HATCHERY HIGHLIGHTS

Hagerman National Fish Hatchery *Idaho Free Fishing Day*

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service **No. 1: June 12, 2010**

Fun Filled Day of Fishing

Anglers from southern Idaho enjoyed the annual Idaho Free Fishing Day event at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game (IDFG), Hagerman State Fish Hatchery. Over 500 people registered at the event on Saturday, June 12th. About 17% of registrants were new anglers.

The Hagerman National Fish Hatchery crew joined IDFG employees and other local volunteers to staff the day long event.

Fish Painting

Highlights of the event included instruction on casting, fish cleaning, computer generated photo certificates for the kids with their fish, fish painting, and lots of door prizes presented during the afternoon raffle.

The local Boy Scout Troops provided free hot dogs, chips, and soda to all participants. There were 700 hot dogs, 528 cans of Pepsi, and 100 pounds of trout fillets served by the end of the day.

Fish Cleaning!

Event staff demonstrated how to clean the fish and sent anglers home with fresh trout on ice.

The Fish

In addition to trout provided by IDFG for this event, the University of Idaho, Idaho Springs Hatchery provided 155 trout averaging 3 pounds in weight and Clear Springs Foods donated 1,170 pounds of big fish.

Happy Anglers

The weather was beautiful for Free Fishing Day. Anglers flocked from around southern Idaho, as well as a few from Utah, Nevada, California, and Oregon to attend the annual event. There were even participants that planned their vacation to Idaho around this event. Everyone went home with a big smile and most had fish big enough to match! The event continues to be an excellent venue to introduce new anglers to fishing and continue partnerships between the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Partnerships in Action

Photos Courtesy: Amber Wiese