

# From the Eagle's Nest

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## TRIBAL YOUTH EXPERIENCE OUT-DOOR LEARNING

by: Karen Lynch, NAFWS

For one week, 22 Native American high school students came to Colorado to participate in the 19th annual NAFWS Native American Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum (SYP).

They came from at least 18 Indian reservations and communities. Instructors and chaperones came from throughout the U.S., from Alaska, Washington, New Mexico, Arizona, South Dakota and here in

Colorado.

A returning student from the Great Lakes area, Miles Chisholm, 12th grade, Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa Chippewa Tribes in Michigan said he made it a point to come back for another year.

"This year, I enjoyed the water quality classes. I learned what turbidity is. It is how murky or dense the water is. It was good to know what level of turbidity fish can survive. We tested and figured the pH level, nitrate, nitrite, and phosphorous levels in the water."

The students tested water at a local community pond.

A new student who came



Students, staff, and teachers that participated in the 2009 NAFWS Environmental Awareness Summer Youth Practicum.

from Oregon, Samanta Tegner, Tlingit/Haida Tribes said, "I really didn't know what to expect before coming here. I'm so impressed with everyone. "Students here are very

proud of where they come from.

"There were so many stories told here by the teachers and students which has made an impact.

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2009 SYP

2009 Southwest Conf

2010 Nat. Conf.

Jicarilla Roundtail Chub

Jicarilla Eagle Study

## MESSAGE FROM 2010 NAFWS NATIONAL CONFERENCE HOST

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa is honored to host the 28th Annual Native American Fish and Wildlife Society National Conference. We welcome the many visitors to the Fond du Lac Reservation and the head of the Great Lakes, Lake Superior in May/June of 2010.

The Northland, like every regional area, is full of local color that is intriguing to explore. We are known as the land of 10,000 lakes. Lakes that have given our people the ability to fish, rice and travel. Come see how we manage our resources, from the traditional harvest

of fish and wild rice to commercial logging, while protecting our precious water resources.

We are honored to be a part of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Society. NAFWS gives Indian Country a voice in national issues. This is especially important for small tribes such as Fond du Lac.

The Black Bear Casino Resort will serve as the host facilities for the symposium. Our resort facility offers a full range of amenities and entertainment options, including an 18-hole PGA championship golf course. The Black Bear is conve-

niently located at the intersection of Interstate 35 and Minnesota Highway 210 in Carlton, Minnesota. And Duluth Airport is 16 miles away.

On behalf of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa ([www.fdlrez.com](http://www.fdlrez.com)), we extend an invitation to you to come and visit our Northland home.

Sincerely,  
Chairwoman, Karen Diver

## 224 MEMBER TRIBES

Agdaagux Tribal Council/Akiachak Native Community/Akiak Native Community/Akutan Traditional Council/Alakanuk Traditional Council/Alderville Indian Band/Allakaket Village Council/Arapaho Business Council/Asa'carsamuit Tribal Council/Atm'athluak Traditional Council/Barona Band of Mission Indians/Bay Mills Indian Community/Beaver Tribal Council/Big Sandy Rancheria/Birch Creek Village Council/Blackfeet Tribe/Bois Forte Reservation/Bridgeport Indian Reservation/Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma/Catawba Indian Nation/Chalkyistik Village Council/Chemehuevi Indian Tribe/Cherokee Nation/Chevak Traditional Council/Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma/Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe/Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy Reservation/Chippewa of Navash Band/Chistochina Village Council/Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana/Citizen Potawatomi Nation/Clarks Point Village Council/Coeur d'Alene Tribe/Colorado River Indian Tribes/Colville Confederated Tribes/Comanche Tribe/Confederated Tribes of Coos/Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians/Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes/Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation/Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde/Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians/Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation/Crow Creek Sioux Tribe/Eastern Band of Cherokee/Eastern Pequot/Ekwok Village Council/Elk Valley Rancheria/Ely Tribe/Evansville Tribal Council/False Pass Tribal Council/Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa/Fort Belknap Community Council/Fort Independence Paiute Tribe/Fort McDowell Mohave Apache/Fort Mojave Indian Tribe/Fort Sill Chinleahua Warm Springs Apache/Fort Peck Assiniboine Sioux Tribe/Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa/Hannahville Indian Community/Hoop Valley Tribal Council/Hopi Tribe/Hopland Band of Pomo Indians/Houlton Band of Maliseets/Husli Tribal Council/Hydraburg Cooperative Association/Iowa Tribe of Kansas & Nebraska/Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma/Iqurmiut Traditional Council/Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe/Jicarilla Apache Tribe/Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians/Karuk Tribe/Kaw Nation of Oklahoma/Kenaitze Indian Tribe/Ketchikan Indian Corporation/Keweenaw Bay Indian Community/Kickapoo Nation of Kansas/Klamath Tribe/Klawock Cooperative Association/Kodiak Tribal Council/Kotlik Traditional Council/Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewas/Lac du Flambeau Chippewa/Lac Vieux Desert Chippewa Tribe/Leech Lake Chippewa Tribe/Little River Band of Ottawa Indians/Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians/Louden Village Council/Manokotak Village Council/Manzanita Band of Mission Indians/Marshall Traditional Council/Mashantucket Pequot Tribe/McGrath Native Village Council/Menominee Indian Tribe/Mentasta Tribal Council/Mescalero Apache/Miccoseuk Tribe/Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians/Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma/Morongo Band of Mission Indians/Nambe Pueblo/Nanawalek IRA Council/Narragansett Tribe/Native Village of Atka/Native Village of Barrow/Native Village of Deering/Native Village of Eklutna/Native Village of Elm/Native Village of Eyak/Native Village of Fort Yukon/Native Village of Goodnews Bay Traditional Council/Native Village of Kotzebue/Native Village of Kwinhagak/Native Village of Mekoryuk/Native Village of Shaktoolik/Native Village of Shishmaref/Native Village of St. Michael/Native Village of Wales/Native Village of White Mountain/Navajo Nation/Nenana Native Council/Nez Percé Tribe/Nightmute Traditional Council/Ninilchik Traditional Council/North Fork Mono Rancheria/Northern Cheyenne Tribe/Notawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi/Nulato Tribal Council/Oglala Sioux Tribe/Ojibway 1850 Treaty Council/Oneida Indian Nation/Oneida Tribe of Indians/Organized Village of Kwethluk/Osage Nation/Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma/Passamaquoddy Tribe/Pedro Bay Village Council/Penobscot Indian Nation/Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians/Pilot Point Traditional Council/Pilot Station Traditional Council/Poarch Band of Creek Indians/Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians/Ponca Tribe of Nebraska/Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe/Prairie Band of Potawatomi Nation/Pueblo of Acoma/Pueblo of Cochiti/Pueblo of Isleta/Pueblo of Jemez/Pueblo of Laguna/Pueblo of Juaque/Pueblo of San Ildefonso/Pueblo of Santa Ana/Pueblo of Santa Clara/Pueblo of Bos/Pueblo of Esuque/Pueblo of Zia/Pueblo of Zuni/Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe/Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska/Quapaw Tribe/Ogawa/Quapaw Tribe/Quileute Tribe/Rainy River Band/Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewas/Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians/Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians/Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community/San Carlos Apache Tribe/San Pasqual Band of Indians/Santee Sioux Tribe of Nebraska/Santo Domingo Tribe/Sault Ste. 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### FROM THE EAGLE'S NEST

Is a communication tool to inform and facilitate the exchange of NAFWS news and information nationally. We seek relevant information from our members and others who are interested. However, at times we do have limitations, so please understand if we should select another vehicle for your valued information.

## DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE...

Greetings everyone,

I hope your Thanksgiving found you all happy and healthy. I can hardly believe it's December already. I'm praying you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year.

Since our last newsletter I've been busy traveling and attending meetings and Regional Conferences. I've been asked by many Tribal Organizations and Federal Agencies to participate and dialogue with them on a variety of Native fish and wildlife issues.



The issue of most concern across Indian country is climate change and legislation that may, and no doubt affect Tribes across the Nation. It is refreshing to know that Tribes are being

considered before the fact rather than after the fact.

As I always do at these meetings, I mention that I am not there to speak for Tribes, but to convey that there has been a long history of inadequate funding and needs.

I attended the Southeast Regional Conference in Cherokee, North Carolina, and once again, thanks to our Southeast Regional Directors, Ken (Buff) Maney and Rory Feeney for putting together an awesome conference.

Another exciting effort we have been involved with, thanks to Butch Blazer from the Southwest Region, includes meetings and conference calls to pull

together an intertribal natural resource coalition. Its purpose will be to see how we can collectively address natural resource concerns in Indian Country. This seems to be a timely effort given the fact that issues like climate change is at the forefront of our nation right now.

Once again, I hope you have a blessed Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

D. Fred Matt  
NAFWS Executive  
Director

## CONSORTIUM OF INTERTRIBAL NATURAL RESOURCE ENTITIES COME TOGETHER

A consortium of national intertribal natural resource organizations convened Nov. 9 - 10, 2009 in Denver, CO.

The group of seven organizations considered need for a unified message addressing unmet needs to protect and advance tribal sovereignty regarding land and resources.

"Tribes have lost their land base, said Arthur "Butch" Blazer, board director, Native American Fish & Wildlife Society, and organizer of the coalition.

"With the pressure for tribes to develop their lands, there are issues from non-tribal land that is affecting reservation lands."

He said though tribes have adapted, "we still need to be a unified voice."

For example, "Issues such as toxic wastes stored on reservation lands would not be happening if there were consultation with tribes.

He added, "With treaty

rights being taken away there is the need to recognize and educate Native people that our treaty rights are at stake."

Boundaries of various regulatory agencies including international, federal, and state entities present threats to sovereignty.

The numerous acronyms such as, BLM, DOI, BIA, etc... seem confusing and overlapping said Blazer.

"Even tribal governments and their departments overlap each other," he said.

With climate changes, it is important that tribes have the resources to keep up with changes on their land.

Blazer emphasized that the timing is right, "Tribes still control natural resources of immense value."

As the consortium gathers momentum and support, upcoming meetings and conference calls are planned.

Part of the initiative is to provide a clear and concise message to congress about the tribal natural resources issues.

The coalition during its meeting in Denver not only developed a strategy, it also proposed to develop a unified action for ways to improve coordination and collaboration among the intertribal organizations.

A few of these actions identified are: sharing of information between organizations, such as membership lists; post meeting schedules on-line; newsletters; updates about important litigation or legislation; funding needs and opportunities.

With a unifying theme to protect and advance Tribal sovereignty over land and resources, Blazer said its possible that "once we come together with a unified voice with tribes, then Congress might listen."

The coalition group plans to put a summit together and strengthen its formal strategy.

The intertribal organizations that attended the

meeting in Denver are: Intertribal Timber Council, Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission, Council of Energy Resource Tribes, Native American Fish & Wildlife Society, Intertribal Agriculture Council, National Tribal Environmental Council, and the National Congress of American Indians.

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"I'm thinking particularly of one our instructors, Dusty Miller, who said he finished his last semester of school with one leg left.

"He's a role-model because if we just set our mind to it, we can do anything we want. It's a great thing to have."

Adrian "Dusty" Miller, a teacher with the practicum for more than 10 years traveled from Wisconsin, to be part of this practicum.

He shares with the students how he arrived at his current position, as CEO and President of the Menominee Tribal Enterprises, a sustainable, tribal managed forest and wood products manufacturing enterprise owned by the Menominee Tribe.

"We all have a gift," said Miller. "I guess mine is law enforcement, teaching, and leadership."

Though he experienced hardship in his life and setbacks, Miller encouraged the students to believe they can make a difference.

He tells the students that he wants them to succeed in life.

"Without alcohols and drugs, it is easier to care for others and become better individuals, it starts with respectful language and behavior.

Respect was taught to him at a young age he said and "it is who we are as Native people."

Bob Aloysius, Yupiaq, from the Native Village of Kalskag, Alaska has been serving in the capacity of practicum Elder. Each morning he shared a special topic, much of it from his own life experiences.

A topic that captures the attention of students is the Native life cycle of his people.

"Before a child is born, his teaching has begun. His/her grandparents are the child's first teachers. It is through childhood that we learn to become adults."

He emphasized labeling, mentioning "we are not Eskimos or Indians.

"We were, and still are, not respected enough to be called by our true identities as the first peoples of the Americas," said Aloysius.

Later during the week, students take-in a class taught by Jim Garrett, Ph.D.,

Cheyenne River Lakota, on bison ecology and grass ecology.

Visiting instructors to the practicum are greeted by students and introduce themselves to the guest.

As Dr. Garrett shakes each student's hand, he listens to where each student is from. He starts his introduction by telling them where he comes from. His ancestral history, that he traced as far back as 1820, to Lone Horn, his ancestor. He said he was traditionally named after his ancestor, who was with the Mnicoujou band.

He shares some of his extensive research about bison with the students. That there are parallels between what happened to the buffalo and to Native people.

He said bison experienced tremendous problems just as Native people have. When the Europeans first came here, the Native population decreased, including many species.

"The buffalo here today are descended from a group of 500 remaining from a decimated population of at least 50 million here at one time.

"With the sharp decline of bison, Native people were impacted," said Dr. Garrett, "and so our ecological knowledge had gone by the way-side."

He said some of this ecological knowledge is beginning to emerge, through scholars amongst us.

There is a language that bison speak, he said. "It is different from the language I speak, it's a language that has a relationship with us, which is being recovered. They have come back in numbers. They number at least 4-5 hundred thousand.

As an ecological force bison helped to shape the Great Plains for "what it is, or was, a grassland ecosystem."

The idea of grassroots is comparable to the strength

( - see next page - )



Photos clockwise from (left - right): Jim Garrett teaches bison ecology; Bob Aloysius, Elder shared cultural ecological knowledge daily; Adrian "Dusty" Miller holds an eagle feather which he presented to Aloysius; Ben Berlinger, National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) teaches a class on range and grass ecology; and Jonas Feinstein, NRCS, shows students the powdery substance on an aspen tree, if rubbed, could be used as a natural form of aspirin.

of the Indian people.

“Grassroots grow deep into the ground at least 25 ft. If the grass is burned, it would not come back in the next growing season, but for sure, in the next season.

“Indian people are like that. We can be cut down, made to go to mission school, prevented from talking and praying in our language and look what happened? The next generation is coming back because they’re picking up the knowledge. This helps to create healthy tribal nations.”

A.J.Watters, 11th grade student from Pine Ridge, South Dakota expressed the deep importance of a grassroot ecosystem.

“If you don’t pull the entire grassroots from the bottom, then grass can easily grow again. Cattle destroy the land but bison help it to grow. And I think that’s a good thing.”

Throughout the week, days are packed with classes, team-building activities and field trips.

A trip to the National

Eagle Repository in Denver, CO, took one day for students to view what goes into the process of preparing eagles for distribution to those legally requesting eagle feathers. They watched the process of when a perished eagle is received, it is analyzed for age, species, and the condition of its feathers.

