



Henry's Lake Foundation Newsletter

Spring 1997 Edition

President's Message Mike Horton

Well, Spring is finally coming to the Lake, and it is time to bring you all up to speed with what is going on up here on Henrys. After a long and harsh winter I am glad to say that, though we still have some concerns, the future of the fishery looks very good. Water is abundant, the recent spawn runs have been productive, and the Foundation is doing well.

As I am sure most of you want to hear about the season to come first and foremost, I will begin with our outlook for 1997. As Winter fell upon the lake water conditions were very good. Oxygen content was high, the weeds were down and the creeks were full enough to host a very successful brook trout spawn. Water, eager fish, and plenty of help from the IDFG and private parties made this one of the best Falls we have seen in recent years.

Water conditions remained good through the "freeze-over" and as we look at the Spring spawn, 1997 looks very promising. Early numbers are quite respectable and from the looks of the hatchery and tributaries the fish are in great shape. The crew at the hatchery should be commended for their hard work this Spring. One of the largest concerns we held this Winter was the status of the Spring spawn with changes in management of the Henrys Lake fishery implemented by the IDFG. This Spring the personnel at the hatchery have put in a great number of cold hard hours assuring the success of the spawn run. We will all benefit from

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HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HENRY'S LAKE FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIPS AS A GIFT GIVING IDEA? IT'S A GIFT THAT CAN GIVE A LIFETIME OF SATISFACTION



Fishing Season opens May 24th on Henrys Lake this year but Mother Nature will decide if you fish or not!

NOTICE TO READERS

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 Henrys Lake foundation and Board of Directors. If you have an article to submit, contact one of the officers or directors by October 31st or April 15th.

Henry's Lake As I See It...

by Melissa Buehler

What a privilege it's been to watch the world go by from my vantage Point here at Henrys Lake since 1971. Life is tough sometimes but the rewards are sweet. After working in various local businesses, I began my self-education in taxidermy twelve years ago. Since then I've taken much of my living from Henrys Lake and I am glad to be giving something back by serving as one of the directors of the Henrys Lake Foundation.

Although the Lake continues to provide a good supply of trophy fish, we're facing a "One-Two Punch" with possible problems from whirling disease and Utah chubs at a time when Idaho Fish and Game is cutting back at Henrys Lake.

I've watched hatchery programs and biologists come and go at Henrys Lake, and I am dismayed that there is no biologist assigned to Henrys Lake currently. The previous program had the best management and public relations of any of them. I've been assured by Mark Gamblin that there will be no Big changes in the hatchery program, nor any less biological investigation done. I'm skeptical.

To say with certainty at this time that we

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this and owe them our gratitude. Only time will tell if the lack of full time personnel at the hatchery will work for this fishery, but we are working with the IDFG on this issue and so far things seem promising.

This season we will see more temporary IDFG employees around the Lake to maintain improvements and work on a creel survey. The new management plan for the hatchery remains similar to the past in that the summer will see a number of temps here to do regular maintenance on projects, the hatchery and as a uniform presence on the Lake. The new hatchery supervisor (Steve Wingert) will be here half of his time and at the Ashton hatchery for the other half. He will be present at the Lake for all spawning, opening and closing periods and periodically throughout the Winter. The IDFG feels this should provide adequate supervision of the fishery here on Henrys. While I feel this is an improvement from the way

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Henrys Lake As I See It...

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have a problem with whirling disease is inaccurate. While the parasite is present, we still haven't assessed the vulnerability of Henrys Lake fish, and the casualties of the Fish and Game Department transition are yet to be seen. Fortunately there is already a hatchery in place (unlike the total reliance on natural production that many of the afflicted Montana streams have) that could offset some of the potential effect of whirling disease on the fishery. An example of this would be using a hatchery to rear fingerlings in a disease-free environment until the critical size of decreased

vulnerability is achieved. Our hatchery planners should maintain a readiness to re-align resources should the need arise to increase supplementation for Henrys Lake. At present, the money needed for such an adjustment is a dry hole. Where the hatchery was once the centerpiece of a biologist's career, it now seems to be an extra burden for the good men of the Ashton Hatchery.

