

4-H

Sportfishing Manual



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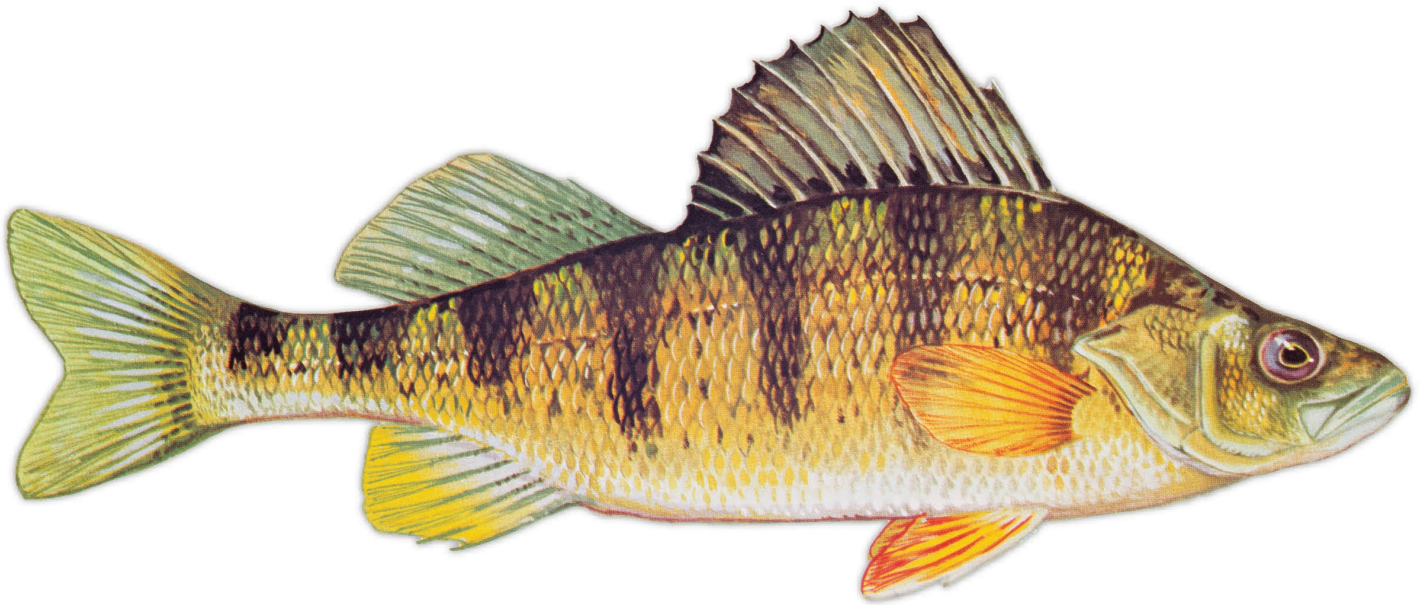
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Project Information

Introduction

Welcome to the Wyoming 4-H Sportfishing project. Wyoming has many sportfishing opportunities for anglers of all ages. Wyoming has 28 species of game fish in more than 4,000 lakes and 27,000 miles of fishable streams. The diversity ranges from brook trout in cold mountain streams to bluegill in warm farm ponds, trophy lake trout in deep lakes and reservoirs, grayling in high alpine lakes, walleye and perch, and the four native cutthroat trout species.

As a volunteer leader, you can help youths gain important life skills and support their positive growth and development through exciting and fun sportfishing activities and projects. In addition, by introducing youths to fishing, you provide:

- A lifetime activity
- An activity they can feel a sense of accomplishment about regardless of age, sex, or physical or mental abilities
- An activity they can do with friends and family
- A challenge and prestige among peers
- A sense of responsibility and respect for themselves, the community, and the environment

Benefits of Sportfishing

Fishing is a fun activity that offers countless benefits to youths. The world of sportfishing is about more than catching fish. Youths learn angling skills, how to make their own tackle, important concepts in aquatic ecology, and the relationship between fish, people, and the environment.

Involvement of parents and other individuals within the community are highly encouraged in 4-H sportfishing programs. Involving parents promotes communication between parents and children. Involving others within a community provides youths additional role models and helps youths feel connected to their community. And, maybe most importantly, sportfishing allows everyone the chance to enjoy the abundant natural resources in Wyoming and participate in an activity and learn skills that will last a lifetime.

Learning Objectives

The purpose of the 4-H program is to help young people acquire knowledge, develop life skills, and form attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing and productive members of society. This

Sportfishing Ethical Compass

Ask yourself the following questions when considering whether an action is ethical or unethical.

1. Is the action legal?
2. Will the action benefit the natural world?
3. Will the action benefit the tradition of fishing?
4. Would you be proud if the action was reported in your local newspaper or witnessed by your parents?
5. Will your actions have a positive effect on others?
6. Can you tell anyone the complete truth of your actions?

If any of these Sportfishing Ethical Compass questions are answered no, the action probably falls on the unethical side.



"...ethics is what you do in the dark, before the game warden shows up..."

Paul Quinnett, Pavlov's Trout (1993)

is accomplished by encouraging youths to set their own project and learning goals, participate in a variety of learning activities, demonstrate to others what they learned, and keep records of their many accomplishments.

Sportfishing is a vehicle to accomplish these objectives and create the next generation of environmental stewards. By keeping learning fun, the Wyoming 4-H Sportfishing Program offers wonderful opportunities with long-lasting impacts for everyone.

Angling Ethics

Ethics is a body of principles guiding right conduct and behavior. It enables us to know and choose the right thing to do. While some elements of angling ethics are in the form of laws or codes of conduct, ethics are driven internally. Laws, mandates, regulations and their enforcement are based upon ethics rather than being the source of ethics. Ethics is like an internal navigational chart and compass - a way of finding and knowing the best course of action.

The best way to teach or instill ethics in young people is to model ethical behavior. Actions such as picking up garbage in or around fishing waters, following creel limits and regulations, or a community service project all model positive ethical behavior. When planning a trip on private land in Wyoming, permission is required from landowners to access the property. Many Wyoming waters are on public lands, and these waters can provide excellent fishing opportunities but need to be shared with other anglers.

Sportfishing Slam

The Wyoming 4-H Sportfishing Slam is an exciting and challenging opportunity available to all 4-H sportfishing participants. The Sportfishing Slam Program challenges members to stretch their fishing knowledge and skills to learn more about the variety of fishing opportunities available in Wyoming. The program encourages members to identify the different watersheds in Wyoming and

determine the appropriate habitat, fish species, and bait that will allow catching a “grand slam” of fish. The sportfishing slam is when one angler catches four different species or sub-species of fish. The different categories are: trout slam, pan slam, lake slam, river slam, one lure slam, one fly slam, silver double, and hatch slam. (see appendix 2)

Members who complete the sportfishing slams and send in the verification sheet (see appendix 2) with the appropriate signature, photographs, and information will receive a color certificate recognizing them for their accomplishments.

