



## Monthly Accomplishments

September 2013

### Fisheries Activities

Staff assisted the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife complete presence/absence surveys for Zuni bluehead suckers on Tribal lands.

With the assistance of USFWS Grand Junction (Region 6), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR), and American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers, L.L.C. (ASIR) staff completed the third nonnative removal and endangered fish monitoring trip on the San Juan River from Shiprock, New Mexico to Mexican Hat, Utah. Nonnative fish removal is one management tool employed by the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRRIP) for the recovery of endangered razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow.

Staff from NMFWCO, NMESFO, UDWR, and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) assisted USFWS Grand Junction (Region 6) with nonnative fish removal and annual small-bodied and adult fish community monitoring on the San Juan River.

In cooperation with the NMDGF, staff completed Pecos River fish community monitoring at six sites upstream of Roswell, New Mexico. Of the six sites, one site

was dry. 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.

Staff assisted personnel from the Department of Natural Resources - Pueblo of Santa Ana with quarterly fish monitoring on the Rio Grande and Jemez River.

With the assistance of U.S. Forest Service and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, staff stocked Gila trout into Little Creek, Gila National Forest. Crews used mules and panyards to haul 2,500 Age-0 and 250 Age-1 Gila trout, of Main Diamond lineage, above the barrier on Little Creek. The Gila trout were stocked for recovery purposes.



Staff assisted Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNARRC)), tag 81,350 Age-0 Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM) with visible implant elastomer (VIE) tags. An

additional 210,000 are to be tagged in October and November 2013. Staff will assist with stocking of the tagged RGSM beginning in October 2013 in accordance with the RGSM Augmentation Plan (2008-2012). The plan states that augmentation will occur at individual monitoring sites when September RGSM densities are < 1.00fish/100m<sup>2</sup>.



### Meeting and Trainings

Staff participated in the Environmental Literacy Summit, hosted by the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (EEANM). The EEANM, along with state agency partners and other nonprofits, presented the first draft of the Environmental Literacy Plan for New Mexico for review and comment. The plan was developed with the intent of improving environmental education throughout public school curriculum, resulting in environmentally literate citizens that are responsible stewards of our natural resources.

Staff completed a site visit with staff from the USFWS - Partners for Fish and Wildlife program and Cochiti Pueblo. The participants discussed funding options for restoration projects and a Tribal Youth Conservation Corp program on Cochiti Pueblo.



## Education and Outreach

Staff held a teacher workshop, at NMFWCO, for teachers participating in the 2013-2014 Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) Project. The workshop allowed these teachers to share ideas and methods used in the class to integrate NFIC into their curriculum. Emerson Elementary School (ES), Monte Vista ES, Valle Vista ES, Laguna ES, and Bosque School are signed on to participate again. Our new school, co-sponsored by Valle del Oro NWR, is Mountain View Elementary. To date, 13 classes are set to participate in the raising of native fish in their class.

Staff provided a hands-on demonstration of seining and fish identification in the Rio Grande, Albuquerque to 12 high school students of Bosque School. The students were instructed on the basics of seining and how it is used on the Rio Grande for monitoring of the RGSM. The students then assisted the staff in collecting fish for the Native Fish in the Classroom project.



Staff participated in the National Public Lands Day hosted by the Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge. Approximately 160 people participated in the event. The NMFWCO booth consisted of two display aquariums with fish species of the Middle Rio Grande (i.e. RGSM, red shiner, and flathead chub), a stream table, 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.

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