



Mora  
National  
Fish  
Hatchery  
September 2015

### Gila Trout Distribution

September kicked off the 2015 fall distribution season to return Gila trout to the wild. Distribution was accomplished by hand, mule, and helicopter depending on how remote and what type of access was available. Black Canyon Creek received 3,514 Main Diamond Gila trout at 3.5 inches. Upper Langstroth Creek received 4,344 Main Diamond Gila trout at 3.8 inches, and Upper White Creek received 3,317 Whiskey Creek Gila trout at 4.0 inches. An additional 14,000 recovery fish are slated to be stocked in October, capping an impressive rearing season.





## Concert for the Birds

Stuart Wilkins represented the hatchery at the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge's annual Concert for the Birds, an event that highlights the arrival of migrating birds and features local musicians and organizations. The hatchery sponsored a "guess the fish's weight" contest for the adults and a Gila trout coloring contest for the children.

## Fish Relocated

Hatchery staff retrofitted several systems last year that greatly increased broodstock fertilization rates. The staff completed additional modifications in the Visitor Center and Spruce Creek isolation systems in August. In September, the staff moved the wild fish to their improved rearing units so that Shady Acres could be retrofitted as well.



## Broodstock Collection

Hatchery staff assisted New Mexico Department of Game and Fish personnel with collection of wild broodstock from Main Diamond Creek during September 24. Sixty nine fish were transferred for broodstock development. The fish are acclimatized to their new home and are actively feeding. Staff will begin transitioning the fish to hybrid pellet and live feed diet.



## Porticos Installed

Sandy Kalb, Mora's remaining volunteer, created backdoor porticos for all of the onsite residences. Sandy designed, constructed, and installed all of the units that will now provide entryway protection during rain and snow events. Thanks Sandy!

## Frye Mesa Stocking

Hatchery staff stocked 6,000 experimental class fish into Frye Mesa Reservoir in Safford, Arizona. These fish were used to test incubation and rearing strategies, and were not genetically appropriate for recovery stocking. The lake will provide suitable habitat for fish grow out, and will provide recreational opportunities in the future.



## Live Diet Conversion

Hatchery staff began live diet conversion in September. This process involves feeding pre-release fish with mealworms and crickets to transition the young Gila trout to feeding in the wild.



Production Lineage	Brood Year	Purpose	Location	Number	Mortality	Sample (fpp)	Length (in)	Biomass (lbs)
Main Diamond	2013	Brood	Raceway 5T	464	2	0.7	15.4	663
	2014	Brood	Raceway 6T	1,070	2	1.4	11.2	466
	2015	Brood	96	931	0	34.6	4.2	27
	2015	Recovery	SR, 250	10,486	13	39.7	4.0	264
	<b>Total</b>				<b>12,951</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>

South Diamond	2012	Wild	Visitor's Center	75	1	1.4	12.1	54
	2013	Brood	Raceway 5B	372	6	0.7	15.1	531
	2014	Brood	Raceway 7T	739	0	1.4	11.9	528
	2015	Brood	96	1,065	0	32.1	4.3	33
	2015	Recovery	SR, 250, 2500	12,240	27	40	4.0	360
	2015	Exper.	380, SR	7,153	17	40	4.0	179
	<b>Total</b>				<b>21,644</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>12.8</b>	<b>5.8</b>

Whiskey Creek	2011	Wild	Whiskey Creek	98	2	0.4	17.5	245
	2014	Brood	Raceway 8T	595	2	2.8	9.7	213
	2015	Brood	96	626	0	39	4.0	16
	2015	Recovery	SR, 2500	2,851	14	35	4.2	81
	<b>Total</b>				<b>4,170</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6.9</b>	<b>7.1</b>

Spruce Creek	2010	Wild	Spruce Creek	25	0	2.2	10.4	11
	2013	Wild	Spruce Creek	17	0	3.5	8.9	5
	2014	Brood	RW Circular	50	0	1.3	12.4	39
	2014	Wild	Spruce Creek	10	2	7	7.1	1
	<b>Total</b>				<b>102</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1.8</b>	<b>11.2</b>

Iron Creek	2011	Wild	Spruce Creek	32	0	1.0	13.6	23
	<b>Total</b>			<b>32</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>13.6</b>	<b>23</b>

<b>Total All Lineages</b>				<b>38,899</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>3,739</b>
---------------------------	--	--	--	---------------	-----------	-------------	------------	--------------

Inventory adjustments included this month. Condition factors updated.

## Distribution Totals

Mora National Fish Hatchery's fall distribution is in full swing. The Hatchery has supplied Gila trout fingerlings to several recovery streams and to the Frye Mesa Reservoir recreational fishery. Gila trout for the Future!

Location	Number	Length	Lineage	Purpose
Frye Mesa Reservoir, AZ	6,000	3.7	Experimental MD/SD	Recreation
Black Canyon, NM	3,514	3.5	Main Diamond	Recovery
Upper Langstroth, NM	4,344	3.8	Main Diamond	Recovery
Upper White, NM	3,317	4	Whiskey Creek	Recovery



## Upcoming Events

- Stocking at Ash Creek, AZ on October 1 and 2.
- Stocking at Willow Creek, NM on October 7.
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corp director Ben Thomas to visit on October 14.
- Stocking at Little Creek, NM on October 15
- Stocking at Sacaton Creek, NM on October 20, a new location for Whiskey Creek lineage
- Stocking at Oak Creek and Dude Creek, Az on October 27-28, both locations are new

## In Brief

Project Leader, Nate Wiese killed a monster moose in Alaska. The video promo can be seen here <https://vimeo.com/140256657>.

Staff presented an in-depth tour to the Las Vegas Area Middle School Agriculture Club on September 14.

Quick thinking by Biologist Grant Langmaid, during the stocking run to White and Langstroth Creeks, saved the entire load of fish when the alternator on the distribution truck began to fail. Grant was able to keeping the fish alive until helicopter transport arrived. The alternator has since been replaced at a cost of \$477.

## 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

## Contact Us

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