



Fall Newsletter 2011

President's Message

The HLF has been very active this year with project work. In the latter half of 2011 we completed the installation of the diversion screens on Targhee and Duck Creek and Lee Mabey and the USFS crew finished the Red Rock Road culverts and road re-routing. Kudos go out to all of the great folks involved in these efforts, the natural reproduction of the Yellowstone Cutthroat trout is sure to benefit from all this great work. I also want to extend a giant thank you to the IDFG and Jessica Beulow for her incredible efforts. She has more than hit the ground running. She has been a trooper; out there helping with every aspect of all these projects let alone what she does in her 'day job'.

In September, several directors of the HLF met with the IDFG to discuss the management strategy for the fishery. It was a very productive meeting and allowed us to share our different perspectives and goals. Admittedly we have been very concerned that the IDFG did not have the same long term objectives for the fishery as us given their extension of the season in support of ice fishing. This meeting helped us better understand the biological facts upon which they are building a new management plan. We are hopeful that the plan which will be drafted in the spring of 2012 will reflect our philosophy of Henrys Lake needing greater protection along with meeting the goals of the IDFG. I encourage everyone to attend the public meetings and give the IDFG your input and feedback on the plan.

I am pleased to announce that the HLF has taken formal steps to become more actively involved in a new cooperative effort between other non-profit organizations in the area called the Henrys Fork Legacy project. As you can read in Steve Snipper's article, the Legacy project is in its formative stages and has not yet hit full stride. The Legacy project members represent a strong diverse contingent from which we should be able to drive many mutual synergistic efforts for the Henrys Lake and Upper Snake River basin. Steve is the foundation's appointed representative on the project committee. Along with you, I look forward to hearing about the project's efforts moving forward.

We have had a significant change in the HLF management team. Lorraine Snipper has taken over the Treasurer-Secretary responsibilities from Penny Zega who has resigned from that position after 3 years. Lorraine has graciously stepped in which works out nicely since she used to be the treasurer before Penny. Penny will remain a director and still be actively involved as a board member for the foreseeable future. Along with her husband Ron our Projects Director they have both added incredible value to the organization.

When you look at all the activities the foundation could be involved in we have a lot of choices. The recent noted increase in natural reproduction of the Yellowstone Cutthroat is a testament to our past efforts. Moving forward we need to have the same diligence and resolve that we have demonstrated throughout our 30 year history. To that end we have recently funded a project to study the White Pelicans. The population of these birds has expanded dramatically up to the point where we believe they now threaten the increase in natural reproduction of the YCT that we are now just seeing. It is not uncommon to count 100 pelicans at the mouth of a tributary during the spring, especially during the YCT spawning season. Setting up cameras and photographing their feeding activities at Henrys Lake will form the basis upon which the IDFG can then determine what to do about them. Until then we can only conjecture the impact they are having on the overall fish population. Jessica Beulow's article highlights the benefits of the pelican study project and its potential outcomes.

We have also revised the annual fund raiser format. You can read more about it in the article by Velora Ferris who will be the event chairman for the second year in a row. This year we will have a picnic lunch on July 5th at the historic dining hall in West Yellowstone. As always, all the monies raised will go directly to our project activities.

Thanks once again for all your incredible support. I am truly honored to be a part of such a great organization and what it is we do. Have a great holiday season and I look forward to seeing you all at the annual fund raiser in July.

Phil Barker
President, Henrys Lake Foundation

Projects Report

By Ron Zega, Director

After almost 2 years of planning, design, and construction, 5 diversion screens sponsored and co-funded by the Foundation were installed this summer on two important spawning tributaries. Two screens were installed in August on the Parkinson property on Duck Creek and the Salisbury property on Targhee Creek. The remaining two Duck Creek screens were installed in November on the Parkinson property and the final screen on the Stockon property on Targhee Creek. With these new screens, all of Duck Creek is now screened from Henrys Lake to Red Rock Road, while Targhee Creek has only one older screen to eventually be upgraded.

A second major project sponsored in part by the Foundation was completed in 2011. This project was the replacement or removal of 4 obstructive culverts on Red Rock Road. Led by Lee Mabey of the U.S. Forest Service, the rerouting of Red Rock Road at the Pearson property this fall after the removal of the double pipe culvert has created unobstructed spawning fish passage from Henrys Lake to 6 miles of Duck Creek and its tributaries.

