



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
Sean O’Kray, Biological Technician

Apache Trout Crew

Jason Fischer, Biological Technician
Alex Poole, Biological Technician
Alissa Almaraz, Biological Technician



Partnerships and Accountability

Dominic Barrett participated in The Wildlife Society fall workshop and meeting hosted by the Arizona Chapter near Heber. Dominic presented “Restoration of Grassland Ecosystems” and “Careers with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” A combination of approximately 30 students and professionals attended the event.

Dominic Barrett participated in a conference call with the Intermountain

West Joint Venture. Participants discussed current conservation efforts, Capacity Grants, NAWCA funding, 2012 Farm Bill, and a possible meeting in February.

Jeremy Voeltz participated in the Region 2 SHC/Surrogate Species Workshop held in Albuquerque, NM.

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).

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Jason Fischer, Alex Poole, and Alissa Almaraz completed mapping habitat and conducting population surveys in two Apache trout streams using the BVET (Basinwide Visual Estimation Technique).



Kirk Young, Mike Pillow, Dennis Stone, Randy Van Haverbeke, Rick Deschler, Jim Walters, and volunteers completed the second fall 2012 Little Colorado River native fish monitoring trip.

Jeremy Voeltz assisted staff from the San Bernardino NWR and AGFD (Arizona Game and Fish Department) with the annual fall monitoring of native fishes at El Coronado Ranch in Southeastern AZ. Fish numbers in

West Turkey Creek are way down because of the 2011 Horseshoe II fire, but endangered Yaqui chub numbers are high in the ponds on the ranch.

Rob Randall, Jason Fischer, Alex Poole, and Alissa Almaraz assisted the Southwest Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center in Dexter, NM with VIE tagging of Rio Grande silvery minnow.



Rob Randall and Mitch Thorson worked with staff from AGFD to complete an electrofishing survey of Lake Mead. Largemouth bass, green sunfish, bluegill,

mosquitofish, and tilapia were captured, but no native fish were caught.

Tammy Knecht, Rob Randall, and Mitch Thorson completed population estimates of desert pupfish at Imperial, Cibola, and Bill Williams River NWRs.

Kirk Young and Mitch Thorson participated in the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program researchers meeting in Laughlin, NV.

Mitch Thorson coordinated and participated in a sportfish salvage on Havasu NWR.

Kirk Young and Mitch Thorson participated in the Lake Mead Native Fish Work-Group meeting in Las Vegas, NV.

Mitch Thorson participated in the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement meeting in Lake Havasu City.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management (*continued*)

Randy Van Haverbeke, Dennis Stone, Kirk Young, and Kit Hershey attended a presentation on the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation staff.

Jeremy Voeltz and Kit Hershey visited Wohlenberg Draw, Paradise Creek, and Ord Creek on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation to inspect the artificial barriers that are protecting these three Apache trout populations.

Jennifer Johnson completed the "Apache Trout Stream Barrier Evaluations on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation 2008-2012 Summary Report".

Public Use

Jennifer Johnson, Zach Tiemann, and Alissa Almaraz, participated in the 7th Annual Woodland Wildlife Festival in Pinetop. The highlight of the AZFWCO display was the "Living Stream" which featured live Apache trout.



Stewart Jacks participated in the Blue Ridge Junior High School Career Day. Stewart gave presentations to 104 students on careers in natural resources with an emphasis on fish biology and the USFWS.

Jennifer Johnson participated in the annual Pinetop-Lakeside Trunk or Treat

event. Pencils, stickers, bookmarks, and the ABC's of fishing coloring books were a big hit with trick-or-treaters of all ages.



Jennifer Johnson submitted the final narrative report to NCTC for FY12 funding of our Apache Trout in the Classroom Project. AZFWCO received funds from the Connecting People with Nature regional funding initiative for this project.

Kayla Barrett distributed the DFHP's (Desert Fish Habitat Partnership) Phantom Lake Spring Restoration story in the Service's Eddies magazine to DFHP members and coworkers.

