

Greers Ferry

National Fish Hatchery



photo: USFWS



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Sherri Shoultz, 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: five permanent.

Geographic Area Covered

- Arkansas: White River and Ouachita River Basins.
- Oklahoma: Illinois River and Red River Basins.

Economic Impact of Trout Program

- Annual economic impact of trout production at Greers Ferry NFH \$36.8 million. (2017 economic data)

Station Goals

- Provide rainbow trout and brook trout for recreation (mitigation) for COE dam tailwaters in Arkansas.
- Cooperatively participate in aquatic threatened/endangered or “species of concern” restoration and recovery.
- Provide rainbow trout trout for recreation (mitigation) for Corps of Engineers dam tailwaters in Oklahoma.
- Connect People with Nature.

Fish Species and Capability

- Rainbow trout (mitigation) 670,000 fish/195,000 lbs.
- Brook trout (mitigation) 17,000 fish/5,000 lbs.

Public Use Opportunities

- More than 50,000 visitors annually.
- Trout fishing in the Little Red River adjacent to hatchery grounds.
- Camping at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers JFK Park on the Little Red River.
- Self Guided hatchery tours

Frequently Asked Questions:

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 Federal broodstock hatcheries such as Erwin National Fish Hatchery in Erwin, Tennessee.

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 180,000 eleven inch rainbow trout.

Will trout live in a small pond?

Trout require cold oxygen-rich water, usually less than 65°F. In the Southeast, farm ponds get too warm for trout in the summer months. Rivers and tailwaters below Corps of Engineers and TVA dams are more suitable habitat for rainbow and brook trout.

Why do we need federal hatcheries and who pays for them?

Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery is a federal fish hatchery which is supported by tax dollars. Fish raised on Federal hatcheries are stocked in public waters to support Federal fishery responsibilities. These include fish for restoration where, for example, man-made dams have altered a stream's natural reproductive capability; or to restore threatened or endangered populations. Fish are also used to support recreational fishing programs in Federal and state waters.

Is the hatchery open every day? What hours? Is there a charge?

The hatchery is open every day except on the Federal Holidays for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The visiting hours are 7 am-3 pm. There is no charge to visit the hatchery.

