



## Monthly Accomplishments

May 2013

### Fisheries Activities

In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta and Pueblo of Sandia, staff completed monthly monitoring for the Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM) within the Middle Rio Grande, Pueblo of Isleta, and Pueblo of Sandia. Monitoring efforts are to determine presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish in relation to augmentation and research efforts.



In cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), staff completed Pecos River fish community monitoring at three sites, a subset of the normal twelve, near Roswell, New Mexico. Staff diverted monitoring efforts to collect Pecos bluntnose shiners for Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center (SNARRC). The 116 collected Pecos bluntnose shiners will be held at SNARRC as a captive refuge population and will be released back to the river once the risk of surface flow intermittence has passed.

Staff assisted the NMDGF with fish community monitoring at seven sites in 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.

With the assistance of Mora National Fish Hatchery (NFH), staff collected 50 Gila trout of Iron Creek Lineage from Iron Creek, Gila National Forest. Staff packed out the Gila trout on mules and transported them to Mora NFH for refuge and broodstock development. It is likely that these are the only remnants of the Iron Creek population and the only pure Iron Creek lineage in the Middle Fork of the Gila River.



With the assistance of Mora NFH and U.S. Forest Service (USFS), staff re-introduced, by helicopter, 101 Gila trout (Whiskey Creek lineage replicate) into McKenna Creek. These Gila trout were a refuge population initially evacuated in June 2012 from Langstroth

Creek during the Whitewater Baldy Complex Fire. During this time, staff also completed post-fire monitoring following protocols established by the Gila Trout Recovery Team.

Staff assisted Jicarilla Apache Nation with spring fish community monitoring and assessment of survival of tiger muskellunge stocked in 2012 at Mundo Lake.

With the assistance of Mora NFH and USFS, staff collected 201 Gila trout (South Diamond lineage) from Mogollon Creek. The Gila trout were brought out of the Gila National Forest by helicopter to a hatchery truck. The Gila trout will be used to supplement South Diamond broodstock at Mora NFH. Staff also completed post-fire monitoring.



Staff from NMFWCO, Pueblo of Santa Ana, and SWCA Environmental Consultants assisted the Albuquerque BioPark with RGSM wild egg collection within the middle Rio Grande. The goal was to collect enough eggs to meet broodstock and production needs for the propagation facilities; a minimum of 10,000 (5,000 for BioPark and 5,000 for SNARRC) with a capacity of up to 750,000 eggs. Approximately 31,000 RGSM eggs were collected from the Isleta reach and approximately 20,000 from the San Acacia reach. The eggs will be used for broodstock and to meet augmentation needs for fall 2013.

## Meeting and Trainings

Staff participated in the annual joint meeting of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's Coordination and Biology Committees in Durango, Colorado. Topic of discussions included results of 2012 projects and development of fiscal year 2014 priorities and annual work plan. Bobby Duran presented Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Species Monitoring and Control in Upper/Middle San Juan River 2012. Weston Furr presented Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker Augmentation in the San Juan River 2012.

Staff attended a strategy meeting with Bureau of Reclamation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Topic of discussion included projected Pecos River flows for 2013 based on forecasted water availability.

Staff met with Quivira Coalition to discuss an on-going fish passage project located on the Carson National Forest.

Staff participated in the Building Urban Community Habitat with Youth NCTC course hosted by the Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The course will be completed after a final webinar in June 2013.

## Education and Outreach

The NMFWCO sponsored the 2nd 2013 Native Fish in the Classroom - Releasing the Natives event held in Albuquerque, New Mexico hosted by the Bosque School. Seventy-five students representing Valle Vista and Laguna Elementary Schools participated in the event. The event consisted of the students releasing 75 fish of the Rio Grande (i.e. flathead chub, longnose dace, red shiners) that they had raised in their classrooms since January 2013. The Bosque School and Bosque Ecology Monitoring Program (BEMP), NMDGF, and USFWS Hydrology, assisted NMFWCO with multiple learning stations.



The NMFWCO sponsored the 2013 Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) - Releasing the Natives event held on the Orilla Verde Recreation Area near Pilar, New Mexico. Forty-seven students representing Emerson and Monte Vista Elementary schools participated in the event. The students released 47 Rio Grande cutthroat trout that they had raised in their classrooms since January 2013. During the Releasing the Natives event students participated in multiple learning stations led by NMDGF, Bureau of Land Management Taos Field Office, and USFWS Hydrology.



The Releasing the Natives events marked the end of the 2nd year for the NFIC program. Approximately 225 students participated in NFIC during the 2012-2013 school year. Bosque, Valle Vista Elementary, Monte Vista Elementary, Emerson Elementary, and Laguna Elementary Schools have all agreed to participate again during the 2013-2014 school year.



Staff from NMFWCO and NMDGF participated in Sandia's Environmental Youth Day hosted by the Sandia Environmental Department. Participants included approximately 26 Head Start students (3-5 years old) and 6 teachers from the Pueblo of Sandia. Students rotated through stations including Fish of the Rio Grande, fish collections methods, macroinvertebrate identification, and fish painting. Staff is coordinating with Sandia Environmental Department to attend an additional Youth Day targeting older students in July 2013.



## Personnel

The NMFWCO staff said farewell to Christine Stewart, Fish Biologist, as she moved on to work for the U.S. Forest Service in Idaho. Good Luck to Christine in her future endeavors.



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

Jim Brooks .....	Project Leader
Jason Davis .....	Assistant Project Leader
Angela Carrillo.....	Administrative Officer
Stephen Davenport .....	Supervisory Fish Biologist
Chris Kitcheyan .....	Supervisory Fish Biologist
Weston Furr .....	Fish Biologist
Thomas Archdeacon.....	Fish Biologist
Dustin Myers.....	Fish Biologist
Angela Palacios James.....	Fish Biologist
Bobby Duran .....	Fish Biologist
Andy Dean.....	Fish Biologist
Ernest Tellier Sr. ....	Biological Science Technician
Tristan Austring .....	STEP Student