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Fish Tales: More Trout to Catch in Utah Thanks to Federal-State Cooperation

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U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Feature News Release

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Fish Tales:

More Trout To Catch in Utah Thanks to Federal-State Cooperation

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Wild Things

This feature news release is part of a series of "Fish Tales" communicating success stories about fish conservation in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Mountain-Prairie Region, which includes the states of Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming. Articles and images may be used and published freely, in whole or in part, and are available on our website at: <http://www.fws.gov/feature>

Further information on this and related topics can be obtained from the contact(s) listed above in the righthand column.

As reciprocity to Utah Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) for its help last year feeding and hauling young fish, the Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery is providing more fish for Utah waters, which means more trout dinners for recreational anglers.

The DWR is currently busy hauling about 260,000 rainbow trout fingerlings – roughly 8600 pounds of fish – from Jones Hole to lakes throughout the state, including Steinaker Reservoir near Vernal, and Mantua and East Canyon Reservoirs near Ogden. About half of the fish are going into Scofield Reservoir in Carbon County, adding to 270,000 Jones Hole trout that were stocked there in early May. The growing fish should begin reaching catchable size of around 10 inches by next spring.

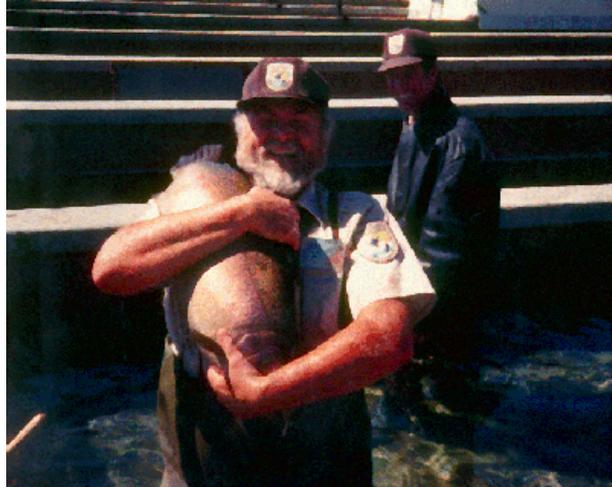
The rainbow trout – a species first described in 1806 by Lewis and Clark during their expedition across the West – were produced from eggs provided by the State of Utah's brood stock in Bicknell.

During 1999, Utah DWR also provided \$13,000 worth of fish food to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to keep Utah's fish at Jones Hole growing to size. In addition, they provided two trucks with drivers to haul 16 loads — 57,000 pounds of fish – to Flaming Gorge Reservoir and 3 loads – 6,700 pounds – to Jordanelle Reservoir, northeast of Provo.

"Cooperative efforts such as this benefit the State of Utah, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and especially the angling public," said John Seals, acting Hatchery Manager at Jones Hole.

Annual stocking efforts contribute to the \$468 million generated by recreational fishing in Utah. In 1999, Jones Holes National Fish Hatchery stocked over a million and a half rainbow, cutthroat, brook, and brown trout in Utah and Colorado waters. The rainbow trout provided this month to Utah are in addition to regular production at Jones Hole.

*Conserving the Nature
of America*



USFWS photo by Wes Orr, Ennis NFH

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife employee Dave Noble with
"Big George," a 31 lb., 6 oz. rainbow trout from broodstock**

Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery has been in operation since 1968 to meet statutory mitigation requirements of federal water development projects under the Colorado River Storage Project Act. Hatchery production at the 390-acre facility, which includes 50 fish-rearing raceways, also meets federal stewardship responsibilities for stocking tribal waters.

The hatchery at Jones Hole, located 41 miles northeast of Vernal on the Utah/Colorado border, receives an estimated 7,000 visitors per year. In addition to touring the hatchery building and grounds, visitors are welcome to enjoy the excellent fly fishing below the hatchery in Jones Hole Creek.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System comprised of more than 500 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries, 64 fish and wildlife management assistance offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps state, tribal, and foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies

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