRAWING #: CIP01
SHEET #: 5 OF 7
REVISION #: 0

Conceptual Improvement Plan: Objectives & Approach

Conceptual Restoration Objectives

- Increase hydraulic diversity and shelter habitat for trout
- Increase pool frequency and depth
- Reduce width-to-depth ratio wherever possible
- Reduce streambank erosion potential
- Increase channel shading with native riparian vegetation
- Increase public access for angling and recreation

Restoration Approach

Based on the inventory and assessment for the project, a set of conceptual, site specific practices was developed to meet the project objectives outlined above. This "restoration toolbox" includes measures that, if implemented holistically, could help to improve trout habitat and public access. This sheet includes some examples of restoration practices. The remainder of the sheets in this drawing set show the placement of these conceptual design elements within the stream corridor.

Conceptual Design Notes

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5. Finding properly sized habitat boulders may be challenging and this will need to be explored in detail in further design phases.

Design Element Legend: River

- Excavated Pool
- Habitat Boulders
- Habitat Logs
- Constructed Bench
- Riparian Planting Area

Design Element Legend: Access

- Formalized Trail
- Trail Boardwalk/Catwalk
- Access Ramp
- Access Staircase

Conceptual Improvement Plan: Example Design Elements



New Mexico Department of Game & Fish



Whitewater Creek Habitat Restoration Project

Background Information

- Last HSP cycle, the CAC prioritized an engineering analysis and design to be completed on Whitewater Creek at the Catwalk Recreation Area for the benefit of Gila Trout. The final engineered design will be completed soon. With the final design, the Forest Service will be able to complete the necessary compliance.
- The Glenwood RD will be able to prioritize the completion of the EA if funds are earmarked for this project.
- This project is multi-phased and will be completed over a couple of years. Implementation will include the installment of heavy boulders, and benches within Whitewater Creek at the Catwalks Recreation Area, along with native plant plantings along the banks.
- See the presentation for a visual of the draft design, along with a longer explanation of what in-stream work will happen.

Project Contacts

Department of Game and Fish
Jennifer D'Annibale
 Jennifer.dannibale@dgf.nm.gov
Jill Wick
 Jill.Wick@dgf.nm.gov

Gila National Forest
Glenwood Ranger District
Sandy Taylor
 Sandra.Taylor1@usda.gov

Proposed Management Action

- NMDGF, along with the USFS, will contract out the construction of the final design once the USFS has completed compliance.
- Cost \$450,000

[Google Earth Link](#)



Project Name: _____

Project relation to CAC advice or priorities:

Project Specific Details:

Historical Data:

Itemized Use of Funds:

Comprehensive Project Analysis:

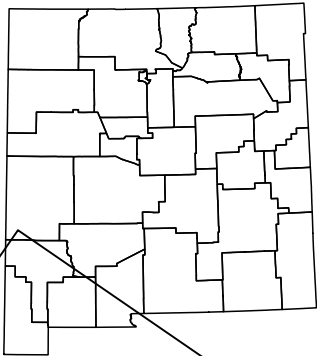
Monitoring Plan/ Strategy:

Project Emphasis Species:

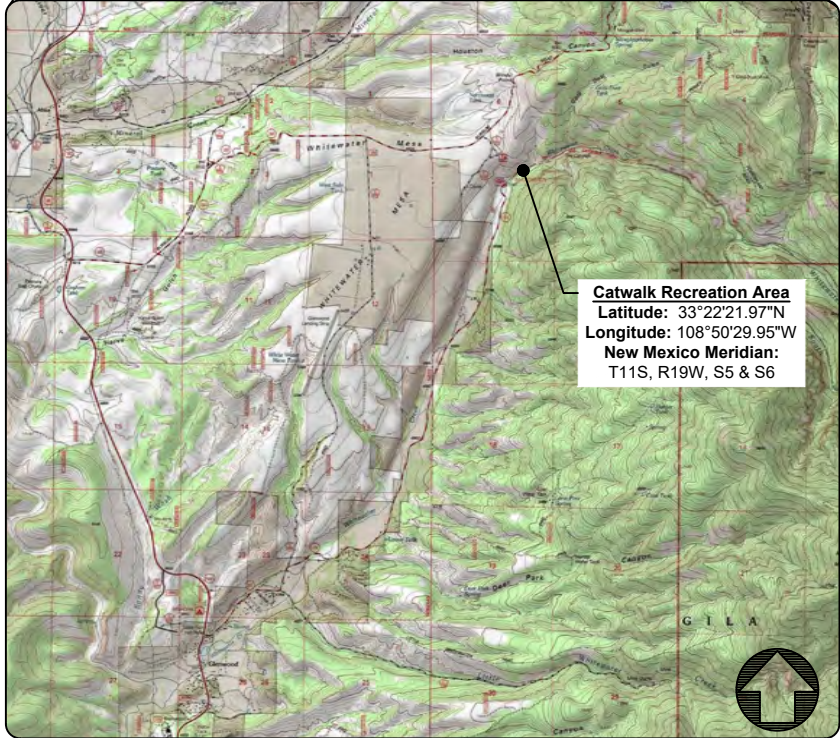


Catwalk Recreation Area Whitewater Creek Habitat & Access Improvement Assessment & Conceptual Design

Gila National Forest, Glenwood Ranger District
Catron County, New Mexico



VICINITY MAP



Whitewater Creek - Photo by OEE, March 23, 2023

SUBMITTED TO



CLIENT:
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF)
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505) 476-8000



PROJECT PARTNER:
Gila National Forest
Glenwood Ranger District
P.O. Box 8
Glenwood, NM 88039
(575) 539-2481

SUBMITTED BY



CIVIL/ECOLOGICAL PROJECT ENGINEER:
Oxbow Ecological Engineering, LLC (OEE)
3491 S. Gillenwater Drive
Flagstaff, AZ 86005
(928) 266-6192



RESTORATION TECHNICAL ADVISOR:
Watershed Artisans, Inc. (WAI)
1000 Cordova Place, #832
Santa Fe, New Mexico
(505) 577-9625

SHEET INDEX

SHEET NUMBER	DRAWING NUMBER	DESCRIPTION
1	CVR01	Cover Sheet
2	EXC01	Existing Conditions: Watershed & Valley Characteristics
3	EXC02	Existing Conditions: Study Area Overview & Assessment Briefing
4	EXC03	Existing Conditions: Representative Site Photos
5	CIP01	Conceptual Improvement Plan: Overview & Objectives
6	CIP02	Conceptual Improvement Sketches: Area 1 & 2
7	CIP03	Conceptual Improvement Sketches: Area 3 & 4

