

## **Oregon's New Hatchery Research Center**

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The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has been funded to build a research center at the site of the former Fall Creek Hatchery in the Alsea Basin. Roles and expectations of fish culture and hatcheries are changing in today's climate of ecosystem management, ESA listings and diminished abundance of wild stocks. The goal of this Hatchery Research Center is to develop an understanding of the mechanisms that may create differences between hatchery and wild fish and devise ways to manage the differences so that hatcheries can be used responsibly in the conservation and use of Oregon's native fish. Research will be conducted cooperatively between ODFW and Oregon State University. We will identify methods to produce hatchery products that can help rebuild wild populations, provide for consumptive fishery benefits, and minimize impacts on existing wild stocks. The information provided by the Hatchery Research Center will help ensure hatchery reform is scientifically based, effective and a wise use of public resources. We will present progress to date, initial design plans and potential research questions to be addressed. The Hatchery Research Center will be a cornerstone in Oregon's progress toward refining and reforming the hatchery tool to best meet today's expectations and challenges.