

Monthly Progress Report

DATE: March 31, 2009

TO: ODFW: Guy Chilton/ Fish Division - Scott Patterson / NE Region – Bruce Eddy
– Brad Smith

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CTUIR: Boe – McLean – Zimmerman

FROM: Wallowa Hatchery – Jeremy Sommer

SUBJECT: Monthly Progress Report for March 2009

Fish Culture

Wallowa

Captive Spring Chinook Parr

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

Stock/Cohort	Number Collected (life stage)	Number On Hand	Cumulative Transfers and liberations	Mortality Current Month	Production Goal	% of Goal	Size	Meeting Goal? (Yes or No)
GR/07 - Conventional	159	150	0	0	150	100%	26	Yes
GR/07- Conventional (LG)	150	150	0	0	150	100%	20	Yes
80Z08	162(alevin)	162	0	0	150	108%	800	Yes

*LG is being used in this report to designate fish received from Lookingglass Hatchery to replace the 150 parr which normally would be collected from the Grande Ronde River. Parr collection from the Grande Ronde River has been unsuccessful thus far.

- The staff has continued daily feeding, photo period adjustments and tank maintenance.
- The conventional (LG) group has been placed on a more restricted diet as we attempt to catch the two groups up and come close to the original size goal. The fish appear healthy. We will keep a close eye on this group to ascertain if the diet begins to negatively affect their health.
- 150 wild-bred juvenile Chinook will be collected from the Grand Ronde this summer.

- The 80 Z 08 group have buttoned up and have begun feeding. They are on a diet consisting of a mix of #1 and Cyclopeeze and have responded well. There have been no drop-outs thus far.

Summer Steelhead Smolts

Stock/Cohort	Number received (life stage)	Number On Hand	Cumulative Transfers and liberations	Mortality Current Month	Production Goal	% of Goal	Size	Meeting Goal? (Yes or No)
5608	259,304 (smolts)	258,402	0	355	258,000	100	4.1	Yes

- The smolts are eating well and appear to be quite healthy. This first acclimation group is scheduled for release on April 12th.

Wallowa Hatchery Steelhead Adults

- Adults have begun arriving in large numbers. 1557 adults have been collected at Wallowa Hatchery of which 358 are RV clipped adults. Of the collected adults, 1170 have been donated to food banks and 117 released to ponds.
- As of March 31st, we have had 3 spawns and collected 479,400 eggs from 94 pairs of adults.

Lot Species	Number Collected	Number On Hand	No. of females to spawn Goal	% of Goal	Expect to Meet Goal? (Yes or No)
5609 STS	1351	0	180	42%	yes
5609 – STS (RV clipped)	349	0	45	42%	Yes

*RV clipped adults are the progeny of the Fall Collected Brood program

72T07 Rainbow Trout, 72T08 Rainbow Trout

The production goal for these fish is 40,000 fish at 3/lb to be released into Wallowa County lakes and ponds from April through August 2009; we currently do not have enough fish on hand to meet this goal. The balance will be made up from Irrigon Hatchery.

Stock/Cohort	Number received (life stage)	Number On Hand	Cumulative Transfers and liberations	Mortality Current Month	Production Goal	% of Goal	Size	Meeting Goal? (Yes or No)
72 T 07 RBT	19782 (parr)	37283	0	122	40,000		4.6	Yes
72 T 07 RBT (Trophy)	319 (1/2 pound)	307	0	0	none		.9	Yes
72 T 08	500	409	0	24	60	682%	842	Yes

- Growth is fairly high despite low water temperatures and reduced feeding schedules. With warming temperatures, fish will grow even faster. Mortality has decreased significantly.
- The whirling disease test trout have buttoned up and began feeding. They are on a starter diet consisting of #0, #1 and Cyclopeeze. Mortality has been very low despite receiving the eggs as near ice cubes. The eggs have been received in this condition now for several years due to shipping by UPS in December. It has become evident that the eggs are quite resistant to near 32 degree temperatures in shipment as we have had successful hatchings each year.