Sportfishing Project Overview

The four main components of the Wyoming 4-H Sportfishing Program are angling skills, tackle crafting, aquatic ecology, and fisheries management. The sportfishing project has so many exciting opportunities - you could meet every week for years and never run out of something fun and exciting to do. From creating lures or flies to exploring the various fish habitats in Wyoming, the possibilities are endless; however, to be successful on a regular basis, anglers also need to know how to identify the variety fish species and have a basic understanding of fish behavior. They need to understand how to

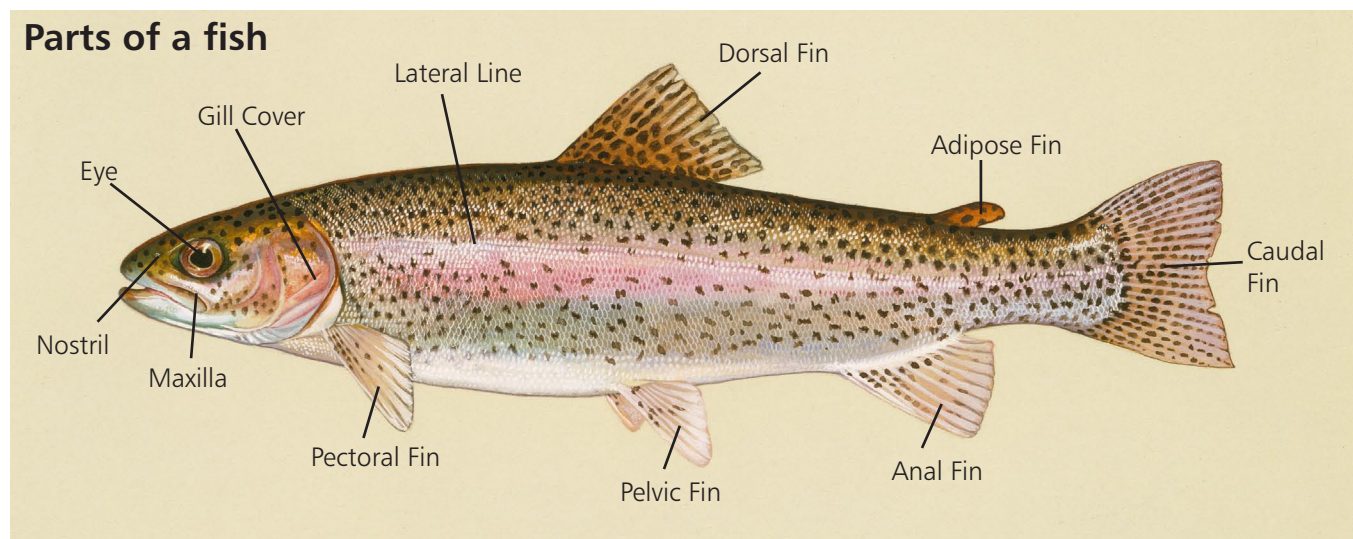
make ethical decisions and have an understanding of fish management; therefore, you can see the importance of working together to make sure all elements of the sportfishing program are included so each youth can become a “complete angler.”

Angling Skills

Fishing is a simple activity, but, as a leader, you can introduce numerous dimensions into fishing activities. Through the Angling Skills discipline, youths will learn knot tying, basic fishing equipment knowledge, casting skills, selection of bait, and the importance of casting for accuracy.



Parts of a fish

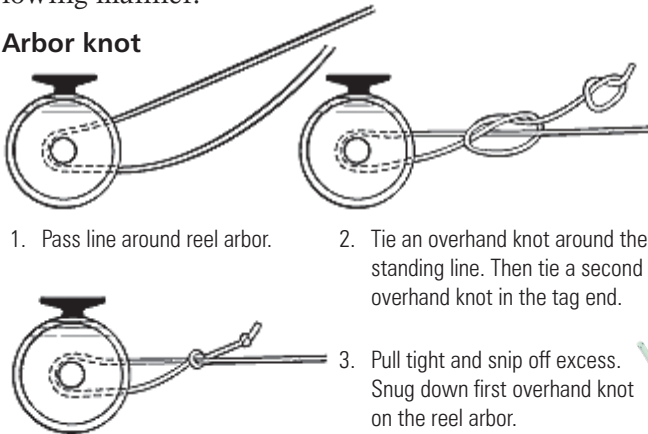


Fishing Knots

Knots are an essential part of fishing. Knots determine the quality of the connection between the angler and the fish. The type of knot determines the potential strength of the connection, and the way knots are tied can affect their actual strength. Learning to select and tie the appropriate knot is a skill all accomplished anglers should achieve.

Attaching Line to Reels - Whenever reels must be loaded with line, the first knot that must be tied is one that attaches the line to the reel's arbor or spool. Although not a particularly strong one, the **arbor knot** is used to attach a line to the reel. It is basically a pair of overhand knots tied in the following manner.

Arbor knot

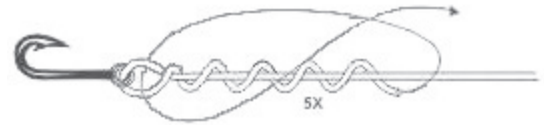


A much stronger connection can be made by using an **improved clinch knot** around the standing end of the line and drawing it tight.

Knots for Attaching Terminal Tackle

One of the basic knots for attaching terminal tackle is the **improved clinch knot**. This common knot is used for attaching line to terminal tackle, particularly with monofilament lines.

Clinch knot



1. Thread end of the line through the eye of the hook, swivel or lure. Double back and make five or more turns around the standing line. Bring the end of the line through the first loop formed behind the eye, then through the big loop.

