

# 2019 *Arkansas*

## TROUT FISHING GUIDEBOOK



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# Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

2 Natural Resources Drive • Little Rock, AR 72205  
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## 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

### Text a Tip (TIP411)

Text AGFC and your tip to TIP411 (847411)

Texts are completely anonymous

### Family and Community Fishing Program Hotline

Toll Free: 866-540-3474

### Boating Education Classes

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

### Wildlife Hotline

Toll Free: 800-440-1477

### Buy a License

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

[www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com) 24 hours a day,

7 days a week

## Regional Office Contact Information

### Northeast Office

600-B E. Lawson • Jonesboro, AR 72404

Toll Free: 877-972-5438

### East Central Office

1201 N. Highway 49 • Brinkley, AR 72021

Toll Free: 877-734-4581

### Southeast Office

771 Jordan Drive • Monticello, AR 71655

Toll Free: 877-367-3559

### South Central Office

500 Ben Lane • Camden, AR 71701

Toll Free: 877-836-4612

### Southwest Office

7004 Highway 67 East • Perrytown, AR 71801

Toll Free: 877-777-5580

### Hot Springs Office

350 Fish Hatchery Road • Hot Springs, AR 71913

Toll Free: 877-525-8606

### Fort Smith Office

8401 Massard Road • Fort Smith, AR 72916

Toll Free: 877-478-1043

### Northwest Office

455 Dam Site Road • Eureka Springs, AR 72631

Toll Free: 866-253-2506

### North Central Office

1125 Highway 56 • Calico Rock, AR 72519

Toll Free: 877-297-4331

### West Central Office

1266 Lock and Dam Road • Russellville, AR 72802

Toll Free: 877-967-7577

## The AGFC Trout Fishing Guidebook only covers the basics.

Be an informed angler. The official AGFC code of regulations is available at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com).

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**Certain areas have restricted tackle and  
special regulations. Please check your  
destination closely on pages 26-40.**



**This guidebook is also available  
online at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)**

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 AGFC-owned property or facility, please write to:

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

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 [www.agfc.com](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 December 2018. 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 [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com) or call our hotline for the up-to-date information.

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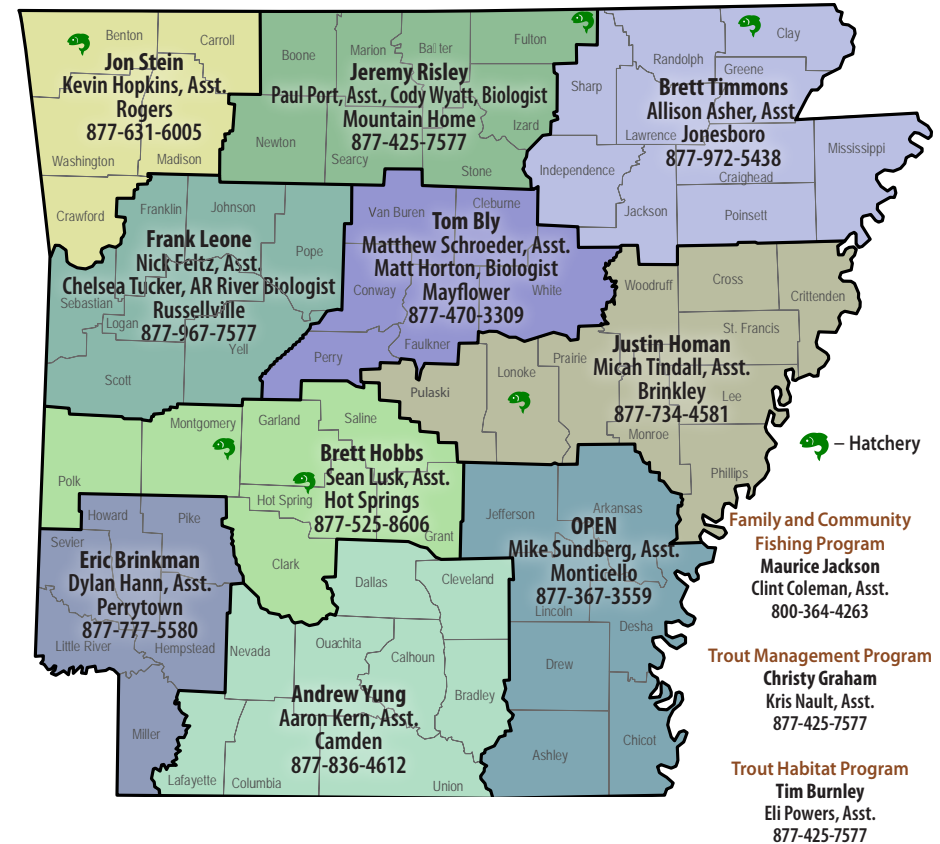


## Want to know where the fish are biting?



Sign up for the AGFC's free weekly fishing report. The weekly fishing report covers most waters in the state. Information is supplied by guides, marina workers and bait shop owners who make their living on the water.

**To subscribe, go to [arkansaswildlife.com](http://arkansaswildlife.com).**



## Hatchery Contacts

**Andrew Hulsey Fish Hatchery, Hot Springs**  
Jeff Newman, Manager  
877-525-8606

**C.B. Craig Fish Hatchery, Centerton**  
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**Jim Collins Net Pen Facility, Mount Ida**  
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**Jim Hinkle Spring River Fish Hatchery, Mammoth Spring**  
Melissa Jones, Manager  
877-625-7521

**Joe Hogan Fish Hatchery, Lonoke**  
Jason Miller, Manager  
877-676-6963

**Wm. H. Donham Fish Hatchery, Corning**  
Mark Harness, Manager  
877-857-3876

## Buying a License or Trout Permit

### How do I buy the licenses I need?

Licenses are available over the counter at AGFC regional offices and nature centers, sporting goods stores, hunting and fishing supplies stores, some discount chains and boat docks. You also may buy a license by phone or online.

- **Phone** – Call 501-223-6349 or 800-364-GAME (4263) between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
- **Online** – Visit [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com), click “Buy Licenses,” 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Telephone and online purchases must be made by credit card. Your fishing privileges become effective immediately. A valid printed license or acceptable electronic format license must be in your possession.

Lifetime and commercial licenses are not available by phone or online.

### Guide License

Any person providing guide services for pay must purchase a resident (\$25.00) or nonresident (\$150.00) guide license in addition to a valid fishing license.

### 65-Plus Lifetime Fishing License

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 anytime 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 are required. These licenses are available from the AGFC Little Rock office and regional offices (Page 1).

