

White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery

Fact Sheet for Members of Congress

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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Represented by Members of Congress:

Senator Robert C. Byrd (D)
Senator John D. Rockefeller IV (D)
Rep. Nick Rahall (D-3rd)

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- Produce and release freshwater mussels into the Chesapeake Bay Watershed to help clean up the water before it enters the Bay.
- Produce federally endangered and common freshwater mussels to recover imperiled species and reestablish the water filtration capacity of mussel beds.
- Maintain Class A, disease-free status for the fish hatchery.
- Work with state, federal, NGO and international partners to recover freshwater mussels in the United States and around the world.



Rainbow trout

Craig Springer/USFWS

Profile

Established:	1900
Current acres:	98
Staff:	8.5
FY 2009 budget:	\$765,182
2009 volunteer hours:	800
2009 visitation:	22,000

Purpose

White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery was established to produce fish for the nation's streams.

Mission

Working with the community and partners to be good stewards of both the environment and historical significance of White Sulphur Springs NFH by providing recreational fishing opportunities, recovering fish, mussels and other wildlife and their habitats, and promoting awareness and appreciation of our cultural and natural resources for the benefit of all people.

Management Activities

- Produce and ship 8.4 million rainbow trout eggs to 20 different federal, state and tribal hatcheries as part of the National Broodstock Program.
- Provide 13,000 retired rainbow trout to West Virginia DNR, Maryland DNR and the Eastern Bank of Cherokee Indians.

Highlights

One of two national fish hatcheries with the expertise to produce endangered freshwater mussels.

Provide refuge for federally endangered freshwater mussels and recover endangered northern riffleshell and James River spiny mussel through propagation and reintroduction.

National Pilot Outdoor Classroom: Dedicated Phase 1, the Anniversary Amphitheater, to the town of White Sulphur Springs for their 100th birthday; received funding from the Federal Highway Administration to complete Phase 2, the Fully-accessible Walking Trail; completed Phase 3, the Woodland Hiking Trail; began work on Phase 4, the Alternative Energy Demonstration Project by installing the hatchery's first solar panel

Co-hosted the Annual Fishing Derby with the White Sulphur Springs Rotary Club to celebrate National Fishing Week.

Co-hosted the 5th annual Freshwater Folk Festival with the Friends of the WSSNFH. Thirty partner organizations presented hands-on activities to 3,000 visitors.

Issues

Acquire land to protect the hatchery's water resources.

Construct settling basins and wetland habitats to treat the hatchery's effluent.

Install solar panels, windmills and micro-hydro turbines to reduce our impact on climate change and reduce operational costs.

Work with partners to improve mussel propagation technology and recover imperiled freshwater mussels.

Complete future phases of the National Pilot Outdoor Classroom, including a fully-accessible walking trail, teaching wetland, and the Aquarium of the Appalachians