Some students were affected by the visit to the eagle repository.

Jake DeClay, a 10th grade White Mountain Apache student from Whiteriver, Arizona said confiscated Native American items like shells and pow-wow blankets were just sitting there collecting dust.

“It would be important for tribes if they were contacted about these items,” he said.

Miles Chisholm said he felt shocked and hurt about seeing the items and the eagles at the repository.

“You know, that’s how we get our feathers. It’s not like in the old days when we can pick up an eagle, put some tobacco down and give it to our elders. Now we have to send it in.”

Several classes and

instructors addressed an all important topic of *water*.

Cheyenne Garcia, Mojave Tribe, Colorado River Tribes, Environment Department, shared water’s connection to everything.

“Water is like a conduit, we are surrounded by it. It is everything we as humans are. I am part of something that is gone on and so in a sense, we are filters. We can’t do much without water.”

In this outdoor class, students sit in a circle and they share and ask questions about water, what it means to them and their communities.

“Our water goes to southern Arizona all the way to Phoenix, said Jake DeClay, from Whiteriver, Arizona. “Before it gets to Phoenix, the Whiteriver and the East Fork Rivers meet and they become one large river.

There’s also the Black River which turns into the Salt River which also flows toward Phoenix. This water is being lost to us because it goes to the Phoenix area. Sometimes our water is shut down for days.”

He said his tribe, the White Mountain Apache have been fighting for water since 1955.

Lariah High Hawk, 12th grade, Pine Ridge, South Dakota said she would like to go to college and major in a field having to do with water, perhaps she will major in the field of hydrology.

A natural storyteller, she told a story handed down from her grandmother about beavers.

It is about a man and his son that lived near a river. Beaver walls were built up and so water was going through slowly. A farmer needed water to irrigate so he asked the man for help. Thinking that he was helping, the man destroyed the beavers and their dams, not knowing the effect. The result was no more water. So the man’s son captured a couple of beavers. Slowly, the beavers rebuilt their dams from scratch, with small twigs

and grass. For years the river kept growing and finally trees were being used for their dams. They restored water to the land.

“This is why I know the importance of water,” said High Hawk.

“Without beavers, there would not be healthy rivers. They know about water, how to treat it.”

One of the activities that students get excited about involves sharing. Students have the opportunity to do a cultural presentation such as: storytelling, sharing a tribal game, singing or dancing.

“This activity of storytelling is a way for the students to demonstrate reciprocity and share who they are,” said Sally Carufel-Williams, practicum coordinator, NAFWS.

She said the entire practicum, and all its activities are centered on the values and concepts of the 5 R’s: Respect; Reciprocity, Responsibility; Relations, and Reason.

Instructors this year numbered at least 20 in all. Several instructors who also served as practicum counselors are long-time members of the NAFWS.

On the last day of the program, a special meal of Indian tacos is prepared by a Native family from Denver. Then students and staff participate in a talent show. This fun wrap-up activity concluded the practicum for one more year.

“The practicum this year was another fine example of our natural Native intellect,” said Carufel-Williams. “Our people have the dual responsibility to be teachers and learners. Through this practicum we get to make better people by applying the lessons from the natural world which show that we are not above it; but are a part of it.”

Classes included: water quality testing, careers, low impact camping, first-

(See p.8 -Youth -)



Students discuss their connections to water and their communities.



Students participate in a mock search and rescue scenario.

# PRACTICUM STUDENT SHARES DAILY JOURNAL

*This article appeared in a newspaper in the Great Lakes area and highlights a daily journal kept by one of the 2009 NAFWS Summer Youth Practicum students, Miles Chisholm from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Tribes.*



**Sunday 7/19/09** - I arrived happy and eager to meet with everyone and to play basketball. Got unpacked and situated. Just a few people on my side of the cabin again, which is the quiet side for sleep and comfort. After changing into shorts I went outside to play basketball and started the bonding process. We played 3vs. 3, and 21 was big, and it was like a meeting or a congregation. It rained the first day so we all ate inside.

We said a prayer for our loved ones, and whatever you choose, before each and every meal. After that everyone started to get acquainted. We came together and introduced ourselves from our different tribes and played a game to get to know one another. Before bedtime we said a prayer for the new faces in the practicum.

**Monday 7/20/09** - Prayer before breakfast, and after that we played some group games like Rez Life and Capture the Flag. We listened to Opa [Opa meaning grandfather] - some call him Slick, an elder from Alaska, he spoke to us about the importance of family and understanding our heritage. We then had lunch and went on a hike. Up the mountain we climbed, with various stops to learn about the native plants and their medicinal purposes. Afterwards we played a game and then had a rest period. Dusty, a speaker who is motivated to extend his knowledge and open new windows, talked to us about his experiences; how he kept his mind focused and became a smart and successful individual, and how those illegal substances will blacken a person's spirit. He lectured us while we sat quietly absorbing the information. Sally, the coordinator for the practicum talked to us about how important we are and if we set our hearts to something it can be achieved. We

played more teamwork games like passing a ball with only our criss-crossed legs. We ate and then played some basketball and went on a night hike like we did last year. We were blindfolded and had to hold onto a rope while trusting each other and listening while being led down a trail: this was to teach trust. Later we ended up talking about what we learned and had a snack and slept.

**Tuesday 7/21/09** - Windy day but sunny. My family, which is a group and one counselor, had a prayer before breakfast which was good. There were a lot of speakers today; in addition to the usual Opa and Dusty. Opa spoke of the learning process. Dusty spoke of having the courage to stand out and not let alcohol take over and tear you down. We must look or seek help to make us stronger if you're in a bad habit. Four people from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) came to teach us about watersheds, grazing, ranges, and plants. They told us about herding cattle around so that grass doesn't get depleted. Grass can grow back if only half of the area is eaten, and to conserve water as much as you can.

Returning from lunch we finished up with the NRCS members and the last was the best in my opinion. Jonas, who is in forestry, talked about Quaking Aspen, of which the powder on the bark is a natural aspirin and the root system is all connected. Next was the Ponderosa Pine which the needles have lots of vitamin C and the bark is designed to withstand fires. The last fire in Colorado killed millions of acres that are irreplaceable and it will take time to heal. The woods are getting too congested and it is

more likely to get more forest fires now, and in greater amounts, since you can't have a controlled burn of the forest without investing a lot of time, expense and paperwork. We then took a break because of it being a long day; we met at the meadow at 3.00pm. We started playing more games together again in a group. Jim, who has a PhD, talked about the "Native American Root System", and how we keep growing after people cut us down because we are not like trees; how if trees get cut down they don't grow back. He also noted a historian (Andrew Eisenberg) who was incorrect about his theory on how the bison were killed off by INDIANS. We went to the recreation room and talked about college with John Gritts. He is the financial aid director for Indian colleges. He talked about admissions for college and turning in things early. It was good, then we talked about college and the counselors told us about their struggles while going to college.

**Wednesday 7/22/09** - Woke up early this morning and left Mt. Evans for a field trip to the National Wildlife Refuge located south of Denver. We went on a trail to learn more about plants and how the refuge used to be a weapons plant during WWII. Now it's a landfill and a refuge with 27 bison. After that we checked out the water to take samples of PH levels and phosphate, nitrate, and nitrite. We learned about turbidity which is how dense or murky water is compared to tap water. Then we ate our packed lunches and went to the repository for bald and golden eagles; they take requests from Indians who wish to obtain eagle parts or feathers. Then we checked out the confiscated items in a warehouse. The items were taken on U.S. borders because of laws which protects certain animals, animals that can't be transported or animals confiscated from those who didn't have a permit. We went to Jump City which is a place where trampolines are all over on the walls and, of course, on the ground. They also have a dodge ball area which was fun.

