

HENRY'S LAKE FOUNDATION

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Fall 1992

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

Henry's Lake has been a busy place this year. Having suffered another year of drought, the lake was drawn to near record low levels. The water quality study is going forward, projects were completed, and our annual meeting was very successful.

The most notable happening at Henry's Lake was the draw-down of the lake to near record levels. As Idaho went through its sixth year of below normal precipitation, the water user group that owns the storage at Henry's Lake, the North Fork Canal Company, was finally forced to draft the lake heavily to meet irrigation demands. They did their best to conserve all possible water, and closed the spillway gates earlier than expected after a killing frost dropped irrigation demand. We owe the North Fork Canal Company a big **Thank You** for managing the lake levels as well as they did. No one likes to see huge expanses of muddy shoreline, high and dry boat docks, and very limited access to the lake. The low water severely impacted businesses around the lake as well as ranchers and grazers. We wish them all the best of luck and hope for a much better snowpack this winter to get things headed forward again.

The water quality study has been ongoing all summer. The Division of Environmental Quality study has progressed, with regular sampling taking place. Fremont County has a sub-contractor taking samples as part of a sewer feasibility study. Byron White has been doing regular sampling for the Henry's Lake Foundation. Thanks, Byron, for your enormous input of time and effort. Thanks also goes to Stan Horton for taking the time to collect readings on flow gauges on the tributaries as part of the DEQ study. The data collected from the sampling will start to come forth in early 1993.

The Henry's Lake Foundation participated in several projects this summer as explained in Richard Prange's article.

Our annual meeting was held at Henry's Lake the weekend of July 4. Two business meetings were held by the officers and board of directors. After many years of dedicated service Bob Roseberry and Tom McQuire resign their board of directors appointments. In the future they will continue to support the

foundation and I want to personally thank them for their past efforts. The general membership meeting, dinner and silent auction were held at Wild Rose. The turnout was fantastic, with everyone having a good time and a good meal. The silent auction raised a nice sum of money to be used in conservation projects at Henry's Lake. Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Idaho Division of Environmental Quality and Byron White from the Henry's Lake Foundation were on hand to give short presentations and answer questions about what was happening at Henry's Lake. Special thanks goes to my wife, Mary Ann, for arranging for the BBQ beef and preparing the desserts for the dinner. I love you. Thanks also to those who brought covered dishes to the dinner. Thanks to Staley Springs Lodge and Wild Rose Ranch for the use of their facilities for our meetings. And last but definitely not least, thanks to Bob and Marge Roseberry and all the ladies and gentlemen who helped organize and run the silent auction and the membership table. Without people like these the Henry's Lake Foundation could not be a viable organization. **Make a note on your 1993 calendars that we have scheduled next year's membership meeting for Saturday, July 3.**

We helped the fish and game department salvage fish from Henry's Lake Outlet in September after the spillway gates were shut down. I was notified Saturday afternoon that the salvage would take place Monday morning. I called George Lang asking for his help in putting together a crew of volunteers. As usual George was more than willing to help. We salvaged hundreds of fish that would have died if they had not been moved.

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is installing a large aeration setup in the lake at the mouth of Hatchery Creek. With lake levels so low they will be closely monitoring dissolved oxygen content as we head into winter. The aerator as well as numerous portable units will be put into operation as soon as oxygen levels start to drop. Hopefully this will help alleviate the dissolved oxygen problem and keep fish kills at a minimum level.

On a final note, thanks to everyone, named and unnamed, who has helped this year on Henry's Lake. Let's hope and pray for a good snowpack this winter and dream about the big ones to be caught next season.

Doug Siepert

I would like to thank everyone for their help at the picnic.

A special **thank you** to the ladies who sent the nice towels and everyone who sent notes.

I'm very happy everyone enjoyed it. Mary Ann Siepert

HENRY'S LAKE NEWS

Keeping you informed about the Henry's Lake Clean Lakes Project

Volume 1, No. 1 - November 1992

Published by the Henry's Lake Steering Committee and the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Environmental Quality

Scientists Put Henry's Lake Under The Microscope

HIGHLIGHTS

Steering Committee: The Henry's Lake Steering Committee was named in fall 1990. Members are representatives of federal, state, and local agencies, lake users, special interest groups, and local health and planning officials.

Monitoring: Scientists and other water quality experts began a one-year water sampling program in January 1992 that will lead to a lake management plan for Henry's Lake by the end of 1993.

Public Involvement: Public meetings are scheduled for spring and summer of 1993. Meanwhile, all interested groups and individuals will be kept informed through this newsletter and other publications.

STEERING COMMITTEE DIRECTS EFFORT TOWARD LONG-RANGE MANAGEMENT

A two-year study is under way to identify sources of pollutants and develop preventative and restorative measures for improvement of water quality in Henry's Lake and its tributaries. An intensive water sampling program began in January 1992 and will continue through December 1992. A lake management plan will be developed and proposed by December 1993.

'91 FISH KILL

Deteriorating water quality in the 70 year-old reservoir culminated in March 1991 when dissolved oxygen levels dropped, killing more than 8,000 trout in Henry's Lake. Decomposition of algae and other organic matter beneath the thick ice is suspected to have caused a reduction in the reservoir's dissolved oxygen levels, leading to the fish kill.

WATER QUALITY PROBLEMS

The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) began organizing a Clean Lakes Project in 1990 to investigate water quality problems occurring in Henry's Lake. DEQ and other state agencies, along with federal and local agencies, believe the lake and its watershed have been experiencing degraded water quality from several potential sources of nutrients and sediments. These sources include shoreline erosion, eroding stream banks, residential development, livestock grazing practices, recreational activities, and septic tank/wastewater disposal systems.

STEERING COMMITTEE

The project is coordinated by the Henry's Lake Steering Committee, which was named by the Department of Health and Welfare's Division of Environmental Quality in 1990. The

committee has been meeting to cooperatively identify areas of concern and find solutions to lake water quality problems.

The committee is comprised of representatives from state and federal agencies, Fremont County, cabin owners, fishing organizations, irrigators, commercial interests, ranchers, local health and planning officials, special interest groups, the North Fork Reservoir Co., and the Henry's Lake Foundation. James M. Montgomery, Consulting Engineers of Boise was retained in December 1991 to manage the project at a cost of \$163,949. The project is funded 83 percent by Idaho's Nutrient Management Act (\$136,788) and 17 percent by the Federal Clean Lakes Program, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (27,161). Several federal, state, and local agencies also are contributing time and expertise to the project.

The committee also is cooperating with two other studies being conducted within the Henry's Lake watershed. Fremont County is preparing a wastewater facilities study which could lead to construction of a community sewer system. The Soil Conservation Service and Yellowstone Soil Conservation District are conducting an agricultural water quality planning project. The results of these studies will be incorporated into the proposed lake management plan.

MONITORING PROGRESS

JANUARY 1992: Water samples were collected from lake and analyzed for nutrients. Scheduled sampling in February and March was canceled when melting ice and unsafe conditions resulted from unseasonably warm temperatures.

APRIL-MAY 1992: Water samples were collected from the lake and its outlet stream. Samples were collected from tributaries including Targhee, Howard, Hope, Duck, Timber, and Pittsburgh creeks.

JUNE 1992: Four shallow wells were drilled on upper and lower Duck Creek, lower Targhee Creek, and lower Timber Creek to monitor subsurface water quality. Water quality monitoring was continued in the lake and its tributaries twice.

JULY-OCTOBER 1992: Water quality monitoring was continued in the lake and its tributaries twice each month. Aquatic plants growing in Henry's Lake were surveyed and identified during August. Idaho Department of Fish and Game installed aerating equipment in Henry's Lake near the fish hatchery. The Soil Conservation Service conducted preliminary field studies at Henry's Lake under the agricultural water quality planning program.

WHAT'S NEXT

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1992: Water quality monitoring will continue in Henry's Lake.

JANUARY-MARCH 1993: Water quality data will be analyzed and prepared for presentation to the steering committee.

APRIL 1993: A public workshop will be held to formulate alternatives for the lake management plan.

JUNE 1993: Alternative lake management plans will be submitted to the steering committee for review. The public will be notified of a public meeting by mail and through the media.

PUBLIC COMMENTS IMPORTANT

JULY 1993: A public meeting is tentatively scheduled for early July. Alternative lake management plans will be presented and discussed.

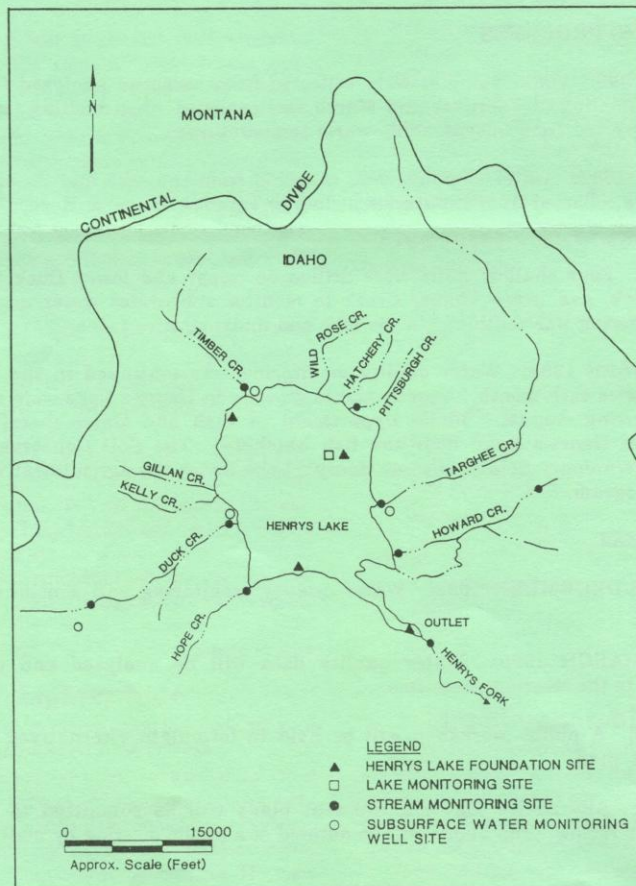
AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1993: A lake management plan will be selected by the steering committee based on public comments received.

OCTOBER 1993: The final lake management plan will be prepared.

NOVEMBER 1993: The steering committee will approve the final lake management plan, followed by a public mailing and news media announcements.

EARLY 1994: The Henry's Lake Management Plan will be submitted with recommended solutions and management actions to the Idaho Legislature for consideration.

For more information call: Matt Nelson, Division of Environmental Quality,
(208) 525-7300



HENRY'S LAKE MONITORING SITES

FIGURE 1

Season Ender

What a year ender compared to last year. Last season the lake froze over on October 27 and we were unable to fish the last few days. This year the water temperature was forty-six on Halloween and we were averaging almost seven fish per hour. Yes, it was a little snowy, but what fun.

It was a very odd year as the water of the lake was dropped about eight feet and boats could not get into the lake. It was also an odd year as the fishing got better as the year progressed. In looking back over my notes I find that the fishing was also very inconsistent as one area would be good one day and then very poor the next. The key was moving around the lake and changing flies. I found as the year progressed, I also saw the fishing improve. We had many forty fish days this fall. We also had some very poor days as we just could not get the fish to hit anything.

Flies. This was the year of the Crystal Bugger. I discovered it near the end of June and it remained the hot fly throughout the season. We used four colors - dark olive, light olive, black and purple/black. We were more successful in August than we have been for years and I feel the Crystal Bugger was the reason. I hope that it will remain that way for a few years.

I was able to take a fish on opening day with a damsel and also took fish on it on the last day. In fact it was one of the most successful flies during the last week. We also found small damselfly in the weeds late this season. I probably had one of my funnest days ever fishing damselfly and Crystal Buggers between Hope and Duck Creek in the shallows during the damselfly hatch with an intermediate line.

For some reason the leeches were not as successful this year as they have been in the past. Sometimes I felt that we just did not fish them enough with the new patterns that we were using. But at times the Canadian Brown and Canadian Red produced very well.

The size of the fish varied considerable this season. At times we were very disappointed with the small fish, but by the end of the season most of the eight to twelve inchers we were catching earlier were fourteen to sixteen inches. But we also had one of the best years ever for large fish. I only took four fish over thirty inches (compared to twelve last season), but we took 127 fish over twenty-five inches. In one day three of us landed eight over twenty-five inches. That was the best day of big fish that I have ever had.

Early and mid-season we took a lot of brook trout, but this fall we only had two good days for brookies. The fish and game got their quota of over 600 brook trout in three nights, but the fishermen had a very tough time taking brooks there. We did have some good days at Duck Creek. It appeared that the brooks were rising and it was very frustrating as we could not get them to hit anything.

At times this summer we could have ninety percent of our catch hybrids and we wondered about the cutts. Then again later we would see ninety percent of our catch cutts and would worry about the hybrids and brooks. More than ever this year I saw fish school according to their species. Even with all we know, we still do not understand what is happening out under that water.

Another very odd thing that happened was the fish stayed in the Glory Hole at Staleys until the season closed. In visiting

with Harry Tupper, neither of us had ever seen this happen before.

Predictions - We have already seen a lot of rain and snow at Henry's this past two weeks and the lake is rising gradually. I hope that it will fill, but I have my doubts. One thing I do know is that if boats can get in we will be inundated with fishermen next year. Henry's Lake is the only lake which is over fifty percent full right now in southern Idaho. We will get the pressure early next year. I hope that the fishing is slow early, but I don't think that it will be. Baring any fish kill this winter the fish will gain a couple of inches and we will have an eighteen inch average during the spawning run. A lot of these fish will be harvested early and we may see a repeat of the small/large fish pattern again. I sure wish we could get a true trophy regulation of a one fish over twenty-two inches. It would sure help save some of the medium size fish.

Have a great winter and we will see you next season.

Bill Schiess

Report from Tom Herron Hatchery Superintendent

Since the Foundation meeting in July much has happened. Aquatic macrophyte surveys were completed by the Division of Water Quality, J.M. Montgomery and Associates and the Henry's Lake Hatchery. Distribution of plants and characteristics of plant association, (which plants grow next to or among other plants) were studied. The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory also completed a bathymetric map of Henry's Lake with the assistance of the Henry's Lake Hatchery. Some interesting features have shown up that haven't been documented on existing maps. These two projects were completed using global positioning system technology. Accuracy with this system can be as high as plus or minus two meters when used in conjunction with the I.N.E.L. ground station. This kind of data can be very useful in tracking long term ecological changes in a body of water such as Henry's Lake. In conjunction with sonar we were able to look at plant densities along transects that were established using G.P.S. Due to the accuracy of this system we can track plant densities on a monthly or yearly basis.

Brook trout trapping was completed on the 19th of October with more than enough fish for eggs and relocating adults into tributaries made impassable by drought. Low water will effect spawning conditions through the cutthroat season next spring. On September 1st the elevation at Henry's Lake was 10.19 feet with 50,000 acre feet stored. At 9 a.m. on October 21st the elevation is 10.27 feet with 50,528 acre feet stored. A little less than one inch change in elevation. Keep in mind that is has been very dry here and tributary flow is quite low - recharge will be quicker this winter.

Installation of a large aeration system may take place on Henry's Lake this year. The hatchery staff has completed setting the first pipe sections, building a foundation, installing the blowers and erecting a building over the project. Arrival of materials to complete the project will determine completion.

There has been some interest by Don Salisbury to work with us on riparian fencing along Little Targhee Creek and Targhee Creek next year. Existing fencing projects are being taken down this week in preparation for winter. Solar panels and energizers worked well this year but some batteries will have to be replaced for next season.

1992 Projects Report

More progress was made during 1992 on projects that will reap long term benefits for the fishery and water quality at Henry's Lake. Credit needs to be given to the cooperating landowners and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) who coordinated most of the project work in 1992. The Henry's Lake Foundation was requested to provide substantial funding towards the projects and did so to the tune of over \$5,000. Since the mid-1980's, between the Foundation, IDFG, other agencies and organizations and landowners, there has been an impressive array of habitat projects completed. We are beginning to see "the light at the end of the tunnel". The discussion below summarizes what was accomplished in 1992.

Early last spring, a few Foundation members and others cut and stockpiled willows for an extensive planting and outing organized by the Madison High School biology staff and hatchery superintendent, Tom Herron. About a week later, some 200 students showed up to walk Duck Creek, learn about stream ecology and plant willow cuttings along the stream on the Magleby Ranch.

A significant amount of lake shore and stream fencing projects were completed last summer. Fences were constructed along the west shore of Henry's Lake on the Barbara Schofield property (mouth of Kelly Springs Creek) and the Taft/Hartman properties (the previous Webster Ranch). Also about three-fourths of a mile of shoreline area was fenced near the outlet channel on land owned by Lew Webster. Together these fencing projects will protect about two more miles of lake shore from grazing and direct livestock water contact. The lower reaches of Duck Creek and Kelly Springs Creek were also fenced on the Taft/Hartman holdings to improve stream habitat for spawning and rearing trout.

One more fish screen was installed on an irrigation diversion ditch on Targhee Creek which is an important spawning tributary on the east side of Henry's Lake. The project was located on the Diamond D Ranch (Don Salisbury, owner) and was completed in August by IDFG crews.

This year due to the heavy drawdown on Henry's Lake, spawning brook trout had difficulty swimming across mudflats and entering spawning streams. To help out, several Foundation members joined with Tom Herron and Slash E Ranch owner, Fred Losch and his son, to shovel out the mouth of Targhee Creek. This digging combined with the stream's flow quickly created a confined channel that spawners could migrate through.

Richard Prange

On The Lighter Side

The following quotation is taken from the dedication of *Graffiti on the Great Outdoors*, by John O'Neill.

"Bob Briscoe, a very personable man, had a delightful sense of humor. One fine June morning many years ago, we were sitting on the bank of Henry's Fork of the Snake River in Idaho, dangling our feet in the water and hoping that the classic Green Drake Mayflies might hatch out later in the morning. The view of the Tetons to the southeast was breathtaking.

As we discussed prospects for the hatch, two studious looking, full-bearded, four-eyed, yuppie characters, straight out of the catalog, came clanking down the bank. They both had

every gadget in the catalog hanging off of their fancy fly vests; leader clippers, hook sharpeners, knot tiers, compasses, magnifying glasses, night lights, dry fly dope, leader sink, scissors, scales, retractable rulers, wading staffs, camera cases, insect nets, laminated insect books and \$200 landing nets. Bob and I looked to see if any price tags were hanging down.

'Good morning', one of the professor types said in his best up-east accent, 'we are looking for Ephemerella'.

Bob turned to me with a serious look on his face and replied 'Gee, I don't think she's fishing down here this morning. Have you seen her, John?'

The two Ph.D.'s exchanged glances and the second one said to number one, 'You asked for that!'

Later on in the morning the beautiful Mayflies anticipated, Ephemerella, the Green Drakes, did hatch out and Bob and I caught a couple of rainbows. The memory of this deft rejoinder has never left me."

Book Offer for Members

John O'Neill has renewed the offer of his book *Graffiti on the Great Outdoors*, to Henry's Lake Foundation members in return for a donation to the Foundation. All proceeds go to the Foundation.

Graffiti is comprised of forty humorous stories, some old and some new, many of them concerning fishing.

Send a contribution of \$12 (tax-deductible) to: Henry's Lake Foundation, % Secretary Polly Holbrook, 15200 N.W. Burlington Court, Portland, OR 97231. Your book will be sent by First Class Mail.

Treasurer's Report - November 1992

Auction Proceeds:	
Auction	\$2,601.00
Auction Donations	124.00
Cash Table	236.55
	\$2,961.55
Membership	\$620.00
Expenses	24.20
Profit	3,518.15
Life Membership	200.00
	\$3,718.15
Assets:	
Checking Account	\$6,951.39
CDIC	20,334.57
Bonds	20,096.25
	\$47,382.21

Polly Holbrook

Life Memberships for the Kids

At the conclusion of the silent auction on July 5 at Wild Rose Ranch, a drawing was held for two life memberships for kids up to eighteen year of age. All successful bidders for auction items and all donors of articles for the auction were entitled to put the name of their favorite kid in the hat for the drawing.

These two life memberships were dedicated to the late president of the Henry's Lake Foundation, Harold Husted of Buhl, Idaho, who died in May, 1990, and to member Bill Akers of West Yellowstone, Montana, and Knoxville, Tennessee, who died May 16, 1992.

One membership was sponsored by John and Pat O'Neill of Hatcherhubbee, Alabama, and the other by Dr. John Omdorff of Illinois.

Shirl Hustead, the widow of Harold Hustead, drew for one membership and David Akers, son of Bill Akers, drew the second lucky name from the hat. First winner was three-year old John O'Neill Robinson, future fisherman from Greenville, South Carolina. The second membership went to teenager, Brandi Swindell of Boise, Idaho. Quite remarkably, Brandi is the **second** granddaughter of the Rex Day family to win a life membership.

It is hoped that this tradition of life memberships for youngsters can be continued in future years.

The 1992 silent auction and membership dues brought in over \$3,700 for the Henry's Lake Foundation. All funds are used for conservation projects in the lake and on surrounding tributaries. These projects are beginning to pay good dividends in the number of small trout returning to the lake from the spawning gravels in the creeks.

John O'Neill

Planning and Zoning Report

The Fremont County Comprehensive Plan for Planning and Zoning, adopted February, 1992, was formed under the authority of Idaho's Local Planning Act. It is for the purpose of promoting health, safety and general welfare of the people of Fremont County. The plan is the result of extensive research, training and public participation and discussion.

Today, ten months after the enactment of this plan which provides a systematic evaluation of land development, it is being praised and supported by the residents. Recent meetings have been attended by a greater number of people than ever before. The residents want orderly development and the protection of their land values; they want protection of stream

corridors, critical wildlife habitat, fisheries, wet land, and good water quality. We are already seeing some of the results in residential land development i.e. the necessity of having at least one-half acre parcel of land in order to secure a building permit if the land was purchased after the enactment of the Comprehensive Plan. This will have a significant impact on the density of the region. Also, applications for commercial development are undergoing critical analysis in order to determine if the plan will meet the criteria.

It is Fremont County's policy to cooperate with smaller incorporated cities by assisting in the adoption and administration of the county plan through the creation of a joint planning commission. In the beginning only St. Anthony had an active planning process, but the county's progressive attitude in adopting the Comprehensive Plan is inspiring other forward-looking community leaders. Many residents of the Island Park area have expressed interest in the passage of this important legislation.

George Lang

Special Note

Dear Polly Holbrook,

I am enclosing my check for \$100 to the Henry's Lake Foundation as a memorial to my husband, Dewey Myers, who died April 16th. We parked in the trailer park at Staley Springs Lodge where he fished for many years until he was unable to drive so far from our home in Novato, CA.

Would it be possible to put the announcement of his death in the next newsletter so that his many friends would know? He would have been ninety-four years old on May 26th.

I am also adding \$12 for John O'Nealls book *Graffiti on the Great Outdoors*. Sincerely, Ima B. Myers, 71 Marin Valley Drive, Novato, CA 94949.





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Secretary-Treasurer: Polly Holbrook, 15200 Northwest Burlington Court, Portland, OR 97231
(send all membership dues/donations to Secretary-Treasurer)

The Henry's Lake Foundation invites you to join and support our non-profit, tax exempt corporation formed to preserve, protect, and enhance the great trout fishery of Henry's Lake. Just fill in the information below and send your tax deductible contribution or membership dues to:

Henry's Lake Foundation
c/oSecretary-Treasurer
Polly Holbrook
15200 Northwest Burlington Court
Portland, OR 97231

Name _____

Street Address _____

City, _____ State _____ Zip _____

_____ \$15 annual membership dues

_____ \$100 life membership (deposited in a trust/interest bearing account)

_____ Existing member, and my contribution is an additional donation