

FIELD Wildlife Journal

This article was written in 2006. Travis Trimble is now the Assistant Fish Culture Supervisor for Game & Fish!

A fish hatchery is a place where people called fish culturists grow fish to stock into streams, lakes, or reservoirs for fishermen

to catch. Fish culturists take fish eggs and care for them until they grow into fish that are large enough to be stocked. Some types of fish are becoming less common in the wild. Fish hatcheries grow types of fish whose numbers are going down. This helps increase the numbers of those kinds of fish in the wild. This is called fish restoration.

Things happening at a hatchery change every day. This is because duties change as the fish grow. Some days you might be hatching, feeding or counting fish, and other days you might be stocking fish

Eggs are counted at the hatchery.



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Fish culturist Trimble measuring eggs.



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The Wyoming Game and Fish Department uses trucks to stock fish.

in a lake for anglers to catch. That is what Travis Trimble, a fish culturist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department at the Dubois Fish Hatchery, likes about his job. Things are never the same. "Some days we are working with fish eggs, while others we are out stocking the fish in waters across Wyoming," Trimble says.

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department uses different ways to distribute, or move, fish to different locations. Fish culturist Trimble says, "If we are stocking at a lake high in

the mountains, we might use horses to pack the fish in, or maybe a helicopter to drop the fish into the lake. But mostly we stock areas we can drive to so we use stocking trucks." In Wyoming, 85 percent of fish stocked are put in ponds, lakes or reservoirs, while 15 percent go into streams.

The Dubois Hatchery, where Fish culturist Trimble works, has recently undergone some changes. "Our hatchery was built many years ago and was starting to get old, so with money from the state legislature, we were able to make our hatchery almost completely brand new, and the fish are loving it! We can now grow many more fish than we could with the old hatchery."

Each hatchery in the state has different activities going on all the time. Wyoming has 10 state fish hatcheries. Can you find one near you? Summer is a great time to visit a hatchery!

If raising fish from an egg to a whopper sounds like fun to you, you should consider a job as fish culturist with the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.



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Eggs are incubated in hatching jars until they are ready to hatch into fish.