



# 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 12, 2010

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

FROM: Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: March Activity Report

### PRODUCTION

#### Steelhead Brood Year 2009

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)	Survival
128	Sawtooth	1,313,216	264,686	5.0	8.17	93.0%
129	East Fork	123,506	24,7763	5.0	8.15	78.9%*

\* 23,531 EF's were lost on 8/23/2009. Survival without accident: 93.9%

Kathy Clemens and Corie Samson, Idaho Fish Health Center, took pre-release fish health samples on March 10. The Hatchery continued to struggle with skin sloughing issues in the upper deck of raceways. The Hatchery had success controlling mortality with treatments using Chloramine-T and Potassium Permanganate. However, the condition continued to spread across the upper deck raceways and required additional treatments with Potassium Permanganate. Mortality for the month was 1.9%.

The Hatchery completed CWT retention checks, fin indices, and length/weight checks.

#### Rainbow Trout

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb)	Length (inches)
130	Hayspur	117,216	1528	77	3.03

The trout continue to do well in the Trout Raceways. Spring fingerling releases will occur at the end of May.

## OPERATIONS

Dave Wesley, Deputy Regional Director, visited the Hatchery as part of his “Farewell Tour”. The visit focused on the issues surrounding water supply for Hagerman NFH and Magic Valley Fish Hatchery.

Pete Taylor, Abernathy Fish Technology Center, began a study to evaluate the affects of Fluorescein dye on the smoltification of Hatchery steelhead. Three treatments were exposed to 0.1 ppm, 1.0 ppm, and 10.0 ppm for one hour. The smolts will be monitored for five weeks and then sampled for  $\text{Na}^+, \text{K}^+$ -ATPase (NKA). The study will evaluate what potential effect Fluorescein dye may have on NKA levels, an indicator of smoltification, in juvenile steelhead.



The Brailsford Ditch Company (BDA) called for water from Len Lewis Spring (Spring) on March 30<sup>th</sup>, requiring implementation of a 1997 water management agreement between the Hatchery and the BDA. The agreement allows the Hatchery to divert water from the Spring, out of priority during the irrigation season, as long as water is pumped back to the BDA pipeline. This is the first time the pumpback system has been operated continuously under the agreement since its installation ten years ago. At this time, the pump is diverting 10 cfs from Riley Creek back to the BDA.

## COORDINATION



Steve Money, Maintenance Mechanic, and Nate Wiese, Assistant Project Leader, traveled to McCall Fish Hatchery to observe the operation of a PIT tag array designed by Biomark Inc. to monitor PIT tags as fish were loaded onto distribution trucks.

The Hatchery staff worked with Bruce Palmer, Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), to remove tumbleweeds that had become trapped on the roadway adjacent to Service Property (Service lands managed by IDFG as part of the Hagerman Wildlife Management Area). Several adjacent landowners contacted the Hatchery and IDFG concerned that the tumbleweeds were creating a safety hazard for motorists. The Hatchery is working with Lance Roberts, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Zone Fire Management Officer, to develop a plan in concert with IDFG to control tumbleweeds which are a fire hazard when accumulated along the fence line.



Dwayne Winslow, Snake River Fish and Wildlife Office, and Dain Bates and Andy Knight, Idaho Power Company, completed a Bliss Rapids Snail (BRS) survey of the Display Pond creek. The survey was part of a Hagerman Valley wide survey of BRS habitat to develop baseline data and establish annual monitoring sites. Approximately 55% of the cobbles in the Display Pond creek were occupied by BRS's.

Bryan Kenworthy, Project Leader, traveled to Vancouver, WA to attend a Hatchery Review Team (HRT) meeting.

Bryan Kenworthy attended the Thousand Springs Scenic By-Way meeting.

## **PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY**

Jeremy Trimpey, Fish Biologist, attended Fisheries Academy at the National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, West VA.

Adam Leija, Fish Culturist, made a presentation at the World Aquaculture Society and American Fisheries Society joint meeting in San Diego. The title of the presentation was: "The Declining Snake River Plain Aquifer and Implications for Meeting Mitigation Requirements for Summer Steelhead *Onchorynchus mykiss* Smolt Production at the Hagerman National Fish Hatchery."

Bryan Kenworthy traveled to Denver, Colorado to attend Pre-retirement training sponsored by Personal Benefits Solutions.

Steve Money; Adam Leija; Eric Willet, Motor Vehicle Operator; and Brian Clifford, Motor Vehicle Operator, completed safety training hosted by Western States Equipment for operation of the newly acquired Genie S-40 Manlift.

The Hatchery completed annual safety checklists and training to meet Regional deadlines for the annual Hatchery Safety Self Audit.

Eli Josephson, Regional IT Support, brought the new computer server to the Hatchery. Eli spent a week at the Hatchery setting up the network and training the crew on how to use the server to store files.

## **OUTREACH**

The end of March marked the beginning of the Hatchery's Connecting People With Nature (CPWN) school tour season. Staff toured 7 bus loads of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students from Jerome Central Elementary over a 3-day period. This tour was a part of our cooperative efforts with the National Park Service, Hagerman Fossil Beds National Monument, and the Idaho Parks and Recreation, Thousand Springs Park. To-date there are 12 more school groups on our tour calendar for April through May.

In FY2009 the Hatchery's school tours were faced with economical challenges when Idaho public education budgets began to see "tuff" times. Thanks to funding support through the FY2009 CPWN Grants, the Hatchery was able to offer reimbursement to schools for busing costs to assure that students were allowed to participate in field trips to the Hatchery. These funds brought about an agreement with the Hatchery's Friend's Group, Hagerman I.D.E.A., who agreed to manage the funds and recently donated an additional \$1,000 to the program. In addition, the National Park Service just announced an additional \$14,000 from their "Parks as Classrooms" and the "Youth Partnership Program" for this cooperative effort. This is the perfect example of how a small seed can grow to support the work of the Fish and Wildlife Service in a small community.

Austin Fravel and Sarah Bender volunteered 3 hours each.  
Bryce Lindley volunteered 11 hours.

1 outreach tour = 302  
3 volunteers = 17 hours  
260 Registered Visitors + 11 Guests

## Maintenance

- Quarterly Bacteria sample of domestic water system.
- Helped fish crew cut up and remove fallen cedar tree.
- Received used (new to us) Manlift from Western States Equipment.
- Received modular flammable storage building.
- Construction/repair of Hatchery #2's roof began.

A majority of time this month was spent on Fish Transport maintenance in preparation of distribution.

- Plumbed in new ceramic oxygen diffusers in all four transports.
- Removed old pneumatic knife gates and replaced with new on #319, #469 and #480.
- Plumbed in new oxygen manifolds on all four transports.
- Siliconed sharp things in all four fish transports.
- Serviced all eight generators on the four fish transports.
- Wired in A bank of aerators, replaced leaking flood line valves, and installed pilot light shade cover on #199.

