



ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013

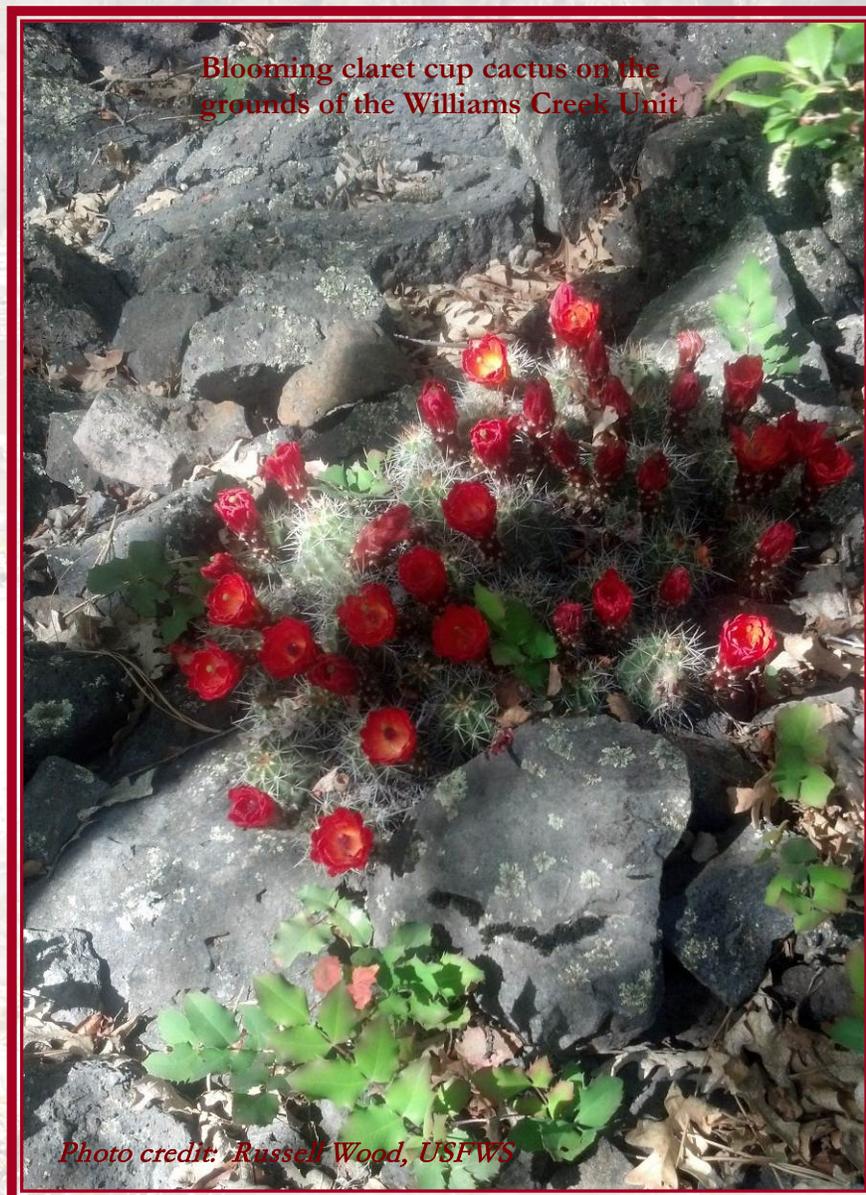
*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager
Patti Ferlisi – Office Assistant*

ALCHESAY UNIT

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

WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist
Dan Ragen – Maintenance Specialist
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker*



Blooming claret cup cactus on the grounds of the Williams Creek Unit

Photo credit: Russell Wood, USFWS

PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- All requisite water sampling for EPA was completed for both units.
- 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) was postponed due to the government shutdown.
- Bruce Thompson and Gene Okamoto, Collateral Duty Safety Officer, attended Region 2's quarterly safety teleconference.
- On November 5th, Mike Zamora and Jeff Johns from Region 2 Engineering visited the complex to discuss ongoing and future deferred maintenance projects.
- Jennifer Johnson, staff fish biologist from AZFWCO, assisted with sorting of Apache trout broodstock at the Williams Creek Unit.

AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- Efforts to reduce avian predation continue with installation of “bird wires” over the ponds, *below*. Multi-colored monofilament line was used so the birds can see this deterrent and thus avoid entanglement. Also the monofilament is light and thin enough that it does not pull the fencing in like the old plastic lines did when they became encased in snow and ice. While this method is not 100% bird proof, it is very effective. Additional wood-framed screens were completed for B-bank raceways. All raceways are now protected. Chain link fencing is also being replaced/installed around the ponds.



- Hatchery personnel travelled 4,412 miles to stock almost 75,000 6” to 9” rainbow trout into tribal waters for the Navajo Nation, Jicarilla Apache, San Carlos Apache and five New Mexico Pueblos, and over 25,000 6” brown trout in Jicarilla Apache waters. Stocking trips continue to be consolidated whenever possible.
- Approximately 142,000 5” rainbow trout were transferred from the Williams Creek Unit to the Alchesay Unit for continued grow-out. Over 8,800 9.5” Apache trout were also transferred. These Apache trout will be stocked into waters on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in the spring.
- One of the Complex’s fish distribution units continues to experience leaks in the tanks. The manufacturer will be consulted for possible methods and/or different materials to stabilize the tanks from shifting during transport, which causes the fiberglass tanks to crack and leak.
- The Region 2 Broodstock Coordinator, Karin Eldridge, was provided with the Complex’s 5-year egg request. Karin was also a great help with FIS data entry.
- Coordination, logistics and preparations have begun for the upcoming Apache trout spawning season. Sorting the broodstock, *below*, is the first step.



- The Williams Creek Unit began processing over 350,000 Arlee rainbow trout eggs received from Erwin National Fish Hatchery in Erwin, Tennessee.

An automatic grader was placed in the raceways at the Alchesay Unit. This adjustable grader separates the fish by permitting only those of a certain size to swim through, *below*.



WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Andy Quay continues to provide valuable volunteer hours to the Alchesay Unit. He provided over 80 hours this month performing fish culture duties as well as building and grounds maintenance.
- All Complex personnel participated in both the National and Regional Fisheries Program teleconferences regarding the long awaited release of the report on the National Fish Hatchery System review.
- Complex staff coordinated with Michael Arndt of the Regional IRTM Department to complete set-up procedures for the new computers received before the furlough. Mike's willingness to coordinate his time around the tight schedules of multiple Complex staff is very much appreciated. His expertise and team attitude are also greatly appreciated.
- All Annual Employee Performance Appraisal Plans (EPAP) were completed.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE:

- As part of the new roofing project at the Williams Creek Unit, rain gutters were installed on the Feed Building and Shop. The lightning protection system consists of copper plates buried in the ground at the corners of the exterior walls of the Production Tank House, *right*.





- Meanwhile, back the Alchesay Unit, the canopy covering the radial flow settlers was completed with corrugated roofing, *left*;
 - And the Quarters 5 remodel continues at a snail's pace with installation of new dual-paned windows.
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- The blower motor was replaced on the oxygen generator at the Williams Creek Unit. This piece of equipment is vital to ensuring fish survival at this facility.