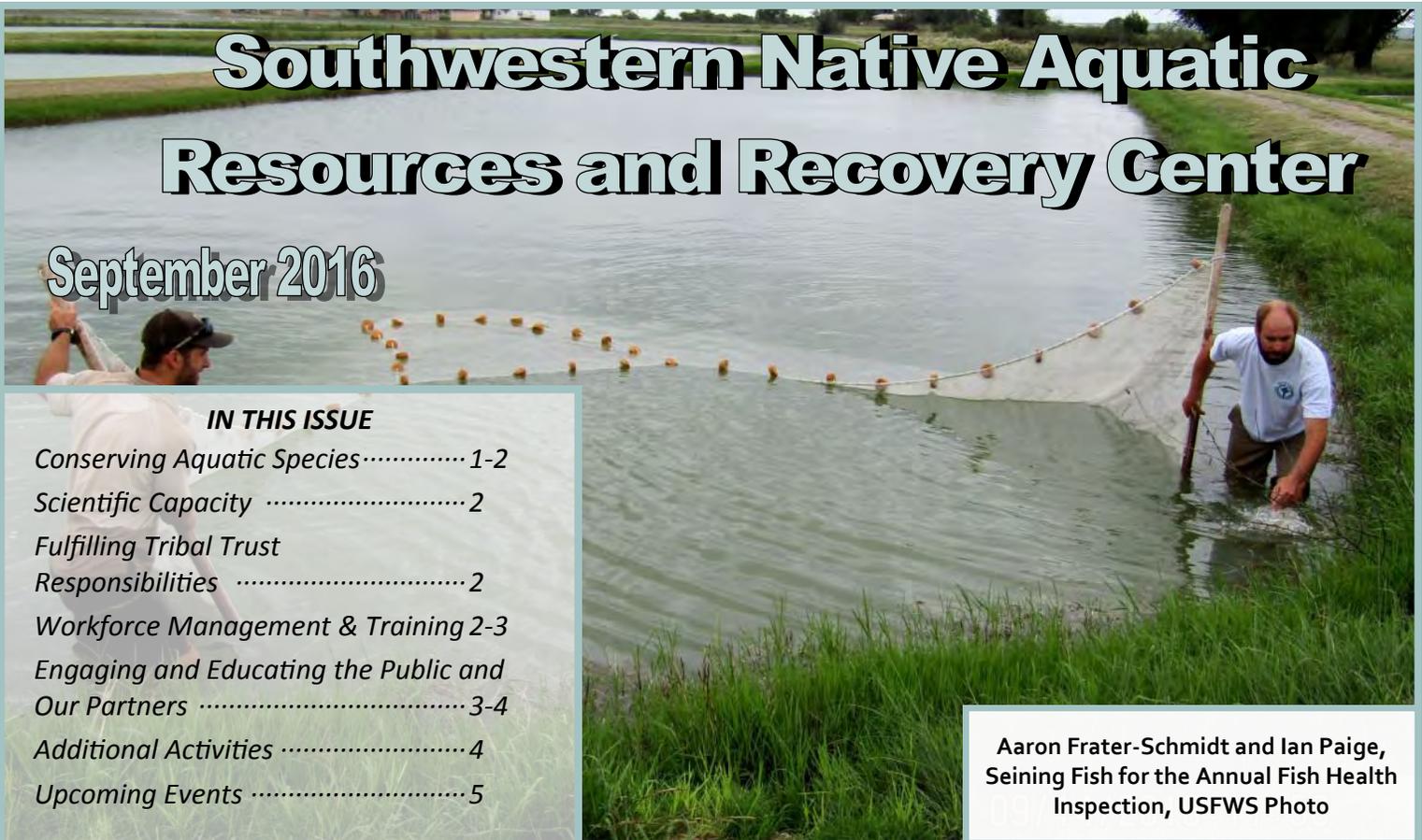


Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center

September 2016



Aaron Frater-Schmidt and Ian Paige, Seining Fish for the Annual Fish Health Inspection, USFWS Photo

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STAFF

Center Director.....Manuel Ulibarri
 Deputy Center Director..... Vacant
 Administrative Officer.....Maria Bullard
 Administrative Technician.....Michelle Bell
 Office Assistant..... Casey Booth
 Fish Biologist.....William Knight
 Fish Biologist.....Ian Paige
 Fish Biologist.....Jesse Trujillo
 Fish Biologist.....Aaron Schmidt
 Fish Biologist FONS Vacant
 Animal Caretaker..... Cecilia Lamb
 Maintenance Mechanic.....Vacant
 Maintenance Worker..... Ty Terry
 Maintenance Worker.....Vacant

RESEARCH

Research Unit Leader.....Wade Wilson
 Research Fish Biologist..... Vacant
 Fish and Wildlife Biologist.....Tracy Diver
 Fish Biologist (Genetics)Sandra Bohn
 Fish Biologist (Genetics)Vacant
 Fish Biologist FONS.....Hannah Mello

FISH HEALTH

Fish Health Leader..... Martha Keller
 Fish Health Biologist.....Marlene Rodarte
 Fish Health Biologist.....Jason Woodland
 Fish Health Biologist..... David Hampton
 FishBiologist Ashlie Peterson
 Fish Biologist FONS.....Vacant

Conserving Aquatic Species

Fish Health staff began Southwestern ARRC's annual fish health inspection. This inspection is the largest of any in the region and this year consisted of 15 unique lots, (60 fish per lot). Uvalde National Fish Hatchery (NFH) submitted 1 lot of Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM) for testing prior to shipping to the lower Rio Grande. The Albuquerque Biopark was also inspected this month and results will be available by the end of October. Tracy Diver completed six molecular confirmation cases for Fish Health.



