



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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

MEMORANDUM

July 3, 2014

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

FROM: Craig Eaton, Project Leader, Hagerman NFH

SUBJECT: JUNE 2014 Activity Report

PRODUCTION

Steelhead Brood Year 2014

Lot Number	Stock	Number EGGS	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
143	Sawtooth	1,560,361	860	1814	1.14
144	East Fork Hatchery	65,420	16	4088	.88

All BY-14 Steelhead eggs are on site and have hatched. Hatch 1 and 2 are somewhat higher in density than last year due to the Reuse system fish (~99K) being reared in Hatch 1. Next year the RAS fish will be reared in the rectangular tanks housed in the RAS building. We are anticipating starting up the system around August 4th. PR Aqua representatives will be onsite to initiate and train as well as Region 1 Engineering and GHD (design firm) to do the final inspection. The timing of the startup will make it challenging as the fish for the system are being marked that week and will be placed into the circular tanks. If a problem arises, the fish can be maintained in Hatch 1 and split to avoid overcrowding. This does not allow for much time to test the system prior to loading but is something we have to deal with. We will also be doing our initial and booster vaccine treatments during July.

Rainbow Trout Brood Year 2014

Lot Number	Stock	Number	Total Fish Weight	Size (#/lb.)	Length (inches)
142	Hayspur	39609	3426	11.6	5.69

The spring fingerling release took place on June 17th and 18th. There were 78,416 Hayspur triploids at 11.82 fpp released at Salmon Falls Creek Reservoir. Water temperatures at the

reservoir were 57 degrees Fahrenheit and the fish hauled great with only 3 mortalities at release. The remaining 39K will be maintained until fall when they will be released as catchables.

OPERATIONS

-The Reuse Aquaculture System (RAS) is progressing well. All three tanks are installed and plumbed. Concrete footings and floor has been poured. Above ground piping and erection of the frame structure for the building covering the system was initiated towards the end of June. Mark Wharry, Design Engineer, was here to inspect the work progress as per the contract. All appeared to be up to code.



-We are in the process of acquiring our traveling screen which will hopefully be installed before the worst of the leaf season.

-Preparations are being made for disinfecting the lower steelhead deck after last years bout with *Ichthyophthirius multifiliis* (Ich). Staff will be pressure washing the raceways to remove dead organic matter and the raceways will be treated with a 200 ppm solution using 12% sodium hypochlorite.

-Two of our Hatch 2 tanks were painted with an epoxy as a product test. Unfortunately the vendor sent us the wrong color (dark grey vs light grey). The paint actually looks black which makes it pretty difficult to see fish. We did decide to paint at least 2, not the 4 originally planned, so that we could at least test this product to evaluate whether we can use this for finishing our remaining tanks in late summer. If it satisfies that staff we will proceed with a full order and finish all tanks (including the two black ones).

-A hatchery tour for viewing our new water quality improvements and reuse aquaculture system was provided to our Regional Fisheries Program Acting Assistant Regional Director, Julie Collins; Fisheries Supervisor, Rich Johnson; Supervisory Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Brad Thompson; Dworshak Complex Manager, Steve Rogers; and LSRCF Project Leader, Steve Yundt. Attendees also received an entire overview of our hatchery process and how the water quality improvements are helping to rear healthier fish for release into the Salmon River and Ocean migration.

PERSONNEL/TRAINING/SAFETY

-The search for a Temporary Animal Caretaker is complete. We finally filled this position with Kyle Trenda from Eden Prairie, MN. He has seasonal Fisheries Aide experience gained while working for North Dakota Game and Fish Department. So far he is turning out to be a valued asset to the crew. Kyle is also our first tenant



in our new bunkhouse. This bunkhouse is a large help in attracting temporary employees by offering affordable housing. Unfortunately we cannot offer this as free housing but it is still much lower rent than anything local. In the past we have been unable to fill this position because potential employees could not afford to rent locally.

-Lance Roberts, USFWS Fire Management Officer, visited to deliver some firefighting gear for Animal Caretaker, Adam Leija. Mr. Leija is one of our Red Card firefighters who assist BLM and the Forest Service during fire seasons. Lance also informed us that he would be retiring at the end of August and was taking notes for his replacement. We had high hopes that Lance would be able to finish the hatchery's Fire Management Plan before he exits as he has been working on it for several years. Unfortunately, this will not be made possible so we will continue to utilize alternative management practices until Lance's replacement arrives.

-Bob Turik, Assistant Project Leader, attended one week of Supervisory training at DOI University in Lakewood, Colorado.

