



PFW Program streambank stabilization project near Portal, AZ.

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
Vacant, Administrative Officer
Vacant, Office Assistant

Parker

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



Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Jeremy Voeltz attended the fall meeting of the Apache Trout Implementation Team. The group discussed work completed in 2014 and proposed projects to be implemented in 2015.

Jeremy Voeltz completed a grant application modification with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for field activities to be funded in 2015 and 2016 under the Apache Trout Keystone Initiative.

Jeremy Voeltz met with staff from the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office and Regional Office to discuss the ongoing Species Status Assessment for roundtail and headwater chubs and the potential to develop some conceptual models to look at species viability into the future. The Service has to make a

decision to list, or remove them from candidate status by September of 2015.

Kirk Young, Randy VanHaverbeke, Dennis Stone and Mike Pillow, gave presentations at the annual Grand Canyon fish cooperators meeting. Kirk presented data from a pilot project involving the use of portable PIT tag antennas to expand data collection from Grand Canyon monitoring efforts. The deployment of 1 to 2 antennas increased total unique fish detections by 10% and detections of humpback chub by nearly 30% over standard net surveys alone. Randy provided a comparison of Lincoln Peterson and Program Mark estimates for humpback chub. The presentation

provided context for tradeoffs associated with each model. Dennis provided an update on Chute Falls translocation project and interesting findings that will be submitted for journal publication this spring. Noteworthy among many findings is the significant increase in growth rates observed in translocated fish, some of which achieve adulthood in as little as one year. Mike described the changes USFWS and other partners made to the humpback chub translocation project in 2014. These changes improved efficiency and safety, and cut costs associated with elimination of a separate translocation collection trip during summer.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Jeremy Voeltz and Jess Newton worked with staff from the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office to complete a programmatic Biological Opinion on AZFWCO's proposed Fish Passage program activities in the upper Salt River watershed. The BiOp should be signed in January.

Dominic Barrett completed an Intra-Service Section 7 Consultation for PFW-funded (Partners for Fish and Wildlife) Marijilda Wash Native Fish Project near Safford. Target species include the endangered Gila topminnow and endangered desert pupfish.

Dominic Barrett met with a private landowner, contractor, and New Mexico PFW staff near the New Mexico-Arizona state line. The group discussed funding opportunities for terrestrial and aquatic habitat restoration on

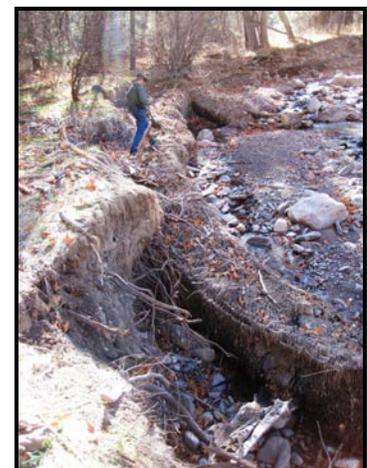
private and public lands along Coyote Creek.



Dominic Barrett completed a project closeout for the PFW-funded Turkey Spring Forest Management Project. The project involved mastication of selected juniper and small-diameter Ponderosa pine throughout approximately 84 acres near Vernon, Arizona. The completed project will benefit

resident and migratory wildlife.

Dominic Barrett met with a private landowner and contractor near Portal, Arizona, to discuss PFW and streambank stabilization along Cave Creek.



Dominic Barrett completed interim financial and performance reports for a PFW-funded Cooperative Agreement with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management *continued*

Dominic Barrett completed project documents for consultation with the Arizona State Historical Preservation Office. Documents described the PFW-funded County Road #2010 Streambank Stabilization Project near Nutrioso, Arizona.

Kayla Barrett completed the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) reports that will be submitted to FWS/NFHP (National Fish Habitat Partnership) on 5 January for FY15 funding. She sent the three reports out for review. Reports included DFHP project and activity summaries between 2011-2017, performance measure summaries for projects, project completion status and narratives, habitat

assessment summaries, project monitoring and evaluation methods, FWS trust resources and priority species, DFHP priority species and areas (maps included), FWS climate change objectives, leverage of FWS project funds, work plan, strategic implementation of projects, and conservation actions and project outcomes.

