



Dominic Barrett and youth during the 2nd Annual Post Wallow Fire Turkey Sciences Field Workshop and Turkey Youth Hunt.

**AZFWCO Staff**

***Pinetop***

- Stewart Jacks, Project Leader
- Vacant, Assistant Project Leader
- Jeremy Voeltz, Project Coordinator
- Dominic Barrett, Partners for Fish & Wildlife Biologist
- Jennifer Johnson, Fish Biologist
- Kayla Barrett, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
- Travis Taylor, Biological Technician
- Karla McGhan, Administrative Officer
- Patti Ferlisi, Office Assistant

***Flagstaff***

- Kirk Young, Project Coordinator
- Randy Van Haverbeke, Senior Fish Biologist
- Dennis Stone, Fish Biologist
- Mike Pillow, Fish Biologist
- Jim Walters, Biological Technician
- Rick Deshler, Biological Technician

***Parker***

- Mitch Thorson, Fish Biologist
- Tammy Knecht, Fish Biologist
- Robert Randall, Fish Biologist
- John Naugle, Biological Technician
- Vacant, Biological Technician



## Partnerships and Accountability

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The Arizona FWCO, New Mexico FWCO, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), New Mexico Game and Fish Department, Gila National Forest, and Coronado National Forest were honored by the National Fish Habitat Board with the 2012 Extraordinary Action Award for fish



habitat conservation at the 4th Annual Native Trout Conference held in Phoenix, AZ. The group was recognized for their efforts to salvage and relocate threatened Gila trout during the 2012 Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire in New Mexico.

Jeremy Voeltz participated in the 4th Annual Native Trout Workshop held in Phoenix. More than 100 attendees from the various state, federal, and tribal agencies; along with non-governmental organizations, anglers, and conservationists met to discuss challenges and opportunities for managing native Apache and Gila

trouts in Arizona and New Mexico. AZFWCO staff participated in the monthly Fishery Coordination meeting among AZFWCO, A-WC NFH (Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery), & WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe-Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division).

Jeremy Voeltz submitted a draft of the AZFWCO 2012 Annual Report for internal review.

## Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

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Randy Van Haverbeke, Dennis Stone, Mike Pillow, Jim Walters, Travis Taylor, Rick Deshler and several volunteers conducted the first spring trip into the Little Colorado River to monitor humpback chub. The trip was a success despite the relatively low catch rates for part of the trip due to a small flood that came through and brought turbid water.

Kirk Young and Randy Van Haverbeke participated on a conference call to redefine the Performance Criteria for humpback chub in the LTEMP. This largely involved reviewing a trout model via a webinar, and then making suggestions for further modeling of temperature in order to compare the LTEMP EIS alternatives.

Randy Van Haverbeke participated in a monthly conference call with the National Park Service (NPS) to keep informed about activities in Shinumo and Havasu creeks in the Grand Canyon.

Kirk Young attended a public presentation of U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) newly released groundwater modeling for the Verde River Watershed, Human Effects on the Hydrologic System of the Verde Valley, Central Arizona, 1910-2005 and 2005-2110 (Garner et al. 2013). The study used a regional groundwater model and estimated a loss of 10,000 acre feet (14 cfs) of base flow from 1910-2005 and predicted an additional loss of base flow between 5,400-8,600 acre feet (7-12 cfs) by 2110 due to human stresses -- primarily groundwater use. The future effects portion of the study used conservative water use estimates and did not factor effects of climate change. The publication is available online at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2013/5029/sir2013-5029.pdf>

Kirk Young and Mitch Thorson met with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), AGFD, and Havasu NWR

staff to assess and chart future management actions for Beal Lake. Beal Lake has been used for endangered razorback and bonytail and underwent a major fish kill caused by a bloom of golden alga *Prymnesium parvum*. Golden alga, a marine algae, can be toxic to gill breathing animals and is associated with saline waters. Golden alga has been documented in 16 states, but this occurrence was the first known from the Colorado River. Future work will focus on monitoring the algae community and investigating ways to reduce salinity in the lake.

Jennifer Johnson assisted AGFD with a native fish monitoring project at Willow Springs Lake.

Rob Randall deployed two remote PIT tag scanners into Topock Marsh to evaluate movement of tagged native fish throughout the marsh and to determine if there is

## Aquatic Species Conservation and Management (continued)

active movement of native fish between the marsh and mainstem Colorado River.



The native fish pond at River's Edge Golf Course experienced a fish kill where an estimated 143 razorback sucker and bonytail died. It is expected that the kill was a result of low dissolved oxygen levels.

Tammy Knecht, Rob Randall, Mitch Thorson and John Naugle tracked acoustic telemetry tagged razorback sucker and bonytail as part of the project on the Colorado River on the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation. As a follow-up to the study Tammy, Rob, and

Mitch electrofished several backwaters in the lower study reach.



