



Spring Creek

National Fish Hatchery

Station Facts

- Total FY 2014 budget = \$1.33M
- 9 full-time and 1 part-time employees
- Houses the Columbia Gorge Information & Education Office
- Spring Creek tule fall Chinook serve as an index stock for estimating ocean exploitation rates for the Pacific Salmon Commission's Treaty between Canada and the United States.
- Located on the Columbia River, 167 miles from the Pacific Ocean
- Located in WA Congressional District 3

Contact Information

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Directions:

61552 State Road 14, Underwood, 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

The Hatchery produces 10.5 million indigenous tule fall Chinook salmon for release during April and May. Releases are timed to take advantage of annual spill that occurs at Bonneville Dam to benefit fish stocks listed under the *Endangered Species Act*. The hatchery also transfers 3.0 million eyed eggs to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Bonneville Hatchery, and 1.7 million juvenile fish to Little White Salmon NFH to boost the number of returning adult fish available for harvest.

Youth in the Great Outdoors

We engage youth in hands-on Outdoor School, Schoolyard Habitat, Citizen Science and Salmon in the Classroom programs. Over 750 students rear salmon, tour the hatchery and get involved in their local watersheds annually. The next generation of conservation biologists start here!



Adult male tule fall Chinook salmon

Hatchery Life Cycle

Fall: Adults return and are spawned in September. Eggs are taken, fertilized and put in incubation trays. Spawned carcasses are sampled for diseases and coded-wire tags. Eggs will develop to the eye-up stage in October and hatch in late fall.

Winter: Buttoned-up fry move to outdoor rearing ponds. In February their adipose fins are clipped and they receive coded-wire or PIT tags. Marking provides information for the overall management of all fisheries programs in the region.

Spring: Sub-yearling salmon are ready to migrate to the ocean. They are released in two groups - April and May. The intricate water reuse system is thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Summer: With no fish on station, work turns to facility upkeep and maintenance projects.



View of Spring Creek National Fish Hatchery from the Cook-Underwood Road

Credit: Cheri Anderson/USFWS