



# Leadville

## National Fish Hatchery

### Fishing Regulations

#### Welcome

Welcome to Leadville National Fish Hatchery (NFH), one of 71 hatcheries in the National Fish Hatchery system. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Hatchery System is a living heritage, conserving aquatic species for people today and for generations to come.

The Hatchery is located in Lake County, CO, and can be reached via Highway 300 off of Highway 24, approximately six miles southwest of Leadville. From Highway 24, the main Hatchery grounds and parking areas are approximately two miles west on Highway 300.

The main hatchery grounds and trails are open from dawn to dusk. The Hatchery building and visitor center is open from 7:30 am to 3:30 pm daily.

The Hatchery property is 3,072 acres and has over 12 miles of hiking trails and connects with other trails, such as the Colorado Trail, which is located within the Mt. Massive Wilderness Area. Much of the Hatchery is bordered by U.S. Forest Service land.

#### About the Hatchery

Leadville NFH is the second oldest Federal fish hatchery in existence today and is one of the oldest surviving examples of the historic legacy upon which the Service was first established. The Hatchery was created by Executive Order of President Benjamin Harrison in 1889 for the purpose of restoring depleted stocks of trout in the Upper Arkansas area of Colorado, the Black Hills of South Dakota, and Nebraska.

By 1909, fish and eggs were being sent throughout the United States, as well as to other countries. As other Federal fish hatcheries were established, stocking from Leadville NFH began to focus primarily on waters in Colorado and surrounding states. To protect the Hatchery's water supply, most of the Rock Creek drainage was included in the Hatchery.

#### General Regulations

Hatchery regulations are for the protection of wildlife, habitat, and visitors. Your support and compliance with these regulations is greatly appreciated.

- Vehicles are restricted to designated parking areas and the paved roads around the main Hatchery grounds.
- Vehicles and trailers must not block access points.
- Snowmobiles and all other off-road vehicles are prohibited.
- Swimming, boating, tubing, and other water activities are prohibited.
- Camping and overnight use are prohibited outside of the Mt. Massive Wilderness Area.
- Open fires and fireworks are prohibited.
- Pets must be under the owner's control at all times.

#### General Fishing Information

Fishing is allowed on the Hatchery in accordance with State regulations. Regulations are set by Colorado Parks and Wildlife and must be observed at all times in Hatchery fishing areas. Additional Federal regulations for National Fish Hatcheries can be found online in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 50, Parts 27, 70, and 71.

Species which may be present include cutthroat trout, brook trout, rainbow trout, and brown trout. All cutthroat trout are catch-and-release only.

Artificial flies and lures are required for fishing in Rock Creek and its tributaries.

Cleaning fish on the Hatchery is prohibited.

#### Hatchery Areas Open to Fishing

Upstream of Rock Creek Dam, Rock Creek and its headwater tributaries and associated lakes are open for public fishing. The access for Rock Creek is approximately a 1-mile hike from the main Hatchery parking lot.

Through Special Use Permit only, the Hatchery's two discharge sedimentation ponds and six Evergreen Lakes are sometimes open for fishing. Contact Hatchery staff for more information about obtaining Special Use Permits for these areas.

Anglers requiring special accommodations should contact the Hatchery Manager.

#### Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a free connection to the state transfer relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from people with hearing and speech disabilities. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Hatchery staff at 719 / 486 0189, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

#### Leadville National Fish Hatchery

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#### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

<http://www.fws.gov>

#### For State Relay Service

TTY / Voice: 711

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