

# Monthly Activity Narrative

## Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery (HNFH)

September 2020

### Mitigation/Recreational Fish Production:

- Completed annual FIS planning and distribution information for Hotchkiss NFH.
- Most fish currently on station are doing well. The fall fish are on track for stocking in October to beginning of November.

Below table shows fish currently on station at the end of August.

Species	Strain	Number	Weight	Fish/lb.	Size/in
RBT	ARD-ENN-19	90,070	21,968	4.10	8.48
RBT	SSD-ENN-20	148,911	29,371	5.07	7.90
RBT	SSD-WSS-20	255,904	10,079	25.39	4.62
	<b>TOTAL Fish</b>	<b>494,885</b>	<b>61,418</b>		

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

### Fish Health:

- Younger fish in A & B banks started showing weird behavior like swimming in a cork screw configuration. Mortality in these banks started to rise slightly. We sent fish samples to Bozeman Fish Health Center and it was hard for them to find what the problem was. Histology report showed signs of Bacterial Coldwater Disease and steatitis. We ordered medicated feed to help with the Coldwater Disease and sent in feed samples to Abernathy Fish Technology Center, WA to see if fish feed could be contributing to the steatitis.

### Hatchery Maintenance

- The crew is still working on repainting walls and ceiling, working on doors and trim replacement in quarters #2. We currently do not have anyone moving in to the quarters anytime soon so this project is being done when we have spare time.
- Arrival of new raceway LHO which was tested for efficiency worked well and the rest of the 14 LHO's will be fabricated and be installed as we get to it.

**Sand Settling Basin Reconfigure Project.** Kissner, General Contractor Inc. was awarded the project and work was continuing throughout September. Weekly conferences with Regional Engineer, Jason Crownholm, Stantec Engineer, Gram Hart, and the Kissner team keep the project on point and on schedule (Deferred Maintenance project).

**Installing frame structure over the settling basin.**



**Above: crew helping pull fabric over the frame.**



**Top fabric and side mesh installed.**



**Inside cover of settling basin.**



**End zippered doorways.**

For the most part this project is wrapping up and will be completed the first week of October.

### Security Gate Installation Project.

Taylor Fence Company of Grand Junction, Colorado was awarded this project. Over several years there have been numerous visitors after dark to the hatchery. Complaints from neighbors of cars coming in and out of the hatchery and traffic on Hatchery Road after dark were getting more frequent. We hadn't noticed any damage to personnel property until one incident of a contractor's truck window being broken out. A license plate number was recorded and the sheriff said this belonged to a known drug dealer. It was decided that a security gate on top of the hill would prevent after dark visits.



Security gate work began September 14<sup>th</sup> and was completed the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The gate is operated by solar power. We have been using it for a week now and it is operating like it should.

**Degas Chamber Project:** This project was on the 2021 Deferred Maintenance list. Last year we had Jack Christiansen Consulting do an audit on the infrastructure and operations of Hotchkiss NFH. He suggested that for us to reduce the supersaturation of nitrogen in our incoming spring water that we replace our existing oxygen contactors (columns) with new resized oxygen contactors. At the time of the audit we had packed columns injected with liquid oxygen (LOX) to drive off supersaturated nitrogen. Resizing these columns and not having to pack them with media would create a vacuum when water flows through them creating a slightly negative atmosphere in the column and when LOX is added would displace nitrogen more efficiently in the incoming water making water less detrimental to the production fish. Jack drew up plans of the columns with dimensions. We had a local metal fabricator build us three stainless steel columns last year and then three more this year. The crew removed the old columns and installed the new columns utilizing some of the contractors personnel and equipment from the above settling basin project since they were already here. We will replace old oxygen lines with new lines and add gauges to determine water level in the column. Hopefully this will reduce nitrogen in our production water when all is said and done.





New columns compared to old corrugated column.



Plucking out old columns.

### Hatchery Personnel:

Current employees at Hotchkiss NFH for the month are as follows:

- Craig Eaton – Project Leader
- Dominic Giordullo – Bio Science Tech
- Katelynn Russell- Bio Science Tech
- James Needham- Bio Science Tech