



SWTF Weekly Digest #15-2020

September 1, 2020

Executive Directors Message of the week:

Good Morning Everyone!

Whew! What a week! Thank to all of you that attended the SWTFC August Board Meeting! We had quorum for the first time since Coronavirus showed up, and got some necessary business done. And thanks for all of the participation. I know a lot of people aren't that fond of meetings, but in this day and age of social distancing, even virtual meetings can be a nice change from our personal bubbles. We should have the minutes out for your review in a day or two.

Here in Albuquerque, it feels like the heat wave is breaking just a bit, and I know that the region has received a few drops of rain, just not at my house! I hope you all are receiving what you need.

I have been being a little lax in my duties, and have not posted all of these digests to the website yet, but I promise, I will get them up there soon.

Have a great week!

Adam Ringia, Executive Director

News and Links:

1. The National Fish Habitat Partnership has released its Annual Report, highlighting activities from our 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships and Board from 2019. Please check out the digital version, at <https://bit.ly/3111Xs1>.
2. **The [AFS Virtual Annual Meeting](#)** will be taking place from Sept 14-25, 2020
3. In Arizona, four U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service national wildlife refuges are adding hunting and/or fishing opportunities: Leslie Canyon, Buenos Aires, Cabeza Prieta, and Cibola National Wildlife Refuges.
In New Mexico, two national wildlife refuges are adding hunting and/or fishing opportunities: Bitter Lake and Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuges. The [final rule](#) will publish in the *Federal Register* and will be available at <http://www.regulations.gov>, Docket Number: FWS-HQ-NWRS-2020-0013.
Sorry, I didn't get any notices for our other states.
4. [The FWS is proposing to define "habitat" in our regulations implementing section 4 of the Endangered Species Act.](#) Comments are due **by September 4, 2020**. The Service has concluded

that that these regulations do not have “tribal implications” and formal government-to-government consultation is not required under 13175 and related policies.

5. If you are an AFS member, remember to vote in the Diversity and Inclusion motion:
MOTION: That the AFS Rules (Section 14. Standing Committees) be amended to designate Diversity & Inclusion as a Standing Committee of the American Fisheries Society.
6. [Draft Invasive Species Strategic Plan](#) - Tribal consultation conference call is on September 17th.
7. [Call for Papers – Tribal Fish and Wildlife Management](#)
8. [World Fish Migration Day](#) – is in just over 2 months. Check out the planned events so far!
9. If you have stories or pictures (good news is always welcome), please share!

Grant Opportunities:

1. **Western Native Trout Initiative's FY2021 Request for Proposals is live.** You can view the funding opportunity at [This RFP](#) is our first year of prioritizing Colorado River Cutthroat Trout, Lahontan Cutthroat Trout, Westslope Cutthroat Trout, and Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout. Please note the application deadline is **Friday, October 30, 2020 and proposals must be submitted by 5 p.m.** (Mountain Time). If you should have any questions or need additional information, please contact Theresa Thompson (WNTI Coordinator) at tthompson@westernnativetrout.org.
2. The **Funding Opportunity for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife QZAP FY2020** has officially been posted. The total funding amount for projects is approximately \$1,830,000.00, which is a significant increase from years past. Consequently, USFWS has expanded the categories and priorities of potential projects. Additionally, there is a significant change in the application process this year resulting from our transition to [GrantSolutions.gov](https://www.grantsolutions.gov). This opportunity will be open for application through October 18, 2020. Contact barak_shemai@fws.gov for more information.
3. Here is a potential funding opportunity [for partnership projects with the NRCS](#)...USDA has announced \$360 million in funding for the next round of Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) conservation projects. Project applications are now being accepted for locally driven, public-private partnerships that improve the nation’s water quality (including drinking water sources), combat drought, enhance soil health, support wildlife habitat, and protect agricultural viability. Projects are eligible to receive between \$250,000 and \$10 million in RCPP funding that is expected to be leveraged with funding and in-kind contributions from partners that are equal or greater to the NRCS investment. Funding is open to private industry, non-government organizations, Indian tribes, state and local governments, water districts, universities, and more. RCPP funding is divided evenly among two funding pools, one for Critical Conservation Areas (CCAs) and one for projects in a single state or across several states.
4. **USFS- SWTFC Youth Grant 2020:** We have funding from the USFS for tribal youth employment – if you are interested, please contact me adam.ringia@gmail.com for more information!
5. [Desert Fish Habitat Partnership](#) – 2021 request for proposals open! Due September 25, 2020 by 5pm.