### 65-Plus Lifetime Trout Permit

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 3-year disability fishing license (\$10.50) or a 3-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 3 years from the date of purchase. A resident trout permit must be purchased annually to keep trout or to fish in certain waters (Page 7). These licenses are available from the AGFC Little Rock office.

### Mobility Impaired Access Permit

Licensed sportsmen who are permanently mobility impaired may be eligible for special access privileges in certain areas on WMAs from the boardwalk and piers at Dry Run Creek, and from the piers on Collins Creek downstream of the wooden vehicle bridge in JFK Park. These privileges allow persons with certain medical conditions to receive a Mobility Impaired Access Permit. There is no charge for the initial permit. Applications are available online at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com) or by calling 800-364-4263 during business hours.

## Military Lifetime Licenses

Resident Military Retiree Lifetime Licenses are available at any AGFC regional office. Sportsmen must be at least 60 and show proof of 60 days' Arkansas residency and retirement from a branch of the U.S. Armed Services.

Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Licenses are available at the Little Rock office only. There is no age requirement for this license, but sportsmen must show proof of 60 days' Arkansas residency and proof of 100

percent permanent and total service connected military disability or permanently disabled and received the Purple Heart as a result of service-connected military disability.

Trout and state waterfowl stamp permits, federal waterfowl stamps, resident trapping permits and HIP registration also must be obtained to hunt, trap or fish for certain game species. These permits are available at all AGFC regional offices.

### Prices for Resident Military Retiree Lifetime Licenses

Resident Military Retiree Lifetime Fishing License – \$10.50  
Resident Military Retiree Lifetime Combination License (includes hunting) – \$35.50  
Resident Military Retiree Lifetime Trout Stamp – \$5.00

### Prices for Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Licenses

Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Fishing License – \$1.50  
Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Combination License – \$3.00  
Resident Disabled Military Veteran Lifetime Trout Stamp – \$5.00

## Fishing Licenses

To fish in Arkansas, anglers must have one of the licenses listed below. Anglers under 16 do not need a fishing license. 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, resident (See also Trout Permits, below)	
Fishing only (PLF)	\$10.50
Hunting and fishing (PLC)	\$35.50
3-Year Disability License, resident	
Fishing only (RDF)	\$10.50
Hunting and fishing (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)	\$50.00
3-Day Trip Fishing License, nonresident (NT3)	\$16.00
7-Day Trip Fishing License, nonresident (NT7)	\$25.00
<b>Licenses and permits are nontransferable and nonrefundable.</b>	

## 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 waters listed below. Anglers under 16 or holders of the \$1,000 Lifetime Resident Hunting and Fishing Sportsman's Permit do not need a trout permit.

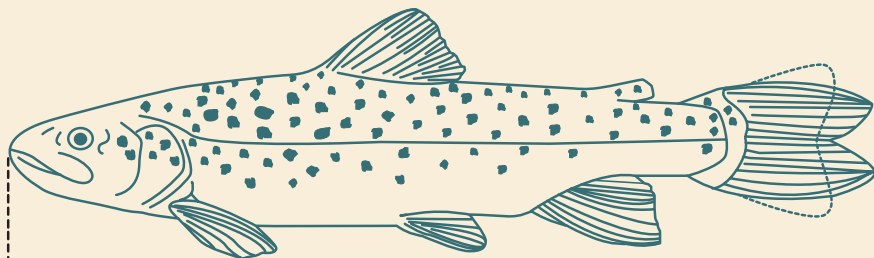
• White River, from Beaver Dam to Houseman Access	• Little Missouri River, from 100 yards below Lake Greeson (Narrows Dam) to Muddy Fork Road (low-water bridge)
• White River, from Bull Shoals Dam to Highway 58 bridge at Guion	
• Little Red River, from Greers Ferry Dam to Highway 305 bridge	Trout Permit, resident 16 and older (TPR) \$5.00
• North Fork of White River, entire stream below Norfork Dam	Trout Permit, nonresident 16 and older (TPN) \$12.00
• Spavinaw Creek (Benton County) east of Highway 59	65-Plus Lifetime Trout Permit, for holders of 65-plus fishing or combination licenses (PLT) \$5.00

## Trout Regulations

- 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.
- Culling trout is prohibited. Once an angler has kept a trout on a stringer, in a livewell or in a fish basket, that trout may not be released.
- Trout and their parts (dead or alive) may not be used as bait.
- Imported trout and trout eggs must have disease-free certification.
- Trout importation and stocking regulations have been significantly revised to regulate stocking of trout in Arkansas waters (Reference Code of Regulations 26.12 and 27.07, and Addendum V1.01 and V1.02. Available at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)).
- 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 defined as dislodging or depositing any substance not attached to a hook that may attract fish. A common example of chumming is tossing canned corn into the water to stimulate feeding. Dislodging material from the streambed to attract trout by working or shuffling one's feet, known as the "San Juan Shuffle," is considered chumming. Dragging chains or anchors is not considered chumming.
- In areas with catch-and-release or special regulations, natural and scented baits are not allowed. These include baits such as marshmallows, corn, salmon eggs and moldable substances (PowerBait, Power Eggs or Zeke's Gold).

## 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.



$$\text{Length} \times \text{girth} \times \text{girth} = \text{weight}$$

**800**

The formula for estimating the weight of a live trout

## Boating Laws

### 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, 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 (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:

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 (Page 10) if born after 1985, and
2. Be in a position to take immediate control of the PWC.

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

1. Satisfy the boating education requirement (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 flotation device while the engine is in use. However, this requirement does not apply to anyone operating flat-bottomed boats on the tailwater of a trout fishery.

### 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 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.

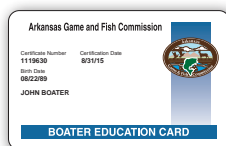
The Boating Education Course is designed to teach the fundamentals of safe and responsible boating and is written on a sixth-grade reading level. The Commission offers the following options for taking the Boating Education Course:

- 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, 7 days a week. Students study the material online and must take and pass the online examination. 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](http://www.agfc.com).



## 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.

## Personal Flotation Devices

Boats under 16 feet long, canoes and kayaks must have one United States Coast Guard-approved wearable PFD for each person used according to its approved conditions on board.

Boats 16 feet or longer must have one USCG-approved wearable PFD for each person used according to its approved conditions and one USCG-approved 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 underway.

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

Water skiers must wear a USCG-approved wearable PFD used according to its approved conditions. 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 personal watercraft.



