

HATCHERY HIGHLIGHTS



Hagerman National Fish Hatchery Oster Lake Clean-up

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

No. 1: March 1, 2011

Bickel Ditch



In January 2011, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) partnered with the Hagerman National Fish Hatchery (Hatchery) to complete renovations of the Bickel Ditch. Under an agreement the Hatchery diverts water to the Oster Lakes and the IDFG Hagerman Wildlife Management Area via Bickel Ditch. The Hatchery de-watered the ditch and assisted with brush removal.



After the ditch project, the Hatchery drained Oster Lake #1 with a trash pump to remove common carp that had invaded the lake over the past 7 to 10 years and threatened the popular rainbow trout fishery.

Draining Oster Lake #1



It took approximately 120 hours of continuous pumping to completely drain Oster Lake #1. Biologists found numerous common carp, several rainbow trout, a few largemouth bass, and several bullfrog tadpoles in the drained lake.



IDFG biologists measured carp and removed otoliths (ear bones) to construct a size/age composition of the carp. Some of the carp were over six years old!

Clean Up Efforts



IDFG and Hatchery staff removed several hundred carp and a few dozen remaining rainbow trout from the mud. It was a dirty job, but someone had to do it!

Trash Pick-Up



IDFG and Hatchery staff, Boy Scout Troop 107, and local volunteers worked several hundred hours to remove accumulated trash and lost fishing line from the edges of the lake. The effort yielded over 2,000 pounds of refuse! The Hatchery hopes that future visitors will strive to keep the area clean and use the waste receptacles provided at the popular fishing access points.

Brush Removal and Fish Barrier



The Hatchery and IDFG also removed several invasive Russian Olive trees and installed a fish barrier to prevent carp from migrating into Oster Lake #1 from the downstream lakes.

A Great Place to go Fishing!



The project was completed just in time before the fishing opener on March 1st. Anglers that braved the cold weather were rewarded with a great place to go trout fishing!

Partnerships in Action

