

I have been asked by President Bob Hall to write an historical account of the Henrys Lake Foundation. This has proven to be a challenge and much information is missing. Most of what's covered here was gleaned from my newsletters and personal files. Unfortunately, the Foundation's beginning did not include regular newsletters and my information covering the early years is skimpy.

The story will be covered in chronological sections in this and the next newsletter issue. Hopefully it will

be informative for our newer members and stimulate some remembrances from those that signed on with the Henrys Lake Foundation from the very start. I know that what's recalled here can be improved upon and I encourage those of you who have suggestions, corrections, additional recollections, and thoughts of importance, to help contribute to an improved version. So let me hear from you. Write me at:

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An Historical Account of the Henrys Lake Foundation

1981 - The Beginning

In the late 1970's, the fishery at Henrys Lake had nearly collapsed. Repeated drought years had taken a toll on trout populations, the hatchery spawning runs were depleted, and the lake's tributary streams that should have seeded the lake with an abundance of wild fish, were in grim condition. Anglers and business owners were alarmed and wanted to start working to restore the fishing to its previous national renown. With sportsmen prompting, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG) committed to begin studies. Bob Rohrer was a young and energetic IDFG research biologist assigned to trouble-shoot the fishery. On July 20, 1981, a group of 24 worried sportsmen met at Wild Rose Lodge to discuss formation of a citizens support group to help Henrys Lake. Bob Rohrer came and reported on his early findings and Charlie Brooks, then Chairman of the Yellowstone Foundation, provided valuable guidance. Most attendees donated \$10 towards establishment of an organization to save the lake. This gathering represented the genesis of the Henrys Lake Foundation and the 24 founding charter members were:

George Lang	Tommy Thomas	Penny Rowe
Ed Landry	Bob Briscoe	Clarence Wright
Jim Wright	Bill Plummer	George Greer
Carl Beam	Larry Schatz	Phil Taylor
Davis Reese	E.W. (Bill) Hayes	Pat O'Neill
John O'Neill, Jr.	L.W. Bradford	Arthur Curtis
Harry G. Story	Thomas C. Morris	Roy Coulson
Chet C. Stafford	John Dickmann	Harold Husted

Over the remaining summer, Jim Wright was successful at recruiting many new members. A modest budget of \$700 was originally set for 1981, but about 170 members were enlisted during the first year and \$2,700 in dues and contributions were raised. Dr. Jack Griffith of Idaho State University, was the Foundation's first President, Mike Glenn its Secretary - Treasurer, and others served as Board of Directors including Ron Dye, John O'Neill, Jr., Tom Morris, George Lang, Ken Magee, John Magleby, David Reese, Mike Lawson, and Mike Wolverton. Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws were drafted by attorney Tom Morris. John O'Neill, Jr. provided periodic letter update mailings to the new members.

The Foundation's plan was to take on and invest in specific projects that could lead to improved fishing. The first project was purchase of trap nets for study of suspected predation on trout fry and fingerlings released at the Henrys Lake Fish Hatchery. The nets were purchased and deployed that fall. About 150 adult trout were subsequently trapped and stomach-pumped, revealing little evidence of significant predation. Graduate student Bob Spateholts used to nets in his brook trout studies through 1983. Later during the winter, a few Foundation members lead by Ron Dye and his backhoe, carried out the first stream improvement project by adding spawning gravels to Wild Rose Creek. Thus closed the first year for the Henrys Lake Foundation.

1982

With the Foundation's presence firmly established, its second year focused on culturing a constructive relationship with the IDFG. The IDFG planted larger size and greater numbers of hybrid, cutthroat, and brook trout juveniles in the lake to boost a meager fish population. In consultation with sportsmen and landowners, the IDFG completed the Henrys Lake Enhancement Plan. The plan represented a blueprint for action, recommending trophy regulations (2 fish limit) plus stocking and catch rate objectives for the lake. It also identified a myriad of habitat improvement projects aimed at reestablishing wild trout spawning and rearing in the lake's feeder streams. The Foundation enthusiastically endorsed the plan.

The Foundation's first annual membership meeting was held in early July. The meeting offered fellowship, information dissemination, and a once-a-year opportunity for officers and the board to plan upcoming actions. Board of Director Tom Morris applied to the State of Idaho to establish the organization's non-profit corporation status and to IRS for federal tax-exemption. A modest contribution of \$100 was made to the Washington State University to assist Dr. Gary Thorgaard's research in heat treatment of hybrid eggs to make them sterile. During the fall, Foundation members contributed time and boats to help IDFG personnel scatter plant fingerlings near where tributaries entered the lake. Bob Rohrer was reassigned to begin reservoir research elsewhere in southwestern Idaho, but Bob Spateholts stayed on to continue his graduate studies on Assinica and Temiscamie brook trout stocks.

