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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Jackson National Fish Hatchery

Restoring America's Fisheries

Native Snake River cutthroat trout production by Jackson National Fish Hatchery has provided impressive economic results -- over 40,000 angler days of recreational fishing valued at greater than $4 million.

National Fish Hatchery System

The USFWS Fisheries Program has played a vital role in conserving America's fisheries since 1871, and today is a key partner with States, Tribes, Federal agencies, other Service programs, and private interests in a larger effort to conserve fish and other aquatic resources. There are 70 National Fish Hatcheries, 9 Fish Health Centers and 7 Fish Technology Centers nationwide.

The National Fish Hatchery System has a unique responsibility in helping to recover species listed under the Endangered Species Act**,** restoring native aquatic populations, mitigating for fisheries lost as a result of federal water projects, and providing fish to benefit Tribes and National Wildlife Refuges.

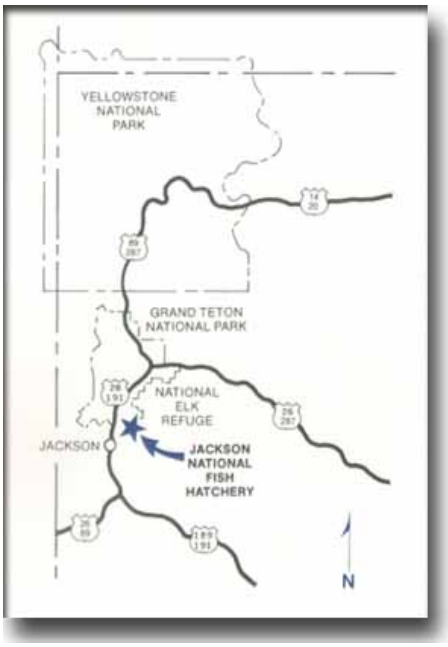
The role of the National Fish Hatchery System has changed and diversified greatly over the past 30 years as increasing demands are placed upon aquatic systems. In recent years, the Service has maximized the output of its work force by integrating the work of fish hatcheries and fisheries management. This integrated effort has resulted in cohesive, more efficient national restoration programs.

Stocking waters for Palisades Reservoir, Idaho.

Jackson National Fish Hatchery

Jackson NFH was originally established in 1950 as part of the Palisades Dam Act. Today, the hatchery's primary emphasis is producing eggs and fish to mitigate for fish losses from Federal water development projects and for Tribes, States, and research facilities.

The 40 acre Jackson NFH station is located on the USFWS National Elk Refuge. The hatchery rears native Snake River cutthroat trout for a distribution area that covers close to 18,000 square miles. The facility is also part of the USFWS National Broodstock Program.



How Does the Hatchery help?

Currently, the hatchery produces trout to fill the needs for Federal, State and Tribal waters in western Wyoming and eastern Idaho. These trout help to replenish and encourage sustainable fish populations, and provide angling opportunities for many recreational users.

As the aquatic habitat changes due to natural and human influences, the reproduction of fish in the wild declines. Stocking of these trout is one of the many management strategies used by biologists to help restore the populations for years to come.

Jackson National Fish Hatchery, Jackson, Wyoming.

A tank full of small fish (above), and a Snake River Cutthroat Trout (below).

What is a Broodstock Hatchery?

Broodstock are adult fish that produce eggs and sperm (or milt). A broodstock hatchery specializes in rearing fish to adult size, then taking eggs from the females and fertilizing them with sperm from the males. After incubating the eggs through the fragile early stages, they are either shipped to other hatcheries or raised to stockable sizes.

Spawning season at Jackson NFH occurs in the spring and early summer.

Jackson NFH facilities include 21 raceways, 14 rearing tanks, 16 circular tanks, an egg incubation room and an 8,000 gallon particulate drum filter. Water is supplied by five wells, including one geothermal well, and a series of gravity fed springs.

The hatchery produces over 1 million broodstock eggs and 400,000 Snake River cutthroat annually, and stocks close to 20 different locations. As a result of the Jackson NFH propagation and broodstock program, economic benefits have totaled over 40,000 angler days of recreational fishing valued at greater than $4 million.

Public Use Opportunities

Jackson NFH provides many exciting visitor opportunities year round. Open daily, the public is invited to view the outer hatchery raceways and explore the visitor building containing information on the fish production process. In addition, Sleeping Indian Pond offers a great place for fishing or bird watching. The half acre pond includes picnic tables and a disability accessible observation deck.

The dedicated staff is happy to answer any questions you may have while viewing the fish. Guided hatchery tours are offered for groups with reservations. The Service is currently working on plans to rebuild the hatchery and hopes to have a new facility and visitor services available to the public soon.

Join the hatchery staff each June as they kick off National Fishing and Boating Week with a free Kid's Fishing Day. The event, for children under the age of 14, is fun and educational. Food, poles, prizes and much more are included in the festivities. You won't want to miss it!

Kid's Fishing Day is held each June.

Jackson NFH is located 4 miles north of Jackson. It is just south of Grand Teton National Park, and 60 miles south of Yellowstone National Park, where numerous activities are available:

- Hiking / nature trails
- Biking
- Fishing
- Rafting / canoeing
- Wildlife viewing / bird watching
- X-country skiing / snowshoeing

Partnerships Make It Happen!

Jackson NFH operates with support from partners, including: U.S. Geological Survey, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Wyoming Dept of Game & Fish, Idaho Dept of Fish & Game, Wind River and Fort Hall Tribes, Trout Unlimited, and various other Federal agencies and USFWS facilities. Many local schools, civic groups, and citizens have also been involved with hatchery operations and education.

Our dedicated partners and volunteers help keep Jackson NFH successful at providing recreational angling opportunities and healthy aquatic ecosystems for all.

For More Information, contact:

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(All Photos: USFWS)