



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
- Karla McGhan, Administrative Officer
- Vacant, Office Assistant

Parker

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

Apache Trout Crew

- Dan Aguilera, 1040 Seasonal
- Zebediah Buck, 1040 Seasonal

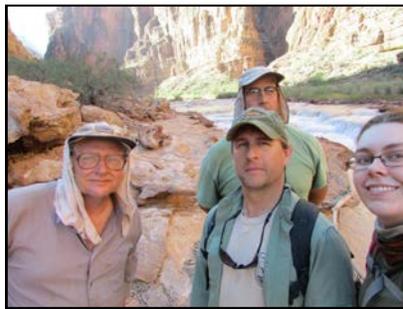


Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

In October, the Apache trout crew continued nonnative trout removals on two Apache trout recovery streams. The crew covered 5.8 miles of stream and removed 1,647 nonnative trout while collecting 405 Apache trout. The Apache trout field season ended October 30. Over the entire 2014 season, the crew conducted 17 nonnative trout removals on 7 streams covering 37.3 miles of stream. A season total of 7,942 nonnative trout, weighing 214 pounds, were removed and 3,763 Apache trout were collected. The crew also completed three barrier evaluations to ensure barriers were successfully isolating Apache trout from downstream nonnative trout populations. The crew is funded, in part, by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Apache Trout Keystone Initiative. The goal of this Initiative is to increase the abundance and distribution of Apache trout. Jeremy Voeltz and Dr. David Lawrence (NFWF's Fresh Water Fish Keystone Director) toured several Apache trout streams on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The purpose was to show Dr. Lawrence the areas where NFWF has invested significant resources under the Keystone Initiative.



Flagstaff staff and volunteers completed the October 2014 Little Colorado River (LCR) humpback chub monitoring and translocation trip. They collected and translocated 305 age-0 and age-1 humpback chub above Chute Falls in the LCR. The chub were collected downstream using baited hoopnets and seines and were translocated in a barrel via helicopter above the falls where they were acclimated to local water conditions and released on October 31. Mike Pillow, Dennis Stone, and Randy Van Haverbeke also continued to process and enter data from the previous September LCR trip into a multi-agency database.



Dan Aguilera and Zeb Buck assisted Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) with a survey of KP Creek. KP Creek, a tributary to the Blue River, is currently occupied by wild Apache/rainbow trout hybrids, although the creek is identified for management and recovery of Gila trout. The KP Creek watershed was negatively affected by the Wallow Fire in 2011, leading to a significant reduction in the hybrid trout population. The AGFD has conducted mechanical removals of the hybrid trout in KP Creek with the goal of eradicating the few remaining individuals to avoid the need for an eventual chemical treatment. At this point in the KP Creek removal project, trout are absent or extremely rare during removal passes with backpack electrofishing crews.



Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

The Stamp Spring Livestock Management Project near Springerville, AZ was awarded funding by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, Water Quality Improvement Grant Program. AGFD and Dominic Barrett (USFWS) submitted the application for funding. The project will provide spring protection and improve livestock management on private and state lands.

Dominic Barrett met with a contractor to verify work associated with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (PFW)-funded Twin Springs Canyon Livestock Management Project. The contractor installed a well, electrical system, electric pump, and solar panels. The project will improve livestock management and reduce grazing impacts along the Blue River riparian corridor. The project will benefit loach minnow and spikedace critical habitats.

Dominic Barrett completed a Subrecipient Landowner Agreement for the PFW-funded Marijilda Wash Native Fish Project near Safford. The project will create 7.2 acres of aquatic habitat for desert pupfish and Gila topminnow. The project is a collaborative effort involving a private landowner, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), AGFD, and others.

Dominic Barrett met with a contractor to discuss streambank stabilization methods for the PFW-funded County Road #2010 Streambank Stabilization Project near Nutrioso. Dominic also completed consultation documents for the Arizona State Historical Preservation Office regarding the PFW-funded Smooth Knoll Livestock Management Project near Vernon.

Kayla Barrett coordinated with Desert Fish Habitat Partnership's (DFHP) science and data chair to discuss DFHP's strategic plan update, specifically how to incorporate the Lower Colorado River habitat assessment into DFHP Framework and how to incorporate Lower Colorado River watershed rankings into proposal ranking criteria. A draft strategic plan was developed with the habitat assessment information and Kayla submitted it to the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) regional coordinator to review.

Kayla also (1) worked on DFHP reports that will be submitted in January for FY2015 funding, (2) coordinated DFHP's FY2015 proposal process, and (3) discussed the multi-state grant with other partnership coordinators and decided that DFHP will use their remaining grant money for outreach material.

Tammy Knecht completed monthly water quality sampling for Alamo Lake.

Partnerships and Accountability

Jeremy Voeltz participated in the AGFD's "6 species" Statewide Conservation Assessment and Strategy conference call to work towards updating that Conservation Agreement for several species of suckers and chubs. Jeremy Voeltz completed interim programmatic reporting and annual financial reporting for the current Apache Trout Keystone Initiative Grant between the USFWS and NFWF.

Dennis Stone provided technical assistance to Bruce Thompson, Hatchery Complex Manager for the A-WC NFH, regarding information and publications on turbidity and suspended sediment effects on trout. Excessively high turbidity at the hatchery was anticipated due to upcoming dam repairs and the draining of Hawley Lake, upstream of the hatchery.

Dennis partnered with US Geological Survey (USGS) staff to initiate a "note" for potential journal

publication concerning a high pulse of suspended sediment and abnormal fish behaviors occurring in the LCR during the September 2014 monitoring trip.

