



## Monthly Accomplishments

## May 2015

### Fisheries Activities

In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta Environment Department, Thomas Archdeacon and Tristan Austring completed monthly monitoring for Rio Grande silvery minnow. Monitoring determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish from augmentation and research efforts.

Chris Kitcheyan assisted Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) with Zuni Bluehead and Bluehead Sucker annual monitoring within the Chuska Mountains and Fort Defiance Plateau.



Navajo Nation DFW seining during annual monitoring.



Zuni Bluehead Sucker.

Chris Kitcheyan assisted Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife with annual lake surveys focusing on Largemouth Bass populations within Morgan Lake, Navajo Nation.

Stephen Davenport and Andy Dean completed post-restoration fish community monitoring at five sites on the Rio Hondo, near Roswell, New Mexico. The channel and stream diversion was completed in the Fall of 2014.

Andy Dean submitted samples to the Bozeman Fish Technology Center - Genetics Lab for the development of an eDNA marker for brown trout in the Gila River, Gila National Forest.

### Meetings and Trainings

Tom Sinclair, Jason Davis, Bobby Duran, and Weston Furr participated in the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's (SJRRIP) Biology Committee meeting and the SJRRIP annual joint meeting of the Coordination and Biology Committees in Durango, Colorado. Bobby and Weston reported results from 2014 projects. Specifically, Bobby Duran presented Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Species Monitoring and Control in Upper/Middle San Juan River 2014. Weston Furr presented Colorado Pikeminnow and

Razorback Sucker Augmentation in the San Juan River 2014. During the Coordination Committee Meeting, Tom served as the Committee's Chairman.

Chris Kitcheyan along with New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office participated in a Formal Consultation with the Pueblo of Zuni. Discussion included development of a Fisheries Management Plan (1<sup>st</sup> draft completed by NMFWCO) and critical habitat designation for Zuni Bluehead Sucker. In addition, Chris presented *Use of Electrofishing Techniques* to the Zuni Tribal Council.

Angela James presented Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) at the 2015 Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) Symposium hosted by the Southwest Regional Education Cooperative in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Approximately 21 teachers from around the State of New Mexico participated in the presentation which included an introduction to the NFIC project and the *How Many Fish* activity.

### Education and Outreach

Angela Palacios James presented *Fiction Mimicking Reality* to three fifth-grade classes (~ 75 students) from Emerson Elementary Schools. The presentation pulled topics from

the fictional book *The Case of the Missing Cutthroats: An Eco Mystery* and highlighted how they mirror real life issues with native fish. Issues discussed in the book included native ranges of cutthroats, macroinvertebrate sampling, fish tagging and monitoring, and impacts of humans.

Angela James and Dustin Myers served as judges for a debate at Monte Vista Elementary School. The debate, designed by Teacher Kristine Olson, centered on mock legislation proposed for the Rio Grande Wildlife Corridor. Each student represented a different public view (e.g. land developer, biology teacher, hydrologist, realtor, environmentalist, a cougar, and farmer) in the debate. The debate emphasized the various issues and views that surround our natural resources.

The New Mexico FWCO sponsored their 4th Annual Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) - Releasing the Coldwater Natives Field Day at the Orilla Verde Recreation Area near Pilar, New Mexico. Approximately 54 students representing Emerson and Monte Vista Elementary schools participated in this culmination event of a semester-long project. The students released 65 Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (from Seven Spring State Hatchery) that they had raised in their classrooms since January 2015. After students wished their fish good luck and said their farewells, they participated in learning stations led by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Rocky Mountain Research Station, and New Mexico FWCO.



**Morgyn, a fifth grade student, released a Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout.**



**During a learning station, Angela led students on a short hike.**



**The NMDGF Biologists and Officers instructed students in fish casting.**

The New Mexico FWCO sponsored their 4th Annual NFIC- Releasing the Warm Water Natives Field Day held in Albuquerque, New Mexico hosted by the Bosque School. Approximately 175 students representing Governor Bent Elementary, Monte Vista Elementary, Valle Vista Elementary and Albuquerque Sign Language Academy participated in the event. The students released 197 fish of the Middle Rio Grande (e.g. Flathead Chub, Longnose Dace, & Red

Shiners) that had been raised in their classrooms since January 2015. After students wished their fish good luck and said their farewells, they participated in multiple learning stations that were provided by the Bosque School and Bosque Ecology Monitoring Program (BEMP), New Mexico FWCO, USFWS – Water Resources, Pueblo of Sandia, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, USFWS Partners for Wildlife, and Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).



**Nico, a fifth grade student, is releasing his fish into the Rio Grande.**



**Yancey Ranspot, USFS - Rocky Mountain Research Station, presenting cicada casings to students.**



**Students explored the trials of bird migration with Valle de Oro NWR staff.**

A heartfelt THANK YOU goes out to all our Teachers, Students and Presenters who helped make the NFIC Project a success. A special thank you goes out to the Friends of Valle de Oro NWR Group who sponsored the bus for Valle Vista Elementary.

