



# Mora National Fish Hatchery

June/July 2013

## South Diamond Fire Rescue

The White-Water Baldy fire last year had severely diminished available Gila trout habitat and hampered Gila trout populations. Since the imminent threat of another wildfire, the Silver fire was encroaching on South Diamond creek, home to the South Diamond lineage Gila trout. Hatchery staff began preparing a naturalistic isolation unit in case the needed arose for fish to be evacuated. On June 28<sup>th</sup> the Silver fire hit that point, and quick planning by the Gila Trout Recovery Team was underway. Hatchery Staff traveled down to the Gila to receive the fish. The fish were transported out of South Diamond Creek by helicopter and flown to the hatchery truck. The fish were then transferred to their new temporary isolation unit. South Diamond fire rescue lot has been doing very well.

Since the fire ended up not significantly affecting South Diamond creek and the entire lot of the fire rescue fish will be returned back to South Diamond Creek this fall.



### Conditioning Tanks Completed

The first set of conditioning tanks were completed in June. These tanks will be used to condition or acclimate hatchery reared fingerlings to a more natural environment prior to release.



### Isolation Wall

A new isolation wall was constructed in the Visitor's Center in July. This will allow the building to function as both a culture space and visitor's center once again. The wall was designed with double patio-style doors that will allow visitors to view the fish and culture systems.

# Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



- Captive Spruce and Whiskey Creek lineages of Gila Trout were fin clipped and pit tagged in June. The clips were forwarded to both Dr. Tom Turner and Dr. Wade Wilson for genetic analysis.
- Some of the 2013 year class fingerlings were moved into raceways in July. Mora was very successful in the last spawning cycle and more room for the fingerlings was needed than was available on the circular tank side. New screens were created for the raceways as fingerlings have never before been transferred to the raceway side at this size.
- A secondary “back-up” system was installed for the captive brood-stocks in June after the failure of the emergency generator left the hatchery without power for approximately 1 hour. If the power fails and the backup generator fails this system could be used to keep fish safe for over 24 hours. An additional secondary back-up generator was also purchased and is the process of being installed. This generator will be used for 4 of the wild lineage brood-stocks.

## Maintenance

- The hatchery emergency generator was commercially serviced after a run failure caused by a crow shorting out the three phase power to the hatchery. At the time of incident, the generator started, but immediately stopped due to a burst coolant line. All hoses, belts, and lubricants were replaced.

## In Brief

The final copy of Mora’s new NPDES permit was received in June 2013. Reporting limits remain unchanged.

Grant Langmaid, Station CDSO, performed a safety inspection at the Las Vegas NWR during July.

Mora hosted a visit by the Oklahoma Alliance for Geographic Education on July 9. The group consisted of approximately twenty K-12 teachers interested in exploring the culture and resources of Northern New Mexico.

The old Main Diamond isolation system was deconstructed in July. Work has started on the new system.

## Hatchery Staff

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