



Monthly Accomplishments

July 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). Monitoring determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish from augmentation and research efforts.

Angela James, Roy Ulibarri, and Chris Kitcheyan assisted Pueblo of Santa Ana Department of Natural Resources with quarterly native small-bodied fish monitoring on the Rio Grande.



Sampling crew collecting fish and water quality data.

The New Mexico FWCO began RGSM salvage operations on July 11. 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 July, crews salvaged 19.2

miles that were located along and upstream of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge. Crews collected and released 4,195 RGSM from 290 isolated pools and returned them to flowing water. Several thousand more were found deceased. A final report will be submitted to the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program once salvage operations are completed.



Salvaged Rio Grande Silvery Minnow.



The challenges of salvage. A UTV stuck in the quick sand of a drying Rio Grande.

Chris Kitcheyan assisted the Jicarilla Apache Game and Fish Department with Navajo River fish community surveys with emphasis on Roundtail Chub. Crews also completed nonnative fish removal and an assessment of habitat use by fish within restoration sites.

Chris Kitcheyan and Roy Ulibarri assisted Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) complete annual fish surveys. Emphasis was on the Largemouth Bass population at Morgan Lake on Navajo Nation.



Glenn Selby, Navajo Nation DFW, holding a Largemouth Bass.

Meetings and Trainings

Thomas Archdeacon and Tom Sinclair participated in the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program's Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) Population Workshop held in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Andy Dean, Roy Ulibarri, and Joshua Grant successfully completed FWS Off-Road Utility Vehicle Safety Training instructed by Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge staff.

Tom Sinclair, Stephen Davenport, and Jason E. Davis attended Sexual Harassment training hosted by the Regional Office.

Education and Outreach

Angela James, Stuart Wilkins, Chris Kitcheyan, Joshua Grant, and Tom Sinclair participated in the Pueblo of Sandia Environmental Department's annual Let's Be Fish Event. Twenty-eight campers ranging from first through eighth grade had the opportunity to learn hands-on about how to collect water quality data, capture and identify fish using a seine net, capture and identify aquatic invertebrates, and expand native language skills. Demonstrations were also given on capturing fish with backpack and raft-mounted electrofishing units, a fyke net, and tagging fish with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags.



Chris and Tom help students identify fish caught by seine.

Angela James, Bobby Duran, and Stuart Wilkins participated in the Pueblo of Tesuque Summer Camp. The Youth Camp hosted 40 kindergarten through middle school-aged students. Crews demonstrated backpack electro-

fishing, then guided the students through tasks including netting, weighing and measuring fish.



Youth attempting to measure a feisty fish.

Andy Dean, Stuart Wilkins, Roy Ulibarri, and Angela James assisted Acoma Game and Fish with the second Youth Outreach event held at Acomita Lake. Approximately 16 students and seven youth leaders participated. Staff led multiple stations including macro-invertebrate identification, fisheries sampling gear, and fish identification.



A young student learning how to weigh a fish.



Andy and Roy showing youth the ins and outs of an electrofishing raft.

Angela James presented *Aquatic Animals* to members of the New

Mexico Garden Club attending a two-day Environmental School in Socorro, New Mexico. After defining *aquatic animal*, Angela provided an overview of the diverse habitats (ocean and freshwater), life-cycles, and human impacts world-wide. To close it out, an emphasis was placed on the Rio Grande and the aquatic animals it supports, specifically fish of the Rio Grande.

Tom Sinclair and Angela James participated in the 3rd Annual Pueblo of Isleta Environmental Fair. Our booth consisted of live displays of Rio Grande fishes, coloring books, and pamphlets. In addition, staff provided mock fish for youth to measure and identify along with fishing poles and targets. Community members of all ages braved the heat to try their hand at fish casting.



Angela teaching kids to cast a fishing pole.



Youth identifying a fish before he weighs and measures it.

Chris Kitcheyan was invited back to speak to 22 Native Youth

at the second San Carlos Summer Youth Camp in San Carlos, Arizona. As a Native American Professional, Chris talked to the youth about his challenges, education, and experiences leading to his profession. In addition, Chris gave a demonstration on backpack electro-fishing.

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Upcoming Activities

Scheduled activities and meetings are listed below. Dates are subject to change.

August 2016

2nd-5th: Collateral Duty Safety Officer Training, Albuquerque

4th: Gila Trout and Chihuahua Chub Recovery Meeting, Albuquerque

8th – 11th: Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Conference, Flagstaff, Arizona

10th: 12th: Fish Community Monitoring, Pecos River

13th: Environmental Fair, Pueblo of Santa Ana

15th – 19th and 22nd – 26th:
Endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish control, San Juan River

29th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Isleta

29th – September 2nd :
Endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish control, San Juan River

30th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Sandia

September 2016

5th – 9th : Endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish control, San Juan River

10th: Bitter Lake Dragonfly Festival, Roswell, New Mexico

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

26th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Isleta

27th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Sandia

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