



USDA Forest Service Cherokee National Forest



Brook Trout Restoration



Summer 2013

In east Tennessee the Appalachian Mountain range has approximately 625 miles of cold water (trout) streams. Most of these streams are found in the Cherokee National Forest. An additional 220 miles of trout water can be found in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Brook trout are native to Tennessee's cold headwater streams at elevations above 2,500 feet. Brook trout prefer water temperatures less than 68° F. They spawn in the fall and juveniles emerge from the gravel in the spring.

At one time all trout water in Tennessee was inhabited by brook trout. In the late 1800's many populations were lost due to poor land management practices and several of their populations were replaced with stocked rainbow trout.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service are working together to expand the range of brook trout by stocking native strains of brook trout back into their native waters. These agencies and Trout Unlimited (TU) have developed a brook trout conservation strategy that addresses both short and long term goals.

The U.S. Forest Service is actively engaged in brook trout restoration in the Cherokee National Forest. At the present the Tellico Ranger District is a high priority. A number of actions have been proposed to enhance and protect brook trout streams.



Releasing native brook trout

Brook trout spawning in Sycamore Creek



Cherokee National Forest
650,000 acres of public land

Telephone: 423-476-9700



Cherokee National Forest

Tennessee's largest tract of public land

Brook Trout Restoration



The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), Trout Unlimited (TU) & Forest Service have established a brook trout rearing program at the TWRA Tellico Fish Hatchery.

A new hatchery building was constructed and rearing operations began in the 2011 fall spawning period.

In September 2011 the Forest Service, TWRA, Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen, and TU captured brook trout in Sycamore Creek and transported them to the Tellico Hatchery by way of pack stock (horses & mules.)

Once at the hatchery the adult brook trout were spawned and at a later date returned to local streams. When trout eggs hatch the young fish are reared at the hatchery for a period of time and then released into streams in the area.

June 2013 release of fingerling brook trout into Sycamore Creek.



The U.S. Forest Service manages the Cherokee National Forest jointly with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency as a Wildlife Management Area.

Each year over two million people make visits to the Forest to hunt, fish, camp, hike, boat, sight-see, relax and more.

Visit Your Cherokee National Forest!



The Southern Appalachian Mountains of East Tennessee offer a wide variety of fishing opportunities for both warm and cold water species.

Brown, rainbow and brook trout are found in many streams.

Fishing rules and regulations in the Cherokee National Forest are managed through the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Please visit the website for complete information:

www.state.tn.us/twra



Remember:

General national forest information and maps are available at Forest Service offices in Greeneville (423-638-4109); Unicoi (423-735-1500); Tellico Plains (423-253-8400); Benton (423-338-3300); and Cleveland (423) 476-9700; or visit the web site:

www.fs.usda.gov/cherokee

Always be prepared for the unexpected. Weather can change quickly in the mountains, and much of the area is remote. Remember to always be prepared for unforeseen circumstances.

When you visit the national forest leave your trip itinerary with a relative or friend.

Always be safe with fire. Do not leave campfires unattended.

