



Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office

Accomplishment Report

January 2014



SCA Shawn Kelley boating to the water quality buoy in the Riverside Pond located in Needles, CA

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
Travis Taylor, 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



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

Partnerships and Accountability

Jeremy Voeltz and Mike Pillow participated in planning conference calls for the upcoming AZ and NM Chapters of the American Fisheries Society and The Wildlife Society Joint Annual Meeting. Mike also organized and formatted fisheries abstracts submitted for the AFS/TWS Joint Annual Meeting and submitted a draft schedule of talks to Mike Anderson (AGFD).

Dominic Barrett and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) Landowner Relations Program staff met with multiple landowners along the Blue River to discuss Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW) and Working Lands for Wildlife funding.



"Seeing that grass grow makes your heart flutter" commented a PFW Cooperator while referencing a PFW funded, grassland restoration project.

Rob Randall presented at the 2014 Colorado River Aquatic Biologist (CRAB) meeting held in Laughlin, NV. Rob's presentation was an update of activities for the FY 2013 Off-Channel Habitats consisting of Harvest information, Population estimates and Water Quality findings

Kayla Barrett coordinated and

facilitated the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) bimonthly teleconference. Kayla provided and distributed notes from the call to DFHP members and FWS staff.

Kayla Barrett participated in the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Board meeting via teleconference.

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

Kayla Barrett participated in the NFHP Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP) teleconference. Agenda topics were upcoming Board meeting in March and the new NFHP allocation methodology for FHPs.

Jennifer Johnson assisted Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH with the last Apache trout spawning of the season.

Rob Randall submitted draft reports for both the FY13 Mohave and Off-Channel Habitats annual updates for final review.

Rob Randall participated in the January Archery Day in conjunction with the Bill Williams River National Wildlife Refuge and the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.

Jeremy Voeltz participated in the Region 2 monthly Fisheries Project Leader conference call.

Dominic Barrett participated in the Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) conference call.

Dominic Barrett participated in meetings with the White Mountain Land Alliance and others to complete planning efforts for two landowner workshops. A landowner workshop was hosted by the group in Show Low. 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.

Kirk Young presented to the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program (GCDAMP) TWG an overview and update on Little Colorado River monitoring and humpback chub translocation projects. Kirk and staff presented two posters (Changing geomorphology of the LCR; and Humpback chub tagging experiment). The posters and presentations were made to the annual GCDAMP research and management report-out meeting. The meetings were attended by close to 50 people representing the multiple interests involved with Grand Canyon resources.

Habitat Conservation and Management

Dominic Barrett completed Subrecipient Landowner Agreements for the PFW funded Blue River Native Fish Project, Milligan Valley Erosion Control Project, and Twin Springs Canyon Grazing Management Project.

Kayla Barrett discussed the new NFHP allocation methodology with FAC ARDs, NFHP Regional Coordinators, and NFHP staff. Kayla began working on the three reports that must be submitted to receive funding for FY14. Kayla has been gathering information on DFHP projects from 2010-2014 and coordinating with project leads, FWS staff, and FIS coordinators from regions 1,2,6,8. Kayla has also been running reports in FIS,

researching FWS climate change strategies, and NFHP conservation strategies.

Dominic Barrett completed a Section 7 Consultation for the Blue River Native Fish Project.

Dominic Barrett met with a contractor to discuss forest thinning and the PFW funded Turkey Springs Forest Management Project. Thinning will begin in February or March

Rob Randall and SCA interns completed backwater quality and water quality data entry for River's Edge Golf Course (Needles), Office Cove (BWRNWR), Parker Dam Pond (Parker Dam) and Emerald

Canyon Golf Course Ponds 1, 9 and 11 (Parker).



SCA Julie Reiske completing water quality in Parker Dam Pond.

Tammy Knecht completed monthly water quality for Alamo Lake.

Cooperation with Native Americans

Jeremy Voeltz and Bruce Thompson (AWC) met with Cheryl Pailzote from the White Mountain Apache Tribe to tour the Alcheyay NFH and discuss previous efforts at loach minnow propagation.

Rob Randall and Mitch Thorson worked with the Colorado River Indian Tribe (CRIT) to stock 1,456 razorback suckers into a farm drain

canal. The drain is connected to the Colorado River.

Dominic Barrett participated in the Strategic Hatchery and Workforce Planning meeting at AZFWCO-Pinetop. FWS regional office staff and WMAT attended the meeting.

