



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 11, 2013

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

FROM: Craig Eaton, Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: MARCH, 2013 Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2012

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
137	Sawtooth	1,184,769	264,334	4.5	8.45
138	East Fork Hatchery	155,679	32,662	4.8	8.28

Rainbow Trout Brood Year 2013

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
139	Hayspur	139,815	1,112	125.7	2.57

The trout fry are doing very well with a survival rate of 97.85% since hatching. Flows were increased to accommodate the installation of cleaning pipes in the vats this month.

Corie Samson, Idaho Fish Health Center, was here on the 5th to perform prerelease exams on hatchery steelhead.

OPERATIONS

Steelhead Raceway Oxygen Injection: The bulk liquid oxygen tank is now in place and the system is operational. Due to several logistical delays with different tanks (i.e. inadequate pressure capability) the system was not functioning until late March. We hope to collect data during April to assess system capability and success.



Hagerman NFH is attempting to contract build a pilot water reuse system utilizing three, 30 foot diameter by six foot high circular tanks. Up to 90 % of the water could be reused with this system (Hagerman NFH plans to operate at 50% reuse initially and eventually at 70% reuse). There are studies showing that fish reared in circular tanks have a faster migration time to the ocean and a higher adult return in years to follow. Hagerman NFH receives water from the Eastern Snake River Plain Aquifer of southern Idaho. Over the last several years the water from the aquifer has slowly declined bringing water management use to the forefront. Design work for this project has been awarded. Once the design is completed we will advertise for construction bids of the reuse project. Stay tuned for more details.

In preparation for fish distribution, Brian Clifford, Motor Vehicle Operator, met with contract drivers to review loading and operational procedures.

Steve Money participated in a conference call for the Uniform Committee.

Project Leader Eaton participated in the monthly Project Leader Conference call.

The Federal Highway Administration did a federal roads and bridge inspection of the hatchery grounds.

Jeremy Trimpey, Fish Biologist, and Adam Animal Caretaker, performed length/weight measurements with a digitizer to collect growth data for our BY-Steelhead.



Leija,

2012

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

Staff members continue to attempt to complete required training such as Federal Information Systems Security Awareness, No Fear Act, Forklift refresher training and Google Email and Calendar Essentials in DOI Learn.

Steve Money, Maintenance Mechanic, was honored with a staff luncheon and awarded his 30 Year Service award. This was a little early given his anniversary is not until April 13th, but with fish distribution running all April we had to plan ahead. Additionally, it was a little difficult to get him to stop working long enough for a photo op!



Congratulations Steve!

COORDINATION

Mar. 8: Project Leader Eaton attended a planning meeting with the community for a possible 2014 Birding Festival. Birding groups annually perform bird counts on and near the Hatchery. We hope to increase the public's use of the Hatchery grounds for bird watching.

Mar. 12-14: Project Leader Eaton and Assistant Project Leader Turik traveled to Boise, Idaho to attend the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Production and Coordination meetings.

Mar. 14: Project Leader Eaton and Assistant Project Leader Turik while in Boise, attended the Annual Operation Plan (AOP) meeting at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The upcoming year for eggs numbers and smolt releases were discussed. Since we have the oxygen injection system now in place the thought of rearing more steelhead in BY2014 could be feasible. We will be receiving 1.58 million eggs this year in an effort to increase production.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS

The Hatchery is both excited and relieved to have our first Volunteer Hosts join us for the month of April! Bill and Linda Miller came to us from Williamsport, Pa. and are living on-station at the Hatchery RV Pad. Bill will provide us with much needed help loading fish trucks every day to compensate for the hiring freeze that suspended our 6-month temporary position. In addition, he and wife, Linda, will be meeting the public, providing tours, helping the production crew, and assisting with grounds maintenance



With the end of the school year fast approaching, our schedule for school field trips is filling up fast! Our first tour was with the Cherry Gulch Boarding School 8th and 9th graders. This tour, as well as many others, is a part of our “*Connect Students to Hagerman Resources*” program in association with the Hagerman National Parks Service Fossil Beds National Monument and the Idaho Parks and Recreation, Thousand Springs Complex. We also had visits from Boy Scout Troops 140 of Meridian, Idaho and Troop 151 of Rupert, Idaho.

We had 333 tourist sign the guest registry and 13 guests for a total of 346 March visitors.

MAINTENANCE

- Serviced all generators on the four fish transports
- Tested life support systems on the four fish transports
- Traveled to McCall and Sawtooth Fish Hatcheries to prepare electrical upgrade plans for marking trailer 60 amp receptacles.
- Fine-tuned oxygen injection system for Steelhead raceways
- Repaired several broken sprinklers
- Replaced two aerator starter switches on 908 fish transport
- Replaced regulator on 910 fish transport

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