



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

MEMORANDUM

May 22, 2013

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

FROM: Craig Eaton, Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: APRIL, 2013 Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2012

The following are final distribution numbers for BY-2012 Steelhead:

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
137	Sawtooth	1,184,073	285,670	4.14	8.67
138	East Fork Hatchery	155,612	34,465	4.52	8.42

Brood year 2012 steelhead distribution went very smooth this year. No hauling days were missed due to inclement weather or mechanical issues and the Hatchery finished distribution as scheduled.

Rainbow Trout Brood Year 2013

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
139	Hayspur	139,075	2,754	50.5	3.48

The rainbow trout continue to do well with overall survival at 96.9%. The Hatchery received the trout eggs three weeks later than usual to accommodate final construction of the Spring 13 degas system. This will put the spring distribution of five-inch fingerlings into the last week of June.

OPERATIONS

Due to warmer weather, this year we turned the pump back system on April 5th and only ran it until April 22nd. This is earlier than years prior and for about ½ the time period.

Oxygen Supplementation:

Early results from our oxygen injection system are promising but also indicate that it will take some learning the system on our part to “fine tune” it. We saw an increase in dissolved oxygen levels from past years however we have found that having Rainbow Trout fry in the Hatch 2 building complicates determining exactly how much flow we have running through the system. This is an easy fix that can be resolved by rearing all future RBT in the Hatch 1 building instead of Hatch 2 thus enabling us to determine water flow through the system precisely. Rearing the RBT in Hatch one also provides other benefits as well. We have also determined that a few minor adjustments/modifications will enhance the performance of the system for Brood Year 2013 Steelhead.

Several meetings on the circular tank reuse system were attended by Project Leader Eaton, Assistant Turik, Maintenance Worker Money, Chris Star (LSRCP), Regional Engineering Brad Senatra and the contractor. We have decided to go a different course on the circular tank reuse project that was originally awarded. Therefore, a more detailed project design is needed to provide more concrete data for vendors to base their bids. The first round of construction bids encompassed a lot of “what ifs” causing assumed inflated costs for unforeseen possibilities.

A hatchery neighbor made a trip to the hatchery to discuss the tumbleweed problem bordering the hatchery and her private property. Historically, tumble weeds blow across Service property and stack up on the Service fence line. When enough tumbleweed’s are stacked up they start to blow over onto her property. Being good neighbors we assembled a working crew consisting of three hatchery employees and two volunteers. Three hours later the fence line was clear of all tumbleweeds. The neighbor said that the hatchery crew did the same for her two years ago. We may need to come up with a tumbleweed abatement plan in the future.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY



Lon “Dusty” Dunham – our six month temporary arrived from Bellingham, Washington. Sequestration delayed our ability to make a selection which brought him to us during the last week of fish distribution. Cutbacks have reduced our staff numbers and we would not have made it through the distribution season without incurring a huge amount of overtime without volunteers.

Luckily, Dusty is here now to help manage the work load associated with receiving steelhead eggs, cleaning outside raceways, helping with ground keeping, fish marking, and several other maintenance tasks.

COORDINATION

Dr. Matt Powell, University of Idaho - Hagerman Fish Culture Experiment Station, conducted the second year study on testing steelhead stress before, during, and after transporting fish to the Salmon River. Dr. Powell stated they should have results from last year sampling compared to this year's soon.

South Central Idaho Interagency Dispatch Center (SCIIDC) was here on May 17th and met with Project Leader Eaton. Richard Wilson and two coworkers from the Bureau of Land Management discussed our role as an interagency cooperator and the Annual Fire Operating Plan was signed.

Project Leader Eaton attended the monthly meeting for the Hagerman Bird Festival that is scheduled to happen February, 2014. Discussions included mission statement & goals, Hagerman Chamber map update, hospitality/banquet, and flyers.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS

Our first seasonal volunteers, Bill and Linda Miller, ended their month-long residency with us after giving a combined total of 167 volunteer hours. Their hard work to get our facility ready for school groups and assisting with loading fish distribution trucks was invaluable!! We celebrated their accomplishments with a luncheon and presented them with a certificate of appreciation and yard chairs to help them rest up for next year.



Volunteers Bob and Gerri Bass arrived in April to help with the school field trips scheduled for April and May and grounds maintenance. They too plan a month-long residency at the Hatchery and quickly adapted to becoming a part of our Fisheries family. We are excited to have two volunteer couples here to take the lead on our outreach efforts.

This year during fish distribution we also had 11 volunteers ride-along with our distribution trucks. These volunteers were of a variety of interests and ages including senior citizens, scientists, and community members.

Fishermen activity at Oster Lakes continued to increase as the weather improved. These nearby five lakes are stocked bi-weekly by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and receive heavy fishing activity throughout the year.

Our “*Connect Students to Hagerman Resources*” program toured several school groups totaling 252 students and 78 adults. Additionally, we had 15 guests and 300 people sign the guest registry for a grand total of 645 April visitors.

Volunteer hours: 257

Hatchery visitors :< 16yrs= 352 >16yrs= 283

MAINTENANCE

- Repaired priming pump electric valve on grey fish pump
- Tightened packing on grey fish pump
- Replaced faulty aerator starter switch on 998 fish transport
- Plumbed the degas columns for Trout raceway Mainspring water
- Started new plumbing Hatchery Building 1
- Ordered electrical components for Sawtooth and McCall Fish Hatcheries 60 amp receptacle upgrade
- Serviced International Tractor
- Built panels and helped Gietzen Electric install 60 amp receptacles at Magic Valley Fish Hatchery

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