However, Lest We Panic as we head into the 1997 season, there are other things working in our favor. Many able folks out there are hard at work trying for a better understanding of whirling disease, and a tremendous amount of baseline information is being assembled. Once the disease is located, histological tests can be conducted to determine the severity of the infection (it seems the intensity of the infection is what determines mortality). We know, for example that brown trout can be infected, but they seem to be less susceptible. This characteristic forms the basis for much of the ongoing research. It is felt that fall-spawners may not be exposed to as many spores, and that may bode well for

our brook trout populations (although whirling disease has been documented as present in Henrys Lake brook trout from pathology testing in the fall of '96). Another positive is the scouring effect of a high run-off year, which disturbs the lowly tubifex worm's happy home (tubifex worms are known to vector whirling disease).

When you fish this year be alert and observant: we may need to pick up some slack in the monitoring process. People who love the lake will always be its best stewards, but only with the help of a few good biologists.

Melissa Buehler
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Gem State Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 1173
Nampa, Idaho 83651

Re: Henrys Lake Foundation

Dear Officers and Board Members,

On February 19, it was my pleasure to attend your monthly club meeting and lead a discussion on Henrys Lake and the Henrys Lake Foundation. A number of your membership in attendance indicated they had fished Henrys Lake and the Gem State Fly Fishers have supported the Henrys Lake Foundation in the past with monetary contributions for conservation/habitat restoration projects. For that, the Foundation is most grateful.

During the meeting, a member recommended that the Gem State Fly

Fishers consider another contribution towards future projects undertaken by the Henrys Lake Foundation. There is still work that needs doing at the lake, including more tributary fencing, lake shoreline fencing, and fish passage improvements for both adult trout spawners and juvenile fish. If the officers and board would see fit to make a donation, might I suggest that you consider a patron membership of \$300 or more? In doing so, the Gem State Fly Fishers would be the first Patron member to join the Henrys Lake foundation. Please see the membership application on the enclosed brochure. As a Foundation patron member, your organization would receive the informative biannual newsletter which would keep you up to date with many things concerning Henrys Lake and the Foundation's work activities.

Thank you for your gracious hospitality and tight lines during 1997. Try to fish Henrys Lake this year if you can.

Sincerely,
Richard Prange
Henrys Lake Foundation

Membership News...

by Jeannie Fullen Secretary-Treasurer

Wow! I don't know about you, but where did 1996 go? With each new year comes Membership Renewal time! All dues are due and payable for 1997. Let's not forget, Life Memberships purchased in 1995 and 1996 carry a ten dollar yearly maintenance fee. The Foundation depends on these revenues to fund our riparian projects and our normal operational expenses. Your prompt payment allows us to organize and plan our yearly activities. We appreciate all memberships and donations, working as a team we can make a difference for today and tomorrow.

I would like to thank Rex Day for his instrumental and heroic part in developing and maintaining the Membership listing and renewals. Rex "took the bull by the horns" three years ago and developed our current program. He had hoped to resign last summer, but necessity persuaded him to continue until after this Newsletter! A million Thank You's Rex, you've been a life saver!

Anyone interested in contributing their "person-power" towards projects, fund raising, being a Board Member, or thoughts and ideas please contact any of our Directors. Thank You everyone for all your support, without you we wouldn't be so successful.

**Howdy Do From GrettaLou...
by Gretta Lou Askey**

Greetings from sunny Southern California. I can't believe we have been here six months. We are putting things together to head for Idaho & Henrys Lake.

We've been tying flies and hope to tie more before we leave. I am bringing our smoker this year, and I have a great recipe from Mike Brickner.

Smoked Fish:

Clean fish but don't soak.

Leave the skin on one side and pat dry. Sprinkle heavily with; Worcestershire sauce Garlic salt and Lowrey's seasoned salt. Put it in the smoker at 7 AM with either Hickory or Mesquite chips. Change chips at 10 AM and 2 PM (changing time may vary). Fish should be done by 5 PM.

