

1982



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Dear Foundation Member:

As I write this letter in mid-April, Henrys Lake is asleep under a thick sheet of ice and the extraordinary cover of snow we have all been praying for to break the drouth. But we all anticipate the advent of summer, which is really now not so far off, and those glorious days that we spend on the lake. There is nothing that will beat summertime in the high country of the West. Let's keep it that way!

After consulting with several people by phone who have the facts, I am feeling some optimism that we are going to have better fishing days on Henrys Lake in the future -- a little uplift in 1982, a better time in 1983, and good fishing in 1984. The lake got in desperate straits the last couple years, and it has to make a big comeback to make these predictions come true. I am counting on the present program of rearing and stocking larger fish (fingerlings instead of fry) to cause a dramatic turnaround. We have already seen evidence in the hybrid program and in the 1980 cutthroat stocking that this makes a real difference. Two million fingerling cutthroats per year are now going in, along with 200,000 hybrids, also of fingerling size.

One encouraging fact is that the run of spawning cutthroats at the hatchery has picked up this spring. The take of eggs is way ahead of last year.

The Henrys Lake Foundation will play a vital role in bringing the lake back where we all want it for fishing quality and keeping it there. If we will stick together and be vigilant, never again can the State of Idaho rob this lake for stocking other areas and remain indifferent when the fish population starts to drop. I do not feel that they want a replay of the humiliating mismanagement and all the attendant criticism it brought about. To their credit I feel that they now have a much more enlightened outlook and far better management at the top levels of Fish and Game. The people we saw last summer are people we can work with.

Then too, as another convincing reason to stay banded together to protect our lake, there are always new threats coming up. For example, the idea of exploring the Henrys Lake area for oil and gas, and the possible damage to the ecology that could entail. After all, Henrys Lake is in the Overthrust Belt we are always reading about. There is going to be constant pressure from now on to mine for oil. An organization like ours can be a real watchdog on such activity.

Pat and I are planning to continue our all-out support for the Henrys Lake Foundation in 1982 and right on into the future, and we hope you will too. The few dollars per year we spend for that participation will pay big dividends. If we all stand together, finance our share of the conservation program around the lake with the modest funds we raise, stay in touch with the landowners who own the tributaries and spawning grounds, work with the personnel in Fish and Game, use our influence with our fellow fishermen to observe good sportsmanship and conservation practices, and always strive to protect this great productive lake, fishing will get better and stay better, and we shall all know we played a part in it. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

John