

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

May 2016
Upper Colorado Region



Lake Nighthorse could be opened to public recreation as soon as the summer of 2017, if, and it's a big if, all the public processes associated with the opening of a federal water project are completed on time. For more information, check out [Durango TV](#).

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Navajo Lake C.A.S. T. Event



By Pat Page, FCCO
Deputy Construction Engineer

While the mission of the Catch a Special Thrill (C.A.S.T.) for Kids Foundation is to provide special needs and disadvantaged youth the opportunity to enjoy a quality outdoor recreational experience fishing on the water, the motto for the Navajo Lake version of the event might be better suited for that classic line from the Postal Service “Neither snow nor rain nor...” you get the picture. The last few years, the participants at the Navajo Lake event have seen their fair share of unsettled weather, and this year’s event, held May 7, 2016, was no exception. While the weather may have been gloomy, the attitude of the volunteers and the excitement level of the participants was far from it.

Approximately 163 volunteers, representing over 30 federal, state, and local agencies and businesses were on hand to make sure the day exceeded the expectations of the eager anglers – despite the weather. On hand for the event representing Reclamation were Deputy Commissioner of Policy, Administration and Budget Gray Payne, Upper Colorado Deputy Regional Director Brent Esplin, and Four Corners Construction Office (FCCO) Project Engineer Barry Longwell. The three of them, along with FCCO Deputy Construction Engineer Pat Page, were able to get out on the lake and check in with several boats during the event. *(It should be noted that Deputy Commissioner Payne and Pat Page snuck in a few casts to go the extra mile to try to gather “fishery data” to provide to the kids; but alas, their efforts, while extraordinary, were all for not as they both got skunked and thus had no information to share!)* Several FCCO employees including Jere Wales, Cindy Slade, Cliff Drayton, and Chico Quintana led Reclamation’s involvement by volunteering their day to help out in various capacities from registration to boat captains/fishing guides.

The participants and their families, totaling an estimated 70-80 individuals, began arriving at Navajo Lake New Mexico State Park at around 7:30 am. For some, it had been over a 2 and 1/2 hour bus ride! Like a well-oiled machine, the volunteers got to work signing in the participants, handing out t-shirts, providing fishing poles and tackle, issuing personal flotation devices and introducing them to their boat captain.



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After getting their official “team” picture taken, the boat captains and their crews loaded their boats and shoved off in search of fun, adventure and maybe even a fish or two.

After battling typical high-desert spring-time weather for several hours, by noon most of the boats were off the lake and everyone was treated to a well-deserved lunch of hot dogs and hamburgers hot off the grill. After lunch, the sun came out and the participants and their families had the opportunity to interact with many of the agency personnel who were involved in putting on the event. Rather than provide trinkets and other goodies at the time of registration like in year’s past, this year the coordination committee implemented a new concept whereas participants were given an empty bag and had to visit the various “stations” to pick up goodies, ask questions, and get information from the various agencies. This new concept was deemed a success by participants and volunteers alike. The event was topped off with an awards ceremony recognizing each participant and acknowledging the extraordinary efforts of the volunteers, and, as the skies were turning dark once again, everyone headed home happy, tired, full of stories, and perhaps a bit chilly from a long day of fun and excitement that is the essence of C.A.S.T.

Photos below



Student volunteers from Piedra Vista High School in Farmington assemble fishing equipment in preparation for the participants' arrival.



Boat Captains getting registered



Participant enjoying one of the "post-fishing" activities



Deputy Commissioner Gray Payne discusses the “ins and outs” of putting on a C.A.S.T. event with Navajo Lake C.A.S.T. Coordinator Cheryl Moline.



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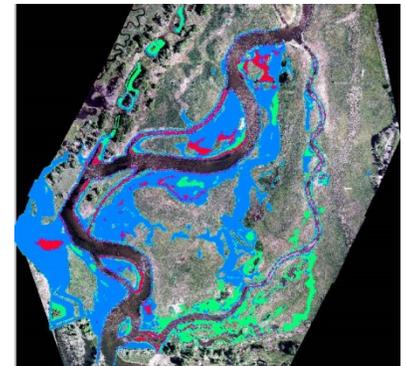
Don't Just Throw Water at the Cottonwoods Use Smarter Flows for Better Growth!

