



ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

DECEMBER 2015

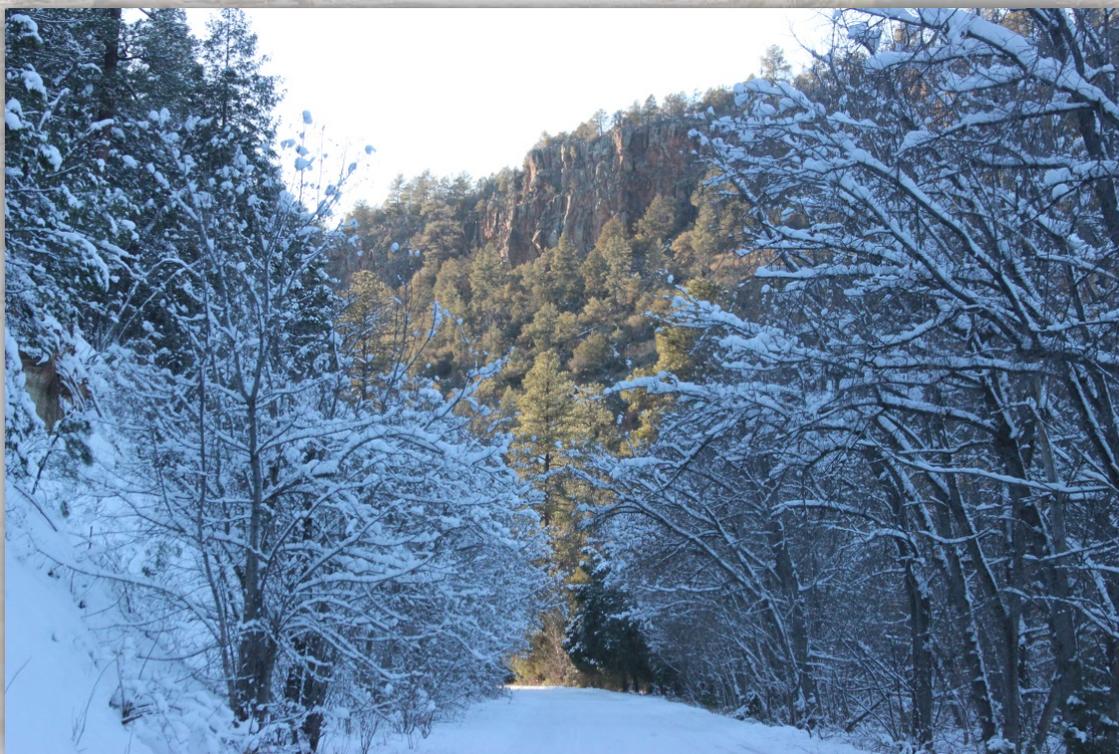
*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager
Travis Taylor- Administrative Technician*

ALCHESAY UNIT

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer*

WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist
John Fenslage – Maintenance Worker
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker
Carol Walker – Volunteer
Jonathon Walker-Volunteer*



CONSERVING AQUATIC SPECIES:

- At the end of the month after 7 spawn-takes, the Apache trout (APT) spawning crew has taken over 570,000 eggs and thus far has an average eye-up of 74%.
- One hundred and fifty female 3 year old APT were used for ovarian fluid sampling and these samples were sent to Fish Health at Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNARRC). Martha Keller, DVM, and her fish health team received the samples and will be checking for fish pathogens of concern.
- A Jensorter egg counter arrived during the December APT spawn season. This new tool is a huge asset to the operation since it counts exact egg numbers rather than using the less accurate volumetric displacement method previously used.
- The hatchery spawn taking crew would also like to extend a “shout out to Jennifer Johnson from the Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (AZFWCO) for all of her valuable assistance in this operation since it commenced on November 17, 2015.
- Thank you Travis Taylor (AWC- NFHC Administrative Technician) as well; for all of your assistance- when an “additional hand” was needed.
- Mandatory EPA water sampling was performed twice at both hatcheries this month. No EPA reporting violations occurred during the entire 2015 calendar year mostly due to the diligence of Gene Okamoto who took on this responsibility in addition to his regular duties as the Alchesay Unit Leader.



FULFILLING TRIBAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting among AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office), A-WC NFH (Alchesay –Williams Creek National Fish hatchery) and WMAT (White Mountain Apache Tribe) was hosted at AZFWCO. WMAT gave U.S Fish & Wildlife permission to obtain wild APT fish and milt from the East Fork of the Whiteriver. The Complex and AZFWCO personnel are planning on working closely with SNARRC personnel to ensure operational success.

