



# Mora National Fish Hatchery

December 2015

## Daniel Gallegos Receives Award

Daniel Gallegos received the Early Career Conservationist of the Year Award from Region 2 of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. The award was presented by Regional Director Dr. Benjamin Tuggle and FAC Assistant Regional Director Stewart Jacks. This award was presented to Daniel Gallegos for his demonstrated passion for conservation, his high level of achievement in his studies and his high degree of dedication and accomplishment in his work for the Service



## Incubation Expansion

Hatchery staff installed ten double stack vertical incubators in December that effectively doubles the egg rearing space. A new overhead rack and head tank were installed to supply influent water. Part of the new design includes the capacity to chill the water to one side of the system, so that the hatch date of fry is much closer, easing some of the current hatchery constraints.



## Stuart Wilkins Last Day

Stuart Wilkins last day was December 29. He joined the hatchery staff in December 2014, and quickly became a solid member of the crew, always showing a willingness to learn new things and approaching all jobs with a positive attitude. The hatchery staff wishes him good fortune in his future endeavors.

## Intern Jeremiah Olivas

“Jerry” joined the hatchery staff on December 14 after the current semester ended at Luna Community College. He performed a 100 hour internship provided by the Accelerate Program at LCC. Jerry greatly enjoyed his time at the hatchery, and is looking to come back and volunteer in the future. Thanks for the help, Jeremiah!



## DFP Project Wrap Up

Hatchery staff collected the final data on Morgan’s Brizendine’s DFP project in early December. Data collected includes length, weight, condition factor, coloration and visceral index. Water quality data was collected throughout the trial. Morgan, with assistance from hatchery staff members will analyze the results, and produce a final project report.



## Holiday Party

Hatchery staff celebrated the holiday season on December 21 with a luncheon held at a local restaurant. Hatchery staff along with Intern Jeremiah, and volunteer Sandy were in attendance. Before lunch was served, there was a “white elephant” gift exchange in which there were several unique items. Great camaraderie was had by all.

## Bio-Filter Repair

After November’s #2 Bio-filter repair, it was soon discovered that System #3’s outlet manifold was also broken. Hatchery staff drained the filter, removed the damaged part, replaced it, and re-installed it into the bio-filter. This is a weak link in the bio-filter according to the hatchery’s designer.



## Spruce Creek Checked

Hatchery staff checked the wild Spruce Creek lineage for readiness during the third week of December. Last year, some of the fish were ready for spawning in the middle of the month. At that time, hatchery staff surmised that the late transfer was to blame for this event, that in subsequent years the fish would follow a similar pattern as the other captive brood. The fish appear to be months out.

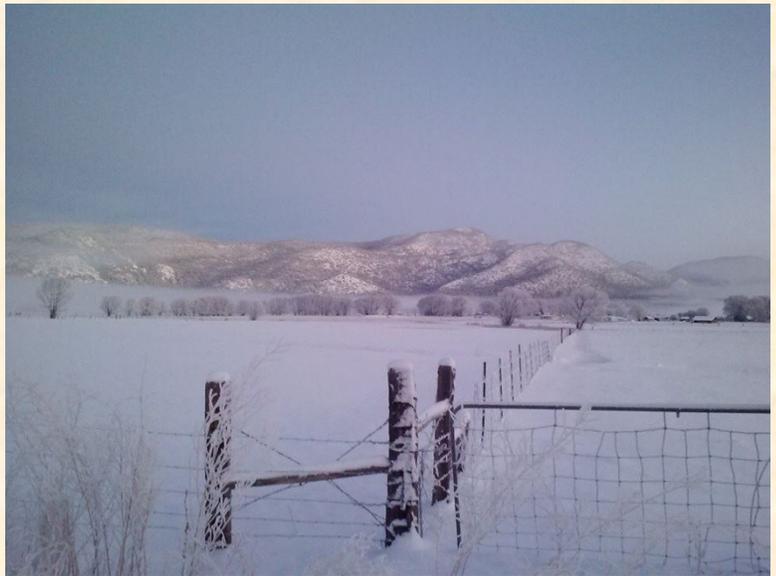


## Oxygen System Revamped

Hatchery staff finished the installation of the new oxygen generator and new manifold system in December. The new generator replaces one liquid oxygen Dewar and three compressed cylinders in the hatchery building, thereby supplying a considerable savings each month.

## First Significant Snow

The first significant snow of the season occurred on December 27. The hatchery received approximately 12", and staff had to break out the snowplow for the first time in several years. Good thing the Gila Trout are safely under our Hatchery roof!



## Regional FAC Meeting

The Region 2 Fisheries Project Leaders met in Albuquerque on December 2 and 3 to discuss upcoming opportunities in the program. The group included members from Mora NFH, Inks Dam NFH, Willow Beach NFH, Dexter NFH Complex, Southwest Native Fish Complex, Tishomingo NFH, San Marcos Tech Center, Arizona FWCO, New Mexico FWCO, and Oklahoma FWCO. That's a lot resources making a difference in Aquatic conservation in the Southwest!



