

## Catchable Rainbow Trout

The mission of Chalk Cliffs Trout Rearing Unit is to provide catchable trout to waters throughout the Front Range and Eastern Plains of Colorado. Our stocking area reaches from Loveland to Trinidad, and out to the Kansas border.

“Catchable” trout refers to 10-inch-long trout that provide immediate recreation opportunities. We stock ponds and lakes that are open to the public. Chalk Cliffs produces about 700,000 ten-inch trout per year. Our stocking season starts in January and stays very busy from mid February until mid June, when the water temperatures in most waters get too warm to stock trout. We resume stocking in late September once waters cool down from summer temperatures, and continue through December.



## Visitors Welcome!

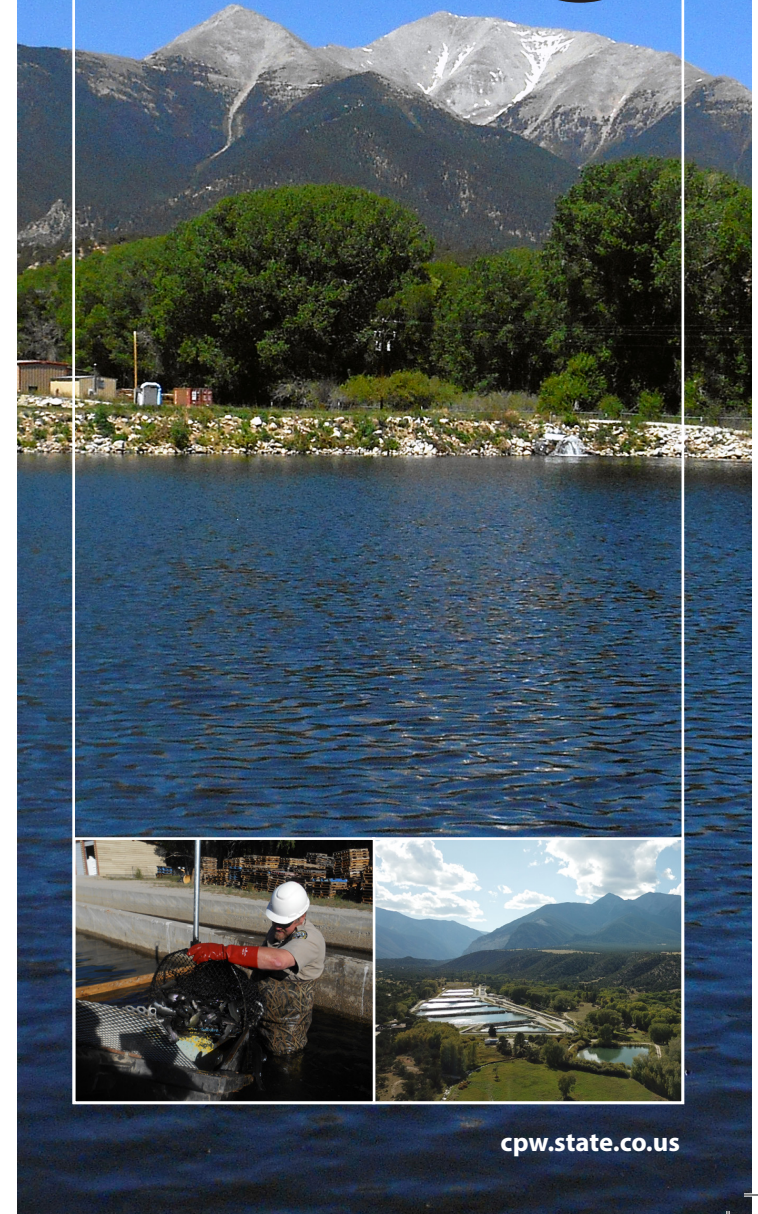
Chalk Cliffs Trout Rearing Unit is open to visitors 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. every day of the year. We have hosts on-site staffing the visitor center from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. Twenty-five-cent fish feed dispensers are available all year, but during the summer our hosts will be happy to hand out buckets of fish food. Please park in the visitor parking lot and leave your pets and fishing gear at your vehicle.

CPW operates 19 hatcheries that breed, hatch, rear and stock over 90 million fish per year. Many of the fish produced are to enhance angling opportunities, while others serve a critical role in native species recovery efforts. Colorado fish hatcheries support our angling pastime, which annually contributes 1.9 billion dollars to our state's economy!



## Chalk Cliffs State Trout Rearing Unit

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## Moving Fish

Every time fish are moved, whether stocking or just moving around on the unit, crew members get in the water with them. A calibrated bucket on a boom truck lifts 200 pounds of fish at a time out of the water and drops them into truck-mounted tanks. Our three fish hauling trucks transport 5,000 to 7,500 ten-inch trout per load.



*Fish under five inches long are fed by hand, but we use a truck-mounted feed blower to feed all fish over five inches. For most of the year we dispense about 1,500 pounds of feed per day.*

## The Chalk Cliffs

Chalk Cliffs Rearing Unit was originally a private trout farm. The state of Colorado began operating the facility in 1948, purchasing it shortly after that. It is named for the Chalk Cliffs seen on the south side of Mount Princeton.

The Cliffs are a stunning view but can cause problems during heavy rainstorms when large amounts of soft 'kaolite' are washed into Chalk Creek just above the unit's headgates.



Photo © Micah Hertrich