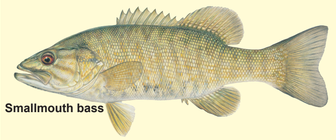
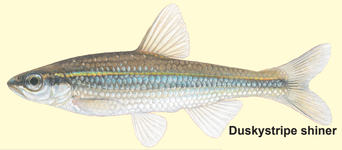
USGS
science for a changing world

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FISHES OF BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER


Smallmouth bass


Duskystripe shiner

The Buffalo River Basin lies within the Ozark Plateaus, which is one of the richest areas of the United States in terms of fish species. More than 175 native and introduced species of fish occur in the Ozark Plateaus and immediately adjacent areas; 74 species of fish have been documented in Buffalo National River. Ten of these species are endemic to the Ozark Plateaus--meaning they are found nowhere else in the world. Casual observers are likely to spot smallmouth bass, duskystripe shiners, rainbow darters, longear sunfish, and stonerollers at almost any location along the Buffalo River. Large images (with common names in bold type) of these five abundant and widely distributed species are shown near the top of the map.

LIST OF FISH SPECIES FROM BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER
(* , fish species found only in the Ozark Plateaus)

MINNOWS
Bigeye chub
Bigeye shiner
Bluntnose minnow
Carmine shiner
Central stoneroller
Common carp
Creek chub
*Duskystripe shiner
Hornyhead chub
Largescale stoneroller
*Ozark chub
Ozark minnow
*Ozark shiner
Southern redbelly dace
Steelcolor shiner
Striped shiner
Telescope shiner
Wedgespot shiner
Whitetail shiner

SUNFISHES
Black crappie
Bluegill
Green sunfish
Largemouth bass
Longear sunfish
*Ozark bass
Redear sunfish
Redspotted sunfish
Smallmouth bass
Spotted bass
Warmouth

PERCHES
*Arkansas saddled darter
Banded darter
Blackside darter
Gilt darter
Greenside darter
Logperch
Orangethroat darter
Rainbow darter
Speckled darter
*Stippled darter
Walleye
*Yoke darter

SUCKERS
Black redhorse
Golden redhorse
Highfin carpsucker
River carpsucker
Northern hog sucker
Quillback
River redhorse
Shorthead redhorse
Spotted sucker
White sucker

DRUMS
Freshwater drum

SCULPINS
Banded sculpin
*Ozark sculpin

CATFISHES
Black bullhead
Channel catfish
*Checkered madtom
Flathead catfish
*Ozark madtom
Slender madtom
Yellow bullhead

TOPMINNOWS
Blackspotted topminnow
Northern studfish

SILVERSIDES
Brook silverside

TEMPERATE BASSES
White bass

LAMPREYS
American brook lamprey
Chestnut lamprey
Least brook lamprey

GARS
Longnose gar

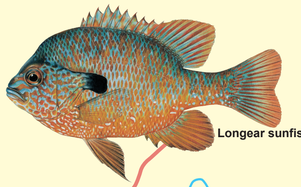
FRESHWATER EELS
American eel

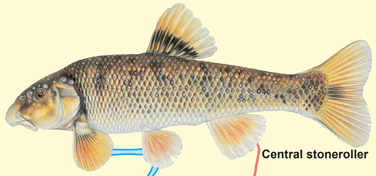
HERRINGS
Gizzard shad

TROUTS
Brown trout
Rainbow trout

Species richness (the number of species) on the main-stem of the Buffalo River generally increases in a down-stream direction. Species richness increases from less than 20 upstream from the boundary of Buffalo National River to nearly 50 near the mouth of the Buffalo River. Several species are found throughout most of the length of the river; these include duskystripe shiner, greenside darter, longear sunfish, northern hog sucker, rainbow darter, smallmouth bass, stonerollers, northern studfish, telescope shiner, whitetail shiner, Ozark minnow, and Ozark bass. See the banner at the top of this map for a pictorial representation of the generalized distribution of selected species along the length of the Buffalo River.