By the way, you gals who don't fish, tie flies or have transportation, someone is always going shopping. We have some wonderful recipes floating around Staley Springs and would like sharing and exchanging with you. Patterns of all kinds, you name it- we got it. Ware hoping Alice's has line dancing again this year. It's usually 2 hours, once a week. Many of us walk each morning also so come on and join in the fun. Until we see you at Henrys, where the fun really begins,

Gretta Lou Askey

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Staley Springs on Henrys Lake, Idaho

P.S. Here's a new dip for this Summer.

Artichoke Hearts Dip (Makes a lot)

3 cans artichoke Hearts, drain and cut up.
1 Cup Mayonnaise 1 Cup Shredded Jack Cheese

Put in microwave dish and heat in microwave

"So good you'll wanna slap yer neighbor"

Edmund E. "Doc" Evans - Presidents Message continued -1900-1996

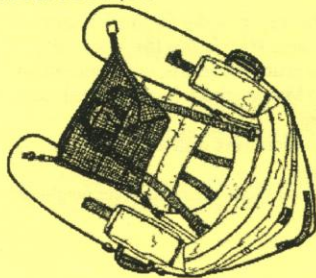
The fisherman who perhaps pre-dated any other living fisherman in his years on Henrys Lake, "Doc" Evans of Paradise, California, succumbed on December 3, 1996. Advancing years had prevented trips to the lake the past few seasons, but he is well remembered by dozens of the older fly-fishermen, particularly those frequenting Staley Springs.

In addition to his fly fishing skills, "Doc" was a drama teacher, a producer of radio shows in the 1920's, and a magician of considerable talent. He delighted in putting on a magic show each season at Staley Springs Lodge, especially for the youngsters.

In his early trips to the lake, "Doc" had filmed a short subject on fishing in the lake. The year is unknown, but it was shot so many years ago that the "original" boat house at Staley's (the one that leaned so precariously from old age and was taken down several years ago) had not even been built at the time! It was a shock when the camera panned around Staley Springs, and that boat house wasn't even there.

A memorial service was held for "Doc" Evans in Santa Monica, California, where he taught drama and English for over thirty years, retiring in 1965. "Doc" and Beulah "Scotty" Evans were married for fifty years, and she survives him along with son Eddie. Messages can be sent to them at 450 Saticoy Lane, Paradise, CA 96969, and Memorials can be directed to the Henrys Lake Foundation.

John S. O'Neill, Jr.



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things were left hanging last fall, it still lacks the law enforcement presence needed to keep violations down and allows some risk of problems through the Winter as there is no provision for working with aeration equipment in the winter if it is needed. Hopefully a full-time presence at the hatchery is forthcoming in the near future, but without a change in fee structure for the Fish and Game Department this is unlikely in the foreseeable future. I will have the opportunity in May to sit down with the new State Fish and Game Director (Stephen Mealey) of IDFG and discuss the IDFG stance on Henrys Lake and the management of its fishery in the future. I look forward to this opportunity and believe it will be helpful to the relationship shared by the foundation and the IDFG in maintaining world class fishing on Henrys Lake for the years to come.

The activities of the foundation are currently making some real progress. The auction for 1997 is looking strong already. We are receiving donations and the strength of our regular auction crew combined with the ground being broken by the solicitation committee should provide us with a very good fund-raiser this year. Our site on the Internet has become quite popular and we are gaining both interest in our organization and new members as a result. You can find us on the Internet at <http://henryslake.netib.com>. We are also currently working on informational signs to place around the lake to spark interest in the Henrys Lake foundation and to encourage good sportsmanship and responsible fishing habits.

While the Forecast for 1997 and the strength of the foundation are both looking good, we still have some concerns ahead. There is still a Utah chub population growing in the Lake, the future involvement and interest of IDFG in our improvement projects is not totally clear, and revitalizing the brook trout population all come to mind as well as the confirmed presence of whirling disease in Henrys Lake and the prospects of possible winter-kill this year and in the future (I have noticed some fish mortality around Staleys recently).