Kirk Young attended the Glen Canyon Dam Technical Work Group meeting in Phoenix and gave a presentation on humpback chub downlisting criteria and status, and Kanab ambersnail delisting status. Of note from the meeting were: (1) a new timeframe for the Long Term Experimental Management Plan EIS

Partnerships and Accountability (*continued*)

with an internal draft slated for January, public draft in March, and Section 7 consultation beginning in summer 2015; (2) a fall High Flow Event (HFE) will occur around the week of November 9, with peak flow and duration of approximately 37,500 cfs, over 96 hours; and (3) an HFE workshop to review information from the last three HFEs will occur in 2015.

Kirk Young coordinated with National Park Service and USFWS law enforcement over reports of illegal harvest of humpback chub in Havasu Creek. Apparently, a couple of unlicensed anglers were observed with a rainbow trout and two humpback chub cleaned and

on a stringer. An investigation is ongoing.

Jess Newton participated in the Arizona Annual Coordination Meeting with regional and state leadership for AGFD, Arizona State Land Department, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the USFWS Ecological Services.

Dominic Barrett participated in (1) the monthly Intermountain West Joint Venture conference call, (2) the Apache County Natural Resource Conservation District meeting, (3) a meeting with Arizona Ecological Services Office (AEOS-

USFWS) to discuss PFW Program-funded County Road #2010 Streambank Stabilization Project and implications for federal trust species, and (4) the Region-2 PFW teleconferences.

Kayla Barrett continued coordination for the DFHP annual meeting on 12 November 2014 in Salt Lake City, UT (drafting agenda, coordinating participants, preparing materials, making informational folders, etc.).

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

Cooperation with Native Americans

Jennifer Johnson assisted the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife with an annual lake survey of Wheatfields Lake. Wheatfields Lake is managed as a “quality” put-and-take/put-grow-take trout fishery. Trout are usually stocked in the spring at around 7-8 inches. The average length of rainbow trout collected in the survey was almost 11 inches, indicating good summer growth. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, notification letters describing the PFW-funded Pierce Wash Livestock Management Project were sent to six Tribes with overlapping ancestral lands.

AZFWCO lent field equipment to WMAT-WORD for their fish salvage efforts at Hawley Lake relating to the emergency draining of the lake due to a dam problem. Salvaged fish were relocated to nearby lakes on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation.

Jeremy Voeltz and staff from the Arizona Ecological Services Field Office held several conference calls with the WMAT-WORD and other Tribal Departments to discuss the USFWS Species Status Assessment that is underway for roundtail and headwater chubs. AZFWCO sponsored two lectures on Native American topics at our annual staff meeting. The lectures

included (1) “Hopi Tribal History, Culture, and Lands” presented by Northern Arizona University adjunct professor and Hopi archaeologist, Mike Yeatts; and (2) “USFWS Native American Policy and Secretarial Order 3206” presented by John Nystedt, tribal coordinator.

Public Use and Outreach

Kayla Barrett continued development of DFHP's new website as well as their new logo, design for vertical meeting banner, and other outreach materials with a graphic designer. Kayla led discussions on what outreach materials would be most beneficial for promoting DFHP.

Kayla Barrett coordinated with Mike Pillow and DFHP members to determine interview questions for the DFHP promotional video. Interviews will take place at the DFHP annual meeting 12 November 2014. Kayla and Mike

will edit and finalize the video and post on DFHP's and NFHP's Facebook page, websites, and YouTube channels.

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



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> 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>

Leadership in Science and Technology

Kirk Young performed function tests and downloaded data from a portable remote PIT tag antenna positioned in the Little Colorado River. An assessment of the

antenna will be conducted this winter.

Kirk Young worked with USGS to develop two Directorate Fellowship

Proposals. Proposals for ammonia piscicide permitting and a portable PIT-tag antenna citizen science project were submitted.

Workforce Management

Karla McGhan, AZFWCO's Administrative Officer, transferred to the regional office in Albuquerque, NM and is now a Budget Analyst for the National Wildlife Refuge System. Congratulations to Karla on her job promotion and new adventure! You will be greatly missed.

Zeb Buck and Dan Aguilera ended their "1040" seasonal appointments with AZFWCO. Their hard work and dedication towards Apache trout recovery was instrumental in this year's successful field season.

Jennifer Johnson completed six continuing education credits for

recertification of her Arizona Commercial Pesticide Applicator License.

Mike Pillow coordinated with our LCR volunteers and partners in preparation for the October monitoring and translocation trip. Mike also participated in the pre-trip volunteer briefing with Randy Van Haverbeke.

AZFWCO had our annual office confabulation in Flagstaff on October 7 & 8. Supervisors and employees completed their FY2014 Employee

Performance Appraisal Plan evaluations.

Kayla Barrett prepared for upcoming meetings (NFHP Workshop, Restoring America's Estuaries Summit, NFHP Board meeting, and DFHP annual meeting) and travel in November.

Jess Newton, Kirk Young, Mitch Thorson, and Tammy Knecht completed a 2-day tour of the lower Colorado River and discussed new AZFWCO monitoring, research, and recovery projects for the endangered razorback sucker and bonytail.

Workforce Management (*continued*)

Jeremy Voeltz won another gold medal for his Habanero IPA at the Arizona Society of Homebrewer's annual Oktoberfest homebrew competition. The beer also took second place overall for the competition. The Habanero IPA has now won gold medals at three different state and national competitions this year.



Future Events

Desert Fish Habitat Partnership annual meeting in Salt Lake City, UT – November 12

Colorado River Aquatic Biologists annual meeting in Laughlin, NV – January 7-8

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program's and the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program's 36th Annual Researchers Meeting in Moab, UT – January 13-14



Fall colors dot the landscape on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation

