

Ashton Fish Hatchery
3330 E. 1200 N.
Ashton, ID 83420



General Overview:

Ashton Fish Hatchery (AFH) is located in Fremont County, Idaho, approximately two miles southwest of the community of Ashton in the Upper Snake Region. The property was acquired and the hatchery constructed in 1920. The hatchery property includes a total of 18.47 acres of land and has water rights to 10.0 CFS. The water source is Black Springs which arise in a series of small seeps on private property north of the facility.

Ashton Hatchery rearing units

Production Vessels				
Large Raceways	4	Concrete	360' x 7' x 3'	Useable volume dependent on number of boards and quiescent zone setup
Nursery Vats	19	Concrete	13'7" x 2'3" x 2'	Only enough water to run 12 at most with all raceways running max flow
Nursery Vats	2	Fiberglass	10'11" x 10'5" x 8"	Currently used for Grayling culture only

Water Supply:

The water source for AFH is Black Springs, which is a constant 50⁰ F temperature and has a current maximum flow of 3.75 cfs through the hatchery supply piping. Outflow of the settling pond has been measured at 5.5 cfs, suggesting that additional water might be captured to support fish propagation. The water right for this hatchery is for 10.0 CFS with a 1948 priority date. These springs arise on private land and on Department-owned land. The portion of the springs that arise on Department owned land was captured into an underground collection system to provide as clean of a water supply as possible.

The hatchery is supplied water from this collection system via gravity. There are no pumps used at this facility. The water flows have diminished over time as have all of the natural springs in the Eastern Snake Plain.

Water quality analysis results

Ashton
Samples analyzed 12/4/2009

Primary IOC Contaminants	Maximum Contaminant Level mg/l	Minimum Detection Limit mg/l	Results mg/l
Arsenic	0.01	0.001	0.00269
Barium	2	0.001	0.0286
Cadmium	0.005	0.001	0.001
Chromium	0.1	0.001	<0.001
Mercury	0.002	0.0001	ND
Nickel		0.001	ND
Selenium	0.05	0.001	ND
Sodium	N/A	0.1	18.1
Fluoride	4	0.1	0.948

Secondary and other IOC Contaminants			
Contaminant	Maximum Contaminant Level mg/l	Minimum Detection Limit mg/l	Results mg/l
Chloride	250	0.1	8.5
Iron	0.3	0.01	ND
Manganese	0.05	0.01	0.00347
Dissolved Solids	500	10	261.3
Zinc	5	0.001	ND
Silver	0.1	0.001	ND
Sulfate	250	0.1	15.2
Calcium	N/A	0.1	42.7
Hardness (as CaCO3)	N/A	1	162

Magnesium	N/A	0.1	13.3
pH			7.32
Potassium	N/A	0.1	2.22
Lead	0.015	0.001	ND
Copper	1.0	0.001	ND

Comments:
Alkalinity = 150 mg/l
Ammonia <0.05 mg/l
Gasoline <1.50 mg/l
Lube Oil <16.0 mg/l
Diesel <11.5 mg/l
Nitrate/N =5.00 mg/l
Nitrite/N <0.1 mg/l

The effluent from the hatchery is treated in a total flow-through settling pond of adequate size to treat the flows and the current level of production. The receiving water is Black Springs Creek, a tributary to the Henrys Fork of the Snake River.

Diseases and Aquatic Invasive Species:

The AFH has not had a large number of pathogens over the past few years. An ectoparasite, *Gyrodactylus sp* is present and causes some irritation to the fish at different times of the year. This is controlled with formalin treatments when the fish begin flashing in earnest. *Myxosoma cerebralis*, the causative agent of Whirling Disease is present in neighboring watersheds. Covering the remaining spring water sources (e.g., cobble) on the adjacent property would secure the water supply against this parasite. The hatchery has had minor outbreaks of motile aeromonad septicemia (MAS) and Flexobacter bacteria that are controlled with medicated OTC feed and Florfenicol.

Buildings and Residences:

The AFH has seven buildings and residences listed in the property inventory.

Ashton Hatchery buildings, 2008

- Office/hatchery building, 3,450 sq. ft., including a three room dormitory, storage, restrooms, and early rearing units
- Residence, 1,900 sq. ft., 3 bed, 2 bath with 2 car garage
- Residence, 1,050 sq. ft., 2 bed, 1 bath with 1 car garage
- Shop, 1,200 sq. ft. with restroom
- Equipment storage building, 968 sq. ft., three bays
- “Hayshed” storage, approx. 700 sq. ft.
- “Quonset hut” storage, approx. 300 sq. ft.

The structures were surveyed in February 2010.

Grounds:

The hatchery grounds include 18.47 acres, acquired largely in 1920 from a private individual. The entrance road is asphalt and the other various drives are gravel surfaced. There is a small lawn area

near each residence. The Department owns property along each side of Black Creek for approximately a mile downstream of the hatchery. Originally there were rearing ponds within the creek bed itself, these have been abandoned years ago.