In order for the Henrys Lake foundation to maintain the quality of work we have done in the past to grow stronger in the future we need your help. Get Involved. Any help you can offer is of great value to this organization, after all, the membership is the strength of this outfit. We can use donations for the fund-raising auction, help on the projects throughout the year, assistance in planning and working at events we are involved in, monetary tribute, and any other aid you may be able to offer. With your help we can maintain a world class fishery on Henrys for our own enjoyment as well as for generations to come.
Tight Lines:A. Horton

Michael A Horton
President: Henrys Lake Foundation

William R. (Bill) Pothier

Death has taken our friend Bill Pothier of El Cerrito, California, a "regular" on Henrys Lake these past few seasons and a valued member of the Henrys Lake Foundation. During his years fishing on the lake, he sharpened his skills considerably and landed some fine cuts and hybrids while fishing from his tube. His favorite fly by far was the Prince Nymph, and it repaid his confidence in it many times.

Bill was a retired Episcopalian minister and for many years prior to retirement was Director of the San Francisco Senior Center. He maintained close contact with an extensive number of friends and extended family in the years after retirement. His wife Pat, a skilled fly fisher and fly tier, published a colorful book for beginning tube fishers two years ago, and it has proven extremely popular. Bill and Pat often camped at Staley Springs on the lake and at Lion's Head Campground. Memorials for Bill may be directed to the Henrys Lake Foundation.

John O'Neill, Jr.

Where Do We Want To Be In 2000?

Following are excerpts from several letters written in the 1800's and early 1900's describing market fishing and the wildlife on and around Henry's Lake.

Henry's Lake
March 21, 1889

Dear Brother

Yours and Jenny's letter came by last mail, it found me well as usual, and enjoying the rare sort of good trout fishing. It would surprise you to see us pulling them out through the ice. I have been tied up so all winter that I had no chance to fish until lately and just as I began to get my work in, in good shape the parties that were buying refused to take any more until they had disposed of what they have on hand.

They pay five cents for a pound and the fish will average over 1/2 lb. apiece. Some parties discovered a large school of them at the mouth of a small creek emptying into Henry's Lake and caught several thousand before anybody got onto them, the first two days they caught 1000 apiece each day. They had been fishing three days before I went down. I made \$15.00 the first day I fished but everybody around the lake rushed in (and) soon cleaned them up. After they quit biting so we could catch no more with hook and line I discovered a new plan of catching them that beats any thing I ever heard of. There was lots of fish left but they had got so shy that you couldn't catch one an hour with a hook. I made a decoy calculating to spear them by getting under a blanket. That scheme worked pretty well but it was too slow. I finally improved it by making a blanket tent and using a wire gaff hook, one I made myself. I wouldn't let any body see my rig - told them that I had sent back to the States and got a luminous bait. They all took it in, and while they were catching from 25 to 50 a day with a hook and line I was pulling out three to four hundred with my luminous. Could be making \$5 to \$10 a day now if I had sale for my fish. If I am here another winter I will plan to haul out my own fish and I can make big money....

With love to all, Good Bye
Harry

Henry's Lake
Nov. 22, 1891

Dear Mother:

...Suppose you would like to know how I am living. Well! I'll tell you as near as I can, I have a little cabin (one room) and a cellar underneath for vegetables, the ceiling and walls of the cabin are lined and the floor partly covered with elk hides - the roof is covered with dirt. It is warm and comfortable and as tidy as the average bachelors den. An old gentleman by the name of Thompson is staying with me this winter. He is fishing now. I haven't started yet. Have been hunting. We get up at 5 o'clock, cook breakfast, feed our horses and are ready to start out by daylight. When I am hunting I generally camp out but am home all the time while fishing. The trout bring a good price this year - 8 cents a lb. The former prices were 5 and 6 cents. I can catch from 5 to 100 lbs. A day and sometimes a good many more when I find a place that hasn't been fished out. Last winter I caught as high as 300 in a day. Fishing is hard work as it keeps a person going early and late. The catching is the least part, they have to be cleaned spread out to freeze and then sacked or boxed before ready for market....

With love to you all,
Harry

Lake, Idaho
April 28, 1901
My Dear Uncle and Aunt

...You asked me to give you my opinion of the Country. I would have to write a book to tell you all about this country. West of the Park in the Rocky Mountains is a country more than 150 miles long by 80 miles wide. More than 12,000 square miles, a very wild Country little developed or settled, There are in this country a great many thousand Elk, Deer Moose Caribou, Antelope, Mountain Sheep, Wild Goats, Black, Brown and Silver Tip Bear, a few Timber Wolves and Mountain Lions. The stock of wild animals is kept up by the Government protection in the Park. There are also a great variety of fur bearing animals there are thousands of Wild ducks and a great many Wild Geese on the Lake in Summer. About 70,000 pounds of Trout were shipped from Henry's Lake this year...

Yours,

Benarah Titcomb
Lake, Fremont Co, Idaho

By the Spring of 1997 Henrys Lake boasts over 14 miles of fence on 6 tributaries and the western and eastern shorelines of the lake are nearly completely protected by fence. There are 9 fish screens on the 3 major tributaries to the lake preventing adult spawners from being drawn into irrigation laterals. A state of the art partitioned pasture, intensive grazing management and off site watering system has been installed on the Diamond D Ranch between Howard and Targhee Creek that results in up to 70 percent greater flows in Howard Creek during times of critical need and rejuvenation of important riparian vegetation. A 25 year conservation easement has been secured on the Slash E Ranch protecting much of lower Targhee Creek. A fish ladder has been completed on Howard Creek allowing fish to access over a mile of prime spawning habitat that has been blocked for many years. Nearly 3 miles of pipe lies on the bottom of Henrys Lake forming an extensive aeration system that has been installed on Henrys Lake to lessen the severity of occasional winter-kill. Over a quarter of a million dollars has been expended on Henrys Lake through the Clean Lakes Study and the State Agricultural Water Quality Program to identify mechanisms to improve water quality in Henrys Lake and to pilot best management practices to improve conditions for trout and cattle. The most extensive population study ever conducted on Henrys Lake has been completed, providing insight into the resilience of a fishery once prolific enough to support a commercial fishery, over time pushed to the brink of collapse and then resurrected to a rough semblance of what it once was, and is once again considered one of the greatest lacustrine trout fisheries in the Nation. This through the combined efforts of, the Idaho Department of fish and Game, private land owners, Federal agricultural and water management agencies and private conservation organizations such as The Nature Conservancy and the Henrys Lake Foundation.

The Henrys Lake fishery continues to be challenged and probably will always be in peril from one threat or another. Today's threats take the form of protozoans that cause a potentially devastating parasitism called Whirling Disease. Bait fishermen have introduced Utah chubs into the upper Henrys Fork and sure enough they have found their way into Henrys Lake, threatening to push Henrys Lake down the path of neighboring Hebgen Lake and Island Park Reservoir where trout fishing requires more than many people are willing to tolerate.

The greatest threat to Henrys Lake perhaps is in the form of mans inability to learn from history. He prefers to sit back and watch in the hope that things will somehow work themselves out and everything will just be OK. Or he simply throws his hands up and says that there is nothing he can do, because nobody else has set an example for him to follow. He prefers to take when the taking is good and to put back little if anything and then only enough to get by for the shortest time. Pretty soon the cycle begins anew with crisis, alarm, panic reflex and the hope that this time he didn't tempt fate a little too much, and that he can stave off the perils of ambivalence and apathy one more time to get just a little more out of whatever it is that he sees as beneficial to him at the time.

The 1992 Clean Lakes Study puts the value of the Henrys Lake Fishery at approximately 2.6 million dollars per year. When you consider the amount of money that this fishery generates and the amount of funds that have been expended on trying to bring this fishery back, what is it worth to try and stay on top of the problems that face the Henrys Lake Fishery. The next time you fish Henrys Lake, consider the number of people that paid for a fishing license just to fish there and nowhere else and what little real impact paying a few more dollars for a fishing license would have. Consider the accumulated money that they alone represent and then figure in the others who fish a large portion of their valuable recreational time on Henrys Lake. Consider that there is only one Henrys Lake and consider the value of the fishery in other than money terms. What is it worth?

As we come to the end of the Century that has seen the greatest changes in all of history to man and his world, we need to reflect on what it is that brings us to Henrys Lake, and where we want to be in the year 2000, as an organization and as stewards of a lake that has no equal any where in the world.

