



## Monthly Accomplishments

## May 2016

### Fisheries Activities

In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta and Sandia Environment Departments, Thomas Archdeacon, Tristan Austring and volunteers Tucker Stonecypher and Joshua Grant completed monthly monitoring for Rio Grande Silvery Minnow. Monitoring (RGSM) determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish from augmentation and research efforts.

With the assistance of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), Stephen Davenport and Tristan Austring completed fish community monitoring on the Pecos River at four sites extending from Willow (30 miles north of Roswell) to Dexter, 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.

Chris Kitcheyan, Roy Ulibarri, Andy Dean, Bobby Duran, and Stuart Wilkins assisted the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife to harden a low-water stream crossing on Crystal Creek that fulfilled three essential purposes. The project improved fish passage through an area that is frequently blocked by sediment; improved fish habitat by stabilizing stream banks and road approaches, and

improved vehicle access for Tribal members living in a very remote area of the Chuska Mountains within New Mexico. Primary species to benefit from the fish passage include the native Bluehead Sucker and Speckled Dace.



Crew installing geo-webbing, which is used to stabilize rock. .



Crystal Creek crossing after geo-webbing is filled with cobble. .



The completed fish passage project on Crystal Creek.

Chris Kitcheyan and Roy Ulibarri assisted Pueblo of Santa Ana Department of Natural Resources with quarterly fish monitoring on the Rio Grande and Jemez River.

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

In cooperation with U.S. Forest Service and Trout Unlimited, Andy Dean completed evaluation on barriers located on Little Whitewater, Sacaton, Little Dry, and West Fork Mogollon Creeks.

### Meetings and Trainings

Thomas Archdeacon participated in the Catch per Unit Effort (CPUE) Workshop held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The objective of the meeting was to summarize findings by external experts and examine their recommendations to improve the use of CPUE to monitor RGSM.

Thomas Archdeacon participated in a Genetics review meeting

held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting consisted of a discussion with external expert peer reviewers and answering their questions before they write a final report. The panel is evaluating the genetics monitoring and the propagation and augmentation program for RGSM in the Middle Rio Grande. The panel consists of external experts contracted by the Bureau of Reclamation to review the genetics monitoring.

Tom Sinclair, Jason Davis, and Thomas Archdeacon attended the Middle Rio Grande Collaborative Endangered Species Program Executive Committee meeting. Wayne Hubert (University of Wyoming, emeritus) presented the finding of the external expert reviewers and final report to the Executive Committee.

Thomas Archdeacon and Jason E. Davis participated in the RGSM Captive Propagation Workgroup meeting held at New Mexico FWCO. Topic of discussion included station updates, past autumn release numbers, and requests for fish for release this fall.

Tom Sinclair, Bobby Duran, and Jason Davis attended the joint meeting of the San Juan River Basin Recovery Program's Biology and Coordination Committees in Durango, Colorado. Bobby presented *Endangered Fish Monitoring and Nonnative Species Monitoring and Control in Upper/Middle San Juan River 2015*. Jason Davis presented *Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker Augmentation in the San Juan River 2015*.

Chris Kitcheyan and Angela James participated in the New Mexico Tribal ESA Working Group meeting held in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The annual coordination meeting with USFWS and Tribes from Arizona and New Mexico, included status on various ESA listings, critical habitat designation updates, and other environmental concerns. Specifically, Chris Kitcheyan discussed Bacterial Kidney Disease issues and Angela presented on the Native Fish in the Classroom Program as a potential outreach tool for Tribes.

## Education and Outreach

Weston Furr led a fish talk with approximately 20 1<sup>st</sup> graders of Zuni Elementary School. Fish, threatened and endangered species, and habitats provided excellent topics for their Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM) Lab.