“We think of the natural flow regime as the template, but while the natural flow rate is sufficient, it is not optimal –and the same applies for any managed regime. We’ll never be perfect, but the Provo River restoration project has done a good job of sculpting the available landscape to restore access to the riparian zone to recruit cottonwood and balancing the challenges such as flood control, meeting water deliveries and obligations, and other environmental needs.” Stewart Rood. *Professor of Biology and Environmental Science, University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada.*

A restoration program on the 12 miles of Provo River between Deer Creek and Jordanelle Reservoirs has been working for over four decades to transform the dredged, straight channel into a natural river again. The Provo River channels transbasin diversions from the Duchesne River system in Colorado and the Weber River system in Utah. Before Jordanelle Dam was completed, the Provo River was channelized and diked to handle the extensive flooding.

New cottonwood seedlings are critical to sustaining near channel riparian forests along the Provo River—and many other rivers. But planting new trees by hand is costly and hard work. The program installed about a half-million rooted plants. However, that is just a drop in the bucket compared to the number of trees that nature can start—if flow rates, topography, and other factors align. This project incorporated a model to evaluate cottonwood recruitment success based on criteria including site hydrology and topography as well as seed release patterns and how much water seedlings needed: too much would drown them and too little would dry them out. This model helps managers design efficient and beneficial flow releases. While it does not account for all criteria (real-life conditions such as soil types, amount of seed available, existing plant cover, and beaver activity are missing from the model), it does let managers apply water smartly. For cottonwood recruitment, it is not the amount of water that counts, but how it is used. For example, although the 1993 water year had only 4 percent more water than other years, the model suggested optimal flow timing that would have yielded 25% more recruitment for cottonwood seedlings.

What is good for cottonwood is good for the rest of riparian vegetation in the corridor, and more effective flow regimes can help restore this area. Insights from the model have already helped other restoration areas in this river segment. The model can be used on other rivers as well. But alas, the story does not end here. Implementing these target flow regimes would be easy if we had crystal balls to forecast all the flows for the coming year—and if all we had to do was manage for cottonwood. But other factors, such as water demands and reservoir levels upstream and downstream, flooding risks, other environmental needs (like the June sucker on the lower Provo River), and institutional agreements and water rights all play a role. Nonetheless, this program has shown some major successes: both on the ground with more cottonwoods and with people in many agencies working together to transfer scientific data into real-world operations.



Cottonwood modeling results for the 1993 hydrograph scenario. Areas in green successfully met all the cottonwood recruitment criteria, areas in blue failed from drying out, and areas in red failed from re-flooding after the seeding window.



Check out our recent webinar on managing reservoir operations to promote cottonwoods, an important native riparian tree.<http://southernrockieslcc.org/webinar/march-22-webinar-reservoir-operation-for-cottonwood-recruitment-on-the-provo-river/>

A restoration program on the 12 miles of Provo River between Deer Creek and Jordanelle Reservoirs has been working for over four decades to transform the dredged, straight channel into a natural river again.

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Judging Fairchild Challenge



By Ameer Andreason
Public Affairs Specialist

Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region's Public Affairs staff joined the Fairchild Challenge as judges on April 14, 2016, at Thanksgiving Point. This event is for high school students to improve the environment while helping their schools win money by competing in a group or individually in 11 different environmental themed categories. The challenge categories included citizen scientist, t-shirt design, performance, recycled fashion design and accessories, games to play, short films, invention for the environment, cooking with local foods, and photography and visual arts. Each of these categories are designed for students to explore environmental issues and take a creative action to address them. There were roughly 150 high school student that participated in the event.



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Each judge was assigned a category where they arrived early to read essays and become familiar with the projects. The judges are selected in environmental related fields that give the students an opportunity to experience and interact with professionals on a more meaningful level.

After all of the categories were performed/demonstrated, they had an awards ceremony where each category received a first, second, and third place award.

It was a great opportunity to reach out to the youth about Reclamation's mission and educate them on science, technology, engineering, and math opportunities.

Photos Below



Games to play



Art show



Performance category



Recycle fashion show

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Spotlight on Duane Berrier



Duane H. Berrier has dedicated over 30 years to the Glen Canyon Dam in Page, Arizona; first as an Electrical Engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation and currently as a Glen Canyon Dam Tour Guide employed by Glen Canyon Natural History Association (NHA). For enduring dedication to one project, there is scarcely an individual more deserving of recognition.

Duane graduated from the University of Wyoming with a bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering and began working for Boeing Airplane Company in 1955. In that same year, he enlisted in the Army Signal Corp with a rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

In 1958, Duane served a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and was sent to Vienna, Austria and Zurich, Switzerland. Not knowing any German at the time, he modestly acknowledges that he learned the language "well enough to get by".

