Government Housing

# Sawtooth Fish Hatchery, and the East Fork Salmon River Satellite Facility

### Overview

The Department of Interior (DOI) Fire Management Plan (FMP) Framework (2014) allows greater flexibility in fire management planning and addresses the wide range of complexity associated with individual units. This FMP Framework aligns with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service strategic planning efforts to allow plans to be both functionally effective and efficient. Therefore, this document known as a Wildfire Emergency Response Procedure (WERP) represents Sawtooth Fish Hatchery in Stanley, Idaho, where wildfire occurrence is low and the response objective is solely protection based. This WERP will be updated annually.

The Sawtooth Fish Hatchery is located on 71 acres, five miles south of Stanley, on Highway 75. The facility is bordered by the Salmon River to the west, Highway 75 to the east, and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to both the north and south. Approximately 35 acres at this site consists of natural vegetation (sagebrush, dryland grasses, and lodgepole pine). The remaining area consists of buildings, ponds, raceways, and asphalt. Irrigated lawns and/or asphalt surround most of the buildings on site. An intermittent stream runs through the center of the property. All areas of the Hatchery are accessible, as all Hatchery personnel have keys to gates that may be locked during non-business hours. No cultural resources are located at this site.

The facility rears approximately 2.0 million chinook salmon (egg to smolt), traps and spawns adult spring Chinook salmon, traps and traps adult sockeye salmon. Chinook salmon, steelhead, and sockeye salmon found at the Hatchery are listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Hatchery consists of an incubation and early rearing room, six small outside raceways, and an adult spawning facility. The Sawtooth Fish Hatchery receives fish culture water from the Salmon River and from six production wells. River water is distributed to outside raceways and the adult spawning facility. Incubation and early-rearing water is provided by the production wells.

The East Fork Salmon River Satellite Facility, managed under the jurisdiction of the Sawtooth FH, is located on the East Fork of the Salmon River, approximately eighteen miles upstream of its confluence with the Salmon River, south of Clayton, Idaho. The facility is located on 8 acres of lands owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The facility is operated from March through early May.

The Idaho Department Fish and Game operates the Hatchery with funding provided through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Lower Snake River Compensation Program. There are no U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service personnel on-site. Sawtooth Fish Hatchery has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sawtooth Valley Rural Fire Department to provide suppression services for wildfires located within the boundaries of the Hatchery. The Satellite Facility is located on BLM owned land which has total fire management and fire suppression responsibility.

### **Wildfire Response Procedure**

#### **Upon Fire Report**

#### √ Call 911 to document and report fire location.

- ✓ "Is everyone safe?" Take a headcount of all personnel on site, including family members, and the public. Only trained fire suppression personnel should engage in fire suppression response activities.
- ✓ Call South Central Interagency Dispatch Center (SCIDC) at 208-886-2373, and request the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Duty Officer. "This is \_\_\_\_ at Sawtooth Fish Hatchery. We have a wildfire located at . I have requested resources
- through 911 but need to contact the FWS Duty Officer. Can you please contact them and have them call me back at
- ✓ Ensure that the Hatchery Manager, and the Regional Fire Management Duty Officer are notified at earliest convenience.
- ✓ Secure the area and manage access into and out of the Hatchery. ✓ Protect or document point of origin, if possible.

### **During Incident:**

- ✓ Hatchery personnel need to be available for support to assist incoming resources with power supplies, location of hazardous materials, access/gates/locks, the identification of water sources and safety considerations, etc.
- ✓ Work with Sheriff to manage traffic and smoke management control.

- **After Incident:**  $\checkmark$  Request specialists to conduct damage assessment and burned area rehabilitation requirements (if needed).
- $\sqrt{\phantom{a}}$  Work with Fire Management Officer to file fire report and map the fire.
- √ Work with Fire Management Officer to conduct fire review and/or after action review (AAR) with all responders and key management; revise or amend response procedures if warranted.

#### Wildfire Response Guidance and Incident Objectives

All wildland fires will be suppressed using an appropriate suppression strategy which considers human life, safety, personal property, natural resources, and economics.

- Incident objectives include: Protect life and property with an emphasis on employee and public safety.
- Contain wildfires at smallest size consistent with firefighter and public safety.
- Protect critical resources from fire and suppression damage. Critical resources include the Chinook salmon, steelhead, and sockeye salmon fish populations (listed under the Endangered Species List) housed on Hatchery grounds, as well as the protection of clean water to maintain critical operations at the Hatchery.
- Protect infrastructure on Sawtooth Fish Hatchery which includes:
  - Six residences, each with a single car garage and separate wood storage building;
  - An employee dormitory building;
  - A water intake building located 0.5 miles upstream of the facility;
  - Adult trapping and spawning facility;
  - Main office building consisting of an office, meeting room, lab, visitor center, wood shop, fabrication shop, intake collection box, chemical room, incubation and early rearing room, inside storage room, two outside storage areas, generator room, furnace room, and a feed storage room; and
- Five pump houses.
- Protect infrastructure on the East Fork Salmon River Satellite Facility which includes a trapping facility, a bunkhouse, a shop, and a spawning shed.
- Utilize existing roads and natural barriers as control lines where practical.
- Ensure responding resources understand safety considerations and fire suppression expectations.

