

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

# Wolf Creek

*National Fish  
Hatchery*



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

*Construction of a dam, regardless of its type, alters the entire environment within a river. The first and most obvious change takes place when the reservoir fills, but many changes may also take place below the dam. Some of them might be subtle, and others, like those in the Cumberland tailwaters, might be quite drastic.*

*Wolf Creek Dam produced a large, deep reservoir in which the water stratifies into temperature layers during the summer and fall months. The water released into the Cumberland River comes from a deep, cool layer. It caused a loss of the original warm water fish habitat and replaced in with the present cold tailwater.*

## **Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery**

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery was constructed in 1975. This is one of the most recently constructed hatcheries in the federal hatchery system.



This station currently produces approximately 1,000,000 trout weighing 240,000 pounds annually. In cooperation with the Kentucky

Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, fish are stocked into 100 different public fishing waters in the state. No private waters are stocked. The majority of the fish are stocked in waters controlled by the federal government.

The hatchery's water supply comes from Lake Cumberland at a depth ranging from 25 to 100 feet below the water surface. The water temperatures will range from 40° to 65° depending on the time of year. The water gravity flows through the hatchery at rates up to 15,000 gallons per minute.





### **Welcome Visitors**

Visitors are welcome to tour the hatchery and to fish in the creek below the hatchery.

*Hatchery Hours*      7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. CST daily.

### **Visitor Center Hours**

Memorial Day - Labor Day  
8:00 a.m - 7:00 p.m. CST daily

Labor Day - October  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST daily

November - February  
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CST daily

March - Memorial Day  
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CST daily

Restrooms, drinking water, and parking areas are provided for public use. During your visit, please feel free to ask questions you may have concerning the hatchery.

*For Additional  
Information  
Contact*

Environmental Education/  
Outreach Specialist  
Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery  
50 Kendall Road  
Jamestown, KY 42629-6502  
Telephone: 270/343 3797  
Email: [Amanda\\_Patrick@fws.gov](mailto:Amanda_Patrick@fws.gov)

### **Fishing and Camping**

Fishing is allowed in the creek below the hatchery. This creek is wheelchair accessible with a ramp at creek level. The creek is randomly stocked 3 to 4 times a week.



The Cumberland river provides good fishing for trout, walleye, sauger, and others depending on the distance from the dam.

Lake Cumberland provides good fishing and is well known for striper fishing which has produced fish in excess of fifty pounds. Lake Cumberland provides an excellent recreational area. The lake is approximately 55,000 acres with many fingers where anglers can have their own little section to themselves.

Camping is available at the Corps of Engineers, Kendall Park, 877/444 6777. The Lake Cumberland State Resort Park, 800/325 1709, is nearby. Lodging is available at three resort lodges and numerous motels in the area. Houseboats can be rented from different docks if you choose to sleep on the water. Visit the Lake Cumberland Website at:  
[www.lakecumberlandvacation.com](http://www.lakecumberlandvacation.com)

This is an ideal vacation spot for anyone that likes water sports. Lexington, Bowling Green, and



Louisville are about 100 miles from Jamestown, KY which offer horse racing and many forms of entertainment.

### **1. Visitor Parking**

### **2. Visitor/Environmental Education Center**

The Visitor/Environmental Education Center includes many fun and engaging learning opportunities for the entire family. While here, be sure to check out the exhibits, view the film in the theater and browse the gift shop. The 8,700 sq. ft. facility also includes a classroom and office space.



### **3. Hatchery and Juvenile Fish Rearing Area**

*Egg hatching jar*



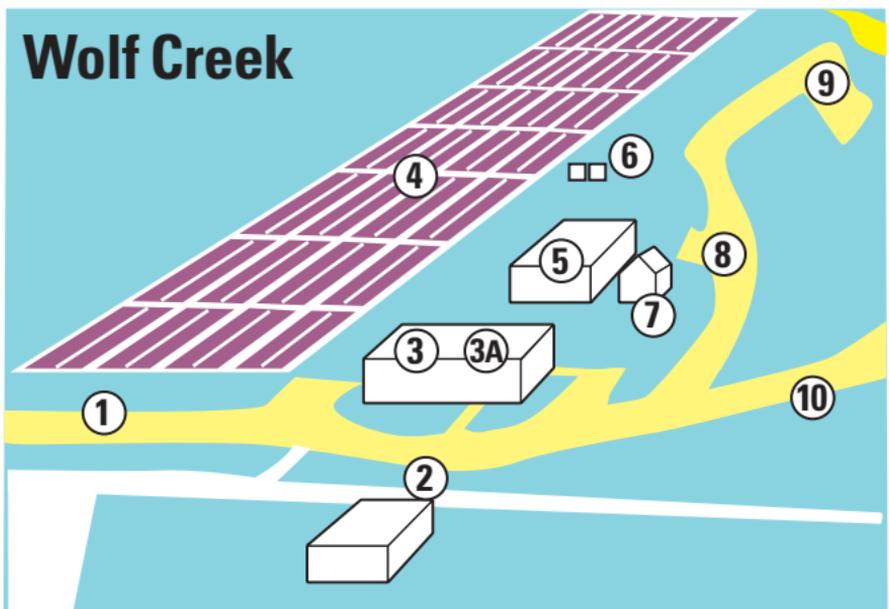
Spawning operations are not conducted at this station. However, Federal hatcheries in Tennessee, West Virginia, Wyoming, and Montana hold adult trout (broodstock) which are spawned artificially. After the eggs are taken and fertilized, they are held at the station until they develop to the eyed egg stage. Then the eggs are shipped overnight to production hatcheries like Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery to hatch.

This is the hatching and juvenile fish rearing area. When the station receives eggs, they are disinfected to prevent spread of fish diseases. They are counted using volume metric displacement and then placed in the hatching jars.



