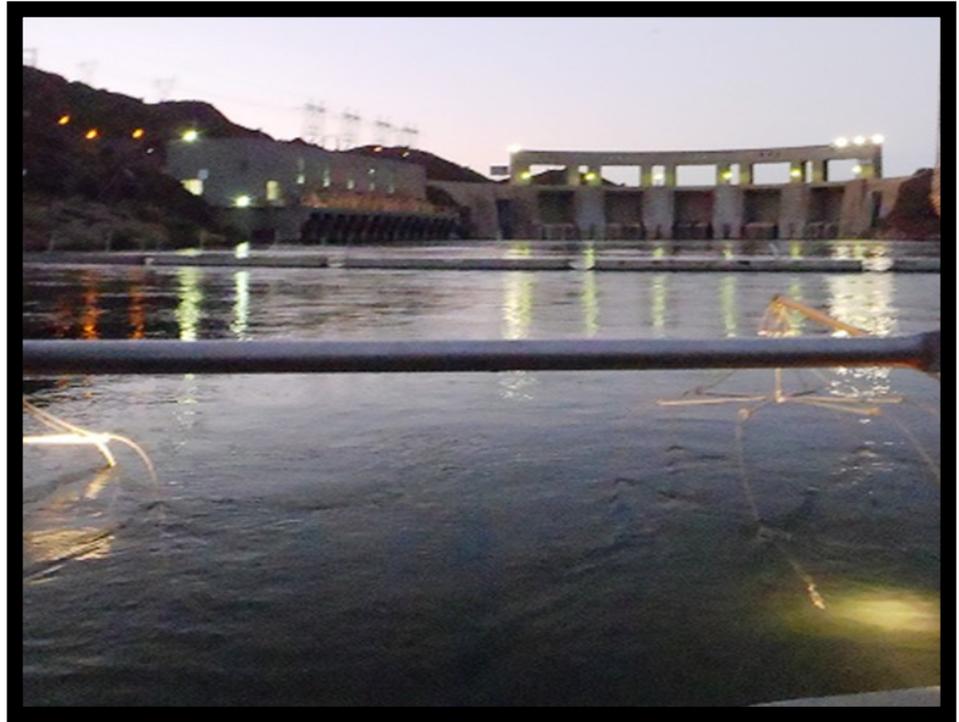




Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



AZFWCO Staff

Pinetop

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

Flagstaff

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

Parker

Mitch Thorson, Fish Biologist
 Tammy Knecht, Fish Biologist
 Robert Randall, Fish Biologist
 John Naugle, Biological Technician
 Sean O’Kray, Biological Technician

Apache Trout Crew

Jason Fischer, Biological Technician
 Alex Poole, Biological Technician
 Alissa Almaraz, 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

Kayla Barrett coordinated and facilitated DFHP's (Desert Fish Habitat Partnership) annual meeting via teleconference. Topics discussed were the MSCG (Multi-State Conservation Grant) to Promote Strategic Fish Habitat Conservation through Regionally-coordinated Science and Collaboration, which projects to allocate DFHP funding to, DFHP's outreach and education needs, how to solicit more DFHP project proposals. Following the main meeting, a Springs and Cienega Restoration webinar was presented by staff from the Spring Stewardship

Institute.

Kirk Young and Jeremy Voeltz attended the 2012 Desert Fishes Council Annual Meeting in Death Valley, CA.

Mitch Thorson participated in the Colorado River Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force and Lake Havasu Quagga Coordination Team meetings held in Lake Havasu City.

Jeremy Voeltz and Kit Hershey met with staff from the Bureau of Indian

Affairs, WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe-Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division), and the White Mountain Youth Corps to discuss options to get the new youth corps up and running in 2013.

Other Accomplishments: AZFWCO staff participated in the monthly Fishery Coordination meeting among AZFWCO, A-WC NFH (Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery), and WMAT-WORD.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Jason Fischer and Alex Poole completed mapping habitat and conducting population surveys in one Apache trout streams using the BVET (Basinwide Visual Estimation



Technique). A total of eight Apache trout streams were surveyed using this method in 2012. Additionally, the crew completed brown trout removal efforts for 2012. During the 2012 season, multi-pass mechanical removal of brown trout

in 44 miles of streams resulted in the removal of 5,280 brown trout and the capture of 10,641 Apache trout. The crew also completed seven barrier evaluations in 2012, marking 656 brown trout below barriers.



Rob Randall worked with USBR (US Bureau of Reclamation) staff at Imperial NWR to check for the presence of razorback sucker and bonytail by electrofishing within Ponds 1, 2, 4, and 6. No native fish were collected from Ponds 2, 4, and 6, and only two razorback suckers were collected from Pond 1.

