

**November/December 2019 Report: Creston National Fish Hatchery:**

CRESTON NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY FISH PRODUCTION November 30, 2019													
SPECIES	NUMBER	FISH/LB.	LENGTH(IN)	WEIGHT	FEED SIZE	LBS/DAY	% BODY WT.	D. I.	CFS	F. I.	H. C.	VOLUME	T/O RATE
RBT-ARD-18	10,474	1.72	11.33	6,078.92	3.0	18.06	0.30	0.17	1.00	1.20	3.37	3,200	1.13
BLT-GNP-18	290	40.71	4.26	7.12	2.0	0.08	1.08	0.02	0.02	0.19	4.61	72	1.00
RBT-ARD-19	128,855	15.77	5.41	8,170.84	3.0	30.81	0.62	0.12	4.16	0.81	3.36	12,800	1.17
RBT-ELD-19	149,296	21.75	4.86	6,863.57	2.0	40.81	0.59	0.15	3.00	1.05	2.89	9,600	1.13
WCT-WED-19	134,543	280.77	2.25	536.32	#2	4.00	0.75	0.47	0.07	7.59	1.08	304	0.50
	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
<b>TOTALS OR AVERAGES</b>	<b>423,458</b>	<b>19.55</b>	<b>4.36</b>	<b>21,656.98</b>		<b>113.76</b>	<b>0.53</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>8.25</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>2.29</b>	<b>26,176</b>	<b>1.13</b>

**Fish Culture:**

The fish at the Creston Fish Hatchery look very healthy our average raceway water temperature was 43.08 degrees F for the month of Nov. and 40.89 for December. Creston has 423,458 fish on site, and we just received a shipment of Arlee Rainbow Trout eggs from Ennis National Fish Hatchery on December 24. We received 246,267 diploid Arlee Rainbow Trout eggs and 47,969 Triploid Arlee Rainbow Trout eggs. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks have requested that all Rainbow Trout stocked be triploid. We have approx. 300 bull trout on station right now. Stocking will occur in June of 2020 in Glacier Park. This was a partnership with the National Park Service and United States Geological survey to enhance the Bull Trout population on the west side of Glacier Park. We have stocked roughly 3500 bull trout so far in Glacier Park and we are currently in discussions with park staff about a new upcoming Bull Trout project in the neighboring Camas Creek drainage. Our isolation Facility has been in high demand for native threatened and endangered species recently and we look forward to updating you with the next project to take place.



**Projects:**

This is an old facility like most in the region so projects are usually ongoing. We repaired our raceways last summer and have been monitoring their condition primarily at the expansion joints and it appears that our patch job is holding. We were also awarded funds to install a new entrance gate at our facility. It will provide us with an additional level of security at our station. The company awarded the contract has been graced with unusually warm November and December weather.





We have also started working with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks and Ecological Services to evaluate fish escapement into Mill Creek. Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks field staff came out and electroshocked the reach of Mill Creek below the hatchery. They took several fish and will bring them back to their facility to analyze otoliths, they will then compare the growth rings on the otoliths to other fish collected in the region to try to pinpoint their points of origin. Sam Bourret from Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks leads this project. Finally, we have been completing required maintenance on our influent water treatment facility.



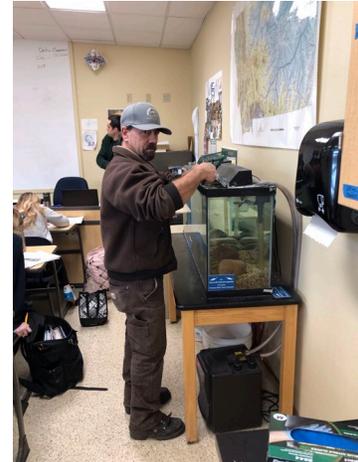
We had a power bump that fried our main PLC for the UV system. A contractor for Water Management Systems has been out to our facility to install and trouble shoot the new system. While he is working on that, we are replacing bulbs, ballasts, and wipers to ensure proper treatment

#### New Staff on Station:

We are happy to welcome Rob Hershbeck to Northwest MT. Rob is a Fish and Wildlife Officer and we are excited to have him at our facility. Rob will be living on station at the hatchery while having an office here as well.

## Education and Outreach:

The staff transported 20 west slope cutthroat trout to Glacier High School for the Trout in the Classroom program. Trout Unlimited donated the tanks and chillers. We gave them a presentation on the fish hatchery.



We also worked on cleaning up our Nature Explore outdoor classroom area. This is an outside classroom that sees substantial use throughout the spring, summer and fall from local schools and organizations. It takes a lot of work but we are very fortunate to have John Babcock, a retired principle and educator volunteer, to help with these tours.



## Staff:

- Travis Slivka-Acting Project Leader
- Brian Ham-Biologist
- Bradley Flickinger- Maintenance