

**Colorado Division of Wildlife
AQUATIC WILDLIFE SECTION
Southeast Region**



2014 Fishing Forecast

Josh Nehring, Aquatic Biologist - Colorado Springs
Michelle McGree, Aquatic Biologist - Pueblo
Greg Policky, Aquatic Biologist - Salida
Jim Ramsay, Aquatic Biologist - Lamar

Doug Krieger, Senior Aquatic Biologist
Colorado Springs
719-227-5202
doug.krieger@state.co.us

This report is based on the best information that we have available as of April 2014. Water levels and streams flows, conditions that are not usually under Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) control, can change significantly and can have some affects on access, stocking and your fishing. Surface acreages listed are for full lake volume unless otherwise noted. For the most up-to-date fishing information, readers are encouraged to visit the CPW Web Site at <http://www.cpw.state.co.us> and go to **Things To Do > Fishing > Statewide Conditions > Fishing Report**. You can also call the CPW Biologist or your local CPW Area Office for more detailed information. **A valid Colorado fishing license is required to fish in Colorado.**

Check this out! Expanded fishery information for 2014: Colorado Parks & Wildlife is now providing anglers with more in-depth fishery information on a number of selected waters throughout the state. Lake and stream information and fishery survey data can be found on the CPW website (go to **Things To Do > Statewide Conditions > Fishery Survey Summaries**), or click on the link: <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/FisherySurveySummaries.aspx>

Important: Control of aquatic nuisance species (ANS) such as zebra and quagga mussels, New Zealand mud snails, didymo and other invasive animal and plant species is of critical importance in Colorado. Of particular concern, is the potential to transport these species by trailered boats. Please be aware that boat inspections will be conducted on a number of selected waters throughout the state, to inform and educate boaters on the proper way to eliminate these pests. To facilitate these inspections please arrive at the lakes with your boat **CLEANED, DRAINED AND DRY**. Your cooperation will help prevent the spread of these organisms that can destroy habitat and your fishing.

Upper Fountain Creek and S. Fork Republican River
Josh Nehring- Colorado Springs (719-227-5224) or josh.nehring@state.co.us

Rampart (500 ac) and Nichols Reservoirs (20 ac)

Walk-in access and non-motorized hand launched watercraft will be permitted on Rampart Reservoir in 2014. For up to date information visit the [Pikes Peak Ranger District website](#). Fishing should be good for rainbow and cutbow trout particularly early in the season. Anglers can expect brown trout up to 16 inches, rainbow trout up to 15 inches and cutbow reaching 14 inches in length. Water levels should be good this year with the current snowpack in the mountains. Boat ramp access to Rampart Reservoir will be allowed from early May to early October, Thursday-Sunday with the following restrictions: No rental vans; Class A, B or C motor homes, or trailers over 22 feet allowed across the dam. No stopping on dam or fishing within 500 feet of the dam. Call the US Forest Service, Pikes Peak Ranger District for updated access information. Water craft inspections will be conducted to prevent spread of aquatic nuisance species. Boaters are encouraged to clean, drain and dry their watercraft prior to arrival at the reservoir as all watercraft will be inspected prior to launching.

North (210 ac) and South Catamount (150 ac) Reservoirs at the North Slope Pikes Peak Recreation Area

Currently the water levels in these reservoirs are quite low but are expected to rise once runoff begins and the reservoirs can be replenished. Provided waters levels are adequate, 20,000 catchable fish are scheduled to be stocked throughout the summer season in these reservoirs. Fishing should be good to excellent for trout species especially rainbows. Fishing for lake trout should be fair early in the spring at North Catamount and South Catamount. Although lake trout can sometimes be difficult to locate, sampling efforts in 2013 detected lake trout reaching over 30 inches and weighing 11 pounds. Fishing should be good to excellent at South Catamount for rainbows. North Catamount is restricted to flies and lures only. Both of these reservoirs are heavily stocked with the majority of the fish stocked in the early spring. Anglers should visit the [City of Colorado Springs website](#) for current and future hours of operation. For more information on access, visit the [Pikes Peak Highway](#) webpage. An access fee for the Pikes Peak Highway is required to fish these lakes.

Crystal Creek Reservoir at the North Slope Pikes Peak Recreation Area (130 ac)

The water level in Crystal Creek Reservoir is relatively low, however fishing should be good to excellent for catchable sized trout. A total of 9500 rainbow and Snake River cutthroat trout are scheduled to be stocked, with the majority of these fish being stocked in the spring. Anglers can access the reservoir via the Pikes Peak Highway. Anglers generally have good success with power bait or worms fished 12 inches off the bottom or fly patterns fished in the late afternoon. Anglers should visit the [City of Colorado Springs website](#) for current and future hours of operation. For more information on access, visit the [Pikes Peak Highway](#) webpage. A fee for access along the Pikes Peak Highway is required.

Manitou Lake (16 ac)

This lake north of Woodland Park should be good to excellent for catchable trout species. Manitou Lake is stocked throughout the summer season generally from April-June and September-November with upwards of 14,000 catchable trout. Water levels are projected to be good for 2014. Manitou reservoir is an excellent place to introduce kids to fishing as the lake is heavily stocked and the access is very easy especially from the small trail system located on the northwest corner of the reservoir near the parking lot. Additionally, fishing access docks are available. This is a US Forest Service lake that is managed by a concessionaire, and a fee is required. Good camping can be found nearby at US Forest Service campgrounds.

Prospect Lake (50 ac)

Fishing for catchable trout species should be good to excellent throughout the year. Results of the 2011 survey revealed a warmwater fishery which is just starting to become respectable especially given the size of this lake. This lake should serve as a great place for local anglers to have an excellent opportunity to catch some respectable fish usually reserved for larger bodies of water. The results of the survey showed a very healthy saugeye population with fish up to 24 inches present. Additional highlights include a small population of good sized wipers, with fish to 21 inches present. Black crappie up to 10 inches in length were not uncommon. Anglers who target these species should have some excellent action if fished for properly. Saugeye generally favor small twister tails tipped with a crawler or worm and fished in 5-10 feet of water. Wipers can generally be caught by fishing smaller, chrome colored hard baits. Channel catfish are generally targeted using commercially available catfish "stink" baits. Anglers targeting crappie should focus their efforts on both the north as well as the south end of the lake as numerous habitat structures were placed in these locations, which crappie will utilize. This

Upper Fountain Creek and S. Fork Republican River (continued)

local favorite fishing lake is generally stocked with 10-12" trout from March-May and again in the late summer and fall after water temperatures cool off (August-November). This lake is generally one of the first to be stocked for the fishing season.

