



HENRY'S LAKE
FOUNDATION

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c/o Mike Glenn
Secretary-Treasurer
227 University Avenue
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

-or-

c/o Richard Prange
Newsletter Coordinator
2320 Independence Drive
Boise, Idaho 83706

NEWSLETTER



The Henry's Lake Foundation invites you to join our non-profit, tax exempt corporation. This organization was formed to preserve, protect, and enhance Henry's Lake now and in the future. All proceeds will be used directly towards the improvements of this great fishery with no funds going for administration or salaries. Just fill in the information below and send this application with your contribution so that you can be a part of the HENRY'S LAKE FOUNDATION.

NAME _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____

_____ enroll me as a member. Enclosed is a check for \$10 annual dues or \$100 life membership. I'm also enclosing \$ _____ as a additional donation (strictly optional)

Thank you—Mike Glenn, Sec. Tres.—227 University Ave.—Twin Falls, Idaho 83301



HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION

June 1985

NEWSLETTER

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

by John O'Neall, Jr.

First, speaking for all members of Henrys Lake Foundation, I would like to thank Richard Prange of Boise, our Newsletter coordinator, for the beautiful job done on the Newsletter received in April--not only for its classy appearance, but also for the "meat and taters" contained in it, the thoroughly developed information imparted to all members. We must also express gratitude for the design and art work done gratis by Don Gerhardt Advertising of Sandpoint. The Newsletter makes us look like the first class organization we endeavored to be from the start.

It would appear that all efforts are meshing to protect Henrys Lake from a possible catastrophe should a major drawdown be necessary in the future. Idaho Department of Fish and Game is consulting with the water company well in advance of any action. See Steve Elle's letter in the April Newsletter. If major repairs are needed, they may be postponed until 1986. The situation will be closely followed by all interested parties. Every effort must be made to protect the lake.

The new stocking plan for Henrys Lake in 1985 makes much sense in view of the demonstrated declining growth rate of fish in the lake. Under the 1985 plan, the hybrid program (in which there is keen interest by the fishermen) will get a break. Hybrids will be a much larger percentage of the fingerlings stocked. The numbers of the hybrids planted the past few years have consistently fallen short of the stated goals of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game for those years. In 1985 the number of hybrids to be stocked, including the heat shock program, will be significantly increased, while the number of cutts will decline. The results should be readily apparent in 2 or 3 years--just as the failures on the hybrid program have been in the past.

Once again, as in 1984, barring some natural accident during the past winter, it should be a great season for fishing Henrys Lake. Enjoy! Until we meet in tube or boat this summer, I shall leave you with this ancient Chinese proverb: "If you wish to be happy for 1 hour, get intoxicated. If you wish to be happy for 3 days, get married. If you wish to be happy for 8 days, kill your pig and eat it. If you wish to be happy forever, learn to trout fish!"

HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION ANNUAL GATHERING

Mrs. Dotty Parker of Wild Rose Lodge has given approval to hold the 1985 Henrys Lake Foundation annual potluck and meeting at that location. The event is scheduled to commence at 4 p.m., Saturday, July 6. We will plan to hold the gathering outdoors--bring folding chairs if you have them. The Foundation

will provide the soft drinks, paper plates, and plastic utensils. We are asking each couple to bring a hot plate, cold cuts dish, salad, or dessert adequate for about 8-10 people. If inclement weather prevails--always a good possibility at Henrys Lake--we will move indoors at Wild Rose. Steve Elle and other Idaho Department of Fish and Game personnel will be present to discuss fishery matters, and we should have current information regarding dam repair efforts. John O'Neill will have some more words for us and Mike Glenn, Henrys Lake Foundation secretary-treasurer, will be in attendance to collect your 1985-86 dues and discuss our financial outlook.

A business meeting of the trustees will follow with election of new trustees and officers on the agenda. As always, the Foundation is looking for a few good men and women to serve in various capacities. We want folks to volunteer time, energy, and commitment in a manner in which they feel comfortable--as a trustee, article contributions to the Newsletter, brochure distribution, membership sign up, etc., etc. Your willingness to participate in the Henrys Lake Foundation organization makes a statement that you care about the lake's future and want to help in assuring future quality fishing. If you are so inclined to volunteer services, look up or write John O'Neill (spends his summer at Staley Springs Lodge), Mike Glenn, or Richard Prange.

HENRYS LAKE UPDATE

by Richard Prange

This writeup reflects the latest information that I have been able to secure from various sources as of the first week in June. As such, by the time the June Newsletter is in hand, there could be new developments, especially in regard to dam repair plans by the North Fork Water Company.

First off, the Henrys Lake Hatchery egg taking operation this spring has been an overwhelming success. The run of cutthroat spawners into hatchery facilities has far exceeded the egg supply needs of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Cutthroat egg quotas for both Henrys Lake and other Idaho needs have been fully met. In addition, some 350,000 hybrid eggs have developed to fry stage, which bodes well for achieving a target release this fall of 200,000 juvenile fish. Idaho Department of Fish and Game is also shooting for a plant of 100,000 young fish of the fast growing Canadian strain brook trout. This represents the highest combination release of hybrids and brookies in several years. As of writing, cutthroat trout spawners were continuing to enter the hatchery, and on May 24, an estimated 1,000 ripe fish were hauled to stock lake tributary streams. Pending availability of manpower and tank trucks, more excess cut spawners were to be released in Targee, Howard, and Duck Creeks. These fish should spawn in the wild and help increase the recruitment of naturally produced juvenile fish into the lake system.

