



Happy New Year!

## *FishTales*®

*A Weekly Peek at Fisheries, Aquatic Ecology  
and Watersheds in the*

**USDA FOREST SERVICE**

*December 27 - December 31, 2004*

### **Dave Cross -**

This was a short week due to annual leave and the New Year Holiday. Spent some time reviewing and revising performance plans and caught up on e-mail! Best wishes for a great and productive New Year to all of our readers; we look forward to keeping you informed of program developments and successes in 2005.

### **Bill Lorenz -**

On leave this week.

## News from Around the Country

- **THERE'S STILL TIME TO SIGN UP!**

### **World's Largest Kids Fishing Event Partnership**

#### ***Now is the Time to Sign Up for 2005 Kids Fishing Derbies***

For over 15 years the U.S.D.A. Forest Service has been in "Partnership" with Hooked on Fishing International and its ever-growing Kids All-American Fishing Derby program.

Hosting a kids fishing derby is fun and easy when you register an event with **Kids All-American Fishing**. Once again, recognized agencies and organizations including the U.S. Forest Service Ranger Districts can submit an application to receive the nationally acclaimed Kids All-American Fishing Derby Organizer Support Kit absolutely **FREE OF CHARGE!** Kids fishing derbies are fun for the whole family and we want to help you produce an event for your Ranger District or Forest in 2005

The free Derby Organizer Support Kit has just about everything you will need to make a kids fishing derby a success. The kit includes support tools such as a how-to Organizer Handbook, event promotion posters and banner, and literally hundreds of give-away items for the kids, including goodie bags, bobbers, fish hooks and other fun items so everyone goes home with something in addition to the wonderful memories., all this, at no charge to you, the organizer. Even the Shipping and Handling is absolutely FREE!

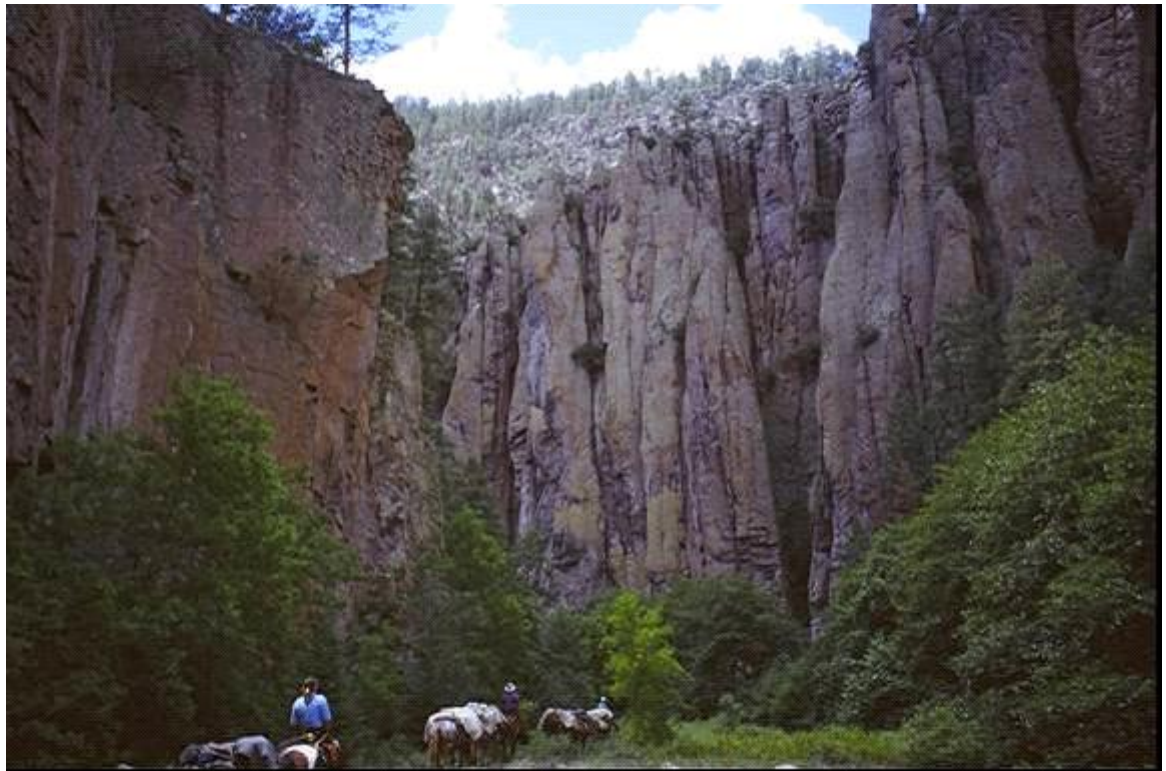
This past year over 1,800 individual organizations and agencies, including parks and recreation departments, state fish and game agencies, scouting groups, community service organizations, and U.S. Forest Service Ranger Districts partnered with Kids All-American Fishing to host youth fishing events in all 50 states. The U.S. Military even joined in with derbies for the kids of personnel stationed in Germany, England South Korea, and Japan. Join us in 2005 and help bring the joy of fishing to the kids in your area.