Palmer Lake (10 ac)

Due to the recent drought conditions the lake is currently dry.

Monument Lake (40 ac)

Water levels in Monument Lake have been fairly good for the past couple of years, which has allowed for stocking of both warmwater as well as coldwater species. Monument is scheduled to be stocked with 14,000 rainbow trout as well as 2,000 channel catfish. Some larger trout up to 19 inches were stocked this past winter. This should provide good angling opportunities as soon as the ice comes off the reservoir. Anglers are asked to please be respectful of the area surrounding the lake as some complaints have been received over the last few years regarding off-road vehicle use and abuse of facilities.

Rosemont Reservoir (90 ac)

The water level in Rosemont Reservoir will be quite good to begin the season. Anglers should find good to excellent numbers of catchable sized rainbows and the occasional cutthroat trout and splake. Rosemont should produce the best catch rates early in the spring and later in the fall. This is a great place to escape for an afternoon of fishing throughout the summer months. Rosemont Reservoir is restricted to flies and lures only.

Brush Hollow Reservoir (200 ac)

The water level in this reservoir is the highest it has been for several years now. Anglers should focus their efforts early in the year as draws for irrigation will occur in the spring and summer. Early spring action is generally focused on catchable trout as well as crappie and walleye. Fishing should be fair to good for most species, such as bluegill, sunfish, channel catfish, and yellow perch. We would expect to see some fine walleye and largemouth bass fishing as these populations look very strong as supported by sampling efforts, especially with regards to the walleye. Fishing for trout is good right now, and the warmwater fishing should improve as water temperatures increase in April. For anglers targeting catfish, success is generally better from late June to late September. Overall, the fishing is expected to good to very good early, prior to the spawning of the primary forage, gizzard shad. Testing conducted by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment revealed mercury levels in certain sizes of walleye exceeded human health based standards. Please see the fish consumption advisory posted at the reservoir or refer to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website at <http://www.cdphe.state.co.us/wq/fishcon> for more details.

Quail Lake (17 ac) and Pikeview Reservoir (2 ac)

Water levels can vary in these lakes, but should be good throughout the summer if water can be added to the lakes. Plants of rainbow trout are plentiful in both lakes beginning in March to provide for good to excellent early spring fishing. Fishing at Quail Lake should be good for channel catfish once water temperatures rise above 60°F, and it should also be fair for bluegills and yellow perch after May 1st. Saugeye over 6 pounds have been caught at Pikeview the past couple years. Please respect the business owners along Garden of the Gods Road and do not park at their lots.

Hale Ponds (6 ac total) (east of Bonny Reservoir)

Water level is fair in all of the ponds. We expect good fishing for largemouth bass, smaller bluegills, channel catfish, and catchable rainbows. Sampling efforts in 2013 detected bass approaching 18 inches in length and weighing nearly three pounds. This group of small ponds is a good place to take the kids fishing in the spring and early summer. Please be aware of possibilities for rattlesnakes in the area around Hale ponds.

Upper Fountain Creek and S. Fork Republican River (continued)

Bonny Reservoir (1850 ac)

Bonny Reservoir is currently dry and will likely remain that way for the foreseeable future.

Flagler Reservoir (150 ac)

Water levels are quite low and it is unclear if the reservoir will be stocked in 2014. If the area receives some good spring storms and water levels rise fish stocking will commence.

Ramah Reservoir (170 ac)

The lake has a history of “feast or famine” when it comes to water levels and currently this reservoir is dry. Water for this reservoir is very dependent upon spring/summer rains. If water levels increase, stocking of warm water fish may continue in 2015.

Middle Arkansas River Basin
Michelle McGree – Pueblo (719-561-5312) or michelle.mcgree@state.co.us

Arkansas River – below Pueblo Dam

This reach of river extends from the Pueblo dam through the city of Pueblo to Interstate 25. There is good public access on city and Lake Pueblo State Park property. This river reach provides excellent fishing for catchable rainbow trout as fish are not only stocked year round (typically monthly), but they also tend to grow well. Anglers can also expect to see some brown trout in their catch; although numbers are low, some very large fish are present. Fish caught during 2011 sampling measured up to 25 inches in length. A year round creel survey completed in 2008 showed anglers caught about 50,000 fish in this reach and action is usually fast. The size of rainbows and Cuttbow are typically 10 inches and greater, with most fish between 14 and 20 inches in length.

In 2014, a creel survey is being repeated to determine the change in anglers, catch rate, and angler use since 2008. Your contribution will help us evaluate the fishery and is much appreciated. A major stream habitat improvement project was completed in spring 2013 and 2014, which will greatly improve the stream function and fish habitat. Additional pool habitat and holding structures were created which should increase the health of trout populations. The popularity and high use of this reach can make angling more challenging, but it is predicted to be a top notch place to catch large trout in 2014. Please make sure you are educated on proper fish handling and landing techniques.

There are also some good warmwater opportunities for smallmouth bass, saugeye and walleye in the tailrace and in deeper pools in the river – particularly after irrigation season in late August and September. Conditions will change rapidly with changing flows in the river. Warmwater fish are most abundant in the lower part of this reach, closer to I-25.

As a reminder, special regulations apply from the bridge at Valco Ponds downstream to Pueblo Boulevard (except at the Pueblo Nature Center as posted), and are as follows: 1.) Fishing is by artificial flies and lures only 2.) All trout 16 inches in length or greater must be returned to the water immediately upon catch. Statewide fishing regulations apply in the other sections of the river. Please note that the location of the bridge at Valco Ponds is downstream of the large parking lot off of Highway 96. For additional information on this fishery, see the fishery summary page at <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/FisherySurveySummaries.aspx>

DeWeese Reservoir (200 ac)

Catchable trout will be stocked throughout the spring, summer, and fall and should provide good fishing throughout the season. Some rainbows and cuttbows survive through the winter season and are caught as 16 to 20 inch fish in the spring. Most fish are 11 to 12 inches in length but can be much larger. In 2014, fishing should be good but composed primarily of 10 to 13 inch rainbows and cuttbows with an occasional lunker.

