



# Mora National Fish Hatchery

February 2014

## Spawning Begins

Weekly checks for female “readiness” had been taking place since the second week of January. During one such check on February 10, it was found that the Spruce Creek Lineage of Gila Trout was ready. Spawning commenced on February 11 and continued through February 21. The Spruce Creek isolation room had been the coldest system on station, and staff had been expecting them to spawn last. This is further evidence on just how different Spruce Creek is from the other lineages. Nineteen crosses were taken, and eye-up should be completed during the second week of March.

Some of the South Diamond Gila trout captive brood stocks were spawned on February 24. Nineteen crosses were made and initial egg quality appears to be typical for South Diamond. Spawning will continue for this lineage and spawning time will peak in early March.

Main Diamond Gila trout were spawned on February 25. The vast majority of the fish were not ready but nine crosses were taken. Spawning will continue in March and both the wild and captive broodstocks appear to be on schedule with each other.

The Whiskey Creek lineage Gila trout are getting very close to spawning and they have never been spawned in captivity. These fish were eliminated from the wild following the White Water/Baldy Fire. Since that time, the hatchery took back 102 wild fish back to a newly renovated stream, so they now exist in two places. Spawning will start in March with much anticipated results.



## Pit Tagging Completed

Pit tagging of the 2013 year class was completed. This year roughly 12 fish per family were tagged in each lineage, resulting in a total per lineage of approximately 500 fish.



## Preparing New Mobile Home Site

A surplus mobile home was picked up on GSA surplus and will replace a much older mobile home that recently was sold on GSA auction.

# Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



- Hatchery staff continued checking captive broodstock for “readiness”.
- The 2013 year class broodstock was moved into raceway 1 (MD) and raceway 6 (SD).
- Unselected 2013 broodstock were sampled and combined in preparation for stocking in 2014.
- 30 surplus fish were transferred to New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office for a pesticide class.

## Maintenance

- The final removal and cleanup of bio-beads was completed during the first week of February following emergency repairs to the Bio-filter.
- Inlet cover screens were designed and installed on all raceways.
- New aquarium standpipes and drain lines were constructed.
- The system supplying water to the aquariums was started and flushed.
- Preliminary work for the removal of the surplus trailer was completed. This included draining water lines, disconnection of the propane line, and disconnection the electrical service.
- A new fish mortality burial pit was constructed on the hatchery grounds.

## In Brief

Jeff Powell attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Natural History of the Gila Symposium on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. He presented a talk labeled “Captive propagation of Gila Trout” on Friday.

Jeff Powell participated in a Gila Trout meeting concerning genetics and the University of New Mexico genetics study.

## Hatchery Staff

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