



Summer Newsletter 2010

President's Message

As you can see from the title of this newsletter we were late getting out the Spring newsletter hence the name change. The board and officers were completely focused on making the July 3rd fund raiser a great success. The decision to host a single fund raiser, indoors, for a reduced \$50 per person cost resulted in higher attendance and net proceeds that were almost double the total net proceeds of both events last year. As such we have already reserved the Union Pacific Dining Hall for next year on Saturday July 2nd. Please mark your calendars. It was a really fun time.

In prior years we always held our annual elections at our picnic but since the fund raiser dinner was a paid event and not all members may have attended we have enclosed an election ballot. If you haven't already voted, please cast your vote and send it back so that we can complete our annual election. Officers are elected to annual terms and directors to 3 year terms. Additionally if you have any nominations for future elections please submit them so that the Board can follow-up and get them introduced and considered for next year's ballot.

The survey responses you submitted last fall have confirmed your overwhelming support of the 2011 fishing regulation changes we have proposed to the IDFG. The IDFG is in the process of formulating their proposal to the commission and final round of public meetings and feedback before the new regulations are finalized. We remain optimistic that we have averted a year round fishing season on Henrys Lake but cannot yet determine if IDFG is going to make any of the other changes that we have requested. As soon as we are notified of the public meetings or request for feedback on the IDFG website we will send out an email so that everyone can directly offer their support.

We have also learned that the boat wash process is not likely to stop the Quagga and Zebra mussels but is effective for prevention of the Eurasian Water Milfoil. All three of these invasive species pose a significant threat to Henrys Lake. Highway inspection stations have been set up for all boats entering Idaho. It is hoped that the manual inspection of boats and increased boater awareness of invasive species will help thwart this threat. It is incumbent upon all of us to make sure that we do not transport invasive species from one waterway to another. Please make sure you clean your boats, bilges, float tubes, waders and boots thoroughly before entering Idaho.

Fishing at the lake has really been quite good. I visited our local taxidermist Melissa Buehler and she already has a 6 lb Brook trout, two 5 pounders, and a 9.5 lb Hybrid in the freezer ready to be mounted. I went and saw the 6 lb Brookie. It didn't appear to be that long but it was thick like a football. Early fishing results reported by Damon Keen, our resident IDFG regional fisheries biologist show strong catch rates for bait and fly anglers alike.

Our strong fund raising efforts have allowed us to fund several more projects these year. Our focus remains on improvement of the riparian habit of the tributaries, improving fish passage and screening diversions. Ron Zega our Projects Director works closely with Damon Keen to evaluate the highest priority projects and funding requirements. We leverage all the monies we raise with government grants so we are able to accomplish far more than what we could do on our own. As a completely volunteer organization, 100% of the net proceeds we raise are used to fund projects.

We are still trying to get an email address for each of our members. If you are not sure if we have yours then please send us an email to web@Henryslakefoundation.com and we will update our membership list accordingly. If you have any fishing memorabilia, artwork, books, etc. that you would like to donate for next year's fund raiser please let us know. In addition to all the local merchants that support us, many of the donations come from you the membership.

Thank you for your support,
Phil Barker

Projects Report

By Ron Zega, Director

In a June 2010 meeting with Damon Keen, IDFG Regional Fisheries Biologist, Damon reported that he observed numerous cutthroat spawning and counted more redds than he had seen in the past decade on Duck Creek. This increase is largely attributed to the substantial creek rehabilitation completed by the IDFG and the Henrys Lake Foundation over the past several years. It is heartening to all in the Foundation that our project sponsorship dollars are making a real contribution to increase the natural reproduction of the Yellowstone Cutthroat in Henrys Lake.

Duck Creek can support additional spawning fish further upstream. To maximize survival rates of the fry and spawning adults, HLF has been working with IDFG to replace all 4 of the old diversion screens on Duck Creek. These old screens have been in place for over 20 years and are non-functional at times. The lowest of these screens, is on the Taft property and was replaced September 2009 with a new, cost-effective, modular, rotary drum screen manufactured by the IDFG Screen Shop in Salmon, Idaho with \$3,500 of funding from HLF. In addition, the HLF Board approved an additional \$7,000 commitment towards the replacement of 2 of the remaining old diversion screens with the new modular, rotary drum screens. IDFG will use the HLF commitment to obtain additional Federal funds for the completion of this project scheduled for the Fall of 2011. The fourth screen will be replaced by IDFG with funding obtained from Federal sources.

Two additional projects aggregating \$21,500 in Foundation funding originally scheduled for completion last fall have been postponed for one year. Due to design issues, these two major diversions screens, one on the Stockton property and the other on the Salisbury property, are now scheduled for the fall of 2011.

Additionally, this September IDFG will use a HLF funding commitment of \$1500 combined with additional Landowner Incentive Program (LIP) funding to construct a fish weir at a passage obstacle immediately below Red Rock Road on Duck Creek. This weir will be a major improvement to upstream fish passage at this site. Improved fish passage should result in enhanced spawning numbers in the upper reaches of Duck Creek.