Public Use

Kayla Barrett published DFHP's quarterly newsletter Volume 3 Number 3 and distributed to Service staff, DFHP committees, LCC (Landscape Conservation Cooperative) coordinators, NFHP (National Fish Habitat Partnership) coordinators, state agency staff, and others.

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 336 "likes" from 20 countries. Check us out at www.facebook.com/AZFWCO.

Check out DFHP's Facebook page. We post information on projects, request for proposals, pictures, and much more. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Desert-Fish-Habitat-Partnership/193053497376208>

facebook

Cooperation with Native Americans

Rob Randall, Mitch Thorson, and volunteers participated in a native fish survey on the CRIT (Colorado River Indian Tribe) Reservation.



Mitch Thorson and Kit Hershey assisted with rainbow trout stocking on the Fort Mohave Indian Reservation. The trout came from Willow Beach NFH.

Kirk Young and Tammy Knecht finalized the CRIT Literature Review in support of razorback and bonytail work on CRIT lands. The literature review was provided to USBR to meet contractual obligations.

Jeremy Voeltz completed a data call from the Regional Office for Tribal consultations completed by AZFWCO from May to September of 2012.

Jeremy Voeltz, Mitch Thorson, Kirk Young, and Kit Hershey began contacting Tribes to let them know that the Service is beginning the process to complete a Section 7 consultation for Service fish stockings on Tribal lands in AZ.

Leadership in Science and Technology

In preparation for an electrofishing study, Dominic Barrett and Travis

Taylor tagged 200 Apache trout with Visible Implant Alpha Tags

(Northwest Marine Technology, Inc.).

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Dominic Barrett participated in an ADEQ (Arizona Department of Environmental Quality) public meeting in Holbrook. ADEQ staff and meeting participants discussed water quality parameters in the Little Colorado River Watershed and available funding opportunities.

Partnership's funding for habitat assessments, completed a survey for DFHP for the River Network who is working with NFHP to help improve the partnerships, and participated in the GPFHP webinar discussing how they completed their habitat assessment.

Dominic Barrett completed an agreement modification to extend the performance period for the Beaver Creek Riparian Protection Project.

Tammy Knecht completed contractual water quality monitoring at Alamo Lake and Cibola NWR.

Kayla Barrett completed the following actions as the DFHP Coordinator: coordinated and distributed revised DFHP 2013 proposals to DFHP Ranking and Steering committees for review, coordinated with Service Fishery Information System users in NV and TX to enter DFHP 2013 project proposals, participated in a teleconference with WNTI (Western Native Trout Initiative) and GPFHP (Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership) coordinators, Region 6 NFHP coordinator, and DFHP's federal co-chair to discuss the multistate conservation grant that will provide western Fish Habitat

Dominic Barrett met with a private landowner and Heart and Horn Ecological Services, LLC, to collect forest stand information and to discuss possible thinning prescriptions for the Turkey Spring Forest Management Project near Vernon.

Rob Randall completed native fish backwater water quality monitoring at River's Edge Golf Course, Office Cove, Parker Dam Pond, Emerald Canyon Golf Course Ponds 1, 9, and 11, High Levee Pond, Three Fingers Lake, and Topock Marsh.

Dominic Barrett reviewed payment information for the Little Colorado River Stream and Riparian Restoration Project. The project has been completed and all obligated funds have been spent.



Workforce Management

Alex Poole and Jason Fischer completed their 2012 seasonal appointments with AZFWCO. They primarily worked on Apache trout recovery related projects. Thank you for the excellent work and good luck on future career plans.

Sean O'Kray and Alissa Almaraz completed their two-month assignments as Special Needs Hires. Sean worked on giant salvinia control and Alissa worked on Apache trout recovery projects. Thanks and good luck.

Kit Hershey completed her 30-day detail as the Project Leader for AZFWCO and Stewart Jacks completed his 30-day detail as the Strategic Communication & Outreach Manager for the National Conservation Training Center. These assignments were part of the training for the Advanced Leadership Development Program.

Tammy Knecht and Jennifer Johnson completed recertification of their AZ Commercial Pesticide Applicator Licenses.

Stewart Jacks participated in the Headquarters Office SHC/Surrogate Species Workshop.

Kirk Young completed distance-learning supervisor training.

Staff completed Bison Connect email training in DOI-Learn.

Staff participated in AZFWCO's monthly teleconference covering topics that included budget, personnel, safety, training, and work schedules.