

White Sulphur Springs

National Fish Hatchery

Fact Sheet

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

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

Contact

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Purpose

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

Public Use Notes

- Visitor center
- Self-guided walking tour
- Rainbow trout display pool
- Group tours available
- Annual children's fishing derby

Management Activities

- Produce 8.4 million rainbow trout eggs, which are shipped to 20 different hatcheries in 13 states to the Service's National Broodstock Program.
- Provide 13,000 retired rainbow trout brood fish to West Virginia Division of Natural Resources and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

- Develop and manage a freshwater mussel propagation program aimed at the restoration of imperiled species in the mid-Atlantic and southeastern states.
- Collaborate with federal, state and non-government agencies on the conservation of freshwater mussels and water quality in West Virginia.

Highlights

Evaluating the fecundity and productivity of the Erwin strain of rainbow trout brood stock.

Co-sponsoring a children's fishing derby with the White Sulphur Springs Rotary Club and U.S. Forest Service to celebrate National Fishing Week.

Conducting ongoing research with Virginia Tech to enhance existing aquaculture technology for the conservation of native, threatened and endangered freshwater mussel species in southern Appalachia.

Conducting ongoing research with West Virginia University to restore native populations of rare fishes.

The hatchery hosted the region's Girl Scouts of America annual leadership meeting, resulting in a motion to create a new patch, the Aquaculture Patch.

Issues

Create multipurpose wetland habitat that treats hatchery effluent, attracts migrating shorebirds and creates additional habitat for freshwater mussels and rare fishes prior to reintroduction to native streams.

Protect the hatchery's springs by identifying the watershed and acquiring land within the watershed.



Work with partners to develop restoration programs for native fishes and freshwater mussels.

Advance the science and technology of propagating imperiled freshwater mussels in hatcheries to augment dwindling populations and mitigate loss of populations due to human-made changes.

Replace and renovate hatchery residences.

Renovate visitor center and develop a self-guided walking tour of hatchery grounds. Provide interpretive displays and outreach material on the life of a river and maintaining good fishing habitat.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.

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