



Monthly Accomplishments

July 2013

Fisheries Activities

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 personnel from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (USACE), Bureau of Reclamation, Ecological Services, and the Regional Office, staff completed salvage efforts for the RGSM on 35.8 unique river miles of the Rio Grande since efforts began in June 2013. Salvage efforts were in the San Acacia Reach (26.9 river miles) at the southern boundary of the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and moved upstream to south of Socorro. During this time, efforts were also made in the Isleta Reach (8.9 river miles) between the Peralta Wasteway to near Tome, New Mexico. A total of 1,147 adult RGSM (>30mm, 971 San Acacia Reach, 176 Isleta Reach) were collected from isolated pools, transported, and released in a flowing portion of the Rio Grande below San Acacia Diversion Dam or Isleta Diversion Dam, depending on the reach. Of the 1,441 RGSM observed (including mortalities)

in 2013, 1,245 (86.4%) have been visible implant elastomer (VIE) marked, indicating that they are hatchery-released individuals from last fall (2012). Salvage efforts are ongoing.



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

Staff assisted personnel from Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery with nonnative fish removal, targeting common carp, at Lake Mescalero, Mescalero Apache Tribe.

At the request of Nambé Lakes and Recreation, staff completed post-fire assessments of water quality and fish populations at Nambé Lake, Pueblo of Nambé. The Pacheco fire severely impacted Nambé Lake in June and July of 2011.

With the assistance of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), staff completed nonnative fish removal and

endangered species monitoring from Hogback Diversion to Shiprock, New Mexico and PNM Weir to Hogback Diversion reaches on the San Juan River. This is the first of two scheduled trips on the PNM to Hogback reach and the second of three trips to the Hogback to Shiprock reach. Nonnative fish removal is one management tool used by the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRIP) for the recovery of the endangered Colorado pikeminnow and razorback sucker.



Staff assisted personnel from the Office of Environmental Affairs - Pueblo of Santa Clara with the first post-fire fish survey within Santa Clara Canyon, Pueblo of Santa Clara. In August 2012, staff completed required training covering safety measures for entering Santa Clara Canyon. The canyon was heavily impacted by the Los Conchas fire of 2011 and post-fire flooding.

In cooperation with the 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.

Staff completed monitoring for Pecos bluntnose shiner at two sites on the Pecos River, near Bosque Redondo State Park. Although no longer within the current distribution of the Pecos bluntnose shiner, staff complete quarterly monitoring to assess changes with habitat and potential for expansion, since there are no barriers to movement.

Meeting and Trainings

Staff met with the acting President of the Mescalero Apache Tribe to discuss the development and implementation of the Rio Grande Cutthroat (RGCT) Trout Strategic Plan and the Rio Ruidoso project (re-introduction of RGCT). Staff also met with the Mescalero Tribal Council and Inn of the Mountain Gods personnel to provide an update on management and fish survey efforts conducted for the past five years on Lake Mescalero.

As a representative of the Fisheries program, staff participated in the ranking of Science Support Partnership/Quick Response Program proposals.

Education and Outreach

Staff assisted with the construction of shade structures at Alvarado Garden located in downtown Albuquerque. The construction crew consisted of staff from NMFWCO, RO, Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), and the Las Vegas NWR Youth Conservation Corps. The Alvarado Garden was the project site for the Building Urban Community Habitat with Youth (BUCHY) course hosted in Albuquerque in May 2013. Personnel from the class are implementing concepts developed during the BUCHY course.



Staff visited the Mountain View Community Center, where they led a hands-on activity called *The Incredible Journey* for a day camp. Approximately 26 children (kindergarten-2nd grade) participated in the activity, learning how water molecules move through the water cycle. The children were also able to view native fish species of the Rio Grande, learning how humans and animals are a part of the water cycle.

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation



New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office
3800 Commons Avenue NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109
Phone 505/342-9900
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/nmfwco/index.html>

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