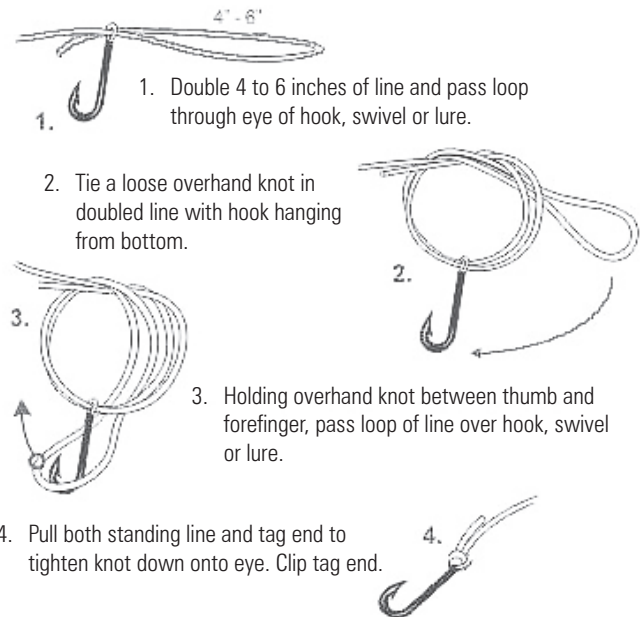


2. Wet knot and pull slightly on the tag end to draw up coils. Pull on the standing line to form knot with coils pressed neatly together. Slide tight against eye and clip tag end.

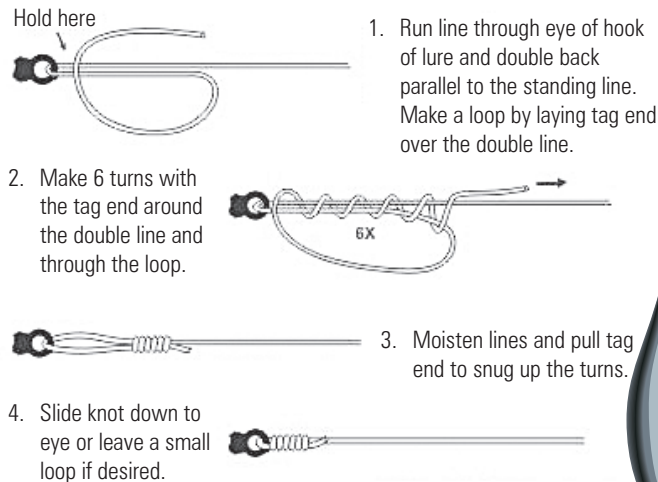


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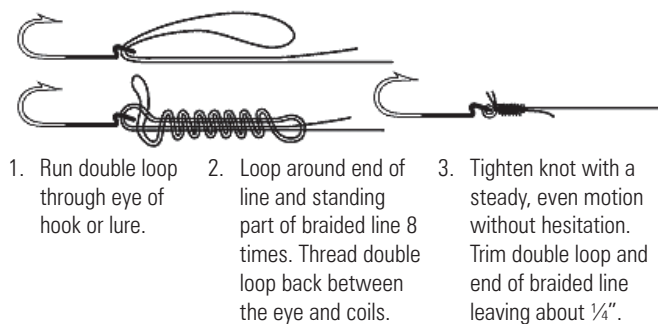
Palomar knot - The Palomar knot is both simple to tie and has outstanding knot strength.



Uni knot – The uni knot is similar to the clinch knot and very effective with monofilament lines.

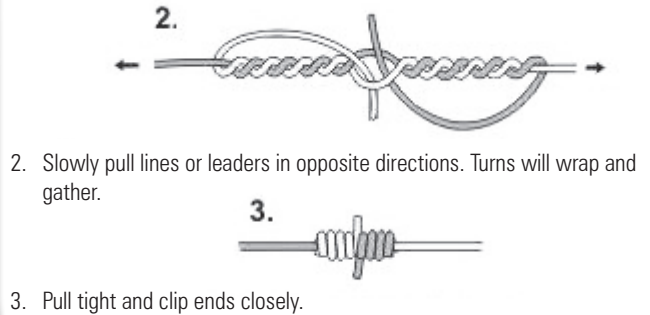
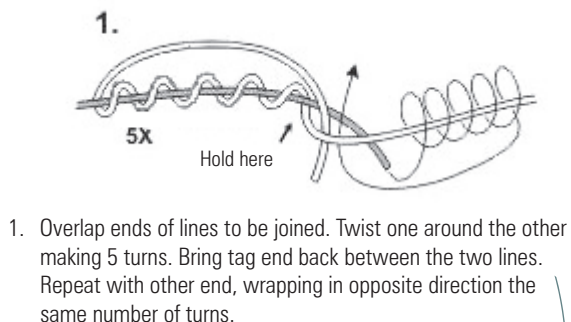


Braid knot – The braid knot is a special knot designed with using the braided lines in mind.

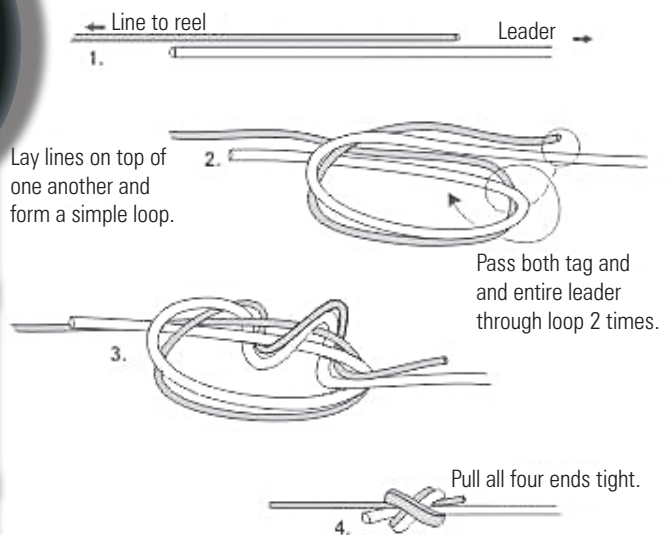


Knots for Connecting Lines - Every angler encounters the need to connect one line to another. For those nearly equal in diameter, one of the best connections is the **blood knot**. Attempting to connect lines of much greater difference in diameter can result in knots that slip or weak knots that do not carry the line strength of either line.

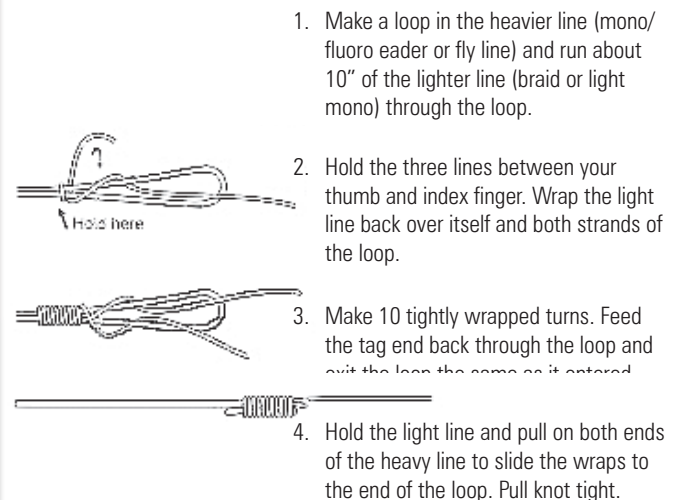
Blood knot



Surgeon's knot – The surgeon's knot is similar in appearance to the blood knot but is tied in a different manner.



