



# United States Department of the Interior



## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

### MEMORANDUM

Aug. 3, 2014

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

FROM: Craig Eaton, Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: JULY 2014 Activity Report

### PRODUCTION

#### Steelhead Brood Year 2014

Lot Number	Stock	Number Fry	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
143	Sawtooth	1,528,364	6,250	244.54	1.9
144	East Fork Hatchery	64,058	189	338.93	1.3

Steelhead marking started on July 31<sup>st</sup> with one trailer on the upper deck. Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) trailers will mark almost the entire upper deck and start the middle deck on the first marking event. The second marking event will consist of two trailers and will start on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. The break in marking is due to three trailers going to Niagara Springs Hatchery to completely mark their fish. The additional trailer will return and be ready to start marking on Saturday August 23<sup>rd</sup> and will continue until completed. All steelhead are doing well but may be a little on the small side for marking. We will see if they are too small when marking starts.

#### Rainbow Trout Brood Year 2014

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
142	Hayspur	39,543	6,466	6.1	7.03

The Rainbow trout continue to do well. These RBT are scheduled for release locally probably in mid- October (TBD by IDFG).

## OPERATIONS



-The Reuse Aquaculture System (RAS) is progressing well. The contractor is finishing up the final preparations on the building. Electrical lighting, oxygen controls, and shade screen are all that remain before next month's system commissioning. Hatchery staff is eager to place fish in these tanks to see if the system is capable of operating as advertised, like providing exercise for fish, self-cleaning, and conserving water.

-Carlton Morris, Region 1 Environmental Compliance Coordinator, inspected two buildings scheduled for demolition in the near future to see if hazardous materials are present. So far PCB paint came back negative in the samples that were submitted. We are presently awaiting results from other samples of possible asbestos, lead, and mold.

-After last year's detection of *Ichthophthirius multifiliis* (ich), hatchery staff pressure washed the raceways to remove dead organic matter and the raceways were treated with a 200 ppm solution using 12% sodium hypochlorite.

-Subcontractors for our traveling screen project came to take measurements and access their needs to accomplish the project. At the recommendation of our staff, they visited another nearby hatchery to view a traveling screen to give them an idea of what our hatchery has in mind.

-An electrical upgrade to our volunteer RV pads going from 30 amps to 50 amps was completed by Gietzen Electric. They were able to utilize the same conduit that housed the old 30 amp wires which made the job much less complicated and more cost effective. We had feared that over the years the conduit may have been broached by roots or deteriorated and were very relieved to find the upgrade simplified in this manner.

## PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

-Project Leader Eaton and Anna Ray, Fisheries Program Assistant, attended the Travel Arranger and Supervisor Approval training for the USFWS Concur Travel system in Portland, OR.

- Anna Ray served a temporary work detail in the Portland, OR Region 1 Budget and Finance department. This served dual purpose to assist them with staff shortages and to expand our field working knowledge in our finance systems.

-Bob Turik, Assistant Project Leader, attended one week of Supervisory training at NCTC in Shepherdstown, W.V.

## COORDINATION

- On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Craig Eaton, Bob Turik and Steve Money attended a meeting which was held at the Hagerman Legion Hall for all Hagerman Valley water right owners which includes the

Hagerman NFH. This meeting was scheduled to inform District 36A water right owners of the “*Third Mitigation Plan*” (*Plan*) put forth by the Idaho Groundwater Appropriators (IGWA) to resolve the water call made by Rangen, Inc. There was language in the *Plan* that limited all future calls on the groundwater users by senior water right holders in District 36A and did not adhere to Idaho’s Conjunctive Management Rules or the Prior Appropriation doctrine. The meeting encouraged those who could protest this mitigation proposal do so before the July 4<sup>th</sup> deadline. The USFWS protested this mitigation proposal, along with most others in the Hagerman Valley, as it would not have provided improvement to the declining spring water held under the USFWS water rights for the Hatchery.

-A pre-hearing status conference call with lawyers from IGWA was held on July 22<sup>nd</sup> which included lawyers representing Rangen, Inc., individuals protesting the *Third Mitigation Plan*, and Director Spackman (Idaho Department of Water Resources). The call was to prepare the lawyers for the up-coming hearing in September 8-10, 2014. Individuals on the call protested the wording to such an extent that it was struck from the *Plan* because it was aimed at all Hagerman Valley water users. Director Spackman determined that the 3rd Mitigation Plan only applies to Rangen and not to other water users in WD36A. The hearing for September 8-10th is limited to only three aspects of the proposed mitigation plan - diverting water from the Aqua Life facility (Big Springs Complex) to Rangen, recharge through the Sandy Ponds, and recirculation of water at Rangen.

- Project Leader Eaton and Fisheries Program Assistant Ray, met with the Hagerman National Park Service (NPS) Superintendent, Judy Geniac, to discuss our involvement in the new visitor center being rebuilt in Twin Falls. The new visitor center is being expanded as a “gateway” to the Magic Valley to assist travelers and the general public in experiencing the many opportunities in our area. We agreed to enter into an Intra-agency agreement with the NPS to provide funding to include the Hagerman NFH in the display panel designs to provide education about the USFWS mission, our mitigation responsibilities, and Idaho fisheries in general.

## **OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS**

-Project Leader Eaton gave a presentation to the Buhl, Idaho, Public Library summer reading program. Eaton presented a PowerPoint highlighting what the Hagerman NFH does and mitigates to preserve the Salmon River strain steelhead trout.

-A Southern Idaho Tourism class from the College of Southern Idaho toured the hatchery and listened to Project Leader Eaton speak on the importance of conservation hatcheries in Idaho and the economic profit they bring. Mrs. Linda Lemmon, from the Idaho Aquaculture Association, spoke of the importance of commercial hatcheries in southern Idaho and the economic benefit these hatcheries bring to Idaho and other areas throughout the world.

- The Hatchery’s school tours reduced with summer in full swing; however, our visitor count increased dramatically

Volunteer Hours: 4 (D.Eaton, A.Turik)

Hatchery Contacts/Visitors: < **16yrs** = 229      >**16yrs** = 345

## **MAINTENANCE**

- Mounted 30 horsepower pump for oxygen injection system
- A & G Irrigation mounted dragon filter on irrigation, fire suppression, heat pump water system.
- Mounted pipe supports on pipes in recirculating building.
- Plumbed 30 horsepower pump to oxygen injection lines
- Re-jetted oxygen injection lines to get 73 PSI in pressure packed column.
- Gietzen Electric installed 30 horsepower pump panel for oxygen injection.

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