The PFW funded Carrizo, Cibecue, and White River Watersheds

Improvement Project was completed by the WMAT Land Operations Department. The Land Operations Department installed four spring enclosures and constructed 47 erosion control structures. Approximately 3 miles of eroded, ephemeral washes were treated.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Mike Pillow submitted the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife collecting permit renewal materials for 2014.

Randy Van Haverbeke incorporated review comments from Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC), and completed and submitted our final annual

report for 2013 to GCMRC entitled: "Mark Recapture and Fish Monitoring Activities in the Little Colorado River in Grand Canyon from 2000-2013."

Randy Van Haverbeke attended the January Technical Workgroup meeting in Phoenix. This annual meeting provides stakeholders with

updates on the science studies being conducted below Glen Canyon Dam in the Grand Canyon.

Randy Van Haverbeke is working on completing a document called Translocation Framework. This document will provide stakeholders with an overview of translocation activities, concerns, etc.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management *continued*

Mike Pillow compiled fish capture data for the 2013 AGFD permit report and 2014 renewal request.

Randy Van Haverbeke wrote and supplied Kyrie Frye at GCMRC an update on our Chute Falls activities for 2013. These are small annual summary reporting procedures (aside from contractual reporting) that GCMRC uses to inform the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) that contractual work is being

completed each year.

Mike Pillow ran an analysis in SPSS showing how Chute Falls translocated chub have been recaptured since 2003. The analysis showed a 66% recapture rate overall, suggesting very high survivorship.

Dennis Stone continued working on a manuscript concerning the humpback chub translocation

experiment above Chute Falls in the LCR.

Tammy Knecht participated in a fish contaminate study with the Ecological Services (ES) office in Phoenix. The study was led by Carrie Marr and a total of three locations were sampled in the Phoenix area. The goal was to capture 40 fish from each site, 20 from each species. Tammy also participated in fish necropsies.

Leadership in Science and Technology

Jeremy Voeltz prepared a presentation for the AZ/NM AFS/TWS JAM. The talk, titled "Swimming Performance of Hatchery vs. Wild Apache Trout" compares the critical swimming performance of two size classes of Apache trout from both the wild and the hatchery stock. This research has implications for culvert design, as well as performance concerns of stocking hatchery Apache trout to establish new populations.

Dennis Stone prepared a presentation titled, "Translocation of Humpback Chub above Chute Falls in the Little Colorado River, Arizona" for the AZ/NM AFS/TWS JAM.

Mike Pillow prepared a presentation titled, "Then and now: Using

historical photographs to document changes in the lower Little Colorado River canyon, Arizona." Mike worked with Barb Ralston (USGS) to identify some of the vegetation present in the old and new photos of the Little Colorado River.

Kirk Young prepared presentations for the AZ/NM AFS/TWS JAM. The first presentation is titled, "An evaluation of tagging mortality and tag retention in age-0 humpback chub" and will summarize research on finding lower size limits that humpback chub can be effectively PIT tagged. The second presentation is on the social experience and considerations in use of Rotenone in Arizona to be given at the AFS continuing education class addressing piscicide use.

Rob Randall worked on the Colorado River in the Topock Gorge with the BOR's Rick Wadowski and Thomas Reeves. They performed net surveys, moving Remote PIT tag scanners and extracting data from scanners that were deployed throughout Topock Gorge.

Mike Pillow reviewed a draft of the 2013 annual report for activities in the Little Colorado River titled: "Mark-Recapture and Fish Monitoring Activities in the Little Colorado River in Grand Canyon from 2000 to 2013."

Dennis Stone compiled a growth rate slide of different size classes of Humpback Chub in the lower LCR for Kirk's presentation to AMWG.

Workforce Management

Jeremy Voeltz submitted a hiring waiver request to hire seasonal workers for the Apache trout keystone initiative with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

Randy Van Haverbeke is working on revising our Aviation Flight Safety Plan

for 2014.

Mike Pillow worked with Cathy Needleman (USFWS, IRTM) to re-image his computer in order to migrate from Windows XP to Windows 7.

Mike Pillow compiled vehicle information for a vehicle survey requested by the regional office.

Jennifer Johnson attended NCTC's Coldwater Fish Culture course in Phoenix, AZ. Students learned

Workforce Management

various techniques and calculations most often used in the aquaculture industry including egg enumeration and handling, egg incubation, hatching methods, sac-fry care, managing fish from fry to catchable size, methods in

brood stock management and fish stocking.

Society meeting, Pinetop; Feb 6-8.

Upcoming Activities/Events:
AZ/NM Chapters of the American Fisheries Society/The Wildlife

