



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

**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

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Mike Pillow and Dennis Stone met with USFWS Occupation Safety Specialist, Steve McEvoy, for his review of the Flagstaff office building, trucks, and field gear.

Kirk Young attended a Verde River Watershed-based Management Team meeting held in Phoenix. The state-led multi-agency team is charged with assessing and determining management emphasis (e.g. native conservation, sport/recreation, etc.), species assemblages and management for major aquatic habitats within the Verde River Watershed. The effort follows a process developed by a separate team that included several Service personnel. The project is scheduled for completion early next year.

Kirk Young met with Grand Canyon NPS as part of the annual coordination meeting between USFWS and NPS. Kirk provided an update on recent and future USFWS native fish activities associated with the Canyon.

The Parker office maintained a camp in the Yuma Cove area during the annual razorback sucker round-up on Lake Mohave. It included five volunteers, along with staff members Tammy Knecht, Rob Randall and John Naugle. The goal for such a survey is to provide

useful information in calculating a population estimate for razorback suckers. The information collected will also be used to track PIT tag numbers and how often these fish have been surveyed or captured since their release into the system. The oldest data from this survey was from a fish released in 1995.



The Parker office participated in an Archery Day experience. This two day event encourages children to become further involved in outside activities. Four districts, six schools and 300 students participated. There were four different archery stations: bow fishing, 3-D, targets and games; two biology stations: birds and big horn sheep; one search and rescue station; and one fire suppression station.

The Parker office participated in a razorback sucker stocking that took place on Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. Over 2,000 razorbacks were PIT tagged and transported by boat to back of Clear Bay with zero mortality.

Rob Randall completed water quality data entry and filing and edits for the 2011-2012 backwater report.

Tammy Knecht and Rob Randall retrieved eleven survey units below Parker Dam to Palo Verde Dam. These units were on loan from USBR and returned later in the month.

Jeremy Voeltz continued to work with the Region 2 Focus Group Implementation Team to outline ways to implement the recommendations from the Region 2 Focus Group.

Did you know AZFWCO has a facebook page?

facebook

We post information on our staff, upcoming projects, educational events, and volunteer opportunities across the state. We currently have 374 "likes" from 20 countries. Check us out at [www.facebook.com/AZFWCO](http://www.facebook.com/AZFWCO).

Other Accomplishments: 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).

## Cooperation with Native Americans

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Dominic Barrett and Travis Taylor stocked approximately 150 Apache trout in lower Diamond Creek. The trout were previously used for research examining tag-retention rates of Visible Implant Alpha Tags (Northwest Marine Technology, Inc.).



Jennifer Johnson delivered approximately 250 rainbow trout to the Kaibab Paiute Tribe.

Mitch Thorson continued coordinating with MSCP and the Colorado River Indian Tribes for the stocking of razorback suckers and bonytail on the reservation.

## Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

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Dennis Stone continued to work on the humpback chub translocation experiment manuscript and compiled maps, data sheets and other equipment for the upcoming spring 2013 field season.

Jennifer Johnson and Travis Taylor, with assistance staff from the San Carlos Apache Tribe, performed a spot-check survey on San Carlos Reservoir.



The purpose of the survey was to determine if any sportfish survived the

fish kill in the summer of 2012.

Jennifer Johnson attended an Apache trout implementation meeting with the USFS and AZGFD. The group discussed upcoming field activities for 2013.

Kirk Young participated in the Lake Mead Native Fish Workgroup. There appears to be approximately 600 razorback suckers within Lake Mead and the recent capture of a 215mm juvenile adds to the evidence of continued natural recruitment. Discussion continues over proposals for low-level augmentation of Lake Mead origin fish to assess whether such an augmentation effort can increase the adult population in Lake Mead.

Staff from the Parker office continued with five-day-a-month telemetry tracking of both bonytail and razorback sucker between Parker Dam and Palo Verde Dam.

Tammy Knecht tracked acoustic telemetry fish for three days during the month of March. She found 18 out of 30 fish in the upper reach (Parker Dam - Headgate Dam) and 3 out of 30 in the lower reach (Headgate Dam - Palo Verde Dam). Fish still seem to be in the same spots they were one month ago. Some key hot spots are just below Parker Dam, below a cobble bar one half mile upriver from River Island (The Honey Hole), a rock cliff across from Buckskin State Park, and above and below Headgate Dam. We are still having problems locating fish in the lower reach. Overall, it appears the fish have not moved much from 14 days after sonic tag insertion to now.

Jennifer Johnson submitted a report "Brown Trout Removal from Apache Trout Streams on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation 2012 Summary Report" for final internal review.

## Leadership in Science and Technology

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Kirk Young and Randy VanHaverbeke met with Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center staff to identify process improvements for helicopter operations in support of Little Colorado River activities. AZFWCO leads five separate helicopter-supported sampling trips into the lower Little Colorado River

annually. A more clearly defined flight planning and training process was developed and implemented.

Randy Van Haverbeke received final acceptance from Journal of Fish and Wildlife Management for a manuscript entitled: *Long term*

*monitoring of an endangered desert fish and factors influencing population dynamics.* The manuscript has now been officially accepted, and will be published soon.

## Workforce Management

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Staff completed aviation training through the iat.gov on-line training modules.

Jennifer Johnson and Mike Pillow participated in the statewide CDSO safety call.

Jennifer Johnson updated AZFWCO's safety plan and renewed her American Heart Association CPR and First Aid instructor certification.

Mike Pillow and Patti Ferlisi provided all volunteers with the information and

materials they need to participate in our Little Colorado River fieldwork.

Staff participated in AZFWCO's monthly teleconference covering topics that included budget, personnel, safety, training, and work schedules.

