

AWC-NFHC * AUGUST 2016

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of Interior

Monthly Accomplishment Report

Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery Complex



Mike Figueroa and Isaiah Paxson, AWC-NFHC crew, AZFWCO staff Jake Washburn, and Justin Gatewood from WMAT are accomplishing wild fish health survey on the headwaters of the East Fork of the Whiteriver. The survey is to establish if BKD is present in the wild fish population on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

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Conserving Aquatic Endangered Species:



Alchesay-Williams Creek NFHC provided 25 Apache Trout and 50 Rainbow Trout of diverse sizes to the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community's new OdySea Aquarium in the Desert on August 26, 2016. Smaller and more intimate than some of its larger and better-known cousins, the OdySea Aquarium is a place where you can get close to the animals and take your time to enjoy them.

Slated to open in the fall of 2016, the OdySea Aquarium will be the largest aquarium in the Southwest.

On August 9, 2016, personnel from Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (AZFWCO), Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR), Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNARRC), and Hatchery Complex personnel conducted a wild fish health survey on the North Fork of the Whiteriver on the White Mountain Indian Reservation (WMAT). Several sites were sampled to determine if BKD is present in wild fish population. A considerable number of brown trout (BNT) were sampled as well as a small number of Apache Trout (APT). The SNARRC field crew performed the necessary field sampling needed to initiate the BKD testing back in the lab. No test results have been disclosed at this time.



Williams Creek staff is in the process of sorting both the males and females from the two-year old APT broodstock. The males will provide the milt to fertilize the eggs from this year APT spawn. The two-year old females will be integrated as a component to our fish stocking program next year. It is anticipated that the APT spawning season will commence on or before the first week in December 2016.

Conserving, Restoring and Enhancing Habitats:

Complex personnel completed monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) as well as compulsory EPA biweekly sampling of influent (Alchesay only) and effluent discharge water at both facilities for the month of August. Each facility was tested for total suspended solids (TSS) and pH limits. Scheduled water collection at the Alchesay unit is rescheduled from time to time due to poor water quality from cyclical afternoon monsoon rains. When there is a window of opportunity, water samples are



August monsoon rains 2016

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collected to meet the required Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) bimonthly sampling. The biweekly analytical results remained well within the EPA parameters for both facilities.

Fulfilling Tribal Trust Responsibilities:

Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel participated in the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (AZFWCO) and White Mountain Apache Tribe-Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division (WMAT-WORD) personnel. This month's meeting was hosted by AZFWCO. Jeremy Voeltz returned from his detail in Portland, OR to oversee the meeting which was attended by Bruce Thompson, Gene Okamoto, Bradley Clarkson, and Russell Wood from AWC-NFHC, Tim Gatewood represented WMAT-WORD, and Jennifer Johnson also attended on behalf of AZFWCO.

Isaiah Paxson from Williams Creek NFH met the Regional Distribution Unit (RDU) at the San Carlos Indian Reservation Game and Fish Office to assist with the stocking of channel catfish (CCF) on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR) on Tuesday, August 16, 2016. WMAT-WORD personnel assisted with distributing several hundred of the approximate 5,000 CCF to a number of tanks on the reservation. Cooley Lake received the remainder of the CCF. AZFWCO personnel assisted San Carlos Indian Reservation Game and Fish staff with distribution of ~21,000 CCF to several of their tanks and ponds.

Enhancing Recreational Fishing and Public Use of Aquatic Resources:

Williams Creek NFH completed their Brook Trout (BKT) stocking on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR) for 2016. Early in the month, A-1, Drift Fence and Reservation Lakes received a total of 8,000 fish with Earl Park and Hawley Lake finishing the scheduled requests with 5,663 BKT released for the month of August.

Alchesay-Williams Creek NFHC is coordinating efforts to stock RBT in select locations on the North Fork of the Whiteriver and Cibecue Creek prior to the start of the Labor Day holiday weekend. This is in lieu of the BKD+ APT that were depopulated at the Williams Creek facility which prompted a lack of APT stocking in streams on the FAIR. Hatchery staff completed the doubled weekly allocations for North Fork F, G, H, I, and Cibecue Creek with 5,340 8.5" RBT. Discussions with AZFWCO, WMAT, and Hatchery Complex personnel were all in agreement of stocking RBT in these locations on the North Fork of the Whiteriver and Cibecue Creek and circumvent areas that would affect the APT Recovery Program.

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Workforce Management, Training, and Scientific Capacity:

Alchesay-Williams Creek NFHC staff completed EEO and Diversity mandatory training requirements. Supervisory staff met their 8 hour mandatory EEO and Diversity training as well as non-supervisory staff completed their 4 hours of EEO and Diversity requirements.

The Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH Complex is in the process of pre-recruitment for our Administrative Support Assistant position that we are hoping to fill soon. Altogether, the pre-recruitment document checklist as well as the position description (PD) and a job overview summary for this position were submitted on August 30, 2016. The position will be posted to any potential applicants that may qualify for any of the Special Hiring Authorities such as Schedule A Hiring or VEOA/VRA.

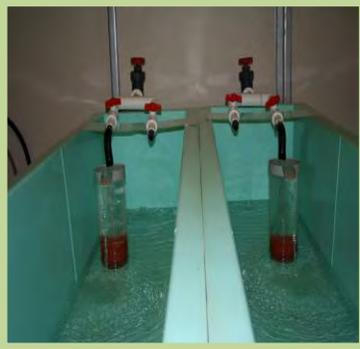
Gene Okamoto completed the on-line training for NetDMR electronic reporting. EPA provided the monthly training session for Permittees and Data Providers. NetDMR enables users to submit their monthly Discharge Monitoring Reports (DMR) electronically instead of sending a hard copy. NetDMR is a web application that can be used to enter and submit data required to meet NPDES permit reporting requirements. Electronic reporting will be required by December 21, 2016.

Williams Creek personnel continue to make improvements to the Apache Trout tank house after shutting down the building for BKD disinfection. The eight larger circular tanks along with two smaller ones replaced ten rectangular rearing tanks on one side of the building. These circular tanks increased the total volume of rearing space by 230 cubic feet. The total cubic feet of rearing space in the newly modified APT production building (710 cubic ft.) is one third more rearing volume than the previous APT tank house design (480 cubic ft.) and has lowered the density index (DI) to .75 compared to a 1.28 DI with the original APT tank house design.

On August 24, 2016, Stewart Jacks, Fisheries ARD arranged a field station visit to AWC-NFHC to meet with all the hatchery staff to discuss the challenges the Complex faces with infrastructure, resources, and personnel issues as well as receiving a personal tour of each facility. Everyone had the opportunity to meet with Stewart one on one to discuss any pertinent questions relating to their job or other intangible assets.

Williams Creek personnel, Russell Wood and John Fenslage arranged a visit to Mora NFH on August 29-31, 2016. The trip is to gather information relating to the Gila Trout selective breeding, circular tank rearing production, and recirculation system. This worthwhile information was shared with hatchery personnel at both facilities.

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Williams Creek NFH received their first egg shipment of 200,000 RBT eggs from Ennis NFH on August 30, 2016. The eggs are being nurtured in the modified hatching jar incubation system in the APT tank house. As the eggs start to hatch, the fry will swim out of the jar and into the start tank where they will remain there until ready to feed. This modification is moving forward to help reduce stress levels by minimizing the handling of smaller fish. The eggs are being held in this building pending the completion of the production tank house modification currently underway.

Public Education and Engagement:

Hatchery visitation during the month of August was influenced by the monsoon weather as well as the recent start of the school year. Although special groups consistently visit the hatchery, visitor numbers were gradually declining with the end of summer approaching. We continue to encourage local patrons, visitor groups, and last minute vacationers to enjoy the fishing opportunities and hatchery picnic area at the Alchesay and Williams Creek NFHC. Approximately 91 visitors paid a visit to the Alchesay unit as well as 106 tourists to the Williams Creek facility.

Carol and Jonathan Walker continue to support our volunteer program at the Williams Creek unit as well as the Alchesay facility. Carol provided 126.5 volunteer hours this month carrying out fish culture related duties in concert with the continued expansion of the pollinator garden at the Alchesay unit. Jonathan provided 142 volunteer hours in fish culture and building and equipment maintenance activities.



