



ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK
NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX
WHITERIVER, AZ



MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
August 2013

Bruce Thompson - Project Leader
Patti Ferlisi - Office Assistant

ALCHESAY UNIT

Gene Okamoto - Unit Leader
*Pete Drevnick - Maintenance Worker/
Motor Vehicle Operator*
Jeff Cody - Motor Vehicle Operator
Joyner George - WMAT
Andy Quay - Volunteer

WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT

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



PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- All requisite water sampling for EPA was completed for both units.
- 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).

- On August 6, 2013, Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel assisted AZFWCO and WMAT-WORD with stocking 50,000 channel catfish received from Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery in Texas. The Inks Dam distribution truck was met at the WORD office in Whiteriver, Arizona. The fish were off loaded onto hatchery trucks by WORD and hatchery personnel, and then distributed to Cooley Lake and the Bonita Prairie region.

AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- Hatchery personnel drove 1,531 miles to deliver almost 78,000 rainbow, Apache and brook trout (ranging in size from 6” to 8”) to six different recreation areas on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR). Stocking trips continue to be consolidated whenever possible.



- Student volunteers from Whiteriver High School assisted with a river stocking on the North Fork, right.
- While the monsoon season has ramped up this month, water quality conditions at the Alchesay Unit have been better than expected and fish health concerns have not been a priority. Observation of the A-bank raceways showed some fish were riding high, some had flared gills and there was a slight increase in the number of daily mortalities. As a prophylactic measure, the raceways were treated with salt twice a day for three days.

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Hatchery personnel completed the mandatory “No FEAR Act” training. Purchase card holders completed the refresher courses and annual agreements of responsibility. Supervisors continued their quest to complete the requisite ethic and diversity training.
- A very large old tree snag fell across the perimeter fence at the outflow of Pond 1 at the Alchesay Unit. The tree, *below*, has been part of the hatchery for many years and has served as a rest stop for countless numbers and species of wildlife. We were able to dismantle the massive tree into three manageable pieces so the fence could be reconstructed in order to prevent uninvited visitors that might wander into the hatchery from the surrounding woodlands. The three pieces will be left in place for nature to take its course.



- All FY 2013 stocking information was entered in the Fisheries Information System fish distribution module.
- Gene Okamoto and Russell Wood represented the hatchery at the monthly Project Leader's conference call on August 6, 2013.
- Andy Quay continues to provide valuable volunteer hours to the Alchesay Unit. He provided 122 hours this month performing fish culture duties as well as building and grounds maintenance.
- Patti Ferlisi was detailed as full time Office Assistant this month. She continues to assist with administrative duties until the vacant Administrative Technician position can be filled.
- The annual property inventory was completed this month.
- In preparation for future stocking obligations, the Williams Creek Unit received 373,000 rainbow trout eggs from Erwin National Fish Hatchery. Fish biologist, Russ Wood, prepares the egg jars, *right*.



PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:

- The public park at the Alchesay Unit invites visitors to come and relax for a picnic, wade in the river, classroom day trip, or to just get away and enjoy the outdoors, *below*. The park is well used during the summer months, particularly June, July and August. It is open every day from sunrise to sunset, and is managed on a day use only, first come first served, no reservations basis.



FACILITY MAINTENANCE:

- Quarters 5 at the Alchesay Unit received a new metal roof, *right*, as the first step in the entire remodeling of this building for future volunteer/employee housing.



LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- The radial flow settlers (RFS) arrived early in the month and the construction crew began assembling each unit one at a time, *below left*. The fully assembled RFS unit is then carefully lowered into the channel to its exact site location, *below center*. A 10" hole was drilled into the side of A-bank's head wall for each of the RFS units to supply filtered water to those production raceways, *below right*.



- In order to facilitate turning off the water supply to the RFS units if necessary, tapping into the main water supply line that feeds the production raceways was required. This was accomplished by drilling through the shutoff valve opening (red gate valve) into the main water supply line, *below left*, then turning off the water flow to the raceways and retrieving the core plug, *below right*.

