

# Greers Ferry

## National Fish Hatchery

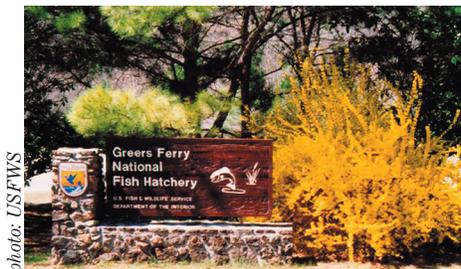


photo: USFWS



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### 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 \$56 million. (2012 economic data)

### Station Goals

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

### Fish Species and Capability

- Rainbow trout (mitigation) 727,000 fish/202,333 lbs.
- Brook trout (mitigation) 30,000 fish/2600 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

### Calendar of Events

**June:** Children’s Fishing Derby.

**September:** Greers Ferry Lake & Little Red River Cleanup.

### 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 other Federal hatcheries, called broodstock hatcheries. Currently we receive eggs from Erwin NFH in Tennessee, 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 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 large 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.

