



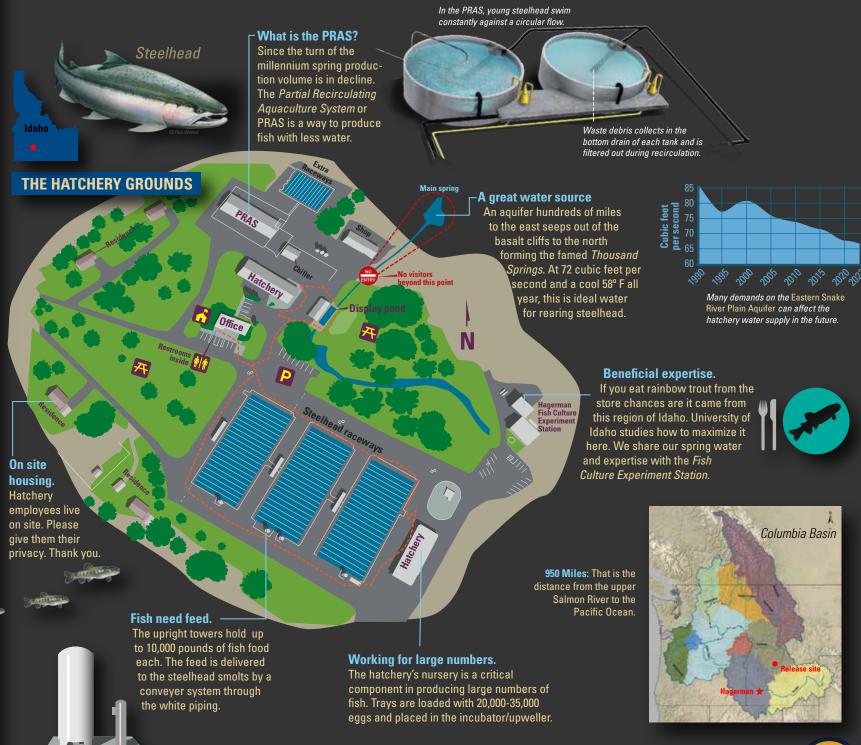
Hagerman Fish Hatchery Open daily 7 to 3.

Follow the orange dotted line on the map as a self-guided hatchery tour.

Entrance to hatchery buildings or bird netting enclosures is prohibited.

A favorite activity is to observe trout in the display pond. Picnicking on the grass is also popular.





Steelhead: A Wonder of Nature



Hatcheryor wild, all steelheadmake the same perilous migration.





Anglers catch Hagerman raised fish for recreation.



The hatchery attempts to mimic wild pairing when spawning.

At about 18 pounds and 100 miles south of Vancouver Island in the north Pacific. a female steelhead feels the urge to return to her place of birth, the Salmon River. This long, difficult journey will take approximately 8 months. She has timed her return with the spring swelling of rivers in the Columbia Basin. She will orient herself to the big river's mouth using the earth's magnetic poles and her own internal magnetic needle.

She will smell her way home picking up minute traces of a chemical trail imprinted on her two years earlier on outbound juvenile migration. She passes Bonneville Dam but there are seven more dams to be navigated before reaching her destination. She has no coded wire tag in her snout and has the small fin between her dorsal and tail(the adipose) characterizing her as a wild steelhead.

A bright silvery color is camouflage in the ocean but not the freshwater rivers. Her coloring changes to a darker olive-green topside with a slight rouge along her lateral line and a whitish gray underbelly allowing her to match the rivers environment for safer passage.

Once she reaches her native stream. the place she selects for her nest, also known as a redd, must have gravel of varying sizes with gaps big enough for her eggs to hide in and allow cold oxygenrich water to flow through. By swishing her tail back and forth, she will hollow out the redd.





In the hatchery far more eggs become juvenile fish than in the wild.

provide food for

invertebrates

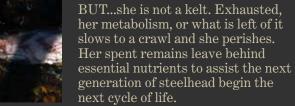
steelhead.

that feed young

As she drops her approximately 4,000 eggs in the redd, males' swim alongside her and emit clouds of milt or sperm fertilizing the eggs. The milt needs to find the micropyle, a tiny opening in the egg surface within 5 to 10 seconds, or the water will swell the micropyle shut. Sadly, only about half the eggs will be fertilized.

If she manages to avoid predators, and if she is in the unique ten percent of steelhead called "kelts." she and some of her mates can return to the ocean and make this trip again. All other anadromous salmonids die after spawning, making steelhead an extraordinary species.

Tired, but not completely spent, if she manages to avoid predators, and if she is in the unique ten percent of steelhead called "kelts," she and some of her mates can return to the ocean and make this trip again. She is unique among anadramous salmonids. Her cousins: chum, pink, coho, Chinook, and sockeye all die after spawning.





Hagerman National Fish Hatchery began through an act of congress in 1930 and opened for the business of raising rainbow trout in 1933. In 1983 it was remodeled for the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan, its focus shifted to raising steelhead trout for the Salmon River system. In 2018, having been a National Fish Hatchery for 85 years, it came under the purview of Idaho Department of Fish & Game. It is now a state hatchery, but still within the LSRCP.