Brown trout will be found in very low numbers, but if caught can be large in size. Smallmouth bass are abundant in the reservoir and may provide some fast action. Many of these fish are of good size and mid-range (10-14") but fish up to 18 inches can be caught occasionally. Anglers that target bass may be rewarded in 2014. As a reminder, there are no special regulations on bass and fish of all sizes may be harvested.

Anglers also have the opportunity to catch a tiger muskie in DeWeese as these fish have been stocked to control suckers. The tiger muskie population consists of a good number of average sized fish and fewer keepers. The reduction of the sucker population has resulted in improved growth in the trout. If sucker numbers continue remain low, trout growth should continue to improve and angling opportunities will also get better. Please note that the regulation on tiger muskie is a bag and possession limit of 1 fish over 36" in length.

For additional information on this fishery, see the fishery summary page at <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/FisherySurveySummaries.aspx>

Middle Arkansas River Basin (continued)

Horseshoe Reservoir (at Lathrop State Park) (170 ac)

Much like Martin Lake, this is a small lake but the fish populations are surviving and growing well. There are good populations of trout, bass and bluegill, sauger, crappie, and catfish.

Trout remain a staple for Horseshoe Reservoir, as stocking is high and growth is good, which results in some very good quality trout fishing. The best months to fish for trout are May and June. Largemouth and smallmouth bass populations are sizeable and catch rates should be moderate, with chances for some very high quality fish (15+ inches). Bass are most often caught between June and September. Catfish are present in much lower numbers, and will likely be between 10 and 20 inches in 2014 (with some occasional larger fish). Horseshoe offers a rare opportunity in the State of Colorado to catch “pure” sauger AND to take home a state record. The current state record sauger was caught in Horseshoe Reservoir in 2011 by Jeff Riddle (3.5 lbs, 21.5 inches). The sauger population will be much larger in 2014, as a successful plant in 2011 led to high survival and most of those fish are now in the 15-20 inch range. Anglers can still catch some quality tiger muskie, but the number of large fish is low. Tiger muskie were stocked in 2012 but not in 2013.

Please be advised that mercury levels in some sizes of sauger and smallmouth bass in the reservoir exceed the State’s human health standard. Please see the fish consumption advisory posted at the reservoir or refer to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website at <http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-WQ/CBON/1251595874901> for more details. Additionally, Eurasian milfoil has been found in the lake and anglers need to be careful to clean their boats well after being on the lake to assure that this noxious weed is not spread to other waters. For additional information on this fishery, see the fishery summary page at <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/FisherySurveySummaries.aspx>

Martin Lake (at Lathrop State Park) (200 ac)

Martin Lake can produce some incredible fish. Although trout are the most popular target species, anglers can expect to catch a diverse bag of fish including bass, black crappie, catfish, northern pike, walleye, saugeye, wipers, trout, and yellow perch. There are good quality fish available in all of these species, but anglers will have to work for their catch. The warmwater fishing component at this lake is often overlooked and presents a great opportunity to catch very large fish.

The weed beds in the lake have expanded in the lake, which improves the habitat but makes fishing tougher. However, fishing the weed beds could land you a very nice northern pike. Northern pike numbers are low but their length can reach over 40 inches. Typical pike techniques should be used to target these fish. Fishing for walleye/saugeye should also be decent in 2014, with most fish in the 12-20” range. Look for these fish in May and June by shore or boat.

Trout fishing will be decent, as slightly fewer fish will be available to stock in 2013. Wipers, however, are numerous in the 15-19” range (average weight of 2.5 lbs), resulting from a successful wiper plant in 2010. Wipers can be difficult to catch, but anglers should look for wipers feeding and adjust their techniques according to the prey and the season.

Eurasian milfoil has been found in the lake and anglers need to be careful to clean their boats well after being on the lake to assure that this noxious weed is not spread to other waters. For additional information on this fishery, see the fishery summary page at <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/FisherySurveySummaries.aspx>

Monument Reservoir (40 ac)

In 2014, Monument Reservoir will be good catchable trout. The reclamation project to remove suckers from the reservoir was completed in 2009 and rainbow trout, brown trout, and Kokanee salmon have been restocked. The fishery should be excellent in 2014, as it takes a several years for these species to re-establish themselves in the reservoir after a reclamation project. In addition to good growth by these fish, additional large fish have been stocked by the Monument Resort. Fishing in 2014 should be marked by great catches of trout and salmon.

Middle Arkansas River Basin (continued)

North Lake (100 ac)

North Lake should provide some excellent fishing for catchable rainbow trout in 2014. Splake, when caught, should be of very large size. The splake population is now composed of older, large fish that play a key role in the fisheries management on the lake. Catchable rainbow trout are stocked during the summer and early fall months and fishing is good throughout the ice free season. Ice fishing can be very good on the lake when conditions are safe. North Lake is restricted to the use of flies and lures only and boating is with hand, wind, or electric motors only.

Pueblo Reservoir (3000 ac)

The walleye population appears to be at a high level and should produce high catch rates in May and June. The population is composed of many fish under the legal limit of 18 inches in length, but legal fish be caught by dedicated anglers. Fish caught during the walleye spawn operation were very large, indicating that fish between 18 and 30 inches are numerous but difficult to catch. In 2013, anglers reportedly caught many more ‘keeper’ walleye than past years. Sampling data from fall 2013 indicated many similarities between fish caught in fall 2012 and fall 2013. This should translate to a 2014 population that is very similar to 2013 and fishing that continues to be good. Walleye can be caught all year long, but some of the best fishing is in May and June when the fish are schooled tightly on the flats and points throughout the lake. Jigs and grubs tipped with nightcrawlers are very popular baits. Anglers looking for larger fish need to use larger baits and move away from the schools of small fish.

The size of the wiper population has been reduced in the last few years, but what it lacks in numbers it makes up in quality. There are fair numbers of fish over 20 inches in length if anglers can convince them to bite. Data from 2013 showed few fish, but fry were stocked in 2013 and CPW is optimistic that wipers will be available in 2014. Wiper fishing may be slow until the population size increases. Wipers are notoriously picky about what they will feed on, so pick your tackle carefully. Best times to catch wiper in Pueblo are April and May as well as August through October.

Bass are doing very well, and the lake is dominated by smallmouths. Bass over the legal size of 15” are less common but are present in decent numbers, so those that target big bass can be rewarded. Bass can be caught virtually year round, but fall fishing can be particularly good. Good numbers of bluegill can be found around the brush and the tire break waters for anglers who wish to pursue these fish. Worms and bobbers work well for bluegill. Crappie populations have been incredible, with many large fish being caught. This should continue into 2014, so look for large crappie in coves with good amounts of brush. The west end would be a great place to start.

