



**HENRYS LAKE
FOUNDATION**

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-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

May 1987

NEWSLETTER

WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Richard Prange

With the opening of trout season at Henrys Lake nearly upon us, I have high expectations that we will continue to see improvement in quality, trophy fish angling this year. Based on last fall's good hybrid showing, we can anticipate incidence of more of these trophy fish in our catches. It also looks as if the cutthroat average size continues to increase. Brook trout have been a recent disappointment, but the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's (IDFG) program management will continue to work for a trophy fishery for this species too. Our biggest concern at this point, is presumed poor natural spawning production due to drought conditions. Depending on summer precipitation, we could easily see a repeat of the dry streams predicament that occurred in the late 70's, which helped to trigger public concern and formation of the Henrys Lake Foundation. Adult cutthroat will spawn this spring as usual in the nine tributaries, but actual fry survival and recruitment to the lake is expected to be poor since summer low streamflows will reduce or even eliminate fry rearing habitat. Thus, wild fish from the 1987 year class won't be donating much to the genetic vigor and diversity of future spawning populations nor contribute to the fishery itself. This exemplifies the need for the IDFG and Foundation to stay on the Enhancement Plan track- making those needed stream habitat improvements and irrigation diversion screen installations. Only by completing these projects, can we maximize the important, long term contribution that wild fish make to the fishery at Henrys Lake, no matter what Mother Nature lays on us.

WATER CONDITIONS-- As with most of the Western U.S., all of southern and eastern Idaho will experience varying degrees of drought conditions this year. Fortunately, due in part to natural underwater spring inflow plus last fall's higher coffer dam construction, Henrys Lake will be filled by the time you're reading this. Last winter was considered mild with snowpack way below par (probably about 50 percent of normal), and now spring is reported to be advanced by 2-4 weeks. The ice came off the lake about April 30. It's possible that downstream irrigation demands later this summer will cause lake drawdown more than in the recent past. If the coming winter is a repeat, Henrys Lake refill would be less likely and its fishery could be in greater jeopardy next year. As discussed above, low runoff will stress juvenile fish rearing, and this season we can expect local irrigation diversion demands to take much of what's flowing in the creeks that feed Henrys Lake. Since Mother Nature and water rights are in charge here, there's not a lot we in the Foundation can do except to continue to focus on spawning stream improvements that will help fish survival under any circumstances.

HATCHERY FISH RUN-- The hatchery spawning returns, as reported to me on April 26 by Lynn Watson, Henrys Lake IDFG Hatchery Superintendent, have been ahead of last year. Lynn estimated that he had spawned about 7000 cutthroat and hybrids already. Every returning fish is spawned out and sent back to the lake even if the eggs are not currently needed. Lynn says that cutthroat seem to be averaging about 1/2 inch longer and more hybrids have come into the hatchery this year-- approximately 500 fish so far and averaging maybe 1-2 inches larger. He expects fewer fish to pass over the dam because of low runoff-- should be a real load of fish in the lake this season.

IDFG MEETING-- I met with Steve Elle and Virgil Moore, IDFG fishery personnel, on March 10, to discuss Henrys Lake management this year. At that time the stocking target was to release 1 million cutthroat, 300,000 hybrids and 100,000 brook trout juveniles into the lake this fall. The IDFG has received official approval from FDA to experimentally use methyl testosterone in the sterile hybrid treatment program. Jody Brostrom returns from last year to fill the 7 month Henrys Lake technician position which will provide good continuum to that work. Concerning Enhancement Plan projects, the IDFG will install the two Howard Creek irrigation diversion fish screens after securing approval from the Salisbury Ranch. Materials for the screen structures have been acquired. The IDFG also hopes to reach landowner agreement for construction of a riparian habitat fencing project on the Flying J Ranch. This fencing would be located along 2 miles of Howard Creek downstream of the airstrip. The IDFG may ask the Henrys Lake Foundation to fund a portion of these project costs.

HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION ENHANCEMENT PLAN PROJECTS-- All preparations have been made for our May 9 and 10 weekend Duck Creek willow planting project (see last Newsletter for project details and purpose). As of this writing, I'm expecting about 30-40 volunteers to help. Duck Creek is running low but full of spawning cutthroat. The Soil Conservation Service will be donating about 800 rooted willow plants and shrubs to our project and in addition, we will plant willow cuttings taken from the Waynn Johnson Ranch. When these plantings mature, they should significantly improve both fish habitat and streambank stability within our demonstration project on the Magleby Ranch.