In September, the directors of the Foundation approved a \$2,000 commitment for the purchase of 15 game cameras to monitor pelican predation on Henrys Lake. The cameras with built-in flashes will photograph the pelicans at night, their preferred feeding times. Led by IDFG Fisheries Biologist Jessica Buelow, this study will document the lake's pelican population growth and predation on spawning cutthroat trout. The cameras will be strategically positioned along the key spawning tributaries of the lake as well as selected areas that the pelicans typically frequent. By monitoring these sites, the IDFG will be able to document what impact the pelicans are having on the lake's cutthroat trout spawning activity in the hopes of developing strategies to reduce their predation in future years.

The Foundation also approved a \$2500 commitment to purchase E-Z UP awnings and chairs for Fremont County Weed Control who manages the four boat wash stations on the major highways leading to Henrys Lake. The awnings will provide a far more hospitable and professional 'office' for the wash station attendants. They will no longer have to sit in their cars with the windows covered with towels and blankets. The awnings will include a banner with the HLF logo and name along with the Fremont Country Weed Control logo and name.

Finally, the Foundation is currently in discussion with the IDFG regarding the initiation of a formal study of Utah Chubs. Little is really known by the various state fish and game agencies regarding the life-cycle of the chubs, though its negative impact on some trout fisheries is well known. Parameters of the study have yet to be determined, but it is in the interest of both the Foundation and the IDFG to develop a better understanding of chub spawning habits, population growth, diet, and impact on trout populations so that strategies can be proactively developed to keep the chub population in check before the trout fishery at Henrys Lake and others is negatively impacted. Given that the Utah Chub is not a game fish, the IDFG will need external funding and resources (e.g. graduate student) to conduct the study. We will keep you posted on our progress regarding this proposed study.



Old wooden diversion screen on the Stockon property on Targhee Creek. It was perpendicular to the stream and leaking underneath. Over 150 fry were found behind the screen and in the diversion ditch when it was removed. They were netted and released in Targhee Creek.



IDFG Fisheries Biologist Jessica Buelow with the new modular steel diversion screen on the Stockon property on Targhee Creek. This large 10' screen is now angled to the stream flow. The paddle wheel was also caged because of safety concerns.

IDFG Report

By Jessica Buelow, IDFG Regional Fisheries Biologist

Trend of increased natural reproduction of Yellowstone Cutthroat:

Based on the return of marked fish over the past several years, it appears that natural reproduction may be increasing in Henrys Lake. Each year, IDFG fin clips 10% of all hatchery cutthroat trout. We then look for the ratio of clipped fish in our population monitoring throughout the year. When the ratio of marked fish in the population is around 10%, we assume natural reproduction is low. When it is lower than this, we can determine that natural reproduction is increasing. The number of marked hatchery fish has been around 6% for the past couple of years. Increases in wild production are likely due to the improve fish passage into the tributaries to spawn and the installation of fish bypass systems on diversion ditches returning fish to the river as well as the years of habitat restoration that have occurred around the lake.

Fall Stocking Summary:

During the 2nd week in September, we stocked 100,000 5-6 inch brook trout into the lake from Ashton Fish Hatchery, 1,127,596 3-4 inch Yellowstone Cutthroat trout, and 205,097 hybrid trout from Mackay Fish Hatchery. The fish were stocked at the hatchery, state park and at the county boat ramp. We did see some mortality at the county and state boat ramp this season, but estimated it was a small component of the 1.4 million trout we stocked. Although we were unable to determine the cause of this mortality, the warmer water temperatures we saw this fall may have contributed.

Stomach Content Study:

During the open water season in 2011, we used gill nets to capture trout monthly to conduct a stomach content study for trout on Henrys Lake. We set gill nets for two nights at the end of each month with the goal of collecting 100 fish monthly. The fish were identified to species, measured, weighed, and a stomach sample was taken from each fish and preserved for later analysis. We are trying to evaluate if and when trout are consuming Utah chubs, as there has been a decline in the number of chubs over the past several years and we want to see if this is due to predation from trout. We will also be comparing results from this study to a similar study that was completed in 2004 to assess other changes in the forage base.