Catfish numbers are improving and quality is high. Catch rates can be low, but the size of the catch can make up for the hard work. Anglers should be looking for the large flathead catfish present in the lake as a new state record flathead was caught in Pueblo Reservoir in 2010 and 2011. An even bigger fish could be caught in 2014. Catfishing for flatheads and channels should be great during the summer months and into the fall, with many large fish present.

Trout fishing in the reservoir will likely be moderate in 2014 with fair numbers of fish in the 14 to 22 inch range. Many fish are stocked at a 10 inch “catchable” size, but some trout grow well in the reservoir and anglers fishing between January and March or those trolling April through June can catch very large fish.

Please be aware of the boat inspections at the reservoir, which are meant to stop the spread of aquatic nuisance species like Zebra and Quagga Mussels that were found in Pueblo Reservoir. For additional information on this fishery, see the fishery summary page at <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/FisherySurveySummaries.aspx>

San Isabel Lake (30 ac)

Fishing in 2014 will be very good for catchable rainbow and cutthroat trout. Kokanee numbers have been low and fishing for these fish may be slow in 2014. Brown trout populations are low due to slow growth but anglers may catch a few of these fish during the season, up to 15” in length. Yellow perch are now very numerous but are small and stunted due to their abundance and competition. Anglers will also likely encounter some “goldfish looking fish,” which are called European Rudd and are present due to an unauthorized stocking. Golden shiners are also present due to an unauthorized

Middle Arkansas River Basin (continued)

introduction. Please remove these fish from the lake if you catch them, as they are undesirable species. Good open water fishing starts at ice out and continues until ice begins to form in the fall. Ice fishing is also excellent at San Isabel. In 2014, fishing should be good but an abundance of shoreline vegetation could cause some difficulty for shore anglers.

Trinidad Reservoir (800 ac)

Trinidad Reservoir is one of the best fishing spots in the Southeast because it holds incredible fish and boasts few crowds. It has good numbers of walleye, saugeye, wiper, catfish, yellow perch and trout. Walleye and saugeye are abundant and many fish are very large. Persistent anglers could be rewarded with fish measuring 30 inches or larger and weighing over 10 lbs. Fishing in 2014 should continue to be great as populations are composed of good sized fish, and gizzard shad have been supplementally stocked to boost forage. Walleye and saugeye anglers will start catching good numbers of fish in May and continue to catch these fish into July and August. Drifting jigs and nightcrawlers on the bottom is a very good technique.

The wiper population is of a moderate size, but the size of the fish in the reservoir is excellent. Fish over 20 inches in length are common, and fish over 10 pounds are showing up in the population. They are hard to catch in Trinidad and still fishing with chicken liver seems to be an effective technique. Bass fishing will also continue to be good in 2014, as there have been some very large bass caught in gillnets and by anglers in recent years. These fish can be caught year-round with a variety of bass techniques. Please be aware of the bass regulation in place.

Catfish numbers are low but quality is good with many fish measuring over 20 inches and some fish in the 10-15 pound range. Night fishing is effective for these fish. The trout fishery will remain very good with lots of catchable fish being stocked along with some holdover fish in the 16 to 20 inch range. To catch trout, try using bait and lures from the shore or trolling from boats. Yellow perch is also a good species to fish for at Trinidad, as perch over 12" were caught by anglers in 2013. Anglers that are willing to target yellow perch may be rewarded in 2014.

Please note that water levels will likely decline throughout the season and create some boating hazards; anglers need to be careful. Additionally, mercury levels in some sizes of walleye and saugeye in the reservoir exceed the State's human health standard. Please see the fish consumption advisory posted at the reservoir or refer to the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment website at

<http://www.colorado.gov/cs/Satellite/CDPHE-WQ/CBON/1251595874901> for more details. For additional information on this fishery, see the fishery summary page at <http://cpw.state.co.us/thingstodo/Pages/FisherySurveySummaries.aspx>

Valco Ponds (range from 10 – 20 ac)

Anglers are allowed to fish four of the Valco Ponds located off the river below Pueblo Reservoir. These ponds are the four closest to the parking lot off of Highway 96, but PLEASE NOTE THAT SOME PONDS ARE ONLY PARTIALLY OPEN. Please contact Lake Pueblo State Park for specific access information.

Anglers will find good opportunities to catch some nice saugeye, bass and catfish in these lakes. Anglers will also find some decent crappie and bluegill in the lakes. Valco Pond #1 has a high number of saugeye and bass. Valco Pond #2 has good populations of yellow perch, bluegill, and crappie. Valco Pond #3 has good populations of saugeye and black crappie. Valco Pond #4 has good populations of saugeye, bass, green sunfish, and bluegill. A feeding program was in place on Valco Pond #1 and resulted in some very nice catfish up to around 20 pounds that are still present.

Based on the 2013 creel survey, over 4,500 anglers visited the Valco ponds in 2013 with almost half of the pressure occurring on Valco Pond #2. Catch rate was highest at Valco Pond #4 (0.75 fish/hr), but was at least 0.5 fish/hr at all ponds. Panfish were caught most often at Valco #2 and bass were caught at all four ponds, with the highest bass catch rate occurring at Valco Pond #4. The number of fish returned to the water was between 74 and 90% for all species at all the ponds. Specifically for bass, the return rate ranged from 93% to 100% (all sizes), with <1% of bass smaller than 14" inches in length harvested from each pond. The near lack of harvest below 14" indicates that the ponds are functioning as though they have a minimum size limit in place (but they do not). Harvest of larger fish (>14") was less than 17% at all ponds.

In 2014, anglers should expect to see good numbers of panfish, catfish, and bass. Anglers catch the most fish in May, June, July and August and catch rates are highest in July and August. Please note that trout are not stocked in these lakes.

Upper Arkansas River Basin
Greg Policky – Salida (719-530-5525) or greg.policky@state.co.us

Arkansas River

Angler use reached a significant milestone in 2012 with 100563 anglers fishing the river throughout the year between Leadville and Parkdale. This is up from just under 70000 annual anglers in 1995 and 2007. The Arkansas River ranks as the favorite fishing destination in Colorado according to 2008 and 2012 Angler Survey conducted by the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. One-hundred and two miles of the Arkansas River from Lake Fork Creek to Parkdale was designated as Gold Medal water in January 2014, signifying it as one of the finest fisheries in the state. Trout catch rates, size, and vigor should be excellent in 2014 and with abundant public access anglers can find ample opportunity to enjoy this excellent freestone fishery.

