U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Warm Springs

National Fish Hatchery

Station Facts

- Stocks the waters of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon with salmon and trout
- Production began in 1978
- Staffed with 6 positions with an operating budget of ~$730,000
- Can produce 750,000 spring Chinook salmon
- Operated by the Service on land leased from Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon
- Located on the Warm Springs River, home of the largest wild run of Mid-Columbia spring Chinook

Contact Information

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Directions:

From Hwy 26, follow signs to Kah-nee-ta Casino. Pass the casino and follow signs to the hatchery

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

Warm Springs NFH operations are considered pivotal for the enhancement of anadromous fish runs as well as meeting the resident salmonid program needs for the Confederated Tribes. Enhancing anadromous fish runs in all reservation waters to meet the future needs of the resource as well as those of the Tribe is a high priority.

Key Initiatives

- Warm Springs NFH primary focus is carrying out Tribal trust responsibilities.
- We engage in Service initiatives such as Youth in Nature and climate change assessment.
- We also maintain genetic integrity while enchancing Warm Springs River stocks by producing fish indistinguishable from native stocks.

Hatchery in winter

Cycle of Life

Spring: Smolts are released into the Warm Springs River in April. The adult holding ponds are cleaned and the fish ladder is prepped and opened. Adults return to the hatchery as early as April.

Summer: Adults are sorted and spawned. Fertiziled eggs are taken to the hatchery building to incubate. Spawned adults are sampled for diseases and coded-wire tags are recovered.

Fall: Eggs are sorted, counted, and treated to prevent diseases. The eggs hatch in October after two months incubation. The previous year's fry are marked and tagged.

Winter: The fry are transferred to the outdoor raceways after they absorb their yolk and start on feed. One-year-olds start to smolt, preparing for ocean migration.

Kevin Blueback oversees the Chinook

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