



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

### MEMORANDUM

August 13, 2012

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

FROM: Bob Turik, Acting Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: July, 2012 Activity Report

### PRODUCTION

#### Steelhead Brood Year 2012

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
137	Sawtooth	1,254,894	7604	165	2.54
138	East Fork Hatchery	170,370	554	307	2.06

During July we experienced a flow related fish loss in our Hatch 1 building. Steve and I were on vacation at that time and BC was on his lieu day. The crew noticed the mortalities, vibrating incubation lines, and the reduced flow and immediately began checking spring sources. The Len Lewis collection chamber (for Hatch 2) had completely emptied and Spring 13 collection pool (which supplies the L.L. collection chamber) was lowered. Jeremy and Adam removed a couple of boards in the Len Lewis intake to allow Len Lewis and Sp. 15 water to refill the Hatch 2 supply line. The Hatch 2 building never lost flow and was unaffected by this event. When we had the entire crew available we tried to determine what had caused the loss of flow. One opinion was an interruption of some kind in the aquifer flows temporarily reducing flow from Sp. 13. Another opinion, and the one we finally decided was most likely, was overwhelming the Sp. 13 flow by running to many irrigation lines at one time. The exact same schedule for irrigating was followed as the last several years however the University of Idaho facility was also running their irrigation which has been slightly expanded recently. I was able to recreate the shaking incubator lines after turning on similar stations when I returned. The cause appears to be Sp. 13 drawing down and creating a vortex allowing air to enter. The Hatch 1 tanks were completely loaded and were supplied by Main Spring water and supplemented by the Sp. 13 incubator water. The loss of this Sp. 13 water created a loss back to the carrying capacity of the Main Spring water alone.

We are addressing this by re-evaluating our irrigation procedures and proceeding with a project we initiated last year. We had started to modify our Hatch one building by upgrading the interior

supply lines from 2” to 3” allowing us to increase flows directly from Main Spring thereby eliminating the necessity of supplementing flows with Sp. 13 water. Jeremy and Adam were completely within normal procedures for irrigation operation and their quick reaction to reestablishing flows to Hatch 1 & 2 probably saved many fish.

Vaccinations for all Steelhead continued through the month and will be completed in August.

**Rainbow Trout**

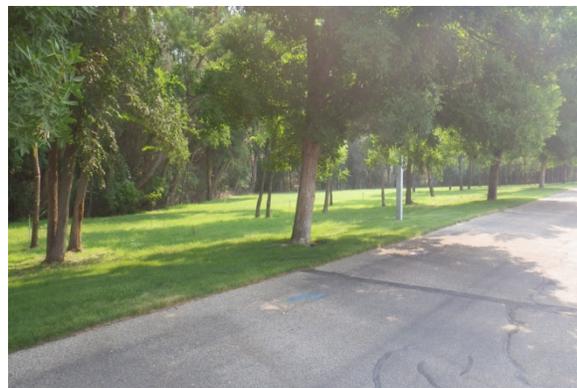
Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
136	Hayspur	42,702	12,113	3.5	8.45

All Rainbow trout continue to do well and will be released at a site to be determined in early October.

**OPERATIONS**



*Before (after brush clearing)*



*After seeding*

Native grass seeding- The pasture area next to the Steelhead raceways was overgrown with brush creating an unsightly and unusable portion of the facility. The overgrown area also created a huge potential fire risk. During the spring the crew spent some time clearing the area and repairing an old irrigation line that existed years ago. In July, the area was seeded with a Native Grass mix created by a local conservation focused company. Drought tolerant native grasses provided the best solution to reclaim this area for use by the public. It will only require irrigation every few weeks and mowing only about three times/year. With a few tables, this area will provide additional space and shade for our busy visitor season.

Steelhead raceway outlets upgrade- Modifications were made to our electrical connections at the bottom of each deck of steelhead raceways. These new receptacles were installed to meet the requests of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) marking staff to “standardize” electrical connections among the hatcheries they service. Paul Abbot, Idaho Power, provided the needed specifications along with PSMFC staff to ensure all hatcheries would have similar connections thereby eliminating the need for specialized fittings at each hatchery.



Quarters garage doors replaced- After years of wear and tear, the hatchery residences received upgraded garage doors. The insulated doors have already provided noticeable cooler temperatures within the structure as well as improved appearances.



Meetings continued to progress towards finalizing plans on the Hatchery degassing, Oxygen Supplementation and recirculation system projects.

## **PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY**

The Hatchery's Project Leader position was advertised by the Regional office and is pending.

Bob Turik, Acting Project Leader, and Jeremy Trimpey, Fish Biologist, attended a Webinar sponsored by the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan (LSRCP) Office and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission on the Hatchery Database Update.

Bob Turik and Jeremy Trimpey traveled to Boise, Idaho to attend the LSRCP Recirculation System class. This class helped familiarize the staff with the requirements of operating a recirculating rearing system which is due to be installed this fall.

## **COORDINATION**

Marking will begin on August 16<sup>th</sup>. Two Mass Automated Tagging System (MATS) trailers will operate full time with two crews each. Steve will pick one trailer up at Magic Valley and another will be transported utilizing their driver.

Shipped snails to Uof I student for continuation of study.

## **OUTREACH**

Our volunteer hosts, Terry and Alice Esslinger, logged a total of 303 hours. In addition to taking the lead on our tourist season, they have completed several tasks that have improved our Hatchery appearance such as painting, mowing, and preserving our signage. This, as well as all the little chores, has helped our crew to concentrate on fish production during our staff shortage.

We experienced triple-digit temperatures many days this month and yet still had opportunities to provide guided tours and logged 579 visitors and 4 guests for a total of 583. In addition, we have

has some new hummingbird residents thanks to feeders installed outside the administration building and a couple of the housing quarters.



## **MAINTENANCE**

- Disc fireline
- Quarters Garage Doors replaced
- Q5 painting, repair, and cleaning
- Quarters drapery cleaning
- Steelhead Raceway grip strut installed
-