Trout number and size has been consistently high river-wide in recent years, averaging 3000-4000 trout/mile with increasing numbers of fish over 14 inches. Brown trout are the most prevalent species found and are caught most often by anglers, averaging 12” long with good numbers to 16 inches and an occasional fish taken over 20 inches. They sustain themselves through natural reproduction.

Rainbow trout have become more prevalent since 2008 (23% of the trout catch at Wellsville in 2012) and their density and biomass has accelerated in recent years. Rainbow trout grow well in the Arkansas, averaging 14 inches, with a higher proportion reaching lengths over 16 and 20 inches. Historically, rainbow trout fry were eliminated by mining pollution and whirling disease (WD). Heavy metals no longer kill fry and a six inch WD resistant rainbow trout strain (Hofer/Colorado River) was stocked for the first time in 2009. Larger fish will be less vulnerable to brown trout predation and this hybrid demonstrates both whirling disease resistance and wildness, characteristics needed to survive in the Arkansas River. The goal to establish a self-sustained rainbow trout fishery was realized for the first time in 2012, when wild fry were produced. Most anglers welcome the opportunity to catch both species on a consistent basis.

There is year round insect action on the Arkansas River for the fly fishing enthusiast! The most famous hatch on the Arkansas River is the Mother’s Day caddis fly hatch. It begins in mid-April near Canon City and progresses upriver as water temperatures warm to about 54°F. Stoneflies and mayflies hatch throughout the summer and fall along with good hopper action. Midges are the winter mainstay and from mid-March to mid-May baetis mayflies are abundant, arguably rivaling the caddis hatch in fishing popularity. Regardless of season, a two fly setup is recommended such as a dry/dropper combination. You can imitate two insect life stages or different species with this setup and cover more water. The top fly often acts as an attractor or strike indicator for the trailer fly and double hookups can occur!

Lure fisherman do very well with Panther Martins and small plugs that imitate fingerling trout and bait anglers find ample success with natural baits such as night crawlers. Bait angling is particularly effective during runoff when most fish are close to the bank where the current is less. Bait angling is allowed most places on the Arkansas River except for a five mile stretch in Hayden Flats below Leadville and a 7.5 mile stretch below Salida from Stockyard Bridge to Badger Creek.

One last tip is worth mentioning. The more you know about the life history, habits, and habitat preferences of the species you’re fishing for the more successful you can be. For example, as water temperature warms in early spring fish will move out of deeper, winter pool habitat into the head of 3-5’ deep runs. Upstream riffles produce a lot of food that trout are keying into. The best runs have boulders scattered throughout them where fish can rest and hide outside of the current but where food drifts closely by.

Upper Arkansas River Basin (continued)

Clear Creek Reservoir (400 ac)

Clear Creek Reservoir is traditionally one of the most productive and dependable fishing reservoirs in the upper Arkansas River basin. Catch rates consistently exceed one fish/angler-hour and the majority of anglers rate the quality of their fishing experience as good to excellent. It produces excellent fishing for stocked (10 inch) trout with an occasional large trout taken over 20 inches. The kokanee salmon fishery is rebounding to historic levels and fishing should be good for this species in 2014. Kokanee snagging is allowed in the reservoir and upstream about 0.5 miles to the gauging station from October 31 to December 31. Flycasters are learning that kokanee salmon can be caught with small flies and egg patterns during the fall spawning run from October to December.

Tiger muskie, a sterile cross between a northern pike and a muskie, were first introduced to this reservoir from 2004-2006 and more recently from 2012-2013. They were stocked to prey on an abundant sucker population while providing the opportunity for anglers to catch a trophy sized fish. Two size groups are present, those under 30 inches from recent plants and individuals exceeding 40 inches from the original plants. The limit for tiger muskie is one fish, 36 inches or longer.

The lake is serviced by one concrete boat ramp and a boat dock was installed in 2012. A watercraft inspection program was initiated at this reservoir in 2009 and continues today. Boaters are encouraged to clean, drain and dry their watercraft prior to arrival at the reservoir.

Mt. Elbert Forebay (250 ac)

This reservoir fluctuates considerably due to pump back hydropower generation, impacting productivity and fishery potential. Remarkably, it routinely produces some of the best catches of large lake trout in the upper Arkansas River basin. Lake trout sustain themselves naturally and survival and growth is good. The limit is one fish and all lake trout 22-34 inches long must be released. Lake trout anglers find good success from the south shore in the spring using large Rapallas but trolling or jigging from a boat produces the highest catch rate throughout the season. Shore anglers report good success for lake trout while bait fishing for trout.

This lake also harbors a good trout population. Rainbow and Snake River cutthroat trout provide the most consistent action at the Forebay with anglers enjoying catch rates averaging almost one fish per hour. Catchable trout are stocked from late May to late August. In turn, most of the rainbow trout caught average 12 inches with consistent action throughout the summer fishing season using typical baits. Trout that survive the summer and over-winter to the next spring provide for some very good ice-out action in May and early June. These fish average 15 inches and are vulnerable to woolly worms or lures fished slowly from the south shore. An occasional large brown trout is taken in the 10-12 pound class.

Keep in mind that only carry-on boats, including float tubes, are legal on the Forebay. There is no boat ramp but if you can carry it, you can launch it. The best boater access is from the southwest corner of the lake. Park along the edge of the road but do not block the locked gate. Use extreme caution with small craft due to water level fluctuations. The north dam is closed to the public. Facilities are primitive here but the fishery makes the trip worthwhile. Lake County entities and Parks and Wildlife are currently exploring the possibility of improving facilities (e.g. restrooms, parking, and a hand carried boat launch).

Skaguay Reservoir (115 ac)

This lake should be full in 2014. Catchable trout are stocked throughout the summer providing good action for anglers. They range in size from 10-16 inches. Brown trout have become more prevalent in recent years, comprising 30% of the total catch and reaching lengths over 16 inches. Though scarce, this reservoir supports a population of northern pike that average 20 inches with fish exceeding 40 inches in length. There is no limit on northern pike. Anglers are encouraged to catch and harvest these toothy predators. This will help to minimize trout predation while maximizing northern pike growth (more food for fewer fish). The inlet area offers the best habitat for northern pike. Angler facilities are good at Skaguay Reservoir and include a concrete boat ramp, parking, restrooms, and primitive camping. Wakeless boating is required. Beaver Creek below the reservoir offers good brown trout fishing for the stream fishing enthusiast.

