



HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION

Printed by J&D, Castleford, Idaho (208) 537-6688 or 1-800-669-8076

Spring 1995

Notice to all readers from Richard Prange, 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 Board of Directors.

President's Message

1995 has the potential to be as good as any of the last thirty years at Henrys Lake.

Why?

Because you all care enough to be interested and contribute your time and money. Your efforts are being combined with all those of the other fishermen, homeowners, landowners, tourists, government agencies, particularly the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. The contributions of everyone is necessary to maintain the lake. We all have the same basic objective, but different methods.

Many of you were concerned about the future of hybrids in Henrys Lake. Mark Gamblin has written me a letter, published in this newsletter, that will quell your concerns.

There have also been calls about the Nature Conservancy negotiations to establish a winter flow of water in the outlet of Henrys Lake. Several of us in the Foundation have expressed concerns about the effects that a winter water release may leave on the Henrys Lake fishery. A winter flow release would help establish a better fishery in the outlet. Last year the Nature Conservancy purchased a large portion of the Flying R Ranch on the Henrys Lake flats downstream of the lake. They are focusing on fish and wildlife habitat enhancements while allowing for continued livestock grazing. While agreements have not been reached with the Henrys Lake water right holders, I now have a letter from Lou Lunte, of the Nature Conservancy, that Henrys Lake fish will have priority and they will stop winter release of water if it jeopardizes the lake fishery. They have also indicated they will assist our efforts to improve fish habitat and the watershed around Henrys Lake.

We are now participating in the largest fencing project to be done on Henrys Lake. Some twenty miles of fence will be built on the Diamond D Ranch, including fence on Howard and Targhee Creeks. Timber Creek needs some fence and I hope we can do that in the near future. A work day has not

been firmed up yet, but we may contact you at the annual meeting 1 July.

The Silent Auction will begin at 11 a.m., July 1 and continue through lunch. The election of officers will follow lunch with a board meeting directly thereafter.

I will be confirming the fishing forecast during June and July at Staley Springs, stop by and see me.

Bob Hall

Diamond D Ranch Project

The Diamond D Ranch would like to thank the **Henrys Lake Foundation** for your support. Richard Prange asked us to describe the changes that are taking place on the Ranch for this newsletter.

We have completed a careful evaluation of our goals. Our primary goal is to have a profitable cattle grazing enterprise with good ecological management of riparian and pasture lands. To accomplish these goals we are instituting a multiple pasture, carefully regulated rotational grazing plan (HRM Method) combined with riparian fencing and off-stream cattle watering systems. We will also be monitoring plant and soil health, in stream water quality and wildlife habitat.

Charles Orchard, Diamond D Ranch Manager, holds a BA and Masters degree from Montana State University in Range and Soil Management. He will be responsible for the execution and management of our plan.

It has taken a coming together of many highly talented people and organizations to make all this happen. **John Magelby**, Henrys Lake Foundation Director and rancher, has given us on the ground examples of riparian fencing, as well as valuable advice on pasture planning. **Tom Herron**, IDFG, has been essential as the overall coordinator and enthusiastic supporter of our plans. **Ken Beckmann**, of the Soil Conservation Service, has been very instrumental in helping us with grant requests and planning our new pasture and watering systems. **Lou Lunte**, of the Nature Conservancy of Idaho, has given us crucial support by leasing the grazing rights on their Flat Ranch on the Outlet to us. The additional pasture land will enable us to have a viable grazing unit. He has also contributed valuable advice on riparian planting. **Tom Cole**, who recently acquired the Upper Flying R Ranch, has leased his pastures to us to enhance our grazing capabilities.

The **Henrys Lake Foundation**, along with other organizations have enabled us to execute our plans. We are sin-

cerely grateful for the support and encouragement.

At the present time, fish screens are installed on all diversion points on Targhee and Howard Creeks. Summer of 1995 will see the start of implementation of our goals. We plan to complete all riparian fencing from Highway 87 to the lake shore. This will also include fencing the lake shore between Targhee and Howard Creeks. An off-stream cattle watering system will be in place for our pastures, also we will complete cross fencing of the pasture between Targhee and Howard Creeks. We hope to complete some additional projects in 1995, but this will depend on funding and availability of manpower.

