



# NEWSLETTER

Protect | Restore | Enhance

## RFP Announcement

DFHP Requests For Proposals starts May 20th! Deadline for submission is September 30th.

## DFHP Received a 2 for FY16 NFHAP Ranking

## DFHP Photo Contest

Enter to win an exclusive DFHP mug! Submit your photos to the DFHP Coordinator for a chance to win.

## Devils River Conservancy

There's a new non-profit focused on conserving the Devils River! Check it out at [www.devilsriverconservancy.org](http://www.devilsriverconservancy.org)

## Like and Follow us on Facebook every Friday for #DesertFishFriday



## DFHP Welcome's a New Coordinator



Meet Stephanie Vail-Muse, the new DFHP Coordinator. Stephanie came from the KDWPT where she worked as a Fisheries Specialist and as a Naturalist with an educational focus on wildlife rehabilitation and conservation awareness. She has a Bachelors of Science Degree in Biology with an Emphasis in Fisheries and Wildlife from Northeastern State University.



## Protect. Restore. Enhance.

**Desert Fish Habitat Partnership** conserves native desert fish by protecting, restoring, and enhancing their habitats. Our partnership engages state and tribal fish and wildlife agencies, federal resource agencies, research and private organizations, and interested individuals.

## Welcome Julie - Newest Fish Steering Committee Rep.

Julie is the new Statewide Native Aquatics Program Manager with the AZ Game and Fish Department, overseeing a program with 35 species of native fish. Julie currently serves as the Chair of the WNTI Steering Committee. She received her B.S. in Biology with Wildlife and Fisheries Management Emphasis from Northern Arizona University in 1995, and her M.S. in Fisheries Science from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 2003.



## Welcome Brendan- At-Large Council Member

Brendan attended Sul Ross State University and has a B.S. in natural resource management and a M.S. in wildlife management. He is in the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and is always ready to work with excited landowners and many others to help wildlife.



## Blueheads & Bonneville Campaign

WNTI and DFHP are collaborating to create outreach materials that will feature Bluehead and Bonneville fish from Utah lakes and streams. These materials will consist of professional video footage of these two species in their natural habitat as well as interviews from UT Fish Biologists.

## Fish and Wildlife Service goes Chub Sampling in AZ Streams

Images 1 and 2: Male Gila Chub in spawning colors. Notice the tubercles on his head and the bright orange coloration along the lateral line and fins.



Desert Sucker (left), Sonoran Sucker

Top: Gila Chub Bottom: Speckled Dace Credit: USFWS

## 2016 DFHP Funded Projects

### *Goose Creek Allotment Pipeline Project*

The Goose Creek Allotment is managed by the Burley Field Office, BLM and the off-stream watering infrastructure installed over 40 years ago has deteriorated. The proposal is to replace livestock water infrastructure to ensure consistent water sources are available to reduce livestock reliance on streams for watering and use of riparian areas. By managing the riparian health of Goose Creek and its tributaries the few remaining populations of northern leatherside chub and bluehead suckers will be maintained.



Little Birch Creek, tributary to Goose Creek (see Map 1 and 2).

### *Upper Sycan River Habitat Restoration*

The project proposes to restore riparian and floodplain functions as well as improve aquatic habitat conditions for Miller Lake lamprey, Pit-Klamath brook Lamprey, and Klamath speckled dace as well as Redband trout and critical habitat for Bull trout. Project involves large wood additions, stream bank stabilization, the creation of floodplain terraces, riparian restoration including whole will transplants and sedge mat transplants, and riparian fencing.



Upper Sycan River

### *Bitter Creek Drop Structure*

The project will replace an existing drop structure with an engineered structure. The new structure will improve water quality by reducing erosion and sedimentation; stabilize banks and riparian habitats; and serve as a fish barrier to prevent the upstream movement of white suckers and the possible hybridization with the native flannel mouth sucker population. In addition the diversion structure is also acting as a stream gradient control point to prevent degradation of the crucial aquatic and riparian habitat above it.



Current Bitter Creek Drop Structure

## Enhancing Habitat for Rare Endemic Fish on the Amargosa River in California

The Amargosa River is a green island oasis in the middle of one of the driest and hottest regions in the Western United States. This island of green provides a home to the endemic Amargosa Pupfish and Amargosa Speckled Dace, which occur nowhere else on earth.

One of the major threats to fish habitat is the introduction of the non-native salt cedar. Researchers from the USGS noted that Amargosa Pupfish were significantly less abundant where salt cedar dominated the riparian corridor.

