



HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION

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Spring 1991

Notice to All Readers from Fred Grimes, Newsletter Coordinator.

From time to time we may have articles of a controversial nature in this newsletter. It will be our policy not to censor or edit the content of the articles without the consent of the authors. However, the opinions and statements made are those of the authors and are not necessarily the views and opinions of the Henry's Lake Foundation and its Board of Directors.

President's Message

There's lots to report on in this newsletter, unfortunately the big news is not good news. Since early March, a winter fish kill has been occurring at Henrys Lake triggered by low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels. We will try to give you as much information as possible, recognizing that things may have changed by the time you have newsletter in hand. The kill has received wide media coverage across Idaho and elsewhere. We won't have a good understanding as to the extent of fish lose until the lake's ice cover melts, probably sometime in early May. Even then, dead fish lying on the bottom in deeper lake locations will not be seen, but shoreline areas can be observed. As bad as things sound, I personally do not believe the lake will experience a complete fish kill, since there are spring pockets that provide good DO sanctuary and winter fish loses at Henrys Lake have been recorded in the past, but not of this scale. So far, the kill has been observed at small shoreline open water locations - latest estimates are that maybe 10,000 to 12,000 spawners have died. Even with the kill, Brad George and his crew have taken about 5 million cutthroat eggs (2.2 million to be used for hybrid stocking across Idaho) at the hatchery - egg take goals have been met according to Brad. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) has performed yeoman duty at securing and setting up aerators at accessible lakeside locations to raise the DO level - they're doing everything humanly possible at this time to save the fish. At those locations, DO readings have risen to safe levels. But their efforts can only help a small amount of the lake. As bleak as this may sound, I urge you to follow through with your vacation plans to come to Henrys Lake this season - - - there will be lots of good fishing nearby even if Henrys is off.

You ask, "Why is this happening?" For some time now, we've seen increasing concern and speculation about water quality in Henrys Lake. It's a shallow lake that's always been biologically and naturally nutrient rich (eutrophic). And over the years, man induced nutrient inputs have continually been added to the lake. Bill Schiess' article lists some suspected pollution sources. For whatever reasons, conditions reached a

critical point this last winter whereby decaying plants and other DO consuming materials were competing with fish life to the point where there wasn't enough oxygen to go around. A threshold was reached and some fish have lost out.

Given the fragile ecology of Henrys Lake, we've not been nearly concerned enough about caring for this special waterbody. We've continually taken, but invested little in return. We've now been given a sign and it's time for change. It's time for some real time resource stewardship to be instituted if this lake is to survive. It's time to look to a reduction in fish harvest. It's time to start a water quality study. It's time to question the logic of more development around the lake until we know what's wrong. It's time to fashion a master land use plan that will protect those natural amenities that have attracted us to Henrys Lake. Three large ranches are up for sale - it's time to find public or private buyers that have preservation of the lake environment as top priority. It continues to be time to fence lake tributaries, providing stream habitat protection and reducing livestock induced nutrient loading to the lake. And with this our 10th year, it's time to revisit why the Henrys Lake Foundation was founded. More than ever, it's time for business interests, summer home owners, local, state, and federal agency regulatory bodies, ranchers, sportsmen, and other concerned people to join together to make it right at Henrys Lake. **Anything less and we stand to lose the lake!**

The 10th Anniversary Henrys Lake Foundation meeting . . . will be held this year on Saturday, July 6 at Wild Rose Ranch. Silent auction items will be on display starting at 11:00 a.m. We'll start our potluck meal and general meeting at 1:00 p.m. with a Board of Directors meeting to follow. We will be discussing subjects concerning the future of Henrys Lake such as fishery management and regulations, water quality studies and future Foundation programs. Tax deductible Foundation donations and membership dues can be paid at the meeting. For the potluck, please bring a hot plate dish, cold cuts, salad, or desert, enough to feed 8 - 10 people and folding chairs if you have them. The Foundation will provide paper plates, utensils, and soft drinks. **Bob and Marge Roseberry will again be coordinating the auction. Please send your donated auction items to them before June 7, 1991, at Route 3, Box 145, Milford, Iowa 51351, or drop them by at their motorhome space at Staley Springs Lodge by July 4th. Bill Schiess' shop, located at B.S. Flies across from Valley View Truck Stop on Highway 20, will also accept your auction donations.**

