



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

MEMORANDUM

March 23, 2007

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

FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: February Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2006

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
115	Clearwater B	196,152	35,821	5.48	7.64
116	Pahsimeroi	185,491	38,725	4.79	8.26
117	Sawtooth	1,060,836	175,315	6.05	7.64

Fish growth is on schedule (4.5 fpp target size at release) for distribution beginning the last week of March. Fish health in all three stocks of steelhead remains good and mortalities are extremely low. We have not observed a spike in mortality that typically happens this time of year; further research on what causes the spring time mortality spike is being done by Kathy Clemens, Idaho Fish Health Center.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game completed its PIT tagging for the various release groups.

Rainbow Trout (Dworshak Reservoir Mitigation)

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
118	Hayspur KT Rainbows	86,948	668	130	2.5
119	Hayspur KT Rainbows	59,440	91	650	1.5

The rainbow trout Lot 119 had lower egg mortality (< 2%) than to the 20 % egg mortality in Lot 118. As a result, Lot 119 is currently above the fall release goal of 40,000 trout. Excess fish will be released as fingerlings with Lot 119 to meet the spring release goal of 90,000 trout.

Lot 118 will be transferred to the trout raceways during the first week of March to free-up additional water to the steelhead raceways. Both lots are being fed Silver Cup starter feeds #0 through #2 and then switched to 1.0 mm extruded pellets. This feeding strategy avoids the problem of excessive “fines” that have been encountered with the #3 crumbles and the extruded pellet floats longer. Lot 118 was switched from #2 to 1.0 mm at 200 fpp and will be fed 1.0 mm until 50 fpp. Fish health remains excellent in Lot 118.

OPERATIONS

Bryan Kenworthy, Project Leader, successfully negotiated with Idaho Power Company the reclassification of the Riley Creek Pump to a “Rate 24, Irrigation” (0.033964 cents per kWh) which is 0.0312 cents per kWh lower than the original classification of “Small General” (0.065143 per kWh). Although the Hatchery has not needed to operate this pump to meet the stipulations under the water use agreement with the Brailsford Ditch Association (BDA), continued decline of water levels in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA) and the potential for further drought may require its operation in the future. In a worst case scenario this could be as long as 50 days of operation. The reduced cost represents a considerable potential savings for the Hatchery.

Bryan Kenworthy participated in a number of meetings and activities during the month of February, which included:

The Salmon River Annual Operating Plan Meeting, Boise.

The Service Asset Maintenance Management System (SAMMS) Workshop, presented by Gary Melvin, SAMMS Coordinator, at the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Office, Boise.

Participation in three public open house events in the Magic Valley area to showcase the recently updated Draft Thousand Springs Scenic By-way Corridor Management Plan. The Service, through the Hatchery, partnered with a number of State, Federal, and non-government partners to conduct this project.

Two meetings with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) staff representing the Twin Falls District and Shoshone Field Office, regarding the Thousand Springs Aquifer Protection and Enhancement project. The BLM is working to develop a project proposal to meet a Department of Interior directive to assist to the Service in developing solutions for declining springs flows emanating from the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer (ESPA).

Two meetings sponsored by the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) to discuss interim mitigation for senior surface water right holders for the 2007 water year. The Acting IDWR Director requested the water users make recommendations for this mitigation. The

Service proposed that IDWR and the Groundwater users rent 3 to 4 cfs of water from the Brailsford Ditch Association for the month of February and March for use by the Hatchery during peak smolt production. The BDA and the Magic Valley Region 4 Supervisor, Idaho Department of Fish And Game, also a water user on the Brailsford Ditch, declined to rent the water to the groundwater users.

A public meeting in Hagerman, sponsored by IDWR, to discuss the state's water acquisition program. This effort is funded by the Idaho Legislature and is directed at the purchase of water rights from willing sellers in the Hagerman Thousand Springs area. Many in attendance expressed their dissatisfaction with the IDWR's focus on purchasing surface water rights below the canyon rim and suggested they should purchase ground water rights above the rim. Many believe that retiring the groundwater rights on the ESPA will go further in stabilizing the aquifer's decline.

A meeting with Chris Starr, Lower Snake River Compensation Plan, and several staff from the Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, to develop guidelines to protect the Bliss Rapids Snail (*Taylorconcha serpenticola*) during a proposed rehabilitation of the Main Spring Intake. This snail, listed as Threatened under the Endangered Species Act, is found in several springs on the Hatchery.

COORDINATION

Shawn R. Narum PhD, Lead Geneticist, and staff from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) continued a research project using Hatchery steelhead. The investigators are testing procedures to track steelhead smolt development using DNA analysis on gill, brain, and liver tissue. This month tissues collected are the second of three samples from a total of 180 fish. Individual fish will be measured for weight and length, and condition factor will be calculated.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

Mark Olson, Assistant Project Leader, traveled to the National Conservation Training Center, West Virginia to attend the pilot course "Project Leader Academy".

Nathan Wiese, Fish Biologist, served a three week detail as the Acting Hatchery Manager at Makah National Fish Hatchery, Neah Bay, Washington. The detail included catching up on Records Management Training for the crew, verifying SAMMS projects at the facility, coordinating release dates and acclimation sites, and completing feed projections for the yearling coho and steelhead and the fingerling Chinook. Despite the rain and intake screen alarms, the crew showed Nate some of the Makah's great beaches and bottomfish fishing on the weekends.



Makah NFH Water Intake



We Thought Nate Was Working???

Mark Olson accepted the Project Leader's position at the Willow Beach National Fish Hatchery, AZ, Region 2. He will be moving in late April.

OUTREACH

The Hatchery did not conduct any scheduled tours this month. There were 145 visitors that signed the guest registration

MAINTENANCE

Vehicles and Equipment

- Prepared Fish Transports for distribution season.
- Welded new jack and guide wheel on E-1 fish pump.
- Serviced F-250.
- Built stand for hydro-cyclone.

Buildings and Grounds

- Repaired two faucets in Quarters #4.
- Window replacement contract began at Quarters #4.
- Eagle Gate replaced circuit board in Hatchery security gate.
- Safety audit was conducted on all four quarters, items that were tested or repaired include: Smoke alarms, electrical circuits, GFCI and AFCI, cleaned dryer vent hoses, repaired broken outlet Quarters #4, reversed neutral and hot wires Quarters #5 bedroom, and replaced faulty GFCI Quarters #6 bathroom.
- Vendor replaced contacts in motor starter for Riley Creek pump back system.