Pelican Study:

This coming spring, we will begin a pelican study on Henrys Lake tributaries. We are hoping to document the number of pelicans that are congregating at the mouths of the tributaries and the duration of their stay. The Henrys Lake foundation donated 15 game trail cameras that will be used to estimate pelican use. Results will give us an idea of the potential impacts on trout in the lake. This monitoring will go on for a few years as well in order to capture annual variation between years. Pelicans typically consume 2 to 4 pounds of fish per day though this may vary. We would like to know or be able to estimate the potential impact of pelican predation on our localized stocks, particularly our cutthroat.

Pittsburg Creek Flow Meter Installation:

In October, the engineering crew for IDFG dug out the diversion point on Pittsburg creek, upstream of the subdivision, in order to measure the flow of water in the creek at the diversion point. The engineering crew also installed a pipe in order to fit a flow meter that can monitor the current flow of the creek at one hour intervals. We will also install a flow meter at the Hwy 87 culvert on Pittsburg creek to monitor flows. This procedure is due to a court mandate in order for us to move a current water right on Pittsburg Creek to Henrys Lake. We want to move the water right to the lake for the purpose of using water for the adult fish ladder in the

(Continued on page 4)



One of the old wooden diversion screens replaced on the Parkin-son property on Duck Creek during October.



IDFG Fisheries Biologist Jessica Buelow and IDFG screen shop construction foreman Jim Hardy with the new modular steel screen.

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spring in case there are diminished flows on the current water source in Hatchery Creek.

Creel Surveys:

We are planning to do a creel survey on the lake during the 2013 fishing season. The last survey was during the summer of 2009. We are currently running a creel survey on the winter ice fishing season. The ice fishery started during the middle of November and has been sporadic since that time, based partially on weather conditions. Our preliminary creel results are showing a harvest rate of fish that is similar to the open water fishery. Catch rates of fish are around 2 fish per hour though this may vary throughout the season. Currently, the number of fishermen ice fishing is low compared to the open water fishermen. Thanksgiving was a busy weekend, however, as our survey results show. Preliminary analysis of this year's creel efforts should be available this coming spring.

Water Quality Surveys:

DEQ did conduct monitoring of Henry's Lake this year; both aquatic invasive species with ISDA and water quality using EPA's Lake Assessment Protocols. They will be evaluating the data over the winter.

Fishery Management Strategy Meeting with the IDFG

By Ron Zega, Director

In September, Idaho Department of Fish and Game representatives made a 3 hour presentation regarding the state of the trout fishery at Henrys Lake to Phil Barker, President, and Penny and Ron Zega, Directors, of the Henrys Lake Foundation. In attendance from the IDFG were Jessica Buelow, regional fisheries biologist, Greg Schoby, regional fisheries biologist, Dan Garren, Regional Fisheries Manager, Daniel Schill, Fishery Research Manager from Boise, and Michael Quist, University of Idaho Fisheries Professor and Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research member.

The highlight of the presentation was the evidence from annual gill net surveys that shows a likely increase in the number of naturally produced Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout (YCT). This was determined by a smaller percentage of fin-clipped fish captured in the gill net survey and fish entering the hatchery ladder. Note—10% of all planted YCT fish are fin-clipped. This is a trend that has been seen for the past few years but before concrete conclusions can be drawn, IDFG would like to have additional years of data to support this theory. This higher number of naturally spawned fish is probably the result of the extensive stream restoration work, culvert upgrading and diversion screening conducted on the major tributaries over the past years. On the other hand, the average size (actually, weight) of YCT caught on Henrys has declined somewhat over this same time period, most likely the result of the overall increased fish population in the lake due to the higher rate of naturally spawned fish. As a result, the IDFG will consider alterations to the stocking rate in the coming years to ensure cutthroat size remains desirable. Any changes are likely to occur several years down the road. IDFG would like to keep all variables constant while they measure the effects of the season extension before implementing additional changes that may influence the fishery.

The Utah Chub population in Henrys appears to have declined somewhat from a spike of 3 years ago and has remained stable for the past 2 years. It is unclear, though possible, that the planting of an additional 50,000 brook trout fingerlings 3 years ago has suppressed the chub population growth as brook trout are aggressive fry feeders. It's also possible that the higher density of cutthroat trout may help keep chub under control. Results of this winter's analysis of the stomach contents of gill-netted trout should reveal more information on the predation of chubs. Dan Garren reported that one of his major concerns regarding Henrys Lake is the chub population and how to keep it in check. Options for control of an explosion in the chub abundance are very limited. A lengthy discussion ensued on how the HLF might sponsor a study at the university level to acquire a better understanding of chub population impacts so that IDFG might be able to develop a proactive management of the chubs.

