

# CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!

## Little Colorado River Fish Monitoring Hoop Net Project: Grand Canyon, AZ



Arizona Game and Fish Department  
Colorado River Research Branch Office  
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### Project Background

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) have been monitoring the fish community in the lower 1,200 meters (m) of the Little Colorado River (LCR) in Grand Canyon since 1987. Working under cooperative agreement with the US Geological Survey (USGS) Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC), sampling protocols were established to detect population changes of native fish, particularly the endangered humpback chub (*Gila cypa*), as well as to monitor nonnative fishes. Our sampling method consists of setting 13 large hoop nets in standardized locations throughout the lower 1,200 m area in the LCR. Hoop nets are set each day and remain in the water for approximately 24 hrs. before being checked the following day. Any fish caught are processed (measured, scanned for Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags and possibly given new tags) and released back into the water. All information is recorded on datasheets.

This project involves camping in a remote location for an extended time. All food, water, Gatorade, and coffee is provided except beverages of your choice that you may bring. There will be a functional cook station and make-shift "toilet" (ammo can) with all necessities provided. Gear such as tents, cots, and chairs are also provided (you provide your own bedding). A more detailed list of what and what not to bring and further information on logistics will be e-mailed to volunteers who can commit to working on this project.

#### DATE:

**April 15 – April 25, 2014**

**Volunteers Needed: 1 (possibly 2)**



Checking a hoop net for fish.



Turbid water in the LCR resulting from flood events.

(Photos by Bruce D. Taubert)

### Volunteer Requirements

- You must be in good health condition. For the purpose of this project, some examples of this means being able to tolerate extreme weather conditions (heat, cold, wind), being able to hike approximately 2 ½ miles each day over uneven terrain while carrying gear (buckets, scanning equipment, measuring board, etc.), and having a strong back to help pull and set hoop nets. Legible handwriting and attention to detail is a must when recording all data.
- You must be comfortable riding in a helicopter for a brief amount of time (about 6 minutes) for arrival and departure purposes only. There will be helicopter training you need to take beforehand that is required.
- You must adhere to all safety calls and policies and procedures involving all aspects of the LCR hoop net monitoring project.
- You must be able to live without cell phone or Internet service during the project time-frame. There will be a satellite phone available for emergency use only. You will also not have the luxury of bathing in warm water or using flushable toilets. This is river camp life!

### Contact

For more information or to apply, please contact: **Robin Osterhoudt**, Wildlife Specialist I, [rosterhoudt@azgfd.gov](mailto:rosterhoudt@azgfd.gov)

**Applicants:** Please send an e-mail of interest and brief summary (formal Résumé not needed) outlining any relevant experience in field work and/or training and include two work or educational references. Preference will be granted to those who can guarantee a commitment by March 3, 2014. There is a possibility that additional dates for this project may necessitate more volunteers pending AGFD staff availability. Please inquire for more information. Sorry, we can not pay for travel expenses.



Adult humpback chub.