Congratulations to the finalists of the Time to Say Good-bye Writing Contest. The writing contest, sponsored by New Mexico FWCO, was open to students participating in the NFIC project. Students were challenged to incorporate into a poem native species words and phrases, one or more species names, ideas and concepts learned during their time with the fish, and a demonstration of stewardship, guardianship, or concern for the well-being of native fish. Congratulations to Kaya Perce & Naomi Padilla of Monte Vista Elementary, Mackenzie McInturff & Caleb Hansen of Governor Bent Elementary, Amariz Garcia of Valle Vista Elementary, Jocelyn Fuentes Sotelo & ShaiAnn Sanchez of Albuquerque Sign Language Academy, and Madolynn Jaramillo, Suman Rai, & Andy Miranda of Emerson Elementary. The Finalists participated in a behind-the-scenes tour of the Albuquerque Aquarium and its Rio Grande Silvery Minnow facilities. The tour provided an opportunity for the students to compare their in-class systems to the large-scale aquariums and re-circulation systems of a professional establishment.



Writing contest winners toured the Albuquerque BioPark - Rio Grande Silvery Minnow facility.



The writing contest winners partook in a behind-the-scenes tour of the Albuquerque Aquarium.

**Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow**  
By Kaya Perce  
Monte Vista Elementary School

Yesterday you were in our classrooms  
Safe and sound and swimming.  
Yesterday you were in our classrooms  
Not worrying about Rainbow Trout too.

Today you are free in the river  
Without a tank around you.  
Today you are free in the river  
Eating lots of mayflies as well.

Tomorrow we'll continue to protect you  
We won't let you become extirpated.  
Tomorrow we'll continue to protect you  
You won't be extinct on our watch.

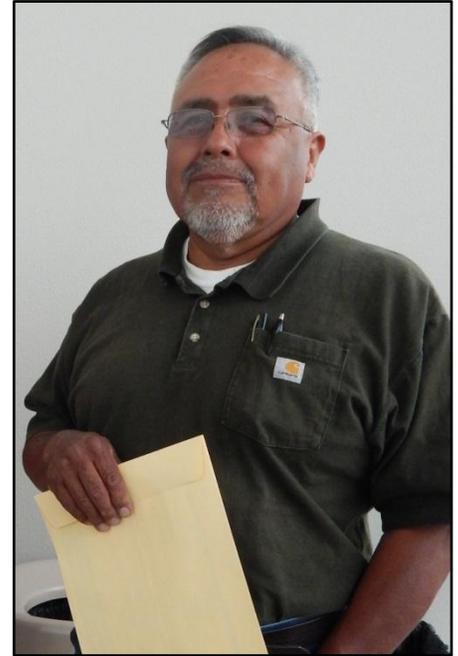
Yesterday we learned about you  
Your anatomy, your predators, your prey.  
Yesterday we learned about you.  
Rounded tail? Maybe not. What surprise!

Today, we watch you go freely  
As we wonder what the water levels are.  
Today we watch you go freely  
Missing you as you leave.

Tomorrow we will miss you even more  
When we'll have no need for a siphon.  
Tomorrow we'll miss you even more  
As you swim forever in our hearts.

## Personnel

Ernie Teller, Sr. was nominated for 2015 New Mexico Federal Executive Board's Excellence in Public Service Award. Ernie received the Federal Employee of the Year Award in the Professional, Administrative, Technical category.



Ernie Teller, Sr.

## Upcoming Activities

Activities and meetings currently scheduled are listed below.

### June 2015

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>: Fish community monitoring, Pecos River

3<sup>rd</sup>: Off Road Utility Vehicle training, Bosque del Apache NWR

1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>: Turkey Creek nonnative fish removal, Gila National Forest

11<sup>th</sup>: Youth Outreach at Acomita Lake, Pueblo of Acoma

14<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>: Rio Grande Silvery  
Minnow Salvage operations,  
Bosque del Apache NWR

15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>: Annual fish community  
and nonnative fish removal on  
West Fork Gila, Gila National  
Forest

16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: 8th Annual Tribal  
Youth Environmental Summer  
Camp, Taos, New Mexico

19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>: Native American Fish  
and Wildlife Society Youth  
Practicum, Arizona

17-26<sup>th</sup>: Endangered Fish  
Monitoring and Nonnative Fish  
Removal and Control from  
Shiprock, NM to Mexican Hat,  
Utah

29<sup>th</sup>: Big Dry Creek fish  
community monitoring, Gila  
National Forest

29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>: Rio Grande Silvery  
Minnow monthly monitoring,  
Middle Rio Grande

## **July 2015**

1<sup>st</sup>: Youth Outreach at Acomita  
Lake, Pueblo of Acoma

6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>: Endangered Fish  
Monitoring and Nonnative Fish  
Removal and Control from  
Shiprock, NM to Montezuma  
Creek, Utah

13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>: Endangered Fish  
Monitoring and Nonnative Fish  
Removal and Control from  
Hogback Diversion to Shiprock,  
New Mexico

15<sup>th</sup>: Let's be Fish, Pueblo of  
Sandia

18<sup>th</sup>: Environmental Fair, Pueblo  
of Isleta

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>

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## Current staff members

Tom Sinclair .....	Project Leader
Jason E. Davis .....	Assistant Project Leader
Angela Carrillo.....	Administrative Officer
Kimberly M. Flowers .....	Office Assistant
Stephen R. Davenport .....	Supervisory Fish Biologist
D. Chris Kitcheyan .....	Supervisory Fish Biologist
D. Weston Furr .....	Fish Biologist
Thomas P. Archdeacon.....	Fish Biologist
Dustin J. Myers.....	Fish Biologist
Angela P. James.....	Fish Biologist
Bobby R. Duran.....	Fish Biologist
Andy T. Dean .....	Fish Biologist
Ernie Teller Sr. ....	Biological Science Technician
Tristan L. Austring .....	STEP Student