

Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Pacific Regional Office  
911 NE 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181  
Phone: 503/231-6121  
Fax: 503/231-2122  
<http://pacific.fws.gov>

# News Release



**Date:** October 26, 2006  
**Contact:** Amy Gaskill, (503) 231-6874

**RO#**

## Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Eagle Creek National Fish Hatchery is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary this Saturday. The hatchery will be open from 9 am until 3 pm providing tours and spawning demonstrations as well as Tribal dancing and music performed by the Yakama Indian Nation Toppenish Longhouse youth group. The Yakama Indian Nation group will also prepare salmon and fry bread a traditional Native American meal. Directions to the hatchery can be found at the following website: <http://www.fws.gov/eaglecreeknfh/>

Eagle Creek is one of 15 Service-managed hatcheries in the Pacific Region which collectively produce over 60 million fish annually. In conjunction with our many fishery resource partners, these hatcheries are an important component of an integrated approach for the management and restoration of aquatic species in the Pacific Northwest.

The Eagle Creek hatchery was authorized under the Mitchell Act of May 1938, as amended in 1946, for the purpose of mitigation of anadromous salmonid losses in the Columbia River due to the construction of mainstem dams. The hatchery is one of 18 State, Tribal and Federal hatcheries operating under the Mitchell Act and funded by NOAA Fisheries as part of the Columbia River Fisheries Development Program.

The hatchery continues to operate under the original Mitchell Act authorization, rearing coho salmon and winter steelhead to support commercial, sport, ocean and river fisheries and to restore anadromous salmonids in watersheds where they are now extinct.

The Eagle Creek hatchery first opened in September 1956 comprised of 39 raceways, adult collection facilities, a multi-purpose hatchery building and storage facilities. Fish culture operations were initiated in November 1956 with fall Chinook and spring Chinook eyed eggs being brought to the hatchery. In 1957, the production program expanded with the spawning of native steelhead and the receipt of coho salmon eggs and fry. Additional construction in 1965 added 36 additional rearing raceways.

- In conjunction with ODFW and NMFS, the hatchery releases 500,000 coho and 150,000 winter steelhead yearling smolts on site. The coho make significant contributions to the commercial and sport fisheries in ocean, whereas both species contribute to sport fisheries in the lower Columbia, Willamette and Clackamas Rivers and Eagle Creek.

- 500,000 coho are transferred to the Yakama Nation and 550,000 coho are transferred to the Nez Perce Tribe for coho restoration programs, returning coho salmon to areas where they had been extirpated for over ½ Century.
- Up to 1.4 million eyed coho eggs are provided to the Nez Perce, Yakama and State of Idaho fishery supplementation programs.
- Hatchery operations in the Clackamas River Basin are coordinated with ODFW, NMFS, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Portland General Electric.

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 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 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 foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.