

# Media Monitoring Suite

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## Transcript

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### KAET-PHX (PBS) - Phoenix, AZ Arizona Wildlife Views

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30s

#### KAET 2/20/2016 5:51:51 AM: ...narrator:

an endangered little bulldog of a fish took another step toward recovery recently, when over 300 desert pupfish were released into a refuge pond on the red mountain campus of **Mesa Community College**. [music] it's insurance against the extinction of the population, and insurance, if we do it right, maintaining the genetic integrity in the variation in the species. so that we're preserving the species, and not just a small piece of the species. narrator: this small native fish is one of 36 species that lived in arizona waters prior to the territory being settled. they now only inhabit a fraction of their historic range, mainly due to water diversion and groundwater pumping. timmons: current status is that they're endangered. i think at this time, we have 22 -- i believe 22

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properties enrolled under the safe harbor agreement, and that will lead towards meeting our goal for the downlisting of pupfish at this time. narrator: the safe harbor agreement allows non-federal landowners to have an endangered species on their property, without restricting the normal operations of their land or business. in this case, mesa **Community** college built this replica of a natural arizona stream to serve as both a wildlife refuge, and an educational opportunity for students. timmons: they're kind of like a little bulldog. they're stout, short. the males are very territorial early on in the year, and they defend their territory throughout the year. females come in to look the males over, and decide whether or not that male's good enough for them, and if so, she'll go in and lay her egg, and the male's succeeded in his little strategy there. but they're very aggressive towards other fish, and towards other members of their own species. and it's quite a lot of fun watching them. man: i've been here before it was built and all that, so i started as a student worker, and i've been here for almost six years now. so it's kind of cool for me, starting as a student. i've worked my way into a position that gets to actually have hands-on wildlife conservation experience. timmons: here at the mcc, we absolutely want them to remain involved. part of the project that we're looking at for future management of the species is making sure that mcc gets something more out of it than just providing us ...

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