



PFW funded County Road #2010 Streambank Stabilization Project.



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

Jennifer Johnson submitted the report “Brown Trout Removal from Apache Trout Streams on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation 2014 Summary Report” for internal review.

Jeremy Voeltz provided comments/ edits to Jennifer Johnson’s draft report “Apache Trout Stream Barrier Evaluations on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation: 2008-2014 Summary.” The final report will be available soon.

Jeremy Voeltz coordinated with staff from the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office and Regional Office to continue compiling information for the Species Status Assessment for roundtail and headwater chubs.

Dennis Stone incorporated suggested revisions by coauthors into the draft of

the humpback chub (HBC) translocation manuscript, and continued polishing and reducing the size of this draft.

Dennis Stone and Kirk Young examined more chub specimens for Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGFD) to see how well a published taxonomy key works at differentiating among three different species.

Kirk Young finalized new Scopes of Work to secure funding for projects in support of Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. In 2015 AZFWCO will lead three projects (HBC mainstem aggregation, Little Colorado River (LCR) HBC Population Monitoring, Chute Falls Translocation) and serve

as co-investigators on one project (CO2 dynamics in LCR). Overall, funding declined 2% from last year’s budget and will be managed through reduced funding to support volunteers.

Mitch Thorson; with assistance from John Naugle, Tammy Knecht, Kirk Young, Jess Newton, and volunteers; completed the annual Lake Havasu bonytail and razorback sucker survey. Two bonytail were sampled in addition to 12 species of nonnative fish.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Jess Newton, Dominic Barrett, and Jeremy Voeltz met with staff from the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office to discuss a Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW) project on a private landowners property near Nutrioso, Arizona. The project will stabilize some erosion issues on Nutrioso Creek and start some restoration on the creek and adjacent stream banks.

Dominic Barrett met with a landowner and AZFGD Landowner Relations Program staff to discuss the PFW-funded Pierce Wash Livestock Management Project.

Dominic Barrett completed a Subrecipient Landowner Agreement and Section 7 Consultation for the PFW-funded, Nutrioso Creek Riparian Restoration Project benefiting the Little Colorado

spinedace, New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse, and Southwestern Willow Flycatcher. The project will involve planting approximately 8,000 (combined) coyote willow and narrowleaf cottonwood poles along 0.5 shoreline miles of Nutrioso Creek.

Dominic Barrett completed a project notification letter and relevant documents for consultation with the Arizona State Historical Preservation Office. The letter described the PFW-funded County Road #2010 Streambank Stabilization Project near Nutrioso.

Dominic Barrett completed a Section 7 Consultation for the PFW-funded City of Sedona Wetland Education Project. The Project will involve installation of educational signage at the Sedona Wetland Preserve.

Jess Newton and Kirk Young attended a Webinar and a conference call on the Glen Canyon Dam Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan (LTEMP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Modeling results were completed and presented for four new hybrid alternatives. AZFWCO will coordinate and collate FWS comments on the Cooperating-Agencies-Draft EIS in March or April.

Kayla Barrett, Jess Newton, and Jeremy Voeltz participated in a teleconference to discuss National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) and Desert FHP business.

Kayla Barrett coordinated with NFHP regional coordinators, NFHP national coordinator, and FHP coordinators to discuss FY15 funding allocations.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management *continued*

Kayla Barrett coordinated with agency staff from FWS, NRCS, and

WGFD to discuss the Peoples Canal project that was submitted to

DFHP for the FY15 funding cycle.

Partnerships and Accountability

Jeremy Voeltz and Mike Pillow attended the 48th joint annual meeting of the Arizona/New Mexico Chapters of the American Fisheries Society (AFS) and the Wildlife Society. Jeremy presented on 11 years of on-going mechanical removal of nonnative trouts in Apache Trout recovery populations on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Jennifer Johnson manages all of the data for these projects and provided assistance with data summaries for this presentation. Mike participated in two sessions of a Program R workshop and presented a talk prepared by Kirk Young and he titled: "Use of Submersible PIT Tag Antennas to Supplement Hoop and Trammel Net Surveys in Grand Canyon – a pilot study." This presentation briefly discussed a

pilot study conducted by Kirk on the July and September 2014 humpback chub aggregation trips, using small (.8 m2) antennas to supplement our standard hoop net and trammel net capture data.

Kirk Young worked with the Bureau of Reclamation (BR) to draft an agreement to support work out of the Parker sub-office. This agreement would support shared priorities between AZFWCO and BR (under the Multi-Species Conservation Plan) for the monitoring, research, and management of bonytail and razorback sucker in the lower Colorado River.