I have received permission from Mr. Gordon Hunt, Timber Creek landowner and new Foundation member, to construct a riparian habitat improvement fence on his property adjacent to the main county road (north side of lake). I anticipate project details to be work out in time for the July 5 Foundation meeting. Upon Board of Director approval, construction could be accomplished later this summer. This would be a small, inexpensive fence, but its roadside location would offer excellent visibility to the passing public as to the fish habitat benefits associated with this type of treatment. I would be seeking Foundation volunteers to help with construction.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION-- Our 1987 membership meeting will be held on Sunday, July 5, starting at 2:00 P.M. at Staley Springs Lodge. We will be meeting inside the main lounge without a potluck this year, but the Foundation will provide coffee, soft drinks, cake and ice cream. As in the past, the IDFG folks will be in attendance. This is our only meeting of the membership, Board of Directors, and officers and I encourage you to attend if you're in the area. If you wish to be nominated as a new Director and would work in the Foundation's behalf, please contact myself (address on Newsletter cover) or John O'Neill, Jr. (stays at Staley Springs Lodge for the summer).

We will also plan an excursion to our Duck Creek riparian habitat improvement demonstration project on the Magleby Ranch on July 5 for purposes of dedicating the project to deceased member, Jim Wright. A bronze plaque will be placed onsite in Jim's memory in recognition of his past Henrys Lake Foundation efforts. The outing will also give opportunity to observe willow growth progress since our May planting. If you would like to attend, plan to meet by 10:30 A.M. at the entrance of Staley Springs Lodge so we can car caravan about 4 miles to the Magleby Ranch.

HENRYS LAKE BROOK TROUT

by Bill Schiess

This is an important year for the brook trout program in Henrys Lake for several reasons. Are the Temiscamie brooks, a Canadian strain, adapting to the lake? What is the future of the fast growing, long lived brooks which were first introduced to the lake in 1980? These are the questions which should be answered by the end of the 1987 fishing and fall spawning season.

From 1980 until 1985 only a token amount of Canadian brook trout were added to the lake. However, the over 100,000 planted in the 1985 hatchery program should start showing up in the creel census and spawning run this year. They should be between 12 and 15 inches in length and weigh about 1 1/2 pounds. What if they don't show? Steve Elle, Region 6 IDFG Fisheries Manager, says there may be several reasons. First, it could be that they did not imprint to the lake and went elsewhere. Second, there could have been poor survival or high harvest rates by anglers when the fish were small. A third reason could be that the females are late in developing and are not ready to spawn. Another could be that the mature fish are very difficult to catch.

So the IDFG is looking forward to the fall of 1987 when they can evaluate the program and hopefully point it in the right direction. Both they and the fishermen of Henrys Lake hope that brook trout start showing up in greater numbers. During the summer of 1986 a few brooks were caught in several areas in late June and again in September. However, most of these fish were the Henrys Lake variety of brooks with very few Temiscamies being taken. Temiscamies are recognized by an adipose fin clip.

Brook trout are not native to Henrys Lake and were introduced to the lake between 1913 and 1922. By the time the dam and hatchery were built in 1923, there was a naturalized population already established. This population of brooks were self-sustaining with no hatchery introductions from 1930 until 1975. Later with the increase of fishing pressure and the desirability of the brook trout as a trophy, hatchery introductions became necessary. In the late 1970's and early 1980's, domestic strains from East Lake, Oregon, and Sandpoint and Mackay, Idaho, were introduced. The brooks of Henrys Lake are fast growing fish that grow from four to six inches each year. But their life span is very short. They survive an average of only three years with a maximum age of six. In a thesis study done by Bob Spateholts at Idaho State University, he noted that less than 5% of the brook trout were past four years old. He also indicated that sexual maturity differs with individual fish but usually occurs between one and three years with 85% mature at two.

The Canadian strains of brook trout were introduced into the lake starting in 1980 because they had greater longevity. Spateholts helped get the Canadians started along with IDFG research biologist, Bob Rohere. In 1980 the Assinicas were introduced and were a very fast growing fish but a supply of this strain has not been available since. The Temiscamie strain was begun in 1981, but early on, only a token of about 20,000 were added each year. During 1984 when the fingerlings contracted a disease in the hatchery, they all had to be destroyed.

With the brook trout population of the lake decreasing during the early 1980's, hatchery releases were increased to 111,020 in 1985 and 121,500 in 1986. The 1987 stocking is targeted for about 100,000. The eggs used in the 1987 stocking have come from several sources. Most originated from Cornell University which are domestic Temiscamies, with other Temiscamie eggs coming from Wyoming and then a mixture of brook trout stock from Henrys Lake. Those from Henrys Lake are called "Henrys Lake Specials" and are a product of naturals, several domestic strains and Temiscamies.

Spateholts' study indicated that brook trout stress occurs when summer water temperatures reach 68 degrees F. in combination with lowering of dissolved oxygen levels. This stress is great enough to reduce feeding and growth of the fish for one or two months.

There has been numerous samplings conducted on the brooks of Henrys Lake and their food preferences. None of these studies agree on the most popular food, but most indicate that brook trout are opportunistic feeders and choose the most abundant, easily catchable prey. The top prey include shrimp, midges, sculpins, and leeches. Most of the feeding by brook trout is done during the late evening through early morning period.