1983

The Foundation started the year with \$4,100 in its coffers. It established the \$100 "life membership" option and set a goal of raising \$6,000 by July. The annual membership meeting was held on July 3. John O'Neill was elected President and Mike Glenn continued as Secretary-Treasurer. In September, the Foundation wrote a check to IDFG for \$5,000 to help pay the costs of constructing two fish screens on Targhee Creek on the Diamond D Ranch. The Island Park Sportsmen Association also contributed towards these projects. The IDFG started the work in October and completed screen installations the following spring as spawning runs commenced. These projects were considered critical to protecting tributary trout spawners and their offspring because of the catastrophic fish losses that occurred at unscreened irrigation diversions. The Foundation ended the year with \$2,600 in its bank accounts, \$1,400 of which was committed to an interest bearing CD fund reserved solely for life memberships. To help recruit new members, a brochure describing the Henrys Lake Foundation was printed and distributed to local businesses.

The heavier cutthroat stocking begun in 1980 started to pay off in 1983. Although the average size was down, the fishing dramatically improved and IDFG creel census verified that catch rates were the best since 1951. John O'Neill reported that, "... for the first time in several years, it was all smiles on the faces of most fishermen visiting the lake during the summer... Harry Tupper's blue heeler dog, Dingo, darn near got laryngitis!" Some expert anglers were having 40 - 50 fish days. After several drought years, the lake ended the fall at almost full pool elevation, and there were great expectations for the fishing in 1984.

1984

It was another exceptional season of fishing at Henrys Lake in 1984. Catch rates climbed to an average of 1.70 fish/hr., exceeding the previous year's rate of 1.23

fish/hr. But trophy fish numbers and hybrids and brook trout were still down. With lots of fish in the lake, John O'Neill reported that it was "almost too easy to catch fish at times." It appeared that the lake's fish population had reached saturation. Angling pressure continued to rise, increasing from an estimated 96,000 hrs. in 1983 to 163,000 hrs. in 1984. Including those fish that were returned to the lake, the total catch rose from 122,000 to 276,000 fish.

The annual Foundation membership/directors meeting was held on July 7 and a potluck picnic was added to the festivities. The directors approved a \$2,500 donation to the IDFG for more stream habitat work and the Foundation continued to provide a small grant to Dr. Thorgaard to help fund his heat treatment sterilization experiments on hybrid eggs. John O'Neill was reelected President, rancher John Magleby as Vice President, Mike Glenn continued as Secretary-Treasurer and Board of Director Richard Prange volunteered to be a newsletter coordinator. Other Board of Directors included Ken Magee, Jack Griffith, Ron Dye, Dave Reese, George Lang, Tom Morris, George Greer, John Dickman, and Bill Schiess.

1985

Fishing was still very good in Henrys Lake in 1985, but catch rates dropped back to an average of 1.28 fish/hr. and angling effort dropped to about 126,000 hrs. The fishery appeared to be stabilizing, but cutthroat size, plus hybrid and brook trout numbers were still below management objectives. As a result, the IDFG stocked higher numbers of hybrid and brook trout fingerlings and reduced the cutthroat hatchery plant from 2 to 1 million fish.

The annual membership/business meeting of the Foundation was held at Wild Rose Lodge on July 6. A total of 34 life members were posted. Four new directors were elected, including Grant Klinger, Walt Stephens, Jim Wright, and Fred Grimes. John Magleby remained as Vice President and Richard Prange replaced Henrys Lake Foundation stalwart, John O'Neill, Jr. as President. No IDFG enhancement plan projects were in the works for 1985. The Foundation decided to take off on its own to promote construction of a riparian restoration/demonstration project somewhere on one of the heavily grazed tributaries. The intended project would incorporate state-of-the-art smooth wire/solar powered electric fencing technology developed in New Zealand. Private consultant Ed Chaney of Eagle, Idaho, volunteered his services to plan and acquire materials for the project layout and discuss its merits with rancher/Foundation Vice President, John Magleby. A deal was finally struck later that summer when Richard Prange drafted a formal written agreement with Magleby to allow the Foundation to build the project on his land and to evaluate the stream's riparian habitat recovery for a five year test period. Under the agreement, the Foun-

dation would purchase all materials and pay an annual stipend to Magleby to maintain the fence. In early September for three days, Foundation volunteers and Magleby and his sons assembled on the banks of Duck Creek to install the new fencing system along 3/8's mile of the meandering stream course. Creighton Gilbert was "strawboss", supervising the volunteer force and doing the technical wiring work. All told, the project cost about \$2,300 and was significant in that it set the example and paved the way for more fencing projects at Henrys Lake and elsewhere. It demonstrated that the ranching and sportsman community could work together in mutual benefit. It helped spread the Foundation's gospel. Walt Stephens recorded construction on video tape and Richard Prange took photos along the fenced stream corridor to begin documentation of the vegetative response through the five year evaluation period.

In another effort, Fred Grimes led a group of Foundation volunteers on September 17 and 18 to help IDFG fin clip 32,500 sterile hybrid fingerlings at the Ashton Fish Hatchery prior to stocking them in the lake later that fall.

1986

There was agreement among most fishermen that fish in Henrys Lake were larger in 1986 and that hybrids were more abundant. IDFG creel census data showed an average catch rate of 0.87 fish/hr. and the rainbow/cutthroat cross (hybrids) composed 14% of the catch. The big concern this year was that the North Fork Irrigation Company was planning to draw the lake down to carry out needed dam repairs. As it turned out, the lake was lowered only 3.3 feet. The drawdown was not as severe because the IDFG and Foundation contributed additional funds (\$2,080 and \$1,000 respectively) to North Fork so that the earthen coffer dam could be built higher which allowed more water to be retained in the lake during repairs. Some progress continued on implementing Henrys Lake Enhancement Plan projects. In December the IDFG installed baffle plates inside the Targhee Creek Highway 287 road culvert to improve adult fish passage. The IDFG also began designs and fabrication for two more fish screens on the Diamond D Ranch's Howard Creek diversions.

About 90 people attended the annual general membership potluck meeting at Wild Rose Ranch on July 5. Charlie Brooks, well known fly fishing author in the West Yellowstone area, came to praise and recognize the Foundation's efforts. As a committed conservationist, Charlie was instrumental in orchestrating the formation of the Henrys Lake Foundation in 1981. (Charlie subsequently passed away on October 30 at the age of 65). Earlier in the day, about 30 Foundation members toured the Duck Creek fencing project built the previous fall on the Magleby Ranch. The riparian vegetation recovery was evident already and addi-

tional photos were taken by Richard Prange at established photo locations. Richard Prange was again elected President, John Magleby as Vice President and Mike Glenn continued another year as Secretary-Treasurer. New directors included Polly Holbrook, Mel Schulte, Harold Hustead and Tom McQuire. Life memberships grew to 42 and Howard C. "Gus" Hall of Oakland, CA, made the largest single donation to date at the meeting - a contribution of \$500.

1987

In some respects, this was the best year yet for the Henrys Lake Foundation. The organization accomplished much while facing yet another drought year at the lake. Ice came off on April 30 and the lake barely filled from a meager 50% of normal snow pack. Many reservoirs elsewhere throughout the West went completely dry. Due in part to the Foundation's assistance to help North Fork Irrigation Company construct a higher coffer dam the year before, Henrys Lake was drafted only 2.7 in 1987. The fish catching got tougher in 1987, but the average trout was bigger and more trophy hybrids showed up, especially for anglers willing to fish deep water in mid-lake.

Again the Foundation was frustrated with lack of progress at implementing projects in the IDFG Henrys Lake Enhancement Plan. The IDFG was flat turned down by ranch manager, Ray Fraizer, on their plans to construct fish screens at the Howard Creek Diamond D irrigation diversions. Thus, 1987 round up to be another year of lost opportunity to install sorely needed fish screens. As a consequence, thousands more trout were destined to be lost when water was diverted to irrigate pastures on the Diamond D. This was particularly frustrating since the IDFG had the designs, budget and the Foundation was ready to cost share.

Once again the Foundation needed to strike out on its own to get some things going. As a result, President Richard Prange organized a vegetation planting outing to accelerate the stream bank vegetation recovery at the new fencing project on the Magleby Ranch. On Saturday, May 9, some 40 volunteers from the Foundation, the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen, other eastern Idaho fishing clubs, and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) assembled in warm shirt-sleeve weather to plant an estimated 3,000 - 4,000 willow cuttings. During the planting, volunteers could view first hand cutthroat spawners ascending the creek to spawn. Ranch owner John Magleby was impressed with the turnout and there was great camaraderie among the group. Another solar electric fencing project was instigated by the Foundation on lower Timber Creek on lands owned by Gordon Hunt and Robert Coe (both supportive Foundation members). The project was completed over Labor Day weekend by a work force of Foundation and IDFG volunteers. The project's location was strategic because it was readily seen by

motorists using the county road. The Foundation covered all the Timber Creek project costs (about \$1,500) and consultants Ed Chaney and Creighton Gilbert again played key roles in project layout and construction supervision.

