



Monthly Accomplishments

September 2016

Fisheries Activities

Stephen Davenport, Jason Davis, and Angela James completed fish community monitoring the Pecos River at twelve 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.



Gasline monitoring site, Pecos River.



Rio Grande Shiner *Notropis jemezianus*

In cooperation with Navajo Nation Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and New Mexico Ecological Services Field Office (ESFO), Chris Kitcheyan completed fish community monitoring for Bluehead Sucker and the endangered Zuni Bluehead Sucker. Crews sampled at eight long-term

monitoring sites on Black Soils Creek and established two long-term monitoring sites on Scattered Willow Creek. A follow-up trip is scheduled for November to establish additional sites on Scattered Willow Creek.

In cooperation with Pueblos of Isleta and Sandia Environment Departments, Thomas Archdeacon, Eileen Henry, & Joshua Grant completed monthly monitoring for Rio Grande Silvery Minnow (RGSM) in the middle Rio Grande. Monitoring determines presence/absence of visible implant elastomer tagged RGSM from augmentation and research efforts.

Chris Kitcheyan assisted the Navajo Nation DFW with post-fire fish monitoring at Assááyi Lake. Crews were looking to identify species present, as well as, growth and survival of Rainbow Trout stocked in June 2016. An emergency fish evacuation was executed in response to impending ash flows from the Assááyi Lake Fire in June 2014.

Bobby Duran, Stuart Wilkins, Stephen Davenport, and Weston Furr completed the final endangered fish monitoring and nonnative fish removal trip on the San Juan River from Shiprock, New Mexico to Montezuma Creek, Utah. Crews completed a total of 10 removal trips in 2016 with the assistance of the Grand Junction FWCO (Region 6), Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, Navajo

Nation DFW, and American Southwest Ichthyological Researchers. Over these 10 trips crews electrofished for a total of 545.4 hours covering 279 total river miles. In addition to nonnative fishes, crews collected data on 1,197 Razorback Sucker and 303 Colorado Pikeminnow. Nonnative fish removal is one management tool used by the San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program for the recovery of the endangered Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker.



An endangered Razorback Sucker.

The New Mexico FWCO staff continued with RGSM salvage operations that began in July 2016. Water diversions, many times, result in long stretches of the Rio Grande going dry during the irrigation season. In response, crews from New Mexico FWCO use UTVs to rescue RGSM from isolated pools and relocate them to locations with flowing water. At least 10 days of salvage occurred during September within the San Acacia and Isleta reaches of the Rio Grande. The amount of miles dried and RGSM collected are not available at this time. A final report will be submitted to the

Middle Rio Grande Endangered Species Collaborative Program once salvage operations are completed.

Bobby Duran, Stuart Wilkins and Weston Furr assisted Grand Junction FWCO (Region 6) with annual fall monitoring. Fall monitoring included adult fish community monitoring on the San Juan River from Bloomfield, New Mexico To Mexican Hat, Utah.



Electro-shocking raft sampling on the San Juan River

Eileen Henry assisted NMDGF with annual small-bodied fish monitoring on the San Juan River.

Andy Dean, Tom Sinclair, and Stephen Davenport completed fish community and habitat monitoring on San Francisco River near Reserve, New Mexico. This monitoring will evaluate fish community response to recent riparian restoration efforts that were completed under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Although none were collected, this section of river is within the historic range of the endangered Loach Minnow and Spikedace.

With the assistance of Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation Thomas Archdeacon, Eileen Henry, and Joshua Grant completed an experimental sampling

evaluation via seining on the Middle Rio Grande. The evaluation was to determine if precision could be improved during population monitoring with additional effort per site. This evaluation will help to address a long-standing question associated with monitoring for Rio Grande Silvery Minnow.

Jason Davis and Angela James assisted Southwestern Native ARRC Fish Health Unit with a study *Ensuring Efficacy of MS-222 and Aqu-i-S at High Levels for Euthanasia in Multiple Species*. As part of the study, Colorado Pikeminnow (from a previous study) were euthanized at various concentrations of MS-222 and Aqu-i-S to ensure total mortality. Currently, MS-222 is the only FDA approved product for use in food fish in the United States of American although Aqu-i-S is currently undergoing testing. The purpose of this study was to determine the effects of MS-222 and Aqu-i-S on fishes that are commonly held at Southwestern Native ARRC.

