

# Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery

*Linking the Biological Health of the Nation's Aquatic Resources with the Economic Health of the Nation's Human Communities*



## Linking Biological and Economic Health

The Southeastern U.S.'s fish and aquatic resources are among the richest and most diverse in the world. These resources, and the recreational opportunities they provide, have helped support the Nation's growth by providing enormous ecological, social and economic contributions. Our aquatic resources are recognized as National assets that contribute to the quality of life and well being of the American people. National Fish Hatcheries help foster this critical link between the biological health of our Nation and its overall economic health.

## A Multiplier of Economic Benefits

The high quality and efficient trout production at Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery (NFH) is just one aspect of its fish production that creates a positive ripple effect for all Americans. Recreational angling for fish produced by the hatchery results in considerable expenditures of recreation-related goods and services such as lodging, transportation, boats, fishing equipment, and other gear used by the fishing public. A recent economic study clearly identified these annual economic benefits (Caudill and Charbonneau, 2010).

Wolf Creek NFH provides an enormous economic impact to local, regional, and State economies. The hatchery is the economic driver for many of the counties in Kentucky that maintain valued trout fishing destinations. The economic impact is felt by everyone, not just those associated with addressing the needs of anglers. This is especially significant in small towns and rural areas near the waters that are stocked by Wolf Creek NFH and where the purchases of fishing equipment, lodging, food, and transportation are made. In addition, businesses and industries that supply

**JOBS = 370 PEOPLE, \$10 MILLION IN WAGES**  
Fish production at Wolf Creek NFH provides employment for more than 370 people with almost \$10 million in wage and salary income.

**RETAIL SALES = \$17.8 MILLION**  
Retail sales associated with angler expenditures as result of stocking trout by Wolf Creek NFH amounted to \$17.8 million. Almost \$5.5 million of these expenditures relate to costs for food and lodging and transportation.

**TAXES GENERATED = \$2.3 MILLION**  
Federal, State and local tax revenues associated with Wolf Creek NFH fish production amounted to \$2.3 million.

**TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT = \$33.7 MILLION**  
Total economic output (multiplier effect) came to \$33.7 million, a return of more than \$53.00 for every dollar spent.

**EACH TAX DOLLAR RETURN = \$53.00**  
Each taxpayer dollar spent for trout production at Wolf Creek NFH generates \$53.24 in economic output.

*"An Assessment of Economic Contributions from Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation" (Dr. James Caudill and Dr. John Charbonneau, 2010)*

local retailers benefit from angler expenditures. For example, a family purchases a set of fishing rods for an upcoming vacation. Part of the total purchase price will go to the local retailer. The retail store pays a wholesaler who in turn pays the manufacturer. In this way, each dollar of local retail expenditures can affect a variety of businesses at the local, regional and national levels. According to the study, the total economic output for trout production at Wolf Creek NFH amounts to \$33.7 million every year. That's a return of more than \$53.00 for every tax dollar spent to operate the hatchery.

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