

# MONTHLY NARRATIVE

## MARCH 2008

### CLEARWATER HATCHERY

#### **BY06 CHINOOK**

A total of 1,666,315 Chinook were liberated by April 3, 2008. These fish averaged 16.77 fpp for a total of 99,353 pounds released.

At the beginning of March, the hatchery crew started plowing and digging out the satellite facilities in preparation for hauling, acclimation and releases. Cabins were summarized, intakes were dug open and water was turned on to start melting the snow and ice accumulation.

This winter was an especially hard and long one. Tasks that usually took a day or two, like plowing out the road to Powell, took substantially longer. Heavy wet snow and lots of it, greeted us every where we went. Four days was required (the past record was 2 ½ days) to plow out Powell road. Three days were required to remove the snow from the pond. The South Fork was easier, but required multiple snowplowing days to keep it passable.

Hauling began on March 19<sup>th</sup>, transporting Chinook into Powell. By month's end, all but the Selway Chinook had been liberated.

A large fish kill occurred at the Powell satellite facility on the night of March 27-28, when an intake screen plugged with ice and stopped water from flowing into the acclimation pond. A total of 192,153 smolts were killed in the episode. All the mortalities were transported back to Clearwater Hatchery, checked for PIT tags (which were removed), scanned for coded wire tags, and disposed of. Thanks to generous help from the Nampa Research office and Region 2 personnel, ( day 1 27 people, day 2 40 people, day 3 58 people, including 10 prisoners), the task was completed in three very long days.

#### **BY07 STEELHEAD**

At month's end, 819,402 Steelhead averaging 4.79 fpp were on hand.

The Steelhead will be liberated between the second and fourth week of the month. Growth rates for the month were less than hoped for, because water temperatures hovered at 40°F all month. This is about 3-4°F colder than "normal".

A little coldwater disease was observed in these fish, but after discussion with Munson and because of the low mortality, it was decided not to treat them.

## **BY07 CHINOOK**

At month's end, a total of 1,993,753 full term smolts were on hand, averaging 353 fpp. A total of 302,898 Selway Parr, averaging 451 fpp and 305,378 Selway Full term smolts, averaging 364 fpp were on hand.

The Bio-Oregon/Rangen started feed study is continuing on. All of the feed study groups are growing well. The Rangen feed groups are falling behind on growth rates when compared to the Bio-Oregon feed groups, but are still performing at a desirable rate. Mortality has been low in all groups.

Water temperatures increased throughout the month from 40°F to 42°F.

## **BY 08 STEELHEAD**

### **Clearwater Program**

Spawning at Dworshak for the Clearwater Program occurred on March 4 and March 11. Dworshak Hatchery had a temperature spike in their incubation water supply and the eggs from March 4 were destroyed resulting in a third egg take on March 13.

Take 6 and 6A were transported to Clearwater Hatchery as unpicked eyed eggs. These eggs were picked and enumerated, resulting in 1,133,366 eyed eggs for a combined eye-up of 92.45%.

### **Magic Valley Program**

Clearwater personnel have transported eggs from 151 females to Isolation Incubation during the month. The last egg take for Magic Valley is on April 1.

These eggs are receiving an every other day Formalin treatment, alternating with a 500ml Argentine treatment.

## **OTHER PROJECTS**

◆ Ernie and Crew broke out old concrete entrance ramp to Administration Building and began construction of new ramp and handrails to meet ADA guidelines.

◆ Installation of new overhead garage door in Maintenance Building completed at the end of February – first of March.

◆ Millie, Chad, and Jordan attended New Employee Orientation Tour.