



Mora National Fish Hatchery

May 2014

Oklahoma State University Visit

The Oklahoma State University, Natural Resource Ecology and Management Summer Forestry Camp visited Mora NFH on May 16. This program gives upperclassmen and graduating seniors an opportunity to visit and perform hands-on activities at potential sites of employment. The group this year consisted mostly of forestry majors with a smattering of fisheries majors and genetics majors.

The students were given a detailed history and current mission of the Fisheries program. They were then given a walking tour of the facility which covered all aspects of Gila trout recovery and the hatchery's water recirculation technology. After the tour, the students were eager to assist staff with various tasks around the hatchery. This year the group was broken into three sections each led by a biological staff member.

Two groups assisted with genetic sampling which involved reading the PIT tag of the fish, recording length and weight, fin clipping the fish, and preserving the genetic sample with positive identification. One of these groups worked with the 2012 Main Diamond, while the other group worked with the 2012 South Diamond. The third group worked on inventorying retired broodstock and assisted with fry tank cleaning. Group members were rotated without the process to ensure that all students had an opportunity to perform the differing tasks.

Participants remarked, as in past years, that this visit was the most fun that they had during the program and a welcome change from lecture style tours. The hatchery looks forward to the next group in 2015.



Jeff Powell transfers

The hatchery lost a great Project Leader when Jeff Powell was transferred to Gavins Point NFH on May 17. He acted as Assistant Project Leader at that station prior to being hired as PL at Mora. The staff misses him but wishes him success in his new position.



Lori Casados hired

Lori Casados joined the Mora NFH on May 4 and has already proved to be a valuable asset. Lori had previously worked at the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge for approximately 12 years. Please welcome her to Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management



- 230 retired broodstock were distributed in New Mexico on May 20. Willow Creek received fifty 2011 South Diamond fish at 18.1 inches and 2.5 pounds each. A new stocking location, Snow Lake, received 180 fish consisting of fifty-four 2011 South Diamond at 18.1 inches and 2.5 pounds each; sixty 2010 South Diamond at 19.6 inches and 3.23 pounds each; twenty five 2011 Main Diamond at 18.5 inches and 2.5 pounds each; and finally forty one wild source 2010 Main Diamond fish at 19.9 inches and 3.33 pounds each. Several of the fish would be new state records if caught.
- Genetic sampling was completed on the 2012 Main/South Diamond fish.

Maintenance

- All three volunteers are been instrumental in completing housekeeping and grounds keeping tasks around the facility, thereby freeing staff for more technical projects.
- Waterlines were repaired and installed to the “new” mobile home.

In Brief

Jeff Powell and Stewart Jacks briefed Dr. Benjamin Tuggle and Joy Nicholopoulos on Gila trout recovery on May 5.

Sandy Kalb, Mora’s returning volunteer arrived on May 7.

Jim and Gail Graham, Mora’s new volunteers arrived on May 30.

Daniel Gallegos finished his school semester and has returned as a full time employee during the summer.

Hatchery Staff

Jeff Powell, Project Leader
Jeff Conway, Acting Assistant PL
Lori Casados, Administrative Assistant
Grant Langmaid, Fish Biologist
Richie Garcia, Maintenance Worker
Daniel Gallegos, Intern

Contact Us

Mora NFH
PO Box 689
Highway 434 Mile Marker 2
Mora, NM 87732
575-387-6022
575-387-9030 (fax)