



## ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NFHC WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



### Monthly Accomplishment Report MARCH 2013



*Volunteers from Alchesay High School*

*Bruce Thompson – Project Leader  
Patti Ferlisi – Administrative Assistant*

#### *Alchesay Unit*

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker /  
Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT  
Andy Quay – Volunteer*

#### *Williams Creek Unit*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist  
Michael Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Dan Ragen – Maintenance Specialist*

### **PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:**

- ❖ All requisite water sampling for EPA was completed for both units.
- ❖ Complex staff 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).
- ❖ Early in the month, a phone conference took place between the hatchery staff and Chris Kitcheyan of the New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NMFWCO). Spring stocking schedules and upcoming change orders were discussed for our Tribal partners in New Mexico.

- ❖ Jennifer Johnson of AZFWCO stocked 250 rainbow trout into a pond on the Kaibab Paiute Reservation adjacent to the Arizona-Utah border.
- ❖ Steve McEvoy, Occupational Safety Specialist from the Regional Office, conducted a follow-up visit on the OSHA inspection abatement plan with regard to formalin usage and storage. He also conducted the 2013 safety assessment.
- ❖ The Williams Creek Unit received ten intermediate rearing troughs from Reiff Manufacturing on March 13, 2013. The troughs were built in two sections with side flanges that tied the sections together. This manufacturing method left two areas inside each trough that were considered detrimental to fish health. The seam on the interior floor left a groove that could catch debris and fecal material which could promote fungus growth. The area in front of the screen slot where the floor contours up the sidewall created a void where fish could become trapped and smother. Reiff Manufacturing provided a repair technician to correct these two areas to avert any fish health or asphyxiation complications.



**AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:**

- ❖ The summer stocking schedule was finalized and deliveries are underway. Complex personnel traveled 1,602 miles to deliver 11,800 trout weighing 3,596 pounds to Zia, Picuris, San Ildefonso, Ohkay Owingeh, Laguna, Zuni and Hopi Reservations in New Mexico and Arizona. In an effort to reduce travel expenses, we were able to coordinate and consolidate the March and April stocking trips.

- ❖ During March, fish transfers from the Williams Creek Unit to the Alchesay Unit included 28,022 7" Apache trout (4,413 pounds) and 105,389 ≈2" brown trout (454 pounds).
- ❖ A total of 356,039 eyed rainbow trout eggs were received from White Sulfur Springs National Fish Hatchery on March 6, 2013. These eggs will produce approximately 257,000 6" fish which will be transferred to the Alchesay Unit in October 2013 for further grow out.



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

- ❖ Alchesay High School Special Education students were welcomed back again this year. The Williams Creek Unit provided the students the opportunity to receive hands-on experience in fish culture duties, i.e., pick and count mortalities, record data on feed sheets, clean screens and clean and disinfect fish tanks, egg jars and incubation trays. We appreciate all the assistance these students provide for the hatchery.

### **FACILITY MAINTENANCE:**

- ❖ An asbestos survey was conducted by *Applied EnviroSolutions* (AES) from Gilbert, Arizona. Alchesay quarters 3 and 4 (scheduled for demolition later this year), as well as the office buildings of both Williams Creek and Alchesay Units, were tested. Laboratory results indicated an asbestos content of greater than 1% was present in the thermal insulation around the furnace ducting, the window caulking, wallboard joint compound and texture, and in the linoleum in quarters 3 only. Results of the office building surveys indicated an asbestos content of greater than 1% was present in the linoleum of both units' office buildings. Asbestos greater than 1% was also found in the Alchesay "middle" office ceiling tile, but only in the area next to the vehicle garage.
- ❖ The fencing around A-Bank raceways and Pond 2 of the Alchesay unit continues to be rebuilt after the recent completion of localized construction projects. Safe and effective predator exclusion is a very high priority at both stations.



Pond 2 fencing project

### **WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:**

- ❖ All Hatchery staff completed their monthly reporting.
- ❖ The Complex received assistance from Mora National Fish Hatchery staff with the stocking of Picuris Pueblo. This pre-arranged scheduling of offloading fish onto Mora's smaller truck reduced expenses, stocking time and subsequent comp time accrual of the Complex Fish Distribution Unit's (FDU) driver. In addition, we would like to thank Mora NFH for their generous donation of (surplus) chemicals for fish treatment and biosecurity at the Williams Creek Unit.
- ❖ Consolidation of stocking trips and reductions to non-mission critical travel continue to be a priority when scheduling all travel.

### **Leadership in Science and Technology:**

- ❖ Plumbing in the Williams Creek Apache trout tankhouse was analyzed and modified to create a healthier environment and better disbursement for the successful culture of native Apache trout fry in captivity. These young fish are more vulnerable than domesticated rainbow trout fry to bacterial pathogens and require lower rearing densities.

