



Monthly Accomplishments

August 2015

Fisheries Activities

The salvage crew has been on stand-by all summer for Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) salvage activities. However, due to spring and summer rains, salvage has not started as of August 31, 2015.

In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta Environment Division and Pueblo of Sandia Environment Department, Thomas Archdeacon, Tristan Austring and Eileen Henry completed monthly monitoring for RGSM. Monitoring determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish from augmentation and research efforts.

The August 10-13, 2015, San Juan River trip from Hogback Diversion to Shiprock, New Mexico, was cancelled due to the Colorado Gold King Mine spill.

Stephen Davenport 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.

Tom Sinclair, Bobby Duran, Jason Davis, Weston Furr, Eileen Henry and Ernie Teller

completed endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish removal and control from Shiprock, New Mexico to Mexican Hat, Utah on the San Juan River. Nonnative fish removal is one management tool used by the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program for the recovery of the endangered Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker.

During August 18-20, 2015, Chris Kitcheyan, Tom Sinclair, Andy Dean, Bobby Duran and Stephen Davenport teamed up with the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife to harden a low-water stream crossing on Upper Whiskey Creek that fulfilled three essential purposes. The project improved fish passage through an area that is frequently blocked by sediment; improved fish habitat by stabilizing stream banks and road approaches, thus reducing erosion and sedimentation; and probably most importantly, improved vehicle access for Tribal members living in a very remote area of the Chuska Mountains within New Mexico. Timing of the project could not have been better since local Tribal members informed work crews that the road crossing was impassible the week previous due to heavy rains and severe rutting of the crossing approaches. Primary species benefited include the Bluehead

Sucker and Speckled Dace. Three additional crossings are scheduled for Navajo Nation during CY 2015.



Crew laying the foundation to stabilize the stream crossing at Whiskey Creek.



Completed stream crossing at Whiskey Creek.

Meetings and Trainings

Angela James participated in the YMCA 50 Cities Youth Summit. Albuquerque was selected to participate in the U.S. Department of the Interior's 50 Cities Initiative, as a part of the First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move Outside program.

Thomas Archdeacon attended a meeting of the Middle Rio

Grande Coordination Team, which discussed various topics related to threatened and endangered species along the Middle Rio Grande corridor.

Jason Davis, Tom Sinclair and Thomas Archdeacon participated in RGSM Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) Workshop planning meetings. Participants worked on developing a schedule for the upcoming CPUE Workshop to be held in December 2015.

Participants included Bureau of Reclamation, U.S Army Corps of Engineers, Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority, and Interstate Stream Commission.

Tom Sinclair participated in an environmental compliance meeting at Silver City, New Mexico on August 11, 2015. Renovation projects and the proposed Willow Creek barrier, all to benefit the threatened Gila Trout, were discussed with the U.S. Forest Service and New Mexico Department of Fish and Game. Tom also worked with Gila National Forest personnel after the meeting to firm up plans for additional FWCO monitoring of a Desert Fish Habitat Partnership project on the San Francisco River.

Education and Outreach

Angela James and Tristan Austring participated in Environmental Justice Community Day held at Valle de Oro NWR. Angela and Tristan quizzed community member on the rivers of New Mexico and shared information concerning the welfare of the Rio Grande

Silvery Minnow. Community members were also able to view several other native fish from the Middle Rio Grande in our live fish display.



Tristan Austring quizzing a father and son on the five major rivers of New Mexico.

Weston Furr and Angela James talked with approximately 20 students (1st-5th grade) about water ecology and fish surveys. The students were participating in a Summer Camp hosted by the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science.



Students backpack electroshocking (dry-run) in the classroom .

On August 27, 2015, Weston Furr gave an impromptu overview of the FWCO's activities in the San Juan River Basin to 25 Navajo Nation high school students at the Shiprock Bridge Landing. Principles of electrofishing, Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag technology and detection, and augmentation activities were discussed and demonstrated.

Upcoming Activities

Activities and meetings currently scheduled are listed below.

September 2015

1st: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Propagation Meeting, New Mexico FWCO conference room

8th-24th: Razorback Sucker Passive Harvest, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry Lands

8th-10th: Zuni Bluehead Sucker Monitoring, Navajo Nation

8th -10th: Fish Community Monitoring, Pecos River

10th-11th: Fish Community Monitoring, Rio Hondo

12th: Dragonfly Festival, Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

16th-25th: Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal and Control Fall Monitoring from Shiprock, New Mexico to Clay Hills Landing, Utah, San Juan River

19th: 5th Annual Native American College Connection Day, Albuquerque Public Schools Indian Education Department

21st: San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Coordination Committee Meeting, Durango, Colorado

28th-30th: Region 2 Fisheries Aquatic Conservation Meeting, Albuquerque

October 2015

1st-2nd: Region 2 Fisheries
Aquatic Conservation Meeting,
Albuquerque

13th: Razorback Sucker Active
Harvest, Navajo Agricultural
Products Industry Lands

13th-16th: Preliminary sampling
of fish community, channel
morphology and riparian cover
associated with Desert Fish
Habitat Partnership project, San
Francisco River

19th-20th: Rio Grande Silvery
Minnow Monitoring, Pueblo of
Sandia and Isleta

26th-27th: Children's Water
Festival, City of Rio Rancho

27th-28th or 29th -30th: Site visit to
Southern Ute Indian Tribe lands
to discuss possible joint Region 2-
Region 6 fish passage project

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
Dustin J. Myers.....	Fish Biologist
Angela P. James.....	Fish Biologist
Bobby R. Duran.....	Fish Biologist
Andy T. Dean	Fish Biologist
Ernie Teller Sr.	Biological Science Technician
Eileen Henry	Biological Science Technician
Tristan L. Austring	Biological Science Technician