

Clear Creek Chinook PIT Monitoring Update to May 8, 2026

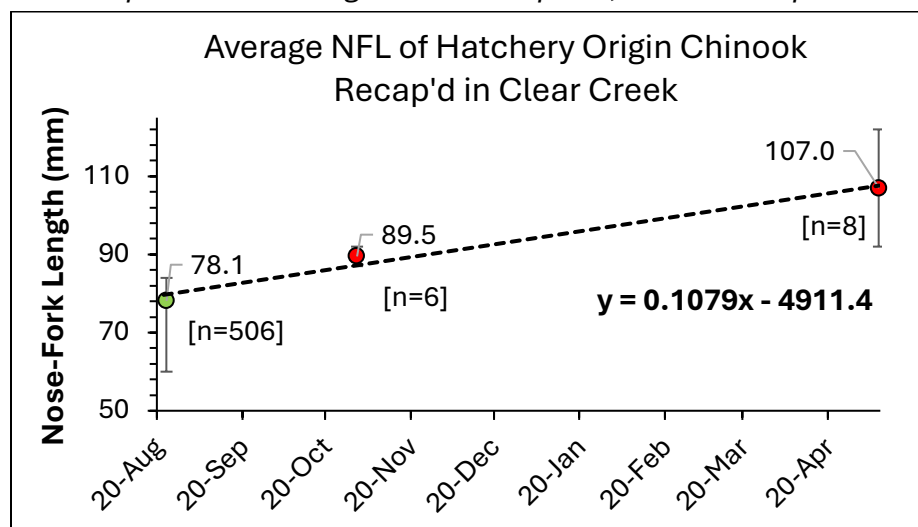
167mm nose-fork length (NFL) wild CN captured in Clear Creek at Braeside Road on May 8, 2026. This is the largest CN encountered to date.



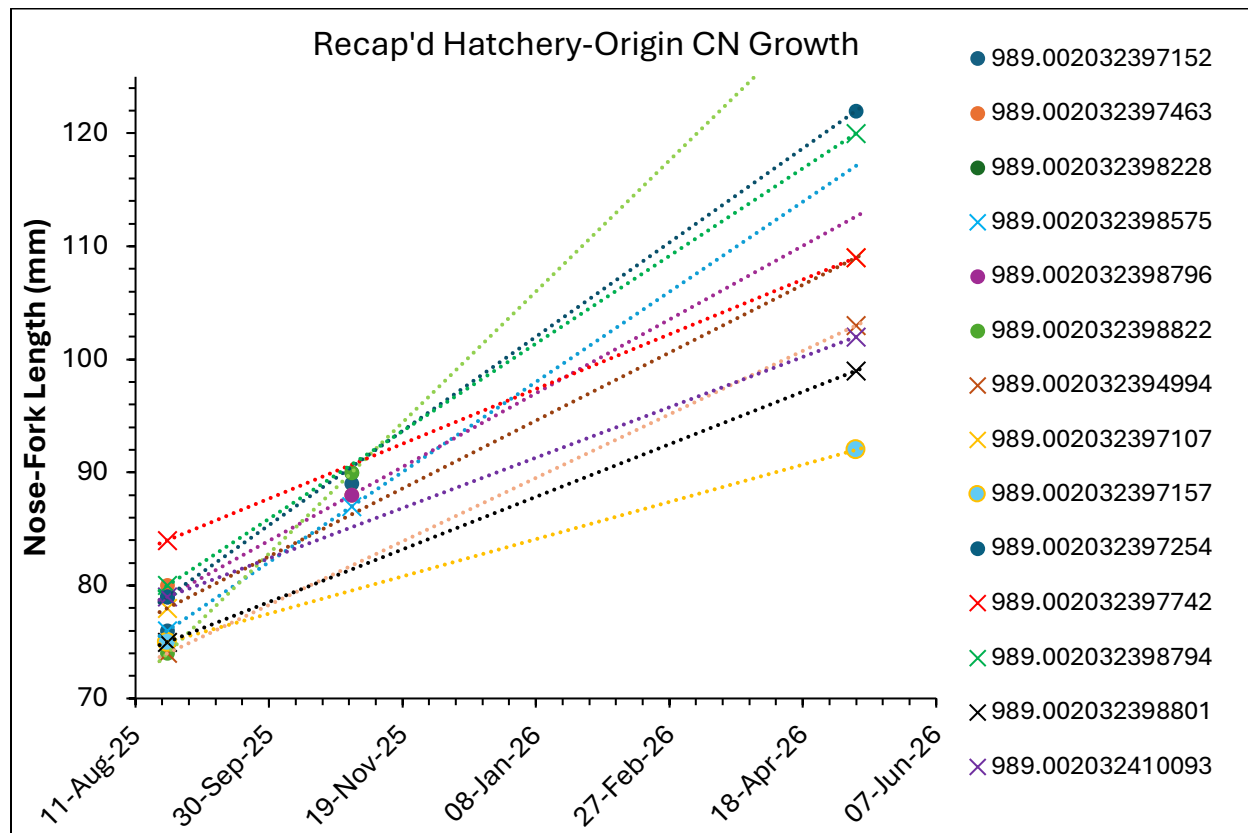
118mm NFL hatchery CN captured in Clear Creek at Braeside Road on May 8, 2025 (same site it was released at on Aug 23, 2025; this fish was 80mm NFL at release)