Finally, HLF is continuing its work with the U.S. Forest Service to replace 4 existing obstructive culverts on Red Rock Road where Duck Creek passes beneath. The first culvert was replaced last fall; Lee Mabey of the U.S.F.S. will commence work on the next culvert in the fall of 2010. As with the other culvert work, some road closures should be anticipated and will be posted prior to commence of the work.



Location of the new fish weir on Duck Creek just below the existing concrete diversion structure.



Above: New modular drum screen installed on Duck Creek on the Taft property. Below: One of the culverts on Duck Creek to be replaced later this year.



2010 Fundraiser and Dinner July 3, 2010

By Penny Zega, Director

The foundation celebrated its 29th anniversary this July 3rd with a fun evening of great food, wine and music in the Union Pacific Dining Hall in West Yellowstone. This is the first time that we have held the event indoors and it was a great success. Over 130 guests attended and participated in the celebration and fundraising. The dining hall was lively with the sound of laughter, conversation, and cowboy genre music of the Fall River Boys. Julia Steinbach and the High Altitude Catering team served a great dinner with a choice of steak or cod along with assorted appetizers. The tables were beautifully decorated with flower arrangements and festive red, white and blue table linens commemorating the 4th of July holiday weekend. Several wines from Spain and California were featured.

Auctioneer, Red Ferris, lead the live auction of over 20 items, including guided fishing trips on Henrys Lake, Box Canyon, Madison River, Silver Creek, Yellowstone Park, and Sheridan Lake, vacations in Kona, Puerto Vallarta and Scottsdale, fish mounts by Mellissa Buehler and Mike Jones and western art by local artists. In addition over 90 items were sold in the silent auction. The raffle items and door prizes added to the night's festivities. Some of the items unique to the HLF auction this year were the HLF signature fly rod, his and her HLF silver belt buckles, the Henrys Lake trio of fish painting by Mimi Matsuda, custom wood fly boxes created by David Reese and some very tasty Doris Woodall chocolates. As a completely volunteer organization 100% of the net proceeds raised at the event go directly to the funding of the foundation's projects to enhance and protect the Henrys Lake fishery.

Many thanks to the foundation members, local merchants and supporters who made the event so successful. Because of the unanimous positive feedback from guests, the foundation has already reserved the UP Dining Hall and the caterer for next year. Please mark your 2011 calendars for July 2, Saturday, when we will host the next dinner and fundraiser for the foundation.



Everyone enjoying dinner at the Union Pacific Dining Hall for the Henrys Lake Foundation fund raiser on July 3rd. Photo by Jim Ferris.

IDFG Report

Damon Keen, IDFG Regional Fisheries Biologist

Gillnet Results

The IDFG completes an annual gillnet survey. This survey is our best tool for population evaluation. This year, normal ice out allowed us to complete our 50 net objective. This 50 net sample allows for statistically valid analysis and interpretation of the fish population. Preliminary results indicate an exceptionally strong population of trout is present in the lake. Along with a good population of trout, the ratio of cutthroat, hybrids and brook trout is just about where we'd like to see it. Although we won't know our age class breakdown until this winter, preliminary observations indicate the trout population is composed of good numbers of young fish. Results also point to an improved cutthroat natural spawning contribution. This natural production supports the hard work that the Henrys Lake foundation has been doing for over two decades.

Year to Date Fishing

Although the department is not conducting a creel survey this year, indicators point to an excellent season so far. Currently, fishing near Targhee Creek is as fine as we've seen. Anglers have also reported good catches of brook trout and large numbers of smaller cutthroat caught throughout the season. Additionally, a few hybrids in the 6-10 pound range have been taken. If this year is like years past, we have some exceptional months ahead of us. 2010 looks to be a year that you don't want to miss when it comes to fishing on Henrys Lake.

Brook Trout Study

The IDFG is currently studying the diet of the Henrys Lake brook trout. Basically, our efforts are focused on finding out if this species feeds on Utah chubs. The department has several brook trout fitted with telemetry tags. We will be following these fish throughout the year and taking stomach samples of other brook trout to see just what their diet consists of. Stay tuned for more information and further studies in the next few years.

Fishing Regulations

Over the past several months, the department has held public meetings, solicited public input, and taken public surveys to find out what anglers want to see for the future of Henrys Lake. The department first focuses on outcomes rather than specific regulations. In other words, some might want to see higher catch rates, others might want to see larger fish. Yet others might hope for more cutthroat and so on. As one might expect, opinions are varied. The department must balance biological realities with social desires. For instance, on Henrys Lake there is a correlation between catch rates and the size of fish. Past data indicates that as our catch rate goes up, our average size fish decreases somewhat. Therefore, management goals strive for a balance to promote the size of fish that Henrys is known for, yet maintaining a catch rate that most anglers want to see.

