



Mora National Fish Hatchery

May 2013

Whiskey Creek Lineage Returned

On May 22, one hundred and two Whiskey Creek lineage Gila trout were returned to the wild. These fish were part of the group evacuated from Langstroth Creek in 2012 following the aftermath of Whitewater-Baldy Complex fire, and were held at Mora for almost one year. They were airlifted into McKenna Creek by helicopter before being dispersed.

The wild fish were estimated to be approximately 0.5 pounds each and 10.5 inches on average. All fish were fin clipped prior to release and these clips will be forwarded to Dr. Tom Turner at University of New Mexico for genetic analysis.

The Mora National Fish Hatchery still retains 112 of their cohort for future broodstock development. This number consists of 56 “large” individuals weighing approximately 1.0 pound or better and measuring 13 inches or better. The second group consists of 56 “medium” individuals’ equivalent to the size that was re-introduced.

In addition, Mora also has the remaining original source Whiskey Creek lineage that was also evacuated after the fire last year. These fish were transferred in early 2013 from the New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office and they will also be used in Broodstock development.



Iron Creek lineage transferred

Fish from Iron Creek were transferred on May 15 to the hatchery. Originally thought to be hybrids, later genetic work indicated that they were pure strain. 51 were captured and currently reside in Shady Acres.



South Diamond lineage transferred

204 South Diamond lineage Gila trout were captured and transferred on May 22. These fish will be incorporated into the captive broodstock

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



Wild Main Diamond Spawning

The wild Main Diamond Gila trout were successfully spawned this year and resulted in 17 genetically appropriate 1x1 crosses. The fish were spawned naturally by hand stripping and many of the fish were first time spawners. The station even experienced where one female, voluntarily spawned inside the tank. The female choose to spawn in artificial riffle portion of the tank, with current flow and along cobble substrate. The eggs appeared to be unfertilized and an unknown portion of the eggs were eaten by other fish. This is the first time this has happened at Mora and will open the door future natural spawning opportunities.

Maintenance

- Three circular rearing tanks (380 gallon) were removed from recirculation 3 and were sent to Albuquerque for painting. These tanks will be used in a naturalized rearing conditioning tank system.
- The new transport tank was installed on the F250. It features two compartments containing approximately 150 gallons each.
- A concrete slab alongside the hatchery building is the process of being reworked to hold Dewar's of liquid oxygen. The current inside storage was identified as a concern during the recent environmental inspection.
- A water heater was replaced in one of the onsite trailers.

In Brief

Shady Acres was rehabilitated prior to the arrival of the new fish. Elliptical filters, upgraded UV sterilization units, and a vacuum degasser were added.

A new volunteer, Sandy Kalb, arrived during the third week of May. His background in architecture will allow the hatchery to complete several "back-burner" projects.

Returning volunteers, Judy and Alan Mills arrived during the fourth week of May. Judy will assist with office automation and tours, while Alan will assist the maintenance staff.

Grant Langmaid, Station CDSO, performed a safety inspection at Maxwell NWR during May.

Hatchery Staff

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