



## Monthly Accomplishments

## June 2015

### Fisheries Activities

Stephen Davenport, Andy Dean, Weston Furr, and Tristan Austring completed Pecos River fish community monitoring at twelve sites near Roswell, New Mexico. Data from these monitoring efforts are used to define the status of the fish community, with emphasis on Pecos Bluntnose Shiner. Additional support was provided by a volunteer student based at Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center.

In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta Environment Department, Thomas Archdeacon and Tristan Austring completed monthly monitoring for Rio Grande Silvery Minnow. Monitoring determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish from augmentation and research efforts.

In collaboration with U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), Dustin Myers completed nonnative fish removal and Gila Chub monitoring on Turkey Creek (Sycamore to Miller Springs Cabin), Gila National Forest.

In cooperation with Zuni Fish and Wildlife and New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, Chris Kitcheyan observed Zuni

Bluehead Suckers in natural habitats located on The Nature Conservancy properties. The observations were intended to document spawning behaviors of the endangered Zuni Bluehead Sucker. Crews were able to observe several spawning events during their site visit.

In collaboration with USFS and NMDGF, Dustin Myers completed recovery population monitoring for Gila Trout. Monitoring sites included Sheep Corral, Little Creek, and Big Dry Creek within the Gila National Forest. In addition, crews completed 4(d) Conservation Monitoring on Sapillo Creek also for Gila Trout.

Andy Dean assisted Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge with quarterly fish community monitoring of their sinkholes and spring runs.

Angela James, USFS, and Kansas State University assisted NMDGF with annual monitoring and nonnative species removal (e.g. bullhead, and bull frogs) on the West Fork Gila River near the Heart Bar Ranch in the Gila National Forest. Crews collected several species of native fishes including Gila Trout, Loach Minnow, Spikedace, and Headwater Chub.



Headwater Chub.



An adult male Spikedace in breeding colors.

Weston Furr assisted USFWS Grand Junction (Region 6) with the second of four endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish removal and control trips on the San Juan River from Shiprock, New Mexico to Mexican Hat, Utah. This trip is usually a 10-day rafting event, however due to safety concerns related to high flows the trip was cut short.

Dustin Myers assisted Mora National Fish Hatchery with the collection of Sonora and Desert Suckers from the West Fork Gila River, Gila National Forest. These fish will be part of their naturalized rearing program.

## Meetings and Trainings

Thomas Archdeacon, Bobby Duran, Jason E. Davis and Eileen Henry completed Off Road Utility Vehicle (ORUV) training held at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

## Education and Outreach

Chris Kitcheyan and Andy Dean participated in the Tribal Youth Environment Summer Camp (TYESC) sponsored by the Eight Northern Pueblos and hosted by the Pueblo of Taos. The Youth Camp hosted 26 students and 10 student mentors from the northern Pueblos. Andy and Chris demonstrated backpack electroshocking then guided the students through sampling procedures. Students rotated through each task including netting, weighing and measuring fish, and data recording.

Chris Kitcheyan and Angela James participated in the Southwest Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Youth Practicum hosted by the White Mountain Apache Tribe at the Maverick Elk Camp in Arizona. Chris and Angela demonstrated backpack electroshocking on Pechita Creek. Students rotated through each task including netting, weighing and measuring fish, and data recording.



**Students weigh and measure fish and record data during their electro-shocking session.**

Chris Kitcheyan, Thomas Archdeacon, Dustin Myers, Eileen Henry, Tristan Austring, and Angela James assisted Acoma Game and Fish with a Youth Outreach event held at Acoma Lake, Pueblo of Acoma. Staff led multiple stations including macroinvertebrates, fisheries equipment, and bird-watching.



**Tristan Austring helps a student try on a backpack electro-shocker.**

Chris Kitcheyan and Angela James were invited to speak to approximately 18 Native Youth at the San Carlos Summer Youth Camp in San Carlos, Arizona. The session was for Native

American Professionals to talk about their challenges, education, and experiences leading to their given profession. In addition, it was a time to provide advice and encouragement to the youth in achieving their goals.



**Chris Kitcheyan speaks to Native Youth about his path to achieving his goals.**

## Science and Technology

With assistance from the University of New Mexico, American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers Inc., LLC and NMESFO, staff from NMFWCO initiated a laboratory experiment to measure the incidence of choking on Channel Catfish by Colorado Pikeminnow. The purpose of this experiment is to assess how Channel Catfish may have deleterious effects on Colorado Pikeminnow through predation interactions. Thanks to Southwestern Native ARRC for the provision of the Colorado Pikeminnow and Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery for the Channel Catfish.

## Personnel

The New Mexico FWCO would like to welcome Eileen Henry and to our office. Eileen is our new seasonal Biological Science Technician assigned to the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow salvage crew.

## Upcoming Activities

Activities and meetings currently scheduled are listed below.

### July 2015

1<sup>st</sup>: Youth Outreach at Acomita Lake, Pueblo of Acoma

6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: Fish Community Monitoring, Rio Hondo

6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>: Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal and Control from Shiprock, NM to Montezuma Creek, Utah

13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>: Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal and Control from Hogback Diversion to Shiprock, New Mexico

15<sup>th</sup>: Let's be Fish, Pueblo of Sandia

18<sup>th</sup>: Environmental Fair, Pueblo of Isleta

U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Southwest Region  
Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation



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## Current staff members

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  
Dustin J. Myers..... Fish Biologist  
Angela P. James..... Fish Biologist  
Bobby R. Duran..... Fish Biologist  
Andy T. Dean ..... Fish Biologist  
Ernie Teller Sr. .... Biological Science Technician  
Eileen Henry ..... Biological Science Technician  
Tristan L. Austring ..... Pathways Student