## Public Use

Dominic Barrett assisted with the 2nd Annual Post Wallow Fire Turkey Sciences Field Workshop and Hunting Camp (junior turkey hunt) hosted by Youth Outdoors Unlimited, Inc., and sponsored by AGFD, AZFWCO, National Wild Turkey Federation, and others. Seventeen junior hunters, more than 20 other youth (non-hunters), and their families attended the free event. Twelve junior hunters each harvested a turkey. Junior hunters and others visiting the camp learned about turkey calling and hunting, archery, trapping techniques, wildlife conservation, and other outdoor interests.

Jennifer Johnson participated in an introductory webinar for the upcoming

NCTC course "Building Urban and Community Habitats with Youth."

AZFWCO donated fishing poles and informational books on fishing as prizes for Greer's 2nd Annual Family Fishing Derby.



Did you know AZFWCO had a facebook page? We post information on our staff, upcoming projects, educational events, and volunteer opportunities across the state. We currently have 379 "likes" from 20 countries. Check us out at [www.facebook.com/AZFWCO](http://www.facebook.com/AZFWCO).

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Check out DFHP's Facebook page. We post information on projects, request for proposals, pictures, and much more. [http://www.facebook.com/pages/Desert Fish-Habitat-Partnership/193053497376208](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Desert-Fish-Habitat-Partnership/193053497376208)

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## Cooperation with Native Americans

Jennifer Johnson and Travis Taylor, with assistance of staff from the Navajo Nation Fish & Wildlife Department staff, completed an electrofishing survey on Wheatfields Lake.

Jennifer Johnson and Travis Taylor, with assistance from San Carlos

Apache Recreation & Wildlife Department staff, completed annual spring sport fish surveys on San Carlos, Talkalai, and Seneca lakes.

At a request from the San Carlos Apache Tribe, Jeremy Voeltz worked with Arizona Ecological

Field Services Office (AESO) staff on a potential lead contamination issue near the Gila River during reconstruction of a bridge. Lead values in soil samples were well below the EPA recommended remediation threshold.

## Leadership in Science and Technology

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Randy Van Haverbeke, as the primary author, published the manuscript titled “Long term

monitoring of an endangered desert fish and factors influencing population dynamics” in the Journal

of Fish and Wildlife Management.

## Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

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Dominic Barrett and Karla McGhan completed payment information for the Echinique Draw Grassland Restoration Partners for Fish & Wildlife Project. A contractor completed juniper grubbing within 350 acres of upland habitat. Restored grassland habitat will

provide habitat for certain raptors, migratory birds, and resident wildlife while improving rangeland conditions.

Fowler-Propst to draft the FY13 letter to HQ for recommended projects to fund under the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership.

Dominic Barrett met with AGFD, National Resource Conservation Service, and others to discuss stream restoration methods for state property along Silver Creek.

Rob Randall and Tammy Knecht completed water quality monitoring on River’s Edge Golf Course, Office Cove, Parker Dam Pond, Emerald Canyon Golf Course Ponds, Topock Marsh, and Alamo Lake.

Dominic Barrett, worked with staff from AESO and AGFD to conduct a survey of the Hidden Cover Project area for Peeble’s Navajo cactus. Survey efforts did not locate Peeble’s Navajo cactus in the project area. Dominic also met with the City of Holbrook, National Park Service, AGFD, and others to discuss environmental compliance for the Hidden Cove Project.

Jeremy Voeltz worked with Jennifer



## Workforce Management

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Jeremy Voeltz continued to work with the Region 2 Focus Group Implementation Team to outline ways to implement the recommendations from the Region 2 Focus Group. The team presented their progress to the RDT at the end of April and the group continues to make progress.

decision analysis, and ecosystem models.

Stewart Jacks was selected as the new Region 2, Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation. He will report for duty in the new position in mid-July.

Staff completed mandatory FISSA and No Fear Act training.

Staff completed mid-year Performance Reviews.

Randy Van Haverbeke completed all required EEO and Diversity training.

Staff participated in AZFWCO’s monthly teleconference covering topics that included budget, personnel, safety, training, and work

Jennifer Johnson completed NCTC’s 14-week online course “Principles of Modeling with Spreadsheets.” The course introduced participants to a variety of modeling techniques applicable to resource management and conservation issues. Modeling topics included population models,

Randy Van Haverbeke worked with USGS staff on aviation training and safety for all Grand Canyon projects. As part of this work Randy completed and distributed the final version of the Project Aviation Safety Plan to our cooperators (AGFD, USGS, NPS, and Regional Aviation Managers).

