Feather River Fish Hatchery

Feather River Fish Hatchery raises Chinook Salmon and steelhead along the Feather River, just below Lake Oroville. An underwater viewing window displays migrating salmon or steelhead during the approximate dates of mid-September through June. Visitors will enjoy their time at Feather River Fish Hatchery any time of year and great fishing is available on Lake Oroville and several nearby rivers.

Visit

Location: 5 Table Mountain Boulevard, Oroville, CA 95965 Hours: Open 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Contact: (530) 538-2222, FeatherRiver@wildlife.ca.gov Directions: From Highway 70, take the Grand Avenue / Nelson Avenue exit. Continue east on Grand Avenue. Make a right turn onto Table Mountain Boulevard and continue S/B down the hill toward the river. The entrances to the 9/19/25, 2:24 PM Feather River Fish Hatchery https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Hatcheries/Feather-River 1/3 Successful steelhead angler! hatchery are just before you cross over the river. MAP The Feather River Fish Hatchery is divided into 2 sections. The fish barrier dam, observation platform and underwater viewing are located on the east side of Table Mountain Boulevard. The underwater viewing windows are best for viewing fish from mid-September through June. The spawning room, hatchery and rearing ponds are located on the west side of Table Mountain Boulevard. Salmon spawning operations can be observed Monday through Friday beginning midSeptember until mid-November. Steelhead spawning can be observed mid-December through mid-February. Fish are present in the rearing ponds all year. The annual Oroville Salmon Festival is held on the 4 Saturday of September at the Feather River Fish Hatchery and downtown Oroville.

Species of Fish Raised at Feather River Fish Hatchery

Chinook Salmon

Chinook Salmon have seventeen distinctive runs in California. These runs vary in many ways, and are categorized into six evolutionarily significant units. Some units have been listed as threatened species. Spring-run and Fall-run Chinook Salmon Feather River Hatchery salmon spawn, rear and release spring- and fall-run Chinook salmon of Feather River origin.

Steelhead Trout

Steelhead Trout are an anadromous form of the Rainbow Trout that go to the ocean for one or more years and then return to spawn upstream, similar to a salmon. They differ from salmon in that a steelhead may spawn and return to the ocean, and then spawn again in another year.

History of the Feather River Hatchery

Throughout the years, many attempts have been made to artificially spawn salmon, shad and trout in the Feather River and its drainages. Prior to construction of the Oroville Dam, most of these historic fish hatcheries were located on the Eastern side of the mountain range, approx. 100 miles northeast of the current site of Feather River Hatchery.

Yuba River Shad Hatchery 1916

This hatchery was built on the Feather River, near Yuba City, to address concerns with the overfishing of shad in the lower Sacramento River. Unfortunately the first run of Shad did not produce enough eggs to supply them and due to a light run in the river, the hatchery closed after only being in operation for one season.

Domingo Springs 1916 - 1937

Built in 1916, Domingo Springs was built to supply fish to the lakes and streams in Lassen National Park and the surrounding area. In 1937 the hatchery was damaged due to floods. Because the cold water of the hatchery caused slow growth of eggs and fish, the damage was never repaired and the station was abandoned. The equipment was packed up again and moved to Haskell Creek in Plumas County near Clio. Here the water and weather was found to be favorable and in 1924 the first permanent building was erected.

Feather River Hatchery 1924 – 1953

Built in 1924, a 60 trough hatchery building and employee cabins were built. Situated four miles from Clio in Plumas County, on the Western Pacific Railroad, the hatchery operated for 9/19/25, 2:23 PM History of the Feather River Hatchery https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Hatcheries/Feather-River/History 1/4 nearly 30 years. In 1953 the hatchery work was abandoned, considered outdated. From here, there is a 14 year gap in hatchery work on the Feather River.

Feather River Fish Hatchery 1967 - present

In 1961 the Department of Water Resources began to build the Oroville Dam. This massive rock fill project altered the flow of the Feather River, and to compensate the DWR worked with the Department of Fish and Wildlife to build a hatchery. Average runs of 51,000 fish a year return to this hatchery.