

# Monthly Activity Narrative

## Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery (HNFH)

January 2020

**Meetings/Training/Events:**

- Jan.15- Regional Contractor Tim Officer and Engineer Mike O’Shea was here to meet with possible contractors on the sand settling basin project. Seven contract companies arrived with the majority being local, which is a plus for us. Tim and Mike explained to them what the project entailed. Project Leader Eaton showed them the settling basin and pipeline where the spring water comes from. The three USFWS representatives answered any questions they had and they left knowing a little more about what they will be bidding for and who some of their competition is.
  
- Fish Bio Tech Dominic Giordullo, has taken over the Assistant Hatchery Manager roll now that the prior assistant, David Oviedo retired. In truth Dominic has done the duties as the assistant Fish Hatchery Manager position since before I arrived here and I’ve been here since August 2018. Dominic has done a very commendable job. With Dominic, we have implemented several long overdue changes, e.g. less fish densities in their rearing environment (tanks and raceways) to start with. We have recorded less fish mortalities and disease issues since this change. Another idea is utilizing different egg hatching jars that are located on the nursery tanks allowing the fry, after hatching, to go straight into these rearing tanks. This requires less fry handling by the crew which means less mortality. Dominic further improved the new egg jars by putting in a petcock valve that allows the sand coming in from our main water source (spring) to be drained off. Last year, it appeared the sand would abrade the outer shell of the eggs causing premature hatch that lead to increased mortality. Being able to drain off the sand daily has helped a great deal. Dominic is always looking to make duties done here, more efficient.

**Mitigation/Recreational Fish Production:**

- January we received; 210,094-Shasta Domestic strain (SSD) rainbow eggs from Ennis NFH. With these eggs incubating, we now are full in the nursery building with 287,080 fry and the above eggs. The outside raceways Banks C through E having 255,376 fish in them. All doing well but a surge of sand coming from our main source spring has caused some concern for incubating eggs.

The below table shows fish eggs received at Hotchkiss NFH during the month of January

Species	Strain	Number	Weight	Fish/lb.	Size/in
RBT	SSD-ENN-20	210,094			
	<b>Total</b>	<b>210,094</b>			

RBT= Rainbow Trout; FLD= Fish Lake Domestic, SSD= Shasta Domestic, ARD=Arlee Domestic, HxH= Hofer x Harrison (Colorado Strain), and BNT= Brown Trout; PRD=Plymouth Rock Domestic. ENN- Ennis NFH, and WSS= White Sulphur Springs NFH.

Below table shows fish currently on station at the end of January, blue text means in nursery.

Species	Strain	Number	Weight	Fish/lb.	Size/in
RBT	FLD-ENN-19	126,958	27,540	4.61	8.16
RBT	SSD-WSS-19	128,418	26,154	4.91	7.99
RBT	HxH-CRH-19	85,380	250	341.03	1.94
RBT	ARD-ENN-19	84,320	113	746.19	1.50
BNT	PRD-BNT-19	117,380	188	624.18	1.59
	<b>Total</b>	<b>542,456</b>	<b>54,245</b>		

- The crew, Mark Gaub, Dominic Giordullo and myself have been busy getting the outside raceways bank A&B cleaned and disinfected to receive fry from the nursery in February. The weather has not cooperate at all, snow and cold.

### **Fish Health:**

- Bozeman Fish Health Center (BFHC) diagnosed our FLD trout with furunculosis. We feed medicated feed to the FLD's for a 10 day treatment. FLD's mortality reduced shortly after starting the treatment and appear to be normal now. BFHC will be here in the middle of February to do our annual fish inspection. We hope the furunculosis will be gone. SSD stain rainbow appear less susceptible for they show no signs of furunculosis. I still have high hopes this rainbow trout strain (SSD) is resistant to the furunculosis variation we have here.

### **Hatchery Maintenance**

- Jan 2- Quarters #3: Project Leader replaced heater vents with new vents. The old vents were painted over and/or the lever was broken off. The resident could not open or close the vent to let warm air into the rooms.
- Jan 29- Quarters#3: Had a slow water leak from the toilet tank. Project Leader separated the tank from the toilet, replaced the gasket. There appeared to be a hairline crack that only showed on the outside of the tank and not on the inside. When it was put back together the leak was still there. When looking to replace just the tank, the cost was as much or more than replacing the whole toilet. A toilet was place on order and delivery will be next month.