CONNECTIONS

IDAHO POWER®

APRIL • 2025

Idaho Power's Flagship Fish Hatchery Gets a Makeover

Idaho Power recently completed a major upgrade of the Oxbow Fish Hatchery, a cornerstone of our successful steelhead and salmon conservation program. The new hatchery complex includes raceways to hold adult fish and new facilities for sorting and spawning fish and incubating eggs.

The upgrade of Idaho Power's oldest hatchery incorporates modern fish-handling equipment and expands capacity in anticipation of new requirements under the forthcoming federal license for our Hells Canyon hydroelectric projects.

"Our Oxbow Hatchery has changed over the years as fish science has improved, but this renovation brings it up to modern standards and really demonstrates Idaho Power's commitment to the long-term success of our program," said Stuart Rosenberger, an Idaho Power Resource Professional Leader who oversees the hatchery operations.

Tucked into a corner of land where Pine Creek flows into the Snake River just below Oxbow Dam, the hatchery was built in 1961. It was the beginning of Idaho Power's ambitious project to raise and release millions of salmon and steelhead to help compensate for the impacts of our hydro projects.

Salmon and steelhead are anadromous fish species, meaning they spawn in fresh water and travel downstream to the Pacific Ocean, where they grow to adulthood before swimming back to their birthplace to continue the cycle.

Dams can hinder that lifecycle, so Idaho Power, along with federal fishery managers, made plans to support these fish when construction of the Hells Canyon Complex — Brownlee, Oxbow, and Hells Canyon dams — began in the 1950s.

The original plan was to trap adult fish and use tanker trucks to haul them above Brownlee Dam, where they could be released to spawn upstream, then gather the juvenile fish (smolts) when they returned and move them below the dams to continue their journey to the ocean.

With too few smolts managing the journey through the slow-moving water of Brownlee Reservoir, we came up with a new plan: to raise these fish in hatcheries to help preserve the Snake River's Chinook salmon and steelhead runs.

An employee prepares a male Chinook salmon for spawning during the hatchery's first year of operation.

Today, fish are trapped below Hells Canyon dam and hauled the short distance to the hatchery, where they are placed in raceways and sorted. Natural fish that did not originate at a hatchery are returned to the river. Hatchery-origin fish, identified by a clipped adipose fin near the fish's tail, are used for artificial spawning. Any fish caught beyond the number needed for spawning are provided to Native American tribes and the states of Idaho and Oregon for multiple uses.

Fertilized steelhead eggs are taken from the Oxbow Hatchery to Idaho Power's Niagara Springs Hatchery near Wendell, Idaho, where they will hatch and be raised for 11 months before tankers haul them back to the river for release below Hells Canyon Dam.

Spring Chinook adults are taken to our Rapid River Hatchery in Riggins, Idaho, for spawning. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game staffs our hatcheries, which provide nearly 7 million steelhead and salmon for release into the Snake and Salmon rivers each year.

For more information about our fish conservation programs, our hatcheries, and how to visit one, go to idahopower.com/fish.

Lee esta edición de *Connections* en español a idahopower.com/connections.

Comments about *Connections* are welcome at idahopower.com or Corporate Communications, P.O. Box 70, Boise, ID 83707.

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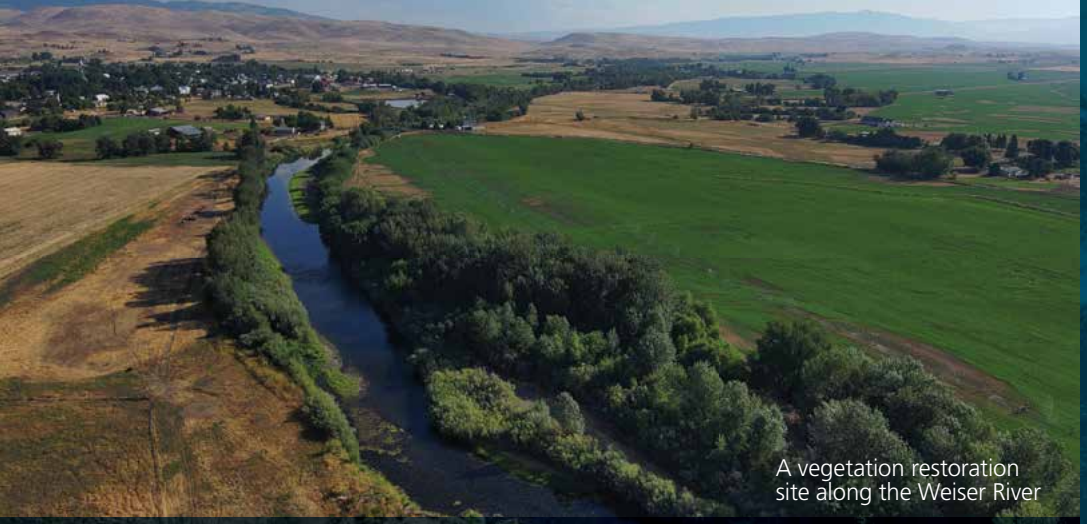