Because of the extreme fertility of Henrys Lake, trout growth rates are extraordinarily high, resulting in similarly high annual mortality rates. This is evident to Henrys fishermen who report reduced catches of trophy hybrids. As a result, IDFG will increase the number of hybrids planted in 2012, and will plant 5,000 'experimental' hybrids (basically a large hybrid of about 8-10") which have the potential to increase hybrid abundance. The results of this planting will be monitored via gill net samples over the coming 4 years. Also, the IDFG is attempting to change the source of the annual brook trout fry planted from Canada to Wyoming in order to be able to stock sterile more colorful male fish as well as sterile female fish.

Finally, the substantial increase in Henrys Lake's pelican population and its predation on spawning YCT at the mouths of our major tributaries has caused concern to both the HLF and the IDFG. Following up on a study of pelican predation on spawning YCT in the Blackfoot Reservoir in Western Idaho, Jessica Buelow will head a study of the Henrys Lake pelican population in an initial effort to establish whether or not the pelicans are harming the lakes YCT population, with possible future management action to address this issue.

Duck Creek Project Comes to an End

By Lee Mabey, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Forest Fisheries Biologist lmabey@fs.fed.us



Double barrel culvert restricting cutthroat access at high flows



Post project with culvert removed and willows planted.

After three seasons of work on the Duck Creek project the final phase came to a gratifying end in November of 2011. The double barrel culvert and likely the worst offender of the four when it came to blocking fish migration was removed this fall.

Last year two crossings were replaced with wooden bridges and the year before last a small pipe was replaced with a 15 foot span open bottom arch. This year a new 1500 foot road was completed to bypass the remaining culvert, the culverts were removed and the stream restored to its natural condition. Old fencing was taken down and new fencing put up and the site was re-seeded. Weed control will be taken care of by Fremont County Weed and Pest for the next three years.

Completion of this project along with work completed by Idaho Fish and Game and the Foundation below the road including irrigation screens will enable spawning cutthroat from the lake to complete their life cycle by migrating out of Henry's Lake up Duck Creek to spawn and perpetuate wild Yellowstone cutthroat in this system. The irrigation screens will ensure that the emerging fry can make it back down to the lake.

Many thanks go out to those who supported this project; especially the Pearson's who allowed these changes to be made on private land, the volunteers who helped remove the fencing, Fremont County for their cooperation and support in moving the road, the BLM for helping to make this work for all the parties, and thanks to the Foundation especially Penny and Lorraine for managing the agreement and payments. Thanks also to the Forest Service engineering shops, Tyrone Stone and Road Crew, as well as Forest Service hydrologist Brad Higginson.

Funding for this project came from the Henry's Lake Foundation, Fremont County, US Fish and Wildlife Service, US Forest Service, and the Eastern Idaho Regional Advisory Council. Cooperators were the Pearson's, Bateman's, Lee's, BLM, Fremont County, HLF, USFWS, IDFG and USFS. We can all rest easier this winter knowing the cutthroat this spring will have an easier time getting up Duck Creek to spawn and carry on their cycle of life. From the numbers of smaller fish I caught in the lake this fall the efforts around the lake appear to be paying off!



Agreed upon location for re-routing of Red Rock Road



Post project with new section of Red Rock Road

IDFG Fisheries Management Plan

Paraphrased from an email from Dan Garren, IDFG Regional Fisheries Manager

During 2012 the IDFG will develop a new Fisheries Management Plan for implementation starting in 2013. The current plan spanned 2007-2012 so the new one will probably cover the next 5 years. The preliminary schedule to develop the new plan will be as follows:

- January – May – public input solicitation (initial chance for HLF Members to state their preferences)
- June – draft document completed, submitted to IDFG Commission
- July – solicit public comment on the draft plan (pending Commission approval)
- August-Nov – incorporate public comment into revisions
- Nov – back to Commission for final approval

In all likelihood the IDFG will be using the current plan as a template for the new plan, and will be altering existing strategies based on current conditions and public input. For example, the new changes in population structure in Henrys (increased wild production) will have to be addressed in the new plan with a framework for how the IDFG evaluates and moves forward with changes to the stocking request if the trend continues.