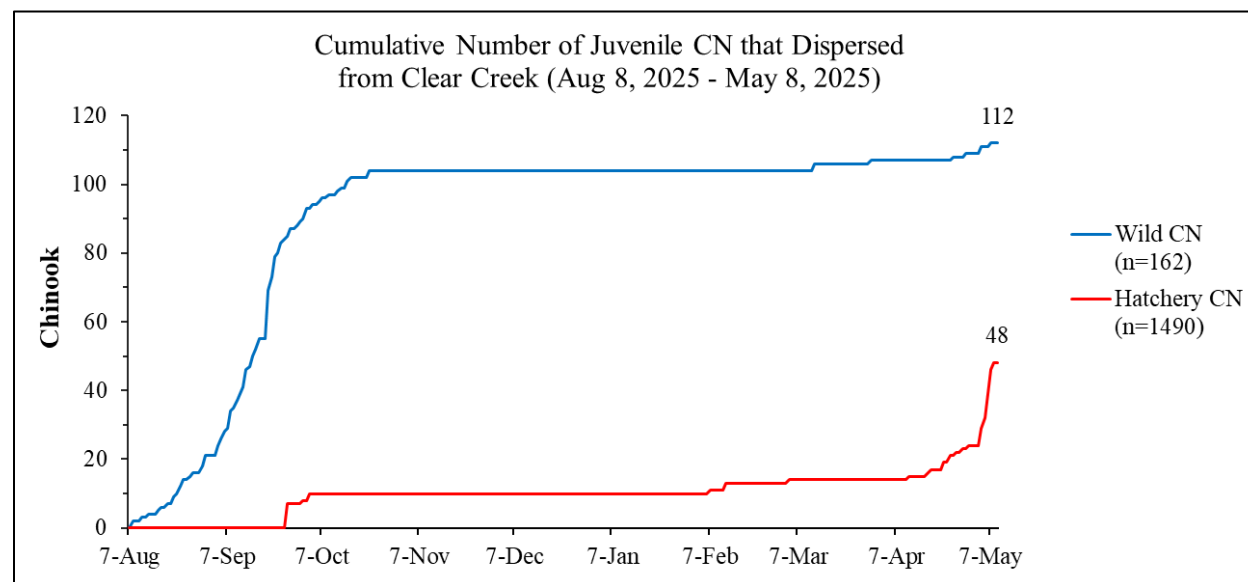
Size of recaptured PIT-tagged CN in Clear Creek at Braeside Road (green point is average size at release, while red points are average size at recapture; error bars represent size range).



