

Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
Dworshak Fisheries Complex  
4147 Ahsahka Rd., PO Box 18  
Ahsahka, ID 83520  
Phone: 208/476-4591, ext. 253  
Fax: 208/476-3252  
<http://www.fws.gov/dworshak/>

# News Release



For Immediate Release on September 3, 2008

08-0060

CONTACT: Susan Sawyer (208) 476-4591 Ext 253

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Releases Recommendations for Lower Snake River National Fish Hatcheries** *Stakeholder Meetings Planned for September 2008*

The Service will host public stakeholder meetings on the Hatchery Review Team's draft report of their review of the Lower Snake River National Fish Hatcheries (NFH) (Dworshak, Kooskia, and Hagerman facilities). Dworshak NFH and Kooskia NFH contribute to salmon and steelhead production in the Clearwater River Basin and Hagerman NFH contributes to steelhead and trout production in the Salmon River Basin and Southern Idaho, respectively. The public review draft of the Hatchery Review Team's report will be available on the Team's website on September 26, 2008 (<http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/Hatcheryreview>).

The public meetings to discuss the Review Team's draft report are scheduled for:

Monday, September 29, 2008 from 1:30 pm – 3:30 pm at the Red Lion Hotel, Lewiston, ID  
Tuesday, September 30, 2008 from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the SpringHill Suites, Boise  
ParkCenter, Boise, ID

Please RSVP Michael Schmidt, Director of Fish Programs, Long Live the Kings, at 206.382.9555 x-27 or by email at [mschmidt@lltk.org](mailto:mschmidt@lltk.org). Directions to both of the meeting places are also available on the Team's website.

The draft report is being prepared by a Hatchery Review Team that began an analysis of the Lower Snake facilities last summer. The team, comprised of scientists from the Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies, was convened by the Service's Pacific Region Fisheries Program. The draft report includes the team's assessments, recommendations and initial co-manager comments. The Service will accept public comments on the draft report for 30 days beginning September 30, 2008.

Written comments can be sent to: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Attn: Doug DeHart, Fishery Resources, 911 NE11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97232. The report and the hatchery review project information can be found on the USFWS Columbia River Basin Hatchery Review Project website at: <http://www.fws.gov/pacific/Fisheries/Hatcheryreview>

The purpose of this meeting is for the Hatchery Review Team to present an overview of the review process and details of their Lower Snake NFH review. This meeting will provide the public with an opportunity to discuss the report and its draft recommendations with members of the Hatchery Review Team.

The review of the Lower Snake facilities is part of a four-year review process that began in October 2005 with the goal of improving salmon and steelhead hatcheries owned or operated by the Service in the Pacific Region, and to ensure that those facilities are best meeting conservation goals, harvest goals, and tribal trust and mitigation responsibilities now and in the future. The review will include the 12 National Fish Hatcheries in the Columbia River Basin, the three National Fish Hatcheries on Washington's Olympic Peninsula, and nine additional federal hatcheries operated as part of the Lower Snake River Compensation Plan.

- FWS -

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife and 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).*