



HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION

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

Non-Profit Organ.
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Boise, ID 83706
Permit No 689

-or-

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

February 1987

NEWSLETTER

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Richard Prange

Maybe the first thing you noticed about this Newsletter is that it includes a new Henrys Lake Foundation brochure. We had 4000 printed. The brochure is used to promote our organization and solicit membership. I ask that you take a few minutes to read and think about the story it tells. Like many others, we're a grassroots outfit whose purpose is to "give something back". All of us put money in the Foundation's hat because we want to make the fishing better at Henrys Lake-- that desire is making it happen. The brochure has been revised to include an updated discussion of the investments we've made in Henrys Lake fishery improvements. And that part of the brochure story will soon be out of date, because even now as I write this, there are more near term projects in the works warranting additional Foundation funding attention. There's a lot left to do. I hope you'll use the brochure to help you collar a new recruit for the Henrys Lake Foundation this year. If you could use some more brochures in pursuit of that important endeavor, just drop me a line. I've been pleased with our membership renewal rate, but given the number of anglers fishing this great lake, our message isn't reaching enough people. I may be biased, but for the thousands who enjoy fishing Henrys Lake, I think the Newsletter combined with our tax deductible status, provides a darn good return for the \$10 annual membership investment. Bag a new member(s) this year for the Henrys Lake Foundation!

DAM REPAIR-- Secretary/Treasurer, Mike Glenn recently wrote a \$1000 Foundation check for our share in the additional construction costs of building the coffer dam higher during dam repairs last fall. That was the final amount requested of us from the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG). Total extra costs to the water district for doing the work was \$3080.60. The IDFG picked up the remaining tab of \$2080.60. Our combined contributions allowed the water level to be held about two feet higher so as to reduce the chances of fish winter kill after the lake froze over. The snowpack is only about 55 percent of normal around Henrys Lake now, so the coffer dam investment may indeed prove to be sound. As of February 5, Henrys Lake had risen about 6 inches since the coffer dam was removed last November-- that means its now about two feet below "full pool". More on lake refill in the May Newsletter.

TARGHEE CREEK CULVERT MODIFICATION-- "Hats off" to the IDFG fishery crew from the Idaho Falls Region 6 office! On December 4, Steve Elle and a company of five others installed an angle iron retrofit fish ladder inside the large Targhee Creek highway culvert. This project had been in the works for several years. Overall cost for the project was only about \$550. Now adult spawners will be able to swim through the culvert during springtime high flows. This should give a significant boost to Targhee Creek spawning and result in more juvenile fish going back to Henrys Lake. Historically, Targhee Creek by itself supported about 50 percent of all spawning runs out of the lake.

MY IDEAS ABOUT HENRYS LAKE

by Bill Schiess

As a youngster I fell in love with Henrys Lake and have had a love affair with it for the past 35 years. As with most fishermen, I started out fishing with the mickey finn and worm but now I fish it only with flies. The large fish and the "rippers" have always fascinated me.

Over the past years I have kept detailed records of where, how and at what times I have taken these large fish. It has helped me in finding the fish year after year. Richard Prange revealed some of my fishing secrets in the last Newsletter.

I do love to fish the deeper water with a faster sinking line than most people use on the lake. I noticed during the late "70's" and early "80's" that the trollers were taking the larger fish out in the lake during the early spring and late fall. So after locating channels in the middle half of the lake, I began fly fishing those areas. I began catching larger and more numbers than ever before. Prior to 1986, the big fish year was 1981. In 1981, I took 36 fish over 24 inches, most of them in the middle half of the lake. I will discuss the final three years for space sake in this article.

In 1984 I fished a total of 103 days taking 9,246 fish with 9,167 being cutts. Four of the fish were hybrids (two over 22 inches), 73 were brookies (6 lb. 14 oz. was the largest) and two were brown trout. That's right, brown trout. The best day for numbers was on July 14 when 271 fish were boated. Most of the fish were between 12 and 14 inches and it was a fish almost every cast. But the fish were back in the lake to be taken.