One of Sally's sons (bees) or Cetanwanbili spoke to us and made us think critically about the question: "What does Native mean to you?" Then we talked about the old ways being the best ways, like using bison instead of cattle. Bison were smart and always shifted and roamed and

moved so there were always grass to feed on, unlike cattle who will sit there until it is gone, even without a fence. We had a flashback of the day and reflected.

**Thursday 7/23/09** - After breakfast we had "Opa time" in the morning like usual and talked about our spirit and how to help it. Then we ate lunch then went to a park to learn about the water quality, and how birds decline then increase when migratory or shoreline birds go to and from South America and Alaska. We also talked about problems in our lands back home and the water quality. Then we returned and shared stories from our homelands and did a small presentation.

**Friday 7/24/09** - Opa time; I will miss listening to him every morning.

We then listened to Norman, who is an original NAFWS founder, about environmental injustices and scenarios where companies try to buy Indian land. Then we had our pictures taken and had time to reflect on environmental injustices. We ate fry bread on the last day. We exchanged rainy day notes, which are notes to people when they need to cheer up and everyone gets one so it takes some time to write them all out. We then had our talent show and then went to sleep for an early morning ride to the airport. A couple of friends of mine sang a song with me which was, "Lets Stay Together", by Al Green, which was a lot fun.

**Saturday 7/25/09** - Arrived at the Denver airport early; hung out with friends that were leaving from the same concourse; said our goodbyes as we each left for our homelands. Another great practicum!



# COLLABORATION, PARTNERSHIPS....SHARING OF INFORMATION

## Presenters Respond to Southwest Region Conference Theme

One of the most attended NAFWS Southwest Region conferences was held July 27-30, 2009 with 184 participants. It was hosted by the Pueblo of Isleta Casino and Resort facility.

The conference theme was, *Managing Tribal Resources in The Face of Environmental Changes*.

The Governor of the Pueblo of Isleta, Robert Benavides welcomed everyone to the conference.

"Water is so important to us, its our way of life, we are a farming people," said Benavides.

Welcome remarks were given by president of the NAFWS, Joe Jay Pinkham III, Fred Matt, Executive Director of the NAFWS.

Master of Ceremonies, Arthur "Butch" Blazer, board director, NAFWS Southwest Region said policy development here in the U.S. is happening without Native people. Our tribal leaders do the best they can to take care of their resources. But who is going to take care of the resources beyond our time?

He said, "In September, some of the major national tribal natural resource organizations were invited to discuss how to better serve our tribal leadership, and I want our board of directors to understand our strengths and be able to feed off that strength."

A representative from Senator Tom Udall's office, Calvert Curley said he was attending on behalf of Senator Udall. "Many issues affect the southwest. It is important to build rapport with tribal communities. In this regard, Senator Udall looks forward to working with you."

A keynote address was given by Hannibal Bolton,

Assistant Director, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C.. He addressed the conference theme.

He shared ways that available conservation dollars to tribes can be stretched as far as possible. He stressed the importance of tribes benefitting by building partnerships and through being more strategic when seeking money because Congress is looking for strategic goals and measurable differences. *(See Hannibal's complete keynote address on page 9 in this newsletter)*.

The host tribe, Pueblo of Isleta's Natural Resource Management Program was showcased by Abel Camarena, Director, Natural Resources Department, Pueblo of Isleta.

A diverse landscape and cultural leadership are what the tribe values and works with said Camarena. Components in the natural resources department include: resource protection; hydrology or water resources; environmental compliance; and environmental response.

General session panelists focused on climate change in the Southwest. Its impact and how humans can adapt or modify their actions.

"In the Southwest mountain areas, there could be more wildfires," said Craig Allen, USGS, Jemez Mountain Field Station, "in severity and more acreage burned, increased winds and erosion. Forests are globally vulnerable to climate change die-off."

Dave Gori with the

( - see p. 8 - SW Conf. - )



People take a break and mingle between sessions.



The traditional feast was hosted by Pueblo of Isleta at Isleta Lakes Recreation complex.



The Southwest shoot team that will compete in the 2010 national shoot competition in Fond du Lac.



Attendees enjoy traditional feast held at Isleta Lakes.



A panel addressed Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and Cooperative Efforts Between Tribes and the USFWS.

# CALENDAR

## March 29 - April 2, 2010 - Wildlife Management Shortcourse

Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, CO. This popular course was developed for laypersons and agency personnel with non-wildlife training. Short Course is limited to 50 participants. Academic credit is available for participants pending approval. For more information, contact Lari Mathewson at the Office of Conference Services (970) 491-6222/FAX (970) 491-3568. For information about course content contact program coordinator, Eugene Decker (970) 491-5656; [gdecker@cnr.colostate.edu](mailto:gdecker@cnr.colostate.edu)

## April 20-22, 2010 - Great Basin/Mojave Desert Climate Change Workshop

University of Nevada-Las Vegas. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey, the National Park Service, and the Environmental Protection Agency, in collaboration with other agencies and organizations, are sponsoring a workshop focusing on natural resource research, adaptation, and mitigation needs related to climate change in the Great Basin and Mojave Desert. More information at: <http://www.wr.usgs.gov/workshops/index.html>

## June 6 - 10, 2010 - 28th Annual NAFWS National Conference

Cloquet, Minnesota, Blackbear Casino and Resort. To be hosted by the NAFWS Great Lakes Region and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. For more information, contacts are: Tom Howes, [thowes@fdlrez.com](mailto:thowes@fdlrez.com); Don Reiter, [dreuter@mitw.org](mailto:dreuter@mitw.org); and Bill Bailey, [William.bailey@gtbindians.com](mailto:William.bailey@gtbindians.com) or visit: <http://www.nafws.org>

(- SW Conf. - from p. 7.-)

Nature Conservancy said sharing of information and working together are what we, as land managers can do for climate change.

Garrett Voggeser, National Wildlife Federation said that tribes need to work with other tribal governments.

"Partnerships and collaboration are what is needed; we must share information and work together."

A panel of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish and the Arizona Game and Fish Department focused on *State and Tribal Fish and Wildlife Management Opportunities*.

Larry Voyles, Director, Arizona Game and Fish Department said 30 years ago, it wasn't possible to come together with tribes on conservation issues.

He expressed importance and need to work together and to form collaborative relationships.

"The White Mountain Apache Tribe recovered Apache Trout. It was a collective conservation effort with them. Now, they have a one-of-a-kind sports fishing operation," said Voyles.

Garry Cantley, Archeologist, Western Region, Bureau of Indian Affairs presented on *Protecting Cultural and Traditional Sites*.

The NAFWS Southwest Business meeting was conducted for the membership. Items discussed were: Summer Youth Programs; need for partnerships; new relationship with the Wildlife Society; and the *Reinitiation of the Native American Fish and Wildlife Management Act*. This resolution submitted by the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States proposes to reinitiate this act to remedy the long-standing inequality inherent in the Pittman-Robertson, Dingell-Johnson, and Wallop-Breaux Acts.

(- see next column -)

A traditional feast was hosted by the Pueblo of Isleta and held at the pueblo's Isleta Lakes Recreation complex. Traditional food was catered by the Pueblo of Isleta Resort and Casino.

