



Humpback chub, Little Colorado River (note fin anomaly or injury).

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
Travis Taylor, Biological Technician
Karla McGhan, Administrative Officer
Vacant, Office Assistant

Parker

Mitch Thorson, Fish Biologist
Tammy Knecht, Fish Biologist
Robert Randall, Fish Biologist
John Naugle, Biological Technician



Partnerships and Accountability

Dominic Barrett participated in the Navajo County Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) meeting and the Southern Navajo County Grassland Restoration Initiative meeting in Pinetop. The Initiative consists of state and federal agencies and private entities interested in restoring grassland habitats for rangeland and wildlife values. Participants identified target areas and discussed strategies and funding sources.

Kayla Barrett coordinated and facilitated the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) teleconference. The teleconference discussed science and data priorities and needs, update on FWS/National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) funding allocations, and DFHP's annual meeting. Kayla provided call notes and distributed to

DFHP members and FWS staff.

Kayla Barrett participated on the NFHP Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP) teleconference. Kayla provided call notes to DFHP members.

Dominic Barrett participated in monthly AZFWCO and Intermountain West Joint Venture (IWJV) conference calls and the Apache County NRCD meeting in Springville.

Dominic Barrett and Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) worked with the IWJV to select a Farm Bill Liaison for the IWJV Arizona State Conservation Partnership. Steve Cassady, Landowner Relations Specialist for AGFD Region II, was selected for

the position.

Jeremy Voeltz, Kirk Young, and Jess Newton addressed Regional Office comments on the 2013 AZFWCO Annual Report with input from additional AZFWCO staff.

Kayla Barrett discussed a possible DFHP exhibit at the Southwest Native American Fish and Wildlife Society (SWNAFWS) meeting with Stuart Leon, Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission executive director.

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

Habitat Conservation and Management

The Desert Fish Habitat Partnership's Muddy River, Nevada was selected as a National Fish Habitat Partnership 10 "Waters to Watch" for 2014. DFHP has funded the Moapa dace Apcar Culvert Replacement project in 2011 and the Muddy River Stream Bank Habitat Rehabilitation project in 2014. The National Fish Habitat Partnership (www.fishhabitat.org) 10 "Waters to Watch" list is a collection of rivers, streams, estuaries, lakes and watershed systems that will benefit from strategic conservation efforts to protect, restore, or enhance their current condition. These waters represent a detailed snapshot of this year's locally driven voluntary habitat conservation efforts in progress implemented under the National Fish Habitat Partnership

by 19 regional Fish Habitat Partnerships throughout the country. The objective of these projects—to conserve freshwater, estuarine and marine habitats essential to the many fish and wildlife species that call these areas home—is the foundation of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Throughout the year, through the work of our partners, these projects will demonstrate how conservation efforts are turning around persistent declines in our nation's aquatic habitats. Having featured 80 partnership projects since 2007, these "Waters to Watch" are proving that on-the-ground conservation activities and science-based strategies are truly making a difference in improving fish habitat.



Current condition of the Muddy River Stream Bank Habitat Restoration Project. Steep eroding stream banks with abundant Tamarisk.



Moapa dace.

Habitat Conservation and Management *continued...*

Kayla Barrett distributed the Desert FHP Request for Proposals (RFP) for 2015 to DFHP members, FWS staff, NGO staff, tribal staff, and others.

Kayla Barrett finalized the DFHP 2013 Annual Report and distributed to DFHP members, FWS staff, NGO staff, tribal staff, FHP coordinators, LCC coordinators, etc.

Kayla Barrett, with assistance from Dominic Barrett, developed a GIS map of DFHP 2014 projects and past projects.

Kayla Barrett distributed DFHP proposal acceptance/rejection letters to applicants for the FY14 funding cycle.

Kayla Barrett received notification of FWS/NFHP funding allocations for DFHP. Kayla discussed what

2014 projects will be funded with the DFHP steering committee. Kayla also worked with NFHP regional coordinators in R2 and R8 and the FIS coordinator in R8 to allocate money to DFHP projects.

Dominic Barrett completed a Cooperative Agreement with the National Wild Turkey Federation. The agreement will provide funding for erosion control, off-site watering, livestock management, control of invasive species, native vegetation plantings, and other conservation practices on private lands throughout eastern Arizona. Projects will benefit roundtail chub, loach minnow, spikedace, Little Colorado spinedace, migratory birds, and resident wildlife.

Dominic Barrett completed a Sub-Recipient Landowner Agreement for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) funded County Road #2010

Streambank Stabilization Project. The project is located along Nutrioso Creek in eastern Arizona and will benefit Little Colorado spinedace.

Mitch Thorson reviewed and commented on the "Imperial Ponds Renovation Plan" that will be used during the November and December Imperial Pond renovation.

Mitch Thorson and Kirk Young addressed concerns that BOR has regarding giant salvinia proposals.

Other Accomplishments:
John Naugle completed water quality for Three Fingers Lake, High Levee Pond, Needles Golf Course, Emerald Canyon Golf Course, Office Cove Pond, Parker Dam Pond and Topock Marsh.

Tammy Knecht completed water quality for Alamo Lake.

Public Use

AZFWCO's "Trout in the Classroom" project came to an end in May. The students said goodbye to their Apache trout for this school year. Two classrooms participated reaching over 120 students this school year.

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 462 "likes" from 20 countries. Check us out at www.facebook.com/AZFWCO.

facebook

Check out DFHP's 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>

facebook

Cooperation with Native Americans

Mitch Thorson has been working with CRIT EPO to establish guidelines for replacement culverts that provide adequate water supply to many of CRIT's backwaters.

