

WD 73 file 2003

Memorandum

Date: August 6, 2003

To: Tim Luke, State Office

From: Bob Foster, Salmon

Re: Upper Pahsimeroi Hatchery

On August 1, 2003, Roger Warner, Water Rights Supervisor of Eastern Region received a call from Todd Garley hatchery manager of the upper Pahsimeroi hatchery. The call was in regards to the dropping water levels at the upper facility.

On August 2, 2003 I inspected the two diversions most likely to affect the hatchery, these diversions are P-9, Ellis Ditch and P-8, Flat Ditch. Diversion P-9 is approximately 1.5 miles upstream from the hatchery and P-8 is approximately .25 miles upstream. At the time of my visit, 11.5 cfs was measured at P-9. The decreed water right(s) for this diversion equal approximately 20 cfs. At the P-8 diversion I measured 7.8 cfs, the water right(s) at this diversion equal 7.2 cfs. The upper hatchery was diverting 11.5 cfs at the time of my visit. I estimated there was between 12 to 15 cfs being bypassed downstream at the hatchery point of diversion.

I contacted Mr. Garley regarding my findings. Mr. Garley stated the hatchery needs 14 to 15 cfs to safely operate the hatchery and insure the survival of approximately one million Chinook smolts. Mr. Garley also stated that the number of fish was double the normal amount due to personnel shortages at the Sawtooth hatchery.

There appears to be adequate water available in the system to satisfy the hatchery water right(s). The diversion may need to be modified somewhat. The availability of the hatchery water right(s) may change as the irrigation season progresses and supplies dwindle. With the late priority dates of the hatchery water right(s), IDFG may have to have some contingency plan if water is not available to fill the right(s) of the hatchery. Mr. Garley was advised of this possibility and of the willingness of the water user at the P-8 diversion to curtail his diversion rate if water levels became critical.