



Coleman National Fish Hatchery – Photo Credit: Winetta Owens

The Coleman National Fish Hatchery, part of the Shasta/Trinity River Division of the Central Valley Project, is located about 11 miles southeast of Anderson, Calif. The hatchery was established in 1942 to mitigate the loss of natural salmon spawning grounds resulting from the construction of Shasta and Keswick Dams. The two major species the hatchery raises are Chinook salmon and steelhead trout.

Juvenile salmon are placed in ponds after 30 days in the nursery ponds. They are fed a diet rich in protein and lipids, primarily composed of fish meal and oil and supplemented with essential vitamins and minerals. In April, fall-run Chinook salmon are released into Battle Creek. The Chinook salmon are released when they are about 3 inches long and when 90 of them equal a pound. The steelhead trout are reared in large raceways from June until January and released directly into the Sacramento River when their length is approximately 8-10 inches.

The Salmon Festival has been celebrated at the hatchery since 1991 in an effort to increase outreach and visitor attendance. During this one-day festival, the third Saturday in October, over 10,000 visitors are attracted to the hatchery. Many other federal, state and private exhibitors participate with a wide array of information pertinent to natural resource issues. Visitors view large numbers of fall-run Chinook salmon returning to Battle Creek and the hatchery, and observe all aspects of day-to-day hatchery operations such as spawning, egg incubation and juvenile rearing. Visual information sites located throughout the hatchery grounds provide information on life history, habitat requirements and other details.

For more information on Coleman National Fish Hatchery, please visit:

http://www.usbr.gov/mp/ncao/about_us_coleman.html