



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

January 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Carrie Gregory – Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAY UNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer  
Travis Taylor – Laborer*

### *WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT*

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader  
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist  
Vacant – Maintenance Specialist  
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Carol Walker – Volunteer  
Jonathon Walker – Volunteer*



## ***PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:***

- All requisite water sampling for the EPA was completed for both units.
- Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel participated in the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe – Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division).
- A pre-construction (Pre-Con) teleconference call between Alchesay-Williams Creek staff, Redpoint Contracting, and regional office contracting staff took place to discuss the details of the upcoming ABC pipeline project. February 17, 2015 was the agreed upon notice to proceed date.

## ***AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:***

- Hatchery personnel drove 368 miles to deliver 5,000 rainbow trout (~8” length) to San Carlos Indian reservation and 239 miles to deliver 74,553 rainbow trout (~4” length) to Fort Apache Indian reservation (FAIR). As seen in the pictures, these fish were stocked through the ice. This was a new and challenging aspect of needing to stock FAIR waters in January. Thank you to Jennifer Johnson who assisted with information gathering and planning of this successful operation.

In addition, 87,543 rainbow trout 3 to 4” in length were transferred from the Williams Creek Unit to the Alchesay Unit in a continuing effort to reduce the numbers of fish at Williams Creek Hatchery. Most of these transfer fish were originally scheduled for transfer to Alchesay in April at 5 inches in length. Due to declining flows and upcoming construction at Williams Creek, it was necessary to stock and transfer these rainbow trout early.



- Apache trout spawning season at Williams Creek continued throughout the month of January. Eggs were taken from 490 two and three year old brood stock females. Roughly 480,000 eggs were fertilized and put into incubation units this month. 129,530 eggs eyed up in January, 77,764 of which were sent to Tonto SFH (AGFD). About 1.2 million Apache trout eggs have been taken to date in FY15.

## ***PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:***

- The complex received 13 visitors this month. Hatchery visitation is always down during the cold winter months.

## ***WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:***

- Carol Walker continues to provide valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She provided 132.5 hours this month with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 93 hours at Williams Creek toward outside fish culture duties, grounds and equipment maintenance, and office work.



- Staff completed interviews for the maintenance worker position at the Williams Creek Unit. John Fenslage, a decorated Army veteran and trained, certified welder, has been selected for the position. He is in the process of completing his new hire paperwork and medical exams; we look forward to having John join our team!

## ***LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:***

- Pete Drevnick and Travis Taylor continue with Pond 3 modifications. During January, vinyl sheet-pile wall construction was completed. Unfortunately additional progress has been very slow due to rain, snow, mud, and other adverse weather conditions at the work site.
- Pete Drevnick and Travis Taylor spent the second half of January at the Williams Creek Unit, beginning work on a freshwater temporary bypass line to C-bank and thinning trees on hatchery grounds as part of a fire prevention plan measure.



Before and after pictures of the Pond 3 wall construction

- A new blower motor for the back-up oxygen generator at Williams Creek was received. Installation will take place after our new Maintenance Worker, John Fenslage, begins work at the facility.

### **UPCOMINGEVENTS:**

- Carrie Gregory will be traveling to the regional office in Albuquerque, NM from February 9-13<sup>th</sup> for the Administrative Conference.
- Work will continue on the temporary pipeline at the Williams Creek Unit to supply water flows to C-Bank. This will be utilized during the A and B-bank supply line construction project slated for the months of February and March. Fish currently in A, B, and C-bank raceways are also being relocated previous to the contracted construction crew's arrival.



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

February 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Carrie Gregory – Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAYUNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer  
Travis Taylor – Laborer*

### *WILLIAMS CREEKUNIT*

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader  
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist  
John Fenslage – Maintenance Specialist  
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Carol Walker – Volunteer  
Jonathon Walker – Volunteer*



## *PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:*

- All requisite water sampling for the EPA was completed for both units.
- Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel participated in the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe – Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division).
- John Tinger with the Region 9 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Enforcement Division conducted a five year station inspection at the Williams Creek Unit. The Alchesay Unit will be inspected later this summer

## *AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:*

- Hatchery personnel drove 369 miles to deliver 5,000 rainbow trout (~8” length) to San Carlos Indian reservation.

No fish were transferred from the Williams Creek Unit to the Alchesay Unit this month.



- Apache trout spawning season at Williams Creek has concluded. This year spawning ran from December 2, 2014 to January 27, 2015. For some yet to be determined reason the majority of Apache trout females egg development occurred earlier this year.

A total of 1,140 three year old females were spawned over a nine week period of time, producing 1,103,890 green eggs. Over 100 females were spawned during each eggtake throughout the nine week spawning season. These three year old eggs eyed up at a rate of 55.43% resulting in 611,941 eyed eggs. Of these, 170,532 were transferred to Arizona Game and Fish Department's Tonto State Fish Hatchery. Williams Creek retained 441,409 eyed eggs for future rearing. About 297,900 fry have been ponded to date and are at the initial feeding stage. After the eggs from the last spawning have been buttoned up, Williams Creek will have 350,000 fry at the swim-up stage in initial feed training.

In addition to the three year old female Apache trout spawntaking, 75 two year-old females were spawned producing a total of 40,000 additional green eggs. These Lot #2 two year old eggs had an eye up rate of 73.9%. About 18,000 of these fry have been ponded, for a 45% survival rate and are part of the 350,000 total swim up fry on station.

This year, a metaphylactic florfenicol (Aquaflor) 10 day initial feeding treatment was initialized in an attempt to reduce mortality from Bacterial Cold Water Disease. The mortality epidemics from this disease has been an increasing problem in recent years and is the reason why over one million eggs were taken for the first time in the history of the Apache trout spawntaking program.



- The Alchesay unit experienced higher than normal water temperatures (40 to 50 degrees F.) in February 2015. The trout continued to grow at 0.6” per month. Usually North Fork water temperatures are at or below 38 degrees F. and result in zero growth during the month of February.
- Around 30,000 brook trout eggs were received from Mammoth Creek State Fish hatchery in Utah. They were not able to fulfill our 160,000 egg request.

#### ***PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:***

- The complex received 16 visitors this month. Hatchery visitation should increase again now that the weather is starting to warm up.

#### ***WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:***

- Carol Walker continues to provide valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She provided 137.5 hours this month with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 94.5 hours at Williams Creek toward outside fish culture duties, grounds maintenance, and office work.
- John Fenslage, a decorated Army veteran and trained certified welder joined the Williams Creek Unit as a Maintenance Worker on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. He is already hard at work catching up on the backlog of projects created while the position was unfilled. We are happy to

welcome John to our team and look forward to the improvements his expertise will bring to the hatchery!

- Pete Drevnick and John Fenslage attended a training course on pumps and hydraulic systems offered by the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality.