The Diamond D Ranch, by remaining a profitable ranch, will insure open space lands on Henry's Lake. With riparian protection of Targhee and Howard Creek, and improved in-stream flow, the Henry's Lake fishery and water quality will be enhanced. We look forward to implementing our plans and improving the ecological health of the Henry's Lake community.

Don Salisbury, Diamond D Ranch

Henry's Lake Foundation Auction

Time to gather your items for the July 1st Silent Auction and sale. Donations relating to the Henry's Lake fishery are always welcome, however items of a domestic or personal nature have been very well received in recent years.

A committee will be soliciting some of the local merchants on behalf of this significant fund raiser. (We'll leave most of the sporting goods stores to the dedicated anglers).

If you are unable to attend this year, please send your auction item(s) to **Barbara Day, 1128 Maple Dr., Mountain Home, ID 83647** by June 10th. Item(s) may also be dropped off at the Day's motor home at Staley Springs or left at the lodge office by June 29th.

Barbara Day

Membership Drive

Have you forgotten to mail in your membership renewals? The 1995 memberships were due and payable on January 1, 1995. We've collected about half of the membership, (thank you). If you haven't sent yours in, please do so ASAP!

Rex Day has been a blessing! He has taken on the monstrous job of writing the computer program, entering renewals, finding those delinquent members (way back) and soliciting their renewals with great success. Job well done Rex, we all appreciate your dedication and help!

If the new restructure for renewal is unclear, let me help clarify. The Henry's Lake Foundation is a non-profit organization, your membership is a donation and is tax deductible. We fund our many stream riparian enhancement projects with your contributions, to improve the quality fishery of Henry's Lake for the present and future. **WE NEED YOUR DONATIONS!**

To encourage new and established membership to donate as much as possible we opened the dollar amount making it flexible. i.e. Individual Membership \$20 - \$49. You can renew with \$20 or \$25 or \$49 - your choice.

An Individual Membership is for one, a single person. A Family Membership is for husband and/or wife and/or dependent children under age 18. Life Membership is for one, a

single person to become a lifetime member payable only once with a \$10 yearly office charge. (Life members paid prior to January 1, 1995 are exempt from any additional charges.) A Patron Member is to recognize the generosity of a contribution member, payable only once.

Any and all donations/contributions are happily received and greatly appreciated. We've lots of work ahead and together we can maintain and preserve this extraordinary fishery.

Jeannie Fullen, Secretary/Treasurer

Henry's Lake Foundation Video

I still need photos of large trout caught at Henry's Lake. As stated in the fall newsletter, we plan to add these photos to the Foundation video to be shown at the July 1st picnic. The photos need not be of recent catches. Any photos (slides or prints) are welcome and will greatly improve this video. For this to be successful, I need a much better response than I got from the article in the fall newsletter.

Please send these photos (slides or prints) to **Rex Day, 1128 Maple Dr., Mountain Home, ID 83647** by June 5, 1995. Include your name, species, size and/or weight, fly or lure used, and when caught, if known. I will return the photos to you after the video is completed. Your cooperation will be appreciated.

Rex Day

Float Tube Magic

One of the reasons that I might have looked preoccupied last summer at Henry's Lake was that I was finishing editing a basic book on float tube fly fishing. Now the fruits of the work can be found in fly fishing shops throughout the country. Frank Amato Publications released my book in January and I've had several book signings in the San Francisco Bay area. This guide to fly fishing from a float tube contains over sixty color photographs accompanying the text with the goal of making the reader confident and knowledgeable as to tackle and float tube preparation, float tube maneuvering, safety backup, casting, wind, and fishing techniques, and much more.

In the section on conservation, I mentioned Henry's Lake Foundation as an example of an organization that has played a major role in restoring the excellence of this great trout lake. John O'Neill and Mike Brickner were very helpful in giving both editorial and substantive advice for which I am most grateful. And, the series of photographs of Barbara Brickner catching, playing, and netting a fish, tugs at our hearts, and reminds us all of what a great person she was.

