



# Mora National Fish Hatchery

August 2013

## Genetic Sampling of Future Broodstock

For the last few years, staff at the Mora National Fish Hatchery has been taking fin clips for genetic analysis at the Molecular Ecology Laboratory within the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources & Recovery Center. Each fish is analyzed for its relatedness to every other fish so that the hatchery staff can ensure that the greatest variability is maintained within each year's captive broodstock.

Hatchery staff was assisted this year by Youth Conservation Corp students from the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge.

Four YCC students and an YCC leader under the direction of Debbie Pike, Park Ranger, traveled to the hatchery on August 15. Under the supervision of hatchery staff, the students used a pit tag reader to read the previously injected tag of each fish. They then measured length and weight, removed a genetic sample (fin clip) from the tail of each fish, placed the clip into a micro-centrifuge tube, and labeled the tube with the last five digits of the pit tag.

With the help of the YCC students, all genetic sampling of the 2014 spawning year class was completed in August. Wild Gila trout genetic samples were collected in June.



### Shop Storage Reorganized

The workshop "storage wall" was cleaned-up and reorganized. So much space was gained that the miscellaneous equipment will now fit into three storage cabinets.



### New Floor Grading installed

The floor grating near "Shady Acres" was leveled and realigned to reduce any possible tripping hazard.

## Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



- Quarterly sample counts were completed. Feed conversions, growth data, condition factor, and feed rates were all adjusted.
- The SNARC Fish Health staff visited the hatchery on August 13 for our annual disease inspection. Hatchery staff collected length and weight data on fish that were to be sacrificed prior to health sampling

## Maintenance

- New running boards were installed on all three hatchery stocking trucks. This will allow easier egress from the distribution units and prevent damage to the driver's seat from sliding in and out.
- The large bay doors in the lower hatchery area were altered to fit tighter, thus reducing air and water penetration. This process involved the removal of gravel and the fitting of a continuous hard surface along the door track.
- New aquarium screen covers were fabricated.
- Staff began preparation for the well field fencing project. Work included mowing the fence perimeter, alteration and construction of a fence reel, and material staging.

## In Brief

Julie Carter, Conservation and Mitigation Program Supervisor for the Arizona Game and Fish Department visited the hatchery on August 19. She introduced xxx, the new Gila Trout biologist for Arizona. They were given an in-depth tour of hatchery operations.

Jeff Powell attended the Gila Trout Recovery Team meeting on August 20/21. Fall stocking numbers and locations were set.

Jeff Powell met with New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors for creating a nature trail on hatchery grounds.

## Hatchery Staff

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Jeff Conway, Fish Biologist  
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