



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

MEMORANDUM

April 18, 2006

TO: ARD-Fisheries Attn: Rich Johnson, Field Supervisor

FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: March Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2005

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
105	Pahsimeroi	50,888	10,827	4.7	8.32
106	Sawtooth	973,347	169,223	5.8	7.77
107	Clearwater B	190,306	39,434	4.8	8.24

The Steelhead experienced higher mortality this month, samples were sent to Kathy Clemens, Idaho Fish Health Center (IFHC); for diagnosis. The fish were diagnosed with "Cold Water Disease", a bacterial infection. No corrective action will be taken to medicate the fish because of with-draw time of antibiotics related to distribution of these fish. The mortalities as of this writing have declined and the fish are recovering. PIT tagging also took place this month, 300 per release sight for a total of 1500 tags. Steelhead distribution began on March 27th and will continue through the middle of May.

Rainbow Trout (Dworshak Reservoir Mitigation)

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
113	Hayspur T-9 Rainbows	101,677	2,033	50.01	3.491
114	Hayspur T-9/KT Rainbows	40,533	230	176.23	2.294

The rainbow trout fish health remains good with low mortalities. Lot 113 fingerlings are scheduled to be stocked in mid May at a size of 5 inches. Lot 114 fish remain in Hatch 2 and will be moved to the Steelhead raceways in late April to make room for the Brood Year 2006 steelhead eggs.

OPERATIONS

The respective staffs for the three Magic Valley area steelhead hatcheries met with Rodney Duke, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Fish Marking Coordinator, to coordinate the Brood Year 2006 fish marking operations. Fish size, equipment availability, and lack of fin clippers have in the past, been a challenge for all involved to accomplish fish marking. The Hatchery has agreed to marking our fish in August so our fish would be marked at a more appropriate size and to help maintain continuity in the marking schedule.

The Hagerman National Fish Hatchery experienced its first wildland fire of the 2006 season with a 50' x 20' burn very close to an adjacent private residence. A tree had fallen over, breaking an Idaho power line.



Quick response by the volunteer rural fire departments and the location of the Hatchery's fire line prevented further damage by the fire.

Bryan Kenworthy, Project Leader, and Mark Olson, Assistant Project Leader, participated in the annual Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) Cooperator's Meeting in Boise, Idaho. Bryan presented information regarding the status of the Hatchery's declining water supply.

Bryan Kenworthy attended several meetings addressing the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Settlement Negotiations in Boise, Idaho. Chris Starr, LSRCP Office, and Dar Crammond, Chief—Water Resources Branch, Region 1 Engineering, have also represented the Service at the meetings. Bryan also attended the Annual Water District 36A meeting in Hagerman, Idaho.

Region 1 Contracting Officers, Linda Askew and Lorrie Gleghorn, visited the Hatchery to conduct an Acquisition Management Review of the Hatchery's procurement practices.

Tom Mendonca, Region 1 Engineering, visited the Hatchery to inspect progress made by Wickham Pipeline Construction.



↑ Erosion control for protection of Bliss Rapids Snail.

← Excavation revealed many underground challenges for the construction crew.

Randy Schmeller, Region 1 Engineering, visited the Hatchery to inspect the Main Spring to Bickel Ditch Pipeline project, and to discuss with the contractor modifications relevant to installation of air relief valves on the line. While on-site, Randy also had the opportunity to meet with representatives of Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding their comments on the plan to install pump sumps in the two cells of the Hatchery's off-line settling pond. The DEQ is requiring that the Service conduct a seep test before and after the construction to ensure the modification does not cause the ponds to leak. The contract with Brockway Engineering has been modified to comply with this requirement.

Dr. Matt Powell, University of Idaho, obtained Steelhead tissue samples of Brood Year 2004 and 2005 steelhead to assist the Hatchery and the Idaho FHC in investigations relevant to the prevalence of *Nucleospora salmonis*. This pesky microsporidian, present at various levels in tissue of fish read at the Hatchery, is believed to be a contributing agent to fish health problems at the Hatchery.

Louise Bruce, SCEP and University of Idaho student, returned to the Hatchery to conduct further research on the New Zealand Mud Snail (NZMS). She conducted a volitional feeding study comparing rainbow trout and steelhead trout feeding behavior and preference for NZMS. The Hatchery staff modified several tanks in Hatchery 1 to accommodate the study.



Snails ready to be counted for feeding study.



NZMS Volitional Feeding Study.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

Mark Olson attended “Applied Supervision” training at National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Brian Clifford, Motor Vehicle Operator, met with the drivers of Rich Thompson Trucking in preparation for FY2006 steelhead distribution season.

Bryan Kenworthy attended “Fisheries Information System (FIS)” training in Vancouver, Washington.

OUTREACH

The Hatchery conducted 3 scheduled tours this month including Cascade Junior & Senior High School, Buhl Popplewell Elementary 2nd graders science students and Twin Falls Perrine elementary 2nd graders. 214 visitors signed the guest registry

MAINTENANCE

Vehicles and Equipment

- The F150 pickup heater core leak was repaired.
- The fuel pump in the 1-ton flatbed truck was replaced.
- New brushes were installed on the pond scrubber.
- The transport generator oil and air filters were replaced.
- The lawn mowers received their spring maintenance.
- Plexi-glass shields were replaced on fish transports oxygen flow meter compartment.

Buildings and Grounds

- Quarter’s carpets were cleaned.
- Fuses were replaced for Quarter #6 & #7 sewage lift pumps.
- Automated feed delivery system, Phases II & III, electrical work were completed.
- New garbage cans were purchased for the Oster Lakes and Hatchery.