Upper Arkansas River Basin (continued)

Turquoise Reservoir (1800 ac)

Turquoise Reservoir supports an abundant lake trout population. Although most are under 20 inches, they offer the opportunity for anglers to catch an often hard-to-catch species. An occasional large fish up to 40 inches is taken. Most shore anglers fish from the south and east shorelines and find good action for mackinaw in June before fish move to deeper water. Using downriggers from a boat is the key to catching lake trout as the summer progresses. The bag limit for lake trout is two fish with no size restrictions.

Catchable-sized (10+ inch) trout stocking resumed in 2007 and will continue in the future. Rainbow and Snake River cutthroat trout are being stocked from the Leadville National Fish Hatchery from June through early September. These fish have dramatically improved fishing at Turquoise Reservoir. Typical baits, flies, and lures for trout should be used. An occasional large brown trout up to 30 inches is landed at Turquoise.

Abundant facilities (e.g. numerous campgrounds, two concrete boat ramps) and scenic vistas make this one of the most enjoyable places to fish in the State. Water level should be normal in 2014 and fishing is predicted to be good. A watercraft inspection program was initiated at this reservoir in 2009 and continues today. Boaters are encouraged to clean, drain and dry their watercraft prior to arrival at the reservoir.

Twin Lakes Reservoir (2700 ac)

Twin Lakes is once again producing trophy lake trout! They average just under 19 inches but large, fat fish over 30 inches are becoming increasingly common. These large fish were not stocked. Several hundred lake trout were stocked the last two years from Blue Mesa Reservoir but they averaged 22 inches and none were over 30 inches. Some of the best action can be found at ice-out near the hydropower plant, where the upper lake enters the lower lake, or around submerged rock piles. Casting large Rapallas seems to work best. Fishing from a boat with downriggers produces the best catch as the summer progresses when mackinaw have moved to deeper water. Lures or deep water jigging with tube jigs tipped with sucker meat also works well at this time. Ice angling is popular in the winter using jigs tipped with sucker meat.

Trout action has picked up in recent years and is consistent from ice-out well into the fall. They average 13 inches with fish up to 20 inches taken. Catchable trout are stocked from early June through September. Twin Lakes offer good fishing in an exceptional mountain setting. One concrete boat ramp is available in the lower lake and two campgrounds are found nearby. Water level should be normal in 2014 and fishing should be good to excellent.

A watercraft inspection program was initiated at this reservoir in 2009 and continues today. Boaters are encouraged to clean, drain and dry their watercraft prior to arrival at the reservoir.

Lower Arkansas River Basin
Jim Ramsay – Lamar (719-336-6607) or jim.ramsay@state.co.us

John Martin Reservoir (currently about 3400 acres)

For the second consecutive year, the state of Kansas retained their stored irrigation water in John Martin Reservoir, foregoing their annual releases. Water levels were low throughout the year, but the lake remained more consistent than normal. Typically, lake levels recede drastically during the summer months, as large amounts of irrigation water are rapidly released. Colorado Parks and Wildlife strives to maintain a permanent pool at John Martin. This permanent water is subject to evaporative losses and can be difficult to maintain. Currently, the pool contains just under 2,500 acre ft. The allotted storage of the permanent pool is 10,000 acre ft. This permanent water provides a valuable “insurance policy” for the fishery in the event that all irrigation water is released for use in a given water year. CPW searches yearly for sources of water to keep the pool full. More often than not, water commands a steep price or is simply unavailable. Flood events in the tributaries can add water to the permanent pool. This is a rare occurrence, but can be very beneficial when it happens. In 2013, a couple of precipitation events in August added about 475 acre ft. of water to the permanent pool. Winter storage of irrigation water has been adding volume to the lake for the past several months. The lake should begin the spring fishing season with about 50,000 acre ft.

Fishing at John Martin Res. was spotty in 2013. White bass fishing was somewhat slower than in the past few years. White bass reproduce naturally at John Martin, and the success of these spawns can dictate future fishing. Reservoir operations can have an impact on spawning success. Fall sampling in 2013 showed white bass numbers lower than recent years. These fish can resurge quickly, as we’ve seen in the past. Fishing for white bass in 2014 should be fair to good, with some very good days possible. Spring and early-summer fishing is expected to be the best. Boat anglers catch these fish by slow trolling jigs, worm rigs, or shad-imitating crank baits. Shore anglers are often successful using casting lures (Rattle-Trap, Kastmaster, etc.), jigs, or live bait. Rocky points near open water areas are good places to look for these fish.

Crappie fishing is very popular at John Martin, especially in the spring. In 2013, crappie fishing was better than average. Numbers appear to be fairly stable, and a good year is expected again in 2014. Many of these fish are in the 10”- 12” range, making a basket of these fish a very nice catch. Limits are generous at John Martin. Anglers can keep up to 20 of these tasty fish. Like the white bass, populations of crappies at John Martin are self-reproducing. Unfortunately, the water storage cycle at John Martin is not always conducive to successful crappie spawning. During dry years, nest sites are often dewatered before young fish have a chance to mature. Supplemental stocking of crappies from CPW hatcheries has occurred for the past 3 years to bolster the population. Crappie anglers begin targeting these fish during mid-spring as water temps. reach the mid 50s. The rocky dam and north coves are good areas to try for these fish. Live minnow rigs and small jigs are good choices for crappie.

Saugeye and walleye populations are in the process of rebounding following the die-off in 2012 that hurt the population. Fishing for these fish was slow in 2013. Fishing should be somewhat better in 2014, but still slower than the good years of 2008 – 2011. Large numbers of these fish are stocked yearly, and young fish should be rapidly growing into catchable size. John Martin has historically been a good saugeye/walleye fishery. Large water releases tend to flush many of these fish out of the reservoir and into the spillway/Ark. River below. Anglers are encouraged to harvest the saugeye/walleye caught below the dam. Special Arkansas River regulations apply below the dam, where the limit increases to 10 fish, with no size restriction. The regulations for the main lake (above the dam) state that all walleye/saugeye must be 15” or greater. The limit is 5 fish with a possession limit of 10 fish.