The Foundation membership meeting was held in the afternoon on July 5 at Staley Springs Lodge. Earlier in the morning, John O'Neill, Jr led a touching memorial ceremony at the Foundation's Duck Creek fencing project to honor deceased charter member Jim Wright. Wright was recognized as a demonstrated strong supporter of the Foundation and personally signed up many members over the years. A beautiful and durable bronze plaque was installed onsite and Jim's widow and son Jim Wright, Jr. and family were in attendance, having come all the way from Texas and New Mexico for this special moment. Later, at the annual potluck gathering, about \$1,300 in new and renewal membership dues were collected. The life member ranks climbed to 81 with total membership standing at about 350. Richard Prange volunteered to serve another term as President, Harold Husted became Vice President, and after many years in service as Secretary-Treasurer, Mike Glenn stepped down and was replaced by Polly Holbrook. Bill Schiess took over as the newsletter coordinator. Stan Horton, Buck Bybee, and Bob Roseberry were elected to replace outgoing directors George Greer, Mike Lawson, and Grant Klinger. After paying its Timber Creek project bills, the Foundation ended the year with about \$10,000 in its life membership CD trust and general operating accounts.

1988

It was yet another year of drought at Henrys Lake, compounding the urgency for the Foundation and IDFG to continue their pursuit of needed fishery projects. During the fishing season, down valley irrigation demands pulled hard on the lake, dropping the water level about 5.5 feet by early September. The great 1988 Yellowstone Park fires and smoke added to the gloom and doom. The fishing held up surprisingly well however, particularly for more knowledgeable anglers. For the November newsletter issue, John O'Neill, Jr. interviewed Bill Hayes, Harold Husted, Harry Tupper, Bill Lynch, Clarence Wright, and Bill Schiess for his "Season-Enders 1988" article. Most felt the average cutthroat was $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$'s pound larger than the previous season, and that hybrids and brookies composed a higher percentage of the catch and like the cutts, were bigger. Guide Bill Schiess rated June 1988 as his greatest month in memory with he and his clients taking a number of 8 and 9 pound hybrids and trophy cutthroat. Subsequent IDFG creel census confirmed these testimonials. Data showed that 1988 catch rates had slightly improved from 1987 and the composition was estimated to be 49% cutts, 39% hybrids, and 12% brookies - no wonder veteran Henrys Lake

fisher persons were feeling good!

Meanwhile, the Foundation continued on a productive track. The July 2 membership potluck/Board meeting returned to Wild Rose Lodge. The event included a silent auction trial balloon featuring a custom built Sage II 6/7 graphite fly rod, reel and case. The auction venture was coordinated by then Director Harold Husted with help from the ladies at Staleys. An abundance of other fishing and nonfishing items were also donated, resulting in a return of \$1,066 to the Foundation coffers. With this beginning, the annual silent auction became the fund raising centerpiece at the annual membership meeting. After three years of serving as President, Richard Prange handed the reins to Harold Husted. Richard became Vice President which freed him to run rampant as the Foundation's project coordinator. Polly Holbrook continued as the all important Secretary-Treasurer. There were no Director changes.

Project work continued in 1988. Richard Prange again organized a spring willow planting trip. On May 7, a group of about 20 volunteers from the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen, the Foundation, and the SCS tramped through a six inch blanket of freshly fallen snow to plant willows inside the Timber Creek fenced enclosure on the Gordon Hunt property. For this outing, the SCS provided rooted willow and dogwood plant materials. Cutthroat spawners were observed up and down the creek. Another work outing was conducted on the day after the general membership meeting, when a work crew of 20 Foundation enlistees were assembled to construct additional new fence sections on Timber Creek. A Foundation interpretative sign and brochure container were also installed on the road at the creek crossing. Ed Chaney again donated his expertise, Harold Husted strawbossed the energetic outfit, and John Magleby donated his time and valuable post-driving tractor. In September, Richard Prange and Ed Chaney again returned to the lake to "plant the seed" for upcoming fencing initiatives with land owners Lewis Webster (Duck Creek) and Wayne Johnson (Kelly Creek). On September 6, new Henrys Lake Hatchery manager Brad George and Foundation Director Bill Schiess organized a group of 15 volunteers to salvage 2,500 stranded trout from the Henrys Lake Outlet after irrigation water releases were cut at the dam. Fish up to 23 inches were rescued and transferred back to the lake. The best project news of the year came in October when IDFG began constructing fish screens at four Duck Creek diversions on the Magleby and Webster ranches. Ranchers John Magleby and Lewis Webster were with us!! The IDFG estimated that these projects would cost \$28,000 and the Foundation and others would be asked to contribute at least \$6,500 in 1989 when the work was completed.

