



Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



**AZFWCO Staff**

***Pinetop***

Stewart Jacks, 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  
 Patti Ferlisi, 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  
 Sean O'Kray, Biological Technician

***Apache Trout Crew - Pinetop***

Alex Poole, 1040 Seasonal  
 Andrew Larson, Pathways Student  
 Barney Gregg, Pathways Student  
 Brian Hickerson, Pathways Student  
 Brianna Thorson, Pathways Student  
 Ethan Jacks, Pathways Student  
 Justin Covington, Pathways Student

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

---

Dennis Stone participated in the conference call with the NPS (National Park Service) concerning humpback chub translocations within the Grand Canyon National Park.

Dennis Stone submitted two trip reports, eight Access Files, all Excel downloaded PIT-tag scanner files, and all the original data sheets that were affiliated with the spring and summer 2013 humpback chub monitoring and translocation efforts in the Little Colorado River to the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) per our contractual obligations.

Dominic Barrett participated in a meeting for the City of Holbrook, Hidden Cove Restoration Project. Partnering agencies reviewed outreach plans, current accomplishments, funding opportunities, and future efforts.

Dominic Barrett participated in a conference call with Arizona Ecological Services Field Office (AESO) and PFW (Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program)

to discuss FY13 PFW projects in Arizona.

Dominic Barrett participated in a meeting with the White Mountain Land Trust, Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and others to discuss the Intermountain West Joint Venture's Capacity Grant. The White Mountain Land Trust received a Capacity Grant to build partnerships, educate private landowners, identify potential restoration projects, and pursue funding opportunities.

Kayla Barrett coordinated and facilitated the bi-monthly Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) teleconference. Kayla prepared the agenda and call notes and distributed to DFHP members.

Kirk Young and Randy Van Haverbeke attended a NPS/U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) permit meeting to work out NPS permitting for the aggregation and natal origin

isotope study.

Mitch Thorson is coordinating with Carrie Marr from Phoenix Ecological Services Field Office. AZFWCO will be assisting them with a contaminate study on the Gila River near the Phoenix area.

Rob Randall and Mitch Thorson worked with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) dive team to locate potential stationary sonic telemetry tags in between Parker Dam and Headgate dam on the Colorado River. A total of five tags (either shed by the native fish, or lost through predation) were recovered from the effort. The tags were located using sonic telemetry equipment to pinpoint the general location of the tags at the surface and then recovered by divers using submersible sonic telemetry equipment to find the actual location of the tag. Once the tags were located they were each recovered within 5 to 15 inches of sediment.

## Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

---

The Apache Trout Crew completed habitat mapping and conducting population surveys in two Apache trout streams using the Basinwide Visual Estimation Technique (BVET).



Mike Pillow packed and prepared for the July 2013 humpback chub

translocation trip. This included coordinating with Emily Omana-Smith (NPS) and Carol Fritzinger (USGS) regarding personnel, helicopter, and logistics issues.

Mike Pillow led the eventful 5-day humpback chub translocation trip in the Little Colorado River. Also participating in the trip were: Jim Walters (USFWS), Travis Taylor (USFWS), Kate Peterlein (NPS), Eric Frye (NPS), Nic Medley (NPS, volunteer), Mike Mishler (volunteer). Despite turbid water conditions early in the trip, we were able to collect 125 chubs for our Chute

Falls translocation project. We also collected approximately 496 chubs for the NPS Havasu Creek and Shinumo Creek translocations. Due to a helicopter delay early in the day followed by a weather-related helicopter grounding later in the day, no fish were transported as scheduled on day-4 of the trip. A flash flood from Big Canyon in the LCR following the helicopter delay submerged the fish holding tanks in the river, filling them halfway with sediment and releasing most of the fish. A total of 94 chubs were recovered alive in the only holding barrel that retained a lid. Only two

## Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

---

dead chubs were recovered buried in sediment in the barrels, all others presumably escaped the holding tanks alive. Of the 94 live chubs recovered, 90 were successfully transported to the SNARRC hatchery in Dexter, New Mexico for 2014 NPS Havasu Creek and Shinumo Creek translocations. Mike Pillow, assisted by revisions from Dennis Stone and Kirk Young, completed the spring 2013 LCR HBC monitoring trip report titled "Spring 2013 Monitoring of Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*) in the Lower 13.57 km of the Little Colorado River, Arizona."

Mitch Thorson coordinated with USGS for assistance in accomplishing a vegetation study at Topock Marsh on

the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. Rob Randall operated the boat for two days while USGS measured their parameters for this study.

Randy Van Haverbeke participated on the Colorado River mainstem humpback chub aggregation monitoring trip. The trip was successful in that we captured quite a few humpback chub outside of known aggregation sites and captured chub for an ultra-sounding project to look for eggs. Several of the chub we captured in the mainstem had egg development occurring.

Dennis Stone entered and verified the 2013 fish monitoring data above Lower Atomizer Falls (i.e. humpback chub translocation study) and the July 2013 humpback chub translocation trip data.



