



Idaho Fish and Game Magic Valley Region Fisheries Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I
March 2010



Regional Staff

Regional Supervisor

H. Jerome Hansen

Regional Fisheries Manager

Doug Megargle

doug.megargle@idfg.idaho.gov

Regional Fisheries Biologist

Scott Stanton

scott.stanton@idfg.idaho.gov

Fisheries Technician

Alissa Bosscher

Inside this issue:

Welcome Message

Silver Creek Creel Survey 1

Trout in the Classroom 2

Yellowstone Cutthroat Restoration 2

Big Wood River Survey 2

Tournament Bass Tag Study 3

South Fork Boise River Kokanee Weir 3

State Record Walleye 3

Welcome :

Greetings anglers and outdoor enthusiasts, welcome to the first issue of the Idaho Fish and Game Magic Valley Region Fisheries Newsletter. Our goal in this newsletter is to provide useful information to our constituents, including information on the annual sampling done by the Magic Valley Region fisheries crew. In this issue, readers will find information on 2009 sampling efforts and summaries of our findings. Readers also will find information on educational opportunities in fisheries in the Magic Valley Region. From the magnificent high-mountain lakes and blue-ribbon trout streams of the northern part of the region to the fish-filled reservoirs and Snake River in the south, the Magic Valley Region is truly a wonderful part of Idaho. Our goal is to provide great fishing opportunities throughout the Magic Valley. Please enjoy the great outdoors. Volunteers are a huge asset to our department, and if you are ever interested in seeing what we do, feel free to contact me anytime. Good Fishing!

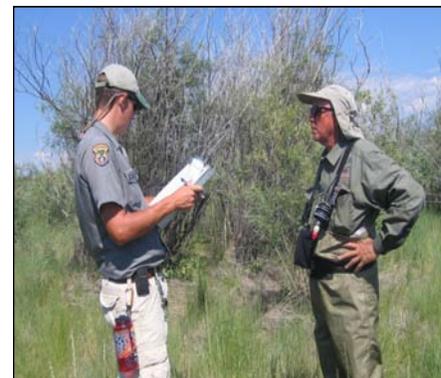
Scott Stanton



Silver Creek Creel Survey

Silver Creek anglers were surveyed from May 23 through November 30, 2009. A creel survey was completed on 123 of the 191 days in the season on Silver Creek, or 64 percent of the time. Estimated angler effort amounted to 28,219 hours. Average angler catch rates on rainbow and brown trout was 0.92 fish per hour, suggesting angler use is high and harvest is low. Anglers were asked about their fishing experience on Silver Creek and their opinion of Idaho Fish and Game's management of Silver Creek. Of 1,054 anglers surveyed:

- 95 percent were fly anglers, 3 percent were lure and spin anglers, and 2 percent were bait anglers.
- 89 percent were satisfied with the size of the trout in Silver Creek, 8 percent were not satisfied, and 3.5 percent were neutral.



- 83 percent were satisfied with their fishing trip, 17 percent neutral or dissatisfied.
- 77 percent were satisfied with the current management of Silver Creek, 19 percent were neutral, and 4 percent were dissatisfied.

This information will help Idaho Fish and Game develop future management options



Magic Valley Fly Fishers Supports TIC Program

Trout in the Classroom is an exciting hands-on program that gives students and teachers the opportunity to raise trout in a classroom aquarium. The trout arrive in the classroom as tiny eggs, and over the course of several months, they develop into 1- to 2-inch fry. In the spring, students release the fry in an approved stream or pond. The purpose of the program, sponsored by Trout Unlimited, is to educate students about healthy aquatic ecosystems, including the role of fish in nature and the importance of clean water systems. Participating teachers are provided with introductory workshops and the Trout in the Classroom curriculum. The curriculum is correlated with Idaho State Education Standards.

This program is open to Idaho classes of grades four through 12. In the Magic Valley alone, more than 1,000 students, in 35 classes of 15 schools, are involved in the program. Idaho Fish and Game and Magic Valley Fly Fishers have teamed up to provide the program with water chiller refrigeration units. The Fly Fishers' holds an annual banquet drive, and the group has designated a Coffee Mug Game with proceeds from this game going to buy a new refrigeration unit to be used in a Trout in the Classroom program in a Magic Valley school. Thanks to the Magic Valley Fly Fishers! Check out their website at <http://www.magicvalleyflyfishers.com>.

