



## **ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NFHC \* WHITERIVER, ARIZONA**

### ***Monthly Accomplishment Report DECEMBER 2012***



***Bradley Clarkson's demonstration at the Innovation Nation science fair at Canyon Day Elementary School.***

***Bruce Thompson - Project Leader  
Patti Ferlisi - Administrative Assistant***

#### **Alchesay Unit**

***Bradley Clarkson - Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick - Maintenance Worker/MVO  
Jeff Cody - Motor Vehicle Operator (MVO)  
Joyner George - WMAT Animal Caretaker  
Andy Quay - Volunteer  
John Benally - Laborer (Temporary)  
Randy Bonito - WMAT, WIA Laborer  
Wade Goklish - WMAT, WIA Laborer***

#### **Williams Creek Unit**

***Gene Okamoto - Unit Leader  
Russell Wood - Fish Biologist  
Michael Figueroa - Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith - Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson - Animal Caretaker  
Dan Ragen - Maintenance Specialist***

### **PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:**

- ❖ EPA quarterly water sampling for influent and effluent discharge water, as well as annual drinking water sampling, were accomplished for both units. In addition, the renewal applications for effluent discharge permits (NPDES) at both facilities were submitted to Region 9- EPA for processing.
- ❖ The Apache trout spawning operation being conducted at Williams Creek NFH will continue through January and into early February 2013. The adult female brood stock have been very protracted in their egg development this year. The peak is not expected until later in the month. This will delay our egg shipment to the State until late February and early March.
- ❖ Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel participated in the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe-Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division) staff. Also in attendance during the first half of this meeting

was Arizona Game and Fish Department representative Kelly Meyer. Topic of discussion centered around the renewal of a “Weed Agreement for Apache trout”.

**AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:**

❖ **Apache Trout Spawning:**

The staff spawned 132,950 green eggs from 103 adult females, averaging 1,290 eggs per female. Spawning will continue through January and into early February 2013.



*Gene, Bradley and Russ checking for gravid Apache trout females for spawning.*



*Mike collecting ovarian fluid samples to test for fish disease.*

❖ **Alchesay Water Flows:**

During the beginning of the month, the Alchesay facility was plagued with low flows. Drought conditions in recent years, colder than normal temperatures, and delayed snowfalls contributed to freeze-up of the North Fork Whiteriver headwaters above the hatchery. Early morning flows dropped to below 3,500 gallons per minute (gpm). This condition necessitated a consolidation of rearing units. In particular, the production tankhouse (which housed the AZFWCO Apache trout experiment) was completely shut down and the experiment survivors moved to an outside raceway. Normal flows were partially restored with the first snowfall in mid-month.

- ❖ Just prior to the holiday season, it was discovered that the new pipeline entering the hatchery water control structure (WCS) was leaking about 30 gpm. Temporary repairs were made to reduce this leakage and drain the site area. A subsequent internal investigation of the structure revealed a shift in the alignment of the 28 inch pipeline where it enters the WCS. Plans are underway for a more permanent fix after the first of the year.



**FACILITY MAINTENANCE:**

- ❖ With the assistance of Tim Wise of Region 2 Division of Information Resources and Technology Management (IRTM), full intranet capability was restored to the Alchesay NFH facility. The VPN router was reconfigured to connect to the local ISP router and new co-existing links were set up on the hatchery facility computers. When all account passwords have been successfully upgraded, full administrative functionality will be reestablished.
- ❖ Pond 2 modification work slowed down due to inclement weather. A 30 day extension was requested and granted to complete the batch materials contract.

## PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:

### Innovation Nation Science Fair



- ❖ Gene Okamoto and Bradley Clarkson assisted Jennifer Johnson (AZFWCO) with the science fair at Canyon Day Elementary School on December 18, 2012. Hatchery personnel gave hands-on demonstrations of enumerating egg numbers and volumes of eggs. Afterward, each participant was given the opportunity to proudly demonstrate their new-found skills.

## WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- ❖ A big Thank-You to Jennifer Johnson and Travis Taylor from AZFWCO for assisting with our Apache trout spawning operation. They were a tremendous help with checking for gravid females and recording raw data during the milt taking and spawning process.
- ❖ All Hatchery staff completed their monthly reporting.
- ❖ Most of the Hatchery staff was able to gather for a holiday potluck luncheon to celebrate our accomplishments. Pete Drevnick was presented with his 10-Year Certificate. John Benally, Randy Bonito, and Wade Goklish were presented with Certificates of Appreciation for their hard work on the Pond 2 Rehabilitation Project.

- ❖ Randy Bonito's last day under the WIA training contract was December 21, 2012. All of us at the hatchery thank him for his hard work and dedication and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

### LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- ❖ Technology has come a long ways when it comes to egg picking at Williams Creek NFH. The use of a mechanical egg picker has minimized the number of man-hours and the number of staff required to pick a tray of eggs. An additional advantage is hatchery personnel can continue with other vital hatchery responsibilities without interruption.



Jensorter setup for egg picking



37,000 eggs were sorted in less than 10 minutes (left: live eggs; right: dead eggs)