

Arkansas Trout Fishing Guidebook

2011



Full Page Ad

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

Main Office Contact Information

2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, Arkansas 72205
501-223-6300 or 800-364-4263 (office hours only)
www.agfc.com

Important Numbers

Stop Poaching Hotline

Toll Free: 800-482-9262
#TIP (#847) for AT&T users (charges apply)
24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Wildlife Hotline

Toll Free: 800-440-1477

Family and Community Fishing Program Hotline

Toll Free: 866-540-3474

Boating Education Classes

Toll Free: 877-493-6424 (office hours only)

Buy a License

Toll Free: 800-364-4263
24 hours a day,
seven days a week
www.agfc.com

Replace a Lost License

Toll Free: 800-364-4263
(office hours only)

Arkansas Game and Fish Foundation

501-223-6396
(office hours only)

Regional Office Contact Information

Northwest Office

455 Dam Site Rd.
Eureka Springs, AR 72631
Toll-free: 866-253-2506

East Central Office

1201 North Highway 49
Brinkley, AR 72021
Toll-free: 877-734-4581

North Central Office

Highway 56 North
Calico Rock, AR 72519
Toll-free: 877-297-4331

South Central Office

500 Ben Lane
Camden, AR 71701
Toll-free: 877-836-4612

Fort Smith Office

8000 Taylor Ave.
Fort Smith, AR 72916
Toll-free: 877-478-1043

Southwest Office

7004 Highway 67 East
Perrytown, AR 71801
Toll-free: 877-777-5580

Hot Springs Office

350 Fish Hatchery Rd.
Hot Springs, AR 71913
Toll-free: 877-525-8606

Northeast Office

2920 McClellan Dr., Ste. 1280
Jonesboro, AR 72401
Toll-free: 877-972-5438

Southeast Office

771 Jordan Dr.
Monticello, AR 71655
Toll-free: 877-367-3559

West Central Office

1266 Lock and Dam Rd.
Russellville, AR 72802
Toll-free: 877-967-7577

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Disclaimer

This publication is an interpretive summary of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's fishing regulations and contains those rules which affect most anglers. It is not a legal document. Copies of the official Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Code of Regulations are available at <http://www.agfc.com>, by calling 501-223-6351 or writing to the Communications Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at 2 Natural Resources Drive, Little Rock, AR 72205. The regulations in this publication are those passed by the Commission as of August 19, 2010. The Commission reserves the right to close seasons, and all regulations, dates and limits in this guidebook are subject to change. If any variation occurs at a Commission meeting after this guidebook goes to press, it will be widely publicized. Always check <http://www.agfc.com> or call our hotline for the up-to-date information.

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Arkansans with Disabilities

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is committed to providing equal access to programs and facilities. If you would like to suggest how we can better provide more reasonable accommodations for disabled persons at any agency-owned property or facility, please write to:

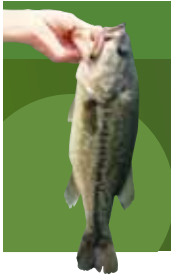
Compliance Officer - Human Resources
Arkansas Game and Fish Commission
2 Natural Resources Drive
Little Rock, AR 72205.



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New this Year in Trout

- Possessing filleted fish on catch-and-release areas is now prohibited. See Page 8.
- The possession limit definition has been redefined. See Page 12.



Want to know where the fish are biting?

Find all the hot spots in Arkansas by signing up for the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's free weekly fishing report. The weekly fishing report covers most waters in the state. The information is supplied by guides, marina workers and bait shop owners who make their living on the water.

Sign up for the weekly e-mail report by visiting www.agfc.com/resources/Pages/ResourcesEnewsletters.aspx or sending an e-mail to arkansasoutdoors@agfc.com.

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Buying a License or Trout Permit

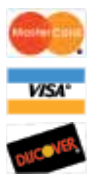
From a dealer

You can buy many licenses over-the-counter at sporting goods stores, hunting and fishing supplies stores, some discount chains, boat docks or directly from the AGFC's Little Rock or regional offices listed on Page 1.

On your computer

Licenses can be purchased online at www.agfc.com. You will be asked to supply personal information and a credit card number. A license receipt, valid to fish, can be printed on your home printer and an annual fishing license will arrive in the mail in a few days.

By phone



You can call 501-223-6349 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. in the Little Rock area or 800-364-GAME 24 hours a day to buy a license. Please have your credit card and an identification number ready. Your identification number can be a driver's license,

Social Security number, hunter education number, state ID number or passport number. Your fishing privileges become effective immediately and your license will arrive in the mail in a few days. Lifetime and commercial licenses are not available by phone.

Trout guides

Any person providing guide services for pay must purchase a resident or nonresident guide license in addition to a valid fishing license.

65-plus

Residents 65 and older may purchase a Lifetime Fishing License for \$10.50 or a Lifetime

Combination Sportsman's License (hunting and fishing) for \$35.50 any time during the calendar year of their 65th birthday. Each license is valid as long as the holder resides in Arkansas. Proof of age and 60 days of Arkansas residency is required. These licenses are available from the AGFC office in Little Rock or our regional offices (Page 1).

To fish for trout in certain waters or to keep trout, a state lifetime trout permit (purchased once at 65 or older) is available to holders of 65-Plus Lifetime Licenses (\$5.00).

Disability licenses

Resident disabled anglers may purchase a three-year disability fishing license (\$10.50) or a three-year combination license (\$35.50), which includes hunting and fishing privileges. In addition to proof of 60 days Arkansas residency, proof of 100 percent disability from the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs or the Railroad Retirement Board is required to apply for this license. This license expires three years from the date of purchase. A resident trout permit must be purchased annually to keep trout or to fish in certain waters. (See Page 7.) These licenses are available from the AGFC office in Little Rock.

Mobility Impaired Access Permit

Licensed sportsmen who are permanently mobility impaired may be eligible for special access privileges in certain areas on WMAs. These privileges allow persons with certain medical conditions to receive a Mobility Impaired Access Permit. There is no charge for the initial card. Applications are available online at www.agfc.com or by calling 800-364-4263 during business hours.

It's a big one – but not a state record.

The Master Angler Program recognizes anglers who catch trophy-sized fish that meet demanding minimum weight requirements. Awards include enameled pins or certificates. Entry forms are available at many boat docks and bait shops or from AGFC offices listed on Page 1. Forms can also be downloaded from www.agfc.com.

MASTER ANGLER PROGRAM

Fishing Licenses

To fish in Arkansas, anglers must have one of the licenses listed below. Anglers under 16 do not need a fishing license. To find out eligibility requirements for licenses and permits, such as proof of residency, age or disability, contact an AGFC office listed on Page 1. Annual fishing licenses are valid one year from purchase date.

Annual Fishing License, resident (FSH)	\$10.50
3-Day Trip Fishing License, resident (RT3)	\$6.50
65-Plus Lifetime License (See also Trout permits, below) for residents 65 or older, fishing only (PLF)	\$10.50
for residents 65 or older, hunting and fishing (PLC)	\$35.50
3-Year Disability License, fishing, resident (RDF)	\$10.50
3-Year Disability License, hunting and fishing, resident (RDC)	\$35.50
Lifetime Resident Hunting and Fishing Sportsman's Permit for residents of any age (LSP). (Holders of this license do not need to purchase annual trout permits.)	\$1,000.00
Annual Fishing License, nonresident (NRF)	\$40.00
3-Day Trip Fishing License, nonresident (NT3)	\$11.00
7-Day Trip Fishing License, nonresident (NT7)	\$17.00
14-Day Trip Fishing License, nonresident (N14)	\$22.00

Licenses and permits are nontransferable and nonrefundable.

Trout Permits

In addition to a fishing license, anglers 16 and older must have a trout permit to keep trout from any Arkansas waters or to fish in the following waters:

- White River, from Beaver Dam to Houseman Access
- White River, from Bull Shoals Dam to Highway 58 bridge at Guion
- Little Red River, from Greers Ferry Dam to Highway 305 bridge
- North Fork of White River, entire stream below Norfolk Dam
- Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) east of Highway 59
- Little Missouri River, from 100 yards below Lake Greesson (Narrows Dam) to Muddy Fork Road (low-water bridge)

Trout Permit, resident 16 and older (TPR)	\$5.00
Trout Permit, nonresident 16 and older (TPN)	\$12.00
65-Plus Lifetime Trout Permit, for holders of 65-plus fishing or combination licenses (PLT)	\$5.00

AGFC Guidebooks only cover the basics.

Be an informed angler! The official AGFC code of regulations is available at <http://www.agfc.com/enforcement/Pages/EnforcementRegulations.aspx>

Trout Regulations

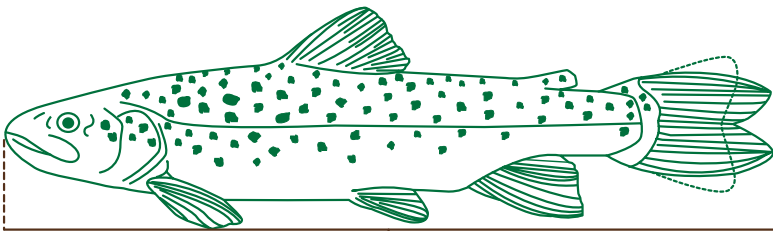
- A trout permit is required to keep trout from any water in Arkansas or to fish in the tailwaters below Beaver Lake, Bull Shoals Lake, Lake Norfolk, Greers Ferry Lake, Lake Greeson or east of Highway 59 on Spavinaw Creek (see Page 7). Anglers under 16 or holders of the \$1,000 Lifetime Resident Hunting and Fishing Sportsman's Permit do not need a trout permit. License requirements are on Page 6.
- Trout may not be driven, harassed or pursued with noise, objects, boats or by wading to concentrate them.
- A guide may not give away his or her fish if it causes the recipient to exceed his or her daily limit.
- Fish that are filleted or have head or tail removed may not be in possession while fishing from the shore, boat or transporting fish by boat on catch-and-release areas and length/slot limit waters.
- Anglers may not cull rainbow trout. Once an angler has kept a rainbow trout on a stringer, in a livewell or in a fish basket, the rainbow trout may not be subsequently released. The only exception

is that a rainbow trout longer than 16 inches may be temporarily kept in a livewell for measuring, weighing and photographing before being released when fishing Bull Shoals and Norfolk tailwaters (except in catch-and-release areas).

- Trout may not be used as bait.
- Chumming is not allowed in trout waters designated with special regulations such as catch-and-release areas, artificial lures only areas and areas where natural or scented baits are prohibited. Chumming is allowed in all waters except those listed above. Chumming is defined as dislodging or depositing any substance not attached to a hook which may attract fish. Chumming in catch-and-release areas is prohibited because normal trout feeding behavior can be disrupted and the stream environment can be damaged. One common example of chumming is tossing canned corn into the water to stimulate feeding. The technique of dislodging material from the streambed to attract trout, known as the "San Juan Shuffle," is also considered chumming.

How to Measure a Fish

Measure fish from the front end of the lower jaw to the tip of the tail. Lay the fish flat on its side on top of the ruler, mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together.



Length x girth x girth

= weight

800

The formula for estimating the weight of a live trout

Boating Law

General Requirements

Registering and insuring: Boats propelled by sail or motor must be registered when operated on public waters.

Arkansas boat owners may register a boat at the office of the county revenue agent in the county where the boat is principally used or in their home county. All personal watercraft and motorboats powered by engines of more than 50 horsepower must show proof of \$50,000 liability insurance when registering and it must be carried on board at all times.

Out-of-state boats with valid registrations may be operated for up to 90 days without registering in Arkansas.

Operating a boat in excess of 5 mph in a posted no-wake zone, within 100 feet of a recreation area, dock, pier, raft, float, anchored boat or dam intake or other obstruction is illegal.

Lights

Boats must be equipped with the described lights to be operated during darkness.

1. On state-controlled waters, lights on boats, including those on nonpowered boats, must be sufficient to make the boat's presence and location known to any other vessel within a reasonable distance.
2. On federally controlled waters, nonpowered boats must have a readily accessible light source to be used in sufficient time to prevent a collision. Motorboats operating on federally controlled waters must have a combination red-and-green light on the bow and a white light aft.

Fire Extinguishers

Fire extinguishers are required of inboard boats, open boats with built-in fuel tanks and boats with bilges where flammable gases may accumulate.

Age Requirements

To operate a motorboat powered by an engine of 10 horsepower or more:

A person under 12 years of age must:

1. Satisfy the boating education requirement (see Page 10) and
2. Be under the direct visible and audible supervision of a parent, guardian, or person at least 18 years of age.

A person 12 years of age or older must satisfy the boating education requirement if born after 1985.

To operate a personal watercraft (PWC):

A person under 12 years of age must have a person at least 21 years of age on board who must:

1. Satisfy the boating education requirement (see Page 10) if born after 1985 and
2. Be in a position to take immediate control of the PWC.

A person 12 through 15 years of age must have a person at least 18 years of age on board who must:

1. Satisfy the boating education requirement (see Page 10) if born after 1985, and
2. Be in a position to take immediate control of the PWC.

You must be at least 16 years of age to operate a personal watercraft without adult supervision and if born after 1985, you must have passed boating education (Page 10) and carry proof of passing while operating a PWC. A person under 16 years of age may not operate any personal watercraft that is not rated to carry at least two people.

SCUBA

A diver's flag means that scuba divers are in the water nearby. Slow down and use caution. Boats are required to operate at idle speed within 100 feet of a diver's flag.

Boat Capacity

Loading a vessel beyond its stated safe carrying capacity is illegal.

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

No vessel may enter within 100 yards downstream of an Army Corps of Engineers dam. Operating a vessel in a manner contrary to signs, markers or buoys

placed by the Corps controlling speed, skiing or operation of vessels is prohibited.

Kill Switch

For motorboats equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch, the boat operator is required to attach the lanyard to his person, clothing or personal floatation device while the engine is in use.

Accidents

The operator of a boat involved in an accident is required to immediately:

1. Render assistance to other persons affected by the incident to save them or minimize danger so far as he can without causing serious danger to his own boat, crew and passengers;

2. Give his or her name, address and identification of his or her boat in writing to any person injured and to the owner of any property damaged in the incident;
3. Notify the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission or the local sheriff's office so an officer can investigate the accident. To report a boating accident, call 800-482-9262 (toll-free). Accidents involving death, injury or property damage of \$500 or more must be reported.

Drinking and Boating

A boat operator with a blood alcohol content of .08 percent or greater is considered intoxicated and the boat operator is subject to arrest.



Mandatory Boating Education

Anyone born after 1985 and of legal age to operate a motorboat must have successfully completed an approved Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Boating Education Course and carry proof of completion while operating any motorboat on Arkansas waters.

A motorboat is defined as any vessel operated upon water propelled by sail or machinery, whether or not the machinery is the principal source of propulsion.

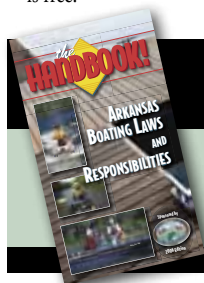
The Boating Education Course is designed to teach the fundamentals of safe and responsible boating and is written on a sixth-grade reading level. The Commission offers the following options for taking the Boating Education Course:

- The classroom course is a minimum six hours of instruction including the examination. This option is free.

- The internet course is available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Students study the material and must go to a testing site and take the examination under the supervision of a boating education instructor. There will be a minimum fee to take the online course.

After successful completion of one of these options, the student will be mailed a Boating Education Card.

Class Schedules: Information about boating education classroom, online or home study courses can be obtained by contacting the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at 501-223-6377 (Little Rock) or 877-493-6424 (toll-free). Information and class schedules are available online at www.agfc.com.



The Handbook of Arkansas Boating Laws and Responsibilities

This compilation of Arkansas and federal boating laws is available by calling the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission at 501-223-6379 (Little Rock) or e-mail skweatherington@agfc.state.ar.us.

Personal Flotation Devices (PFD)

Boats under 16 feet long, canoes and kayaks must have one wearable (Type I, II or III) PFD in serviceable condition and of proper size for each person on board.

Boats, 16 feet or longer, must have one wearable (Type I, II or III) PFD in serviceable condition and of proper size for each person and one Type IV (throwable) PFD on board.

Children under 13 must wear a well-fitting PFD at all times while aboard a boat. The only exceptions are when they are within the enclosed area of a houseboat, cruiser or within the railings of a party barge while the boat is not under way.

Personal watercraft (Jet-Skis, Seadoos, etc.) occupants are required to wear PFDs.

Water skiers must wear a Type I, II, III or V PFD. Water skiing is not allowed from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise. Boats towing water skiers must have, in addition to the driver, an observer at least 12 years old or a wide-angle convex marine mirror to observe the person being towed. Mirrors do not apply when towing persons on PWCs.

