



ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2015

*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
Russell 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*



Trout arriving at Alchesay for winter rearing

AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- The AWC Complex was busy with transfers. About 100,000 6” Rainbow trout will be transferred from Williams Creek to Alchesay near the end of November. Alchesay’s pond 2 will be loaded with 50,000 trout and newly completed pond 3 will hold the same number. Pond 4 will be utilized to thin out raceways as they near maximum densities.
- Mandatory EPA water sampling was performed twice at both hatcheries this month. This month’s sampling included nitrogen, phosphorous, and ammonia testing.
- Gene Okamoto coordinated stocking of nine inch rainbow trout for a community fishing event for the Santa Clara, Pueblo tribe. Once again, this event was a big success.
- Apache trout spawning started November 16th when 30 three year old females were found to be gravid. New protocols are in place for this year’s spawning season. One-on-one fertilization is one of the biggest changes to this year’s spawn-taking program. Additionally, distilled water is now being used to rinse and clean both males and females prior to removing milt and expressing eggs. Genetic diversity and Bacterial Coldwater Disease are major concerns with the Apache trout rearing program. All efforts are being made to minimize these threats.
- The monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting among AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office), A-WC NFH (Alchesay –Williams Creek National Fish hatchery) & WMAT (White Mountain Apache Tribe) was cancelled due to conflicting work schedules.



WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Williams Creek Hatchery received approximately 84,000 brown trout (BNT) eggs from Mammoth State Fish Hatchery in Utah. A miscommunication occurred and the Utah shipment was received. The eggs were of poor quality and losses were estimated at 50% shortly after arrival. To attain our BNT stocking request for the year, we received an additional 32,000 BNT eggs from Saratoga NFH. Originally 64,000 eggs were requested from Saratoga NFH.
- Bruce and Gene completed a rough draft of the Annual Work Plan for the complex. The work plan consisted of rearing four species of trout, controlling aquatic invasive species, and ongoing asset protection as part of the Complex propagation programs.

- Bruce Thompson was on approved leave for most of the month and Gene Okamoto was acting Project Leader in his absence.
- Russ Wood spent three weeks on a detail filling in as the acting project leader at Makah NFH. Makah is located on the Olympic peninsula in Washington State. Both the project leader and assistant project leader positions were vacant at the time. Russ had a great time, brought back some good ideas, and learned some new supervisory skills as well.
- Vic Scott from Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (Flagstaff) hosted a two day admin training course for Travis. The course focused on FBMS navigation, monthly budget updates, reconciliations, PR organizing, and administrative responsibilities.
- Travis Taylor with a little assistance from Gene Okamoto completed the 2015 transportation asset survey for the Complex. He worked closely with Jae Ahn from the Regional Office updating asset codes.
- Carol Walker again provided valuable assistance at the Alchesay Unit. She volunteered 102.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties, building maintenance, and designing a pollinator garden for the facility. Jonathon Walker provided 80 hours at Alchesay toward fish culture duties, grounds maintenance and construction. Both volunteers have been a huge help in taking care of the Alchesay facility.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE:

- Each unit of the Complex acquired a Kubota UTV on surplus from Manuel Ulibarri and his crew at the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNAARC) in Dexter, New Mexico. These vehicles will be used for maintenance and hatchery operations. We are so grateful for these contributions from SNAARC.
- The bulk oxygen tank at Williams Creek had a bad flange connection and leaked during fill up. John Fenslage and Russ Wood replaced gaskets and sent proof of repair to our Liquid Oxygen vender.
- Annual fire extinguisher servicing was completed at the entire complex.

PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:

- Alchesay's pollinator garden is still in progress. Carol Walker, our volunteer, has taken it upon herself to research, design and begin the hard work of creating a pollinator garden. Planter beds have been laid out and several native plants were put into the ground before

the first heavy frost. Biologist David Smith from Flagstaff, gave the complex 8,000 milkweed seeds which he collected on his own. The complex is very thankful for the donation.

- Williams Creek received 21 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 25 visitors. Since the arrival of winter and the cooler temperatures visitation number have steadily declined.
- Three students from Blue Ridge High School spent a full day job shadowing at Williams Creek. These three students are part of a program geared towards getting senior class high school students some experience in their chosen field. The high school students were able to spend the day with Biologists at Williams Creek learning basic fish cultural operations.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Two old houses will be demolished during the second week of December at Williams Creek. John Fenslage will be the designated Construction Inspector for this project.
- Pollinator garden work will proceed.
- Apache trout spawn-taking will continue.



Black Bear trying to dine on Apache trout (his favorite).



Chris Kitcheyan assisting Jimmy with Santa Clara delivery.