Webinars and Educational Opportunities:

1. The Water Resources Center at the University of Arizona presents: Daryl Vigil (Jicarilla, Jemez, Zia) will provide an overview of [Toward a Sense of the Basin: Designing a Collaborative Process to Develop the Next Set of Guidelines for the Colorado River](#), a report from the Water and Tribes Initiative, which since 2017 has pursued two complementary objectives: 1) to enhance tribal capacity to participate in basin-wide policy decisions and 2) to advance sustainable water management in the basin through collaborative decision-making. **Tuesday, September 1 (TODAY!!) [Link to Webinar here!](#) 1-2:15 Mountain Time.**
 2. **Now Virtual: 2020 National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference**
The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) will host the First Biennial National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC) along with support from the Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Resilience Program. The NTICC is open to all U.S. tribal nations & Indigenous Peoples from throughout the world, with an emphasis on including Elders and Youth. The NTICC will convene experts on climate change and will include a balance of Traditional Indigenous Knowledges and Western Science and will now be held VIRTUALLY September 14 – 17. **Learn more:** <https://sites.google.com/view/2020-nticc-itep/home>
 3. **Teton Science Schools Graduate Program Native American Fellowship Opportunity** It is with great pleasure to reach out to you and share an amazing opportunity for which you might be eligible, or might know someone who would be interested and eligible. The Teton Science Schools' (TSS) Graduate Program is offering a full scholarship, covering tuition and room and board, to someone who is currently affiliated with a Native American tribe as an educator, or aspiring educator, or is of Native American descent. Interested scholarship candidates should begin the enrollment process for the [TSS Graduate Program](#). If you have specific questions or want more information, please contact Dr. Nikki Gamrath, Vice President of Educator Development, at the Teton Science Schools at nikki.gamrath@tetonscience.org.
 4. Tribal engagement webinar/listening session for the Agriculture and Natural Resources Trust Fund Act. If you think would be willing to present on your work or might be interested in helping to put this webinar on, please contact me and I will get you to the right people! Looking at October as a possible timeframe.
 5. **DOI Talent and DOI University.** I'm leaving these links up here just in case:
 - a. DOI Talent: https://www.doi.gov/doitalent/nondoil_learners
 - b. DOI University Classes: <https://doiu.doi.gov/reg.asp?id=>
- ...and a variety of upcoming (with dates) and pre-recorded (without dates) webinars:
1. [AFS – Stream Simulation Design – September 9th](#)

Science! Or science-y...

1. [Can smartphones kill Trout? Mortality of memorable-sized Bull Trout \(*Salvelinus confluentus*\) after photo-releases](#) - B.A.Joubert^aM.G.Sullivan^bB.C.Kissinger^cA.T.Meinke^c
2. [Learning from Past Failures to Improve Selecting Endangered Desert Fish Reintroduction Sites](#) - Torresdal, Jack

SWTFC Contacts:

Mescalero Tribal Fish Hatchery

P.O. Box 190

Mescalero, NM 88340

Jacob Mazzone – Chair

Phone: 575-759-3255

jacob.a.mazzone@gmail.com

Glenn Selby – Vice-Chair

Phone: 979-446-2041

gselby@nndfw.org

Steve Whiteman – Sec/ Treasurer

Phone: 970-563-0130

swhitema@southernute-nsn.gov

Adam Ringia – Executive Director

Phone: 505-235-2228

adam.ringia@gmail.com

Shelley Belin – Hatchery Manager

Phone: (575) 464-8768

sbelin@mescaleroapachetribe.com