Fish Health Staff, Southwestern ARRC's Annual Fish Health Inspection , USFWS Photo

Fish culture staff started preparing for the fall stocking season and winter months. Eighteen ponds of Rio Grande silvery minnow were harvested in preparation for stocking in October. The fish are destined to be released into the Big Bend TX and NM Reaches of the Rio Grande.

No fish were distributed this month.

Conserving Aquatic Species cont.



Chris Michaud and Tracy Diver, Seining a Backwater Area for CPM on the Colorado River , USFWS Photo

The Southwestern ARRC is working with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) to supplement the Colorado pikeminnow broodstock at Southwestern ARRC. This year was the first collection of a 5 year collaboration. Southwestern ARRC's Wade Wilson, Tracy Diver, and Ian Paige worked with UDWR's Chris Michaud to collect approximately 150 young of year individuals from low velocity habitat in the Colorado River near Moab, UT.



Nate Franssen and William Knight Adjusting Flows in RBS Study, USFWS Photo

Scientific Capacity

Hannah Mello continued working on the Rio Grande silvery minnow (*Hybognathus amarus*) diet and resource availability study. She identified 2700 algae from 10 water and six gut samples and cleaned and mounted diatoms from 22 samples. In addition she mounted 9 lapillus otoliths and polished 5 for aging. Hannah also processed 39 water samples collected from the Albuquerque Biopark to screen for microcystin, an algal toxin that can cause fish mortality.

The razorback sucker flow conditioning study being conducted in collaboration with Nathan Franssen, PhD, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program continued this month. Flows in the system were increased, measured and recorded for the session. Feed amounts were increased as well.

Fulfilling Tribal Trust Responsibilities

On September 27, Marlene Rodarte and Ashlie Peterson took part in the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission meeting held in Albuquerque, NM to discuss the finding of bacterial kidney disease (BKD) at several National and Tribal Fish Hatcheries.



Nicholas Bertrand, USFWS Photo

Workforce Management

Nicholas Bertrand started working in the Research Unit as the new Laboratory Manager on September 6. Nick is originally from San Antonio, Texas, and earned his undergraduate degree in Aquatic Biology from Texas State University, San Marcos TX and Masters in Wildlife and Fisheries Sciences from Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. Following graduate school, he worked as a seasonal fisheries technician for the US Forest Service on the Big Horn

Workforce Management cont.

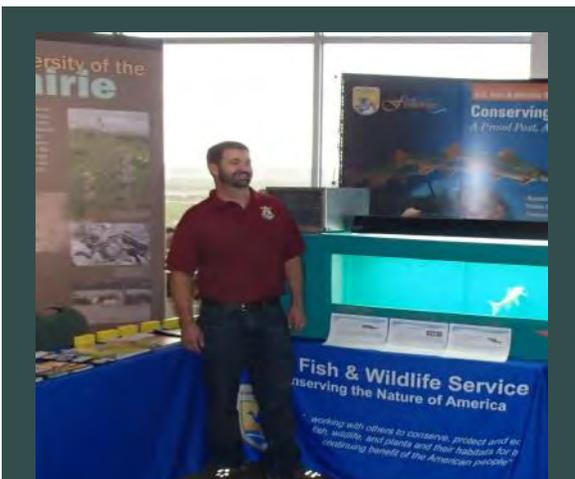
National Forest in Sheridan, Wyoming. The primary focus of this work was long term monitoring of stream hydrology. At the end of the season, he accepted a lab manager position at the University of California at Davis. Under the direction Dr. Peter Wainwright, this lab researched the functional morphology of feeding in bony fishes. During this time he collaborated on morphological studies on butterfly fishes, collected data on fish body shape and spine morphology at the Smithsonian, and conducted high-speed video of feeding kinematics trials on numerous species. His diverse research background in morphology and biological collections as well as his experience managing a laboratory will contribute in unique ways to the research program at Southwestern ARRC. Welcome Nick!

Stewart Jacks, Region 2 Fish and Aquatic Conservation Assistant Regional Director visited the Center and met with all staff on September 27.

Dave Hampton attended the NCTC course entitled “Fish and Wildlife Field and Laboratory Techniques”. Martha Keller participated as an instructor in the course. Casey Booth attended the “Visitors Services Workshop” at NCTC; the workshop consisted of multiple breakout sessions that ranged from diversity, social networking, graphic designing etc. Aaron Frater-Schmidt and Jesse Trujillo attended the “Foundations Discover Your Service” course at NCTC; a basic introduction to the USFWS.

