



## Monthly Accomplishments

## October 2015

### Fisheries Activities

Stephen Davenport and Andy Dean completed Pecos River fish community monitoring at nine of twelve sites near Roswell, New Mexico. The crew was unable to complete three sites due to high flows caused by a release of water from Sumner Reservoir. Data from these monitoring efforts are used to define the status of the fish community, with emphasis on Pecos Bluntnose Shiner.

Weston Furr and Ernie Teller assisted the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife with Razorback Sucker active harvest at the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry ponds. The Razorback Sucker were stocked into the San Juan along three sites and one site in the Animas River.

Bobby Duran, Chris Kitcheyan, Ernie Teller, and Eileen Henry completed endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish removal and control on the San Juan River from Hogback Diversion to Shiprock, New Mexico.

Thomas Archdeacon, Jason Davis, and Eileen Henry assisted Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNARRC) with Visible Implant Elastomer (VIE) tagging of 60,000 Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM). These fish

were stocked in the Albuquerque Reach of the Rio Grande in accordance with the RGSM Augmentation Plan. Additional tagging and stocking will occur in November 2015.



**Staff VIE tagging Rio Grande Silvery Minnow.**



**Rio Grande Silvery Minnows with orange VIE tags from SNARRC.**

Thomas Archdeacon, Tristan Austring, Eileen Henry, and Angela James assisted Albuquerque BioPark with Visible Implant Elastomer (VIE) tagging of RGSM. These fish are slated to be stocked in the Rio Grande in accordance with the RGSM Augmentation Plan in November 2015.

Tristan Austring and Eileen Henry assisted the Bureau of Reclamation with fish community monitoring in the

Delta Channel of the Rio Grande just south of Fort Craig to Elephant Butte Reservoir.

Andy Dean, Tom Sinclair, and Stephen Davenport completed preliminary fish community sampling in the San Francisco River near Reserve, New Mexico. The sampling was associated with a Desert Fish Habitat Partnership restoration project that includes cattle exclusion fencing.

In collaboration with Mora National Fish Hatchery (NFH) and Trout Unlimited, Andy Dean collected Gila Trout (Iron Creek lineage) from Iron Creek, Gila National Forest, for broodstock development at Mora NFH. Iron Creek is still recovering from the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire of 2012.



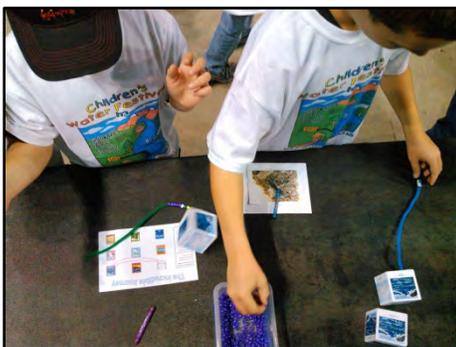
**Crew using electro-shockers to collect Gila Trout in Iron Creek.**

Chris Kitcheyan assisted the Jicarilla Apache Nation Department of Game and Fish with annual fall fish community surveys on Navajo River.

Tom Sinclair, New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office, Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Forest Service, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife assisted the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and Turner Foundation with the Costilla Reservoir restoration project. The project consisted of nonnative fish removal for the benefit of the native Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout.

## Education and Outreach

Angela James and Stephen Davenport participated in the 2015 Children's Water Festival sponsored by the City of Rio Rancho, New Mexico for 4th Graders from Bernalillo and Rio Rancho elementary schools. They led a hands-on activity called The Incredible Journey which allowed students to experience how water molecules move through our complex water cycle. During this two-day event, staff worked with 12 classes, totaling approximately 290 students from six elementary schools; This is the 4th year our office has participated in the Children's Water Festival.



Students rolling the cube to see where they go next in their water cycle journey.

Angela James assisted Joaquin Baca, Division of Water Resources, with his presentation *Wetland & Riverine Restoration in the Middle Rio Grande & Why the Silvery Minnow is Important* at Central New Mexico Community College. The presentation was a part of the CNM Water in the Desert Series. Angela provided live fish displays, which included the RGSM and other native small bodied fish of the Rio Grande.

The New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office has a new Facebook page. View our office posts at the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/New-Mexico-Fish-and-Wildlife-Conservation-Office-1667315323514303/?fref=ts>



Facebook profile photo for NMFWCO.

## Upcoming Activities

Activities and meetings currently scheduled are listed below. Dates are subject to change.

### November 2015

3<sup>rd</sup>: Colorado Pikeminnow Stocking, San Juan and Animas Rivers

4<sup>th</sup>: Native Fish in the Classroom Annual Teacher Workshop

9<sup>th</sup>: MRGESCP Population Monitoring Workshop Planning Meeting, Albuquerque

9<sup>th</sup>- 10<sup>th</sup>: Tri-annual Fish Community Monitoring, Pueblo of Santa Ana

13<sup>th</sup>: RGSM Harvesting and Stocking, Los Lunas Silvery Minnow Refugium

15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: RGSM VIE Tagging, Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center

13<sup>th</sup>: Seining Demonstration with Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute, Albuquerque

13<sup>th</sup> & ~23<sup>rd</sup>: RGSM Stocking, Isleta and San Acacia Reach, Rio Grande

16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>: Fish Passage Project, Crystal Creek, Navajo Nation

18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>: Seining Demonstration, with Bosque School, Albuquerque

24<sup>th</sup>: RGSM Monitoring, Pueblo of Sandia

25<sup>th</sup> RGSM Monitoring, Pueblo of Isleta

### December 2015

1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>: San Juan River Biological Committee Meeting, Durango, Colorado

3<sup>rd</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>: NFIC Aquarium Delivery, APS Schools

8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>: MRGESCP Population Monitoring Workshop in Albuquerque, NM

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
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