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Subject: Muleshoe Area Fish Stockings: October 28, 2009
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Hello All,

Yesterday, October 28, 2009, a multi-agency crew (AGFD, USFWS, and TNC) stocked 386 spikedace (*Meda fulgida*) and 156 loach minnow (*Tiaroga cobitis*) into Hot Springs Canyon near TNC's Muleshoe Ranch. We also stocked 196 desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*) into a newly created pond at the Muleshoe Ranch headquarters.

The spikedace and loach minnow were stocked into two locations in the upper most reaches of the perennial section of water in Hot Springs Canyon. Three water exchanges were conducted approximately 10 minutes apart to allow the fish to acclimate. The fish behaved normally upon release and seemed to be in good condition as they swam off. We had 1 spikedace mortality and 4 loach minnow mortality's during transport—likely due to the bumpy dirt roads. These fish were hatchery production of Aravaipa stock and this stocking was considered an augmentation because loach minnow and spikedace are currently in Hot Springs as a result of 2007 and 2008 stockings.

The TNC pond stocked with pupfish has a thermal spring as a water source and thus the water temperature was 7° C warmer than the transport water so we conducted 4 water exchanges about 10 minutes apart. The pupfish behaved normally upon release and seemed in good condition as they swam off. We had 4 pupfish mortalities during transportation—the mortalities were of the smallest size pupfish. This newly created pond will only be stocked with pupfish for the near future. We hope that the pupfish will thrive in this pond and that the population can serve as a source of pupfish for stockings throughout the Muleshoe area.

The Muleshoe area native fishes repatriation is a multi-agency partnership (BLM, TNC, FWS, BOR, AGFD, and UA) and many staff and other individuals have worked hard to make these efforts happen—so a thank you goes out to all of those who have helped directly and indirectly with this stocking. Please forward this message to anybody that I may have left off the list and feel free to contact me with any questions you may have. The details of this stocking will be included in an annual Muleshoe Ecosystems report and this report will be completed later this winter.

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