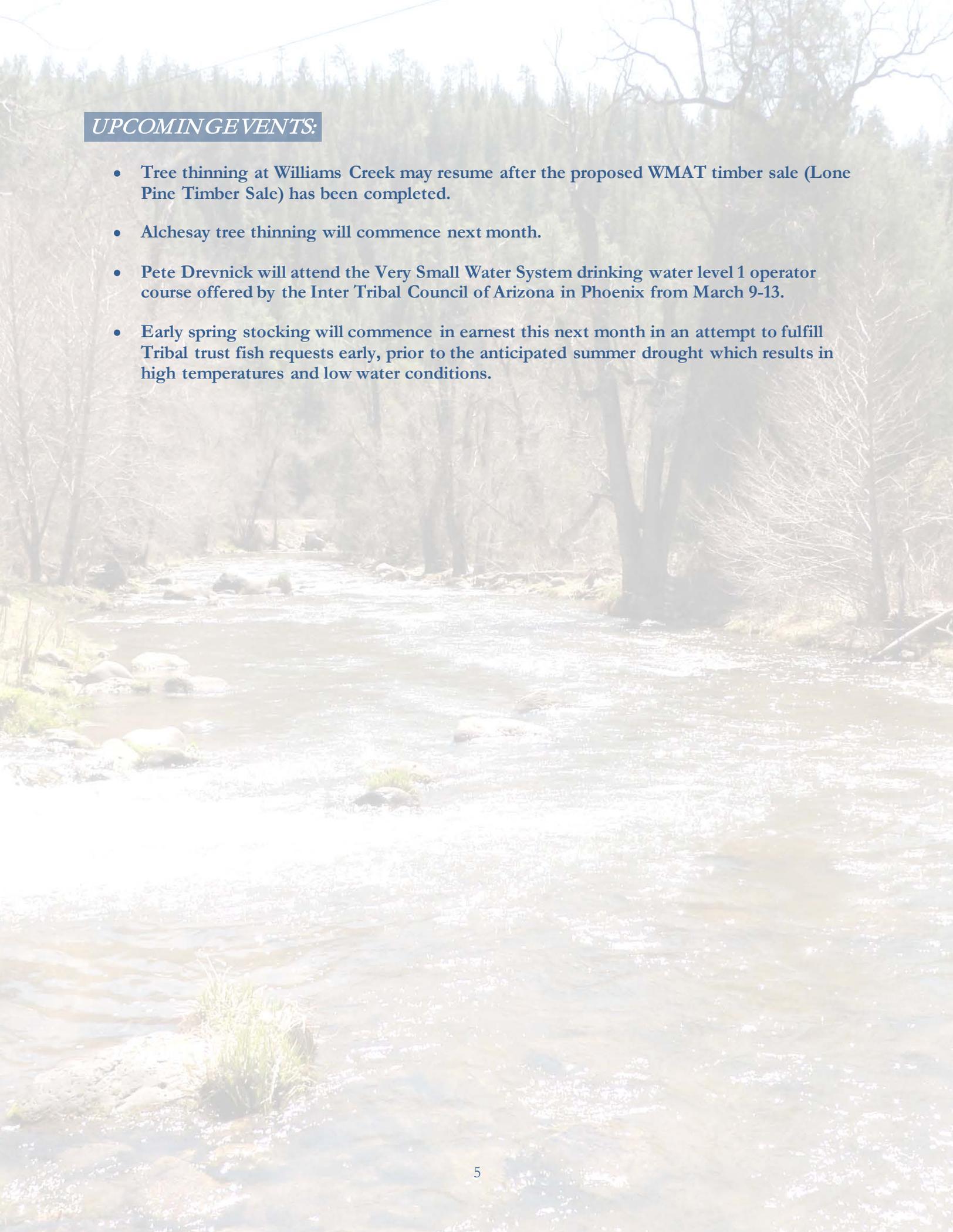
### ***LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:***

- Pete Drevnick and Travis Taylor spent February at the Williams Creek Unit. They began the month setting up a freshwater temporary bypass line to C-bank, so that Redpoint Contracting could begin work on the ABC Pipeline, and then oversaw and assisted with the installation of the pipeline itself. This pipeline will supply some first run spring water to A, B, and C banks at Williams Creek.



- Pete Drevnick and Travis Taylor also spent time during the month of February thinning trees at Williams Creek as part of a fire prevention deferred maintenance plan project. In addition, professional fallers from the Wildlife Outdoor Recreation Department (WORD) were recruited for dropping “hazard trees”. We would like to thank these individuals: Shore Quay, Edmund Altaha, and Armond Armstrong and WORD for assisting us with this forest management project.





## ***UPCOMINGEVENTS:***

- Tree thinning at Williams Creek may resume after the proposed WMAT timber sale (Lone Pine Timber Sale) has been completed.
- Alchessay tree thinning will commence next month.
- Pete Drevnick will attend the Very Small Water System drinking water level 1 operator course offered by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona in Phoenix from March 9-13.
- Early spring stocking will commence in earnest this next month in an attempt to fulfill Tribal trust fish requests early, prior to the anticipated summer drought which results in high temperatures and low water conditions.



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

March 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Carrie Gregory – Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAY UNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer  
Travis Taylor – Laborer*

### *WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT*

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader  
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist  
John Fenslage – Maintenance Specialist  
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Carol Walker – Volunteer  
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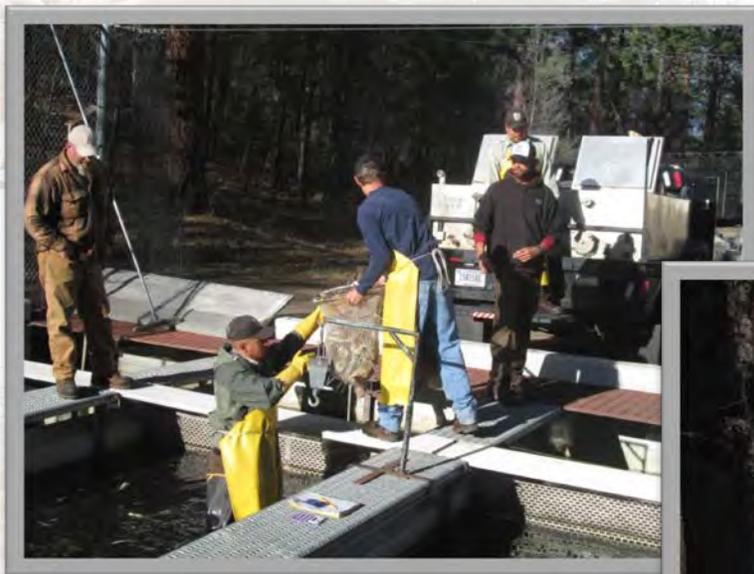
ANFH: March 04, 2015: Osprey makes an early arrival to Alchesay NFH

## *PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:*

- All requisite water sampling for the EPA was completed for both units.
- Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel participated in the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe – Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division).
- Carrie Gregory worked with the White Mountain Independent, the Arizona Republic, the USFWS Facebook page, and other media outlets to ensure that the public was aware that Apache trout stocking would begin early this year due to declining water flows.

## *AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:*

- Staff from the Williams Creek unit drove 860 miles to deliver 7,447 rainbow trout (~4.5” length) and 11,724 Apache trout (~7.5”-9” length) to Fort Apache Indian reservation (FAIR).
- Staff from the Alchesay unit drove 2,351 miles to deliver 35,433 rainbow trout (~7.1”-9.3” length) to Zuni, San Carlos, Navajo, Hopi, and Pueblos Reservation lakes.
- The Williams Creek unit received and put down a shipment of 425,000 Rainbow trout eggs from White Sulfur Springs NFH.





### ***PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:***

- Williams Creek received 20 visitors this month.
- Visitation at Alchesay picked up this month, as warmer weather brought large groups out to use the picnic area and tour the hatchery. The hatchery received a total of 574 visitors including 300 visitors celebrating several birthdays, 150 visitors gathering for a family reunion, and 45 children and adults from the WMAT Christian Church, who enjoyed a picnic at the river.

### ***WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:***

- Carol Walker continues to provide valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She provided 178.5 hours this month with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 106.5 hours at Williams Creek toward fish culture duties, grounds maintenance, and office work.
- Marty Holden began volunteer work at the Alchesay unit. He has assisted with tree thinning and loading fish. We are very happy to have Marty join our team of dedicated volunteers!
- Jimmy Smith was out for much of March due to serious injuries sustained while participating in a rodeo. He is on the mend and we all wish him a speedy recovery.
- Pete Drevnick attended the week long Very Small Water System Drinking Water Level 1 Operator course in Phoenix and earned his Small Drinking Water System Operator certification.
- Bruce Thompson attended the FERS Retirement Training Webinar on-line.

- Travis Taylor received a signed copy of the Release of Claims from Redpoint Contracting. The A-B Water Supply Pipeline project has been completed for Williams Creek, and the hatchery is currently utilizing this new water supply line.

### ***LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:***

- The Williams Creek unit installed an electric fence around pond 4, intended to reduce fish loss by keeping determined raccoons out. If the fence is successful, the Alchesay unit will likely install similar fencing.
- John Fenslage and Travis Taylor installed two 250 gallon tanks on the new Ram 4500 DU. Once road conditions improve, plans are in place to stock Cyclone Lake, Pacheta Lake, and Reservation Lake using the Ram 4500 DU.

### ***UPCOMING EVENTS:***

- Staff from both units will be attending the Water Reuse for Intensive Fish Culture course being held in Phoenix, Arizona from April 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The Complex will receive their annual fish health inspection next month.



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

April 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Carrie Gregory – Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAY UNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer  
Travis Taylor – Laborer*

### *WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT*

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader  
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist  
John Fenslage – Maintenance Worker  
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Carol Walker – Volunteer  
Jonathon Walker – Volunteer*



## ***PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:***

- All requisite water sampling for the EPA was completed for both units.
- Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel participated in the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe – Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division).
- SNARRC Fish Health Unit completed the Complex's 2015 annual fish health inspection.



Marlene Rodarte and Linda Vannest conduct fish health inspections.

