



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

MEMORANDUM

October 14, 2013

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

FROM: Craig Eaton, Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER, 2013 Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2013

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
140	Sawtooth	1,408,854	26,962	52.3	3.73
141	East Fork Hatchery	62,337	886	70.4	3.37

The Steelhead have all been marked and ponded in outside raceways. There was an issue with higher water temperatures during marking. Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG) had directed the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) marking crew to cease marking when water temperature exceeded 62 degrees Fahrenheit. Fish were still onboard the marking trailers and not being processed when marking halted. Not wanting fish to remain on board sitting in holding tanks at 62 degrees, we directed them to at least mark those fish. After a minor shutdown, we chose to continue marking fish as long as the temperature did not exceed 63 degrees. We also provided a higher quality DO meter for temperature readings which indicated a 1-1 ½ degree temperature difference of 61 ½ degrees as opposed to 62 ½- 63 degrees on PSMFC thermometers. The hatchery staff, along with the PSMFC staff, made hatchery water flow adjustments and relocated trailer intake pumps to attempt to cool intake temperatures for the trailers which resulted in minor improvements. Considering we were looking at a complete shutdown of marking operations for ½ degree increases, all improvements to cool the water were considered. One of the main problems are Bickle and Riley lakes which are two of the main springs providing hatchery water flow (20 c.f.s. combined) which collect in pools before entering the system. These pools begin warming in early morning and the overall water temperatures in the raceways do not begin to cool until nearly 9:30 to 10 p.m. Even with 5 c.f.s. of Riley Lake water (as high as 65degrees) diverted, little improvement was seen. Considering we have marked at these same temperatures for many years and consequently have seen little or no negative impact on fish health immediately following marking, we feel that

delaying the marking on these fish is more detrimental to fish health when considering the high density and flow indexes that would occur with extending their time in the Hatch buildings.

The aluminum dam boards have been installed in all decks this year. Last year we operated the top deck as a trial run before completing installation. They seem to be working great and we are now examining how long the aluminum holds up with our corrosive water. Our goal with the aluminum material is that they are easier to clean, they will not be a pathogen reservoir like wood and will hopefully last longer than wood therefore saving time, money, and materials.

Rainbow Trout Brood Year 2013

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
139	Hayspur	40,286	12,568	3.2	8.71

The rainbow trout continue to do well with overall monthly survival rate of 99.98%. The trout are scheduled to be released into Lake Walcott the last week of October.

OPERATIONS

-Project Leader Eaton attended the monthly Project Leader conference call. Topics discussed included: 1) Pathways Program that is replacing the SCEP program; 2) Project Leaders meeting in Richland, WA; and 3) Recent personnel changes in R1 Fisheries Program (Steve Yundt new LSRC head).

-Hagerman NFH Aquaculture Pilot Project 65% design is completed awaiting our comments with current designs.

-Placed decorative rock around Administration Building in area previously worked by YCC to remove overgrown shrubs. This work was completed just in time for the 80th Anniversary festivities. We plan to remove the remaining old shrubs behind the building and plant low growing plants in the spring to complete the transformation.



-Administration building re-roofing project was going well until one sunny Wednesday (September 4) the weather turned bad. Unfortunately, during a heavy rainfall, the roof was exposed in such a manner that a lot of water began running through the ceiling of most rooms in the administration building. We spoke with the contractor (Upson Company) and they covered the outside roof as soon as they could. The next morning the contractor uncovered the roof to let the plywood dry outside and inside they placed a ventilation fan in the attic to get rid of moisture. The outside work resumed, placing a Carlisle Sure-Flex roofing system in place. An inspector came from Carlisle Sure-Flex to examine the work to see if their product was installed properly and issued a 20 year warranty. Upson Company had an Industrial Hygienist inspect the inside, above the ceiling, to look for any potential damage. Currently we are awaiting results. The skylights are on backorder and therefore contract completion is on hold.

-An unfortunate noteworthy event happened the eve of the 80th anniversary. The main county road (road 1050 E) which leads to Hagerman NFH washed out. We are not sure what caused it but the Brailsford ditch that runs next to the county road failed in a way that took about ¼ of the county road with it. The ditch was running its normal 18 cfs of water, for this time of year, before blowing out and eroding the bank, toppling over trees near the road before turning west into the Wildlife Management Area and eventually into Riley Creek. The erosion caused an approximate 40 foot drop-off from the county road to the bottom of the ditch. The County Roads Department decided to close road 1050 E, so visitors had to be detoured around to arrive at the hatchery's anniversary festivities.



