



Monthly Accomplishments

July 2015

Fisheries Activities

Chris Kitcheyan, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, and University of New Mexico assisted the Jicarilla Apache Game and Fish Department with Navajo River fish community surveys.

Chris Kitcheyan, Andy Dean and Thomas Archdeacon assisted Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife with Brown Trout removal in Whiskey Creek. The removal of Brown Trout is expected to benefit native fish Bluehead Sucker and Speckled Dace

Stephen Davenport, Eileen Henry and Tristan Austring completed Pecos River fish community monitoring at twelve sites near Roswell, New Mexico. Data from these monitoring efforts are used to define the status of the fish community, with emphasis on Pecos Bluntnose Shiner.

Tristan Austring, Thomas Archdeacon, and Eileen Henry assisted Pueblo of Santa Ana Department of Natural Resources with quarterly fish monitoring on the Rio Grande and Jemez River.

In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta Environment Department, Thomas Archdeacon, Tristan Austring and Eileen Henry

completed monthly monitoring for Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM). Monitoring determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish from augmentation and research efforts.

With the assistance of Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), Bobby Duran, Angela James, and Ernie Teller completed endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish removal and control on the San Juan River. The sampled reach was from Shiprock, New Mexico to Montezuma Creek, Utah.



Staff from NMDGF, BIA, and USFWS with adult Colorado Pikeminnow.

Andy Dean and Stephen Davenport completed baseline fish community monitoring at five sites on the Rio Hondo, near Roswell, New Mexico.

Tristan Austring and Eileen Henry assisted the New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office (ESFO) complete surveys for the

endangered Jemez Mountain Salamander in the Jemez Mountains, New Mexico.



Jemez Mountain Salamander

With the assistance of NMDGF and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), Dustin Myers completed post-fire monitoring on Big Dry Creek. Over 100 Gila Trout were collected. This is the last known population of the Spruce Creek Lineage of Gila Trout. Crews followed post-fire protocols established by the Gila Trout Recovery Team. The system is recovering from the Whitewater Baldy Complex fire that occurred in 2012. Crews also attempted to reach the West Fork of Mogollon Creek; however, no trails could be located.

Dustin Myers assisted Trout Unlimited and the USFS with barrier repair on McKnight Creek within the Mimbres Drainage. The barrier was damaged by scouring flows produced by rains after the 2013 Silver Fire.

With the assistance of BIA, Bobby Duran, Dustin Myers and Angela James completed endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish removal and control on the San Juan River. The sampled reach was from the Hogback Diversion to Shiprock, New Mexico.



Crew weighing a juvenile Colorado Pikeminnow.

Meetings and Trainings

Thomas Archdeacon, Tristan Austring, and Eileen Henry completed survey protocol training for the endangered Jemez Mountain Salamander hosted by New Mexico ESFO.

Thomas Sinclair, Jason Davis, and Thomas Archdeacon attended the Middle Rio Grande Summit held at the ESFO. The Summit reviewed the current status of listed species within the Middle Rio Grande including the RGSM, New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse, Yellow-billed

Cuckoo, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher.

The New Mexico FWCO hosted a meeting of the Gila Trout Recovery Team. Personnel reported results from post-fire sampling on previously occupied streams impacted by the Whitewater-Baldy complex fire of 2012 and Silver Fire of 2013. Additional topics included remaining streams needing assessment (occupied and unoccupied), genetic status of remnant populations, and restoration schedules and needs. Mora National Fish Hatchery provided updates on Gila trout currently held by the hatchery. The Recovery Team identified needed actions for Gila trout streams, captive populations, nonnative streams, and recreational fisheries.

Andy Dean led a one-day workshop on Aquatic Invasive Species and Water Craft Inspections for personnel of the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife and assisting departments.

Education and Outreach

Chris Kitcheyan spoke with approximately 19 Native Youth at the San Carlos Summer Youth Camp in San Carlos, Arizona. The session was for Native American Professionals to talk about their challenges, education, and experiences leading to their given profession. In addition, Chris provided a backpack electroshocking demonstration.

Chris Kitcheyan and Angela James assisted Acoma Game and Fish with a Youth Outreach event held at Acomita Lake. Staff led two stations including macroinvertebrate identification and fish sampling equipment.

Tristan Austring, Eileen Henry, Weston Furr and Angela James participated in the 2015 Sandia Let's Be Fish Field Day. Approximately 40 students (1st grade to 12th grade) rotated through various stations including reptiles, plant identification, recycling, acequia history, fisheries field gear and macroinvertebrate identification.



Youth working to identify a macroinvertebrate.

Angela James and Tristan Austring participated in the 2nd Annual Pueblo of Isleta Environmental Fair. Our booth consisted of a display aquarium with Rio Grande fishes (i.e. red shiner, longnose dace and flathead chub), interactive activities, and handouts (pamphlets and coloring books). Staff used interactive activities such as "What River Am I" and "Make a Fish" to engage and interact with the public.

Upcoming Activities

Activities and meetings currently scheduled are listed below.

August 2015

10th – 12th: Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal and Control from Hogback Diversion to Shiprock, New Mexico, San Juan River

17th – 21st: Fish Passage Project, Whiskey Creek, Navajo Nation

24th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Pueblo of Sandia

25th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Pueblo of Isleta

25th – 27th: Arkansas River Shiner Monitoring, South Canadian River

26th – Sep 4th: Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal and Control from Shiprock, New Mexico Mexican Hat, Utah, San Juan River

September 2015

1st-2nd: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Propagation Meeting

8th-9th: Fish Community Monitoring, Rio Hondo

8th-24th: Passive Harvest of Razorback Sucker Reared in Ponds on Navajo Agricultural Products Industry Lands

11th-12th: Dragonfly Festival, Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

16th-30th: Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal and Control Fall Monitoring from Shiprock, New Mexico to Clay Hills Landing, Utah, San Juan River

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
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
Ernie Teller Sr.	Biological Science Technician
Eileen Henry	Biological Science Technician
Tristan L. Austring	STEP Student