Production Lineage	Brood Year	Purpose	Location	Number	Mortality	Sample (fpp)	Length (in)	Biomass (lbs)
Main Diamond	2013	Brood	Raceway 5T	388	0	0.6	15.9	669
	2014	Brood	Raceway 6	959	1	1.2	12.4	787
	2014	Wild	VC East 2	68	1	17.2	5.3	4
	2015	Brood	380: 5,6	871	27	12	5.9	73
	2015	Recovery	2500: 1,2	6,294	4	10.9	6.1	239
	<b>Total</b>				<b>8,580</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>8.1</b>

South Diamond	2012	Wild	VC West 1,2,3	74	0	0.8	14.6	94
	2013	Brood	Raceway 5B	327	3	0.6	16.1	589
	2014	Brood	Raceway 7	599	3	1.2	12.5	571
	2015	Brood	380: 3,4	828*	90	18.8	5.1	44
	2015	Recovery	2500: 4	2,385	28	14.2	5.6	168
	2015	Exper.	380, SR	7,153	0	19.7	5.1	363
	<b>Total</b>				<b>11,366</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>

Whiskey Creek	2011	Wild	Whiskey Creek	69**	4	0.3	19.9	230
	2014	Brood	Raceway 8	559	0	1.9	10.6	307
	2015	Brood	380:1,2	624	0	14.9	5.5	42
	2015	Recovery	2500: 3	2,096	1	10.9	6.1	192
	<b>Total</b>				<b>3,348</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>8.4</b>

Spruce Creek	2010/2013	Wild	Spruce Creek 1	27***	0	1.5	11.9	18
	2014	Brood	RW Circular	48	2	1	13.8	50
	2014	Wild	Spruce Creek 2	10	0	4.5	8.2	2
	<b>Total</b>				<b>85</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>12.8</b>

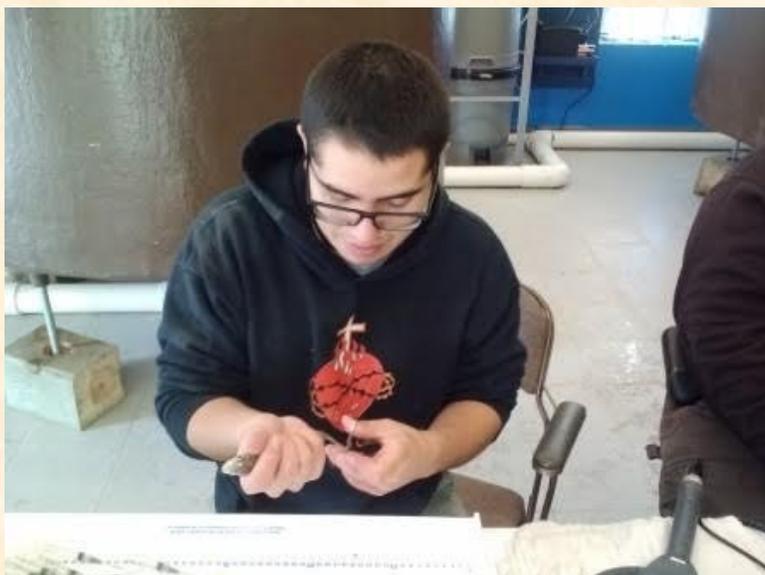
Iron Creek	2011	Wild	Spruce Creek 3,4	32	0	0.8	14.6	40
	2013	Wild	VC East 3,4	96	2	22.3	4.8	4
	<b>Total</b>				<b>128</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>9.5</b>

<b>Total All Lineages</b>				<b>23,507</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>4,486</b>
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\* Number includes mortality and inventory adjustment. A subset of this population did not transition well to the new pellet size.

\*\* Inventory adjustment processed this month.

\*\*\* Tanks combined due to similar size (2010/2013)



## Wild Fish PIT Tagged

The wild Iron Creek lineage transferred to the hatchery on November 4 was PIT tagged and genetically sampled during December. Length-Weight data was collected, and a condition factor was calculated. Samples were sent to Dr. Tom Turner at the Museum of Southwestern Biology on the UNM campus for analysis. The wild Main Diamond lineage transferred in October 2015 received the same process and those samples will be forwarded to Dr. Wade Wilson at Southwestern ARCC for analysis and incorporation into the domestic lineage.

## Upcoming Events

- Distribution trip to the Forks Area, NM on January 4.
- Distribution trip to Lake Roberts and Sapillo Creek, NM on January 6.
- Nate Wiese to visit NMGF's Glenwood hatchery on January 7.
- Martha Keller to visit the hatchery on January 11.
- The winter Gila Trout Recovery Team Meeting to be held at NMFWCO on January 13 and 14.
- Jason Amaro, TU representative, to visit the hatchery in mid January.

## In Brief

Lori Casados attended several conference calls concerning budget and administration.

Mora received the "close-out" letter from the EPA for alleged water quality violations after 4 quarters of compliance.

## Hatchery Staff

Nate Wiese, Project Leader  
Lori Casados, Admin. Assistant  
Jeff Conway, Fish Biologist  
Grant Langmaid, Fish Biologist  
Richie Garcia, Maintenance Worker  
Vacant, Biological Technician  
Daniel Gallegos, Intern  
Jeremiah Olivas, Intern  
Sandy Kalb, Volunteer

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