Inflatable life jackets must be worn at all times while on board to be a legal substitute for a Type I, II or III PFD. Boaters who remove their inflatable life vest while on board must have a standard Type I, II or III PFD within easy reach. Inflatable PFDs may not be used by water skiers or personal watercraft occupants.

All PFDs must be Coast Guard approved.

Private Property

Find out who owns the land or water and get verbal or written permission from the landowner or leaseholder before hunting, fishing, trapping or releasing hunting dogs on private property.

If the property is not posted, verbal permission is required. If posted, each person must carry written permission.

Written permission is not required if the person fishing is a relative of the landowner or lessee and permission can be verified.

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Arkansas Trout



Daily Limit – The total limit of a certain fish species that may be taken in one day.

Possession Limit – The total limit of a certain fish species that is in your possession at any time, whether on your person or stored in another location.

For all fish or wildlife resources, excluding migratory game birds, taken for personal consumption, the Arkansas possession limit shall not apply after the fish or wildlife resource has been completely processed and resides within a residence of the possessor. For purposes of the possession limit, a residence is a permanent structure (such as a house or house trailer) that is permanently in place and is owned, leased, or rented fully or in part by an individual who uses the residence to store processed fish or wildlife taken in Arkansas and excluding mobile travel trailers, tents, temporary rental units (such as motels, lodges, cabins or resorts) and vehicles.

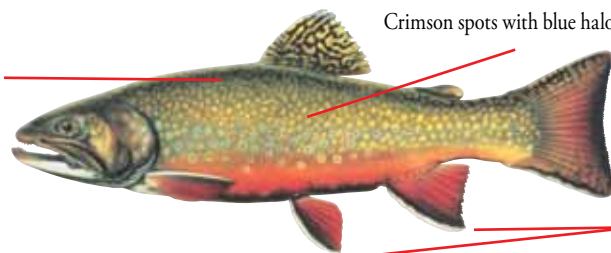
Total daily limit (all species combined) 5 trout*

Possession limit: Twice the daily limit

*Some waters have different or special regulations; always check your destination.

Brook Trout

Light wormlike markings on dark green upper body



Crimson spots with blue halos and yellow spots

White and black edge on front of lower fins

Brook trout like cold, clear waters and are found just below dams. They frequent undercut banks and large rocks and logs. Young fish feed mostly on plankton and insects. Adults feed on insects and small fish. Brook trout have been known to reproduce in Collins Creek. The average brook trout is between a half pound and a pound in size. The state record is 5 pounds.

Cutthroat Trout

Red-orange slash marks on the underside of the jaw



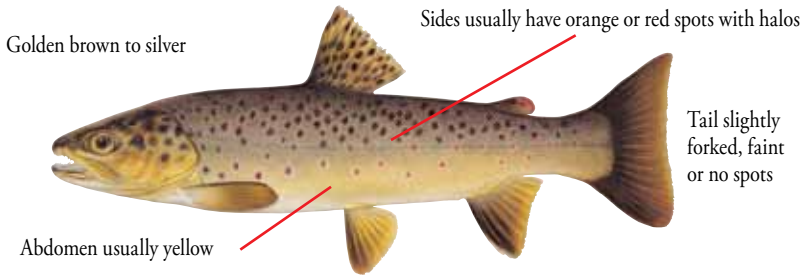
Black spotting heavier towards rear of fish

Tail spotted, forked

Fin never white-tipped

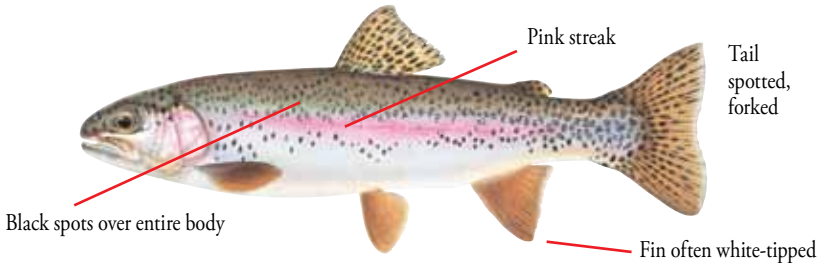
Less common than rainbows, cutthroat trout are known by their bright reddish- orange “cut throat” mark. Cutthroat trout eat mostly insects, although larger individuals will eat minnows and small fish. They are not known to reproduce in Arkansas. The state record is 9 pounds, 9 ounces.

Brown Trout



Young brown trout feed mostly on small aquatic invertebrates, while adults prefer crayfish and fish. Browns reproduce in the White River, below Bull Shoals Dam and in the Little Red River. Seasonal fishing closures in the early winter on the White River protect the most active spawning areas. Most brown trout weigh 2 to 4 pounds when caught, although 5- to 10-pound fish are not uncommon. The state record, and former world record, is 40 pounds, 4 ounces.

Rainbow Trout



Rainbows often lurk in sheltered water near structure (rocks, dropoffs and logs), adjacent to currents carrying food. They also seek slow, deep pools for shelter. Rainbows feed on aquatic and terrestrial insects as well as small fish, crayfish and snails. Although rare in Arkansas, spawning sometimes occurs in swift, gravelly riffles. Most rainbows weigh about 1 pound when caught, although 3- to 5- pounders are not uncommon. The state record is 19 pounds, 1 ounce.

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Sign up for the weekly e-mail report by visiting www.agfc.com/resources/Pages/ResourcesEnewsletters.aspx or sending an e-mail to arkansasoutdoors@agfc.com.



Scheduled Trout Stockings for 2011*

	January	February	March	April
Beaver Dam Tailwater				
Rainbow Trout	3500	3500	11250	11250
Brown Trout	5000	0	0	0
Blanchard Spring				
Rainbow Trout	1000	1000	1000	2450
Bull Shoals Reservoir				
Rainbow Trout	0	0	20000	0
Lake Catherine				
Rainbow Trout	12300	12000	9700	1320
Lake Hamilton				
Rainbow Trout	12000	6625	10000	1875
Little Red River				
Rainbow Trout	8040	11220	21030	25940
Narrow Dam Tailwater				
Rainbow Trout	15000	15000	15000	3120
Brown Trout	400	0	0	0
Norfolk Dam Tailwater				
Rainbow Trout	2400	8400	9665	13765
Brook Trout	0	0	0	0
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
Cutthroat Trout	0	0	25000	0
Rommel Dam Tailwater				
Rainbow Trout	3200	1800	2000	1500
Spring River				
Rainbow Trout	4200	4155	12530	16260
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
Cutthroat Trout	0	0	15000	0
Upper Little Missouri River				
Rainbow Trout	3700	4200	1800	1800
Seasonal and Family and Community Sites				
War Memorial Pond (Little Rock)	400	400	200	0
MacArthur Park Pond (Little Rock)	500	500	250	0
Rock Creek (Little Rock)	1500	1500	1500	0
Boyle Park Pond (Little Rock)	400	400	200	0
Kiwanis/Holt Park Pond (Little Rock)	500	500	250	0
Otter Creek Park Pond (Little Rock)	500	500	250	0
Cabot Community Pond	1000	1000	500	0
Lake Atalanta (Rogers)	3400	3400	3400	0
Murphy Park Pond (Springdale)	600	600	600	0
Springdale Lake	600	600	600	0
Amon's Lake (Mtn. Home)	300	300	300	300
Tilden Rogers Pond/West Memphis City Pond	750	750	500	0
Lake Valencia (Maumelle)	1000	1000	500	0
Sherwood Community Pond	200	200	0	0
Cherrywood Lake (Sherwood)	500	500	0	0
Pleasant View Park Pond (Russellville)	400	400	400	0
Ft. Roots	0	0	0	0
Martin Luther King Park Pond (Pine Bluff)	500	500	0	0
Little Rock Air Force Base	750	750	750	0
Craighead Forest Park Pond (Jonesboro)	400	400	400	0
Mike & Janet Huckabee Pond (Y&S)	200	200	0	0
Lake Wells (Fr. Smith)	1700	1700	800	0
Energy Park (Hot Springs)	400	400	400	0
Family Park Pond (Hot Springs)	250	250	250	0
Lake Benjamin (Glenwood)	500	500	0	0
Lake Diffenbacher (Texarkana)	500	500	0	0
Rich Mtn. CC Pond (Mena)	300	300	300	0
Salem City Lake	800	400	400	0
Stinger Lake (Mountain. View)	300	300	300	0
Devil's Den State Park Pond (West Fork)	0	0	0	0
White River				
Rainbow Trout	33120	55265	107535	137835
Brook Trout	0	0	0	0
Brown Trout	0	0	0	0
Cutthroat Trout	0	0	150000	45000
Grand Totals				