Albright special knot – One of the best knots for lines very different in diameter is the Albright special. While useful with spinning lines and monofilament leaders, it is most often used in fly fishing.



Fishing Equipment

There are four basic types of equipment used for fishing in Wyoming. They include spin casting, spinning, bait casting, and fly casting. Leaders need to remember in the early stages of sportfishing skills development the method or choice of equipment is not as critical as results.

Spin Casting

Spin casting reels may be described as a “closed-face spinning reel.” It has a nose cone or hood that houses the line and stationary spool. On the cast, the line is first released from the spool by depressing a lever with the thumb. The line then passes from the spool through the hole in the nose cone or hood once the lever is released. Spin casting reels are designed chiefly to be mounted on the top of a standard spin-casting rod. A spin casting rod has small line guides and a straight handle.

Spin casting tackle is ideal for beginning anglers because it works well and is easy to use; however, spin casting tackle is not limited to beginners. Spin casting tackle is used often while fishing for smaller trout, bluegill, crappie, and other panfish.

Spinning

The spinning reel is often referred to as an “open face reel,” since the line and spool are exposed at the front of the reel. The spinning reel’s spool is primarily stationary on both the cast and the retrieve, except it oscillates up and down



as the bail turns allowing the line to wind evenly on the spool rather than piling up in one spot. The momentum of the cast lure pulls line from the spool.

Spinning reels are properly mounted under the rod. Today, most reels have handles that are easily changed for left-handed people. Spinning rods have a straight handle with large line guides on the bottom.

Casting with a spinning outfit is similar to using spin cast equipment. Some people find spin casting just as easy and others just a little more difficult. Spinning rods and reels allow for longer casting distances because more line can be quickly removed from the reel.

Fly Casting

Fly casting for most people is a means to an end - catching a fish and having a good time. Fly fishing doesn’t require expertise or perfect form to catch fish. Fly casting form can be developed through practice and patience.

As with other methods, the concept is to deliver the lure of choice to the fish and have the fish fooled into taking what is assumed a meal. Fly casting is unique in that it is the **weight of the line** (not the lure) that carries your offering to the fish. Casting a long line is not necessary when learning.

Twenty-five or 30 feet is plenty for the beginning angler. Most fish are caught at this distance or less. Mastering the basic technique is most important in fly casting.

Bait casting

Unlike fixed spools on spin cast and spinning reels, bait casting reels have a revolving spool. Once the inertia of the spool builds up, the force propels the line off the spool. That process produces long casts. The revolving spool allows the line to come off the spool on the cast in the same way it went on, helping to prevent twist in the line.



Bait casting reels handle heavier lines without giving up casting efficiency. They are able to adapt to a wide range of lures and lure weights. These factors and their durability have made these reels the choice of bass, inshore saltwater, and pike or musky anglers. The main drawback to bait casting reels is they require the angler to control the spool throughout the cast with their thumb. If the spool is allowed to over-run the progress of the lure, the result is a backlash or “birds nest” in the line. Many anglers give up before learning how to use bait casting tackle because they tire of the involved process of picking out the loose loops of line. Never fear - everyone gets a backlash from time to time, even with today’s easy-to-use reels.

Casting Accuracy

Many beginning anglers like to see how far they can cast; however, distance without accuracy is useless. Accuracy is the ability to cast lure/bait to the desired spot. Many times, the best fishing spots are

around structures such as trees, brush, boat docks, piers, and rocks. Sometimes there is only one chance at hitting the spot because a misplaced lure may spook the fish. Casting accuracy practice does not have to be on the water. Practice can be done in a number of places, including a yard. Never practice with hooks. Either use a casting plug or remove the hooks from lures.

Anglers rarely need to make long casts. Some anglers fishing from the shoreline think the farther they get their bait, the better chance they’ll have of catching fish; however, in many situations, the fish may be within five feet of shore. There are some

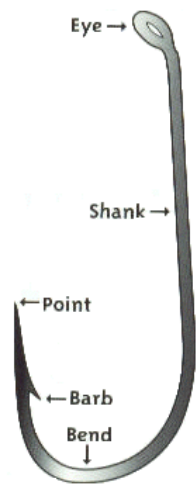
situations in which casting long distances is important. When fishing in deep water, making a long cast is important because the lure will stay deeper longer. Usually, you have figured out what depth the fish are at and are fishing parallel to the bank so the lure will stay in that depth the maximum amount of time.



Tackle Crafting

Tackle crafting involves a wide variety of skills and interests. Some are simple and easily mastered. Others are complex and require a wide variety of skills. These activities may lead to entrepreneurial endeavors, careers, or simply expanding the recreational content of time spent fishing and preparing to fish.

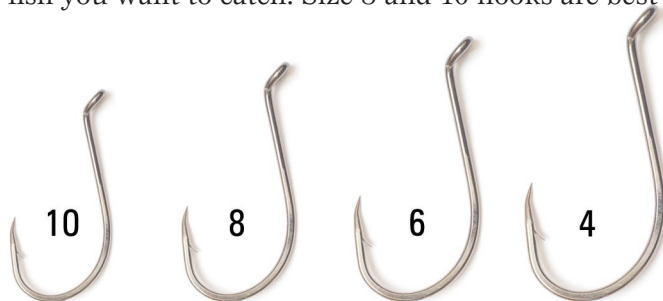
Hooks



Fishing hooks come in all shapes and sizes. They are probably the most important part of your fishing equipment. It's a good idea to have a small assortment of hooks for various fishing situations.

Many people who fish for fun (catch and release) use barbless hooks. Though barbless hooks don't always land as many fish, they are more fish-friendly, and they make releasing fish much easier.

Fish hooks are numbered by size - the smaller the number, the larger the hook. Look for hooks in sizes 4-10. Use a hook that fits the mouth of the fish you want to catch. Size 8 and 10 hooks are best



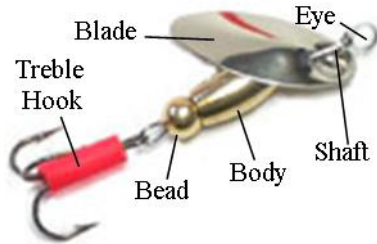
for smaller fish such as crappies, sunfish, and brook trout. Size 4 and 6 are good for larger fish such as walleyes, lake trout, and northern pike.

