

## Bird Predation

The hatcheries can suffer substantial fish losses due to predation by birds, most notably great blue herons and black-crowned night herons. Netting over the raceways helps to keep birds from easy access to the fish.



## Colorado's Fish Stocking Program

CPW operates 19 hatcheries that breed, hatch, rear and stock over 90 million fish per year. Many of the fish produced are to enhance angling opportunities, while others serve a critical role in native species recovery efforts. Colorado fish hatcheries support our angling pastime, which annually contributes 1.9 billion dollars to our state's economy!



## Staff

Bellvue-Watson is staffed by a crew of six full-time and two to three part-time employees. Open year-round, the unit offers tours to organized groups by appointment. Additional brochures and information are available in the visitor's center. Please feel free to direct questions to unit personnel.



## Location

The Bellvue-Watson hatchery is located 7 miles northwest of Fort Collins. Take U.S. 287 north from Fort Collins through Laporte, then left on County Rd. 52E. Go 3/4 of a mile to entrance on right.

## Bellvue-Watson State Fish Hatchery

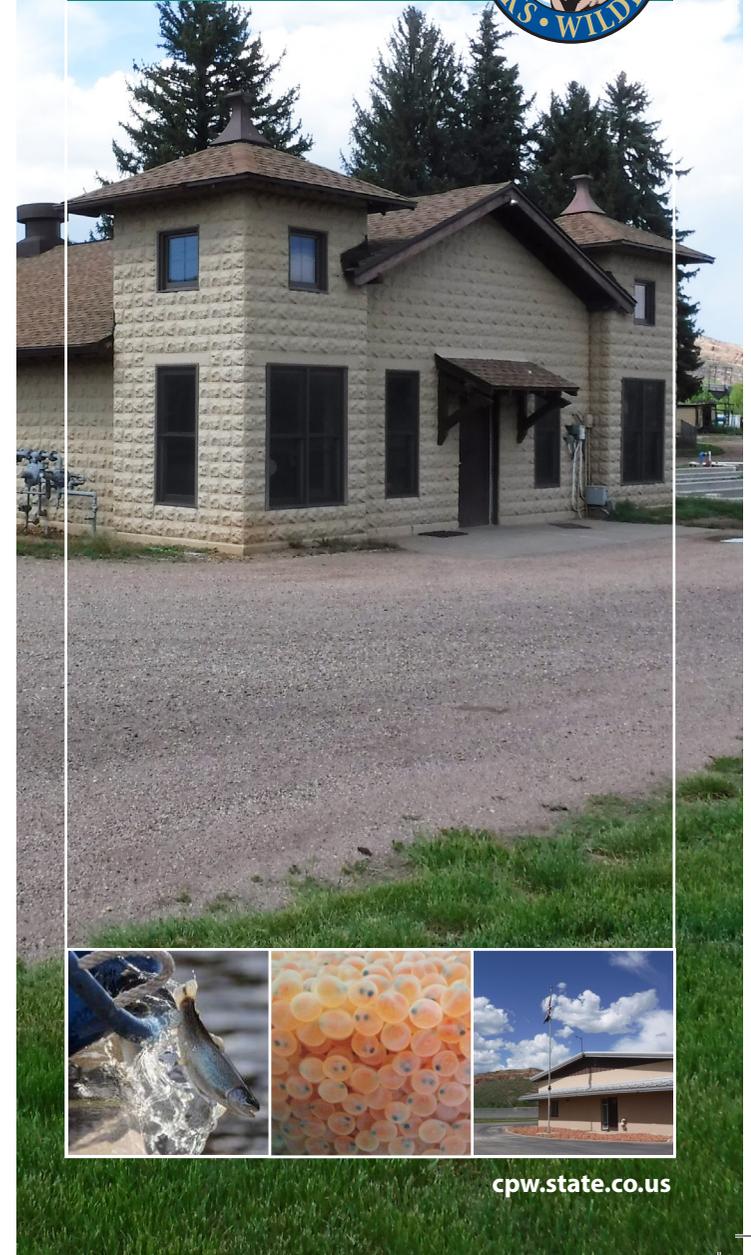
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COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

## Bellvue-Watson State Fish Hatchery

ENJOY YOUR STATE HATCHERIES



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## The Bellvue-Watson Hatchery

The Bellvue Hatchery, built in 1924, is located 1/2 mile southwest of the Watson Rearing Unit. The Watson rearing unit was built in 1964. Both units are owned and operated by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, State of Colorado.

The Bellvue Hatchery produces 1.1 million sub-catchable trout including: rainbow trout, Loch Leven-strain brown trout, Snake river cutthroat, greenback cutthroat and splake. Watson Rearing unit produces 280,000 ten-inch cutbows and rainbow trout each year.



Trout are fed a high-protein feed which costs an average of 60 cents per pound. Young fry are fed up to eight times per day, with larger fish fed less frequently. Small fish are fed by hand, while larger fish at Watson are fed using a feed truck that broadcasts feed to the raceways. It requires about 10 to 14 months to grow a trout to 10 inches.



## Water Supply

Water for the Bellvue Hatchery is provided by three wells that produce 500 to 1,400 gallons of water per minute depending on the time of year. The water is a constant temperature of 53 degrees F year-round. The raceways at the Watson Rearing Unit are supplied by water from the Poudre River that ranges from 34 degrees F in the winter to 65 degrees F in the summer.

