

# Battle Creek Watershed: January '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  Fall  Late fall-run  Steelhead</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>107 adults were used in the propagation program (LSNFH*)</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Spawning began in October 2005.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Spawning began in late December 2005.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Spawning began in late December 2005.</b></li> </ul>	
<p><u>Production:</u>  Winter-run   Fall  Late-fall   Steelhead</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Broodyear 2005: Approximately 180,000 juveniles on station; the tagged fish are scheduled for release in early Feb. (LSNFH*)</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Broodyear 2005: Approximately 12 million eggs and fry on station.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Broodyear 2005: Approx 1 M smolts released. Broodyear 2006: Approx ½ million eggs collected.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Broodyear 2005: Approx 600,000 released in Jan. Broodyear 2006: Approx 200,000 eggs on station.</b></li> </ul>	
<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 &amp; NOAA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>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.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>In early 2006, Reclamation's Northern California Area Office intends to contract for Environmental Compliance service to prepare appropriate NEPA and CEQA documents.</b></li> </ul>	<p>Co-lead:  Eric Simmen  USBR</p>
<p>Barrier Weir &amp; Upstream Ladder Improvements   (CBDA proposal #99-B08)</p>	<p>In Dec '04, the USFWS, with assistance from Reclamation, submitted a \$6.5 million proposal to CBDA for supplemental funding to cover an increase in construction costs. In Jan '05, CBDA completed a Technical Review of the proposed project. Preliminary final construction plans and specifications were distributed for technical review in Aug '05. <b>In Sept '05, \$6.5 million of Federal funding was obligated for the project. Also in Sept, a review meeting was conducted to receive comments on the preliminary final plans and specs. In Nov '05, final specs were submitted for construction procurement. The Service and Reclamation, as co-lead Federal agencies under NEPA, have prepared the Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed project. The Final EA/FONSI is expected to be available to the public by early Jan '06. The construction contract is scheduled to be awarded in Spring 2006.</b></p>	<p>Co-lead:  Sandy Osborn,  USBR</p>

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<b>CA/NV Fish Health Center</b>	<b>Scott Foott, Ph.D. Project Leader 365-4271</b>
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).

<b>Red Bluff Fish &amp; Wildlife Office</b>		<b>Jim Smith, Project Leader, 527-3043</b>
Battle Creek Monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Spring Chinook snorkel surveys have concluded for 2005. Eight surveys were completed from June through November. A total of 46 Chinook redds were observed and 6 carcasses were recovered for genetic analysis and aging. A maximum of 23 live Chinook were observed (early October survey).</b></li> <li>➤ <b>The 2005 salmonid passage estimates were finalized for the CNFH barrier weir fish ladder. The ladder was open from March 1-August 1. Passage was monitored using a fish trap before May 26 and using a video camera after May 26. The passage estimate for Chinook was 80, of which 26 passed during trap operation and 54 passed during video monitoring. An estimated 91 steelhead/rainbow trout passed, of which 44 passed during trap operation and 47 passed during video monitoring. All Chinook and steelhead had their adipose fin.</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Rotary screw traps operated seven days a week when stream conditions allowed. Unusually high storm flows prevented traps from operating for more than 18 days in December and early January.</b></li> </ul>	Jess Newton / Matt Brown
Monitoring the abundance of fall Chinook in Battle Creek	<b>From August 22 to November 23, 2005 the USFWS and CDFG monitored the abundance of fall Chinook salmon in Battle Creek by counting passage through a weir using video surveillance. Video tapes have been reviewed and daily passage counts are currently being verified. The 2005 Battle Creek video weir passage estimate for fall Chinook salmon was affected by an early November storm event, which temporarily compromised the integrity of the video weir and increased turbidity.</b>	Kevin Niemela
Bio-sampling, tagging & tag recovery	<b>Late-fall Chinook entering the Coleman NFH are being surveyed for adipose fin clips and the head is being recovered from all salmon with a missing adipose fin. Recovery of coded-wire tags has been completed for all fall Chinook salmon heads collected at the Coleman NFH during the 2005 spawning season.</b>	Kevin Niemela

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.