John Martin is also a popular catfish angler’s destination. Three species of catfish inhabit this water. Channel cats (the most abundant species) are often caught in the numerous coves and the shallow west end of the reservoir. The spillway below the dam is another popular choice. Most catfish baits (worms, livers, dough baits, crayfish, and shrimp) will work for these fish. Flathead catfish were stocked sporadically until 2007 at John Martin. These fish were discontinued due to lack of supply and few fish being caught by anglers. In 2013, numerous flatheads were sampled during our electrofishing efforts, including several fish over 5 lbs., and even one 30 lb. giant. These fish appear to have taken hold and are reproducing well. The stocked blue catfish are not raised by CPW hatcheries, but are acquired through trades with other states. These fish are stocked annually as fish are available. Blue cats have been stocked 6 of the last 10 years. Both flatheads and blue catfish have tremendous growth potential. Flatheads and blues will hit many of the same baits as channel catfish, but more often prefer live offerings such as large minnows or water dogs suspended off of the bottom.

Lower Arkansas River Basin (continued)

Boat inspections are required prior to launch to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Boat anglers should call John Martin State Park or view the CPW website for details on the boat inspection schedule.

Nee Noshe Reservoir (about 50 acres)

Currently, no fishery exists at Nee Noshe due to low conditions and poor water quality.

Nee Gronde Reservoir (800 ac)

The fall 2012 sample collected at Nee Gronde showed promise. Good numbers of white bass, wipers, saugeye, crappie, and catfish were detected. Due to low and diminishing lake levels, we were concerned that these fish would be in peril if additional water was not added to the lake. Unfortunately, no water was added, and the lake has continued to recede. By fall of 2013, lake levels had been reduced to about 800 acres with average depths of less than 5 ft. (side note: at one point in the 1990s, Nee Gronde boasted the deepest water in the area, with depths of over 70 ft.). Water quality continues to deteriorate, as electrolytes become more concentrated in the shrinking pool. We were able to hand launch a small Jon boat to collect the yearly sample. Only 36 carp and 2 small crappies were caught in our standard 7 net set. Fisheries management will be suspended at Nee Gronde until water levels return to the point that the lake can support a fishery.

Adobe Creek Reservoir (Blue Lake) (about 1100 acres)

A temporary deviation in the irrigation storage plan resulted in lower lake levels in 2013. Typically, the lake starts the spring fairly full and is drawn-down at various rates as the season progresses. Since no irrigation water was stored during the 2012-2013 winter storage season, the lake was very low throughout the 2013 fishing year. Even at the low levels, boat access was available throughout the year, thanks to the extended low- water ramp that exists at the lake. The 2014 fishing season will start with much higher water levels due to the resumption of winter storage at Blue Lake. It is currently unclear if enough water will be in the lake to use the high-water ramps, or if boaters must continue to use the low water facilities. Two low-water ramps are available. One of the ramps has steeper angles, but is shorter in length. The longer ramp has less of a declining grade, and works best for shallow draft boats.

Despite low lake levels, fishing was good in 2013, especially for crappie and catfish. With improved water levels, fishing should be good again in 2014. Crappie fishing has been good to excellent for the past 4 years. These fish have benefitted from good reproductive success, as well as supplemental stocking of crappie by CPW hatcheries. Habitat projects benefitting crappie have been conducted as well. Large brush piles have been placed on the lake bed to provide preferred habitat for the crappies. Gravel spawning beds have been created to improve reproductive success. All indications point to a good fishing year in 2014 for crappie anglers.

Channel and blues are the 2 species of catfish available at Blue Lake. Channel catfish are raised and stocked by CPW hatcheries. Blue cats are imported from other states, thus the availability of blue cats varies from year to year. Blue cats have been stocked 7 out of the last 10 years. Natural reproduction is encouraged for channel catfish at Blue Lake by creating artificial spawning habitat in the lake to allow catfish an opportunity to spawn. Catfish require some type of hole with protective cover to make their nests. Unfortunately, Blue Lake is lacking this type of habitat. Spawning containers are placed in late spring and removed in the fall. Some of these containers are marked with orange floats. Boaters are encouraged to avoid areas with these marked containers, especially during early summer months. Fishing for catfish is typically fair to good throughout the year, with night-time hours often being the best. Anglers targeting these fish typically use common catfish baits such as dough bait, worms, livers, cut bait, crawdads, or shrimp. Anglers targeting blue cats sometimes prefer to suspend a live bait fish or water dog.

Good numbers of saugeye are present at Blue Lake. These fish are found annually in our samples, but have proven to be elusive to most anglers targeting them. Successful anglers usually use some type of live-bait rig (crawler harness, jig and minnow or leach, etc.). Walleye style crank baits can also be effective (wally diver, shad rap, etc). Special regulations govern saugeye fishing at Blue Lake. The limit is 5 fish, all of which must be > 15". The possession limit is 10.

Lower Arkansas River Basin (continued)

Two Buttes Reservoir (about 700 acres)

After partially filling in 2012, Two Buttes Reservoir went dry in the early summer months of 2013. The timing was unfortunate, because the lake refilled again in August 2013. Two late-summer precipitation events caused over 30 vertical feet of water to be backed up at the dam. The lake filled to levels not seen in recent history. The dam was previously regulated by a rule that required all water over the 20 foot mark be released downstream. After a public meeting, it was agreed that all of this new water could be retained in the lake if spillway improvements were performed. Currently, the lake has about 28 ft. of depth at the dam and covers over 700 acres. The lake was stocked during the fall of 2013 with black crappie, bluegill, channel catfish, largemouth bass, rainbow trout, and gizzard shad (forage). Planned for 2014 are all of the above mentioned species plus saugeye and wiper. Fish should grow quickly in these highly productive waters and provide plenty of good fishing action. Future precipitation events are needed to maintain water levels, but we are optimistic that Two Buttes Res. will be a viable fishery for many years to come.

Turks Pond (55 acres)

Turks Pond is a 55 acre lake owned by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. It is located on the Turks Pond State Wildlife Area in Baca County near the town of Two Buttes. Until recently, Turks Pond had suffered very low water levels due to a faulty well. Well repairs have been completed, and Turks Pond will begin the fishing season with more water than it has had in several years. Boating is permitted at Turks, but only electric motors are allowed to be used. Visitation to Turks Pond comes from locals and many anglers from Kansas and Oklahoma who find Turks Pond to be their nearest fishing spot. In 2014, fishing pressure may be lessened at Turks, due to anglers desire to try their luck at nearby Two Buttes Res., which has recently filled.