The Division of Environmental Quality, Idaho Health and Welfare Department . . .

has set aside about \$100,000 to conduct a two to three year water quality study at Henrys Lake. The fish kill has added some urgency to get this study underway. Match funding or in-kind services will be sought from other entities to provide needed cost sharing. A study contractor is expected to be hired by early summer. Henrys Lake Foundation members and others will be asked to form a volunteer citizens cadre to assist in routine water quality sampling at the lake. Lakeside volunteer training will be conducted by the Division of Environment early this summer.

Upcoming Foundation Habitat Improvement Projects . . .

include an outing on May 4, 1991, to plant willow cuttings along fenced stream sections at Henrys Lake. Volunteers from the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen and club members from Rexburg/Idaho Falls area will work with IDFG to plant the willows. Willows offer streambank stability and superior fish habitat. We hope to initiate additional fencing this season to improve riparian vegetation on tributaries and reduce livestock grazing impacts. We're looking for cooperating landowners and more fencing is needed along Duck, Kelly Springs, Timber, Targhee and Howard Creeks. IDFG is awaiting approval from Don Salisbury of the Diamond D Ranch to allow construction of irrigation diversion fish screens on Howard Creek. That work needs to proceed this spring before irrigation diversions begin.

The 1990 Henrys Lake Creel Census Results Have Been Compiled by the IDFG . . .

and combined with previous years of data. This information was presented to me and other Foundation Board of Directors by IDFG fishery manager Steve Elle at meetings in Idaho Falls and Boise. There's not enough space in the newsletter to show all the data, so I've included two tables following my article which depict some of the more important information. Be aware that since 1976, Henrys Lake has been managed as a "trophy trout water" and will be through 1995 in accordance with the recently approved IDFG Fisheries Management Plan.

Under trophy trout management, Henrys Lake overall catch rate goals are 0.70 fish/hour of which catch rate goals are 0.45 fish/hour for cutthroat, 0.15 fish/hour for hybrids, and 0.10 fish/hour for brook trout. Trophy fish size goals are set for 20% of the hybrids caught to be over 20", 10% of the cutthroat over 20", and 5% of the brook trout over 18".

As you can observe from data presented in the tables, last season (1990) was another year of heavy angling pressure at Henrys Lake, increasing even further from 1989 and overall catch rate declined. Except for hybrids, catch rates were below IDFG management goals with brook trout again comprising only 5% of the catch. Overall harvest in 1990 was high (63,139 fish) but significantly less than 1989 - probably indicating fewer

harvestable sized fish in the lake last year. Only 2% of cutthroat harvested in 1990 were trophies over 20" and no brook trout checked in the creel census were over 18" - further evidence that too many fish are cropped from the fishery before reaching trophy size. A high segment of fish were released in 1990 (64%), but how many taken on treble hooks and bait gear are surviving? The one bright spot was that management objectives (catch composition and trophy size goals) for hybrids were apparently exceeded in 1990. If trophy fish management is an objective, the data also showed that stocking more cutthroat was not the answer as growth rates diminished when more fish are planted (i.e., growth slowed down following those years of stocking 2 million cutts). In fairness to the IDFG, managing Henrys Lake lately has been a challenge, balancing between those that want to put fish in the freezer and those anglers that want to hook large trophies but don't support killing trout.

IDFG Will Be Seeking Input on New Angling Regulations for Henrys Lake . . .

for 1992/1993. Prior to the recent fish kill revelations, we were informed that there would be little likelihood of imposing any regulation changes to reduce harvest at Henrys Lake for the 1991 season unless, 1) this spring's hatchery return was significantly depressed or, 2) June 1991 catch rates were way down from previous years. As of this writing, the spawning run had drastically dropped off and with a winter fish kill of currently unknown proportions, a harvest reduction could now clearly be justified to protect what's left of the trout population.

IDFG biologists will present preliminary regulation recommendations to the IDFG Commissioners this coming summer. They will ask the Foundation members if we support trophy trout management goals and will seek our input on recommendations for harvest and tackle restrictions to meet those goals. If we are to be heard on this matter, it's necessary that we present a unified position to IDFG. **I am therefore asking each Foundation member that wants a say in this matter to write me (address on newsletter cover) a letter expressing your position on whether to continue trophy management and what angling regulations you would prefer at Henrys Lake. Make a copy of your letter and save it for now - I ask that you not send it to IDFG at this time. Please provide me a copy of any past correspondence you have sent directly to IDFG regarding this matter. I need to know the opinions of our membership! From the letters sent to me, I will compile the recommendations and have the information ready for discussion at our July 6 membership meeting. We can then provide your letters in mass and hopefully a Foundation consensus on regulations to IDFG later this summer.** Unfortunately, the 550 Henrys Lake Foundation members do not comprise the majority of fishermen at Henrys Lake, but this is our chance to be heard.

Richard Prange

Creel Census Records For Henrys Lake

	Effort (hours)	Fish Harvested	Catch Rate (fish/hr)		Percent Released	Ct	Catch Composition (%)	
			Harvest	Total			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	67,681	.39	.87	55	85	14	1
1987	150,234	35,712	.24	.54	56	60	34	6
1988	100,479	19,503	.20	.82	76	49	39	12
1989	339,986	103,736	.31	.77	60	50	45	5
1990	344,245	63,139	.18	.51	64	53	41	5

Note: All fish under "catch composition (%)" column are in angler possession and checked during IDFG creel surveys.

Mean Size Harvest / Sport Fishery

Year	Cutthroat			Total Harvest	Hybrid		Brook	
	Mean Size Harvest	% > 20"	No. > 20"		Mean Size Harvest	% Over 20"	Mean Size Harvest	% > 18"
1979	452	(10.8%)	701		456	(7.7%)	378	(6.1%)
1980	429	(10.9%)	317		459	(16.0%)	391	(4.8%)
1981	445	(13.2%)	298		450	(11.3%)	389	(19.2%)
1982	416	(6.9%)	300		451	(17.2%)	405	(25.4%)
1983	388	(2.5%)	534		448	(13.7%)	392	(17.3%)
1984	388	(0.5%)	214		427	(5.4%)	393	(30%)
1985	378	(0%)	0	34,888	416	(0%)	364	(0%)
1986	407	(0%)	0	57,274	441	(5%)	364	(0%)
1987	436	(5%)	1,071	21,427	447	(26%)	371	(3%)
1988	430	(8%)	765	9,556	432	(17%)	383	(20%)
1989	404	(4%)	2,241	56,017	435	(11%)	387	(10%)
1990	427	(2%)	669	33,464	461	(24%)	433	(0%)

Fish Kill at Henrys Lake

Yes, Virginia, there has been a major fish kill at Henrys Lake and it may very well hurt the fishing.

On March 7, 1991, I noticed about twenty dead trout by the Henrys Lake Hatchery while checking out the spawning run. Two days later Fish and Game personnel discovered over 200 dead fish and also discovered that the dissolved oxygen levels were below two parts per million (ppm). By April 1, 7000 fish had been hauled to the dump with an estimate of the dead reaching 10,000 to 12,000 fish.