Yellowstone Cutthroat Restoration Underway

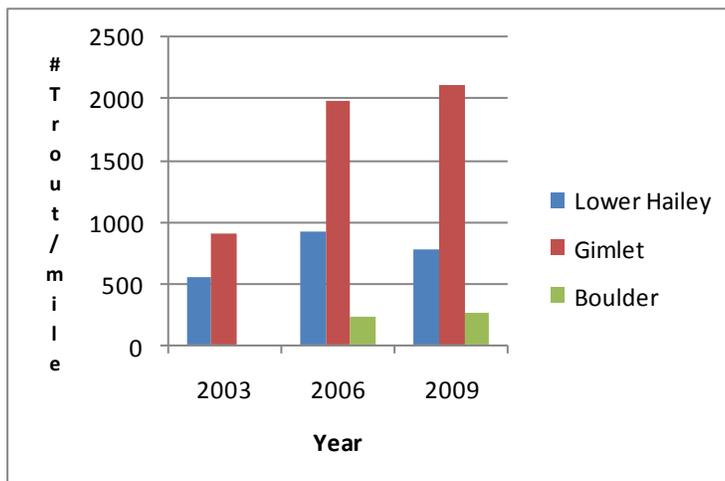


Six Mile Creek, in a remote part of eastern Cassia County, was historically home to native Yellowstone cutthroat trout. Over time, stocking of rainbow trout led to hybridization. In early 2008, Idaho Fish and Game, the U.S. Forest Service and a local landowner started a program to remove hybrid trout from the creek. In the fall of 2009, Fish and Game treated the headwater springs and Six Mile Creek with rotenone – a selective fish poison – to remove the hybrid trout from the system. This spring, pure native Yellowstone cutthroat trout will be transplanted back into the creek.



Big Wood River Electro-fishing Survey

Big Wood River Trout Population estimates show positive trend in 2009.

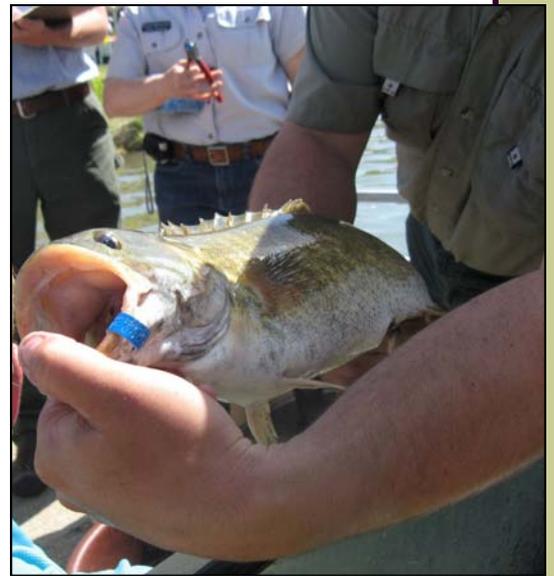


Standard mark-and-recapture stream surveys are completed every three years by Idaho Fish and Game. Electro-fishing surveys on the Big Wood River, completed in the fall of 2009, show a positive trend for estimated trout greater than 200 trout per mile in two of the three reaches surveyed. Sampling in the Upper Boulder reach and the Gimlet reach showed a positive trend increase in comparison to 2006 sampling. In the lower Hailey reach, a slight decrease in trout per mile was found in relation to 2006 sampling efforts. The bar chart to the left shows the estimated trout per mile.

Tournament Bass Tag Study– Milner Reservoir

Because of concern expressed by local bass anglers on Milner Reservoir, Idaho Fish and Game developed a cooperative study to determine whether post-tournament stockpiled bass were moving or remaining in the same location in which they were released. Smallmouth bass were jaw-tagged at four different tournaments by Fish and Game and local bass clubs. A different colored jaw tag was used per tournament. Bass were tagged after the tournament weigh-in and then released. The reservoir was divided into seven sections, and maps of the sections were given to tournament anglers at each tournament. When anglers caught tagged bass, they recorded the section in which the fish was caught and the color of the jaw tag. Tags

also had a specific number for other anglers to call Fish and Game and identify where the fish was caught. Fish and Game used follow-up phone calls to talk to anglers about where and when bass were caught. This information helped to identify the section the bass were released, in relation to where they were caught. A total of 911 bass were tagged. Results indicated a total of 84 tags, or 9 percent of the tagged fish, were caught and released by tournament anglers or harvested by other anglers. Forty-three of the 84 tags were recovered in a different section in which they were released post-tournament, indicating 51 percent of the fish jaw-tagged in Milner Reservoir showed post-tournament movement from the release site.



