



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Hagerman National Fish Hatchery
3059 D National Fish Hatchery Road
Hagerman, Idaho 83332

MEMORANDUM

November 16, 2005

TO: ARD-Fisheries Attn: Rich Johnson, Field Supervisor
FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH
SUBJECT: October 2005 Monthly Activity

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2005

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
110	Clearwater B	203,479	9,001	22.6	4.93
111	Pahsimeroi	208,699	13,044	16.0	5.53
112	Sawtooth	979,161	32,517	30.1	4.48

Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG), fish marking crew, completed CWT and ad marking the steelhead. The Fish marking crew also completed splitting into final rearing raceways. The clipping numbers were consistently 6% short compared to the inventory numbers in the Sawtooth stock. Some "soreback" is being observed, primarily in the Clearwater stock; however, other than the sore back, fish health appears to be good. Fish health samples were taken in all stocks; the results are pending. Currently all steelhead are being fed 2.5 mm vitamin boost feed that is being fed by hand. The fish will be put on demand feeders by the end of November.



Extreme "Soreback" on Clearwater



IDFG Clipping Crew

Rainbow Trout (Dworshak Reservoir Mitigation)

No rainbow trout are on station at this time.

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
	Hayspur Tripliod Rainbows	0			

OPERATIONS

Beginning with pay period 2005-22 the Hatchery switched to its winter hours of operation; M-F, 7:30am to 4:00pm (MT).

During October, Bryan Kenworthy, Project Leader, met with Dave Hopper and Michael Morse of the USFWS, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, concerning protection of the Bliss Rapids Snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*), listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The replacement of the Main Spring to Bickel Ditch pipeline will occur in close proximity to the snail's habitat. Chris Starr, Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP), is taking the lead to develop the Biological Assessment. The Hatchery has provided a description of the project and recommendations for control of sediments during the construction.

Randy Schmeller, Engineering, hosted a pre-construction meeting for Hayes Construction Inc. regarding the project to demolish old Hatchery #1 and construction of a building to house the water chiller. The project start is scheduled for May 15, 2006. The contractor indicated difficulty with obtaining supplies and the drastic fluctuations for cost of materials. In an effort to accommodate the contractor's need to stay within cost, it was agreed that some materials could be purchased now and stored at the Hatchery or at the contractor's locations. For those items stored off-site the contractors must show proof of purchase and make items available for inspection by the Service. While on-site, Randy inspected the Brailsford Intake Overflow Pipe replacement project for contract completion, and also participated with the Hatchery staff in a 30% review with the contract design engineer of the plans to retrofit the bird barrier over the steelhead raceways.

This year marked the initiation of the new fish pump/dewatering tower for fish marking. The system reduces handling and bucketing of steelhead from the raceways and should reduce stress on the fish. The IDFG fish marking crew was pleased with the performance of the new system.



New Dewatering Tower



Fish Pump

COORDINATION

The Hatchery conducted an HET meeting on October 26. Minutes of the meeting are available upon request.

Bryan Kenworthy met with Matt Osinski, Department of Veterans Affairs, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service, Boise, Idaho, to discuss their “non-paid work experience for disabled veterans” program. Information on the program can be found at www.vba.va.gov/bln/vre/index.htm. Mr. Osinski is considering the Hatchery as a training site for the program.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

Mark Olson, Assistant Project Leader was promoted to the GS 0482/11 grade, effective 10/02/2005.

On October 11, Mark Olson traveled to the Portland Regional Office to attend “Purchase Card Training”.

OUTREACH

On October 10, Nathan Wiese, Fisheries Biologist, staffed a booth at the Science Tech Exposition sponsored by the College of Southern Idaho. Sixth grade students and families were exposed to “Science at the Hatchery” including; a background display explaining the mission of the USFWS, a power point presentation of Hatchery production, an explanation of the life stages of anadromous fish, scanning for PIT and CWT tags, the opportunity to decipher binary code on a actual piece of CWT under a microscope, and digitizing the length and weight of a model fish into a computer database. The outreach event involved over 500 students from Twin Falls and surrounding school districts.

The Hatchery conducted two scheduled tours for 50 Mountain Home 3rd grade students and 15 students from Twin Falls Hilltop School.

96 visitors signed the guest registry.

MAINTENANCE

Vehicles and Equipment

The Hatchery computers required care and feeding this month. The power supplies on the six Dell® desktops were replaced. Four out of the six failed within the past 4 months; two more were replaced in anticipation of failure. The memory was also increased in the Project Leaders computer (*it's not a dell, dude*).

Buildings and Grounds

The Quarters #4 Driveway Repair contract was completed. This work involved the removal of a large maple tree, deteriorated asphalt and concrete, and the replacement of the phone line mangled by the tree roots and the adjacent sprinkler lines.

The roof on the storage barn was replaced under contract.

Progress continued on the automatic feed distribution system. The system is being expanded to include the first and second decks of Steelhead Raceways. Work this month included installation of hopper motors and motor support brackets in the bulk feed bins.

Replaced heat pump air filters in all buildings.