

Raising Trout

Each year the Finger Rock Hatchery staff raises and stocks about 750,000 trout. We currently raise rainbow trout and brown trout fingerlings (1–3 inches) and rainbow trout “catchables” (10+ inches). The fish are raised in troughs, tanks and raceways, where they are protected from disease and predation. All of the trout at the facility are raised from eggs and reared in 46 degrees F spring water. The fish are ultimately stocked into several waters throughout Colorado, to help preserve our rich wildlife heritage and sustain a great American pastime.

CPW operates 19 hatcheries that breed, hatch, rear and stock over 90 million fish per year. Many of the fish produced are to enhance angling opportunities, while others serve a critical role in native species recovery efforts. Colorado fish hatcheries support our angling pastime, which annually contributes 1.9 billion dollars to our state’s economy!



Our mission is your fishin'.
Join us!

The fish are waiting!

Finger Rock State Trout Hatchery & Rearing Unit

27750 County Road 7C • Yampa, CO 80483
970-638-4490 • cpw.state.co.us

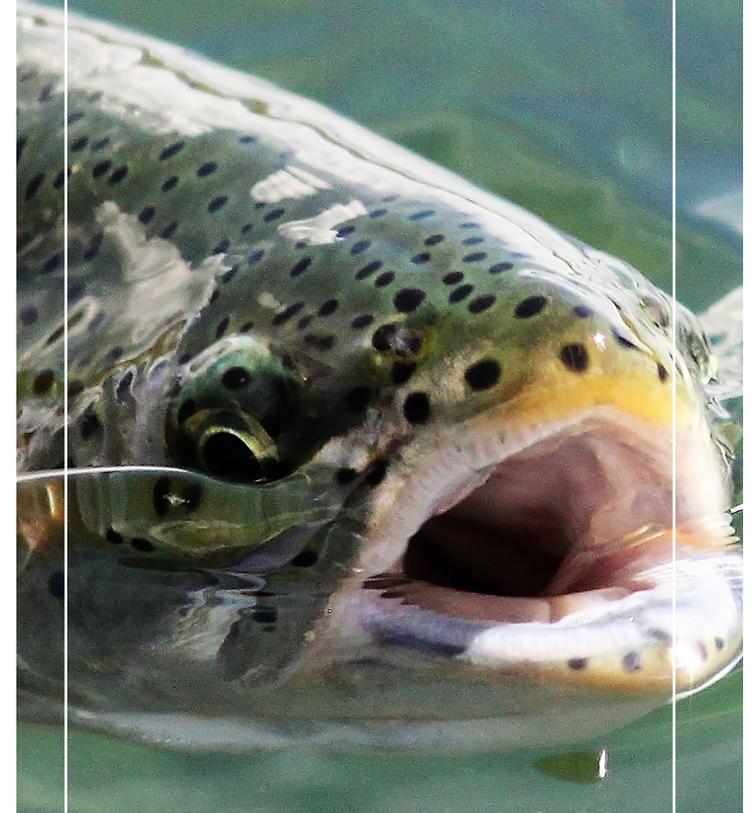


COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE

Finger Rock State Trout Hatchery & Rearing Unit



ENJOY YOUR STATE HATCHERIES



cpw.state.co.us

The Finger Rock Hatchery

The Finger Rock Hatchery property was acquired by the state in 1948. The unit is located just a few miles south of Yampa, Colorado at the base of the pristine Flat Tops Wilderness, providing a myriad of recreational opportunities for the outdoor enthusiast.



Visitors are welcome to tour the unit and wildlife viewing area, to experience the dedication and efforts of our CPW team: to preserve and perpetuate one of our most cherished and valuable natural resources. Visiting hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily: “Feed the Fish” food dispenser available (requires quarters).

The Hatchery Process

The process begins at Finger Rock with the arrival of trout eggs — collected and fertilized by our brood hatcheries. The eggs are hatched and reared by dedicated staff, which includes one hatchery manager and two highly skilled technicians. Our team works closely with other biologists to achieve our management goals and fulfill CPW’s mission.



Once fish are reared to the desired size, they are loaded onto trucks and transported to their new homes. Receiving waters are monitored closely upon arrival to ensure that the fish will thrive. Lakes and streams are stocked several times each season for the enjoyment of all.



Wildlife Viewing



Photo © Wayne D. Lewis

