



Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office



AZFWCO Staff

Pinetop

- Vacant, 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
- Vacant, 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

Kayla Barrett coordinated and facilitated the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP) Annual Meeting on 20 November 2013 in Flagstaff, AZ. The meeting's agenda included discussions on outreach, possible business plan for DFHP, Multi State Conservation Grant with the Western Native Trout Initiative, Desert FHP, and Great Plains FHP, adding nonnative fish removal projects to the FY15 RFP and how to rank compared to other habitat projects, science and data needs, and voting of new executive committee members and co-chairs. We also had a presentation on the Fossil Creek rotenone treatment. Kayla handed out certificates of appreciation to steering, executive, and active at-large members. Kayla also revealed DFHP's MVP for the steering, executive, or at-large member. Congrats to Cynthia Tait, USFS!

Jeremy Voeltz and Kirk Young participated in the 2013 annual meeting of the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership in Flagstaff, AZ.

Dennis Stone, Mike Pillow, Randy Van Haverbeke, Mitch Thorson, and Kirk Young attended the Desert Fishes Council meeting in Flagstaff, AZ.

Randy gave a presentation titled, "Mark-Recapture and Monitoring in the Little Colorado River 2000-2013." The talk summarized the last 13 years of work in the Little Colorado River. Mike presented a poster titled: "Then and Now: Documenting physical and hydrological changes in the lower Little Colorado River Canyon by Reproducing Historical Photographs." The poster shows six Kolb brothers' photos of different points along the lower Little Colorado River taken around 1906 and 1909 next to photos shot from the same locations in 2013. It illustrates some of the major habitat and hydrological changes that the LCR has seen in just the last century.

Dominic Barrett participated in the monthly Apache County Natural Resource Conservation District (NRCD) meeting in Springerville. Dominic and the NRCD local work group continued planning efforts for a private landowner training opportunity tentatively scheduled for spring 2014.

Jennifer Johnson assisted Alchesay-Williams Creek NFH with sorting

male and female Apache trout in preparation for the upcoming spawning season.

Dominic participated in the monthly Intermountain West Joint Ventures (IWJV) conference call.

Dennis submitted the fall 2013 trip report, Access Files, Excel files of downloaded Pit-tag scanner files, and all the original data sheets that were affiliated with the fall 2013 humpback chub monitoring and translocation efforts in the Little Colorado River.

Randy worked on data analyses and writing our 2013 annual report for the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC). The report summarizes our monitoring activities on humpback chub in the Little Colorado River since fall 2000.

Kayla participated in the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) teleconference and provided an update on DFHP's annual meeting. Kayla drafted and distributed notes to DFHP members.

Habitat Conservation and Management

Kayla entered all Arizona DFHP projects into FONS and coordinated with R8 and R6 FIS staff to enter DFHP projects into FONS for their appropriate region.

Kayla submitted the DFHP FY14 Priority Projects for Recommended Funding memo to R2 NFHP Regional Coordinator.

Kayla worked with NFHP and UDWR staff to coordinate a DFHP/SWAP

(State Wildlife Action Plan) webinar on 12 December 2013.

Kayla helped Kai-T-Bluesky, DFHP executive committee member, with a DFHP presentation that he is presenting at the SWTFC meeting in December.

In support of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PF&W) funded Blue River Native Fish Project, Dominic worked with the

Army Corps of Engineers to comply with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The Army Corps of Engineers will determine if the project area is subject to Army Corps of Engineers jurisdiction and issue a formal statement in December.

Dominic continued marking 80 acres of ponderosa pine for the Turkey Spring Forest Management Project. Marking will be completed this winter.

Cooperation with Native Americans

Dominic completed an extension of time modification for the PFW funded Bonita Prairie Grassland Restoration Project Cooperative Agreement.

Mitch Thorson contacted CRIT, Fort Mohave and Queshan tribes to inform them of the rainbow trout loss at Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery and the possibility that no

Rainbow trout stockings will occur this year.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Mike, Randy, Mitch, Dennis, Travis Taylor, Rick Deshler, and Jim Walters, participated in the second fall 2013 Little Colorado River monitoring trip and humpback chub collection and translocation effort (Oct. 29 – Nov. 8). Andrew Larson (USFWS), Nic Medley, and Lisa Gelczis (NPS) flew in on Nov. 4 to join the crew for the translocation portion of the trip. Both phases of the trip were successful. A total of 1,257 HBC captures in Oct/Nov.

were recorded, 27 of which were recaptures from September monitoring. Due to the large numbers of age-0 and age-1 HBC (<130 mm TL) captured on this trip, 303 HBC (77-132 mmTL) were successfully translocated from Coyote Camp reach (rkm 5.0-9.6) to above Chute Falls at Translocation Camp (rkm 16.2). Along with the Chute Falls translocation, 341 HBC were collected and sent to the

Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNARRC) in Dexter, NM for next year's NPS translocation to Havasu and Shinumo Creeks.

Jeremy participated in a conference call with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Arizona Game and Fish Department to discuss our 2014 funding proposals under the Apache Trout Keystone Initiative.

Mike assisted Dennis in compiling the fall 2013 Little Colorado River monitoring and translocation trip report.

Dennis entered and checked all data collected at Salt Camp and for the humpback chub translocated above Chute Falls; checked all data entered by Mike and Randy on Boulders and Coyote camps.

Mike and Dennis analyzed LCR data, and wrote the fall 2013 trip report entitled "Fall 2013 Monitoring of Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*) and other Fishes in the Lower 13.57 km of the Little Colorado River, Arizona."



Workforce Management

AZFWCO staff participated in the monthly office teleconference and the national and regional Fisheries teleconferences.

Dominic completed the following courses: FWS Heavy Equipment Refresher, NCS Defensive Driving II, A-116 General Safety Awareness, and ATV Operator Certification.

Staff completed the 2013 DOI Travel Card Training required through DOI Learn.

Staff completed Concur training for travelers.

Staff completed their IDPs.

Kayla completed the October AZFWCO Accomplishment Report.

Jennifer Johnson participated in the regional safety conference call.

Jeremy, Kirk, and Karla McGhan updated AZFWCO's organizational chart.

Dominic harvested a bull during the

late archery bull hunt in Unit 1, eastern Arizona.



Upcoming Activities/Events:

Colorado River Aquatic Biologists Meeting – 8-9 January 2014

Adaptive Management Work Group/ Technical Work Group Report Meeting, Phoenix, 28-30 January 2014

Arizona/New Mexico American Fisheries Society-The Wildlife Society Joint Annual Meeting, Pinetop, 6-8 February 2014

