



Mora National Fish Hatchery

November 2015

Gila Trout Updates

The Hatchery staff, personnel from the New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (FWCO) and a volunteer from Trout Unlimited collected 101 Gila Trout from Iron Creek and transferred them back to the Hatchery.

These fish will be used for supplementing the brood stock of the Iron Creek lineage at the Hatchery pending results of the purity of their genetics.

The Hatchery currently has very few fish from the Iron Creek lineage and needs more individuals to use in the brood stock program. At present, these fish are undergoing genetic testing to verify they are pure Gila Trout and are therefore viable for the brood stock program. Photos provided by James Brooks.





Tree Thinning

The Student Conservation Association Fire Crew completed tree thinning on 5 acres of the Hatchery as part of fuel reduction efforts. The crew was led by Laren Nowell and coordinated by Andy Lopez from Bosque del Apache NWR.

System 2 Biofilter Failure

The crew repaired a broken fitting in the System 2 biofilter that was allowing biofilter beads to enter the rearing raceways. The System was run on bypass for several days while the necessary parts could be procured to complete the work.



Spawning On-track

The staff sexed the 2013 and 2014 broodstock on station to aid with Wade Wilson's genetic work. A couple of lethally culled fish were checked for egg quality. So far, egg development looks great and with the warmer winter temperatures this year, spawning may be several weeks early, starting in late February to early March.





Production Lineage	Brood Year	Purpose	Location	Number	Mortality	Sample (fpp)	Length (in)	Biomass (lbs)
Main Diamond	2013	Brood	Raceway 5T	388	8	0.6	16.3	647
	2014	Brood	Raceway 6T	960	27	1.0	13.0	960
	2014	Wild	VC B	69	0	12.0	5.9	6
	2015	Brood	96	898	33	18.0	5.2	50
	2015	Recovery	2500	6,298	4	16.3	5.4	387
	Total				8,613	72	4.2	8.4

South Diamond	2012	Wild	Visitor's Center	74	1	1.2	12.8	62
	2013	Brood	Raceway 5B	330	11	0.6	16.3	550
	2014	Brood	Raceway 7T	602	4	1.0	13.2	602
	2015	Brood	96	1,021	44	18.0	5.2	57
	2015	Recovery	250	2,413	46	27.9	4.5	86
	2015	Exper.	380, SR	7,153	0	26.7	4.5	268
	Total				11,593	106	7.1	7.1

Whiskey Creek	2011	Wild	Whiskey Creek	93	6	0.4	17.5	233
	2014	Brood	Raceway 8T	559	3	1.8	11.0	311
	2015	Brood	96	624	2	18.0	5.2	35
	2015	Recovery	2500	2,097	2	14.5	5.6	145
	Total				3,373	13	4.7	8.1

Spruce Creek	2010	Wild	Spruce Creek	25	0	1.8	11.1	14
	2013	Wild	Spruce Creek	17	0	2.8	9.6	6
	2014	Brood	RW Circular	50	0	0.9	13.9	53
	2014	Wild	Spruce Creek	10	0	4.8	8.0	2
	Total				102	2	1.4	12.3

Iron Creek	2011	Wild	Spruce Creek	32	0	1.0	13.6	23
	2013	Wild	Visitor Center	97	4	20.0	5.0	5
	Total			130	4	4.6	8.2	28

Total All Lineages				23,810	197	5.3	7.8	4,502
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Inventories completed on 2013 and 214 Main and South Diamond and 2014 Whiskey Creek, mortality in these groups include fish culled for missing tags and genetic defects

Something Cool



Gila Trout/ Craig Springer/USFWS

Conservation Genetics Highlighted!

The Gila Trout Recovery efforts were highlighted by Craig Springer in several online and print publications including Hatchery International, Trout (Trout Unlimited Magazine), Endangered Species Weekly, Sporting Classics Daily, and the Outdoor Wire. The articles highlight the recent conservation efforts of Gila trout—Thanks Craig!

<http://www.fws.gov/news/blog/index.cfm/2015/5/20/Conservation-Genetics-Steers-Gila-Trout-Management>

Upcoming Events

- Fisheries Project Leader Meeting December 1-3
- Jeremiah Olivas, Luna Community College student intern starts December 14th
- Daniel Gallegos, Student Intern, back December 14th for the Christmas Break from Eastern New Mexico University
- Nate Wiese interview on Gila Trout recovery efforts on the BassPro Shops radio show, December 30th

In Brief

Nate Wiese met with Stewart Jacks, Jennifer Fowler-Propst, and Tom Sinclair in Albuquerque to discuss excess Gila trout options.

Lori Casados attended Basic Financial Assistance Training in preparation of additional Reimbursable accounts and grants at Mora. The training course was in Honolulu!

While Lori was in flip flops in Hawaii, Nate Wiese was on personal leave hunting Mountain Goats on Kodiak Island, Alaska, in blizzard conditions!

Several staff members took time off over Thanksgiving to visit family and friends and rejuvenate for a busy spring of Hatchery Deferred Maintenance projects and the upcoming spawning season.

Hatchery Staff

Nate Wiese, Project Leader
Lori Casados, Admin. Assistant
Jeff Conway, Fish Biologist
Grant Langmaid, Fish Biologist
Richie Garcia, Maintenance Worker
Stuart Wilkins, Biological Technician
Daniel Gallegos, Intern
Sandy Kalb, Volunteer

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