

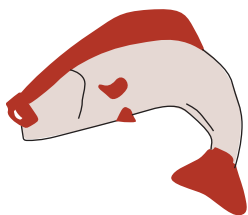
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Chattahoochee Forest

*National Fish
Hatchery*



The Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery is one of more than 80 units in the National Fish Hatchery System administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service also manages over 475 national wildlife refuges and major fish and wildlife research laboratories across the country. As the Nation's primary steward of fish and wildlife resources, the Service provides leadership in habitat and wetlands protection; fish and wildlife research and technical assistance; and in the conservation and protection of migratory birds, anadromous fishes, certain marine mammals and threatened and endangered species.



Welcome and Enjoy Your Visit!

Over a century ago, it was recognized that conservation measures were necessary to maintain good fishing in our public waters. Fishing has probably always been one of America's leading forms of outdoor recreation. The primary responsibility of the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery is to raise rainbow trout which will help preserve this tradition for present as well as future generations of Americans.



What We Do

Constructed in 1937 by the U.S. Forest Service, the Chattahoochee Forest hatchery remained under their authority for 23 years. On April 13, 1960, a cooperative agreement was signed which transferred ownership to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Station facilities are currently used to produce one million trout each year. These fish are stocked into tailwaters, streams and lakes of Northern Georgia in cooperation with the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Corps of Engineers, Tennessee Valley Authority, and the U.S. Forest Service.





Coldwater Hatchery

This facility is a coldwater hatchery. That is, the species of fish propagated here do best in summer water temperatures of 45° - 65°.

What can you do?

Visitors are welcome to tour the hatchery, to fish in Rock Creek which runs through hatchery grounds, or to picnic in areas provided for the public.

Restrooms, picnic areas and parking areas are provided for public use. During your visit, please feel free to





ask questions you may have concerning the hatchery.

Group Tours

Special group tours can be arranged with the Hatchery Manager. You are invited to return often.

Fishing and Camping

Fishing is allowed in Rock Creek, which runs through hatchery property. Rock Creek Lake, located two miles north of the hatchery also provides good fishing opportunities.

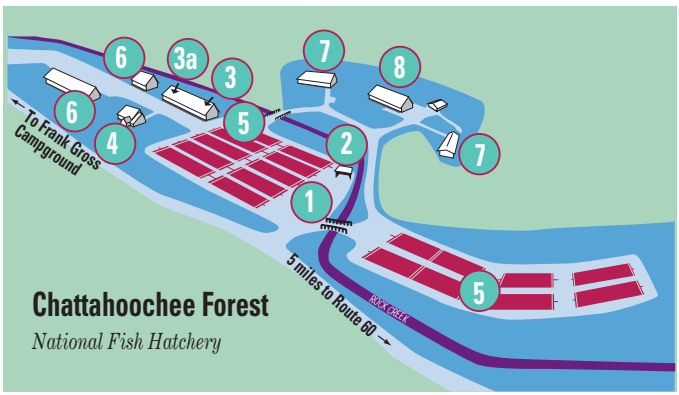


Cooper Creek, 15 miles northwest of Suches via Georgia highway 60 and Forest Service 236, is an angler's paradise for trout fishing. Twenty-two miles northeast of Dahlonega on Georgia highway 180, Lake Winfield Scott offers magnificent scenery as well as swimming, fishing, boating, and other outdoor activities.

Morganton Point, 6 miles east of Blue Ridge, on U.S. 76 and Forest Service Road 615 introduces the visitor to 3,290 acre Lake Blue Ridge which produces fine bass, bluegill and crappie fishing.

Camping

Camping is available in surrounding areas. Although the hatchery does not maintain any camping facilities, the near-by Frank Gross Campground, maintained by the U.S. Forest Service offers excellent facilities for both camping and



Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery

picnicking and the Deep Hole Recreation Area, located just off highway 60, offers camping, picnicking, swimming and fishing.

1. Visitor Parking

2. Sheltered Exhibit

At the kiosk, read information pertaining to the National Fish Hatchery System, the Chattahoochee Forest National Fish Hatchery and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Located throughout the grounds you will find informational signs to help you understand the hatchery and its operation.

3. Visitor Center

We invite you to view the various exhibits on display. Restrooms are provided for your convenience.

3a. Incubator and Juvenile Fish Rearing Area

This is the incubator and juvenile fish rearing area. When the station receives eggs (generally twice a year; October and February), they are placed in hatching jars and stored in protected areas.

Spawning operations are not conducted at this particular hatchery. However, some Federal hatcheries hold adult trout (broodstock) which are spawned

artificially when the fish become “ripe.” Eggs are taken from the females and fertilized with milt from the males. The fertilized eggs are then shipped here and incubated under controlled conditions.

We obtain eggs from locations all over the country. Some hatcheries are solely involved in producing and developing the various strains of eggs needed for the production of healthy fish.

