

Ty's Highschool Trout Release

By Enzo Abbate and Kit Kline

Ty and her high school science class participated in an interesting statewide program named Trout in the Classroom this year. The purpose of this project is to help students to learn about the trout and their habitat. Ty and her high school class participated in a trout release on May 7th at the Pecos Terrero Campgrounds. All of the fish were hatchery born and raised to be wild.

Earlier on, the class was doing tests on the nutrients in the trouts diets, changes in the fish, the water quality, and the insects that could be found in the river. Students also needed to be looking for pollution sensitive organisms in the river. As part of this, students also dissected trout, and even learned how to prepare them for a meal. Before the trip, there was an idea that they would go fishing. For this project, they received their fish from the Game and Fish department. Ty raised nearly \$1,000 to make this project a possibility. Most of the funds went toward the purchase of the fishtank. Seven schools are participating in this program, an example of a few being Capital High School, Carlos Gilbert, and Gonzalez.

Our Experience

The morning of the trip was very chilly. We had left the school later than expected due to our bus being late. Finally, it arrived and we boarded around 9:15. The drive to our first location, the Lisboa Springs Fish Hatchery, was about 30 mins.

At the hatchery there were many enclosures with several different sizes of fish. Soon, we met our tour guide Kevin. He talked about certain animals going extinct, different diseases the trout could get, and so much more. Next we went to the river where we would release the fish. This location was protected from having people cutting down trees and making roads, helping to make a healthy fish population. With good water quality the trout are able to live in one location year round. Once a student was done with releasing a fish, there was a table set up with microscopes where we could view the many different creatures that the fish may eat. Surprisingly, there were many shrimp. After our time releasing the fish we finally left to go fishing and eat our lunches.

Finally, we would like to thank Ty and her science class for letting us join on this great and fun experience.