

## Monthly Progress Report

**DATE:** February 29, 2008

**TO:** ODFW: Guy Chilton/ Fish Division - Scott Patterson / NE Region  
LSRCP Office: Chris Starr  
Nez Perce Tribe: Johnson - Hesse - Zollman  
CTUIR: Boe – McLean – Zimmerman

**FROM:** Wallowa Hatchery (Jeremy Sommer & Chad Aschenbrenner)

**SUBJECT:** Monthly Progress Report for February 2008

### Fish Culture

#### **Wallowa**

#### Captive Spring Chinook Parr

Current captive parr program summarized below. No stated goal for loss or survival rate.

<b>Stock/Cohort</b>	<b>Number Collected (life stage)</b>	<b>Number On Hand</b>	<b>Mortality Current Month</b>	<b>Meeting Goal? (Yes or No)</b>
GR/06 – Conventional	168 (eggs)	155	0	Yes
GR/06 - Wild	152 (parr)	151	0	Yes

- Reduced feed rates have been in effect the entire month. The staff has continued daily tank maintenance and photo period adjustment. Hank developed feed schedules and Chad completed the monthly ponded fish reports.

#### Summer Steelhead Smolts

- Smolt transfers from Irrigon Hatchery have begun. As of February 29, transfers to the upper and lower acclimation pond at Wallowa have been completed with a total of 365,878 received.

As Of 2/29/08

### Monthly StS Smolt Summary Sheet

	On Hand (end of month)			Received (this month)		Liberated (this month)	
	Number	Pounds	No/Lb	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
<b>Wallowa</b> 5607	364,253	72,927	4.99	365,878	72,265	0	0
<b>Big Canyon</b> 5607	160,978	34,146	4.71	161,220	34,135	0	0
<b>Little Sheep</b> 2907	0	0	0.00	0	0	0	0

#### 7207 Rainbow Trout

- Ponding and picking of the 45,000 rainbow trout to be stocked in area high mountain lakes was completed on February 25th. Mortality was around 3.5%. The fish were ponded in fry baskets to allow for easy access for mortality collection and effective feeding regimes. Feeding will commence on March 3<sup>rd</sup> at which point they will have obtained the proper temperature units to avoid internal fungus complications.

#### Wallowa Hatchery Steelhead Adults

- The trap was opened during the first week of February and the first collection was on the 13<sup>th</sup>.
- As of February 29<sup>th</sup>, 134 fish have been collected including 22 RV clipped adults. Prodigies from the fall collected brood program of previous years have been marked with a right ventricle (RV) clip to denote their lineage.

#### **Big Canyon**

- Smolts began arriving on February 25<sup>th</sup> and continued through the end of the month. At months end, transfers have been completed with 160,978 smolts received on station.
- The weir was installed and the trap was opened on February 13<sup>th</sup>. Fish have just begun to trickle in with 5 fish collected on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Little Sheep**

- There are currently no fish on station.

As Of 2/29/08

**Adult StS Collection and Distribution**

		On Hand		Collected		Released		Spawned	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>Wallowa</b>	Hatchery	33	8	96	16	0	0	0	0
5608 StS	Wild	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	RV	15	7	15	7	0	0	0	0

		On Hand		Collected		Released		Re-Runs	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>Big Canyon</b>	Hatchery	2	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
5608 StS	Wild	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

		On Hand		Collected		Released		Spawned	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
<b>Little Sheep</b>	Hatchery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2908 StS	Wild	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Distribution**

Distribution	Food Banks		To Ponds		Wallowa R Upstream		Wallowa R Downstream	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5608 StS								
Hatchery	0	0	59	6	0	0	0	0
Wild								

Distribution	Little Sheep		Big Sheep		Bull Trout Total to Date	Trap Status	Little Sheep Open	Big Canyon Open
	M	F	M	F				
2908 StS								
Hatchery	0	0	0	0				
Wild	0	0	0	0				

**Fish Health**

- There were no February mortalities of any captive 2006 cohort. The fish appear in good health and they are exhibiting appropriate activity levels.
- The display trout are maturing, resulting in some fighting and spawning cycle mortality; however, the majority of the fish are now triploid resulting in a much lower ratio of maturity related loss. Mortality has been low in both the 2007 well and spring water whirling disease test groups. Both spring and well water fish have begun feeding and have grown considerably. The 2006 test trout were moved to the display pond outdoors.

- The 45,000 (7207 stock) rainbow for this summers mountain lake liberations have been picked and ponded with a 3.5% loss. They appear to be just about ready for feeding and are exhibiting healthy activity levels and appearance.
- Health appears good in the 5607 summer steelhead smolts which we just received from Irrigon. About 0.4% (1,625) of fish were received as mortalities but overall, the fish look good.

