



# Reporting Our Progress in Caring for the Land and Serving People



## Stream Simulation Culverts – Success Through Collaboration Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants and Engineering Programs FY2012 Accomplishments Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forests, Rocky Mountain Region

**State:** Colorado

**Congressional District:** 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Accomplishments:**

- Replaced six culverts and installed one low-water ford.
- Fish passage provided to 16 miles of high quality habitat.
- Stream-simulation designs used to ensure high functionality and low-maintenance.

**Forest Service Contribution:** \$79,490

**Partner Contribution:** \$380,317

**Project Costs:** \$459,807

**External Partners:**

Rural Schools Act, Title II – Payment to Counties, Federal Highways (HTAP Program), Mesa and Saguache Counties.

**Internal Partners:**

Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plants, Engineering and Soil and Water Programs.

**Objective:** Replace/update stream crossings to maintain system roads, restore a functional floodplain and provide aquatic organism passage. Species benefitted include boreal toad, brook and brown trout and numerous small mammals who use riparian corridors for movement. The low-water ford was constructed on a stream targeted for a large-scale cutthroat translocation project scheduled for 2015. All six replaced culverts were in poor condition resulting in environmental damage and public safety concerns.

Partners funds covered all installation costs. Forest Service contributions paid for design and contract administration. Local contractors were used to install all six culverts and the Mesa County Road Crew installed the low-water ford. Total contract award costs were \$202,904, culvert purchase and supplies were \$177,413. With the replacements completed in 2012 and in prior years, the Forest has completed replacement of all non-functional culverts in three priority watersheds, restoring over 50 miles of high quality aquatic habitat.



Marshall Creek , pre-installation. Photo by Clay Speas, FS.



Marshall Creek with 20' stream simulation open-bottom arch. Photo by Clay Speas, FS.

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