Right after *Float Tube Magic* was released, a local newspaper did a column about me and the book. I was pleased as neighbors commented on the celebrity in their midst, but I was especially pleased by a phone call I received by a young man who read the article. He said the article brought up lots of fond memories for him because he had fished at Henry's Lake with his father since he was a small boy, and his father had fished at Henry's with his father. He hasn't been to Henry's for a long time, but with the impetus of the article and the book he is thinking about Damsel Flies in June.

The book will be available for sale at the July 1 Henry's Lake Foundation meeting, and Frank Amato has donated ten copies to the foundation. Looking forward to reunion with

so many friends and another summer of great lake fishing. I only hope that I can catch one as big as Pat O'Neill's last season.

Pat Pothier

Henry's Lake Memorial

The Committee constructing the Henry's Lake Memorial, which is being built independent of the Henry's Lake Foundation, is pleased to give a progress report and to outline plans for completion of the Memorial in early summer.

A number of additional gifts toward the project have been received since publication of the fall newsletter. They are most welcome and have guaranteed the secure financing and future upkeep of the project. They were received from the following individuals:

Bob & Gretta Askey	Herb Meyer
Earl Cooper	Thomas & Ruth Odell
Jim & Ann Criner	William A. Prefach
Rex & Barbara Day	Larry & Marsha Purefoy
Richard & Dawnaline Decker	Robert Rohrer
Robert & Fern Dittmer	Bob & Marge Roseberry
Lois M. Johnson	Martha E. Turner
William & Linda Johnson	Graham Wilson
Patrick D. McElya	

To date a total of \$4,503.33 in cash donations has been received for the Memorial. In addition, several material gifts such as the travertine marble slabs and flagstones from Ted Orchard and machine work from Stan and Mike Horton, plus other incidentals, have been donated. In terms of dollars these were very valuable. A total of \$2,544.19 has been expended on the project. This includes all construction to date and preparation of 75 individual granite plaques containing the names

Bill Akers, TN
 Archie Anglon, AZ
 Herb Bassett, WY
 Carl Beam, CA
 Glenn Bennett, KS
 George Biggs, ID
 Hank Boltrucky, CA
 Frank Brandenburger, CA
 Lawrence Bradford, CA
 Barbara Brickner, GA
 Bob Briscoe, CA
 Jim Brown, UT
 Boyd Brown, ID
 Ed Burson, CA
 Jess Carrington, AZ
 Robert N. Coe, CA
 Ed Dunlop, ID
 Haskell Elder, CA
 Bill Estes, OK
 Fred Garland, OK
 e Garland, OK
 Jack Gates, IA
 Rupert Gates, ID
 Ralph Gaylord, MN
 Fred Griesinger, IA

Barbara Grim, ID
 John Hartman, KS
 Elmer Hayes, CA
 Gene Hughes, ID
 Ed Hunter, IN
 Bill Huss, AZ
 Harold Husted, ID
 Victor Jory, CA
 Clyde Keats, CA
 Moe Keith, CA
 M.E. Jones, CA
 Ed Landry, CA
 Ray Klumb, CA
 Wilbert Longhofer, TX
 Charles G. Light, ID
 Al Lucas, CA
 Bill Lynch, CA
 Gene McGill, OK
 Herb McQueen, TN
 Frank Mullett, UT
 Dewey Myers, CA
 Wally Nowicki, CA
 John O'Callaghan, CA
 John E. Trager, OK
 Orville Ottgens, CA

of those deceased Henry's Lake fishermen to be honored. There is room for approximately 100 names on the monument.

A total of \$1,959.14 is now left to complete the project and to leave a permanent fund for future upkeep. Work remaining to be done includes installation of the 75 individual plaques, a flagpole to fly the American and Idaho State flags, and some landscaping. This should be accomplished in early June. Additional donations received will be added to the permanent fund for future upkeep and manufacture of future individual plaques for inclusion on the monument. If you wish to participate, checks can be made to the Henry's Lake Memorial and sent to Mike Brickner, 13744 Upatoi Lane, Upatoi, CA 31829. Your participation will be most welcome and will help ensure the memorial is kept in first-class shape all the years to come.

Plans are to dedicate the memorial with a fitting ceremony at the annual meeting of the Henry's Lake Foundation in early July. At that time the permanent fund will be turned over to the Foundation for safekeeping and future expenditures, and our Committee will disband. We hope you will attend the annual meeting, barbecue and silent auction, and celebrate with us this permanent monument on the shores of the greatest trout fishing lake in the United States!

Once again our thanks is expressed to the many individuals who encouraged us to tackle the project and to those who pitched in to help in so many ways. We feel that the memorial is impressive, befitting the character, rugged individualism and unforgettable personalities of all those who are being remembered here. Following is the list of the first 75 men and women to be honored on the memorial. We feel sure you will find friends and acquaintances among this number.

Mike Brickner

E.M. (Pop) Pearson, UT
 Steve Phillips, AZ
 William W. Rainey, ID
 Lawrence Roubinek, ID
 Gary Roberts, ID
 Al Stenseth, IA
 Walter W. Stephens, CA
 Floyd "Phebe" Stewart, AZ
 Hazel "Kookie" Stewart, AZ
 Jack Sandborn, NV
 Robert Smith, CO
 Frank Stamm, CA
 Frank Tenney, OK
 Charles Taft, OH
 Wade Thomas, CA
 Edgar Tubbs, CA
 Ted Trueblood, ID
 David Valder, ID
 Bill Watson, CA
 Dalton N. Woodall, CA
 Jim Wright, NM
 Max Yost, ID
 "Red" Young, TX
 Leonard Johnson, Ca
 Edward L. "Buck" Bybee, ID

IDAHO FISH & GAME

UPPER SNAKE REGION
1515 Lincoln Road
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401-2198

Philip E. Batt / Governor
Jerry M. Conley / Director

March 13, 1995

Mr. Bob Hall
Rt. 1 Box 103
Glenns Ferry, ID 83623

Dear Bob:

After our discussion of the Henrys Lake fish management program during our January 16 meeting in Jerome, I promised you that we would follow up with a letter summarizing the conclusions from that meeting.

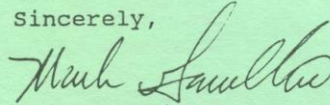
The Henrys Lake Foundation had two principal concerns that we discussed at that meeting: 1) winter water withdrawals for Henrys Lake Outlet maintenance flows, and 2) the future of the Henrys Lake hybrid program.

I felt like we reached a positive understanding with the Nature Conservancy that no actions would be proposed for winter water releases from Henrys Lake that could jeopardize the Henrys Lake fishery. I expect to coordinate closely with Lou Lunte and his staff, the Henrys Lake Foundation, and the Henrys Fork Foundation on management initiatives to improve fish habitat in Henrys Lake Outlet. I believe that Lou Lunte was very clear that the Nature Conservancy will not pursue agreements or actions on winter withdrawals from Henrys Lake without coordinating with the groups represented at the Jerome meeting.

Regarding the Henrys Lake hybrid program, I want to re-state what Don Wright and I assured you of. The Department has no plans to abandon the hybrid program at Henrys Lake. We value the trophy fishery provided by hybrids in Henrys Lake as much as anyone. The persistent, unfounded rumors that we do have a hidden agenda to drop rainbow/cutthroat hybrid stocking from our management program at Henrys Lake create a significant problem for us because it requires time and effort to respond to. That time and manpower is much better spent working on real fishery issues that will benefit Idaho anglers. I hope we can put this to rest finally.

Bob, I appreciate your willingness to talk to us and work with us on these issues. I believe that the better we communicate with each other, the more effective we will be as a group doing what is truly important - protecting Idaho's world class fishery resources. We really are on the same side. I want to do everything I can to keep it that way. I'm looking forward to coordinating with the Foundation to present another trout management workshop for Henrys Lake this summer. We have some very good information collected over the past several years on Henrys Lake that we want to share with your membership. Let's stay in touch.

Sincerely,



Mark Gamblin
Regional Fishery Manager
Upper Snake Region

Idaho Department of Fish & Game Update

Can it really be spring again? After a busy and hectic field season in 1994, Upper Snake River regional personnel had a busy winter and now we are preparing for another busy and productive field season in 1995.