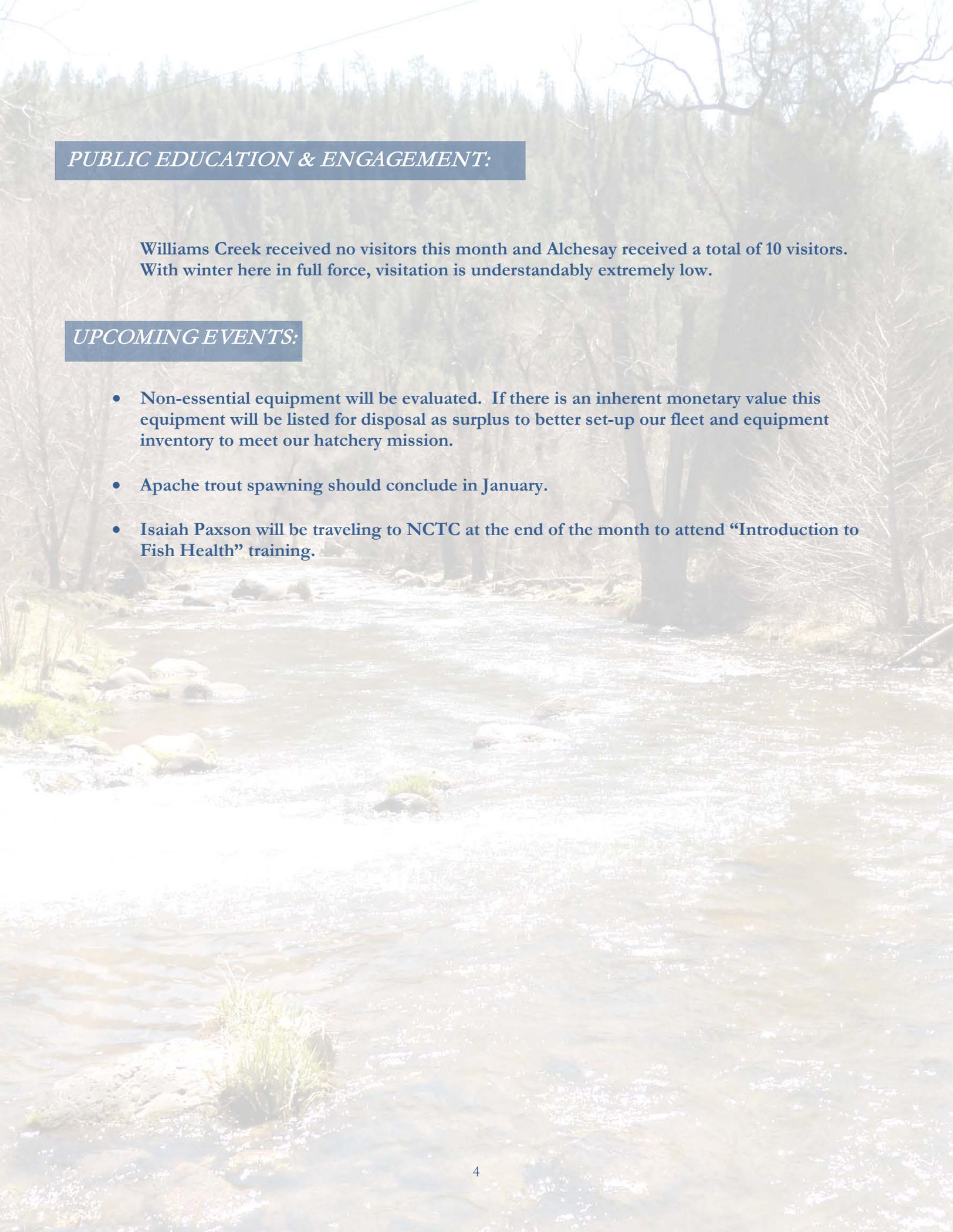
ENHANCE RECREATIONAL FISHING & OTHER PUBLIC USES OF AQUATIC RESOURCES:

- Monthly stocking consisted of Ohkay Owingeh's Tribal waters being stocked with 4,600~ 9 inch rainbow trout on December 10th.

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT, TRAINING & SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY:

- The Snow Policy was updated by the Complex's Unit Leader to better accommodate all employees while addressing "real safety" concerns when traveling to and from work in inclement weather.
- Safety issues were addressed in a morning meeting. Issues discussed included not going inside ponds to fill up feeders and how to stay safe on icy raceway walkways. Safety throw bags will be installed and available at all ponds.
- Carol Walker provided valuable assistance at the Alchesay Unit. She volunteered 91.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 63 hours at Alchesay toward fish culture duties, grounds maintenance and construction.
- Heavy snow fall at the end of the month at Williams Creek warranted the purchase of additional snow removal equipment. A mount was purchased for our Dodge pickup (to replace our previous surplus plow truck) which will help clear roads and hatchery grounds.
- Demolition of two old quarters at Williams Creek took place early December. The demo crew completed the project in three days.
- The Project and Unit Leaders were unable to attend this year's Regional FAC meeting held at the beginning of December in Albuquerque due to pre-approved leaves, emergency leaves, and ongoing APT spawning season obligations.





PUBLIC EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT:

Williams Creek received no visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 10 visitors. With winter here in full force, visitation is understandably extremely low.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Non-essential equipment will be evaluated. If there is an inherent monetary value this equipment will be listed for disposal as surplus to better set-up our fleet and equipment inventory to meet our hatchery mission.
- Apache trout spawning should conclude in January.
- Isaiah Paxson will be traveling to NCTC at the end of the month to attend “Introduction to Fish Health” training.