

Monthly Activity Narrative

Hotchkiss National Fish Hatchery (HNFH)

September 2019

Meetings/Training/Events:

- Geo Supervisor (ND, SD, MT), Nate Weise and Aquaculture Engineer, Jack Christiansen came to Hotchkiss NFH for a hatchery infrastructure review. Hagerman NFH benefited from Jacks review of a partial reuse aquaculture system and degas chamber installed their while I was the Project Leader. HNFH does have fish health issues that may be attributed to high nitrogen in its spring production water. The current degas structure doesn't seem to be working at removing nitrogen efficiently. Standard Operating procedures are not available for the crew to know how it is supposed to be operated. Both Jack and Nate toured the hatchery, collected information on current HNFH trout rearing, and measured spring water oxygen and nitrogen levels at different locations on hatchery grounds. The next day Jack showed the crew how the degas chamber was designed to operate and all went to the structure to observe Jack setting up the water flows, the column vacuum levels, and measured nitrogen levels to see if water quality improved. The water quality did improve, and now we can't wait for Jacks report on HNFH infrastructure review to see other ways to improve operations here.

Mitigation/Recreational Fish Production:

- This month the crew was busy cleaning and feeding fish in the nursery and raceways. We are gearing up to begin fall stocking next month and moving fish from the nursery to outside raceways.

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

Species	Strain	Number	Weight	Fish/lb.	Size/in
RBT	FLD-19	99,707	3,961	25.17	4.63
RBT	HxH-18	70,835	22,924	3.09	9.32
RBT	HxH-18-VAC	41,627	12,207	3.41	9.02
RBT	SSD-19 ENN	123,019	24,409	5.03	7.92
RBT	SSD-19 WSS	140,158	5,036	27.83	4.48
	Total	475,346	68,537		

RBT= Rainbow, FLD= Fish Lake Domestic, SSD= Shasta Domestic, HxH= Hofer x Harrison (Colorado Strain), and VAC= Vaccinated. ENN-Ennis NFH, WSS= White Sulphur Springs NFH.

Fish Health:

- Fish health is good except for the Hofer x Harrison strain in E-bank under the covered structure. This strain has given us problems historically having elevated mortality right before stocking and it's happening now. Jack Christiansen gave us a few recommendations that will help improve fish health that we can begin implementing immediately.

Hatchery Maintenance

- Hotchkiss NFH crew help with pouring concrete patio's for all government quarters. Ed Hunter an experienced concrete contractor helped in getting the ground cleared, sloping away from the houses, forming, and pouring the concrete for the two remaining government quarters. Ed also helped with landscaping the front yard in quarters #3, so water flows away from the house when we heavy rains, demolishing the old buckled pavement driveway and replaced it with a new concrete one.