The following year was better as a few of the larger fish began showing up. Only 87 days were spent on the lake because I let some guys talk me out of my full time bum-man-ship to manage a resort! Only 2,284 fish were taken but 131 hybrids were boated with nine over 22 inches. One brown trout was caught, a small one, and 114 brook trout were boated. The most rewarding discovery of 1985 was made in September while messing around. I found that the fish were lying at two different depths. One group was at the 7-10 foot depth while the other group (the larger fish) were within 18 inches of the bottom. This lower group held the hybrids in the deeper holes. At that point I began fishing for hybrids or brook trout, and took what cutts got in the way. Up until September, I had taken only seven hybrids. During the last two months of the season, 124 were boated-- all in the deeper holes within 18 inches of the bottom.

The 1986 season was a banner year and a pattern of what Henrys Lake will hopefully produce in the future. I spent only 82 days on the lake, mostly partial days with 1814 fish taken, but of them, 436 were hybrids and 161 were brookies. The largest hybrid boated was 29 inches long with 67 of them over 22 inches. All but one of them were taken out in the middle half of the lake in four "hybrid holes". The brook trout were mostly taken during the last week of June and the first two weeks of July. During the fall spawning periods, most of the mouths of the creeks were dirty from coots or from the wind due to the lowering of the lake. A few large cutts were also taken with 26 over 20 inches and the largest measuring 24 1/2 inches.

There have been many suggestions that may help Henrys Lake to continue to improve. Most are good, but we have to work with the IDFG, keep the fish in the lake, and cut down on the mortality of those fish that are caught and released. All worthy ideas should be presented to the IDFG in writing so the validity of the suggestions can be appraised by the proper decision making personnel.

WHY WILL WILLOWS WORK?

by Richard Prange

But you didn't know that there are 46 different species and varieties of willows found in the state of Idaho. And furthermore, the Grayleaf willow (*Salix glauca*) is known to only grow in the vicinity of Henrys Lake! Willows are extremely water dependent and they are a dominant plant in the riparian (streambank) vegetation community. The foliage and twigs are consumed by big game animals and beaver and they offer valuable wildlife shelter and nesting for birds. From a fishery standpoint, streamside willow clumps offer excellent fish cover-- both overhead and instream among the underwater root masses. Willows create stable streambanks that withstand tremendous hydraulic force, preventing soil erosion and generally making a deeper, narrower stream channel preferred by trout.

In the past, the value of the lowly, common willow was underrated. But that is beginning to change. Planting willow cuttings is now emerging as a superior "non-mechanical" treatment both for streambank stabilization and trout habitat improvement. And on the weekend of May 9 and 10, we are going to take and apply this new awareness to our Duck Creek riparian restoration project on the Magleby Ranch! Our project area needs an introduction of willows to improve streambank stability and fish habitat. We will plant willows and be working under the supervision of J.C. Gibbs, a plant materials specialist with the Soil Conservation Service from Boise, ID. Gibbs will bring a variety of willow rooted stock that he wants to experimentally plant inside the Duck Creek fence area. But most willow materials will be provided simply by cutting stems from existing healthy willow plants, dipping the cuttings in rooting hormone, then sticking them into the ground along barren streambanks. These will then take root. I have received permission from adjoining rancher Wayne Johnson to cut the needed willow "shoots" from his property. Success is enhanced by doing the work in the early spring before willow plants come out of winter dormancy.

I'll be bringing a few dedicated souls over from the Boise area for the work, but I need more volunteers. I'm asking our Foundation members in eastern Idaho to turn out in force. If I had 20 people, I think our work could be finished in one day. We'll meet and coordinate at Wild Rose Ranch Lodge on Saturday morning. **IF YOU THINK YOU CAN JOIN US, PLEASE DROP ME A LINE (ADDRESS ON NEWSLETTER COVER) AND I'LL WRITE BACK IN A MONTH OR SO WITH DETAILS.** For equipment, you'll need waders, gloves, regular pruning shears and/or heavy duty lopping shears, a pointed bar or crow bar for planting the cuttings and have some rain gear handy.

IDFG HENRY'S LAKE FISHERY STATS

The following three pages of fishery information and statistics were provided by the fishery folks in IDFG Idaho Falls office. Much thanks.



Region 6
1515 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401
Telephone: (208) 522-7783

January 15, 1987

Mr. Richard Prange
Henry's Lake Foundation
2370 Independence Drive
Boise, ID 83706

Re: Foundation Newsletter Data Request Per Your December 1 Letter

Dear Richard:

Enclosed is some creel census information summarized by Jody Brostrom. Steve Elle provided hatchery releases of adult and juveniles and habitat enhancement activities. Scale analysis for 1986 growth rate calculations are incomplete as of this mailing. Growth rate information will be available by the end of February.

