Greers Ferry 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 Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery (NFH) is just one aspect of their 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 2010 economic study clearly identified these annual economic benefits (Caudill and Charbonneau, 2010).

Greers Ferry NFH enhances recreational fishing opportunities in waters that have been modified by Federal water development projects in Arkansas and Oklahoma. This has provided an enormous economic boost to the economy of many of these areas, generating business and income for people and local governments. 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 Greers Ferry NFH and where the purchases of fishing equipment, lodging, food, and transportation are made. In addition, businesses and industries that supply local retailers benefit from angler expenditures. 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 Greers Ferry NFH amounts to $56 million every year. That's a return of almost $95 for every tax dollar spent to operate the hatchery.

JOBS = 616 PEOPLE, $16 MILLION IN WAGES
Fish production at Greers Ferry NFH provides employment for more than 616 people with over $16 million in wage and salary income.

RETAIL SALES = $29 MILLION
Retail sales associated with angler expenditures as result of stocking trout by Greers Ferry NFH amounted to $29.6 million. A percentage of these expenditures relate to costs for food , lodging and transportation.

TAXES GENERATED = $3.3 MILLION
Federal tax revenues amounted to $1.7 million. State and local tax revenues amounted to $1.9 million.

TOTAL ECONOMIC OUTPUT = $56 MILLION
Total economic output (multiplier effect) came to $56 million, a return of almost $95 for every dollar spent.

EACH TAX DOLLAR RETURN = $95
Each taxpayer dollar spent for trout production at Greers Ferry NFH generates $95.27 in economic output.

*"An Assessment of Economic Contributions from Fisheries and Aquatic Resource Conservation" (Dr. James Caudill and Dr. John Charbonneau, 2010). *Economic values have been updated to 2012 dollars.*

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