



Dominic Barrett helps one junior hunter harvest his first wild turkey at the 3rd Annual Post Wallow Fire Turkey Sciences Field Workshop and Hunting Camp

AZFWCO Staff

Flagstaff

- Jess Newton, Project Leader
- 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

Pinetop

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

Parker

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



Partnerships and Accountability

Jeremy Voeltz, Jess Newton, and staff from the Alchey-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery (A-WC NFH) and Arizona Ecological Services Field Office (AESO) met with staff from the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT) at the AGFD Bubbling Ponds Native Fish Facility to discuss on-going captive refuge and propagation efforts for endangered loach minnow. The Tribe is interested in developing a captive population of East Fork White River loach minnow for refuge and for producing offspring for augmenting existing populations or establishing new populations of loach minnow.

Jeremy Voeltz and Jess Newton attended the 5th annual Native and Wild Trout Workshop, hosted by the Arizona Council of Trout Unlimited. More than 100 people from various agencies, organizations, and interested angler groups attended this year's event.

Kirk Young attended a Technical Work Group (TWG) meeting in Phoenix for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. The meeting focused on the new three-year budget (FY15/16/17). The GCDAMP received \$12 million in proposals for \$8 million in funding and USGS received feedback from TWG to help prioritize project proposals and will present a budget in May.

Jess Newton met with the leadership and a variety of staff from the AESO. The goal of these AESO-AZFWCO meetings was to strengthen coordination and partnership among our offices. We identified several exciting partnership opportunities for conservation of endangered species.

Dominic Barrett participated in the monthly Apache County Natural

Resource Conservation District (NRCD) meeting and the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) conference call.

Dominic Barrett met with an IWJV Capacity Grants Program awardee and applicant to discuss accomplishments, reporting, and new opportunities.

Dominic Barrett met with AGFD Landowner Relations Program staff and a private landowner to discuss spring protection and enhancement and livestock management.



Dominic Barrett attended an Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Improvement Grant workshop in Springerville. Dominic and AGFD Landowner Relations Program staff helped a private landowner apply for additional funding for the aforementioned spring project.

Dominic Barrett assisted with the 3rd Annual Post Wallow Fire Turkey Sciences Field Workshop and Hunting Camp (junior's turkey hunt) hosted by Youth Outdoors Unlimited, Inc., AGFD, and the National Wild Turkey Federation. Seventy-seven junior hunters, 17 youth (non-hunters), and 65 adults attended the free event. Twenty-two junior hunters 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. Dominic

helped one junior hunter harvest his first wild turkey.

Dominic Barrett met with the City of Sedona to verify work associated with the City of Sedona Wetland Establishment Project. Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) provided funds for native tree and shrub plantings throughout areas adjacent to newly established wetlands.



Dominic Barrett met with a new landowner to visit a possible streambank stabilization project along Nutrioso Creek. The local Apache County NRCD is interested in project collaboration.

Dominic Barrett met with AGFD Landowner Relations Program staff and a private landowner to discuss PFW funding and techniques to improve livestock management.

Kayla Barrett participated in a Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP)/Desert LCC teleconference.

Kayla Barrett participated in a DFHP call with Jess Newton to discuss DFHP functions.

Kayla Barrett participated in a DFHP RFP teleconference for 2015.

AZFWCO staff participated in the monthly Fishery Coordination meeting among AZFWCO, A-WC NFH, & WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe-Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division).

Habitat Conservation and Management

Jeremy Voeltz and Dominic Barrett met with a private landowner in Star Valley, Arizona to discuss habitat restoration on his lands adjacent to Houston Creek. Some projects (either through the National Fish Passage Program or Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program) may be developed in the future.

Kayla Barrett and Jess Newton participated in a DFHP science and data teleconference and multiple

discussions regarding the Southern Rockies LCC RFP and Desert LCC RFP. Other topics discussed were habitat assessments for DFHP's Rio Grande and Basin and Range drainages and incorporating the Lower Colorado and Upper Colorado habitat assessments into DFHP's strategic plan.

Kayla Barrett updated and finalized the DFHP RFP for 2015.

Kayla Barrett completed the first draft of the DFHP 2013 annual report and sent out for review.

