



Carson

National Fish Hatchery

Station Facts

- Total FY 2014 budget = \$677,000
- Originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1938
- Located in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest on the Wind River
- Active Information and Education Program including volunteer program through Hatchery Hosts
- 5 full-time employees
- Located in WA Congressional District 3

Contact Information

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Directions:

We are located 12 miles north of Carson. 14041 Wind River Highway, Carson WA

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

Carson National Fish Hatchery produces 1.47 million spring Chinook smolts annually, including 250,000 smolts for tribal efforts to restore salmon to the Walla Walla River basin. The hatchery helps mitigate for fish losses in the Columbia River basin due to the impacts of main stem hydropower, and contributes to important tribal ceremonial/subsistence fisheries as well as non-tribal sport fisheries.

Tribal Trust Responsibilities

Spring Chinook are produced to assist with tribal restoration efforts in the Walla Walla River Basin. This program has the goal of producing a naturally spawning, self-sustaining population of spring Chinook salmon.



Water safety

Cheri Anderson, USFWS

Carson NFH Cycle of Life

Spring: Smolts are released into the Wind River in April. The holding ponds are cleaned and the fish ladder is opened. Adults return to the hatchery in May and June.

Summer: Adults are sorted and spawned. Fertilized eggs are taken to the hatchery building to incubate. Spawned adults are sampled for diseases and coded wire tags are recovered. Summer is the best time to come to the hatchery to see adult fish.

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

Winter: The fry are transferred from the hatchery building to the outdoor raceways after they have absorbed their yolk and are eating artificial feed. Snow is plowed and hot chocolate is consumed.



Collecting eggs from Chinook female

Larry Zeigenfuss, USFWS