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## Arkansas Trout

Fish illustrations by Joe Tomelleri

**Daily Limit** – The total limit of a certain fish species that may be taken in 1 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. Fish and wild game (other than migratory game birds) that have been processed and stored at a residence do not count toward a person's possession limit. A residence is defined as a house or house trailer that is permanently in place and is owned, leased or rented by an individual; it does not include mobile travel trailers, tents, vehicles or temporary rental units (motels, lodges, cabins, resorts, etc.).

**Statewide total daily limit.....5 trout\***  
(No more than 2 brown trout, 2 cutthroat trout and 2 brook trout)

**Possession limit: Twice the daily limit**

**\*Some waters have different or special regulations; always check your destination.**  
**Imported trout (salmonid) and trout eggs must have a disease-free certification.**

### Brook Trout



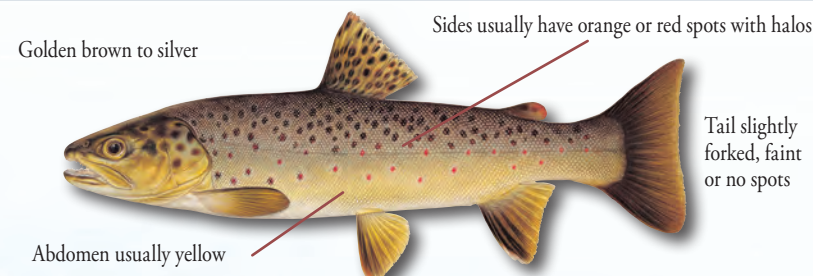
Brook trout like cold, clear waters and are found just below dams. They frequent undercut banks and large rocks and logs. Young fish feed mostly on plankton and insects. Adults feed on insects and small fish. Brook trout have been known to reproduce in Collins Creek. The average brook trout is between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

### Cutthroat Trout



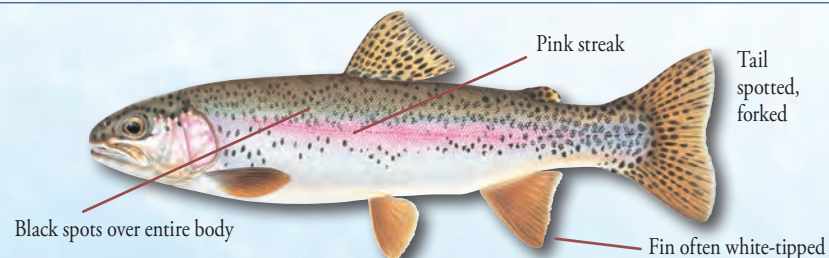
Less common than rainbows, cutthroat trout are known by their bright reddish-orange "cut throat" mark. Cutthroat trout eat mostly insects, although larger individuals will eat minnows and small fish. They are not known to reproduce in Arkansas. The state record is 10 pounds, 2 ounces.

### 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 2-4 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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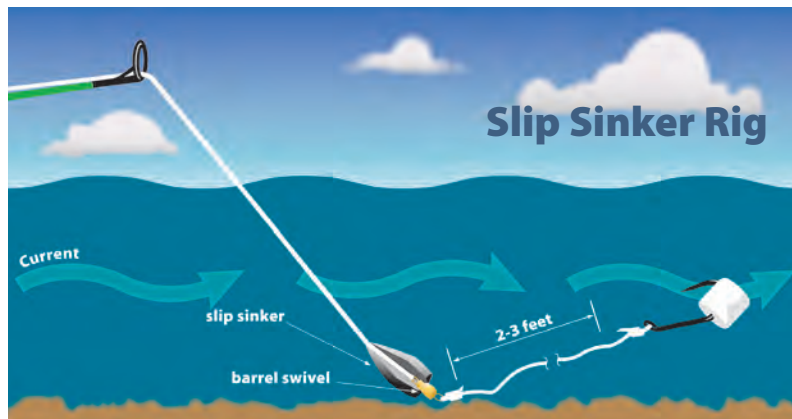


\*This schedule is tentative and subject to change.  
\*\* These bodies of water are cooperatively stocked by the AGFC and the USFWS.

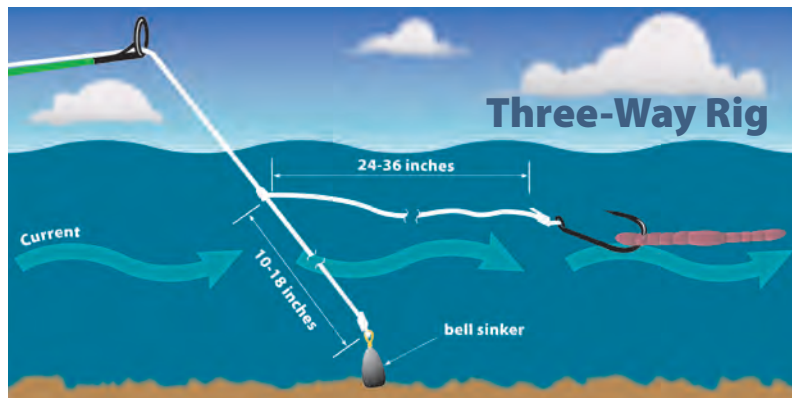
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	2019 TOTALS
11200 0	9600 0	10235 0	10275 0	10235 0	9680 0	2235 6000	2400 0	96230 6000
1470	1470	1800	1800	1460	865	600	600	13335
0	0	0	0	0	0	1420	2895	39635
0	0	0	0	0	0	1425	3140	35065
16240	21955	20075	21015	16010	16950	16950	6170	180180
1000 0	1000 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	1520 0	5520 1400	5480 0	59180 1400
8280 0	8000 0	10145 5400	9480 0	9430 0	8070 0	3430 0	2100 0	73310 5400
0	0	0	0	0	0	1000	0	1000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2620	11120
12820 0	12670 0	12650 0	12970 0	11900 0	7140 0	3570 4000	3130 0	105530 4000
0	0	0	0	0	0	530	1090	7600
82800 0	109250 0	109250 11600	89250 0	58200 0	58200 0	58200 0	22760 0	75930 11600
0	0	0	0	0	0	33000	0	33000
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35000
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	0	1140
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1900
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380
0	0	0	0	0	0	750	750	3000
0	0	0	0	0	0	750	750	3000
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	900	1800
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380
0	0	0	0	0	0	450	450	2100
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1760
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	380	1380
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	380	1380
0	0	0	0	0	0	900	900	3600
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	750	750	3000
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	750	2250
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	150	300
0	0	0	0	0	0	380	380	1520
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	380	880
0	0	0	0	0	0	450	450	2700
0	0	0	0	0	0	1150	1150	4600
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	225	450
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	450	450
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	300



## Baitfishing 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.



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

For more information on trout fishing techniques, visit us on the web at [www.agfc.com](http://www.agfc.com)

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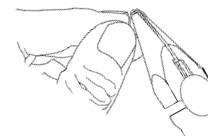


## Safe Handling Tips

### 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.

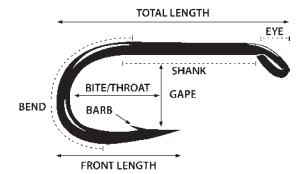


Crimped completely, the hook is smooth and will not snag when passed through cloth.



### 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. Using circle hooks may also reduce the risk of the fish swallowing the hook.
- If possible, avoid touching the fish with your hands. Especially avoid handling the fish with dry hands or a dry towel. 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, soft nylon or rubber 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.



## Public vs. Private Water

Whether a lake, river or stream is public or private generally depends on whether it is legally "navigable." Navigability is usually decided by a court (some waters have been declared navigable by the General Assembly).

All property below the ordinary high water mark of navigable water is public. Adjacent landowners only own the property above that mark. The OHWM is found by "ascertaining where the presence and action of water are so common and usual and so long continued in all ordinary years, as to mark upon the soil of the bed a character distinct from that of the banks, in respect to vegetation, as well as in respect to the nature of the soil itself." For example, gravel bars generally result from the presence and action of water and, thus, lie below the OHWM. If water is navigable, members of the public have the right to use the water for recreation, like floating, fishing and canoeing at any point below the OHWM.

By contrast, a landowner adjacent to non-navigable water generally owns to the center of its bed, or as otherwise stated in the owner's deed. If water is not navigable, the public generally has no right to use the water — with some exceptions, such as where the public has permission or prescriptive rights have been acquired through long use.



## 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, Norfork Tailwater on the North Fork of the White River, and Greers 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, baitfish and other trout forage.



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

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 before 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).

## Cutthroat catch breaks 32-year state record

An Arkansas fishing mark that had held for nearly 33 years finally fell in September 2018 when a Kansas angler making an annual trek with friends to the White River pulled in a cutthroat trout weighing 10 pounds, 2 ounces. The catch was certified in October 2018 by the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission's chief of fisheries. The previous record from the White River was 9 pounds, 9 ounces, set Oct. 6, 1985.

The trout was caught during a minimum flow period on the river, about 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 29, 2018. The angler docked immediately to weigh the fish and, knowing it was likely a record-breaker, headed to Mountain Home for official weigh-in with Arkansas Game and Fish Commission fisheries biologists. Biologists say the cutthroat was confirmed to be one raised by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Norfork National Fish Hatchery and stocked in either 2008 or 2011 –there was no way to confirm which of those years exactly. The fish was missing an adipose fin, which is a sign stocked fish. At some point, state records for all four species of trout (rainbow, brown, cutthroat and brook) have come from the Norfork Tailwater. The AGFC's current cutthroat trout minimum length limit on the Norfork Tailwater of 24 inches (one fish per day) took effect Jan. 1, 2018, and should help protect and grow larger fish.



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Stocking locations	City	Summer	Winter
		Catfish	Trout
Sunset Lake	Benton	•	
Lake Bentonville	Bentonville	•	•
Cabot Community Pond	Cabot	•	•
Conway Station Park Pond	Conway	•	•
*Mom's Lake	Corning	•	
*Mattock's Park	El Dorado	•	
Mike Freeze England Community Pond	England	•	
Carol Ann Cross Pond	Fort Smith	•	•
Wells Lake	Fort Smith	•	•
John Benjamin Glenwood Community Pond	Glenwood	•	•
*Mike and Janet Huckabee Youth Pond	Hope	•	•
Family Park	Hot Springs	•	•
Entergy Park Pond	Hot Springs	•	•
Paradise Lake	Jacksonville	•	•
*Craighead Forest Youth Fishing Pond	Jonesboro	•	•
Arkansas State University Pond	Jonesboro	•	•
*Lake Village Community Fishing Pond	Lake Village	•	
Boyle Park Pond	Little Rock	•	•
Boyle Park (Rock Creek)	Little Rock	•	•
Conner Park	Little Rock	•	
Hindman Park	Little Rock	•	
MacArthur Park	Little Rock	•	•
Pinnacle Mountain State Park Pond	Little Rock	•	
Western Hills Park Pond	Little Rock	•	•
Lake Valencia	Maumelle	•	•
*Monticello High School Pond	Monticello	•	
Martin Luther King Jr. Park Pond	Pine Bluff	•	•
Pleasant View Park Pond	Russellville	•	•
Willow Beach Park Pond	Scott	•	
Searcy City Lake	Searcy	•	•
Cherrywood Lake	Sherwood	•	•
Sherwood Municipal City Pond	Sherwood	•	•
Murphy Park Pond	Springdale	•	•
Lake Springdale	Springdale	•	•
Lake Dieffenbacher	Texarkana	•	•
Van Buren Municipal Park Pond	Van Buren	•	•
Tilden Rodgers Park Pond	West Memphis	•	•
White Hall Community Pond	White Hall	•	•

**FCFP locations will begin stocking trout the week before Thanksgiving**

**Daily limits:** catfish – 3, trout – 5, bream – 25, largemouth bass may not be retained and must be released immediately. Open to fishing with handheld rod or pole only.

Individuals 16 and older must have a fishing license. Trout permits are required if any trout are retained. Lakes open to electric trolling motors only



**\*Special Family Fishing Regulations** – These waters may be fished only by persons 15 and younger and 65 and older or holders of a disability license. Properly licensed individuals that are 16-64 years old may assist and fish with someone who is a youth or disabled and is actively fishing.



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## Trout Fishing Areas

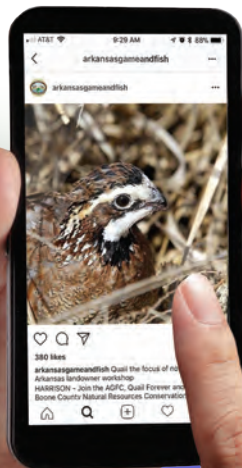
### Blanchard Springs (Mirror Lake – Stone County)

From Blanchard spring to the confluence with North Sylamore Creek, including Mirror Lake: A trout permit (Page 7) is required to keep trout. Daily limit of 5 trout. Anglers may use no more than two fishing rods or poles at a time and must attend them at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish, except bait tackle to catch baitfish. A handicapped-accessible fishing pier is available at Mirror Lake.

