



Monthly Accomplishments

September 2015

Fisheries Activities

Andy Dean, in cooperation with New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) and Mora National Fish Hatchery completed two stockings in the Gila National Forest. First, was in Upper White Creek with approximately 3000 age-0 Gila Trout (Whiskey Lineage). The second was in Langstroth Creek with 4,000 age-0 Gila Trout (Main Diamond Lineage). Both stockings required crews to pack in on mules to receive trout that were transported by helicopter directly to the receiving streams.



Helicopter lowering Gila Trout to field crew waiting in the canyon.

September marked the first month of salvage for 2015. As of 30 September 2015 the Salvage

Crew, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and volunteers salvaged Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) from 17.4 unique river miles of the Rio Grande. Of this, 5.2 miles were salvaged in the Isleta reach between the Peralta Wasteway and Los Lunas. The remaining 12.2 miles were located within the San Acacia Reach, which lies between the south boundary of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge and near Brown's Arroyo. A total of 1,319 RGSM were collected and transported to flowing water. Approximately 1,246 of the RGSM were hatchery marked fish. Thomas Archdeacon, Tristan Austring and Eileen Henry are the 2015 Salvage Crew.

In cooperation with Pueblo of Isleta Environment Division and Pueblo of Sandia Environment Department, Thomas Archdeacon, Tristan Austring and Eileen Henry completed monthly monitoring for RGSM. Monitoring determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged fish from augmentation and research efforts.

In cooperation with Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife and New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office (ESFO), Chris Kitcheyan completed fall monitoring for Bluehead Sucker and the endangered Zuni Bluehead

Sucker. Crews surveyed seven streams located on Navajo Nation.

Stephen Davenport, Tom Sinclair and Andy Dean completed Pecos River fish community monitoring at eleven of twelve sites near Roswell, New Mexico. Data from these monitoring efforts are used to define the status of the fish community, with emphasis on Pecos Bluntnose Shiner.

Chris Kitcheyan assisted New Mexico ESFO with annual monitoring for the endangered Zuni Bluehead Sucker on U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy lands.

Andy Dean, Angela James and Demesia James (volunteer) completed post-restoration fish community monitoring on Rio Hondo near Roswell, New Mexico. Stream habitat restoration activities were completed Fall 2014.



Andy and Demesia collecting water quality in the Rio Hondo.

Weston Furr assisted the Navajo Nation Department of Fish and

Wildlife with Razorback Sucker passive harvest at the Navajo Agricultural Products Industry ponds.

Chris Kitcheyan assisted Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife with nonnative fish removal in Whiskey Creek. The removal of nonnative species is expected to benefit the native fish Bluehead Sucker and Speckled Dace.

Bobby Duran, Ernie Teller, and Weston Furr assisted USFWS Grand Junction (Region 6), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, NMDGF, and American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers with fall monitoring. Fall monitoring consists of both small-bodied and adult fish community monitoring on the San Juan River from Shiprock, New Mexico to Clay Hills Landing, Utah.

Ernie Teller assisted USFWS Grand Junction (Region 6) and NMDGF with small-bodied and adult fish community monitoring on the Animas River downstream to Shiprock, New Mexico.

Meetings and Trainings

New Mexico FWCO hosted the RGSM Propagation and Genetics Workgroup Bi-annual Meeting. Topics of discussion included station updates, fish health results, genetics update and production needs for 2015.

Tom Sinclair participated in the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Coordination Committee Meeting held in Durango, Colorado. Tom

also hosted a follow-up Coordination Committee conference call to clarify issues raised at the meeting and to approve the Annual Work Plan.

Angela James participated in the Middle Rio Grande Environment, Education, and Employment Alliance meeting hosted by Bosque School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The primary topic of the meeting was to identify how environmental educators could best assist teachers in the classroom.

Education and Outreach

Chris Kitcheyan and Angela James participated in the 5th Annual Native American College Connection Day hosted by Albuquerque Public Schools Indian Education Department. This was the first time the Indian Education Department invited non-college programs to their College Connection Day. They hope to continue expanding their presenters to present more resources available to graduating high school students.

