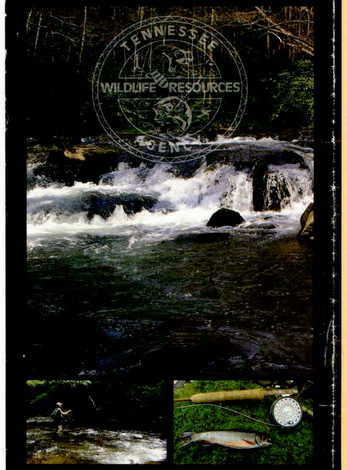
Tennessee's Wild Trout Streams



Tennessee Wild Trout

In east Tennessee, the Appalachian Mountains contain about 845 miles of streams that are home to wild, naturally reproducing, trout. But where is the best fishing? Not all mountain streams offer good wild trout fishing. Many remote streams are overlooked. Many trout anglers don't know where to begin. This map was prepared by trout biologists to show you where the better fisheries are located. It shows the location of streams that provide good to excellent fishing for trout. It is not a complete catalog of Tennessee's wild trout waters, but it does cover most of them, especially the great ones. Unfortunately it was not possible to get every road on this map, so we suggest you use higher resolution maps to find your way to some of the more remote streams. Consider this map the first step in the journey.

Most wild trout streams are on public land, but some are located on private property. To assure the future of these fisheries, respect the landowner's rights by obtaining permission to enter the property. And no matter where you fish, leave the area cleaner than you found it.

Request a copy of Tennessee Fishing Regulations when you purchase your fishing license. It contains current information on trout license requirements and fishing regulations.

The information in this brochure is provided as a courtesy to the anglers of the state. The State of Tennessee, Wildlife Resources Agency does not warrant any access site herein safe for any purpose; anglers are encouraged to use caution when parking along undeveloped right-of-ways. Access is subject to any restrictions imposed by the entities that own, manage, or control the particular site.

Many wild trout streams are located within the Cherokee National Forest, which is cooperatively managed by the TWRA and US Forest Service. These public lands provide excellent access to trout waters. The Forest Service maintains many parking areas and trails that will take you right to the fish, in some cases you can even camp nearby.

To get more information on what the Cherokee National Forest has to offer, visit their website, or contact one of their District offices:

Ocoee/Hiwassee Ranger District	**423-338-3300**
Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District	**423-638-4109**
Tellico/Hiwassee Ranger District	**423-253-8400**
Watauga Ranger District	**423-735-1500**