There is much good news to report about Henry's Lake. From water quality to creel survey results to the status of Utah chubs, there are many reasons to feel confident about the future of Henry's Lake and its trophy fishery. Let me begin with an update of last season's creel statistics.

The 1994 catch rate of 0.66 trout per hour was the best we have seen since the 1991 winter kill. At the same time that catch rates have been improving, **harvest** rates have been declining and the percentage of trout in the Henry's Lake catch being released, has been increasing. It appears that angling habits on Henry's Lake are changing with a shift toward voluntary catch and release practices and proportionately less harvest. This is a common response on waters managed for quality angling under restrictive regulations such as Henry's Lake or the South Fork of the Snake. Although there are a number of socially related reasons that we think drive this trend, the end result is a stable, high quality fishery, especially on a very fertile and productive lake such as Henry's. Overall, the picture from last season and the three seasons previous to last year is a healthy population that withstood the stress of the 1991 winter kill very well, and is adjusting its size structure to resemble a normal population as all age and size groups become well represented following the winter kill losses.

The only significant concern that we have for the Henry's Lake fishery is the declining catch (reflected in the harvest) of brook trout. This is most likely due to drought effects on brook trout spawning success which we think have reduced natural recruitment of brook trout. We will be looking closely at the brook trout component of the Henry's Lake fishery, with consideration given to increasing hatchery supplementation of brook trout until stream flow conditions and lake level in the fall again favors successful brook trout spawning and production of recruits to the lake.

Winter water quality monitoring is drawing to a close for this year as the weather warms and ice conditions become unsafe for water sampling. Tom Herron reports that dissolved oxygen concentrations are on par with conditions we observed in 1992 and considerably better than the winter of 1993, the last winter of concern. With the aeration system, we are confident that Henry's Lake will come through this winter with no problems.

In last year's spring newsletter, Tom described our work activities planned for 1994 that included extensive fish marking with fin clips and reward tags to allow us to estimate the size of the Henry's Lake trout population and an estimate of angling exploitation of Henry's Lake trout. We think that we had good success with those efforts, and are now completing analysis of the data. These estimates will be very useful to us to model the Henry's Lake trout population, which will allow us to describe the effectiveness of our current management program in meeting management goals and project the effects of changes in angling pressure on the trout population.

Bruce Rich and I will be conducting a trout management workshop, similar to those we held in 1994 for the Henry's Fork, for Henry's Lake using these new data collected last year. This will be an opportunity for all who are interested in the Henry's Lake fishery and its management program. We will be using a computer model to describe the character of the Henry's Lake trout population under varying management strategies to help the public understand how existing or alternate angling regulations would change the quality of fishing. These workshops have proven to be very popular with those who attended last year and in fact prompted requests by Henry's Lake Foundation members that we conduct this workshop specifically for Henry's Lake. We hope to conduct it as close to the Foundation's annual meeting in July as possible in order to enable as many Foundation members as possible to attend.

Two questions which are often asked about Henry's Lake and the Henry's Fork these days are: 1) What is the status of Utah chubs in Henry's Lake since their "discovery" in 1993?, and 2) What about whirling disease? Is it going to be a problem for Henry's Lake (or the Henry's Fork)?

First, Utah chubs. In a very large trap netting, gill netting and purse seining effort last year, a total of three Utah chubs were captured which accounted for less than one percent of the total number of fish sampled from the lake. All indications to this point are that Utah chubs are a very small fraction of Henry's Lake fish population that pose no **immediate** threat to the fishery. Our monitoring efforts will continue with periodic updates to the Henry's Lake Foundation membership.

Whirling disease has captured a large share of the attention given to fishing issues in the intermountain west due to the apparent negative side effects of whirling disease on Madison River wild rainbow trout. The good news about Henry's Lake and the Henry's Fork, in Island Park, is that all tests for the disease on fish samples collected for the past five years from Henry's Lake and the past four months from the Henry's Fork have been negative. It is entirely possible that the disease could be introduced to our waters in the near future, but so little is known about the disease organism (a parasite protozoan that attacks the developing cartilage of young trout) and its interaction with wild trout populations, that there is no way for **anyone** to predict what the consequences might be for Henry's Lake or the Henry's Fork. We will continue a rigorous sampling effort for whirling disease in Henry's Lake and keep the Foundation membership informed of developments.