This is the second half of an historical account of the Henrys Lake Foundation. The information presented here is mostly taken from past newsletters and my personal files. The years from the Foundation's founding in 1981 through 1988 were covered in the previous newsletter. The chronology covered here runs

from 1989 through 1995. If, in your reading of these accounts, there appears to be some inaccuracies or certain events or people of importance left out, please do not hesitate to drop me a line with your information. These historical recollections can easily be revised into an improved version. I can be reached at:

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An Historical Account of the Henrys Lake Foundation

Part II

1989

The snow gods were compassionate to Henrys Lake during the winter of 1988-1989. Following a 5.5 foot draw down the previous summer, Henrys Lake was nearly full on opening day. A long running drought cycle was temporarily broken. Fishing success was reported by many veterans to be a mixed bag during the season. Angler effort jumped from an estimated 100,000 hours in 1988 to a whopping 340,000 hours during the 1989 season! Catch rates held up though, with fishermen averaging .77 fish per hour and hybrids comprising 45% of the harvest. Two days of Foundation festivities started on June 30 with an evening slide presentation by Richard Prange at Staley Springs Lodge depicting results from past willow plantings and fencing projects. The membership potluck and auction were held the next day at Wild Rose and again capably run by the "ladies of Staleys." Auction earnings were over twice the previous year's take. Pat and John O'Neall Jr. initiated their traditional life membership award to a son, daughter, or grandchild of a paid up Foundation member. Lakeside homeowners Dr. Roger Lang and Dennis Kennedy were added to the Board of Director rolls while Walt Stephens stepped down following several years of service. President Harold Hustead, Vice President Richard Prange, and Secretary-Treasurer Polly Holbrook remained onboard to serve for another year. Active Foundation memberships rose to over 500. On August 10-12, volunteers of the Henrys Lake Foundation manned a booth at the annual Federation of Fly Fishers Conclave in West Yellowstone and recruited 16 new members.

It was a memorable year for project accomplishments at Henrys Lake. The Foundation forged three different challenged grant agreements in 1989. These agreements allowed the Foundation to match its financial and volunteer labor resources with those of the Idaho Department Fish and Game (IDFG) and the U.S. Forest Service to (1) finish four fish screen projects on Duck Creek, (2) build additional streamside fences along 2 miles of Duck Creek (Targhee National Forest plus Magleby, Webster, and Johnson ranches), and (3) fence 1.5 miles of Howard Creek on the Flying R Ranch. Joining the consortium, the Idaho Parks Department completed its own fencing project on lower Howard Creek Slough. Foundation supporter, Ed Chaney again played a vital role in designing fence layouts and gaining favor from landowners. Brad George, new IDFG Henrys Lake Hatchery manager, was also instrumental and committed to constructing these stream habitat improvement projects. All told, the Foundation contributed \$12,500 and 100's of hours of volunteer labor towards these projects. Additionally, the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen and the Safari Club International of San Diego each donated \$1,000 to the 1989 projects.

1990

The Henrys Lake Foundation continued to build on its past successes during 1990. Unfortunately, those successes were clouded by the death of President Harold Hustead of cancer on May 9. As a person and fisherman, Harold had a respected presence at Henrys Lake over many years and he was a great ambassador for leading the Foundation's work. His ashes were spread over the lake and widow Shirl continues to return each summer to visit friends and help with Foundation activities. The membership potluck was held on June 30 at Wild Rose. Bob and Marge Roseberry of Wahpeton, Iowa, rode herd on the auction and potluck. Over \$5,000 was taken in between auction proceeds and memberships. Mike Brickner, Jim Pangborn, Doug Siefert, and Marv Taylor were newly elected Board members. Dr. Roger Lang became Vice President and Richard Prange was appointed as President. Polly Holbrook would serve yet another commission as Secretary/Treasurer.

Richard Prange organized another willow plant on May 12 in conjunction with the newly fenced section on Howard Creek (Flying R Ranch). About 40 volunteers turned out in snow and rain—coming from the Foundation's membership, the IDFG, the Boise Valley Fly Fishermen, and other fly fishing club members and Boy Scouts from the Rexburg/Idaho Falls area. The Foundation signed up for another challenge grant with the IDFG, donating \$4,500 towards completing the Howard and Duck Creek fencing projects started the previous year plus purchased construction materials for future Diamond D Ranch irrigation diversion fish screens. The Foundation met with personnel from the Division of Environmental Quality and committed to provide volunteer monitor-

ing and the purchase of equipment for lake water quality studies and sampling.

Fishing pressure was again high at Henrys Lake, increasing slightly beyond 1989 to nearly 345,000 hours of angler effort. This resulted in part from the demise of many reservoir fisheries throughout the region due to the prolonged Western drought - including nearby Island Park Reservoir. Henrys Lake held up in 1990 and was the best darn fishin' hole around, but many long time fishermen became concerned that the harvest pressure was getting excessive. In Bill Schiess' 1990 "Season Ender" newsletter article, he reported that the algae "crud" came on the lake in August and stayed through the close of fishing season. He reported that the lake froze over on November 6. We would learn soon enough that these conditions enhance the opportunity for disaster.

