



SOUTHWEST TRIBAL FISHERIES COMMISSION

“WATERWAYS”

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A Celebration of Native Youth Engagement

Mescalero Youth honored for a job that continues to be well done!

By: Michael Montoya, Executive Director SWTFC

14 youth from Mescalero are amongst 40 individuals nationally, that are being honored in Washington, DC at by the Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Na-

tional Park Service. For the past five years, over 50 tribal and non-tribal youth have been working together to improve the landscape on the Mescalero Tribal Reservation as well as in their own lives. The

Mescalero Tribal Fisheries Department hires on as many as twenty students aged 15-18 every summer as minimum wage employees. These youngsters perform hands-on service learning to operate and

Renovation of the Headwaters of Santa Clara Creek

By: Gilbert Gutierrez, Santa Clara Pueblo Office of Environmental Affairs

Renovation of the Headwaters of Santa Clara Creek

On October 18, 2010, the Santa Clara Pueblo Office of Environmental Affairs (OEA) in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office began renovation of the Santa Clara Creek in preparation for the reintro-

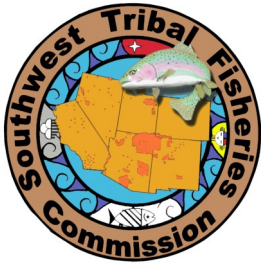
duction of the Rio Grande Cutthroat trout back into the Santa Clara Creek Headwaters. The OEA also received assistance from the Santa Clara Forestry Department and Kevin Terry of the Jicarilla Apache Game and Fish Department.

The project consisted of three treatments during a two week period. A Rotenone Treatment was applied on October 19-20, 2010 from the fourth pond

up to the headwaters of Turkey and Santa Clara Creek, 18 drip stations were set up and four backpack sprayers were used to treat marsh areas and small tributaries. A neutralization/detox station was set up below the fourth pond, and a secondary station was set approximately 100 yards down stream. Dead fish were collected, weighed, and measured before disposal in a designated area.



Drip Station on Santa Clara Creek



To advance tribal self-determination and tribal stewardship of fisheries through the professional development and support of tribal resource management programs”

Message From the Chairman– Butch Blazer

Hello Everyone!

It has been a very busy time since you received our last newsletter, but in this case, "busy" reflects the exciting and productive work that you all are involved with out on our tribal lands. As mentioned in the attached article by our Executive Director, Mike Montoya, regarding the Native Youth Celebration in Washington, D.C., I was honored in having been asked to participate in that event. In witnessing the presentations given by our young native American students from the Mesquero, White Mountain and Salish-Kootenai Reservations, it made my heart feel good in realizing that many of these young people are

going to be the ones that will soon be stepping into our shoes and running the programs that we are all now involved with. It is because of the importance of these youth conservation programs that were highlighted at this event that we, as tribal natural resources professionals, need to work with tribal leadership to expand these model youth programs, and other exciting natural resources opportunities, all across Indian Country.

In our next edition of "Waterways", I will be submitting a detailed update to each of you regarding the development of a national tribal natural resources strategy. This effort has now been in progress for

approximately 18 months. Once completed, this strategy will provide the tool needed for our effective interaction with tribal leadership on behalf of tribal natural resources. The article will outline those that have been involved and will discuss the reasons that such a strategy is needed. Until then, please visit our new strategy working group's web-site at www.OurNaturalResources.Org. This site will be soon populated with information regarding the on-going strategy effort.

Until then, be safe, have a wonderful Holiday Season and keep up the good work that each of you are involved with!



Right: Installation of the barrier culvert below pond four

Left: Top to Bottom

Drip Station on Santa Clara Creek

Backpack Sprayers

Detox Station Set Up

Detox Station in Action



Cont. from Page 1 Renovation of the headwaters of Santa Clara Creek

On Tuesday October 26, 2010, a second treatment was applied from the fourth pond to the upper headwaters. All told, approximately 964 dead fish were collected ranging in size from 1-inch to 8-inches during the two week treatment period.

On October 27, 2010, with the use of Electro backpack shockers, surveys were conducted from fourth pond up to the confluence of Turkey and Santa Clara creek. After the surveys were completed and no fish were found the USFWS determined that no more treatments were needed. During the summer of 2011 there will be one more survey to determine that all non-native fish have been removed, and that Santa Clara Creek is ready for the re-introduction of Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout. During this time a 20 ft culvert was installed at the outlet of fourth pond to create a water fall barrier to prevent any non-native fish from migrating up into the reclaimed headwater area.

During the month of September, the Santa Clara Pueblo Tribal Council approved and authorized Governor Walter Dasheno through Resolution No. 2010-25 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Santa Clara Pueblo (SCP) and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF). The MOU provides that the NMDGF will collect and transport 200 pure strain Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout into Santa Clara Creek.