Website: **www.fs.fed.us/R8/cherokee**

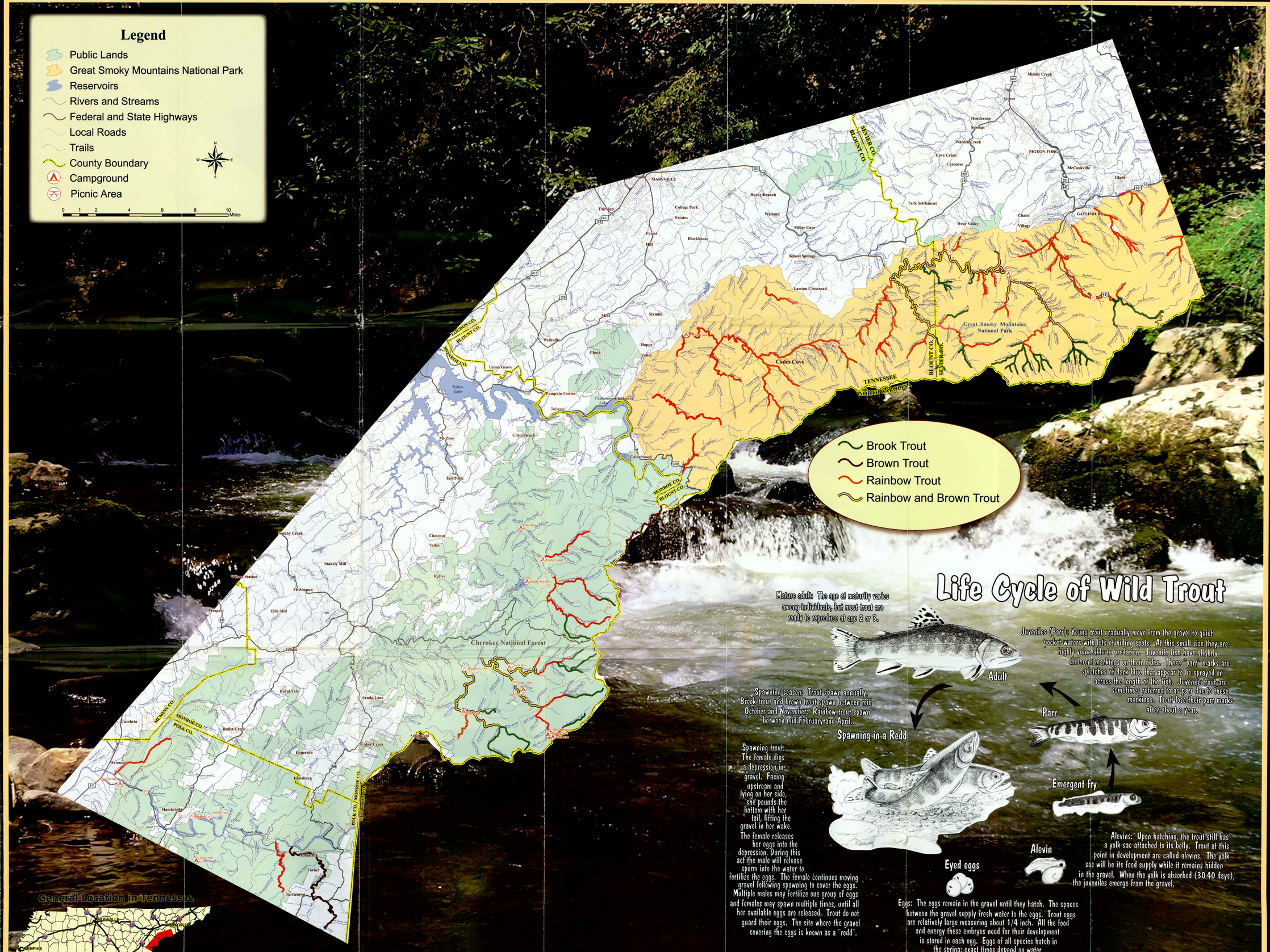
Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Most of the streams in the GSMNP have wild trout. Fishing is permitted according to Park regulations. This map shows some of the most productive waters, but other streams are worth exploring. Contact the Park Headquarters for information on fishing, camping, and other opportunities. Call 865-436-1200 or visit: **www.nps.gov/grsm**

Legend

- Public Lands
- Great Smoky Mountains National Park
- Reservoirs
- Rivers and Streams
- Federal and State Highways
- Local Roads
- Trails
- County Boundary
- Campground
- Picnic Area

0 1 2 4 6 8 10 Miles



General Location in Tennessee

Life Cycle of Wild Trout

Mature adult: The age at maturity varies among individuals, but most trout are ready to reproduce at age 2 or 3.

Adult

Juveniles (Parr): Young trout gradually move from the gravel to quiet pocket waters with lots of hiding spots. At this small size they are highly vulnerable to predation. Juvenile fish have slightly different markings on their sides. These "parr" marks are splotches of dark blue that appear to be sprayed on across the length of the fish. Juvenile trout are sometimes referred to as parr due to these markings. Trout lose their parr marks after about a year.

Parr

Spawning season: Trout spawn annually. Brook trout and brown trout spawn between mid October and November. Rainbow trout spawn between mid February and April.

Spawning in a Redd

Spawning trout: The female digs a depression in gravel. Facing upstream and lying on her side, she pounds the bottom with her tail, lifting the gravel in her wake. The female releases her eggs into the depression. During this act the male will release sperm into the water to fertilize the eggs. The female continues moving gravel following spawning to cover the eggs. Multiple males may fertilize one group of eggs and females may spawn multiple times, until all her available eggs are released. Trout do not guard their eggs. The site where the gravel covering the eggs is known as a "redd".

Emergent fry

Alevins: Upon hatching, the trout still has a yolk sac attached to its belly. Trout at this point in development are called alevins. The yolk sac will be its food supply while it remains hidden in the gravel. When the yolk is absorbed (30-40 days), the juveniles emerge from the gravel.

Alevin

Eyed eggs

Eggs: The eggs remain in the gravel until they hatch. The spaces between the gravel supply fresh water to the eggs. Trout eggs are relatively large measuring about 1/4 inch. All the food and energy these embryos need for their development is stored in each egg. Eggs of all species hatch in the spring; exact times depend on water temperature during incubation.