Anglers should not forget about Turks Pond however, as good populations of large channel catfish, crappies, largemouth bass, and bullheads inhabit this water. Fishery management objectives at Turks Pond continue to focus on creating and improving panfish populations. A big step towards achieving that goal will involve thinning the black bullhead population. Currently, these fish are overabundant in the pond. Numerous bullheads can be fun, especially for kids, as they will bite just about any bait offered. Most of these fish are in the 6"- 8" range. Abundant bullheads can make fishing for channel catfish a challenge. Keeping these little bait stealers away long enough to catch a big channel cat can be tricky. Some anglers find success using perforated tubes filled with dough bait. Larger treble hooks attached to these rigs can prevent the bullheads from getting the bait, while still allowing the larger catfish to take it. Efforts to thin the bullhead population are underway and should show results in the near future. Electrofishing, specifically targeting bullheads, will continue in 2014, as well as trap netting designed to catch these pesky critters. Also, **anglers are asked to voluntarily keep all bullheads caught and refrain from releasing any bullheads back into the water.** Another strategy involves the introduction of predatory species. Last fall, 50 tiger muskies were stocked in Turks Pond. These fish were about 11 inches when stocked. While the use of tiger muskies is experimental, it is hoped that these fish will thrive in the pond and feed on the abundant bullhead food source. More tigers may be stocked in 2014, as supplies allow.

A small summer-kill event occurred at Turks during August 2013. Most of the affected fish were gizzard shad, but several large wipers perished as well. It is thought that this kill was the result of low oxygen in the pond caused by an algae bloom. Events like these are rare, but not unheard of in ponds in SE CO. Thinning of adult gizzard shad is desirable, as these fish tend to overpopulate. The loss of the large wipers is unfortunate, as these fish are efficient predators and help control rough fish populations. Additional wiper fingerlings are planned for Turks in 2014. These fish grow very well in Turks Pond. Historically, wipers over 10 lbs. have been common at Turks.

Catchable sized rainbow trout are stocked in the spring and fall to provide anglers additional fishing opportunity. Also, anglers are reminded of the baitfish regulation at Turks. All baitfish must be collected from the pond, or bought at a bait dealer (receipt required).

Meredith Reservoir (3000 acres)

Meredith began 2013 completely full. The Ft. Lyon Canal Company stored its irrigation water at Meredith instead of Blue Lake during the 2012-2013 winter storage season. Unfortunately, drought conditions persisted, and the need for irrigation water caused Meredith Lake to be drained. No public fish salvage was conducted due to access issues and unsafe conditions. Meredith has since been refilled. Efforts will begin in 2014 to rebuild this fishery.

Lower Arkansas River Basin (continued)

Henry Lake (1000 acres)

Henry suffered a similar fate as Meredith in 2013. All irrigation water was removed, leaving the lake dry. Unlike Meredith however, a public fish salvage was ordered, and numerous fish were harvested before they were lost. Efforts to rebuild the fishery will begin in 2014. The drought of 2013 was an abnormal occurrence, and it is hoped that Henry and Meredith will retain water for recreation for many years to come.

Thurston Reservoir (0 acres)

Thurston remains very low. Less than a foot of water remains in the basin. No fishery exists at this time.

Midwestern Farms Pond (35 acres)

This popular fishing area is located on Hwy 50 between the towns of Granada and Holly, at the Midwestern Farms gravel operation. Gravel mining has ceased at this pit, and access to the pond has expanded. Until recently, anglers were limited to the western shoreline only. Now, public access has significantly increased. The east side of the pond is still off-limits, but the area is well signed, so anglers can avoid trespassing.

The pond is stocked yearly with black crappie, channel catfish, largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, bluegill, saugeye, wiper, yellow perch, and rainbow trout. Since this pond is very deep, trout have been able to survive throughout the summer in the cool, deep water. Occasionally, bonus brood fish are stocked in this water, offering anglers a chance to catch a trophy. Very large smallmouth bass, channel catfish, and rainbow trout have been stocked in recent years at Midwestern. Crappie fishing has improved in recent months, and good fishing is expected in 2014. Small jigs or live minnow rigs are effective offerings for crappie. Numerous habitat structures have been placed in this pond. Some are marked, others are not. These tend to be good fish holding structures and productive spots to fish.

Northgate Ponds #1 (9 acres), #2 (7 acres), and #3 (15 acres)

Northgate Park is a new fishing area located at the old Valco cement plant on the north side of Lamar. The park contains 3 reclaimed gravel pit ponds that are stocked for fishing. Currently, as of this writing (spring 2014), only pond #1 has been opened to the public. Ponds #2 & #3 should open for public use in the near future. Plans for development of this area are in progress, and facilities are under construction. Pond #1 has been stocked with largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, blue catfish, black crappie, bluegill, redear sunfish, and rainbow trout. Of these species, smallmouth bass, channel & blue catfish, and rainbow trout have been stocked as adult (catchable) sizes. Some of these have been stocked as brood fish, and provide anglers an opportunity to catch a fish of trophy size. Stocking in 2014 will include wiper and saugeye fingerlings as well. Currently, habitat projects are underway that involve the creation of numerous natural and artificial tree structures. These structures attract fish and are good places to try your luck. Some of these structures are marked with white buoys.

Jackson's Pond (8 acres)

This pond is located ½ mile south of Eads, CO. Some of the facilities at this popular fishing area include: fishing pier, groomed fishing access points, restroom, picnic area, and interpretive signing. Unlike 2012, good water levels were retained throughout 2013. As a result, we were able to resume our sampling of this fishery. Good numbers of largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, and crappie are available. The once over-abundant crappie population has been thinned, and remaining fish are getting somewhat larger. Other species present include rainbow trout, yellow perch, green sunfish, black bullhead, smallmouth bass, gizzard shad, grass carp, and common carp. Some of the non-featured species are over abundant or unwanted and have been targeted for removal. Anglers are asked to keep any common carp or crappie caught at Jackson's. Catchable trout are stocked in the spring and fall to provide additional angling opportunity.

Holbrook Reservoir (675 acres)

In recent years, Holbrook has been completely drained and refilled several times during irrigation practices. Unfortunately, that doesn't work well for fishery management. Holbrook will not be restocked until a more stable water management program becomes established.

Upper Queens Reservoir and Timber Lake (0 ac)

Upper Queens and Timber Lake (also known as Horse Creek Res.) are currently dry. These lakes will be restocked when conditions allow.