Dominic Barrett attended a Region-2 PFW conference call discussing financial application and reporting

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

Jess Newton and Kirk Young participated in the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Working Group meeting. This was a 3-day meeting.

Kayla Barrett coordinated with Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) co-chair and DFHP members on hosting a Fish Habitat Partnership symposium at national AFS in August.

Cooperation with Native Americans

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

Jennifer Johnson delivered Apache trout fry to the White Mountain Montessori School and Alchesay High School for their Trout in the Classroom Program. The fry were spawned at Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery. The fry join juvenile Apache trout that were delivered earlier this year. Students are now able to see two stages of the Apache trout life cycle in their tanks. Several of the fry at Alchesay

High School have already received names.



Jennifer Johnson met with the White Mountain Nature Center to discuss setting up a living stream featuring Apache Trout. The Apache Trout from our Trout in the Classroom program will move to the White Mountain Nature Center at the end of the school year and be on display there through the summer and fall.

Kayla Barrett worked with a graphic designer and DFHP's outreach -

Public Use and Outreach *continued*

committee to design a professional brochure and vertical banner for DFHP.

Mike Pillow designed and built a storyboard for a potential video that would highlight the work and accomplishments of USFWS Region 2 Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation personnel and offices. The production is currently in its

initial stages, and a storyboard may help to visualize a potential final product and continue to develop a script and vision for the video.

Kayla Barrett continued to highlight native desert fish for #DesertFishFriday on DFHP's Facebook page. Check it out at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Desert-Fish-Habitat->



Partnership/193053497376208?ref=hl

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



Leadership in Science and Technology

Kirk Young and Randy Van Haverbeke met with Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center staff to finalize study designs and schedules for the mainstem HBC aggregation study. The study will incorporate slow-electrofishing, seining and hoop netting, and will take place August 27 – September 14.

AZFWCO staff publication: A new AFS publication will be available in 2015 titled A Laboratory Evaluation of Tagging-Related Mortality and Tag Loss in Juvenile Humpback Chub, North American Journal of Fisheries Management, 35:1, 135-140. The publication represented a collaboration among AZFWCO (Kirk, Randy & Dennis), USGS

(David Ward & Bill Persons), and SNARRC (William Knight) and has resulted in expanded data collection opportunity by reducing minimum size guidelines for tagging juvenile humpback chub. The work is also likely to inform handling protocols for other Gila genus species.

Workforce Management

Vic Scott was selected as AZFWCO's new Administrative Officer. Ms. Scott comes to us from the National Park Service and will begin work on March 9. We were extremely happy that Vic was able to attend Region 2's Administrative Professionals Workshop in Albuquerque this month, prior to beginning her new job.

Tammy Knecht, a Fish Biologist at our Parker office for the past six years, began a new job this month with Carterville Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office in Marion, IL. We wish Tammy all the best in her new job and appreciate everything she contributed to fish conservation in the lower Colorado River!

Staff participated in the R2 All Employee meeting regarding

Emphasis Areas, presented by the Regional Directorate Team.

Jennifer Johnson completed refresher training to renew her American Heart Association First Aid / CPR instructor status.

Jennifer Johnson and Jeremy Voeltz submitted the pre-recruitment package for the 2015 Apache trout seasonal crew. Positions are open on USAjobs until March 9th (GS-5 seasonal bio-techs) and March 10th (Pathways program interns), and Jeremy and Jennifer will be conducting interviews shortly after with an anticipated start date for the crew of late May or early June.

Kirk Young prepared recruitment justifications and documentation for

hiring of a term GS-5 Fish Biologist and Seasonal GS-4 Pest Control Worker.

Mike sent out the annual volunteer callout announcement for our LCR monitoring project.

Jess Newton, Beth Oms, and Brenda Smith represented Region 2 at the Northern Arizona University job fair. This was part of a region-wide recruitment effort for FWS internship programs: Pathways Program and Directorate Resource Assistants Fellowship Program (DFP).

AZFWCO supervisors completed annual training on (1) Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act and (2) Veteran Employment Training for Hiring Managers.

Workforce Management *continued*

Kayla Barrett completed the AZFWCO Accomplishment Report for January.

Upcoming Events:

Intermountain West Joint Venture
State Conservation Partnership
Chair Annual Meeting: March 9-12

Annual Lake Mohave Native Fish
Roundup: March 16-20

Little Colorado River April
monitoring trip: April 14-24

