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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FIRST PLANTINGS FROM JACKSON, WYOMING, TROUT HATCHERY WILL BE MADE IN SPRING OF 1958

Construction schedules for a new trout hatchery to be built on the National Elk Refuge near Jackson, Wyoming, are planned to make possible first plantings of fingerlings from the hatchery during the spring of 1958, Secretary of the Interior Fred A. Seaton announced today.

Provision for the fish hatchery was included in the Palisades Dam Project authorizing legislation in 1950, which specified "facilities for the improvement of fish and wildlife along the headwaters of the Snake River." Palisades Dam and reservoir are now nearing completion by the Bureau of Reclamation on the Snake River near the Idaho-Wyoming State line.

Funds for the project, \$427,000, were provided in the 1957 fiscal year appropriation to the Bureau of Reclamation for the Palisades Project. Because \$10,000 was provided the Fish and Wildlife Service in a previous appropriation for the project, the plans and specifications for the new hatchery already have been completed. As a result, calls for bids and the awarding of the contract will be made at an early date, John L. Farley, Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said.

While the hatchery will contribute to the fishery and recreational resources of Palisades reservoir, the facility is designed to provide fish to stock streams and lakes in an area of more than 18,000 square miles of federally owned lands in eastern Idaho and western Wyoming.

The site on the National Elk Refuge was chosen by Fish and Wildlife Service specialists because of an abundance of spring water of the proper temperature; because it is centrally located in the area it is to serve; and because the Palisades reservoir is only one of the many fishing waters which will be planted with trout from the hatchery.

The hatchery will have a production capacity of 50,000 pounds of trout annually. The output will be both fingerling and catchable-size fish. They will be used for stocking more than 3,000 miles of stream and 85,000 acres of lakes on

the Teton, Targhee, Bridger, and Shoshone National Forests as well as the impoundment and tail waters at the dam, and streams and lakes on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

The new Jackson hatchery will be located in the heart of one of America's greatest tourist areas which seven million persons visit annually for recreation. The new reservoir which will be created by the Palisades Dam will be a special attraction for fishermen.

In the past ten years, the number of persons visiting the area has practically tripled, and it is still increasing. It is estimated that 75,000 to 80,000 pounds of trout--or approximately 1,500,000 fingerlings and 360,000 catchables--will be needed annually to maintain the fishery in the entire area to be served by the new hatchery.

Facilities for the proposed hatchery include a combination building, concrete raceways, water supply and drainage lines, roads, fences and utilities. The main building will contain the hatchery room, fish-food preparation and cold storage facilities, general storage area, shop and garage. There will also be quarters for employees. All buildings will be of concrete block construction.

Under the present schedule, the Fish and Wildlife Service hopes to start the fish cultural operations at the new hatchery in October 1957, even though the project then will not be entirely completed.

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