

WESTERN NATIVE TROUT CHALLENGE



Arizona Game and Fish Department Adds Gila Trout to Trout Challenge

The Arizona Game and Fish Department now has two fish species in the Western Native Trout Challenge - Apache Trout and Gila Trout.

Only Apache Trout caught at the three locations indicated on [this map](#) (West Fork LCR, East Fork LCR, and upper West Fork Black) and Gila Trout caught at one location (Dude Creek) will "count" toward the Western Native Trout Challenge achievement levels. Check the [regulations](#) before you fish in Arizona.

Regulations state the streams are closed to fishing from January 1-April 30. They are open May 1-December 31 for catch-and-release only for trout. All trout must be released immediately unharmed - no trout may be kept. Only artificial flies and lures may be used, and single-pointed barbless hooks only.

For those anglers targeting Gila Trout in Arizona, the Arizona Game and Fish Department asks that they please take the time to fill out [this survey form](#) after each fishing trip targeting Gila Trout.



Trout Enthusiast Seeks To Complete Challenge and Two State Slams

Daniel Ritz, a journalist and digital media professional who is also an avid angler and a volunteer for Idaho Trout Unlimited, will be attempting to complete his Western Native Trout Challenge Master Caster level (catching 20 species across all 12 states) between May and September this year. Daniel is also attempting to complete the [Utah Cutthroat Slam](#) and the [Wyoming Cutt slam](#) at the same time he completes his Western Native Trout Challenge. Trout Unlimited, Orvis, Montana Fly Company and the Western Native Trout Initiative will be posting links to Daniel's articles, blog posts, and photos beginning at the end of May. Follow the [Western Native Trout Challenge Facebook page](#) and the hashtag #WesternTroutChallenge for more information and to read about Daniel's adventures.



Western Native Trout Challenge Stats-At-a-Glance

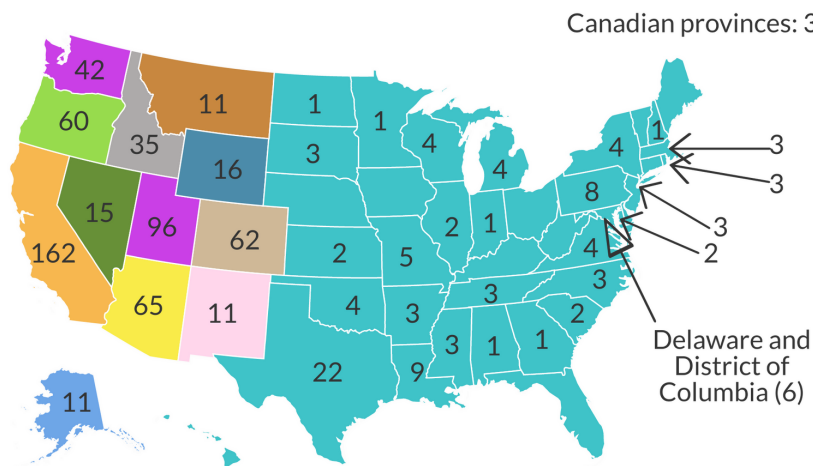
A total of 697 people have registered for the Challenge.

California leads the nation in registrants, followed by Utah, Arizona, and Oregon.

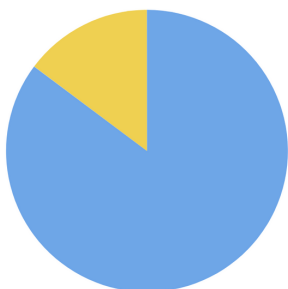
A total of 85% of registrants are male, and 15% are female.

Master Casters comprise 4% of Challenge completions, followed by Advanced Casters (18%) and Expert Casters (78%).

TOTAL REGISTRATIONS (697)

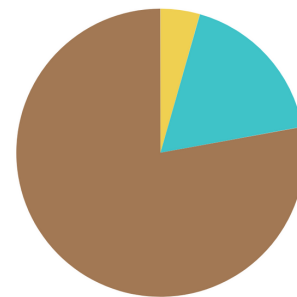


WNTI Trout Challenge Registrations



Male (85.22%) Female (14.78%)
(based on names submitted to registration database)

WNTI Trout Challenge Completions



Master Caster (4.42%) Advanced Caster (17.7%)
Expert Caster (77.88%)

WESTERN NATIVE TROUT STEERING COMMITTEE

The Western Native Trout Challenge is a program of the Western Native Trout Initiative. Operating under the guidance of the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Western Native Trout Initiative is governed by a Steering Committee that represents 12 western states, 5 federal resource management agencies, tribes, and nonprofit fisheries conservation organizations.

- Julie Meka Carter**, Chair, Arizona Game and Fish Dept.
- Jon Sjöberg**, Vice Chair, Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Drew Cushing**, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources
- Tom Stahl**, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Gillian O'Doherty**, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Kirk Patten**, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish
- Martin Koenig**, Idaho Department of Fish and Game
- Steve Caromile**, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Kelly Hepler**, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
- Chris Cantrell**, Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

- Paul Dey**, Wyoming Game and Fish Department
- Roger Bloom**, California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Trevor Watson**, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
- Matt Nicholl**, Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Melissa Dickard**, U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Yvette Paroz**, U.S. Forest Service
- Robert Clarke**, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Warren Colyer**, Trout Unlimited

STAFF

Therese Thompson, Coordinator
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If you have any questions about the Challenge,
please email us at
Challengeinfo@westernnativetrout.org.