After returning from his mission, Duane began working for the Bureau of Reclamation at the Salt Lake City Regional Office in January of 1961, and in that same year married LuAnn Turpin on March 3.

While on their honeymoon, Duane and LuAnn happened to drive through Glen Canyon while construction on the dam project was still underway. Gazing over the newly constructed Glen Canyon Bridge, Duane made the comment, "Wouldn't you hate to live here?"



As fate would have it, he was transferred to the Glen Canyon Field Division in February of 1968. They have lived in Page ever since.

During his career at Glen Canyon Dam, Duane was responsible for keeping the electrical drawings up to date and was the designated radio coordinator, making communication possible inside the thick concrete walls of the dam. When the new security system was installed in the power plant, Duane ensured that the preconditioning for the control system was prepared and that drawings for the plant were developed to accommodate the new equipment. Mr. Berrier was also the Safety Officer and an acting Supervisor.

After 33 years of excellent service to the Bureau of Reclamation, Duane retired in 1994.

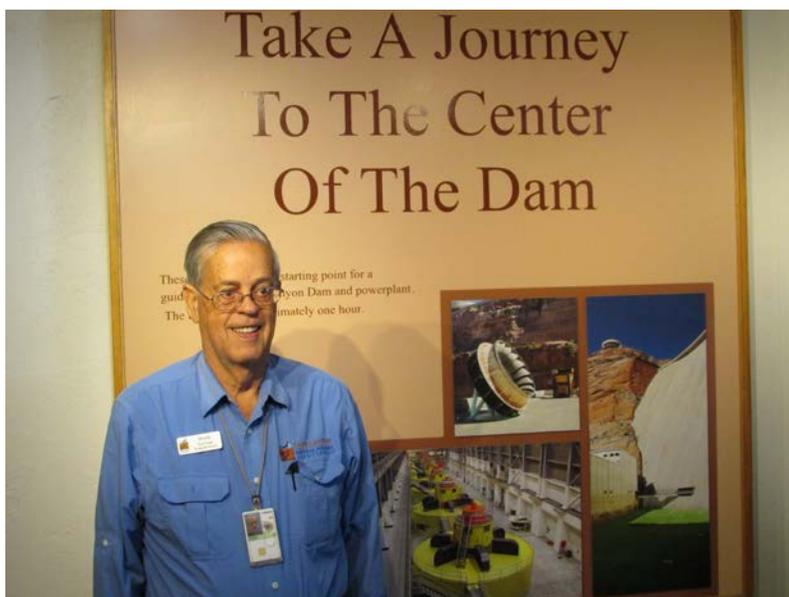
Following his retirement, Duane began working for Glen Canyon NHA providing tours of Glen Canyon Dam.

Duane fascinates visitors from all over the world with his extensive knowledge of the dam and powerplant. He is now quite fluent in the German Language and has many conversations with German speaking tourists. Duane is Reclamations top pick to guide tours for universities, special groups, and dignitaries. He has been interviewed multiple times by the media.

This year, Duane and his wife celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. They have 9 children, 13 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. When asking Duane what he enjoys at this time in his life his reply is, “being with family and being a tour guide.”

Reclamation and NHA treasure working with Duane Berrier. His positive attitude, sense of humor and willingness to share his extensive knowledge are invaluable.

Thank you, Duane, for your years of dedication! This place would not be the same without you!



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Prepare for Spring Weather

Spring weather can be unpredictable. Reduce injury risk and plan ahead.

Spring is the time of year when many things change—including the weather. Temperatures can swing back and forth between balmy and frigid. Sunny days may be followed by a week of stormy weather. Sometimes extreme weather changes can occur even within the same day. Mark Twain once said, "In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours."

Thunderstorms cause most of the severe spring weather. They can bring lightning, high winds, and flooding. Whenever warm, moist air collides with cool, dry air, thunderstorms can occur. For much of the world, this happens in spring and summer.

Because spring weather is so unpredictable, you may be unprepared when severe weather hits—particularly if you live in a region that does not often experience thunderstorms, high winds, or flooding. And when severe weather hits unexpectedly, the risk of injury and death increases. So planning ahead makes sense; prepare for storms, floods, and high winds as if you know in advance they are coming, because in the spring, they very likely will.

Advance planning for thunderstorms, lightning, high winds, and floods requires specific safety precautions.