AUGUST - Chris Kitcheyan collaborated with the Pueblo of Cochiti Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to provide a Tribal Youth Conservation Corps (TYCC) Program in 2016. From June to August 2016, five TYCC students, all tribal members of Cochiti Pueblo, worked on various natural resource projects. One such project included assisting High Water Mark LLC with post-fire mitigation monitoring efforts. The collaboration of Cochiti DNRC and its partners to cultivate youth development aid in strengthening established relationships. Funding for this

program was provided by FWS Headquarters.



The 2016 Tribal Youth Conservation Corps Crew (with a BIA Pathways Student).

Meetings and Trainings

Thomas Archdeacon participated in the RGSM Propagation and Genetics Workgroup Bi-annual meeting hosted by New Mexico FWCO. Primary topic of discussion included augmentation needs for 2016. At this time 22,000 RGSM are set to be stocked in the Rio Grande between Bernalillo and Jarales, New Mexico.

Chris Kitcheyan and Jason Davis participated in the Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD) Partnership meeting attended by the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, and various offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The meeting was to discuss and address the challenges to Tribal Fisheries programs in light of recent BKD finding in hatcheries.

Andy Dean attended the U.S. Forest Service's Wilderness Fish and Wildlife Management Plan meeting held in Silver City, New Mexico. Attendees included the U.S. Forest Service and NMDGF. Participants discussed how to

include a fish and wildlife element into the plan.

Education and Outreach

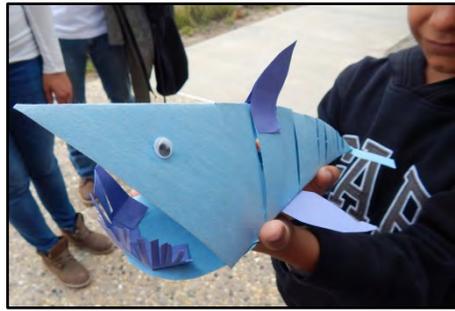
Angela James and Demesia James (volunteer) participated in the 2016 Dragonfly Festival hosted by Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The crew received additional help from an Eastern New Mexico University student. During the Festival, they led a fish field station for the Refuge Wildlife Tour, which included fish, amphibians & reptiles, and birds. The fish field station provided a display of native fish found on Bitter Lake NWR and a brief talk of the diversity of fish and their habitats along the Pecos River. In addition to the fish field station a craft station was available for those interested in creating their very own flexi-fish.



The highlight of the fish field station, the Mexican Tetra and its teeth.



Participants making their own flexi-fish.



A child showing off his fish creation.

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Upcoming Activities

Scheduled activities and meetings are listed below.

Dates are subject to change.

October 2016

4th: Fish Community Monitoring, Pecos River

5th: MRG Fish Translocation Meeting, Albuquerque, New Mexico

5th-6th: Fall Lake Surveys, Pueblo of Nambe

11th-13th: Whiskey Creek Fish Passage Project, Navajo Nation

16th-21st: Fall Survey, Navajo River, Jicarilla Apache Nation

17th-19th: NAPI Ponds Razorback Sucker harvest and stocking, San Juan River Basin

24th-25th: Rio Rancho Children's Water Festival, Rio Rancho, New Mexico

24th-28th: Region 2 Leadership Forum, Albuquerque, New Mexico

25th-27th: Fish Community Monitoring, Pueblo of Santa Ana

24th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Isleta

25th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Sandia

November 2016

2nd: Colorado Pikeminnow stocking, San Juan River Basin

29th-December 1st: San Juan River Basin Recovery Implementation Program Biology Committee Meeting and Nonnative Fish Workshop, Durango, Colorado

29th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Isleta

30th: Rio Grande Silvery Minnow Monitoring, Rio Grande, Pueblo of Sandia

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