A vegetation restoration site along the Weiser River

Beyond Electricity: Caring for the Snake River

The Snake River plays a vital role in providing fuel for reliable, affordable, clean electricity to Idaho Power customers. A healthy Snake River also benefits farmers, fish and wildlife, and everyone who enjoys the river for recreation.

As part of Idaho Power's commitment to being a good steward of the Snake River, we have a number of projects that address elevated water temperatures and other water-quality issues:

In-stream projects include the creation of floodplains and wetlands that reduce water surface area while increasing water velocity and depth. This helps keep the water cooler, decreases unwanted aquatic plants, and improves habitat for fish and wildlife. Examples include our Bayha Island and Rippee Island projects on the Mid-Snake River.

Restoring native vegetation along key tributaries of the Snake lowers water temperatures, improves habitat, and helps keep sediment and pollutants out of the water. We have worked with landowners along the Weiser and Little Weiser rivers in Idaho, the Powder River in Oregon, as well as on our own properties for these projects.

Reducing runoff can provide significant benefits to water quality. We work with farmers to convert traditional flood and furrow irrigation to sprinklers. This uses water more efficiently while reducing runoff.

Further upstream, we collaborate with producers and irrigation districts to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the Snake River by more than 15,000 pounds each year. Reducing phosphorus helps limit algae and unwanted plant growth.

We will continue collaborating with watershed partners to preserve the river's ability to provide clean water and clean power to our region for generations to come.

From the Electric Kitchen

April 2025

Dinner

Chicken Caesar Pita Pockets

- 1 lb boneless chicken breast, cooked and cubed
- 4 whole wheat pita breads, cut in half
- 8 romaine lettuce leaves
- 1 cup tomatoes, chopped
- 1 cup cucumber, diced
- 1/4 cup red onion, sliced
- 4 Tbsp Caesar dressing
- 1½ Tbsp red wine vinegar
- 2 tsp olive oil
- 1/2 tsp dried oregano
- 1/8 tsp salt

In a re-sealable plastic gallon bag, combine chicken, olive oil, vinegar, oregano, and salt. Shake to mix well. Refrigerate for several hours or overnight. In a medium bowl, combine onion, cucumber, and tomato. Chill. Place a lettuce leaf in each pita pocket half. Spoon in vegetables and chicken. Drizzle Caesar dressing over the filling in each pocket. Makes 8 pita pockets.

Recipe selected from Idaho Power's Centennial Celebration Cookbook.

idahopower.com

Proud to Offer Low Prices, High Value

We're proud to offer prices 20–30% lower than the national average while providing great value for our customers. How are we doing that?

We're building a safe, resilient grid. We're making strategic investments to maintain and upgrade our infrastructure so we can continue providing the reliable energy you depend on.

We're planning for future energy needs. Our service area is growing rapidly, and we work 24/7 to ensure you have the energy you need to power your life. We keep safety, reliability, and affordability at the heart of our planning and everything we do.

We're working hard to provide the tools and resources you need to do business with us. Whether that's working with your trusted energy advisor, using our mobile app, or logging into My Account to track your bill and energy usage, you can count on us to provide convenient tools and first-class customer service.

We're supporting the communities where we live and work. Last year, Idaho Power and our employees donated over $1.4 million to organizations across southern Idaho and eastern Oregon.

Learn more about how our prices compare to cities around our region at **idahopower.com/pricerankings**.

Average monthly bill for select western cities:

Boise	**$128.06**
Missoula	**$138.80**
Salt Lake City	**$142.84**
Denver	**$160.85**
Portland	**$192.56**
San Diego	**$472.37**

Data source: Edison Electric Institute, based on monthly use of 1,000 kWh

Did You Know?

Reliable, affordable hydropower is Idaho Power's largest energy source.

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