



## Monthly Accomplishments

## August 2016

### Fisheries Activities

In cooperation with Pueblos of Isleta and Sandia Environment Departments, Thomas Archdeacon, Eileen Henry, & Joshua Grant completed monthly monitoring for Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) in the middle Rio Grande. Monitoring determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged RGSM from augmentation and research efforts. In addition to RGSM, crews identify and count all other fish species encountered including Longnose Dace, Red Shiner, and Fathead Minnow.



Rio Grande, north of Albuquerque.



A Longnose Dace collected during RGSM monthly monitoring.

Tom Sinclair, Bobby Duran, Stuart Wilkins, Stephen Davenport, Roy Ulibarri, Joshua Grant, and Weston Furr began the second round of back-to-back endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish removal trips on the San Juan River from Shiprock, New Mexico to

Montezuma Creek, Utah. Crews completed three week-long trips with the assistance of the USFWS Grand Junction (Region 6), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Navajo Nation Department of Game and Fish, and American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers. Nonnative fish removal is one management tool used by the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP) for the recovery of the endangered Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker. The final removal trip will be completed in September before annual Fall Monitoring begins.

The New Mexico FWCO continued RGSM salvage operations. As a result of water diversions, long stretches of the Rio Grande go dry during the irrigation season. In response to surface flow intermittence crews from New Mexico FWCO use UTVs to rescue RGSM from isolated pools and relocate them to locations with flowing water. In August, crews salvaged 0.8 new miles of drying that were located in the Isleta Reach of the Rio Grande. Crews collected 1,037 RGSM and released 993 to flowing water. A final report will be submitted to the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program once salvage operations are completed.



Rio Grande Silvery Minnow collected during salvage operations.

Stephen Davenport and Weston Furr completed fish community monitoring on the Pecos River. Data will be used to define the status of the fish community, with emphasis on Pecos Bluntnose Shiner, in response to federal water management actions.

### Meetings and Trainings

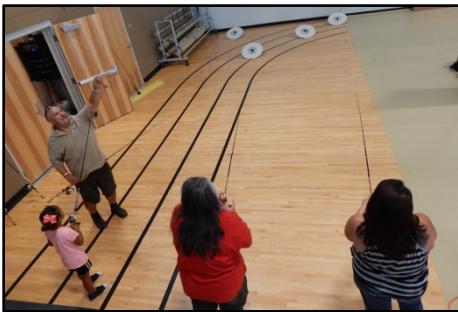
The NMFWCO hosted the Gila Trout and Chihuahua Chub Recovery Team meeting. Topics discussed included revision of the Gila Trout Recovery Plan, remaining field surveys and stocking needs for Fall 2016. Members also provided updates to restoration schedules and preliminary results for surveys completed earlier in the year. Tom Turner, with UNM, provided an update concerning genetics of the Gila Trout, advising tests should be completed by Fall/Winter 2016 to determine the genetic status of the Iron Creek Lineage. The Recovery Team meets on a biannual basis and will meet again in Spring 2017.

Weston Furr completed Collateral Duty Safety Officer Training held at the Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Chris Kitcheyan participated in the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference hosted by the Navajo Nation in Flagstaff, Arizona.

## Education and Outreach

Chris Kitcheyan and Angela James participated in the Pueblo of Santa Ana's 17th Annual Environmental Fair hosted by the Pueblo of Santa Ana Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The Santa Ana DNR had 452 community members sign in and participate in the fair. The New Mexico FWCO staff provided live displays of Rio Grande fishes, coloring books, pamphlets, and interactive activities. Community members of all ages tried their hand at fish casting, while the youth set out to make their very own fish.



Chris Kitcheyan helping a young girl with her fish casting skills, while two adults compete to hit the target first.



Youth creating their very own flexi-fish at our booth.



Flexi-fish made by youth who attended the Environmental Fair.

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OR:

On Twitter [@USFWSNMFWCO](https://twitter.com/USFWSNMFWCO)

## Upcoming Activities

Scheduled activities and meetings are listed below.

Dates are subject to change.

### September 2016

5<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>: Endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish control, San Juan River

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>: Lake Survey, Asaayi Lake, Navajo Nation

10<sup>th</sup>: Bitter Lake Dragonfly Festival, Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>: Zuni Bluehead and Bluehead Sucker Monitoring, Navajo Nation

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>: Sub-adult and adult fish community monitoring, San Juan River

26<sup>th</sup>: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Isleta

27<sup>th</sup>: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Sandia

### October 2016

11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>: Whiskey Creek Fish Passage Project, Navajo Nation

16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>: Fall Survey, Navajo River, Jicarilla Apache Nation

24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>: Rio Rancho Children's Water Festival, Rio Rancho, New Mexico

24<sup>th</sup>: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Isleta

25<sup>th</sup>: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Sandia

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## Current Staff

Tom Sinclair ..... Project Leader  
Jason E. Davis ..... Assistant Project Leader  
Angela Carrillo..... Administrative Officer  
Stephen R. Davenport ..... Supervisory Fish Biologist  
D. Chris Kitcheyan ..... Supervisory Fish Biologist  
D. Weston Furr ..... Fish Biologist  
Thomas P. Archdeacon..... Fish Biologist  
Bobby R. Duran..... Fish Biologist  
Angela P. James..... Fish Biologist  
Andy T. Dean ..... Fish Biologist  
Roy M. Ulibarri ..... Fish Biologist  
Stuart H. Wilkins..... Biological Science Technician  
Eileen Henry ..... Biological Science Technician  
Joshua Grant..... Biological Science Technician