

CLEARWATER FISH HATCHERY

MONTHLY NARRATIVE

JUNE 2009

BY08 CHINOOK

On June 22, 24, and 29, Mike Keys from the Nez Perce Tribe transported 315,252 Parr Powell stock Spring Chinook from Clearwater Hatchery to the Upper Selway River near McGruder. These fish averaged 85 fpp and 3.2 inches in length.

A total of 948,160 Powell stock Chinook averaging 75 fpp were on hand at month's end. This includes 404K for the Selway FTS, 414K for the Powell FTS, and 130K for the Clear Creek FTS.

A total of 1,512,081 South Fork Stock Chinook averaging 75 fpp were on hand at month's end. This includes 201K for the Nez Perce Tribal hatchery, 100K for Clear Creek FTS, 425K for Red River FTS, 711K for Crooked River FTS, and 73K surplus FTS.

Water temperatures in the Chinook bank were kept at 47-53°F thru the month, and on the Steelhead bank between 50-56°F.

Mortality remained low thru the month and fish health remained excellent. Doug Munson samples the Chinook during the month and gave them a clean bill of health.

BY09 STEELHEAD

A total of 901,115 North Fork Steelhead averaging 215 fpp are on hand at month's end. Growth rates indicate we will make size for marking hopefully during the last week of July (27-31).

A significant amount of fish are starting to show up that are not growing as well as the general population. It was hoped that this new starter feed would alleviate the problem, but does not appear to be working as well as we had hoped. The raceways have been extended, automatic feeders are set-up, and we are currently hand feeding eight hours per day every half hour, and automatic feeders are feeding eight hours per day. Hopefully, we can turn this around before they pin-head out.

Most of the fish are doing well, and growing according to schedule. Water temperatures in early rearing climbed from 50°F to 56°F during the month.

RAINBOW CATCHABLE ALLOCATIONS

Clearwater has now liberated a total of 71,926 rainbow catchables from Mackay, American Falls and Nampa. A total of 37,506 were liberated during June for Free Fishing Day and Independence Day weekends.

MISC PROJECTS

The crew worked on many projects during the month, including incubation (cleaning, disinfecting and repairs), ISO incubation (cleaning, disinfection and repairs), vats (cleaning and repairs on 38 of them), raceways (pressure wash and set-up), general clean up of grounds, and pulling weeds around settling ponds (NPDES requirements). Work was also started on clean-up of Satellite room and incubation water line maintenance.

*Five employees from Clearwater attended a three day Fish Health training course at Dworshak NFH. The class was instructed by Ray Brunson, USFWS. In attendance were Chris Shockman, Jordan Rider, Holly Stanton, Jenny Hole and Sarah Nemeth.

*Ernie and Jerry prepared scope for work document and secured bids to replace copper plumbing in Admin Building with PEX plastic piping.

*CFH hosted Clearwater Basin Spring Chinook Planning meeting on June 4 (attended by 16 people) IDF&G, USF&W and Nez Perce Tribe.

*Chris Shockman recognized for “outstanding service” when he recognized signs of fish stressing in vats due to spike in water temp caused by Dworshak Dam spillway changes. Dissolved oxygen in vats dropped to 3.2 ppm. Temperature topped out at 66°F.

*Millie and Jerry met with year round temps to review options with benefit changes.

*Jerry coordinated with local Food Banks to accept jacks for distribution give away. Food banks were given 64 jacks from Powell and 90 South Fork.

*Cassie and Jerry coordinated with LSRCF, Chris Starr and Tammy Froscher to purchase replacement incubation stacks.

SATELLITES

The first adult Chinook of the season was trapped at Powell on June 15, followed by Crooked River June 17 and Red River June 20.

Our satellite crew braved the swift current on Red River and was able to successfully get the Red River floating weir to be operational on June 17.

The Crooked Fork weir was installed on June 26 in record timing.

As of June 30, 154 Chinook (120 adults, 27 jacks, 1 released) were trapped at Powell, four total Chinook(2 adults, 2 jacks) at Crooked Fork, 111 total Chinook (100 adults, 7 jacks, 4 released) at Red River and 79 total Chinook (56 adults, 14 jacks, 9 released) at Crooked River.