



Monthly Accomplishments

April 2016

Fisheries Activities

Stephen Davenport, Roy Ulibarri, and Chris Kitcheyan assisted staff from the Las Vegas National Wildlife Refuge with fish community monitoring on the Rio Mora within the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge and Conservation Area.



Central Stoneroller with tubercles.



Beaver dam along the Rio Mora.

Chris Kitcheyan assisted Jicarilla Apache Game & Fish Department with annual fish community monitoring on the Navajo River.

In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta Environment Department, Thomas Archdeacon, Tristan Astring, and Roy Ulibarri completed monthly monitoring for Rio Grande Silvery Minnow.

Monitoring determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish from augmentation and research efforts.

Andy Dean, Roy Ulibarri, and Chris Kitcheyan, and Thomas Archdeacon completed fish community monitoring in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), U.S. Forest Service, and The Nature Conservancy. Emphasis was on Chihuahua Chub, which was stocked from Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center in November 2015.



Field crews riding in Rocky Canyon to access Mimbres River.



A gravid Rio Grande Sucker and eggs.

Chris Kitcheyan assisted Navajo Nation DFW with Zuni Bluehead and Bluehead Sucker annual

monitoring within the Chuska Mountains and Fort Defiance Plateau.

Stephen Davenport and Tom Sinclair completed fish community monitoring on the Pecos River at 12 sites extending from Willow (30 miles north of Roswell) to Brantley Reservoir, New Mexico. Data will be used to define the status of the fish community, with emphasis on Pecos Bluntnose Shiner, in response to federal water management actions.

Bobby Duran, Stuart Wilkins, Bryant Dugan, Roy Ulibarri, and Weston Furr, completed four of ten endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish removal trips on the San Juan River from Shiprock, New Mexico to Montezuma Creek, Utah. The USFWS Grand Junction (Region 6), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, and American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers provided assistance on the sampling trips.

In cooperation with NMDGF, and Bureau of Land Management, Stephen Davenport completed annual Pecos Pupfish monitoring at Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Bottomless Lakes State Park, and Bureau of Land Management's overflow wetlands/Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

Meetings and Trainings

Andy Dean participated in the Great Plains Landscape Conservation Cooperative meeting held in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Andy Dean and Ecological Services Field Office attended as experts in fisheries to provide recommendations.

Tom Sinclair and Jason Davis participated in the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program - Environmental Flows Workshop in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Education and Outreach

Angela James presented *NFIC - Basing Fiction on Reality: an Eco-mystery* to two 4th grade classes at Zia Elementary School. The presentation pulled topics from the fictional book *The Case of the Missing Cutthroats: An Eco Mystery* and highlighted how they mirror real life issues with native fish. Issues discussed in the book included native ranges of cutthroats, macroinvertebrate sampling, fish tagging and monitoring, and impacts of humans.

Angela James led the Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) - *How Many Fish* activity for a 5th grade class from Monte Vista Elementary School. The activity included an overview of fish surveys and how those data are utilized by fish biologists. Using pinto beans, each class calculated population estimates for several year classes of Pinto Fish (*Frijole pintoii*) and developed a population trend line

utilizing a mark-recapture formula. The activity emphasized the importance of having a strong math foundation to solve seemingly complex problems.



Student solving the math to determine population of Pinto Fish.

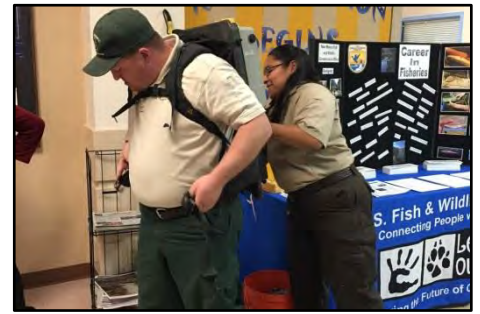
Angela James led the activity, NFIC - *Anatomy* activity for eight classes from Valle Vista Elementary, Emerson Elementary, Monte Vista Elementary, and Cien Aguas International Schools. The activity involved a discussion of anatomy including a comparison of trout to small-bodied fish species of the Rio Grande.



Valle Vista students gather to compare a trout to a sucker.

Angela James participated in the Northern New Mexico College Career Fair co-hosted by STEM Scholars. Approximately 176 students from Escalante High, Espanola Valley High, Mesa Vista Middle, and McCurdy Charter High Schools attended the career fair. The event was intended to draw attention to the

STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) fields.



Angela assisting a curious Cliff Russell, USFS Public Affairs, with trying on an electro-fishing shocker on display at the career fair.

Angela James assisted Navajo Nation DFW with the NFIC - *Anatomy* activity at three schools participating in the Navajo NFIC program. Students included a 5th and 6th grade class from Crystal Boarding School, 4th through 8th grade classes from To'haali' Community School, and two 6th grade classes from Navajo School. The activity involved a discussion of anatomy including a comparison of trout to small-bodied fish species of the Rio Grande.



Angela presenting *Anatomy* to To'haali' Community School students ranging from 4th to 8th grade.

Tristan Austring and Angela James participated in the YMCA Healthy Kids Outdoors event located in Albuquerque, New Mexico. In addition to an informational booth, staff led a fishing casting activity giving youth an opportunity to learn to cast.



A youth trying her hand at fishing casting.



Tristan talking fish with participants at the YMCA Healthy Kids Outdoors Event.



Several youth determined to hit the targets with their practice lure.

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<https://www.facebook.com/New-Mexico-Fish-and-Wildlife-Conservation-Office>



The NMFWCO Facebook Page.

Upcoming Activities

Scheduled activities and meetings are listed below. Dates are subject to change.

May 2016

3rd: CPUE Workshop, Albuquerque, New Mexico

7th: Native Fish in the Classroom –Releasing the Natives Field Day, Pilar, New Mexico

10th: NFIC – Class Presentation, Monte Vista Elementary, Albuquerque, New Mexico

10th-12th: Joint meeting of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Program’s Biology and Coordination Committees; Durango, Colorado

13th: Native Fish in the Classroom –Releasing the Natives Field Day, Albuquerque, New Mexico

16th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande

17th: Emerson Elementary Science Fair, Albuquerque, New Mexico

17th -20th: Crystal Creek Fish Passage Project, Navajo Nation

20th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande

23rd: NFIC – Class Presentation, Emerson Elementary, Albuquerque, New Mexico

23rd-27th: Fish Community Monitoring, Mogollon Creek

June 2016

4th: Lake Roberts Youth Fishing Derby, Gila National Forest

6th-10th: Annual Fish Community Monitoring and Nonnative Fish Removal, West Fork Gila River

13th-17th: Gila Trout Monitoring, Whitewater Creek

14th: First Responder and CPR Training, Albuquerque

15th: Water Day, Eight Northern Youth Camp, Jicarilla

21st-22nd: Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Youth Practicum, Pueblo of Sandia

27th-29th: Nonnative Fish Removal, Whiskey Creek, Navajo Nation

27th-Jul 1st: Gila Trout Monitoring, Turkey Creek

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation



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Bobby R. Duran..... Fish Biologist
Angela P. James..... Fish Biologist
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Tristan L. Austring Biological Science Technician
Stuart Wilkins..... Biological Science Technician
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