### Beaver Lake Tailwater (White River) (Map on Page 27)

From 100 yards below Beaver Dam to AGFC boat ramp at Houseman Access: No fishing within 100 yards of Beaver Dam. A trout permit (Page 7) is required to fish in this area. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole at a time and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish, except bait tackle to catch baitfish and as specified for the paddlefish snagging season (see below). Multiple point hooks with barbs are allowed, unless fishing with bait or inside the Special Regulations Area (see below). Baitfishing is only allowed with a single hooking point. Daily limit of 5 trout. All trout from 13 to 16 inches in length must be released immediately and may not be in possession in Beaver Tailwater. Only one trout over 16 inches may be kept.

- Beaver Tailwater Special Regulation Area (approximately 0.5 miles below Beaver Dam to approximately 100 yards upstream of Parker Bend Access, as indicated by signs): Only artificial lures or flies may be used. All hooking points must be barbless. Natural or scented baits are not allowed. Chumming is not allowed. Catching bait with bait tackle is not allowed.
- Paddlefish Snagging Season: From April 15 to June 15, snagging game fish is legal from 100 yards below Beaver Dam to the first boat ramp downstream. Snagging must be discontinued once two trout have been taken. Snagged fish may not be released.



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## Beaver Lake Tailwater White River

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:

Beaver Lake Tailwater

417-336-5083 (COE)

Projected GENERATION CONDITIONS:

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



## Spring River

From 100 yards below Dam No. 1 at Mammoth Spring State Park to the mouth of Myatt Creek: A trout permit is required to keep trout. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole at a time and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish, except bait tackle to catch baitfish. Daily limit of 5 trout. Limit may include no more than 2 brown trout (16 inches or longer) and 2 cutthroat trout (16 inches or longer). Rainbow trout have no length limit or daily limit restrictions beyond the 5-trout total daily limit. A handicapped-accessible fishing pier is available at the Cold Springs Access.



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## Bull Shoals Lake Tailwater (White River) (Maps on Pages 30-32)

From 100 yards below Bull Shoals Dam to the Highway 58 bridge at Guion: No fishing within 100 yards of Bull Shoals Dam. A trout permit (Page 7) is required to fish in this area. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole at a time and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish, except bait tackle to catch baitfish. Multiple point hooks with barbs are allowed, unless fishing inside the Catch-and-Release Areas (see below). Bait fishing only allowed with a single hooking point. Daily limit of 5 trout; only 1 trout over 14 inches long may be kept. Limit may include either 5 rainbow trout less than 14 inches or 4 rainbow trout less than 14 inches and one of the following: 1 rainbow trout (14 inches or longer), 1 brook trout (14 inches or longer), 1 cutthroat trout (24 inches or longer), or 1 brown trout (24 inches or longer).

**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. Catching bait with bait tackle is not allowed.

### YEAR-ROUND CATCH-AND-RELEASE AREAS:

- 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. From Nov. 1 to Jan. 31, the area is closed to fishing and extends downstream to the wing dike at the Bull Shoals/White River State Park trout dock;
- 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.

### SEASONAL CATCH-AND-RELEASE AREAS:

- 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.

## Big Spring (in Cotter, at the AGFC access to the White River)

(Shown on Map on Page 30)

From its source to the confluence with the White River, except as specified below: Trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures with a single, barbless hooking point 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 at a time and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish. Catching bait with bait tackle is not allowed. Fishing is only permitted from sunrise to sunset. Only youths under age 16, accompanied by an adult, and adult 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 fishing license and 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.



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# Bull Shoals Lake Tailwater

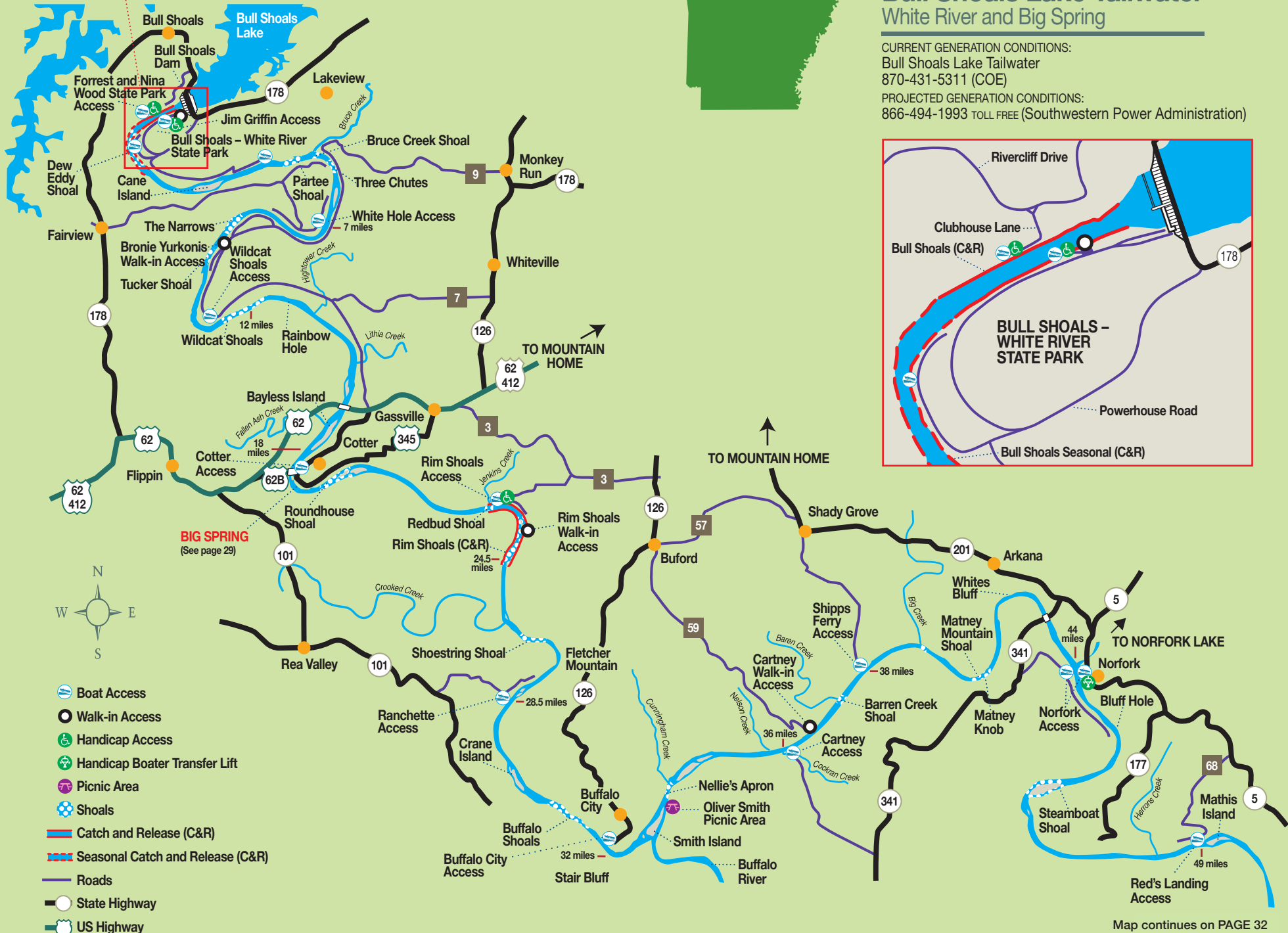
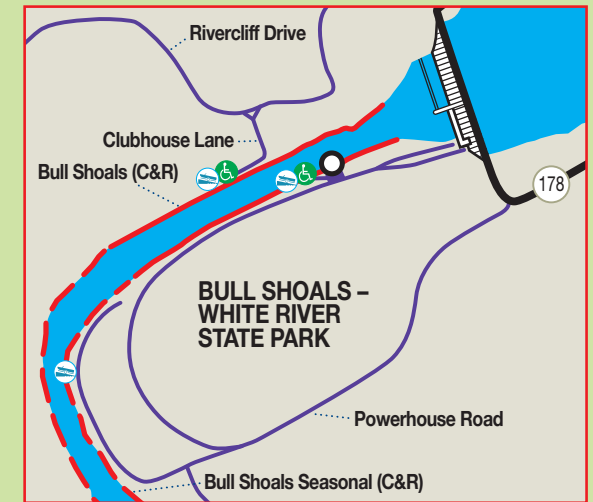
## White River and Big Spring