Based on these findings, it was concluded that the continued spread of salt cedar threatens to negatively affect pupfish and speckled dace abundance. In response, the Barstow Field Office of the BLM launched a salt cedar removal program two years ago. The funds for last year's treatment came partially from a DFHP grant which acted as seed money for the larger salt cedar treatment program and on-going fish monitoring. The DFHP funds were leveraged through the generous donation of time and effort from the BLM Apple Valley Fire Center, funds acquired by James Gannon, BLM Prescribed Fire and Fuels Specialist, and our non-profit partner the Amargosa Conservancy.

Chris Otahal, Wildlife Biologist, BLM Barstow Field Office, California

**Read the full article at:** [http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsbytes/2015/666\\_extra\\_amargosa.html](http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/newsbytes/2015/666_extra_amargosa.html)



(Figure 1) Amargosa Pupfish



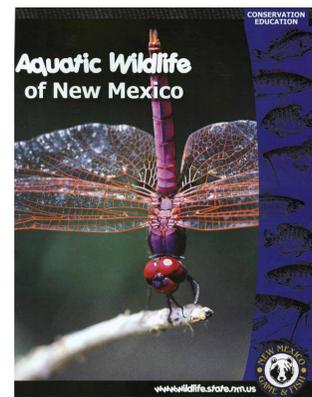
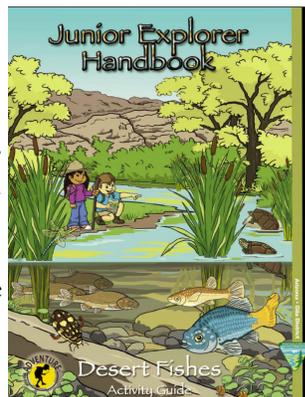
(Figure 2) Amargosa Speckled Dace



(Figure 3) Amargosa Canyon salt cedar infestation (dark brown plants are salt cedar) (Photo Credit: Miguel Mejia,

### Desert Fish Educational Materials

Here is a selection of resources to use the next time you have a youth education and outreach event (click on title below resource to visit webpage). Please contact us if you have materials, resources, or links to add to the list!



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DESERT FISH HABITAT  
PARTNERSHIP

## Contact Us!

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## Parting Shot



### *Rudolph Hoffman's state record chub.*

The Arizona State record roundtail chub was caught recently. Shaula Hedwall (FWS AZ Ecological Services Field Office) said: "We have worked with the Department for a long time to get anglers excited about fishing for roundtail chub, particularly on the Verde River. I am also excited to hear that the angler found multiple large GIRO in this section of the Verde".

For the full article visit: <https://fishazblog.com/2016/03/15/>

## News from the DLCC

- ◆ The DLCC is hosting a Rio Grande Basin Forum which will include a three day workshop (Spring 2017). Contact the DLCC for more information.
- ◆ Don't miss the DLCC Webinar Series. They facilitate some great webinars like "The Rarest Fish in the World - Desert Fishes and Their Responses to a Changing Climate" and "Gila River Flow Needs Assessment". For more webinars, check out their [website](#) or [YouTube](#) channel.
- ◆ The Gulf Coast Prairie Summer Steering Committee meeting will take place June 14-16 in Baton Rouge, LA.

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## DFHP Call for Project Proposals

The [Desert Fish Habitat Partnership](#) (DFHP) is requesting submission of project proposals for the 2016 [National Fish Habitat Partnership](#) (NFHP) funding cycle and other potential funding sources. The purpose of DFHP is to conserve aquatic habitat for desert fishes by protecting, restoring and enhancing these unique habitats in cooperation with, and in support of, state fish and wildlife agencies, federal agencies, tribes, conservation organizations, local partners, and other stakeholders. Projects should directly address the habitat needs of desert fish, specifically those identified in the DFHP [Framework for Strategic Conservation of Desert Fish](#). On-the-ground habitat conservation or restoration projects for desert fish that include multiple, diverse partners, matching resources and that can be completed within two years will be given the highest priority.

**Contact the DFHP Coordinator at [stephanie\\_vail-muse@fws.gov](mailto:stephanie_vail-muse@fws.gov) if you are interested in applying**

## 2015 Featured DFHP Funded Project

Restoration of the Five Springs complex at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge,



This project is restoring natural hydrologic connectivity between the Five Springs complex and outflow habitats downstream to address direct threats of small population size and genetic isolation of Ash Meadows Amargosa pupfish. Restoration of natural floods will restore vital ecosystem dynamics currently hindered by a road and fallow field; this restoration will benefit the pupfish, Ash Meadows speckled dace (lives downstream), and other biodiversity.