



U.S. ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY

MONTHLY UPDATE

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DESERET CHEMICAL DEPOT | Aug. 23, 2012

Native fish thriving at DCD

Since arriving at Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) less than a year ago, the least chub population has soared. In October 2011, 500 least chub were introduced to a refuge pond at DCD and an initial survey of the pond indicates that the fish have multiplied into the thousands—exceeding expectations and greatly aiding in the strategy to keep them off the endangered species list.

The least chub is a small minnow that measures no more than 2.5 inches; it is the smallest of six chubs native to Utah's Bonneville Basin. They feed primarily on algae and small invertebrates, such as mosquito larvae, playing an important role in the aquatic ecosystems they inhabit.

"The least chub are doing really well," said Boyd



Deseret Chemical Depot (DCD) Natural Resource Manager Boyd White (center) and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Native Aquatics Biologists Chris Crocket (left) and Mark Grover (right) survey a random sample of least chub from a refuge pond at DCD.

White, DCD Natural Resource Manager, "and we expect the population to continue to rise over the next few years."

Approximately 800 least chub were captured and evaluated earlier this month. Approximately 86 percent of the least chub captured were juveniles, evidence that the population is rapidly increasing.

The least chub were placed in one of two ponds that had been restored and designated as refuge ponds. They were only stocked in the northeast pond because the aquatic vegetation in the second pond had not matured enough at the time to provide adequate cover.

"We were pleased to discover that the juvenile least chub have migrated downstream to the southwest pond on their own," said Mark Grover, a native aquatics biologist with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. "Vegetative cover is still improving at the southwest pond, which will likely serve as a breeding area next summer."

The refuge population at DCD is made up of descendants of least chub from the wild population at (See REFUGE LEAST CHUB on page 2)



Least chub are measured to estimate the population of juvenile fish, allowing officials to determine how well the least chub are reproducing. Results from the initial survey show that the least chub population is rapidly increasing.

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(Additional hours available upon request)

ONC recycling pays off

On-Site Containers (ONCs) once used to transport the depot's chemical weapons for destruction have been successfully recycled—not only saving money and generating revenue, but also keeping the massive items from being buried in a landfill.

An ONC measures approximately 8 feet in diameter and 11 feet long and weighs approximately 19,000 pounds. It includes three layers of stainless steel separated by polyurethane foam or a ceramic fiber blanket.

The foam and fiber blanket, which act as a fire retardant, along with a hydraulic pump, hydraulic fluid and a heat tile had to be separated from the stainless steel before the metal could be smelted. After all costs associated with the recycling were paid, 42 ONCs were melted down netting \$103,000. If the 42 containers had been sent to a landfill, it would have cost more than \$1 million.

“We’re happy to have generated revenue, but our first objective was to keep as many ONCs as we could out of a landfill,” said Matt Tomac, environmental protection specialist and recycling program manager at Deseret Chemical Depot.

Before the containers could be recycled, they were cleaned and monitored for any possible chemical agent contamination. Three ONCs failed to meet the requirements for recycling and were disposed of at a permitted landfill facility.

Refuge least chub

(continued from front page)

Mona Springs, which is the population most vulnerable to extinction. Officials are hoping that the least chub refuge at DCD will eventually provide a reli-



(above) For more than 16 years, On-Site Containers (ONCs) safely transported Deseret Chemical Depot's chemical weapons from storage igloos to the destruction facility. DCD recently recycled the majority of its ONCs, which required dismantling the containers and separating the stainless steel from the other components. The pile of debris shown in the photo below was taken from three ONCs.



able source of least chub for reintroduction to Mona Springs in the near future.

The translocation of the least chub to the depot took a collaborative effort between DCD, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“The least chub refuge at DCD is unique in that it is on Department of Defense property,” noted Grover. “It provides a level of security and protection from threats, such as unauthorized introductions of non-native species, that is not possible elsewhere.”

