



White Mountain Apache Tribe and USFWS staff electrofishing Sunrise Lake.

**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  
Karla McGhan, Administrative Officer  
Vacant, Office Assistant  
Vacant, Biological Technician



**Parker**

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

**Apache Trout Crew**

Dan Aguilera, 1040 Seasonal  
Zebediah Buck, 1040 Seasonal  
John Orona, Pathways Intern  
Briana Thorson, Pathways Intern  
Hunter Falco, Pathways Intern  
Will Lubenau, Pathways Intern

## Partnerships and Accountability

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Kirk Young attended a webinar for the Technical Work Group (TWG) Budget Ad Hoc Work Group to review and discuss the 2015-2017 triennial budget for the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. The ad hoc work group coordinated in preparation for the TWG budget meeting later in the month.

Kirk Young attended the TWG meeting in Phoenix. The TWG reviewed the draft three-year budget and projects proposed therein. Proposed work and costs have been trimmed extensively and proposed budget costs are now close to available budget for year one. However, projects and costs remain uncertain for 2016 and 2017 and work will continue in order to develop and recommend a three-year budget. Rising USGS personnel and overhead costs are contributing to a tight budget process.

Dominic Barrett participated in the monthly Apache County Natural Resource Conservation District meeting in Springerville.

Dominic Barrett and Intermountain West Joint Venture staff completed an article discussing James O'Haco, a Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program cooperator from Arizona. Mr. O'Haco has been well recognized for his conservation efforts, partnering, and livestock management practices. The article can be viewed at <http://iwjv.org/news/ohaco-ranch-place-family-livestock-and-birds>.

Dominic Barrett and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) Landowner Relations Program staff completed an application for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Water Quality Improvement Grant Program. If selected, the project will provide funding for spring protection, offsite waters, and livestock management on private and state lands.

Dominic Barrett met with AGFD Landowner Relations Program staff and a PFW Cooperator to discuss the joint-funded (PFW, state)

Milligan Valley Erosion Control Project.

Jeremy Voeltz and Dominic Barrett coordinated with staff from the Natural Resources Conservation Service NRCS and AGFD on a potential habitat restoration project with several landowners on Houston Creek, south of Payson, Arizona. A follow-up site visit will occur in July.

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

Kayla Barrett participated in the NFHP national template for FWS funding teleconference.

AZFWCO staff participated in the monthly Fishery Coordination meeting among AZFWCO, Alcheyay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery (A-WC NFH), & White Mountain Apache Tribe-Wildlife & Outdoor Recreation Division (WMAT-WORD).

## Habitat Conservation and Management

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Dominic Barrett completed an extension of time modification for the PFW-funded City of Sedona Wetland Establishment Project. Because of a pending land sale,

for the West Pigeon Creek Riparian Enhancement and Upland Restoration Project. The purchasing landowner is interested in pursuing the project.

for the month of June.

Dominic Barrett canceled the Sub-Recipient Landowner Agreement

Tammy Knecht completed Alamo Lake water quality and data entry

## Public Use

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Mike Pillow participated in a conference call with the regional office to discuss the production of a video that highlights the important work of the Southwest Region's

fisheries program.

Mike Pillow spoke to a group of kids (age 6-12) about native fish, science, and conservation at the

Flagstaff Public Library. The talk was titled "Fish in the Desert??" and included an explanation of what a fish biologist does, why some species are endangered, why

## Public Use

conservation is important, and introductions to many of the fish that are native to Arizona waters. At the end, the kids enjoyed a fun game of native fish Bingo.



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

facebook

Check out Desert Fish Habitat Partnership’s (DFHP) 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>

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## Cooperation with Native Americans

Jennifer Johnson completed water quality sampling in response to a report from the San Carlos Apache Tribe (SCAT) of a fish kill at Seneca Lake on the San Carlos Apache Reservation.

Jennifer Johnson assisted the White Mountain Apache Tribe with an electrofishing survey of Sunrise Lake.

Dominic Barrett met with SCAT Department of Forestry to discuss a possible outdoor classroom project. The Department of Forestry is pursuing funds to educate Tribal youth about native wildlife and plants.

Dominic Barrett completed an extension of time modification for

the PFW-funded Bonita Prairie Grassland Restoration Project.

Dominic Barrett met with a PFW Cooperator and contractor to discuss work initiation for the Blue River Native Fish Project. The contractor recently began work and will finish in mid-July. The project will restore a 1-acre livestock tank for roundtail chub and other native fishes.



Jeremy Voeltz worked with the SCAT to identify aquatic species and habitats that may be affected by the ~70,000 acre Skunk Fire. AZFWCO staff will assist the Tribe with some spot check surveys in July.

AZFWCO worked with the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office staff to prepare draft letters to send to interested Tribes regarding the Service’s upcoming Species Status Assessment for roundtail and headwater chubs.