Angela James and Andy Dean participated in the 2015 Dragonfly Festival hosted by Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). During the Festival, they led a session in the Youth Wildlife Discovery Tour which included fish, amphibians, reptiles, and birds of Bitter Lake NWR. Our fisheries session displayed allowed visitors to view fish species of the Pecos River drainage. Youth also had an opportunity to hold various fish that were caught in minnow traps set out to demonstrate

sampling methods in spring habitats.



Youth really interested in the fish that are in the bucket.



Andy watching over as a young girl holds a Mexican Tetra for the first time.

Stephen Davenport assisted Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), North American Native Fish Association, and Roswell High School with a native fish re-location/outreach event. Stephen and advanced placement (AP) science students collected native fish, primarily Pecos Pupfish, and relocated them to a different location within the Bitter Lake NWR. The event was also attended by our Regional Directorate Team.



Steve and Jeff Sanchez using dip nets and minnow traps to collect fish.



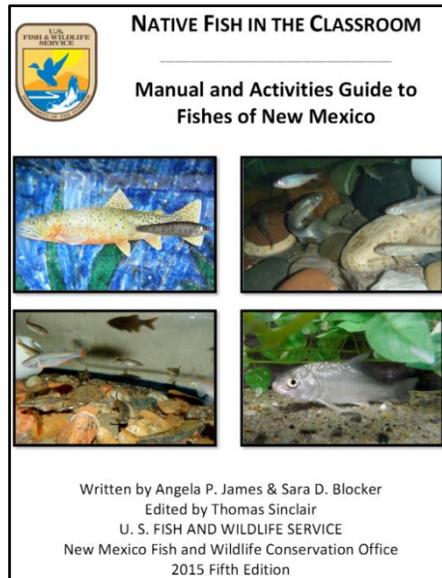
Students viewing outreach stations with dissecting scopes for macroinvertebrates and live fish displays.

With assistance from U. S. Forest Service – Rocky Mountain Research Station and USFWS Water Resources, Angela James and Chris Kitcheyan conducted a field day with approximately 15 AP science students from Sandia High School. Students rotated through three stations included bird and bug identification, water resources, and seining in the Rio Grande. Angela and Chris instructed students on the art of seining and the protocol used to monitor for the RGSM.



Sandia High School students try their hand at seining on the Rio Grande.

Angela James and Tom Sinclair finalized the *Native Fish in the Classroom: Manual and Activities Guide to Fishes of New Mexico*. The guide has been through numerous revisions as the Native Fish in the Classroom (NFIC) Project was developed. The NFIC Project is ready to begin with its completed guide available for download at <http://www.fws.gov/Southwest/fishes/nmfwco/education.html>.



Cover page of the NFIC Manual and Activities Guide to Fishes of New Mexico.

Angela James is participating in the Middle Rio Grande Urban Conservation Corps as a mentor. Mentors met their mentees at a gathering hosted by Valle de Oro NWR.



Mentor, Angela James, and her mentee, Noel Mollinedo.

Personnel

New Mexico FWCO staff said farewell to Fish Biologist, Dustin Myers. Dustin was the lead field biologist for the Gila Drainage native fish community. Dustin accepted a position with the U.S. Forest Service – Gila National Forest. We look forward to crossing paths with Dustin in the future.



Dustin Myers during the evacuation of Chub from Turkey Creek in 2011.

Upcoming Activities

Activities and meetings currently scheduled are listed below.

October 2015

13th: Razorback Sucker Active Harvest, Navajo Agricultural Products Industry Lands

13th-16th: Preliminary sampling of fish community, channel morphology and riparian cover associated with Desert Fish Habitat Partnership project, San Francisco River

19th-20th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Pueblo of Sandia and Isleta

26th-27th: Children's Water Festival, City of Rio Rancho

27th-28th or 29th -30th: Site visit to Southern Ute Indian Tribe lands to discuss possible joint Region 2-Region 6 fish passage project

November 2015

2nd-6th: Fish Passage Project, Crystal Creek, Navajo Nation

9th-13th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow VIE Tagging, Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center

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

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
Angela P. James..... Fish Biologist
Bobby R. Duran..... Fish Biologist
Andy T. Dean Fish Biologist
Ernie Teller Sr. Biological Science Technician
Eileen Henry Biological Science Technician
Tristan L. Austring Biological Science Technician