Hannah Mello completed USGS Hazard Communication, and EEO and Diversity training on DOI Learn. Maria Bullard completed the CLC 222 online 40-hour Training for CORs; Marlene Rodarte and David Hampton completed 1 hour DOI Learn training on safety; Administrative staff participated in the OCX video conference training and several staff participated in the FEGLI open season presentation video training.

Nick Bertrand completed all new employee trainings. He also provided all additional paper work including certifications to fully function as lab manager for the Research Unit. He also examined peer-reviewed literature on several of the species currently being held at the facility and being used in active projects by the Research Unit. Familiarizing himself with these publications provides valuable foundations for both understanding the work of the Center as well as inspiration for potential research projects.



Engaging and Educating the Public and Our Partners

The Southwestern ARRC participated in the 15th Annual Dragonfly Festival at Bitter Lake National Wildlife refuge. Along with information about the facility, activity books, foam fish, and stickers to pass out, a Living Stream tank was set up and fish added which consisted of a Colorado pikeminnow, razorback sucker, and a Pahranaगत roundtail chub. The event was a success with 312 individuals stopping by the display to check out the Living Stream and ask questions.

Center staff representing Fish Health, Research and Fish Culture attended the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Propagation and Genetics Workgroup meeting in Albuquerque. Updates were presented from each program unit and discussion included, augmentation needs, fish marking, planned health assessments and annual fish health and diagnostics findings. Hannah Mello gave a presentation on the status of the study looking at diet and resource availability for Rio Grande silvery minnow in the Big Bend reach of the Rio Grande.

Fish Health received rainbow trout samples from Willow Beach NFH, AZ for diagnostics examination. Fish performance has been poor since arriving at Willow Beach. The lab also received 20 fish and water samples from the Pecos River near Carlsbad, NM



DRAGONFLY FESTIVAL
USFWS PHOTOS

Engaging and Educating the Public and Our Partners Cont.



Scott Walker, VIE Tagging, USFWS Photo

collected by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish staff following a suspected golden algae (toxic) fish kill. The molecular ecology lab confirmed the presence of golden algae in the water samples.

Scott Walker, Assistant Project Leader from Inks Dam NFH, TX visited the Southwestern ARRC to train on techniques used for tagging smaller fish using visible implant elastomer (VIE) material. Scott VIE tagged 10-15mm sized gambusia while on station.

Center staff participated in the Region 2 Fisheries & Aquatic Conservation (FAC) Monthly Conference call; the Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSN)

captive propagation facilities monthly conference call; and a conference call with New Mexico and Arizona Department of Fish and Game and US Fish and Wildlife staff to discuss the recent findings of bacterial kidney disease (BKD) at Mora NFH.

Hannah Mello gave a presentation at the Southwestern ARRC on her previous research with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and the US Geological Survey.

There were 16 visitors for the month of September and the area received .75" of rain.

Additional Activities

Tracy Diver and Nick Bertrand continued reorganizing and re-cataloging frozen tissue samples in the ultra-cold freezer storage area. The upright -80 freezer displayed an error and research staff were able to identify a failing compressor with aid of Thermo Fisher Support. This led to the relocation of all samples to a functional chest freezers while staff made arrangements for a service technician to diagnose and service the unit. The Research Unit also worked on reevaluating their current binder management system.



Ty Terry, Mowing, USFWS Photo

After several good rain storms, staff mowed and trimmed weeds around the ponds, buildings, and facilities. Previously removed bird netting from the overwintering ponds was cleaned and stored. Maintenance staff sealed several rain leaks in the Administrative and Shop buildings. The roof of visitor /volunteer housing trailer #1 was painted with rubber roofing to seal it from the rain. All of the Kubota UTV's were serviced in September.

The Center received a new 3 compartment fiberglass fish distribution tank built by Eagar Inc., UT. The tank will be installed next month for immediate use this fall stocking season.

Greenfield Electric from Dexter, NM installed a new Variable Frequency Drive (VFD) on the Fish Culture Building lift station. The lift station supplies water to the 50,000 gallon water storage tank and Fish Culture building.

The administrative staff turned over the BFY 2016 files and created the BFY 2017 files. Older files were removed and will be shredded according to the file disposition plan or sent to the Federal Records Holding Center.

The Center recycled 390 lbs. of cardboard, 40 lbs. plastic, 140 lbs. of paper, 14 lbs. of aluminum cans and 1 lb. of empty printer ink cartridges in the month of September.

Upcoming Activities

October 3-5: RGSM Health Index at Uvalde NFH, TX

October 11: RGSM stocking into Big Bend Reach of Rio Grande, TX.

October 11—Mora NFH Fish Health Inspection

October 12: BioPark RGSM Health Index, Albuquerque, NM

October 18: Bonytail stocking to Reach 4 of the lower Colorado River, AZ

October 18: Annual inspection at Achii Hanyo, AZ

October 19: Annual inspection at Willow Beach, AZ

October 25: RGSM stocking, Rio Grande, Albuquerque Reach, NM

October 25: Bonytail stocking to Reach 4 of the lower Colorado River, AZ

October 25-27: Project leader's meeting in Albuquerque, NM