## **Regional Roundup: Southwestern Region - Amy Unthank, Fisheries Program Leader -**

Looking back on 2004 reveals several accomplishments, as well as challenges to the Fisheries and Aquatic TES program in the Southwestern Region. Some of the highlights include activities with our partners that help the native trout programs accomplish good conservation activities. Representatives from Arizona's Trout Unlimited, including Fred Fillmore and Jeff Collins, as well as Trout Unlimited's national Resource Director, Joe McGurrin, helped with Apache trout grant funding and project accomplishment. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant that Joe worked with the region on, included U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Arizona Fisheries

Resource Office, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and the Arizona Game and Fish Department as key partners. Several barriers were completed on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest, as were piscicide treatments in several key streams on the A-S. Mike Lopez and Kelly Meyer, from the Pinetop Region of AGFD deserve great credit for organizing and leading the piscicide efforts on the A-S NF. The Apache Trout Recovery Team met at the end of November and identified some follow-up work to a couple of the piscicide treatments, but overall progress is being made to eradicate non-natives and the treatments went well.

Gila Trout recovery activities included two trips up into the Gila Wilderness where portions of the mainstem West Fork Gila and tributaries were treated in June and August. This effort was led by Dr. David Propst of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and Jim Brooks of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's New Mexico Fisheries Resource Office. The remoteness of this area requires long horseback trips into the wilderness, but also provided an opportunity for Jim and some of the Gila National Forest employees to help release Mexican wolves into the wilderness as we embarked on the August trip. When we came out of the wilderness in August we got the news that New Mexico's Fish and Game Commission had required the NM Department of Game and Fish to stop using piscicides. This decision has removed one of the primary tools for native fish management in the state of New Mexico. The state has indicated that they may make case by case decisions to allow the use of antimycin, while several agencies and representatives of New Mexico Trout and Trout Unlimited have asked the Director to help reconsider the decision. Stay tuned. In recent monitoring of the upper West Fork Gila, a few brown trout and rainbow trout were located, so return of Gila trout to those waters has been delayed. Many decades ago brown trout were raised at a "hatchery" within the wilderness in the upper West Fork Gila watershed, so the fish have had many years to establish and get into every nook and cranny of the system.



(A view of the West Fork Gila valley as the team returned from the August trip)

Work also continues on Rio Grande cutthroat trout, mostly as basic tasks to take spawn from selected populations from streams on National Forest lands within northern New Mexico, monitor populations and keep brown trout at bay with electrofishing removal. This work is accomplished by New Mexico Department of Game and Fish with assistance from the Carson and Santa Fe National Forests. Larger restoration projects have been in the planning phases, including the potential for many miles of restoration in the Costilla watershed where Ted Turner's Vermejo Ranch, the Carson National Forest, and the Rio Costilla Cooperative Livestock Association have worked with the state to plan future activities. The Vermejo Ranch project suffered a set-back when a batch of Rio Grande cutthroat trout arrived to be repatriated along with some unwanted rainbow trout last June. Part of the fish load was delivered to lake and stream waters before the rainbows were discovered. The Forest Service will continue to work on ongoing and potential projects with state, federal and non-governmental partners in 2005 to conserve Rio Grande cutthroat trout, which is the only native Southwestern trout not listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Fossil Creek, which originates as a series of springs flowing out of the ground at 70 degrees F, was the site of a significant interagency native fish salvage and piscicide treatment during October and November. The second part of the treatment, which has not been reported in Fishtales, went well. The smallmouth