Spinners

Spinners are lures or attractors with a blade that rotates on a shaft. They are attractive to a wide variety of game fish either on their own or in combination with other lures. As their name implies, they feature a spinning or rotating blade that creates both vibration and flash movement to attract fish.

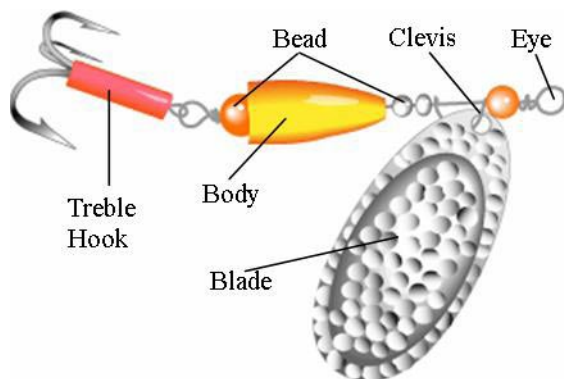
In-Line Spinners

Blades designed to rotate directly on the shaft are called in-line style and are used for in-line spinners.



French Spinners

Blades designed to be used with a clevis (a loop of metal or plastic) that rides on the shaft and permits the blade to rotate are called French-style blades.



Flies

Fly tying can be a lucrative business but, for many fishing enthusiasts, it is a popular hobby. Fly tying is the process of making very lightweight fishing lures by tying or winding materials on a hook to imitate aquatic insects. It involves some basic skills that are developed through practice. Once basic techniques are mastered, beginners can attempt patterns of greater difficulty.

Dry Flies

Dry flies are flies that float. They usually mimic adult insects emerging and drying their wings so

they can fly or returning to the water to lay eggs. Since dry flies are the most fun to use (you get to see the fish take the fly), more fly patterns have been designed as dry patterns than any of the rest.



(Example: Mosquito)

Wet Flies or Emergers

These are flies that don't float and are used to fish below the surface of the water. They usually represent nymphs swimming toward the surface or trying to break through the surface to become adults. All aquatic insects live below the surface so knowing how to tie wet flies is very useful.



(Example: Bead head woolly bugger)

Other Terminal Tackle

There are many other types and varieties of terminal tackle not specifically addressed in the tackle crafting section; however, the success of a fishing experience may be enhanced by learning about the different tackle available and their proper use.

Some of the different varieties of terminal tackle include:

- Spoons 
- Bobbers 
- Casting bubbles 
- Streamers 
- Poppers 
- Crank bait 
- Jigs 
- Plugs 
- Split-shot sinker 
- Egg sinker 
- Swivels 

Aquatic Ecology

Aquatic ecology is the study of aquatic organisms, the way they interact, where they live, and the things they do. To catch fish, an angler must first find them. Factors like water temperature, oxygen concentration, and turbidity influence the types of fish present, their activity, and their location. Each

fish species is adapted to a variety of conditions. When those conditions are ideal, they thrive. When they are marginal, the fish may survive but show poor growth or vigor. When conditions are beyond the range the fish can tolerate, it must move or die.

Leaders are encouraged to correlate what young people learn in aquatic ecology to the skills necessary to become a more skilled angler. An example of this is in tackle crafting. Youths can better relate to the wooly bugger pattern (**see diagram page 13**) after seeing invertebrates collected from Wyoming waters. Adding more specific patterns in a fly-tying session automatically correlates to the identification of specific aquatic insects. Another example is testing different bodies of water to determine the health of the water and identifying the fish species that live there. Wyoming has both warm-water and cold-water habitats and a variety of game fish available to catch.

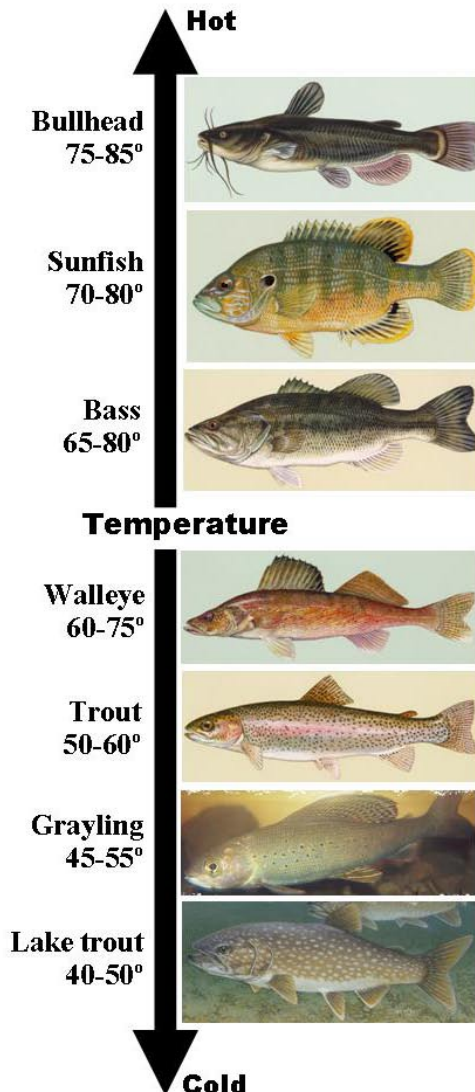
Water Quality

If water quality is good, more species of fish and larger populations can be supported than if water quality is poor. High-quality water will have a high concentration of oxygen, will be relatively free of suspended solids, except for algae and plankton, and will be moderate in temperature during the hottest part of the year. Low-quality water may be low in oxygen and be highly acidic, creating conditions in which fish cannot survive. Low-quality water may also contain high sediment loads or heavy concentrations of pollutants.

The impact of water quality on fish differs with the species and its tolerance. Some fish can live in extremely low-quality water. Carp and gar, for example, can survive in water that is very warm, low in oxygen, and high in turbidity. Trout cannot. They require relatively clean, cold water with high levels of oxygen. In general, fish are more active, consume more oxygen, and feed more often when water is at or near optimum levels for quality.

Water Temperature

Fish are considered “cold-blooded” animals - animals whose body temperature approximates the temperature around them. Large sharks, tuna, or similar species may produce enough heat by muscle



contractions to keep their temperature a few degrees above the water, but they are the exception. Most fish species are small enough their temperature and that of the water are very close.