Kayla Barrett submitted a DFHP 2014 project for NFHP's 10 "Waters to Watch."

Tammy Knecht completed monthly water quality for Alamo Lake.

Public Use

Jennifer Johnson spoke at the monthly meeting of the White Mountain Audubon Society. Jennifer's topic was "Connecting Children With Nature: Ensuring the Future of Conservation". The presentation was well received and the group brainstormed ways to engage more youth in the outdoors.

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 462 "likes" from 20 countries. Check us out at www.facebook.com/AZFWCO.

Check out DFHP's Facebook page. We post information on projects, request for proposals, pictures, steering committee news, and much more. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Desert-Fish-Habitat-Partnership/193053497376208>

Cooperation with Native Americans

Jennifer Johnson delivered approximately 300 rainbow trout to the Kaibab Paiute Indian Tribe. The tribe is preparing for the annual youth fishing clinic and derby in May.

Jeremy Voeltz, Dominic Barrett, and Kayla Barrett assisted the White Mountain Apache Tribe with a wild fish health survey on the East Fork of the White River. Approximately 70 speckled dace were collected and transferred to staff from the Fish Health Unit at the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center who were on-site doing their annual fish health inspection at Alchesay National Fish Hatchery. The Fish Health staff will do a complete assessment (virology, parasitology,

and bacteriology) of the fish as a surrogate to endangered loach minnow that are found in the stream. The loach minnow may be brought into a state or federal captive propagation facility sometime in the near future.



Jeremy Voeltz and John Nystedt (AESO) attended a Miner Flat Dam on-site meeting with representatives from the White Mountain Apache Tribe and Leidos

Consulting Company to discuss monitoring needs for species that may be impacted by the construction of the dam and rural water development infrastructure.

Dominic Barrett met with WMAT WORD to discuss PFW funding and opportunities for streambank stabilization on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Jennifer Johnson assisted the Willow Beach NFH for one week. Jennifer assisted with the daily care of razorback sucker. Wild larvae are collected from the Colorado River and brought on station and raised until they reach stocking size. Jennifer assisted with disease treatments, hatching of brine shrimp, feeding of all life stages of razorback sucker, and cleaning of tanks and raceways.



Jennifer Johnson assisted staff from Williams Creek NFH with harvesting escaped trout from various areas of the hatchery. Removal of the trout improves inventory counts and reduces opportunities for diseases to spread.

Kirk Young met with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to review 2015/2016 budgets and to identify ways to reduce costs for projects in the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers, extending into FY15/16. As part of our continual effort to increase efficiencies, we had already identified approximately \$60k in savings by combining efforts and eliminating two separate helicopter trips into the Little Colorado River.

Jess Newton and Jeremy Voeltz toured Grapevine Creek on the Prescott National Forest with staff from the AGFD and volunteers from Trout Unlimited and local fly-fishing

groups. Grapevine Creek contains a translocated recovery population of the threatened Gila trout. Multiple size classes of Gila trout were observed throughout the stocking reach.



Kirk Young and Jess Newton attended a Lower Colorado River Multi-species Conservation Program (MSCP) presentation provided by MSCP director John Swett and Aquatic Section Leader Gregg Garnett. The presentation provided an overview of the \$600 million plus Habitat Conservation Plan.

Randy Van Haverbeke incorporated comments from the National Park Service (NPS) on the Translocation and Refuge Framework for Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*) in Grand Canyon. Randy submitted the document to Kirk Young for review.

Randy Van Haverbeke helped assisted Ecological Services (AESO) on a Section 7 consultation regarding dipping water with helicopters out of mainstem Colorado River in Grand Canyon for fire-fighting. Randy provided recommendations to avoid impacts

to endangered humpback chub aggregations.

Kirk Young, Jess Newton, and Randy Van Haverbeke met with Leslie Fitzpatrick (AESO) to discuss the most recent Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) EIS developments and to discuss ideas about developing alternatives and aquatic resource modeling.

Tammy Knecht and Mitch Thorson surgically implanted sonic tags in razorback sucker for the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) Big River Fish Sonic Tag study. Tammy and Mitch also assisted in the release of 60 razorback sucker at River Island State Park and Bluewater Lagoon boat launch. This release is a continuation of a three year study that tracks movements, survival, and habitat use of razorbacks between Parker Dam and Palo Verde Dam.

