

AWC-NFHC * JULY 2016

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Department of Interior

Monthly Accomplishment Report

Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery Complex



The Apache Trout tank house is in the process of decontamination, utilizing a steam cleaner at a temperature of 250°F. All fish culture equipment, fish rearing units, and ceiling, floors and walls have received 3 separate sterilization techniques, in the aftermath of recent BKD findings in two year classes of cultured Apache Trout.

Conserving Aquatic Endangered Species:

Alchesay-Williams Creek NFHC decided to have the main spring water analyzed in addition to the inflow water to the Apache Trout (APT) tank house building due to the continuing fish health issues of Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD) and Bacterial Coldwater Disease (BCWD). The purpose of this analysis is to establish a baseline bacterial level of the main spring water supply at Williams Creek NFH. Water samples were sent to a lab for testing and the test results were received with positive test results for Total Coliform and *E.coli*. The test results for Total Coliform was 16.9 MPN and <1.0 MPN for *E.coli* at the main spring and <1.0 MPN for both Total Coliform and *E.coli* for the Apache Tank House (APTH) building. These recent findings now require interpretation by a certified water quality specialist and/or fish health laboratory personnel. The report has been sent to Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center.

Conserving, Restoring and Enhancing Habitats:

Complex personnel completed monthly Discharge Monitoring Report (DMR) reporting compliance with compulsory EPA biweekly sampling of influent (Alchesay only) and effluent discharge water at both facilities for the month of July. Each facility was tested for total suspended solids (TSS) and pH limits. 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 AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe-Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division) personnel. This monthly meeting was hosted by WMAT in Whiteriver, AZ. Jess Newton from the Flagstaff AZFWCO office was in attendance to discuss the BKD issue, channel catfish (CCF) stocking, and Section 7 update on sensitive species on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR). Jeremy Voeltz is on detail as the Acting Fish Passage and Habitat Partnerships Coordinator in Region 1 and will return at the end of the month.

The CCF stocking for FY16 has been scheduled for August 16, 2016. Inks Dam NFH will be transporting approximately 20,000 4"-5" CCF for the San Carlos and White Mountain Apache Tribes. The majority of these fish will be stocked on the San Carlos Indian Reservation (~15,000 fish) and WMAT will receive ~5,000 fish for distribution into their waters. The Regional Distribution Unit (RDU) will arrive at the San Carlos Apache Tribe Game and Fish Office and offload onto AZFWCO and AWC-NFH fish distribution units.

Enhancing Recreational Fishing and Public Use of Aquatic Resources:

Alchesay-Williams Creek NFHC completed their 2016 spring and summer fish stocking obligations for the San Carlos and White Mountain Apache Tribes. The Complex fish stocking program is experiencing a major change due to the current fish health status (BKD+) of the facility for the next two years. The only fish distribution for the month was transporting 6,000 3"-4" Brook Trout (BKT) to Hawley Lake. These fish were identified as surplus fish from the Williams Creek unit and were put into Hawley Lake to support their Brook Trout program. No fish distribution occurred from the Alchesay unit for the month of July.

Workforce Management, Training, and Scientific Capacity:

Travis Taylor, former Administrative Technician, has accepted a position with Region 1 in Portland, Oregon and his last day was July 8th, 2016. He will report to his new location on July 25th, 2016 in support of the national wildlife refuges in Region 1. He is leaving to take on bigger challenges and we wish him well in his new endeavor.

Hatchery personnel are sharing various administrative roles with the departure of Travis. At this time, all personnel are assuming extra duties to avoid any disruption to the administration of the Complex. Responsibilities include Concur, MAR monthly report, fleet utilization reporting in FBMS, internal tracking of acquisition reports, credit card statement distribution and certification of procurement items, purchase authorization, POC for GSAXcess property, YCC/outreach, and front desk outreach i.e phone and public contact. Some of these task reassignments will be temporary until a new administrative person can be hired. Josh Anderson, Budget Analyst from the regional fisheries office, will be monitoring the Complex FY 16 budget and will keep us up to date on expenditures and funds remaining. Josh is also helping with the formulation of the FY-17 budget for the Complex.

Alchesay-Williams Creek NFHC staff continues to work on EEO and Diversity mandatory training requirements as well as the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (USERRA). Bruce Thompson, Jeff Cody, and Pete Drevneck traveled to Springerville, AZ. to pick up new USAccess Credential "PIV/Smart Cards". The credential upgrades and trainings will help employees maintain their professionalism as public servants.