News Release



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November 3, 2010

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Celebrates Native American Heritage Month

The Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service celebrated Native American Heritage Month by saluting Native American youth at a special Tribal conservation event in Washington, D.C.

The event celebrated the accomplishments of some very special students from the Native American Youth Conservation Corps and Student Temporary Employment Program that worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries Program. Students from Mescalero Apache (NM), Salish Kootenai (MT), and White Mountain Apache (AZ) Tribes joined tribal elders, statesmen,

and inter-tribal organizations from across the country to discuss the successful engagement of Tribal youth in fish and wildlife conservation activities and the promise and possibilities for the future.

"Engaging youth from Tribes in protecting and restoring fish and wildlife populations is one of the best ways to cultivate tomorrow's leaders in natural resource conservation," said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. "This special event celebrated the accomplishments of Tribal youth as we work together to better manage our shared resources."

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Fisheries and National Conservation Training Center, the Secretary's Office of Youth and Careers, Salish Kootenai College, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service and the Environmental Protection Agency came together to honor these students and offer an opportunity for them to share their experiences.

"I am pleased to share in the celebration of National Native American Heritage Month with the other agencies here at the Department of the Interior,"

said Assistant Secretary Larry Echo Hawk. "The success of this initiative demonstrates the emphasis we have at Interior upon respect, sovereignty, education and the promise our youth possess in delivering a positive future for Indian Country."

"These students are part of a larger effort to engage America's youth in the projects and issues we face in the Fish and Wildlife Service," said Acting Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service Rowan Gould. "Our dedicated staff works closely with the kids on a vast array of environmental issues, and exposes them to opportunities that may drive their future education and career pathways."

For example, Youth Conservation Corps participant Wacey Cochise of the Mescalero Apache Tribe in New Mexico will continue his college career at New Mexico Highlands University studying Wildlife Biology. Amanda Berens of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of Montana is also seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Biology at the University of Montana. Fish and Wildlife

Service Supervisory Fisheries Biologist, Chris Kitcheyan (White Mountain Apache), administrates the YCC program at the Mescalero Apache Tribal Fish Hatchery in New Mexico and has seen for himself how lives are changed. "I was a YCC student about twenty years ago and went on to complete a Masters degree in Fisheries Biology at the University of Arizona. Supporting these bright young people completes the circle for me," said Kitcheyan.

For more information on the event and other tribal conservation programs, please visit <http://www.fws.gov/nativeamerican/>.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.



NEW FRONTIERS IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT AND ECOLOGY:
LEADING THE WAY IN A CHANGING WORLD
AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY 141ST ANNUAL MEETING
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON . SEPTEMBER 4-8, 2011 . WWW.FISHERIES.ORG/AFS2011

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) has announced a request for symposium proposals, and I plan to propose a Tribal Research and Management Symposium. The annual AFS meeting will be held on September 4-8, 2011 in Seattle, WA. This is a great meeting location to spotlight tribal efforts in fisheries research and management. Tribes are often doing relevant work that has implications for a wide audience such as AFS. For the symposium, I plan to get participation from various geographic locations in the U.S. (i.e. Southwest, Pacific Northwest, and Midwest). If you are interested in presenting during the symposium please provide the following information: name, affiliation, and a tentative presentation title by January 1, 2011 to Melissa Mata with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 505-761-4743 or melissa_mata@fws.gov. Presentation will be 20 minutes in Microsoft PowerPoint. If the symposium is accepted, each participant will be notified and required to submit an abstract to AFS by March 11, 2011. If you would like additional information, please contact Melissa Mata (contact information above). Please share this message with anyone that may be interested in presenting at the Annual AFS meeting in Seattle, WA.

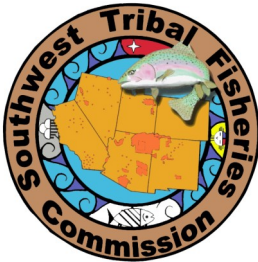
To advance tribal self-determination and tribal stewardship of fisheries through the professional development and support of tribal resource management programs"

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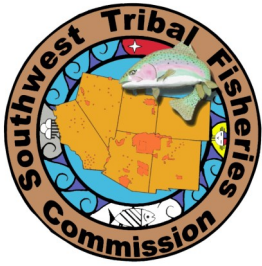


Above: Participants and Instructors of the NCTC Rotenone and Antimycin course group together for a quick shot at the Santa Claran Hotel in Espanola, New Mexico.