1. Surplus hatchery adult releases
2905 fish - Howard Creek - May 5 through 29
No fish hauled to Targhee Creek due to high water and manpower shortage.
2. Juvenile hatchery releases
121,500 Brook trout - 60 per pound
986,045 Cutthroat - 184 per pound
325,222 Hybrids - 114 per pound

- Included:
- a) 10,000 marked heat treated sterile hybrids.
 - b) 10,000 marked methyl testosterone egg treated sterile hybrids.
 - c) 10,000 marked methyl testosterone egg plus feed treated sterile hybrids.

Brook trout and hybrids were larger average size compared to prior years.


Cutthroat were slightly smaller than 1985 but larger than 1980-84 mean size.

Over 60,000 hybrids were from treated groups for sterility experiments out of the 325,222 released: 19,200 egg and feed hormone, 20,592 egg hormone and over 20,000 heat treated.

3. Targhee Creek highway culvert fish passage work was completed December 4, 1986. Due to excessive costs of remodeling the overflow culvert, we installed a portable fish ladder in the main culvert. The ladder is an angle iron design developed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks. It has been used in similar situations with success in Montana. We were able to complete the installation for about \$550. We will monitor upstream migration during the upcoming spawning season.
4. Howard Creek screening project is at a standstill. We will pay for all the materials out of the current capital outlay budget. We are continuing to negotiate with Jim Salisbury for permission to install the screens. Upon obtaining permission, we will approach various sportsmen groups to fund installation during August-September 1987.
5. Henry's Lake dam repairs were completed in October and November. Idaho Department of Fish and Game and Henry's Lake Foundation cooperated in funding modifications to the cofferdam which avoided an additional 2 foot elevation withdrawal from Henry's Lake. With the present low snow pack, the modified higher cofferdam looks to be a benefit to both the North Fork Water Company and the fisheries resources of Henry's Lake.

Hope this information is useful for your newsletter. Hopefully we will see you this March.

Sincerely,


Herbert A. Pollard II
Regional Supervisor
Region 6

HAP:SE:ai
Attachments
cc: Joe Curry w/attach
Bruce Penske w/attach
Virgil Moore w/attach
Lynn Watson w/attach

January 8, 1987

Richard Prange
Henry's Lake Foundation
2320 Independence Dr.
Boise, ID 83706

Dear Richard,

Here is the information you requested regarding the 1986 Henry's Lake fishery. I was unable to complete scale analysis so the growth rate information is unavailable. I hope the following is of interest to the Foundation members. I've included data from the 1984 and 1985 seasons for comparison.

Total Estimated Effort (hours)	
1986	172,772
1985	125,650
1984	162,878

Total Catch Rate (trout/hour)	
1986	.87
1985	1.27
1984	1.66

Harvest Rate (trout/hour)	
1986	.39
1985	.30
1984	.20

	Species Composition of the Harvest (percent)		
	Cutthroat	Hybrid	Brook
1986	85	14	1
1985	92	4	4
1984	89	7	4

	Average Length of Trout in the Harvest (inches)		
	Cutthroat	Hybrid	Brook
1986	16.0	17.4	14.3
1985	14.9	16.4	14.3
1984	15.3	16.8	15.5

	Trophy Sized Trout Observed in the Harvest (percent)		
	Cutthroat (20")	Hybrid (22")	Brook (18")
1986	0.0	5.4	0.0
1985	0.5	0.0	0.0
1984	2.5	5.0	13.3

I would like to note that 14% of the hybrids observed in the harvest were 20 inches or larger.

Redd Surveys and Fry Trapping

There were several hundred cutthroat spawners present in the streams I surveyed in the first two weeks of the fishing season. As you are aware, a problem is that these fish are spawning over existing redds which ultimately lowers fry production. It was virtually impossible to get an accurate redd count due to superimposition of redds. The following counts are therefore rough estimates of the number of redds present. Also, as the fry traps were only able to partially sample downstream movement (silt and debris were a big problem) the number of fry caught are considered to be a minimum value of those actually present.

Kelly Springs - 639 redds, 764 cutthroat fry.