Should you have questions or comments regarding the plan Dan Garren can be reached at [208-525-7290](tel:208-525-7290) or dan.garren@idfg.idaho.gov.

Curly-leaf Pondweed Threatens Henrys Lake

By Lee Mabey, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, Forest Fisheries Biologist lmabey@fs.fed.us

Human Nature-What's That Got to Do with Preserving Henry's Lake

At a meeting several years ago in Jackson Hole, aquatic invasive species was the discussion topic. Specifically how we could enlist the public's help and get everyone involved in prevention and keeping the "bad guys" out. After a fair amount of discussion, Jack Dennis stood up and said, "The problem is Human Nature! We, as people, really don't appreciate what we have until it's gone". I've since tried to assuage my soul that this wasn't true. People would act to prevent the loss of resources they enjoy and hold dear, if we could only educate them enough.

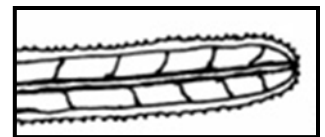
Then this summer I was fishing on Henry's with one of the HLF members and we started talking more about aquatic invasive species since curly-leaf pondweed has been discovered in neighboring drainages. This member expressed to me that he did not think some folks would ever change their habits and that the only real hope would be the upcoming generation. That might be acceptable if time and odds were on our side but they are not. I suppose that if you only fish one body of water and never venture anywhere else then you are safe to do things as you have always done them and you can ignore the issue. I do fish more than one place and I think most of us do. I know for me it would be horrifying to think that I had forever changed a place like Henry's Lake by introducing some game changing species into the mix.

So what needs to be done? We need a new ethic as anglers. Just as the ethic of "Catch and Release" has taken hold we need a new ethic of "Clean Drain and Dry". We need to develop the habit that no fishing trip is complete until all of our gear is cleaned, drained and dried. Just like at the end of a hard day's hunt we wouldn't throw a wet dirty rifle in its case and leave it till our next outing. At the end of each trip we need to Clean Drain and Dry our gear so it's free of any potential "bad guys" and ready to go again. Perhaps a little positive peer pressure could go a long way.

Curly-leaf Pondweed Nearby Threatens Henry's

This year Curly-leaf Pondweed was found in the nearby Hebgen and Island Park Reservoirs as well as the lower Henry's Fork near Beaver Dick Park. This plant is recognized by the state of Idaho as an aquatic nuisance species. It is currently found in several counties in the state. Curly-leaf Pondweed is an aggressive weed that under the right conditions can dominate shallow bays. At times it can become so thick it interferes with boat traffic. Typically in Idaho it has more or less blended in with the native species and has just become part of the mix of species. However, Curly-leaf Pondweed has some competitive advantages that could be enhanced by environmental conditions at Henry's Lake, such as, its tolerance for low

light and low water temperatures. It could persist in the lake for years at low levels and then with a year of the right combination of winds and turbid water it may dominate. In other words, we can't be sure what the impacts to Henry's Lake might be. Let's not risk it. Before we move to new waters remember the new ethic: our trip is not really done until we have cleaned, drained and dried our gear.



Identification

There are some native plants that look very similar to Curly-leaf Pondweed at first glance. The main identifying characteristics are not just the crinkly leaves though they are more crinkly than the natives, but the very small serrations on the edges of the leaf (if your eyes aren't really good or you don't have your glasses on, you may miss these). An additional characteristic for the native pondweeds are leaf veins that run parallel to the midvein, while Curly-leaf Pondweed veins branch perpendicularly from the midvein and form little boxes.



HLF Position Regarding the IDFG Fisheries Plan

I would encourage everyone to attend the public meetings that the IDFG will hold this spring to gather public input for the plan. It would be great to offer your support for the items that the foundation would like to see in the plan. Through our discussions with Dan Garren, he has encouraged us to focus on the desired outcome and not the specific methods by which the IDFG would go about achieving a goal. In that regard we have followed the current plan format and stated our preferences as objectives and programs. Hopefully everyone is in agreement with the items listed. Should you have any questions regarding the HLF's position please don't hesitate to send us an email at web@henryslakefoundation.com. The IDFG will publish the schedule for the public meetings once it has been finalized. As a result you will need to either periodically check their website at <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/> or wait for an announcement in one of the local Idaho newspapers.