## ***AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:***

- Staff drove 15,392 miles to deliver 237,359 rainbow trout (7.8" average length) and 13,220 Apache trout (9.58" average length) to Fort Apache, Zuni, San Carlos, Navajo, Jicarilla, and Pueblos Reservation lakes.

All of the staff have been extremely busy stocking fish in anticipation of another hot, dry summer.

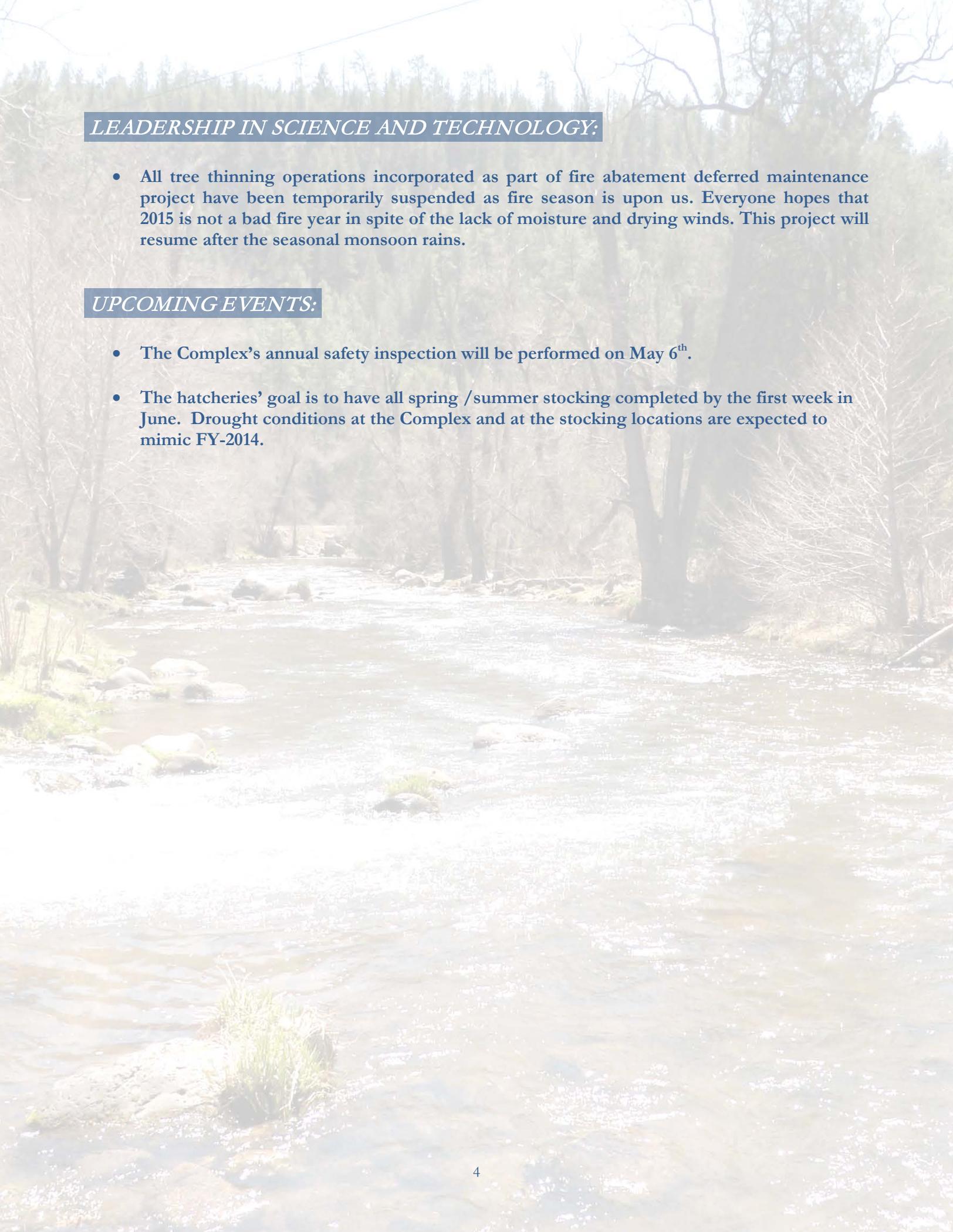
## ***PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:***

- Williams Creek received 79 visitors this month, including three hatchery tours totaling 140 students. The students were from Whiteriver, Cibecue and Blue Ridge Elementary. Alchesay received a total of 394 visitors. Several birthdays, reunions and spring break gatherings were celebrated at the picnic area. With the pleasant spring weather, both units are experiencing a marked increase in local and out-of state visitors



### ***WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:***

- Carol Walker continues to provide valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She provided 159 hours this month with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 99 hours at Williams Creek toward fish culture duties, grounds maintenance, and office work.
- Jimmy Smith returned to light duty at the Williams Creek Unit in April, after sustaining serious injuries during a rodeo in March. We are very happy to have him back!
- Pete Drevnick earned his Class A Commercial Driver's License. We now have two licensed drivers who are qualified to tow with combined truck/trailer GVW ratings of 26,001 lbs. or more provided the GVWR of the vehicle(s) being towed is in excess of 10,000 pounds.
- All staff completed the 2015 FISSA training course.
- John Fenslage completed the training requirements to become the Collateral Duty Safety Officer for the complex and is hard at work prepping the hatchery for the upcoming safety inspection.
- Bradley Clarkson, Pete Drevnick, Russ Wood, and Bruce Thompson attended the Water Reuse for Intensive Fish Culture course held in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Joyner George spent 12 days in the month of April away at Turkey camp.
- Carrie Gregory submitted her resignation in early April, and left the Complex on April 24<sup>th</sup> to move to Phoenix, leaving the Administrative Technician position vacant. She very much enjoyed her time spent working for Region 2 and will miss all of the wonderful people at Alchesay- Williams Creek NFH!



## *LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:*

- All tree thinning operations incorporated as part of fire abatement deferred maintenance project have been temporarily suspended as fire season is upon us. Everyone hopes that 2015 is not a bad fire year in spite of the lack of moisture and drying winds. This project will resume after the seasonal monsoon rains.

## *UPCOMING EVENTS:*

- The Complex's annual safety inspection will be performed on May 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The hatcheries' goal is to have all spring /summer stocking completed by the first week in June. Drought conditions at the Complex and at the stocking locations are expected to mimic FY-2014.



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

May 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Administrative Assistant - Vacant*

### *ALCHESAY UNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer  
Travis Taylor – Laborer*

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John Fenslage – Maintenance Worker  
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Carol Walker – Volunteer  
Jonathon Walker - Volunteer*





### ***PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:***

- All requisite water sampling for the EPA was completed twice this month for both units.
- Alchesay-Williams Creek personnel participated in the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe – Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division).

### ***AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:***

- Staff drove 3,298 miles to deliver 31,584 catchable sized rainbow trout (8.5” length) and 37,954 Apache trout (8.5” length) to Fort Apache, Zuni, San Carlos, Navajo, Jicarilla, and Pueblos Reservation lakes. In addition, almost 33,000 3” surplus Brown and Rainbow trout were added to the fish requests.
- Alchesay received 87,995 rainbow trout and 46,586 brown trout three inch fry from Williams Creek NFH. This concludes the spring transfers between the two sister facilities.

### ***PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:***

- Williams Creek received 100 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 162 visitors.
- Jimmy Smith conducted a tour of Williams Creek for new employees of Indian Services. Later in the month Mike Figueroa conducted a fish hatchery tour for 25 Reece Foundation Special Needs students.



## ***WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:***

- Carol Walker continues to provide valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She provided 150 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 86 hours at Williams Creek toward fish culture duties, grounds maintenance, and office work.
- Pete Drevnick traveled to Jacksonville, Florida to pick up seven surplus Air Force maintenance shelters. Plans are to use several of these as raceway canopies. These new canopies will provide valuable shade and help reduce predation loss and stress related post-transfer mortality of juvenile Apache trout. Traditionally there has been a very high mortality on these juvenile fish when they are moved from their protected environment in the Apache trout tank house to outside raceway rearing. Canopy protection should do wonders to alleviate some of these high losses.
- John Fenslage added new safety signs and updated the Safety Plan for Williams Creek.
- Bradley Clarkson, Pete Drevnick, Russ Wood, and Bruce Thompson attended the Water Reuse for Intensive Fish Culture course held in Phoenix, Arizona. The knowledge gained from this course will be used to address the declining spring water flows.
- Steve McEvoy (Occupational Safety Specialist) visited both stations for our yearly safety assessment. Both hatcheries passed without any major issues to correct.
- John Fenslage completed his Heavy Equipment Operations (HEO) online training, in advance of his one week (HEO) detail at Mora National Fish Hatchery.
- Bruce Thompson, Gene Okamoto, and Bradley Clark completed the required Firearms Accountability Course.
- One flatbed work truck and a fish hauling diesel truck were auctioned through GSA.

