U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Willard

National Fish Hatchery

Station Facts

- Total FY 2017 budget = $613,000
- Established in 1952
- 3 full-time employees
- Rears up to 750,000 coho and 2M fall Chinook salmon annually and operates a small experimental/research bull trout program.
- Located at rivermile 5 on the Little White Salmon River
- Co-located with the U.S. Geological Survey Columbia River Research Lab
- Located in Cook, WA Congressional District 3

Contact Information

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Directions:

Approximately 12 mi East of Stevenson on Hwy 14. At Cook, turn onto Cook-Underwood Rd and travel approximately 6 miles to 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

Two million upbriver bright fall Chinook salmon are reared and released from Willard with funds provided by Mitchell Act, administered by NOAA-Fisheries. Adults return to Drano Lake and are a perfect example of a successful mitigation program. These fish provide sport and tribal harvest opportunities by mitigating for fisheries lost due to the construction and operation of large scale hydropower projects on the Columbia River.

Tribal Trust Responsibilities

Coho are produced to assist Yakama Nation reintroduction efforts in the Mid-Columbia River in a cost share between the Service and Tribe. Fishable populations of coho salmon now return to the waters of north central Washington due to the wise use of a Service hatchery and tribal fish and habitat restoration efforts.

Forest Youth Success dissection

Hatchery Life Cycle

Spring: Coho smolts transferred to Mid-Columbia drainages for acclimation and release. Care for coho, bull trout and up-river bright (URB) fall Chinook fry.

Summer: Sub-yearling URB fall Chinook and coho fry are tagged to provide information for the fishery. URB sub-yearlings are released in July. Care for coho and bull trout.

Fall: Assist with spawning at complex hatcheries. Care for coho. Incubate and care for URB eggs at Carson Depot Springs (CDS) facility. Collect data on bull trout experimental fish.

Winter: Receive and incubate eyed coho eggs from Yakama Nation and URB eggs. Transfer swim-up fry from CDS to Willard for early rearing. Receive and incubate bull trout eggs. Care for coho pre-smolts.

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CONSERVING AMERICA'S fisheries