Objective: Increase the size and number of trophy trout in Henrys Lake; reverse the year-over-year decline in relative weights

Program: Change the management of the fishery from quality to trophy

Program: Evaluate methods to improve size structure of hybrid, cutthroat and brook trout and implement results as possible

Program: Assess harvest and catch rates from fishing season changes, pre and post

Objective: Enhance the natural reproduction of cutthroat trout in Henrys Lake

Program: Continue work with Henrys Lake Foundation and others to screen irrigation ditch diversions, fence riparian areas and replace culverts restricting fish passage

Program: Close the mouths of the key spawning tributaries to fishing (with No Fishing buoys just like at the fish trap and Staley's)

Program: Adjust hatchery supplementation as necessary to maintain size structure and management goals

Program: Assess the number of naturally spawning cutthroat in each key tributary

Program: Work with landowners to minimize diversion of water in key tributaries when not necessary and monitor usage

Objective: Prevent the White Pelican population at Henrys Lake from adversely impacting the natural reproduction of cutthroat trout

Program: Study the feeding habits of pelicans in the key spawning tributaries

Program: Evaluate and institute management strategies to minimize negative impacts of pelicans to the trout fishery

Program: Work with federal managers and others to mitigate or alleviate impacts to the trout population from pelican predation as they are identified

Program: Use hazing in and around the key tributaries until an alternative management strategy is available

Objective: Prevent the Utah Chub population in Henrys Lake from adversely impacting the fishery

Program: Study the life-cycle of Utah Chubs

Program: Evaluate the economic viability of alternatives for reducing population growth with recommendations for implementation should they become necessary

Objective: Protect Henrys Lake from the introduction of invasive species

Program: Work with state and county managers and others to check all boats, float tubes and waders for invasive species as possible

Program: Work with state and county managers and others to raise public awareness of all the known threats and how to identify them

Program: Establish self-administered wash stations for float tubes and waders at key launch points

Program: Assess angler compliance with inspections

Objective: Implement a long-term strategy to maintain optimal water quality in Henrys Lake

Program: Work with federal managers and others to evaluate the water quality every year and take corrective actions as necessary

Program: Identify specific causes and sources of the periodic algae blooms and intervene as appropriate

Program: Work with the City of Island Park and county agencies to formulate long-term water quality assurance programs

Objective: Increase angler opportunity for children and disabled people at Henrys Lake

Program: Work with the Henrys Lake Foundation and others to provide an ADA compliant and children's fishing docks at the state park

Program: Work with the Henrys Lake Foundation and others to promote fishing programs for children and disabled people at Henrys Lake

Program: Monitor fishing at the ADA and children locations to ensure compliance with intended usage

Objective: Enforce all federal, state, county and local regulations

Program: Secure funding for enforcement personnel, seek additional sources as available

Program: Ensure optimal staffing level for regional coverage model

Henry's Fork Legacy Project

By Stephen Snipper, Director

This summer, the Henry's Lake Foundation began its involvement with the Henry's Fork Legacy Project, a collaboration of local organizations and agencies dedicated to conserving the rural landscapes and unique natural resources of the Upper Henry's Fork. Partners in the Henry's Fork Legacy Project include Teton Regional Land Trust, Henry's Fork Foundation, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Caribou-Targhee National Forest, The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management, Wildlife Conservation Society, Idaho Transportation Department, Future West, Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, and Idaho Department of Lands.

The project partners are not formally associated, and work in conjunction with one another generally to assist each other on conservation projects within the upper Henry's Fork.

The Henry's Fork Legacy Project focuses on three primary activities:

1. Providing landowners with resources and financial incentives to conserve working farms and ranches and the rural lifestyles that they sustain,
2. Helping protect wildlife, restoring habitats and reducing human-wildlife conflicts, and
3. Providing information and tools to aid the development of land and resource management plans that will protect natural resources while meeting human needs.

The Henry's Lake Foundation looks forward to assisting the Henry's Fork Legacy Project with respect to programs in and around Henry's Lake, and to seek its assistance with some of our projects.