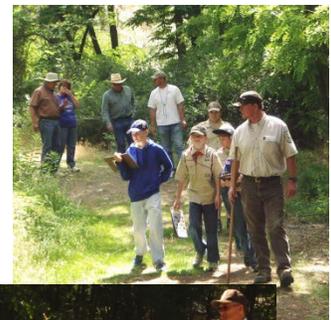
COORDINATION

- For the second year a partnership agreement between the Hatchery and the Bureau of Land Management allows them to disc a fire line around the hatchery housing and our property line where neighbors reside. This is done in a preventative effort to slow down and control wildfires that may occur during the fire season.

-Bill Mills, Idaho Department of Water Resources, visited to discuss a water permit that was filed in 2001 and put in Appropriative Status. Mr. Mills was researching to see if the permit now warrants a Decree. The permit was filed to cover a 44 day period (5/5 – 6/20) from the original 1889 water right not covered. For some reason back then this water right didn't go through the entire year. So all we wanted by filing in 2001, was to cover this exposed period. Mr. Mill's visit was to investigate if we could actually show beneficial use during the above time frame in order for IDWR to grant us a Decree. However, during that time frame above we have already released steelhead smolts and are waiting for eyed eggs to be delivered to the hatchery. The only beneficial use during the time in question would be irrigation. Bill informed us that one of our other 15 water rights covers irrigating. So after consulting with Tim Mayer, our Regional Water Resources Branch Hydrologist, it was decided to relinquish this permit that would have covered those 44 days.

OUTREACH & VOLUNTEERS

- The Hatchery hosted a Boy Scout Day Camp June 21st with Snake River Council Boy Scout Troops from Jerome, Idaho. Thirty two individuals participated in this all-day event. Hatchery staff and Scout Leaders manned morning activity stations that helped Scouts explore Nature, Archery, cooking, first aid, and knot tying. Fisheries Program Assistant, Anna Ray, and Motor Vehicle Operator, Brian Clifford, were in charge of nature station that included poisonous plant identification, discovery of 10 wild animals from our community, and a nature hike to locate 10 native plants. Craig Eaton, Project Leader, and Kyle Trendera, Temporary Animal Caretaker, were in charge of the archery target shooting activity. In the afternoon, Scouts used their skills and teamwork in events such as timed tent building



and stuffing a back pack as well as an obstacle course, casting for fish, and building a paper and duct tape rockets that were later launched by compressed air. It was a long day and Scouts were tired by 8:00 pm. All involved, including the Hatchery staff, had fun and the Scouts learned practical life skills towards their rank advancements. *(photos courtesy of Snake River Council Boy Scouts)*

-One of our local television stations, KMVT, was here to interview Project Leader, Craig Eaton, on the topic of sport fish. Eaton provided information showing how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, such as Hagerman NFH, differs from Idaho Fish and Game resident sport fish hatcheries in that we are a conservation hatchery preserving the Salmon River strain of steelhead into the future. The news cast included an interview with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Hagerman State Hatchery, which gave a comparative overview of the two programs.

-The Hatchery co-hosted the area's annual Free Fishing Day event with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) at the Hagerman State Fish Hatchery on June 14th. It was a record year registering 792 attendees! Partners from the Idaho Bass Masters, local Boy Scout Troops, and businesses continue to make this a prime opportunity to get families outdoors and "hooked on fishing". *(photos courtesy of IDFG)*

-Debbie Dane with Southern Idaho Tourism visited the Hatchery to inform us of the new Regional Visitor Center that is being constructed in Twin Falls, Idaho and an opportunity we could have to represent the Service and Hatchery at the location as a "gateway" to the Magic Valley. This would be a fantastic way to get our message to the general and visiting public about fish conservation in the nearby area. The local National Park Service is taking the lead in developing the exhibits and videos for the resident natural resources in the area. We will be communicating with them to see where we might fit in.

- The Hatchery continues to provide tours to local schools and organizations. In June this included several College of Southern Idaho Biology 101 students, a 4-H exchange program between Idaho and Minnesota, the Owyhee Middle School, and a couple of pre-school and day care groups.

Volunteer Hours: 14 (A.Turik, R.Kendall, D.Eaton)
Hatchery Contacts/Visitors: < 16yrs = 579 >16yrs = 682

MAINTENANCE

- Saw-cut asphalt excavated and placed conduit between power pole and chiller building for high voltage line supplying Chiller Building. This will allow adequate clearance for the foundation and footings for the Recirculation building.
- Removed 4 inch temporary oxygen injection lines, installed unistrut, brackets and 4 inch permanent line in tail race of upper deck steelhead raceways and tailrace of middle deck raceways.
- Saw-cut asphalt, excavated trench from oxygen injection pump and upper deck tail race for new 4 inch oxygen injection line.
- Repaired sprinklers
- Repaired Grasshopper mower

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