

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

**White and Norfork River Trout Summit
Reports**

Mountain Home – May 14, 2007

Mountain Home – May 15, 2007

Mountain View – May 17, 2007

Plus

Non-Resident Survey and Email Input Results

Compiled by
Tom Wasson
Tommy Shropshire
Spencer Amend
Dynamic Solutions Group, LLC

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Table of Contents

Chapter	Page
Summary and Observations	1
Mountain Home Trout Summit Report, May 14	3
Mountain Home Trout Summit Report, May 15	6
Mountain View Trout Summit Report, May 17	10
Non-resident Survey Results	12
Email Input Results	20

Summary and Observations

Arkansas Trout Summit Mountain Home on May 14, Mountain Home on May 16, and Mountain View on May 17

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission (AGFC) is attempting to do the best job possible of managing the State's trout resources. To achieve this end, they have been actively seeking public involvement in the process of developing site specific trout management plans, each one tailored to the conditions of individual tailwater trout fisheries. Each site specific plan will be consistent with the overall, statewide Arkansas Trout Management Plan approved by the Commission in January 2004.

The White/Norfolk Tailwaters trout management plan is the fourth of these tailored, site specific trout management plans being developed. The White/Norfolk Tailwaters are arguably the most complicated trout fishery in Arkansas. It is also the Arkansas trout fishery with the strongest national reputation – readily recognized as one of the premier trout fisheries in the country. Therefore it has received the most detailed attention in terms of public involvement. In February 2007 a series of five focus groups was held in Mountain Home and Allison to help determine the scope of public issues and interest. On April 17, 2007, an advisory group was organized to assist not only with developing the management plan, but with implementing, evaluating, and revising the plan. Reports on the focus groups and on the organizational meeting of the Advisory Group are available on the AGFC website.

High-lighting the complexity of the White/Norfolk Tailwaters system, on the evenings of May 14, 15, and 17, 2007, trout summit meetings were held in Mountain Home and Mountain View. The purposes of these trout summit meetings were two-fold: first of all, to provide a status report to the public on White/Norfolk trout management. Secondly – and really more important – to provide an opportunity for the public to provide their ideas as to (1) candidate goals for managing this system, (2) the most important management issues within the system, and (3) suggested management strategies and actions to make this trout fishery the best it can be. This report summarizes the results of the May 14, 15, and 17 workshops. This report also includes additional emailed comments, plus the results of a survey of non-resident anglers who fish the White/Norfolk tailwaters. As will become apparent from examination of the following tables, emailed and non-resident survey input was basically consistent with that received from those attending the trout summit workshops.

The May 14 & 15 workshops in Mountain Home were what amounted to a day-long workshop, divided among two consecutive evenings (6:30 – 9:00 PM). The May 17th workshop in Mountain View provided the same opportunities for input in a compressed time frame. Approximately 65 people attended on the 14th & 15th, with approximately 23 being new attendees on the 15th. Seven people attended on the 17th. After a brief presentation/status report by Jeff Williams, trout biologist, participants were guided into productive sessions where they were encouraged to provide their ideas on present and future trout management of the White/Norfolk Tailwaters. The meeting format allowed everyone to express their ideas and suggestions. Their ideas were organized into three categories: (1) potential goals for the White/Norfolk Tailwaters, (2) problems/issues/concerns with present management of the White/Norfolk Tailwaters trout fishery, and (3) advice/suggestions/recommendations for actions that need to be taken into account during planning for the future on these tailwaters. During the workshops, participants were reminded that while everyone can have the satisfaction of knowing they have provided their ideas and input, not everyone's advice can be followed in the final plan. Everyone can have their say; everyone can not have their way.

At the end of the meeting, informal discussion and a question-answer session with AGFC personnel was held. As participants departed, they seemed comfortable and satisfied that they had been provided an opportunity to help define the future of trout management on the White/Norfolk Tailwaters – which is exactly why the workshop was held. As participants in the summit departed, they were also invited to put sticky dots beside the items from the each session that seemed most significant to them. The metaphor for the trout summit was “We need your help!”

Based on the results contained in this report, AGFC trout program personnel [with help from the Advisory Group] will prepare a draft management plan – an “options document” – identifying the range of opportunities for future management of trout on the White/Norfolk Tailwaters. In late October, a public review workshop will get public reaction to and assessment of the management options. Results of the October workshop will guide AGFC preparation of the draft management plan, which will again go through a public review and comment session in early 2008. The metaphor for the two review workshops will be “Did we hear you right?”

The following sections of “goals”, “issues” and “advice” contain all ideas provided by participants in the summit, plus results from a non-resident survey, plus emailed input. Each grouping remains in its own table, labeled with “topic” and “sub-topic” headings to facilitate further combination or sorting. (The technique is called “content analysis.”) Although items/ideas were not truly ranked by workshop participants, participants at each table were asked to identify the most significant idea they came up with during their discussions. These items are in **bold** type in the tables. They were also reported and high-lighted verbally by representatives from each table toward the end of each evening.

Author’s note: after reading and attempting to summarize the several hundred items related to the White/Norfolk Tailwaters, I feel optimistic about the future of this resource. People providing these comments are obviously dedicated to providing the best possible management and enjoyment of this valuable resource over the long term. That speaks very well, I think, for the likelihood of maintaining and enhancing this unique fishery. Although I will leave the final analysis and interpretation to trout program personnel, the following topics – whether identified as goals, issues, or advice – seemed to jump off the page and to demand attention: water quality, water flows, stream bank protection, inter-agency cooperation regarding flows, enforcement, quality fish, Didymo, access, and the need to manage some sections of the system differently.

