MONTHLY NARRATIVE
CLEARWATER FISH HATCHERY
MAY 2009

Satellites

All satellites were manned prior to Memorial Day weekend. High flows began on May 7 and have continued to date.

Crooked River

All panels were pulled on May 7. They were put back in on May 10 and the fourth Steelhead was trapped on May 11. The weir panels have been pulled again and will remain out until flows decrease to a safe level.

Red River

The panels were pulled on May 7 and were put back in on June 3. The weir is in place but is not operational. The floating section is pinned to the bottom of the river due to high flows.

Powell

Flows are high at Powell and the weir is not in. Walton Creek is running high.

As soon as flows subside we will put all the weirs back in.

BY08 CHINOOK

The first round of marking took place on May 4-8. Most of the fish destined for the steelhead bank (non satellite releases) were marked out at this time.

The second round of marking took place between May 26 and June 5. The trailers ran from 06:00 to 23:00 daily. At about 2:00 pm on June 2, the Corps of Engineers opened their surface spill gate on Dworshak Reservoir, causing the warm water layer on the lake to invert. Water temperatures at the hatchery rose from 55°F to 67°F quickly. As quickly as it was detected, the water was cooled and the intake lowered. Marking was shut down for the night because the fish were already stressed.
At the end of marking, inventory numbers changed and are currently as follows:

Powell stock inventories are 1,264,374 fish going to Powell FTS, Selway FTS, and Clear Creek FTS, and Selway Parr.

South Fork Stock inventories are 1,512,356 fish going to Crooked River FTS, Red River FTS, Clear Creek FTS, NPTH transfers, and surplus SF stock fish FTS.

At the end of marking, a total of 20,886 were short from the previous inventory.

Fish health has remained excellent.

**BY09 STEELHEAD**

A total of 909,739 Steelhead averaging 866 fpp were on hand at month’s end. The first lot was ponded on May 8, seemingly within a few short days after the Chinook were emptied from these vats. The second lot was ponded on the 13th.

These fish are growing well, and are tentatively scheduled for marking during the last week of July.

**RAINFOVER CATCHABLE ALLOCATIONS**

Clearwater has received Rainbow catchables from Mackay, American Falls and Nampa hatcheries this year.

During May, a total of 24,150 catchables were stocked in 11 sites. Several waters were not stocked during the month due to high runoff.