Dominic Barrett met with WMAT

WORD and staff from Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge to visit a fish passage project on Fort Apache Indian Reservation. Under normal conditions, the culvert impedes upstream movement of Apache trout. Meeting participants

discussed strategies and funding options available for the project. The project will benefit a recovery population of Apache trout.



Leadership in Science and Technology

Kirk Young attended a webinar that presented the results of swing-weighting of performance metrics for the Long Term Experimental Management Plan (LTEMP) EIS. The swing-weighting is a structured decision analysis (SDA) tool that is being used to provide multiple opportunities for interested stakeholders to provide input to the LTEMP process. SDA has been used previously for one aspect of the Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Plan (Environmental Assessment for Non-Native Fish Control below Glen Canyon Dam). The use of SDA in the LTEMP process is not required by NEPA, and does not replace the NEPA

impact analysis. The swing-weights were used to calculate an aggregate measure of performance for each LTEMP EIS alternative, by weighting the individual performance metrics.

Kirk Young, USGS, and National Park Service (NPS) worked collaboratively to plan, collect, and transport larval humpback chub from the LCR to SNARRC for growout and future translocation into Havasu and Shinumu creeks. Approximately 700 larval chub were collected during the May LCR stock assessment work. The larvae were flown out of the LCR by helicopter and transported to Dexter NM by

truck. During transport, the fish lost equilibrium and appeared to have died (upside down, bleached color and no gill activity). Once the fish were in the capable hands of biologists at SNARRC, it was determined that the fish were over-cooled with ice during transport. The larval fish revived once they warmed up, and few mortalities occurred. The collection and use of larval fish to support translocations will eliminate a separate helicopter supported trip to collect fish normally scheduled in July and allow collection of fish from a life-stage with low survival rates to adulthood.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Mike Pillow, Dennis Stone, Rick Deshler, and Randy VanHaverbeke, along with Dave Perkins (USFWS, Region 5) and Sheryl Andrews (volunteer), participated in the Little Colorado River humpback chub monitoring trip from May 13-23. Dennis, Randy, and Mike entered/checked data for the monitoring trip. At Boulders, the lowest downstream survey reach, there were unusually high numbers of humpback chub surveyed.



Jeremy Voeltz and Jess Newton attended the annual Native Fishes Conservation Team meeting held by the AGFD. A large portion of the meeting discussed the upcoming

development of a species status assessment for roundtail chub and headwater chub to be completed by the end of FY14.

Jennifer Johnson and staff from the San Carlos Apache Tribe completed annual spring sport fish surveys on San Carlos, Talkalai, and Seneca lakes.



Jennifer Johnson assisted AGFD with an electrofishing survey of Rainbow Lake.

John Naugle and Mitch Thorson completed a fish survey on Long Lake on the Fort Mohave Indian Reservation. They caught

five carp and 14 Largemouth bass.

Mitch Thorson, Tammy Knecht, John Naugle and Brianna Thorson (volunteer) sonic tracked 60 razorback suckers that were released last month between Headgate and Palo Verde Dam. This is the second year of a three year study that tracks movement, habitat use, and survivorship.

Kirk Young and Randy VanHaverbeke planned helicopter fly-in logistics for the May LCR activities. LCR sampling in May was especially busy due to a 4th camp (Chute Falls), the addition of larval humpback chub collection (Shinumu and Havasu creeks), and a new foodbase study by US Geological Survey (USGS).

Kirk Young coordinated the on-site helicopter fly-in and fly-out for 2014 May LCR sampling.

Workforce Management

Jeremy Voeltz completed selections for the 2014 Apache trout crew. Dan Aguilera, Zebediah Buck, Jon Orona, Brianna Thorson, William Lubenau, and Hunter Falco will start in early June. This work is funded through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Apache Trout Keystone Initiative.

Kirk Young conducted the initial meeting with the Directorate Resource Assistant Fellows Program (DFP) selectee. The DFP is Amy Chandos who is a NAU MS student. Amy is stationed in Cornville at the Bubbling Ponds Native Fish Facility and will be conducting swim chamber experiments and analyzing/reporting on her work over the next 11 weeks.



Kayla Barrett, Dominic Barrett, Jennifer Johnson, and Jeremy Voeltz completed NPS Retirement Planning for New Employees training.

Jennifer Johnson participated in the webinar, "Analysis of Complex Sample Surveys Made Simple."

Kirk Young took Directorate Resource Assistant Fellows Program training consisting of two webinars. The training provided guidance on how to review performance of DFP candidates and generational trait diversity.

Jeremy Voeltz and Kirk Young completed mid-year evaluations with AZFWCO staff.

Jennifer Johnson completed annual safety inspections of the Alchesay – Williams Creek NFH and the Alpine ES offices. The AZFWCO Whiteriver office was inspected by Gene Okamoto.

Mike Pillow worked with Karla McGhan and the May volunteers to make sure all volunteers arrived in Flagstaff and were available to

participate in pre-trip orientation meetings.

Kayla Barrett completed the April AZFWCO Accomplishment Report.

Staff participated in AZFWCO's monthly teleconference.

Congratulations to Jeremy Voeltz and his new bride, Erin. They were married on 10 May 2014.



Future Events:

Colorado River HBC Aggregation trip I – July 19 – Aug 4

Colorado River HBC Aggregation trip II – September 6-22

Fall LCR HBC stock assessment trip I – September 23 – October 3