White and Norfolk Trout Summit
 May 14, 2007
 Mountain Home

Approximately 65 attended. Attendees worked in small groups to discuss and identify potential goals for the fishery and to list them on flip chart paper. Each small group was asked to identify the one goal they believed was most significant from their list. The flip charts were posted at the rear of the room

At the end of the workshop the attendees were asked to review all the goals listed on the flip charts. Using 6 sticky dots, each participant identified those goals they believe are most significant.

Below is a list of potential goals taken from the flip charts. Items in **bold** refers to the small group's most significant goal. All duplicates have been combined. Each comment has been flagged with a "topic" of trout, habitat, or people and then a sub-topic was assigned representing the nature/subject of the comment. Then, duplicate comments were combined. This allows all comments to be sorted/grouped in various ways in order to better analyze the collective input.

Question: What should be the goals of the White and Norfolk Tailwaters Trout Management Plan? In other words, what does success look like?

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Potential Goal
76	Habitat	Water	Water quality issues: habitat; minimum flow; do oxygen infusion system , Water quality, Improved Water Quality, Clean up river – get large rainbow back, Improve natural biomass, Habitat improvement, River bank control, White River basin pollution and sewer control, increase minimum flow, Meeting all the state standards for dissolved oxygen and water quality, Wild trout fisheries (Montana Plan) established: must have quality water (adequate dissolved oxygen, etc), Have quality water attained – AGFC work with whoever to attain, Water quality sufficient to support a diverse fisheries (vs. put and take) – AGFC should set standards and publish , Stabilize water temperatures, Increase dissolved oxygen near dams, Improve water quality: improve quality of rivers to provide a healthy environment for fish – get rid of algae; don't allow houses as close to river, don't allow all sorts of drainages , Fix dissolved oxygen
30	People	Laws	More law enforcement, Better enforcement, Two full time wardens dedicated to enforcement of regulations on Baxter/Marion Co. trout waters, Improve enforcement
29	Trout	Trophy	More and bigger, Average fish caught larger, bigger , Larger Fish (more), Larger trophy fish & more, More large healthy fish , Larger average stocked fish, Increase the number of quality fish, Quality fish-size (big & healthy), Stock large fish – trophy fish
28	People	Planning	Multi-agency cooperation for implementing management plan: (AGFC, COE, ADEQ, Planning and Zoning, city agencies, EPA, other government agencies), Regional coordination of planning and zoning for protection of the watershed, Have a trout management plan in place that is based on sound science and local data
24	Trout	Trophy	Better Fishing Experience: Larger average size & improved

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Potential Goal
			water quality
22	Trout	Trophy	Norfolk set aside as a trophy resource, Manage Norfolk differently than White: more species regulations on White; Norfolk-all species regulations
16	Habitat	Water	Riparian zone, Establish zoning restriction to protect riparian areas, Control of riparian habitat
16	People	Laws	ADEQ insist the state water quality regulations are met, ADEQ enforcement of their own regulations, Monitor water and enforcement- pay bigger fines, Permit for alteration of stream bed enforce
15	Habitat	Water	Improve minimum flows, Dissolved oxygen and minimum flows, Minimum flow implementation
14	People	Access	More public access areas for all types of anglers, More public access to river (also affects safety of anglers)
11	Habitat	Water	No unplanned development on the river, Stricter controls on development in watershed, Less pollution and trash at banks, Decrease pollution and resulting algae, Control development along rivers – enforce laws
6	People	Water flow	Better reporting and prediction of dam releases
6	Trout	Mortality	Stop chumming
6	Trout	Trophy	Increase trophy zones, slot limits, More catch and release areas, More and larger trophy areas
5	Trout	Health	Move the health index at or near ten
5	Trout	Trophy	Increase average size of rainbow trout to 16 inches
4	Habitat	Water	Improve trout habitat
4	Trout	Bait	Elimination of non-nutrition bait (i.e., corn)
4	Trout	Mortality	Barbless hooks only - river wide
4	Trout	Stocking	Balance stocking with harvest, Maintain stocking numbers
3	People	Laws	Hold the Corps of Engineers accountable and provide quality water to the fisheries
3	People	Laws	Horsepower restrictions-vary with location on river, Restriction on size of boat motors
3	People	Laws	Refrain from taking fish's food from river
3	Trout	Trophy	Look at expanding catch and release areas on White from dam to Buffalo City
2	Trout	Trophy	Commercial boat tax- money purchases or raise larger stock fish
1	Habitat	Invasives	Continue research on Didymo and other undesirable threats, Solve Didymo
1	People	Education	Improve catch and release techniques thru training (e.g., circle hooks), Safety education
1	People	Laws	Define Enforcement Authority (River Basin,etc), More enforcement of all agencies
1	People	Laws	Eventually eliminate bait fishing for trout in at least most of the system – as almost every other state has already done in their quality waters
1	People	Youth	Increased participation in youth angling
1	Trout	Stocking	Protect N/E hatchery
1	Trout	Trophy	Slot limit: two rainbows under 12 inches and one trout over 24

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Potential Goal
			inches
0	People	Education	More widespread education on catch and release techniques to prevent mortality
0	People	Laws	Further restrict angling methods/conservation: zero fishing, Strict laws on keeping trophy trout – one per year per fishermen
0	People	Laws	Truth needs to be told about the operation of the landfill: more water testing
0	People	Laws	Too many agencies
0	People	Laws	Safer river
0	Trout	Harvest	Maintain trout harvesting
0	Trout	Planning	Improve creel surveys
0	Trout	Trophy	Return the fisheries to the quality and quantity of 15-20 years ago; rainbow trout in particular

White and Norfolk Trout Summit
 May 15, 2007
 Mountain Home

Approximately 65 attended. Approximately 42 participants attending the May 14th summit returned to the May 15th summit. Attendees worked in small groups to discuss and identify issues, problems, and concerns, and then focused on recommendations, suggestions and advice. They listed comments on flip chart paper. The flip charts were posted at the rear of the room.

