

Habitat Project 2004-01

Canyon Creek Elk/Livestock Exclosure

This project, completed on May 5, 2004 used a private company on state contract to repair damaged water gaps and areas of the perimeter fence in the existing elk/livestock exclosure directly below the OW Bridge in Canyon Creek. This fence was damaged by flooding from the watershed affected by the Rodeo-Chediski fire in 2002, and again by monsoon storm runoff in 2003.

The exclosure was originally constructed in 2000 to encourage the development of woody vegetation along the stream. By allowing growth of riparian woody plant species, stream aquatic habitats will be shaded, therefore keeping water temperatures within tolerances for resident trout and native sucker and dace fish species. In-stream growth of watercress and other emergent vegetation will also be protected, providing instream cover for juvenile as well as adult resident sportfish species. Increased vigor and density of riparian vegetation will help to stabilize the stream channel and improve resilience to flood flows, which have been greatly magnified by degraded watershed conditions from the Rodeo-Cheiski fire.

Before photo:



Damaged exclosure fence- water gap lower end
Canyon Creek below OW Bridge

After:



