



# Mora National Fish Hatchery

March 2014

## Fly Fishing Event

Mora NFH was invited to attend the first annual “Take Me Fishing” fly fishing event held at Maxwell National Wildlife Refuge in Northern New Mexico on March 15. The event was funded by a \$2,500 grant from Outdoor Nation and was held in partnership with the Friends of the Las Vegas NWR. Outdoor Nation is a nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC whose sole purpose is connecting kids with the outdoors through educational initiatives.

The New Mexico Game and Fish stocked the pond on the refuge with rainbow trout earlier in the week. The children that attended had taken part in an eight day class in February where they had learned the basics of fly casting, fly tying, fish and insect identification, fish life cycles, and ethics.

The Mora National Fish Hatchery educated the children on the status, culture, and recovery efforts of the Gila trout. The centerpiece of the presentation was a living stream unit that displayed six fish of this rare species. This was a special designed tank which has a flowing current and a transparent side allowing people to see into the tank and watch the fish swim.

Two fully mature three year old adults were used to illustrate the morphology and coloration of a spawning adult and were contrasted with the several one year olds that were also displayed. The booth was popular and visitors would come back repeatedly to see the fish and would sometimes bring friends with them as well. The student asked many questions concerning the fish and seemed to enjoy the opportunity to observe the live specimens.



## Tree Trimming

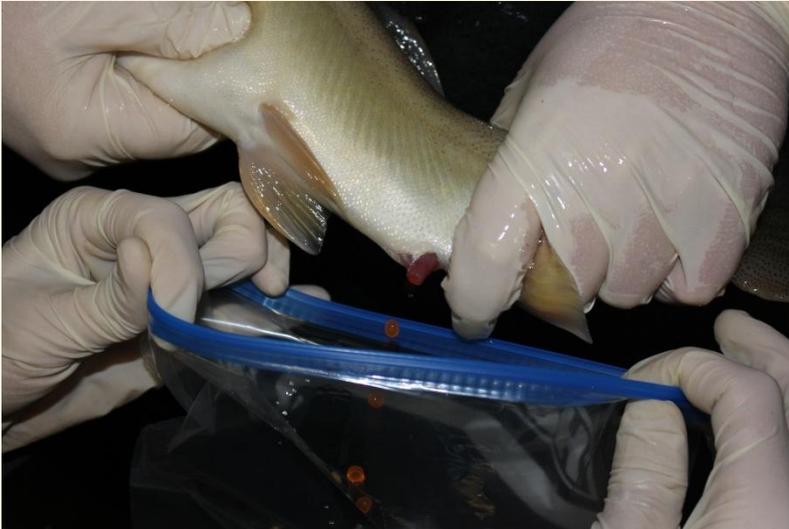
Hatchery staff trimmed and removed standing deadfalls throughout the hatchery grounds. Staff also removed trees and branches from the new trailer site.



## Ovarian Fluid Collected

Ovarian fluid was collected from female Gila trout during spawning. Every wild fish was sampled and sent to Dexter FHU for disease testing. We are attempting to prevent any diseases that might be brought in with the wild fish. So far all wild fish have tested negative.

# Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



- Hatchery staff continued spawning Main Diamond, South Diamond and Whiskey Creek fish. South Diamond spawning was completed on March 27.
- New plumbing was completed on the 2500 gallon brood stock tanks. This work will allow the tanks to operate on a closed loop system during the winter for temperature conditioning of the brood stock, or to operate as part of Recirculation System 3 during the spring for rearing young of the year.

## Maintenance

- Work continued to identify the intermittent fault in well house 3. This fault will not allow the well to function as normal.
- Work continued on preparing the mobile home pad for the “new” unit. The lot was graded and leveled to prevent water pooling and erosion.
- Two vertical stack incubators had their screen inserts subdivided for brood stock development. This will allow an additional 64 families to be individually retained.

## In Brief

Richie Garcia attended the S212 Wild land chainsaw refresher course held at the Bosque del Apache NWR in early March.

Jeff Powell, Richie Garcia, and Jeff Conway traveled to Los Alamos on March 25 to pick up their new credentials.

The yearlong vacant Administrative Assistant position was advertised and hired. Lori Casados from the Las Vegas NWR was selected. Please welcome her to Fisheries.

## Hatchery Staff

Jeff Powell, Project Leader  
Jeff Conway, Fish Biologist  
Grant Langmaid, Fish Biologist  
Richie Garcia, Maintenance Worker  
Daniel Gallegos, Intern

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