On May 22, some 8,000 rainbow and cutthroat spawners were salvaged by Idaho Department of Fish and Game below the dam in Henrys Lake Outlet Creek. The majority were cutts that had passed over the dam from Henrys Lake. The rainbows migrated upstream from the Henrys Fork drainage. Movement of cutthroat trout downstream out of Henrys Lake has apparently been an increasing phenomenon the past couple of years. Steve Elle, Regional Fisheries Biologist, feels it may be correlated with higher cutthroat density in the lake. Most of the fish were 15"-17" spawners. They were seined,

trucked, and released around the Macks Inn and Ashton areas and in Island Park Reservoir. Meanwhile, Steve reported that fishing was excellent opening day of trout season (Memorial Day) when fishermen could get on the lake. There was incident of high winds and thundershowers and some boats were apparently damaged.

Core drilling of the dam will be finished by receipt of the Newsletter. Idaho State has mandated repairs to the dam to stop leaks, fix radial gate problems, and possibly rebuild the spillway. Dave Rydalch, manager for the North Fork Water Company that owns the dam and has storage rights in Henrys Lake, has said that they would like to commence with repairs this year. The bulk of the work would probably be done this fall. Radial gate and/or dam repairs potentially could necessitate a major drawdown of the lake. Idaho Department of Fish and Game has requested engineering review to evaluate the proposed cofferdam plans after the extent of dam repairs are established. A temporary earthen cofferdam would be needed to repair radial gate or dam structures and would be built upstream of the present damsite to allow work areas to be drained. The necessity for lake drawdown could be reduced by building the cofferdam higher. Idaho Department of Fish and Game has assured Henrys Lake Foundation representatives that they will work with the water district and are committed to do whatever is in their means to preserve the lake fishery. Some Idaho Department of Fish and Game funds may be available to cost share a portion of the cofferdam for fishery preservation purposes. The present bottom line, however, is that the amount and type of needed dam repairs have not been determined. We would anticipate that by July 6, at the annual Henrys Lake Foundation meeting, we should know what will be necessary to rehabilitate the dam.

Past Idaho Department of Fish and Game estimates have indicated that recreational fishing at Henrys Lake contributes over \$1,000,000 annually to local economies. We as Foundation members each have our own personal values that we place on Henrys Lake. It is important that the Foundation maintain its membership strength, stay committed to improving trophy trout fishing at Henrys Lake, and participate to the extent possible in the dam repair issue. A major lake drawdown could adversely impact lake fisheries, and our enhancement progress over the last few years would be lost.

TREASURY REPORT

by Mike Glenn

Financially the Foundation is sound. Currently, we have combined assets of over \$6,500 which includes both a checking account and certificates of deposit at 10.5 percent. Expenditures this last year included our Newsletter stationary, Dr. Thorguard's help in heat shocking the hybrids this spring, and our mailing permit. We did not transfer the Idaho Department of Fish and Game money this last fall since the status of the dam repair and rotary screens was not known. I ask your help in locating those members of the Henrys Lake Foundation that might not have received their Newsletter. If you know someone who is a member and didn't get on our membership list somehow, please let me know.

For those of you who will not be able to attend the annual meeting on July 6 at Wild Rose Lodge, I would encourage you to send your tax deductible due contribution (\$10 or more) for 1985-86 as soon as possible to:

Henrys Lake Foundation, c/o Mike Glenn, Secretary-Treasurer, 227 University Avenue, Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

THE NEWSLETTER

Mike Glenn, Henrys Lake Foundation secretary-treasurer, maintains the membership roster and should be notified in writing if your mailing address changes. Any address changes sent to Richard Prange, Newsletter coordinator, will be forwarded to Mike. We will update our membership mailing lists later this year. The whereabouts of the below listed Henrys Lake Foundation past members are presently unknown. Mike would like to have their current addresses if anyone is in the know.

Ron Meikle
John Adlard
John L. Runft
W. H. O'Riordan
Richard Brown

Billy A. Allen
Ed and Mary Lou Lewis
John McAliff
John Phillips

"AN ORIGIN OF SPECIES:" A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE FISH OF HENRYS LAKE

Cutthroat Trout--The only native trout in the Henrys Lake drainage. Records show that Yellowstone Lake cutthroat were planted in Henrys Lake along with cutthroat trout from Gold Creek, Idaho. Some influences of hybridization with rainbow trout are evident.

Brook Trout--Possibly gained access to Henrys Lake via the Snake River prior to dam construction in 1922; the first recorded plant of brook trout was in 1943. May have also entered the lake from ponds adjacent to the lake prior to first stocking. The State record brook trout was caught from Henrys Lake.

Mountain Whitefish--The whitefish was said to be very abundant in Henrys Lake historically but apparently began decreasing after the outlet was blocked by dam construction. The whitefish had all but disappeared from the lake by the 1950's. Not seen at all in the lake in recent years.

Sculpin--A Henrys Lake native and is very important as a forage item for large trout. A bottom-living fish seldom observed by anglers.

Rainbow Trout--Records show rainbow trout entering the lake as early as 1923. Rainbow trout are not native to the Upper Snake River Valley and are not stocked in the lake today.

Cutthroat Trout x Rainbow Trout Hybrids--Hybrids were stocked in Henrys Lake as early as 1950, and some natural hybrids probably existed prior to that (as a result of spawning occurring between indigenous cutthroat trout and planted rainbow trout). Rapid growth rates and large size make this fish a popular species with sportsmen.

Redside Shiner--Introduced into the lake in the late 1940's or early 1950's probably via the bait bucket. This small fish provides forage for trout. Not often seen by most Henrys Lake fishermen. Large numbers run up some tributaries during the summer months.

Dace--Little is known about the history of this fish in Henrys Lake. Preyed on by trout.