Road view looking 40' down at Brailsford Ditch erosion.



Next to county road trees toppled over.

-Project Leader Eaton and Assistant Turik attended a conference call concerning the replacement of the Riley Creek Bridge. Four design concepts were presented for us to consider in the coming month.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

- Project Leader Eaton attended Project Leader meeting in Richland, WA just in time to file our last travel voucher in the GovTrip system. Main topic of concern was pending government shut down starting October 1.

COORDINATION

-Project Leader Eaton interviewed with Magic Valley Times News concerning the 80th Anniversary celebration.... View the article at http://magicvalley.com/news/local/hagerman-hatchery-celebrates-years/article_1fc7180e-2c83-5861-9013-363f3dc583de.html?comment_form=true

- EE/CA contract progress: The USFWS and Department of Interior has completed an internal review of the EE/CA report. The report will now be provided to the EPA Region X office in Seattle and the State of Idaho for their review and comment. This is in reference to a local contractor hauling the demolished old hatchery building, that contained leachable lead and PCBs, and dumping it in a private landowner's ravine in June 2006.

-Joe Krakker, LSRCP, and Dave Hopper from Boise ES visited the hatchery to review procedures at LSRCP hatcheries dealing with endangered species on Federal hatchery grounds. Hagerman NFH has the endangered Bliss Rapids snail in its production springs. Project Leader Eaton toured the facility with Joe and Dave to show them where the snails have been located in the past and determine what can and cannot be done in those areas in the future.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS

Project Leader Eaton attended several meetings with groups such as the Hagerman and Wendell Chambers of Commerce, Hagerman Senior Center, and local schools to present invitations to the Hatchery's 80th Anniversary celebration.



Hatchery crew and volunteers celebrated our 80th Anniversary. We registered 344 visitors and 57 partners, staff, & volunteers for a total of 401. Registration strongly reflected that our media and schools were the best venue for advertising. Unfortunately, our 6 days/72 hours at the Twin Falls County fair did not produce a high response. You can view more pictures on Flickr by accessing our Hatchery web or Facebook pages.

The Hagerman Car Show poker run utilized the Hatchery as a stopping point bringing a parade of fantastic antique cars and people of all ages through our facility. We estimate 60-70 cars and no burn out marks.



Participation at the 2-day 1,000 Springs Art Festival proved to be a challenge due to weather. However, we made contact with about 225 people sharing information about the Hatchery and provided opportunities for children to create "fish art".

September was a VERY busy outreach month with the 80th Anniversary celebration and a booth at the Thousand Springs Art Festival. Additionally, we had 4 scheduled tours, 11 guests, and 104 people sign the guest registry for a grand total of 985 September contacts.



Hatchery Manager Eaton gave a tour of the hatchery to one of our next door neighbors from the University of Idaho Hagerman Fish Culture Experimental Station, Shawn Narum. Shawn works with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. He requested the tour for two individuals working with them from the country of Chile, South America, how a large scale recovery hatchery operated.



The end of the summer also brings an end to our time with our summer volunteer hosts, Terry and Alice Esslinger. The Esslinger's graced us with their 2nd year of service providing a combined contribution of over 2,500 hours for the two summers. Our school tour program and outreach efforts were a great success due to their time and enthusiasm. They were

also a huge asset in helping throughout the hatchery by undertaking activities such as creating YouTube videos for the Hatchery, maintaining grounds, and taking up the slack created during position vacancies. Terry and Alice always have a smile and were willing to contribute in almost any task. We celebrated their accomplishments by having a staff luncheon at a local restaurant and presenting them with gifts of appreciation. They have become a part of our hatchery family and will be missed.

Volunteer Hours: 261 (Esslingers) 22 (Amy Turik) 112 (80th volunteers)

Hatchery Contacts/Visitors : < **16yrs** = 352 > **16yrs** = 633

MAINTENANCE

- Repaired emergency lights on Fire Truck
- Repaired two way radio in Fire Truck
- Repaired electric start for fire pump on Fire Truck
- Repaired starter rope recoil on Fire Truck
- Installed new belt on auto shop garage bay door opener
- New springs installed on auto shop garage bay door opener
- Weld in check valve on mixing chamber pump system
- Wedged a piece of channel iron into top deck dam boards to prevent blowout
- Installed thumb on Backhoe
- Washed down asphalt for 80th anniversary

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