Invasive Species Report

By Bryce Fowler, Fremont Country Weed Control

This year was a very interesting year in the aquatic invasive species world. There were a lot of changes that took place as you probably noticed. This year the biggest change that we had was, we moved the Boat washes to the highways. That was brought to us by the Idaho Department of Agriculture. They want all highways coming into the state to have an inspection station on the boarder for all boats coming into the state to go through. So we put one on HWY 87 and HWY 20 close to the state lines. But in doing that we said that we still wanted inspectors at the docks as well, so we also had inspection stations on the highways and inspectors at the docks, with Wild Rose RV Park inspecting their own dock. With all these inspectors around we did about 3500 boat inspections on the highways and about 1500 inspections on the docks. So we were very busy. With that there were only 6 suspected boats that came through our stations. These were either boats that where from Lake Mead or Havasu or had some something on them that were not native to our area.

On a larger scale the state of Idaho caught 25 boats this year with mussels on them. And they also found Eurasian Water milfoil in Buhl which is the furthest east that they have fund but they treated that pond and it was eradicated.

On the monitoring side we surveyed Henry's Lake and did not find any invasive species this year. We will continue to fight to keep Henry's Lake the way we all like it, CLEAN!



The old wooden diversion screen on the Salisbury property on Targhee Creek.



The new modular steel screen now installed in the same location.

Dry Fly Fishing on Henrys Lake

By Stephen Snipper, Director

After 50 years of hearing that Henrys Lake trout could not be caught on dry flies, I decided to put the theory to the test. In July, after watching both cutthroat and brook trout roll on the surface, appearing to eat adult flies, I began to try a number of dry fly patterns to see if I could tempt the trout to eat flies on the surface.

In the Targhee Creek area of Henrys Lake, it appeared that the trout were aggressively chasing emerging caddis at the surface. I watched them chase the nymphs across the surface, looking like tuna chasing sardines. After several failed attempts, I found that a soft hackle caddis, either floated on the surface or dragged through the surface film, would entice a strike, even when other fishermen were not being bit on traditional sub-surface patterns. This seemed to work especially well in shallow areas, but also worked even in deeper water. It was exciting to watch a good-sized trout come from the bottom and viciously attack the fly on the surface.

Later in the summer, fishing in the Duck Creek area, I noticed the trout feeding on Callibaetis spinners. I tied some deer hair spinners that I used on Hebgen Lake, and was immediately successful. In fact, in a group of several other boats fishing nearby, my floating deer hair spinner was the only fly getting fish, and on almost every cast.

After telling anyone who would listen how successful the dry fly technique was, several others tried a number of different flies on rising trout, and found that the trout would take literally anything on the surface within their vision. Among the successful flies used were Parachute Adams, Royal Wulffs, and even grasshoppers.

I attribute some of this to the fact that the water at Henrys Lake was exceptionally clear this year, but I suspect that dry fly fishing has always been an unused possibility.

Fishing Report 2011

By Ron Slocum, Director

I am happy to report that this last season was, for me, one of the most productive in the last 30 years. Some aspects of this year's flyfishing have been quite different:

1. Use of dry flies (see Steve Snipper's article);
2. The extensive use of floating lines;
3. The consistent shallow water fishing (2 1/2 to 5 feet); and
4. A much improved Callibaetis hatch with a slight decline in the caddis and damselfly hatches.

My favorite consistent producing rig was a floating line with 4X tippet to a size 14 bead-head pheasant tail and 4 feet behind that a size 16 pheasant tail nymph. My wife and I kept a log for the first time. While releasing over 1600 fish, the pheasant tail duo accounted for more than half of that total. The overwhelming hot-spot for the season was the waters directly in front of Targhee Creek followed by the shallow waters of the inlets of Duck and Howard Creeks. The hot spot for me in the Fall and others was the Pintail Point area including the waters adjacent to Timber Creek.

Back to Targhee Creek. I've never seen as many cutthroat at the outlet in the past as well as a tremendous late June to mid-July run of large Brook Trout (2 1/2 to 4 lbs.). I'm convinced that this significantly growing population of Yellowstone Cutthroat off of Targhee is a result of the 2006 Henrys Lake Foundation spearheaded project which led to the replacement of the dysfunctional culverts with bridges at Highway 87. This change led to the opening of at least 7 miles of prime spawning habitat for the naturally spawning fish. In addition to the apparent larger numbers of fish, I noticed that almost none of the fish that we released had clipped adipose fins which would have identified them as hatchery derived.