The most important message I can pass on regarding whirling disease is that while everyone should be concerned about the potential for its negative impacts on our wild trout fisheries, there is no reason to expect a catastrophe. Experience in other states over the past 15 years has shown that whirling disease in wild trout populations often has little effect on the **population** as a whole and little or no effect on angling quality.

Mark Gamblin, IDFG Regional Fishery Manager

Creel Census Records For Henry's 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
1991	147,023	18,844	.13	.34	63	49	49	2
1992	115,526	12,192	.11	.45	72	38	52	10
1993	144,267	26,710	.18	.64	71	76	21	3
1994	177,826	21,008	.12	.66	82	52	43	4

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

Mean Size Harvest/Sport Fishery

Year	Cutthroat				Hybrid		Brook	
	Mean Size (mm) Harvest	% >20"	No. >20"	Total Harvest	Mean Size (mm) Harvest	% Over 20"	Mean Size (mm) 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
1991	460	21	67	7,902	473	35	369	20
1992	452	27	21	3,722	474	42	417	22
1993	410	7.2	26	21,905	485	35	382	23
1994	418	4.5	25	10,401	437	15.2	425	29

Summary of 1994 Creel Data From Angler Interviews

May - October

Effort (total hours)	Harvest	Harvest Rate	Catch Rate	% Released
177,826	21,008	0.12f/h	0.66f/h	82%
Catch Composition (%)				
	Cutthroat	Hybrid	Brook	
May - Oct.	52.06	43.45	4.49	
	Mean Size	% >20"	No. >20"	Total Harvest May - October
Cutthroat	418 mm	4.5%	25	10,401
Hybrid	437 mm	15.2%	85	7,376
		% >18"	No. >18"	
Brook	425 mm	29%	11	824
				TOTAL 18,601*
	Effort	Released	Harvested	Total Catch
Interval 1 (5/28-5/30)	27,576	6,480	5,681	12,161
Interval 2 (5/31-6/22)	42,651	18,979	4,410	23,389
Interval 3 (6/23-7/20)	50,197	30,508	5,345	35,853
Interval 4 (7/21-8/17)	19,863	13,049	1,674	14,723
Interval 5 (8/18-9/14)	8,968	4,784	627	5,411
Interval 6 (9/15-10/14)	21,448	15,528	2,156	17,684
Interval 7 (10/15-10/31)	7,123	3,788	1,115	4,323
TOTALS	177,826	95,593	21,008	116,601

* difference is software rounding error

Tom Herron

The following article is a copy of a news release put out last September by the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District. They would like to have some Henry's Lake foundation volunteers help water the shoreline plantings this summer.

Shoreline Protection Project Nearing Completion

Considered by many to be one of Idaho's premier fisheries, Henry's Lake is perhaps being loved to death.

Wave action - both man caused and naturally occurring - creates a problem as the lake's shoreline is eroded and large amounts of soil are washed into the water.

In an effort to provide a solution to the erosion, a shoreline enhancement project is underway at Bill Frome County Park, Henry's Lake.

In a cooperative project between the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District, Henry's Lake Foundation, Fremont County Park and Recreation and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the first phase of the demonstration project is nearing completion. The \$9,000 project is being funded, in part, by a grant from the Idaho Soil Conservation Commission. The Yellowstone Soil Conservation District has also contributed project funds.

For years Henry's Lake has been experiencing a decline in water quality. A continued decline could destroy the well known fishery and quality of life that has come to be associated with the beautiful lake.

One of the more easily recognized sources of sedimentation is the declining Henry's Lake shoreline. Recent studies show more than 40 percent of the shoreline - 29,880 feet - suffers from active erosion classed as moderate or severe. In addition to putting sediment into the lake, property value is reduced.

To give property owners an idea of what can be done to reduce shoreline erosion and limit sedimentation, the demonstration project at Frome Park was organized.

