



Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



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
 Karla McGhan, Administrative Officer
 Vacant, Office Assistant

Parker

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

Apache Trout Crew

Dan Aguilera, 1040 Seasonal
 Zebediah Buck, 1040 Seasonal
 John Orona, Pathways
 Briana Thorson, Pathways
 Hunter Falco, Pathways
 Will Lubenau, Pathways



AZFWCO Mission: Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish and other aquatic organisms and their habitat in Arizona and the Southwest.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

The Apache trout crew completed one barrier evaluation and four nonnative trout removals on Apache trout recovery streams. The crew covered 5.3 miles of stream and removed 1,082 nonnative trout while collecting 662 Apache trout. The crew also completed one Apache trout population survey.

Jeremy Voeltz submitted a grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to, if funded, conduct Apache trout recovery activities in 2015.

Mitch Thorson and Tammy Knecht worked on the Multi-Species Conservation Program Annual Report. The first draft was submitted to Kirk Young for review.

Mitch Thorson worked with Nick Heatwole (BOR) to complete a five year proposal for a project that controls giant salvinia in the Palo Verde Irrigation District drains.

Mitch Thorson and John Nagle coordinated a giant salvinia survey with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR).

Mitch Thorson and Tammy Knecht coordinated a dive with BOR to locate sonic tags previously implanted in razorback sucker. This information is used to determine predation and mortality rates.

Randy Van Haverbeke analyzed data from the spring Little Colorado River humpback chub monitoring trips and incorporated into the upcoming annual report.

Randy Van Haverbeke and Kirk Young participated in the July/August 2014 mainstem aggregation trip to investigate occurrences of humpback chub at select locations on the Colorado River throughout Grand Canyon. The trip was successful in that humpback chub were captured at nearly all locations

sampled and was highlighted by the capture of about 35 adult humpback chub near springs around 36 Mile in Marble Canyon.

Randy Van Haverbeke reviewed a report by Wade Wilson at Southwest Native Aquatic Resource and Recovery Center (Dexter) about humpback chub genetics.

Dennis Stone continued to update analyses, figures, and the draft manuscript concerning the translocation of humpback chub above Chute Falls in the LCR.

Kirk Young reviewed draft reports written by Directors Fellows Program recipient Amy Chandos on her swim chamber work with bonytail chub as a surrogate to humpback chub. Kirk finalized the DFP closeout report.

Tammy Knecht completed the draft 2014 annual Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) report.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Jeremy Voeltz and Dominic Barrett met with staff from the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) and Natural Channel Design, Inc. to discuss a potential project on Houston Creek near Payson, Arizona. Several landowners are interested in protecting their property from on-going erosion while still maintaining the perennial section of stream and healthy riparian area. AZFWCO will be working with Arizona Department of Water Resources to determine if the Arizona Water Protection Fund is a potential funding source for this project.

Dominic Barrett and a private landowner continued seeding disturbed areas of the PFW-funded Blue River Native Fish Project.

Dominic Barrett completed HabITS entries for PFW-funded projects finalized during FY2014. HabITS is PFW's online accomplishments reporting database.

Dominic Barrett met with a contractor and private landowner to inspect work associated with the PFW-funded Twin Springs Canyon Grazing Management Project. A contractor has begun drilling a well

for the project. The well will be completed in September.



Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management (*continued*)

Kayla Barrett participated in the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership's (DFHP) strategic plan update teleconference. Items discussed were how to incorporate Lower Colorado River habitat assessment into DFHP Framework and how to incorporate Lower Colorado River watershed rankings into proposal

ranking criteria. Kayla and DFHP's science and data chair have followed up on these topics and will be drafting a new strategic plan for DFHP for FY15 funding reports due January 2015.

Kayla Barrett coordinated DFHP's FY15 proposal process and

discussed potential proposals with applicants.

Tammy Knecht completed monthly water quality for Alamo Lake.

Partnerships and Accountability

Jeremy Voeltz coordinated completion of, and Jess Newton signed off on, AZFWCO FY2014 accomplishment reports in the Service's online database (FIS). Staff provided input on their specific projects for each accomplishment record.

Jeremy Voeltz completed the FY2014 Recovery On-Line Activity Reporting data call for Apache trout. All information was up-to-date and required very little editing.

