



ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

August 2014

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager
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 Fisheries
Andy Quay – Volunteer
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer
Travis Taylor – Laborer*

WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist
Dan Ragen – Maintenance Specialist
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker
Mary Zyló – Volunteer
Carol Walker – Volunteer*

Mrs. Belted Kingfisher takes a break from fishing at the Alchesay Unit

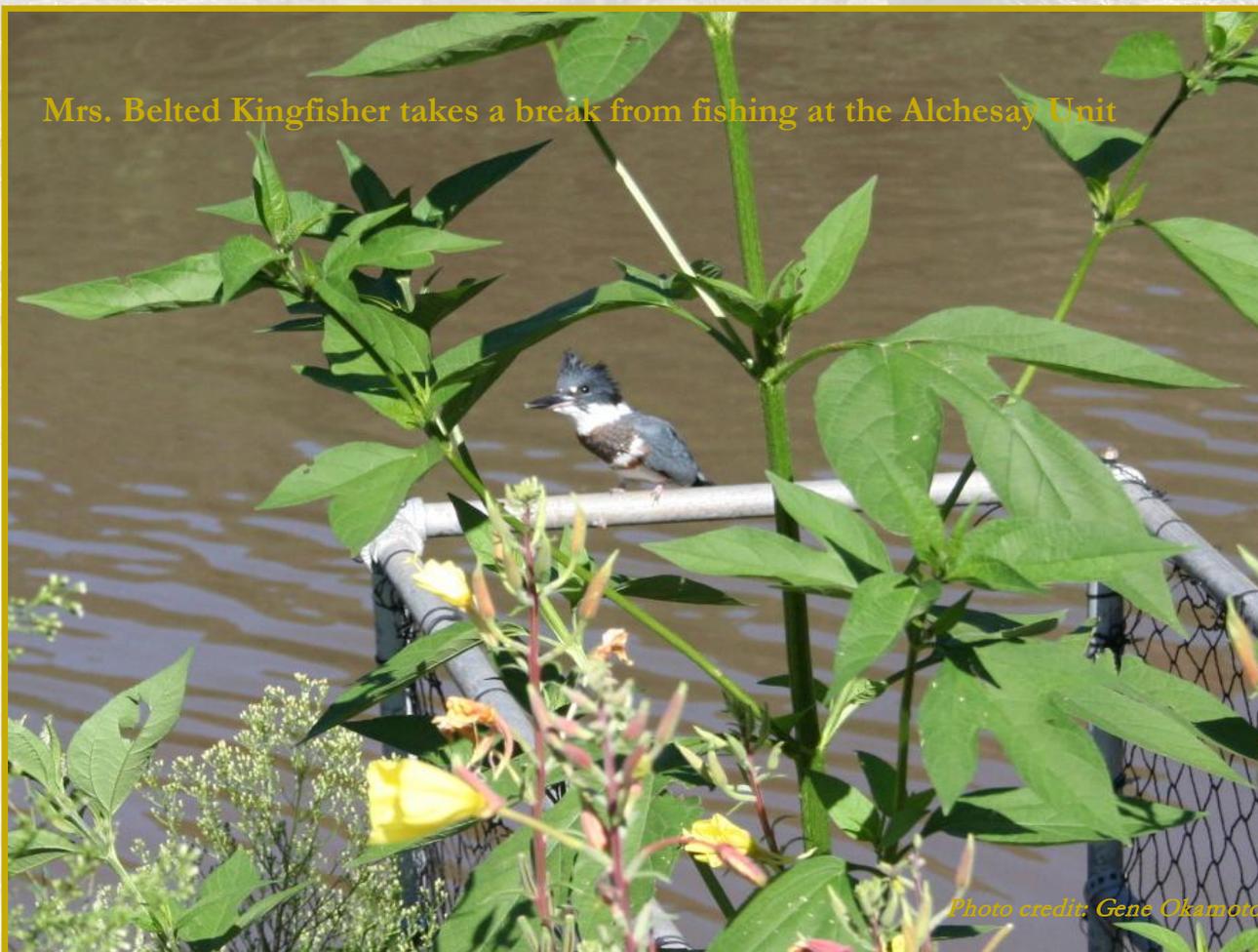


Photo credit: Gene Okamoto

PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- All requisite water sampling for EPA was completed for both units.
- Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel hosted the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe – Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division).
- Bruce Thompson provided a tour of the Williams Creek Unit to personnel from Salt River Project (SRP) and WMAT’s Hydrology Department.

AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- Hatchery personnel drove 1,012 miles to deliver 7,139 rainbow trout (~5” length); 2,935 rainbow trout (~9” length); 9,738 brown trout (~5” length); and 11,167 Apache trout (~9” length) to 16 different recreation areas on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR). Stocking trips continue to be consolidated whenever possible.
- Both units continue to experience poor water quality. Runoff from the much needed monsoon rains are causing very muddy water at the Alchesay Unit. Along with causing muddy waters, the runoff washed away a portion of the road leading to the spring and flooded the feed storage room. While adjustments have been made to the incoming flows, the rainbow trout remain stressed and salt is being used to treat parasites. Approximately 4,600 rainbow trout were lost in a six- to eight-day span.

With low flows at the Williams Creek Unit, the dissolved oxygen level in lower Pond 4 fell drastically overnight, resulting in the loss of approximately 2,000 rainbow trout. Apache trout are being fed with medicated feed in an effort to combat coldwater disease.

- Russ Wood participated in a Zuni bluehead sucker sampling trip to the box canyon area of Rio Nutria on lands owned by The Nature Conservancy. Participants included representatives from Zuni Fish and Wildlife Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Cibola National Forest and US Fish and Wildlife Service (Ecological Services and New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office). Young of year to mature adults were sampled.



- The Williams Creek Unit assisted AZFWCO with channel catfish stocking on the FAIR. Jimmy Smith met the large Regional Distribution Unit (from Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery in Burnet, Texas) at the San Carlos Recreation and Wildlife Department. The catfish were offloaded into our smaller truck and transported to the FAIR where some were offloaded again to WORD personnel for stocking. Jimmy stocked the remainder of the catfish into FAIR waters.
- The Williams Creek Unit received almost 348,000 rainbow trout eggs from Erwin National Fish Hatchery in Erwin, TN. These eggs represent the beginnings of next year's stocking commitments.

PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:

- The Williams Creek Unit provided two large Apache trout for AZFWCO's booth at the 9th annual Woodland Wildlife and Science Festival. This event attracts visitors from all over the state and is well-attended every year.
- The Williams Creek Unit received almost 200 two- and four-legged visitors this month. The Alchesay Unit received 125 visitors.

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Andy Quay continues to provide valuable volunteer hours to the Alchesay Unit. He provided 149 hours this month performing fish culture duties, *right*, as well as building and grounds maintenance.
- The Williams Creek Unit welcomed two new volunteers, Mary Zylo and Carol Walker. Mary is assisting with grounds maintenance and Carol has been "shadowing" Mike Figueroa to learn the basics of fish culture. We greatly appreciate the assistance these ladies are providing.



- Pete Drevnick and Travis Taylor continue to make progress on the Pond 3 Modification project. Removing rock from the excavated earth is accomplished using a rock bucket. When the dirt is scooped, the rocks remain in the bucket while the smaller particles fall through the tines, *below left*. The effluent drain line has been installed, *below right*. The water control structure has been formed, *bottom*; concrete will be poured as weather permits.



- Bruce Thompson, Gene Okamoto and Bradley Clarkson continue to work on mandatory supervisory training including EEO and Diversity.
- Interviews were conducted and an applicant selected for the Administrative Technician position. We anticipate a mid-September start date.

LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- Finding a supplier for the Williams Creek Unit's liquid oxygen system continues to be easier said than done. Bruce Thompson and Pete Drevnick met with the representative of another supplier and logistics and details are being ironed out.