



**HENRYS LAKE  
FOUNDATION**

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

-or-

c/o Richard Prange  
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# NEWSLETTER



The Henrys Lake Foundation invites you to join our non-profit, tax exempt corporation. This organization was formed to preserve protect, and enhance Henrys 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 HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Please 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

November 1985

## NEWSLETTER

### WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Richard Prange

There were some significant developments "spawned" at the July 6, 1985 Henrys Lake Foundation annual membership meeting. Cooperative weather coupled with the gracious management of Wild Rose Lodge provided a fine setting for our gathering. By my estimate, 80+ folks were in attendance, each enjoying the company of those who love Henrys Lake plus the abundant and delicious pot luck dishes. I only wish that all our Foundation members could attend this event. It brings us together in common interest and is most illustrative of citizen concern for maintaining quality fishing and environment at Henrys Lake. Of particular note was the attendance of the new Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) Region 6 Supervisor, Herb Pollard along with Steve Elle and other department personnel. With his dominant fisheries background and many years of service, I believe Herb can appreciate the value in an organization such as ours in it's role of providing public support and funding for department programs.

Following the pot luck social, outgoing President John O'Neall, Jr. presided over general membership and Board of Trustees meetings. Steve Elle and Bruce Penske provided updates on IDFG hatchery programs, fishery management, enforcement efforts and dam repair issues. Following core drilling and other engineering investigations last spring, dam repair work was not determined to be as urgent by state and North Fork Water Company officials. The lake levels were subsequently maintained as normal throughout the season, even though it was an extremely dry summer. Water levels going into this winter will therefore be in good shape to assure a minimum of fish kill problems. See John O'Neall's article for additional info on future dam repair.

Bob Briscoe conducted nominating procedures for replacement of outgoing Trustees Ken Magee, Jack Griffith, Ron Dye and Dave Reese. Grant Klinger of Sugar City, ID, Walt Stephens and Jim Wright- both long time summer residents at Henrys Lake, and Fred Grimes of Ballwin, MO, were elected as new Foundation Trustees. Later, during the Board of Trustees meeting, John Magleby, local Henrys Lake rancher, was re-elected as Foundation Vice President and yours truly was voted in as President for the 1985/86 term. I will do by best to further the goals of the Foundation and have always felt that our organization will be recognized as the principal support for preservation of trophy and natural trout production at Henrys Lake.

The achievements of the Henrys Lake Foundation will be directly related to it's membership recruitment success, the fishery project funding that we can muster, and the willingness of our members to volunteer for various chores that need doing. I would hope that by this time next year, we can definitely see that our ranks have grown both in size and influence.

The most meaningful accomplishment, in my view, of the July Foundation meeting was the "planting of a seed" that resulted in the eventual construction of a fishery enhancement project that we can all be proud of. The project was undertaken on our own, as no "partnership" opportunity developed to transfer funds to IDFG in 1985 for enhancement work. Rancher and Vice President John Magleby, agreed to allow the Foundation to construct and fund a pilot fencing project on lands he owns which border Duck Creek- an important spawning and rearing tributary entering the west side of the lake. Much lip service has been paid to fencing Henrys Lake tributaries, but nothing was ever accomplished until now. In behalf of all Foundation members, I want to express my sincere gratitude to John for giving the Foundation the chance to build this much needed project. See details in the following article.

In closing, if you are receiving the Newsletter and have not paid your 1985/86, please renew your commitment and forward your tax deductible contribution posthaste to Mike Glenn, Secretary-Treasurer (address on Newsletter cover). A Foundation membership for a fishing friend would also represent a unique and thoughtful Christmas gift.

