

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery

Monthly Report
February 2015



Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

Enclosing two alligator snapping turtle ponds with chain link fencing began in February at the Tishomingo NFH. The bottom four inches of the fence was entrenched to prevent predators from digging under. These two ponds are going to be used for two to four-year-old turtles, rather than raising them in inside tanks. Research articles have shown that over-wintering in a natural setting could be less stressful to this age than intensive culture inside.



Turtle ponds' fencing project.



Juvenile alligator snapping turtles in tank at Tishomingo NFH.

Leadership in Science and Technology

An on-site meeting was held at Tishomingo NFH with Dr. Phillip Morton to develop plans for assessing available habitat for migrating monarch butterflies. Dr. Morton is a science instructor at Murray State College and an adjunct instructor at the University of Oklahoma Biological Station. The first step will be to identify the types of milkweed and other pollinating plants currently growing on station. Preliminary plans to establish butterfly gardens were also discussed.



Monarch butterfly on milkweed.

Work Force

Biologists from Tishomingo NFH attended the Mid-Continent Warm Water Fish Culture Workshop in Branson in February. This workshop was hosted by Missouri Department of Conservation, with presentations by state agencies, federal hatcheries in Region 3, USGS, and academia. A presentation involving the alligator gar reintroduction in Missouri with fingerlings from Tishomingo NFH was given.

Biologists from Tishomingo NFH also attended the American Fisheries Society joint meeting with the Wildlife Commission in Tulsa.

Kerry Graves served on a recruitment team who visited Oklahoma State University this month. An excellent opportunity was provided for students who met with the team one-on-one to assist them in interview skills, resume' building, and job market trends in the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Facilities

A final "punch list" has been completed for the new modular office building at Tishomingo NFH. Mike Zamora, Engineer in the Regional Office, conducted the final walk-through with contractors. Upon the satisfactory completion of this final list, possession of the building will be transferred to Tishomingo NFH, ready for occupancy.



New modular office building at Tishomingo NFH.

Visitors and Outreach



In order to present information to visitors in a more interesting approach, the informative signs that border the Nature Trail at Tishomingo NFH have been rebuilt. The old signs were faded from years in the weather and their ground posts were splintered with wear. Frames and posts have been replaced with weather-sealed wood, and the signs have been cleaned and re-sealed for protection from the elements. They are ready for warm weather to bring in the visitors.

Refinished signs for Nature Trail. (Above and right)





Canada geese walk on iced ponds at Tishomingo NFH.

U.S. Department of the Interior
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<http://www.fws.gov/southwest/fisheries/tishomingo/index.html>
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