At the end of the workshop the attendees were asked to review all the comments listed on the flip charts. Using 6 sticky dots, each participant identified those comments they believe are most significant.

Below is a list of potential issues or concerns taken from the flip charts. Items in **bold** refers to the small group's most significant comments. All duplicates have been combined. Each comment has been flagged with a "topic" of trout, habitat, or people and then a sub-topic was assigned pending the nature/subject of the comment. Then, duplicate comments were either combined or eliminated. This allows all comments to be sorted/grouped in various ways in order to better analyze the collective input.

Question: What are your issues or concerns or problems about trout management on the White and Norfolk tailwaters?

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Issue
51	Habitat	Water	Water quality (low dissolved oxygen, high temperatures , pollution, sediment), Unrestrained development, debris (trash) thrown in river, Water quality , high riparian destruction, specific: dissolved oxygen, Development issue, Farming impacts, Obtain water quality standards, Water quality is unacceptably below state minimum standards (i.e., dissolved oxygen), Issues of septic runoff, Stream bank stabilization and maintenance, sedimentation, Failure to maintain riparian zone, Scenic beauty preservation of tailwaters and habitat bank destruction
25	People	Laws	Enforcement is lax in some areas, Enforcement not enough, Lack of enforcement of game and environmental laws
18	People	Planning	Coordinate related agencies – share information and resources (ADEQ, CORP) , Poor coordination among agencies (COE, ADEQ, AGFC)
14	Habitat	Water	Need permanent solution to low dissolved oxygen levels, Water temperature needs to be monitored downstream to prevent die-off of trout due to warm water, Low dissolved oxygen
13	People	Laws	Horse power restrictions on boat motors, Motor size limits, Horse power requirements on different parts of the river
12	Trout	Trophy	Stock some trophy-size fish, Now there are too few large trophy fish, Brown/Cutts/Brooks minimum harvest size too small, Larger fish, Smaller fish
11	Trout	Trophy	Catch and release areas too small , Not enough trophy trout areas, Too few and too small trophy management areas
9	Trout	Mortality	Fish mortality, Mortality of release fish, Culling fish, Related spawning mortality via unethical angling practices, uneducated wade anglers, low dissolved oxygen, electroshocking redds

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Issue
8	People	Laws	Commercial bait harvest in catch and release, Taking bait out of the river
8	Trout	Mortality	Chumming
6	Trout	Mortality	Fishing for spawning trout
5	Trout	Trophy	Separate management for Norfolk and for different sections on the White
4	Habitat	Invasives	Didymo solution, Didymo and other invasives
3	Trout	Mortality	Stop treble hooks
3	Trout	Mortality	Uneducated anglers on catch and release techniques and handling, lack of ability to recognize fish species
2	Habitat	Water	Lack of reporting system for silt and runoff
2	Trout	Mortality	Over harvesting of quality fish
1	Habitat	Water	Minimum flow
1	People	Access	Losing access
1	People	Safety	Boating hazards with some habitat improvements
1	Trout	Planning	Validity (method) of creel survey
0	People	Education	Education and safety
0	People	Laws	Guides setting a positive example
0	People	Laws	Current regulations are too complicated, Inconsistency of various geographic areas
0	People	Laws	Safety
0	People	Laws	Guides are not required to be responsible for client actions
0	People	Planning	Funding for hatcheries
0	People	Planning	Tourism and economic issues
0	People	Planning	Plan will not be implemented
0	People	Planning	Fisherman demographics
0	People	Water flow	Better generation data for Corps
0	People	Youth	Need to attract more youth fishing
0	Trout	Mortality	Better data of fish mortality
0	Trout	Mortality	Hérons on the river
0	Trout	Mortality	Fishing pressure on Norfolk
0	Trout	Stocking	When stocking use stocking raft
0	Trout	Stocking	Over stocking – beyond capacity
0	Trout	Stocking	Has there been a shift in “put-n-take” vs. wild, etc.?

Below is a list of recommendations, suggestions or advice taken from the flip charts. Items in **bold** refers to the small group's most significant comments. All duplicates have been combined.

Question: What are your recommendations, suggestions or advice concerning actions that should be taken regarding trout management on these tailwaters?

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Advice
60	Trout	Trophy	Manage Norfolk as a special area, Norfolk set-aside as trophy trout fishery , Norfolk trophy section from first curve in river to first island upstream from mouth
36	People	Planning	Work with and push for multi-agency-wide cooperation among AGFC, ADEQ, COE, Soil and Water, SWPA, and EPA, Having the Corps and AGFC, ADEQ, COE work in conjunction,

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Advice
			establish inter-agency organization to coordinate efforts between AGFC and Corps, ADEQ, planning and zoning, etc., Encourage research and collaborate with other geographic locations
27	Habitat	Water	Force COE to meet standard quality measures
19	Trout	Trophy	Make catch and release areas larger, More catch and release areas (Cane Island, Narrows, Hopkins Hole, Rough Hole), Create larger slot limits and catch and release in more areas – artificials-only on Norfork , Slot limits with gear restrictions
15	People	Laws	Eliminate bait harvest in catch and release, No bait on Norfork railroad bridge to first curve, Eliminate taking live bait from rivers
12	Trout	Mortality	Barbless hooks for all, no treble hook with bait, barbless with bait
11	People	Laws	Boat motor horse power restrictions on Norfork, upper and lower White, Limit motor size (25 hp)
10	People	Laws	Increase enforcement of current regulations, More enforcement , Reallocation of wildlife officers as needed for additional enforcement, Increase enforcement and successful legal prosecution of game and environmental laws, County ordinances, enforce state laws, Simple and forceful
9	People	Access	Create more public access on White between Wildcat and Gaston's, Acquire new access on Norfork and White
9	People	Planning	In short-term regulation changes while working on bigger issues (long –term issues: habitat and water quality)
9	Trout	Trophy	Stock some trophy-size fish, Protect current large fish , increase minimum size of harvestable browns/cutts/brooks, Slot limit on Norfork
9	Trout	Trophy	Slot limit
8	Habitat	Invasives	Solve Didymo , Use Trout Stamp money to some Didymo problem
8	Habitat	Water	Complete implementation of minimum flow ASAP
8	Habitat	Water	Buffer zones on either side of catch and release areas
8	Trout	Mortality	Stop all chumming
8	Trout	Mortality	Reduce heron populations
7	Trout	Trophy	Maintain river as put and take
5	Habitat	Water	Implement minimum flow on White River <u>not</u> on Norfork
4	People	Planning	Trout stamp money for trout only
3	Habitat	Invasives	Bleach tanks at all accesses
3	Habitat	Water	Control development (minimum setback)
3	People	Education	Education on handling releasing fish, Educate anglers regarding spawn and close areas if necessary, Photos ant access and handling instructions, Improve public awareness of control of invasive species
3	People	Laws	Recognize that different parts of the river require different regulations (perhaps)
3	Trout	Mortality	Outlaw fishing during active spawn
2	Habitat	Water	Habitat improvement, Advocate for setbacks along river development, Reduce non-point pollution
1	Habitat	Water	Hot-line for environmental issues

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Advice
1	Habitat	Water	AGFC needs to be a watchdog on water temp
1	Habitat	Water	File suit against Corp (user groups)
1	Habitat	Water	Commit to resolve dissolved oxygen problem
1	People	Planning	Work with other state and federal agencies (ADEQ, CORPS, SWPA) but where agreement and cooperation cannot be obtained advocate for the fisheries through legal means
1	Trout	Trophy	Increase average size rainbow to 16 inches
0	Habitat	Water	Habitat work – consult with local river “experts”
0	Habitat	Water	Install aeration/oxygenators at dams
0	People	Education	Comprehensive education programs
0	People	Laws	Simplify regulations and make family-friendly
0	People	Laws	Establish higher professional standards for guides (i.e., continued educations, CPR, first aid)
0	People	Laws	Require personal floatation devices in boats
0	People	Planning	Use best scientific information
0	People	Planning	Make communications with Commission easier
0	People	Planning	Collect demographics
0	People	Planning	Multi-agency buy-in and public support on all levels – with funding
0	People	Planning	Trout czar
0	People	Water flow	Remove and replace water flow reporting system – more reliable number
0	Trout	Mortality	Reduce pressure
0	Trout	Mortality	AGFC to include mortality studies and surveys in management practices
0	Trout	Planning	Creel survey on river by boat not just on boat access
0	Trout	Trophy	Slot limit from Roundhouse to Rim Shoals, artificial only

White and Norfolk Trout Summit
 May 17, 2007
 Mountain View

Seven people attended. Attendees worked as one group (table exercise) to discuss and identify (1) potential goals for the White and Norfolk Tailwaters, (2) issues/problems/concerns for the fishery, and (3) their recommendations/suggestions/advice. The group was asked to identify the one comment they believed was most significant from their list. The flip charts were posted on the wall at the front of the room.

At the end of the workshop the attendees were asked to review all the comments listed on the flip charts. Using 6 sticky dots, each participant identified those comments they believe are most significant.

Below are lists of (1) goals, (2) issues/problems/concerns, and (3) recommendations/suggestions/advice taken from the flip charts. Each comment has been flagged with a “topic” of trout, habitat, or people and then a sub-topic was assigned representing the nature/subject of the comment. This allows all comments to be sorted/grouped in various ways in order to better analyze the collective input.

Question: What should be the goals of the White and Norfolk Tailwaters Trout Management Plan? In other words, what does success look like?

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Potential Goal
6	Habitat	Water	Maintain a minimum flow in river which will maintain adequate water temperature <65 degrees
4	People	Planning	Direct more funds to fishery sustainability
1	Habitat	Water	Improve water quality (developments and waste – animal, human, pesticides, fertilizers)
1	People	Education	Educate public on catch and release methods (add to handbook)
1	People	Laws	Limit motor size but size should be different for lower White
1	Trout	Trophy	Larger and healthier fish (maintain)
1	Trout	Trophy	Have available larger fish

Question: What are your issues or concerns or problems about trout management on the White and Norfolk tailwaters?

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Issue
5	Habitat	Water	Water quality (temperature – minimum flow, dissolved oxygen – generator mop, Didymo, silting and runoff from development, excess agriculture runoff, septic/sewer inadequacies)
3	Trout	Stocking	Use higher quality trout strain
1	People	Laws	Lack of agents to enforce limits and regulations
0	Habitat	Development	Sand and gravel mining
0	People	Laws	Air boats – noise and safety
0	Trout	Mortality	Blue herons
0	Trout	Stocking	Fish hatchery maintenance

Question: What are your recommendations, suggestions or advice concerning actions that should be taken regarding trout management on these tailwaters?

Dots	Topic	Sub-topic	Advice
6	Trout	Trophy	Stock trophy trout, Slot limit (16-20+) all trout
3	Trout	Laws	Eliminate non-productive catch and release areas
2	People	Education	Public education regarding catch and release of fish
2	People	Laws	More enforcement
2	People	Laws	ADEQ needs to enforce development rules and regulations
2	Trout	Mortality	Use circle hooks for bait fishermen
1	Trout	Laws	Different regulations between upper and lower White
0	Habitat	Water	Convert dam generators to add dissolved oxygen
0	People	Laws	Ban all air boats
0	People	Planning	Redistribution of how funds are spent (more to Fisheries for trout)

Non-resident Survey Results

A mail survey was sent to a sampling of non-resident anglers most likely to have fished the White and Norfolk Tailwaters. Questions were asked separately for Bull Shoals and Norfolk Tailwaters. A good rate of return occurred. The following table includes those comments. The questions asked were 2 of the 3 questions asked at the Trout Summit.

Question: What are your issues or concerns or problems about trout management on the Bull Shoals Tailwater?

Topic	Sub-topic	Issue
Fish	Species	Stocking smallmouth in the White river.
Habitat	Invasives	The moss that has accumulated the last few years.
Habitat	Invasives	Rock Snot increasing at alarming infestation, especially below dam & Wildcat Access areas.
Habitat	Invasives	Zebra mussel problems
Habitat	Quality	Keep cattle out of the White River.
Habitat	Quality	Slow down or stop development.
Habitat	Quality	Too much development on the river.
Habitat	Quality	Streamside degradation from development. Loss of trees for yard grass.
Habitat	Quality	Gravel filling in cracks; gravel mining.
Habitat	Quality	Prevent siltation from river bank developments.
Habitat	Quality	Stream bank development
Habitat	Quality	Overdevelopment along river; development too close to the banks.
Habitat	Water	Continue to pursue minimum flow
Habitat	Water	I believe the problem is change in temperature. Why have a trophy area & other special things when the fish die or move out in the low water warm temperatures.
Habitat	Water	Prevent contamination from septic systems.
Habitat	Water	Noticing more algae & foliage floating in the river.
Habitat	Water	Low water much of the time.
Habitat	Water	Being able to find out generating times in advance.
Habitat	Water	Lack of oxygen in water released from the dam
Habitat	Water	Declining water quality, especially low DO, high temperatures, Didymo; high pollution
Habitat	Water	Chemical contamination entering from the dam.
Habitat	Water	Water level management; water quality.
Habitat	Water	Water levels.
Habitat	Water	Run-off from pasture land and cleared shore lands. Great fluctuations in generation – especially in the summer.
Habitat	Water	Moss is increasing in the river.
Habitat	Water	Lack of aquatic plant life in the river.
Habitat	Water flow	Low water level during non-generating periods.
Habitat	Water flow	Unpredictability of water flow (power generation).
Habitat	Water flow	No generation schedule.
Habitat	Water flow	Establish minimum flows
Habitat	Water flow	Water levels.
Habitat	Water flow	Rivers up & down too much.
Habitat	Water flow	Unpredictable flows.

Topic	Sub-topic	Issue
People	Access	Maintain areas for public access for bank fishing and wading
People	Access	Handicap access.
People	Access	More walk-in access
People	Access	Plenty of access, although parking lots can get crowded (Rim & Wildcat Shoals).
People	Access	Do not increase the designated catch & release areas.
People	Access	Overnight boat slips for personal boats are very limited.
People	Access	Balance between float fishing & wade (fly) fishing.
People	Access	More access.
People	Access	Would like to see more public access
People	Access	Porta-potties at public access areas such as Wildcat Shoals would be helpful.
People	Access	Inadequate amount of catch and release areas in the river.
People	Access	Need more public access to the river.
People	Access	Access for wade fishing could be better.
People	Access	Some access sites are dangerously slippery and steep.
People	Education	Maps for out-of-staters would be helpful.
People	Education	How fishermen handle the trout.
People	Education	New phone reports aren't helpful or detailed.
People	Education	Lots of people harvest browns & cutts, many not knowing which fish is which.
People	Laws	Lack of enforcement of regulations
People	Laws	More enforcement.
People	Laws	Lack of enforcement; not enough fish & wildlife officers
People	Laws	Unreasonable barbless check methods by enforcement personnel.
People	Planning	I don't have any issues. I thought there were plenty of fish.
People	Planning	Future funding for an incredible fishery: to improve the quality & experience and to obtain & maintain more access sites.
People	Planning	No regards for fishing on part of COE.
People	Safety	Warning sirens.
People	Safety	Notification of water generation; there should be horns on the whole river.
People	Safety	Not able to hear sirens; got swept off feet and in danger.
People	Safety	Boat launching at the state park is inadequate and hazardous when towing with a motor home.
People	Safety	Siren is not loud enough & cannot be heard in the state park.
People	Safety	Inability to feel comfortable wade fishing because of uncertainty of water flows on the way.
People	Satisfaction	I don't know how it could be better. I am very satisfied with everything.
People	Satisfaction	Great job of improving some boat ramps, especially Cotter & Ranchett.
Trout	Laws	Limit on rainbow trout is too few.
Trout	Mortality	Overharvest of large brown trout. High mortality of fish from bait and barbed hooks.
Trout	Mortality	Massive hours of fishing pressure.
Trout	Mortality	Chumming.
Trout	Mortality	Bait fishing.
Trout	Mortality	High fishing pressure.
Trout	Mortality	Hooking mortality.

Topic	Sub-topic	Issue
Trout	Mortality	Restricted barbless, catch & release areas. Fish being killed by bait fishermen; poor handling of released fish.
Trout	Mortality	Lots of eels on trout.
Trout	Population	Fish populations
Trout	Populations	Seems to be a decline in population of fish.
Trout	Quality	Maintaining a quality fishery now and for future
Trout	Quality	Reduction in fish limit
Trout	Trophy	Over the years trophy fish seem to be few and far between.
Trout	Trophy	Enlarge the catch & release areas to produce better fish down stream.
Trout	Trophy	Larger catch & release area
Trout	Trophy	Quantity and quality of fish has been great.
Trout	Trophy	I don't see that many trophy trout.
Trout	Trophy	Fish size.

Question: What are your issues or concerns or problems about trout management on the Norfolk Tailwater?