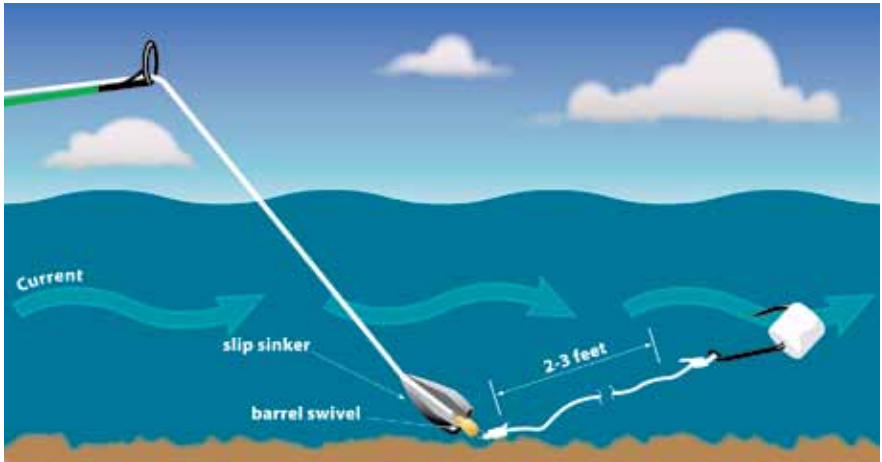
Of Interest • Scheduled Trout Stockings for 2011

*this schedule is tentative and subject to change

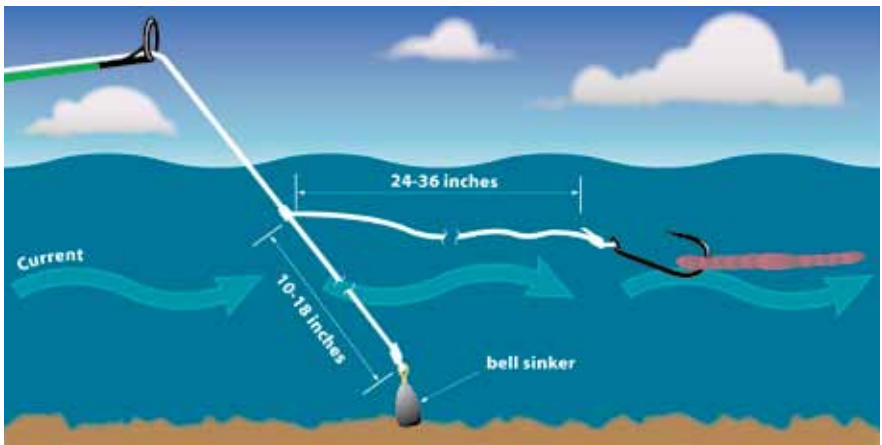
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0	0	0	0	0	0	3000	3000	41320
0	0	0	0	0	0	3000	4500	38000
31260	29260	33745	29675	22140	19155	21420	7385	260270
1320 0	1320 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	2010 0	7320 0	7120 0	67210 400
10340 0 0 0	11270 0 0 0	11280 0 0 0	10805 0 0 0	6955 0 0 0	2195 0 10000 0	2615 0 0 0	2605 15000 0 0	92295 15000 10000 25000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3480	11980
16260 0 0	16170 0 0	16170 0 0	17440 0 0	15260 0 0	8720 10000 0	3740 0 0	3320 0 0	134225 10000 15000
0	0	0	0	0	0	1000	1500	14000
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0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1500	4000
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0	0	0	0	0	0	0	500	500
109585 0 0 0	139310 0 0 0	145570 0 0 0	143660 0 0 0	121145 0 0 0	108710 0 105000 0	55140 0 0 0	36715 15000 0 0	1193590 15000 105000 195000

2467250

Bait Fishing Techniques



Slide a slip sinker on the line, attach a barrel swivel, tie on 2 to 3 feet of 2-pound-test leader and finish off with a bait hook. The marshmallow provides flotation for the hook. Illustration by the AGFC.



This rig, often used for drift fishing on the White River, can be baited with many kinds of trout bait including night crawlers, redworms or a glow worm/salmon egg combination. Use 4- or 6-pound line, clear or light green, to be less visible to fish. Illustration by the AGFC.

For more information on trout fishing techniques, visit us on the web at <http://www.agfc.com/fishing/Pages/FishingProgramsTPHow.aspx>.

Didymo in Arkansas Tailwaters

Didymo is an invasive, freshwater alga found in many Arkansas tailwaters. It thrives in cool, clear, nutrient-poor water, and forms thick, brown mats that can smother a streambed. Didymo clings to rocks, plants and other materials in the water by stalks, which form the thick mat. Established mats form flowing streamers that turn white at the ends and look similar to tissue paper.

Native to northern Europe, Canada, and other regions in the Northern Hemisphere, didymo appears to be gradually expanding its geographic range. It is in the following Arkansas trout waters: Beaver Tailwater on the White River, Bull Shoals Tailwater on the White River, Norfolk Tailwater on the North Fork of the White River, and Greer's Ferry Tailwater on the Little Red River. The primary means of spreading didymo is thought to be recreational equipment, such as boats, life jackets and fishing gear (especially waders).

Didymo can impact Arkansas trout fisheries in several ways. First, it is aesthetically displeasing and can foul fishing lines and hooks. It also can reduce or change the available habitat for aquatic insects, bait fish and other trout forage.

Currently there is no method for removing didymo once it has been introduced. Preventing its spread to unaffected waters is the most effective means of control. Here are some measures anglers can take to help prevent the spread of didymo to other waters.

1. Remove all clumps of algae and sediment from gear prior to leaving an affected water body.
2. Clean all gear that came into contact with the water with one of the following solutions: 2 percent bleach, 5 percent salt solution, or dishwashing detergent. All surfaces must be in contact with the cleaning solution for at least a full minute.
3. If you cannot wash your gear, the next best thing is to let it dry for at least 48 hours before entering another water body (if possible wash and dry for 48 hours).

Internet Resources

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/didymosphenia/>
<http://www.protectyourwaters.net>



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
 Clean **all** recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net



Didymo can foul fishing equipment and disrupt habitat for native species.

Work for Minimum Flow Underway

For years, the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission has sought a constant, minimum flow of water below Bull Shoals and Norfolk dams on the White River to improve the state's valuable trout fishery.

Bull Shoals and Norfolk lakes were built to control flooding and generate electricity. When water is not released for either purpose, flows are reduced to almost a trickle. The streambed is exposed and the water temperature may rise to lethal levels for trout. Habitat needed by insects, which are food for trout, is reduced during low flows.

Minimum flow is the release of water below a dam when water is not released for flood control or electrical generation. Congress has approved minimum flows for Bull Shoals and Norfolk dams. Minimum flows will help keep the White River cold for trout, greatly increase available trout habitat and help alleviate dissolved oxygen problems. Minimum flows will not reduce wading or fly-fishing opportunities or harm lake recreation. Minimum flows will benefit the state both ecologically and economically.

The federal government will pay the cost of minimum flow as an environmental benefit to the nation, but the AGFC will pay the cost of moving recreational facilities on Bull Shoals and Norfolk lakes. Work at Lake Norfolk facilities began in 2010 and will be complete in 2011. Minimum flow should begin below Lake Norfolk by late 2011. Work on Bull Shoals facilities will begin in 2011 and be complete in 2012.



The White River below Bull Shoals Lake, when no generators are running.



Bring
an Ozark
Tailwater to
Your Wall

Featuring artwork by famous Arkansas painter **Duane Hada**, the Ozark Tailwater Ecosystem poster highlights 30 species found in and around the Bull Shoals Tailwater.

Call 800-364-GAME (4263) to get your 36" x 24" poster today.

The Ozark Tailwater Ecosystem poster is one of a series using the artwork of Duane Hada to highlight Arkansas's diverse fisheries.

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Trout Fishing Areas

Beaver Tailwater

A fishing license (Page 7) and a trout permit are required to keep trout from any water in Arkansas or to fish in Beaver Lake Tailwater from Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access. Licenses or permits are not required for children under 16. Multiple point hooks with barbs are allowed unless fishing with bait or inside the Special Regulations area.