Often by the time we are aware of an approaching storm, we have little if any time to prepare for it. Advance planning for thunderstorms, lightning, high winds, and floods requires specific safety precautions. You can follow many of the same steps that you would for all extreme weather events. Keep an emergency kit on hand. Some items to include are:

- A battery-operated flashlight, a battery-operated NOAA Weather Radio, and extra batteries for both
- An emergency evacuation or shelter plan, including a map of your home and, for every type of severe weather emergency, routes to safety from each room
 - A list of important personal information, including:
 - telephone numbers of neighbors, family, and friends
 - insurance and property information
 - telephone numbers of utility companies
 - medical information
- According to the American Red Cross a first aid kit may include:
 - non-latex gloves
 - assortment of adhesive bandages
 - antibiotic ointment



- sterile gauze pads in assorted sizes
- absorbent compress dressings
- tweezers
- scissors
- adhesive cloth tape
- aspirin packets (81 mg each)
- first aid instruction booklet
- A 3–5 day supply of bottled water and nonperishable food
- Personal hygiene items
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- An emergency kit in your car

Prepare your family members for the possibility of severe weather. Tell them where to seek appropriate shelter as soon as they are aware of an approaching storm. Practice your emergency plan for every type of severe weather. Show family members where the emergency supplies are stored, and make sure they know how to turn off the water, gas, and electricity in your home.

Often by the time we are aware of an approaching storm, we have little if any time to prepare for it. But we do know that when spring arrives, thunderstorms, tornadoes, and floods are real possibilities. So why not take the surprise factor out of severe weather and prepare yourself, your family, and your home? If thunderstorms, tornadoes, and floods do occur, you'll be ready for them.

For more information, check out the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#).

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Endangered Bonytail Spawning Confirmed in Green River Floodplain



For the past four years, the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program and its partner the Bureau of Reclamation have coordinated spring releases from Flaming Gorge Dam to connect floodplain habitats along the Green River near Jensen, Utah to provide important nursery habitat for endangered Colorado River fish. The primary beneficiary of those releases to date have been larval endangered

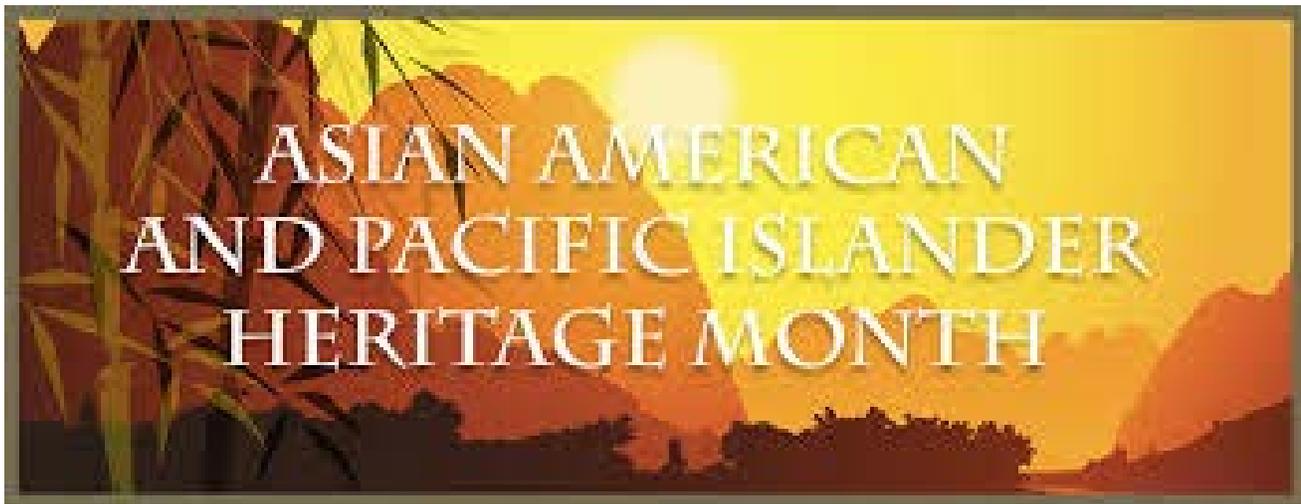


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razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*). In 2015, however, Utah Division of Wildlife Resource (UDWR) researchers, Matthew Breen, Dr. Robert Schelly and Randy Staffeldt determined that endangered adult bonytail (*Gila elegans*), entered the Stewart Lake managed floodplain. When the floodplain was drained in autumn, UDWR handled 19 young-of-year native chub ranging in total length from 37 – 64 mm. Four of these fish did not survive and were preserved according to standard protocol.

