

CHATTAHOOCHEE FOREST

National Fish Hatchery

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National Fish Hatchery
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Station Facts

- Established: 1938.
- Number of staff: six.

Geographic Area Covered

State of Georgia and Cherokee, North Carolina.

Station Goals

- Fulfilling mitigation responsibilities and providing recreational fishing opportunities for Federal water development projects via a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Georgia.

- Fulfilling Tribal Trust responsibilities by providing technical assistance and rainbow trout to Native American Tribes.
- Partnering with Federal and State agencies, and conservation groups to study and monitor the status of aquatic populations and to improve aquatic habitat of rare fishes as well as other aquatic species in TN, AL, GA, KY and NC.
- Providing recreational fishing opportunities on Service, Federal and State lands.
- Assisting in the recovery of threatened and imperiled fish.

- Connecting people with nature by developing and implementing conservation education programs.

Services provided to:

- General public and angling enthusiasts.
- Federal and State agencies.
- Federal, State and private organizations dedicated to the restoration and recovery of aquatic resources.
- Native American Tribes.
- Other Fish and Wildlife Service program offices.
- Camp Frank D. Merrill, U.S. Army.

Activity Highlights

- The hatchery annually distributes 324,000 catchable-size rainbow trout and an additional 460,000 fingerlings to meet mitigation goals. These fish provided 160,000 anglers with an opportunity to land a trout.
- The economic impact of the hatchery was over \$30 million in 2017. That is well over \$40 return on every budget dollar spent by the hatchery.
- More than 40,000 visitors tour the hatchery annually. Major fishing events are held annually to promote recreational fishing and to introduce the public to the Fish and Wildlife Service and its mission.
- An extensive outreach program has been implemented that promotes public use, recreational fishing, environmental education and program activities. The hatchery has a very active Friends Group and a tremendous volunteer organization.
- Fingerling trout and technical assistance are provided to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in North Carolina.

Fish/Other Species and Capabilities

- The primary species raised at this facility is rainbow trout. The hatchery also has brook trout.
- The hatchery also works on bog turtle and eastern hellbender conservation efforts.

Public Use Opportunities

- The hatchery provides environmental education and public outreach opportunities to visitors, school groups, and various other organizations. The environmental education program is designed to promote conservation ethics and to develop a greater outreach for recreational fishing opportunities.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- The beautiful surroundings and natural environment draw many visitors to the hatchery. A visitor kiosk and an opportunity to view the fish in various stages of production prove to be a great attraction. Rock Creek, which runs through hatchery property, provides a great trout fishing opportunity.
- U.S. Forest Service campgrounds are located above and below the hatchery.
- Hatchery Office Hours: Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Gates are open to visitors Monday-Friday from 8 am - 3 pm

Exceptions such as emergency situations, federal holidays or early dismissals may apply. Please call ahead.



Calendar of Event: *or early dismissals may apply. Please call ahead.*

May

Veterans Appreciation Fishing Rodeo. Open to U.S. Military Veterans and Active Duty Service men and women. Free event.

June

Seniors Fishing Rodeo. Open to adults age 55 and older. Free event.

Kids Fishing Rodeo

Open to all youth and young at heart. Fishing and registration for 16 and under. Free event.

March to September

Stocking season.

Educational Programs:

USFWS Biologist in Training (BiT)
USFWS Jr Ranger Program

Trout in the Classroom with Trout Unlimited

Advocate Group:

Friends of the Hatchery

Please call the Hatchery for exact date and time for each event. 706/838 4723

Questions and Answers

What kind of fish do you raise?
Rainbow and brook trout.

Where do you get the eggs to hatch the fish?

We get our eggs from Erwin National Fish Hatchery (TN) and Ennis National Fish Hatchery (MT).

How big are the fish when you stock them out?

Approximately nine inches.

How long does it take to get the fish from an egg to nine inches?

Approximately 12-16 months.

Do you provide fish to private individuals?

No. All the fish raised at this facility are stocked into public waters.

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