Timber Creek - Redds not counted, 0 cutthroat fry caught. High water temperatures already present at the beginning of July may force cutthroat fry out of this stream in June.

Howard Creek - 300 redds from mouth to 200 yards above the first fence line. No fry trapping was done, but electrofishing in August turned up cutthroat fry.

Howard Slough - 110 redds, fry trap not effective. Fry were observed in August.

Targhee Creek - No redd counts were made, but redds were observed above the highway culvert. Fry trapping resulted in 140 cutthroat fry and several 1+ cutthroat and brook trout at the lower screen and 850 cutthroat fry and several 1+ cutthroat and brook trout at the upper screen.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me at 406-994-5673.

Sincerely,

Jody Brostrom

CREEL CENSUS RECORDS FOR HENRY'S LAKE

	Effort (Hours)	Fish Harvested	Catch Rate (fish/hr)		Percent Released	Catch Composition (%)		
			Harvest	Total		CT	Hybrid	Brook
1950	17,008	12,246	.72	.82	12	77	-	23
1951	27,947	12,302	.44	.50	12	80	-	20
1971	102,233	36,720	.36	.36	0	70	14	16
1972	83,800	27,027	.32	.32	0	69	19	12
1975	86,304	29,914	.35	.38	10	89	-	11
1976	68,109	18,650	.27	.54	49	81	.1	19
1977	66,139	16,466	.25	.44	44	71	.4	29
1978	85,304	25,510	.30	.48	37	48	20	33
1979	93,921	18,728	.20	.32	37	35	42	24
1980	68,446	9,262	.14	.21	37	31	59	10
1981	65,918	7,471	.11	.21	47	30	54	16
1982	63,273	7,071	.11	.45	75	62	25	13
1983	95,996	25,447	.23	1.23	81	84	9	7
1984	162,878	47,017	.29	1.70	83	92	5	3
1985	125,666	37,921	.30	1.28	76	92	4	4
1986	172,772	67,381	.39	0.87	55	85	14	1

HENRY'S LAKE FISH STOCKING 1977 THROUGH 1984

Year	Cutthroat		Hybrids		Brook trout ¹	Comments
	Fish Released	Size	Fish Released	Size		
1977	824,430	2783/lb	200,200	364/lb	137,000 (G)	drought hybrids= SH x CT
1978	946,362	4968/lb	178,560	279/lb	88,000 (G)	drought hybrids= SH x CT
1979	1,133,659	1744/lb	125,081	324/lb	51,000 fry (G) 45,318 fin (G)	drought hybrids= SH x CT
1980	1,039,845	251/lb	32,320	204/lb	82,000 (G) 6,000 (A)	
1981	2,294,972	203/lb	138,000	230/lb	20,000 (T)	
1982	2,440,000	156/lb	234,000	234/lb	18,400 (T) 2,500 (A)	
1983	2,179,000	228/lb	228,510	337/lb	21,602 (?)	
1984	2,035,000	297/lb	134,627	673/lb	no release	disease brk, small hybrids
1985	992,230	154/lb	310,383	159/lb	111,020 (T)	
1986	986,045	184/lb	325,222	114/lb	121,500 (T)	

¹ Strains of brook trout noted in parenthesis. G = generic, T = Temiscamie, A = Assinica

DEATH OF TWO PROMINENT HLF MEMBERS

CHARLES E. BROOKS (1921-1986)

Charlie Brooks, author, fly tyer and innovative fisherman, lecturer and friend to thousands, spent his last season in his beloved Yellowstone country. At age 65, Charlie passed away on October 30 at Travis Air Force Base in California. Many of you will recall that he graced us with his presence and gave encouraging words at our July 1986 HLF membership meeting. Charlie played a most instrumental early role in advising and helping to orchestrate formation of the Henrys Lake Foundation in 1981. Now and in the years ahead, much will be written and told about this most colorful man. Shortly following his death, his wife Gracie forwarded a \$100 check for a Charlie Brook's memorial lifetime membership in the Henrys Lake Foundation.

ROBERT W. BRISCOE (1912-1987)

Letter from Bob Roseberry, Milford, IA

We recently received word of the death of Bob Brisco on January 21, 1987. What a great loss to his many friends at Henrys Lake and to the Foundation.