All of the dead fish were located on the north shore from Wild Rose Ranch to the old Henrys Lake Lodge. On Saturday March 23, Byron White and I tested the lake in several places for dissolved oxygen. We had also tested the lake in 1990 in some of these same places. Henrys Lake trout probably need

at least 3.0 ppm of DO to survive through the winter. Following are the comparisons:

Locations	1990	1991
Duck Creek	NM	6.20 ppm
Glory Hole	5.70 ppm	NM
Goose Bay	6.10	1.60
Hatchery Creek	NM	5.20 (after aerators)
IDFG Cabins	4.10	4.60 (after aerators)
Pintail Point	6.50	0.81
Pittsburg Creek	6.20	3.05 (after aerators)
Staley Springs	7.85	NM
Wild Rose Bay	NM	1.10
Wild Rose Hybrid Hole	6.20	3.05

NM = Not Monitored

There are a lot of theories floating around as to the cause of

the problem. As I see it, there are a lot of conditions which are partly to blame. Some of these are correctable, while others are acts of nature.

Here are some of my theories. Henry's Lake sets in a bowl and everything drains into that bowl. This means that all pollution also collects in the lake if it is not flushed out.

Pollution from cattle and sewers add nutrient to the lake. This helps weed growth which takes oxygen during the winter as the weeds break down. Each time the lake level is raised above a former level, more soil silts in making the lake shallower allowing more sunlight to reach the bottom which also increases weed growth. In 1990 the ice left in mid March making for a longer growing season for the weeds - creating more weeds - more rotting weeds this winter and taking more oxygen.

Several things last fall may have indicated trouble for us. We found that most of the fish were congregated on the north shore. Fishing was terrible in the middle of the lake. Also we saw the algae bloom stay until the lake froze over. On normal years it would last only until a major frost.

Last winter another contributing factor came into play when we received a hard freeze in December. With temperatures down to 50 below and winds up to 30 miles per hour, three feet of ice formed in less than three days. This hard ice was then snowed on, cutting out the sun's rays which help produce oxygen.

A couple other factors may be that we have been in drought conditions for several years with low stream flows. This dictated that no flushing action takes place on the lake as the water users have been trying to save the water for later on.

These are all theories of mine and may or may not be right. I think that all are contributing factors and the conditions were right for a fish kill.

How bad is it? We will not know until the ice melts sometime in May. As of April 1, the fish have quit dying; but they have also quit running into the spawn house. Last year by April we had had 12,000 run compared to 6,000 this year. Will more come in? We hope so as we still need to take eggs for the quota of cutthroats. Over 2,200,000 hybrid eggs have been taken but only about 1,600,000 cutthroat eggs.

Our hats have to be taken off to the Fish and Game Department who have worked night and day to lessen the kill by putting over twenty aerators and pumps in. Personnel have come from all over the state to help out hatchery manager Brad George and his temporary helper, Russ Wood.

All is not totally gloomy. There are major fish populations at Staley Springs and at Duck Creek with good oxygen levels and no sign of kills there. We will still have some fish in the lake and us die-hards will still chase them. I believe that good things may come from this if we keep working hard and be as positive as we can.

Bill Schless

A Message from the Membership Chairman

When I sat down to pen this report for our Spring '91 newsletter, I couldn't help but think of the many good things that has happened to our beloved fishing hole. I will not go into detail or all projects that we have accomplished over the last ten years. I wish to say, however, that if it were not for our

great membership of dedicated fishermen and strong financial support, none of the programs could have been completed.

The Henry's Lake Foundation needs your continued support. The success and progress at working to preserve Henry's Lake depends on strong membership. I ask everyone to sit down right now and renew your membership. You may want to consider a Life Membership, if you are not already or send in a donation. Currently we have 200 Life Members out of a total 550 membership. If you are a Life Member, consider sponsoring another family member or a friend.

We are like the Marine Corps who are always looking for a few good people, only we are looking for a **large** number of fishermen with a lot of enthusiasm to accomplish major habitat improvements that will insure and provide the best trophy lake trout fishing in the West.

Michael E. Brickner

Ladies, Get Involved!