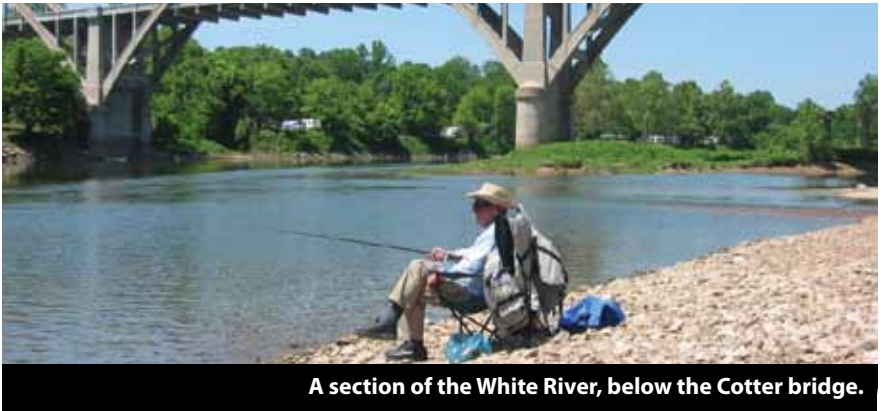
Regulations

WHITE RIVER (map on facing page)

- Beaver Tailwater: White River from 100 yards below Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access. A trout permit is required. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish other than as specified for the paddlefish-snagging season.
- Beaver Tailwater Slot Limit: From Beaver Dam to boundary signs at Houseman Access. Trout from 13 to 16 inches in length must be released immediately and may not be in possession in this area. Only one fish exceeding 16 inches long may be kept. Bait fishing allowed only with a single, barbless hooking point (barbed-shaft baitholder hooks allowed).
- Beaver Tailwater Special Regulation Area: Artificial lures only area/no bait zone. Approximately 0.5 miles below Beaver Dam to approximately 100 yards upstream of Parker Bend Access as indicated by signs. Only artificial lures with a single, barbless hooking point shall be used. Natural or scented baits are not allowed. Chumming is not allowed.
- Paddlefish Snagging Season: From Beaver Lake Dam, (from the Corps of Engineers “No Fishing Beyond This Point” sign downstream) to the first Corps boat ramp on the left descending bank: From April 15 to June 15, snagging game fish is legal. Snagging must be discontinued once two trout have been taken. Snagged fish may not be released.

SPAVINAW CREEK (Benton County)

From its source downstream east of the Highway 59 bridge: Catch-and-release area. A trout permit is required. See Page 7. Trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures with a single, barbless hooking point shall be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). Chumming is not allowed. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole, and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish.



A section of the White River, below the Cotter bridge.

Beaver Lake Tailwater White River

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:

Beaver Lake Tailwater

(417) 336-5083 (COE)

(866) 494-1993 TOLL FREE (Southwestern Power Administration)



Bull Shoals Lake Tailwater (White River)

A fishing license (Page 7) and a trout permit are required to keep trout from any water in Arkansas or to fish in the White River from Bull Shoals Dam to the Highway 58 bridge at Guion (shown on Page 30). Licenses or permits are not required for children under 16.

Regulations

There is a daily limit of five trout. Only two brook trout, 14 inches or longer may be kept. Only one brown trout, 24 inches or longer may be kept. Only two cutthroat trout, 16 inches or longer may be kept.

WHITE RIVER (map on pages 28-30)

- Bull Shoals Tailwater: From 100 yards below Bulls Shoals Dam to Highway 58 Bridge at Guion: A trout permit is required. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole and must attend it at all times. No other devices shall be used to catch fish.

Bull Shoals Catch-and-Release Areas

In the following areas, trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures or flies may be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). All hooking points must be barbless. Chumming is not allowed:

- Bull Shoals Catch-and-Release Area: From 100 yards below Bull Shoals Dam to the upstream boundary of Bull Shoals White River State Park, as indicated by signs: Catch-and-release Feb. 1-Oct. 31. Closed to fishing Nov. 1-Jan. 31 downstream to the wing dike at the Bull Shoals White River State Park Trout Dock;
- Bull Shoals Seasonal Brown Trout Catch-and-Release Area: From the wing dike at the Bull Shoals White River State Park trout dock to the downstream boundary of the park: Seasonal catch-and-release area for brown trout Nov. 1-Jan. 31. Brown trout must be released immediately. No fishing from 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise;
- Rim Shoals Catch-and-Release Area (near Cotter): From sign immediately above mouth of Jenkins Creek to the first electric power line downstream, as indicated by signs;
- Monkey Island Catch-and-Release Area: From the upstream end of Monkey Island to Moccasin Creek, as indicated by signs.

BIG SPRING (In Cotter, at the AGFC access to the White River)

From its source to the confluence with the White River, unless otherwise specified. Catch-and-release area. Trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). Chumming is not allowed. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole, and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish. Fishing is allowed from sunrise to sunset. Only youths under age 16, accompanied by an adult, and disabled anglers may fish Big Spring.

- Adult disabled anglers must carry proof that they are 100 percent permanently and totally disabled and possess a valid AGFC sport fishing, lifetime fishing, or combination hunting and fishing license, and a valid trout permit.
- No fishing in the “swimming hole” at the upstream end of Big Spring, as indicated by signs.
- No motorized boats are allowed in Big Spring.
- Fishing derbies must be permitted in writing by AGFC District 2 Fisheries Biologist, and can include fishing with natural or scented baits, and harvest of trout.

MIRROR LAKE (Blanchard Springs – Stone County)

Open to fishing with rod or pole only. Anglers may use no more than two fishing rods and must attend them at all times. Handicapped-accessible fishing pier is available.



Bull Shoals Lake Tailwater

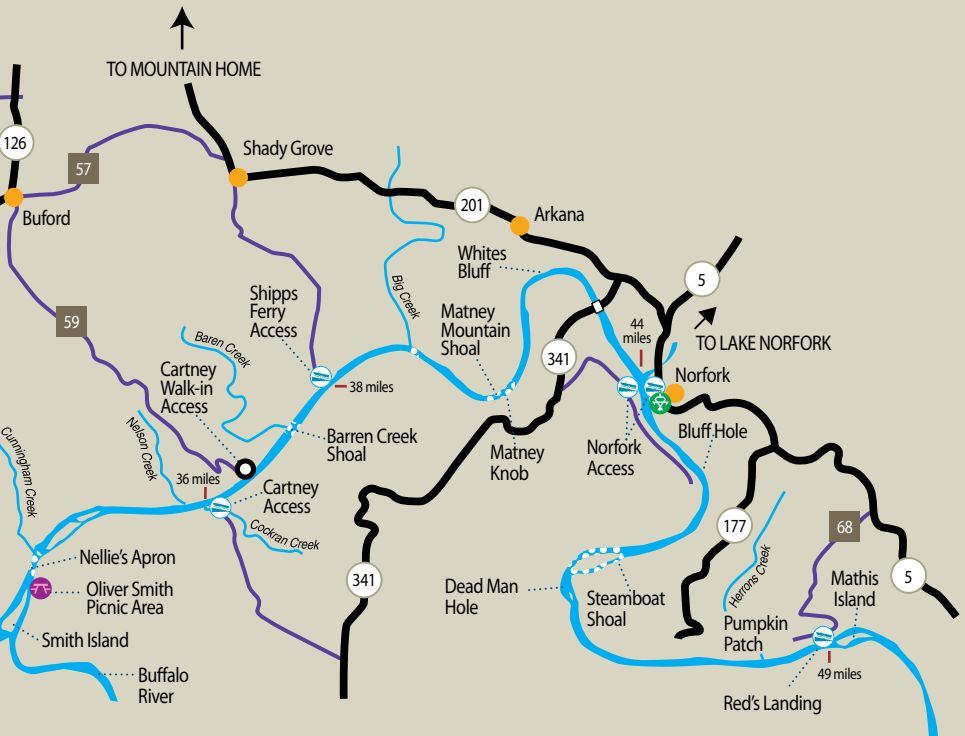
White River

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:

Bull Shoals Lake Tailwater

(870) 431-5311 (COE)

(866) 494-1993 TOLL FREE (Southwestern Power Administration)



Map continues on PAGE 30

Bull Shoals Lake Tailwater – Map 2

White River – Mirror Lake

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:
 Bull Shoals Lake Tailwater
 (870) 431-5311 (COE)
 (866) 494-1993 TOLL FREE (Southwestern Power Administration)



- Boat Access
- Primitive Boat Access
- Handicap Access
- Handicap Boater Transfer Lift
- Picnic Area
- Shoals
- Catch and Release
- Roads
- State Highway
- US Highway

Norfolk Lake Tailwater (North Fork River) (on Page 32)

A fishing license (Page 7) and a trout permit are required to keep trout from any water in Arkansas or to fish in the North Fork River below the dam. Licenses or permits are not required for children under 16.