Kayla Barrett submitted DFHP's FY15 priority projects memo to the R2 NFHP regional coordinator.

Kayla Barrett continued to work on DFHP's FY15 proposal process.

Kayla Barrett coordinated with Fisheries Information System coordinators to ensure all DFHP

projects were entered into the FONS database for regions 1, 2, 6, & 8.

Kayla Barrett coordinated with DFHP project leads regarding project completion.

Kayla Barrett submitted a summary report to the Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) coordinator regarding DFHP's involvement in the multi-state grant for promoting strategic fish habitat conservation through regionally-coordinated science and collaboration with WNTI and Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership. Through this grant, DFHP was able to work with University of Missouri staff and complete a habitat assessment for the Upper Colorado River basin.

Partnerships and Accountability

Jeremy Voeltz and other species leads from the Service attended the annual meeting of the Arizona Game and Fish Department's sportfishing Conservation and Mitigation Program to discuss activities completed in 2014 and proposed for 2015.

Jeremy Voeltz participated in the quarterly coordination meeting between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the Service's Arizona Ecological Services Field Office via teleconference. Several agenda items pertained to fisheries issues that the AZFWCO are involved with.

Dominic Barrett participated in FWS R2 PFW meetings at the Regional Office.

Dominic Barrett participated in a FWS R2 PFW conference call. Dominic Barrett attended the Greater Sage Grouse CCAA/CCA practitioners' conference call hosted by FWS R6.

Jess Newton worked with the Regional Office to finalized The Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU was signed by all partners, including USFWS'

Stewart Jacks, Assistant Regional Director - Fisheries. The goal of the partnership is to manage collectively fish, fish habitat, and angler access facilities of Lake Havasu; to support the economic, environmental, and social benefits of these resources for the public. Partners include Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, USFWS, the US Geological Survey; Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Parks; California Department of Fish and Wildlife; and Anglers United, Inc.

Cooperation with Native Americans

Dominic Barrett reviewed a cultural resources survey report for the PFW-funded County Road #2010 Streambank Stabilization Project. In compliance with National Historic Preservation Act, notification letters

were sent to five potentially affected Tribes.

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).

Public Use and Outreach

Kayla Barrett continued to work with a graphic designer for DFHP's designs of a vertical meeting banner, brochures, water bottle stickers, and more.

Kayla Barrett announced DFHP's new logo and website on the AZ/ NM Chapter AFS Facebook page and NFHP website and Facebook page.

Kayla Barrett continued to update the DFHP website (added bylaws

and strategic plan pages and links).

Mike Pillow continued to edit the video interviews for the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership video that he is working on with Kayla Barrett.

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 504 "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 reviewed a manuscript discussing river otter densities in relation to energy development for the Canadian Journal of Zoology.

Mike Pillow worked on updating the database that links floy- and carlin-tagged humpback chubs to those

PIT tagged starting in the early 1990s. He appended the 2014 data from the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center master database and found several fish that have eluded capture for many years. One fish was detected by a remote PIT tag antenna in 2014 that was first given a floy tag on

May 2, 1986 when it was 411mm long. This fish was eventually PIT tagged in 1992 (425 mm) and has been captured only 5 times since (1992, 1995, 2006, 2006, 2011). The fish was last handled on September 11, 2011 (435 mm).

Workforce Management

Jess Newton and Dominic Barrett attended a Basic Financial Assistance Course in Albuquerque.

Staff attended the AZFWCO all-staff meeting and Christmas Party in Flagstaff.

Kayla Barrett completed the AZFWCO Accomplishment Report for November.

Upcoming Events:

During January, Dominic Barrett will be placed in a work detail for FWS R6 PFW. Dominic will serve as the PFW Deputy Regional Coordinator.

Colorado River Aquatic Biologists Meeting in Laughlin, NV – January 7th & 8th

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program's 36th Annual Researchers Meeting in Moab, Utah -- January 13-14

Arizona-New Mexico Chapter American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico -- February 5-7

Annual Lake Havasu Native Fish Roundup: February 9-13
Region 2 Admin Workshop: February 9-13

Kayla Barrett turns 30 years-old in February! We should now say yes/ no ma'am when answering her.

Mike Pillow and his wife Erica welcomed their daughter, Nora Quinn, into the world on December 17, 2014. Wyatt is a very proud big brother!

