



Photo by Nathan Weise, Mora NFH

**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
- Vacant, Administrative Officer
- Vacant, Office Assistant

**Parker**

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



## Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Jennifer Johnson assisted with the salvage of Gila trout from Ash Creek in Southeastern Arizona. Gila trout were stocked in June 2012 after being salvaged from Spruce Creek, located within the burned area of the Whitewater-Baldy Fire in New Mexico. The Arizona Game and Fish Department completed surveys in the summer and fall of 2014 and found poor recruitment in Ash Creek. Eighty two Gila trout were collected and taken to Mora National Fish Hatchery in New Mexico where the fish will be used as broodstock.



Jeremy Voeltz participated in a webinar hosted by Trout Unlimited and other partners to discuss Trout Unlimited's "Salmonid Population Viability Project" and its applicability for trout managers. TU's pilot project will focus on Lahontan cutthroat trout, but future efforts may be applicable to Apache and Gila trouts in Arizona.

Tammy Knecht assisted USBR with their annual sampling at Park Moabi. Approximately 42 razorback sucker were captured during the 4 day trip.

Tammy Knecht assisted the Phoenix ES office with a fish toxicologically sampling on the Gila River. Fish

necropsies were performed on approximately 30 fish to test for the presences of flame-retardants.

Tammy Knecht assisted in the stocking of razorback sucker in Office Cove located on the Bill Williams River NWR and Pond 1 at the Emerald Canyon Golf Course in Parker, AZ. All fish were from Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery.

Kirk Young reviewed and edited the report Translocation and Refuge Framework for Humpback Chub in Grand Canyon. The report is intended to provide historical and technical guidance for translocations of humpback chub in the Grand Canyon.

Randy Van Haverbeke analyzed data for the upcoming annual report to be submitted to the Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC) tentatively entitled Mark-Recapture and Fish Monitoring Activities in the Little Colorado River in Grand Canyon from 2000 to 2014. Analysis included incorporation of data from the fall Little Colorado River trips, and further population estimation analyses in Program MARK.

Randy Van Haverbeke entered Boulders camp data from the October 2014 monitoring trip in the Little Colorado River.

Randy Van Haverbeke worked on preparing a briefings document for GCMRC concerning USFWS monitoring and translocation activities in the Little Colorado River during 2014. This document will eventually be incorporated into a larger briefings document being prepared by GCMRC to inform members of the Glen Canyon Dam

Adaptive Management Program concerning all monitoring activities in Grand Canyon.

Mike Pillow reviewed and provided editorial suggestions regarding the Little Colorado River fall monitoring report titled: "Fall 2014 Monitoring of Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*) and other Fishes in the Lower 13.57km of the Little Colorado River, Arizona."

Mike Pillow worked on adding new records of humpback chub captures from the recently released version of the GCMRC database to his capture history sub-database of PIT-tagged chub linked with carlin-tagged and floy-tagged chub.

Dennis Stone downloaded PIT-tag scanners and entered/checked Salt Camp data and the PIT-tag numbers of translocated chub from the October 2014 monitoring trip in the LCR.

Dennis Stone and Mike Pillow wrote the trip report entitled "Fall 2014 Monitoring of Humpback Chub (*Gila cypha*) and other Fishes in the Lower 13.57 km of the Little Colorado River, Arizona."

## Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Dominic Barrett completed Subrecipient Landowner Agreements for the PFW-funded Smooth Knoll Livestock Management Project and the Pierce Wash Livestock Management Project. Both projects will restore historic grassland communities via mechanical removal of juniper while enhancing rangeland conditions by providing livestock waters.

Kayla Barrett continued to work on DFHP's FY15 proposal process.

Dominic Barrett attended the Duck Lake Wetland Restoration Workshop hosted by the Kaibab

National Forest.



Kayla Barrett continued to work on DFHP reports that will be submitted to NFHP/FWS in January for FY15 funding.

Tammy Knecht completed monthly water quality for Alamo Lake.

