



ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT September 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
Andy Quay – Volunteer
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 Zyllo – Volunteer
Carol Walker – Volunteer*



A celebration honoring Anderson Quay, who served his last day at Alchesay National Fish Hatchery this month after volunteering more than 20,000 hours over twelve years.

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 cancelled this month. Several key participants were unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts or illness.
- A conference call was conducted with Chris Kitcheyan of New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office to discuss specifics of this fall's stocking requests for the New Mexico tribes. Change orders will be forthcoming.

AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- Hatchery personnel drove 1,058 miles to deliver 67,000 rainbow trout (6" length) to the White Mountain Apache Tribe and 9,700 brown trout (6" length) to the San Carlos Apache Tribe. In addition, almost 14,000 six inch rainbow trout were transferred from the Williams Creek facility to the Alchessay facility in an effort to reduce overcrowding due to declining flows at Williams Creek. Flows dropped about 150 gallons per minute from the end of August through the month of September.
- Both units continue to battle poor water quality conditions such as muddy runoff, low flows and low dissolved oxygen levels. The Williams Creek facility had the second lowest water flows in the hatchery's history during the month of September and the trend seems likely to continue. These conditions necessitated locating appropriate waters to receive emergency stockings.
- The Williams Creek Unit took delivery of the new Dodge Ram 4500 4x4 truck that was ordered in October 2013. It will be retrofitted with one to two 250 gallon tanks temporarily mounted on the flat bed and will be dual purposed as a fish distribution unit and a flatbed truck with stake sides for hauling large loads.



New truck is delivered to Williams Creek



Engine of the Williams Creek's new Dodge Ram 4500 4x4 truck

- The Williams Creek Unit received a shipment of 65,586 rainbow trout eggs from Erwin National Fish Hatchery in Erwin, TN. This smaller second shipment of eggs will be transferred to Alchesay in April to fulfill fall 2015 catchable trout requests.
- Preparations for this season's spawning activities began with the separation of the two-year-old male and female broodstock. Apache trout spawn-taking will commence in December 2014.

PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:

- Of the 41 visitors to the Alchesay Unit this month, approximately 30 were Whiteriver Social Services employees and their families, who enjoyed their annual bar-be-que at the adjacent park.
- The Williams Creek Unit received 85 visitors this month. Eleven students and 3 teachers from Orme School in Mayer, Arizona, were given a tour of the hatchery by Russ Wood.

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Andy Quay's valuable contributions to the Alchesay Unit came to an end this month. A luncheon was given in Andy's honor on September 25th. After volunteering over 20,000 hours Andy will be sorely missed, but we wish him all the best. We might even be lucky enough to have Andy occasionally volunteer his services again!
- Pete Drevnick and Travis Taylor continue with Pond 3 modifications. The concrete was poured for the water control structure, a 10" gate valve was installed at the inflow control box and installation began on the sheet pile walls.



Left: Effluent control structure taking shape for concrete pour. Above: Securing sheet pile together with support beams

- Mary Zyl0 provided 36 volunteer hours at the Williams Creek Unit, where she assisted with routine office paperwork and fish culture duties. Carol Walker provided 130 volunteer hours at the Williams Creek Unit, assisting with fish culture duties, as well as building and grounds maintenance.

- Bruce Thompson, Gene Okamoto and Bradley Clarkson completed mandatory supervisory training including EEO and Diversity.
- All staff have completed mandatory defensive driving training.
- Bruce Thompson attended a meeting in Albuquerque of all regional project leaders and Regional Office Fisheries' staff. The meeting was very informative and it was a good opportunity to meet new fisheries leaders and renew old acquaintances. New business discussed included developing annual work plans for each field station based on the new draft "FAC Strategic Plan" to document program accountability.
- Carrie Gregory joined us on September 15th as the new Administrative Technician for the Complex. We are very excited to have Carrie join us!

LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- Air Products has been selected as the supplier for the Williams Creek Unit's liquid oxygen system. The first delivery was on September 11, 2014. With a few "start-up" glitches ironed out, the system appears to be working as intended. This system will reduce increasing maintenance costs inherent in the 10 year old oxygen generation system previously utilized. The oxygen generation blowers will be utilized for emergency back-up as long as the dated equipment is operational.



Above: Liquid Oxygen is delivered to Williams Creek