## ***LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:***

- Coordination and review of plans have been started for the upcoming disinfection station to be built at Alchesay NFH.

## ***UPCOMING EVENTS:***

- The complex is on schedule to complete summer fish stocking by the first week of June.

- Fish were sorted and selected for the annual Bog Tank Kids fishing derby which is being held Saturday June 6th. The service has been a proud sponsor of this event and looks forward to this partnership year after year.
- Two YCC selections will be made and start dates will be scheduled.



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

June 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Travis Taylor- Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAY UNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer*

### *WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT*

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Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Carol Walker – Volunteer  
Jonathon Walker-Volunteer*



### ***PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:***

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service provided fish and support for the Kids fishing derby held at Bog Tank located on Fort Apache Indian Reservation. The Service works closely with the White Mountain Apache Tribe ensuring a safe and successful fishing derby.
- All requisite water sampling for the EPA was completed twice this month for both units.
- There was no monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office) and WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe – Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division) due to illness and scheduling conflicts.

### ***AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:***

- Staff drove 885 miles to deliver 3,818 Rainbow trout (8.5” length), 12,691 Apache trout (9.5” length), and 6,794 Brook trout to Fort Apache Indian Reservation.
- Future broodstock has been sorted and selected at WCNFH. Currently 9,000 Apache trout fingerling have been selected for gamete collection in 2017 and 2018.
- Incentive 14 to 17 inch excess Apache trout broodstock continue to be stocked into local Fort Apache Indian Reservation waters. These large Apache trout will definitely get the attention of some lucky anglers.

### ***PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:***

- Williams Creek received 269 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 250 visitors. With warmer weather, both hatcheries have seen a major influx of visitors.



## *WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:*

- Carol Walker provided valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She volunteered 147.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 109 hours at Williams Creek toward fish culture duties, grounds maintenance, and office work.
- Juwon Alchesay and Chad Amos were selected as our 2015 YCC hires. They are both excited to gain valuable fish culture knowledge, assist with construction, and build a pollinator garden from the ground up.
- The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) is a program developed through United States Department of Labor geared towards furthering careers and getting skilled workers in the workplace. At the Complex we have four WIA workers who have been providing hard work and have been gaining experience in fish culture and construction.
- We are very excited to welcome Travis as our new Administrative Technician. Welcome aboard Travis.
- John Fenslage injured his foot at work. After a Doctor's visit, x-rays showed tendon damage. Following Doctors' orders John has stayed at home and has been continually icing and elevating his injury. Future appointments will give us a better idea of the extent of the injury.

## *FACILITY MAINTENANCE:*

- The steel domestic water line within the Alchesay parking lot has continuously sprung leaks for years due to rusted piping. Instead of more patching, the decision was made to fix it right and completely replace it. The water line replacement took five days to complete with the help of the WIA workers.



- Asbestos testing was completed on two unoccupied WCNFH houses scheduled for demolition this year. Both houses were originally built in 1950.

### *LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:*

- Surplus canopies that were picked up from Davis Air Force Base last month were uncrated and built over raceways at Williams Creek. As planned, these canopies fit perfectly over A-bank raceways. These canopies will reduce predation, provide important shade and covering, and will result in less stress to the vulnerable Apache trout.



- Liquid oxygen safety training was presented to the staff at Williams Creek. Concerns regarding flammable materials developed when a nearby small forest fire resulted in the local fire department visiting the facility to check on hazardous chemicals on site. This led to a discussion about protocols in place if an evacuation of the facility was ever necessary.
- Supplies have arrived and excavation has begun on the upcoming disinfection station to be built at Alchesay NFH. This is to be a “state-of-the-art” structure incorporating steam as well as chemical disinfection capabilities.

## *UPCOMING EVENTS:*

- Canopies will be constructed over B-bank raceways at Williams Creek.
- Bradley Clarkson will be attending a Leadership training course at NCTC.
- Construction of the Disinfection Station at Alchesay will continue.





# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

July 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Travis Taylor- Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAY UNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
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Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Carol Walker – Volunteer  
Jonathon Walker-Volunteer*



**Heavy monsoon activity created difficult water quality conditions at the Alchesay Unit.**

## ***PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:***

- Jeremy Voeltz hosted a Fisheries Coordination meeting between AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office), WMAT-WORD (White Mountain Apache Tribe – Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division) and AL-WC NFH Complex personnel.

## ***AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:***

- A raceway cleaning demonstration was performed at the Alchesay Unit following heavy rains and poor water quality conditions. Techniques to minimize stress to smaller fish in muddy water was discussed during the demonstration.
- Bacterial Coldwater disease is suspected in the Apache trout production program. Biologist Russ Wood collected culture samples and sent them to (Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center) SNARRC. The fish health lab at SNARRC is also checking for bacterial resistance to Terramycin 200 and Aquaflor treatments.
- *Ichthyophthirius* was identified at Alchesay. Salt treatments were done on a daily basis twice daily for 3 days. Treatments will help reduce the number of parasites but will not completely reduce the numbers.

## ***PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:***

- Elmira Alchesay, great grand daughter of Chief Alchesay visited the Alchesay Unit. She shared some great Apache history and stories that had been passed down through her family history.
- Williams Creek received 400 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 265 visitors. This time of the year Alchesay is a popular spot to picnic and play volleyball.
- Five Hopi students spent three days at WCNFH. Their main focus was gaining experience with fish culture techniques.
- Cibique Senior Center, Head Start School Program, San Carlos Youth Practicum and several other schools visited the complex.



## **WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:**

- Carol Walker provided valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She volunteered 155.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 91.5 hours at Williams Creek toward fish culture duties and ground maintenance.
- Juwon Alchesay and Chad Amos were selected for the Complex YCC (Youth Conservation Corp) summer work program. Their scope of work areas included construction and fish culture. They were a huge asset in removing fencing and prepping outdated houses for a scheduled demolition.
- Our WIA (Workforce Investment Act) team put our DM Disinfection Station project ahead of schedule. They have been hard at work cutting rebar and building ply- wood forms for concrete walls.
- John Fenslage returned to work on light duty after his foot injury. Jimmy Smith tore his MCL during a rodeo accident and is expected to be out for 5-6 weeks.
- The complex has begun the process of organizing excess equipment and machinery.
- Bradley Clarkson attended the “Inspiring Leadership Through Emotional Intelligence” training course at NCTC.



## ***FACILITY MAINTENANCE:***

- Quarters 4 and 5 at Williams Creek are scheduled for a September demo. Final preparations and coordination was completed by the staff with the help of the YCC.

## ***LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:***

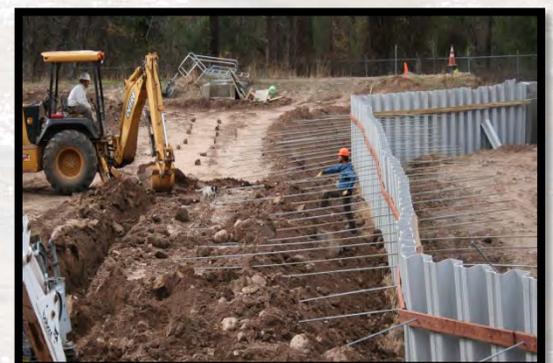
- A pair of small-scale Wave UV sterilizing systems for individual rearing units was purchased. We were hopeful this UV system would reduce the bacteria cold water disease in the water at the Apache trout tank house. These units were installed in two separate rearing units. So far, we have not seen clear evidence that the UV system has made an impact in fish health for the Apache trout program.

**Pond 3 Modification is officially completed.**



**Original Pond 3**

**New Pond 3**



***UPCOMING EVENTS:***

- Canopies will be constructed over B-bank raceways at Williams Creek.
- Construction of the Disinfection Station at the Alchesay Unit will continue.