In general, fish may be divided into several groups based upon temperature preferences. Cold-water

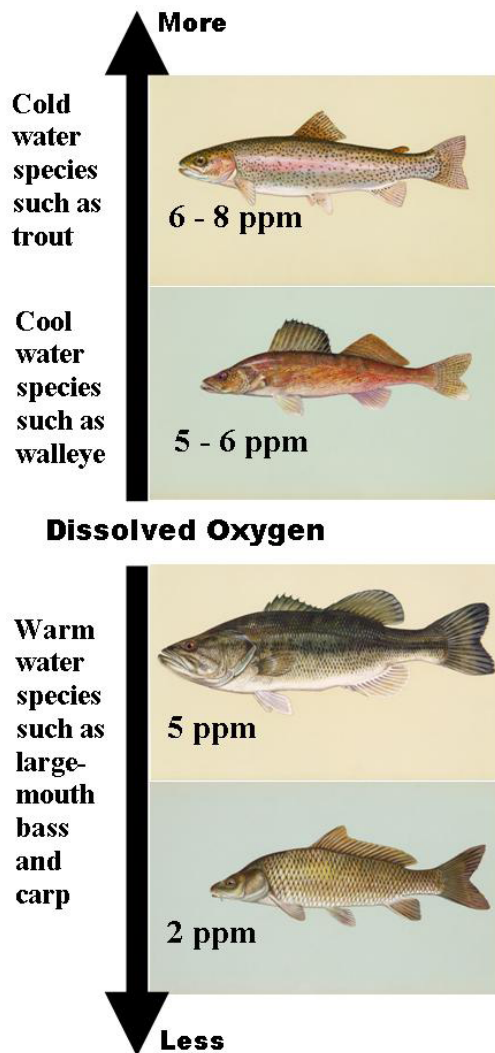
species (e.g. trout, whitefish, and grayling) are adapted to relatively cold waters (40°F - 60°F). These fish can tolerate very cold water, but they generally cannot adapt to water much higher than 65°F. Cool-water fish (e.g. smallmouth bass, northern pike, yellow perch, and walleye) are most active at moderate temperatures (55°F - 75°F), but they can tolerate higher upper limits than can cold-water fish. Warm-water fish (e.g. bluegill, largemouth bass) are adapted to withstand higher water temperatures (65°F - 80°F), growing and reproducing better as temperatures increase. Tropical fish may thrive at still higher temperatures. Some are even adapted to very low oxygen levels, being able to gulp air at the surface to supply their oxygen needs.

Clearly, the temperature preferences and adaptations of each fish species can have an influence on their location. For example, consider a deep lake with a mixed fish population. If the surface water is about 80°F, one might expect to find bass and bluegills or other sunfishes in the warmer shallow waters. Yellow perch might be slightly deeper. Cold-water fish like lake trout and grayling would be found in deeper waters. Anglers seeking cold-water fish would need to adjust his or her techniques to the depth at which the fish were seeking preferred temperatures.

Oxygen Concentration

Oxygen is just as important to fish as it is to land animals. Without adequate oxygen supplies, fish cannot survive. Some fish species require highly oxygenated water while others can survive in water with very low oxygen concentrations. Oxygen in water is measured in parts per million (ppm). The amount of oxygen dissolved in water is usually in the range of 3 to 10 ppm. Commonly accepted lower limits for fish survival are 4 ppm for most warm-water fishes (bass, crappie, catfish, etc.) and 6 ppm for cold-water species (salmon, steelhead, trout and sturgeon).

Dissolved oxygen disperses into the water from the surface or enters as a result of turbulence. Wind, wave action, turbulent flow over rapids or waterfalls tend to oxygenate water. Oxygen is much more soluble in cold water than in warm water, so oxygen concentrations in cold water are usually much higher than in warm water under similar conditions.



Many factors reduce the amount of oxygen in the water. All living things breathe, consuming oxygen as they use energy to survive. Many kinds of pollutants reduce oxygen supplies in the water as well. Some chemicals trap oxygen or consume it as they react. Others may result in consumption of oxygen

as they are broken down by bacteria or other decomposers. Sewage contains nutrients that serve as fertilizers. They cause algae blooms that can cause severe oxygen depletion when the plants die and begin to decompose. Under those conditions, fish kills can take place. Thermal pollution, the addition of excess heat to the water through industrial use, also reduces the amount of oxygen water can hold.

It is important to remember not all bodies of water are meant to hold or sustain fish even if they are in a pristine environment. For example, shallow lakes produce a lot of aquatic plants that during the day produce oxygen through photosynthesis; however, at night the opposite occurs. The oxygen is used by the plants and carbon dioxide is released making it very difficult to sustain fish.

Oxygen levels are not necessarily the same throughout a body of water. Fish will seek areas with adequate oxygen for their needs, perhaps moving long distances to find suitable conditions.

Turbidity

Turbidity is the amount of suspended solids in the water. It is usually measured by the amount of light penetration through the water. A major factor contributing to turbidity is the amount of silt or other soil particles suspended in the water. Water-borne soil can come from bank erosion, snowpack runoff, disturbance of the bottom sediments, and from animal and human activity.

The impacts of sediments are many. While suspended in the water, soil particles can clog or damage gill membranes in fish or reduce feeding success by sight-hunting predators. As the sediment drops out of suspension, it can smother eggs, bury spawning sites, eliminate cover (like rocks or rubble), and bury aquatic vegetation. The result is a reduction in diversity of fish species present.

Suspended algae or plankton may cloud the water. This turbidity may be taken as a sign of high productivity. Generally, rich aquatic environments are

somewhat turbid, while those with lower levels of productivity are clear. These more productive waters may show higher growth rates for fish that can tolerate the conditions.

Fisheries Management

Although other sportfishing activities may have more appeal with youths, there is no topic more important to the future of fisheries resources than how people interact with those resources. If our goal is to help youths develop into responsible anglers who care for our aquatic resources, then we need to help them understand how people are interrelated with the resource.

Fisheries management includes the processes used in decision making about fish populations, their aquatic environments, and the people who interact with fish and aquatic systems. Fisheries managers make decisions about people as much as they make decisions about the ecology of systems.

So, where does the angler fit into this scenario? Because anglers are among the most important customers of fisheries management agencies, they have an important say in fisheries goals. In fact, the majority of most state budgets for fisheries

managers comes from anglers who purchase fishing licenses and equipment. Wyoming is no different. Currently, about 90 percent of the funding received by the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (G&F) comes from sales of licenses, stamps, application fees, preference points, and federal funds allocated on the basis of the number of license holders.

