



LOWER SNAKE RIVER COMPENSATION PLAN

FISH FOR THE FUTURE



MATT HOW GRAPHIC - USFWS



CLEARWATER PIPELINE LEAK - JUNE 2023

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN LSRCP

SUMMER 2023

Lower Snake River Compensation Plan

FISH FOR THE FUTURE



COORDINATOR'S CORNER

It was a busy summer out there. I had the opportunity to help teach a couple of Coldwater Fish Culture Courses with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. One was in Kingston, Washington (near Seattle) and the other was in Casper, Wyoming. It's always inspiring seeing the next generation of fish biologists and culturists. Lots of great ideas and optimism for the future. Of course, I was able to find a tiger trout in the Wyoming back country on my visit. Tiger trout may not be natural (triploid brook x brown trout hybrid), but they sure are a pretty fish.

The Clearwater pipeline gave us quite the scare this summer after blowing a leak through a 2-inch air relief line and blasting 40 feet in the air when uncovered. Fortunately, the temporary patch is holding and an engineering firm has just come on retainer to work on a fix for next Spring after the fish are moved off station. As always, hatchery infrastructure keeps us on our toes.

I read Doug Austen's, American Fisheries Society, opinion piece in the Idaho Statesman with some interest, but I'll admit I'm starting to tire of the same dam breaching arguments. That said, I've been a lifetime member of AFS since 2003 and do appreciate the work they do. You can read the piece and associated background papers for yourself.

Meanwhile, I feel like the fish biologists that are part of the Snake River System continue to do lots of work within the reality we have. And, I do hope we continue the tough conversations on all fronts, but not just hang our hat on dams will solve everything - after a record heat-breaking summer, our biggest challenge is just starting to come to fruition.

Stay safe, have fun, and Thanks for being Fish for the Future!

-Nate

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If you want to change the future you must focus on the present...

-Anonymous

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A HIGH MOUNTAIN TIGER TROUT

CLEARWATER PIPELINE

Leak in the Clearwater Primary Pipeline

Back in May 2023, staff at the Clearwater Hatchery noticed an unusual wet area along the Clearwater River. Further exploration revealed a leak in the primary pipeline for the hatchery. The pipe is under about 200 PSI and the leak was from a 2-inch galvanized elbow to a manual air relief valve.

With no way to shut-off the water, Knight Construction was called in to come up with a “hot fix” for the leak. The custom built a 2-inch saddle clamp to secure the area for the remainder of the rearing season. In the meantime, LSRCP is soliciting a design contractor to develop a permanent fix for next Spring (May 2024).