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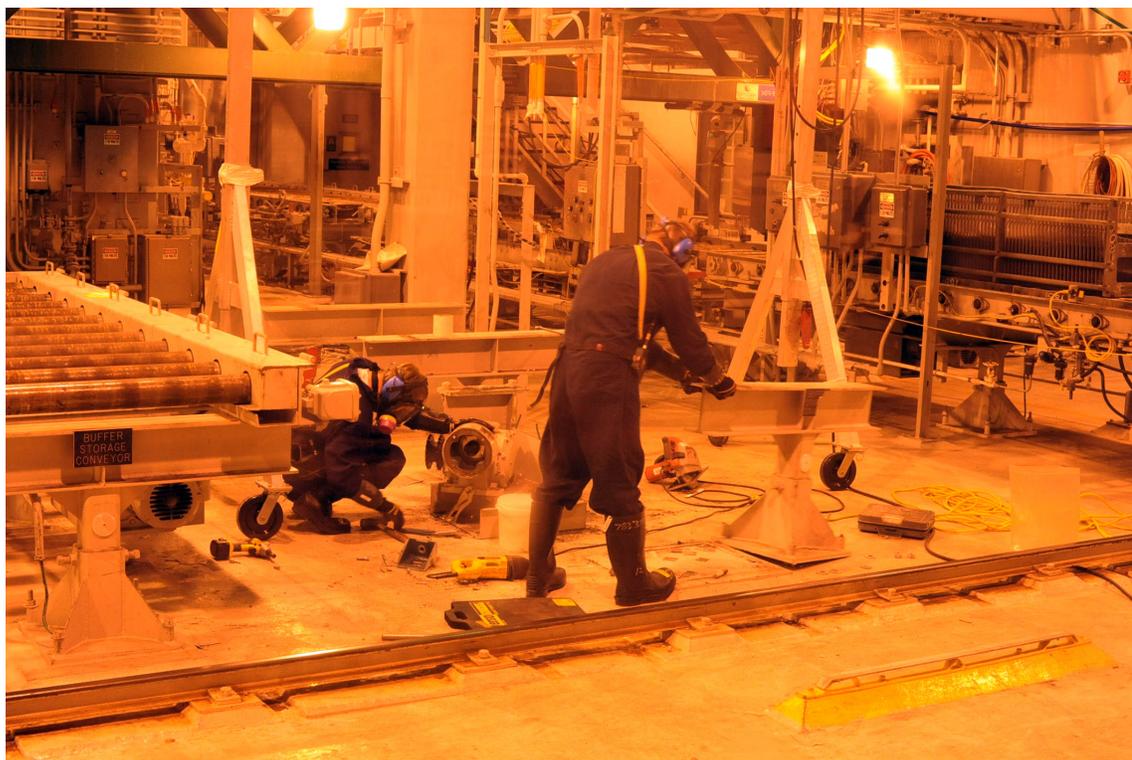
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Closure work is in full swing at the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF). Workers continue to decontaminate and decommission contaminated areas and equipment, preparing the plant for final demolition. Pictured above, two TOCDF workers disassemble a set of plant conveyors to be removed from the main processing building. URS Electrical Technician Spencer Christian takes apart a buffer storage conveyor motor while URS Mechanical Technician Weston Miller pushes an unbolted conveyor support out of the way. Not all of the plant conveyors will be removed prior to demolition, but those that will be removed, including all of the parts, will be processed through the Metal Parts Furnace to ensure no contamination remains. URS photo

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Pine Bluff and Umatilla deactivation ceremonies



(left) Acting CMA Director Don Barclay receives the colors from Pine Bluff Chemical Activity Civilian Executive Steven D. Lowrey, symbolizing the completion of the Pine Bluff Chemical Activity (PBCA), during a formal ceremony on Aug. 14, 2012 (photo courtesy of The Pine Bluff Commercial). PBCA successfully destroyed 12 percent of the U.S. chemical weapons inventory. (right) Mr. Barclay cases the colors of the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UCD) in a ceremony, on July 17, 2012. The UCD and Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility worked together to store and eliminate 12 percent of the Nation's chemical weapons.