Our foundation has a tremendous force lying dormant and relatively untouched. My message in this newsletter is directed toward that strong and, up until now, very quiet and untapped resource.

Of what or whom do I speak? Why, the women members of the foundation, of course. We have many female members who have contributed a great deal to our organization over the years and I can name almost everyone. My message is directed toward those ladies who haven't yet found their niche in our volunteer world. Being a fisherperson is not a prerequisite for involvement in the preservation of our precious Henry's Lake.

I have the honor and privilege of serving on the Board of Directors as Secretary/Treasurer and to date I am the only woman on the board (the first and only). Generally, we have elections every year at our annual meeting for new or replacement members and female nominees are more than welcome. By the way, don't wait for someone to nominate you. We always accept nominations from the floor, so don't hesitate to raise your hand when the question is called.

What are some of the activities and/or projects for which any woman member can volunteer? I am only going to tap the list now, but see if any of these catch your fancy.

Take charge of a work trip or help coordinate one, or volunteer to serve on one (we have a May willow planting at the lake every year). Our male members will gladly assist anyone who volunteers to head up one such trip.

Volunteer to serve as a member on a standing committee. We always need people to assist on our fund-raising committees.

Donate some time to write letters to state and federal government agencies on issues regarding the lake's habitat and fish populations. Rick Prange has a complete list.

Serve on a speaker's bureau - this would assist Rick Prange and others who have consistently been speaking to various organizations about our Henry's Lake message.

Volunteer to assist Marge and Bob Roseberry in conducting our annual auction. This is always held in July at our annual meeting and you don't have to be present to help.

A juicy and fun position to be filled is that of a volunteer coordinator.

The list of volunteer activities is endless and changes as our accomplishments grow. I look forward to sharing your

thoughts and ideas on something you would like to do and don't hesitate to mention something that has not appeared on my list. This is your organization and I know it is filled with wonderful individuals all of whom have something to offer toward the preservation of the fishery and habitat at Henry's Lake.

You can reach me at (503) 621-3682 in the evening and my address is Polly Holbrook, 15200 NW Burlington Court, Portland, Oregon 97231.

P.S. The trick is don't wait to be asked - I nominated myself for the board member position and the board graciously accepted it. Charlie Brooks, himself, voted for me (of which I am very proud)! So you see? . . .

Polly Holbrook

A Lady's Point of View

Another year has started, the holidays are over. It is time to start thinking about summer fishing and the annual trip to Henry's. I'm sure everyone is making lists of things to load for Henry's. Most of the women who come to Henry's belong to the Foundation. And the ones who work and setup the auction are already busy. Some of us like to fish, others come for the friends we see every year. It is like a family reunion. We catch up with everyone's life again. Henry's is a beautiful place to spend time, plus the fishing is normally good. Our husbands like the fishing, of course, but we women have fun things to do also. Plus we realize the importance of the Foundation and do a lot of the behind the scene work such as paper work, passing out flyers, getting donations for the auction from friends and businesses. We all hope for another good year. Whether it is for the fishing or friends, we all seem to be pulled back to Henry's every year.

See everyone in June.

Pat McGuire

Island Park Committee on Planning and Zoning

On June 11, 1990 at the Elk Creek Ranch, nearly 100 Island Park citizens responded to the published invitation by the Fremont Planning and Zoning Commission to attend the Community Planning Workshop to discuss local issues.

At this meeting, concerns of those present divided into two categories:

Management issues generally considered outside the Planning and Zoning authority - speed limits, police protection, campground maintenance, off-road vehicle use, fire department equipment and landfills.

Issues within Planning and Zoning's purview - water quality, lot size, sewer systems, agricultural land protection, compliance of existing uses, abandoned vehicles, green belts, road access, platting laws, visual aesthetics, wildlife habitat protection.

At the end of this initial meeting, nine local men and women were appointed to serve as the Island Park Advisory Committee which later met in seven separate public sessions from June - October 1990. The committee's primary concern centered on the control over the Island Park area's future development through the instrument of zoning as defined by Idaho's statutes.