The New Mexico FWCO sponsored their 5th Annual Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) - Releasing the Natives Field Day at the Orilla Verde Recreation Area near Pilar, New Mexico. Approximately 99 students representing Emerson, Zia, and Monte Vista Elementary schools participated in this culmination event of a semester-long project. The students released 101 Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (from Seven Spring State Hatchery) that they had raised in their classrooms since January. Afterwards, students said their farewells, participated in learning stations led by Anders Lundahl

(Hydrologist), U.S. Forest Service (USFS) – Rocky Mountain Research Station, The Wildlife Center, and New Mexico FWCO.



Zia student pulls an acoustic doppler across the Rio Grande to measure stream flow.



Students and parents take a hike to learn about wildlife and their habitats.

Angela James led the activity, NFIC – *Anatomy* activity for a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade class from Cien Aguas International School and 5<sup>th</sup> grade class from Monte Vista Elementary School. The activity involved a discussion of anatomy including a comparison of trout to small-bodied fish species of the Rio Grande.



Cien Aguas students checking out a sucker up close.

The New Mexico FWCO sponsored their 5th Annual NFIC- Releasing the Natives Field Day held in Albuquerque, New Mexico hosted by the Bosque School. Approximately 191 students representing Osuna Elementary, Monte Vista Elementary, Valle Vista Elementary and Cien Aguas International Schools participated in the event. The students released 192 fish of the Middle Rio Grande (e.g. Flathead Chub, Longnose Dace, & Red Shiners) that had been raised in their classrooms since January. Afterwards, students said their farewells, they participated in various learning stations provided by the Bosque School and Bosque Ecology Monitoring Program (BEMP), New Mexico FWCO, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Albuquerque BioPark, USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station, USFWS Partners for Wildlife, and Valle del Oro National Wildlife Refuge.



Student releases a native fish into the Rio Grande.



Valle Vista student has to use clues to figure out he is a Canada goose.



Students learn about native plants while making seed balls.

Angela James participated as a Judge in the 2016 Emerson Elementary Science Fair.



Juan, a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student and NFIC participant, presenting his project *Germs in Water*.

Angela James presented *NFIC - Basing Fiction on Reality: an Eco-mystery* to three 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Emerson 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.

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

## Upcoming Activities

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

### June 2016

May 31<sup>st</sup>- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Fish Community Monitoring, Pecos River

May 31<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>: Fish Health Survey, Mescalero

4<sup>th</sup>: Lake Roberts Youth Fishing Derby, Gila National Forest

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

13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>: Gila Trout Monitoring, Whitewater Creek

14<sup>th</sup>: First Responder and CPR Training, Albuquerque

15<sup>th</sup>: Water Day, Eight Northern Youth Camp, Jicarilla

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

27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>: Nonnative Fish Removal, Whiskey Creek, Navajo Nation

27<sup>th</sup>-Jul 1<sup>st</sup>: Gila Trout Monitoring, Turkey Creek

30<sup>th</sup>: Youth Day, Pueblo of Acoma

### July 2016

5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>: Quarterly Fish Community Monitoring, Pueblo of Santa Ana

8<sup>th</sup>: Let's Be Fish Day, Pueblo of Sandia

16<sup>th</sup>: Environmental Fair, Pueblo of Isleta

28<sup>th</sup>: Youth Day, Pueblo of Acoma

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



New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office  
3800 Commons Avenue NE  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87109  
Phone 505/342-9900  
<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/nmfwco/index.html>

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## Current staff members

Tom Sinclair .....	Project Leader
Jason E. Davis .....	Assistant Project Leader
Angela Carrillo.....	Administrative Officer
Stephen R. Davenport .....	Supervisory Fish Biologist
D. Chris Kitcheyan .....	Supervisory Fish Biologist
D. Weston Furr .....	Fish Biologist
Thomas P. Archdeacon.....	Fish Biologist
Bobby R. Duran.....	Fish Biologist
Angela P. James.....	Fish Biologist
Andy T. Dean .....	Fish Biologist
Roy M. Ulibarri .....	Fish Biologist
Tristan L. Austring .....	Biological Science Technician
Stuart Wilkins.....	Biological Science Technician
Bryant Dugan.....	Biological Science Technician