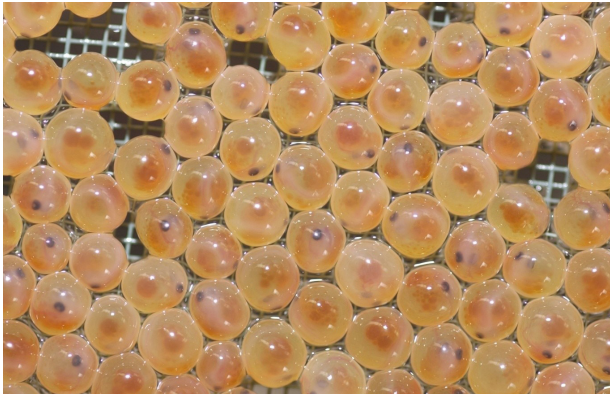


Egg Processing



The fertilized eggs are placed into incubator trays where clean well water flows through. The flow is set so it provides enough oxygen for development. After about 32 days, the eggs reach the “eyed-stage” when dark spots (the eyes) appear. At this point the eggs are stronger, and can be sorted, carefully packaged and shipped in coolers with ice to other hatcheries.



Spawning Season

In this hatchery, rainbow and cutthroat trout spawn (lay eggs) in spring and summer. The hatchery staff starts preparing for spawning season in February by removing the thick ice from the raceways and separating the male from the female fish. Spawning begins in March and eggs are squeezed from the females, then milt (sperm) is squeezed from the males. Once eggs have been fertilized, they are taken to the hatchery building for processing.



Poudre River State Fish Hatchery

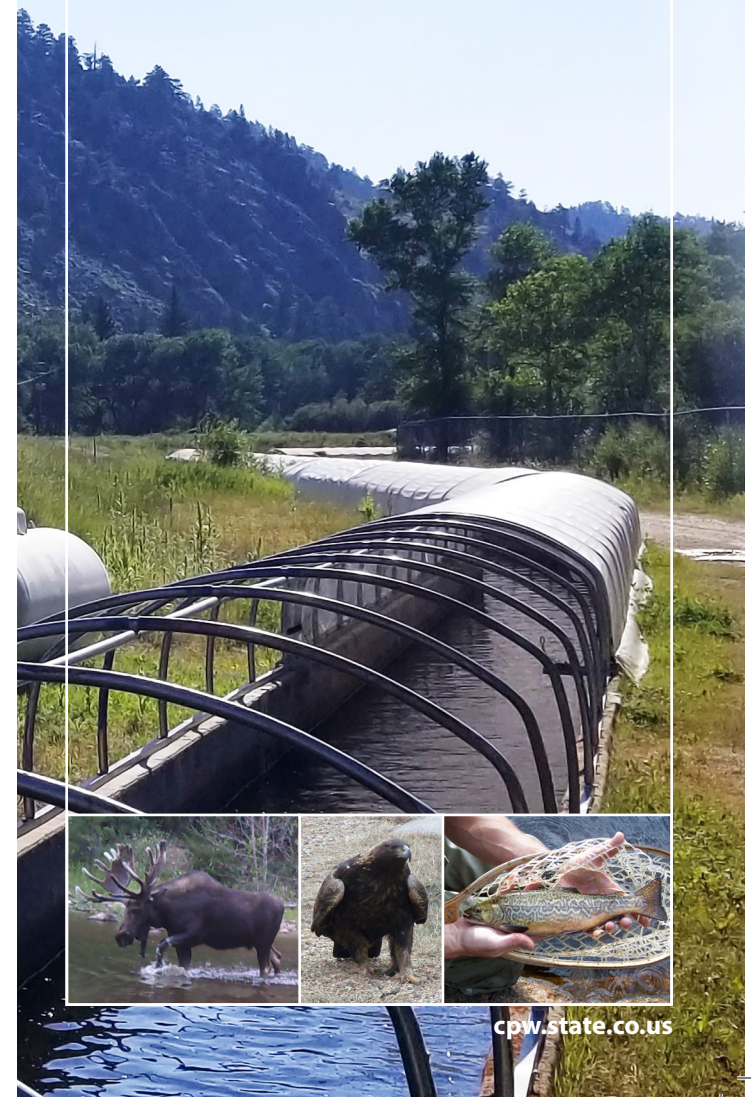
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COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Poudre River State Fish Hatchery

ENJOY YOUR STATE HATCHERIES



Poudre River Hatchery

In 1948 the state of Colorado acquired this property from the Zimmerman family. The 473 acres consisted of five earthen ponds, and in 1949, the first raceways were constructed. By 1974, this facility grew to eight earthen ponds and three raceways, with a combined total of 2,600 linear feet. Starting as a rearing facility, this hatchery was stocking near 400,000 catchable trout annually. Due to the statewide impacts of whirling disease, the facility is now an egg production (brood) unit. To help with egg production, two new hatchery buildings were built. Currently, the Poudre River State Fish Hatchery is one of the largest trout-egg producers in the state.



Brood Stock Development

The seasonal changes of the Cache la Poudre River flowing into the hatchery create the best conditions possible for fish held in the raceways. Trout rely on the seasonal variations of day length, air and water temperature, and stream flow to drive their development and spawning cycles.



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!