Carol has devoted more work hours this month designating site locations for each flora and shrubbery transplanted along with watering and weeding. She is very self-driven to move forward with the expansion of the pollinator garden at the Alchesay facility. Several new plant species have



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been added to complement what was planted last year. Flora species such as wisteria, liatris, lupine, vinca, yarrow, echinacea, cosmos, and dianthus were highlighted in the pollinator garden in an effort to attract more pollinators as well as the Monarch Butterfly.

YCC student, Jake Gregg completed his summer work program at Williams Creek NFH on August 02, 2016. His YCC co-worker, Rosella Altaha, terminated her employment on July 29, 2016. They gained valuable experience and knowledge in the area of fish culture and were significant help in the dismantling and disinfection of the APT tank house. Good luck to Jake and Rosella in the coming school year.

Asset Protection and Management:

Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH Complex recently received their annual facility Safety Inspection on August 4th and 5th. Compliance officer Carrie Marr, AZFWCO in Phoenix, AZ inspected the workplaces to identify and abate potential and safety health hazards according to OSHA standards, regulations, and other provisions of the federal and USFWS occupational safety and health statutes. Hatchery personnel from both facilities, Bruce Thompson and Pete Drevnick from the Alchesay unit and John Fenslage and Bradley Clarkson from the Williams Creek unit were present at their respective stations. John Fenslage is the Complex Custodial Duty Safety Officer (CDSO) and accompanied Carrie Marr at both facilities.



Jimmy Smith and Pete Drevnick began the task of replacing the old trex railing on the front porch of the Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (AZFWCO) at the Alchesay NFH, that was damaged from a large willow tree branch during a wind storm and restoring it with old fashion wood boards. The wood boards were treated with an undercoat sealant and stained to prevent it from deteriorating.

Jae Ahn, Facility Assessment Coordinator, Region 2, scheduled a visit to the AWC-NFHC on August 29 thru September 2, 2016 to evaluate the five-year infrastructure condition assessment at each facility. A walk-through of each facility was arranged and any noteworthy deficiency items will be dealt with directly.

The 2016 Environmental Compliance Audit for the AWC-NFHC was conducted by Bernie Freeman, Regional Engineer on August 10, 2016. The last audit was completed in September 2011. The environmental compliance audit is to assess compliance status with respect too Federal, State, and local environmental regulations as well as FWS, DOI policies and Executive Orders. Final results will be forthcoming. The drinking water

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analysis will now include lead and copper assessment annually in support of FWS policy. The Fish and Aquatic Conservation (FAC) program will be benchmarked to have the environmental compliance audit completed every three years instead of every 5 years.

Alchesay-Williams Creek NFHC is making progress with the environmental cleanup at each facility of unwanted resources dispersed throughout the hatcheries. Old scrap material such as old fence posts, fencing, PVC and metal pipe, old concrete, appliances, and broken pallets are several items that are currently being disposed of. Used toner and printer cartridges are being donated to the local schools for recycling as well as batteries and obsolete electronics and other e-waste products.

Upcoming Events:

SEPTEMBER:

September 1, 2016: Andrew Sallach, EPA Drinking Water Protection Coordinator to visit AWC-NFHC

September 20, 2016: APT coordination meeting with FWS and Arizona Game and Fish Department personnel at Tonto Creek SFH

September 21, 2016: Fish feed delivery from Skretting Feed Company

OCTOBER:

October 3-7, 2016: Wage Grade Conference in Tucson, AZ

October 4, 2016: Williams Creek NFH to receive ~220K RBT eggs from Ennis NFH

October 24-28, 2016: All Program Leaders Meeting in Albuquerque, NM

NOVEMBER:

November 7, 2016: Williams Creek NFH to receive ~50K BNT eggs from Saratoga NFH

November 21, 2016: Approximate initial startup for APT spawning season

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Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery Complex Personnel:

Bruce Thompson – Hatchery Complex Supervisor
Vacant – Administrative Technician

Alchesay Unit

Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance /MVO
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer

Williams Creek Unit

Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist
John Fenslage – Maintenance
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker
Carol Walker – Volunteer
Jonathon Walker – Volunteer