When my wife and I started fishing Henrys Lake some 15 years ago, we met Bob Briscoe. With great tact and full understanding of our inexperience with Henrys Lake trout, he explained the mysteries of fishing the lake and gave us some of his superb flies. Since that time we saw this repeated over and over again with succeeding summers of new fishermen. He was generous with his knowledge, his equipment and his friendship and was our unofficial "Mayor" of Trailer Row at Staley Springs. Bob's legacy to fishermen both young and old is love of the sport and respect for the fish and the future of Henrys Lake.

We are enclosing a check to the Foundation for a Bob Briscoe Memorial Fund. He will be remembered with love and gratitude.

Letter from John O'Neall, Jr., Hatchechubbee, AL

On January 21, 1987, the Henrys Lake Foundation lost one of it's most widely known and respected charter members, Bob Briscoe. Ever since his retirement from the telephone company in Southern California in 1972, he has been a familiar figure annually on Henrys Lake, spending most of the summers fishing the lake and many surrounding waters. He was personally acquainted with all the "regulars" on the lake, and he could catch trout on flies with the best of them. He was also an accomplished stream fisherman, adept with dry flies.

Bob Brisco was ever helpful to scores of tyros over these years, teaching many of them to be more successful in catching trout. He taught many youngsters how to tie flies and how to present them to the finny denizens of the lake. This genial and unselfish approach to fishing and to those who enjoy it carried over to life in general with Bob, for there was a constant parade of friends, both old and new, visiting the travel trailer of Bob and Jane Briscoe at Staley Springs Lodge.

For the past several years Bob had battled deadly bone cancer with courage and determination. Even in the summer of 1986 he was able to spend a few weeks

at his beloved Henrys Lake, returning home only when serious medical problems developed.

Upon learning of his death several friends including Harold and Shir1 Hustead, Bill and Sandy Hayes, Jim and Del Schultz, Dutz and Betty Hilbers, and John and Pat O'Neall, sent memorial gifts to the Henrys Lake Foundation, a cause to which Bob was deeply devoted from its inception. To those who would like to extend condolences to Jane Briscoe and family, she can be addressed at 18218 Paradise Mountain Road #119, Valley Center, CA 92082, or telephoned at (619) 749-3455.

Life at Staley Springs will not be the same without Bob and Jane Briscoe in their trailer just down the line. Pat and I have lost one of the greatest friends acquired during our lifetimes.

* * * * * SHORT CASTS * * * * *

THERE'S A STORY.....

behind the picture of the big hybrid trout we used for the new Henrys Lake Foundation brochure cover. The lucky fisherman is lifetime member Buck Bybee of Idaho Falls, ID. Buck has fished Henrys Lake for 31 years and this is his largest trout from the lake. He's retired now and stays and fishes for about six weeks in the early season, then returns for two weeks in October. He said they landed 40-50 percent hybrids this last October! When sending in his photograph he wrote, "Dear Richard-- Just received the HLF Newsletter. Your short casts section on the last page must have been sent especially to me. Here is a photo of a 10 lb. 4 oz. hybrid that I caught October 9, 1986. It was 30 1/2 inches in length. I am not a purist. I caught it on a lure trailing a nite crawler. If you will note a fly is still in his mouth (a red leech)-- Bill Schiess claims it is his! The fish has been mounted and will be hanging in Wild Rose Ranch lodge next season."

THE 1987 ANNUAL HENRY'S LAKE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP.....

meeting has been scheduled for Sunday, July 5 at Staley Springs Lodge. More details in the May Newsletter.

BROWN TROUT HAVE OCCASIONALLY.....

been caught from Henrys Lake. Recall the three browns that Bill Schiess mentions catching in 1984 and 1985. In December, Jack Parsons of Ogden, UT, enclosed a new membership check for \$50, and also included a photo of a brown trout (looks like about 3 lbs.) his partner caught in front of the Henrys Lake Lodge last October. He also reports of one other brown being taken by the caretaker "Spike" last fall. In 1984, a large brown was caught in Staley Springs. These occasional fish are probably hatchery escapees from Ashton Hatchery where the cutthroat or hybrids are reared. Jack was interested to know if other brown trout have been caught at Henrys Lake. Any readers know of others? If so drop the Newsletter Coordinator a line.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.....

will be sent in early May. We'll dissect the membership statistics of the HLF, have the latest on water and hatchery spawning run conditions at Henrys Lake, plus a brook trout article by Bill Schiess.