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# News Release



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## **Inner-city science students spend the day with salmon**

**Warm Springs, OR** – Warm Springs National Fish Hatchery (NFH) will host approximately 30 students from Portland, Oregon’s Benson High School tomorrow (May 18) from 10 am until 2 pm. This field trip will provide these high school science students with an opportunity to learn first hand about diverse career opportunities available to them in the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) fisheries program.

“Hopefully opportunities like this will lead these students to a future career in biological sciences,” said Dana Perez, Chief Division of Diversity and Civil Rights, Pacific Region, US Fish and Wildlife Service.

The science faculty at Benson High School has been working with the Service, over the past several months, developing and incorporating fishery science curriculum for the diverse student body.

It is an exciting time at the hatchery this time of year. Hatchery and wild adult spring Chinook are returning to spawn at Warm Springs NFH. The hatchery fish are separated from the wild fish by hand. The wild fish are released above the hatchery barrier and the hatchery fish are tagged and placed in holding ponds until they are ready to spawn in late September.

During their day at the hatchery, these students will also receive a cultural lesson from the Quartz Creek Cultural Edutainment Society. This group shares the cultural significance of salmon to the circle of life through traditional Native American drumming and dancing.

Warm Springs NFH just celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary and is managed both by the Service and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon. The hatchery is located on the Warm Springs River, a tributary of the Deschutes River, which flows into the Columbia.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 81 ecological services field stations. It also manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses 542 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.