



Monthly Accomplishments

November 2013

Fisheries Activities

In cooperation with Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNARRC), Albuquerque BioPark, and Ecological Services Field Office, staff completed visible implant elastomer (VIE) tagging of 211,577 Age-0 Rio Grande silvery minnow (RGSM). Staff assisted SNARRC with stocking of the tagged RGSM at three reaches of the Middle Rio Grande; Angostura reach (n=42,500), Isleta reach (n=89,077), and San Acacia reach (n=80,000). Portions of the Angostura reach, which had not been augmented since 2007, were stocked in cooperation with the Pueblo of Santa Ana. The augmentation was completed in accordance with the RGSM Augmentation Plan (2013-2017). The plan states that augmentation will occur at individual monitoring sites when September RGSM densities are $< 1.00\text{fish}/100\text{m}^2$).



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

In cooperation with the Cochiti Pueblo Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Department, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF), staff completed fall monitoring fish surveys on Cochiti Reservoir. This is the first cooperative effort among the Pueblo of Cochiti and agencies in regards to fish surveys on Cochiti Reservoir. Spring surveys are scheduled for March 2014.

With the assistance of Navajo Nation Fish and Wildlife Department, staff completed a nonnative removal and endangered fish monitoring trip on the San Juan River from PNM Weir to Hogback Diversion. This was a make-up trip for a trip cancelled in August due to high turbidity. Nonnative fish removal is one management tool employed by the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program (SJRRIP) for the recovery of endangered razorback sucker and Colorado pikeminnow.

In cooperation with Mora National Fish Hatchery, NMDGF, and U.S. Forest Service, staff stocked Gila trout into the West Fork Gila River Basin, above and below the falls. Within West Fork Gila River above the falls, crews packed in (on mules) 1,500 (Main Diamond) age-0 and 2,000 (South Diamond) age-0 Gila trout. Below the falls, crews stocked Gila trout into White Creek and Cub Creek by helicopter. White Creek received 250 age-1 and 2,500 age-0 Gila trout (Main Diamond). Cub Creek received 250 age-1 and 2,500 age-0 Gila trout (South Diamond). The augmentation was completed in accordance with the Gila Trout Recovery Plan.



Meetings and Trainings

Staff attended the Desert Fishes Council Conference in Flagstaff, Arizona. Tracy Diver presented *Keeping the Rio Grand: Saving the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow* poster.

Staff attended the SJRRIP – Biology Committee meeting in Durango, Colorado. Discussion included the review and updating of the Program’s Long Range Plan for FY14.

Jim Brooks, Dustin Myers, and Angela James successfully completed the Basic Aviation Safety course. The course was held in Albuquerque, New Mexico and was sponsored by U.S. Department of the Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

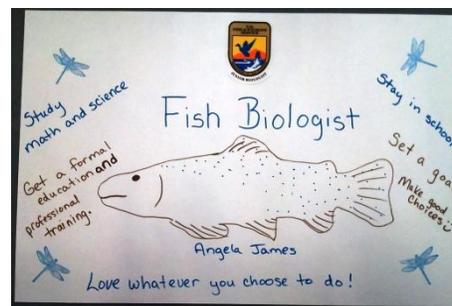
Staff met with Acoma Department of Natural Resources personnel to discuss revisions to their current Fisheries Management Plan. The plan primarily addresses management of Acomita Lake. Potential revisions would include a native species component beyond Acomita Lake.

Education and Outreach

Staff completed Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) aquarium set-ups and presentations at Emerson, Valle Vista, and Governor Bent Elementary Schools. This year, approximately 170 5th-grade students will be responsible for the care of native Rio Grande fish. The presentation included an introduction of the USFWS, NMFWCO, native species, the aquarium set-up, and the student’s responsibilities for the semester. All six schools participating in the NFIC program will receive fish January 2014. The goal of NFIC

is to generate enthusiasm for natural resources and foster a sense of stewardship for native fish and their habitats.

Staff participated in Emerson Elementary School’s Career Fair. Each class, from kindergarten through fifth grade, had the opportunity to visit various booths representing numerous careers. Staff provided a display of various projects and a passive integrated transponder (PIT) tag reader with an imitation Rio Grande cutthroat trout to showcase the work of a fish biologist.



Thomas Archdeacon presented *Keeping the Rio Grand: Saving the Rio Grande Silvery Minnow* during a poster session at the Annual Festival of the Cranes, Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge.

Staff provided a hands-on demonstration of seining and fish identification to five students from the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI). The students were instructed on the basics of seining and how it is used on the Rio Grande for monitoring of the RGSM. The students are currently enrolled in the

Introduction to Wildlife Management class at SIPI.



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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
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
Andy Dean.....	Fish Biologist
Tracy Diver.....	Fish Biologist
Matt Nolen	Fish Biologist
Ernest Tellier Sr.	Biological Science Technician
Tristan Austring	STEP Student