Fisheries professionals use information gathered from fish population studies and public surveys to set specific regulations for the purpose of protecting and enhancing fisheries and to help people enjoy fishing success. To help youths learn more about fisheries managers and the work related to fisheries, it is important they understand population goals and the relationship to creel limits. Understanding the effect of habitat and water quality on the health of the fish population is important. While teaching fisheries management, consider inviting local or regional resource people such as fisheries managers, private-sector resource people (bait and tackle retailers, fishing guides, aquiculture farmers) and others to enhance learning activities and expose youths to role models and career opportunities.



Appendix 1 - Sportfishing exhibit ideas

» Create an exhibit showing completed sportfishing slams

» Exhibit three best tied flies

» Create a poster showing how to fly cast

» Create a tackle box museum – explaining the uses for the various tackle available

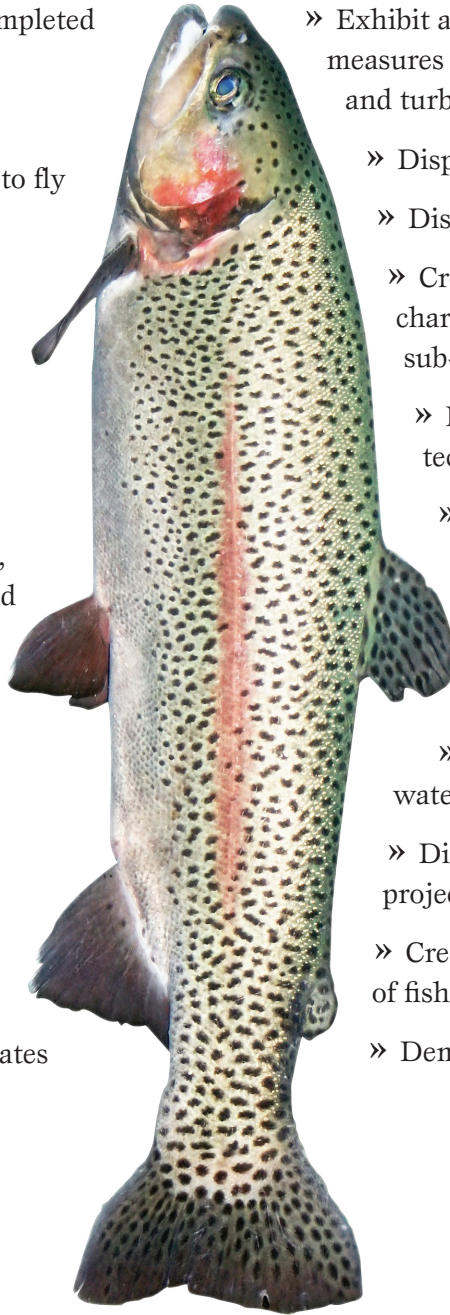
» Display best tied wet and dry flies

» Design a poster showing the parts of a spinning, spin casting, fly casting or bait casting rod and reel

» Keep and exhibit a fishing journal detailing the bodies of water, time fish caught, and species caught

» Display best designed and made French and in-line spinners

» Create a display showing the most common aquatic invertebrates from a favorite fishing spot



» Exhibit a chart or display showing the various measures of water quality (oxygen, temperature, and turbidity) and chart favorite fishing spot

» Display a mount of your best fish

» Display your custom-built fishing rod

» Create a display showing the characteristics of the different species and sub-species of fish

» Demonstrate the different casting techniques

» Demonstrate how each fly imitates a specific aquatic insect

» Demonstrate how to rig fishing tackle for the different species of fish

» Create a display and explain what a watershed is and why it is important

» Display a completed community service project

» Create a display showing the habitat need of fish

» Demonstrate how fish breath

Appendix 2 – 4-H Sportfishing Slam





Wyoming 4-H Sportfishing & Wyoming Game and Fish *Sportfishing Slam*



The Sportfishing Slam program challenges members to stretch their knowledge and skill to learn more about the variety of fish species, habitat, and fishing opportunities in Wyoming. The Sportfishing Slam program encourages members to identify the different watersheds in Wyoming and determine the appropriate fish species, habitat, and bait that will allow them to catch a “grand slam” (4) of the specified fish species or sub-species. *(example: 1 Brook, 1 Brown, 1 Rainbow, and 1 Kokanee completes the “Trout Slam”)*

The Sportfishing Slam categories are:

Trout Slam – catch any four separate species or sub-species listed: brook, brown, rainbow, kokanee, cutthroat, golden, lake (Mackinaw) trout

Pan Slam – catch any four separate species or sub-species listed: bluegill, green sunfish, pumpkinseed, yellow perch, rock bass, crappie

Lake Slam – catch four separate species or sub-species from lakes (can be from multiple lakes)

River Slam – catch four separate species or sub-species from rivers or streams

Lure Slam – catch four separate species or sub-species using one type of artificial lure

Fly Slam – catch four separate species or sub-species using one type of fly

Silver Slam Double – catch any two of: large or smallmouth bass, catfish, walleye, tiger musky, pike, sauger, ling

Hatch Slam – visit four separate Wyoming fish hatcheries or rearing stations

Members who successfully complete the Sportfishing Slam(s) and send the verification sheet with the appropriate signature, photos, and information will receive a color certificate showing the four species caught recognizing you for your accomplishments.

Senior aged 4-H members (14-19) who complete three of the slams will be eligible for and may attend Wyoming’s Sportfishing award trip. This trip will allow members the opportunity to experience fishing outside of Wyoming and visit selected areas of the United States.

**Wyoming 4-H Sportfishing &
Wyoming Game and Fish
Sportfishing Slam Verification**

Angler's name: _____ **Age:** _____

Mailing address: _____ **County:** _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

Verifying leader's name: _____

Signature

Select a category:

Trout Slam
1 Lure Slam

Pan Slam
1 Fly Slam

Lake Slam
Silver Double

River Slam
Hatch Slam

Insert photo here

Insert photo here

Species

Species

Location: _____

Location: _____

Date caught: _____

Date caught: _____

Insert photo here

Insert photo here

Species

Species

Location: _____

Location: _____

Date caught: _____

Date caught: _____

Sportfishing Slam

Rules and Regulations

1. The Sportfishing Slam contest is open to all 4-H members enrolled in the Sportfishing project.
2. A “Slam” is defined as an individual participant catching four different species or subspecies of fish or visiting four different hatcheries or rearing stations. Example: an angler catches a yellow perch, a bluegill, a rock bass, and a pumpkinseed completes the requirements for the pan slam.
3. All four species or subspecies of fish do not have to be caught in the same year. The completion of the sportfishing slam(s) can be accomplished anytime throughout the year and over multiple years if needed.
4. Members must complete the verification sheet with the appropriate signatures and photos to document completion.
5. Participants must submit a photo of them with each of the four species or subspecies of fish or at the hatchery or rearing station.
6. All entries must contain a verifying signature from a volunteer Sportfishing leader.
7. Verification sheets with photos need to be sent to:

University of Wyoming
State 4-H Office
1000 E. University Ave.
Dept. 3354
Laramie, WY 82071

Sportfishing Award Trip

8. Only senior aged (14 and up) 4-H members will be eligible for and may attend the Sportfishing award trip.
9. Participants must complete three separate slams to become eligible for the award trip.
10. Members are only eligible to participate in the award trip once.

