

WALLOWA HATCHERY ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

INTRODUCTION

Location

Wallowa Hatchery is located in northeast Oregon, two miles west of Enterprise. The hatchery is adjacent to Spring Creek, one mile upstream from the confluence of Spring Creek and the Wallowa River. Five rivers comprise the 613 river miles to the ocean: Spring Creek, Wallowa, Grande Ronde, Snake and Columbia Rivers. Two satellite stations, Big Canyon (Wallowa system) 30 miles west of the hatchery and Little Sheep (Imnaha system) 30 miles east of the hatchery, are used for adult trapping, spawning and smolt acclimation.

OBJECTIVES

Mitigation Goals

Wallowa Hatchery is operated as part of the Lower Snake River Compensation Program. Mitigation goals include, collecting 1,100,000 (green) Wallowa stock (56) summer steelhead eggs and 448,000 (green) Imnaha stock (29) summer steelhead eggs. The smolt release goal for the Wallowa stock is 870,000 smolts. The Imnaha stock goal is 330,000 smolts, 230,000 to Little Sheep (acclimated) and 100,000 to Big Sheep (direct steam).

SUMMER STEELHEAD

Adult Returns

There was an appreciably higher return of adult steelhead at Wallowa and Little Sheep facilities than during the spring 2003 season. Big Canyon also saw slightly higher returns. The stock designations for adults collected during the 2003/2004 season were, Wallowa and Big Canyon (5604) and Little Sheep/Imnaha (2904).

Wallowa Hatchery collected 3,147 hatchery origin steelhead. Of those, 2,025 were male and 1,122 were female. This is up from the 2003 total of 2,090 hatchery returns. There were also 11 natural origin adults that returned (6 males and 5 females). These adults were transported back to the Wallowa River and released. Natural origin steelhead returns were comparable to the 10 adults returning in 2003.

We added Fall Collected Brood (FCB) to our existing steelhead program this past season. The main goals of the program are reduce the potential for straying into Columbia River tributaries and enhance fall harvest opportunities within the LSRCP compensation area. The program involves collecting and holding 50 pairs of early arriving Wallowa stock adult summer steelhead until spawning season. The adults were collected in the Lower Grande Ronde River by fisherman using conventional fishing gear. 109 adults were collected in a 2 week period in early October 2003. The adults were held in our acclimation pond from October 2003 until maturation in April 2004. All eggs collected from the FCB adults are segregated, uniquely marked as smolts, then incorporated into our rearing program. We replaced conventional program eggs with eggs from the FCB thus maintaining our goal of 870,000 smolts.

Big Canyon satellite facility had a return of 730 males and 710 females, for a total of 1,440 adult hatchery origin steelhead. We had 67 (20 males, 47 females) natural origin steelhead return, all of which were passed above the weir in Deer Creek to spawn naturally. This is only a slight increase from 1,369 returning adults in 2003. The comparison of natural origin steelhead returns to Big Canyon was (67 adults) in 2004, less than half of the 140 adults returning in 2003.

Little Sheep facility also had an especially good return of hatchery origin adults. There was a return of 2,613 (1,322 males, 1,291 females) in 2004, which is up from the 2003 return of 1,905 hatchery adults. Natural origin returns were 141 (76 male, 65 female) adults compared to 99 in 2003. Of the adults collected, 687 hatchery and 136 natural origin steelhead were passed above the weir in Little Sheep Creek. Additional releases include 1,719 hatchery adults transferred to Big Sheep Creek to spawn naturally.

Egg Production - Wallowa Stock (5604) Summer Steelhead

There were 938,450 Wallowa stock eggs taken during the season. 827,000 eyed eggs were transferred to Irrigon Hatchery. The green to eyed egg loss was 11.7%, up slightly from 10.6% in 2003.

Egg Production - Wallowa Stock (5604) Fall Collected Brood (FCB)

We collected 195,300 Wallowa stock (FCB) eggs during the season. 167,000 eyed eggs were transferred to Irrigon Hatchery. The green to eyed egg loss was 14.2%.

