

Monthly Activity Narrative

Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery (HNFH)

March 2020

Meetings/Training/Events:

- March 6- Project Leader Craig Eaton attended the 8th grade Delta County School District Career Fair at Hotchkiss Middle School. The event was attended by five different schools within Delta County; approximately 1,200 total students and 26 different booths were present. A lot of kids were interested in fishing and what Hotchkiss NFH does for them.



- March 18– Valley Restoration & Construction from Montrose, CO, visited the hatchery to give us quote on removing approximately 60 foot of six and four inch above ground asbestos concrete pipe. This pipe needs to be removed from its location so another contractor can start on the sand settling basin project in June. Since asbestos is considered a hazardous material, only qualified companies can move it. Valley Restoration's quote was accepted and they will have to wrap each segment of pipe with plastic and take it to a hazardous landfill to dispose of the asbestos waste next month.

Mitigation/Recreational Fish Production:

- March- the Hotchkiss crew was busy moving fish from the nursery to the outside raceways. The vacated nursery tanks allows the crew to disinfect each tank prior to receiving approximately 350,000 total White Sulphur Springs Shasta rainbow trout eggs. Currently we have 671,483 fish on station at different stages of growth.

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

Species	Strain	Number	Weight	Fish/lb.	Size/in
RBT	FLD-ENN-19	92,542	32,816	2.82	9.60
RBT	SSD-WSS-19	124,708	43,003	2.90	9.52
RBT	HxH-CRH-19	89,250	977	103	2.9
RBT	ARD-ENN-19	100,188	1,101	91	3.02
BNT	PRD-BNT-19	100,635	317	318.3	2.01
RBT	SSD-ENN-20	164,160	573	286.5	2.06
	TOTAL fish	671,483	78,787		
RBT	SSD-WSS-20	335,120			
	Total eggs	335,120			

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.

- We had great survival in our SSD-WSS-20 strain of rainbow trout in the nursery; better than we expected. This means that we needed to get rid of approximately 56,000 two inch fish. We decided it would be better to stock fish at a smaller life cycle stage than to overcrowd raceways compromising fish health later on. These fish were stocked at Crawford Reservoir, CO, as forage fish since ice was melted out enough for us to do so. I'm sure it was a welcome site for resident fish (crappie, bass, northern pike, etc.) this time of year.

Fish Health:

- Results from the February fish health inspection by Lacey Hopper and Rick Cordes, Bozeman Fish Health Center, came back negative for bacteria and parasitology. We did treat the FLD fish earlier this year for furunculosis (*Aeromonas salomnicida*) and it appears to have cleared up those fish. We can now begin the spring stocking season starting at Heron Reservoir in New Mexico.
- We are developing a study showing where in our production water the furunculosis is residing. Fish Health is in the process of running the water samples through PCR to see if the *A.Sal* bacteria is present and where.

Hatchery Maintenance

- CDSO Mark Gaub and Manager Eaton went through the annual Facility Safety Inspection where both go through each building looking for possible unsafe hazards. We found 21 such hazards that for the most part could be remedied quickly.
- Crew assembled the egg incubation jars prior to rainbow trout eggs coming in from White Sulfur Springs NFH. The crew will leave the four tanks on the west side empty in order to intercept sand from the production spring water. Last year sand from the spring ended up in a lot of the eggs jars. Just trying to avoid any unnecessary egg mortality.



- Power washing raceways prior to moving nursery fish into them.
- Moving nursery fish.

