



## Monthly Accomplishments

## January 2015

### Fisheries Activities

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

### Meetings and Trainings

Thomas Sinclair, Jason Davis, and Bobby Duran attended the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program (UCREFRP) and San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's (SJRIP) annual researchers meeting in Moab, Utah. Presentations on native fish conservation were given by researchers from both programs. Angela James and Jason Davis were co-authors on a presentation titled *Assessing the case for prey limitation: historical and contemporary trophic positions of Colorado pikeminnow in the San Juan River*.

Chris Kitcheyan attended a meeting to discuss and review the Service's Native American

Policy. The meeting provided an opportunity for New Mexico Tribes and Pueblos to voice comments and feedback on suggested revisions of the USFWS Native American Policy.

Chris Kitcheyan participated in the annual Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Rangewide Meeting held in Alamosa, Colorado. Multiple agencies from Colorado and New Mexico provided updates of activities worked on in 2014.

### Education and Outreach

Angela James delivered fish to schools participating in the Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) program. Schools that received fish species of the Middle Rio Grande included Albuquerque Sign Language Academy, Bosque School, Valle Vista Elementary, Governor Bent Elementary, and Monte Vista Elementary. The students are now responsible for the care of the native fish, which includes longnose dace, flathead chub, white sucker, western mosquitofish, fathead minnow, river carpsucker and red shiner. The students are already sharing their knowledge and their visiting fish with the younger students in their schools.



Figure 1. Students observe fish being tempered.



Figure 2. Students moving fish from the transport unit to the aquarium.



Figure 3. Middle Rio Grande fish species successfully moved to their temporary home for the spring.

Angela James delivered Rio Grande cutthroat trout, provided by Seven Springs State Fish Hatchery, to Monte Vista and Emerson Elementary Schools.

Angela weighed and measured a subsample of the cutthroats in the classroom while students recorded the data. Angela helped the students use the data to calculate feed rates in grams per day. The students are now responsible for the care and monitoring of the cutthroats until May 2015



**Figure 4. Angela and students calculating feed rates for the Rio Grande cutthroat trout.**



**Figure 5. Rio Grande cutthroat trout successfully moved to their temporary home for the spring.**

In May 2015, all of the NFIC students will gather for two *Releasing the Natives Field Days* to release their fish into the Rio Grande. The projects overall goal is to generate enthusiasm for natural resources and foster a sense of stewardship for native fish and their habitats.

## Upcoming Activities

Activities and meetings currently scheduled are listed below.

### February 2015

Jan 26<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> : Coldwater Fish Culture Course, NCTC, Shepherdstown, West Virginia

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> : 48<sup>th</sup> Joint Annual Meeting of the Arizona/New Mexico Chapters of the Wildlife Society and the Arizona/New Mexico Chapters of the American Fisheries Society, Las Cruces, New Mexico

12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> : San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's Environmental Flows Workshop, Albuquerque, New Mexico

18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> : San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Meeting, Durango, Colorado

### March 2015

4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> : Arkansas River Fish Community Monitoring, Canadian River

10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> : Lake Surveys, Ohkay Owingeh

8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> : UCREFRP and SJRIP Database Construction Meeting, Grand Junction, Colorado

17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> : Fish Community Monitoring, Pecos River

20<sup>th</sup> : Field Demonstration with Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute students, Isleta Lakes

24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> : Fish Community Monitoring, Rio Mora

26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> : Wilderness First Aid Training, Albuquerque, New Mexico

30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> : Lake Surveys, Navajo Nation

TBD: NFIC In-class Presentation

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

Thomas B. Sinclair ..... Project Leader  
Jason E. Davis ..... Assistant Project Leader  
Angela Carrillo..... Administrative Officer  
Kimberly M. Flowers ..... Office Assistant  
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  
Ernest Teller Sr. .... Biological Science Technician  
Tristan L. Austring ..... STEP Student