



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

February 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Carrie Gregory – Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAYUNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer  
Travis Taylor – Laborer*

### *WILLIAMS CREEKUNIT*

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



## *PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:*

- All requisite water sampling for the 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 and Outdoor Recreation Division).
- John Tinger with the Region 9 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Enforcement Division conducted a five year station inspection at the Williams Creek Unit. The Alchesay Unit will be inspected later this summer

## *AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:*

- Hatchery personnel drove 369 miles to deliver 5,000 rainbow trout (~8” length) to San Carlos Indian reservation.

No fish were transferred from the Williams Creek Unit to the Alchesay Unit this month.



- Apache trout spawning season at Williams Creek has concluded. This year spawning ran from December 2, 2014 to January 27, 2015. For some yet to be determined reason the majority of Apache trout females egg development occurred earlier this year.

A total of 1,140 three year old females were spawned over a nine week period of time, producing 1,103,890 green eggs. Over 100 females were spawned during each eggtake throughout the nine week spawning season. These three year old eggs eyed up at a rate of 55.43% resulting in 611,941 eyed eggs. Of these, 170,532 were transferred to Arizona Game and Fish Department's Tonto State Fish Hatchery. Williams Creek retained 441,409 eyed eggs for future rearing. About 297,900 fry have been ponded to date and are at the initial feeding stage. After the eggs from the last spawning have been buttoned up, Williams Creek will have 350,000 fry at the swim-up stage in initial feed training.

In addition to the three year old female Apache trout spawntaking, 75 two year-old females were spawned producing a total of 40,000 additional green eggs. These Lot #2 two year old eggs had an eye up rate of 73.9%. About 18,000 of these fry have been ponded, for a 45% survival rate and are part of the 350,000 total swim up fry on station.

This year, a metaphylactic florfenicol (Aquaflor) 10 day initial feeding treatment was initialized in an attempt to reduce mortality from Bacterial Cold Water Disease. The mortality epidemics from this disease has been an increasing problem in recent years and is the reason why over one million eggs were taken for the first time in the history of the Apache trout spawntaking program.



- The Alchesay unit experienced higher than normal water temperatures (40 to 50 degrees F.) in February 2015. The trout continued to grow at 0.6” per month. Usually North Fork water temperatures are at or below 38 degrees F. and result in zero growth during the month of February.
- Around 30,000 brook trout eggs were received from Mammoth Creek State Fish hatchery in Utah. They were not able to fulfill our 160,000 egg request.

#### ***PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:***

- The complex received 16 visitors this month. Hatchery visitation should increase again now that the weather is starting to warm up.

#### ***WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:***

- Carol Walker continues to provide valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She provided 137.5 hours this month with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 94.5 hours at Williams Creek toward outside fish culture duties, grounds maintenance, and office work.
- John Fenslage, a decorated Army veteran and trained certified welder joined the Williams Creek Unit as a Maintenance Worker on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He is already hard at work catching up on the backlog of projects created while the position was unfilled. We are happy to

welcome John to our team and look forward to the improvements his expertise will bring to the hatchery!

- Pete Drevnick and John Fenslage attended a training course on pumps and hydraulic systems offered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