Regulations

There is a daily limit of five trout. Only two brook trout, 14 inches or longer may be kept. Only one brown trout, 24 inches or longer may be kept. Only two cutthroat trout, 16 inches or longer may be kept.

NORTH FORK RIVER (map on Page 32)

- Norfolk Tailwater, from 100 yards below Norfolk Dam to White River: Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole and must attend it at all times. No other devices shall be used to catch fish. Chains or other objects capable of destroying aquatic vegetation may not be dragged.
- Norfolk Catch-and-Release Area from downstream end of Long Hole to Bill Ackerman/River Ridge Walk-in Access, as indicated by signs: Trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures or flies may be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). All hooking points must be barbless. Chumming is not allowed.
- Bill Ackerman/River Ridge Park Access: Handicapped-accessible fishing pier is available.

DRY RUN CREEK (Outflow from Norfolk National Fish Hatchery)

Only youths under 16 and mobility impaired anglers may fish Dry Run Creek (Norfolk National Fish Hatchery outflow). Catch-and-release area. Trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures with a single, barbless hooking point shall be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). Chumming is not allowed. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole, and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish. Fishing is allowed from sunrise to sunset. Fishing from the pier is limited to mobility impaired anglers only. Mobility impaired card required for mobility impaired adult anglers.



Bull Shoals-White River State Park

Bull Shoals-White River State Park features 107 campsites – 13 Premium, 70 Preferred, 20 Tent sites with no hookups, two “Rent-A-Camp” and two “Rent-An-RV” sites. There are also picnic areas, standard pavilions, playgrounds and trails. A trout dock offers boat, motor and canoe rentals; supplies; equipment and gifts. Trout fishing, fly-fishing and trout cooking demonstrations are offered at the State Park Trout Dock from April 1 through October 31 by the park interpreter.

129 Bull Shoals Park, Lakeview, AR 72642 • 1-870-431-5521
bullshoalswhiteriver@arkansas.com

Norfolk Lake Tailwater

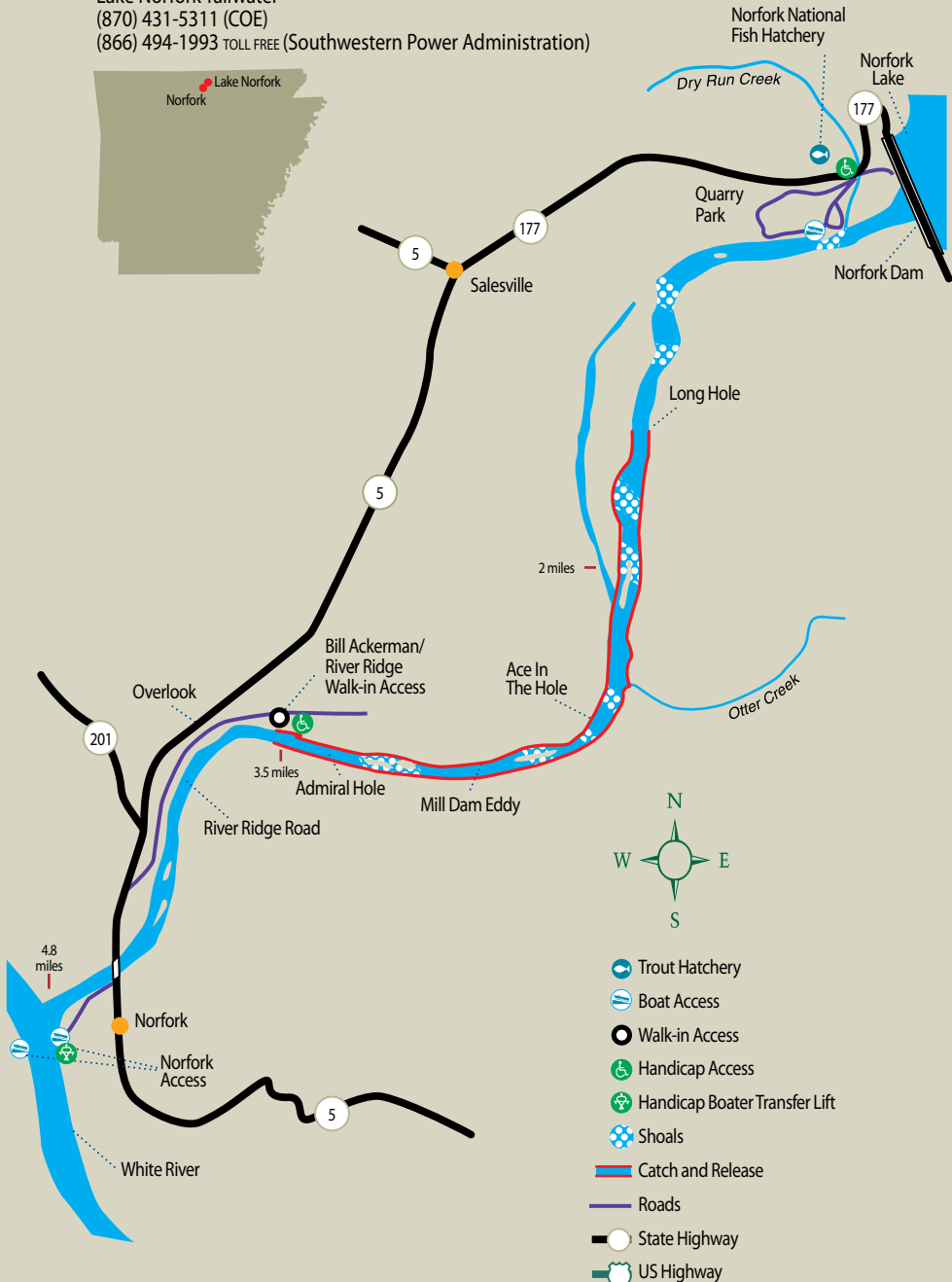
North Fork River

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:

Lake Norfolk Tailwater

(870) 431-5311 (COE)

(866) 494-1993 TOLL FREE (Southwestern Power Administration)



- Trout Hatchery
- Boat Access
- Walk-in Access
- Handicap Access
- Handicap Boater Transfer Lift
- Shoals
- Catch and Release
- Roads
- State Highway
- US Highway

Greers Ferry Lake Tailwater (Little Red River) (on pages 34-35)

A fishing license (Page 7) and a trout permit are required to keep trout from any water in Arkansas or to fish in the Little Red River, from Greers Ferry Dam to the Highway 305 bridge. Licenses or permits are not required for children under 16.

Regulations

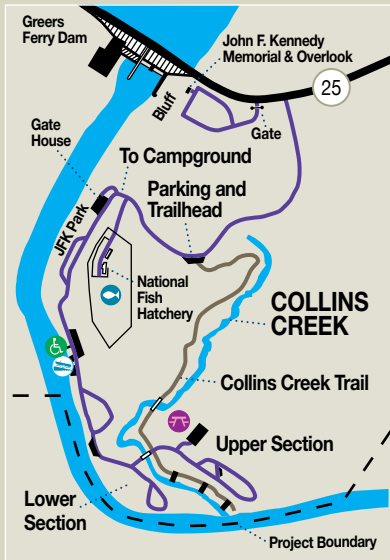
A trout permit is required. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish. Only a single hooking point per pole may be used for bait fishing.

- Greers Ferry Tailwater Slot Limit: From 100 yards below Greers Ferry Dam to the Hwy 305 Bridge. Trout from 16 to 24 inches must be released immediately and may not be in possession in this area. Only one trout exceeding 24 inches may be kept.
- Greers Ferry Tailwater Special Regulation Areas: In the following areas, only artificial lures with barbless hooks may be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). Chumming is not allowed. The same slot limit harvest restrictions for Greers Ferry Tailwater apply in these areas unless otherwise noted.
 - JFK Special Regulation Area: 100 yards below Greers Ferry Dam downstream to approximately 0.5 miles downstream to the last Greers Ferry National Fish Hatchery effluent outfall in John F. Kennedy Park, as indicated by signs.
 - Mossy Shoals Special Regulation Area: Upstream end of Dunham Shoals to downstream end of Mossy Shoals, as indicated by signs.
- Cow Shoals Seasonal Catch-and-Release Area: Oct. 1-Dec. 31. Head of Cow Shoals to mouth of Canoe Creek, as indicated by signs. Only artificial lures with a single, barbless hooking point shall be used. Natural or scented baits are prohibited. All trout must be released immediately. Closed to night fishing (one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise).