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:

Bull Shoals Lake Tailwater  
870-431-5311 (COE)

PROJECTED GENERATION CONDITIONS:

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



Map continues on PAGE 32

## Bull Shoals Lake Tailwater – Cont...

### White River and Mirror Lake

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:  
Bull Shoals Lake Tailwater  
870-431-5311 (COE)

PROJECTED GENERATION CONDITIONS:  
866-494-1993 TOLL FREE (Southwestern Power Administration)



## Norfolk Lake (Norfolk) Tailwater (North Fork of the White River)

(Map on Page 34)

From 100 yards below Norfolk Dam to its confluence with the White River: No fishing within 100 yards of Norfolk Dam. A trout permit (Page 7) is required to fish in this area. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole at a time and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish, except bait tackle to catch baitfish. Multiple point hooks with barbs are allowed, unless fishing inside the Catch-and-Release Area (see below). Bait fishing only allowed with a single hooking point. Daily limit of 5 trout; only 1 trout over 14 inches long may be kept. Limit may include either 5 rainbow trout less than 14 inches or 4 rainbow trout less than 14 inches and one of the following: 1 rainbow trout (14 inches or longer), 1 brook trout (14 inches or longer), 1 cutthroat trout (24 inches or longer), or 1 brown trout (24 inches or longer). 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. Catching bait with bait tackle is not allowed.

## Dry Run Creek (Outflow from Norfolk National Fish Hatchery)

(Shown on Map on Page 34)

From its source to the confluence with the Norfolk Tailwater, as indicated by signs: Only youths under 16 and mobility impaired anglers may fish Dry Run Creek. Trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures with a single, barbless hooking point per pole may be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). Chumming is not allowed. Anglers may use no more than 1 fishing rod or pole at a time, and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish. Catching bait with bait tackle is not allowed. Fishing is only permitted from sunrise to sunset. Mobility impaired anglers may fish from only the piers and boardwalk. Mobility impaired card required for mobility impaired adult anglers.



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# Norfolk Lake Tailwater

## North Fork of the White River and Dry Run Creek

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:

Lake Norfolk Tailwater

870-431-5311 (COE)

PROJECTED GENERATION CONDITIONS:

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



## Greers Ferry Lake Tailwater (Little Red River) (Maps on Pages 36-37)

From 100 yards below Greers Ferry Dam to the Highway 305 Bridge: No fishing within 100 yards of Greers Ferry Dam. A trout permit (Page 7) is required to fish in this area. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole at a time and must attend it at all times. Multiple point hooks with barbs are allowed, unless fishing with bait or inside the Catch-and-Release Areas (see below). Bait fishing only allowed with a single hooking point. No other devices may be used to catch fish, except bait tackle to catch baitfish. Daily limit of 5 trout; only 1 trout over 16 inches may be kept.

**GREERS FERRY TAILWATER CATCH-AND-RELEASE AREAS:** In the following areas, all trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures or flies may be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). In JFK and Mossy Catch-and-Release Areas, multiple-point barbless hooks may be used. In Cow Shoals Catch-and-Release Area, only artificial lures with a single, barbless hooking point per pole shall be used. Chumming is not allowed. Catching bait with bait tackle is not allowed.

- JFK Catch-and-Release 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.
- Cow Shoals Catch-and-Release Area: Head of Cow Shoals to mouth of Canoe Creek, as indicated by signs. From Oct. 1-Dec. 31, this area is closed to fishing from 30 minutes after sunset to 30 minutes before sunrise.
- Mossy Shoals Catch-and-Release Area: Upstream end of Dunham Shoals to downstream end of Mossy Shoals, as indicated by signs.

## Collins Creek (Shown on Map on Page 36)

From its source in JFK Park to its confluence with the Little Red River, as indicated by signs: Trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures with a single, barbless hooking point per pole 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 at a time, and must attend it at all times. No other devices may be used to catch fish. Catching bait with bait tackle is not allowed. Fishing is only permitted from sunrise to sunset. Only youths under 16 may fish from its source to the wooden vehicle bridge in JFK Park. From the wooden vehicle bridge to the Little Red River, fishing is restricted to youths under 16, anglers over 16 accompanied by an actively fishing youth under 16, and mobility impaired anglers. Mobility impaired anglers may fish from the piers. Mobility impaired card required for mobility impaired adult anglers.



