

Battle Creek Watershed: January 2007 Update
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Activities

Red Bluff Fish & Wildlife Office

Jim Smith, Project Leader, 527-3043

Hatchery Evaluation

Kevin Niemela

The task of marking and tagging all juvenile late-fall Chinook at the Coleman NFH was completed in early-January. Marking and tagging of all winter Chinook salmon juveniles at the Livingston Stone NFH was completed in mid-January.

The video weir to monitor and enumerate upstream migrating adult fall Chinook was installed in August and dismantled in mid-December, 2006. This is a cooperative project with the Department of Fish and Game. The Red Bluff office of the Department of Fish and Game will use the fish passage counts generated on this survey to produce an estimate of fall Chinook escapement to Battle Creek.

Biologists are taking biological measurements, collecting samples, and recovering coded-wire tags from late-fall Chinook salmon and steelhead returning to the Coleman NFH.

Battle Creek Monitoring

Jess Newton / Matt Brown

The Battle Creek Monitoring Program no longer has funding to collect fisheries data on Battle Creek due to delays in funding of the Restoration Project. Currently, this is negatively affecting our ability to estimate juvenile spring Chinook production and rainbow trout/steelhead production. Adult Chinook escapement monitoring is scheduled to begin March 1 but funds are not yet available for this work.

Limited funding has been provided by the RBFWO for minimal rotary screw trap operations. Sampling will be conducted 4 days per week during December and January only. This monitoring should allow us to roughly estimate annual production of juvenile spring Chinook but confidence intervals can not be calculated. Due to lack of funds, we are not 1) sampling 7 days per week, 2) collecting trap efficiency data, 3) genetic sampling, or 4) collecting condition factor data.

Anadromous Fish Restoration Program

Tricia Parker

Permitting and construction of the new bypass pipe at the Orwick Diversion fish screen is completed. (AFRP Plan Action 4) Volunteers have been planting trees and shrubs to revegetate the site (next planting date is Jan 26; call to confirm). To finish this project, Department of Fish & Game is working on an operations agreement to finish this project with a headgate water control structure.

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

Screens for Water Intakes

Co-lead: Eric Simmen, USBR, Shasta Dam Office

The environmental investigation for the Coleman National Fish Hatchery (NFH) Intakes began in September 2006. A multi-agency/stakeholder meeting for this project was held on Sept 7, 2006. Reclamation is conducting surveys of the area and is staking potential project limits. Reclamation's Technical Service Center is collecting field data to be in a position to promptly start design when an alternative is selected as part of the NEPA/CEQA process. **The first step of that NEPA/CEQA process, the draft Environmental Assessment (EA)/Initial Study (IS) is underway. The public meeting is slated for March 20 at 5 pm in the Community Center in Red Bluff (tentative).**

Barrier Weir & Upstream Ladder Improvements

Co-lead: Sandy Osborn, Project Manager USBR, Sacramento

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. In September 2006, Reclamation issued a solicitation for proposals from interested contractors for construction of the subject project. It is anticipated that major construction activities will begin in the spring of 2007. In-stream construction is confined to June 1 through September 30 of any year.

In January 2007, Coleman NFH requested reinitiation of section 7 formal consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on the subject project. Reinitiation was triggered by a slight change in the proposed action that may not have been previously considered in NMFS's June 2006 BO. The proposed action may include cofferdams constructed of either clean spawning gravel and/or free-standing, temporary cofferdam structures with a steel framework and impervious fabric membrane.

Livingston Stone NFH

John Rueth, Assistant Hatchery Manager, USFWS

Currently on station: 162,500 natural origin juveniles and 36,500 captive x natural origin juveniles. All juvenile fish were tagged in December and will be released in early February 2007.