



Monthly Accomplishments

June 2016

Fisheries Activities

Stephen Davenport, Weston Furr and Angela James completed fish community monitoring on the Pecos River at five sites extending from Willow (30 miles north of Roswell) to Dexter, New Mexico. 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.



Stephen and Weston collecting water quality data prior to seining.



Endangered Pecos Bluntnose Shiner.

In cooperation with Pueblos of Isleta and Sandia Environment Departments, Thomas Archdeacon, Eileen Henry, & Joshua Grant completed monthly monitoring for Rio Grande Silvery Minnow. Monitoring

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

Chris Kitcheyan and Roy Ulibarri collaborated with Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery and Southwestern Fish Health Unit with collection of wild fish from Cooley Lake for fish health testing.



Gill and trammel nets set in Cooley Lake, prior to electro-fishing with raft.

Chris Kitcheyan, Roy Ulibarri, and Angela James assisted Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife with nonnative fish species removal in Whiskey Creek. The removal of nonnatives is expected to benefit native fish Bluehead Sucker and Speckled Dace.



Nonnative crayfish eating a native Speckled Dace in Whiskey Creek.



Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife Department staff weighing a nonnative Brown Trout.

Roy Ulibarri assisted New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) with reconnaissance and data collection for a piscicide treatment scheduled for 2017 on Whitewater Creek in the Gila National Forest. Crews measured flows, calculated discharge, and identified sources of water.

Angela James, Roy Ulibarri, U. S. Forest Service (USFS), and Mora National Fish Hatchery assisted NMDGF with annual threatened and endangered fish monitoring and nonnative species removal on the West Fork Gila River in the Gila National Forest. Crews collected several native fishes including the threatened Gila Trout and

endangered Loach Minnow and Spikedace.



Multi-agency crew fish sampling the West Fork Gila River.



West Fork Gila fish sampling crew.

Andy Dean and USFS completed fish community monitoring in Trout Creek, Mimbres Drainage. Multiple age-classes of Speckled Dace, Rio Grande Sucker, and hybrid trout were collected at the two sample sites.

High flows on McKnight Creek prevented Andy Dean and USFS from making scheduled repairs to a fish barrier. Despite the setback, crews were able to lay down concrete to reinforce the downstream side of the gabion structure. Remaining repairs will be completed later this year.



McKnight barrier with newly laid concrete.

Meetings and Trainings

Jason Davis, Stephen Davenport, Weston Furr, Andy Dean, Angela James, Bobby Duran, Joshua Grant, Chris Kitcheyan and Bryant Dugan completed CPR/First Aid/AED training led by American Red Cross.



Andy , Weston , and Joshua receiving CPR instruction from American Red Cross Instructor.

Education and Outreach

Chris Kitcheyan and Angela James participated in the Southwest Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Youth Practicum hosted by the Pueblo of Sandia. Chris and Angela demonstrated backpack electrofishing on Cimarron River. Sixteen students rotated through each task including netting, weighing and measuring fish, and data recording.



Chris giving students a hands-on demonstration of the backpack electro-fisher.

Chris Kitcheyan and Angela James participated in the Tribal Youth Environment Summer Camp sponsored by the Eight Northern Pueblos and hosted by the Jicarilla Apache Nation. The Youth Camp hosted 54 students from the northern Pueblos. Angela and Chris assisted Jicarilla Department of Game and Fish with the demonstration of a barge electro-fishing unit and fish identification.



Chris demonstrating barge electro-fishing.



Participants at the Youth Environment Summer Camp.

Chris Kitcheyan was invited to speak to approximately 24 Native Youth at the 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 advice and encouragement to the youth to achieve their goals.



Chris talking with youth in San Carlos.

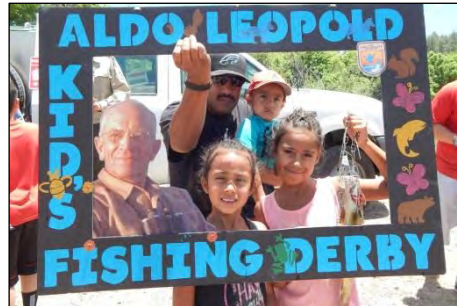
Andy Dean, Chris Kitcheyan, Roy Ulibarri, and Angela James participated in the Annual Lake Roberts Youth Fishing Derby. The derby was sponsored by USFS, NMDGF, USFWS, and Trout Unlimited. The crew assisted Mora National Fish Hatchery with the stocking of retired broodstock the night before the derby. In addition the crew provided support for youth registration, fish weigh-ins, and a booth with a stream and craft table. The derby had 169 youth registered and 61 fish were weighed in, with the winner's Gila Trout measuring 18 ½ inches and weighing in at 2 ½ pounds.



Young boy taking a break from fishing to check out stream table.



First place winner: Dominic with his Dad, Chris, and Smoky Bear.



Peru Family commemorating their catch at the Aldo Leopold Kids Fishing Derby.

Chris Kitcheyan, Stuart Wilkins, Roy Ulibarri, and Angela James assisted Acoma Game and Fish with a Youth Outreach event held at Acomita Lake. Eighteen youth participated in various stations including the three stations presented by NMFWCO; macroinvertebrate identification, fisheries equipment, and fish identification.



Students collecting macroinvertebrates.



Stuart showing students the electro-fishing raft used for fish surveys.

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<https://www.facebook.com/New-Mexico-Fish-and-Wildlife-Conservation-Office>

Personnel

The NMFWCO crew said farewell to longtime employee, Tristan Austring. Tristan, who worked primarily on the Rio Grande with the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow for the past eight years, moved onto the U.S. Geological Survey as a Hydrology Technician. Tristan will still be working on the Rio Grande, but on the hydrology side instead of the biological.

NMFWCO would like to welcome two new staff members; Eileen Henry and Joshua Grant. Both will be part of the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow salvage crew. Eileen is returning for her second season with the crew. Joshua is a recent graduate of New Mexico State University.



Eileen Henry



Joshua Grant

Upcoming Activities

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

July 2016

5th-7th: Quarterly Fish Community Monitoring, Pueblo of Santa Ana

8th: Let's Be Fish Day, Pueblo of Sandia

11th-13th: Largemouth Bass Surveys, Morgan Lake, Navajo Nation

12th: CPUE Workgroup, Albuquerque

16th: Environmental Fair, Pueblo of Isleta

20th: Youth Camp, Pueblo of Tesuque

21st: NM Garden Club Environmental School, Socorro, New Mexico

25th-27th: Nonnative Fish Removal, Mescalero Lake, Mescalero Tribe

25th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Isleta

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

28th: Youth Day, Pueblo of Acoma

August 2016

2nd-5th: COSO Training, Albuquerque

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

13th: Environmental Fair, Pueblo of Santa Ana

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

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

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



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Phone 505/342-9900
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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
Bobby R. Duran.....	Fish Biologist
Angela P. James.....	Fish Biologist
Andy T. Dean	Fish Biologist
Roy M. Ulibarri	Fish Biologist
Tristan L. Austring	Biological Science Technician
Stuart Wilkins.....	Biological Science Technician
Bryant Dugan.....	Biological Science Technician
Eileen Henry	Biological Science Technician
Joshua Grant.....	Biological Science Technician