Now on to Brook Trout. Considering size and numbers it was the best Brook Trout season that I can recall in the last twenty years. In 1998 F&G decided to stop planting brookies statewide. After four years of a steadily declining population of Brook Trout the Foundation Board convinced the F&G to reinstate stocking of brookies. At that time we also funded the purchase of equipment which allowed F&G to sterilize Brook Trout and effectively manage the population. In all my years of fishing Henrys Lake I've never caught so many Brook Trout or so many large ones.

On the negative side Staley's Springs produced the least amount of quality fishing that I have experienced in many years. Especially early in the season, the channel was empty of fish. Later on near the wire in mid to late July and August I witnessed a number of 5-8 pound hybrids as well as a better than average number of cutthroat.

Another bright spot was Duck Creek. Duck Creek produced a significant number of Yellowstone cutthroat as well as several large hybrids up to ten pounds. And, here again, a lot of fish were caught in 2 1/2 to 4 feet of water. This fishery was most productive throughout July and early August.

With a full lake and good oxygen content plus minimal winter kill I'm very hopeful for a very good carry-over to 2012.



Vern Given with a 6 lb. 6 oz. Brook trout caught in front of Targhee Creek in mid-July using a green crystal wooly bugger.

Annual Fund Raiser—July 5th 2012

By Velora Ferris, Director

On July 5, 2012, the Henry's Lake Foundation will swing into summer with its annual event. This year the foundation will recreate the past picnic theme which has been popular with all members. However, to put a new spin on the event, this year it will be held in West Yellowstone at the historic Dining Hall during daytime hours.

The Foundation is also returning to its fundraising activities and so there will be both a live and silent auction held in conjunction with the picnic. Hours and menus have yet to be finalized but the plan is to present a function that is fun, affordable, convenient and readily available to all family members.

So mark your calendars, consider a donation for the auction and hope for another great year of fishing at Henry's Lake. Your Foundation is working to make it so. We look forward to seeing you at the picnic!

Annual Election Results

As part of our summer 2011 newsletter we included election ballots. Thank you to everyone who voted.

Officers Re-elected

Phil Barker, President

John Taft, Vice President

Penny Zega, Secretary/Treasurer*

Directors Elected/Re-elected

Phil Barker

Mike Smith

Penny Zega

Ron Zega

*Subsequent to the election, Penny Zega resigned and the HLF Board unanimously approved the appointment of Lorraine Snipper as her replacement.

Annual Renewals

If you are an annual member your annual renewal notice was mailed with this newsletter. Annual memberships are calendar based so renewal notices will only be sent out at year end as part of the fall newsletter mailing. Please note—this will be the only notice that you receive so please take the time to renew your membership now. Annual memberships are \$50. If you prefer you can upgrade to a lifetime membership for a one-time payment of \$300 and receive a free HLF fishing shirt along with a life member lapel pin. Just fill out the renewal card accordingly.

2011 Summer Donor Honor Roll

(Since publication of 2011 Summer Newsletter)

\$1000+ Donations

John Herritt

Tyler Thompson

\$200+ Donations

Terry and Joanne Hogue

John & Melody Taft

\$100 Donations

James Stone

Thomas Odell

Vern & Peggy Given

Tom Schell

Lon and Mary Ann Rich

James Aho

Richard Hodge

Other Donations

Phillip Burleigh

David Clark

Todd Eason

Richard Fencer

Barbara Hobson

Frances Jordan

John Bingham

Robert Lindner

Eva Barker

Pat O'Neill

Patti & David Harwell

Pat Huber

Gerald Waller

Ed & Margaret Given

Mary Van Fleet

Henry's Lake Foundation

Officers

Phil Barker, President

John Taft, Vice President

Lorraine Snipper Secretary/Treasurer

Directors

Don Barksdale

Velora Ferris

Lynne Hodge

Richard Hodge

Ron Slocum

Mike Smith

Lorraine Snipper

Steve Snipper

Melody Taft

Penny Zega

Ron Zega

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Enhancing and protecting the fishery of Henry's Lake