DRAWING REVISIONS

NUMBER	DATE	BY	REVISION DESCRIPTION
0	4/24/2023	GFC	Assessment & Conceptual Design

PROJECT NAME:

**Catwalk
Recreation Area:**
Whitewater Creek
Habitat & Access
Improvement

LOCATION:

Catwalk Recreation Area
Gila National Forest
Catron County, NM

PROJECT NUMBER:

NMDGF Purchase Order No.
51600-0000084759 (1-1)

PROJECT PHASE:

Assessment &
Conceptual Design

CLIENT:

New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505) 476-8000



DRAWN BY: GFC

DESIGNED BY: GFC & CS

REVIEWED BY: GFC & CS

ENGINEER OF RECORD:

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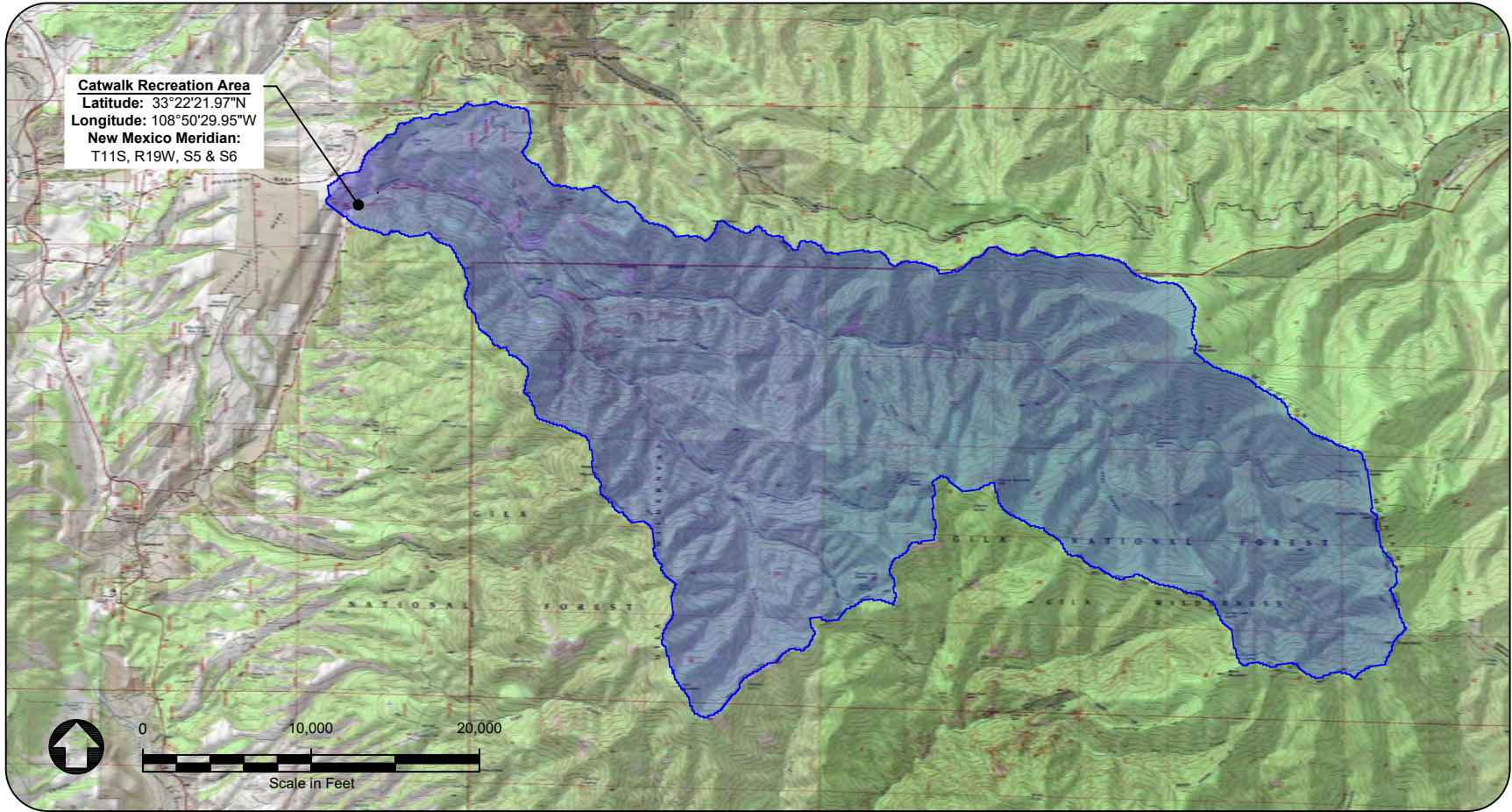
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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

DATE: 04.24.2023	OEE PROJECT #: NM-011-2
DRAWING: Cover Sheet	
DRAWING #: CVR01	SHEET #: 1 OF 7
REVISION #: 0	

Watershed Map



Hydro-Geomorphic Data Summary

Basin Characteristics	
StreamStats v4.14.0	
Drainage Area	37 MI ²
Mean Basin Slope	55%
Mean Annual Precipitation	33.2 IN.
Mean Basin Elevation	8,198 FT
Recent Wildfires	Whitewater-Baldy Complex (2012)
Peak Flow Statistics	
StreamStats v4.14.0 - Peak 2008 5119 SW Desert Flood Region 7	
50-Percent AEP Flood	753 CFS
20-Percent AEP Flood	1,500 CFS
10-Percent AEP Flood	2,170 CFS
4-Percent AEP Flood	3,220 CFS
2-Percent AEP Flood	4,170 CFS
1-Percent AEP Flood	5,280 CFS
0.2-Percent AEP Flood	8,590 CFS
Bankfull Characteristics	
Regional Relationships for Bankfull Stage [Moody et al. 2003]: Central & Southern Arizona Sites	
Bankfull Discharge	485 CFS
Bankfull Area	84 FT ²
Bankfull Width	50 FT
Mean Bankfull Depth	1.7 FT
Maximum Bankfull Depth	2.8 FT
Width to Depth Ratio	29 FT/FT



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(928) 266-6192 • www.oxbow-eco-eng.com

PROJECT NAME:
**Catwalk
Recreation Area:
Whitewater Creek
Habitat & Access
Improvement**