Concurrent sessions on the second day of the conference offered multiple sessions focused on: Wildlife Management, Fisheries Management, and Endangered Species. Each 30-minute session was packed throughout the first day of concurrent sessions, (24) in total. On the third day of the conference, 22 sessions focused on: Wildlife Law Enforcement; Tribal Wildlife Grant Reports; and Educational and Training Opportunities in Natural Resources, Habitat Management, and Environmental. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grant Training workshop was also on the agenda.

"Concurrent sessions were packed," said Norman Jojola, Southwest Regional planning committee, "many presenters requested to present. Our planning committee did a good job of finding speakers."



(- Future - Cont. from p. 5-)

responder, forestry, watersheds, range ecology, field trip to stream, field trip to national eagle repository, environmental justice scenarios, grass ecology, bison ecology, native plants, game and bird migration, Native life cycle, ecological knowledge, and sessions were interconnected with teambuilding exercises, games, and nightly discussions about each day's activities.

For more information about the summer youth practicum, contact: Sally Carufel-Williams, [swilliam@nafws.org](mailto:swilliam@nafws.org)

## Message from Summer Youth Practicum Coordinator

Dear Members of the NAFWS Family:

Hope all is well with you and all your families. This is a quick note to let you know that at the recent meeting of the NAFWS Board of Directors, after careful consideration, it was decided to take a one-year "hiatus" from the annual national Summer Youth Practicum.

This will give us some much-needed planning time to work on the manual, legal responsibilities, the curriculum, etc., and to do some very necessary fundraising.

Please contact me, Sally Carufel-Williams at [swilliam@nafws.org](mailto:swilliam@nafws.org) or Executive Director, Fred Matt @ [fmatt@nafws.org](mailto:fmatt@nafws.org) if you have any questions or concerns. Bless you all!

# KEYNOTE PRESENTED AT THE 2009 SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Submitted by: Hannibal Bolton, USFWS

Good morning. I have been invited to share with you my thoughts on Managing Tribal Resources in the Face of Environmental Change – your conference theme. This is a fitting topic for me – but not because I am particularly wise, or have answers to what is probably the most pressing conservation challenge of our lives. It is fitting because I administer the federal assistance programs – grant programs that can help the tribes manage resources in these most difficult of times. I will talk briefly about the programs I administer, their relevance to the tribes, and future prospects for additional conservation funding – including a couple thoughts on making the conservation dollars that are available to you stretch as far as possible.

Before I do, I first want to thank all of you for what you have done for conservation in America. This is important: I do not mean it lightly. During my 34 years with the Fish and Wildlife Service I have seen the tribes assume conservation leadership time and again, with results that really matter. In the Southwest, the White Mountain Apache Tribe helped save the Apache Trout from possible extinction. In the northwest, no one is more dedicated to salmon recovery than the tribes – or more aware of the need to take a holistic ecological approach in doing so. Walleye on Red Lake in Northwest Minnesota are thriving today because the Chippewa Tribe acted. Lake Trout on Lake Superior returned from the brink of oblivion because the tribes cared. And on the same lake

today, tribes are working to help restore the once fabled Coaster Brook trout fishery. Elsewhere, the Flathead Tribe is conserving



grizzlies and northern gray wolves, the northern Cheyenne and Rosebud Sioux tribes are restoring black-footed ferrets, and the Creek tribe is helping to bring endangered gopher tortoises and red-cockaded woodpeckers back from the edge.

What you have done for conservation to date is notable and I have no doubt what you will do for conservation in the future will be even more remarkable. But future conservation achievements by the tribes will need more than past success or any good wishes I might offer. You know that already and that is why you asked me here.

I have responsibility for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program, which is made up of three funding sources: the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, the Dingell Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act and the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants.

The Sport Fish Restoration Act dollars is the largest of the three funds. Passed in 1950, it uses revenues from excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, including fuel for boats, to fund fish restoration plans and projects, facilities for recreational boating, and aquatic resource education in the States, the District of Columbia, and Insular Areas – the territories of the United States. Total dollars available for Sport Fish Restoration in 2009 was \$404.5M.

The Wildlife Restoration Act is the next largest fund I administer. Passed in 1937, it uses revenue from excise taxes on sporting arms and

ammunition to fund projects for wildlife conservation, including species that are not hunted or fished, restoration and protection of wildlife habitat, and hunter education and safety programs in the States, the District of Columbia, and the territories. Total dollars available for Wildlife Restoration in 2009 was \$336.5M.

The State and Tribal Grants Program is the smallest of the three funds. It was created by Congress in 2002 and it is made up of the State Wildlife Grant Program and the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program, both of which are funded by annual congressional appropriations. Funds from the State Program are apportioned by both formula and competition to the States, the District of Columbia and U.S. territories to address the conservation needs that are identified within each State's Comprehensive Wildlife Action Plan. Total dollars appropriated for the State Program in 2009 was \$61.1M in apportioned funds and \$5M in competitive funds. In contrast, funds from the Tribal Program are allocated exclusively as competitive grants for wildlife conservation, but without the restrictions that are tied to the State Program. Total dollars appropriated for the Tribal Program in 2009 was \$7M.

Prospects are excellent for expanded funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program in 2010. The President has

asked for an increase of \$40M for the program for projects and actions that address the needs of species and habitats most vulnerable to the affects of climate change. Ten percent of the new climate change dollars would go to the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program for competitive grants, raising the total available for grants from the 2009 level of \$7M to as much as \$11M in 2010. The remaining climate change dollars would be apportioned to the States for incorporation of climate change strategies into their Comprehensive Wildlife Action Plans and climate change-related projects. Altogether, total funding for the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant program could equal \$115M in 2010.

As you all know, the tribes are excluded from both the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Funds. This is not the choice of the Fish and Wildlife Service; it is the dictate of Congress. I know that many of you believe this is neither fair nor just, and I know many of you would like to seek a remedy. There is talk of withdrawing tribal lands from the calculation of apportioned benefits to the individual states. However, this would simply redistribute apportionments to states that have a lesser tribal presence – not only harming many western states, but depriving tribes of a satisfactory solution. Some of you have also talked about taking all tribal lands off the top of the two restoration funds, creating separate funds proportionate to excise taxes generated on reservations. Any action, of course, will require Congressional approval – an iffy proposition for a recessionary period in which State revenues and budgets are plummeting.

I believe you have better options. Let me suggest three that I think are reasonable and achievable.

First, it is very likely that Congress is going to pass energy legislation and the President is going to sign it into law. The American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 was passed by the House, and is now being considered by the Senate. It creates two new opportunities

(see p. 11 - keynote -)



## NEW BALD AND GOLDEN EAGLE PERMIT REGULATIONS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced a final rule on two new permit regulations that would allow for the take of eagles and eagle nests under the Bald Golden Eagle in Flight and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act). The final rule should be published in the Federal Register on September 11, 2009.

Bald Eagles were removed from the endangered species list in June 2007 because their populations recovered sufficiently. However, the protections under the Eagle Act continue to apply. When the Bald Eagle was delisted, the Service proposed regulations to create a permit program to authorize limited take of Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles where take is associated with otherwise lawful activities.

The permits will authorize limited, non-purposeful take of Bald Eagles and Golden Eagles; authorizing individuals, companies, government agencies (including tribal governments), and other organizations to disturb or otherwise take eagles in the course of conducting lawful activities such as operating utilities and airports. Most permits issued under the new regulations would authorize disturbance. In limited cases, a permit may authorize the physical take of eagles, but only if every precaution is taken to avoid physical take. Removal of eagle nests would usually be allowed only when it is necessary to protect human safety or the eagles.

