



Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



**AZFWCO Staff**

**Flagstaff**

- Jess Newton, Project Leader
- Kirk Young, Project Coordinator
- Randy Van Haverbeke, Senior Fish Biologist
- Dennis Stone, Fish Biologist
- Mike Pillow, Fish Biologist
- Jim Walters, Biological Technician
- Rick Deshler, Biological Technician



**Pinetop**

- Vacant, Assistant Project Leader
- Jeremy Voeltz, Project Coordinator
- Dominic Barrett, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Biologist
- Jennifer Johnson, Fish Biologist
- Kayla Barrett, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
- Travis Taylor, Biological Technician
- Karla McGhan, Administrative Officer
- Vacant, Office Assistant



**Parker**

- Mitch Thorson, Fish Biologist
- Tammy Knecht, Fish Biologist
- Robert Randall, Fish Biologist
- John Naugle, Biological Technician

AZFWCO Mission: Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and other aquatic organisms and their habitat in Arizona and the Southwest.

## Partnerships and Accountability

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Kayla Barrett coordinated and facilitated the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) teleconference. The teleconference consisted of a webinar given by Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership (GPFHP) coordinator regarding their habitat assessment; a discussion with Southern Rockies Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) coordinator and science coordinator regarding possible funding opportunities for a habitat assessment in the Rio Grande drainage basin; update on FWS new funding methodology for FHPs; update on the multi-state grant with Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI), DFHP, and GPFHP; update on the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Board meeting; and update on action items from DFHP's 2013 annual meeting. Kayla provided call notes and distributed to DFHP members and FWS staff.

Kirk Young and Jess Newton attended the Long Term Experimental Management and Planning (LTEMP) EIS stakeholder workshop in Phoenix. The workshop presented results from extensive modeling to predict the relative effects of proposed Glen Canyon Dam operational alternatives on resources (e.g., Aquatic Ecology, Archeology and Cultural Resources, Hydropower, Recreation, etc.).

Kayla Barrett completed a job shadow with Scott Roth, NFHP Regional Coordinator, and Pam Sponholtz, Project Leader for Colorado Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in Region 6. Kayla also attended the NFHP Board meeting and had a meeting with Steve Krentz, Great Plains FHP coordinator, and Kevin Johnson, Southern Rockies LCC coordinator, regarding a habitat assessment for the Rio Grande drainage basin for DFHP.

Scott, Pam, and Kayla looked at potential future fish passage projects at three different locations. Kayla also attended the "Empowering Others: Women's Wildlife Conservation Network" workshop.



Dominic Barrett assisted Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) with rocket netting wild turkeys in eastern Arizona. Twenty-six hens were captured, banded, and equipped with radio transmitters.



Dominic Barrett participated in the annual All Birds Conservation Initiative meeting in Pinetop.

Dominic Barrett participated in the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) State Conservation Partnership meeting in Boise.

Dominic Barrett developed a project list for FY14 Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW) projects and

submitted the list to the PFW Regional Coordinator.

Jeremy Voeltz participated in the Region 2 Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation monthly conference call hosted by the Regional Office.

Jeremy Voeltz and Kayla Barrett participated in a conference call with the New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas FWCO's; and Regional Office staff to discuss updates on the National Fish Passage Program and National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Jeremy Voeltz and Ben Ikenson (free-lance writer), with input from AZFWCO staff, drafted AZFWCO's 2013 annual report.

Randy Van Haverbeke participated on a conference call regarding the Glen Canyon Dam LTEMP EIS performance metrics for humpback chub, other native fish, and trout. The LTEMP group is still attempting to iron out and finalize the performance metrics in relation to water release temperatures, growth of humpback chub, etc.

Randy Van Haverbeke is working to finalize the document titled, "Translocation and Refuge Framework for Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*) in Grand Canyon." Randy attended a meeting with the National Park Service (NPS) and Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) to obtain input.

## Habitat Conservation and Management

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Dominic Barrett, AGFD Landowner Relations Program, and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) met with private landowners along the Blue River to discuss potential habitat restoration

projects and funding opportunities.

Kayla Barrett participated in a regional Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) webinar.

Kayla Barrett coordinated

discussions between DFHP members, science and data committee, FHP coordinators, and LCC coordinators regarding habitat assessments needed for DFHP.

Kayla Barrett solicited DFHP FY14 projects for nomination for NFHP's 10 "Waters to Watch".



## Public Use

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Mike Pillow and Jennifer Johnson are working together to develop an outreach program that will teach conservation to kids at the Flagstaff Public Library during their summer reading program.

Did you know AZFWCO had a

Facebook page? We post information on our staff, upcoming projects, educational events, and volunteer opportunities across the state. We currently have 462 "likes" from 20 countries. Check us out at [www.facebook.com/AZFWCO](http://www.facebook.com/AZFWCO).

Check out DFHP's Facebook page. We post information on projects, request for proposals, pictures, steering committee news, and much more. <http://www.facebook.com/>

## Cooperation with Native Americans

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Kirk Young, Jeremy Voeltz, and Jess Newton attended a Hopi Interdisciplinary Team meeting to discuss options for management of Pasture Canyon Lake. Pasture Canyon Dam is scheduled for safety-related construction this summer that will partially drain the lake. Discussion focused on options to remove invasive fish (gold fish, green sunfish) and replace with species that will provide better recreation and reduce threats to downstream aquatic resources. Options include complete desiccation or use of an approved piscicide and restocking with a warmwater (bluegill/largemouth)

fishery. Winter trout is of great interest to the tribe.

Dominic Barrett completed an extension of time modification for the PFW-funded Carrizo, Cibecue, and White River Watersheds Improvement Project.