LOCATION:
Catwalk Recreation Area
Gila National Forest
Catron County, NM

PROJECT NUMBER:
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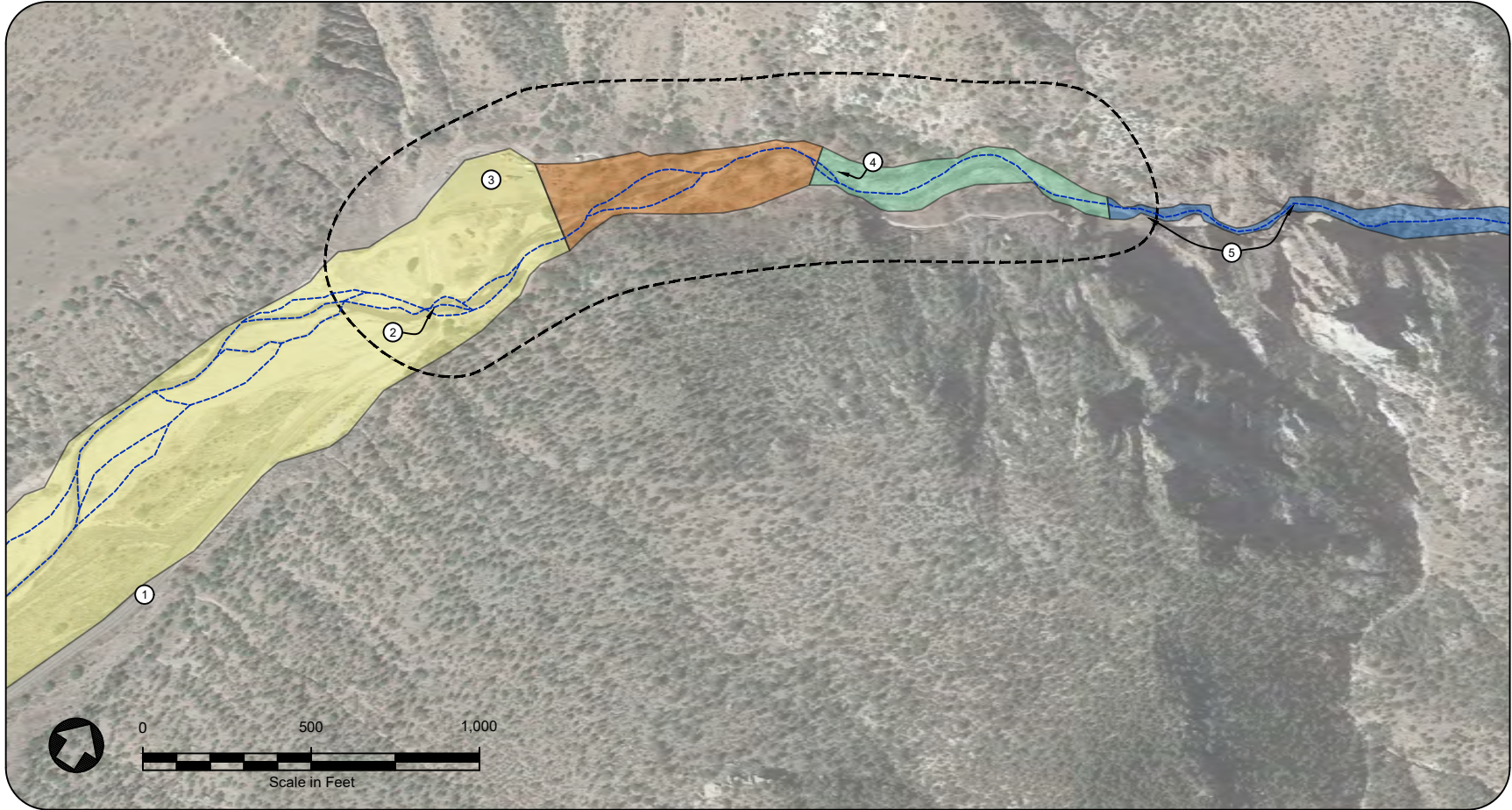
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Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



DATE: 04.24.2023	OEE PROJECT #: NM-011-2
DRAWING: Existing Conditions: Watershed & Valley Characteristics	
DRAWING #: EXC01	SHEET #: 2 OF 7
REVISION #: 	

Valley Map



Valley Characteristics

General Legend

-  Study Area
-  Whitewater Creek Flowline(s)

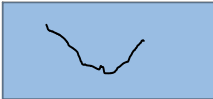
Landmarks

- ① New Mexico Highway 174
- ② Low Water Crossing
- ③ Catwalk Recreation Area Parking Lot
- ④ Pedestrian Bridge
- ⑤ Catwalk

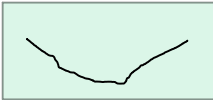
Study Area Context

The Catwalk Study Area is positioned in an area of transition, between a narrow box canyon and a wide depositional plain. It will be critical that any habitat and access improvements work with the natural processes inherent in this dynamic context.

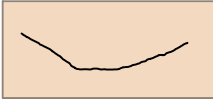
Valley Zones & Representative Cross Sections



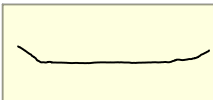
Zone 1
Type: Steep Box Canyon
Channel: Narrow/Slot, Confined, Straight, Bedrock Bottom, Bedrock Walls
Floodplain: Narrow/Slot, Confined, Bedrock Bottom, Bedrock Walls
Sediment: Transfer Zone



