



Mora National Fish Hatchery

February 2016

Spawning Begins

The 2016 spawning season began on February 23. Lineages spawned in February included Main and South Diamond with Whiskey and Spruce not as ready. Hatchery staff was assisted by Aaron Frater-Schmidt from Gavins Point NFH, who was on a two week detail, and several volunteers from Trout Unlimited. Spawning will continue until the end of March.





Influent Water Degasser

The cross current influent stripping tower was converted to a vacuum degasser in February to provide influent water to the Z-habitats systems. Three Z-habitats increased available space for broodstock by 180 families. The Hatchery needs a minimum of 80 families (spawn crosses) per Gila trout lineage to meet Broodstock Management Plan goals. Richie Garcia and Aaron Frater-Schmidt install a cap plate onto the “exhaust stack” of the stripping tower.

Intern Jamie Conway Starts

Jamie Conway, a student at Luna Community College, started an 100 hour internship in February. Jamie is a Computer Science major, but is very interested in natural resources, so this internship will give her a chance to explore a career in fisheries. Jamie assisted the staff with feeding, cleaning, and spawning. Thanks Jamie!



Stuck!

Project Leader Nate Wiese and Biologist Jeff Conway answered a SCADA alarm at 330 am and unfortunately did not notice the road had drifted over during the night, leading to a stuck vehicle. The vehicle was freed after Nate walked back and retrieved the Hatchery’s snowplow. They then had to plow the road to get to the well field. A normal 20 minute task took 3 hours. What a morning!



Detail

Aaron Frater-Schmidt, a Biological Science Technician with Gavin's Point National Fish Hatchery performed a two week detail at the hatchery from February 22 to March 4. He assisted with numerous hatchery projects and spawning during Grant Langmaid's Fisheries Academy trip. THANKS Aaron!

Egg Treatment System Installed

Hatchery staff installed a formalin treatment system on the vertical stack incubators, eliminating the inherent problems with the chicken waters in previous use. This system uses off-the-shelf components including an ATV sprayer pump, irrigation emitters, 15 minute spring timer, and pvc plumbing. Aquashade was added to the formalin to provide visual confirmation during treatment.



Shady Acres Completed

Renovations to Shady Acres were completed by the end of February. The system is currently being tested for proper operation and to cycle the bio-filters prior to the arrival of the Bonytail from the Southwestern ARRC. This major project had all staff members involved in the conversion due to the short time frame. Thanks Everyone for a successfully project!



| Production Lineage | Brood Year | Purpose | Location | Number | Mortality | Sample (fpp) | Length (in) | Biomass (lbs) |
|--------------------|--------------|----------|------------|--------|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Main Diamond | 2013 | Brood | Raceway 5T | 346 | 39* | 0.5 | 17.1 | 692 |
| | 2014 | Brood | Raceway 6 | 950 | 6 | 0.9 | 14.1 | 1055 |
| | 2014 | Wild | VC East 2 | 67 | 0 | 9.8 | 6.3 | 7 |
| | 2015 | Brood | R1T | 865 | 3 | 7.1 | 7.1 | 121 |
| | 2015 | Recovery | R1B | 2,567 | 13 | 7.8 | 6.8 | 329 |
| | Total | | | | 4,795 | 61 | 2.2 | 10.4 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-------|--------------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| South Diamond | 2012 | Wild | VC West 1,2,3 | 70 | 2 | 0.7 | 15.2 | 100 |
| | 2013 | Brood | Raceway 5B | 323 | 2 | 0.5 | 17.2 | 646 |
| | 2014 | Brood | Raceway 7 | 590 | 8 | 1 | 13.7 | 590 |
| | 2015 | Brood | R2T | 819 | 2 | 10.6 | 6.2 | 77 |
| | 2015 | Recovery | R2B | 2,376 | 7 | 8.5 | 6.7 | 280 |
| | Total | | | | 4,178 | 21 | 2.5 | 10.0 |

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|---------------|--------------|----------|---------------|-------|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Whiskey Creek | 2011 | Wild | Whiskey Creek | 60 | 2 | 0.3 | 20.3 | 200 |
| | 2014 | Brood | Raceway 8 | 550 | 9 | 1.2 | 12.7 | 457 |
| | 2015 | Brood | R3T | 615 | 1 | 8.8 | 6.6 | 70 |
| | 2015 | Recovery | R3B | 2,094 | 2 | 8.5 | 6.7 | 251 |
| | Total | | | | 3,319 | 14 | 3.4 | 9.0 |

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|--------------|--------------|-------|----------------|----|-----------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Spruce Creek | 2010/2013 | Wild | Spruce Creek 1 | 27 | 0 | 1.2 | 12.8 | 22 |
| | 2014 | Brood | RW Circular | 47 | 0 | 0.7 | 15.6 | 67 |
| | 2014 | Wild | Spruce Creek 2 | 10 | 0 | 3.1 | 9.3 | 3 |
| | Total | | | | 84 | 0 | 0.9 | 14.1 |

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|------------|--------------|------|------------------|----|------------|----------|------------|-----------|
| Iron Creek | 2011 | Wild | Spruce Creek 3,4 | 32 | 0 | 0.7 | 15.2 | 46 |
| | 2013 | Wild | VC East 3,4 | 94 | 2** | 16.2 | 5.4 | 6 |
| | Total | | | | 126 | 2 | 2.4 | 52 |

| | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|---------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Total All Lineages | | | | 12,502 | 98 | 2.5 | 10.0 | 5,019 |
|---------------------------|--|--|--|---------------|-----------|------------|-------------|--------------|

* On 2/28/16, 35 fish jumped out of Raceway 5T by knocking off one of the heavy raceway covers. This has never happened before according to current staff.

** Mortality in small fish population, fish appear to never have converted to the hatchery diet, very small.



Quarters #4 Repaired

A cold snap during February froze the water lines in Quarters #4 after the furnace had gone out. The lines were broken in so many places that the decision was made to replace them throughout the house. A local contractor was hired to perform the work and he had the house up and running again in short order.

Upcoming Events

- Spawning continues throughout the month.
- FAC Regional Office staff to assist with spawning during March.
- Richie Garcia on detail at the Las Vegas NWR from March 7 through the 11th.
- Bonytail chub transfer from Southwestern ARRC to take place March 15th
- Stocking to take place on March 16, 28 and 30 with assistance from the Glenwood State Fish Hatchery.

In Brief

Lori Casados attended the Administrative Conference on February 1 through the 5.

Grant Langmaid at Fisheries Academy from February 22 to March 4.

Maintenance

One of the level sensors for the water reservoir failed at the beginning of February.

The drum filter drive chain on system 2 broke on February 19.

System 3 was shutdown for maintenance during February .

Well 3 was disabled during February due to a failing diverter valve.

A door to the Visitor's Center was replaced after a wind gust warped it.

Hatchery Staff

Nate Wiese, Project Leader
Lori Casados, Admin. Assistant
Jeff Conway, Fish Biologist
Grant Langmaid, Fish Biologist
Richie Garcia, Maintenance Worker
Vacant, Biological Technician
Daniel Gallegos, Intern
Sandy Kalb, Volunteer
Jeremiah Olivas, Volunteer
Jamie Conway, Intern

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