“In the past, we assumed the incidental chubs we encountered when draining Stewart Lake were likely roundtail chubs (*Gila robusta*). However, in reviewing our data this winter, we realized the size of the four *Gila* collected did not fit with the timing of roundtail chub spawning and that these fish might be evidence of the first documented reproduction of bonytail in the wild.” said Dr. Schelly. The preserved specimens were then positively identified as bonytail via morphometric (scale and body measurement) analyses by Dr. Kevin Bestgen and Darrel Snyder, of the Larval Fish Laboratory at Colorado State University, and through genetic analysis at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Southwestern Native Aquatic Resources and Recovery Center, Dexter, New Mexico by Wade Wilson. The last wild adult bonytail were collected in the late 1980’s and reproduction of bonytail has never been documented in the wild, in the upper Colorado River basin. This finding documents the first reproduction of bonytail in the upper Colorado River basin and represents a major step forward in the recovery of this species.

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A Proclamation by the President of the United States of America

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) are the fastest growing racial group in our country, growing over 4 times as rapidly as the population of the United States. As one of the most culturally and linguistically diverse groups in America, the AAPI community reminds us that though we all have distinct backgrounds and origins, we are bound in common purpose by our shared hopes and dreams for ourselves and our children. Our Nation's story would be incomplete without the voices of countless Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders who have called the land we all love home. This month, we honor the irreplaceable roles they have played in our past, and we recommit to ensuring opportunities exist for generations of AAPIs to come.



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The AAPI community's long and deeply-rooted legacy in the United States reminds us of both proud and painful chapters of our history. Confronted with grueling and perilous working conditions, thousands of Chinese laborers on the transcontinental railroad pushed the wheels of progress forward in the West. Japanese American troops fought for freedom from tyranny abroad in World War II while their families here at home were interned simply on the basis of their origin. And many South Asian Americans in particular face discrimination, harassment, and senseless violence often in the communities in which they live and work.

Today, AAPIs lend their rich heritage to enhancing our communities and our culture. As artists and activists, educators and elected officials, service men and women and business owners, AAPIs help drive our country forward. Yet despite hard-won achievements, AAPIs continue to face obstacles to realizing their full potential. One in three AAPIs does not speak English fluently, and certain subgroups experience low levels of educational attainment and high levels of unemployment. AAPIs also often experience heightened health risks, and millions of AAPI men, women, and children in the United States live in poverty.

My Administration is committed to supporting and investing in AAPI communities. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, 20 million uninsured adults have gained health insurance coverage, including 2 million AAPIs. Among Asian Americans under the age of 65, the uninsured rate has declined by 55 percent since 2013. Last year, we brought together thousands of AAPI artists; advocates; and business, community, and Federal leaders from across America for the first-ever White House Summit on AAPIs to discuss the key issues facing their communities. The Summit was hosted by the White House Initiative on AAPIs, which I reestablished during my first year in office and is housed within the Department of Education. We are working with Federal agencies to build stronger and more robust regional networks across our country that improve access to Federal resources and expand opportunities. We have worked to protect civil rights, foster educational equity, and create economic opportunity across our country. Because a lack of detailed data perpetuates the false notion of AAPIs as a model minority, we are working across Government to improve data collection to counter existing stereotypes and to shed light on the realities faced and resources needed by the AAPI community. Through the White House Task Force on New Americans, Federal agencies are working with cities and counties around America to build welcoming communities that allow immigrants and refugees to thrive. And we will continue working to allow more highskilled immigrants to stay in our country -- too many talented AAPIs are held back from fully realizing our country's promise, and too many have suffered the consequences of our Nation's broken immigration system.

Peoples of diverse backgrounds and circumstances have long come to our country with the faith that they could build a better life in America, and spanning generations, the story of AAPIs in the United States embodies this promise. During Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, let us celebrate the many contributions our AAPI brothers and sisters have made to the American mosaic, and let us renew our commitment to creating more opportunities for AAPI youth as they grow up and embrace the hard work of active citizenship, adding their unique voices and experiences to our Nation's narrative.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim May 2016 as Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to visit www.WhiteHouse.gov/AAPI to learn more about our efforts on behalf of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders, and to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities.



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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-ninth day of April, in the year of our Lord two thousand sixteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fortieth.