## **Operational Constraints and Requirements**

Aggressively suppress the fire while minimizing impacts to resources. The following operational constraints are required for the protection of sensitive resources:

- If possible, fire suppression should be conducted using non-toxic suppression materials, so as to not negatively affect the fish.
- Serial suppression efforts by helicopters and/or fixed wing aircraft may be utilized on the Hatchery. Water drops will be allowed in all areas, but the use of chemical retardant and foam will be prohibited, unless human life, safety, or structures are at risk. When chemicals must be used as a last resort, their use will be avoided where there is potential for contamination of waterways.
- Mechanical control of fire is prohibited on all areas of the Hatchery unless otherwise specified by the Agency Administrator/Hatchery Manager. Mechanical control is defined as construction of a fire line using a bulldozer or other heavy equipment.
- Manual control of fire is allowed in all Hatchery areas, and will be accomplished with methods such as standard hand tools (shovel, flapper, Pulaski, etc.), backpack water sprayers, engine hose lays, and chainsaws.
- Vehicular traffic should be limited to roads and existing two-tracks.

Note: If human life and/or property is threatened, the Incident Commander has the authority to order any suppression strategy or tactic at his/her disposal to mitigate the threat, regardless of FMU.	
Preferred Suppression Strategy:	Aggressively suppress the fire, holding it to the fewest burned acres as possible within safety constraints.
Tactics	Must be Approved by:
Handline/Chainsaws	Incident Commander
Dozer Line	Agency Administrator/ Hatchery Manager
Foam/Retardant	Prohibited unless human life or safety is at risk
Water Drops	Incident Commander
Off-road Travel	Prohibited unless human life or safety is at risk

## **Safety Considerations**

Primary safety considerations include employee accountability/evacuation and protection of on-site hazardous materials and sensitive facilities. The access and egress to the main facility is one way in/out and may be compromised due to highway traffic. The following conditions help mitigate safety concerns:

- Fire extinguishers are present in all buildings at Sawtooth Fish Hatchery. Fire hydrants are located on the grounds of the Hatchery and in the main buildings.
- On-site safety zones, where there is no burnable vegetation, should be identified and communicated to employees.
- Natural features that may pose a safety concern should be identified and communicated to local responders.
- Wazardous materials including chemicals, fuel tanks/containers, etc. stored on-site should be properly signed and communicated to local responders.
- Annual pre-season safety reviews should be conducted with all Hatchery personnel to ensure emergency protocols are understood.
- Maintaining adequate defensible space around infrastructure, as well as reducing hazardous fuel accumulations on Hatchery grounds will assist with employee and public safety.

## **Response Organization and Roles**

to provide suppression services for wildfires located within the boundaries of the Hatchery. The Satellite Facility is located on Bureau of Land Management owned land which has total fire management and fire suppression responsibility.

The USFWS Lower Snake River Compensation Plan Program Coordinator is responsible for planning and implementing the fire management program on the Hatchery, including:

## Wildfire Preparedness

- Annually reviewing/updating this plan with your Zone FMO;
- Briefing your staff on what to do if you have a wildland fire on Hatchery-managed lands;
- Identify on-site safety zones for the public, staff, and incoming resources; Identify key values at risk on Hatchery grounds; and
- Sonduct annual pre-season safety reviews with all Hatchery personnel to ensure emergency protocols are understood.

# Wildfire Response

- Call 911 when fire is detected
- Make sure all employees are accounted for and safe on the Hatchery grounds;
- Only trained fire suppression personnel should engage in fire suppression response activities;
- South Central Interagency Dispatch Center and your Zone FMO of the fire; and
- Serve as an initial liaison/point of contact for suppression response resources.
- Disclaimer: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) does not assume responsibility for information accuracy, precision, or completeness of data as displayed on these maps. The FWS shall not be held liable for improper or incorrect use of the data described and/or contained herein. These data and related graphics are not legal documents and are not intended to be used as such. The information contained in these data is dynamic and may change over time. The data are not better than the original sources from which they were derived. It is the responsibility of the data user to use the data appropriately and consistent within the limitations of geospatial data in general and these data in particular.

- The Sawtooth Fish Hatchery has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Sawtooth Valley Rural Fire Department | The USFWS Zone Fire Management Officer (FMO) is responsible for fire management program oversight, including:
  - Wildfire Preparedness
  - Contact Hatchery Manager to coordinate annual update of this plan;
  - Maintain and update agreements with South Central Interagency Dispatch Center; Manage and maintain appropriate fire response MOIs, such as Sawtooth Valley Rural Fire Department; and
  - Consider and request severity resources to the FWS Regional Office, as appropriate.

## Wildfire Response

- Upon notification of a fire at the Hatchery, coordinate delegations of authority with appropriate agencies;
- Provide coordination for initial attack and extended response for fires including oversight and supervision for interagency personnel and resources;
- Provide for on-site fire management by coordinating with cooperators to provide support to the Hatchery Manager; Comply with Interagency Standards for Fire and Fire Aviation (Red Book) and FWS Fire Management Handbook when engaged in fire management activities on FWS lands;
- Initiate and coordinate fire investigations;
- Inform the FWS Regional Office Duty Officer; and
- Initiate cost share agreements as appropriate.
- Post Wildfire Soordinate Burned Area Rehabilitation and Emergency Stabilization planning with the USFWS Pacific Regional Office;
- Provide coordination for payment of fire response resources; and
- Complete fire report in USFWS Fire Management Information System (FMIS).