Jeremy Voeltz attended a "Safety of Dams" meetings with the Hopi Tribe and U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs to further discuss the upcoming drawdown and dam repair at Pasture Canyon Reservoir.

## Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

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Jennifer Johnson assisted the Arizona Ecological Services Office (AESO) with the field study "PBDEs in Fish Downstream of Urban Areas in the Desert Southwest" which is funded by U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Jennifer Johnson and Jeremy Voeltz attended the Apache trout implementation meeting with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD). The group continued planning for the 2014 field season. Jennifer agreed to lead the effort to develop a standardized monitoring plan for recovery populations of Apache trout.

Kirk Young coordinated and attended a follow up meeting with AZGFD, USGS, U.S Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and NPS to continue to identify information and management needs for the 2015-2016 Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Plan biannual budget. Several proposals were discussed that will result in new scopes of work for consideration in the next budget cycle.

Kirk Young attended the Lake Mohave and Lake Mead work group meetings. Due to schedules and personnel vacancies, AZFWCO could not participate in the March razorback roundup on Lake Mohave. Progress was made in the

Lake Mead group to incorporate low-level augmentation of razorbacks to increase population size and address indications of decreasing genetic diversity and increasing relatedness in the population.

Kirk Young and Randy Van Haverbeke developed and submitted five new pre-proposals for 2015-2016 Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Plan biannual budget. Proposals included Humpback Chub (HBC) Aggregation Augmentation, Juvenile HBC VIE Assessment, HBC Genetic Analysis, Grand Canyon PIT Tag Remote Sensing, and Little Colorado River Aquatic Invasive Species Surveillance.

## Leadership in Science and Technology

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A manuscript was published on which Randy Van Haverbeke was a contributing coauthor: Yackulic CB, MD Yard, J Korman, and DR Van Haverbeke. 2014. A quantitative life history of endangered humpback chub that spawn in the Little Colorado River: variation in movement, growth, and survival. *Ecology and Evolution*, pp. 1-

13 Available: <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/ece3.990/pdf>

Dennis Stone completed multiple reviews of manuscripts concerning the growth rates, movement patterns, and survivorships of juvenile humpback chub in the Little

Colorado River (LCR), which is first-authored by Maria Dzul (GCMRC). Dennis is also a coauthor.

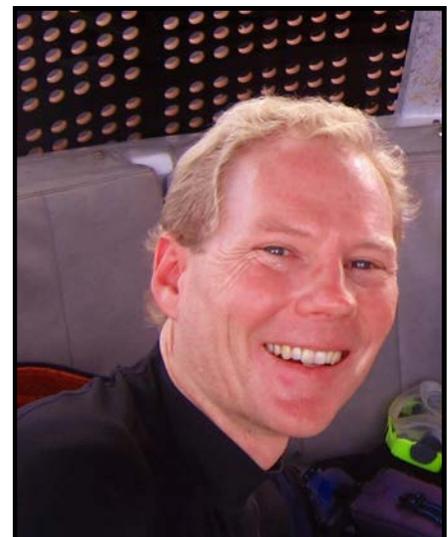
Dennis Stone completed a rough draft manuscript concerning the humpback chub translocation experiment, and distributed it to other presumed coauthors.

## Workforce Management

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Jess Newton, the new Project Leader for AZFWCO, arrived on March 24. Jess Newton comes to us from the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office - Ecological Services, where he served as the Assistant Field Supervisor for Maui and Hawaii Island and, previously, as the Recovery Program Leader. In the Pacific Islands, Jess' work focused on implementation of the Endangered Species Act: including consultations, HCP's, recovery permits, and recovery planning. Prior to that, Jess spent 12 years at the Red Bluff Fish and Wildlife Office, California, where he served as a

fisheries program manager, working to recover listed Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Jess also worked for the USGS conducting radio telemetry research on migration patterns of juvenile fish affected by large hydropower facilities on the Snake River, Idaho. Welcome to AZFWCO Jess! Staff participated in an All Staff Meeting with the new project leader, Jess Newton.



## Workforce Management *continued...*

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Kayla Barrett completed the February AZFWCO Accomplishment Report.

Mike Pillow sent out the confirmation/notification emails to volunteers for the 2014 Little Colorado River field season. He worked with Kirk Young, Dennis Stone, and Randy Van Haverbeke to finalize the roster for each trip from the list of volunteers and USFWS and partner agency personnel. A total of 49 volunteers expressed interest, and 22 were selected to participate in one of our four trips. He also compiled and mailed out the volunteer info packets to the April and May volunteers.

Mike Pillow worked with Tammy Knecht to put together the AZFWCO permit report for AGFD. He submitted the collecting permit renewal materials in early March.

Kirk Young took Veteran Employment Training for Hiring Managers and Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA) training online.

Randy Van Haverbeke participated in an Aviation Program Evaluation for GCMRC's interagency helicopter flight operations into the Little Colorado River. The meeting was attended by upper level regional aviation evaluation specialists from the Office of Aviation Services (Boise, ID) and USGS (Denver, CO and Reston, VA). Representative personnel from the Southwest Biological Science Center (Director) and GCMRC (Deputy Chief) were present, as well as Carol Fritzing (GCMRC).

Randy Van Haverbeke finalized the 2014 Interagency Project Aviation Safety Plan and Evacuation Plan

and distributed to cooperators.

Staff completed 2014 Federal Information Systems Security Awareness + Privacy and Records Management, NSC Defensive Driving II, and Electrofishing Safety trainings.

### **Upcoming Events:**

GCDAMP Technical Work Group meeting in Phoenix - April 8&9

Spring LCR HBC stock assessment trip I - April 15-25.

Spring LCR HBC stock assessment trip II - May 13-23.

Colorado River HBC Aggregation trip – July 19 – Aug 4.

