



Mora National Fish Hatchery

Fall 2013

Fall Recovery Stocking

The fall stocking season is well underway at the Mora National Fish Hatchery. A total of 18,032 fish, (1,183 pounds of fish) have been stocked at 9 different stocking sites. The effort was enormous with 14,841 fish (921 lbs) that were hauled in on mules or helicopter.

The first recovery stocking took place on September 24. Little Creek in the Gila National Forest was stocked with 2,500 2013 Main Diamond that were 4.16 inches and weighed 0.029 pounds each. In addition, 252 2012 Main Diamond were stocked and each fish was 8.46 inches and weighed 0.26 pounds each.

The second recovery stocking took place on October 22. Mike Anderson, from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, traveled to Mora on October 21 to pick up fish for Grapevine Creek in Arizona. This stream received 250 2013 South Diamond that were 5 inches and weighed 0.056 pounds each.

Black Canyon Creek in the Gila National Forest received fish on October 23. It was stocked with 1007 Main Diamond YOY that were 4.5 inches and weighed 0.036 pounds each. Sheep Corral Creek and Sapillo Creek were stocked on October 29 and 30. Sheep Corral received 150 2013 Main Diamond lineage fish (5.2 inches and 0.056 pounds each) and Sapillo Creek received 1005 2013 Main Diamond lineage fish that were 4.5 inches and 0.036 pound each.

The West Fork of the Gila was stocked starting on November 4, 2013 with 1,664 2013 Main Diamond (4.73" and 0.041 lbs each) and 2,513 2013 South Diamond (4.81 and 0.44 lbs each). These fish were stocked below the barrier. Stocking continued on November 6 and 7 with 2,500 fish from both 2013 lineages (13MD were 5.2 inches and 0.056 pounds each, 13SD were 5.1 inches and 0.054 pounds each), and 250 from both 2012 lineages (12MD at 9.0 inches and 0.46 pounds each, and 12SD that were 10.1 inches and 0.48 pounds each) stocked into the upper West Fork of the Gila. These fish were both flown in by helicopter and packed in by mule back.

Willow Creek was stocked on November 22 with 2,940 2013 South Diamond fish (4.9 inches and 0.048 pounds each) and 251 2012 South Diamond fish (10.1 inches and 0.48 pounds each).

Most stocking efforts involve personnel from the hatchery, USFWS New Mexico Fisheries Conservation Office, New Mexico Game and Fish, and the US Forest Service.



Broodstock Tanks Rehabbed

The conditioning broodstock tanks were rehabilitated in October and November. Improvements included larger drain lines, new bio-filters, new standpipes, and improved all-around plumbing lines. The tanks were plumbed in with option of connecting to reuse system 3. This will dramatically increase the amount of fish the station can produce



Fire Rescue Fish Returned

Fish removed as a precaution from the Silver Fire this summer were returned to wild in October. The fish were removed from South Diamond Creek and were returned to the same creek on October 22.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



- Mora received its annual fish health inspection report on September 18. The facility maintains is class "A" status.
- 2500 fish from each lineage of this year's fingerlings were clipped for genetic analysis by Dr. Tom Turner at the University of New Mexico. These fish will be stocked into the West Fork of the Gila River. This will allow a complete record of the genetic composition of this population. In addition, 250 fish from both lineages of the 2012 year class were also clipped and PIT tagged.

Maintenance

- The pump that supplies water to the sprayer bar on Recirculation System 1 failed on September 30. A replacement was located and the new pump was installed on October 1.
- The remodeling of one of the single wide trailer housing units continued in the fall. Renovations included replacing damaged water supply lines, replacing the tub and shower surround, relocating and replacing the water heater, relocating existing walls for increased storage space, and relocating and re-plumbing the washer/dryer hookups. The damaged flooring was also removed and replaced. The unit also got a fresh coat of paint.
- A new front deck was constructed for one of the single wide housing units.
- The new well field fencing project was started in November. All post were successfully installed, however the actual fence will have to wait until the ground is drier so that the tension in the barb wire does not pull the corner posts over due to the extremely water saturated ground.

In Brief

Sandy Kalb, Mora's last volunteer of the season departed on October 15.

Conrad Chavez and Bill Slinger from the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge and Justin Reagan from the Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge assisted hatchery staff with the installation of the well-field fence. Justin assisted three days while Conrad and Bill assisted for seven days.

Andrew Warren, from Western New Mexico University visited the hatchery on November 26. He was extremely interested in our operations and is starting a web-site devoted to Gila Trout.

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