USFWS NCTC Training at Santa Clara Pueblo

By: Kevin Terry Vice Chairman SWTFC

During the week of August 16-20th 2010, the USFWS and Santa Clara Pueblo hosted a class entitled, “Rotenone and Antimycin use in Fish Management” at the beautiful Santa Claran Hotel in Espanola, New Mexico. The class is typically taught at the USFWS’ National Conservation Training Center, but in this case the USFWS wanted to reach out to tribal agencies & partners and host the class here in the Southwest, as a precursor to the October stream renovation of the headwaters of Santa Clara creek on the sacred grounds of Santa Clara Pueblo. The USFWS also waived the usual course registration fee of \$850.00 for tribal participants, which certainly helped out tremendously in a year of tight budgets. Tribal turnout included folks from several of the SWTFC member tribes including the Southern Ute Tribe, Mescalero Apache Tribe, Jicarilla Apache Nation, Navajo Nation, and Santa Clara Pueblo. The intensive training included thorough course work as well as a mock planning exercise and an in-situ lab exercise using live trout and active rotenone. The class was a great success with a 100% completion rate. We as tribal fish managers in the Southwest now have a network of folks trained to plan and achieve successful chemical reclamation projects on tribal lands. The class also functioned to network tribal managers with experienced and knowledgeable managers from federal and state agencies. With this success, the USFWS plans to continue bringing valuable training courses closer to home for the tribes of the SWTFC. The USFWS, in conjunction with SW Native American Fish and Wildlife Society, plans on hosting a workshop entitled, “Fisheries Techniques” in April 2011.



Cont. from page 1 **A Celebration of Native Youth Engagement**

repair the fish hatchery, which in turn, provides fish to Tribal fisheries programs across New Mexico and into Colorado. In addition, these youngsters have taken on construction projects to restore streams and fisheries in the Rio Ruidoso Watershed following the devastating floods of 2008. They have also constructed over three miles of pipeline to bring water to the hatchery; rehabilitated several springs and intakes; constructed or repaired over six miles of trail; renovated and constructed several buildings; repaired and maintained vehicles; all the while learning through practice and team work.

Every participant receives a \$1000 AmeriCorps scholarship for performing a minimum of 300 hours of community service. For three field seasons, these youngsters have also hosted, supervised, and worked alongside AmeriCorps NCCC (National Community Conservation Corps) and University-based Commuter Corps students from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania. They have also been team leaders for junior high aged Learn and Serve America projects.

Some of these students return to high school at the end of the summer season, some to Mescalero High School, some to Ruidoso High School, and some to Tularosa High School. Every student in this program has graduated from high school, and has subsequently gone on to pursue higher education. In 2010, two students registered at New Mexico State University in Alamogordo received scholarships and are attending New Mexico State University; two are at Highlands University, one is at University of New Mexico, and two are at Trinidad State Junior College in Alamosa, CO pursuing a AA degree in Aquaculture. From the students that started the program, two have graduated from university (NMSU). Ms. Alisha Antonio, is currently the natural resource specialist at Laguna Pueblo, and Mr. Kai-T Bluesky is a wildlife biologist at Tesuque Pueblo. Ms. Shelley Belin will be the third university graduate from this program, graduating with a degree in Fish and Wildlife Science this December. She plans on staying at the Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery as a Fisheries Biologist and Youth Conservation Corp team leader.

Of the 50 plus students that were involved in the program, fifteen individuals were selected to travel to Washington to participate in a Tribal Natural Resource Strategy Youth Summit and a Celebration of Native Youth Engagement. These youth were representing the Mescalero Youth Conservation Corp as a model national program along with a group from White Mountain Apache in Arizona, and the Salish- Kootenai in Montana. During their week in Washington, the youth participated in a Youth Summit along with Mr. Billy Frank, of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; Mr. Gary Morishima, of the Intertribal Timber Council; and Mr. Butch Blazer, representing the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society as well as the Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission. Amongst the notables at this event were Mr. Stuart Leon, Director of Fisheries, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Mr. Rhea Suh, Department of Interior Assistant Secretary, Mr. Rowan Gould, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Dr. Jay Slack, Director, National Conservation and Training Center, and Bill Walker, BIA Regional Director.

In addition, to the Youth Summit, the youth were invited to tour the American Museum of the Native American, the National Congress of American Indian embassy, and the Ira Hays grave at the National Cemetery.

It is hoped that we will build upon our successes and are looking for Tribal youth that are 1.) graduating from high school; 2.) interested in pursuing careers in natural resources and 3.) are looking for a way to get their feet wet. For more information please contact Mike Montoya at mmontoya@matisp.net.

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www.SWTFC.org

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Mescalero Apache Tribe

Southern Ute Tribe

Santa Clara Pueblo

Ohkay Owingeh

Isleta Pueblo

Cochiti Pueblo

Picuris Pueblo

Ute Tribe (U&O)

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Zuni Pueblo

San Carlos Apache Tribe

Laguna Pueblo

Nambe Pueblo

Sandia Pueblo

Navajo Nation

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe