

## FISHING OPPORTUNITIES IN PARKWAY WATERS

The Blue Ridge Parkway is designed as a recreational motor road connecting Shenandoah and Great Smoky Mountains national parks. Along much of its route, the Parkway hugs the crest of the world's oldest mountains. A mountaintop park may seem an unlikely place to fish, but just the opposite is true. The National Park Service protects over one hundred miles of streams, many of them small, spring-fed watercourses that rise along the spine of the Blue Ridge. In addition, planners designed thirteen artificial lakes along the Parkway to enhance the natural beauty of the scenic drive. These streams and lakes hold a special interest for those trying to enhance their Parkway experience by searching out native or stocked fish in a mountain environment.

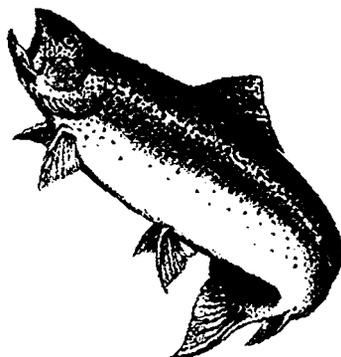
### LICENSES AND REGULATIONS

Blue Ridge Parkway streams and lakes are gamefish waters governed by Title 36, Sections 2.3 and 7.34(b) of the code of Federal Regulations. Fishing is permitted in all Parkway waters with a valid state fishing license from *either North Carolina or Virginia*. No special trout stamp or license is needed and persons under age 16 can fish without a license. Fishing is not permitted from footbridges, dams or adjacent walls. In *trout waters*, regulations are posted at the stream bank and are in effect for that stream only. *Closed waters* are also clearly marked and fishing is not allowed due to emergency conditions or ongoing research. On all Parkway waters, fishing is allowed from one half hour before sunset to one half hour after sunset. Digging for bait on Parkway land is not allowed. Be aware that many streams meander onto U.S. Forest Service or private land and regulations will vary as the jurisdiction changes.

### CATCH AND RELEASE

#### *"Your Future & Theirs"*

"Catch and release" fishing is growing in popularity around the world among environmentally sensitive fishermen. The thrill of landing a beautiful fish and releasing it to its native habitat is a rewarding feeling for many anglers. Barbless hooks and minimal handling help ensure that the fish will survive a catch and live to reproduce or provide sport for another day. A photograph of your catch can be just as rewarding as "taking home the kill." Although the law does not require "catch and release" on all streams, the habit is one that will ensure healthy populations of species for future generations.



### SPECIES OF FISH FOUND IN PARKWAY STREAMS AND LAKES

Most of the lakes on the Blue Ridge Parkway support warm water species such as bass, bream, or bluegill. In Parkway streams, a variety of species of trout may be found:

**Brown trout** have been stocked in eastern streams since the late nineteenth century. These golden colored trout are not native to the Appalachian mountains.

**Rainbow trout** have been stocked in eastern streams as sport fish as well. These beautiful fish with the pink stripe down the side are originally native to the western United States.

**Brook trout** is the only native trout in the southern Appalachians. This small fish with beautiful orange and red markings has survived many changes in its habitat during the centuries that humans have occupied the Blue Ridge. Catching a "Brookie" is an experience that most anglers carry with them for a lifetime.

(5/96)

# Fishing Opportunites

WATER	MILEPOST	SPECIES	REGS
<b>James River District:</b>			
Otter Creek**	55.2 - 63.7	BKT/BNT	GEN
Otter Lake	63.1	SMB	GEN
<b>Peaks - Roanoke Valley District:</b>			
Abbott Lake	85.6	SMB	SPEC
Little Stoney Creek	85.6	BKT/RBT	SPEC
<b>Rocky Knob District:</b>			
Rock Castle Cr, Upper	167 - 174	BKT/RBT	SPEC
Rock Castle Cr, Lower		RBT/BNT	SPEC
Little Rock Castle	167 - 174	RBT/BNT	SPEC
Laurel Creek	173 - 174	BKT	SPEC
Chestnut Creek	215.2 - 217	BKT	SPEC
<b>Bluffs (north) District:</b>			
Big Pine Creek	221.5 - 225.5	BKT/RBT	GEN
Hare Mill Pond	225.4	SMB	GEN
Brush Creek	227 - 228	BKT/RBT	GEN
Little Glade Creek	228 - 230.5	BKT/RBT	GEN
Little Glade Mill Pond	230	BRIM	GEN
Basin-Cove Cr Complex	238 - 244	RBT	SPEC
Meadow Fork Creek	246 - 248.5	BKT/RBT	GEN
<b>Bluffs (south) District:</b>			
Bass Lake	293	SMB	GEN
Trout Lake	294	BKT	SPEC
Sims Creek, Upper	296	BNT	SPEC
Sims Creek, Lower	296.5	BNT	SPEC
Sims Pond	296	BKT	SPEC
Price Lake	297	BKT/BNT/RBT	GEN
Boone Fork, Upper	297 - 303	BKT/RBT	SPEC
Boone Fork, Lower	297	BNT	SPEC
<b>Gillespie Gap District:</b>			
Camp Creek	313 - 317	BNT	SPEC
Linville River	317	BKT/BNT/RBT	GEN

BNT = brown trout  
BKT = brook trout

SMB = smallmouth bass  
RBT = rainbow trout

GEN = general

SPEC = special