The study resulted in a 20-page Performance and Zoning document. The Advisory Committee chose **Performance Zoning** to establish standards. Some standards are classified

absolute for simple issues such as sign heights. Other standards are classified **relative** as in land use compatibility.

The **relative** standard uses a **point scoring system** with established values. This is designed to encourage or discourage certain kinds of performance in development. For example, if a cumulative point score for a proposed building project fails to meet the **established** value, a permit application would be denied.

Issues identified with recommended established values include:

air quality, water quality, hazardous substances, wetlands, floodplains, riparian corridors, alluvial fans, slopes, seismic areas, wildlife habitat, wildfire hazards, natural landmarks, scenic road corridors, nuisances, livestock, industrial compatibility, land use compatibility, buffering signs, central water supply, central sewage, private utilities, parking/loading areas, public road access, fire protection, large scale developments, rural residential developments, clusters, commercial development and R.V. park density.

For those particularly interested in Henry's Lake, the Island Park zone has been identified as Area One for ecology, the same as Yellowstone National Park. This means that no geothermal development can take place; habitat for nesting areas in the private sector will be observed; transfers of land can be executed to accommodate wildlife; wetlands will be protected. Building must be at least forty feet away from a body of water. Platting for developments must meet the established values. Roads must be constructed according to county specifications. At the present time, there are no federal or state funds for a central sewage system. It is our understanding that the Performance and Zoning document will be presented to the Fremont County Commissioners for adoption.

George Lang

Thoughts and Concerns, by a Local Fisherman, About Henry's Lake

I was asked to write a little bit on how local people feel about Henry's Lake. Being from Rexburg, I talk with quite a few people who fish this lake so I hear their positive as well as their negative opinions.

Most of us live here because of the great natural beauty of the area. Henry's Lake sits in a basin surrounded by beautiful mountains, covered with pine trees. There is a large flat area to the east and south of the lake which is covered with wildflowers in the early summer. The area has abundant wildlife from majestic elk to mountain bluebirds. I don't believe you can drive to Henry's Lake without seeing some kind of wildlife.

Henry's Lake is easily accessible to people. Highway 20 runs right to the east, so for most people a two hour drive or less puts them on the water. Some have even chosen to build year-round homes right by the lake.

The fishing is what brings a lot of locals to Henry's Lake. The lake produces large, fast growing cutthroat, hybrid, and brook trout. Lots of people like to make their first outing of the season on Henry's Lake. They troll. They still fish. They cast hardware, or they fly fish from a boat or a float tube. All of these methods will produce on Henry's Lake, and that is why fishermen flock to the lake. If I want to introduce someone to float tube fly rodding, and conditions are right, I will take them to Henry's

Lake. There they have the opportunity to fish for some really nice fish in beautiful surroundings. From the beginner to the seasoned veteran, Henry's Lake provides plenty of fishing opportunity.

The fishing, the scenic values, and the easy access draw huge numbers of people to the banks of Henry's Lake. Here the problems start. First the lake has two public and two private boat launching facilities. This makes it sometimes difficult and time consuming to put a boat on the lake. Opening day can lead to lines of boats and vehicles over a mile long waiting to launch. Tempers get short after a while. You know that the guy that launched thirty minutes ago has caught the big one that had your name on it. Second, last season almost 350,000 hours of angling effort were put in on Henry's Lake. That is a tremendous amount. This much effort puts a great strain on the facilities at the lake and the fish. The fish numbers have held up very well under this much pressure, due primarily to an excellent hatchery program by the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. I think that under this heavy barrage of fishing pressure they have done an excellent job of keeping fish in the lake. They try very hard to satisfy angler demands for good numbers of large fish.

Some things we need to think about for the future are, how do we maintain the fishery under ever increasing effort? What regulation changes will be necessary if any? What about water quality in the lake? What about access? Do we need to provide more?