1991

The largest observed winter kill in Henrys Lake history started to occur about March 7. Dead and dying fish began showing mostly along the north shoreline. The lake's environmental vulnerability was conclusively revealed. Over the course of the next month, thousands of dead adult spawning size trout were collected and hauled off to the dump by IDFG and others. The culprit was low dissolved oxygen (DO) levels under the ice. Low winter DO typically results from the decay of aquatic plants and other materials. The water quality concerns of the lake had finally come home to roost and manifest itself in a fish kill of unknown proportions (dead fish in deeper water throughout the lake could not be observed). As so often happens, there must be disaster before real action is triggered. Brad George and other IDFG personnel from all over the state performed yeoman duty by temporarily installing portable aerators and pumps to elevate DO levels wherever electric power outlets were available. The Division of Environmental Quality set aside \$100,000 to begin conducting a two or three year water quality study. It was somewhat ironic that the 1991 winter kill occurred in the 10th anniversary year of the Henrys Lake Foundation, validating further the need for a citizen's support group focused on preservation of the lake's fragile environment.

The Foundation's annual meeting was held on July 6 again at Wild Rose. The highlight of the silent auction was a gorgeous custom engraved sterling silver plate western belt buckle donated by Bill and Jeannie Fullen of "Cowboy Express, Inc." commemorating the Foundation's 10th anniversary meeting. Bill and Jeannie continue to donate a representative buckle each year. Board of Director Doug Siepert of Rexburg, Idaho, was elected President, and Dr. Roger Lang, and Polly Holbrook continued to serve in their respective Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer positions. Richard Prange, Lee Garland, and Mel Schulte were newly elected Board members. The Foundation ended

the year with a total of almost \$44,000 in the bank. Project accomplished in 1991 consisted of another willow planting venture on May 4 organized by Project's Coordinator, Richard Prange. The IDFG installed fish screens in early June on two Howard Creek irrigation diversion ditches (Diamond D Ranch). With these two installations, all eight major irrigation diversions on spawning tributaries draining to Henrys Lake were finally screened. Foundation member Byron White headed up a crew of lakeside volunteers to regularly monitor and sample water quality conditions for the ongoing lake study. Their sampling equipment was purchased by the Foundation. On September 21, a small group of Foundation volunteers and IDFG personnel tied in 400-500 pine tree tops along lower Targhee Creek (Slash E Ranch) in an effort to stabilize stream bank sloughing and channel cutting.

The IDFG commissioners voted against approving a reduction in the Henrys Lake trout limit from 2 to 1 fish, as previously requested by the Foundation. After 4 years of serving as an outstanding manager of the Henrys Lake Hatchery, Brad George transferred with the IDFG to begin working at the Clearwater Hatchery in north-central Idaho. Brad was replaced by Tom Herron who came from IDFG's Sawtooth Hatchery. Reflecting the negative nature of the winter kill, Henrys Lake fishing pressure markedly dropped by over 50% in 1991 with only 147,000 angler hours estimated. Catch rates also dropped to .34 fish/hour.

1992

It was another major drought year in Idaho. By the end of the irrigation season, the lake was drawn down about 8.5 feet - a near record. However, there were no documented fish kills. Many reservoirs went dry and completely lost their fisheries. Due to the low water supply, Island Park Reservoir was intentionally drained and treated with rotenone to kill out the Utah chub population. During 1991, the Henrys Lake water quality study got into high gear and Byron White continued to spearhead the Foundation's voluntary efforts to collect water samples in the lake to assist the effort. The idea was that the study would result in securing information necessary to develop a nutrient management plan for the lake. Season long fishing dropped further to about 115,000 angler hours (lowest since 1983), but catch rates rose slightly to .45 fish/hour.

The July 5 membership potluck was held at Wild Rose. Mary Ann Siepert arranged for BBQ beef and desserts. The auction was organized again by the Roseberrys. Auction and membership proceeds came to over \$3,700. All designated Officers remained as appointed in 1991, and after many years of service Tom McGuire and Bob Roseberry stepped down as Board members. More excellent progress was made on fishery projects in 1992, and IDFG played a substantial role in securing landowner approvals or con-

struction oversight. The Foundation contributed \$5,000 towards these efforts. The IDFG began installation of a permanent aeration system for the lake, directly offshore from the hatchery which would be used to prevent low wintertime DO levels in that portion of Henrys Lake. Tom Herron organized a springtime willow plant on Duck Creek involving some 200 students from Madison High School. Lake shoreline fences were constructed on the Scholfield and Taft/Hartman (old Webster Ranch) properties on the west side of the lake, as well as Webster land near the outlet channel. These fencing projects prevented livestock access to the lake along some two miles of shoreline. Foundation volunteers also helped hand dig confined stream channels across the mud flats at the mouth of Targhee and Duck creeks in early October to improve adult brook trout migration into these important spawning streams.

