



## Monthly Accomplishments

June 2013

### Fisheries Activities

In cooperation with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) and U.S Forest Service (USFS), staff completed annual monitoring and nonnative fish removal (e.g. flathead catfish, bullhead, and largemouth bass) on the West Fork Gila River near the Heart Bar Ranch in the Gila National Forest.

In collaboration with the USFS and Mora National Fish Hatchery (NFH), staff completed fire and drought related emergency evacuation of Gila trout (South Diamond relic lineage) from South Diamond Creek. Field crews packed in on mules and horses to collect the Gila trout from each stream. A helicopter hauled the fish out of South Diamond Creek to Mora NFH staff standing by to transport the trout to Mora NFH. Mora NFH received 85 Gila trout of multiple size classes. The trout will be held for refuge until further notice.



With the assistance of NMDGF, staff completed post-fire monitoring and nonnative removal on Mineral Creek and Willow Creek, Gila National Forest. Staff surveyed eight miles of Mineral Creek, resulting in no fish found. Five miles of Willow Creek were surveyed with only two nonnative trout found. Staff followed post-fire monitoring protocols established by the Gila Trout Recovery Team.

With the assistance of NMDGF and USFS, staff completed post-fire monitoring on the South Fork of Whitewater Creek (1-mile) and on the Main Stem of Whitewater creek (2-miles), Gila National Forest. No fish were found in either stretch of the creeks.

Staff assisted NMDGF with post-stocking monitoring for Gila chub in Mule Creek. Initial introduction of Gila chub into Mule Creek was in 2012 from the donor stream Harden Cienaga, Arizona. Seven Gila chub were collected, all from the initial stocking. The NMDGF has additional stockings scheduled for the repatriation of Mule Creek.

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 Rio Grande silvery minnow

(RGSM) on 31.7 river miles of the Rio Grande. Efforts began in the San Acacia Reach (24.9 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 (6.8 river miles) between the Peralta Wasteway to near Tome, New Mexico. A total of 933 adult RGSM (>30mm, 834 San Acacia Reach, 99 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. It was necessary to begin salvage efforts approximately two weeks earlier than the usual June 15<sup>th</sup> start date. Salvage efforts are ongoing.



Staff assisted USFWS Grand Junction (Region 6) with the second of four nonnative fish removal and endangered species monitoring trips on the San Juan River from Shiprock, New Mexico to Mexican Hat, Utah. Additional assistance was provided by Utah Division of

Wildlife Resources, NMDGF, and American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers L.L.C. (ASIR). 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 NMDGF with sampling efforts in Saliz Canyon, a tributary to the San Francisco River, for spikedace and loachminnow. Crews were surveying to determine the presence/absence of loachminnow and spikedace, as well as suitability for repatriation. No spikedace or loachminnow were found.

In cooperation with the NMDGF, staff completed Pecos River fish community monitoring at ten of the twelve sites, near Roswell, New Mexico. Staff were unable to complete two of the sites due to inclement weather. 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.

## Meeting and Trainings

Weston Furr, Angela James, Tracy Diver, Matt Nolen, Andy Dean, and Chris Kitcheyan successfully completed FWS Off-Road Utility Vehicle Safety Training ATV/UTV instructed by Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge staff.

Angela James successfully completed the Building Urban Community Habitat with Youth NCTC course hosted by the Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

## Education and Outreach

Staff assisted Regional Office's External Affairs with a Summer Day Camp hosted by the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. Fourteen students from various tribes and Pueblos participated in the day camp, ranging from six to eleven years old. Staff provided a display of Rio Grande silvery minnow in addition to a presentation by Wildlife Rescue with rehabilitated raptors and a presentation by External Affairs.

Staff assisted in the Regional Office's Bring Your Child to Work Day activities. Approximately 18 children from the Regional Office and 20 students from Christina Kent Preschool participated in activities at the downtown Alvarado Garden and Regional Office, making seed balls, tie dyeing shirts, flower pressing, and making eggshell planters.



Staff participated in the Tribal Youth Environment Summer Camp sponsored by the Eight Northern Pueblos and hosted by the Jicarilla Apache Nation, New Mexico. The Youth Camp hosted 25 students from all over New Mexico. Staff demonstrated boat electroshocking on Mundo Lake and backpack electroshocking sampling in Navajo River. Students rotated through each task associated with sampling including netting, weighing and measuring fish, and data recording. During the boat electroshocking demonstration on Mundo Lake, students also assisted with green sunfish removal efforts.

## Personnel

The NMFWCO staff welcomed two Fish Biologists, Tracy Diver and Matt Nolen. Their primary duties will consist of supporting salvage efforts of the RGSM.



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