



WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY

www.westernrivers.org

Global Giving
Project Report Photos
March 2019

Rio de Los Pinos, Colorado: A Second Success on a First Rate Trout Stream

Completing our efforts on the Rio de Los Pinos, Western Rivers Conservancy has permanently protected some of the finest trout water in Colorado. In fall 2018, we conveyed our second property on the Los Pinos to the Rio Grande National Forest, protecting an additional 260 acres of prime open space and securing public access to a stunning stretch fly fishing water. Combined with the adjacent parcel we conserved last year, the land traces more than a mile of the Rio de Los Pinos along some its most accessible reaches, just off Highway 17, northeast of Chama, New Mexico. The Los Pinos is a gem of a trout stream, with healthy populations of brown and rainbow trout. Native Rio Grande cutthroat once thrived here, and the river's excellent cold-water habitat—including the reach that flows through these two properties—provides hope that these imperiled fish may one day be reintroduced.

Russ Schmitzer Photo



Gualala River, California: Protecting habitat for Salmon and Steelhead in Wine Country

At the edge of Northern California's wine country, WRC has launched an effort to protect a rare swath of old-growth redwood forest and rolling oak woodlands along the Wheatfield Fork Gualala River. The Wheatfield Fork is the largest of three major tributaries of the main-stem Gualala, one of the state's most important and still-viable salmon and steelhead rivers. The Wheatfield Fork, which meets the South Fork Gualala near the coastal town of Gualala, provides cold water and vital habitat for winter steelhead and coho salmon, populations that are dwindling throughout California. Upstream from the town of Gualala, we are working to place a conservation easement on an extraordinary property—the 4,344-acre Silva Ranch. Conservation of the ranch will protect an important reach of the Wheatfield Fork as well as a series of cold tributary streams that flow through the property—more than six miles of fish-bearing streams in all. Our efforts will also protect 41 acres of majestic old-growth redwood trees and a landscape of rolling oak woodlands, grasslands and mixed conifer forest.

Jason Hartwick photo

