



ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

September 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*



Reservation Lake on Fort Apache Indian Reservation

AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- Gene Okamoto coordinated the logistics of a pre-arranged fish trade between Arizona Game & Fish and Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR). The agreement was to trade 20,000 4-inch Apache trout (APT) from Williams Creek for 12,000 10-inch rainbow trout (RBT) from Canyon Creek state fish hatchery.
- Brown trout at Alchesay were sorted using an adjustable grader. These bigger fish will be stocked next month at a 7–8 inch size range to satisfy the Jicarilla Apache brown trout management program.
- The Complex stocked 73,441 ~6 “ rainbow trout and 27,408 catchable sized Apache trout in FAIR waters. This monthly stocking program put an additional 754 miles on our stocking trucks.
- Both A-bank and B-bank at Williams Creek are now covered. These canopies provide protection for the Apache trout which result in increased survival and culminate in producing healthier, stronger, stress-free, and more robust fish to meet management programs.



LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- Due to Apache trout spawning season rapidly approaching, a “pre-spawn” meeting was held at Williams Creek to address genetic diversity and disease resistance concerns. The logistics of incorporating changes to spawn-taking protocols were discussed. The decision to incorporate a modified one on one spawn-taking methodology was adopted by the spawn-taking crew. In years past, milt from five males were pooled together to fertilize one to five females. This procedural change was agreed upon in an effort to maximize genetic diversity in the original broodstock source (which was initially collected from wild East Fork White River strain Apache trout in 1983 and 1984). There is a need to boost the immune system of the young Apache trout to resist *Flavobacterium psychrophilum*, the cause of Bacterial Coldwater Disease which recently is decimating hatchery reared juvenile Apache trout.
- Another topic of discussion was the future utilization of a high energy diet fish feed for rearing all Apache trout on station.

PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:

- Adam Howell from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Enforcement Division and Daniel Pusher, the new Water Quality Officer from White Mountain Apache Tribe's Environmental Protection Office (WMAT-EPO); toured Alchesay NFH during the NPDES permit facility inspection. Both Adam Howell and Daniel Pusher were pleased with the Complex' record keeping system and water sampling protocols.

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Carol Walker provided valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She volunteered 82.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 81.5 hours at Williams Creek toward fish culture duties and grounds maintenance.
- John Fenslage took Construction Safety Training to prepare for his Construction Inspector (CI) responsibilities for the upcoming Williams Creek housing demolitions.
- Both maintenance personnel worked together in disconnecting and removing propane tanks at the demo sites. They also contacted the electric company to have the meters removed.

FACILITY MAINTENANCE:

- Steel and roofing material for the Disinfection Station were delivered to the Alchesay facility. This Deferred Maintenance (DM) project is moving along very well and is several weeks ahead of schedule. Work will continue on the project throughout the winter.
- Staff performed routine and scheduled maintenance tasks at both facilities. In addition to routine maintenance, final pre demo jobs were completed at Williams and a roof leak was patched and sealed at the Alchesay unit.
- Well pump house tanks that supplies the domestic water to Alchesay hatchery were replaced after one of the inner bladders failed, leaving the hatchery without running water. Offices and volunteer housing was affected by the well house issue. The old tanks were at their life expectancy of 5 to 7 years.



PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:

- Williams Creek received 230 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 200 visitors. Visitation has declined as fall approaches and the air temperatures start to drop.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Rainbow trout at a length of 4-inches will be transferred to Alchesay from Williams Creek starting in the first week of October. The plan is to load these smaller fish in Alchesay raceways and as they approach 6-inches transfer 200,000 of them into Alchesay ponds in a continuing effort to increase fish survival.
- Two old houses (Quarters 4 and 5) are scheduled for fall demolition at Williams Creek.
- Fall fish stocking of San Carlos, Zuni, Pueblos, Navajo Nation, and Jicarilla Tribes/Reservations will commence next month.
- The hatchery is scheduled to receive 150,000 rainbow trout eggs from Erwin NFH in mid-October, 64,000 brown trout eggs in early November from Saratoga NFH, and an additional 110,000 rainbow trout eggs from Erwin NFH in mid-November. This will complete the fall egg requests to meet calendar year 2016 program objectives.