

Monthly Progress Report

DATE: December 4, 2009

TO: ODFW: Guy Chilton/ Fish Division - Scott Patterson / NE Region – Bruce Eddy
– Jeff Yankee – Tracy Wyllie
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FROM: Wallowa Hatchery – Jeremy Sommer

SUBJECT: Monthly Progress Report for December 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 F/lb	Meeting Goal? (Yes or No)
80Z08	162(alevin)	150	0	0	150	100%	30.0	Yes
80Z08	153 (parr)	150	0	0	150	100%	46.0	Yes
80Z09	330 (egg)	316	0	3	300	105%	925	Yes

- The staff has continued daily feeding, photo period adjustments and tank maintenance. Winter feeding began this month. Percent body weight fed has been dropped to meet transfer size goals and the fish are eating on an alternate day on day off schedule.
- The 316 (80Z09) alevin have been combined into 1 tank and are eating well.

72T07 Rainbow Trout, 7208 Rainbow Trout, 103T08 &103T09 Rainbow Trout

Current RBT programs summarized below. No stated goal for loss or survival rate.

**Note: We did not receive enough parr to meet our production goal for 72 08 and 103 T 09 RBT stocks.*

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	3300 (legal)	3208	0	8	3000	107%	1.0	Yes
72 08 RBT	13,005(parr)	12854	0	47	12,500	103%	7.0	Yes
103 T 08	1210(legal)	1206	0	1	none		1.26	
103 T 09 RBT	45,493 (parr)	44092	0	173	44,500	99%	5.96	no

- The staff has continued daily feeding and weekly pond cleanings. Feedings have been adjusted to account for cooler water temperatures.
- Feeding was suspended December 7-12 due to severe cold and pond ice. Temperatures dropped to -10 and dipped into negative digits for four evenings.

Fish health

- Mortality of the fingerling trout is low. Trophy groups have maintained very low mortality rates.
- Sam Onjukka was here to conduct monthly pathology exams.
- Both egg and parr groups (80Z08) are maintaining good health and appearance.
- There were three drop outs from the 80Z09 spring Chinook groups.

Fish Distributions

- 1400 Rainbow Trout eggs (stock 7209) were received from Roaring River Hatchery on the 16th. These eggs will be used for whirling disease testing and stocking of Noregaard Pond.

Maintenance

Wallowa

- Annual maintenance of the spawning room hoists and crowder was completed.
- A large wooden crowder was replaced with an aluminum crowder which Chad built this month.
- Dip nets were replaced for all spawning room nets and all nets from Big Canyon and Little Sheep.
- A drain spigot was placed on the tower of the new fish pump.

- The attic of the old building was completely cleaned. Debris from the stone ages was disposed of, organized and some vintage material was stored including the most bizarre Sheep Creep Camp sign.
- The rubber seal around the anesthetic tank braille was replaced.
- The shop door was insulated.
- All egg trays were inspected this month. Flawed trays were repaired and the stacks were set up for watering up.
- The mower deck on the large JD tractor mower was repaired.
- The bridge weir was dug out in preparation for placement in late January or early February.
- The moat around the old building was cleaned this month.
- The table attachment for the table saw was re-welded and leveled.
- A new maintenance tracking book was established.
- A moist air incubator was received this month. Chad spent a day picking it up and learning about its operation, and another assembling and adapting the incubator for test use during the upcoming steelhead spawning season at Wallowa Hatchery. The chiller unit unfortunately is having some problems, possibly due to low fluids. Professional maintenance of the unit is scheduled for early January.

Big Canyon

- Ron repaired the wiring on one of the two chest freezers which was damaged by mice.

Little Sheep

- No activity to report at this time.

NPDES Waste Discharge Permit Monitoring

- December 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

- Preparation for food banking of the phenomenal number of steelhead expected to return this season was undertaken. Letters were sent to all food banks who in turn contacted their resources and informed us that they could dramatically increase their distribution this year.
- Alex Courtney continued his school apprenticeship this month. We also had another volunteer, Steven Simpson, help out around the hatchery. Both volunteers are considering careers in fish and wildlife.

Miscellaneous

- From December 7-12 we had a severe cold spell with temperatures in the negative digits and highs in the teens. Much time was spent keeping the water flowing and screens free of ice.
- Ron and Chad hosted a steelhead meeting in La Grande on the 18th with a goal of addressing concerns and changes associated with the elevated adult return expected this year.
- Ron attended the pre-AOP meeting on the 17th.
- Large orders were placed this month for feed, a freezer, and totes.
- Ron attended the HRT meeting in Pendleton on the 8th.
- Requests to hire were prepared for seasonal positions opening next month and in February.
- Year end paperwork and computer files were adapted and distributed for year 2010.
- D&R fire extinguishers was here for our annual extinguisher inspections.

Personnel Status

- All employees took vacations of various lengths this month. Staffing was adequate to meet hatchery goals.
- Steven Simpson volunteered on December 30th.
- Alex Courtney continued his student apprenticeship this month.