



## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Region

### NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: August 24, 2009

FFS# R1PN (\$29,665)

Contact: Amy Gaskill, APR

Phone: (503) 231-6121

### **Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery Receives Recovery Act Funds**

*\$29,665 Provided to Improve Walkways on Lower Raceways*

Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery will receive \$29,665 in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to replace walkways on the lower fish raceways, Robyn Thorson, Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Pacific Region, announced today. This contract is expected to create two jobs.

The existing concrete walkway poses an employee workplace safety issue. Employees use the walkways up to eight times a day to gain access to feed spring Chinook salmon and clean the raceways. The walkways become slick when wet or covered with residual fish food. The walkway will be covered with steel bar grating and stair treads to improve traction and provide a safer employee work environment. The contractor will furnish and install galvanized steel, plank grating walkway system on top of the existing concrete raceway.

Little White Salmon National Fish Hatchery was established in 1896 and is the oldest federal hatchery on the Columbia River. Congressional authorization was based on the intent to supplement the commercial fishing industry. The Hatchery's role expanded when the Mitchell Act was enacted in 1938 to mitigate for fisheries lost due to the construction and operation of Columbia River hydroelectric projects.

Today, more than 9.4 million young salmon are released into the river or transferred to other sites for release each year. The Little White Salmon River provides the cold, clean source of river water in which salmon are incubated and raised for 6 to 18 months. Spring and up-river bright fall Chinook salmon and coho salmon produced at the hatchery contribute significantly to the salmon harvested by sport fishers in the Columbia River, particularly in Drano Lake. The hatchery is located 12.5 miles east of Stevenson, Washington, and has an underwater viewing area and offers wildlife viewing opportunities. Chinook and coho can be seen spawning in the river below the hatchery, particularly as they migrate in the fall.

The Department of Interior received \$3 billion providing \$280 million for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – which includes \$115 million for construction, repair and energy efficiency retrofit projects at Service facilities, and \$165 million for habitat restoration, deferred maintenance and capital improvement projects. The Service will benefit from an additional \$10 million, administered by the Department of Transportation, that will be used to rebuild and improve roads on several national wildlife refuges. Projects will immediately create local jobs in the communities where they are located, while stimulating long-term employment and economic opportunities for the American public.

“We are making a bold investment in 21st century jobs and 21st century technologies on our public lands to meet our energy needs, rebuild our economy, and protect our environment for future generations,” Interior Secretary Ken Salazar said when announcing the funding.

Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the Department of the Interior is making an investment in conserving America's timeless treasures – our stunning natural landscapes, our monuments to liberty, the icons of our culture and heritage – while helping middle class families and their communities prosper again. Interior is also focusing on renewable energy projects, employing youth and promoting community service.

For a full list of funded projects nationwide, go to the Department's Recovery Web Site at <http://recovery.doi.gov/>. For a list of Service projects, click on the Service's logo at the bottom of the page. Secretary Salazar has pledged unprecedented levels of transparency and accountability in the implementation of the Department of the Interior's economic recovery projects. The public will be able to follow the progress of each project on the recovery web site, which will include an interactive map that enables the public to track where and how the Department's recovery dollars are being spent. In addition, the public can submit questions, comments or concerns at [recoveryact@fws.gov](mailto:recoveryact@fws.gov).

Secretary Salazar also has appointed a Senior Advisor for Economic Recovery, Chris Henderson, and an Interior Economic Recovery Task Force. Henderson and the Task Force will work closely with the Department of the Interior's Inspector General to ensure the Recovery Program is meeting the high standards for accountability, responsibility and transparency that President Obama has set.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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