



# Tennessee Valley Authority Fisheries Funding

*U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander and leaders from the Tennessee Valley Authority announced a three-year funding agreement to reimburse the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for trout production and stocking in Tennessee and Georgia for aquatic habitats modified by water development projects owned and operated by TVA.*

The Service, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and Georgia's Department of Natural Resources joined Sen. Alexander and TVA officials for the announcement that ensures popular trout stocking programs in reservoirs and tailwaters of certain TVA dams across the region will continue for three years.

TVA will provide more than \$900,000 per year for the next three years to support federal fish hatchery operations that provide the trout for stocking. The agencies also signed an agreement to form a working group with key stakeholders who benefit from the recreation-based trout production and stocking effort to identify a long-term funding source.

The Service was directed by the Congress and the Office of Management and Budget to seek reimbursement for its trout production work at these and other hatcheries across the nation in this era of challenging federal budgets. The Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Bonneville Power Administration are providing reimbursement funds as well.



*Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery, Celina, Tennessee*



*Fishing Rodeo at Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery*

# U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Currently, non-native trout stocked near some of TVA's dams are raised at three federal fish hatcheries operated by the Service: Erwin National Fish Hatchery in Erwin, Tennessee; Dale Hollow National Fish Hatchery in Celina, Tennessee; and Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery in Suches, Georgia.

The trout are provided to TWRA and Georgia's DNR for stocking in the colder water of the reservoirs and tailwaters of the TVA dams. TVA supports the stocking programs by enhancing the aquatic habitat through oxygenation systems, foregoing electric generation and providing minimum flows to help adequately maintain cooler water temperatures. However, in most of the waters, the trout cannot naturally reproduce, requiring regular stocking to maintain fishable populations.

Through this hatchery funding agreement, trout will continue to be

stocked for recreational fishing in reservoirs or tailwaters at 12 TVA dams in Tennessee and Georgia:

- Apalachia Dam on the Hiwassee River;
- Blue Ridge Dam on the Toccoa River;
- Cherokee Dam on the Holston River;
- Ft. Patrick Henry Dam on the South Fork Holston River;
- Normandy Dam on the Duck River;
- Norris Dam on the Clinch River;
- Ocoee Dam No. 1 on the Ocoee River;
- South Holston Dam on the South Fork Holston River;
- Tellico Dam on the Little Tennessee River;
- Tims Ford Dam on the Elk River;
- Watauga Dam on the Watauga River;
- Wilbur Dam on the Watauga River.

| By the Numbers |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1,020,000      | Number of fish produced and stocked below TVA dams annually   |
| Nearly 500,000 | Number of angler days supported by these hatcheries   |
| \$45 million   | Economic activity generated   |
| \$73           | Every dollar spent on fish production and stocking at these hatcheries generates \$73 in overall economic impact. |

### For more information:

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