



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

MEMORANDUM

January 14, 2008

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

FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: December Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2007

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
120	Sawtooth	1,029,158	93,041	11.1	6.25
121	Pahsimeroi	199,455	22,926	8.7	6.77
122	Clearwater B	206,189	19,795	10.4	6.38

Kathy Clemens, Idaho Fish Health Center, performed the monthly fish health examination for the Sawtooth CWT Adult Return Study, Clearwater, and Pahsimeroi stocks. Soreback problems have subsided in all stocks and mortality has decreased to 0.002% per day.

Rainbow Trout (Dworshak Reservoir Mitigation)

Lot 123 Rainbow Trout eggs will be reared in Hatchery #2. The Hatchery will receive 150K Hayspur and Kamloop stock eggs from Hayspur Fish Hatchery in early January.

OPERATIONS

Wickham's Pipeline Construction (Contractor) continued work on the Main Spring collection chamber. As part of the project they installed a pneumatic bladder, commonly called a pig, to restrict water flow in the 24-inch pipe supplying Hatch 1, Bickel Ditch, and the Trout Raceways. At 4:00 pm on December 5th, the pig failed. As a result of the failure, approximately 20 to 30 cubic foot/second of water sluiced down the Display Pond diversion, into the Hatchery's Display Pond, and into Riley Creek. The Contractor took swift action to reduce the water spillage by

securing a board against the opened pipe with their excavator bucket and boom. Concurrently, the Hatchery staff bypassed a portion of flow away from the Main Spring Diversion. The Contractor secured the failure in approximately 45 minutes by installing a new pig. The Hatchery staff then returned all flow to normal configuration. The Contractor completed installation of the new pipe by 3:00 am the following morning. The Hatchery estimates approximately 1.2 cubic yards of sediment, sand, and rock discharged downstream as a result of the failure. A good portion of this material settled out in the Hatchery's Display Pond. However, Riley Creek remained "muddy" in appearance for approximately 30 to 40 minutes.

As required under Section IV.B of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit (NPDES), the Hatchery staff notified the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), and the Boise Ecological Services (ES) Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of the incident. Rob Sharpnack, Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), visited the Hatchery to inspect and assess the effects of the sediment discharge into Riley Creek. As of this writing no assessment has been issued by either EPA or IDEQ.



Main Spring before the plug failure



Main Spring after the failure



Washout under pipeline



Footing pour to replace ramp

Dave Hopper and Bob Kibler, Boise ES Office, surveyed Bliss Rapids snails in the Display Pond diversion and the Len Lewis Spring overflow channel to determine the effect of the pipeline failure. They also surveyed Bickel Lake as a control site. They reported Bliss Rapid snails were more abundant in the Display Pond diversion than observed during a similar survey done in February 2004. Consistent with previous surveys, zero Bliss Rapids snails were located in Bickel Lake although it appears to offer some habitat. Dave Hopper also trained Nate Wiese, Assistant Project Leader, in the sample collection techniques and identification of Bliss Rapids snails.



COORDINATION

Jill Olson, Fish Biologist, Dworshak Fisheries Complex, visited the Hatchery to receive training in NPDES water sampling and reporting requirements. Jill is responsible for implementing permit activities at Dworshak NFH. The training included sampling techniques, laboratory composite mixing, and a brief overview of permit documents including the Quality Assurance and Best Management Practices Plans.

Ray Jones, Idaho Fisheries Resource Office, Kathy Clemens, and Jill Olson met with the Hatchery staff for a Hatchery Evaluation Team meeting. Topics discussed were: the Salmon River Annual Operating Plan; the Sawtooth Adult Return study; Clearwater mortalities; and upcoming PIT tagging plans for February and March.

Bryan Kenworthy, Project Leader, attended the biannual South Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center Cooperator's meeting at the Bureau of Land Management Fire Center, located in Shoshone, Idaho.

Region 1 Fisheries Staff met with Clive Strong, Idaho Deputy Attorney General for Natural Resources, in Boise, Idaho to discuss concerns surrounding water supply issues for Hagerman National Fish Hatchery and Magic Valley Fish Hatchery. The meeting focused on a need for the Service and the State of Idaho to seek collaborative opportunities to mitigate for the loss of water at these two facilities. Participants included Dan Diggs, Assistant Regional Director for Fisheries; Richard Johnson, Fisheries Field Supervisor; Bryan Kenworthy, Hagerman NFH Project Leader; and Scott Marshall, Coordinator, Lower Snake River Compensation Plan.

Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, attended the Idaho Children and Nature Working Group via telephone conference. The Group received orientation towards this directive and will meet again January 23rd to complete an inventory of existing efforts/partnerships, brainstorm for potential new efforts, and to begin development of a cross-program FY08 "Action Plan".

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

Bryan Kenworthy and Eric Willet, Motor Vehicle Operator, attended the Fred Pryor sponsored Microsoft Excel Basics and Advanced training, in Twin Falls Idaho.

Brian Clifford, Motor Vehicle Operator, and Eric Willet attended the 58th Annual Northwest Fish Culture Conference in Portland, OR.

James Brandon, Animal Caretaker, attended the Fish and Wildlife Service sponsored Warm and Cool Water Fish Culture course in Boulder City, Nevada.

OUTREACH

Nate Wiese, Brian Clifford, and James Brandon, participated in a “Connecting Children with Nature” outreach event for 190 Twin Falls Elementary students. The event was in partnership with the National Park Service, Hagerman National Monument, and the Thousand Springs State Park. The presentation reviewed the Hatchery’s steelhead program and presented information on fish anatomy and physiology as well as providing students with the opportunity to dissect a fish.



The Hatchery entertained 3 official guests and had an additional 29 guests registered in the visitor’s log book for a total of 32 visitors during October.

Maintenance

Buildings and Grounds

- Western Fire, Inc completed the annual fire extinguisher service
- The Maintenance Mechanic’s office was moved to hatchery Building #1.
- The apartment in the old Maintenance Mechanic’s office building has been rearranged to meet recommendations regarding ingress and egress identified during the Region 1 Safety Audit.
- Constructed new jump screens for Hatchery #2 rearing tanks.

Vehicles

- Flatbed pickup received a new muffler system.