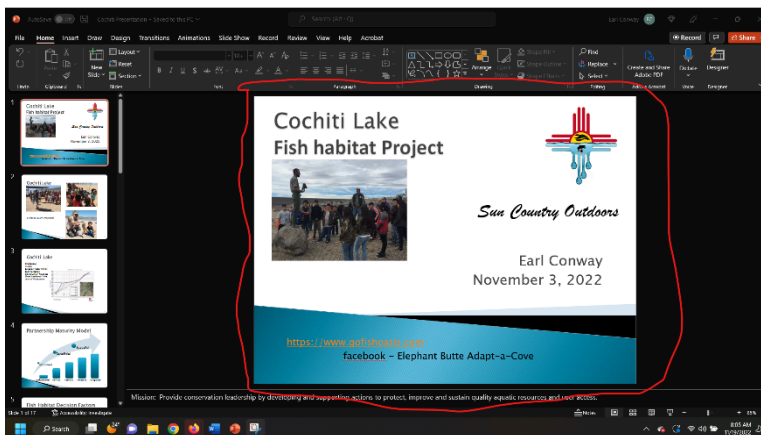


Conservation Director Report for November 2022

Earl Conway, Conservation Director

Only 205 days left until I am no longer the Conservation Director



This month.....

Matt Abeyta and Brad Hauf proved there are still some quality bass at the Butte.

I had successful and productive meetings with Cochiti Lake USACE and NMGF.

We developed new 3-D fish habitat components to go with the CNC parts and tubing.

\$5000 worth of bricks were delivered to Roswell for the last phase of Carlsbad.

Two greenhouses are being modified for Carlsbad and Cochiti vegetation this spring.

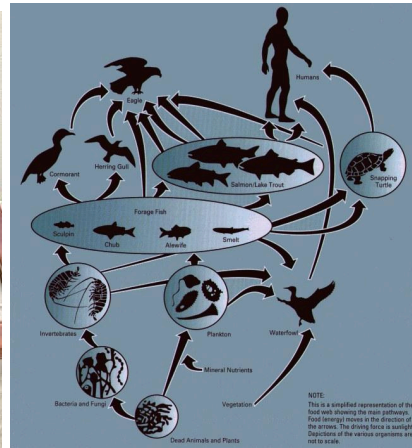
The Carlsbad mayor and BLM thanked us for support in Eddy County

The Loco Lagoon (formerly Conoco Pond) partnership sign went up and I met with Maverick corporate leaders at the pond. They want to do more!!!

USACE may donate two Yamaha 250s to Friends of Reservoirs (not NMBN) for our habitat barges.

I reviewed and commented on a draft paper for raising the elevation of Cochiti to maintain the recreation pool.

Innovation and Invention



We continue to innovate and invent fish habitat that fills fill very specific niches in the food web and the life cycle of the target species. Were not just throwing trash in the water!

<https://webapps.usgs.gov/MRGESCP/hydrology/usbr-tea-cup-diagrams>

Relations with NMGF and Federal Agencies are excellent. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has expressed full support for a new project at Cochiti Lake to provide spawning habitat and deal with invasive Eurasian watermilfoil.

Relations with NM State Parks are back on track with a good discussion with the new Director, Toby Vellasquez.

Political Advocacy: Midterms are over so I know who to contact. Hold my beer!

Projects

I closed the BLM and Carlsbad grants and am filing the reports and archiving account histories in case there is ever an audit. The separate bank accounts will be closed when I am satisfied the records are secured. A new account will be opened for Cochiti.

urrently have 3 major projects closing out and one in the future.

Elephant Butte Permits are CLOSED! Justin Allen and the kids dropped the last legal fish habitat. ***No more fish habitat may be dropped without a new permit.***

Carlsbad Lake Grant is spent and final report is due with financial closure forms. NMGF will continue dropping habitat and placing floating islands until March when the permitted work ends. I will work with Carlsbad to plant the islands in spring.

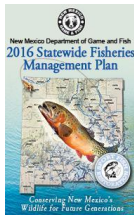
BLM lakes and BLM AIS Grants are spent and final reports are due with financial closure forms. I will continue to consult with BLM. We have some fish habitat prototypes in BLM waters: <https://youtu.be/y04gbZVhba4>

Cochiti \$47K Grant awarded with NEPA, SHPO, Section 7 and Fill Permit paperwork in progress. USACE is working on project compliance and has assigned a person to the project.

I consulted with NMGF and BLM on a Habitat Stamp Program grant to BLM for continued access improvements at Loco Lagoon (Conoco)

I have submitted a proposal for Six Mile Reservoir and I am supporting BLM and the City of Carlsbad on those waters. At Six Mile Reservoir (south of Carlsbad) a kayak access point, handicapped fishing and viewing access, and willow tree planting were all designed and executed with significant NMBN involvement. BLM followed up with Cottonwood planting in March. The City of Carlsbad and the BLM Carlsbad office have been exceptional to work with on all area projects.

Fisheries Management: (Repeated for emphasis) New Mexico Game and Fish (NMGF) continues to up their game. The warm water biologist group is fully staffed and equipped with a new habitat boat. The hatchery has new personnel that have a better understanding of how to raise largemouth bass and have been successful raising bass the last two years. Progress is being made on improving the Rock Lake bass hatchery in Santa Rosa. NMGF is considering a program like TPWD "Share-a-Lunker" to study and improve genetics. We will continue to support this effort. It is very important that our members do not relocate fish or vegetation!!!!



<http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/download/commission/public-comment/NM-Fisheries-Management-Plan-2016-SCG-Approved.pdf>

Finances: As reported in the 2019 and 2020 Conservation reports, due to our 501 (c) 7 (social club) status and uncertainty in the future of NM BASS Nation, I am directing all grants through Friends of Reservoirs, a 501 (c) 3 non-profit. NM BASS Nation and the Sun Country Outdoors (aka Canadian River Bass Club) are FOR member affiliates. FOR must act as the fiscal agent to apply and receive federal grants. Accounting for the grants has been provided to Friends of Reservoirs and the NM BASS Nation treasurer has access to all accounts.

Future Plans: I am transitioning to allow the state and Federal agencies to lead more habitat work with our continued support the way it should be. I met with Eric Frey, NMGF as planned. It went very well.

Reminder: We need some new conservation leaders I will not continue to be the Conservation Director past 2023. NMBN needs to find a successor. The Conservation Director role it is a very rewarding experience for anyone that is passionate about fish and fishing.

Fish Care:

http://www.bassmaster.com/sites/default/files/bassmaster2011/imce/keepibngbassalive_card_0.pdf

<http://www.bassmaster.com/tips/keeping-bass-alive>

Summary

A new Conservation Director will be needed in around 205 days! June 2023.

Siltation and sedimentation is still the big “elephant under the table” that is impacting many of our reservoirs. I am working with BOR and USACE to address the issue

Earl Conway