



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Gila River Basin Native Fish Conservation Program

Environmental Research Webinar Series

Sponsored by Reclamation's Science and Technology Program



Presenter Biography:

William (Bill) Stewart is a fisheries biologist out the Lower Colorado Region's Phoenix Area Office. Bill has been with Reclamation for nearly four years overseeing the Gila River Basin Native Fish Program. Prior to that he spent 12 years with the Arizona Game and Fish Department where he spent most of his time administering the State's research program in the Grand Canyon under Reclamation's Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program. Bill has a B.S. from Pacific Lutheran University and a M.S. from Arizona State University.

WEBINAR INFORMATION

DATE/TIME: February 18, 2020, 10-11am MST

FACILITATOR: Caroline Ubung

WEBINAR PLATFORM: Web Ex

Meeting number (access code): 905 458 803

Meeting password: pMTTihPZ

JOIN MEETING:

<https://bor.webex.com/bor/j.php?MTID=meed667de2f23537780f569610cbc8ad5>

JOIN BY PHONE: +1-415-527-5035 US Toll

The Central Arizona Project (CAP) canal was constructed to provide a long term, renewable water source for municipal, industrial, and non-Indian agricultural users in Arizona. An average of 1.5 million acre-feet of Arizona's allocation of 2.8 million acre-feet of Colorado River water is delivered annually through the CAP aqueduct system. Completed in 1993, the canal diverts water from the Colorado River at Lake Havasu and is conveyed 336 miles across the state in a series of siphons, tunnels and large open aqueducts. The connection from the Colorado River opened potential conduits for the transfer of non-native species of fish into the Gila River basin.

In 1994, the US Fish and Wildlife Service found that the transfer of water (and subsequent nonnative fish) through the CAP canal would jeopardize the continued existence of the Spikedace (*Meda fulgida*), Loach Minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*), Gila Topminnow (*Poeciliopsis occidentalis*), and Razorback Sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*). To offset the impacts Reclamation and USFWS developed five conservation measures: 1) construction and operation of fish barriers, 2) monitoring of non-native fish, 3) funding for protection of listed and candidate Gila basin fishes, 4) funding for management against non-native fish and research to support that management, and 5) implementation of an information and education program.

This presentation highlights past and current research projects under the Gila River Basin Native Fish Conservation that focus on recovery of listed fish and the control and management of nonnative fish species. Projects include use of environmental DNA to detect rare species, successful applications of mechanical removal of nonnative fish, investigations of YY male technology for control of nonnative fish, and many more.

Project Web Page:

<https://www.usbr.gov/lc/phoenix/biology/azfish/index.html>

Please direct webinar questions to Jennifer Bountry at jbountry@usbr.gov or (303) 445-3614