

CDFW Executive Staff (including Regional Managers and Branch Chiefs) Email

May 3, 2021 10:30 AM

This message is being sent to CDFW Executive Staff including Regional Managers and Branch Chiefs.

All,

Below is information about the resumption of outdoor activities by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) in response to current COVID-19 procedures and recommendations:

1. Hatcheries, license counters and indoor visitor centers will remain closed to the public.

Hatchery reason/messaging: Our ongoing concern with opening outdoor areas of hatcheries is that hatchery employees, in particular, work and live in close proximity to one another. An infection at any hatchery could spread to many of the employees and compromise our ability to continue to raise and stock fish. The potential risk to the survival of live captive fish is too great. Public visitation at some hatcheries can typically number in the thousands on any given day, and we have no way to effectively manage and monitor public numbers/spacing/common touch surfaces like fish food without taking substantial staff time and attention away from fish care and stocking, which is the primary purpose of hatcheries.

2. All other indoor activities will continue to remain closed and unavailable to the public until such time as CDFW protocols and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) procedures and recommendations allow.

3. The following outdoor activities can resume/continue effective immediately:

- Essential work ([list of critical field work](#)) as previously defined by CDFW.
- Non-essential work conducted outside and approved by the Regional Manager or Branch Chief when done in compliance with the [Critical Field Work Best Practices](#). Cross regional or branch work should be coordinated between respective Regional Managers and Branch Chiefs. Programs and Divisions should also consult with Regional Managers and Branch Chiefs on travel for essential and non-essential work requests.
- Trout stocking by CDFW hatcheries for both supported and sponsored kids fishing derbies.
- Trout stocking for the public at approved stocking locations.
- Interpretive programs conducted outside.
- Fishing in the city events.
- Camping on CDFW lands, both dispersed and site specific.
- Hunting during normal seasons on CDFW lands where hunting is allowed.
- Hunter check stations for normal hunt seasons.

- Special Hunts on CDFW lands and on lands of private partners.
- Non-consumptive recreation on CDFW lands where such uses are allowed.
- Interpretive trails or areas outdoors and away from buildings, raceways and tanks near CDFW hatcheries.
- Outdoor aspects of Hunter Education and Archery in the Schools Program.

All activities will follow current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and CDPH guidance along with CDFW COVID-19 protocols and [Critical Field Work Best Practices](#).

- PPE should be monitored and replenished to meet the demand of increased outdoor activities and COVID-19 protocols.

CDFW COVID-19 Taskforce