



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

November 2014

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Carrie Gregory – 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  
Travis Taylor – Laborer*

### *WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT*

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader  
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist  
Vacant – Maintenance Specialist  
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Mary Zylo – Volunteer  
Carol Walker – Volunteer*



ANFH: North Fork White River: Reduced flows at diversion dam.

## *PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:*

- All requisite water sampling for the EPA was completed for both units.
- The Monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel, AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office), and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe – Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division) was cancelled due to Veteran’s Day event scheduling conflicts.
- The Level 2 Emergency Action Plan evacuation status in effect at Alchesay, due to a potential breach of Davis Dam at Hawley Lake, was downgraded to Level 1. Level 1 indicates that the public safety risk has been substantially reduced by the lowering of the lake. A Level 1 condition calls for continued monitoring of the dam. At this time the lake is completely drained and the pipe that threatened Davis Dam is being repaired. Water quality at Alchesay remained good throughout the drawdown, largely in part to the consideration and cooperation of the WMAT Water Resources Department. The conditions at the dam are no longer a threat to Alchesay.
- There has been zero precipitation during the month of November within the locality. On November 25<sup>th</sup>, unseasonably cold weather in the headwaters of the White River drainage led to the freeze-up of Alchesay’s water supply. Early that morning, after loading one of the fish transports from a B-bank raceway, staff noticed there was no flow to A-Bank. Fish were stressed, and many had died, or were in the process of oxygen starvation. Travis Taylor, Jeff Cody, Joyner George, and Gene Okamoto responded quickly, diverting all flows to A-bank as first run water. Later that morning it was determined that biomass reduction was also prudent as flows continued to remain at an extremely low level. Three A-bank raceways were immediately loaded into the 1800 gallon fish distribution truck and stocked into Horseshoe Lake as an emergency measure. Without this quick action, it is possible all 60,000 rainbow trout in A-Bank could have been lost. Due to an efficient teamwork response of all of the Alchesay staff, losses were minimal. It was later determined that all hatchery sustaining flows were coming from the severely depleted Alchesay Spring (below). The water temperature going into the facility was an unseasonable 50 degrees Fahrenheit (F). The river water temperature was 39.5 degrees F.



Alchesay Springs- Low flow, atypical for this time of year, impacted water flows to A-bank raceways.

## ***AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:***

- Fall fish transfers from the Williams Creek Unit to the Alchesay Unit occurred during the first half of the month. Fifty thousand rainbow trout remain at Williams Creek NFH and await transfer pending adequate water quality at Alchesay.
- Hatchery personnel drove 3,840 miles to deliver 32,160 rainbow trout (~8"-9" length) to Zuni, Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Santa Clara Pueblo, Navajo Nation, and Colorado River Indian Tribal (CRIT) partners. The Complex assisted Willow Beach NFH by providing 3,000 8-inch rainbow trout. These trout were offloaded onto a Willow Beach fish distribution truck in Flagstaff, Arizona where they were then transported to select waters of the CRIT. In addition, 23,801 5" rainbow trout were stocked into Horseshoe Lake on an emergency basis, due to the above mentioned low flows at the Alchesay Unit.
- The annual Apache trout spawning season at Williams Creek is "just around the corner". In late November, staff began sorting and stripping out any overripe eggs from 2 and 3 year old brood stock to prepare them for spawning.
- Williams Creek accepted and put into upwell incubators a delivery of 260,000 eyed rainbow trout eggs from Erwin NFH.

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

- The Williams Creek Unit received 31 visitors this month while the Alchesay Unit received only 9 visitors for the month. The holidays and cold weather have led to a reduction in visitation at both facilities.

## ***WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:***

- Williams Creek volunteer Mary Zylo helped winterized Quarters 3 in early November.
- Carol Walker continues to provide valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She provided 138 hours this month with fish culture duties and building maintenance.
- Bruce Thompson traveled to Albuquerque to attend the Southwest Region Tribal Relations Meeting held in the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. It was a very productive meeting.
- Carrie Gregory also travelled to Albuquerque to meet the personnel in the regional office and to train in FBMS, FPPS, Concur, and FIS.
- Annual fire extinguisher inspections were completed at both units.
- Due to the busy schedule, the selection deadline for filling the vacant Maintenance Worker position at Williams Creek was extended for another 30 days.

## ***LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:***

- **Pete Drevnick and Travis Taylor continue with Pond 3 modifications. Tie rods were installed to support the pond wall. This project is over 85% complete.**



Tie rods in place and ready for concrete

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS:***

- **On December 17<sup>th</sup> personnel from the New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office , members of the Zuni Bluehead Sucker Recovery team, and several various Tribal personnel will meet with Alchesay-Williams Creek employees to discuss the long-range feasibility and logistics of using the Alchesay unit to hold captive Zuni bluehead sucker populations.**