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## Trout restocking closes 2 Lake Jocassee ramps

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WALHALLA — The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has declared two Lake Jocassee boat ramps off limits to the public until after Jan. 31 while the waters are stocked with trout.

The stocking of trout at Lake Jocassee should be completed by Dec. 31, but both the Roundhouse Point and Devils Fork boat ramps will remain closed to public access another month to give newly released trout that are below legal size time to acclimate to the lake, DNR officials said.

DNR officials annually release trout into Lake Jocassee raised at the Walhalla State Fish Hatchery on Fish Hatchery Road in Mountain Rest to maintain an ample amount of the popular catch.

The boat ramps located at Devils Fork State Park's main entrance and parking area will remain open, officials said. Only the remote day-use boat ramp locations will be restricted.

"We hope that everyone will understand and cooperate with our efforts to improve the population of trout found within Lake Jocassee," said Jim Stanton, assistant park manager at Devils Fork State Park. "Everyone's

commitment to stewardship will hopefully translate into healthier numbers of trout in Lake Jocassee in coming years."

Officials introduce trout in more than 50 cold-water rivers and streams in Oconee, Pickens and Greenville counties.

South Carolina's trout fishery generates more than \$9 million annually for the state's economy in direct retail sales and a total economic output of more than \$18 million, according to a study of the economic benefits of freshwater fishing in the state.

For more information about activities or boat ramp access within Devils Fork State Park, call the park office at (864) 944-2639.