



## Monthly Accomplishments

## January 2013

### Fisheries Activities

Since June 2012, Gila trout have been held in refugium at NMFWCO. The Gila trout were brought on station for refuge from Whiskey Creek, Gila National Forest, due to the Whitewater-Baldy Complex Fire. The Gila trout are held in two naturalized tank systems mimicking a stream habitat, with substrate and cover. The Gila trout are active, using cover, aggressively feeding, and maintaining their wild coloration. Staff continue to monitor for aggressive territorial behavior, and relocate individual fish to a second naturalized rearing system (with similar sized fish) in efforts to maximize survival. The survival rate is currently holding at 84%, with no known mortalities for three months. These Gila trout are of the Whiskey Creek lineage and have not previously been successfully held or replicated in a hatchery setting.



In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta, staff completed monthly monitoring for the RGSM within the Middle Rio Grande and Pueblo of Isleta. Monitoring efforts are to determine presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish in relation to augmentation and research efforts.

### Meeting and Trainings

Staff participated in the 32nd Annual Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program/San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Researchers Meeting held in Moab, Utah. A special session included discussion on the role of Lake Powell in recovery of the razorback sucker. In addition, Bobby Duran presented *Evaluation of Augmentation as a Recovery Effort for Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker of the San Juan River*.

### Education and Outreach

Staff delivered native fish to five classes participating in the Native Fish in the Classroom project. Laguna Elementary, Valle Vista Elementary and Bosque School are learning about and raising fish of the middle Rio Grande including flathead chub, western mosquitofish, longnose dace, red shiner, river carpsucker, white sucker, and

the fathead minnow. Emerson and Monte Vista elementary schools are raising and learning about the Rio Grande cutthroat trout (Seven Springs Hatchery). In May 2013, the students will gather for the *Releasing the Natives Field Day* to release their fish into the Rio Grande. The projects overall goal is to generate enthusiasm for natural resources and foster a sense of stewardship for native fish and their habitats.



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



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## Current staff members

Jim Brooks .....	Project Leader
Jason Davis .....	Assistant Project Leader
Susan Maestas .....	Administrative Officer
Angela Carrillo.....	Administrative Officer
Stephen Davenport .....	Supervisory Fish Biologist
Chris Kitcheyan .....	Supervisory Fish Biologist
Weston Furr .....	Fish Biologist
Thomas Archdeacon.....	Fish Biologist
Dustin Myers.....	Fish Biologist
Angela Palacios James.....	Fish Biologist
Bobby Duran .....	Fish Biologist
Sara Blocker.....	Fish Biologist
Andy Dean.....	Fish Biologist
Christine Stewart.....	Fish Biologist
Ernest Tellier Sr. ....	Biological Science Technician
Tristan Austring .....	STEP Student
Cole Wolf .....	STEP Student