Appendix 3 - Wyoming fish hatcheries and rearing stations

Information about each of the Wyoming G&F state hatcheries was compiled by the Wyoming Game and Fish and available on the G&F Web site (<http://gr.state.wy.uw>).

Auburn Fish Hatchery

P.O. Box 130
2430 Fish Hatchery Road
Auburn, WY 83111
(208) 225-3457

Located 10 miles west of Grover on Wyo. Highway 237, then follow the signs. This hatchery is actually located in the Caribou National Forest in Idaho. It produces fish for Wyoming under a permit first issued by the U.S. Forest Service in 1941. Species of fish cultured are Kokanee salmon, splake, and Snake River cutthroat trout as brood stock. Trout fishing near the hatchery is available at all the Salt River access areas along Highway 89.

Boulder Rearing Station

P.O. Box 36
Boulder Rearing Station Road
Boulder, WY 82923
(307) 537-5439

Located 15 miles south of Pinedale on Highway 191, then 1.5 miles east on Boulder Rearing Station Road. The main species of fish raised at Boulder are rainbow and brown trout; however, Kokanee salmon have also been a part of the production. Trout fishing is available at three nearby ponds and along a one-mile stretch of the East Fork River.

Clark's Fork Fish Hatchery

190 Road 8VE
Clark, WY 82435-8115
(307) 645-3146

Located approximately 29 miles north of Cody on Wyo. Highway 120, at mile post 129.5 turn west on County Road 1AB. Follow 1AB for 5 miles, then

travel east on County Road 8VE for 1.9 miles. Fish species reared at Clark's Fork include rainbow, brown, Yellowstone cutthroat, and Snake River cutthroat trout, and grayling. Angling opportunities are on the Clark's Fork River for trout and grayling.

Dan Speas Rearing Station

P.O. Box 8200
Speas Road
Casper, WY 82604
(307) 473-8890

Located approximately 15 miles west of Casper and 4.5 miles off Highway 220 on North Bessemer Road. Species reared at Speas include Snake River cutthroat, brown trout, rainbow trout, and kokanee salmon. Fishing for trout and walleye is available nearby at Alcova Reservoir.

Daniel Fish Hatchery

P.O. Box 168
239 Pape County Road
Daniel, WY 83115
(307) 859-8252

Located 15 miles northwest of Pinedale on U.S. Highway 191 and 2.4 miles west on Sublette County Road 23-150 (Pape Road). The Daniel facility performs the important function of incubating grayling and golden trout eggs. The hatchery also rears rainbow and brook trout and maintains brood stock for Colorado River and Bonneville cutthroat trout. Fishing is available on the Green River accesses above Warren Bridge or off the county road approximately 1 mile above the hatchery.



Dubois Fish Hatchery

P.O. Box 704
5 Fish Hatchery Court
Dubois, WY 82513
(307) 455-2431

Located 5 miles east of Dubois on Highway 26, then 1.5 miles south on Jakeys Fork Creek. The concrete raceways and two dirt rearing ponds support rainbow, cutthroat, and brown trout. Incubators at Dubois produce several million eggs each year for use at other rearing stations. There are plenty of trout fishing opportunities in the nearby Wind River or in the many alpine lakes including Torrey, Ring, and Trail lakes.

Story Fish Hatchery and Visitor Center

P.O. Box 160
311R Fish Hatchery Road
Story, WY 82842
(307) 683-2234

Located 2 miles west of Story on Wyo. Highway 194. Story hatchery maintains two lake trout (mackinaw) brood stocks. In addition, it produces Eagle Lake rainbow trout and splake. Each year, eggs from lake trout are fertilized with milt from male brook trout to produce splake, a cross between the two species. Trout fishing is available on Lake DeSmet and South Piney Creek.

Ten Sleep Fish Hatchery

118 D Highway 345
Ten Sleep, WY 82442
(307) 366-2404

Located 9 miles east of Ten Sleep on U.S. Highway 16. Fish species raised include rainbow, brook, splake, Yellowstone cutthroat and Snake River cutthroat trout. The hatchery is the new home of the endemic Yellowstone cutthroat brood stock.

Tillett Springs Rearing Station

P.O. Box 416
195 County Road 16
Tillett, WY 82431
(307) 548-6650

Travel to the station by driving 2.5 miles east of Lovell on U.S. Highway 14A, then 9 miles northwest on Wyo. Highway 37. Continue 5 miles on Crooked Creek Road. Tillett Springs raises a number of different species of trout. A brood stock of Eagle Lake rainbow trout is held in one of the large earthen ponds. The Eagle Lake is a strain of rainbow trout purported to grow larger and live longer than other strains of rainbow. There is plenty of good trout fishing nearby in the alpine lakes of the Big Horn Mountains.

Wigwam Rearing Station

2420 Highway 16 East
Ten Sleep, WY 82442
(307) 366-2217

Located 4 miles east of Ten Sleep on U.S. Highway 16, the Wigwam Rearing Station supports one of the largest trout spawning operations in the state. Some of the fish species reared at the complex include rainbow, Yellowstone cutthroat, Snake River cutthroat, and Snake River cutthroat. Trout fishing is available on Ten Sleep Creek.

In addition to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department hatcheries and rearing stations listed above, Wyoming is home to two national fish hatcheries run by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Jackson National Fish Hatchery

1500 Fish Hatchery Road
Jackson, WY 83001
(307) 733-2510

Jackson National Fish Hatchery is 4 miles north of Jackson on the National Elk Refuge. The Snake River cutthroat trout is reared. Recently, the Sleeping Indian Pond was added to the hatchery grounds for public fishing enjoyment.

Saratoga National Fish Hatchery

P. O. Box 665 – County Road 207
Saratoga, WY 82331
(307) 326-5662

Saratoga National Fish Hatchery is 4 miles northeast of Saratoga on 120 acres of land. Brood stock trout species being reared at Saratoga NFH include lake trout, brown trout, and rainbow trout.