#### DUCK CREEK FENCING PROJECT

by Richard Prange

Unfortunately, no cost sharing ventures were identified during 1985 whereby the Henrys Lake Foundation could directly transfer funds to the IDFG for fishery improvement work. Even though, our Board of Trustees felt it was most important to maintain some momentum in implementing fishery improvement measures identified in the 1982 IDFG Henrys Lake Enhancement Plan. At the same time, an exceptional offer had developed from a land management and animal control consulting firm which would allow the Foundation to purchase fencing materials at wholesale prices. During the Board meeting, I read a letter from Ed Chaney of Chinook Northwest, Inc., Eagle, Idaho, explaining the generous offer. Ed, in briefly fishing the lake with me the last couple of years, had become familiar with the workings of the Foundation. His offer subsequently prompted the Board to request permission from John Magleby to construct a "pilot fencing project" on Duck Creek for the purposes of riparian (streambank) vegetation improvement. Stretches of Duck Creek had been previously targeted in the IDFG Enhancement Plan as needing fencing to help control heavy livestock grazing. Extensive livestock use adjacent to some sections of the stream was contributing to the elimination of valuable riparian vegetation which in turn caused severe streambank cutting. This soil erosion activity resulted in siltation of valuable spawning gravels. There are numerous other tributaries around the lake that exhibit similar fish habitat problems. Protective fencing will be an important treatment to improve spawning and rearing habitat in these situations. However, such fencing must be compatible with landowner livestock grazing operations

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On July 7, John Magleby, Ed Chaney and I walked a section of Duck Creek that meanders through the Magleby Ranch. John ranches along about 1 mile of the creek. We viewed about 3/8's mile of the stream where corridor fencing would provide substantial fish habitat and streambank stabilization benefits. Ed sketched a conceptual fence project plan and later provided correspondence to John detailing fence specifications and design. By mid-August, John made the

decision to allow the Foundation, with Chinook Northwest supervision, to build the fence project. Construction was set for the weekend of September 7,8, and 9!

The Duck Creek fence design represented technology not commonly used on Western rangelands- technology that had been utilized for decades in New Zealand. This fencing concept was selected due to its intrinsic low maintenance qualities, low costs, and the adaptability to site conditions found at Henrys Lake. A 3-strand, high tensile strength, electric wire fence would be constructed. Each wire strand would have a unique built in ratchet system and fence post clips that would allow for tension adjustments and/or dropping of the wires to accommodate heavy snow pack and the wintertime moose migration through the area. The fence itself would be charged by a solar panel system located inside the fence corridor and connected to an energizer and a common 12-volt car battery for power storage. A florescent light tube would be mounted on the top fence wire so that at night, John Magleby could view from a distance and tell that the fence was being charged. The solar panel, energizer and battery would be disconnected during the wintertime, non-grazing period and put in shop storage. The overall construction specifications would be of the highest standards, utilizing 8 foot pressurized treated corner and H-brace wooden posts to assure the fence project would be in place for many years. An agreement would be drafted between John Magleby and the Foundation to provide complete grazing protection for 5 years within the fenced corridor, to allow sufficient time for vegetation to regenerate and eroded banks to stabilize. IDFG would be allowed entry to the project to record vegetation regrowth and study fish population responses. The Foundation would pay for fence maintenance and provide John Magleby an annual stipend to install and remove the solar panel apparatus. Provision in the agreement would allow appropriate modifications of the fence to assure it's compatibility with his livestock management.

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On Friday, September 6, I drove to Henrys Lake from Boise with Creighton Gilbert of Chinook Northwest. Creighton is the firm's consulting engineer and would oversee fence construction and assemble principal portions of the fence. Upon our arrival that afternoon, we met with John Magleby and staked the fence corner post locations along Duck Creek. It had rained most of the way over and the weatherman predicted rain and snow showers through the weekend which did not bode well for our work plans.

As it turned out that weekend, the Good Lord was with us- we were never shut down more than 1/2 hour because of rain- and no snow fell! It was meant to be! The fence was 90% completed by Sunday evening. Creighton and I installed the solar panel and put final finishing touches on the project before we left for Boise Monday afternoon. John O'Neall had done a good job of rounding up available Foundation members and others to help. John Magleby ran the backhoe auger for digging post holes, provided fence post delivery from Idaho Falls, road mix for setting posts, supplied various equipment and and tools, and was involved in all aspects of the project throughout the weekend. Special thanks to the Magleby twin boys, Bret and Brian, and even little Chris Magleby, for their hard work. Also hats off to Foundation members Clarence Wright, Jim Wright, Walt Stephens, Fred Grimes, George Lang, and John O'Neall for their labor during the weekend- plus numerous others who turned out to help and see what all the fuss was about! Walt Stephens shot approximately 45 minutes of color video footage and I took both black and white photos and slides. Bill

Schiess came out to get information for an article for the local Island Park newspaper. For those of us involved, it was great camaraderie, a fulfilling effort, and represented the purpose of the Henrys Lake Foundation. The entire project was built for under \$2300- including all parts and labor! I'm really proud of what we accomplished that weekend and I believe our efforts will bear future fruits at Henrys Lake.