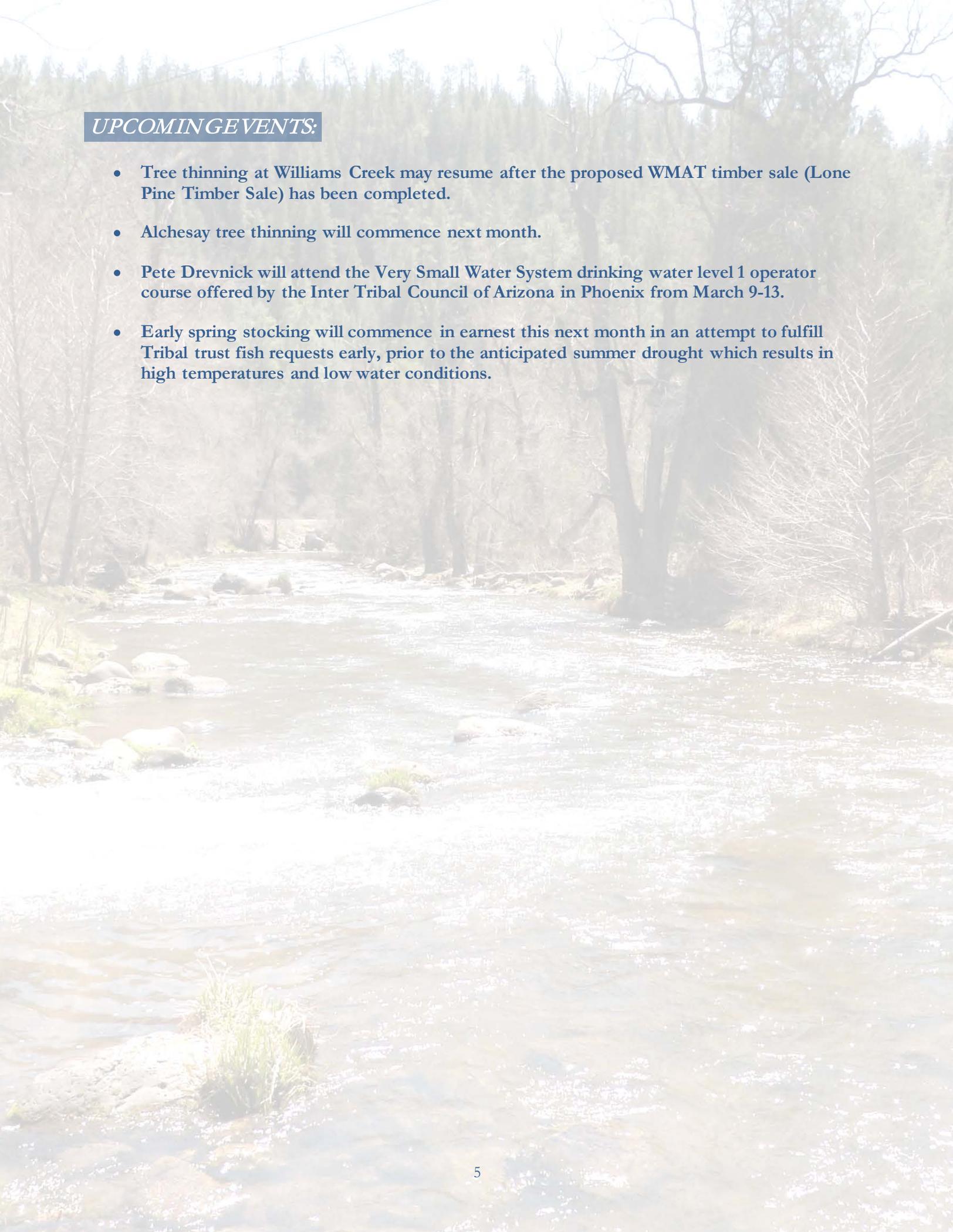
### ***LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:***

- Pete Drevnick and Travis Taylor spent February at the Williams Creek Unit. They began the month setting up a freshwater temporary bypass line to C-bank, so that Redpoint Contracting could begin work on the ABC Pipeline, and then oversaw and assisted with the installation of the pipeline itself. This pipeline will supply some first run spring water to A, B, and C banks at Williams Creek.



- Pete Drevnick and Travis Taylor also spent time during the month of February thinning trees at Williams Creek as part of a fire prevention deferred maintenance plan project. In addition, professional fallers from the Wildlife Outdoor Recreation Department (WORD) were recruited for dropping “hazard trees”. We would like to thank these individuals: Shore Quay, Edmund Altaha, and Armond Armstrong and WORD for assisting us with this forest management project.





## ***UPCOMINGEVENTS:***

- Tree thinning at Williams Creek may resume after the proposed WMAT timber sale (Lone Pine Timber Sale) has been completed.
- Alchessay tree thinning will commence next month.
- Pete Drevnick will attend the Very Small Water System drinking water level 1 operator course offered by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona in Phoenix from March 9-13.
- Early spring stocking will commence in earnest this next month in an attempt to fulfill Tribal trust fish requests early, prior to the anticipated summer drought which results in high temperatures and low water conditions.