

Staley Springs Lodge
Macks Inn, Idaho 83433
July 24, 1981

Dear *Richard*

Please excuse my not writing you a personal letter about Hebrys Lake. There are so many letters to send that writing individual letters is an impossibility. However, I feel that this communication will provide you with all necessary and up-to-date information.

A very well attended meeting was held at Wild Rose Ranch on the evening of July 20 for the purpose of getting a report on Henrys Lake from biologist Bob Rohrer and suggestions on how to form an effective (and eventually tax exempt) organization to enhance the fishing on the lake. When formed (right away we hope), the new organization will be called Henrys Lake Foundation. Likely it will take 18 months or more to achieve a tax-exempt status with IRS, so that donations can be charged off as tax deductions. Meanwhile, there is important work to be done, regardless of whether or not a gift is tax deductible.

There is a need for a series of conservation projects that would bolster the natural spawning runs in the various streams feeding the lake and improve the propagation and distribution of hatchery fish in the lake. The State of Idaho, sorely pressed for funds, will be unable to finance all the needed projects and research leading to them. Also, the new organization will give us, the sportsmen most concerned with the quality of the lake, a voice in how these matters are handled and a sense of participation in its future through our ideas and dollars. The plan is to tackle specific projects, one at a time, so that our efforts will not be scattershot.

The first project -- Summer 1981 -- will be purchase of hoop nets for a study of predation of large fish on the fry and fingerlings that are presently stocked near the hatchery, leading perhaps to purchase of a boat and equipment for wider distribution in the lake of fish that are stocked. Total cost of the hoop nets needed is approximately \$700.

At the meeting, 24 sportsmen donated \$250, most donating \$10 each. As you can see, a grand start was made toward the \$700 budget for 1981. See the back of this letter for names of donors.

We hope you will help us by sending a donation for this good cause. Pending formation of our new organization, it is planned to funnel the first year's donations through the Island Park Sportsmen's Association, which has been doing good conservation work in this area for many years. All the money will be used for the present project, and any overage will be earmarked for the next project. Please make out your check to Island Park Sportsmen's Association and mail to me in enclosed envelope. A report will be sent to you later on total donations received and their disposition.

Fishing remains slow for numbers of fish but great for big hybrids. One encouraging factor is the large number of small trout (5" to 8") being caught and released. Little fish will make big fish in a couple of seasons. There are now 32 pictures of hybrids 7 pounds or more, caught in 1981, posted in the Staley Springs Lodge Office. They range up to 11½ pounds. Not bad! Kind regards ... and good fishing.

Sincerely,

John
John O'Neill Jr.

P.S. At the meeting we were also addressed by Charley Brooks, Chairman of the Yellowstone Foundation (located in West Yellowstone), who gave us the benefit of his wide experience in organizations of this type. The Yellowstone Foundation exists solely to preserve and improve the trout waters within 100 miles of West Yellowstone.

Donors to Henrys Lake Foundation -- 7/20/81
Total \$250.00

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~~ Caulson
Chet C. Stafford
John Dickmann
Harold Husted

7/24/81

Total now \$320.00