Angler effort will continue to increase especially in short water years. Irrigation draw downs on Island Park Reservoir severely impact the fishery. Many fisherman have moved from there to Henry's Lake, and they will stay even after Island Park Reservoir comes back after the drought.

Henry's Lake is a great place to visit and to fish, but we must all provide input if we want to maintain it for the future.

Doug Stepert

The Hamilton Christmas of 1990

If your children or grandchildren ever say, "Let's spend Christmas at Henry's Lake," say "NO". We also have added, "Here's the cabin keys."

Christmas in '89 was so much fun, it was decided to do it again in '90. After spending two days in Rexburg, at 55 degrees below, it was too cold at the lake for Rich Lewis to meet us at the highway and take us into the cabin as the temperature with the wind chill factor was about 80 below.

We finally got the O.K. from Rich to come on up. He met us with the snowmobile, and after two or three trips from the car to the cabin, we got settled in - water running, fireplace going, and the furnaces going.

The third day, we opened up the garage doors to resupply the wood pile. The water pipes froze, from the door being open. Have you ever spent two or three days with six people and no water? The snow was so dry that when we tried to melt it on the stove, we would get very little water.

Even the snowmobile tracks would freeze when we tried to run them, and 20 below was considered a warm day.

Getting back to civilization was another very frightening experience. Going through Henry's Lake flats in a white out is really very scary.

Oh yes, we did holler at a poacher fishing in the spring, just

hope he got real cold.

Looking forward to seeing you this summer in much warmer weather.

The Hamilton Family

Historic Notes

Sawtelle Peak is Island Park's most visible land mark. The peak is 9866 feet high and is an ancient volcano.

The "golf ball" house is a radar which is part of the air traffic control center for Salt Lake City. It is one of nine radar installations in the northern Rocky Mountain area. All of the persons who man the facility are electronic technicians and maintain the equipment associated with the radar.

Living quarters are spacious with kitchen, living room, which has TV and stereo, bedrooms and baths. They do not drive back and forth to work everyday, but work ten hour shifts, and stay on the mountain top two nights during their forty hour work week.

Commuting to the top is not too bad in summer weather, but it's winter most of the year up there. The road is plowed during the winter once a day when the crews are changed. If the road is impassable they use a snow cat to reach the maintenance shed, which is half-way between the station and the base of the mountain. Most of the time the visibility is zero, so they drive from snow pole to snow pole, the poles being twenty feet apart. There are two avalanche zones which they blast regularly.

Tours of the facility can be arranged for in advance by phoning the FAA site number in Idaho Falls. (Taken from an article in the *Villager* August 16, 1985).

Grant Hamilton

Favorite Fly Patterns

All Maribou Damsel Nymph: I started tying this pattern many years before the commercial version came on the market. It is very simple to tie and by far the most effective damsel nymph I have ever used. It can be fished from the middle of the lake to the shallows. The main thing is to fish it slow. (Whoever saw a damsel nymph zipping through the water at breakneck speed?). In the deep water in the middle of the lake, I like to wind drift with it on a No. 2 or 3 line. It can also be used as a dropper in combination with a leech or woolybugger.

Materials: #10, 2 or 3 XL hook (I prefer Tiemco #5262)

Olive thread (3/0 or 6/0)

Fine gold wire

Olive Maribou (I use shades from gold-olive to dark olive brown, but prefer the medium to dark shades).