1993

Fishing seemed to rebound during 1993. Effort increased to 144,000 angler hours and the catch rate rose to .64 fish/hour. Cutthroat trout and hybrids comprised 76% and 21% respectively of fish harvested. Winter DO levels dipped dangerously low again, but no winter kill was in evidence after the IDFG installed and rendered operational 18 aeration devices in January and February at Staley Springs and off the hatchery. Snowpack was close to normal and the lake filled in July. One major revelation was the discovery of Utah chub in the IDFG's annual spring gill net surveys at the lake. In one of these net sets, chubs comprised 50% of the catch and included several age classes, indicating these undesirables had been in the lake for some time. Later, some fishermen offered that they had caught Utah chubs in the past or seen them in trout stomachs. IDFG biologists promised to increase future chub assessments and speculated that the abundance of large trout in Henrys Lake could be keeping the chub population depressed. Foundation volunteers assisted the IDFG in completing installation of the air blower system off the hatchery in August. IDFG and the Bureau of Land Management joined in constructing a pole fence in the grazing allotment along the cliffs and around Kinney Creek on the south side of the lake. A draft lake management plan was produced by the contractor hired by the Division of Environmental Quality. This plan identified the major sources of nutrient loading to the lake and proposed an extensive number of treatments that could be implemented to improve water quality conditions in the lake.

There was a near day-long downpour that threatened the Foundation's July 3 membership potluck at Wild Rose Ranch. The good folks at Wild Rose came to the rescue and saved the day by closing the restaurant. Everything was moved inside, including auction items, food, and people. This made for crowded con-

ditions but the show went on. Under such crushed conditions, \$3,400 was earned. Doug Siepert, Dr. Roger Lang, and Polly Holbrook remained in the same officer positions, and Jim Wood and Mel Schulte stepped down from Board positions. On August 12, tragedy struck the ranks of Henrys Lake Foundation. On that day, long time Foundation supporters Lee Garland, age 70, of Oklahoma City and Haskell Elder, age 81, of Seal Beach, California, drowned in the lake during high wind conditions off Targhee Creek. Their boat swamped and the elderly pair were unable to swim to shore. A 15 year old boy accompanying them survived the accident and was able to reach the eastern shoreline.

1994

Good water conditions returned in 1994 and Henrys Lake was full by opening weekend. The winter DO levels were the best since monitoring began in 1991. The run of fish to the hatchery was near record and excess ripe spawners were trucked and released in tributary streams. During the field season, the IDFG conducted extensive gill netting, experimental purse seining, fish tagging, limnological surveys, creel census, and genetic evaluations. This data would be used in a computer model for the lake's trout population and structure (wild and hatchery composition) and the potential effects of regulation changes. The estimated fishing pressure increased to 177,826 hours with the catch rates at .66 fish/hour - about the same as 1993. After extensive netting and purse seining operations by IDFG crews, only three Utah chubs were taken in 1994. This offered great relief to the angling public and the 3 fish represented less than one percent of the inventory catch. Another positive development was identified when IDFG tests showed no evidence of whirling disease infestation in the Henrys Lake trout population. However, as the season wore on, a few rumors began to circulate that the IDFG was contemplating eliminating the hybrid stocking program.

It was decided that another year of data collection should be gathered in 1994 before a water quality management plan was finalized. On July 5 and 6, a fencing project was undertaken by the Foundation and IDFG on one-half mile of Kelly Springs Creek on the Taft/Hartman ranch. The Foundation and Island Park Sportsman Association contributed \$2,000 towards the project. Photo footage was shot of the work and later incorporated in a video edited by Rex Day on Foundation activities. The Board of Directors also approved a contribution of \$5,000 to help pay for upcoming Diamond D Ranch fencing work along lake frontage, Howard and Targhee creeks. The overall project was the biggest such undertaking in the history of Henrys Lake conservation ventures, including some 20 miles of new fencing and off stream livestock watering systems. Besides Foundation participation, the expansive

project would include cost sharing from the ranch owner (Don Salisbury), IDFG, Island Park Sportsman Association, the Henry Fork Watershed Council, and the Yellowstone Soil Conservation District.