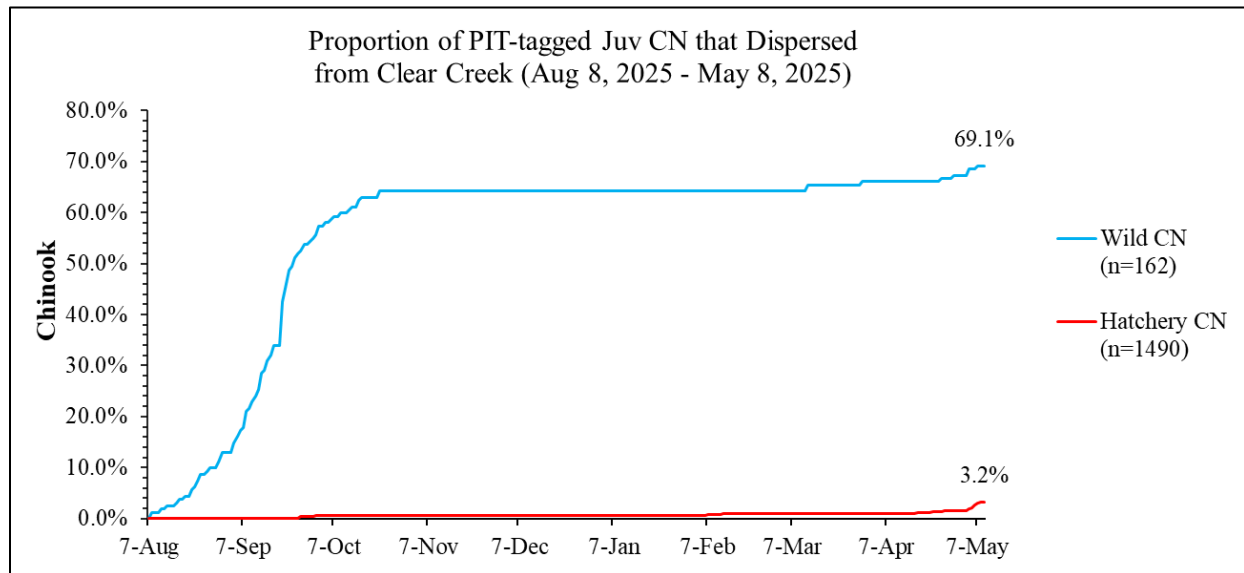
Growth rates of individual juvenile hatchery CN in Clear Creek that were released on Aug 23, 2025, and recaptured on October 31, 2025, or May 8, 2026.



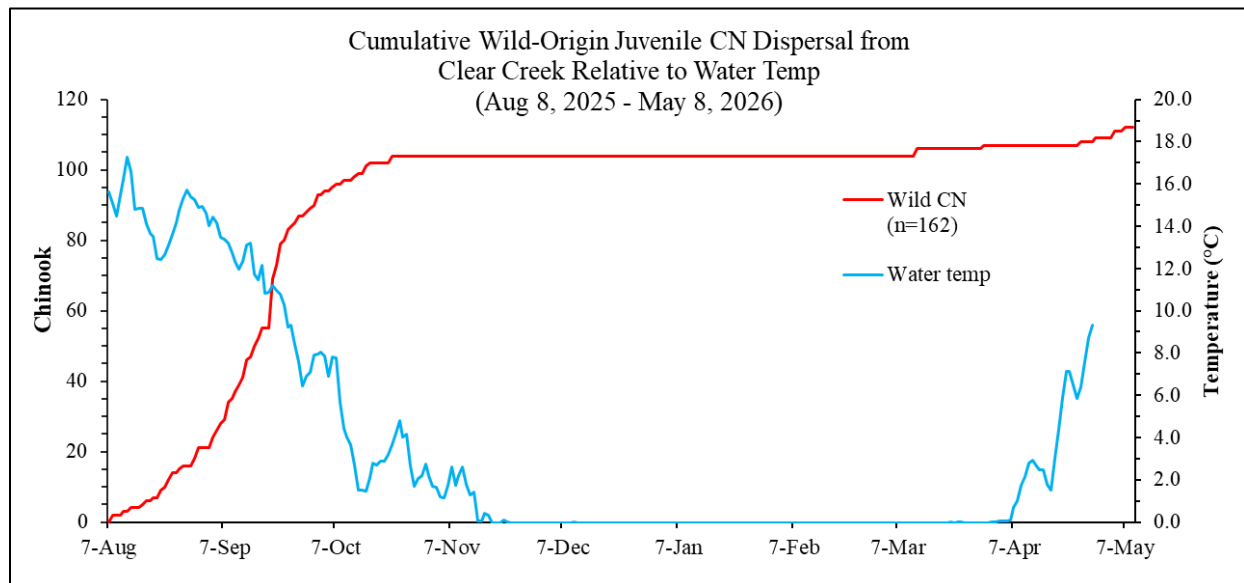
Cumulative number of PIT-tagged juvenile CN that were detected dispersing from Clear Creek at the confluence antenna array. Wild: 112/162; Hatchery: 48/1490.



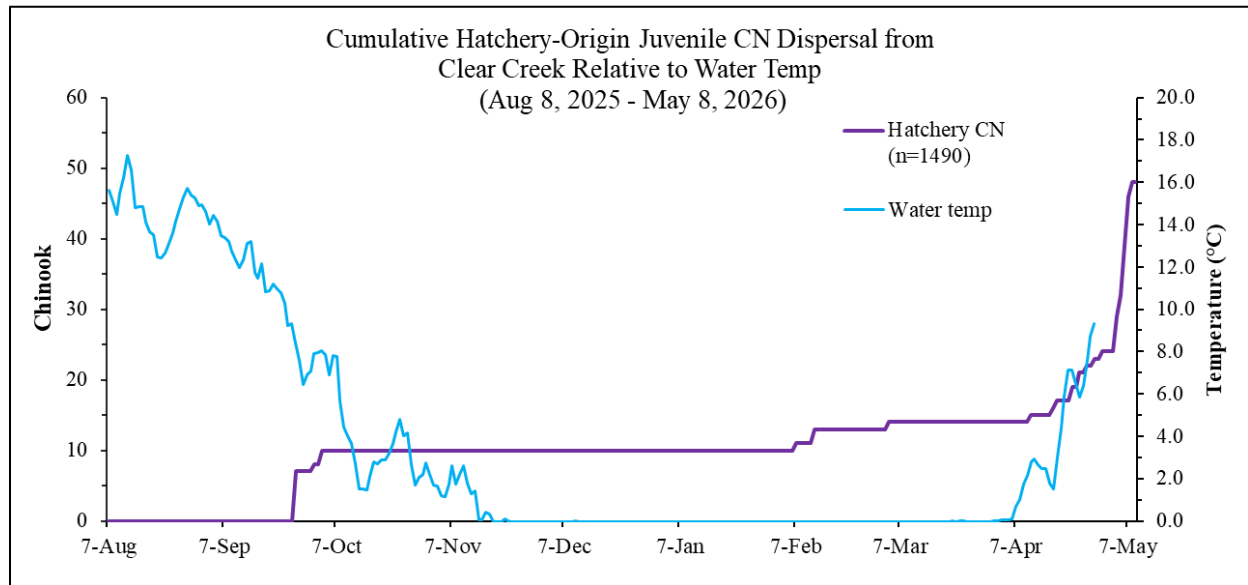
Proportion of all PIT-tagged CN individuals that were detected dispersing from Clear Creek at the confluence antenna array. Wild: 112/162; Hatchery: 48/1490.



