U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Southwest Region Fisheries Connecting People with Nature

Recreational Fishing and Outdoor Education

2012 Highlights

## SOUTHWEST REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICES

### Arizona

Alchesay-Williams Creek National Fish Hatchery Pinetop, AZ 928/338-4901

Arizona Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Pinetop, AZ 928/338-4288

Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery Willow Beach, AZ 928/767-3456

## New Mexico

Regional Office Albuquerque, NM 505/248-6471

Dexter National Fish Hatchery and Tech Center Dexter, NM 8 505/734-5910

Mora National Fish Hatchery and Tech Center Mora, NM 505/387-6022

New Mexico Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Albuquerque, NM 505/342-9900

### Oklahoma

Oklahoma Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office Tishomingo, OK 580/384-5710

Tishomingo National Fish Hatchery Tishomingo, OK 580/384-5463

#### Texas

Inks Dam National Fish Hatchery Burnet, TX 512/793-2474

San Marcos National Fish Hatchery and Tech Center San Marcos, TX 512/353-0011

Texas Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office San Marcos, TX 512/353-0011

Uvalde National Fish Hatchery Uvalde, TX 830/278-2419



The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitat for the continuing benefit of the American people.



For more than a century, the Fisheries Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service created and supported opportunities to catch fish and to spend time outdoors. Over time, our program evolved from a single focus on recreational fishing to a larger effort to reconnect Americans with their natural world. We engage local communities to help us provide hands-on learning experiences for youth. We work side by side with states, Native American tribes, conservation organizations, and the recreational fishing industry in pursuit of our shared goals.



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## Engage

Nearly 50 youth volunteers provided almost 2,500 hours of volunteer service on various hatchery and field office projects. Projects varied from Scout troop trail maintenance and interpretive signage installation; to high school students designing and installing trail bridges. Youth volunteers provided support during fishing derbies and assisted with monitoring endangered species.









Fisheries staff hosted or supported 12 angling events with more than 2,000 participants. These events included family fishing derbies, youth fishing tournaments and fish stockings.

Field office and hatchery staff also participated in nearly 50 outreach events. These included River Clean Up Days, State Game and Fish Expos, classroom presentation and environmental education fairs.

The inclusion of several hatcheries on the MyRefuge Mobile App.

## Educate

Each year Fisheries in the Southwest Region welcome more than 15,000 youth visitors for various conservation education programs and hatchery tours.

Major conservation education programs include Native Fish in the Classroom, Archery on the Hatchery, Hatchery Outdoor Program, and Biologist in Training.

174 adult volunteers and friends groups provided nearly 10,000 hours of Service.













Native Fish in the Classroom is a hands-on activity that engages students and helps to connect them to real-life water quality, fish and wildlife issues and inspires them to seek solutions. In 2012, nearly 400 students in 9 schools participated in raising native fish and releasing them into their habitats.

Fisheries staff hosted or supported nearly 300 students and adults in archery and bow hunting events.



# Employ

The student employment program hired 70 students in 2012. Programs included YCC, Tribal YCC and STEP/SCEP.

Student employees were invaluable to Fisheries operations. Students did everything from lead hatchery tours, monitor fish, handle basic hatchery maintenance to redesigning regional websites.















"I am 18 years old. I am graduating this May from Blue Ridge High School. I have played three sports and been in many clubs throughout high school and been a part of many Championships. I live on a farm where my family and I raise show steers that we compete with around the state. We have several female cows which we raise show animals from. I love to hunt and fish in my spare time. I also like hiking and riding my mule in the Mount Baldy area. I also help my dad run his business, Critter Ridder and Sons. We trap and remove animals from private homes and businesses. I plan on attending the University of Arizona and majoring in veterinarian sciences or animal sciences."

--Zane Gouker

"I'm currently attending Western New Mexico University and plan to graduate next spring. I am also a student athlete at my university. I'm on the Men's tennis team. This year we claimed season, conference, and regional champs and are fixing to head to the NCAA national tournament. Outside of school and tennis, I like to hike, fish, and hunt just get away from everything. I hope after college I can get a job with the fish and wildlife service working outdoors somewhere." --Roy Ulibarri U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Fish and Aquatic Resource Conservation P.O. Box 1306 Albuquerque, NM 87103 505/248-6822

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