



ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2014

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager
Patti Ferlisi – Office Assistant*

ALCHESAY UNIT

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

WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist
Dan Ragen – Maintenance Specialist
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker*



Photo credit: Patti Ferlisi



Photo credit: Bradley Clarkson



Photo credit: Gene Okamoto

Bald eagles visit the Alchesay Unit, *left and above left*, and the Williams Creek Unit, *above*. We suspect the pair of eagles has a nest in the vicinity of the Alchesay Unit.

PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- All requisite water sampling for EPA was completed for both units.
- The Complex hosted the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe – Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division).

AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- Both units continue to experience low water flows and higher than normal water temperatures. This poor water quality stems from the lack of snowpack. The Complex has seen very little measurable moisture this winter. Plans are being formulated to stock fish early in an effort to avoid any possible catastrophic losses. The stockings will begin as soon as early March. While it did snow at the Alchesay Unit, *right*, the week of February 10, temperatures were warm enough that it did not stick to the ground.



- Apache trout at the Alchesay Unit were treated with applications of salt after an outbreak of the external parasite, *Gyrodactylus*. A second look after the salt treatment revealed the presence of another external parasite, *Trichodina*. A static bath treatment of Formalin, along with supplemental oxygen, *left and below*, proved successful against both parasites and a secondary fungus infection with minimal loss of fish.



- The Williams Creek Unit continues to have good survival of the Apache trout eggs taken during the 2013-2014 spawning season. All of the buttoned up fry are now on

feed. To date, survival of the eggs taken from three-year-old broodstock is just under 70%. This is the highest survival to this stage that we have seen in the last five years. A complete report documenting the procedural changes to our spawntaking process this year is forthcoming.

- Brook trout eggs were received from J Perry Egan Hatchery in Bicknell, UT. Setbacks were experienced with the Utah Division of Natural Resources' brook trout broodstock when they were moved to Mammoth Creek Hatchery outside of Hatch, UT. Our shipment was significantly delayed, the number of eggs received was short of our request and the eggs were of poor quality when they arrived at the Williams Creek Unit.
- Sorting of Apache trout broodstock, *right*, began in anticipation of stocking those excess fish into WMAT's Christmas Tree Lake for their fish camp in May.



Transferring rainbow trout fingerlings from the production tankhouse to the raceways at the Williams Creek Unit utilizing a pipeline transportation system, *left*.

- Hatchery personnel drove 365 miles to deliver 5,000 trout (averaging 8" in length) to two different recreation areas on the San Carlos Indian Reservation. Stocking trips continue to be consolidated whenever possible.

PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:

- The students from Alchesay High School's Special Education Department provided valuable volunteer assistance at the Williams Creek Unit again this month. This month, the students and their supervisors have provided over 20 hours of assistance in all manner of fish culture duties.

- Russ Wood guided a tour of the Williams Creek Unit for 12 American Indian Christian Mission members from Colorado, *right*. They were shown all aspects of our trout culture operation.

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Andy Quay continues to provide valuable volunteer hours to the Alchesay Unit. He provided about 100 hours this month performing fish culture duties as well as building and grounds maintenance. Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos also assisted the hatchery with sign and grounds maintenance. The Complex received over 200 hours of assistance from our two volunteers this month.
- Bruce Thompson and Gene Okamoto attended the region’s quarterly safety teleconference.
- Dan Ragen delivered the cracked fish tank to the manufacturer in Bakersfield, CA. The manufacturer has agreed to perform the necessary repairs at a much reduced price as it seems the tank appeared to have been built incorrectly.
- Minor personnel quarters repair and maintenance have been performed by staff living on station at the Williams Creek Unit.



FACILITY MAINTENANCE:

- Pete Drevnick carries on with final touches on the cover over the A-bank raceways and radial flow settler (RFS) units. The newest additions include a concrete threshold drainage system and steps facilitating access to the walkway over the head-raceway, *right*. Pete, Jeff Cody and Joyner George are also installing fencing around the perimeter of these raceways and RFS units. These protected raceways will be utilized for rearing brown trout when they are transferred to the Alchesay Unit in mid-March.
- Despite passing the final inspection, additional issues were noted with the Quarters 5 remodel. The interior doors did not latch/unlatch properly, which presented a safety issue. The hot and cold water hookups were switched, which also presented a possible safety concern. These issues were corrected under the contract’s warranty.



LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- Fish oil was utilized to “top-dress” medication into the fish feed. Fish oil is more palatable and subsequently, the treated fish continue to feed vigorously in spite of consuming the distasteful chemical therapeutents that are mixed into the feed.
- Russ Wood worked to connect the Williams Creek Unit’s new 6” fish pump to the 8” dewatering tower. The 8” Aqualife Harvester pump and tower were transferred to the Complex when Mescalero National Fish Hatchery closed. The unit has been rarely used because the three foot tall 8” submersible pump is not compatible with this Complex’s shallow raceways. The new pump is not submersible and is also better suited to transferring smaller fish.