**Muddy water entering the settling pond after monsoons rains**



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

August 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Travis Taylor- Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAY UNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer*

### *WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT*

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader  
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist  
John Fenslage – Maintenance Worker  
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Carol Walker – Volunteer  
Jonathon Walker-Volunteer*



**Thank You Bradley Clarkson for 20 years with U.S Fish & Wildlife Service**

## **AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:**

- Fish Biologist Russ Wood received 350,000 rainbow trout eggs from Erwin NFH in Tennessee. These eggs will spend about 14 days in eggs jars before moving to small indoor raceways. The Sac fry will absorb their egg sac for several days and when completely absorbed, they will be introduced to commercial fish feed diets.



- Alchesay Fish Hatchery is scheduled to receive rainbow trout from the Williams Creek unit as early as September. These fish will be stocked into the newly modified Pond 3. When the water temperature at the Alchesay unit remains a constant 62 degrees F. or lower for a period of at least 5 consecutive days, the fish transfers will commence.
- Continued poor water quality (muddy water) at the Alchesay unit resulted in reduced feed rations for the rainbow trout (RBT) and lower growth in the RBT and brown trout (BNT) than estimated projections. The BNT were fed a constant diet even through the worst conditions. Hatchery personnel will grade out the larger BNT next month to meet our 8” production request in November for the Jicarilla Apache Tribe.
- Williams Creek personnel stocked 3,600 Apache trout and 13,939 rainbow trout. Williams Creek personnel also stocked 6,174 Apache trout in July. (This was missed in last month’s report.)

## **PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:**

- Bruce Thompson, Bradley Clarkson, Gene Okamoto and Russell Wood hosted the monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting between Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery Complex’ (AWC-NFHC), Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office, (AZFWCO), and the White Mountain Apache Tribe. (WMAT). Topics of discussion included catfish stocking, fall trout stocking plans, and the necessary 25% stocking reduction of RBT.
- The complex’s summer Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) program ended in the middle of August. Along with the YCC students heading back to school, our juvenile Work Force Investment Act (WIA) workers also returned to school. In addition, the adult WIA workforce completed their required training programs. The entire Complex staff enjoyed training the summer crews in fish culture and construction skills. We wish all of them well in furthering their education and pursuit of future employment opportunities

- Inks Dam NFH in Texas, delivered 20,000 channel cat fish (CCF) to the Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR). Jennifer Johnson from AZFWCO coordinated the stocking, working closely with Inks Dam and AWC-NFHC personnel. With the hot summer temperatures and average monsoon rains, water quality was a concern stocking the lower elevation distribution sites as well as Cooley Lake this year. Tribal and USFWS personnel collected water quality data prior to stocking CCF into several lakes on the FAIR. The CCF distribution was completed as arranged with no report of fish losses.



### **WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:**

- Paul Dorman, (Inks Dam) Jess Newton, Jennifer Johnson (AZFWCO), and personnel from the Complex discussed and coordinated the stocking of catfish that took place on the morning of the 18<sup>th</sup> on the FAIR.
- Work schedules were altered at Williams Creek to cover for Jimmy Smith who was unable to work due to a serious rodeo accident. Jimmy had torn his ACL and MCL. He is mending well and returned back to work on September 1, 2015 on light duty. At this point, surgery is not being considered.
- Carol Walker provided valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She volunteered 153.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 94.5 hours at Williams Creek toward fish culture duties and grounds maintenance.
- Williams Creek received 125 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 330 visitors. Visitation has declined at the complex due in part to the start-up of local schools.

## *LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:*

- The complex acquired an off road, extendable arm forklift on surplus in Barstow, California. This piece of equipment will help out with various maintenance projects including the “state of the art” disinfection station project at Alchesay.



- Pete Drevnick found a surplus suction pump off GSA excess. We have been actively seeking this type of pump for several years. Plans are to use it to remove fish waste from the head and tail boxes of raceways without dewatering the raceways and stressing out fish. Instead of stirring up the fish waste with brushes, we are going to suck up the waste with the new pump. This should help lower the nutrient load before it flows through the consecutive hatchery rearing areas and enters the EPA settling ponds.
- John Fenslage, (our certified welder) acquired a Miller industrial machine off GSA excess. This model is a diesel powered welder ideal for his welding and fabrication plans. This will also be used in building the new high-tech. disinfection station at Alchesay.

## *FACILITY MAINTENANCE:*

- Quarters 4 and 5 at Williams Creek are scheduled for a September demo. Final preliminary salvage steps were completed in the preparation for the upcoming building demolitions.
- Raceway canopy frames were constructed and moved into position over B- bank at Williams Creek. These canopies will provide shade and protection for the fish residing there.

## *UPCOMING EVENTS:*

- Canopy construction will be completed over B-bank raceways at Williams Creek. This will result in complete protection for both A-bank and B-bank raceways holding Apache trout.
- Construction of the Disinfection Station at the Alchesay Unit will continue. The project is moving along well and is several weeks ahead of schedule. Work progression pictures will be shared in the next report.

- The fall fish transfers from the Williams Creek unit to the Alchesay unit (water quality permitting) should start in mid-September.
- More frequent budget update planning will commence next month.
- Bruce Thompson and Russ Wood are scheduled to attend the Region 2 FAC Rendezvous during the last week of September.





# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

September 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Travis Taylor- Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAY UNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer*

### *WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT*

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader  
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist  
John Fenslage – Maintenance Worker  
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Carol Walker – Volunteer  
Jonathon Walker- Volunteer*



*Reservation Lake on Fort Apache Indian Reservation*

## AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- Gene Okamoto coordinated the logistics of a pre-arranged fish trade between Arizona Game & Fish and Fort Apache Indian Reservation (FAIR). The agreement was to trade 20,000 4-inch Apache trout (APT) from Williams Creek for 12,000 10-inch rainbow trout (RBT) from Canyon Creek state fish hatchery.
- Brown trout at Alchesay were sorted using an adjustable grader. These bigger fish will be stocked next month at a 7–8 inch size range to satisfy the Jicarilla Apache brown trout management program.
- The Complex stocked 73,441 ~6 “ rainbow trout and 27,408 catchable sized Apache trout in FAIR waters. This monthly stocking program put an additional 754 miles on our stocking trucks.
- Both A-bank and B-bank at Williams Creek are now covered. These canopies provide protection for the Apache trout which result in increased survival and culminate in producing healthier, stronger, stress-free, and more robust fish to meet management programs.



## LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY:

- Due to Apache trout spawning season rapidly approaching, a “pre-spawn” meeting was held at Williams Creek to address genetic diversity and disease resistance concerns. The logistics of incorporating changes to spawn-taking protocols were discussed. The decision to incorporate a modified one on one spawn-taking methodology was adopted by the spawn-taking crew. In years past, milt from five males were pooled together to fertilize one to five females. This procedural change was agreed upon in an effort to maximize genetic diversity in the original broodstock source (which was initially collected from wild East Fork White River strain Apache trout in 1983 and 1984). There is a need to boost the immune system of the young Apache trout to resist *Flavobacterium psychrophilum*, the cause of Bacterial Coldwater Disease which recently is decimating hatchery reared juvenile Apache trout.
- Another topic of discussion was the future utilization of a high energy diet fish feed for rearing all Apache trout on station.

## *PARTNERSHIP AND ACCOUNTABILITY:*

- Adam Howell from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Enforcement Division and Daniel Pusher, the new Water Quality Officer from White Mountain Apache Tribe's Environmental Protection Office (WMAT-EPO); toured Alchesay NFH during the NPDES permit facility inspection. Both Adam Howell and Daniel Pusher were pleased with the Complex' record keeping system and water sampling protocols.

