



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

MEMORANDUM

December 12, 2011

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

FROM: Bob Turik, Acting Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: November Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2011

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
134	Sawtooth	1,217,385	63553	19.2	5.21
135	East Fork Hatchery	197,151	9436	20.9	5.06

A total of 28,700 steelhead were PIT tagged in the first week of November. Past PIT tagging operations included placing a 4" pump into the raceway, crowding fish, and netting into the pump. This year we modified our procedure to remove the 4" pump and netted fish into our transfer tank and discharged the fish directly into the PIT tag trailer, similar to our CWT marking. Utilizing the pump was extremely labor intensive and time consuming. This procedure also improved the safety factor by requiring less hoses to work around and less lifting and carrying of the pump on raceway walls. No problems were encountered during tagging and no elevated mortalities have been seen resulting from the tagging procedure.

Several KMnO₄ treatments have been administered to contain bacterial infections we believe have been brought about by nitrogen super saturation issues. No elevated mortalities have resulted.

We have seen no signs of furunculosis, which has in past years surfaced immediately following PIT tagging. We are hopeful the vaccination program we initiated this year has been successful.

Rainbow Trout

There are currently no rainbow trout on station. Hatchery 2 tanks were prepared for incoming eggs which are scheduled to be picked up from Hayspur State Fish Hatchery on January 3rd, 2012.

OPERATIONS

The Hatchery had a Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Inspection on November 7th. Dr. Buhidar (Regional Manager, DEQ) conducted the inspection of facility records and a station walk-around along with a trainee. He concluded that the station was in full compliance and all records were complete and accurate.

Water resources and several other local users toured the Hatchery springs and took elevations to assist local aquaculture facilities with their deliberations for “calls on water”. Last year a proposed study to inject fluorescein dye into the aquifer as a tool to “quantify hydrologic parameters and flow regime characteristics” was started on local wells. There is an interest in continuing the study on hatchery water supplies which will be discussed in the near future.

Bob Turik, Acting Project Leader, and Steve Money, Maintenance Mechanic, traveled to the Dworshak National Fish Hatchery to pick up 4 degassing towers. These items will be utilized in our 2012 project to improve gas problems in our hatchery stocks. The 4 towers are to be installed immediately to provide vacuum degassed water to the upcoming Rainbow Trout production in February.

Bob Turik and Steve Money traveled to the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) office in Boise to meet with LSRCP managers and contract engineers to formulate plans to scope the 2012 maintenance projects. The projects include the Main Spring vacuum degassing system, Spring 13 degassing system and an oxygen supplementation system to increase the oxygen levels in the Steelhead raceways.



The Hatchery made arrangements with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Hagerman State Fish Hatchery, to assist them with water diversion from our Hatchery through Riley Creek to their intake. The State hatchery was working on a maintenance project with their water intake. This cooperative effort would have involved turning on our Riley Creek Pumpback system, which would incur additional energy costs, but was acceptable to assist in water management under our agreement with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to co-manage the Wildlife Management Area.

Brian Clifford, Motor Vehicle Operator, assisted the University of Idaho, Hagerman Fish Culture Experimental Station (University), with off-loading of three large freight boxes utilizing our backhoe and forks attachment. He also assisted the University with brush clearing with our backhoe services. The University is a neighbor to the Hatchery and occupies land deeded to them in 1999 as part of the USFWS old Tunison Lab facility.

We have completed our Len Lewis water diversion. After discussion with the Brailsford Ditch Association (BDA), we have diverted all water with the exception of 4 c.f.s. This 4 c.f.s. is allowed to flow to the irrigation lines to prevent damage and shifting of their lines.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, traveled to Portland, OR to take the FBMS Field Training. She also attended bi-weekly FBMS conference calls, a Fleet WebEx, and completed all DOI Learn required training to access the FBMS system when it goes into production.

Bob Turik, Acting Project Leader, attended the Project Leaders conference call on November 14th.



Eric Willet, Motor Vehicle Operator, experienced a small set-back by breaking his ankle while hunting this year. However; in true Eric fashion, it didn't take long for him to return to work even if it meant "light duty" as a desk jockey. Thanks Eric for your dedication.

OUTREACH

Mike Carrier, Assistant Regional Director, and Richard Johnson, Fisheries Supervisor, visited the Hatchery on November 4th. They met with the Shoshone/Bannock tribes in discussions over the Hatchery's future management.

Carla Fromm (EPA) visited the facility to introduce a new employee to the Hagerman Valley.

The Hatchery provided a fish dissection class to 116 Filer 5th graders at the State Parks and Recreation, Billingsly Creek, facility. This was a cooperative effort with the State and National Parks as part of our "*Connect Students to Hagerman Resources*" grant program. Anna also attended a cooperator's meeting to close-out the FY2011 tour year related to this program.

Terry and Alice Esslinger, 2012 Volunteer Hosts, visited the Hatchery to take a quick tour and orientate themselves in preparation for their services that will begin in April, 2012. We look forward to them joining our Hatchery family!

The visitor register logged 72 visitors and guests for a total of 188 contacts in the month of November.

MAINTENANCE

- Winterized all water systems, pipelines, and buildings
- Cleaned up leaves
- Trimmed trees at Mainspring area
- Sanded and painted Quarters 6 bathroom door
- Installed new GFCI in Quarters 5 basement
- Reset Security Gate timer
- Traveled to Dworshak NFH to borrow four degas towers
- Inspected chimneys of the four quarters
- Removed tumbleweeds from Security Gate area
- Cleaned Cablevey drive wheels and tensioners
- Replaced broken feed drop on Cablevey feed system of the lower deck Steelhead Raceways
- Created list of parts needed and prices for the Trout Raceway degas project