Battle Creek Watershed: Sept '06 Update

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Activities

Red Bluff Fish & Wildlife Office Jim Smith, Project Leader, 527-3043

Hatchery Evaluation Kevin Niemela

- All juvenile steelhead at Coleman NFH are being marked with an adipose fin clip.
- The video weir to monitor upstream migrating adult fall Chinook was installed last month.
- In early October, as fall Chinook adults enter Coleman NFH, biologists will be biosampling and recovering tags.

Battle Creek Monitoring Jess Newton / Matt Brown

- Preliminary estimates indicate that fish passing upstream of the barrier weir totaled 213 Chinook and 183 steelhead/trout. This is the highest number of natural origin Chinook passing the upstream ladder since monitoring began in 1995. The CNFH barrier weir upstream fish ladder was opened March 1 and closed August 1, 2006. During the first part of this time period (March 1- June 16), we monitored adult fish passage using a fish trap. From June 17 to August 1, we used video technology. The year 2006 is the first year that we successfully recorded video footage using a Digital Video Recorder (DVR).
- Juvenile rotary screw traps usually operate most of the year, but will be out of operation from early July to mid-October 2006 because of very low catch numbers.
- Snorkel surveys began on August 28. 143 live adult Chinook and zero redds were observed upstream of CNFH barrier weir. Unusually high flows, due to a wet water year and the Coleman Powerhouse outage, prevented us from conducting snorkel surveys prior to late August.
- Summer water temperatures on the forks and mainstem Battle Creek were much lower than previous years due to the wet water year and Coleman Powerhouse outage.

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Activities

Coleman National Fish Hatchery Complex Scott Hamelberg Project Leader, 365-8622

Screens for Water Intakes Co-lead: Eric Simmen, USBR, Shasta Dam Office

Reclamation in moving forward with the project to provide fish screens for the Coleman National Fish Hatchery water intakes. Reclamation has secured funds for design and 50% of the cost of construction. A contract with Tetra Tech, Inc. has been secured to prepare the required environmental documentation and Reclamation engineers are providing technical support to this process. A multi-agency/stakeholder meeting for this project was held on Sept 7, 2006.

Barrier Weir & Upstream Ladder Improvements

Co-lead: Sandy Osborn, Project Manager USBR

In June 2006, the Service and Reclamation, as co-lead Federal agencies under NEPA, signed a FONSI based on the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Fish Barrier Weir and Ladder Modification at Coleman NFH. On September 12, Reclamation issued a solicitation for proposals from interested contractors for construction of the subject project. It is anticipated that major construction activities would begin in the spring of 2007. In-stream construction is confined to June 1 through September 30 of any year.