



Monthly Accomplishments

March 2016

Fisheries Activities

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



Thomas and Tristan seining in the Rio Grande.

Stephen Davenport, Weston Furr, and Chris Kitcheyan completed Pecos River fish community monitoring at 15 sites between Fort Sumner and Brantley Reservoir, New Mexico. Data from these monitoring efforts are used to define the status of the fish community, with emphasis on Pecos Bluntnose Shiner.

Glenwood State Fish Hatchery, Roy Ulibarri and Trout Unlimited assisted Mora National Fish Hatchery with stocking 1,552 Gila Trout, Main Diamond lineage, into the West Fork Gila River between

Grapevine Campground and the Gila Visitor Center Bridge. The Gila trout were stocked to provide recreational fishing opportunities.



Jason Amaro, Trout Unlimited, assisting with the stocking of Gila Trout.

Stephen Davenport and Chris Kitcheyan assisted New Mexico Department of Game and Fish with quarterly fish community monitoring at seven sites on the Canadian River east of Tucumcari, New Mexico. Data from these monitoring efforts are used to determine the status of the fish community, with emphasis on the federally listed Arkansas River Shiner.

Bobby Duran, Stuart Wilkins, Bryant Dugan, and Roy Ulibarri completed a nonnative fish marking and endangered species monitoring trip on the San Juan River from Shiprock, New Mexico to Montezuma Creek, Utah. Channel Catfish and Common Carp were tagged with individually numbered anchor

tags in an effort to generate population estimates and determine exploitation rates. The data will be used to guide future management decisions for these two invasive fishes. Recapture information will be collected during regular nonnative fish removal trips scheduled throughout 2016.



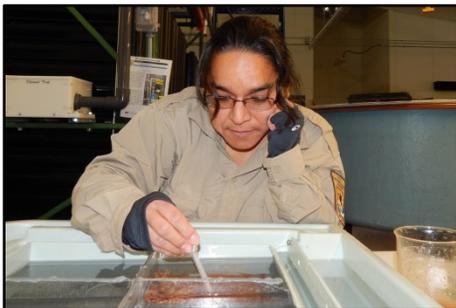
Anchor-tagged Channel Catfish, San Juan River.

NMFWCO, with assistance from USFWS Grand Junction (Region 6), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers completed the first of ten endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish removal trips on the San Juan River from Shiprock, New Mexico to Montezuma Creek, Utah.

Stephen Davenport and Weston Furr completed post-restoration fish community monitoring on Rio Hondo at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Stream habitat restoration was completed Fall 2014.

Glenwood State Fish Hatchery and Andy Dean assisted Mora National Fish Hatchery with stocking 1,015 Gila Trout, Main Diamond lineage, into Black Canyon Creek. The Gila Trout were stocked for both recovery and recreational fishing purposes.

Angela James and volunteer, Demesia James, assisted Mora National Fish Hatchery with Gila Trout spawning, enumerating and picking eggs, and preparing vials for the upcoming fin-clipping of future broodstock.



Angela enumerating and picking Gila Trout eggs.

Meetings and Trainings

Thomas Archdeacon and Jason Davis attended a meeting of the Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program's Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) Population Workshop.

Chris Kitcheyan and Jason Davis participated in the quarterly meeting of the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission held at the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Regional Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Chris provided updates on the status of Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery Complex and concerns regarding bacterial kidney disease.

Stephen Davenport provided a status update of Pecos Bluntnose Shiner at the annual Pecos River Interstate Stream Commission meeting in Albuquerque.

Angela James attended the Middle Rio Grande Education, Employment, and Environment (MRGE³) Alliance meeting in Albuquerque.

Roy Ulibarri successfully completed the Rotenone & Antimycin Use in Fish Management Course (NCTC FIS2132) hosted by NMFWCO in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Education and Outreach

Angela James led the activity, NFIC – *Anatomy* activity for eight classes from Osuna, Monte Vista, and Zia Elementary Schools. The activity included a discussion of anatomy including a comparison of a variety of fish species from the Rio Grande. The fish specimens were provided by the University of New Mexico – Southwestern Museum of Biology - Fisheries Division.



Elementary student identifying internal organs of a trout.

Angela James participated in a Career Fair at Emerson Elementary School. Each class, from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade (approximately 500

students), had the opportunity to visit various booths representing numerous careers.



Career Fair display including sampling gear and project photos.



Elementary student trying on the electroshocking unit.

Angela James and Roy Ulibarri led the Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) - *How Many Fish* activity for ten 4th and 5th grade classes from Emerson, Zia, Monte Vista, and Valle Vista Elementary Schools. The activity included an overview of fish surveys and how those data are utilized by fish biologists. Using beans, each class calculated population estimates for several year classes of Pinto Fish (*Frijole pintoii*) and developed a population trend line utilizing a mark-recapture

formula. The activity emphasized the importance of having a strong math foundation to solve seemingly complex problems.



Roy assisting students with mark-recapture calculation for Pinto Fish.

Angela James presented *NFIC - Basing Fiction on Reality: an Eco-mystery* to a 5th grade class at Monte Vista Elementary School. The presentation pulled topics from the fictional book *The Case of the Missing Cutthroats: An Eco Mystery* and highlighted how they mirror real life issues with native fish. Issues discussed in the book included native ranges of cutthroats, macroinvertebrate sampling, fish tagging and monitoring, and impacts of humans.

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

Personnel

New Mexico FWCO is welcoming its newest seasonal hires, Stuart Wilkins and Bryant Dugan. Stuart is coming on board from the Mora National Fish Hatchery where he worked with the threatened Gila Trout. Bryant is coming from USFWS Sea Lamprey Control Program in Michigan. Both will primarily work on projects associated with

the San Juan River. Welcome aboard Stuart and Bryant.

Upcoming Activities

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

April 2016

4th-8th: Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal, San Juan River

6th-7th: San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program – Environmental Flows Workshop; Albuquerque, NM

5th -6th: Fish Community Monitoring, Rio Mora, Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area

5th-7th: Gila Trout Stocking, Forks and Mineral Creek, Gila National Forest

11th-14th: Spring Survey, Navajo River, Jicarilla Apache Nation

11th-15th: Pecos Pupfish Monitoring, Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

11th-15th: Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal, San Juan River

12th: NFIC Anatomy Presentations, Crystal Boarding School and To'haali' Community School, Navajo Nation

15th: NFIC Presentation, Valle Vista Elementary School, Albuquerque

18th-22nd: Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal, San Juan River

18th-22nd: Chihuahua Chub Monitoring, Mimbres River

21st: NFIC Anatomy Presentation, Navajo School, Navajo Nation

22nd: NFIC Anatomy Presentation, Emerson Elementary School, Albuquerque

25th-29th: Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal, San Juan River

25th-29th: Bluehead and Zuni Bluehead Sucker Monitoring, Navajo Nation

26th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande

28th: NFIC Presentation, Valle Vista Elementary School, Albuquerque

28th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande

30th: Outreach Booth, YMCA Healthy Kids Day, Albuquerque

May 2016

7th: Native Fish in the Classroom –Releasing the Natives Field Day, Pilar, New Mexico

10th-12th: Joint meeting of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Program's Biology and Coordination Committees; Durango, CO

13th: Native Fish in the Classroom –Releasing the Natives Field Day, Albuquerque, New Mexico

16th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande

17th -20th: Crystal Creek Fish Passage Project, Navajo Nation

20th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande

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
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