COLLINS CREEK

Only youths under 16 may fish on Collins Creek from its source to the wooden vehicle bridge in JFK Park. From the bridge to the Little Red River, fishing is restricted to youths under 16 or anglers over 16 accompanied by an actively fishing youth under 16. Trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures with a single, barbless hooking point shall be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). Chumming is not allowed. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole, and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish. Fishing is allowed from sunrise to sunset.

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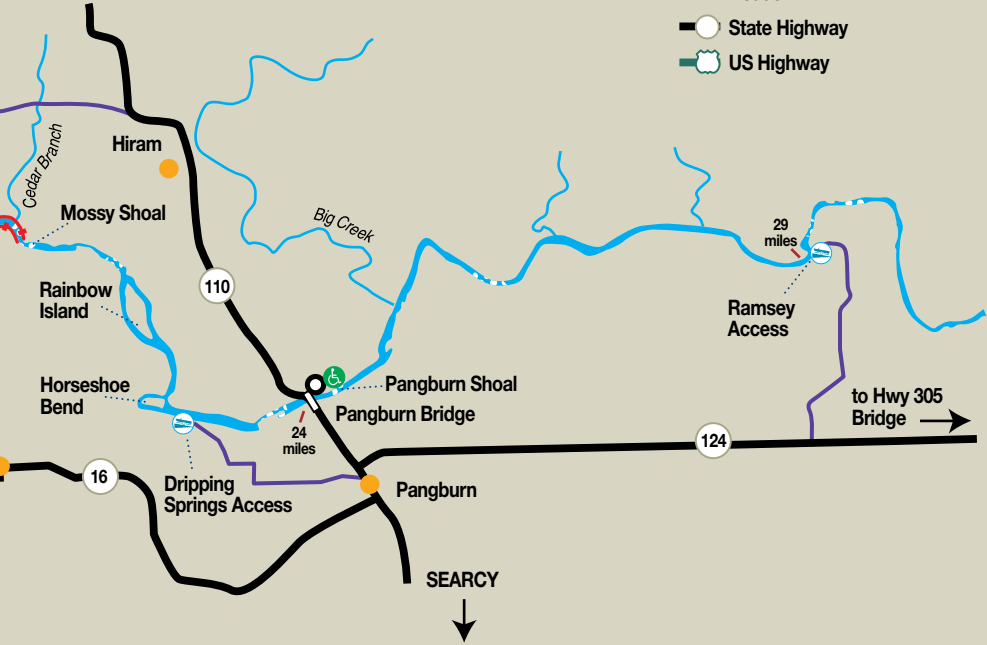
Greens Ferry Lake Tailwater

Little Red River

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:
Greens Ferry Lake Tailwater (501) 362-5150



- Trout Hatchery
- Boat Access
- Walk-in Access
- Handicap Access
- Picnic Area
- Shoals
- Seasonal Catch and Release
- Artificial Lures Only Area
- Roads
- State Highway
- US Highway



Spring River

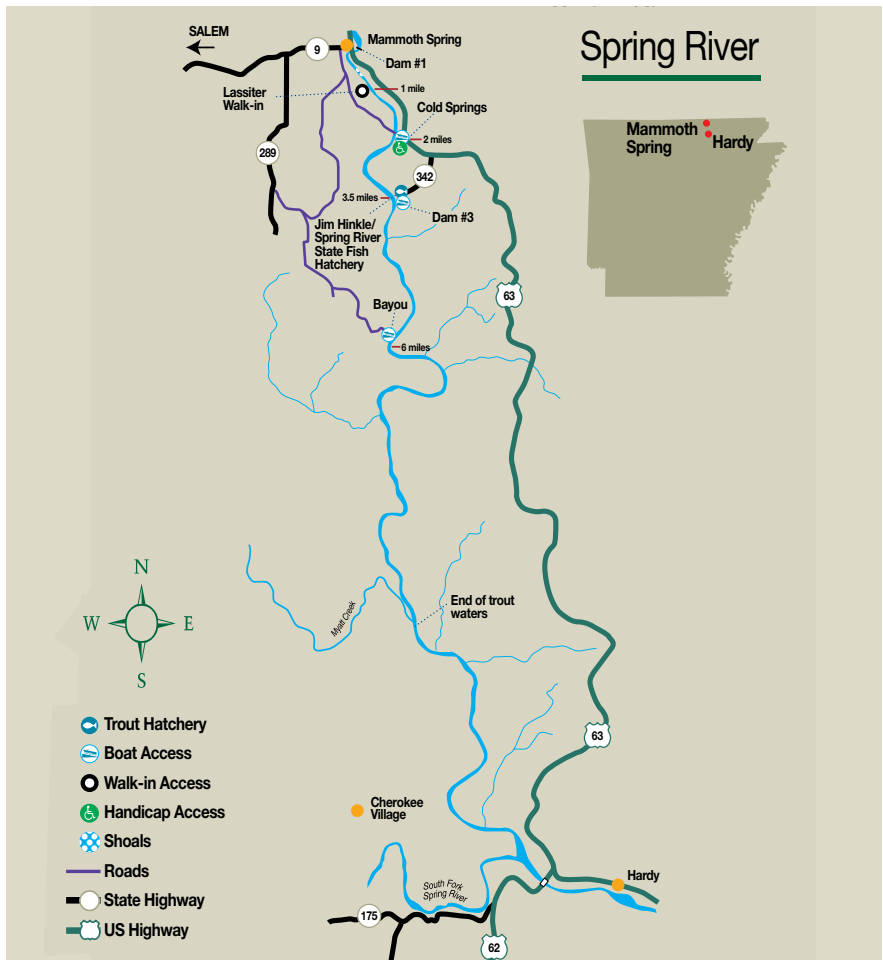
A fishing license (Page 7) and a trout permit are required to keep trout from any water in Arkansas. Licenses or permits are not required for children under 16.

Regulations

There is a daily limit of five trout. Only two brown trout, 16 inches or longer, may be kept. Only 2 cutthroat trout, 16 inches or longer, may be kept.

SPRING RIVER (map below)

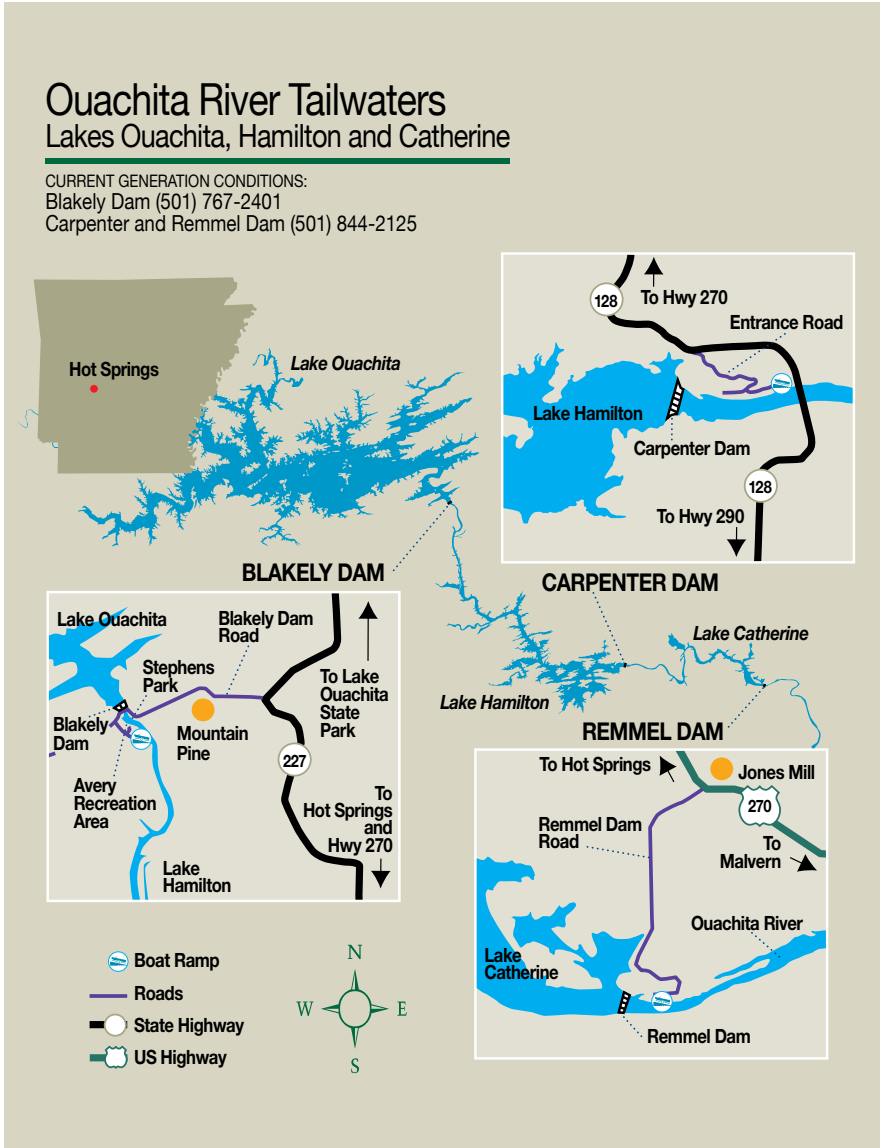
- From 100 yards below Dam No.1 at Mammoth Spring State Park to the mouth of Myatt Creek: Anglers may use no more than two fishing rods and must attend them at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish.
- Cold Springs Access: Handicapped-accessible fishing pier is available.