Big Canyon Summer Steelhead Smolts

Stock/Cohort	Number received (life stage)	Number On Hand	Cumulative Transfers and liberations	Mortality Current Month	Production Goal	% of Goal	Size	Meeting Goal? (Yes or No)
5608	156,837 (smolts)	145,300	0	1899	156,000	100	4.15	No

- Despite a rough period of shock from transfers and freezing conditions, the smolts appear to be recovering finally and beginning to eat much better. Mortalities have dropped slowly throughout the month.
- There were 9 days early in the month where the ponds were frozen and feeding was not possible. The staff at the facility had a few rough nights maintaining ice free screens.

Steelhead Adults

Lot Species	Number Collected	Number On Hand	No. of females to spawn Goal	% of Goal	Expect to Meet Goal? (Yes or No)
5609 STS	677	0	0	100%	yes

- The season started off with a boom this year as high flows due to snow melt-off brought in over 350 fish during the first week of March. We have averaged a bit over a 100 per week since that time. At months end, 670 hatchery adults and 7 wild fish had entered the trap. Of these, 620 were donated to schools and food banks, and 57 recycled downstream. We plan to fill local ponds and reach towards our downstream quota during the first week in April

Little Sheep

Summer Steelhead Smolts

- Little Sheep acclimation received 148,246 steelhead smolts from Irrigon Hatchery on March 2nd through 4th. They began a 28 day volitional release starting on March 31st.
- There were 4 days of frozen ponds early this month coupled with transfer stress leading to slightly elevated mortality.
- We did not receive enough smolts to meet our production goal.

Stock/Cohort	Number received (life stage)	Number On Hand	Cumulative Transfers and liberations	Mortality Current Month	Production Goal	% of Goal	Size	Meeting Goal? (Yes or No)
2908	148,246 (smolts)	146,936	0	1310	165,000		4.5	No

Steelhead Adults

- There was only one spawn in March due to the lack of ripe females and a slow run. This is the second year in a row that the run has been late to the facility. Higher water levels in Little Sheep Creek have yet to develop.
- 207 adults including 22 wild have been collected as of March 31st compared with 103 adults in 2008 and 781 adults collected in March 2007. Fluctuation in run timing is not unusual with this stock. Of the 207 adults, 15 have been released in Little Sheep Creek as well as 18 wild and 150 into Big Sheep Creek.

Lot Species	Number Collected	Number On Hand	No. of females to spawn Goal	% of Goal	Expect to Meet Goal? (Yes or No)
2909 STS	207	17	63	4.8%	yes

Fish Health

- The captive fish continue to show excellent appearance and activity levels.
- In general, the trout appear to be in pretty decent condition. Mortality has been maintained at a low number. Many moribund fish share behaviors and deformities. Sam in pathology has determined that some mortality is the result of cold water disease and gyros. Formalin may be used if warranted in the future.
- Show pond trout are continuing to mature and are undergoing annual maturation-related loss. Some of the least healthy fish have been euthanized. The overall health of these fish thus far appears to be much better than past years. We plan to strip eggs in April.
- Whirling disease test fish continue to show excellent health.
- The smolts at Little Sheep and Wallowa appear to be in good health; however, the Big Canyon smolts continue to recover from last months hauls, low water temperatures and freezing. Freezing conditions persisted throughout the month with intake screens and pond head screens freezing on several occasions. Despite several sleepless nights, and frozen ponds, the crew at Big Canyon has done a good job monitoring the situation and easing the fish back to healthy eating and rearing situations.

Fish Distributions

Wallowa

- This Month, 40 adults have been out-planted to Marr Pond. Roulet and Wallowa Wildlife Pond are still frozen as of months end. Food bank give-aways from Wallowa Hatchery for this month come to the following totals: 279 adults to AARP of La Grande, 342 adults to Lighthouse Church, 148 adults to Elgin Food Bank, 254 adults to Enterprise food bank and 100 adults to Wallowa food bank.

Big Canyon

- Fish distributions for Big Canyon this month include 7 wild adults to Deer Creek, 93 adults to the North Powder and Baker City Food banks, 50 adults to Union food bank, 349 adults to Lighthouse Church, 105 adults to Elgin food bank, 23 adults to schools, and 57 adults recycled downstream at the Minam boat ramp.

Little Sheep

- 148,246 smolts have been received from Irrigon Hatchery this month.
- 183 adults were released into Little Sheep and Big Sheep creeks.