Groundwater Contamination at Henrys Lake

In May of 1994 sampling revealed petroleum contamination in two domestic wells just east of Highway 20 across from the Henrys Lake Station Chevron. Petroleum hydrocarbon contamination was confirmed in both wells with benzene concentrations ranging from approximately 500 to 600 parts per billion. Follow up soil gas surveys conducted at the Henrys Lake Chevron included 39 sampling locations. Hydrocarbons were detected in high levels, up to 70,000 ug/L. The highest soil gas detections are located around the underground storage tank on the southwest corner of the service station building. The soil gas results suggest that a release may have occurred at some time in the past from the underground storage tank at the Chevron Station. The tank in question was a 3,000 gallon underground storage tank that was used to store regular leaded gasoline. The soil gas survey conducted at the Valley View Sinclair Station did not detect significant soil contamination.

Later in May and June of 1994, the Idaho Petroleum Storage Tank Fund (PSTF) retained Terracon consultants to drill three monitoring wells in the site area to investigate groundwater

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contamination in the area. One well was located in an up-gradient location from both of the facilities. One well was located down gradient of the Henrys Lake Chevron. Another well was located down gradient of the Valley View Sinclair Station. Representative samples collected from the monitoring well detected 2.7 parts per billion (ppb) benzene in the well up-gradient of the facilities, 649 ppb benzene was detected down gradient from the Chevron Station and 289 ppb benzene was detected down gradient from the Valley View Station. The concentrations of benzene detected in the monitoring wells along with a groundwater flow direction to the west suggested that the Henrys Lake Chevron may be the source.

It is uncertain what the threats are to the surface waters in Howard Creek, Howard Slough and in Henrys Lake, but the general direction of groundwater flow is toward the West, toward the Lake. Fish are known to have a low tolerance for benzene contaminated waters, although dilution could be expected given the porous nature of the soils.

Buyers took title to the Henrys Lake Station on February 7th, 1997. The buyers are Greg Coriell, Debbie Placey and Alan Placey, of Boise, Idaho. The buyers have entered into a Consent Order with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare which requires them to conduct further investigation of the petroleum contamination in the soils and ground water within 90 days of obtaining the title to the Henrys Lake Station. If free petroleum product is found in the ground water, the Buyers must begin immediate removal. Additionally the Buyers must submit a corrective action plan for the contaminated soils and ground water within sixty days of receipt of the Department of Health and Welfare approval of the release investigation. The Corrective Action Plan must address; the method of contaminant removal, treatment, and disposal and the equipment used in the removal process; The method of petroleum storage tank system removal and disposal; Description of sampling procedures; Discussion of expected concentrations and quantities of contaminants discharged into the environment; A time frame for the cleanup and progress reports of the cleanup to the State.

Cleanup must continue until no free petroleum product remains. Cleanup levels cannot exceed 5 parts per billion benzene in ground water and 100 parts per million total petroleum hydrocarbons in soil.

The Henrys Lake Foundation is grateful that the buyers are accepting the responsibility for the cleanup of this hazardous material contamination, and the preservation and protection of the environmental quality of the Henrys Lake and Island Park Area.

Run-Off

With this years snowpack there is heightened interest in snow-pack, reservoir levels, stream flows, and the effect on fish, fishing access, and potential flooding. The amount of moisture held in snow is a better indicator than simple snow depth, of what the potential run off can be. Room must be made in reservoirs to accommodate spring run off that potentially could be heavy this year. There is a strong positive aspect to this run off potential in Henrys Lake as it cleans silt clogged gravel, builds stream banks from sediment deposition, provides increased access to tributaries for spawning fish, increases the amount of available spawning gravel, increases fry survival, moderates water temperature and reduces vulnerability of fish to piscivorous avian predators.

The down side can include increased stream bank erosion in areas where stream banks are not covered with rooted plants, stranding fish in isolated side channels as waters recede, increased nutrient loading to the lake, scouring of redds from excessive bed load movements and destruction of; fish screens, riparian pasture fences and diversion structures from flooding. The down side manifestations are less likely to occur than the positive aspects mentioned above within all but the worst case scenario weather patterns.