Mitch Thorson coordinated and participated in a 14-day continuous telemetry tracking effort for razorback suckers as part of the CRIT Big River Fish Sonic Tag study. The effort was led by Mitch, Tammy Knecht and John Naugle, with outstanding volunteer help by biologists from BLM, California Fish & Wildlife, and students from the Arizona State University in Lake Havasu City.

Mitch Thorson and Kirk Young drafted a new proposal for giant salvinia control on the lower Colorado River. The proposal and work plan would support giant salvinia control efforts for five years.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management *continued...*

Randy Van Haverbeke, Dennis Stone, Mike Pillow, Kirk Young, and volunteers participated in the Little Colorado River (LCR) humpback chub monitoring trip from April 15-25. This was the first low-turbidity April monitoring trip in several years. Many chubs were captured directly below Lower Atomizer falls, and staff are hopeful that a significant proportion of these fish can be linked to our decade-long translocation efforts above Chute Falls. Dennis Stone downloaded



the PIT tag scanners and entered/checked all data collected at Salt Camp (LCR).

Mitch Thorson met with Andi Finnegan (BOR) to discuss and coordinate a renovation of several of the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge native fish ponds. Discussion included renovation logistics, and personnel and materials needs.

Mitch Thorson and staff from USGS and Havasu National Wildlife Refuge mapped vegetation in Topock Marsh. This project is intended to quantitatively map vegetation to aid in management of the marsh and was funded through Andrew Hautzinger, FWS.

Leadership in Science and Technology

Kirk Young assisted with the April Little Colorado River survey and deployed a portable remote PIT tag antenna. The

logger will detect and log PIT-tagged fish that travel within 18" of the antenna throughout the

summer.

Workforce Management

The satellite offices of AZFWCO gathered in Flagstaff for our first All Staff Meeting with new project leader, Jess Newton. The meeting focused on team building, identifying key priorities, and office policies.

Jennifer Johnson participated in the "OSHA Inspection" webinar. The training covered what to do if an OSHA inspector comes to your facility.

Mike Pillow coordinated with Karla McGhan and the April LCR volunteers to make sure all volunteers arrived in Flagstaff and were available to participate in pre-trip orientation meetings.

Mike Pillow worked with several branches of IBM to acquire access codes and download permission for the newly purchased SPSS statistical software that is compatible with Windows 7.

Mike Pillow coordinated with Andrew Larson to prepare new hoop nets for the field. Andrew has been securing vinyl tubing on all of the hoops to help protect the netting material from fraying in the harsh Little Colorado River field environment.

Staff completed 2014 Federal Information Systems Security

Awareness + Privacy and Records Management (FISSA+), Defensive Driving II, CPR/First Aid, 2014 Role Based Security Training (RBST) Self Certification, and 2014 Role Based Security Training (RBST) Certification for Supervisors trainings.

Kayla Barrett completed the March AZFWCO Accomplishment Report.

Jeremy Voeltz completed interviews and tentative selections for the AZFWCO Apache Trout Seasonal Crew. We're hiring a variety of GS5 "1040" seasonal positions and GS2/3/4 Pathways summer intern

Workforce Management

positions. Appointees will begin work in late May or early June.

Kirk Young held interviews for a summer position as part of the Directorate Resource Assistant Fellows Program (Fellow). AZFWCO was approved for an 11-week Fellow position to conduct fish metabolism experiments in partnership with AZGFD and USGS. Five exceptional candidates were interviewed and the

selected candidate will start on May 18.

Jeremy Voeltz won three medals in the first round of the National Homebrew Competition in the San Diego Region. His IPA, Habanero IPA, and oaked cherry mead (honey wine) will now compete in the final round of the annual competition in June.

Future Events:

Spring LCR humpback chub (HBC) stock assessment trip II: May 13-23.

Colorado River HBC Aggregation trip: July 19-Aug 4.

Jess Newton will be on a 60-day ALDP detail as Project Leader of Audubon National Wildlife Refuge, ND: May 19-July18.

