



Apache trout crew members Brianna Thorson, Kevin Castillo, and Barney Gregg are evaluating barriers and removing nonnative trout from Apache Trout streams on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

AZFWCO Staff

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Dennis Stone, Fish Biologist
Mike Pillow, Fish Biologist
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Pinetop

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Brianna Thorson, Apache Trout Crew
Kevin Castillo, Apache Trout Crew
Barney Gregg, Apache Trout Crew

Parker

Mitch Thorson, Fish Biologist
John Naugle, Biological Technician
Sean O'Kray, Pest Control Worker



Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Jess Newton, Jeremy Voeltz, and other U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service modeling and species experts met for an all-day meeting in Phoenix to review and improve the qualitative model assessing the current and future status of Headwater and Roundtail Chub.

The Apache Trout Crew (Brianna Thorson, Barney Gregg, Kevin Castillo, and Jennifer Johnson) completed the first pass of nonnative trout removal efforts on four Apache Trout streams on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR). A total of 694 nonnative trout have been removed and 597 Apache Trout were counted in the streams. The crews also completed the first phase of barrier evaluations on three Apache Trout streams on the FAIR.

Kirk Young examined quotes and put together a justification for purchase of a new electrofishing boat for the Parker office. For the last 10 years, the Parker office has been borrowing an old Bureau of Reclamation shocking boat. This boat is being withdrawn from our use and thus the office will be without this essential tool to facilitate aquatic management along the west coast of Arizona.

Dennis Stone unpacked and cleaned equipment, and downloaded PIT-tag scanners used during the May 2015 monitoring trip in the Little Colorado River (LCR).

Dennis Stone entered all data collected in the translocation study reaches during the May 2015 LCR monitoring trip. Randy Van Haverbeke entered all data from the lower reaches of the May 2015 Humpback Chub monitoring trip in the LCR. All entered data was checked for errors by Dennis, Randy, and Mike Pillow.

Dennis Stone drafted a trip report for the translocation study reaches sampled in May and Mike Pillow drafted a report for the lower LCR study reaches sampled in April and May. Both reports were sent out for internal review. Randy Van

Haverbeke, Dennis Stone, Kirk Young, and Mike Pillow were all involved in reviewing the drafts of these reports. Finalized spring 2015 trip reports will be submitted to Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) in July. Along with reviewing the spring trip report, Randy worked on analyzing the spring 2015 LCR monitoring data for incorporation into an annual report.

Randy Van Haverbeke continued to develop and refine a proposal to augment mainstem Colorado River aggregations of Humpback Chub in Grand Canyon.



Jennifer Johnson gives students from Alchey High School in Whiteriver, Arizona hands-on electrofishing experience.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management



AZFWCO personnel have identified a backwater containing Giant Salvinia located along the Palo Verde irrigation drainage about 65 miles north of Yuma, near Cibola, Arizona. Image: Google Earth

John Naugle and Sean O'Kray have been searching for Giant Salvinia on the Palo Verde Irrigation Drain for the last month. They have been conducting surveys to assess the distribution of the invasive aquatic plant and to locate new concentrations. John and Sean have identified a backwater containing Giant Salvinia that could be a significant source for the plant within the irrigation drain.

Mitch Thorson coordinated with Nick Heatwole (BOR), David Vigil (CAF&WD) and Richard Gillmore (PVID) regarding the new source of

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management (*continued*)

Giant Salvinia in the Palo Verde Irrigation Drain. With partners, we are researching property ownership, potential treatment regimes,

and the possibility of constructing a berm across the opening to isolate the invasive plant.

Mitch Thorson conducted water quality collection at Alamo Lake through the Army Corps of Engineers annual contract.

Partnerships and Accountability

Jess Newton worked with the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) and our regional National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) coordinator, Karin Eldridge, to allocate and distribute FY15 NFHP funds for some great on-the-ground habitat restoration projects and stable operational support for

DFHP. Jess also participated in monthly conference calls with two other partnerships: the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership and the Western Native Trout Initiative.

Randy Van Haverbeke coordinated with Carol Fritzinger (USGS) and others at GCMRC to ensure that

the GCMRC Humpback Chub monitoring trip into the LCR during July goes smoothly. Mike Pillow worked with USGS biologists to prepare hoop nets for use in the LCR and mainstem Colorado River trips.