WHAT'S NEW AND WHAT'S NOT FOR FISH AND GAME AT HENRYS LAKE

Normally I sit down this time of the year to re-cap, for readers of the newsletter, the past fishing season at Henry's Lake, what we have seen from our creel survey, what happened on the ground with habitat improvement projects and the like. However, this past year has not been "normal" for the Department of Fish and Game's Henrys Lake program, so rather than discuss the past season, I'm going to write about the changes we have instituted for our Henrys Lake staff and how those changes will (or won't) affect our on-going program on the lake.

Those who have followed the ebb and flow of the tides of fortune for the Department of fish and Game, in terms of funding, this past year are probably aware that we have had to make some adjustments to our Henrys Lake program due to a temporary budget short-fall. There have been so many unfounded rumors floating about regarding the future (or lack of a future) for the Henrys Lake program and the Department has received so many letters expressing alarm about those rumors that I think this is an ideal time to separate the facts from the fiction and re-affirm our commitment to Henrys Lake.

It shouldn't be a secret to anyone that the funding base for the Fish and Game Department has not kept current with the cost of doing business, and in fact in some crucial areas (sale of non-resident deer tags), we have actually experienced declines in revenue that resulted in a short-fall of three million dollars that last fiscal year. This required the Department to make adjustments to our fish and wildlife programs across the state, to bring our expenditures in line with our available revenue. The Henrys Lake program shared some of those un-avoidable adjustments, but only to the degree that the changes would not affect the essential programs that we have committed to for the Henrys Lake fishery.

The concerns I have heard expressed fall into several categories:

"I've heard that Fish and Game is going to close the Henrys Lake Hatchery."

"I've heard that Fish and Game is laying off all personnel at Henrys Lake."

"I've heard that Fish and Game won't be maintaining any riparian fences or fish screens."

"Fish and Game won't be conducting creel surveys on the lake anymore."

"Fish and Game won't be doing as much enforcement work on the lake in the future."

"Fish and Game won't be operating the winter aeration equipment in the future."

The rumors that lead to those concerns began with the reports of the Fish and Game Department's financial problems and intensified when Tom Herron, Regional Biologist at Henrys Lake resigned to accept a position with the State Division of Environmental Quality in Idaho Falls. Tom's resignation provided the Fish and Game Department with an opportunity to consolidate administrative duties for the Henrys Lake program with the Ashton Hatchery program.

The reality is:

The hatchery operations at Henrys Lake will remain unchanged. The hatchery operations will be supervised by Ashton Hatchery staff (Assistant Superintendent, Steve Wingert), rather than having a Regional Biologist stationed at the hatchery, but staffing of temporary employees will remain unchanged (11 months of Bioaide employees) for 1997 we have added an additional four months of temporary time to help out with the transition of operations to the Ashton supervisory staff.

We will continue to maintain the riparian fences and fish screens that we currently have on the ground. We *have not* dropped the riparian fences or fish screens from our Henrys Lake program.

We have changed the frequency of the Henrys Lake creel survey from every year to every other year. We *have not* dropped the creel survey from our Henrys Lake program. The creel survey will continue to be an important part of the Henrys Lake management program.

By not having a full time biologist stationed permanently at the hatchery, there will be some reduction in presence of a uniformed officer at the lake, however, we will continue the same level of enforcement operations through out the fishing season; ~~that~~ we have in the past, and there will be temporary Fish and Game employees at the hatchery throughout the fishing season to take reports of violations for officers to respond to. The Fish and Game Department devotes more enforcement effort to Henrys Lake than almost any other fishery in the state, and the incidence of violations on the lake have steadily declined over the last ten years as a result of the priority we have given to the lake. We will not be reducing our enforcement commitment to Henrys Lake as a result of the

the staffing adjustments we have made at the Hatchery.