Egg Production - Imnaha Stock (2904) Summer Steelhead

Imnaha stock egg production was down slightly from 2003. A total of 432,180 green eggs were taken compared to the 467,350 eggs collected in 2003. We transferred 398,120 eyed eggs to Irrigon Hatchery. Egg loss was only 7.9%, down considerably from 12.6% in 2003.

Smolt Acclimation Summer Steelhead

There were 556,932 Wallowa stock (5603) smolts acclimated and released from Wallowa Hatchery. Big canyon acclimated and released 226,890 Wallowa stock (5603) smolts. There were no residual smolt outplants to closed water bodies this past season.

Little Sheep satellite facility acclimated and released 202,011 Imnaha stock (2903) smolts.

Irrigon Hatchery reared the above stocks of smolts used for acclimation and release.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

There were no capital construction projects at Wallowa Hatchery or its satellite facilities during the report period.

MAJOR PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED BY ODFW PERSONNEL

Wallowa Facility

There were very few major projects completed by hatchery personnel, due to staff shortage this past season.

Landscaping around the managers new garage (state funded) was finished in order to meet building permit requirements.

A trench from the manager's house to the new garage was excavated to place a power line conduit in. A new lawn was then planted on the excavated area.

Big Canyon Facility

New flush gates for the acclimation ponds were constructed.

The intake screens were removed, renovated and reinstalled by the Enterprise Screen Shop.

Little Sheep Facility

A 10' X 12' metal storage shed, purchased and installed last year was blown over and damaged during a freak wind storm. With help from the Enterprise screens staff and their crane, the shed was returned to the manufacturer for repair and reinstallation.

MAINTENANCE PROJECTS ACCOMPLISHED BY CONTRACTORS

Wallowa Hatchery

A paving contractor completed sealing all the asphalt cracks around the acclimation pond and office.

A local fabricator was hired to fabricate and install a new hoist and trolley system in our lib truck parking garage. The hoist will allow us to remove the liberation tank from the flatbed truck and expand the use of the flatbed.

Two motorized replacement garage doors were installed in the lib truck and feed tractor bays to improve efficiency and safety.

Big Canyon Facility

A paving contractor completed sealing all the cracks in the asphalt surrounding the acclimation pond and office.

Little Sheep Facility

There were no renovations or major repairs made at Little Sheep Facility this year.

MAJOR PURCHASES

Ranger 4x4 Pickup - replacement	\$17,533
Motorized garage bay doors (2)	\$4,926
Formalin pump and replacement pump heads	\$2,488
Flatbed trailer	\$2,795
Portable water pumps	\$1,630
Pressure washer attachment for pond bottoms	\$1,667
Shop compressor	\$1,609
Laser printers (2) replacement	\$2,610
Bunkhouse beds (6) replacement	\$4,079
Egg picking trough stand (fabricated)	\$665
Hoist spreader bar for liberation tank (fabricated)	\$750
Acclimation pond dam board stock	\$4,894
Coated wire for crowders	\$504
Electronic temperature sensors & transporters	\$869
Disc/belt sander	\$700
Shop hoist trolley parts	\$1,012
Booster pump valves	\$818
Ice machine	\$999
Chest freezer – Big Canyon	\$522

MAJOR REPAIRS and MAINTENANCE

Safety enhancement to liberation truck	\$2,638
Feed tractor repairs	\$817
Shop hoist installation	\$4,964
Backhoe repairs	\$910
Little Sheep shed repairs	\$1,029
Generator maintenance	\$1,193
Wire new shop hoist	\$520
Potable water test	\$622
Weed spraying	\$787
Repair fender Lookingglass liberation truck	\$868
Seal asphalt cracks at Wallowa and Big Canyon	\$4,991
Supplemental gravel for road and parking areas	\$950
Big Canyon rotating screen gear boxes & parts	\$2,233