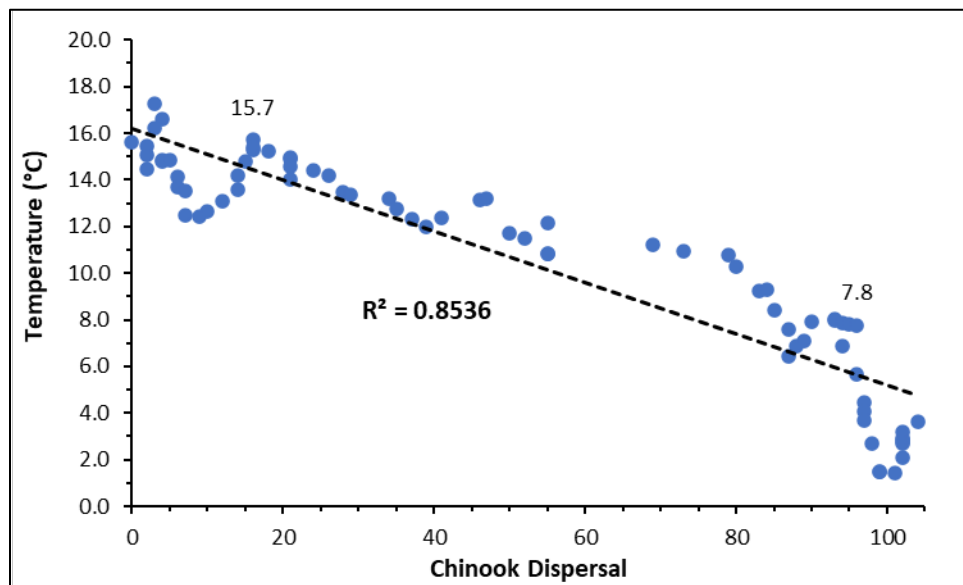
Cumulative number of PIT-tagged wild juvenile CN (112/162) that were detected dispersing from Clear Creek at the confluence antenna array, relative to Clear Creek water temperature.