## Partnerships and Accountability

Kayla Barrett, Jeremy Voeltz, and Jess Newton participated in the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership annual meeting on 12 November 2014 in Salt Lake City, UT. Kayla coordinated and facilitated the meeting and Jeremy provided meeting minutes. Items discussed at meeting were: FY15 FWS funding allocations, NFHP performance measures, FY15 proposal selections, Upper Colorado River habitat assessment, and more. DFHP also went live with their new website during the meeting.



Kayla Barrett participated in the NFHP Fish Habitat Partnership Workshop in National Harbor,

Maryland. Items discussed were: rebranding NFHP and FHPs, FY15 FWS funding allocations, the National Fish Habitat Fund, building awareness about habitat conservation, and fundraising for FHPs.

Kayla Barrett participated in the NFHP Board meeting in National Harbor, Maryland. Items discussed were: Preliminary review of the Board's draft budget and priorities for 2015, Executive Leadership Team update, 2015 Multi-State Conservation Grant proposals and 2014 progress, 501(c)(3) progress update and Board of Directors consideration, report from Board committees: 2014 accomplishments and 2015 priority issues, presentation of qualitative results from Board evaluation, upcoming FHP performance measures, and FY15 FWS funding allocations.

Kayla Barrett participated in the Restoring America's Estuaries National Summit in National Harbor,

Maryland.

Kayla Barrett participated on the NFHP FHP teleconference.

Dennis Stone and Mike Pillow compiled all data sheets, Access and Excel files, and the trip report affiliated with the fall 2014 monitoring and translocation efforts in the LCR, and delivered them to GCMRC, in partial fulfillment of our contractual obligations.

Jeremy Voeltz and Jess Newton attended a meeting of the Arizona State Council of Trout Unlimited. TU will be embarking on a Southwestern Native Trout Initiative in the near future, and the AZFWCO and other partners will assist TU with delivering funding to on-the-ground conservation for Apache and Gila trouts in Arizona.

Kirk Young participated in a conference call among USBR, NPS and USFWS (AZFWCO & SNARRC) to discuss options for continuation of grow-out of humpback chub for

## Partnerships and Accountability (*continued*)

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translocation into Shinumu and Havasu (and an additional unnamed site in the future) at SNARRC. The meeting was precipitated by frustrations with the level of communication and coordination among the cooperators for this logistically complex effort. The meeting produced several process improvements to increase communication and coordination into the future including: scheduling translocations by January 1st each year, having a standing translocation agenda item at each monthly conference call, having a post-fish collection and

translocation trip de-briefing to assess what worked and what did not, and scheduling a greater window of time for the translocation effort to account for frequent uncontrollable delays associated with the project.

In support of the Intermountain West Joint Venture Arizona State Conservation Partnership, Dominic Barrett met with staff from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, FWS Migratory Bird Program, FWS National Wildlife Refuge System, Lakeside Ranger District, and the City of Pinetop-Lakeside Sanitary District to

discuss opportunities for waterfowl habitat enhancement at local wetlands.

Dominic Barrett met with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Clifton Ranger District, and a private landowner to discuss the Partners for Fish and Wildlife (PFW) Program-funded West Pigeon Creek Riparian Enhancement and Upland Restoration Project.

Dominic Barrett met with the City of Saint Johns and Apache County to discuss opportunities for outdoor classrooms and riparian restoration along the Little Colorado River.

## Cooperation with Native Americans

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Stewart Jacks, Assistant Regional Director for Fish and Aquatic Conversation (FAC) in Region 2, hosted a meeting with the leadership of all tribes in New Mexico, Arizona, and across the Southwest Region. Jess Newton attended for AZFWCO. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss FY2015 needs of the Tribes associated with Region 2 FAC

Program, the national FAC draft Strategic Plan, and the status of the national fish hatchery evaluation process. Priorities for several Tribes included enhancement of recreational fisheries and outreach and professional development of tribal youth interested in conservation careers.

Dominic Barrett completed project

closeouts for the PFW-funded Carrizo, Cibecue, and White River Watersheds Improvement Project and the Bonita Prairie Grassland Restoration Project. Both projects enhanced watershed conditions for migratory birds and aquatic species on Tribal lands.