My personal thanks to John Magleby for giving the Foundation the chance to "do it's thing"; to Ed Chaney for encouragement, the financial incentives, and his valued assistance; and to my new friend, Creighton Gilbert for his exceptional workmanship and demeanor in guiding us through construction.

The Duck Creek site represents challenging fencing conditions in terms of harsh climatic and wet meadow, high water table circumstances. As a result, small modifications may be needed in the future. The fence will provide a valuable "road test" for other fencing projects yet to come at Henrys Lake. However, I'm confident, if given the opportunity, the Duck Creek fence can be a long term fixture on John Magleby's ranch, accomplishing the purpose for which it was intended. And hopefully others will take note.

#### A FEW THOUGHTS FROM THE PAST PREZ

by John O'Neall, Jr.

At the end of the 1985 season there is so much to report concerning Henrys Lake that one hardly knows where to start! Once again the fishing was outstanding for numbers of fish caught from beginning to end of the season. The disappointment (if any) was in the size of the fish and the fact that we do not yet have any rod-cracking hybrids. The preponderance of fish were cutthroat "clones" of around 16" in length. It is mighty hard to sound disappointed about catching sixteen inch trout, but apparently a slowed growth rate due to an exceedingly high population in 1984 brought about that result. Early in the season a scattering of hybrids in the two to three pound category (more than in 1984, but still not enough) were taken. Practically all of the latter that I saw boated were carefully released. There is hope of catching some wild hybrids of five to six pounds in 1986. There were virtually no really large fish that I heard of, of any species in 1985.

Quite apparently there were fewer trout in the lake in 1985 than in 1984, when the lake could only be described as completely overcrowded with fish. Yet, as noted above, fishing was excellent in 1985. With fewer numbers there is hope that a more normal growth rate will return and that we shall begin to see bigger trout in the future. After all, the myriad of sixteen inchers cannot stand still in size.

The 1985 stocking goes along with the idea of having fewer but larger fish. The stocking of cutt fingerlings has been reduced from 2 million to 1 million. Hybrids have been put on the front burner to try to increase their proportion in the lake. Over 200,000 "normal" hybrids have been stocked at 140/pound, plus approximately 40,000 of the experimental sterile hybrids. The latter are fin-clipped for future identification. Also stocked are 115,000 Temiscamie brookies, with fin-clips. In past years hybrids have always been the cow's tail in the hatchery process. It is encouraging to see IDFG put a greater priority on them. They were #1 this year- right where we want them.

The great "dam scare" has eased somewhat. Information is that careful inspection and core drilling has confirmed the integrity of the dam, but the spillways and gates do need serious repairs. The water company is just as anxious as we are to keep the lake level high- they do not want to waste any precious water, which is the lifeblood of farming in Idaho. Since the above repairs are not critical, they hope to obtain a series of permits to delay these repairs until a dry year occurs, when the lake level will be down in fall anyhow. Then the repairs can be accomplished without waste of water.

On projects taken on by the Henrys Lake Foundation (your dues money), you will be proud of the fencing of 3/8's mile of Duck Creek for spawning grounds improvement, accomplished by the Foundation on September 7-9. It is a very professional project, with the latest type of wire and electrified by a solar panel. A great big thanks goes to rancher John Magleby for okaying the project on his land and pitching in with his twin sons to help with the construction. President Richard Prange and Creighton Gilbert of Chinook Northwest, Inc., provided the leadership as well as much of the muscle. A number of our members turned out to help. Walt Stephens made a superior color and sound video film of the process, which I hope you can see next summer. Also, on September 17, Fred Grimes was in charge of a delegation to help fin-clip the 40,000 sterile hybrids at Ashton Hatchery (see Fred's article).

On the gloomy side, the fish-screen project on Targee Creek installed by IDFG in 1984, with a financial contribution by the Foundation, is not going as well as hoped. Engineering on the screens was apparently faulty, and the screens are going to have to be re-set to work properly. There is a continuing problem with fish passage under the highway culvert, which presently prevents many spawners from getting upstream to the pristine spawning areas in that stream. The IDFG is currently working with the Highway Department to divert water to the overflow culvert, which is not as steep, and install new gabions to slow the flow and allow the fish to migrate upstream. Problems also have to be ironed out with the ranchers downstream to adjust the fish screens so they will work properly and at the same time deliver an even flow of water to the rancher's irrigation ditches. Only when these thorny problems are solved will the full beneficial effect of Targee Creek as the number one spawning tributary be realized.

