U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Little White Salmon

National Fish Hatchery

Station Facts

- Total FY 2017 budget = $1.16M
- Produce 1M spring and 16.5M upriver bright fall Chinook annually
- 7 full-time employees
- Active Information and Education program
- Oldest Columbia River hatchery, established in 1896
- Located in WA Congressional District 3

Contact Information

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Directions:

Located on the Little White Salmon River, one mile upstream of the river's confluence with the Columbia River

Who We Are

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) is comprised of a network of 71 National Fish Hatcheries which propagate imperiled species for restoration and recovery programs, provide emergency refugia for species whose habitat is threatened, provide fish to benefit Tribes, and mitigate for federal water projects.

How We Help

The Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery produces spring Chinook and upriver bright fall Chinook salmon to mitigate for tribal, sport, and commercial fishery losses associated with operation of hydroelectric dams on the Columbia River.

Tribal Trust Responsibilities

The Columbia River Treaty Tribes (Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Nez Perce, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla) share the harvest of returning spring and fall salmonids. This provides a valuable economic return to the Tribes and emphasizes the harvest of hatchery fish while avoiding impacts on wild and Endangered Species Act-listed stocks.

Huge spring Chinook male

Hatchery Life Cycle

Fall: Adult up-river bright fall Chinook (brights) return and spawning begins in mid-October. Over 16 million eggs are taken for the Little White Salmon NFH, Willard NFH and several other programs.

Winter: Eggs for both springers and brights eye up and hatch. Button-up fry are moved to raceways and fed. One year old springers start to smolt (prepare for ocean migration).

Spring: Yearling spring Chinook are released in mid-April. Young brights have their adipose fins clipped and are coded-wire tagged to provide detailed information in the marine fisheries. The fish ladder opens for adult springers about May 1.

Summer: Brights are released. Fingerling springers are fed and adult springers can be viewed in our Visitor Center while being held until spawning in late August.

Little White Salmon NFH spring Chinook provide an extremely popular sport fishery in Drano Lake

CONSERVING AMERICA'S fisheries