## Public Use

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Kayla Barrett and Megan Bean (TPWD) went live with DFHP's new website. Check it out at [www.desertfhp.org](http://www.desertfhp.org)

The Directorate Resource Assistant Fellowship Program (DFP) is kicking off its second year. This 11-week summer internship program targets college seniors and graduate students. Jess Newton participated on a DFP outreach team (with Bill Radke, Beth Oms, and Mike Martinez) that met with university classes, societies, and

clubs at University of Arizona and Arizona State University. DFP program details, internship project list, and career opportunities with FWS were discussed.

Jess Newton contacted professors at the University of Florida and Northern Arizona University to discuss the possibility of AZFWCO hosting summer interns from the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program. DDCSP is an exciting new program that seeks to increase diversity and inclusivity in the

conservation workforce. The program targets groups that are underrepresented in the professional conservation community.

Kayla Barrett continued to work with a graphic designer for DFHP's designs of a new logo, vertical meeting banner, brochures, water bottle stickers, and more.

Kayla Barrett coordinated with Mike Pillow and DFHP members to conduct interviews for a DFHP video. Interviews took place at the Desert

## Public Use (*continued*)

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FHP annual meeting on 12 November 2014 in Salt Lake City, UT. Kayla and Mike will edit and finalize the video and post on DFHP's and NFHP's Facebook page, websites, and YouTube channels.

Dominic Barrett completed a Subrecipient Landowner Agreement for the City of Sedona Wetland Education Project. The City of Sedona Wetland Education Project

will involve installation of educational signage at the Sedona Wetland Preserve.

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 499 "likes" from 20 countries. Check us out at [www.facebook.com/AZFWCO](http://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>

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## Leadership in Science and Technology

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Jeremy Voeltz participated in a webinar with staff from the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office and Regional Office, hosted by Connor McGregor (USGS), to discuss development of a conceptual model to determine viability for roundtail and headwater chubs as part of the on-going Species Status Assessment for the two species. A technical experts meeting will be hosted in January to further refine the model.

Kirk Young analyzed portable PIT tag antenna data from the September and July Grand Canyon Mainstem humpback chub aggregation sample trips. The data indicates that the antennas (two

antennas in September; one antenna in July) can increase the number of unique PIT tagged fish detections by 10% over hoop and trammel nets alone. Also, of the over 300 individual fish detected with the antennas, over 80% were unique to the effort, in other words over 80% were not detected by other methods during the survey. It appears that portable PIT tag antennas are an effective way of increasing detections and adding to presence, movement, and survival data in Grand Canyon.

Jess Newton met with USGS researchers at the Annual Arizona Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit Cooperator's

Meeting at the University of Arizona, Tucson. USGS unit leaders and professors included Scott Bonar and Melanie Culver. Presentations and updates were given on recent and ongoing research projects and future project ideas were discussed.

Mike Pillow assisted David Ward (USGS) in editing and splicing together some video clips for a presentation about David's research on fish and ammonia.

Mike Pillow finished setting up the new video editing workstation and associated storage drives with a new sound card for audio and video editing software for production.

## Workforce Management

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Staff participated in the AZFWCO monthly teleconference.

At the request of Director Dan Ashe, staff completed the Service-wide survey about the human relations "climate" of the Service.

Kirk Young completed Safety for Supervisors training.

## Workforce Management

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### Upcoming Events:

Jess Newton and Dominic Barrett will attend a Basic Financial Assistance Course in Albuquerque during the first week of December.

AZFWCO holiday party and potluck in Flagstaff: December 16

Glen Canyon Dam Fish Annual Coordination Meeting in Flagstaff, December 17&18

During January, Dominic Barrett will be placed in a work detail for FWS Region 6 PFW. Dominic will serve as the PFW Deputy Regional Coordinator.

Colorado River Aquatic Biologists Meeting in Laughlin, NV – January 7th-8th

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program's 36th Annual Researchers Meeting in Moab, Utah -- January 13-14

Arizona-New Mexico Chapter American Fisheries Society annual Meeting in Las Cruces, New Mexico -- February 5-7

