

# Spotlight

## Gila National Forest

February 2016



### Gila National Forest Fishery Biologist Receives National Award

Jerry Monzingo recently received the Professional Excellence – Fish Management Award as part of the Chief’s 2015 Rise to the Future, National Fisheries, Hydrology, Soil Science and Air Program Awards. Monzingo is the Wildlife, Fish and Rare Plant Program Manager on the Gila National Forest.

For this national award, he was recognized for his significant impact on the conservation and proliferation of native fishes and other wildlife within the Gila River Basin, many of them with threatened and endangered status. Art Telles, Gila Natural Resources Staff Officer said, “Jerry is viewed as a great mentor by the other biologists on the Gila. He has an outstanding working relationship with and is highly respected by his peers in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NM Department of Game & Fish and by the biologists in the Southwestern Regional Office.”

Monzingo has worked on the Gila National Forest since 1994. He has served as the Forest Wildlife and Fish Program Manager, the Forest Fishery Biologist for eleven years, and a District Range and Wildlife Staff.

In addition, he is a member of the Gila Trout Recovery Team. Active for two decades, the Gila Trout Recovery Team is the longest serving recovery team in the southwestern region and has developed and implemented a recovery plan, an emergency evacuation plan, responded to wildfires, and completed recovery and conservation actions for Gila trout. In 2013, the Recovery Team was selected to receive the prestigious Recovery Champions award from the Director of the USFWS for the team’s quick and thoughtful response, to the Whitewater Baldy Complex Wildfire, to prevent the loss of Gila trout populations in several streams.

Monzingo is also a member of the Chihuahua chub recovery team, and Loach minnow, spikedace, Chiricahua leopard frog conservation teams. In addition to his recent national award, he has received many other prestigious awards including:



- USFWS Endangered Species Recovery Champion award for Chiricahua leopard frog conservation in 2012,
- USFWS Endangered Species Recovery Champion award for Gila trout conservation in 2012,
- National Fish Habitat Partnership Award for Extraordinary Action in Support of Fish Habitat Conservation in 2012,
- Region 3 Fisheries Biologist of the Year in 2010,
- Chief’s Rise to the Future Award for Collaboration in 2003

Congratulations Jerry!