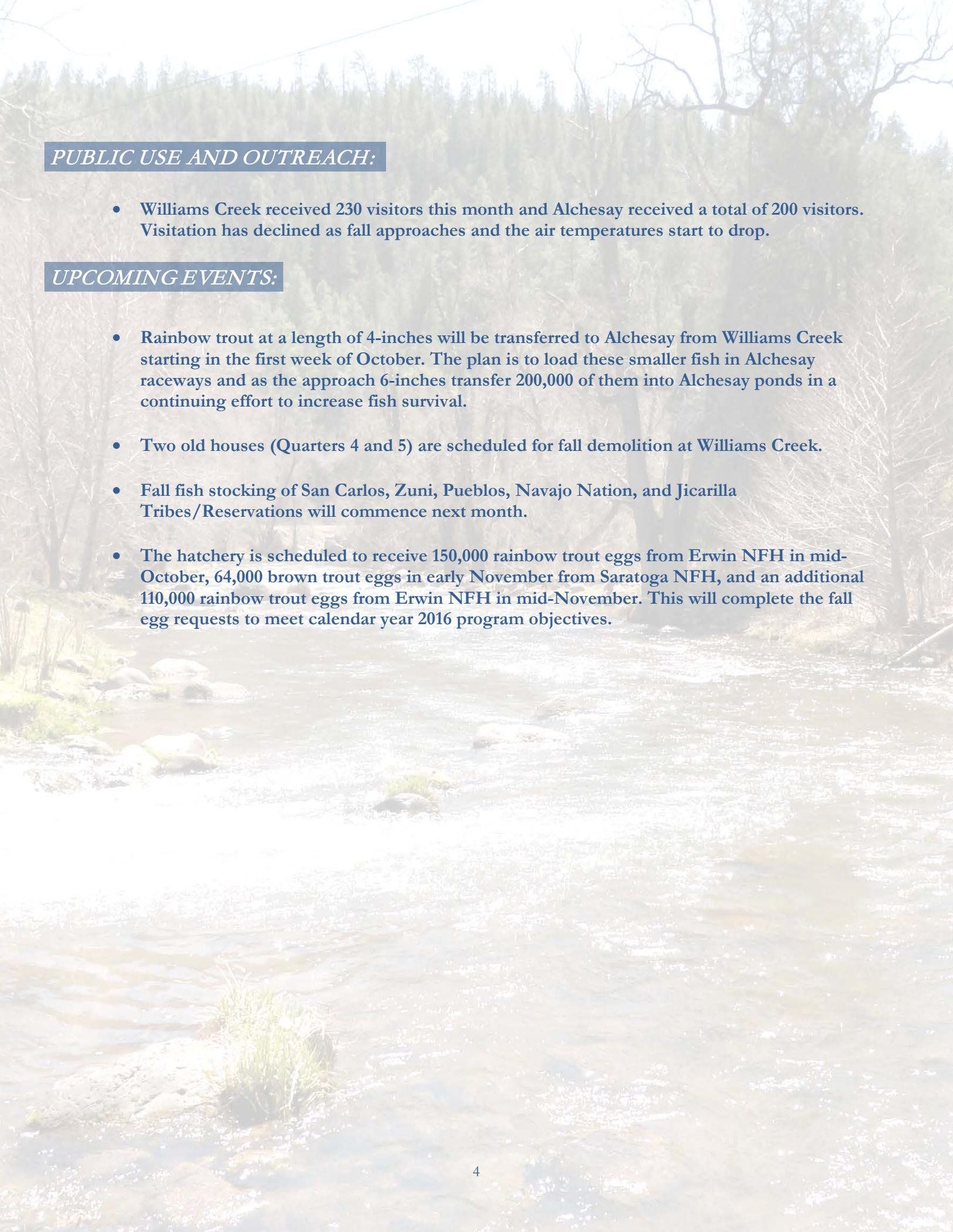
## *WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:*

- Carol Walker provided valuable assistance at the Williams Creek Unit. She volunteered 82.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 81.5 hours at Williams Creek toward fish culture duties and grounds maintenance.
- John Fenslage took Construction Safety Training to prepare for his Construction Inspector (CI) responsibilities for the upcoming Williams Creek housing demolitions.
- Both maintenance personnel worked together in disconnecting and removing propane tanks at the demo sites. They also contacted the electric company to have the meters removed.

## *FACILITY MAINTENANCE:*

- Steel and roofing material for the Disinfection Station were delivered to the Alchesay facility. This Deferred Maintenance (DM) project is moving along very well and is several weeks ahead of schedule. Work will continue on the project throughout the winter.
- Staff performed routine and scheduled maintenance tasks at both facilities. In addition to routine maintenance, final pre demo jobs were completed at Williams and a roof leak was patched and sealed at the Alchesay unit.
- Well pump house tanks that supplies the domestic water to Alchesay hatchery were replaced after one of the inner bladders failed, leaving the hatchery without running water. Offices and volunteer housing was affected by the well house issue. The old tanks were at their life expectancy of 5 to 7 years.





## *PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:*

- Williams Creek received 230 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 200 visitors. Visitation has declined as fall approaches and the air temperatures start to drop.

## *UPCOMING EVENTS:*

- Rainbow trout at a length of 4-inches will be transferred to Alchesay from Williams Creek starting in the first week of October. The plan is to load these smaller fish in Alchesay raceways and as they approach 6-inches transfer 200,000 of them into Alchesay ponds in a continuing effort to increase fish survival.
- Two old houses (Quarters 4 and 5) are scheduled for fall demolition at Williams Creek.
- Fall fish stocking of San Carlos, Zuni, Pueblos, Navajo Nation, and Jicarilla Tribes/Reservations will commence next month.
- The hatchery is scheduled to receive 150,000 rainbow trout eggs from Erwin NFH in mid-October, 64,000 brown trout eggs in early November from Saratoga NFH, and an additional 110,000 rainbow trout eggs from Erwin NFH in mid-November. This will complete the fall egg requests to meet calendar year 2016 program objectives.



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

October 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Travis Taylor- Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAY UNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
Chadwick “Sharkey” Amos – Volunteer*

### *WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT*

*Bradley Clarkson – Unit Leader  
Russell Wood – Fish Biologist  
John Fenslage – Maintenance Worker  
Mike Figueroa – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jimmy Smith – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Isaiah Paxson – Animal Caretaker  
Carol Walker – Volunteer  
Jonathon Walker-Volunteer*



## *AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:*

- EPA required water sampling was performed twice at both hatcheries this month. This month's sampling included nitrogen, phosphate and ammonia testing.
- Gene Okamoto and Chris Ketchiyan coordinated New Mexico stocking for the fall. Two drivers were used to stock Navajo Nation and San Carlos Reservation on Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> 2015. Navajo Nation met with our driver to offload fish onto their trucks.
- With the arrival of fall, water temperatures have dropped providing prime water temps for optimum growth of our trout. The complex has reached the requested size for our fall stocking program. Point of Pines received 13,000 Rainbow Trout and Seneca Lake received 6,000 Rainbows. Chuska was stocked with 2,500 Rainbows and Wheatfield Lake both on the Navajo Nation received 13,377 trout. Jicarillo tribe received 5,200 Rainbows.
- Williams Creek Hatchery stocked 15,773 catchable sized Brook Trout in FAIR waters. This monthly stocking program put an additional 606 miles on our stocking trucks.
- Williams Creek transferred 191,647 rainbow trout to Alchesay's raceways. The trout will grow to 5-6 inches and then be transferred into large holding ponds for the winter. The trout will have more area to swim without being as crowded, which in turn will make a stronger and healthier fish.

## *WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:*

- Manuel Ulibarra and his staff at SNAARC offered AWCNFH two used UTVs. One UTV will be used as a maintenance vehicle and the other will become the new fish feed vehicle for Alchesay.
- Carol Walker provided valuable assistance at the Alchesay Unit. She volunteered 134.5 hours this month helping with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 77.5 hours at Alchesay toward fish culture duties and ground maintenance.
- Employee Performance Appraisal Plans were explained and signed by permanent staff at the complex. Pete Drevnick assisted other wage grade employees on a MAT project at Big Muddy Refuge in Missouri for two weeks. Russ Wood went on a detail to Makah NFH in Washington State for three weeks. He will be spawning Steelhead and Coho salmon.
- The pollinator garden at Alchesay is starting to take shape. A half-acre section of unused land was rototilled and prepared for seed and native plants. Volunteer Carol Walker has taken upon herself to research, design, and start the hard work of creating a pollinator garden.

### *FACILITY MAINTENANCE:*

- John Fenslage, the complex's Custodial Duty Safety Officer began updating the chemical data sheets for both facilities. This task is expected to take some time because he is going to complete it between other projects.
- Staff performed routine and scheduled maintenance tasks at both facilities. In addition to routine maintenance, final pre demo jobs were completed at Williams Creek and road repair was completed at the Alchesay Unit.
- John Fenslage took measurements of the new head box and reviewed plans with Alchesay staff in order to fabricate an aluminum walkway and feed structure for the newly completed Pond 3.

### *PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:*

- Williams Creek received 45 visitors this month and Alchesay received 215 visitors. Visitation and tours have declined as cooler temperatures and shorter days have arrived.
- Staff at Alchesay gave hatchery tours to two groups of employees from Indian Health Services of Whiteriver. A large retirement party took place at Alchesay's park. Total attendance was 200 people.