Maintenance

Wallowa

- The formalin system was calibrated this month.

- This month fish culture took precedence and occupied most of our time.

Big Canyon

- The new adult fish lift system was fine tuned.
- Sue cleaned up brush, trimmed bushes and shrubs.

Little Sheep

- Steve re-painted our air stocking boxes.
- Sue built a flower box.

NPDES Waste Discharge Permit Monitoring

- March was a sampling month of highest production. Water, flow, and pH samples were collected as required.
- The daily chemical use log was updated onto our monthly chemical use log as required.

Public Outreach

- A second article was printed in the La Grande observer detailing our recycling, stocking and food banking program.
- New display signs were posted around the ladders and acclimation ponds at all facilities. Display signs with pond details were also placed at appropriate places around Wallowa Hatchery.
- Our old display signs in the spawning room were reframed and stained. An incubation sign was added as well.
- Two signs were constructed and displayed at Wallowa and Big canyon detailing adult run numbers and distributions. Chuck also has a dry-erase board in the Big Canyon spawning shelter with adult run details.
- 1764 adults were donated to 7 food banks in the three county area. We added a new food bank that will be responsible for the Baker City area. We have food bank representatives now from all larger population areas within two hours of the facility. In the future, individuals interested in distributing fish will be directed to their nearest participating food bank to co-ordinate distribution.
- The hatchery is the most popular place in the county right now. We have had a constant stream of visitors and very positive response.
- Two tours were held for school groups this month.

Miscellaneous

- Ron attended a LSRCP meeting in Boise at the beginning of the month.
- Ron attended a meeting in Salem on the 9th. He is part of a committee on hatchery information and education. The committee is developing a state wide hatchery mission statement and new updated signage that will include kiosks and road signs. Wallowa Hatchery is going to be one of four test facilities for this new information.
- Formalin and back hoe trainings were completed.

Personnel Status

- James Laiman showed up on the 31st to begin his tenure for the next two months as hatchery host.
- A local Master Hunter trainee volunteered for several days this month.

As of 3/31/09

Monthly StS Smolt Summary Sheet

	On Hand (end of month)			Received (this month)		Liberated (this month)	
	Number	Pounds	No/Lb	Number	Pounds	Number	Pounds
Wallowa 5607	258,402	63,056	4.10	0	0	0	0
Big Canyon 5607	145,300	35,032	4.15	0	0	0	0
Little Sheep 2907	146,936	32,652	4.50	148,246	30,270	0	0

As of 3/31/09

StS Egg Collection Summary

	Females	Estimated	% Egg Loss	Eyed Eggs	Actual
	Spawned	Egg Take		Shipped	Fecundity
Wallowa 5609 StS	94	479,400	0.0%	0	0
Little Sheep 2909 StS	3	14,250	0.0%	0	0
Wallowa Fall Collectec 5609 StS	19	96,900	0.0%	0	0

Wallowa Fall Collected- is for information only. FCB females spawned and egg take are not in addition to the Wallowa numbers above but are part of the total

As Of 3/31/09

Adult StS Collection and Distribution

		On Hand		Collected		Released		Spawned	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Wallowa	Hatchery	0	0	662	685	0	0	72	75
5609 StS	Wild	0	0	1	3	1	1	0	0
	RV	0	0	199	150	0	0	22	19

		On Hand		Collected		Released		Re-Runs	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Big Canyon	Hatchery	0	0	308	362	26	31	10	5
5609 StS	Wild	0	0	3	4	3	4	0	0

		On Hand		Collected		Released		Spawned	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Little Sheep	Hatchery	12	1	158	27	142	23	3	3
2909 StS	Wild	3	1	15	7	12	6	0	0

Distribution

Distribution	Food Banks		To Ponds		Wallowa R Upstream		Wallowa R Downstream	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5609 StS								
Hatchery	813	951	166	86	0	0	26	31
Wild								

Distribution	Little Sheep		Big Sheep		Bull Trout	Little Sheep		Big Canyon	
	M	F	M	F		Total to Date	Trap Status	Total to Date	Trap Status
2909 StS									
Hatchery	14	1	128	22	Total to Date	0	0		
Wild	12	6	0	0	Trap Status	Open	Open		