There was good fisherman support for the present 2 fish limit as evidenced from angler surveys conducted this summer and the limit will remain the same in 1986 and very likely for the next three years. I personally endorse this policy 100%. It is best to see how the population and growth rate progress for at least that long before playing with the bag limit. The heavy population of fish will put the emphasis on catch and release, and we can all help by bending down the barbs.

A lot of the above progress on Henrys Lake (remember how dismal it was four years ago?) is a direct result of our banding together and pooling resources to effect changes. Progress has been made largely due to your dues money and gifts. We now have strong leadership in the Foundation, worthwhile projects underway, more on the drawing board, and a superior newsletter going out 3-4 times a year. Now is not the time to declare victory and cease our efforts, but rather to keep up our financial support and seek others to join and help. Give President Richard Prange a helping hand. Get new members to join. Express your opinion about the lake and what should be done to improve it for all- I am sure Richard will publish these ideas in the Newsletter.

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The outlook once again is for fine fishing in 1986- lets keep it that way!

#### FIN CLIPPING THE STERILE HYBRIDS

by Fred J. Grimes

On Tuesday, September 17, 1985, eleven members of the Foundation assembled at the Ashton Hatchery to assist in fin clipping the sterile hybrids which were scheduled to be planted in Henrys Lake on September 20. Steve Elle provided demonstration and explanation of how to do the fin clipping. He then supervised and checked to be sure that everyone was proceeding correctly. He found a few problems, which were quickly corrected and we proceeded to clip 21,000 fish that day. The work was rather tedious and required nimble fingers, good eyes and complete concentration. The adipose fin (located on the back between the dorsal fin and tail) on a 2"-3" trout is not very large and if done incorrectly, the fin will grow back. The folks that participated were Jim Wright, Clarence Wright, Walt Stephens, Leonard Mannenen, Wilbur Longhoffer, Harry Tupper, Bill Schiess, Bill Lynch, Grant Hamilton, Vernon McNaulty and myself.

My son Tom and I returned to help finish the other 11,500 fish the next day. In addition, our crew consisted of Steve Elle and his wife, plus four members of the IDFG. We finished at approximately 12:00 noon and everyone was glad that the 32,500 little rascals were ready to be stocked. There was unanimous consensus that fin clipping would not make a highly desirable full time occupation!

#### A BRIEF LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF HENRYS LAKE HATCHERY

The IDFG has operated a fish hatchery at Henrys Lake since 1924. However, prior to that time a privately owned and operated hatchery was located near the current site on the north shore. The Sherwood family took spawn and returned fry to the lake as part of a commercial fishing enterprise. This land was eventually sold to the state and the present hatchery produces not only cutthroat trout, but cutthroat/rainbow hybrid and Canadian strain brook trout as well.

An early report from the IDFG provides insight into the 1924 egg-take operation:

"....a trip from Trude Station to Henrys Lake (25 miles) was made with dog teams in the spring of 1924. The improvised hatchery with its leaky flume and troughs became covered with such a sheet of ice that the best work was no possible.

Over two tons of cutthroat and hybrid rainbow trout were collected with one haul of the seine. Those fish were in splendid condition with many running up to ten pounds.

With the breakup of ice, some of the lake's spawning operations were transferred to the fish ladder at the dam where trout were descending to their old spawning grounds in the river below. Several hundred thousand additional eggs were secured at this point and taken to Ashton for hatching and distribution."

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FRIENDSHIP-NOTES

- Henrys Lake friends sent Ed and Elise their best wishes and their 1985 dues.

- Friends of Pat O'Neall donated \$40 to the Henrys Lake Foundation as a memorial to Pat's dad, Nollo A. Tanner, who passed away last August 6. Mr. Tanner was 93 at the time of his death. He loved Henrys Lake and accompanied the O'Nealls there in the "old days".

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The upcoming Newsletter will be sent out in January or February. Among the subjects covered will be the results of the IDFG 1985 creel census data that was collected, information on the overall health of the lake fisheries, proposed IDFG enhancement projects for 1986 and other Henrys Lake management items of interest. We will be including an article recently submitted by Trustee, George Lang, which provides some extensive historical notes of interest on Henrys Lake. We'll also have a report on the financial health of the Foundation and more. Stay tuned for the next Newsletter!