Rainbow darter


Longear sunfish


Central stoneroller

Each fish species has habitat requirements that determine where individuals of that species are most likely to be found. For example, many of the darters (small members of the perch family), madtoms (small members of the catfish family), and sculpins are most abundant in riffles. Sunfish, bass, and catfish generally prefer deeper water. Topminnows such as the northern studfish and blackspotted topminnow prefer the quiet water of pool margins. Minnows can be found in a wide variety of habitats. Some fish (such as the southern redbelly dace, creek chub, and orangethroat darter) are most abundant in small streams, while others (such as the river redhorse and longnose gar) prefer larger streams. Many of the fish found in Ozark streams are considered sensitive to habitat degradation such as turbidity and siltation, elevated water temperatures, high nutrient concentrations, and low dissolved-oxygen concentrations.

Longear sunfish

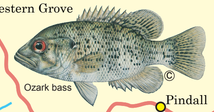
Southern redbelly dace

Green sunfish

Slender madtom

Central stoneroller

Whitetail shiner


Ozark bass

Largemouth bass

Duskystripe shiner

Northern studfish

Longnose gar

Rainbow darter

Yoke darter

Ozark sculpin

Rainbow trout

Smallmouth bass

Brown trout

American eel

River redhorse

Species that are typical of the upper part of the river (upstream from Ponca) or smaller tributaries of the Buffalo River include the southern redbelly dace, creek chub, stippled darter, and orangethroat darter.

Among the species that are more typical of the middle and lower sections (downstream from about Ponca or Pruitt) of the Buffalo River are Ozark madtom, carmine shiner, Ozark shiner, yoke darter, longnose gar, largemouth bass, golden redhorse, and flathead catfish.

Species primarily restricted to the lower part of the river (downstream from Rush) include American eel, rainbow trout, brown trout, river redhorse, quillback, common carp, walleye, black crappie, redspotted sunfish, and spotted sucker.

Harrison
Park Headquarters
Bellefonte
Yellville
Crooked Creek
Buffalo City
White River
Rush
Rush Landing
Cow Creek
Elephant Head Rock
Clabber Creek
Rush Creek
Cedar Creek
LOWER BUFFALO WILDERNESS AREA
Leatherwood Creek
LEATHERWOOD WILDERNESS AREA
Buffalo River
Toney Bend
Caney
Indian Rockhouse
Panther Creek
Dillards Ferry (Highway 14 Bridge)
Buffalo Point Ranger Station
BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER
Cozahome
OZARK NATIONAL FOREST
Middle Creek
Water Creek
Maumee South
Maumee North
Spring Creek
Harriet
Big Creek
Morning Star
Tomahawk Creek
Mill Creek
St. Joe
BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER
Gilbert
Red Bluff
Tyler Bend Visitor Center
Grinders Ferry (Highway 65 Bridge)
Baker Ford
Woolum
Skull Bluff
The Nars (Narrows)
Mt. Hersey
Hasty
(low water bridge)
Hasty
Western Grove
Pindall
Davis Creek
Wells Creek
Flatrock Creek
Mill Creek
Pruitt Ranger Station
Pruitt Landing
Ozark
Erbie
Ford
Dogpatch
Cave Creek
BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER
Cecil Creek
Compton
Hemmed-in-Hollow
PONCA WILDERNESS AREA
Big Bluff
Gray Rock
Camp Orr (BSA)
Kyles Landing
Roark Bluff
Steel Creek
Indian Creek
Steel Creek
Ponca
Ponca
Eden Falls
Lost Valley
Leatherwood Creek
Boxley Valley
Running Creek
Arrington Creek
Boxley Bridge
Beech Creek
UPPER BUFFALO WILDERNESS AREA
UPPER BUFFALO WILDERNESS
OZARK NATIONAL FOREST
Jasper
Buffalo River
Little Buffalo River
Piercetown
Carver
ARKANSAS GAME & FISH COMMISSION MANAGEMENT AREA
Mount Judea
Big Creek
Cave Creek
Richland Creek
Bear Creek
Brush Creek
Marshall
Calf Creek
Creek
Creek