Population information for both eagle species will guide the Service in determining how many permits may be issued in any locality, including other types of permits the Service already issues. Priority will be given to Native American requests for permits to take eagles (under existing regulations) where the take is necessary for traditional ceremonies. Because of the limited size of the Bald Eagle populations in the Southwest, permits may not be available in all locations. Disturbance or take of Golden Eagles is likely to be limited everywhere in the U.S. due to potential population declines. For more information, <http://www.fws.gov/migratorybirds/baldeagle.htm>

### Dept. of Interior Schedules Tribal Consultation Meetings

The Department of the Interior will lead all of its bureaus in implementing the President's directive for developing plans for implementing Executive Order 13175. While many bureaus have consultation policies in place, the Department's overarching goal is to implement a consistent and comprehensive Department-wide tribal consultation policy and process upon which Tribes can rely. The Department requests Tribes to participate in one of several meetings held throughout the United States.

Date: Tuesday, **January 5, 2010**

Times: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon/  
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Building, 1 Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, (Minneapolis), Minn.

In addition, three meetings are scheduled during January 2010: Thursday, **January 7**, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Tuesday, **January 12**, Phoenix, Ariz.; and Thursday, **January 14**, Sacramento, Calif.

For more information, contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs at 202-208-7163.



## NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICES' PROACTIVE CONSERVATION PROGRAM

### An Opportunity for Tribes?

Submitted by: Dwayne Meadows, Ph.D.,  
NOAA

Species of Concern  
Program National Coordinator

Office of Protected  
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The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) implements and administers many laws related to protection of marine and anadromous species and habitats including the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Implementing these laws often involves carrying out regulatory mandates that often have little flexibility. However, in recent years we (NMFS) have placed additional emphasis and resources into other conservation programs that are non-regulatory in nature and able to be more proactive and cooperative in nature. One such program is the 'Species of Concern' (SOC) program for species that do not yet warrant the protections of the ESA. In this article I highlight the features of this program and the opportunities it provides for Native American wildlife agencies and tribes.

In April 2004 NMFS established the Species of

Concern Program specifically to: (1) identify species potentially at risk; (2) identify data deficiencies and uncertainties in species' status and threats; (3) increase public awareness about these species; (4) stimulate cooperative research efforts to obtain the information necessary to evaluate species status and threats; and (5) foster voluntary efforts to conserve these species before ESA listing becomes warranted. Species of Concern are defined as those species about which we have some concerns regarding status and threats, but for which insufficient information is available to indicate a need to list the species under the ESA (NMFS, 2004).

Currently, there are 39 species of concern. Some species of potential interest to NAFWS members include Central Valley Chinook salmon, Puget Sound coho salmon, Oregon Coast steelhead trout, ribbon seal, river herring, the northern Distinct Population Segment of green sturgeon, Alabama shad, and some Pacific coast abalones. A complete list of species and individual fact sheets is available on our website at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/concern/>. The program also held a national workshop in 2008 where members of State, Tribal, and non-governmental stakeholder groups provided suggestions of additional species to add to the program. We are currently reviewing those proposed species to see if they meet the biologically based criteria for addition to the program (these include abundance and productivity,

(- see p. 11 - conservation -)

( - conservation - from p. 10 - )

distribution, life-history information and threats to the species). Native American Tribes can propose additional species that meet the SOC criteria to program staff for consideration.

Species of Concern status does not carry any procedural or substantive protections under the ESA or other laws. Instead the program provides access to funding, technical assistance, and partnership opportunities for stakeholders to carry out voluntary conservation and management measures to improve the status of SOC species. We fund conservation efforts for species of concern through one of three mechanisms: (1) the Proactive Species Conservation Grant Program, which funds Tribes, States and other non-federal management entities for on-the-ground conservation efforts; (2) an annual allocation among NMFS Regions and Science Centers for research and outreach projects that can involve Tribes and others as partners, and (3) allocation by our Regional Offices to stakeholders to address regional needs for SOC.

The Proactive Species Conservation Grant Program is a competitive grant program that provides funds to Tribes, States, Counties, or other nonfederal entities with management authority over an SOC so that they can conserve these species. The request for proposals is

made in December of each year in NOAA's omnibus grants announcement in the Federal Register (check our website address above for links to grant program information). An applicant must submit a proposal that meets certain broad criteria (the main evaluation criteria are: importance/relevance and applicability to program goals, technical/scientific merit, overall applicant qualifications, project costs, and outreach and education). Benefits to the SOC are the main goal and the program favors project that take an ecosystem perspective and involve multiple partners. Funding can be for up to 5 years and there is no match requirement. The other 2 funding mechanisms are less formal and develop through partnerships with stakeholders and NMFS staff. A list of regional program contacts is also available on our website. The information gained and conservation actions taken through these projects are designed to benefit the species by addressing known threats to their existence or gathering further information on suspected threats. From FY 2006 through the present we have funded over \$4.5 Million for projects to benefit SOC species.

In addition to grants, we provide access to NOAA staff and equipment and other technical experts to advise and assist stakeholders on research or management methods or needs, outreach

and education, etc. We also work closely with other relevant funding programs outside (e.g., Wildlife Conservation Society's Wildlife Action Opportunities Fund) and inside NOAA (e.g., NOAA's Open Rivers Initiative, Community-based Habitat Restoration Program, etc) to help stakeholder agencies find partners to implement priority projects to help SOC species.

Although still in its infancy, the SOC Program has evolved from limited agency research and outreach efforts into a national program that engages external partners in proactive conservation efforts. Over time and with some demonstrated success in preventing the need to protect species of concern under the ESA, this program is expected to grow. Overall, these proactive efforts will serve to increase our knowledge of potentially at risk species and provide a measure of protection before more costly and restrictive measures are required.

#### LITERATURE CITED

NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service). 2004. Notice of establishment of species of concern list, addition of species to species of concern list, description of factors for identifying species of concern, and revision of candidate species list. Federal Register 69: 19975-19979.

( - Keynote - Cont. fr.p. 9 - )

for funding tribal conservation. The first is funding from emission allowances under Section 453 of the Act to enable tribes to build resilience to climate change impacts. Although these funds are not allocated directly to species and habitat conservation, they will provide support to address water quality and quantity, ecosystem disruption, and flooding and drought – factors which will impact our ability to manage fish and wildlife in the future.

More germane to the programs I administer and to the on-the-ground conservation of fish and wildlife that you practice is Section 480 of the Act which establishes a Natural Resources Climate Change Adaptation Fund. The States would receive grants funded by emissions' allowances and apportioned under the formula established in the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act. The States would be eligible to receive this funding once they have revised their existing Comprehensive Wildlife Action Plans to address and incorporate climate change impacts. In contrast, the tribes would receive 4.9 percent of the dollars allocated to the Department of the Interior to administer the Climate Change Adaptation Fund as competitive grants through the Tribal Wildlife Grant Program. The tribes would be able to use those funds for projects pertaining to adaptation of fish and wildlife and their habitats to climate change impacts.

Although these new funding sources are expected to be significant, I think there is even more the tribes can and should do to stretch their conservation dollars as far as possible.

First, the tribes must build on their partnership past for a future that relies even more heavily on partnerships. I spoke earlier of tribal successes in conservation. None of them happened in a vacuum. The White Mountain Apache Tribe preserved the last remaining populations of Apache Trout,

( - See p. 12 - keynote - )



*(-Keynote, - Cont. from p. 11-)*

but it took a partnership with other stakeholders, including federal and state agencies, to reintroduce the trout at a landscape scale in order to achieve population targets that must be met before it is finally delisted.