Eggs hatch approximately 10 to 14 days after they are placed in the hatching jars. The fry are then transferred to the rearing tanks where they remain another 10 to 14 days until they absorb their yolk sacs. As the yolk sacs are absorbed, the fry swim to the water surface and are fed specially formulated feed hourly. When the young fry reach approximately 2 inches they are called fingerlings.

When the fingerlings grow 2-3 inches they are moved to the outside raceways where the larger fish are kept.



The fish enjoy visitors and will swim to meet you but it is harmful to them if you catch them.

### **3A. Shop and Feed Storage**

A total of 7 different sizes of feed are used here at the hatchery. The size of the feed used is dependant upon the size of the fish. For safety reasons, this area is not open to the public.

*Please  
don't  
harm  
the fish.  
Keep your  
hands  
out of the  
water.*



#### **4. Raceway Area**

Fish are fed and cared for until they reach the desired stocking size. It takes approximately 16 months to develop from egg stage to a 9 inch fish.

Feeding activities range from twice a day for the larger fish to 5 to 6 times daily for the smaller sizes. As the fish grow, transferring of them from one raceway to another is a regular occurrence.

Throughout the year fish are harvested from the raceways and distributed by truck for stocking in over 100 different streams, lakes and tailwaters in Kentucky, North Carolina and Georgia.

#### **5. Garage and Maintenance Buildings**

These are maintenance, garage and paint 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.

#### **6. Feed Bins**

Fish food is stored here for easy transfer to the vehicles which are used for feeding fish in the raceways.

#### **7. Storage**

For safety reasons, the area is not open to the public.

#### **8. Road—Handicapped Only**

#### **9. Parking and Fishing Ramp Handicapped Only**

#### **10. Residences—Hatchery Personnel Only**





### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery is one of 70 units in the National Fish Hatchery System. As a vital component of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), the Fisheries Program has played an

important role in conserving America's fisheries since 1871. Today it is a key partner with States, Tribes, other Federal agencies, other Service Programs, conservation organizations and private interests in a larger effort to conserve fish and other aquatic resources. The mission of the Service encompasses a variety of other programs including

National Wildlife Refuges, Ecological Services, Mapping/GIS Support, Federal Assistance, Law Enforcement and Migratory Birds.

Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery is one of 14 Federal hatcheries located in the southeast region. These hatcheries serve a vital role in the management of our fishery resources.



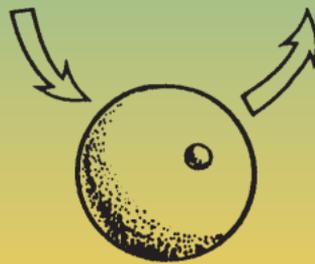
# Life-Cycle of Trout

## *Egg to Fry*

*Undeveloped Egg*



*Hatching Fry*



*Eyed Egg*



### **Natural Life**

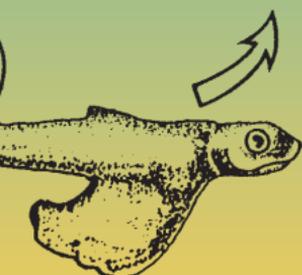
Trout eggs are deposited in prepared redds, or nests in the gravel of stream beds and hatch in 8 weeks or more. A young fish or fry lives for 3 to 4 weeks on food absorbed from the yolk sac.



# Rainbow Trout

## *Fingerling*

*Fingerling  
Trout*



*Sac Fry*

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 young fish 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.



## Threatened and Endangered Species

The Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery is actively engaged in the recovery and restoration of many imperiled aquatic species. These



activities are carried out through on station propagation, reintroductions, and field surveys. Today, almost every river and stream in the Southeast has been modified in

some way. All of these and other forces have dramatically altered the Southeast's aquatic biodiversity and fishery resources. Although some changes affecting aquatic habitat, such as reservoirs, have contributed substantially to recreational fisheries, the Southeast's aquatic biodiversity is threatened, and by some measures the Southeast's aquatic ecosystem health is poor and continues to decline.





## **Annual Catch A Rainbow Kids Fishing Derby**

The first Saturday in June brings the exciting Catch a Rainbow Kids Fishing Derby to Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery each year. This event is free for children ages 1 to 15. Fantastic fishing, prizes, trophies, food and drinks are available to participants during this great family event. For more information, visit [www.kidscatcharainbow.org](http://www.kidscatcharainbow.org).



## **Friends of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, Inc.**

The Friends of Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery, Inc., is a non-profit group dedicated to supporting the hatchery and its mission. Comprised of volunteers, the Friends are a vital component of the many programs at the hatchery, including sponsoring the Catch a Rainbow Kids Fishing

Derby, conducting educational programs and tours, and operating the Visitor Center gift shop. The Friends also participate in fun group outings and monthly meetings. New membership is always welcome.





### **Visitor/ Environmental Education Center**

Opened to the public in mid-September 2006, the Visitor/Environmental Education Center is the first of its kind for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Southeast Region Hatcheries Program. With 14 hatcheries in the region, Wolf Creek NFH is the first hatchery to have such a facility.

The Visitor/Environmental Education Center is a wonderful place to stop in and learn more about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery. The exhibits area also includes information concerning the dam and the lake, native and non-native plant life, wildlife and much more.



During your visit, don't forget to also stop in and view a film in the theater. Take time to browse our gift shop too, which is full of wonderful educational items to help make your trip more memorable. And if you have students or other groups looking to take a more "hands on" approach to learning, there is also classroom space for your next environmental education field trip.



Environmental education and other outreach programs are an important part of the hatchery's mission. Please feel free to inquire with our staff for further information concerning our variety of programs and events.

**Thank you for visiting!**

We have 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.

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