

New Tenants in Hanford's Fish Rearing Facilities

RICHLAND, Wash., April 12, 1995 -- The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Hanford fish-rearing facilities have 12,000 new tenants...rainbow trout about three inches long. The fish belong to the Yakama Indian Nation. The fish rearing facilities on the Hanford Site are operated for DOE by Westinghouse Hanford Company as part of its effort to find new, productive uses for Hanford's surplus facilities. The fish are being reared in a former water treatment facility.

The fish were recently given to the Yakama Nation by Pacific Northwest Laboratory (PNL). The fish will grow at Hanford for about a year until they reach 12-14 inches in length and about one pound in weight. They will then be planted in high mountain lakes in the Cascade mountains on the Yakama Reservation.

"This is another important step in teaming with the Yakama Nation to help augment an important Northwestern natural resource - the fish populations of our lakes and rivers," said Nick Anderson, a manager in Hanford Technical Services for Westinghouse Hanford Company. "This is the first time that we have grown trout in these huge water treatment facilities and we are really excited about the prospect."

"Turning the fish over to the tribe was a good match for PNL since the fish were surplus to our research needs," said Dennis Dauble, PNL Technical Group Manager for the Aquatic Ecology Group. "Not only will this help the tribe's fisheries program, it will help Hanford's efforts to diversify the Tri-Cities economy."

The Yakamas intend to plant the fish in six different lakes on the reservation. Half the lakes are open to fishing by the general public. "Hanford is becoming more and more important to the tribe's fisheries program and the trout are one more step in helping us meet our objectives," said Lynn Hatcher, Fisheries Program Manager for the Yakama Nation. The Yakamas grew half a million salmon at Hanford last year which were put directly into the Columbia River. They plan to grow even more at Hanford this Spring.

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