For more information, visit the [White House](#) website.

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Equal Employment Opportunity

How Are You Doing?? That question is usually something of a mystery for many employees if it comes from a member of the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) staff. The majority of the time it is a sincere question and not always a segue into “I really need to speak to you about an EEO allegation.” On the other side of that coin there is some validity in having that thought process since there are times when attention is needed on EEO related matters. So in some cases we may really need to address a concern. Like all divisions in Reclamation the EEO Office plays an integral part in support of the agency’s strategic mission. This office serves as a resource by way of providing direction, guidance and key activities to achieve a diverse workplace free from discrimination in any of its practices or procedures. At times, the function of the office gets miscommunicated and we would like to take care of some that by sharing some common misconceptions regarding the EEO program.

If you are in the EEO Office you are filing a discrimination complaint – The EEO Office truly has an open door policy. If an employee has an issue, whether EEO related or not, and they need somewhere to “vent” we will listen. Oftentimes someone just needs to talk out loud and by coming into the EEO Office they can say what’s on their mind without the fear of saying the wrong thing to the wrong person. So if you have a moment, come on by or poke your head in and at least say hi and look at it as a short moment in a utopian environment (bubbles included) on the 8th floor.

Because the EEO Office reports to the Regional Director’s Office we tell them everything – As stated above, if someone just needs to vent we listen. If an employee comes in with a concern we may ask what they expect from us if it sounds like they think we may take action, but just because they say that doesn’t mean we will act. There have been instances where we lend an ear and are asked not to say anything. We will honor that as long as what is being shared isn’t serious enough to warrant involvement by management. If what we’re hearing needs to be elevated we will inform the employee that we don’t have a choice but to elevate their concern.

EEO Office protects management – While the EEO Manager position is a member of the Region’s Management Team, the most we do is offer advice and guidance on the program/process the same as we would offer to an employee. If a manager or supervisor is involved in the EEO Process and has specific questions related to the issue and/or other parties involved we will direct them to Human Resources. If we delve into specifics of issues with anyone outside of the EEO Office we put our neutrality at risk. At the same time, if there could be an appearance of a conflict of interest with our office being involved in a specific issue we may ask another Region’s EEO Manager or the Denver Office of Civil Rights if they will step in and assist.

EEO staff represents employees – One of the most misunderstood roles of the EEO staff is who they represent. The basic answer to that is the EEO staff is not an advocate for either the aggrieved person or the agency. The main objective in the EEO process is to gather vital information concerning the claim(s)



and to resolve matters quickly and at the lowest level possible. It is important that EEO staff members consult with all parties involved and remain neutral at all times.

A hostile work environment is an EEO issue – Harassment involving unwelcome conduct that is based on race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability or genetic information fall under the purview of EEO. However, when actions occur not relative to the protected base, the actions should be reported to your supervisor, upper management and/or human resources as it pertains conduct.

EEO and Diversity are the same thing – Contrary to what many believe, EEO and Diversity are two different topics, but go hand-in-hand to maintaining a work environment free from personal and social barriers. EEO concentrates on maintaining the laws and protections under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and practices and procedures that prohibit discrimination in the workplace. Diversity stresses the importance embracing our differences that allows employees to develop and rise to their highest level of responsibility as possible.

Hopefully this has helped to clear up any misconceptions you may have regarding the EEO program. And the next time one of us asks how you're doing we are really interested in how you're doing. If we follow up with "do you have a minute", then most likely an issue has been brought to our attention and we're looking for some feedback from you.

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Who's New

Connie Asuncion

Albuquerque Area Office – Administrative Assistant



After retiring, Connie decided to start working again. Having formerly worked at the Department of Defense and the VA, she worked in senior assistance, as a shift manager at a McDonald's, and as a general manager at a motel in Raton, NM, her hometown, until she was offered the Administrative Assistant job at the Albuquerque Area Office.

Connie has a grown up son, Roland, and lives with her dog, Lacey, a Cairn Terrier mix. She enjoys reading in her free time and her favorite author is James Patterson, particularly his Alex Cross series. Connie is learning to crochet, and also enjoys taking walks with Lacey. She understands Spanish, but doesn't speak it. Connie likes the NCIS and CSI type shows, and her favorite television character is Leroy Jethro Gibbs, (Mark Harmon) on NCIS. She

enjoys oldies, country, jazz, and classical music, and her favorite singer is Louis Armstrong. Her favorite holiday is Christmas, because of all the children around, her great nephew and great nieces. She describes herself as enthusiastic and her favorite quote is, "All that is needed for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing."



