



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

### MEMORANDUM

September 10, 2008

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

FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: August Activity Report

### PRODUCTION

“Shift Work”; somebody should write a song about it. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) marking crew arrived on Sunday, August 17 to set up two MATS trailers for the annual steelhead adipose clip and coded-wire tag program. Both the marking crew and the Hatchery staff worked split shifts, during the six in the morning until 10 in the evening schedule. Although extremely labor intensive, the IDFG marking crew accomplished this years marking in a very smooth and professional manner; successfully completing the project in seven days. “Hats off” to Dusty, Dot, Brian, Paul and their entire marking crew!



During marking the Hatchery crew took the opportunity to meet with the IDFG mark trailer supervisors to discuss the upcoming PIT tagging operations. The group reached a consensus to move PIT tagging up to January and use IDFG’s larger trailer. The earlier time period should avoid the pre-smolt condition observed last year during the late February tagging operations. The larger trailer will improve fish handling and reduce stress on the fish. The Hatchery also offered its assistance to transport the larger trailer from Lewiston if needed.

### Steelhead Brood Year 2008

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
124	Sawtooth	1,073,155	10,666	101	2.99
125	Pahsimeroi	202,397	3,678	55	3.66
126	Clearwater B	204,056	3,118	65	3.46

To the relief of the crew, the Aquaflor® treatment was successful at treating Coldwater Disease in the five tanks which were infected. The mortality decreased to normal levels by the end of the 10-day treatment.

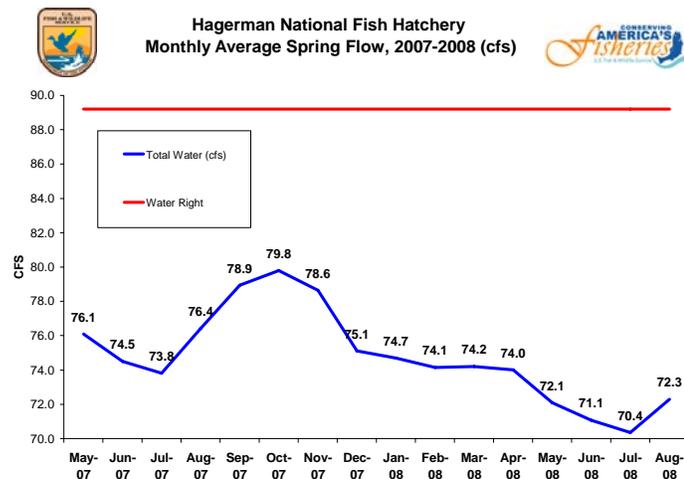
Rainbow Trout (Dworshak Reservoir Mitigation)

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
123	Hayspur KT/T9 Rainbows	40,960	14,611	2.8	9.12

Kathy Clemens, Idaho Fish Health Center, performed pre-release inspections on the Rainbow trout on August 26th. Daily mortality remains at 0-2 fish per raceway. The trout release is scheduled for the week of September 29<sup>th</sup> to Lake Walcott and Salmon Falls Reservoir.

**OPERATIONS**

The Hatchery’s spring flows rebounded somewhat in August which is typical for a given water year. However, the August 2008 total spring flow is 4.1 cfs below August 2007.



The Hatchery Evaluation Team met on August 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss several issues. Steve Yundt and Chris Starr, Lower Snake River Compensation Plan, and Ray Jones, Idaho Fisheries Resource Office, and Kathy Clemens joined the Hatchery crew for the meeting. Steve Yundt provided some needed critiquing of the Hatchery’s 1<sup>st</sup> use vs. 3<sup>rd</sup> use adult return study. A progress report on this study should be available by October.

The Hatchery completed the replacement of the deteriorated ramp and viewing deck at the Hatchery's visitor Display Pond/ Picnic Area. The new installation is much improved and meets the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Total cost for the project was \$21,938.78 from several funding sources.

**Funding/Cost Break Down:**

Watchable Wildlife Grant	\$ 3,000.00
Station funds (LSRCP)	\$13,938.78
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$ 5,000.00



Access Ramp Before.....



After

## COORDINATION

John Harris, Engineering and Occupational Safety from Region 7, visited the Hatchery to update the Spill Prevention and Countermeasure Control (SPCC) plan. John identified several issues that need to be addressed with fuel and oil storage. The Hatchery provided feedback on the first draft of the revised SPCC plan.

The Idaho Department of Water Resources drilled a test well on University of Idaho property south and east of the Hatchery 2 building. The well is part of an IDWR study to determine the presence and level of Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer underflow. The vibrations of the drilling activity were evident in the fingerlings held in Hatchery 2. The Hatchery crew observed the fish to jump more frequently during the drilling operation.

## PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

Adam Leija, Animal Caretaker, (pictured right) started on August 18<sup>th</sup>. Adam was previously an Engine Boss with the Bureau of Land Management, Fire Program, and worked part-time on his family farm.



During August, Steve Money, Maintenance Mechanic, began evaluation of the Hatchery's 52 confined spaces using an Industrial Scientific, M40 multi-gas meter to test the Hatchery's 52 confined spaces. This effort is being undertaken to develop the Hatchery's confined space entry program. Steve presented to the crew a safety tailgate session regarding entry into confined spaces and the use of a forced air blower for alleviating hazardous atmospheric conditions such as low Oxygen concentrations.

During the evaluation, the two sewer vaults and the Riley Creek pumpback vault had atmospheric conditions considered Immediate Danger to Life or Health (IDLH). Two sites (two access points to the Offline Settling Basin channel) had open water and were determined to be IDLH because of the chance of being washed down the pipe. Steve will continue to monitor atmospheric conditions at each site on a monthly basis to develop baseline atmospheric conditions.



Blower hooked to generator on truck



M40 multi-gas meter

The Hatchery's front security gate was tested by the vendor to ensure the emergency responder access system was functioning. The gate requires key pad operation for after-hours entry, however, it will automatically open upon the sound of a "yelp" siren.

Kevin Kincaid, College of Southern Idaho intern, finished his summer internship and headed to Moscow, Idaho to continue working towards a Fisheries B.S. at the University of Idaho. The Hatchery had a pizza farewell luncheon for Kevin's last day.

## **OUTREACH**

The Hatchery had 408 registered visitors, 240 Volunteer Host Contacts, 5 guests, and conducted 3 scheduled tours for a total of 708 visitors during August.

Ray Harrington, Hatchery Host, volunteered 185 hours.

## **MAINTENANCE**

- Steve Money, Eric Willet, Motor Vehicle Operator, and Kevin Kincaid poured the ADA compliant sidewalk to the Display Pond observation deck.
- Steve Money and Ray Harrington built handrails for sidewalk to Display Pond.
- New handrails for display pond were taken to Magic Valley Powder Coating for a powder coat finish that should last a lifetime.
- A private contractor, disked the fire line around the Hatchery.