On Lake Superior, the tribes were instrumental in recovering Lake Trout, but it took the power of partnerships with other agencies and organizations to leverage their resources into new practices and policies that ultimately resulted in Lake Trout recovery. Lake Trout catch quotas were set in coordination between the tribes and state agencies to manage commercial fishing. That, in combination with my agencies work to control sea lamprey predation, culminated in the species rebounding to commercially-viable levels.

Good partnerships match the workings of the natural world. Fish and wildlife do not respect the boundaries we as humans set-up to divide our legal jurisdictions and ownerships. None of us – no single reservation, federal agency, or private landowner – controls so much habitat or has so many resources at hand that they could unilaterally protect or restore most species. If we wish to practice effective conservation – conservation attuned to the needs of fish and wildlife in the real world – we must join with others in order to practice conservation at a physical scale that matters, and to amass and wield the magnitude of resources it will take. That's how we restored the Lake Trout and how we are restoring the Apache trout. And that's exactly how I look at our Tribal Wildlife Grant Program – as a partnership, as one that is helping to enable tribes to conserve wolves, grizzlies, black-footed ferrets, gopher tortoises, red-cockaded woodpeckers, and other species.

Put simply, partnerships are necessary to help all of us leverage our scarce resources and limited conservation capacities. Partnerships will allow you, the tribes, to do more with your conservation dollars. They will allow you, the tribes, to take the \$5 million in current Tribal Wildlife Grant dollars and leverage those dollars two, three,

or four-fold. Partnerships will allow you, the tribes, to achieve more of what you want to do with your conservation dollars. Alone, you might invest to restore a population of ferrets, salmon, or red-cockaded woodpeckers; in partnership you can invest enough to restore multiple populations of those species – or maybe even enough to recover a listed species.

Building partnerships, however, takes work. They don't happen naturally. You need to reach out, to network, and to establish ties and working relationships with the agencies and organizations that overlap your interests and who could join with you to advance your conservation goals. For example, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies has a Federal, State and Tribal Relations standing committee that meets regularly at the annual meetings of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference. But the tribes are virtually unrepresented. The National Fish Habitat Action Plan is the largest national initiative to restore fish habitat in the U.S. But tribes are barely represented. If the tribes are to take advantage of partnerships then they must get active with the states and the many conservation partners of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and its Board.

Second, and no less important, the tribes must become more strategic in their conservation planning and implementation. Congress is looking more closely than ever before at how its appropriations are being used by all of us. It's true of my agency, it's true of conservation NGOs, it's true of the states, and it's true of the tribes. It's no longer sufficient to say you spent dollars on this species or that habitat, and simply report it, and leave it there. You must now tell why you choose that species or habitat – what was your strategic goal – and what were the outcomes of your efforts. Did you actually achieve something meaningful; can you answer the “so what” question: OK, so you restored an acre of wetland, removed a stream barrier, performed a genetic study, and did an inventory and assessment of population X. What

was your goal in the first place, and did any of these actions make a measurable difference? Congress is demanding that all of us show what we are doing with taxpayer dollars and what outcomes we achieved with those dollars, and whether those outcomes contribute to goals that matter – like recovery of a listed species. We must now prove that the conservation we practice culminates in significant conservation outcomes – measured in natural resource outputs – that matter to the nation and to your tribal lands.

The States were required to develop comprehensive wildlife action plans that would hopefully lead them to more strategic investment of State and Federal dollars in fish and wildlife conservation. The tribes have no such requirement, but I believe it would benefit them enormously if they voluntarily developed conservation strategies to meet their conservation goals and to get the most conservation bang from the taxpayer buck. I believe it would make an enormous difference to Congress when it asks what the tribes have achieved with federal dollars. If you can show the monies were spent strategically to achieve priority conservation goals, you will be in a far better position to seek new or additional federal assistance.

There is nothing magic about being strategic or setting conservation strategies. The steps are straight forward: (1) You identify what you aspire to – your goals and objectives; (2) You collect the information you need to understand the factors that currently limit reaching those goals and objectives; (3) You

identify the best conservation actions required to address those limiting factors; (4) You implement those conservation actions; (5) You monitor the outcomes of your conservation actions to be sure you are getting the outcomes you predicted and want; and (6) You change your conservation actions – what we call adaptive management – if you determine you are not achieving the outcomes you seek.

Strategic thinking really boils down to two things: one, identifying what you want to achieve and the actions you must take to get there and, two, the means to make it all happen. Many of us are good at strategic thinking, but all the fine strategies in the world amount to little if we can't deliver on them. This brings us back to partnerships. Conservation thinking will help us pinpoint exactly what we want to do and how best we can do it. Partnerships will enable us to carry through on our conservation strategies – to implement conservation at a landscape scale where real benefits can accrue to fish and wildlife.

The tribes have proven themselves to be staunch stewards of nature. Your ethical commitment to the caring for fish and wildlife is indisputable and beyond reproach. You take second seat to none in this regard. But there is still much work to be done. New funds are likely to become available. But they are just the starting point. Your success depends on your strategic use of those funds and your ability to leverage them through partnerships into conservation outcomes that matter to your tribe, your neighbors, and the people of the United States.



# "WARRANTED BUT PRECLUDED" THE ROUNDTAIL CHUB:

**A story of action, observation, and cooperation from the Jicarilla Apache Nation**

Submitted by: Kevin Terry, Fisheries  
Biologist, Jicarilla Game and Fish

The Roundtail Chub (*Gila robusta*) is a medium sized omnivorous fish that is native to the Colorado River Basin.

They are considered threatened or endangered in each of the 5 states in which they reside, and recently the USFWS has determined that a distinct population segment from the lower Colorado River drainage is warranted but precluded for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

What it all boils down to is, these fish need help on a large geographic scale which includes a myriad of jurisdictional Responsibility.

The Jicarilla Game and Fish Department (JGFD) started to work with Roundtail Chub in 2001, when Roundtails were located in the Navajo River on the Jicarilla Apache Nation. They had been previously documented in the Navajo River on several

occasions spanning back to 1934, but only 2 specimens had been reported since 1963.

Then fisheries Biologist Jim White quickly began the process of protection for these rare fish on the Nation's waters, and started to prioritize management actions and conservation measures that would benefit the Roundtail Chub and their habitat.

In 2003 the Jicarilla Apache Nation was awarded a TLIP (Tribal Land Incentive Program) grant from the USFWS for work with Roundtail Chub. The grant was composed of a 3 stage work plan. The first stage of work was to renovate a 1,700 ft. stretch of the Navajo River that had been disturbed by historical gravel mining operations. The river had been diverted from its natural course in order to mine the gravel and was left in that condition after operations ceased. The goal of this phase was to renovate the disturbed section of river

and incorporate habitat such as pools and backwater side channels for Roundtail chub.

The next phase of work was to capture adult Roundtail Chubs for Broodstock to initiate captive propagation at the J. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Hatchery in Alamosa Colorado.

The Jicarilla Apache Nation and the Colorado Division of Wildlife (CDOW) entered an agreement that has proven to be quite productive. The agreement was formalized in 2003 and since then, the Jicarilla Apache Nation has received young of the year Roundtail chub every fall.

In 2009 the CDOW increased their capacity to raise these rare fish and consequently, there were over 20,000 fish available for stocking. In light of this expansion, the Jicarilla Game and Fish Department teamed up with the Southern Ute Tribe Wildlife Management Division in September 2009 to capture additional adult fish from the Navajo River in order to expand and supplement the broodstock at J. Mumma.