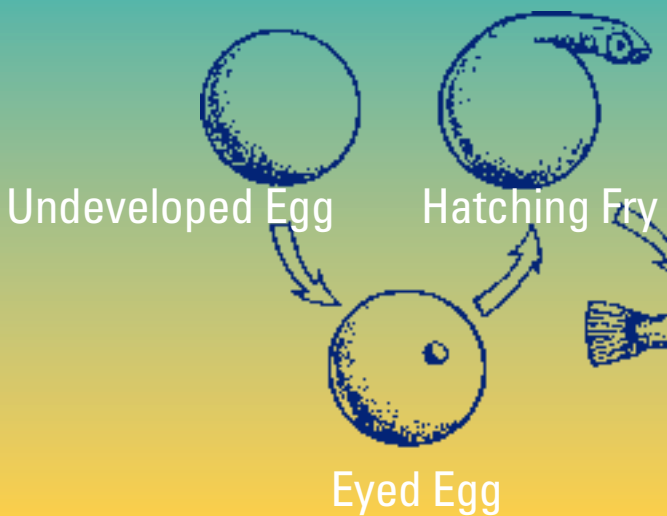
As the young hatch, usually within 3 to 4 weeks, the young fry are transferred to rearing troughs. During this period the fish are nourished by their yolk sacs. As this source of food is depleted, the young trout swim up from the bottom of the troughs and are fed specially formulated dry feeds hourly. In approximately 3–4 months, the fish reach the size of fingerlings, about 2–3 inches. They are then transferred to the raceways outside for rearing to stocking size.

4. Office

A staff member is available if you have further questions concerning the hatchery.

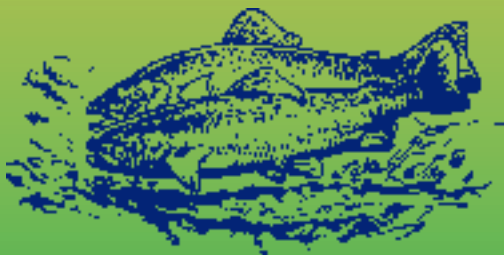


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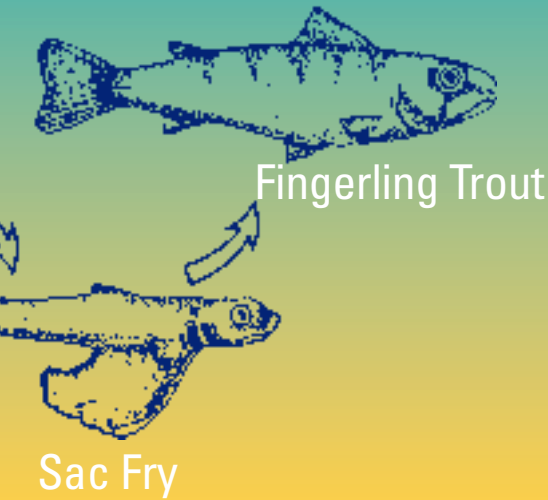


Natural Life

Trout eggs are deposited in prepared redds, or nests in the gravel of stream beds and hatch in 8 weeks or more. A young fish or fry lives to 3 to 4 weeks on food absorbed from the yolk sac.



Rainbow Trout



About the time the yolk is completely absorbed, the fingerling emerges from the gravel and feeds on microscopic aquatic organisms.

From the many eggs deposited in the gravel, only a very few are produced and survive to adulthood. Most of the eggs and young fish die from natural causes such as floods, silt, drought and predators. Under natural conditions, relatively few trout reach catchable size to be taken by fishermen.



5. Raceway Area

Fish are fed and cared for until they reach the desired stocking size. It takes approximately 18 months to raise a 9 inch fish from the larval (fry) stage.

Feeding activities range from twice a day for the larger fish to 5–6 times daily for the smaller sizes. As the fish gain weight, they are split into empty raceways to give them room to grow.



Throughout the year fish are harvested from the raceways and distributed by truck for stocking in streams, lakes and reservoirs in the Chattahoochee National Forest and various locations in North Georgia, maybe providing source material for another “big fish” story.

6. Service and Maintenance Buildings

These are maintenance, garage, paint and oil house, and storage buildings where work activity involves the mechanical aspects of the hatchery’s maintenance and operation. For safety reasons, this area is not open to the public.

7. Private Residences for Hatchery Personnel

Hatchery personnel only.

8. Environmental Education Center

The Center is designed for use by school groups. It contains a wet and dry lab, and a video viewing room. It is designed to educate students about the Southern Appalachian Ecosystem. Presentations are scheduled by appointment only.

We enjoyed having you visit the hatchery and invite you to return often. Your awareness of our resource and its needs is the basic foundation for support of healthy fish and wildlife populations.

photos: USFWS



**Chattahoochee Forest
National Fish Hatchery
4730 Rock Creek Road
Suches, Georgia 30572
706/838 4723**

**Hatchery hours: 7:30 am - 4:00 pm daily
<http://southeast.fws.gov>**

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD**

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