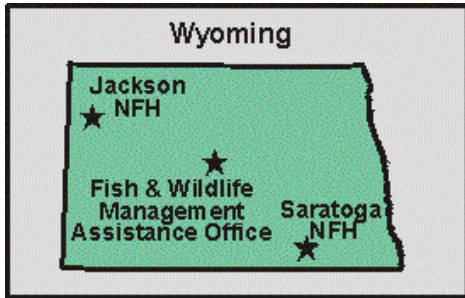




# Jackson National Fish Hatchery, Wyoming

## *Restoring America's Fisheries*



*"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."*

### National Fish Hatchery System: Who We Are

The National Fish Hatchery System (NFHS) is comprised of 70 Fish Hatcheries, 7 Fish Technology Centers, and 9 Fish Health Centers nationwide. The NFHS operated by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has a unique responsibility in helping restore native aquatic populations, mitigate for fisheries lost as a result of federal water projects, provide fish to benefit Tribes and the National Wildlife Refuges, and to recover species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The NFHS works closely with other programs in the Service and with the States, Tribes, and the private sector to complement habitat restoration and other resource management strategies for maintaining healthy ecosystems that support healthy fisheries.

### Jackson National Fish Hatchery

Jackson NFH was originally established in 1950 as part of the Pallsades Dam Act. Today, the hatchery's primary emphasis is producing eggs and fish to mitigate for fish losses from Federal water development projects and for National Wildlife Refuges, Tribes, States, and research facilities.

Jackson NFH is unique in that the hatchery is physically located on the Service's National Elk Refuge. The hatchery rears trout for a distribution area that covers 18,000 square miles, and is also a part of the Service's National Broodstock Program.

### What is a Broodstock Hatchery?

Broodstock are adult fish that produce eggs and sperm. A broodstock hatchery specializes in rearing fish to adult size, then taking the eggs from those fish, fertilizing the eggs with sperm, incubating the eggs through the fragile early stages, and shipping them to production hatcheries where they are hatched and the fish are raised to stockable sizes.

Currently, Jackson NFH rears:

- Snake River cutthroat trout
- lake trout

To meet the trout production demands, the hatchery facilities include 21 raceways and 14 tanks that are fed by five wells and a series of springs. In fiscal year 2000, Jackson NFH produced over 1 million broodstock eggs and 400,000 trout. Additionally, over 20 different water areas were stocked.

As a result of the Jackson NFH propagation and broodstock program,

economic benefits weigh-in at over 40,000 angler days of recreational fishing valued at over \$4 million.

### How Does the Hatchery Help?

Jackson NFH helps in many ways. Currently, the hatchery produces trout to fill needs for Federal, State, and Tribal waters in Wyoming and Idaho. These trout help to replenish and encourage sustainable fish populations and provide angling opportunities for recreational users like you.

As the aquatic habitat changes due to *natural* (drought, flood, habitat destruction) or *human* (over-harvest, pollution, habitat loss due to development and dam construction) influences, the reproduction of fish in the wild declines. Stocking of these trout is one of the many management strategies used by biologists to help replenish the populations for years to come.

### Public Use Opportunities

Jackson NFH provides many exciting visitor opportunities at the hatchery and surrounding refuge area.



*Welcome to Jackson National Fish Hatchery; USFWS*



*Trout eggs on screen just before being put down in tank; USFWS*

Open to the public, Jackson NFH welcomes visitors to the hatchery for a closeup view of the fish production process. With over 75,000 visitors annually, the public is invited to explore the self-guided outer hatchery raceways. The Service is currently working on rebuilding the hatchery and hopes to have a new facility and visitor services open to the public in 3 to 5 years.

The dedicated staff are happy to answer any questions you may have while viewing the fish. Guided hatchery tours of the outside portions are available for groups with reservations.

In addition to the hatchery experience, visitors also have a bounty of nearby recreational opportunities to explore on the surrounding National Elk Refuge:

- Hiking/nature trails
- Fishing
- Picnicking
- Wildlife and birdwatching
- Photography
- Canoeing
- Cross country skiing
- Snowshoeing

Be sure to bring your binoculars and test your wildlife knowledge; you just may be carried away with all the waterfowl and riparian birds!

### **Partnerships Make It Happen!**

Jackson NFH operates with support from partners, including: National Elk Refuge; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; U.S. Geological Service; Bureau of Reclamation; Wyoming Department of Game & Fish; Tribes; and other Federal agencies and Service hatcheries. In addition, many local schools, civic groups, and citizens are actively involved with the hatchery's research, operations, and education.

The hatchery has also partnered with Trout Unlimited to do an angler study on the impacts of streamside erosion on the National Elk Refuge.

These many dedicated partners and volunteers help keep Jackson NFH operating to bring recreational angling opportunities and healthy aquatic ecosystems to you, your family, and future generations.

Jackson NFH is located 4 miles north of Jackson on the National Elk Refuge. Join the hatchery staff as they participate in local public fishing festivities for National Fishing and Boating Day events in June. Come prepared for a day of fun!



*Enjoying National Fishing and Boating Day events; USFWS*