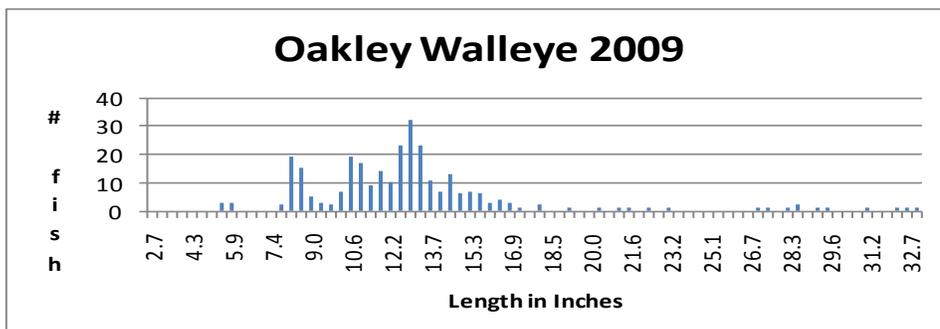
Kokanee Weir and Egg Collection

In late summer and early fall of 2009, another strong run of kokanee salmon returned to the South Fork Boise River near Pine. Idaho Fish and Game installed a weir to manage escapement and control natural reproduction in the system. An estimated 50,000 kokanee returned to the South Fork in 2009; about 22,500 were passed above the weir to spawn naturally and return to Anderson Ranch Reservoir as young. The remaining kokanee were used for the Fish and Game statewide kokanee enhancement program. Fish averaged 12 to 15 inches in length, and most fish were three years of age. Anderson Ranch Reservoir is the only kokanee fishery in the Magic Valley Region. Kokanee fishing is very popular, and kokanee are excellent table fare.

Oakley Reservoir Produces New State Record Walleye

On the night of October 10, 2009, Mike Chupa of Twin Falls caught a new state record walleye from Oakley Reservoir. The fish weighed 17 pounds, 12 ounces, and was 33 inches long. Great catch Mike! Standard three-year Idaho Fish and Game Fall Walleye Index Netting (FWIN), in Oakley and Salmon Falls

Creek reservoirs, has been completed. Results show both fisheries are healthy, with multiple age classes present. Oakley Reservoir sampling was completed in the fall, 2009. Below is a length frequency histogram of fish caught in 2009 FWIN sampling.



Idaho Department of
Fish and Game
Magic Valley Region 4
324 S 417 E, Suite 1
Hwy 93 Business Park

(208) 324-4359
(208) 324-1160 Fax

"All wildlife, including all wild animals, wild birds, and fish, within the state of Idaho, is hereby declared to be the property of the state of Idaho. It shall be preserved, protected, perpetuated, and managed. It shall be only captured or taken at such times or places, under such conditions, or by such means, or in such manner, as will preserve, protect, and perpetuate such wildlife, and provide for the citizens of this state and, as by law permitted to others, continued supplies of such wildlife for hunting, fishing and trapping."

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/ifwis/fishingplanner/>



Free Fishing Day June 12, 2010

Idaho Free Fishing Day is June 12. No license is required to fish this day, but all other rules apply. Idaho Fish and Game will be hosting free activities at the Hagerman Wildlife Management Area and at the Hayspur Hatchery. This is a wonderful opportunity to get the family out fishing and to enjoy the outdoors. Fish and Game will have its new fishing trailer available at these events. The trailer is loaded with fishing poles, bait and tackle. This trailer is also available to sign out for your local fishing events or educational youth fishing outing.

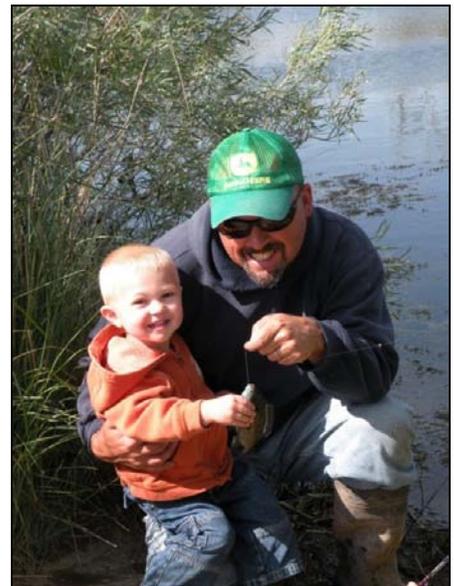


Photo by Kellie Stanton



**"Take a Kid Fishing.
It's our future"**



BE OUTSIDE
IDAHO CHILDREN IN NATURE