bass in the second treatment segment appeared to have successfully eliminated speckled dace from the lower reaches of Fossil Creek, as none were caught during salvage. The smaller year-classes of the native suckers and chubs also appear to be missing from this portion of Fossil Creek. Many large suckers and native chub were salvaged and returned to the creek after the piscicide treatment. In the upper reach, hundreds of native suckers and speckled dace (along with 14 longfin dace) were returned to Fossil Creek after the October treatment. Fossil Creek will continue to be subjected to follow-up monitoring and public education and outreach to help make the project successful in the long term. Full flows from the decommissioned hydropower system are expected to return to the creek in the spring.



Here is a fine shot of the two native suckers from Fossil Creek: Desert Sucker (*Catostomus clarki*, left) and Sonoran sucker (*Catostomus insignis*, right).



Here is a shot of the native roundtail chub (*Gila robustus*) from Fossil Creek, which is also a sportfish in Arizona.

The Region would like to thank Ian Reid, who came out on a detail from Region 6's Rogue-Siskiyou, to help accomplish the Fossil Creek project.



Ian releasing native fish back into Fossil Creek, while also being filmed for a future PBS documentary on Fossil Creek.

## *Respect the Rio Growing Fast*

*By Kimberly A. Kelly, Education Coordinator, Santa Fe NF*



After two years, Respect the Rio is rapidly becoming a successful education and watershed restoration program. Not only has the program reached thousands of people, but it has also provided a common goal for disciplines, such as wildlife/fisheries, recreation, hydrology, and range on the Jemez and Cuba Ranger Districts of the Santa Fe National Forest.

Respect the Rio is a combination of environmental education, watershed restoration, and public involvement that empowers local communities and forest users to participate in watershed restoration. The program identifies specific activities ready for implementation that would benefit riparian zones, land use, and water quality.

Respect the Rio concentrates on overall watershed health by incorporating treatment of dense forest stands, meadow maintenance, livestock grazing, roads, and recreation. Watershed restoration efforts included: willow planting, installation of improved road drainage systems, fence reconstruction and installation, upland water development, modification of dispersed recreation sites, trail improvement and relocation, and stream bank stabilization.

The education campaign is an incredibly important component in the long-term success of Respect the Rio. From students to campground users to dispersed recreationists, Respect the Rio has directly reached over 5,000 people during the past two years through interpretive and contact ranger programs. Through contact rangers, dispersed campers and recreationists received person- to-person contact during the weekends throughout the summer. The contact ranger informs the public of current restoration projects, offers river-friendly camping and recreation advice, presents a positive view of the Forest Service, and answers questions.



Student Conservation Association intern, Alex Kirkpatrick, hands a young camper a *Respect the Rio* temporary tattoo.

Many more individuals have been reached through a proactive multi-media campaign. With topics ranging from “why is this road closed” to “not driving through streams,” 14 interpretive signs have been developed and placed near problem areas. Local restaurants in Canon, Jemez Springs, and La Cueva, NM have agreed to display Respect the Rio informational table tents and placemats. A Respect the Rio Web site is currently under construction and will be available by the end of the year. Other media include: newspaper articles, advertisements, interpretive panels, and a native fish aquarium at the Walatowa Visitors Center.

Respect the Rio is an offshoot of the Respect the River program which originated in the Pacific Northwest Region on the Methow Ranger District, Okanogan National Forest in 1993. Respect the Rio arose to address water quality issues within the Jemez Watershed, specifically along the Rio Guadalupe, Rio Cebolla, and Rio de Las Vacas thanks to a Clean Water Act 319 grant from the New Mexico Environment Department and Environmental Protection Agency. The primary impairments of sedimentation and temperature can be linked to dispersed recreation and land use.

If you would like to learn more about Respect the Rio or would like to use the educational materials on your forest, please contact Kimberly A. Kelly, Education Coordinator at 505-829-3535 or [kakelly@fs.fed.us](mailto:kakelly@fs.fed.us).