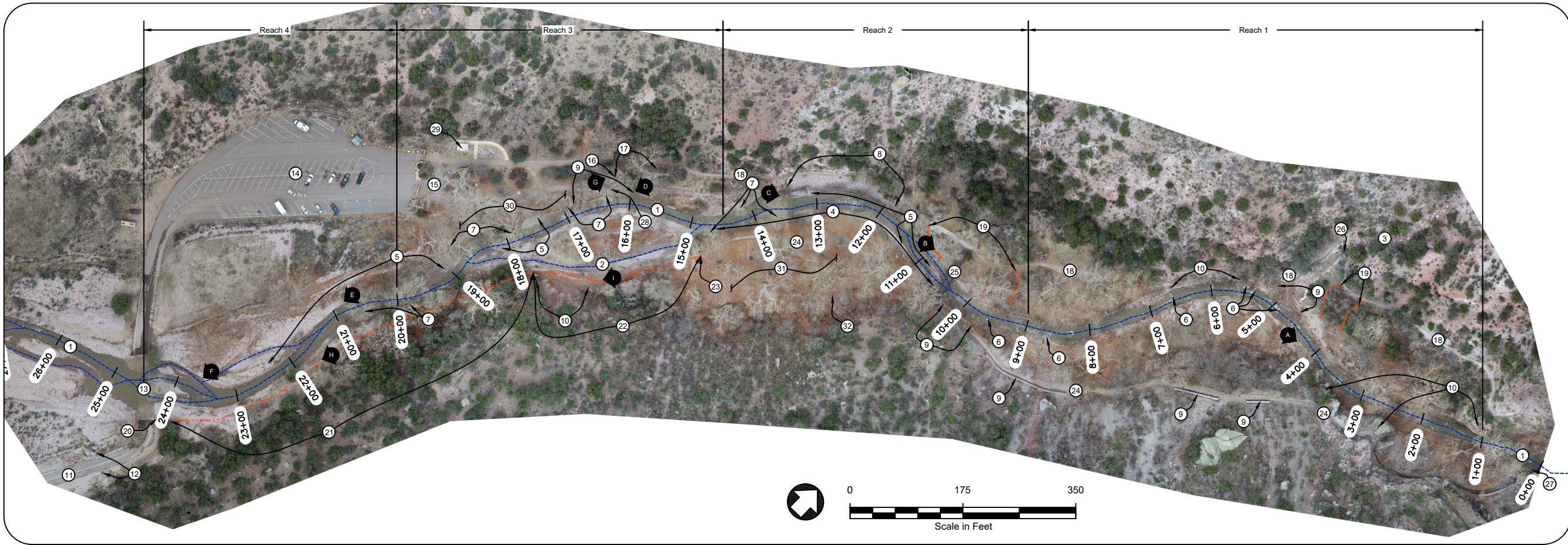
Zone 2
Description: Alluvial Gulch Fill
Channel: Entrenched, Low Width-to-Depth, with Some Sinuosity
Floodplain: Narrow
Sediment: Transfer Zone



Zone 3
Description: Alluvial Fill
Channel: High Width-to-Depth, Mid-Channel/Side Bars, Moderate Channel Scrolling
Floodplain: Wider, Numerous Flood Channels
Sediment: Transitional Transfer/Depositional Zone



Zone 4
Description: Depositional Plain
Channel: Braided, Actively Scrolling
Floodplain: Broad, Coarse Alluvial Material Deposits
Sediment: Depositional Zone

**Legend**

- Whitewater Creek Flowline(s)
Informal Trails

Riverscape Features

- Whitewater Creek
- Floodplain Channel
- Tributary Drainage
- Streambank Erosion
- New Channel Bar Formation
- Large Instream Boulders/Logs
- Sycamores on Streambank Edge
- Engineered Streambank/Slope Protection
- Gabion Walls
- Cliff Face

Access Features

- U.S. Highway 174
- Entrance Gate
- Low Water Crossing
- North: Parking Lot
- North: Entrance Features/Interpretive Signage
- North: Trailhead
- North: Steep Ramp Section at Trailhead
- North: Formal/Surfaced Trail
- North: Informal River Access Trail(s)

Access Features (Continued)

- South: Informal Trailhead
- South: Informal Trail Through Uplands
- South: Informal Trail Through Creek Bottom
- South: Informal/Paved Trail Connection
- South: Formal Paved Trail
- Pedestrian Bridge: Whitewater Creek
- Pedestrian Bridge: Tributary Drainage
- Begin Catwalk
- Bridge Footing Remnant

Other Site Features

- Restroom
- North: Picnic Area
- South: Picnic Area
- Outdoor Classroom/Seating Area

Multimedia

- On-the-Ground Photos from 3/23/23
(See Photos on Sheet 4)

Drone Flyover Footage
(<https://youtu.be/P91NTGcruYk>)

Background

NMDGF is working with the U.S. Forest Service - Glenwood Ranger District on a potential fish habitat project on a 0.25 mile reach of Whitewater Creek within the Glenwood Catwalk Recreation Area near Glenwood, NM. The project focus is improving habitat for Gila trout, including instream channel improvements, creation of pool habitats, and various stream bank stabilization actions. In addition, improved angler and public access will be explored.

Oxbow Ecological Engineering visited the Catwalk Recreation Area and the 2,400-foot long study reach/corridor of Whitewater Creek between March 22 - 24, 2023. Follow the link for a video derived from a UAS flyover of the site conducted March 23, 2023: <https://youtu.be/P91NTGcruYk>. Sheet 4 includes representative pictures of pertinent site features.

Riverscape Assessment

The goal of this site reconnaissance was to get a preliminary read of the landscape, understand the factors contributing to riverscape impairment and degradation, to gather data to evaluate the feasibility of improving Gila trout habitat in the study area, and to inform conceptual improvement plans. The information from the field visit was combined with existing topographic information, recent drone derived and historic aerial photos, and literature review to develop a broad-level picture of the watershed context and characteristics and the restoration potential of the this portion of the Whitewater Creek riverscape. This brief assessment provides initial impressions of river condition and access.

The Catwalk Study Area is positioned in an area of transition, between a narrow box canyon and a wide depositional plain (see previous sheet for valley map/characteristics and discussion). The site appears to have 4 sub-reaches that roughly correlate with the transitional features of the valley.

Reach 1 [STA 1+00 to 9+00]

Description: Slightly sinuous single thread, entrenched channel with ~2.0% slope and lower relative width-to-depth ratio, running along the toe of an alluvial fan from a tributary drainage. Multiple large colluvial boulders and some downed logs create some pocket habitat, but deeper pool features are lacking. Some mature sycamores in this reach, but could potentially use additional riparian plantings to increase shading and stabilize streambanks.
Relative Potential to Improve Gila Trout Habitat: Highest. Potential opportunity to improve trout habitat by strategic placement of habitat boulders and logs to augment existing structure and excavating deep step pools.
Public River Accessibility (North): Difficult. Access to the north side involves navigating steep slopes with thick vegetation. Two potential informal trail locations/drainages were mapped that could be formalized.
Public River Accessibility (South): Difficult. Access to south side of the river is limited to navigating steep, loose slope near the pedestrian bridge.

Reach 2 [STA 9+00 to 14+50]

Description: Slightly sinuous single thread channel with ~1.8% slope and higher relative width-to-depth ratios. Recent floods have created fresh middle-channel and bank attached bars throughout. The north side of the river is stabilized with an engineered gabion mat. The south side of the river along the picnic area has sections of actively eroding streambanks and some mature Sycamores directly on the bank edge could be compromised if erosion progresses. There are some mature sycamores in this reach, but could potentially use additional riparian plantings to increase shading and stabilize streambanks.
Relative Potential to Improve Gila Trout Habitat: Moderate. Potential opportunity to improve trout habitat by constructing inner-berm benches to reduce width-to-depth ratios, placing habitat boulders to create hydraulic complexity and roughness and stabilize streambanks, and excavating deep pools.
Public River Accessibility (North): Moderate. Access to the north side is easiest near the pedestrian bridge where an informal trail leads down to the river, but this area could be formalized for angler/public access.
Public River Accessibility (South): Easy. There is access to the river along the entire south side of Reach 2 in the picnic area, although eroding cutbanks may compromise this access.