### **Fish Distributions**

- 59 male and 6 female adult steelhead were out-planted into Marr pond on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Wallowa Wildlife pond was checked and the ice is receding however the water is quite low. Roulet pond is completely frozen over. Peach pond is free of ice however activities through the NE region office hampered its stocking during this month.
- 6 fish (4 males 2 females) from Wallowa Hatchery were delivered for display in a tank at the Northeastern Sportsman Show in La Grande, OR on February 29<sup>th</sup>.
- 3 males from Big Canyon were given to Mary Hoverson from the NE Region office for an upcoming Outdoor Cooking presentation.

### **Maintenance**

#### **Wallowa**

- At the Clear Creek intake, the picket bars had become structurally deteriorated and were replaced in preparation of high flows and debris which should occur this spring.
- Several more fry baskets were fitted with new wooden frames.
- Pond brooms were replaced this month and Big Canyon's brooms and pond utensils had their handles fitted with shrink wrap.
- A pit tag reader was installed in the Wallowa fish ladder and we used PVC pipe to protect the electric cord which runs along the side of the ladder.
- Mud and debris were removed and several new ladder boards were cut to replace those which were severely frozen to the ground at the Spring Creek intake. The acclimation ponds were flushed, leaks sealed and readied for fish.
- The feed blower and feed conveyer were serviced and readied for use. Chad retrofitted the hitch on the new tractor and removed the front end loader and mower deck so that it could be hooked up to the blower.
- The captive room incubation stack was pressure washed and disinfected as well as the indoor show pond trout raceway.

- A ball valve in the spawning room was replaced due to freezing damage. Another valve on the spawning effluent tank was thawed out as we tried to determine whether there is a drain related leak.
- Jeremy replaced the liberation truck bumper.
- City water was returned to the spawning room and incubation rooms. The incubation rooms were set up to receive eggs in mid March.
- Two roof vents on the liberation building, damaged during high wind events, were replaced and installed with (hopefully) much more wind resistance.

### **Big Canyon**

- The Big Canyon weir was installed on February 13<sup>th</sup>.
- The facility was watered up this month. Domestic water was returned to the house and office. The visitor rest rooms were serviced and the lobby cleaned.
- The acclimation ponds were flushed, leaks sealed, readied for fish and then filled.

### **Little Sheep**

- Last season, fish got under the trap floor. A lot of time was spent troubleshooting this issue. It has been determined that unequal hoist cables have caused wear at the hinges. The steel pins of the hinge have spauled out the aluminum holes they go through and caused the trap floor to seat unevenly. These pins will be replaced next season. The aluminum grating was reseated to fit properly for this season and a rubber seal was installed at the trap mouth to prevent any escapement at that location. Boards were cut for the ladder to prevent any fish access should the wedges be accidentally removed from this location.
- Debris was removed from the intake fish ladder and the intake was then set up.
- The acclimation ponds and holding ponds were set up as well as the main fish ladder, and water was turned into the ponds and ladder on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- The radial gates were also positioned down to create a barrier for returning adults.
- The spawning room was de-verminized and the house was cleaned. The domestic water was also turned on.

### **NPDES Waste Discharge Permit Monitoring**

- February was not a month of highest production. Water, flow, and pH samples were not required.

- The daily chemical use log was updated onto our monthly chemical use log as required.

### **Public Outreach**

- Fish were released into Marr pond this month for fishing opportunities. Pictures were taken and Jeremy gathered up information for an official press release early next month.
- Fish were collected and delivered to the North-Eastern Sportsman Show in La Grande. Steve Deal drove down to Medford to pick up and deliver the ODFW show aquarium and then helped assemble it at the show.
- Hank distributed food collection boxes around town for the Governor's Food Drive. He did a wonderful job soliciting contributions of food and money for the event.
- Jeremy contacted all the food banks which help distribute excess adult steelhead returning to Wallowa Hatchery and Big Canyon. All distributors are on board for what promises to be a busy season.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Butch Harty was here on the 5<sup>th</sup> to examine the feasibility of using the Phoenix Filtration System in association with a UV system to remove whirling disease spores from Wallowa River water at Wallowa Hatchery.
- Hank received first aid and CPR training in La Grande on the 6<sup>th</sup>.
- City of Enterprise staff re-installed the water meter at the managers' house and the water was turned on. The meter was removed during the winter while the house was dewatered and winterized.
- Chad completed seasonal re-hire paperwork for the 3 seasonal employees.
- Don Hair was here this month to update the Captive Brood database.
- Chad completed and submitted a flood preparedness plan to region.

### **Personnel Status**

- Interviews were held on February 12<sup>th</sup> for the manager position at Wallowa Hatchery. Ron Harrod from Clackamas Hatchery was the successful candidate. We look forward to having him join us April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Chad Aschenbrenner was extended through the end of March as the Acting Hatchery Manager.

- Steve Deal, Suzette Bonneau - Lovely, and Chuck Stelling began their seasonal positions on the 18<sup>th</sup>. All three were employed in their current positions last season. We are excited to have them back on the team again.
- Will Voss completed his Youth Transition Program rotation at Wallowa Hatchery on February 6<sup>th</sup>.