

Battle Creek Watershed: May '06 Update

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Activities

Coleman National Fish Hatchery Complex (includes Livingston Stone NFH*)
Scott Hamelberg Project Leader, 365-8622

<p><u>Spawning:</u> Winter-run</p> <p>Fall Late fall-run Steelhead</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Forty adults were collected for the production program. Spawning began May 2. Three females spawned to date (LSNFH*). [JR] ➤ Spawning ended in late November 2005. ➤ Spawning ended in late February 2006. ➤ Spawning ended in late February 2006. 	
<p><u>Production:</u> Winter-run</p> <p>Fall Late-fall Steelhead</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Brood year 2006: eggs are being incubated. (LSNFH*) [JR] ➤ Broodyear 2005: Approximately 13.4 million fry on station. [KB] ➤ Broodyear 2006: Approx 2.4 million eggs collected. [KB] ➤ Broodyear 2006: Approx 1.3 million eggs on station. [KB] 	
<p>Screens for Water Intakes</p>	<p>Funding is being sought. The need to screen the intakes is supported by the four agencies (DFG, USBR, USFWS & NOAA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In July 2005, Reclamation and USFWS reinitiated an effort to assess previously identified intake screening alternatives. Four alternatives are being examined for further study. The USBR Technical Service Center (TSC) is in the process of preparing an Intake Alternatives Analysis including the re-estimation of construction and operating costs at current price levels, and the re-evaluation of the alternatives against specific selection criteria. ➤ In early 2006, Reclamation's Northern California Area Office intends to contract for Environmental Compliance service to prepare appropriate NEPA and CEQA documents. ➤ May 2006: efforts are underway to convene a technical sub-group. [SH] 	<p>Co-lead: Eric Simmen USBR, Shasta Dam</p>
<p>Barrier Weir & Upstream Ladder Improvements</p> <p>(CBDA proposal #99-B08)</p> <p>updated 5/8/06</p>	<p>The Service and Reclamation, as co-lead Federal agencies under NEPA, have released a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA)/Draft FONSI for the Fish Barrier Weir and Ladder Modification at Coleman NFH. On April 6, 2006, the Draft EA/Draft FONSI was made available to the public for a 30-day public comment period. These documents are available online at http://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_projdetails.cfm?Project_ID=2148.</p> <p>The first Draft EA and Draft FONSI for this proposed action were made available for public review and comment in June 2004. The March 2006 Draft EA provides updated information since the issuance of the first Draft EA. The construction contract is scheduled to be awarded in Summer 2006. [SO]</p>	<p>Co-lead: Sandy Osborn, Project Manager USBR</p>

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CA/NV Fish Health Center		Scott Foott, Ph.D. Project Leader 365-4271
Disease Studies	Recent research on Battle Creek shows an extremely low risk of IHNV mortality in Spring-run and steelhead alevins as a result of infected Late-fall adult Chinook shedding the virus. (presentation given by Scott Foott at the AFS Fish Health Section meeting in Boise).	
Red Bluff Fish & Wildlife Office		Jim Smith, Project Leader, 527-3043
Battle Creek Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The CNFH barrier weir upstream fish ladder was opened on March 1, 2006. We are currently monitoring fish passage through the ladder using a fish trap. Natural origin salmonids (unclipped) are passed upstream. Hatchery origin salmonids (clipped) are not passed upstream. As of May 6, natural origin fish passing upstream totaled 31 Chinook and 110 steelhead/trout. Total hatchery origin fish were 159 Chinook and 9 steelhead. The trap was not operated on six days due to high flows. The Upper Battle Creek rotary screw trap continues to monitor the abundance of juvenile salmonids. [JN] ➤ As of May 10, Water Year 2006 is the second wettest year on record (i.e. since WY 1962). High storm flows made kayak steelhead redd surveys infeasible this past winter and have limited the number of days juvenile salmonid production could be monitored with rotary screw traps. [JN] 	Jess Newton Matt Brown
Acoustic tagging of post-spawn hatchery steelhead	Forty-five post-spawn and "reconditioned" hatchery steelhead have been surgically implanted with acoustic tags to monitor migration patterns after their release in early-April. Movements of tagged steelhead will be monitored for >1.5 years using a series of hydrophones located in the Sacramento River, Delta, and Bay. This study will provide information on dispersal and upstream migration patterns for adult, post-spawn hatchery steelhead released from the Coleman NFH.	Kevin Niemela
Bio-sampling, tagging & tag recovery	Late-fall Chinook entering the Coleman NFH December through February were surveyed for adipose fin clips and the head has been collected from all salmon with a missing adipose fin. Approximately 4,450 heads were collected. Tag recovery and tag reading are underway, and are anticipated to be completed in April, 2006.	Kevin Niemela

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Revised updates (**shown in bold**) are distributed at each regular Battle Creek Work Group meeting. Please refer to the complete reports prior to using this preliminary information in literature citations.