The agreement between the Jicarilla Apache Nation and the CDOW really opened doors for the Roundtail Chub

in the Upper San Juan River Basin. 2009's big crop of fish made it possible for the Southern Ute Tribe and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) to stock a portion of the fish in other waters of the upper San Juan River Basin providing a great example of positive cooperation between state and tribal resource management agencies.

The final phase of the grant involved a two-year radio telemetry study tracking 11 radio tagged Roundtail chub in the Navajo River on the Jicarilla Apache Nation. This study identified trends in habitat use and movement patterns to and from the mainstem San Juan River.

While the majority of fish were relatively sedentary, there was at least one migration into the San Juan and back to the Navajo river for every individual in the study. This study not only helped managers to understand the use of tributaries by these fish, but it also revealed patterns of habitat use in the Navajo River.

During the summer of 2009, the JGFD utilized the remaining funds from the grant for a habitat enhancement project on the Navajo River. The project

**(- see p. 14 - Roundtail -)**



Tools of the trade. Eudane Vicenti of the Jicarilla Game and Fish Department uses an excavator to establish and enhance complex pool habitat for the benefit of the Roundtail Chub during a 2009 Habitat Project on the Navajo River, Dulce, NM.



Fisheries biologist Kevin Terry holds a typical Navajo River adult Roundtail that was captured for broodstock in 2009. In the background a team composed of the Jicarilla Game and Fish Department and the Southern Ute Tribe Natural Resources Division electrofish complex boulder/large wood pool habitat known to be utilized by Roundtail Chub.

This serene setting (below) is an after shot of the 2009 habitat project on the Navajo River. The recently established pool is already functioning as fish habitat, and the induced debris jam structure is doing its job collecting floating debris and creating complex habitat for Roundtail Chub and other fish species.



# JICAILLA APACHE GOLDEN EAGLE STUDY

Submitted by: Tom Watts, Wildlife Specialist,  
Jicarilla Apache Nation Fish & Game Dept.

The Jicarilla Apache Nation's Game and Fish Department has been studying the Golden Eagles population on the 850,000-acre reservation since 2002.

The focus of the study has been to document Golden Eagle territories and nesting success on reservation lands, and to document trends over a prolonged study period encompassing a wide range of environmental variables.

Lead contractor on the study is Dale Stahlecker, Eagle Environmental, who has been conducting raptor studies on the Jicarilla since 1980.

The study has revealed that Golden Eagles on the Jicarilla nest exclusively on cliffs, with each territory

often having 2-3 potential nest sites. Occupancy rates of known territories have been high throughout the study, but nesting attempts and nest success have varied in response to changes in annual precipitation and prey abundance.

Although a variety of prey items have been identified in nests, cottontail rabbits are the predominant prey item.

The Game and Fish Department began banding Golden Eagle chicks in 2002 to document dispersal and mortality of eagles fledged from reservation nests. Returns have been few, but preliminary results revealed that fledglings disperse up to 290 miles from their nest site.

Ultimately, the Game and Fish Department seeks to develop a Golden Eagle Conservation Plan that

incorporates annual harvest of surplus eagles for religious purposes. The Jicarilla Apache Nation has a strong tradition of conservative, professional management of its wildlife resources; incorporating tightly regulated harvest of game species with habitat protection and improvement, to insure long-term viability of species important to the Jicarilla Nation. The plan is to extend this level of professional management to Golden Eagles, a species with significant cultural and religious values for individual tribal members and the Jicarilla Apache Nation as a whole.

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sional management to Golden Eagles, a species with significant cultural and religious values for individual tribal members and the Jicarilla Apache Nation as a whole.

*( - roundtail - cont. fr. p. 13 - )*

enhanced approximately one mile of habitat with the use of 500 (3-4 ft.) boulders and 50 root wads. These materials were strategically placed to develop complex pool habitat throughout the project reach. Roundtail Chub and other fish species began to use the new habitat within days of project completion, strengthening the odds for Roundtail Chub survival on waters of the Jicarilla Apache Nation. The fight for these rare native fish is far from over, but the JGFD and all of its partners are dedicated to continue proactive management into the future.

Thanks and praise goes out to all of our partners in this endeavor, including the Southern Ute Tribe, USFWS, CDOW, NMDGF and everyone else working to protect the Roundtail Chub and their habitat.



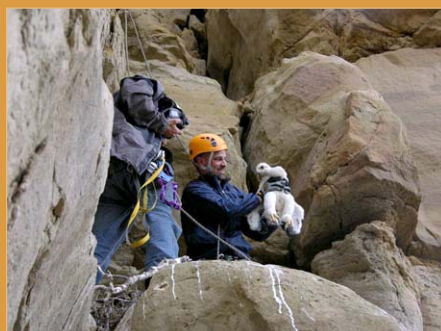
Dale Stahlecker and Mark Blakemore descending into a Golden Eagle cliff nest.



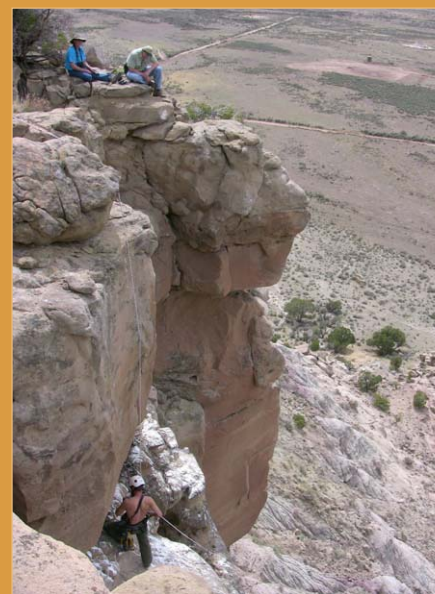
Mark Blakemore holds a chick before banding it.



Mark Blakemore banding GE chicks.



Mark and Dale inspecting a chick prior to banding.



Craig Blakemore entering a nest while Dale Stahlecker and Tom Watts observe from above.

## A PERSPECTIVE OF THE 5 R'S

The 5 R's concept as developed through the work of the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society is a plan on the concept of the traditional 3 R's associated with education (Reading, Riting, Rithmatic). This guiding principle is also based on the Medicine Wheel outline, with the heart of the circle and the converging point of the four quadrants being Respect.

From the core of Respect, for yourself, for others, for the world around you, come the other four R's: Relations, Responsibility, Reciprocity and Reason. The Relationships represent an individual's relation-

ships with not only the People and the natural world around them, but the intangible relationships to ancestors in the past and future generations.

The primary Responsibility of an individual is to those relationships, and to respect not only their own personal relationships but also the relationships of those around them. When all relationships in this web of interconnectedness work well, it is the Reciprocity which allows for community growth and empowerment. When all members of a community, no matter how large or how small, value the

strength of that community above all the individual benefits, then the community or nation will grow stronger.

The Reason element is how this Reciprocity works. Not only do individuals possess the capacity to "reason" how best to help their community and thus, themselves, but also that things happen for a reason: that we all have a reason to exist and do the work that we do. Some call it "aptitude" but connecting your capacity with the needs of your community can be a very empowering way to build leadership potential and to develop an understanding of one's place within a community and understanding one's responsibility to that

community.

Since Native people are family-oriented and community-cultured, these principals reflect those intrinsic components of Native leadership styles.

Kitty Heite, Lenape  
(2008 SYP Staff)  
Spring 2009

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