Tying Instructions: Attach thread to hook and cover the entire hook shank

back to a point directly above the barb. Tie in about 3 inches of fine gold wire directly above barb. Saturate entire hook shank with flyhead cement. Tie in Maribou tail about 1/2 hook shank in length. Strip off about one inch of the longest fibers from the Maribou plume and attach by the tips directly over the barb. Spiral thread to the eye of the hook. Using fingers or hackle pliers twist Maribou into a tight rope (be careful not to break it). Wrap Maribou rope to eye of hook and tie off (do not trim at this time). Spiral eight to ten wraps of gold wire (in the

opposite direction that you wrapped the Maribou) to the eye of the hook and tie off. If the untrimmed Maribou left at the eye of the hook is at least 1/3 hook shank length, fold it back and wrap with 3 or 4 wraps of thread then whip finish the head. If the untrimmed Maribou is too short, trim it off and tie in another tuft of Maribou to form the free swinging wingcase, then whip finish (I always use a double whip finish as this prolongs the durability of the fly. Also the main purpose of the gold wire is to increase the durability of the fragile Maribou). Apply a couple of coats of flyhead cement to the head (don't forget to clear the hook eye of cement).

When I started this I had intended to list another favorite of mine, but this has taken more space than I originally thought, so I will save the peacock and brown woolybugger for another time. I hope you have as much fun with this fly as I have had over the years.

Fred Grimes

Don't Give Up on Fishing Henry's Lake This Summer

Unless you've been living on another planet for the past few weeks, you could hardly have missed the news stories on the Henry's Lake fish kill.

Idaho Fish and Game estimates the kill at about 7,000 trout.

While this sounds horrendous, it doesn't necessarily mean anglers should cancel their summer plans at this popular eastern Idaho fishery.

A case can still be made for fishing the Big H this summer, particularly if you're a catch-and-release angler.

Fish and Game officials won't know the extent of the kill until the ice goes off the lake about mid-May. If the kill remains only 7,000 to 10,000 fish, the 1991 season could be better than last year.

As the kill percentages climb, concern about the immediate future of the lake may force Fish and Game to restrict the consumptive use of the remaining trout.

The number of fish taken by anglers during June of 1989 and 1990 amounted to five or six times the current winter kill figures. If Fish and Game decides to cut back on the bag limit for the 1991 season, non-consumptive anglers may find excellent fishing throughout most of the season (assuming we haven't had a massive fish kill).

The action taken by Fish and Game to protect the trout remaining in Henry's Lake has been exemplary. The agency reacted quickly with about thirty aerators scattered strategically around the lake's north shore.

They have monitored the oxygen content around the lake, to determine if the kill they found on the north shore was a localized event. While they found very poor water quality in other areas, they also found areas that would support heavy trout populations.

For now, if you're a Henry's Lake angler you're holding your breath, waiting for ice-out and a final judgment by Fish and Game as to the extent of the kill.

A worse case scenario would be a massive kill and a closure of the lake. With luck, the kill will remain nearer the current figures and fishing will still be permitted.

It is my guess that Fish and Game will be considering some type of limit restrictions to protect the remaining fish. Hatchery egg production fell short by about 50 percent of the annual

needs for the stocking of both hybrid and cutthroat trout - a situation that will definitely affect short term management of Henry's Lake. (Editor's Note: IDFG has since said that enough eggs have been taken to meet their goals).

I would encourage area anglers who have been considering Henry's Lake as a summer fishing destination to firm up their plans. By making Henry's Lake a base camp, the angler has dozens of other very excellent fishing spots to try:

Hebgen Lake - Many anglers who spent time camped at Henry's Lake in 1990 found the fishing at this big Madison River (Montana) impoundment better than at Henry's Lake. A 30-minute drive will put the angler on Hebgen, with an opportunity to catch both rainbow and brown trout in the pound to 5-pound range, with real lunkers a distinct possibility.

Hidden Lake - Also in Montana, this high mountain lake is a favorite of many who fish Henry's Lake. A 45-minute drive, and a 10-minute hike puts the angler into excellent rainbow trout water. Fish up to 20 to 22 inches are available.

The angler also has two of the finest trout streams in the world to choose from. The Henry's Fork of the Snake and the Madison attract fishermen from all over the world.

Marv Taylor

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Secretary-Treasurer: Polly Holbrook, 15200 Northwest Burlington Court, Portland, OR 97231
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