



ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

August 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager
Travis Taylor- Administrative Technician*

ALCHESAY UNIT

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer*

WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist
John Fenslage – Maintenance Worker
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker
Carol Walker – Volunteer
Jonathon Walker-Volunteer*



Thank You Bradley Clarkson for 20 years with U.S Fish & Wildlife Service

AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- Fish Biologist Russ Wood received 350,000 rainbow trout eggs from Erwin NFH in Tennessee. These eggs will spend about 14 days in eggs jars before moving to small indoor raceways. The Sac fry will absorb their egg sac for several days and when completely absorbed, they will be introduced to commercial fish feed diets.



- Alchesay Fish Hatchery is scheduled to receive rainbow trout from the Williams Creek unit as early as September. These fish will be stocked into the newly modified Pond 3. When the water temperature at the Alchesay unit remains a constant 62 degrees F. or lower for a period of at least 5 consecutive days, the fish transfers will commence.
- Continued poor water quality (muddy water) at the Alchesay unit resulted in reduced feed rations for the rainbow trout (RBT) and lower growth in the RBT and brown trout (BNT) than estimated projections. The BNT were fed a constant diet even through the worst conditions. Hatchery personnel will grade out the larger BNT next month to meet our 8” production request in November for the Jicarilla Apache Tribe.
- Williams Creek personnel stocked 3,600 Apache trout and 13,939 rainbow trout. Williams Creek personnel also stocked 6,174 Apache trout in July. (This was missed in last month’s report.)

PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Bruce Thompson, Bradley Clarkson, Gene Okamoto and Russell Wood hosted the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery Complex’ (AWC-NFHC), Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, (AZFWCO), and the White Mountain Apache Tribe. (WMAT). Topics of discussion included catfish stocking, fall trout stocking plans, and the necessary 25% stocking reduction of RBT.
- The complex’s summer Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) program ended in the middle of August. Along with the YCC students heading back to school, our juvenile Work Force Investment Act (WIA) workers also returned to school. In addition, the adult WIA workforce completed their required training programs. The entire Complex staff enjoyed training the summer crews in fish culture and construction skills. We wish all of them well in furthering their education and pursuit of future employment opportunities

- Inks Dam NFH in Texas, delivered 20,000 channel cat fish (CCF) to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR). Jennifer Johnson from AZFWCO coordinated the stocking, working closely with Inks Dam and AWC-NFHC personnel. With the hot summer temperatures and average monsoon rains, water quality was a concern stocking the lower elevation distribution sites as well as Cooley Lake this year. Tribal and USFWS personnel collected water quality data prior to stocking CCF into several lakes on the FAIR. The CCF distribution was completed as arranged with no report of fish losses.



WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Paul Dorman, (Inks Dam) Jess Newton, Jennifer Johnson (AZFWCO), and personnel from the Complex discussed and coordinated the stocking of catfish that took place on the morning of the 18th on the FAIR.
- Work schedules were altered at Williams Creek to cover for Jimmy Smith who was unable to work due to a serious rodeo accident. Jimmy had torn his ACL and MCL. He is mending well and returned back to work on September 1, 2015 on light duty. At this point, surgery is not being considered.
- Carol Walker provided valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She volunteered 153.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 94.5 hours at Williams Creek toward fish culture duties and grounds maintenance.
- Williams Creek received 125 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 330 visitors. Visitation has declined at the complex due in part to the start-up of local schools.

LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- The complex acquired an off road, extendable arm forklift on surplus in Barstow, California. This piece of equipment will help out with various maintenance projects including the “state of the art” disinfection station project at Alchesay.



- Pete Drevnick found a surplus suction pump off GSA excess. We have been actively seeking this type of pump for several years. Plans are to use it to remove fish waste from the head and tail boxes of raceways without dewatering the raceways and stressing out fish. Instead of stirring up the fish waste with brushes, we are going to suck up the waste with the new pump. This should help lower the nutrient load before it flows through the consecutive hatchery rearing areas and enters the EPA settling ponds.
- John Fenslage, (our certified welder) acquired a Miller industrial machine off GSA excess. This model is a diesel powered welder ideal for his welding and fabrication plans. This will also be used in building the new high-tech. disinfection station at Alchesay.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE:

- Quarters 4 and 5 at Williams Creek are scheduled for a September demo. Final preliminary salvage steps were completed in the preparation for the upcoming building demolitions.
- Raceway canopy frames were constructed and moved into position over B- bank at Williams Creek. These canopies will provide shade and protection for the fish residing there.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Canopy construction will be completed over B-bank raceways at Williams Creek. This will result in complete protection for both A-bank and B-bank raceways holding Apache trout.
- Construction of the Disinfection Station at the Alchesay Unit will continue. The project is moving along well and is several weeks ahead of schedule. Work progression pictures will be shared in the next report.

- The fall fish transfers from the Williams Creek unit to the Alchesay unit (water quality permitting) should start in mid-September.
- More frequent budget update planning will commence next month.
- Bruce Thompson and Russ Wood are scheduled to attend the Region 2 FAC Rendezvous during the last week of September.

