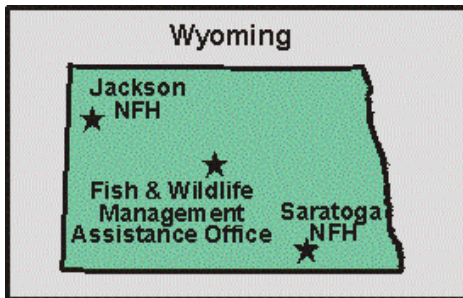




Saratoga National Fish Hatchery, Wyoming

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.

Saratoga National Fish Hatchery

Saratoga NFH, established in 1911, has served as an egg-producing station during most of its years of operation. Between 1915 and 1984, various strains of brook, rainbow, brown, golden and cutthroat trout and Dolly Varden eggs were produced. In 1966, Saratoga NFH was formally designated as a broodstock hatchery, and in 1984 the hatchery became involved in the Great Lakes lake trout recovery program. Today, the hatchery's broodstock program includes supplying about 5 million eyed Lewis Lake lake trout eggs to the Great Lakes restoration program and 3 to 4 million Plymouth Rock brown trout eggs for Service, State, and Tribal hatcheries nationwide.

In 1997, Saratoga NFH adopted a unique role in becoming the first hatchery in the NFHS to become involved in rearing endangered amphibians. The Wyoming toad, found only in southwestern Wyoming, is considered the most endangered amphibian in North America. The hatchery maintains a captive population for breeding, rearing, and refugia, and progeny from this program will be used for reintroduction efforts.

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.

To meet trout production demands, the hatchery facilities include 37 raceways and 16 tanks that are fed by a series of springs and wells. Facilities also include a toad-rearing room. In fiscal year 2000, Saratoga NFH produced and distributed over 8 million lake trout and brown trout eggs and 19,000 trout. Additionally, 7 different water areas were stocked.

Currently, broodstock trout species being reared at Saratoga NFH:

- lake trout
- brown trout
- rainbow trout
- greenback cutthroat trout

As a result of the Saratoga NFH broodstock program, genetically distinct strains of trout have been perpetuated, and the eggs provided to production hatcheries contribute to the multi-million dollar economic impact of recreational fishing throughout the Nation. Excess and retired brood fish are also stocked in Wyoming waters to support additional recreational angling opportunities.



*Saratoga National Fish Hatchery;
USFWS*



Hatchery employee holding a broodstock lake trout; USFWS

How Does the Hatchery Help?

Saratoga NFH helps in many ways! Currently, the hatchery produces trout and trout eggs for production hatcheries to fill needs for Federal, State, and Tribal waters across the Nation. 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 lost to development and dam construction) influences, the natural production of fish 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

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

Open to the public, Saratoga NFH welcomes visitors to the hatchery for a closeup view of the fish production process. With over 3,000 visitors annually, the dedicated staff will normally be available to answer your questions while you explore the Visitor Center and facilities. Bring the hatchery experience alive with educational programs and hatchery

tours, and view the large brood fish and the endangered Wyoming toad. Be sure to stop by from late September to early November to watch the spawning activities.

In addition to the hatchery experience, visitors also have a bounty of nearby recreational opportunities to explore:

- Hiking
- Fishing
- Picnicking
- Wildlife and birdwatching
- Photography
- Kayaking
- Mountain biking
- Backpacking
- Snowshoeing

Partnerships Make It Happen!

Saratoga NFH operates closely through a series of partnerships, including: Wyoming Department of Game & Fish, Tribes, numerous State fish and wildlife

agencies, 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.

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

Saratoga NFH is located 4 miles northeast of Saratoga, Wyoming, on 120 acres of land. 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!



The endangered Wyoming toad is being reared at Saratoga National Fish Hatchery; USFWS