Kirk Young and Jess Newton attended the 3-day meeting of the Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Work Group. A key element of the meeting was discussion and approval of the new 3-year budget and work plan for research and monitoring activities in Grand Canyon.

Jess Newton finalized AZFWCO's

2013 Annual Report and routed for signatures. Reports are available upon request.

Kirk Young met with USGS to discuss and coordinate endangered species permit requests for 2015.

Kirk continued to work toward finalizing a grant agreement with Northern Arizona University. This agreement will support recovery actions for the threatened aquatic narrow-headed gartersnake.

Dominic Barrett participated in the monthly Intermountain West Joint Venture conference call.

Dominic Barrett participated in a R2 Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program conference call.

Dominic Barrett assisted a private landowner, AGFD, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service

with development of an application for the AGFD Heritage Grant Program. The group is pursuing additional funds for the Marijilda Wash Native Fish Project.

Kayla Barrett coordinated and participated in a DFHP outreach call with the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) communications coordinator. Items discussed were local school involvement, DFHP website, DFHP video, and general outreach.

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).

Cooperation with Native Americans

Jeremy Voeltz, Jennifer Johnson, Dan Aguilera, Zeb Buck, and staff from Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH stocked 30,000 channel catfish into lakes and ponds on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation and San Carlos Apache Reservation. The fish were raised at Uvalde NFH



and delivered by staff from Inks Dam NFH.

Jeremy Voeltz and Jess Newton attended the quarterly Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission held in Isleta, New Mexico.

Cooperation with Native Americans (*continued*)

Jeremy Voeltz and Jess Newton attended the 28th annual conference of the Southwest Regional Native American Fish and

Wildlife Society. Jeremy gave two presentations: one on the Service's upcoming Species Status Assessment for roundtail and

headwater chubs, and an update on Apache trout recovery status.

Public Use and Outreach

Jennifer Johnson, Zeb Buck, and Jon Orona participated in the 9th Annual Woodland Wildlife Festival in Pinetop. Interactive booths and displays with live wildlife, an archery range, and casting pond were available. The highlight of



the AZFWCO display was the "Living Stream" which featured live Apache trout. Youth learned what it was like to be a fish biologist by participating in a hands-on activity where they identified, measured, weighed and tagged fish.

Mike Pillow compiled a selection of photos from our FY2014 field activities and shared them with Jessie Jobs in the regional office for public use.

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

facebook

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>.

facebook

Leadership in Science and Technology

Dominic Barrett assisted the Desert Surrogate Species Team with mapping proposed surrogate species ranges (fish and wildlife) in the Chiricahua Mountain Subgeography.

Mike Pillow has been working with Randy Van Haverbeke to generate a series models to estimate chub populations using our LCR data in

program MARK. By using differing criteria (via SPSS) to group captures and recaptures, they came up with a series of estimates that they could run in MARK to compare to our standard modified Chapman Petersen estimation.

Kirk Young attended the Federal Family and Glen Canyon Adaptive Management Work Group meeting

in Flagstaff. Kirk brought up concerns over increasing USGS budget costs and impacts to key partners such as the Service, National Park Service (NPS), and AGFD. USGS Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) personnel acknowledged the cost trend and are working on reducing their costs.

Workforce Management

Kayla Barrett completed the July AZFWCO Accomplishment Report.

Jennifer Johnson attended "Introduction to R for Biologists" at the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Southwest Regional Conference in Isleta, NM.

Jeremy Voeltz met with Kirk Young and Jess Newton to discuss FY15 priorities, budget, staffing needs, and FIS needs.

Mike Pillow and Randy Van Haverbeke coordinated with the fall LCR volunteers regarding travel

and required safety training for the September and October trips.

Randy Van Haverbeke trained LCR volunteers in Aviation Safety requirements.

Staff completed a variety of required

Workforce Management (*continued*)

trainings including Safety for Supervisors, Motorboat Operator Certification Course, EEO/Diversity training, annual electrofishing safety refresher course and AIT aircraft safety training modules.

Valerie Fischer, volunteer, joined the Apache trout crew for a week.



Valerie gained experience in the field working with Apache trout.

Staff participated in the monthly AZFWCO teleconference.