When completed in the spring of 1995, the project will feature three types of shoreline restoration practices. Two forms - rock rip rap and rock filled Geoweb - are nearing completion. The third form - vegetative cover - will be completed as soon as weather and lake levels allow for willow and other types of planting.

Although rock rip rap has long been known to reduce shoreline erosion, a new twist has been added to the demonstration project. A water proof liner/gravel filter has been placed along the shoreline and covered by rip rap rock. The liner is expected to greatly reduce the amount of sediment that washes out from around and under rip rap. Liner has also been placed under the rock filled Geoweb.

New to Fremont County conservation projects, Geoweb has been used in three places along the Park's north shore. The honey-comb looking product is a cellular confinement system used to hold rock and soil in place. The Geoweb was "nailed down" with steel bars to keep it in position until filled with rock. To further strengthen the shoreline, various willows and plants will be added.

In addition to having a better understanding of what types of shoreline protection measures will be most beneficial and long lasting, conservation officials will also have a better indication of how cost effective this, and additional, project will be.

Along the Park's south shore hand placed rocks and vegetative cover will be used to reduce erosion.

The most inexpensive of the three practices, various willow species will be plants - in bundles and individually - in the spring.

During the early 1980's various conservation groups and government officials became increasingly concerned over the extensive erosion of the Henrys Lake shoreline. Due to the high costs, no action was taken. Efforts to control erosion have been limited or, in the case of concrete retaining walls, found harmful to natural fisheries.

Frome County Park was selected as the site for the demonstration project due to location and public accessibility.

The demonstration project is unique as it brings various federal, state, county and local conservation agencies together to protect and improve the riparian shoreline of Henrys Lake. According to conservation officials, the condition of Henrys Fork of the Snake River is indirect relation to the water quality of Henrys Lake.

Facts on Whirling Disease

The following are excerpts from information on Whirling Disease as provided by Mark Gamblin, IDFG.

Definition: Whirling disease (WD) is a parasitic infection of trout and salmon by *Myxobolus cerebralis*. The parasite selectively infects cartilage and causes skeletal deformity. The disease is named for tail-chasing in young fish when startled. Loss rate is dose and age dependent. Most mortality occurs in young, heavily infected fish. Mortality in hatcheries appears insignificant when fish are reared in concrete raceways. Mortality in wild fish is highly likely as whirling renders them more susceptible to predation.

Geographic Range: In the Western U.S., WD was found in California (1965), Nevada (1966), Oregon (1986), Idaho (1987), Colorado (1987), Wyoming (1988), Utah (1991), and Montana (1994).

Diagnosis: Diagnosis of WD is accomplished through detection and identification of the parasite. Presumptive diagnosis is made when laboratory tests show spores of the correct size and shape from cartilage. Confirmation is made when spores are histologically demonstrated in cartilage. Signs (black tail, whirling, deformity) are not specific to this disease; therefore, diagnosis should not be made on signs alone. Fish exposed to the highest concentrations of spores generally show the signs. In some cases, extremely high numbers of spores have failed to cause the signs to appear.

Life Cycle: The life cycle is a complex one. Spores are released when a fish dies and decomposes or in feces of a predator. Avian predators have been implicated in transmission. The spores may remain for long periods in dry or wet condition. When eaten by tubificid worms, a transformation occurs into a waterborne infective stage (*Triactinomyxon*) that infects native fish. Only 3 hours exposure of fish in contaminated water is necessary to cause infection. Salmonids can also contract WD by ingesting infected tubificid worms. Each spore will develop into up to 50 sporozoites through this process. Each worm can harbor up to 1,000 mature *Triactinomyxons*. The complete life cycle can occur in about six months. The warmer the water temperatures, the quicker the completion of the cycle. Attempts to cause fish-to-fish transmission in the U.S. have been unsuccessful.

Susceptible Hosts: The following are listed in descending order of susceptibility: golden trout, rainbow trout, sockeye salmon (kokanee), cutthroat trout, brook trout, steelhead, chinook salmon, Atlantic salmon, brown trout, coho salmon, lake trout, splake. There is recent evidence that certain strains of kokanee may be even less susceptible. Brown trout, coho, lake trout and splake are highly resistant to infection. Grayling and whitefish susceptibilities are unknown.



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