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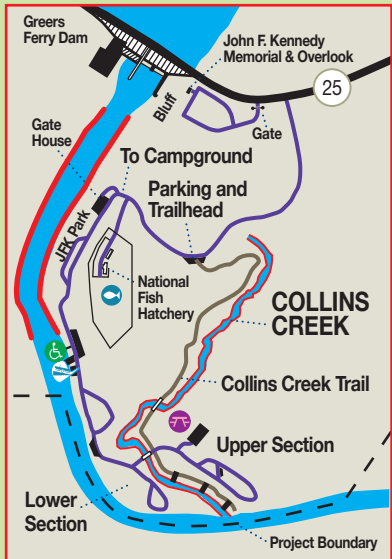
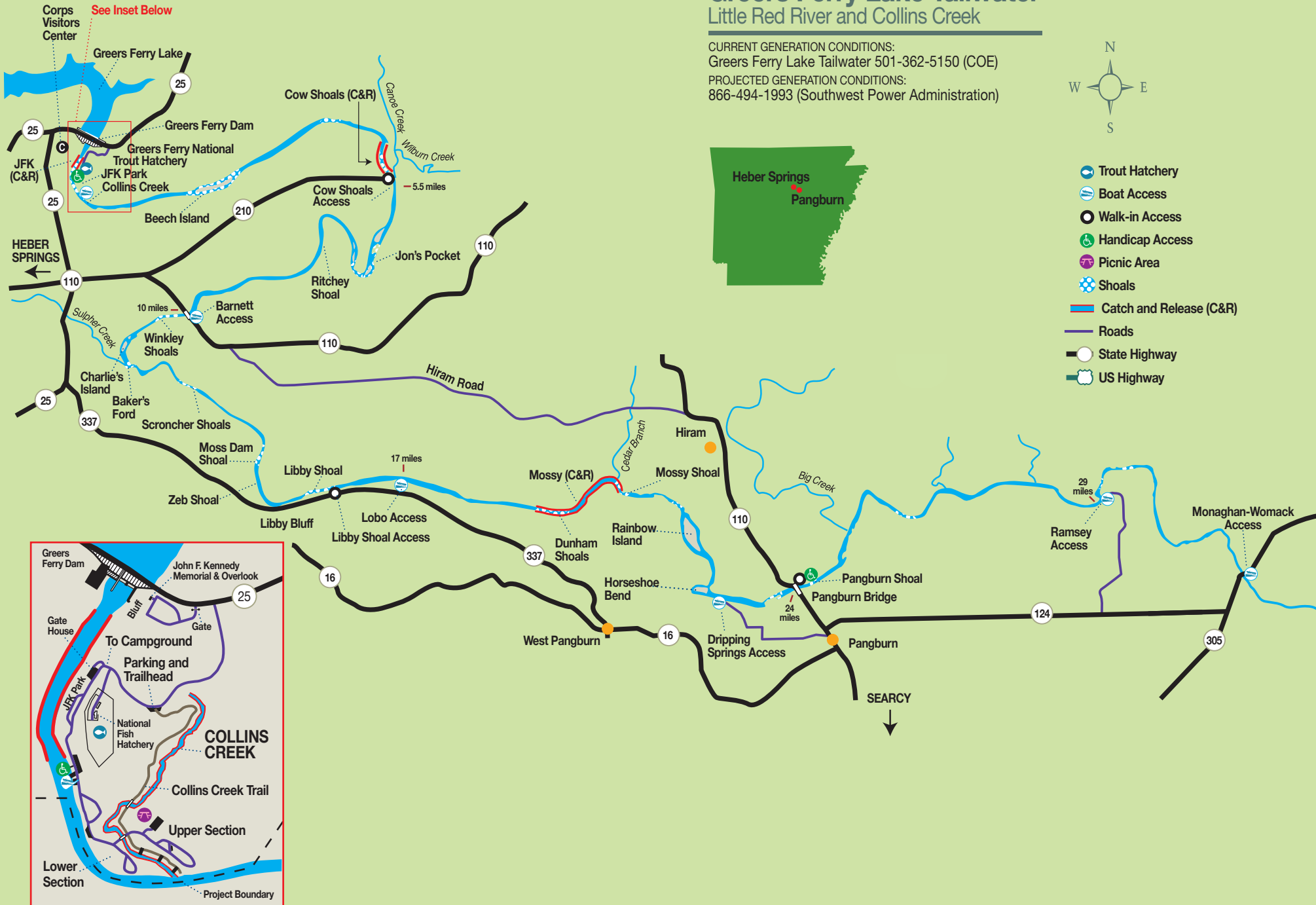
# Greers Ferry Lake Tailwater

## Little Red River and Collins Creek

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:  
Greers Ferry Lake Tailwater 501-362-5150 (COE)  
PROJECTED GENERATION CONDITIONS:  
866-494-1993 (Southwest Power Administration)



- Trout Hatchery
- Boat Access
- Walk-in Access
- Handicap Access
- Picnic Area
- Shoals
- Catch and Release (C&R)
- Roads
- State Highway
- US Highway



## Little Missouri River, Above Lake Greeson (Includes Albert Pike Recreational Area) (Shown on Map on Page 39)

A trout permit is required to keep trout. Daily limit of 5 trout.

### Lake Greeson (Narrows) Tailwater — Little Missouri River (Map on Page 39)

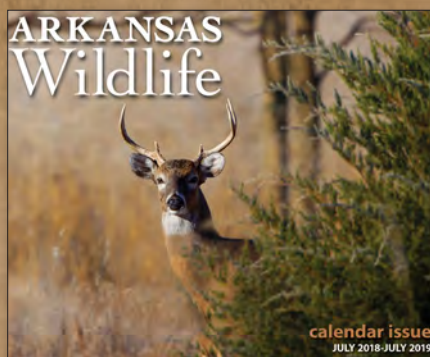
From 100 yards below Narrows Dam to Muddy Fork Road: No fishing within 100 yards of Narrows Dam. A trout permit (Page 7) is required to fish in this area. Anglers may use no more than one fishing rod or pole at a time and must attend it at all times. Multiple-point hooks with barbs are allowed, unless fishing inside the Catch-and-Release Areas (see below). No other devices may be used to catch fish, except bait tackle to catch baitfish. Daily limit of 5 rainbow trout; all brown trout caught must be released immediately.

**NARROWS TAILWATER CATCH-AND-RELEASE AREAS:** In the following areas, all trout must be released immediately. Only artificial lures or flies with a single, barbless hooking point per pole may be used (natural or scented baits are not allowed). Chumming is not allowed. Catching bait with bait tackle is not allowed.