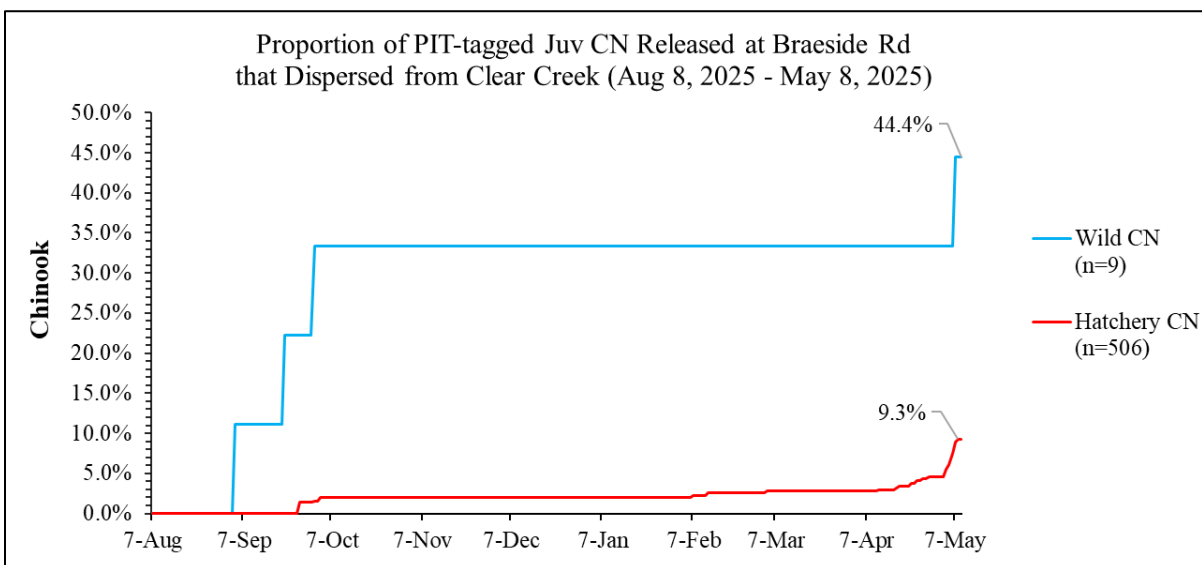
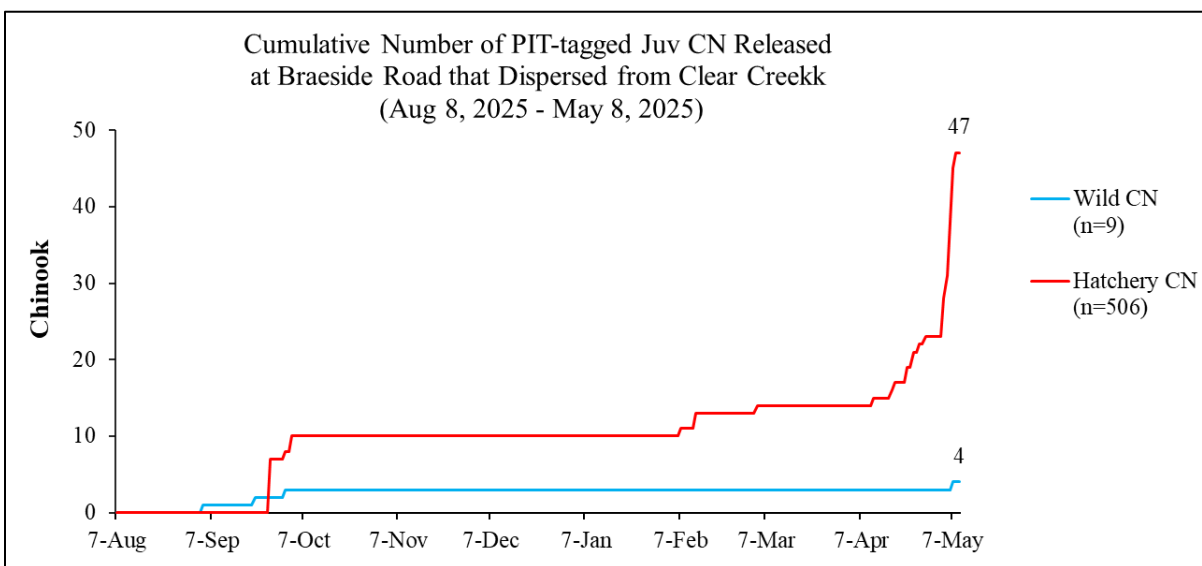
Cumulative number of PIT-tagged hatchery juvenile CN (48/1490) that were detected dispersing from Clear Creek at the confluence antenna array, relative to Clear Creek water temperature.



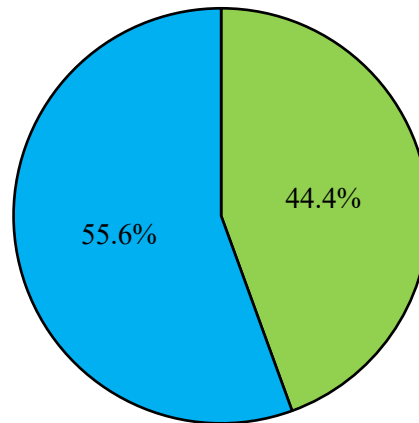
Peak movement of juvenile CN seemed to correlate with water temperature between approximately 8°C and 16°C.



