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DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT SETS LANDS ASIDE FOR NEW NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY IN UTAH

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall today announced approval of an order setting aside public lands in Utah for a new national fish hatchery which promises important benefits to that State's economy and recreational fishing.

The order withdraws 263 acres of public lands for the new Jones Hole National Fish Hatchery in the remote mountains of Uintah County, Utah. Heretofore the lands were administered by the Department's Bureau of Land Management.

Another Interior agency, the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, will build and operate the new hatchery.

The Jones Hole Hatchery will be used primarily for the culture of trout to restock various reaches of the Upper Colorado River affected by the construction of dams. Such dams invariably influence the ecology of a stream, usually producing a cold water habitat particularly suited to trout. The new facility is expected to make a tremendous improvement in Utah's sport fishing resources.

The hatchery will be located on a tributary of the Green River. The tributary winds through a steep-sided box canyon known as Jones Hole.

The area has scattered juniper vegetation and provides limited forage for deer and smaller wildlife. The hatchery site is about 28 miles northeast of Vernal, Utah, at the eastern end of the Uinta Mountains, the only true East-West mountain range in the United States. The site abuts the Dinosaur National Monument, a unique natural display of fossilized reptile bones millions of years old, administered by the National Park Service. The land order gives the Park Service a voice in developing the recreational resources of the area. The tributary was originally withdrawn in 1933 as a public water reserve, but its value for that purpose was restricted because of its remoteness. Except for limited access from the north, the tributary lies between steep sandstone walls.

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