Cooperation with Native Americans

Jeremy Voeltz continued coordination with the White Mountain Apache Tribe to include

summaries of Roundtail Chub data for populations on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation in the Service's

Species Status Assessment for Roundtail Chub.

Public Use and Outreach

Jennifer Johnson and Brianna Thorson assisted staff from Williams Creek NFH in collecting trout that had escaped raceways and were still in the hatchery system. The trout were stocked into Bog Tank prior to the White Mountain Apache Tribe's annual youth fishing derby.

Jennifer Johnson spent a morning with the summer school biology class from Alchey High School. Students toured the Williams Creek NFH. After the hatchery tour the students received hands-on experience with electrofishing and discussed future career options with the Service. Did you know AZFWCO

has a Facebook page? We post information on our staff, upcoming projects, educational events, and volunteer opportunities across the state. We currently have 574 "likes" from 20 countries. Check us out at www.facebook.com/AZFWCO.

Or click here:



Leadership in Science and Technology

Jeremy Voeltz coordinated with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Trout Unlimited, and Arizona Game and Fish Department to discuss a NFWF pre-proposal to analyze existing Apache Trout monitoring to refine future monitoring efforts.

Dennis Stone worked with David Ward (USGS) to compare dissolved carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels of LCR waters estimated by titration methods versus a new OxyGuard CO₂ analyzer probe. He is currently in the process of discussing the resulting CO₂ discrepancies of LCR

waters between these two methods with various experts.

Jennifer Johnson installed 10 trail cameras near barriers on Apache Trout recovery streams. The trail cameras will document how the barriers function under varying flow regimes.

Workforce Management

AZFWCO welcomed several new seasonal employees this month: Sean O'Kray will be working on our Giant Salvinia aquatic weed control project; Briana Thorson, Kevin Castillo, and Barney Greggs will be working on our Apache Trout crew. Jeremy Voeltz completed performance plans for Brianna, Barney, and Kevin.

questionnaire for a GS9/11 Fish Biologist position based in Parker.

Mike Pillow worked with Vic Scott to make sure all of the spring LCR volunteers were reimbursed for the per diem and lodging expenses they incurred during their volunteer period. Mike also worked with Vic to account for all items on the inventory report located at the Flagstaff AZFWCO office.

Randy drove to Fort Bragg in Colorado Springs to pick up a surplus army trailer that Kirk Young purchased through GSA. This trailer should improve the safety of our LCR monitoring trips, by substantially reducing the weight carried in the trucks.

All AZFWCO personnel attended fire extinguisher and blood-borne pathogen training. In addition, Randy Van Haverbeke took four hours of

Workforce Management *(continued)*

EEO training and Rick Deshler renewed Wilderness First Responder certification.

Mike Pillow participated in the training course titled: "Principles and Techniques of Electrofishing," instructed by Alan Temple and Jan Dean through the USFWS National Conservation Training Center. The course took place in Phoenix, hosted by AGFD, and was an

important refresher about how to electrofish using power standardization and how to recognize and fix problems with equipment.

Mitch Thorson and Randy Van Haverbeke interviewed four candidates for a GS-5 Fish Biologist position in Parker AZ. The GS-5 position was offered to one of the candidates and we are awaiting a reply.

June job announcements:

Closed July 6: Permanent GS-401-11: Partners for Fish & Wildlife Biologist, Whiteriver, AZ

Closed July 1: Term GS-401-7: Coordinator Biologist for the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership, Whiteriver, AZ

Upcoming Events

Job Opening (USAJOBS.GOV):

- ◆ We are recruiting for a Term GS-482-9/11 Fish Biologist with strong technical and communication skills to lead our Parker Office. Applications are being accepted through July 13.

July 13 & 14: Water quality measurements at Alamo Lake

July 20-24: Mitch Thorson will be in training at NCTC,

August 11-13: Southwest Native American Fish and Wildlife Society meeting, Reno, NV.

August 16-21: American Fisheries Society annual meeting. Portland, OR.

August 27-September 14: Colorado River Humpback Chub Aggregation Sampling Trip

September 22-October 2: Little Colorado River Humpback Chub stock assessment I

October 22-November 2: Little Colorado River Humpback Chub stock assessment II

November 19-22: Desert Fishes Council meeting, Death Valley