Jeremy Voeltz and Jennifer Johnson worked with the WMAT-WORD, WMAT Forestry, and BIA-Fort Apache to ensure our Apache trout field crews have safe access to WMAT lands that are closed due to extreme fire danger.

## Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Jennifer Johnson assisted staff from Williams Creek NFH with harvesting escaped trout from various areas of the hatchery. Removal of the trout improves inventory counts and reduces opportunities for diseases to

spread. The escapes were stocked in Bog Tank for the WMAT annual youth fishing derby.

Mike Pillow and Randy Van Haverbeke entered data that was collected during the May Little

Colorado River humpback chub monitoring trip. Using this data, they also began working on the 2014 LCR Spring monitoring trip report.

Kirk Young provided comments on the history of lower basin

## Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

involvement and the draft recovery criteria for the Colorado pikeminnow Recovery Plan.

The Apache trout crew completed one barrier evaluation and five nonnative trout removals on Apache trout recovery streams. The crew covered 11.3 miles of stream and removed 2,096 nonnative trout while collecting 2,189 Apache trout.



Kirk Young and Randy Van Haverbeke stayed updated on the latest developments in the LTEMP. This largely entails discussions on some of the various proposed alternatives as they relate to projected (i.e., modeled) rainbow trout and humpback chub population parameters.

John Naugle, Mitch Thorson, and Tammy Knecht conducted sonic tracking between Parker Dam and Headgate and between Headgate Dam and the Palo Verde Irrigation District Dam.



Mitch Thorson and John Naugle conducted a general boat electrofishing fish survey between Parker Dam and Headgate Dam.



Randy Van Haverbeke is working with personnel at USGS GCMRC to conduct analysis of data for a manuscript on humpback chub aggregations in Grand Canyon. Largely, this entails some analysis of CPUE data in Program R.

Randy Van Haverbeke reviewed the 2014 Chute Falls and Translocation trip report authored by Dennis Stone.

Tammy Knecht completed monthly manual tracking for acoustically tagged razorback sucker for the Colorado River Indian Tribes project.

Jeremy Voeltz participated in a conference call with staff from AGFD, U.S. Forest Service, and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to discuss progress in the on-going Apache trout restoration project in the West Fork of the Black River.

## Workforce Management

Kayla Barrett completed the May AZFWCO Accomplishment Report.

Kayla Barrett completed Habitat Site Restoration and Mitigation: Creating a Restoration Plan and Habitat Site Restoration and Mitigation: Implementing a Successful Restoration Program trainings.

Dominic Barrett completed the MOCC Motorboat Operator Refresher course

and Federal Information Systems Security Awareness and Privacy and Records Management.

Staff completed the Electrofishing Safety Refresher course.

Jennifer Johnson taught two American Heart Association First Aid / CPR courses to AZFWCO and Alchesay – Williams Creek NFH staff.

Kirk Young completed defensive driver training.

Mike Pillow and Randy Van Haverbeke participated in a week-long course at Colorado State University about program MARK, by its designer, Gary White. The course was an eye-opening look at the potential uses for the program in our LCR and mainstem Colorado.

## Workforce Management

Mike Pillow completed one of the required Role Based Security Training courses to maintain his IRM point of contact elevated account. Mike, along with Kirk Young participated in the safety inspection of the Flagstaff office and lab by CDSO, Brian Wooldrige (FWS).

Randy Van Haverbeke completed the following trainings: Supervising an Employee with a Disability, Workplace Diversity Awareness, Diversity on the Job: Diversity and You, Diversity on the Job: The Importance of Diversity and the Changing Workplace, Sexual Harassment Prevention for Federal Employees, EEO and Lawful Hiring, Reasonable Accommodation for the Federal Workplace, Workplace Harassment Prevention for Managers and Supervisors.

Tammy Knecht completed EEO and Diversity training on DOILEARN.

Tammy Knecht completed Fire Extinguisher and Bloodborne Pathogens safety training.

Jess Newton continued his 60-day detail as acting Project Leader for Audubon National Wildlife Refuge in Coleharbor, North Dakota. This detail is part of the Service's Advanced Leadership Development Program. Jess returns to AZFWCO on July 28.

Jeremy Voeltz resumed the Acting Project Leader role; effective from June 23 until July 25.

Jeremy Voeltz won the Ninkasi award at the National Homebrewers Conference in Michigan. The award, named after the Sumerian Goddess of

Beer, goes to the winniest homebrewer in the final round of the National Homebrew Competition. Jeremy won two final round medals – a gold for his Habanero IPA and a bronze for his oaked cherry mead (honey wine). More than 3,100 homebrewers entered this year's competition.



### Future Events:

Colorado River humpback chub Aggregation trip I – July 19 – Aug 4

Southwest Regional Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Annual Meeting – August 5-7

Colorado River humpback chub Aggregation trip II – September 6-22

Fall LCR humpback chub stock assessment trip I – September 23 – October 3



2014 Apache Trout Crew

