



National Naturewatch Website Viewing Site Information

Region: Intermountain, R-4

Forest: Boise

District: Cascade

Viewing Site Name: **Stolle Meadows Salmon Viewing Area**

Description: Stolle Meadows is located 26 miles east of Cascade, Idaho in the South Fork Salmon River drainage. Cascade, Idaho is nearly 80 miles north of Boise, on State Highway-55.

Viewing Information: The Stolle Meadows Salmon Viewing Area was built jointly by Idaho Department of Fish and Game and USDA Forest Service in 1988. Seven bronze plaques at the boardwalk describe the Chinook salmon life cycle in detail. The plaques are available between the Memorial Day and Labor Day holidays. Should you visit the site when the chinook salmon are not spawning, the plaques will describe what takes place during spawning season. Should you visit the site during the four to five-week long spawning season, you may observe chinook females digging redds ('nests') in the gravel and laying eggs, while males chase other 'suitors' away, and spawn with the female.

Chinook salmon usually spawn (lay and fertilize eggs) in the South Fork Salmon River from mid-August to mid-September. Eggs incubate in the stream bottom gravels until the next spring, when the fry emerge. The fry grow rapidly in the stream during the summer when they move downstream towards the main Salmon River in fall. The smolts then migrate the next spring during high flows over 800 miles to the Pacific Ocean via the Salmon and Columbia Rivers. One to three years later they return as adults from the Pacific Ocean to Stolle Meadows to complete their life cycle by spawning.

Safety First: The FDR-474 and FDR-483 roads are narrow, native surface roads. They are dusty in summer and can be slippery in fall from rains. The roads become bumpy from use ('washboards'), and can cause drivers to lose control if driving too fast. The roads are narrow. Many places are not wide enough to allow oncoming vehicles to pass each other. 'Turnouts,' or wide spots in the road, are used for passing where the road is too narrow. These roads require drivers to be extremely observant for oncoming cars, trucks and campers of many sizes, ATVs, and horses. Oncoming vehicles may be obscured by bends in the road from rock outcroppings, or by trees and vegetation along the road.

Directions: Stolle Meadows is accessible by vehicle from Cascade, Idaho between May and October. See the "how to get there" page in this website for maps and complete directions.

Ownership and Management: USDA Forest Service, Boise National Forest, Cascade Ranger District. (208) 382-7400.

Closest Town: Cascade, Idaho





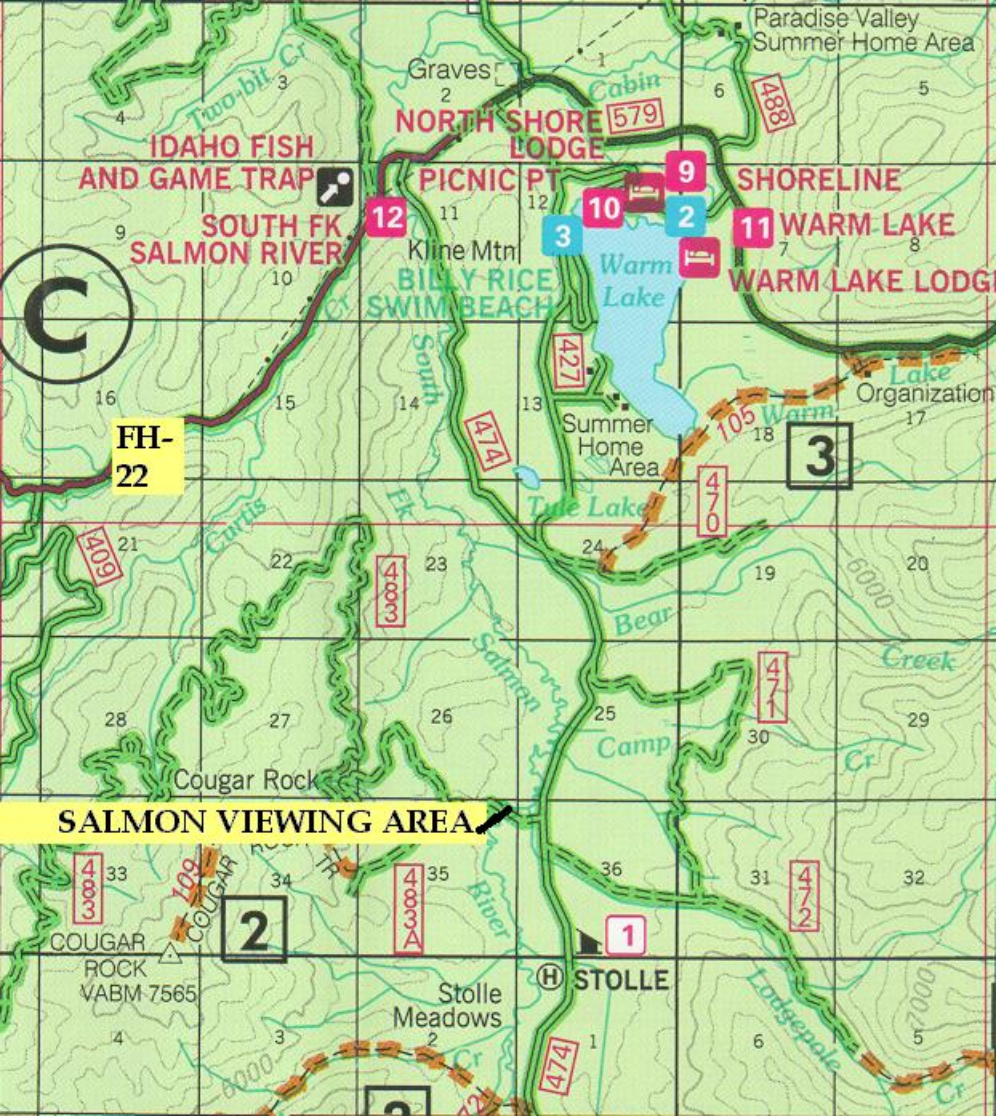
A finished redd (nest) can be distinguished by the lighter color due to the algae being cleaned off the gravel when it is disturbed. The slight hump also distinguishes the redd from the surrounding stream.



Within the redd are egg incubation chambers which allow fresh water to circulate, bringing oxygen and removing waste products. If sand or silt is present, the "washing" cannot take place.



The eggs "hatch" under the surface of the gravel 3 months later.



Paradise Valley Summer Home Area

Graves
NORTH SHORE LODGE
579

IDAHO FISH AND GAME TRAP

SHORELINE WARM LAKE WARM LAKE LODGE

SOUTH FK SALMON RIVER

Kline Mtn
BILLY-RICE SWIM BEACH

C

FH-22

3

SALMON VIEWING AREA

COUGAR ROCK
VABM 7565

STOLLE

Stolle Meadows