Reach 3 [14+50 to 20+00]

Description: Slightly sinuous channel with ~1.8% slope and higher relative width-to-depth ratios. There is a large flood channel that parallels the main channel in this reach. Recent floods have created fresh middle-channel and bank attached cobble bars throughout that have filled pool pocket habitat that was observed the previous year. This section of channel appears to be migrating toward the picnic area to the north based off comparisons to historic topography and aerial photos. Multiple mature Sycamores directly on the bank edge could be compromised if erosion progresses. The bank edge receives high foot traffic and is trampled/compacted along most of the reach.
Relative Potential to Improve Gila Trout Habitat: Low. This reach of river is a transitional depositional zone that will be prone to channel braiding and scrolling making it a higher risk to install instream habitat. That said, potential stream stabilization measures along the northern picnic area, including adding large boulders, could create some pocket habitat over time that could hold fish.
Public River Accessibility (North): Very Easy. This reach is close to the parking lot and receives high foot traffic.
Public River Accessibility (South): Moderate. There is an informal trail that runs along the south side of the river that allows some access.

Reach 4 [20+00 to 24+50]

Description: Braided channel with ~1.6% slope and higher relative width-to-depth ratios. Recent floods have created fresh middle-channel and bank attached cobble bars throughout. This section of channel is at the upstream end of a wide depositional plain, characterized by braided, migrating channels and coarse alluvial deposits. Riparian vegetation is limited to sparse willow copses.
Relative Potential to Improve Gila Trout Habitat: Very Low. Given the actively evolving nature of this depositional area, this area has a low potential for trout habitat improvements but could benefit from some riparian plantings.
Public River Accessibility (North): Moderate. There are no trails along this reach, but overland access along the bank edge is moderately easy.
Public River Accessibility (South): Moderate. There is an informal trail that runs along the south side of the river that allows some access.

Other Access Notes:

Personnel from the Gila National Forest requested special consideration for two locations within the study area to evaluate the feasibility of improving public access.

North Side: ADA Access at the Trailhead

The primary trailhead for the catwalk begins with a short section of trail that is steep (>10% slope) and pinched between a steep hillside and a mature sycamore tree. In addition, there is an interpretive sign and built in benches that may have historic significance (along with remnants of the pedestrian bridge footing that used to be at this location). These constraints would likely make it difficult to re-grade this area to hit ADA compliance targets for slope (<8.33% slope), but it might be feasible to construct an ADA accessible ramp/handrails that could "thread" between these constraints. This ramp could be constructed to mirror the catwalk in materials and style.

South Side: Formalizing High Flow Trail Access

USFS requested an evaluation of the feasibility of creating a new section of trail on the south side of the creek that would allow access to the catwalk during high flows when the low water crossing is impassible. There is currently an informal trail that starts near the low water crossing, crosses a section of uplands, then drops into the creek bottom before connecting up with a paved trail within the southern picnic area. There is the potential to formalize this section of trail, which would involve grading, widening, and surfacing the section of trail through the uplands then potentially creating a short section of raised boardwalk/catwalk that spans the section of trail that is currently in the creek bottom. Upland trail-work could require some significant earthwork and tree removal/brush clearing in areas to meet ADA requirements, but is likely feasible. The boardwalk/catwalk that spans the creek bottom could be constructed to mirror the catwalk in materials and style. Parking improvements along the highway would need to be considered.

PROJECT NAME:

**Catwalk
Recreation Area:
Whitewater Creek
Habitat & Access
Improvement**

LOCATION:

Catwalk Recreation Area
Gila National Forest
Catron County, NM

PROJECT NUMBER:

NMDGF Purchase Order No.
51600-0000084759 (1-1)

PROJECT PHASE:

Assessment &
Conceptual Design

CLIENT:

New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505) 476-8000

EXC01

**DRAWN BY:** GFC**DESIGNED BY:** GFC & CS**REVIEWED BY:** GFC & CS**ENGINEER OF RECORD:****CONCEPTUAL
PLAN****NOT FOR
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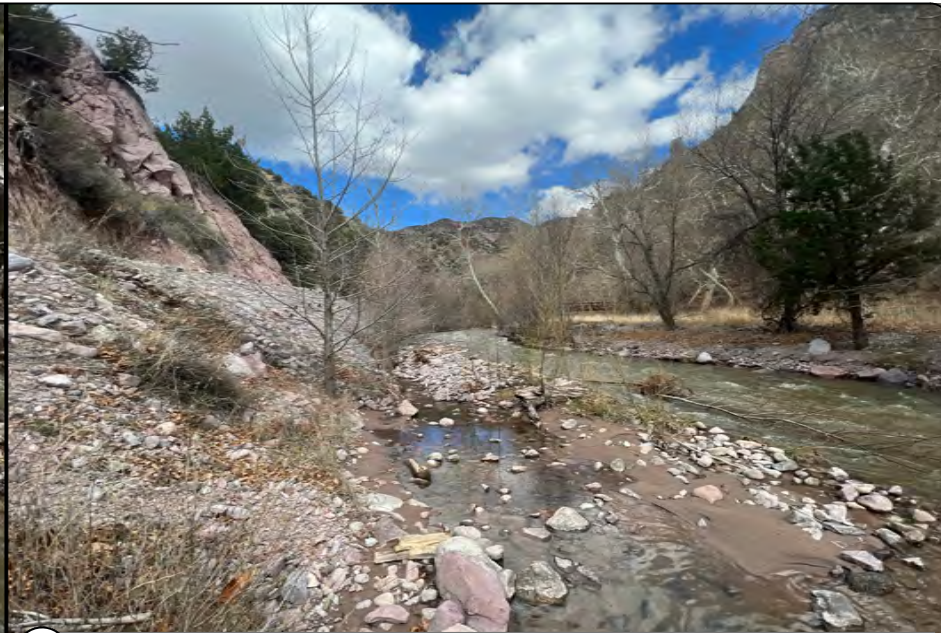
DATE: 04.24.2023	OEE PROJECT #: NM-011-2
DRAWING: Existing Conditions: Study Area Overview & Assessment Briefing	
DRAWING #: EXC02	SHEET #: 3 OF 7
REVISION #: A	



