



**ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK
NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX
WHITERIVER, AZ**



***MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT
September 2013***

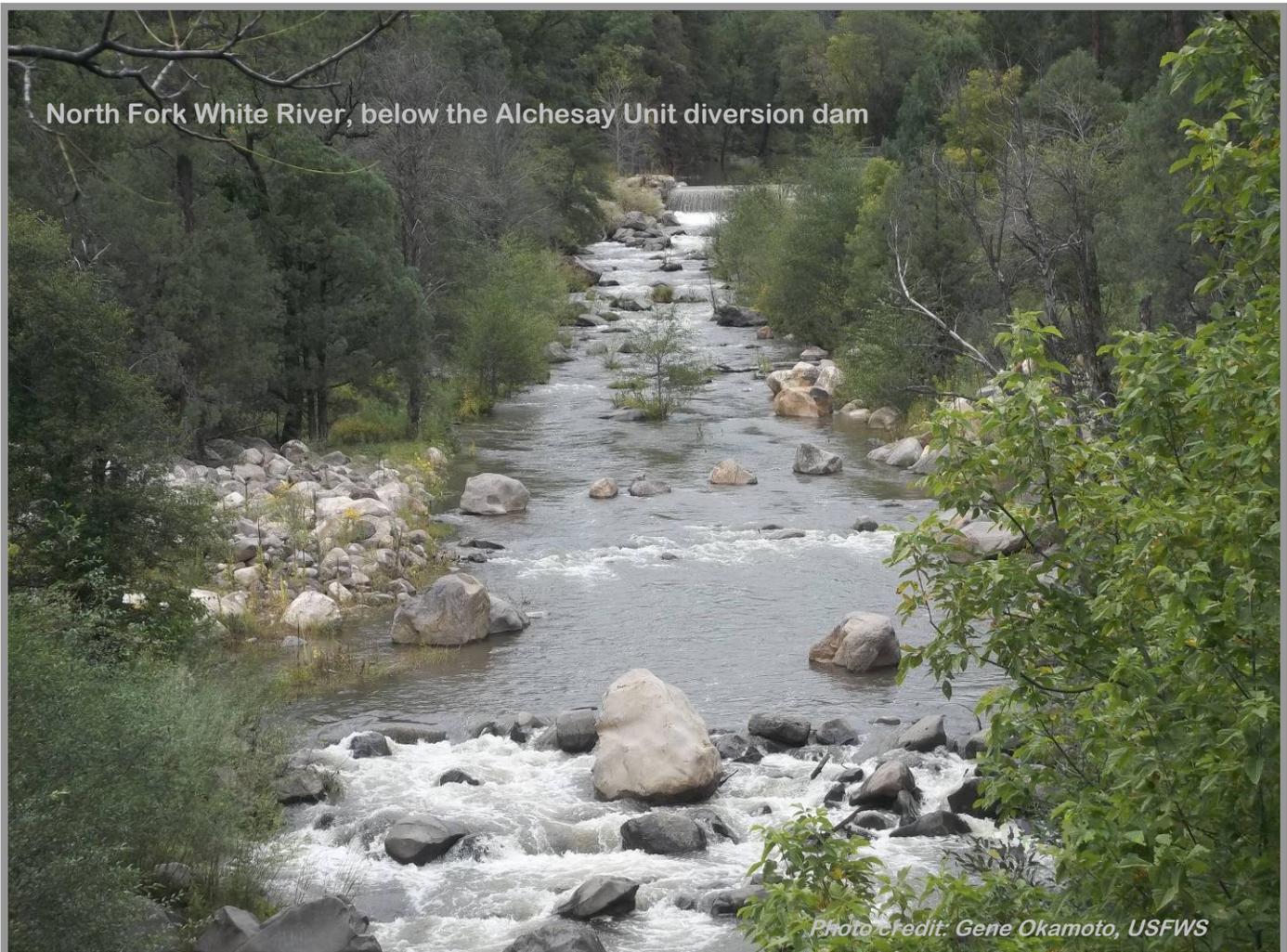
**Bruce Thompson – Project Leader
Patti Ferlisi – Office Assistant**

ALCHESAY UNIT

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

WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT

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



North Fork White River, below the Alchesay Unit diversion dam

Photo Credit: Gene Okamoto, USFWS

PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- All requisite water sampling for EPA was completed for both units.
- Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel participated in the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe-Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division).
- This fall and next spring's stocking schedules for New Mexico tribal waters were discussed via conference call with Chris Kitcheyan of New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.
- Building radon testing was done at the Williams Creek Unit. Most of the radon testing results were below 1.3 pCi/L standard (the average radon level across America). One test was over this standard and will be retested to verify this finding.
- The Complex's entries into the Fisheries Information System (FIS) were reviewed for accuracy and corrections were made as necessary.
- In preparation for future stocking obligations, two shipments of rainbow trout eggs were received from Erwin NFH in Tennessee. The eggs were disinfected before being put into seven egg jars of 25,000 eggs each, *below*.



AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- Hatchery personnel drove 800 miles to deliver 67,200 rainbow trout and 13,700 brown trout (averaging 6" length) to nine different recreation areas on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR). Stocking trips continue to be consolidated whenever possible.

- Approximately 151,000 rainbow trout were transferred from the Williams Creek Unit to the Alchesay Unit for continued grow-out.
- As a routine part of the Complex's Apache trout program, the trout are relocated to different locations within the hatchery as they grow. *Below*, Apache trout are loaded for one these transfers.



WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Andy Quay continues to provide valuable volunteer hours to the Alchesay Unit. He provided 114 hours this month performing fish culture duties as well as building and grounds maintenance.
- Preparation on the ponds began in anticipation of the upcoming fish transfers from the Williams Creek Unit. The fish will be transferred to the Alchesay Unit to continue grow-out before stocking into tribal waters next spring. Bird netting was repaired and/or replaced and the bottom of the ponds were excavated.
- Pete Drevnick constructed avian predation screens for A-bank raceways at the Alchesay Unit, *below*. These simple, yet effective, wood-framed screens replaced the netting that was being used. These screens are a much safer alternative, especially since winter (and the associated ice and snow) is fast approaching.



PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:

- Alchesay High School Special Education students were back again this month to assist with fish culture duties. Duties include counting daily mortalities and recording data, as well as disinfecting egg jars, fish rearing tanks, *right*, and incubator trays.



- Jimmy Smith conducted a tour of the Williams Creek unit for eight students from Mountain Christian School, *left*. The students, along with two adult chaperones, were educated to all aspects of the fish culture operation.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE:

- The remodeling of Quarters 5 began with asbestos removal. Two large dumpsters were delivered to contain the construction debris.



- The planning stages have begun on the Williams Creek Unit's pipeline replacement. To stretch the budget for this project, it has been determined that heavy equipment from another FWS station can be used so that rental

equipment will not be necessary. This project is scheduled to begin early next year.

- Installation of new roofing was completed on the Williams Creek Unit's Crew's Room. The next phase of new roofing has begun on the Shop.



LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- The Williams Creek Unit took delivery of a new fish transfer pump. This pump will reduce stress on the fish during loading operations.
- Progress continues to be made on the pipeline replacement project at the Alchesay Unit. The concrete foundation for the radial flow settlers (RFS) building were poured. The areas around and underneath the RFS units were backfilled with gravel to stabilize the units and prevent them from shifting.

