

## Monthly Progress Report

**DATE:** January 31, 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 January 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

- Don and TJ from research were here on the 25<sup>th</sup> for quarterly samples. The wild group is at 40 fpp and the conventional group is at 24 fpp.

- The staff has continued daily tank maintenance and photo period adjustment. Hank developed feed schedules incorporating new fish sample sizes. Jeremy completed the monthly ponded fish reports.

### Summer Steelhead Smolts

- There are currently no smolts on station. We ordered and received 26,000 lbs of Silver Cup fish food in preparation of the upcoming smolt acclimation.

### 7207 Rainbow Trout

- 45,000 trout eggs were received on January 8<sup>th</sup>, placed in incubator trays and disinfected. Hatching began during the week of the 14<sup>th</sup> and currently all fry are hatched and buttoning up. Fry picking and ponding will begin in mid-February. Two indoor raceways have been retro-fitted for early rearing with a third pond prepared to receive fish after grading.

### Wallowa Hatchery Steelhead Adults

- There are currently no adults on station.
- The weir was installed in Spring Creek on the 31<sup>st</sup> to prepare for the returning adults. The fish ladder will be started the first week in Feb.

### **Big Canyon**

- There are currently no fish on station.

### **Little Sheep**

- There are currently no fish on station.

### Fish Health

- All fish on station appear to be in excellent health. The reduced rations for the captive fish have not impacted their health negatively and have actually led to a more uniform size fish. There has not been a captive mortality since August 2007.
- Of the 550 72T07 triploid rainbow trout whirling disease (*M. cerebralis*) test fish, there was a small pick-off loss of 18 upper spring water and 40 well water fry. The remaining fish appear to be in excellent health.

- The 45,000 7207 rainbow for this summers mountain lake stockings have hatched. Hatching survival appears to be descent; however the extent of damage due to UPS's inability to keep "This Side Up" while shipping remains to be determined.

### **Fish Distributions**

- We received 45,000 RB eggs from Roaring River on the 8<sup>th</sup> to be air stocked in high mountain lakes in July.

### **Maintenance**

#### **Wallowa**

- Most of the acclimation pond screens were removed due to broken welds. Welding repairs are now completed and new rivets were installed on screens where needed.
- A leak in the LI incubation head box has been sealed.
- A lot of time was spent this month readying three indoor concrete raceways for fry. The raceways have not been used in some time. The water source for rearing, the upper spring, is quite low in dissolved oxygen with a D.O. value of 5.7. Three large aeration towers were constructed and plumbed in bringing the D.O. up to an acceptable level of 8.4. The screens on these ponds were replaced with smaller mesh screens and siliconed into place. We received 14 fry baskets from Bonneville Hatchery and replaced their wooden frames. Four PVC frames were built to suspend the baskets in the pond for early rearing. Standpipes were cut to an appropriate height and gaskets were replaced on the standpipe bases. Pond utensil holders were constructed and placed at the end of each raceway.
- Hank replaced our dam board at the Spring Creek intake diversion with a new super duper dam board!
- Chad built a new debris removal rake for the Wallowa weir.
- Pond brooms and utensils were all fitted with new shrink wrapped handles or replaced with new fiberglass handles.

- Egg picking boards were repainted as well as the egg picking trough frame.
- Incubation trays were inspected and repaired this month.
- The generator building eyewash was refilled. The generator was found to be leaking anti-freeze. The coolant was refilled and repairs are slated for the near future.
- A vent cover was constructed for the old building to help minimize heating costs associated with that building.
- The grounds were plowed and de-iced numerous times this month. We had 15 days of snowfall in January. There was also a deep freeze over several days mid-month where the temperature got as low as -19 degrees. As a result the intake iced up and had to be checked regularly.
- Oil changes were completed on all small motor items. Spark plugs and filters were changed as needed. Zirks were greased throughout the hatchery and Stabil was added to gas tanks where needed.
- Debris, sand and gravel were removed from the Wallowa fish ladder and concrete pad where the weir is placed in preparation for weir installation.

### **Big Canyon**

- Pond broom handles were shrink wrapped.
- Snow was plowed and fish food was delivered for the upcoming smolt acclimation. The creek is very low and more than a foot of ice is built up around the fish ladder and weir. As soon as the conditions allow we will install the weir and open the fish trap.

### **Little Sheep**

- The feed shed had blown over during a storm in December was retrieved and re-secured in place. Unfortunately, there was another

big storm, and it blew away again damaging the facility fence. Addition storage space is needed at Little Sheep however the metal storage building is not the solution. Research will be done to evaluate the feasibility of a permanent brick storage building.

- Pond broom handles were shrink wrapped.

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

- January was not a month of highest production. Water, flow, and pH samples were not required.
- The chemical use log was updated as required.
- The annual chemical use was summarized and reported to DEQ and Latif at Salem HQ.
- Chad completed the DMR report for the December reporting period.

### **Public Outreach**

- The spawning room was fitted with bulletin strips to secure spawning related informational signs. We also purchased ear plugs for visitors due to the loud volume of the fish stunner. Signs were placed encouraging visitors to use a pair.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Little Sheep and Big Canyon collection, out-plant and operation manuals were updated for the 2008 season.
- We received 26,000 pounds of feed from Silver Cup on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **Personnel Status**

- The hatchery manager position is currently vacant. Interviews will be held on February 12th.
- Chad attended the TOT meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> and the AOP meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

- Jeremy attended the Tribal Relations Workshop in Pendleton on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The class was very informative and highly recommended.