

Greers Ferry

National Fish Hatchery



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS



photo: USFWS

Sherri Shoults, Hatchery Manager
Greers Ferry NFH
349 Hatchery Road
Heber Springs, AR 72543
Phone: 501/362 3615
Fax: 501/362 4007

Station Facts

- Established: 1965.
- Number of staff: four permanent.

Geographic Area Covered

- Arkansas: White River Basin.
- Oklahoma: Blue and Illinois rivers.

Financial Impact of Trout Program in Arkansas and Oklahoma

- Annual budget (FY 06) \$415,530.
- Annual economic impact of trout production at Greers Ferry NFH \$45.7 million.

Station Goals

- Provide statutory mitigation fish (rainbow trout and brook trout) for Arkansas.
- Cooperatively participates in aquatic threatened/ endangered or "species of concern" research.
- Provide statutory mitigation fish (rainbow trout) for Oklahoma.
- Provide environmental education and outreach.

Fish Species and Capability

- Rainbow trout (mandated mitigation) 1,255,300 fish—217,000 lbs.
- Brook trout (mandated mitigation) 40,000—4000 lbs.

Public Use Opportunities

- More than 50,000 visitors annually.
- Trout fishing in the Little Red River adjacent to hatchery grounds.
- Visitor center with aquarium.
- Tours for school groups.
- Off-site presentations.

Calendar of Events

June: Children's Fishing Derby.

September: Greers Ferry Lake & Little Red River Cleanup.

Questions and Answers

Do you have any fish for breeding? Where do you get the fish?

Greers Ferry does not have any adult trout for breeding purposes. The hatchery receives fertilized eggs from other Federal hatcheries, called broodstock hatcheries. Currently we receive eggs from Erwin NFH in Tennessee, White Sulphur Springs NFH in West Virginia, and Ennis NFH in Montana.

Where are the fish stocked?

How often?

The trout are stocked in public fishing waters in Arkansas and Oklahoma which are suitable for trout. Trout are stocked year-round. In the summer, the Little Red River adjacent to the hatchery is stocked with more than 182,000 eleven inch trout.

Will trout live in a small pond?

Trout require cold water, usually less than 65°F, with lots of dissolved oxygen. In the Southeast, farm ponds get too warm for trout in the summer months. That is one reason most of the fish are stocked in cold tailwaters below large dams.

Is the hatchery open every day?

What hours? Is there a charge?

The hatchery is open every day except Christmas. The visiting hours are 7:00 am-3:00 pm. There is no charge to visit the hatchery.