As of mid July, recommendation changes are being finalized. In the coming months, the IDFG will publish those recommendations and schedule public meetings to solicit direct input on those specific recommendations. By November, finalized regulation changes will be proposed to the IDFG commissioners. With the commissioner's approval, regulation changes will be implemented in the 2011 regulation brochure.

Fish Fungus

Every year pre and post spawn, we see a large number of fish with a fungus like growth on the surface of the skin. This mycotic infection is common and is apparent on fish that are at the end of their life cycle. Mycotic infections are often secondary infections or related to spawning fish. Possibly due to the long period of cold water temperatures this season and a later spawn, we heard more reports from anglers concerned about this condition. Subsequently, we heard reports of smaller fish being affected by this condition. The past several weeks, reports and concerns from anglers have diminished. However, the department will continue to monitor this condition to determine if overall fish populations were impacted in an unusual way. It's important to note that for many years we've estimated that 50% of the spawning cutthroat will not survive another year due to the trout's normal life cycle. Life expectancy on the trout is relatively short; about 4 years. And although most adult fish succumb to natural mortality, good populations of trout abound in this body of water.

Fremont County Weed Control

Bryce Fowler

The fight to stop invasive species from getting into Idaho waters has increased over the past year. At the state level, the first big step was the Idaho Invasive Species Act passed in February, which gives Fremont County Weed Control enforcement authority. The other big step was the Invasive Species Fund (boat stickers) that brought in almost \$900,000 last year. This year even more money could be brought in with linking sticker fees to in-state boat registrations. Out of stators still have to pick one up at a local vendor.

Idaho has continued to build their program by placing boat inspection stations on all major highways coming into the state. All incoming boats are required to stop. If invasive species are found, your boat will be quarantined for 30 days. Department of Agriculture officials in Boise are working on some new technology to clean infected boats with dry ice as a means of killing the quagga and zebra mussels by freezing them.

At the county level we are continuing to build our program as well. First, we worked with BLM on the South Shore Access launch to limit access there. We couldn't shut off access completely since it is BLM land and that would take permission from the national folks but we did our best to limit the launching of larger boats. Ideally this launch point is only used for personal watercraft.

This year we were also able to purchase another boat wash that will be shuttled around the lake and used where it is needed. We were able to build this in house, saving cost. This year we also have stepped up our existing wash stations at the State Park, Frome County Park and Wild Rose Resort. Not only are we washing to keep Henrys Lake clean from mussels but we are still trying to keep the milfoil out so this year we are doing a visual inspection for mussels while washing the boats for milfoil.

This year we were involved with a boat that was contaminated with quagga mussels and it had been washed twice before both with combined times of 1 hour of cleaning time. When we cleaned it, it took us 5 hours with 3 people working on it to call it clean. Then we locked the boat up for 30 days. That was following state protocol for decontaminating boats. We inspect boats for mussels and if we find some we will have to take that much time for each boat to get it clean. Also starting the first of August we will start sampling for Eurasian Watermilfoil and continue to check substrates for mussels on all Fremont County Waters.

With all this time and effort going into keeping our waters clean we still need everyone's help in preventing the introduction of invasive species. Make sure you clean all of your gear thoroughly and help educate your neighbors so we can keep our waters clean and beautiful.

Thanks for your help.

HLF Survey of Suggested Fishing Regulation Changes

2009 Fall Newsletter

Survey Question	Support	Neutral	Opposed	Total	Not Opposed
1. Shorten Fishing hrs/season	69	0	3	72	96%
2. Close tributaries	63	4	5	72	92%
3. Trophy Management Designation	59	11	2	72	97%
4. Utah Chub Assessment	65	5	2	72	97%

Listed above is the summary of the 72 responses received from our membership survey. The survey confirms that the vast majority of our membership supports the HLF positions regarding these issues. This information was provided to Dan Garren, the regional IFDG fisheries biologist as well as Damon Keen so that they can consider our opinions in conjunction with those received from the regional public meetings held early in the

Darius W. Smith

In Loving Memory

On March 10, 2010 one of our youngest foundation members, Darius Smith (17) passed away. His parents have a place across from Moose Bay on Henrys Lake Road. He loved the time he spent at the lake each year. He was a student at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach CA. He was a member of the drama club and described by his friends as happy, friendly and outgoing. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, running cross country and soccer. The foundation was listed as the chosen charity on his announcement and over \$2500 has been received in his honor.



Darius with his father at Big Springs

2010 Donor Honor Roll

(Since publication of 2009 Fall Newsletter)

\$500+

Rodger and Jonnie Camping
PV Maintenance

\$200+

Susan Abbott
Gem State Flyfishers
Mel Kemp
Robert Mielbrecht
Kevin Smith
Tyler Thompson

\$100+

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Enhancing and protecting the fishery of Henrys Lake