



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

March 2016

# Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH Complex

Southwest Region



*Photo credit, Heather Rissi*

## Monthly Accomplishment Report

## **Conserving Endangered Species and Native Trout**

Apache trout fry were treated with Aquaflor (florencicol) in an effort to treat Bacterial Coldwater Disease. Aquaflor is a feed additive that is used for ten days and greatly reduces fry loss. The Apache trout fry responded very well to the additive and losses were greatly reduced.

## **Conserving, Restoring and Enhancing Habitats**

The compulsory EPA bi-monthly water sampling was performed twice at both hatcheries this month. The quarterly sampling for nitrates, ammonia and total phosphorus was accomplished as well. All test results were within permit parameters.

Dan Musetescu replaces Andrew Sallach as the new Region 9 EPA drinking water administrator. Dan will be working closely with Gene Okamoto when quarterly drinking water samples are needed.

## **Managing Aquatic Invasive Species**

The Deferred Maintenance (DM) disinfection station is progressing slowly as spring approaches.

## **Fulfilling Tribal Trust**

### **Responsibilities**

After the decision was made by Regional Director (Dr. Benjamin Tuggle), Complex personnel proceeded with the depopulation of BKD positive trout. The fish marked for depopulation consisted of 1,300(3,000 lbs.) of 3 yr. old retired Apache trout broodstock (3WC-3-EFD) residing at Williams Creek NFH and 28,000 (6,000 lbs.)~8 inch rainbow trout (4Ew-3-ARD) located at Alchesay NFH. Previously 50,000

(200 lbs.)~ 1 inch Apache trout fry (6WC-1-EFD) were disposed of at Williams Creek NFH when they were identified as progeny of the BKD carrying adult broodstock. (3WC-3-EFD-December 8, 2015 eggtake). These fry were succumbing to a bacterial infection suspected to be Bacterial Coldwater Disease and were expeditiously destroyed and buried in the hatchery mortality pit to prevent cross-contamination with other fry.

Stewart Jacks and Complex Project Leader, Bruce Thompson were invited to and participated in the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission meeting in Albuquerque, NM. Stewart informed all tribal partners in both New Mexico and Arizona about the BKD positive test results in several fish hatcheries throughout the Southwestern states. A lively discussion ensued. Bruce was available to answer any specific BKD questions and talk about the current status of the Complex.

The monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting amongst Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (AZFWCO), White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT), and Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH Complex was hosted at Alchesay NFH.

Gene Okamoto and Bruce Thompson worked closely with Chris Kitcheyan from New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (NMFWCO) dealing with the delay in the stocking schedule.

Alchesay's pond 4 was prepped and filled with water the first week of March. Transfers from Williams Creek to Alchesay began the following week. In mid-March, 180,000 4- inch rainbow trout had been moved to their new holding area.

Warm temperatures and cloudy runoff water resulted in some daily mortality in the ponds at Alchesay. A prophylactic treatment using salt blocks was started in an effort to ease the stress on the trout. Three salt blocks were dissolved each morning and afternoon on a daily basis until mortality declined around mid-March.

The decision was made to cancel the last egg shipment of 130,000 Shasta rainbow to Williams Creek NFH from White Sulfur Springs NFH. This will greatly impact the tribal allocations in the spring of 2017.



*transfers to pond 4*

## **Enhancing Recreational Fishing and Public Use of Aquatic Resources**

At this time, AWC-NFHC stocking schedule for spring/summer 2016 is on hold. (see above)

## **Workforce Management, Training, and Scientific Capacity**

Bruce Thompson, Gene Okamoto and Travis Taylor collectively completed the first draft of AWC-NFHC Annual report.

Isaiah Paxson and Joyner George finished pressure washing all available raceways at the Alchesay unit in preparation for the delayed transfers from Williams Creek.

Personnel completed the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility request. This request is a yearly inquiry of any threats made to FWS employees. No reportable threats were recorded for the Complex.



*cleaning raceways*

*Quality fish in Quantity numbers*

Jeff Cody responded to his Commercial Driver's License (CDL) renewal notice. He completed his required CDL physical and all medical documents were remitted to MVD for endorsement.

Aluminum headboards designed and fabricated by John Fenslage were installed at A-bank at the Alchesay Unit. These new headboards now make it possible to adjust flow or completely shut off flow to each individual raceway.



*new headboard*

*old headboard*

A number of hatchery employees completed their required FISSA training for 2016.

Carol Walker provided valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She volunteered 163.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 87.5 hours at Williams Creek toward fish culture and construction.

## ***Asset Management***

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Travis Taylor worked closely with Bruce Hickson, listing excess items from Alchesay NFH. A forklift, tractor, water pump, microscope, truck and a trash rake were all listed on auction and were successfully sold to the highest bidder. Removal is being coordinated by the administrative assistant at Alchesay.

Engineers from the Regional Office visited the Complex and went over future plans for DM projects that are scheduled in the coming years. An isolation building was talked about for future Apache trout broodstock. Design input from both hatcheries was requested in order to draw up a plan.

## ***Public Education and Engagement***

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Williams Creek received 15 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 215 visitors. March arrived with warm temperatures that brought out hikers and families enjoying the hatcheries parks and trails.

Mike Figueroa met with the Community Council Center from Snowflake, AZ. He took the thirteen attendees for a tour of the Williams Creek facility.

## *Upcoming Events*

Fish Health inspections on April 5th and 6th

Investigation into acquisition of surplus fish from Region 4

TLC rehabilitation center tour at Williams Creek

Excess equipment to be listed and sold on GSAccess

Disinfection station construction

Coordination/WMAT tribal council meeting

FISSA training completion for all Complex employees

Completion of FY-15 Annual Report

Allocation of FY-16 budget

Russ Wood to visit Bears Bluff NFH in South Carolina for broodstock coordination meeting

New office trailer set up completed

## *Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH Complex Staff*

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager*



*Travis Taylor- Administrative Technician*  
**ALCHESAY UNIT**

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader*

*Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator*

*Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator*

*Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries*

*Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer*



### *Williams Creek Unit*

*Bradley Clarkson-Unit Leader*

*Russ Wood-Fish Biologist*

*John Fenslage -Maintenance Worker*

*Mike Figueroa- Motor Vehicle Operator*

*Jimmy Smith- Motor Vehicle Operator*

*Isaiah Paxson-Animal Caretaker*

*Carol Walker - Volunteer*

*Jonathon Walker- Volunteer*