## Public Use

---

Mike Pillow spent a day with the 2013 Apache trout crew in Pinetop, filming, interviewing, and taking photos for a video project that will highlight the 2012 and 2013 crews and their fieldwork activities.

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 402 "likes" from 20 countries. Check us out at [www.facebook.com/AZFWCO](http://www.facebook.com/AZFWCO).

facebook

Check out DFHP's Facebook page. We post information on projects, request for proposals, pictures, and much more. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Desert-Fish-Habitat-Partner-ship/193053497376208>

facebook

## Cooperation with Native Americans

---

Jeremy Voeltz and Kirk Young met with the Hopi Tribe to discuss management options for their two main bodies of water. USBR is planning to repair the dam at Pasture Canyon Lake and an opportunity exists to try and take advantage of reduced water levels (due to proposed construction) to

eliminate undesirable fish species in the lake and replace them with desirable sport species. If successful, the effort would reduce threats to downstream resources (Little Colorado River) and improve recreational potential of the lake that is just outside of the community of Tuba City, Arizona.

Mitch Thorson worked with Carl Harper (Chief Game Warden from Colorado River Indian Tribes) in reviewing permits that would allow AZFWCO to continue with the native fish project on their reservation.

## Leadership in Science and Technology

---

Dennis Stone wrote, sent out for internal review, and revised the trip report for May 2013 monitoring efforts above Lower Atomizer Falls,

which is contracted under the humpback chub translocation experiment above Chute Falls in the Little Colorado River.

Dennis Stone reviewed a manuscript for the North American Journal of Fisheries Management concerning a telemetry study on humpback chub.

## Leadership in Science and Technology

Kirk Young, Randy Van Haverbeke and Dennis Stone completed the first of two series of Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tag experiments at SNARRC. The experiments included evaluation of mortality, tag retention and growth associated with tagging small humpback chub with currently used PIT tags, a new small version of PIT tag, and Visible Implant Elastomer tags. Fish for this series of experiments ranged from 40-60 mm in length. The final series of

experiments will take place in August.



Dennis Stone reviewed Mike Pillow's draft trip report for Spring 2013 monitoring and sampling in the lower 13.57 km of the Little Colorado River.

Randy Van Haverbeke is working on a new manuscript dealing with estimating abundances of small size classes of humpback chub using mark-recapture and capture probability data.

## Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Dominic Barrett met with a private landowner to closeout the Horseshoe Spring Grassland Restoration Project. By removing invasive juniper, the project restored approximately 530 acres of high elevation grassland habitat.

John Naugle and Sean O'Kray worked on Giant Salvinia monitoring and spraying on the lower Colorado River with staff from the Bureau of Reclamation. Because of years of dedicated work, this invasive plant is becoming harder and harder to detect in the lower river.



Kayla Barrett coordinated with FIS users to get DFHP funds changed

in FONS for FY13 projects.

Kayla Barrett reviewed a National LCC proposal from Julian Olden and distributed to DFHP for endorsement. After reviewing, the executive committee agreed to endorse the project. Kayla worked with Julian in getting the proposal endorsed.

Kayla Barrett worked with Robin Knox (WNTI coordinator) to get a multi-state conservation grant update for WNTI, DFHP, and GPFHP.

Jeremy Voeltz and Tim Gatewood (WMAT-WORD) toured the Rock Creek Fire burn area to determine if any ash/sediment impacts to East Fork White River would be severe. Due to the small scope of the fire, low burn intensity in the immediate vicinity of the stream, and amount of fresh, clean water coming from East Fork and Rock Creek, it was determined the risk of a localized fish kill was pretty low.

Rob Randall completed water quality monitoring and data entry for

the month of July: Backwaters that were completed were River's Edge Golf Course (Needles, California), Office Cove (Bill Williams NWR), Parker Dam Pond, Emerald Canyon Golf Course Ponds 1, 9 and 11, and Topock Marsh (Havasu NWR).



Tammy Knecht completed monthly water quality for Alamo Lake under a contract through the Army Corps of Engineers.

## Workforce Management

---

Dennis Stone and Kirk Young completed First Aid, CPR, blood borne pathogens, and fire extinguisher safety trainings.

Jennifer Johnson assisted the Alpine ES office with a safety review and inspection.

Jennifer Johnson renewed her electrofishing certification by completing Principles and

Techniques of Electrofishing (Online).

Jennifer Johnson completed the NCTC course Fish Population Dynamics and Assessment.

Mike Pillow worked with Patti Ferlisi to coordinate and confirm volunteers for our Fall 2013 Little Colorado River humpback chub monitoring trips.

Each member of the Apache trout crew gave a short (5-15 minute) presentation on the topic of their choice. This provided each person an opportunity to improve their vocal presentation skills.

Staff completed FISSA annual training through DOI Learn.

Stewart Jacks left the Arizona FWCO to become the new Region 2 Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conversation. Stewart had been the Project Leader at the Arizona FWCO since 1998.