INITIAL EXCAVATION



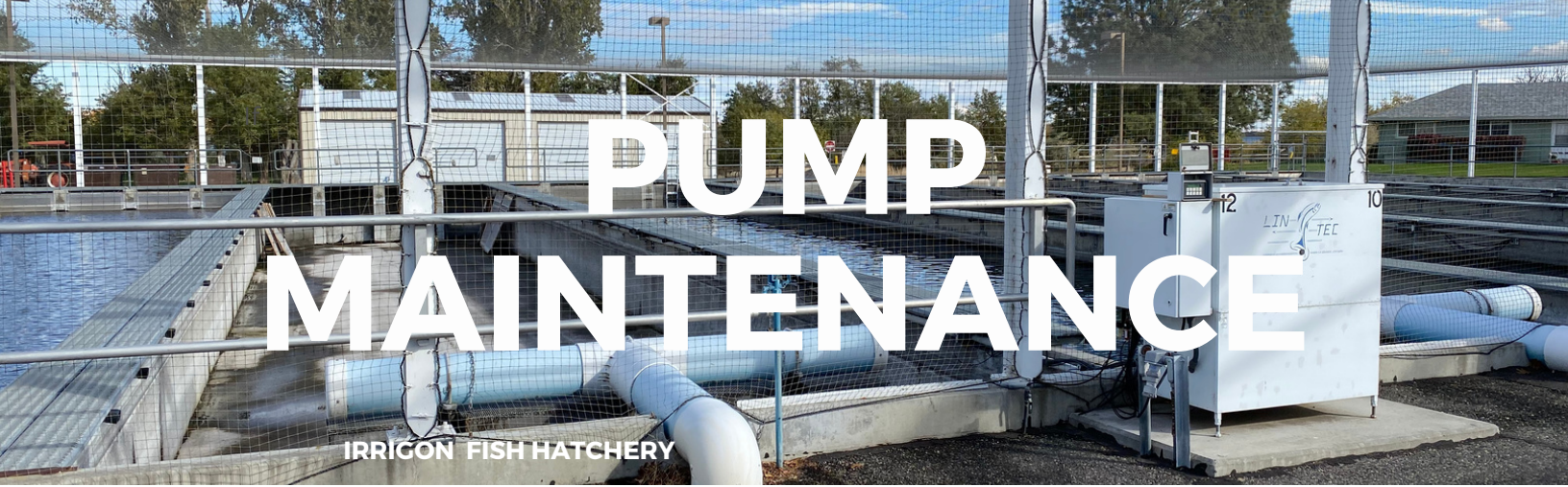
TRYING TO STOP THE LEAK



THE CRACKED FITTING



CUSTOM SADDLE FIX



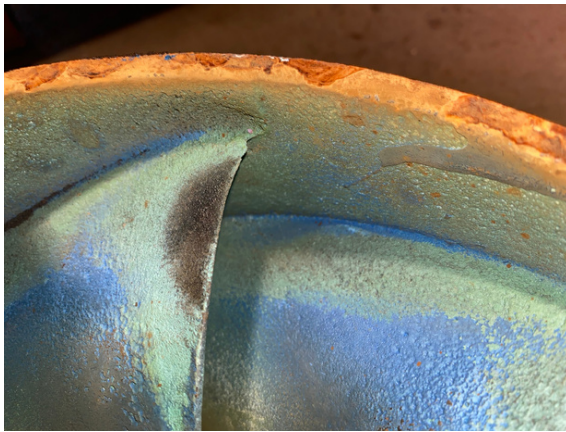
PUMP MAINTENANCE

IRRIGON FISH HATCHERY

IRRIGON PUMP IMPELLERS

If anyone knows pumps well in the program, certainly the staff at Irrigon Fish Hatchery are right up there. Anytime you work with 100% pumped water (Irrigon, Lyons Ferry, and Dworshak come to mind), you've got someone thinking about pumps.

For the most part, water pumps are exceptionally reliable. The motors last a long time (assuming everything is balanced) and they can pump a tremendous amount of water. That said, they also wear in funny ways. Here's a pulled impeller from Irrigon this summer that shows classic "cavitation wear". Cavitation wear can be caused by supersaturated conditions and small gas bubbles "exploding" on the pump impeller edge. Of course, it can also be caused by sand or just straight up length of service. In any case, this one is ready for a replacement or rebuild. Nice work identifying and getting this impeller out for repair!



IMPELLER CAVITATION WEAR EXAMPLE

MCCALL HOLDING PONDS

MCCALL HOLDING POND CONSTRUCTION - JAN 2023

McCall Adult Holding Ponds

The McCall Adult holding ponds are officially open for business! Temperatures at the South Fork Salmon River facility have been routinely exceeding 70 F over the past 5 years. LSRCP was able to couple normal maintenance funding with the Reserve Distribution Clause (RDC) funding in 2023 to get this project to completion. To meet the spawning time-window, the initial concrete pours occurred mid-winter with glycol-looped heaters to keep the concrete at curing temps. It worked, and now all of the Brood Year 2023 Chinook spawning can occur in the new ponds. The fish look fantastic being held at 52 F instead of 70 F! Happy Fish = Happy Future!

The final shade structure will be completed in September 2023.



CREW CROWDING IN THE NEW PONDS



THE START OF THE NEXT GENERATION



TEMPORARY SHADE STRUCTURE



MORE DAM STUFF

American Fisheries Society Position on Dam Breaching

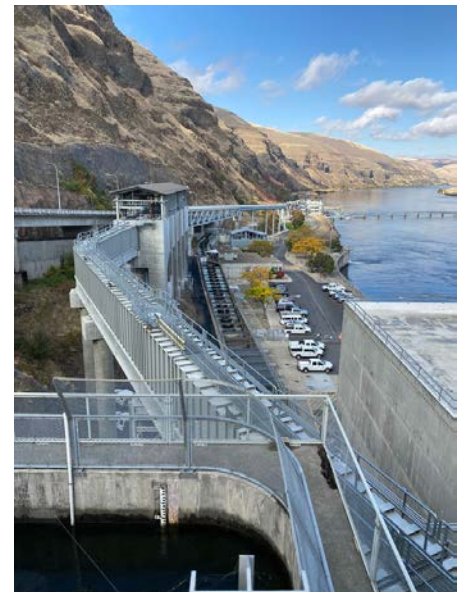
Doug Austen, Executive Director of the American Fisheries Society posted several popular articles after the January policy statement on breaching of the Lower Snake River Dams by AFS:

<https://fisheries.org/policy-media/recent-policy-statements/statement-of-the-american-fisheries-society-afs-and-the-western-division-afs-wdafs-about-the-need-to-breach-the-four-dams-on-the-lower-snake-river/>

Doug's quote:

Science tells us that we must remove the lower four Snake River dams to save critically at-risk populations of wild Snake River salmon. The basin's native salmon and steelhead hover on the brink of extinction. Today, only 1-2% of historic wild salmon and steelhead return to the Snake River to spawn above the four lower Snake River dams. Climate change will continue to worsen the outlook for these coldwater species. Ensuring access to this high-elevation habitat is the best opportunity to promote broad-scale population recovery in the face of warming waters.

<https://www.idahostatesman.com/opinion/readers-opinion/article278060567.html>



JOE BUMGARNER



Joe Bumgarner Send-Off

Joe Bumgarner headed off into retirement this summer with a retirement kick-off party.

Some pics from the festivities for those of you that still had to work.

Great job and Congratulations!

