



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

MAY 2016

# Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH Complex

Southwest Region



*Checking a wild Apache trout for milt*

**MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT**

## ***Conserving Aquatic Endangered Species***

Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, (AZFWCO) Warm Springs Tech Center and Alchesay Williams Creek NFH have all partnered on a high priority project to improve the Apache trout genetics at Williams Creek. A test run was performed at Deep Creek on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR). Several male APT were sampled, but they were unable to express any milt. A decision was made to head to higher elevations where Apache trout (APT) could still be in the spawning stage. Ord Creek was the site of the second milt collection. After a full day of sampling no APT males were able to produce a sample. Thoughts are that the Apache trout may have a later than normal spawn this year. Round three could occur in early June if spawning conditions remain favorable. The beginning of summer drought conditions plays a key role in this endeavor.



*Moving trout from a pond to raceways*

This year-class of Apache trout (APT) fingerlings are experiencing high mortalities at the Williams Creek Unit. Fish Biologist, Russ Wood has been working closely with Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center (SNARRC) to help with the coordination of shipping samples for fish health analysis. Live fish were sent near the end of the month and testing is ongoing by SNARRC personnel. Another prescription for Aquaflor (florfenicol) pre-mixed into enhanced feed will be fed in the upcoming days with hopes of combatting bacteria and boosting the young Apache trout immune systems.

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

Compulsory EPA water sampling was performed twice at both hatcheries for the month of May. Both facilities were tested this month for total suspended solids and water pH. All test results were within permit parameters.

## ***Fulfilling Tribal Trust Responsibilities***

Fish have been held on station longer than expected with the hopes of New Mexico Game and Fish, New Mexico Tribes, and USFWS coming to an agreement to possibly allow stocking of BKD negative trout into NM Tribal waters from a BKD positive facility. Fish were held on station as long as possible. Warming water temperatures and declining water quality dictated a quick decision be made. All New Mexico Tribal fish requests will be stocked into Tribal waters within the state of Arizona. Due to the fish health status of this Complex; New Mexico Tribal egg requests will be cut from the rearing program for at least the next two years.

Alchesay NFH hosted the monthly coordination meeting this month with the White Mountain Apache Tribal Game and Fish personnel. Tim Gatewood represented the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Jeremy Voeltz and Jennifer Johnson represented AZFWCO.

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

Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH Complex personnel stocked a total of 5,609 pounds of Apache trout, 258 pounds of brown trout and 17,733 pounds of rainbow trout into FAIR waters during the month of May. Total fish stocked for the month was just shy of 200,000 trout.

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

Hatchery Maintenance and Refuge Maintenance in Region 2 decided to share each other’s skills and help each other out with upcoming projects at their stations. Pete Drevnick from Alchesay NFH and John Fenslage from Williams Creek NFH spent two weeks at Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge constructing quail runs. In return, several Buenos Aires Maintenance personnel will travel to Alchesay NFH to complete several ongoing maintenance projects at the Complex. This “MAT” team project coordination plan will benefit both Region 2 hatcheries and refuges.

Gene Okamoto and Bradley Clarkson both completed their annual equipment inventories for the Complex. All equipment has been accounted for and several pieces of unused/unneeded equipment has been excessed and sold in recent months in an effort to efficiently manage hatchery assets.

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

Williams Creek received 125 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 213 visitors. May was very warm bringing out lots of tours, large groups and tourist enjoying the hatcheries’ grounds and picnic areas.

Carol Walker, our volunteer at Williams Creek worked 136 hours this month mostly focusing on fish culture related duties. She was also able to find several hours to work on her pollinator garden at Alchesay as well. Jonathon Walker volunteered 98.5 hours this month at the Williams Creek Unit. Fish Culture and maintenance were Jonathon’s main focus for the month of May.



*Tour at Williams Creek*

The Complex began recruiting for the summer Youth Conservation Corp (YCC). Twelve applications were received before the May 27<sup>th</sup> deadline. Two selections will be made early next month. The YCC program will last for six weeks with the youths learning about fish culture, facility maintenance, and stocking management.

### ***Asset Protection and Management***

Maintenance at both units of the Complex started an inventory of all tools and supplies. Tool boxes were put together and delivered to the volunteer quarters at Williams Creek. All tools will be labeled with a “property of” sticker. During most of the month, personnel were on detail to Buenos Aires NWR. Fish stocking was prioritized.

### ***Upcoming Events***

Continued fish stocking of New Mexico Tribal requests into Arizona Tribal waters

Continue Deferred Maintenance construction projects

Coordination meeting in early June hosted by AZFWCO

Continue excessing equipment that is no longer needed or utilized

“MAT” team coordination with Buenos Aires NWR personnel

Bog Tank Kids Fishing Derby on June 4, 2016

YCC selections



### **Hatchery Complex Personnel**

*Bruce Thompson, Complex Project Leader*

*Gene Okamoto, Alchesay Unit Leader*

*Pete Drevnick, Maintenance/Motor Vehicle Operator*

*Jeff Cody, Motor Vehicle Operator*

*Joyner George, WMAT Fisheries*

*Chadwick "Sharkey" Amos, Volunteer*

*Jimmy Smith, Motor Vehicle Operator*

*Travis Taylor, Administrative Tech*

*Bradley Clarkson, Williams Creek Unit Leader*

*Russ Wood, Fish Biologist*

*John Fenslage, Maintenance*

*Mike Figueroa, Motor Vehicle Operator*

*Isaiah Paxson, Animal Caretaker*

*Carol Walker, Volunteer*

*Jonathon Walker, Volunteer*



*Nuisance bear at Williams Creek, trapped and relocated*