A Reach 1: Typical Channel



B Reach 2/Access: Typical Channel & Pedestrian Bridge



C Reach 2: Typical Channel



D Reach 3: Typical Channel



E Reach 4: Typical Channel



F Reach 4/Access: Typical Channel & Low Water Crossing



G Access: North Side - Steep Ramp at Trailhead



H Access: South Side - Typical Informal Trail Through Uplands



I Access: South Side - Typical Informal Trail in Creek Bottom

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DRAWN BY: GFC

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REVIEWED BY: GFC & CS

ENGINEER OF RECORD:

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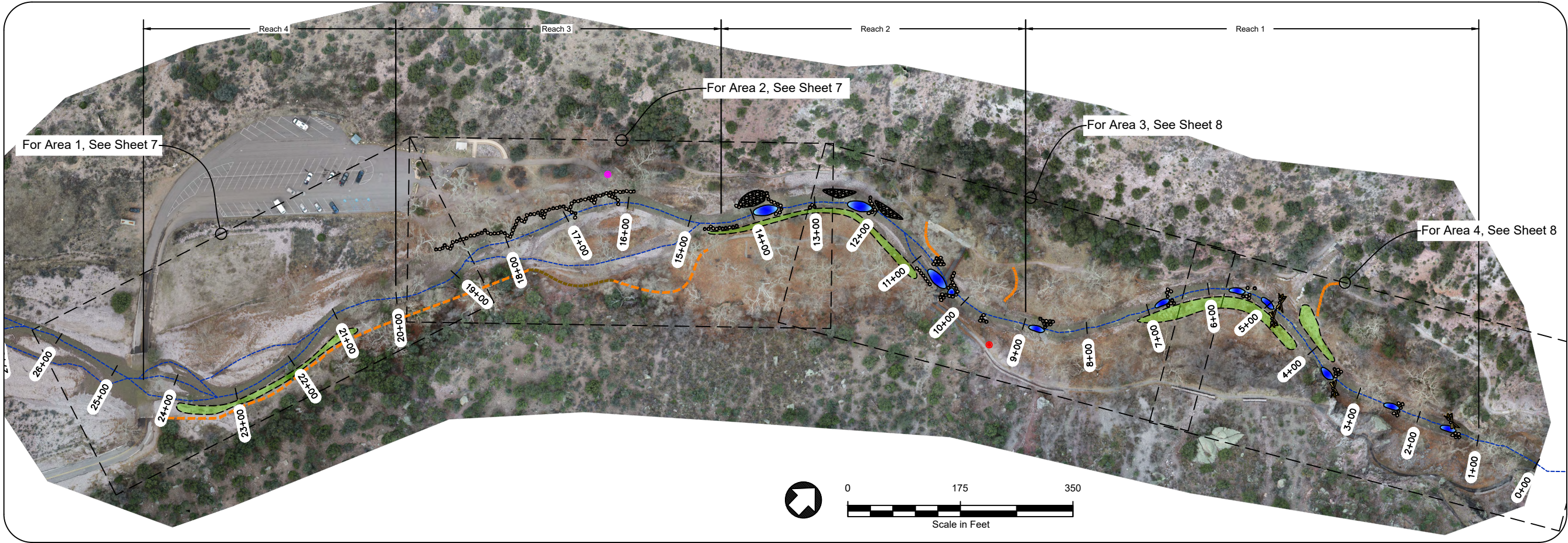
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DATE: 04.24.2023 OEE PROJECT #: NM-011-2

DRAWING:
Existing Conditions:
Representative Site Photos

DRAWING #: EXC03 SHEET #: 4 OF 7 REVISION #:



PROJECT NAME:
Catwalk
Recreation Area:
Whitewater Creek
Habitat & Access
Improvement

LOCATION:
Catwalk Recreation Area
Gila National Forest
Catron County, NM

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New Mexico Department of Game & Fish
1 Wildlife Way
Santa Fe, NM 87507
(505) 476-8000



DRAWN BY: GFC
DESIGNED BY: GFC & CS
REVIEWED BY: GFC & CS

ENGINEER OF RECORD:

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DATE: 04.24.2023 OEE PROJECT #: NM-011-2
DRAWING: Conceptual Improvement Plan: Overview & Objectives

DRAWING #: CIP01 SHEET #: 5 OF 7 REVISION #: 1

Conceptual Restoration Objectives

- Increase hydraulic diversity and shelter habitat for trout
- Increase pool frequency and depth
- Reduce width-to-depth ratio wherever possible
- Reduce streambank erosion potential
- Increase channel shading with native riparian vegetation
- Increase public access for angling and recreation

Restoration Approach

Based on the inventory and assessment for the project, a set of conceptual, site specific practices was developed to meet the project objectives outlined above. This "restoration toolbox" includes measures that, if implemented holistically, could help to improve trout habitat and public access. This sheet includes some examples of restoration practices. The remainder of the sheets in this drawing set show the placement of these conceptual design elements within the stream corridor.

Conceptual Design Notes

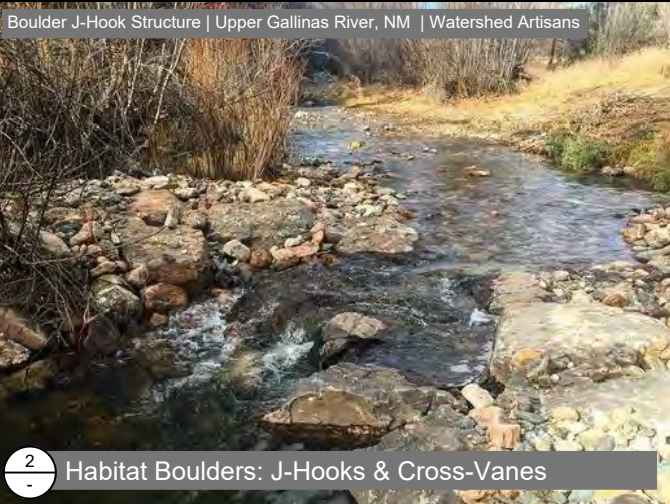
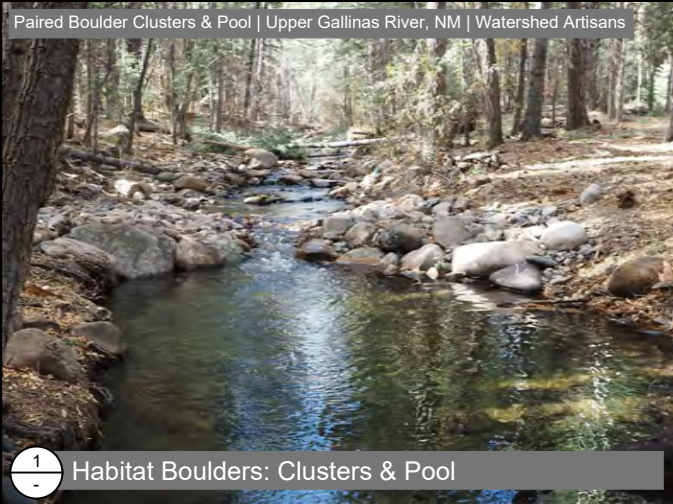
1. This conceptual design provides an initial planning tool for the project. At this early stage there are significant uncertainties. This package serves as a jumping off point to explore the overall scope of the project.
2. Location, size, quantity and extent of the conceptual design elements are for baseline guidance/reference.
3. The final improvement plans may vary based off stakeholder input, site assessment findings, final restoration grading and design and modeling, compliance requirements, and/or budget considerations.
4. Construction access will be challenging and will likely require using the creek bed as the travel corridor for equipment and materials
5. Finding properly sized habitat boulders may be challenging and this will need to be explored in detail in further design phases.

