

About the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission

Established in 1947, the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission conserves the state's wildlife resources and provides programs and opportunities that allow hunters, anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy wildlife-associated recreation.

About the Division of Inland Fisheries

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission's Division of Inland Fisheries manages, conserves and restores the freshwater public-trust aquatic resources in North Carolina.

For More Information

Contact the Division of Inland Fisheries at 919-707-0220 or visit www.ncwildlife.org for more information on Commission managed trout waters, the economic impact of these waters, trout fishing regulations, and other Commission activities.



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TROUT FISHING in North Carolina



Partnership Opportunities for Communities in Western North Carolina with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission



Division of Inland Fisheries
N.C. Wildlife Resources
Commission
ncwildlife.org

The Economic and Recreational Benefits of Trout Fishing *Partnering with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission to bring benefits to your community*

TROUT fishing is big business in North Carolina. In 2008, trout fishing opportunities provided and managed by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission contributed more than \$174 million to North Carolina's economy.

- Trout anglers fishing in North Carolina in 2008 spent an estimated \$146 million on trips and equipment and had a total economic output of more than \$174 million;
- Trout angler expenditures supported nearly 2,000 jobs and provided more than \$56 million in income to businesses and employees in North Carolina; and
- North Carolina trout streams attracted almost 93,000 anglers from across the state and out of state in 2008.

In addition to providing economic benefits, trout fishing increases family oriented recreational opportunities. The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission wants to partner with communities to provide quality trout angling opportunities in western North Carolina.

This pamphlet describes the benefits of a partnership for your community and explains the role the Wildlife Resources Commission plays in delivering quality trout fishing opportunities through its trout management program.

The trout management program offers diverse angling opportunities, protects wild trout populations, and conserves and restores trout habitat.



Through its trout management program, the Division of Inland Fisheries provides quality fishing opportunities for anglers of all ages and abilities.



The Economic and Recreational Benefits of Trout Fishing

Enhancing Opportunities in Your Community

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and local communities can promote and provide trout fishing as a heritage tourism activity by developing and enhancing trout angling opportunities. Each partner plays an important role in making the partnership a success.

The following are guidelines that each partner can follow to help ensure angling opportunities exist for future generations.

What the Commission Can Do

- Cost-share on fishing access improvements, including universally accessible angler access
- Manage wild and hatchery-supported trout streams and set regulations based on ecological conditions;
- Stock trout to provide seasonal fisheries; and
- Cost-share on loaner rods and reels through the Tackle Loaner Program.



Commission personnel stock trout in many community waters to improve fishing opportunities.



Spruce Pine improved access to its trout waters by developing trails and greenways like this one at Riverside Park.

What Communities Can Do

- Identify potential angler access sites within your county, city, or region, and advise the Commission about these areas;
- Provide parking for anglers;
- Improve access to waters by developing trails and greenways; and
- Promote healthy stream ecosystems by establishing and maintaining buffers and controlling stormwater runoff.

Learn more about partnership opportunities by contacting Doug Besler, regional fisheries supervisor, at (828) 659-3324, ext. 221; or e-mail doug.besler@ncwildlife.org.



Trout anglers fishing in North Carolina in 2008 spent \$146 million on trips and equipment and generated a total economic output that exceeded \$174 million. Communities can promote tourism by partnering with the Wildlife Resources Commission to create, maintain and enhance trout fishing opportunities throughout western North Carolina.



What To Do if Your Community's Waters Can't Support Trout

If a community's waters cannot support a viable trout fishery, there are other ways to partner with the Wildlife Resources Commission to enhance fishing and promote fishing as a tourism activity.

For example, the agency can provide management guidance to improve the quality of other existing fisheries, such as largemouth and smallmouth bass, muskellunge and sunfishes. Through a cost-share program supported by the Sport Fish Restoration, the Commission can:

- Implement a Community Fishing Program to provide periodic stockings of channel catfish and solar-powered fish feeders;
- Enhance angler accessibility to fishing sites through the construction of universally accessible piers, walkways and parking lots; and.
- Provide loaner rods, reels and fishing tackle, to the public, through the Tackle Loaner Program.



Trout management in North Carolina is supported by the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, which utilizes state fishing license money and grant funds derived from federal excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat fuels.