Kimberly Kelly has worked diligently on a website for the Respect the Rio Program. She received assistance from James Adams (web guru on the Gila), Becky Studen (Respect the River coordinator on the Okanogan/Wenatchee) as well as Bill Dowdy (Fish Bio on the Umatilla) and Becca Wassell (Fish Bio on the Wenatchee). The website will evolve as the program evolves and will be updated continuously in 2005. Visit the new website at [www.fs.fed.us/rtr](http://www.fs.fed.us/rtr) which offers managers and public land visitors an opportunity to learn about how to respect the river.

## Regional Roundup Calendar

Region	Issue
Rocky Mountain Region	12/23/04

Southwestern Region	12/31/04
Intermountain Region	1/07/05
Pacific Southwest Region	1/14/05
Pacific Northwest Region	1/21/05
Southern Region	1/28/05

## **Migrational Opportunities (Federal job announcements: [http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency\\_search.asp](http://jobsearch.usajobs.opm.gov/agency_search.asp))**

- **Out reach notice** - The Gifford Pinchot National Forest is conducting outreach to identify candidates for an exciting and rewarding challenge as the Fishery Biologist at Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument (MSHNVN). The Forest is seeking to fill a permanent, full-time Fishery Biologist GS-0482-11 with a duty station of Amboy, Washington. The position will be advertised soon on the USA Jobs website: <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov/>

For more information regarding this position, please contact Karen Thompson, Watershed Resources Manager, at (360) 449-7826, [karenmthompson@fs.fed.us](mailto:karenmthompson@fs.fed.us); or Cliff Ligons, Monument Manager at (360) 449-7800 [cligons@fs.fed.us](mailto:cligons@fs.fed.us)

- **Outreach Notice:** The Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service will soon advertise the position for Director of the Biological and Physical Resources (BPR) Unit. We plan to advertise it as a GS-15 or a GS-14/15. The results of this outreach will determine what grade(s) we advertise it.

The Southern Region of the USDA Forest Service encompasses thirteen Southern states, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Fourteen National Forests and Grasslands, four National Recreation Areas and the Savannah River Natural Resources Management and Research Institute make up the Southern Region. The Region accounts for approximately ten percent of the total Forest Service workforce. Most of the 3100 Forest Service employees within the Southern Region work in field offices overseeing National Forest operations, about 300 work in the Regional Office in Atlanta. The Regional Office has five primary staff areas: Natural Resources, State and Private Forestry, Operations, Civil Rights, and Public Affairs.

If interested, please contact Roberta Moltzen, Deputy Regional Forester, Natural Resources, telephone at 404-347-4177, or e-mail [robertamoltzen@fs.fed.us](mailto:robertamoltzen@fs.fed.us).

## ***Hotlinks:***

- Forest Service Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/fish/index.html>
- Fish Your National Forests: <http://www.fs.fed.us/fishing/>
- National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI): <http://www.fishhabitat.org>
- Large-Scale Watershed Restoration Projects: <http://www.fs.fed.us/largewatershedprojects/>
- Fish & Aquatic Ecology Unit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/fishecology/index.html>
- Watershed and Air Management: <http://www.fs.fed.us/clean/>
- National Fishing and Boating Week: <http://www.nationalfishingandboatingweek.org/>

- NatureWatch: <http://www.fs.fed.us/outdoors/naturewatch/>
- Forest Service Research Stations – One stop shopping: <http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/index.htm>
- Forest Service Research Station - Boise Aquatic Sciences Lab: <http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/>

## *Sensory Stimulation:*

*"Things will probably come out all right, but sometimes it takes strong nerves just to watch."*

*Hedley Donovan*

New Files for FishTales – FishTales can now be viewed in one of three ways. You can receive it via e-mail or go to our web site where it is available in a pdf or html version.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/biology/resources/pubs/fish/fishtales/>

**FishTales**® is a weekly update of activities of the Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology Program of the USDA Forest Service. All information presented is subject to change as projects evolve, opportunities arise and issues unfold. Contributions are welcome and should be submitted to Dave Cross at [dcross01@fs.fed.us](mailto:dcross01@fs.fed.us) or Bill Lorenz at [blorenz@fs.fed.us](mailto:blorenz@fs.fed.us) no later than close of business on Thursday afternoons. We reserve the right to edit contributions for clarity, brevity, and wherever possible, a dash of silliness and irreverence.

Positions listed are for outreach purposes only and are not full announcements. Interested individuals should contact the forests referenced or consult the USAJOBS website.

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