



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Oregon Hatchery Research Center (OHRC) Monthly Progress Report

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Facility Issues

- OHRC staff rented a trencher to dig a trench for two new sprinkler lines. One area was converted from drip irrigation, so underground pipe and sprinkler heads were installed.
- A cover was purchased for the facilities silt settling pond. Leaving the pond uncovered increases algae growth in the pond as well as debris falling into the pond (leaves). We will install the new cover in October, after first cleaning out the pond.
- The facilities domestic water was sampled this month for its quarterly bacteria sample as well as a periodic arsenic sample. Both samples came back negative.
- Last winter a screen blew out in the fish ladder allowing fish to pass into the silt pond head box. Although a temporary fix was in place, this month staff repaired the screen in the fish ladder while the creek level was low. There is currently a redundant screen system in place to prevent this from happening in the future.
- OHRC will have a courtesy OR-OHSA inspection next month. Staff has been preparing procedural documents and taking care of safety issues prior to this inspection.

Fish Handling/Research Projects

- Ben Ramirez, an OSU grad student working with Jason Dunham, continues his project this month. Ben's project is looking at ecological impacts of Cutthroat Trout and Sculpin, as well as survival of both hatchery and wild steelhead fry. Ben has varied amounts of artificial cover in each of the stream sections.
- We wrapped up incubation of steelhead eggs and fry for David Noakes, Kassi Cole and others. Three groups of steelhead were incubated at heated, ambient and chilled water temperatures. The range of temperatures is +/- 8 degrees Fahrenheit. In total six wild and six hatchery families were used for this project. The project will help to determine if incubation temperature causes salmonids to change sex. In other fish, increased rearing temperatures have shown to cause sex changes in fish populations.
- This month ½ of the chilled group of steelhead from Noakes temperature study was sampled. Sampling entails measuring and weighing 50 fish/family. We also preserved genetic tissue from each of 100 fish to determine the genetic sex of each fish as well as the body from each of the same 100 fish to do histology and determine the type of gametes each fish produces. The other ½ of this chilled group we will rear for up to six months to further increase fish size and gamete production.

Miscellaneous

-Ryan met with Bryan Chambers, our current Occupational Skills Training program student/employee, and his advisor from Chemeketa Community College. Bryan's 18 month program is over half way finished. He continues to split time between OHRC and Alsea Hatchery learning basic fish culture skills.

-Ryan attended the Statewide Hatchery Managers Meeting this month. There were a number of discussions related to hatchery programs included a steelhead genetics discussion from Michael Blouin and an OHRC update from David Noakes.

-Ryan attended the Northwest Region Fish Biologist Meeting in Silverton this month. David Noakes gave an OHRC update presentation and Ryan gave a presentation on OHRC Triploid Trout research efforts.