



Monthly Accomplishments

March 2014

Fisheries Activities

In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta and Pueblo of Sandia, staff completed monthly monitoring for Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM). Monitoring efforts are to determine presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish in relation to augmentation and research efforts.

In cooperation with The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), staff 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, in response to low/no flow during the winter months.

In cooperation with Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and the U.S. Forest Service – Gila National Forest (USFS) staff installed a temporary gabion structure in Willow Creek just above the Gilita Creek confluence. The temporary barrier is to exclude nonnative salmonids from recolonizing Willow and Little Turkey creeks from downstream reaches. Post-fire monitoring surveys for 2013 collected only two salmonids in June and zero salmonids in October.

Since April 2013, staff have been growing out fingerling Colorado pikeminnow (CPM) for an isotopic fractionation study. The start of the study was marked with the measuring, fin-clipping, and passive integrated transponder (PIT) tagging of the CPM this month. To explain trophic relationships among Colorado pikeminnow and their potential prey in the San Juan River, isotopic analysis has been done since 2005. However, the results have been perplexing. The study hopes to identify the reason behind the inconsistencies in the isotopic signature of the CPM in comparison to other piscivorous fish.



Staff completed baseline fish community surveys within four sites of the Rio Hondo, near Roswell, New Mexico. Restoration activities are scheduled to be completed on the Rio Hondo in the near future.

Staff assisted the Navajo Nation Department of Game and Fish

with annual spring fish community surveys.

Meetings and Trainings

Weston Furr, Jason Davis, Andy Dean, Thomas Archdeacon, Kimberly Flowers, and Angela James participated in the General Safety meeting held at the New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office.

Angela James and Stacey Stanford completed the NCTC course *GIS Introduction (CSP7100)* held at the Regional Office, in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

New Mexico FWCO staff hosted the *Rotenone & Antimycin Use in Fish Management Course (NCTC FIS2132)*. Instructors included Dave Propst, Jim Brooks, Kirk Patten (NMDGF), and Gary Schetrompf (NCTC).

Education and Outreach

Staff led the activity, *The Anatomy of a Trout*, to 189 fifth grade students from Monte Vista, Mountain View, Valle Vista, and Governor Bent Elementary Schools. The hands-on activity is from the Native

Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) project. The NMFWCO provided preserved trout specimens, worksheets, and reference guides to provide students an opportunity to explore the internal and external anatomy of a trout. One additional school is scheduled to complete this activity in April 2014.



(pinto and red beans) using a mark-recapture method. All four classes are active participants of the *Native Fish in the Classroom* project. One additional school is scheduled to complete this activity in April 2014.



Staff from NMFWCO participated in the Fish for a Day event hosted by Sandia Environmental Department. Participants included 23 Head Start students (3-5 years old) and 23 teachers and parents from the Pueblo of Sandia. Students rotated through stations including fish of the Rio Grande, fish collections methods, macroinvertebrate identification, and fish painting.



Staff presented *How Many Fish* to four classes (~85 students) from Valle Vista and Monte Vista Elementary Schools. The presentations provided an overview of how and why fish surveys are completed and how the data are used. The classes completed an activity estimating the population of Pinto fish

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

Vacant	Project Leader
Jason Davis	Acting Project Leader
Angela Carrillo.....	Administrative Officer
Kimberly Flowers.....	Office Assistant
Stephen Davenport	Supervisory Fish Biologist
Chris Kitcheyan	Supervisory Fish Biologist
Weston Furr	Fish Biologist
Thomas Archdeacon.....	Fish Biologist
Dustin Myers.....	Fish Biologist
Angela Palacios James.....	Fish Biologist
Bobby Duran	Fish Biologist
Andy Dean.....	Fish Biologist
Ernest Tellier Sr.	Biological Science Technician
Tristan Austring	STEP Student