Topic	Sub-topic	Issue
Habitat	Quality	House & land development along the river
Habitat	Quality	Construction along the rivers.
Habitat	Quality	Clearcutting of trees for development has caused silting of the fishery.
Habitat	Quality	Livestock access to the riparian buffer. Filamentous algae.
Habitat	Water	Water quality – recent DO & sediment levels are unacceptable.
Habitat	Water	Degraded water quality from increased soil content of run off
Habitat	Water	Low water levels
Habitat	Water	Running water on weekends.
Habitat	Water	Inconsistent water levels – either way to high or too low. Water quality.
Habitat	Water	River flows up & down too much.
Habitat	Water	Water clarity diminishing; too little water early in the day.
Habitat	Water	Low DO; Didymo; pollutants from basin of Lake Norfolk.
Habitat	Water	Minimum flow practices. Contamination from septic systems.
Habitat	Water	Cloudy water from siltation.
Habitat	Water	Inconsistent flows.
Habitat	Water	Zebra mussel problem. Minimum flows for trout.
Habitat	Water	Seems to be a decrease in aquatic vegetation.
Habitat	Water	Low oxygen.
Habitat	Water	Rock snot.
People	Access	Nor enough catch & release areas; not enough walk-in access.
People	Access	Over-crowding at the handicap access.
People	Access	Public access only at the quarry; handicapped and confluence with the White
People	Access	Handicapped access is not suitable at all water levels
People	Access	Generation schedule not known
People	Access	Shallow areas
People	Access	Access is limited for wade fishermen
People	Access	Current management does not exclude any anglers and this is good. The stream is wade-fishing friendly. Good fish numbers & quality.
People	Access	River access for the wading angler
People	Access	Need more access sites.

Topic	Sub-topic	Issue
People	Access	I really want to fish dry run creek; have a drawing for a weekend on the dry run.
People	Behaviors	Poaching of trout out of the catch & release area.
People	Cooperation	COE. Projected water release schedule seldom matches actual generation activity.
People	Cooperation	Adjust generation schedule to allow some fishing daily below the dam.
People	Education	Folks need to know the impacts of consumptive fishing on different fish types.
People	Education	Generation information is limited
People	Education	Unsporting fishing practices. High fishing pressure.
People	Facilities	Toilet facilities poor & smelly.
People	Laws	No law enforcement presence
People	Laws	Trophy section does not allow casting multiple flies
People	Laws	Not enough law enforcement.
People	Laws	Hard to meet the cloth standard for barbless hooks.
People	Planning	Future funding for an incredible fishery to improve the quality & experience and to obtain more access sites.
People	Planning	Access; quality section; enforcement; development on the river
People	Safety	Angler safety downstream with rapid water rises.
People	Safety	Can't hear horns.
People	Satisfaction	Nice area [below the dam]; good pathway
People	Satisfaction	I have been very satisfied with all aspects of management. You have my vote of confidence.
Trout	Mortality	The trophy section does not cover the water where many fish are caught & kept
Trout	Mortality	I experience many dying trout during trips to the North Fork, usually resulting from deep hooking by bait fishermen.
Trout	Mortality	Too many big browns taken below dam. Protection of spawning brook & cutthroats.
Trout	Mortality	Numerous common practices of handling fish lead to mortality: handling with a towel; dragging fish onto the rocky shore; killing valuable fish.
Trout	Mortality	Bait fishing causes mortality.
Trout	Mortality	Survival rate of released fish. Fish population.
Trout	Numbers	It would be nice to have more fish in the river.
Trout	Trophy	The fish seem to have decreased in size the last few years
Trout	Trophy	Small fish – but lots of them
Trout	Trophy	Average size of trout decreasing.
Trout	Trophy	Few large fish.
Trout	Trophy	Size & number of fish has declined recently.
Trout	Trophy	I don't drive to Arkansas to fish for pan-sized trout. It would be nice to be able to catch big brookies in Arkansas.

Question: What suggestions/recommendations/advice do you have as we prepare the trout management plan for Bull Shoals tailwater?

Topic	Sub-topic	Advice
Habitat	Quality	Limit development along the stream – its wild character makes it a special place.
Habitat	Quality	Monitor river banks, feeder streams & creeks for possible signs of run-

Topic	Sub-topic	Advice
		off. Maintain undisturbed buffer along riverbanks & streams.
Habitat	Quality	Remove excess gravel.
Habitat	Quality	Add more rock structures in the trophy areas.
Habitat	Quality	Find a method to control rock snot.
Habitat	Water	Minimum flows during long periods of no generation.
Habitat	Water	Provide a truly useful generation schedule on the internet. Provide more long range info on the recorded message. Provide more phone lines so anglers can get through quickly.
Habitat	Water	Maintain minimum flows.
Habitat	Water	Algae or slime seems to be replacing aquatic plant life that sustains sow bugs, etc. Create additional channels or braid the stream to create pockets and more surface area for aquatic life.
Habitat	Water	Install oxygenation devices at the dam.
Habitat	Water	Control septic system contamination and siltation.
People	Access	More walk in areas.
People	Access	Put in boat channels through the shoals.
People	Access	Add access at all possible bridge crossings.
People	Access	Improve pathways and river edges for better & safer walking and standing. Add flat rocks; trim tree branches; provide picnic tables at access areas.
People	Access	Expand access to the river.
People	Access	Keep the area below the dam as catch & release.
People	Access	Make areas of prime habitat that are too rough for boaters so wade fishers can have quality without disturbance.
People	Access	Construct a concrete boat ramp where a boat can be launched with a motorhome. Provide boat slips or places to tie up overnight.
People	Cooperation	Convince COE to keep as much water as possible for water quality & lower temps.
People	Cooperation	Work with COE to establish a predictable generating schedule.
People	Education	Get guides to help educate anglers about benefits of various practices.
People	Education	Provide more detailed maps of the area so one can find access to "out of the way" spots.
People	Laws	More fly/artificial only zones. Larger areas off limits to harvesting trout.
People	Laws	More enforcement.
People	Laws	Increase the quality catch and release section.
People	Laws	Extend the trophy water stretches for catch & release and barbless only, but allow casts of flies with 1 or 2 droppers.
People	Laws	Improve enforcement presence
People	Laws	Expand the no-kill areas.
People	Laws	Purchase easements; catch & release license. More catch & release areas.
People	Laws	No dragging anchors or anchor devices to slow drift.
People	Laws	Minimum stream flow; implement a minimum length limit on rainbows.
People	Laws	Make barbless areas for bait fishermen. Slot limits to encourage larger fish.
People	Laws	Increase no kill areas. Implement slot limits. Minimum flow is the way to go.
People	Laws	Make ½ of White River catch & release with barbless artificials only.
People	Laws	Raise the annual trout stamp to \$100 in order to provide funds for needed

Topic	Sub-topic	Advice
		actions.
People	Laws	Tighten the limit on browns and raise the minimum size for harvest. Expand catch & release zones. Let's go for quality!
People	Laws	Take the COE to court if necessary over the oxygen issue and generation schedules.
People	Laws	Raise the limit to 6.
People	Laws	Increase the daily limit for rainbows to 8 or 10.
People	Laws	Limit commercialism.
People	Laws	Move gravel mining area away from streams.
People	Laws	Eliminate chumming. Make new guides take a course on guiding ethics.
People	Laws	25" minimum length limit on brown & cutthroat trout; limit to 1 fish per year in this size class.
People	Laws	Implement available landowner incentives through NRCS for habitat improvements and stream bank protection.
People	Laws	More emphasis on quality fish. Higher size limits; no bait; smaller daily limits; slot limits.
People	Planning	Come up with a somewhat more predictable and accurate generation plan. Have the information on the recording up to the minute for safety.
People	Planning	Increase the fee for a trout stamp to improve the fishery and maintain existing and new access sites.
People	Safety	Implement more visual & sound systems to warn of water fluctuations.
People	Safety	Flashing lights to warn of increasing flows.
People	Safety	Only allow electric motors within 2 miles of the dam so anglers can hear the warning siren.
People	Satisfaction	Keep doing the good job you are doing. Thanks.
People	Satisfaction	Thanks for doing a great job!
People	Satisfaction	Keep up the good work.
People	Satisfaction	Keep doing what you are doing.
Trout	Mortality	Expand catch & release areas.
Trout	Mortality	Protect spawning trout.
Trout	Mortality	Do not allow boats on the river [shoals/redds] during spawning – at least not power boats.
Trout	Population	Stock more fish.
Trout	Populations	Stock more browns & brookies.
Trout	Trophy	Stock larger fish.
Trout	Trophy	I would like to catch fewer nice-looking, larger fish.
Trout	Trophy	Stock larger trout.

Question: What suggestions/recommendations/advice do you have as we prepare the trout management plan for Norfolk tailwater?

Topic	Sub-topic	Advice
Habitat	Improvements	Increase bank structure and add large rocks to the stream to increase oxygen and structure.
Habitat	Quality	Control development run-off & siltation.
Habitat	Quality	Control rock snot.
Habitat	Quality	Keep it wild.
Habitat	Quality	Restrict building permits along the river.
Habitat	Water	Improve water flows and wading levels.

Topic	Sub-topic	Advice
Habitat	Water	Raise the water level during non-generating periods.
Habitat	Water	Continue to focus on habitat quality to maintain this wonderful fishery.
Habitat	Water	When lowering the lake level, not making power, do it at night.
Habitat	Water	Establish minimum flow practices.
Habitat	Water	Monitor water quality. Install oxygen-adding devices at dam.
Habitat	Water	Always keep a little water flowing at the dam.
People	Access	Provide maps with access points for those unfamiliar with the area.
People	Access	Provide a better telephone system with up to the minute flow information and generation schedules.
People	Access	Provide more access. Buy property for access.
People	Access	More access points.
People	Access	Add more public access.
People	Access	Provide better wade fishing on weekends.
People	Access	Added small pull-outs and trails to the river.
People	Access	Develop handicapped access on floating platforms in deeper water.
People	Access	Close the Norfolk to motors.
People	Cooperation	Work with the power company to set up predictable schedule for water flows.
People	Cooperation	Get the Arkansas government to understand how much money these two rivers bring in and get generation under control.
People	Cooperation	The TN COE published the next day's schedule at 5pm the previous day. Don't see why AR COE can't do the same.
People	Education	More information on proper handling of fish in license brochure.
People	Education	Encourage catch & release through education
People	Education	Stop placing so much emphasis on size and numbers; start promoting the experience of fishing.
People	Facilities	Provide improved toilets.
People	Laws	Go to artificial lures & flies only.
People	Laws	Reduce the creel limit and increase the size limit.
People	Laws	Do environmental studies before taking chances. Don't allow developers to change this tailwater.
People	Laws	Exclude livestock from the riparian zone and stream.
People	Laws	Do not allow building within 2 blocks of the river.
People	Laws	More trophy areas. Implement a slot limit. Lower the limits and increase the length limit. Establish a more quality fishery.
People	Laws	Control development in the runoff zone.
People	Laws	More fly fishing only areas.
People	Laws	More enforcement agents on the river.
People	Laws	Do not expand the catch & release areas.
People	Laws	Don't make rules/laws that you can't/won't enforce. Laws with no teeth are a joke.
People	Laws	Make Norfolk strictly catch-and-release.
People	Laws	I think there should be fines & penalties for damage already done to the river.
People	Laws	Stiffen laws/regs/fines for polluting the river or for failing to follow development regulations.
People	Laws	Maintain an undisturbed buffer along river banks and streams.
People	Laws	Provide cheaper non-resident license for older retirees.