Williams Creek personnel completed a thorough disinfection of the APT tank house interior from top to bottom. Ceiling, floors, walls, fish rearing units, existing plumbing, and fish culture equipment were sterilized utilizing Virkon, chlorine, and steam techniques. Bio-security is a top priority in the prevention of spreading pathogens of concern such as BKD. The sky lights in the tank house were tinted to restrict the amount of sunlight entering the building to help reduce the stress level on the fish.

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A Buenos Aires NWR (BANWR) MAT Team, comprised of Jeff Enlow and Clint Pollitt, traveled to Alchesay NFH on July 25th, 2016 to assist with the completion of the disinfection station. The plan was to complete this 2015 deferred maintenance project by August 6th, 2016. Maintenance personnel from AWC-NFHC and BANWR in Region 2 have been working together to share their knowledge, equipment, and professional expertise to complete larger projects at both facilities. On July 26th, a stop work order was received and all work was halted pending an investigation of construction concerns with the disinfection station. The BANWR MAT team returned home due to the stop work order on the project. We would like to thank both Jeff and Clint for their invaluable assistance in the short time they were here. We hope to be able to share resources again in the future.

Public Education and Engagement:



WMAT Head start kids enjoying a day at the park

Hatchery visitation is always encouraged from local tourists, special groups, scheduled tour/visitor groups and vacationers enjoying the fishing opportunities and hatchery picnic area. Alchesay NFH welcomed 150 visitors this month and Williams Creek NFH received a total of 120 visitors for the month of July.

Carol and Jonathan Walker continue to provide valuable volunteer hours at the Williams Creek unit. Carol provided 124.5 volunteer hours this month performing fish culture related duties as well as contributing a number of hours to the pollinator garden at the Alchesay unit. Jonathan provided 85.0 volunteer hours in fish culture and building and equipment maintenance activities.

The YCC students (Rosella Altaha and Jake Gregg) have been very busy helping with the sterilization process in the APT tank house. They have been assisting hatchery personnel in removing tanks, health incubation stacks, Jensorter egg picker, and pressure washing and disinfecting all fish culture equipment. All wood products (brooms, brushes, handles, covers, hatching trays, etc.) are disposed of to prevent the spread of bacterial diseases and replaced with either plastic or metal equipment which can be disinfected.



YCC student Rosella Altaha feeding RBT fingerlings

Carol Walker resumes work with the pollinator garden project at Alchesay NFH. Plans are to purchase additional plants such as gooseberry, sage, and wild flower seeds that will attract the Monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Last year was our initial startup effort and it looks like that most of the plants have established themselves through their first season.

Asset Protection and Management:

At this time, the APT tank house has been thoroughly disinfected. Russ Wood and John Fenslage have renovated half of the tank house with circular tanks. They removed an entire bank of fry start troughs (T11-T20) from one side of the building and replaced them with five circular tanks for fingerling production. Five additional circular tanks will be procured and installed in the near future. Russ is in the process of redoing the entire plumbing inside the APT tank house since the water flow has been completely turned off. The fry start troughs (T1-10) will remain for sac fry grow out to 1.2 inches. All the original plumbing from T11-T20 will be removed and replaced with new PVC



In-tank incubation jars in fry start tanks

Portable degassing towers in fry start tanks

pipe and threaded fittings from the inflow pipes to the drainage system to plumb in circular tanks. The PVC pipes and fittings for the incubation water delivery system (Heath trays) will also be replaced. The main 6" spring water pipeline will be reduced to a 3" water supply line to incorporate a small UV system to the Heath incubators. Two in-tank upwelling incubator jars have been fitted in each of the 10 rectangular tanks to receive as many as 220K trout eggs. Portable degassing towers were fabricated and retrofit to the fry start tanks to remove nitrogen saturation in the water and eliminate water splashing out onto the floor. All of these changes to the APT tank house are designed to lower stress levels on the extremely sensitive Apache Trout and eliminate bacterial habitat. Russ is also making a list of plumbing supplies for the production tank

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house (PTH) when they incorporate emergency shutoff valves and plumbing stabilization of the water delivery system to each of the rearing units in that early rearing building.

A number of surplus items from both facilities were referenced as excess property items and have been posted/advertised via GSAXcess. This month, three of the listed items: the 1986 John Deere 1050 Tractor, 1980 John Deere 500 CD Backhoe, and the 2007 Tiger Utility Vehicle have been sold, paid for and picked up by the new owners.

Upcoming Events:

AUGUST:

August 4-5, 2016: Station Safety Inspection – AWC-NFHC

August 10-11, 2016: Environmental Audit – AWC-NFHC

August 16, 2016: Channel catfish stocking scheduled for San Carlos and White Mountain Apache Tribes.

August 16, 2016: NetDMR training for electronic reporting

August 16, 2106: Williams Creek NFH receive 220K RBT egg shipment from Ennis NFH.

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