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Chris Grosso

Albuquerque Area Office – Wildlife Biologist



Chris Grosso is a new Wildlife Biologist in the Environment and Lands Division of the Albuquerque Area Office. He came to us from Pueblo, Colorado, where he was working on regulatory issues with the Corps 404 program; he was looking for an opportunity to get back to Albuquerque and to working in biology. His special interests include habitat restoration, working with listed species, wetland mapping, and biological surveys. Chris lives with his partner, Julia, a nurse at Presbyterian Hospital and enjoys using his talents for problem solving, “unless I can avoid it.” His hobbies include canoeing, fishing, hiking, gardening, and home brewing of beer and wine. Chris’s favorite writer is Charles Bukowski, and he loves the genre of science fiction – movies, books, and television shows. He is a fan of the actor, Robert De Niro, and recently enjoyed his role in the movie “The Intern.” Chris likes to listen to blues, rock, and classical music. His favorite place is Puerto Rico. On a recent trip, he and Julia hiked up El Toro, the third highest peak in Puerto Rico, and enjoyed the beaches of Culebra. His favorite holiday is Thanksgiving. Chris’s favorite quote is “Dum vivimas vivamus,” or “while we live, let us live.”

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Christine Sapien

Albuquerque Area Office – Civil Engineering Technician



Christine Sapien, the new Civil Engineer Tech in the Indian Water Rights Division of the Albuquerque Area Office, comes to us from Daniel B. Stephens & Associates, an environmental engineering, hydrology, and geoscience firm. She was excited by the opportunity at the Bureau of Reclamation to expand her GIS skills. Christine’s special interests include surface water, water projects, and GIS.

Christine lives with her husband, Chris Martin (who, ironically, has the same birthdate as the more famous Chris Martin from Coldplay), their pet goats, Willie, Waylon, and June, dogs, Roxie, an Australian Shepherd, and Molly, an Australian Shepherd-Collie mix, a cow named Agnes, and 22 chickens. She describes herself as a “crazy goat lady” and enjoys working with her animals as a chicken and goat “whisperer.”

Christine’s hobbies include livestock rearing, fishing, mountain biking, hiking, gardening, and pretty much anything outdoors. Her favorite author is Sherman Alexie, and her favorite book is his short story collection “The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven.” Christine enjoys movie comedies and



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documentaries, particularly the character “Mary Katherine Gallagher” as portrayed by Molly Shannon on Saturday Night Live and in the movie “Superstar.”

In her youth, she played bass guitar in a punkabilly band, Held at Bay, that performed in Nashville, Tennessee, and she also plays the mandolin. She loves spending time at her farm in Las Nutrias, south of Belen.

A favorite quote is, “I am significant” screamed the dust speck.”

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In Transition

Key Ellis Retires



The Four Corners Construction Office is losing a great lady to retirement. Kay Ellis, Administrative Officer for the Four Corners Construction Office, after almost 30 years of Government service, has decided to retire.



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Kay was born and raised in the remote Surprise Valley area of northeastern California. Kay grew up in a ranching family and actually started her early education in a two room schoolhouse nestled between Eagleville and Cedarville. Kay's first encounter with Reclamation began in 1965, when Kay was 11. Kay wrote a letter to the President of the United States, Lyndon B. Johnson, about consideration of Surprise Valley as a potential storage site for Columbia River water. Kay received a personal letter of appreciation from the then Commissioner of Reclamation, the extinguished Floyd Dominy. Mr. Dominy served as Reclamation's Commissioner from 1959 to 1969.

Kay has had a long and impressive career in Government Service, but Reclamation has always held her heart. She began her career as a Clerk Typist, GS-3, with the U.S. Forest Service in Wise River, Montana in 1987. She quickly moved up to the position of Business Management Assistant and transferred to Tulelake, California in 1991. In 1994, Kay accepted a position with the Soil Conservation Service in Dorris, California. In 1996, Kay began her career with Reclamation at the Klamath Basin Area Office in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Kay lights up with delight whenever she speaks of her time there and all the memorable "Reclamation Greats" she worked with, to include Karl Wirkus (retired Pacific Northwest Regional Director), Mike Ryan (Great Plains Regional Director), and Dave Sabo (retired Reclamation Power Director). While at the Klamath Project, as Administrative Officer, she had several occasions to meet with Secretaries Bruce Babbitt and Gale Norton, as well as Commissioners Eluid Martinez, Bill McDonald and our most favorite John Keys III.