### *UPCOMING EVENTS:*

- FBMS training in Flagstaff.
- FAC Project Leaders Meeting
- Apache Trout spawning



*Trout pumpkin carving at AWCNFH*



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

NOVEMBER 2015

*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Travis Taylor- Administrative Technician*

### *ALCHESAY UNIT*

*Gene Okamoto – Unit Leader  
Pete Drevnick – Maintenance Worker/Motor Vehicle Operator  
Jeff Cody – Motor Vehicle Operator  
Joyner George – WMAT Fisheries  
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### *WILLIAMS CREEK UNIT*

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Carol Walker – Volunteer  
Jonathon Walker-Volunteer*



*Trout arriving at Alchesay for winter rearing*

## AQUATIC SPECIES CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT:

- The AWC Complex was busy with transfers. About 100,000 6" Rainbow trout will be transferred from Williams Creek to Alchesay near the end of November. Alchesay's pond 2 will be loaded with 50,000 trout and newly completed pond 3 will hold the same number. Pond 4 will be utilized to thin out raceways as they near maximum densities.
- Mandatory EPA water sampling was performed twice at both hatcheries this month. This month's sampling included nitrogen, phosphorous, and ammonia testing.
- Gene Okamoto coordinated stocking of nine inch rainbow trout for a community fishing event for the Santa Clara, Pueblo tribe. Once again, this event was a big success.
- Apache trout spawning started November 16<sup>th</sup> when 30 three year old females were found to be gravid. New protocols are in place for this year's spawning season. One-on-one fertilization is one of the biggest changes to this year's spawn-taking program. Additionally, distilled water is now being used to rinse and clean both males and females prior to removing milt and expressing eggs. Genetic diversity and Bacterial Coldwater Disease are major concerns with the Apache trout rearing program. All efforts are being made to minimize these threats.
- The monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting among AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office), A-WC NFH (Alchesay –Williams Creek National Fish hatchery) & WMAT (White Mountain Apache Tribe) was cancelled due to conflicting work schedules.



## WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT:

- Williams Creek Hatchery received approximately 84,000 brown trout (BNT) eggs from Mammoth State Fish Hatchery in Utah. A miscommunication occurred and the Utah shipment was received. The eggs were of poor quality and losses were estimated at 50% shortly after arrival. To attain our BNT stocking request for the year, we received an additional 32,000 BNT eggs from Saratoga NFH. Originally 64,000 eggs were requested from Saratoga NFH.
- Bruce and Gene completed a rough draft of the Annual Work Plan for the complex. The work plan consisted of rearing four species of trout, controlling aquatic invasive species, and ongoing asset protection as part of the Complex propagation programs.

- Bruce Thompson was on approved leave for most of the month and Gene Okamoto was acting Project Leader in his absence.
- Russ Wood spent three weeks on a detail filling in as the acting project leader at Makah NFH. Makah is located on the Olympic peninsula in Washington State. Both the project leader and assistant project leader positions were vacant at the time. Russ had a great time, brought back some good ideas, and learned some new supervisory skills as well.
- Vic Scott from Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (Flagstaff) hosted a two day admin training course for Travis. The course focused on FBMS navigation, monthly budget updates, reconciliations, PR organizing, and administrative responsibilities.
- Travis Taylor with a little assistance from Gene Okamoto completed the 2015 transportation asset survey for the Complex. He worked closely with Jae Ahn from the Regional Office updating asset codes.
- Carol Walker again provided valuable assistance at the Alchesay Unit. She volunteered 102.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties, building maintenance, and designing a pollinator garden for the facility. Jonathon Walker provided 80 hours at Alchesay toward fish culture duties, grounds maintenance and construction. Both volunteers have been a huge help in taking care of the Alchesay facility.

### *FACILITY MAINTENANCE:*

- Each unit of the Complex acquired a Kubota UTV on surplus from Manuel Ulibarri and his crew at the Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNAARC) in Dexter, New Mexico. These vehicles will be used for maintenance and hatchery operations. We are so grateful for these contributions from SNAARC.
- The bulk oxygen tank at Williams Creek had a bad flange connection and leaked during fill up. John Fenslage and Russ Wood replaced gaskets and sent proof of repair to our Liquid Oxygen vender.
- Annual fire extinguisher servicing was completed at the entire complex.

### *PUBLIC USE AND OUTREACH:*

- Alchesay's pollinator garden is still in progress. Carol Walker, our volunteer, has taken it upon herself to research, design and begin the hard work of creating a pollinator garden. Planter beds have been laid out and several native plants were put into the ground before

the first heavy frost. Biologist David Smith from Flagstaff, gave the complex 8,000 milkweed seeds which he collected on his own. The complex is very thankful for the donation.

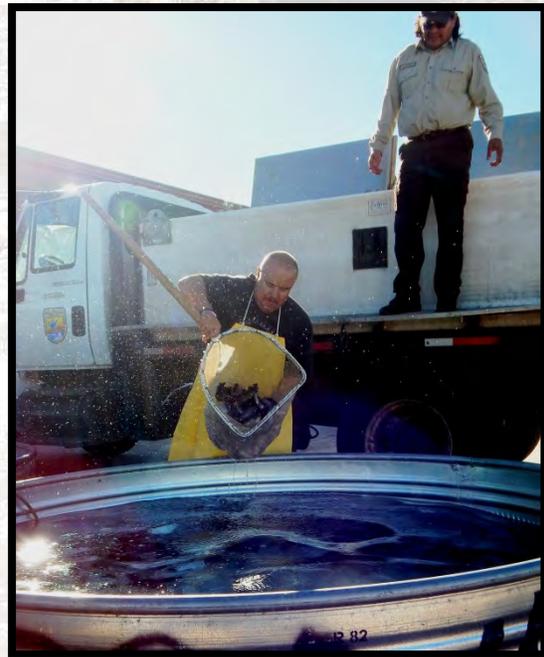
- Williams Creek received 21 visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 25 visitors. Since the arrival of winter and the cooler temperatures visitation number have steadily declined.
- Three students from Blue Ridge High School spent a full day job shadowing at Williams Creek. These three students are part of a program geared towards getting senior class high school students some experience in their chosen field. The high school students were able to spend the day with Biologists at Williams Creek learning basic fish cultural operations.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Two old houses will be demolished during the second week of December at Williams Creek. John Fenslage will be the designated Construction Inspector for this project.
- Pollinator garden work will proceed.
- Apache trout spawn-taking will continue.



Black Bear trying to dine on Apache trout (his favorite).



Chris Kitcheyan assisting Jimmy with Santa Clara delivery.



# ALCHESAY-WILLIAMS CREEK NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY COMPLEX WHITERIVER, ARIZONA



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## MONTHLY ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

DECEMBER 2015

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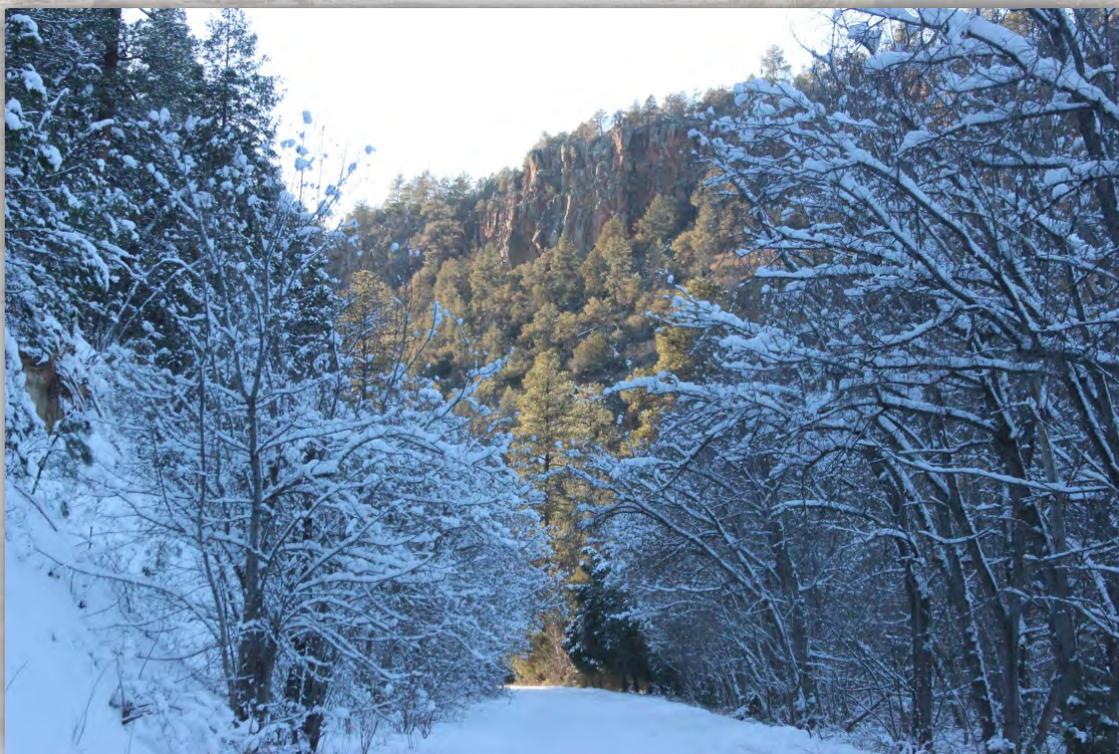
*Bruce Thompson – Complex Manager  
Travis Taylor- Administrative Technician*

