

Wildlife Viewing at Thornton Creek Hatchery

WE LOVE SALMON (& bears)!!

The passionate staff, volunteers and directors involved in the Thornton Creek Enhancement Society love nature – especially salmon! We love to share our knowledge and passion for these amazing and important fish.

In the fall the majestic interaction between bears and salmon showcase the spectacle that is mother nature. As a result of this small seasonal window, the Thornton Creek Hatchery has become a destination for viewing wildlife during the salmon run welcoming up to 150 visitors daily from September through mid-November. The facility provides a vital and safe as well as rich educational experience for visitors and locals alike during the tourist shoulder season.

Sadly, a few years ago a bear was put down due to human error. Although the Hatchery has taken every measure possible to ensure a safe and positive experience (gated space and electrified fence around the boardwalk) for visitors, the landowners have placed a ZERO TOLERANCE policy on the Hatchery which would result in a permanent closure of the facility should this happen again.

It has been disclosed that some businesses and locals continue to misinform visitors about proper etiquette when visiting the Hatchery.

For the Hatchery to thrive and remain a vital salmon enhancement facility, we need YOUR HELP!

Please share this information with anyone who asks about the Hatchery:

1. Open 10am-3pm daily from September through to mid November.
2. Only visit during operating hours and park in designated areas.
3. Motor homes longer than 24 feet long can not be accommodated due to very limited space. Please don't even drive over, find an alternate option.
4. Walking in or riding a bike from our gate on the highway is HIGHLY discouraged and dangerous.

Bears roam free, this is THEIR space and home

5. Once parked, visitors must go directly into the protected area for their safety. Loitering outside of the fenced area is not welcome.
6. No smoking, vaping, eating food, having open drinks or allowing dogs to roam.
7. Admission is by donation. This is how the Hatchery survives year after year. Without this vital source of revenue, we couldn't operate and continue the salmon enhancement program in Barkley and Clayoquot Sounds.
8. There is no signal at the Hatchery and no staff to help in case of an emergency outside of operating hours.

We want everyone to enjoy the Hatchery for years to come, but we need your help to educate those who may not know any better and protect this vital wildlife space.

Thank you for your help!

Sincerely

Dave Hurwitz, Manager

Thornton Creek Hatchery

<https://vimeo.com/337814493>