Before joining our Four Corners Construction Office, Kay went "tropic" and transferred to the Pacific Islands, Fish and Wildlife Office in Honolulu. For three and a half years, Kay and her husband Jim enjoyed getting to know the local people and the flavors of the Hawaiian Islands. Kay, however longed to return to the Mainland and to Reclamation. In 2006, she transferred back to Reclamation's Four Corners Construction Office and moved to Farmington, New Mexico. To assist her family, Kay took a brief position as Administrative Officer with Reclamation's Columbia-Cascades Area Office in Yakima, Washington. In 2013, she returned to the Four Corners Construction Office (FCCO).

Kay and her husband Jim plan to remain in the Four Corners. During my interview with Kay for this article, she teared up when expressing her gratitude for Reclamation and all the friends she has made. In our walk down memory lane, we discussed some of her memorable experiences. Breaching of the A-Canal Headgates and receiving a piece of what is now known as "suspicious" mail on 9/10/2001. Flying from Honolulu and landing in Farmington which, up to that time, was a site unseen, but feeling immediately that she finally was "home". Working with great people including, but certainly not limited to Karl, Mike and Dave, Mike Deming, Rick Ehat, Rick and Ann Gold, and so many more who have since retired. Additionally, time spent working with and getting to know so many both in the Upper Colorado and Pacific Northwest Regions over recent years. We laughed together when she told me that when she was getting to know folks at the FCCO, she immediately "took to" Jaye Decker (aka, the resident curmudgeon). Now, the two of them are entering retirement at the very same time. Go figure!!

Kay told me, "I can't imagine working any place with better people than the Bureau of Reclamation. They are, and always will be, my 'family.'"

Kay is now looking forward to having time to spend time at some of the local Southwest sights, and to be with her family and grandchildren who live many hours away, as well as other things that have been put on hold due to the time constraints created by having a career.

Kay will be missed, but never forgotten. Thank you Kay for your service.



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Frank B. Chavez 1941-2016



Age 74, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 13, 2016 at his home in Socorro, NM. He was born in Los Chavez, NM on July 27, 1941, to Tiburcio and Rosina Chavez. Frank was a resident of Socorro since 1972. He worked for the Bureau of Reclamation, retiring after almost 32 years of service. Frank proudly served in the US Navy from 1962 to 1965. He enjoyed hunting and fishing and feeding his birds. Frank was a member of the Eagles Club and a Chicago Bears fan. Every morning he enjoyed working on Crossword puzzles and solving the Cryptoquip. He was a devoted family man and spending time with his grandchildren was very special to Frank.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Preciliano, Simon, Arthur and Tibo; and his sister, Mary Helen Cordova.

He is survived by daughter, Renata Chavez and companion, Tim Townsend; good friend & ex-wife, Nellie Chavez; sisters, Corine Apodaca, Gregorita Chavez, and Nelda Coe and husband, Ron; grandchildren, Brianna Garcia and companion, J. B. Gonzales, Deysha Townsend and Damian Townsend

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[Notice of Extension of Public Comment Period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Adoption of a Long-Term Experimental and Management Plan for the Operation of Glen Canyon Dam, Page, Arizona](#)

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Heart and Soul by John Mumaw

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Reclamation Trivia

Here's this week's set of questions:

1. List the symptoms of CO (carbon monoxide) poisoning: _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____.
2. One of the Socorro crews is currently performing work at _____ through an interagency agreement with _____ and the _____.
3. The “_____” portal details the state of the watershed that supplies _____ Americans and _____ of land with water, despite reservoirs at about _____ capacity.

Last week, We asked,

1. According to the Information/Briefing Memorandum provided by the Provo Area Office, **The A.V. Watkins Dam**, was constructed from **1958-1964**.
2. Becky Begay explained how one would introduce themselves utilizing the Dine clan system by stating- **“I am born to the Greek People and born for the French People. My maternal grandfathers are the Swiss People and my paternal grandfathers are the English People.”**
3. Hadrosaurs were **bipedal herbivores**, also known as **“duck-billed”** dinosaurs.

Last winner was – **JoLyn Goss/ Alighieri Saenz**

Please use this [link to send your answers](#). To be fair we will draw names from the winners and one person will receive a prize. We will reach into the prize bin for something suitable for the winner...as long as supplies last.

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