



## Monthly Accomplishments

October 2013

### Fisheries Activities

With the assistance of Uvalde National Fish Hatchery (NFH) and USFWS Grand Junction (Region 6), staff stocked 3,312 razorback suckers (RZB), greater than 300 mm total length, into the San Juan River. A total of 739 RZB were stocked in accordance with developed soft-release protocols at the Animas River confluence. Another 2,573 RZB were soft-released at the Montezuma Creek, Utah site.

In collaboration with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), Southern Ute Tribe, and the Jicarilla Game and Fish Department, staff conducted annual fall monitoring for roundtail chub in the Navajo River. In addition, staff completed fish community surveys on sections of river scheduled for habitat enhancement projects.

With the assistance of Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNARRC), staff stocked a total of 439,264 age-0 Colorado pikeminnow (CPM) into the San Juan and Animas Rivers. In accordance with developed soft release protocols, CPM were stocked in the San Juan River near the PNM Weir and in the Animas River at Boyd Park, near Farmington, New Mexico.

Staff completed monthly monitoring of the Pecos River fish community at 12 sites ranging from Willow (30 miles north of Roswell) to Brantley Reservoir, New Mexico. In addition, eight sites south of Brantley Reservoir were surveyed as part of an annual Pecos River monitoring. Data will be used to define the status of the fish community, with emphasis on Pecos bluntnose shiner, in response to low/no flow during winter months.

In cooperation with the NMDGF, staff completed fish community monitoring in the Canadian River east of Tucumcari, New Mexico. A principal objective of this monitoring is to collect baseline data on the presence/absence of the federally listed Arkansas River shiner.

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

With the assistance of Mora NFH, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and NMDGF, staff stocked Age-0 Gila trout of Main Diamond lineage into Sheep Corral Creek (n=150), Sapillo

Creek (n=1,000), and Black Canyon Creek (n=1,000). In addition, 73 Gila trout (South Diamond lineage) were returned to South Diamond.

With the assistance of USFS and NMDGF, staff completed post-fire monitoring on White Creek, Gila National Forest. In addition, staff completed an evaluation of an existing barrier.

### Education and Outreach

Staff provided a hands-on demonstration of passive and active fish sampling techniques on Isleta Lakes to five students from the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). The students are currently enrolled in the Introduction to Wildlife Management class at SIPI.

Staff completed Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) aquarium set-ups and presentations at Monte Vista and Mountain View Elementary School. This year, approximately 120 5<sup>th</sup>-grade students, from these schools, will be responsible for the care of native Rio Grande fish. The presentation included an introduction of the USFWS, NMFWCO, native species, the aquarium set-up, and the student's responsibilities for the semester. The remaining three schools (Emerson, Valle Vista, and Governor Bent Elementary) will have their systems set-up in

November 2013 and all schools will receive fish January 2014. The goal of NFIC is to generate enthusiasm for natural resources and foster a sense of stewardship for native fish and their habitats.



Staff participated in the 2013 Water Festival sponsored by the City of Rio Rancho. Staff led a hands-on activity called *The Incredible Journey*. Staff led a discussion with the students identifying how water molecules move throughout a complex water cycle and how fish and other animals (including humans) are a part of the water cycle. Students then moved from various stations as water molecules, rolling a cube to see where they went next on their water journey. During this two-day event, staff worked with approximately 253 students from seven different Bernalillo and Rio Rancho elementary schools.



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

Jim Brooks .....	Project Leader
Jason Davis .....	Assistant Project Leader
Angela Carrillo.....	Administrative Officer
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
Tracy Diver.....	Fish Biologist
Matt Nolen .....	Fish Biologist
Ernest Tellier Sr. ....	Biological Science Technician
Tristan Austring .....	STEP Student