

Boreal Toad



The state-endangered boreal toad is a subspecies of the Western toad which occurs at higher elevations between 6,500 ft. and 12,000 ft. throughout much of the western United States. Due to the spread of the disease Chytrid fungus, a significant decline in the southern Rocky Mountain population has been recorded since the 1970s. This led to the establishment of the largest captive breeding colony of boreal toads in the U.S. at the Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility.

The hatchery houses over 700 individuals from 48 distinct genetic groups taken from 26 different localities. Captive breeding of the boreal toad has resulted in the reintroduction of more than 100,000 tadpoles into the wild over the last decade.



Boreal toads can be individually identified by the distinct fingerprint-like spot patterns on their bellies.

Arkansas Darter



The state-threatened Arkansas darter, a species of small-bodied fish in the perch family (Percidae) and native to several watersheds in the Arkansas River basin, was first identified as a candidate for listing under the Endangered Species Act in 1989. Due in part to the reintroduction, expansion of distribution and increased abundance of populations using hatchery propagated fish, the species was determined unwarranted for listing throughout its range by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 2016.

To date, the restoration facility has engaged in extensive broodstock development and stocked over 107,000 Arkansas darters into 12 waters, including five that did not previously contain populations. In recent years, the captive propagation of Arkansas darter has increased tenfold through the refinement of culture and animal husbandry techniques at the facility.



Darters prefer to lay their eggs and spawn in polyester fiberfill at the hatchery.

J.W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility

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The Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility

The J. W. Mumma Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility opened in the year 2000 to facilitate the conservation of rare aquatic native species through captive propagation, genetic conservation, scientific research, public education and awareness. As one of the first programs of its kind in the nation, the hatchery takes a proactive approach in its attempt to keep state-listed aquatic species at risk from reaching levels warranting federal protections.

Currently, there are 12 fish species and one amphibian species reared at the unit.

They include:

- Arkansas darter
- Bluehead sucker
- Bonytail chub
- Boreal toad
- Colorado roundtail chub
- Common shiner
- Eastern plains minnow
- Flannemouth sucker
- Northern redbelly dace
- Rio grande chub
- Rio grande sucker
- Southern redbelly dace
- Suckermouth minnow



The Native Aquatic Species Restoration Facility is a unique hatchery that focuses solely on threatened, endangered or declining aquatic and amphibian species.

Captive Propagation

Since its inception, the hatchery has produced and stocked millions of fish and tadpoles into Colorado waters and wetlands as it continues to partner with tribes, other western states, federal agencies, local governments, academia and private landowners. Through the dedication of its staff and the employment of new and improved culture techniques and methodologies, the hatchery continues to maximize its production while ensuring a safe and ethical culture environment for its native aquatic species at risk.



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!

