

History of the Hatchery and Stocking Program

The California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) has been rearing and stocking fish in the inland waters of California since the late 1800s when the State of California enacted legislation to restore and preserve fish in State waters. This legislation called for the establishment of “fish breederies” to stock and supply streams, lakes, and bays with foreign and domestic fish.

Since that time, DFG has developed and is managing an extensive hatchery and stocking program (Program). The Program is now guided in part by Fish and Game Code Section 13007 (passed through AB 7), which mandates nearly one-third of fees collected from issuing sport fishing licenses be deposited into the Hatchery and Inland Fisheries Fund and used for the management, maintenance and capital improvement of California’s fish hatcheries. Fish and Game Code Section 13007 establishes annual goals for hatchery trout production based upon sport fishing license sales.

In the past 5 years DFG has stocked more than 12 million trout and 34 million salmon and steelhead annually in over 900 locations in California. During this period, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) partially funded trout hatcheries and stocking, and the Mad River Hatchery for steelhead, including stocking. DFG plans to continue its Program as outlined in the EIR/EIS Alternative 2. Alternative 2 modifies the current Program to alleviate impacts associated with DFG owned and operated hatchery stocking operations. It is anticipated the Program will continue to receive Sport Fish Restoration Act funding from USFWS.



Mt. Whitney Hatchery



Irongate Hatchery