Design Element Legend: River

- Excavated Pool
- Habitat Boulders
- Habitat Logs
- Constructed Bench
- Riparian Planting Area

Design Element Legend: Access

- Formalized Trail
- Trail Boardwalk/Catwalk
- Access Ramp
- Access Staircase



Conceptual Improvement Sketch: Area 1



Legend

Excavated Pool

Habitat Boulders

Habitat Logs

Constructed Bench

Riparian Planting Area

Formalized Trail

Trail Boardwalk/Catwalk

Access Ramp

Access Staircase

Notes

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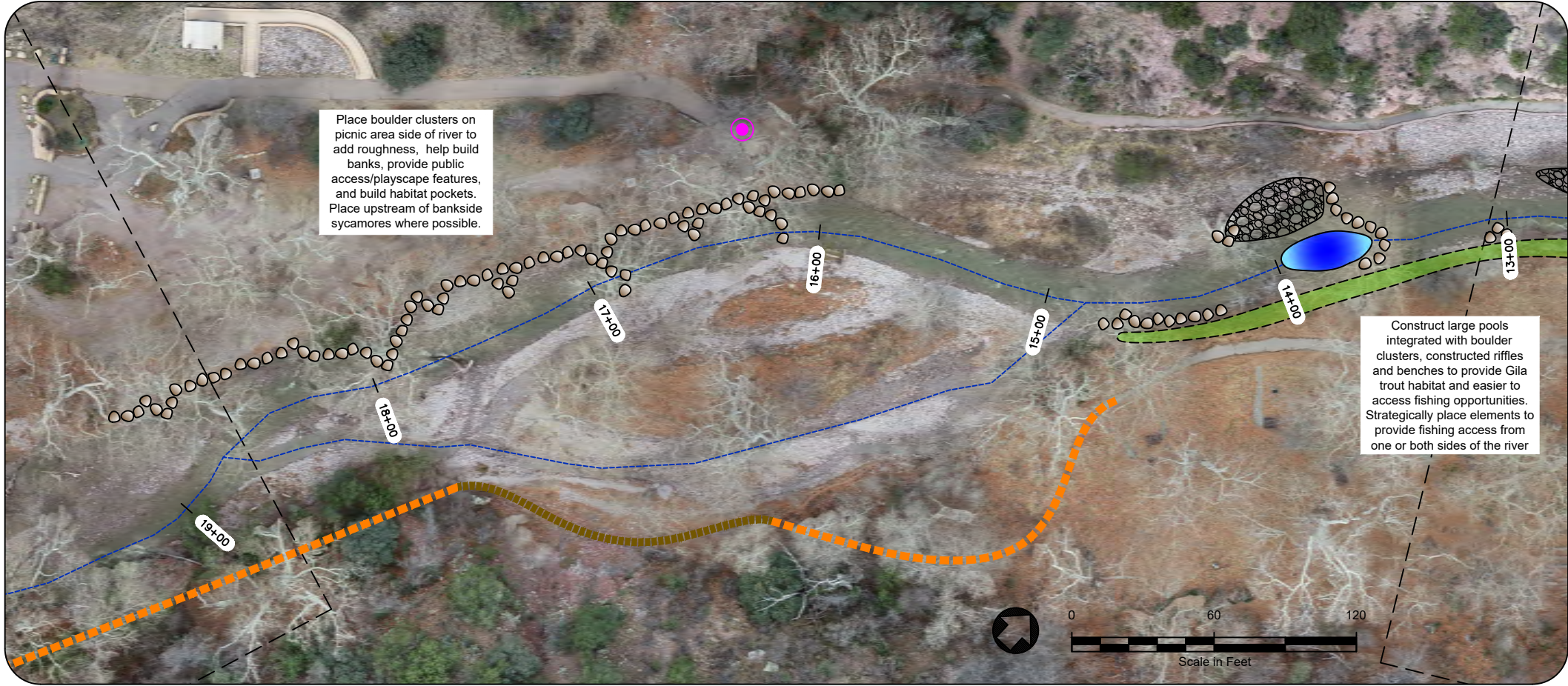
4.

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Conceptual Improvement Sketch: Area 2



river + riparian + wetland + wildland

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(928) 266-6192 • www.oxbow-eco-eng.com

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REVIEWED BY: GFC & CS

ENGINEER OF RECORD:

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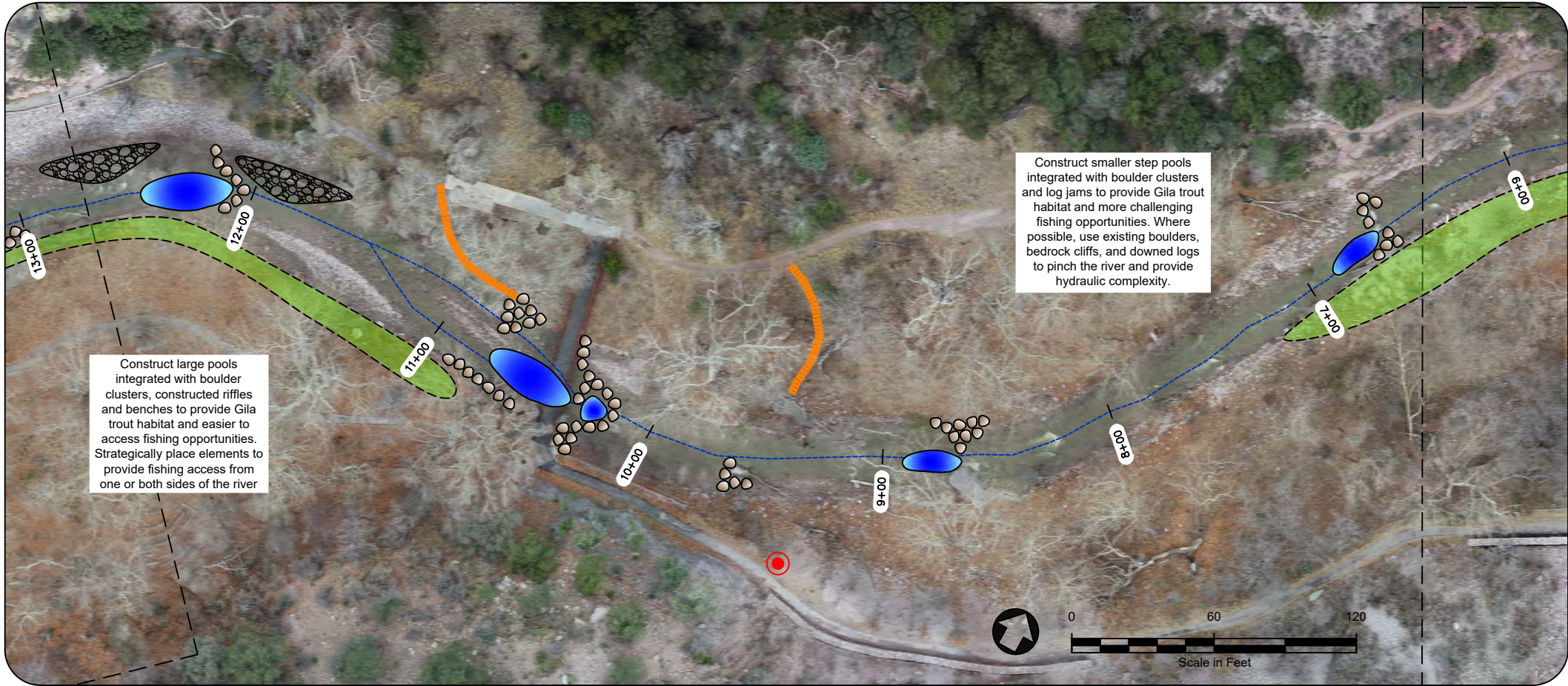
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DATE: 04.24.2023	OEE PROJECT #: NM-011-2	
DRAWING: Conceptual Improvement Sketches: Area 1 & 2		
DRAWING #: CIP02	SHEET #: 6 OF 7	REVISION #:

Conceptual Improvement Sketch: Area 3



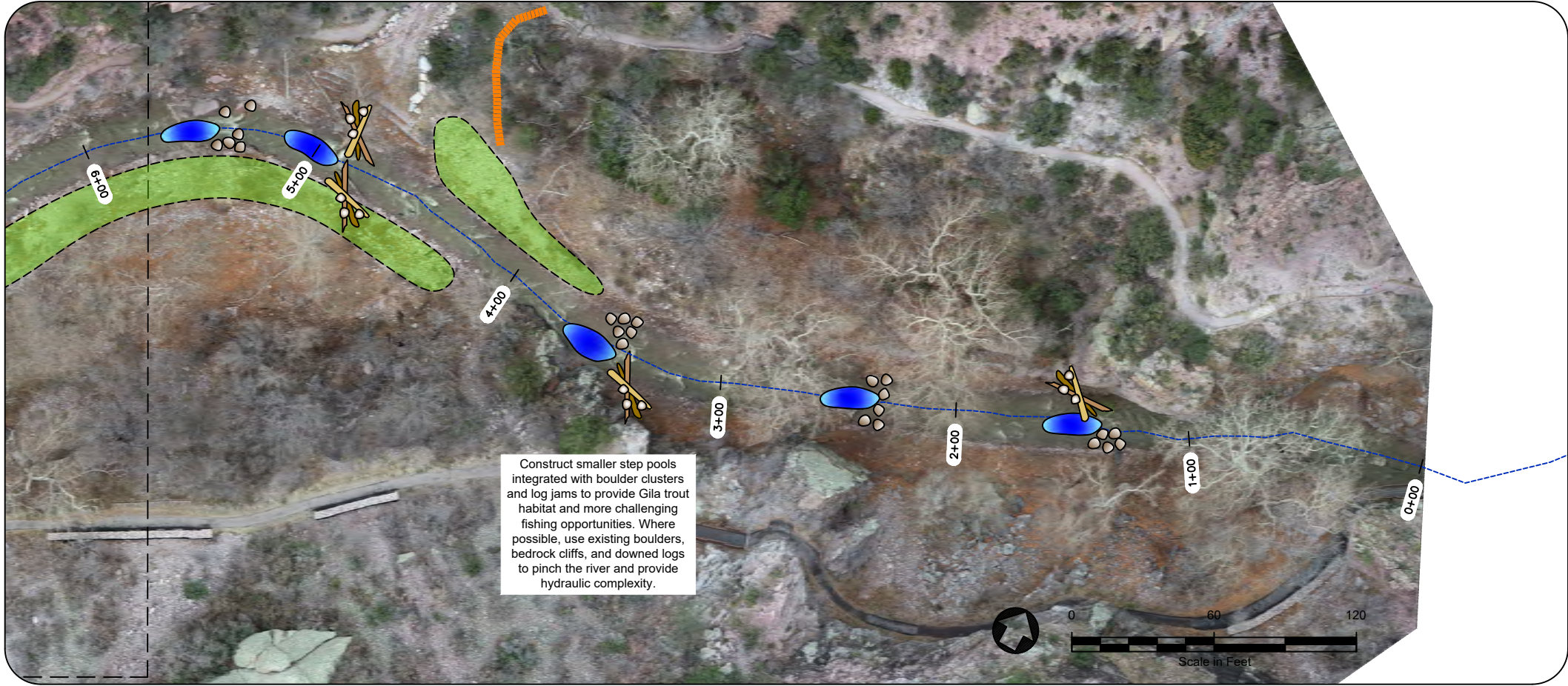
Legend

- Excavated Pool
- Habitat Boulders
- Habitat Logs
- Constructed Bench
- Riparian Planting Area
- Formalized Trail
- Trail Boardwalk/Catwalk
- Access Ramp
- Access Staircase

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Conceptual Improvement Sketch: Area 4



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DATE: 04.24.2023	OEE PROJECT #: NM-011-2
DRAWING: Conceptual Improvement Sketches: Area 3 & 4	
DRAWING #: CIP03	SHEET #: 7 OF 7
REVISION #: A	