Ouachita River Tailwaters

A fishing license (Page 7) and a trout permit are required to keep trout from any water in Arkansas. Licenses or permits are not required for children under 16.

Statewide trout regulations apply to the Ouachita River Tailwaters.



Lake Greeson Tailwater — Little Missouri River

A fishing license (Page 7) and a trout permit are required to keep trout from any water in Arkansas or to fish in the Little Missouri River from Narrows Dam to Muddy Fork Road (low-water bridge). Licenses or permits are not required for children under 16.

Regulations

LITTLE MISSOURI RIVER (map on Page 39)

- Narrows Tailwater, from 100 yards below Lake Greeson (Narrows Dam) to Muddy Fork Road (low-water bridge): Anglers may use no more than two fishing rods or poles and must attend them at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish. There is a daily limit of five trout. Any brown trout caught in Narrows Tailwater must be released immediately.
- Narrows Tailwater Special Regulation Areas: In the following areas, trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures with single, barbless hooks may be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). Chumming is not allowed.
 - Narrows Catch-and-Release Area: 100 yards below Lake Greeson (Narrows Dam) to the upstream end of Riverside Park.
 - Narrows Summer Catch-and-Release Area: Upstream end of Riverside Park to the gas line crossing above River Ridge pool. May 1-Oct. 15th.
 - Narrows Winter Catch-and-Release Area: 300 yards downstream of Hinds Bluff Access to 300 yards upstream of Old Factory Site (Weir #2). Oct. 16-April 30.

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Lake Greeson Tailwater

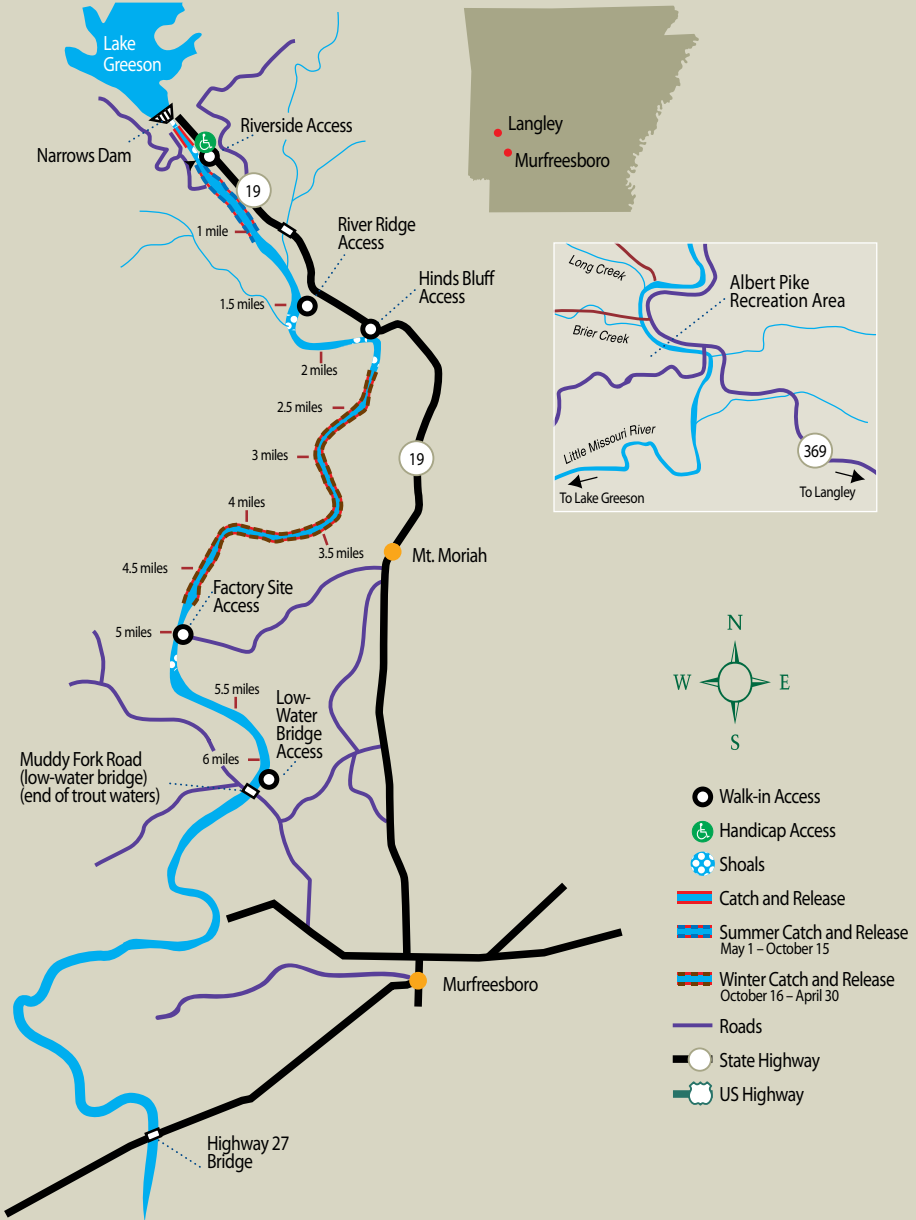
Little Missouri River

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:

Lake Greeson Tailwater

(870) 285-2151 (COE)

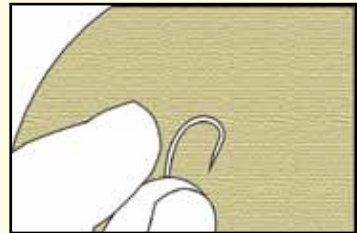
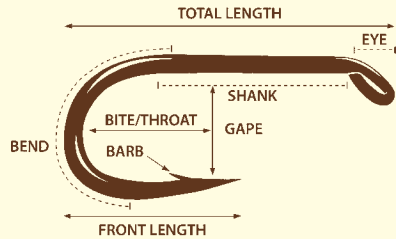
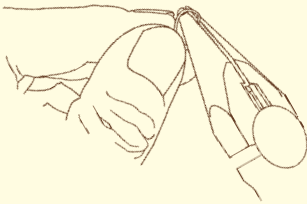
(866) 494-1993 TOLL FREE (Southwestern Power Administration)



How to Make a Hook Barbless



To make a hook barbless, grip the shank and pinch the barb with a pair of smooth-jawed, needlenose pliers.



Crimped completely, the hook is smooth and will not snag when passed through cloth.

Catch-and-release Pointers

- Use bronze hooks whenever possible. If the fish swallows the hook, cut the leader instead of trying to remove it. Bronze dissolves more rapidly than steel or shiny gold hooks.
- If possible, avoid touching the fish with your hands. Skin contains salts and oils that may destroy the fish's protective slime coat. If you must hold the fish, wet your hands before attempting to land it.
- Use nets made of soft materials such as cotton or soft nylon and wet the netting before landing your fish.
- Keep the fish out of the water only long enough to remove the hook and take a photo.
- Fish can run out of energy while being caught. When releasing the fish, hold it in the water to stimulate its gills. Allow the fish to swim away on its own.

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