

## **MAGIC VALLEY HATCHERY**

Monthly Narrative Report

January 2010

Rick Lowell

### **BROODYEAR 2009 PRODUCTION**

A total of 1,880,428 eyed eggs have been received for Brood Year 2009. Current inventory of fingerlings after marking is 874,511 Dworshak stock, 529,947 Pahsimeroi Stock, 96,114 USB Stock, and 119,240 Sawtooth Stock. Our combined average size is 8.7 fish per pound. Feed conversion to date is approximately 0.96. Current inventories reflect an additional 0.5 % reduction to compensate for hidden mortality.

### **BROODYEAR 2009 HAYSPUR PRODUCTION**

Magic Valley Hatchery received 1,061,060 eyed rainbow triploid eggs from Hayspur hatchery in December. Current inventory of Hayspur triploids at the end of the month totals 939,273. Average size is 600.00 fish per pound.

### **FISH HEALTH**

Fish Pathologist Doug Munson performed a routine fish health inspection on January fifth. Although we have observed some low levels of sore-back, mortality in all raceways remains in single digits.

### **SUMMARY**

Hatchery personnel completed the following projects and activities during January:

- Rick attended the annual Anadromous section meeting in Boise.
- PIT tagging commenced on January 6<sup>th</sup> and was completed on the 8<sup>th</sup>. Compliments to the PSMFC crew for an efficient process. We did not observe any delayed mortalities associated with tagging stress.
- Received 80 new incubator filter pads for BY 2010 incubation.
- A local contractor attempted repair on our high-bay door. It appears that we will need to replace the lifting mechanism.
- Performed dissolved oxygen and saturation monitoring. Dissolved oxygen was measured above 7.0 below the second deck on the heaviest loaded raceways.
- Submitted the IDF&G annual inventory.
- Magic Valley Heliarc repaired our fingerling transfer tank.
- Rick attended an invasive species workshop in Nampa on the 12<sup>th</sup> and an Upper Salmon coordination meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Rick attended the Hageman HET meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup>.

- As a result of observing several thousand USB's with albinism, Nampa Research personnel performed coded-wire tag retention and genetic sampling on the USB stock.
- Installed one additional 6" dam-board to all raceways to achieve a 30" depth to keep densities below 0.3.
- Rick met with Chris Starr and a USFWS engineer to tour the hatchery intake and discuss options for restoring/increasing water supply to the hatchery.
- Tom Tighe gave a Trout in the Classroom presentation at St. Edwards Catholic School in Twin Falls.
- Tom Tighe assisted with spawning Hayspur Rainbows.
- A local contractor began work on finishing taping and texturing the basements in residences A, B, and D.
- Submitted the annual EPA report and IDWR water flow reports.
- Picked up 6 low head oxygen (LHO) boxes from Nampa Hatchery to test at Magic Valley Hatchery.
- Hatchery flows in mid-January were measured at 73.1 cfs. Water Right is 125.59 cfs.

## **HATCHERY FLOW ISSUES**

Rick e-mailed Terry Huddleston (Clear Springs Foods) on January 7, 2010 to request 4 cfs of water for the period February 1 through mid-April. Through a verbal agreement, Clear Springs had been exchanging 4 cfs of water annually with Magic Valley Hatchery since 2006. On January 8, 2010, Randy MacMillan (Vice President, Clear Springs Foods Inc.) responded to Rick's request by declining the use of 4 cfs from the Crystal Springs Hatchery shared intake with Magic Valley Hatchery.

Production planning for Brood Year 2009 included receiving 4 cfs from Crystal Springs Hatchery. Therefore, for the remainder of Brood Year 2009, Magic Valley Hatchery will be operating at a flow deficit of 4 cfs. To compensate for the flow deficit, we recommend an early March release of approximately 60K to 120K steelhead smolts.

Brood Year 2010 production planning should include at least a 60K reduction in smolt production to compensate for continued long term flow shortages.

## **UPCOMING PROJECTS/EVENTS**

- Continue with miscellaneous landscaping.
- Submit annual Tier Two Homeland Security report.
- Transfer all Hayspur Rainbow Trout to Hagerman State Hatchery.
- Submit Rick's annual self evaluation and Wade Symons annual evaluation.
- Attend the LSRCP Salmon River AOP meeting

## **NEW ZEALAND MUDSNAIL OBSERVATIONS**

We have not observed Mudsnailed in any of the hatchery rearing containers.

## Picture of Golden Steelhead



