Fly Fishing
Where Whee Play

Parks & Recreation Management
Students in the Parks & Recreation Management major have produced this guide. For more information about the PRM program contact us at: 828.227.7310 or visit our website at: wcu.edu/9094.asp

Base Camp Cullowhee
Not ready to explore on your own? Or would like to try a new outdoor adventure? Need to rent outdoor gear for your next adventure? WCU’s Base Camp Cullowhee (BCC) provides an array of outdoor program services, which include recreation trips, outdoor gear rental, and experiential education services. Contact BCC at 828.227-3633 or visit their website: www.wcu.edu/8984.asp

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Boomer Noteboom

Fly Fishing Experiences

Boomer Noteboom
“I have been fishing all my life. I have only started fishing trout for a year now. It is just as fun as fishing for bass or catfish.”

Joey Faison
“While fly fishing Bradley Fork, in the Smoky Mountains National Park, I hooked a 6-inch brown trout while an elk calf crossed the river.”

Krista Robb
“Fly fishing is relaxing and provides a good opportunity to interact with the lesser known aquatic environment. Things such as reading the water flow, fish behaviors, and different kinds of water bugs can be observed and learned through fishing.”

Resources:
Leave No Trace | int.org
North Carolina Fish and Wildlife | ncwildlife.org
WNC Fly fishing Trail | flyfishingtrail.com

Cullowhee Adventure Guide Produced by:
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The Tuckasegee River is one of the most incredible places to fish and it’s right here in our backyard. It rivals many of the rivers out West for its number and size of rainbow, brook, and brown trout. The “Tuck,” as the locals call it, begins high in the Appalachian Mountains as many small streams and creeks converge. In addition to trout, as the waters warm up you will begin to see a good Smallmouth Bass population. Many people say the Tuck is some of the most impressive waters in the Eastern United States.

**Fly Patterns**

**What the Locals Use**

**Dry Flies:** Patterns imitating the adult stage of aquatic insects like mayflies, caddis flies, stoneflies, midges or dragon flies.

*Recommended patterns are Adams, Light Cahills, Elk hair Caddis and Orange Stimulators.*

**Streamers:** Designed to resemble some form of baitfish or other large aquatic prey. Great flies to use when water levels are high.

*Recommended patterns are Wooly Buggers and the Muddler Minnow.*

**Nymphs:** Most trout feeding is below surface where they forage on Nymphs. Insects drop their eggs on the surface and these drift to the bottom of streams and rivers where they stay until hatch and the newly developed nymphs are prime food for hungry trout.

*Recommended patterns are Prince Nymphs, Pheasant Tails and Hares Ear.*

**Safety Tips**

**Be Prepared**

- Be aware of your surroundings when casting.
- Sunglasses will protect your eyes from hooks and the sun.
- Shoes should always be worn to protect your feet from sharp objects.
- Dress for the weather.
- Carefully check the area before wading in.
• A fishing license is required to fish in all areas. Licenses can be purchased online at www.ncwildlife.org or at Wal-Mart in the sporting goods section.
• The Tuckasegee River water level rises and lowers with release of the dam and rains.
• Fishing is not allowed in many locations during the month of March. Check the rules and regulations for further details.

**NC fishing regulations and rules can be found on the North Carolina Fish and Wildlife web site, ncwildlife.org, or in the fish and wildlife guide available at the Walmart sporting goods section.**

**Did You Know?**

All fishing waters listed in this brochure flow into the Gulf of Mexico. West of the Eastern Continental Divide, water from the Tuckasegee River flows into the Little Tennessee, followed by the Tennessee, Ohio, Mississippi rivers and eventually dumps into the Gulf of Mexico.

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**Leave No Trace**

Respect the Environment:

- Properly dispose unwanted fishing line or trash.
- Fish entrails and human waste should be buried 6-inches deep in the ground 200 feet from the water.
- Pack it in, pack it out. Pack out everything you bring.

Respect the Fish:
- Cut barbs off of hooks to limit damage to the fish.
- Keep only the fish you need and return others back into the water.
- Limit the time the fish is out of water.

Respect Others:
- Keep a respectable distance from others recreating on the waters.
- Be aware of designated public and private fishing areas.
- Travel and fish quietly, not to disturb the fish or others.

*Help provide a great fishing experience to the environment, the fish, and others by following Leave No Trace principles.*
Locations with Parking Information

1. Tuckasegee River:
   A. Upper Tuckasegee: East Laporte Park to NC 107 Bridge. Parking and access available at East Laporte Park and several pulls off along Old Cullowhee Road.
   B. Middle Tuckasegee: NC 107 Bridge to Dillsboro Park. Parking and access available via pulloff areas along North River Road.
   C. Lower Tuckasegee, Access available via pull off and businesses along 10-mile a stretch of U.S. 19.

2. Cullowhee Creek, located on the outskirts of Western Carolina University.

3. Caney Fork, Access via Caney Fork Road off NC 107, avoid posted land.

4. Rough Butt Creek, Access via Moses Creek Road and Caney Fork Road off NC 107.

5. Piney Mountain Creek, Access via Moses Creek and Caney Fork Road off NC 107.

6. Moses Creek, Access via Moses Creek Road off of Caney Fork Road off NC 107.

7. Chastine Creek, Access via Moses Creek Road off of Caney Fork Road off NC 107.

8. Mull Creek, Access via Moses Creek Road off of Caney Fork Road off NC 107. Avoid private lands.


10. Savannah Creek, Parking and Access available via several pulloff areas along U.S. 23/441.

11. Greens Creek, Parking and Access available via pulloff areas along Greens Creek Road.

NOTE: **Numbers will correlate with the numbers on the map.**

Other Places to fish a little bit farther…

- Nantahala River- 45 minutes
- Panthertown Creek- 35 minutes
- Oconaluftee River- 30 minutes (special tribal permit required)
- Great Smoky Mountain National Park- 30 minutes