We will continue to operate the aeration equipment at Henrys Lake, as needed to protect the hatchery run of cutthroat spawners in the late winter. We will also continue to monitor winter dissolved oxygen levels to determine whether or not we need to "fire-up" the aeration system. If we determine winter aeration is not necessary in a given year, we can save up to four thousand dollars in power costs to operate the large blowers that drive the aeration system. Because winter lake conditions have been excellent the past two years, we have been able to operate the aeration system at a reduced level which has resulted in significant savings to the annual operations budget, allowing us to use those funds for other important Henrys Lake management activities. The decision whether or not to operate the aeration system will be based solely on the need to protect the hatchery run, not on any desire to "save money".

We want to continue to work with the Henrys Lake Foundation to develop alternative resources and means to operate and maintain riparian fences and irrigation diversion fish screens at Henrys Lake. Even without the Fish and Game Department's current financial problems, we would still have a serious problem with long-term personnel and financial commitments to those fence and fish screen projects. Until we find alternatives to the existing fence and fish screen maintenance program, we (IDFG) are forced to avoid new habitat and fish management initiatives, because we are stretched to the limit with the operations and maintenance obligations we have with our existing network of riparian fences and fish screens. I am looking forward to working with Mike Horton and other Foundation Board members and the general membership, to secure the long term future of the Henrys Lake habitat enhancement program and the world class Henrys Lake fishery.

Mark Gamblin
Idaho Department of Fish and Game
Regional Fisheries Manager
Upper Snake Region

Projects Update...

Due to unfavorable conditions the April 26th willow planting on Howard Creek was cancelled. Details are being worked out with the Nature Conservancy to assist with planting rooted shrubs and trees along Howard Creek in the Fall. Also, during the week following the Fourth of July weekend, a cooperative fence maintenance work force from the Henrys Lake Foundation will complete maintenance projects on riparian fences and fish screens, identified by Fish and Game through routine maintenance. As the need arises, impromptu work crews can be formed to complete smaller scale projects. We will also be working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to identify possible cost sharing projects that have been prioritized from the State Agricultural Water Quality Program....Stay tuned and ready.

HENRYS LAKE FOUNDATION 1997 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1997	
January	3 Oxygen Monitoring Begins
	21 Henrys Fork Watershed Council Mtg
February	19 Henrys Fork Watershed Council Mtg
	28 Winter Update posted on Internet http://henryslake.netib.com
March	1 Hybrid and cutthroat trout Spawning begins at Henrys Lake Hatchery
	18 Henrys Fork Watershed Council Mtg
April	15 Deadline for spring newsletter
	16 Henrys Fork Watershed Council Mtg
	26 Foundation willow planting on Howard Creek
	24 Fishing season opens-Island Park
May	1 Spring newsletter Mailed
	10 Fishing Season Update posted on Internet: http://henryslake.netib.com
	24 Fishing Season Opens on Henrys Lake
	24 Weekly Fishing Update Begins on Internet webb site
July	5 Henrys Lake Foundation Annual Picnic, Auction, General Membership Meeting and elections
	7-11 Project completion: Build Riparian Fence on Duck Creek. Complete Misc. maintenance needs on projects around the Lake
	16 Watershed Council field trip
October	21 State of the Watershed Conference
	31 Deadline for Fall Newsletter
November	15 Fall Newsletter Mailed



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Newsletter Coordinator: 900 N Skyline; Ste.B, Idaho Falls, ID 83402
Secretary-Treasurer: Jeannie Fullen, 7545 Southside Blvd., Nampa, ID 83686
(Send all membership dues/donations to Secretary-Treasurer)

NEWSLETTER

In This Issue... IDFG UPDATE, GROUNDWATER CONTAMINATION UPDATE, AND MORE...

Membership Information:

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/o Secretary-Treasurer
Jeannie Fullen
7545 Southside Blvd.
Nampa, Id 83686

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Enclosed is payment for may annual membership dues for the Henry's Lake Foundation. (Please pay by Jan.1. 1)

- | | | |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$20 - \$49 | <input type="checkbox"/> Do not exchange my name with other organizations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership | \$50 - \$99 | <input type="checkbox"/> I am interested in assisting the HLF in: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership | \$100 - \$299 (\$10 annual fee) | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership | \$300 - and up | _____ |