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## *CONSERVING AQUATIC SPECIES:*

- At the end of the month after 7 spawn-takes, the Apache trout (APT) spawning crew has taken over 570,000 eggs and thus far has an average eye-up of 74%.
- One hundred and fifty female 3 year old APT were used for ovarian fluid sampling and these samples were sent to Fish Health at Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center (SNARRC). Martha Keller, DVM, and her fish health team received the samples and will be checking for fish pathogens of concern.
- A Jensorter egg counter arrived during the December APT spawn season. This new tool is a huge asset to the operation since it counts exact egg numbers rather than using the less accurate volumetric displacement method previously used.
- The hatchery spawn taking crew would also like to extend a “shout out to Jennifer Johnson from the Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office (AZFWCO) for all of her valuable assistance in this operation since it commenced on November 17, 2015.
- Thank you Travis Taylor (AWC- NFHC Administrative Technician) as well; for all of your assistance- when an “additional hand” was needed.
- Mandatory EPA water sampling was performed twice at both hatcheries this month. No EPA reporting violations occurred during the entire 2015 calendar year mostly due to the diligence of Gene Okamoto who took on this responsibility in addition to his regular duties as the Alchesay Unit Leader.



## *FULFILLING TRIBAL TRUST RESPONSIBILITIES:*

- The monthly Fisheries Coordination meeting among AZFWCO (Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office), A-WC NFH (Alchesay –Williams Creek National Fish hatchery) and WMAT (White Mountain Apache Tribe) was hosted at AZFWCO. WMAT gave U.S Fish & Wildlife permission to obtain wild APT fish and milt from the East Fork of the Whiteriver. The Complex and AZFWCO personnel are planning on working closely with SNARRC personnel to ensure operational success.

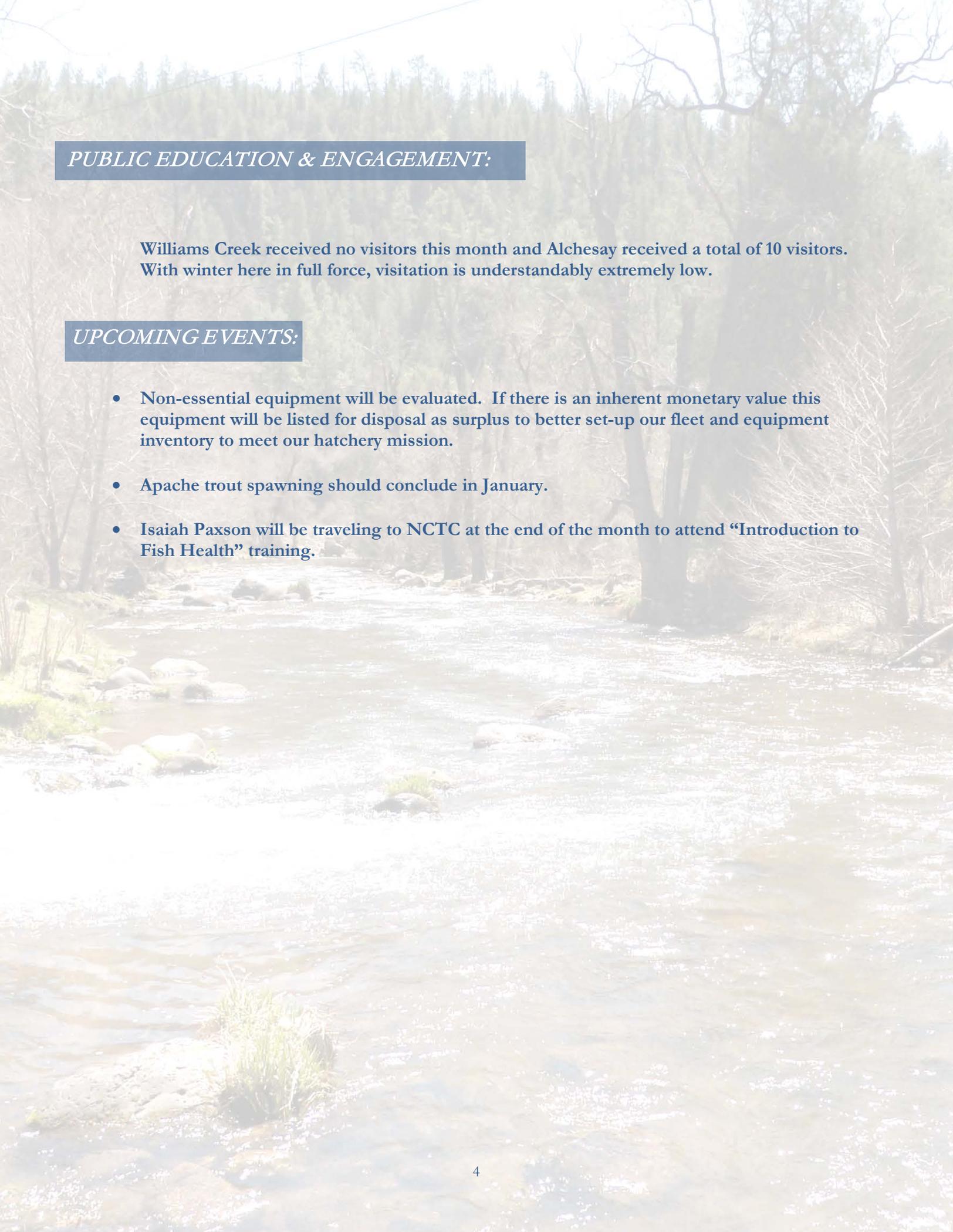
## *ENHANCE RECREATIONAL FISHING & OTHER PUBLIC USES OF AQUATIC RESOURCES:*

- Monthly stocking consisted of Ohkay Owingeh's Tribal waters being stocked with 4,600~ 9 inch rainbow trout on December 10th.

## *WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT, TRAINING & SCIENTIFIC CAPACITY:*

- The Snow Policy was updated by the Complex's Unit Leader to better accommodate all employees while addressing "real safety" concerns when traveling to and from work in inclement weather.
- Safety issues were addressed in a morning meeting. Issues discussed included not going inside ponds to fill up feeders and how to stay safe on icy raceway walkways. Safety throw bags will be installed and available at all ponds.
- Carol Walker provided valuable assistance at the Alchesay Unit. She volunteered 91.5 hours this month helping out with fish culture duties and building maintenance. Jonathon Walker provided 63 hours at Alchesay toward fish culture duties, grounds maintenance and construction.
- Heavy snow fall at the end of the month at Williams Creek warranted the purchase of additional snow removal equipment. A mount was purchased for our Dodge pickup (to replace our previous surplus plow truck) which will help clear roads and hatchery grounds.
- Demolition of two old quarters at Williams Creek took place early December. The demo crew completed the project in three days.
- The Project and Unit Leaders were unable to attend this year's Regional FAC meeting held at the beginning of December in Albuquerque due to pre-approved leaves, emergency leaves, and ongoing APT spawning season obligations.





## *PUBLIC EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT:*

Williams Creek received no visitors this month and Alchesay received a total of 10 visitors. With winter here in full force, visitation is understandably extremely low.

## *UPCOMING EVENTS:*

- Non-essential equipment will be evaluated. If there is an inherent monetary value this equipment will be listed for disposal as surplus to better set-up our fleet and equipment inventory to meet our hatchery mission.
- Apache trout spawning should conclude in January.
- Isaiah Paxson will be traveling to NCTC at the end of the month to attend “Introduction to Fish Health” training.