- Narrows Year-Round 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. 15.
- 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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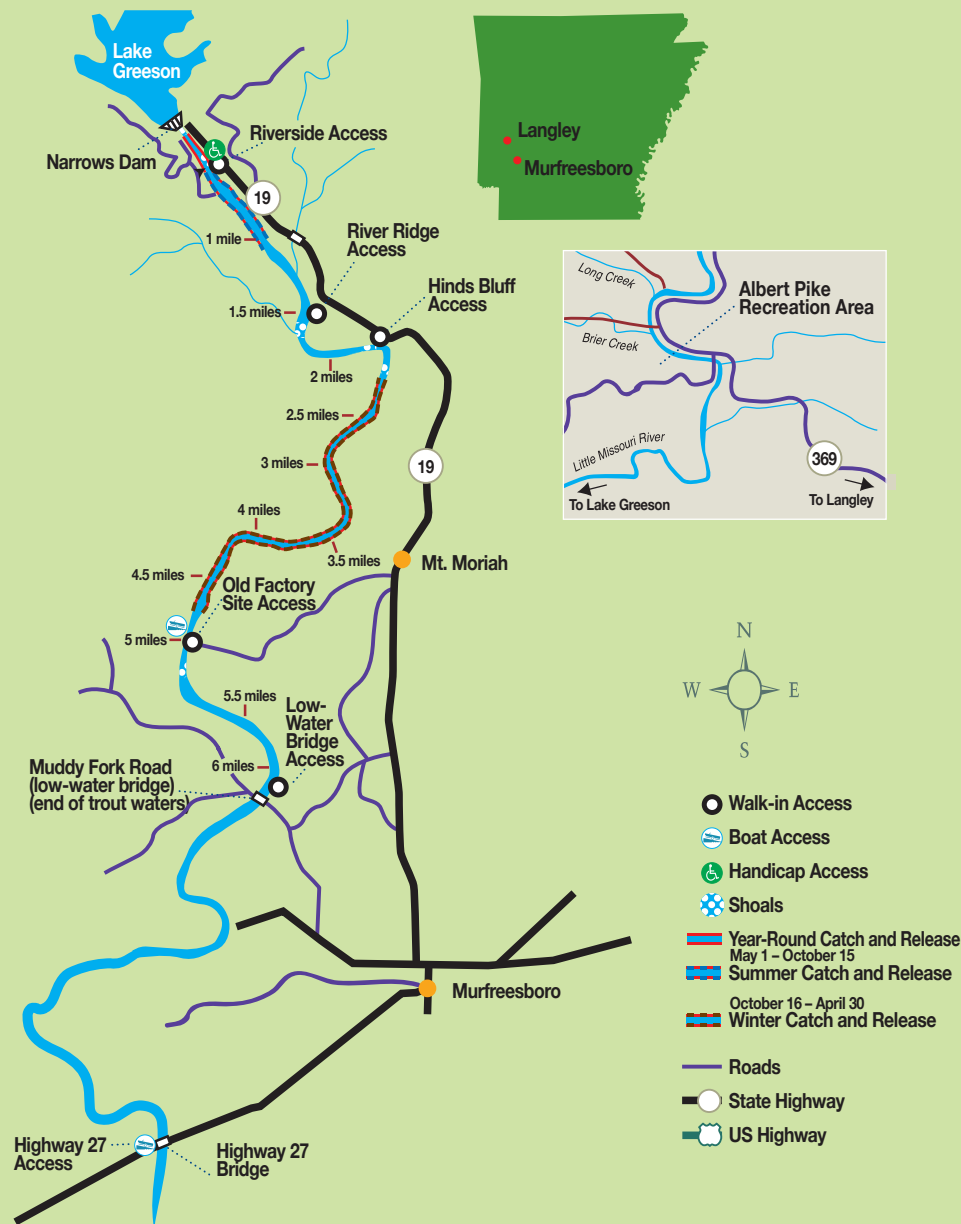
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## Lake Greeson (Narrows) Tailwater Little Missouri River

PROJECTED GENERATION CONDITIONS:

870-285-2151 (COE)

<https://www.swepco.com/info/recreation/> (SWEPCO)



## Ouachita River Tailwaters (See Maps Below)

A trout permit is required to keep trout. Daily limit of 5 trout. Statewide trout regulations apply to the Ouachita River Tailwaters (Page 12).

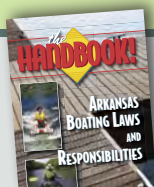
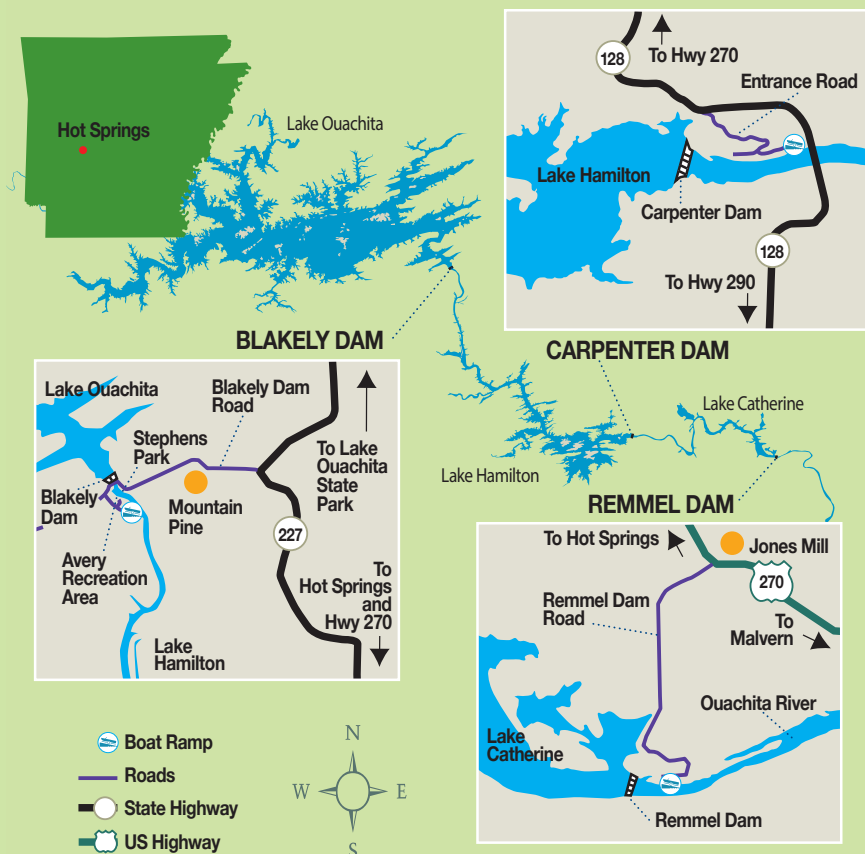
## Ouachita River Tailwaters

### Lakes Ouachita, Hamilton and Catherine

CURRENT GENERATION CONDITIONS:

Blakely Dam 501-767-2401

Carpenter Dam and Rempel Dam 501-844-2125



## 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 [Stephanie.Weatherington@agfc.ar.gov](mailto:Stephanie.Weatherington@agfc.ar.gov).



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