Over the years, it has become obvious that the brook trout in Henrys Lake are difficult to catch during the hot summer months. Most brooks are caught during May, June, September, and October. A few are taken during July and August near the mouths of streams or springs within the lake. Generally, good locations include the mouths of Duck, Hope and Hatchery Creeks, Staley Springs, the north shore and the cliffs. The mouth of Howard Creek is very good in some years and poor in others. Flies are the most successful means of hooking brooks even though the state record of 7 lbs. 1 oz. was taken on a nightcrawler. My favorite fly patterns include the grey leech, red leech, emerging caddis, olive or green shrimp and a peacock woolly worm.

The IDFG along with the Henrys Lake Foundation have been doing their part in helping the brook trout populations in Henrys Lake. Now it becomes the public's job to help. Brook trout that are marked should be noted, returned to the lake (unless it is a trophy) and reported to the IDFG. I hope that the Temiscamie strain has adapted to the lake and will develop to the real trophy fish that it was intended to become.

WHO ARE WE?

Here's some Henrys Lake Foundation membership information that you might find interesting. It's taken from Mike Glenn's latest membership list put together for this Newsletter mailing. We currently have a total of 291 paid up members in the Foundation of which 165 are non-Idaho residents. This reflects the appreciation that out of state folks have for Henrys Lake and the large proportion of non-residents that fish there. We've seen growth in membership over the last year, especially life time memberships (\$100) which went from 35 this time last year to a total of 65 now.

<u>STATE</u>	<u>LIFE MEMBERS</u>	<u>TOTAL MEMBERS</u>
Idaho	19	126
California	18	76
Utah	-	12
Washington	3	9
Oklahoma	8	8
Texas	2	7
Oregon	1	6
Arizona	2	6
Colorado	3	6
Alabama	2	6
Montana	1	5
South Carolina	-	3
Florida	1	3
Missouri	2	3
Nevada	1	2
New Mexico	-	2
Kentucky	-	2
New York	-	2
Kansas	1	2
Michigan	-	1
Iowa	-	1
Illinois	-	1
Wyoming	-	1
Alberta, Canada	-	1
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>65</u>	<u>291</u>

1986/87 Henrys Lake Foundation Officers

President/Newsletter Coordinator- Richard Prange, Boise, ID
Vice President- John Magleby, Rexburg, ID
Secretary-Treasurer- Mike Glenn, Twin Falls, ID

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

SECRETARY-TREASURER, MIKE GLENN.....

reports that the Henrys Lake Foundation is financially healthy with a total of \$8244.37 currently in the bank. We can anticipate transfer of funds to the IDFG and some expenditures of our own this year for Enhancement Plan project completions.

NOTEWORTHY MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING EFFORTS.....

have been conducted by Staley Springs Lodge owner Stan Horton, and life member Buck Bybee of Idaho Falls, Idaho. Stan "plugged" the Henrys Lake Foundation and included our new brochure in his mid-winter reservation notice mailings to 1987 season customers. Buck Bybee, as of mid-April, had personally signed up 31 new members in the Idaho Falls area. Buck said that at one time or another, he had taken most of these folks fishing at Henrys Lake and in the future, Foundation membership would be a requirement for fishing from his boat!

Take example from Buck this summer and enlist your fishing cronies into the Foundation when you're having them sample the extraordinary fishing at Henrys Lake. Foundation brochures telling our story, will be available at Staley Springs Lodge, Wild Rose Ranch Resort, and Webb's Hackle n' Tackle. Don't forget to tell them that all contributions are tax deductible!

ABOUT \$200 HAVE BEEN DONATED TO THE HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION.....

as memorial gifts in remembrance of Bob Briscoe. In addition to the individuals mentioned in the February Newsletter, Jack and Val Forman of Carlsbad, CA, Morris and Forrest Willis of Chillicothe, MO, and Lawrence and Marie Bradford of Sherman Oaks, CA, also contributed to Bob's memorial. The Board of Directors may elect to establish a special Foundation memorial fund comprised of contributions made in memory of members that have passed away.

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER.....

will be sent out in November. We'll hope to feature a season's end report similar to John O'Neall Jrs.' fine article that appeared in the November 1986 Newsletter. In the meantime, I hope you hook that trout of a lifetime this season at Henrys Lake! GOOD FISHING!

Your current Newsletter Coordinator seeks a replacement after having had the job for the past three years. If you would be interested and committed to take that responsibility on, have some writing skills, and would willingly work to improve the Newsletter, I would appreciate hearing from you soon. I've lots of advice and there's plenty of time for me to help you get up to speed before our next issue is due. The Newsletter is the only link between all our membership. It's the immediate tangible that we get for our membership dues. It's an important job that needs doing but actually isn't that difficult with just a little organization. This could be a special "labor of love" for someone in the Foundation and I know there's a talented person among our ranks that could do a fine job as Newsletter Coordinator.

Richard Prange