Topic	Sub-topic	Advice
People	Laws	Implement the seasonal brown trout catch & release regs below Norfolk dam
People	Laws	Sell a catch & release license at a lower cost.
People	Safety	Add a warning device to the catch & release area to warn waders of rising water.
People	Safety	Visual and sound systems to warn anglers.
People	Satisfaction	Don't let the area become any more commercialized. It's great just like it is.
People	Satisfaction	Maintain current management policies & practices.
Trout	Food	Bait fish are a lot cheaper to raise than put-and-take trout. Severely limit harvest and stock an awesome amount of bait to grow bigger trout.
Trout	Mortality	Stop bait fishing on the North Fork
Trout	Mortality	Manage large brown trout like turkeys: 1 fish per year 25" & over. Bait fishing for children and people over 65 only.
Trout	Mortality	Totally protect brown trout; only rainbow trout to be taken/killed.
Trout	Stocking	Stock more browns.
Trout	Trophy	Slot limit for rainbows
Trout	Trophy	Stock bigger trout.

Email Input Results

In addition to the non-resident survey information, email input was solicited. The following includes that input – which was mainly in the form of suggestions or recommendations.

Topic	Sub-topic	Suggestion/Recommendation
Habitat	Protection	Someone come up with a scheme to make the entire 5 miles of the North Fork a park.
Habitat	Quality	The Didymo issue needs to be addressed.
Habitat	Quality	Restrict the use of unnatural bank stabilization by home owners. Eliminate clear cutting of bank vegetation.
Habitat	Quality	No building within 75 feet of high water mark with 8 generators at full capacity. A 1-foot high grass strip buffer for the first 20 feet from high water generation mark. No animal grazing within 200 feet of full generation high water mark.
Habitat	Research	Study the sediments of the lakebeds for consideration of exactly what elements in the tailwaters originate from that source that are detrimentally effecting streambed vegetation, the aquatic food chain and growth rate of fish. Use this information to help resolve all water quality issues.
Habitat	Water	Enact minimum flow on both of these rivers.
Habitat	Water	Improving water quality is the most important thing to do.
Habitat	Water	Monitor water quality at all locations of existing septic systems.
Habitat	Water	AGFC must take a more pro-active role in legal prosecution of water quality standards.
Habitat	Water	Install devices to increase the oxygen content of the water. Establish some sort of boundary to prevent pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, etc. from flowing into the waters.
Habitat	Water	Steady water equals steady oxygen equals bigger fish equals increased fishing pressure equals increased revenue equals increase property value and increased grant monies to produce more hatcheries that produce more fish.
People	Cooperation	Work with COW to increase water quality by releasing daily periods of water to keep the temperature down.
People	Laws	Do not eliminate catch & release areas and replace them with slot limits. We want to keep existing catch & release areas.
People	Laws	Impose slot limits on the White river.
People	Laws	Increase the number of catch & release areas on the river.
People	Laws	Limit the number of outfitters and guides on the river.
People	Laws	Make the entire Norfork River catch & release.
People	Laws	Increase enforcement.
People	Laws	Require an annual seminar or certification class for all guides.
People	Laws	Raise minimum length limits: 20" on cutthroats; 16" on brook trout. Slot limits on brown and rainbow: brown-20-24; rainbow 16-20. Reduce bag limit to 4 fish.
People	Laws	Do not turn the North Fork into a total catch & release area. Put a buffer zone above and below the catch & release area. Any amount of barbless hooks would be acceptable. Segment the White – do not make it a 1-size-fits-all: 5-6 segments. Allow 1 barbless treble hook in catch & release zones.
People	Laws	No catch & release within 500 linear feet of a commercial trout dock or

Topic	Sub-topic	Suggestion/Recommendation
		resort. No catch & release within boundaries of public access. No catch & release in front of private docks. Catch & release zones artificial bait only; barbless hooks only.
People	Laws	More toward regulations that emphasize quality rather than catch & kill. Institute no-kill and artificial lures only on these tailwaters.
People	Laws	Increase catch & release areas.
People	Laws	Do not do away with the sylvamore catch & release area. Make two-fly rigs legal in catch & release area.
People	Laws	Do not let guides chum using corn. Remove stripers from known breeding waters. Regulate flow for best needs of energy, but also keep in mind the common fisherman. Raise out of state license fees. Prohibit introduction of minnows and crawfish from other locations.
Trout	Mortality	Reduce the daily limit of fish harvested; over a period of 3 years, work down to 2 fish per day.
Trout	Mortality	Close the entire river when brown trout are spawning.
Trout	Mortality	Limit 1 brown trout over 22 inches. 5 rainbow limit with only 1 over 21 inches. Release all cutthroat and brook trout.
Trout	Mortality	Provide greater protection of natural spawning efforts through regulations on wading and boating and seasonal catch & release or no fishing rules. Greater enforcement of all [including existing] regulations.
Trout	Mortality	Implement changes that will improve the quality [size] of White River trout. Specifically, these could include stricter slot limits, additional catch & release miles, and limiting daily creel sizes.
Trout	Mortality	Implement a slot limit for the entire Norfolk tailwater. Implement a similar limit on approximately 5 miles from above Roundhouse Shoal to the bottom of Rim Shoal.
Trout	Mortality	Designate more areas as quality fishing areas with artificial, barbless flies only, zero creel limit.
Trout	Stocking	Stock more and bigger trout.
Trout	Trophy	Provide more opportunities for anglers to pursue trophy trout.
Trout	Trophy	Implement a slot limit – perhaps would need to be different for different species.
Trout	Trophy	Eliminate catch & release areas of slot limits and 2 fish daily bag limits are implemented.