



A dilapidated stream culvert.

AZFWCO Staff

Pinetop

- Vacant, 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
- Vacant, Biological Technician
- Karla McGhan, Administrative Officer
- Vacant, 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



Partnerships and Accountability

Dominic Barrett, Jennifer Johnson, Kayla Barrett, Dennis Stone, Kirk Young, Randy VanHaverbeke, Mike Pillow, and Jeremy Voeltz participated in the Arizona/New Mexico Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society Joint Annual Meeting in Pinetop.

Dominic Barrett met with Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest Springerville Ranger District staff to discuss possible PFW (Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program) collaboration on private land prescribed fire efforts.

Dominic Barrett met with a landowner along the Blue River to discuss PFW funding and livestock management.

Dominic Barrett participated in a landowner workshop hosted by the White Mountain Land Alliance in Springerville. Guest speakers presented information about weed management, grassland restoration, conservation easements, and funding sources from state and federal

agencies. Dominic and a PFW Cooperator presented information about the PFW Program. The workshop was funded by the IMWJV (Intermountain West Joint Venture) Capacity Grant Program.

Jennifer Johnson participated in the statewide safety call.

Jennifer Johnson participated in the webinar "Environmental DN: An early detection surveillance tool for invasive Bighead and Silver Carp". This emerging technique may allow for early detection of nonnative trout in Apache trout recovery streams.

Mitch Thorson coordinated with AGFD (Arizona Game and Fish Department) in entering their data from the Topock Marsh February survey. All the captured razorback sucker were run against the data bank and only one was a hit from another sample effort. This one fish was stocked into Topock Marsh January 2010, was captured in the

gorge in 2011 and now this year back in the marsh.

Dennis Stone reviewed a manuscript for potential publication in the proceedings of the 12th Biennial Conference of Science and Management on the Colorado Plateau.

Dennis Stone completed some analyses to show GCMRC the potentially negative effects on AZFWCO's ongoing Little Colorado River studies if they sample and lavage humpback chub just before the May 2014 sampling trip.

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

Habitat Conservation and Management

Kayla Barrett drafted and submitted three Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) reports to FWS and National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). The reports consisted of, 1) Justification for Stable Operational Support which provided an overview of all projects and activities over the previous three years and anticipated projects and activities over the next three years, 2) Accomplishment Report which provided a detailed description of all projects and activities of DFHP over the years 2010-2012, and 3) Work Plan that consists of a prioritized list of new or ongoing habitat projects over the

next year. These reports are part of the new NFHP funding allocation methodology being implemented in FY14.

Kayla Barrett worked with FIS regional coordinators, NFHP regional coordinators, DFHP members, and project leads regarding information needed for the three DFHP reports.

Kayla Barrett coordinated efforts for a one year extension for a 2013 DFHP project. The FY14 money that was going to the project will now be reallocated to the next highest priority project for DFHP.

John Naugle conducted water quality at Three Fingers Lake and High Levee Pond.

Tammy Knecht completed monthly water quality for Alamo Lake.

Public Use

Kirk Young networked with Region 6 trout production facilities to see if there were surplus catchable rainbow trout available to makeup

shortages from Willow Beach NFH (National Fish Hatchery). None of the four trout facilities were able to provide catchable trout, Hotchkiss

NFH had fingerling trout available (~3").

Cooperation with Native Americans

Dominic Barrett met with WMAT WORD Fisheries staff to visit potential PFW and Fish Passage projects. Possible projects include replacement of dilapidated stream culverts that impede fish passage.

Mitch Thorson coordinated a native fish stocking of 800 endangered razorback suckers into Moovalya Lake on Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) lands.

Tammy Knecht summarized CRIT monitoring data and drafted the CRIT annual report.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Jeremy Voeltz attended a Gila trout coordination meeting hosted by AGFD. The meeting prioritized activities to be conducted in 2014. The Arizona FWCO is administering a WNTI (Western Native Trout Initiative) contract with AGFD for Gila trout recovery actions in

Haigler Creek.

Kirk Young coordinated and attended a resource agency meeting to identify information and management needs for the 2015-2016 Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Plan biannual budget.