The Foundation's July 2 annual membership meeting moved to Staley Springs Lodge under tent cover. Barbara Day, Mountain Home, Idaho, took charge of the auction but got considerable assistance from the "ladies of Staleys." After three years of dedicated service, Doug Siepert handed the President's reins to Bob Hall of Glenns Ferry, Idaho. Polly Holbrook also passed the Secretary/Treasurer duties to Jeannie Fullen of Nampa, Idaho, following many years of steadfast and dependable work for the Foundation. Polly was subsequently elected a Board of Director with the Henrys Fork Foundation in 1995 and continues to serve in a Treasurer capacity. Roger Lang stayed on as Vice President. Directors Jim Wood, Fred Grimes as well as charter founding member John O'Neill, Jr., went off the Board. New Board of Directors included Barbara Day, Milan Cornett, Bill Fullen, John Nunes, Patricia Pothier, and Dr. Thomas Tully.

There were other significant developments during 1994 that did not directly involve the Henrys Lake Foundation but were strongly influenced by its ambitions to protect the lake. These included The Nature Conservancy's \$1.35 million purchase in March of 1,450 acres of Flying R Ranch holdings that bordered on four miles of the Henrys Lake Outlet Creek. These prime properties were renamed the Flat Ranch. Cattle operations will continue under ecological and sustainable grazing practices, and the working ranch will eventually be opened for the public's enjoyment. The Nature Conservancy has fenced the stream and is seeking to secure a permanent winter water release from Henrys Lake to help establish a wild trout fishery. The Nature Conservancy intends to provide the release via a water trade with Henrys Lake irrigators and has pledged to do so in a way that will protect the lake's unparalleled fishery. In another notable endeavor, Tom Cole (Slash E Ranch co-owner) purchased the remaining 700 acre portion of the Flying R Ranch that flanks Howard Creek. This move saved the property from a Florida development company's plan to subdivide the large tract into ranchette lots. The Cole purchase will help maintain the beautiful open spaces and vistas across the eastern flats above Henrys Lake. The user public that enjoys Henrys Lake should be forever grateful to Tom Cole's generosity and foresight.

1995

The fishing statistics compiled by the IDFG during the 1995 season were near mirror image of the previous year. Anglers put in an estimated 173,000 hours, with fishers averaging .58 fish/hour (down slightly from 1994). An estimated 20,627 trout were reduced to the bag (killed), yet 79% of the overall catch was returned to the lake somewhat smarter and hopefully

to fight another day. A mid-winter meeting between Foundation Officers and Board members with IDFG representatives in Jerome, Idaho, laid to rest the previous year's rumors that the Henrys Lake hybrid program was in jeopardy. The Foundation's spring newsletter included the copy of the IDFG letter to President Bob Hall, assuring that the hybrid program would continue. The IDFG held a public workshop in Island Park in early July to explain results from an extensive modeling study of the lake's fish population. Among other things, the IDFG estimated that Henrys Lake contained well over 500,000 trout larger than 14". Their modeling demonstrated that a reduction in the 2-fish bag limit and/or institution of more gear restrictions would essentially yield no perceptible increase to catch rates. This of course was a hard conclusion for the die hard Foundation fly fisher to accept. None-the-less, the IDFG modeling effort represented a significant and scientific analysis, regardless if you bought into the assumptions and results or not. Bottom line is that the Henrys Lake trophy managed trout fishery remains one of the best found anywhere, period.

Saturday morning, July 1, marked the dedication of the Henrys Lake Memorial at Staley Springs. This was the culmination of a personal effort spearheaded by Mike Brickner and several others following the death of his wife Barbara in April 1994. While not an official undertaking by the Henrys Lake Foundation, many of the 73 deceased outdoors men and women listed on the memorial's travertine rock slabs came from the Foundation's rank and file. As stated in the fall 1994 newsletter, these were individuals "who have embodied the spirit of sportsmanship and have contributed to the fame and well being of this super lake." The dedication ceremony was lead by retired Rev. Bill Pothier of El Cerrito, California, with a fitting speech provided by Idaho State Representative, Golden Lindford of Rexburg.

The Foundation's annual get together was held during the afternoon of July 1 at Staley Springs Lodge. Barbara Day again organized the silent auction affair and Mary Hall assured all necessary picnic logistics. Auction and membership proceeds totaled over \$4,300. Bob Hall, Dr. Roger Lang, and Jeannie Fullen stayed on in the respective officer positions. Board members Tom Tully, John Nunes, Mike Brickner, and Grant Hamilton stepped down. Three new Board of Directors were elected, including Gretta Lou Askey, Morrell Stout, and Louis Trager. The Board approved a \$5,000 donation to help cost share the proposed fish ladder project at the Howard Creek Diamond D Ranch irrigation diversion dam. Other financial commitments for this project would come from the IDFG, The Nature Conservancy, and the Island Park Sportsman Association.