Overall detections suggest hatchery CN rearing behaviour (3% dispersed to Nechako) is dissimilar to wild CN rearing behaviour (69% dispersed to Nechako), however it is important to note that the vast majority of wild CN were tagged in lower Clear Creek (river km 0.0-0.6), downstream of all beaver dams, whereas the lowermost hatchery Chinook were released at Braeside Road (river km 2.7), upstream of 8 dams. Nevertheless, detections of a very small sample of wild juvenile CN (n=9) that were captured and PIT tagged at or near Braeside Road corroborated overall results (see figures below). Continued PIT tagging and monitoring should improve insight into rearing behaviour – in hindsight, a hatchery release group in lower Clear Creek (river km 0.0-0.6) downstream of all beaver dams would have been advantageous for a true comparison of hatchery and wild Chinook rearing behaviour, however comparison of rearing behaviour was not an intended objective of the study.

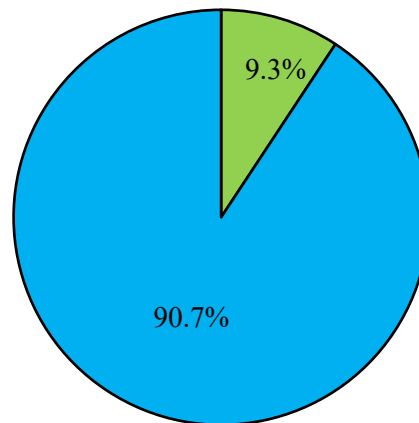


Wild Juvenile CN (n=9) Tagged at Braeside Road
(river km 2.7) that Dispersed from Clear Creek
(Aug 8, 2025 - May 8, 2026)



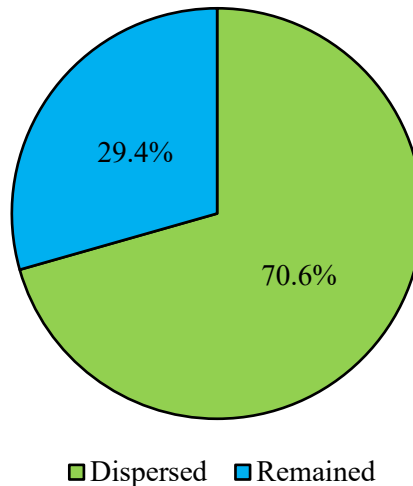
■ Dispersed ■ Remained

Hatchery Juvenile CN (n=506) Released at
Braeside Road (river km 2.7) that Dispersed from
Clear Creek (Aug 8, 2025 - May 8, 2026)



■ Dispersed ■ Remained

Wild Juvenile CN (n=162) Tagged in Lower Clear Creek (river km 0-600m) that Dispersed from Clear Creek (Aug 8, 2025 - May8, 2026)



Additional noteworthy results:

- *Many hatchery CN individuals continue to loiter around the antennas in upper Clear Creek (Education Center) and Braeside Road;*
- *Six hatchery CN individuals that were released downstream of Highway 27 were detected on the upper antenna array (Education Center) – meaning they managed to ascend the significant beaver dam immediately upstream of Highway 27;*
- *Only 1 hatchery CN from the Highway 27 release site has been detected downstream at Braeside Road to date;*
- *0 hatchery CN from the Highway 27 release site have been detected dispersing from Clear Creek;*
- *1 hatchery CN from upper Clear Creek was detected dispersing from Clear Creek;*
- *A rainbow trout that was tagged in lower Clear Creek on August 20, 2025 (246 mm NFL at time of tagging), was detected at Braeside Road on May 3, 2026, meaning it ascended approximately 8 beaver dams (dams were tallied by drone in fall 2025, so quantity may have changed since then);*
- *A rainbow trout that was tagged in lower Clear Creek on September 16, 2025 (203 mm NFL at time of tagging), was detected dispersing from Clear Creek on September 25, 2025. It was detected entering Knight Creek on April 16, 2026; then it was detected on the array upstream of Sackner Road multiple times between April 22 and May 5, 2026; finally, it was detected dispersing from Knight Creek on May 6, 2026; and,*
- *0 hatchery CN released in upper Knight Creek have been detected to date.*

RB route – Clear Creek to Knight Creek (25 km).