The meeting was attended by AGFD, USGS (US Geological Survey), USBR (Bureau of Reclamation) and NPS (National Park Service). Several proposals were discussed that will result in new scopes of work for consideration in the next budget cycle.

Leadership in Science and Technology

Jeremy Voeltz presented some research results at the Arizona and New Mexico Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and the Wildlife Society Joint Annual Meeting. The talk, titled "Swimming Performance of Hatchery vs. Wild Apache Trout" compared the critical swimming performance of two size classes of Apache trout from both the wild and the hatchery stock. Apache trout swimming performance is much less than that of other trout species in the West (brown, brook, and rainbow), and hatchery Apache trout swam significantly better than wild Apache trout. This research has implications for culvert design, as well as performance concerns of stocking hatchery Apache trout to establish new populations. We

hope to publish this research this year.

Dennis Stone presented a talk entitled "Translocation of Humpback Chub above Chute Falls in the Little Colorado River, Arizona" at the AZ/NM AFS-TWS JAM.

Dennis Stone continued working on a manuscript concerning the humpback chub translocation experiment above Chute Falls in the Little Colorado River.

Kirk Young provided two presentations at the AZ/NM AFS-TWS JAM. The first presentation was "An evaluation of tagging mortality and tag retention in age-0 humpback chub" and summarized

research on finding lower size limits that humpback chub can be effectively PIT tagged. The second presentation was on the social experience and considerations in the use of Rotenone in Arizona and was given at the AFS continuing education class addressing piscicide use.

Kirk Young worked on a draft manuscript detailing work done last fall to assess PIT tagging size limits for humpback chubs (HBC). The manuscript will be coauthored by staff from AZFWCO, SNARRC, and USGS and will be submitted to the AFS Journal of Fish Management this spring. Findings from this work will provide guidance for minimum effective HBC sizes that can be tagged using PIT tags. Tagging of

Leadership in Science and Technology *continued...*

smaller sized HBC will improve data collection and our understanding of early life history of HBC.

Mike Pillow presented "Now and Then: Using historical photographs to document changes in the Little

Colorado River canyon, Arizona" at the AZ/NM AFS-TWS JAM.

Mike Pillow began writing an analysis comparing historical photographs taken by the Kolb brothers in the early 1900s to

photographs of the same locations in the Little Colorado River in 2013.

This analysis is based on the recent poster presented at the Desert Fishes Council meeting in Flagstaff and the talk given at the AZ/NM AFS-TWS JAM in Pinetop, AZ.

Workforce Management

Kirk Young ended his final acting Project Leader role and Jeremy Voeltz is acting Project Leader until March 21st. Jess Newton's first day as Project Leader will be March 24.

Staff attended Rob Randall's going away party in Flagstaff. Rob accepted a new position with USFWS in Region 1.

Kayla Barrett completed the January AZFWCO Accomplishment Report.

John Naugle performed maintenance on all watercraft and vehicles at the Parker Office.

Mike Pillow sent out the 'call for volunteers' for the 2014 Little Colorado River field season. He has received application materials from nearly 50 people interested in helping out our monitoring efforts. He has spent the past weeks answering questions and

corresponding with these potential crewmembers. He worked with Kirk Young, Dennis Stone, and Randy Van Haverbeke to come up with a roster for each trip from the list of volunteers and USFWS and partner agency personnel. He will be notifying the volunteers of their selection in early March.

Mike Pillow worked with Tammy Knecht to put together the AZFWCO permit report for AGFD. We will be submitting the collecting permit renewal in early March.

Mike Pillow coordinated with IBM to acquire a quote for SPSS statistical software that is compatible with Windows 7.

Mike Pillow attended the Rocky Mountain Research Station safety committee meeting where we

discussed a few of the new protocols that will be instituted at our field station. These include coming up with an check in/check out system to keep track of who is in and out of the building and moving toward using official government identification (Smart Cards) to access the building, rather than the current access card system.

Mike Pillow put together a list of items to procure prior to the beginning of the 2014 field season, this included taking an inventory of the four first aid field kits.

Mitch Thorson worked with the Region 2 MOCC Coordinator along with Region 2 instructors in scheduling FY-14 MOCC training which will be held in Lake Havasu City, 8-10 April, 2014.