Check out AZFWCO's Facebook page. We post information on our staff, upcoming projects, educational events, and volunteer opportunities across the state. We currently have 324 fans from 20 countries. Check us out at www.facebook.com/AZFWCO

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Check out DFHP's Facebook page. We post information on projects, request for proposals, pictures, and much more. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Desert-Fish-Habitat->

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Cooperation with Native Americans

Jennifer Johnson, Jason Fischer, and Alissa Almaraz completed a fish survey on San Carlos Lake with the assistance of staff from San Carlos Apache Tribe Recreation & Wildlife Department. A fish kill occurred during the summer of 2012 and the tribe requested a fish survey to document the extent of the kill.

Rob Randall and Mitch Thorson collected fish data on the Lower Colorado River for a Colorado River Indian Tribes project. Ten tagged bonytail and ten razorback suckers were captured, measured, and released.

Mitch Thorson worked with Colorado River Indian Tribes Game & Fish Department staff to modify the native fish stocking and survey permit for work throughout the reservation.

Leadership in Science and Technology

Jeremy Voeltz, Dominic Barrett, and Travis Taylor tagged 300 Apache trout with VI Alpha tags for an upcoming study on the effects of multiple electrofishing events on survival and growth of Apache trout, as well as tag retention. (Also see cover picture.)



Randy Van Haverbeke supplied photographs for and reviewed an article about humpback chub and translocations for the USFWS website on endangered species. The article can be seen at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/map/state/AZ.html>.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

Dominic Barrett met with potential cooperators along Eagle Creek and Milligan Creek to discuss brush management and riparian restoration.

Dominic Barrett met with the NPS (National Park Service) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, the City of Holbrook, and Fred Phillips Consulting to discuss wetland and riparian restoration, a restoration plan, opportunities, and goals.



Dominic Barrett met with a FY11 cooperator to review partial completion of the Little Colorado River Stream and Riparian Restoration Project. To reduce

sediment input, the cooperator is resloping eroding banks, installing rock reinforcement, and planting native vegetation. The project will benefit native fishes by improving water quality.



Kayla Barrett developed DFHP's Newsletter for July-September 2012 and distributed to DFHP members, USFWS staff, LCC coordinators, NFHP Board members, and others.

Kayla Barrett coordinated the following DFHP activities: coordinated the 2013 proposal ranking committee call, distributed ranked DFHP proposals to steering committee for review, coordinated

and facilitated DFHP's steering committee 2013 proposal review call, coordinated with the 2013 proposal project leads regarding 2013 revised proposals and updates on their respective projects, and coordinated with Fisheries Program staff from TX and NV to enter DFHP 2013 projects into FONS.

Other Accomplishments:

Rob Randall completed backwater water quality monitoring and data entry for River's Edge Golf Course, Office Cove, Parker Dam Pond, Emerald Canyon Golf Course Ponds 1, 9 and 11, High Levee Pond, Three Fingers Lake, and Topock Marsh.

Workforce Management

Kit Hershey came on board for a 30-day detail as the Project Leader for AZFWCO. While Kit was in AZFWCO Stewart Jacks was on a detail as the Strategic Communication & Outreach Manager for the National Conservation Training Center. These assignments are part of the training for the Advanced Leadership Development Program.

Mike Pillow and Patti Ferlisi coordinated with volunteers for the October Little Colorado River native fish monitoring trip.

Dominic Barrett completed Collaborative Negotiation Skills for Environmental Professionals training in Phoenix hosted by Northwest Environmental Training Center.

Randy Van Haverbeke updated the PAP (Project Aviation Plan) and Evacuation Procedures plan for flight activities in the Little Colorado River. Randy also coordinated with Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center staff on helicopter flight logistics and ensured staff

were trained in B-3 Combination Helicopter/Aircraft Safety.

Kayla Barrett completed telework training in DOI-Learn.

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