

COLORADO PARKS &
WILDLIFE
Fishing Report



TUESDAY May 9th, 2017

News and Information

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Financial Sustainability Bill Defeated

Colorado lawmakers introduced [House Bill 17-1321](#) to bring a stable and sustainable funding source to Colorado Parks and Wildlife which was defeated on May 4th in the Senate Finance Committee.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife SE Region to Convene Angler Roundtable

Colorado Parks and Wildlife wants to hear from fishing enthusiasts, so it is calling together an [Angler Roundtable](#). The discussion is scheduled for 6 p.m. May 10th at CPW's Southeast Regional Office.

Arkansas Headwaters to Celebrate Public Lands Day with Cleanup

The [Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#) will celebrate the first ever Public Lands Day on May 20th by holding its 26th Annual Arkansas River Cleanup-Greenup.

Year-long Dam Project at Steamboat Lake State Park Begins This Spring

A year-long construction project to repair and upgrade the Willow Creek Dam at [Steamboat Lake State Park](#) will begin this spring. Please observe signage and avoid the area in and around the dam while work is ongoing.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Seeks Volunteers in Pikes Peak Region

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has several [upcoming projects](#) in Fremont and Teller counties that will get you outside, in touch with wildlife, and may even get your hands a bit dirty.

CPW Staff and Volunteers Work to Ensure Summer Walleye Fishing

[Colorado Parks and Wildlife](#) staff, alongside volunteers, are putting in long hours over an intense four-week period to ensure a bumper crop of walleye and saugeye in state lakes and streams this summer.

2017 Fishing Regulations Brochure

Colorado Parks and Wildlife have released the 2017 Fishing Regulations brochure. You can find a copy [online](#), at your local CPW office, or at any license agent.



Now you can take the [#ColoradoOutdoors](#) anywhere. Follow us on [@instagram @coparkswildlife!](#)
<http://instagram.com/coparkswildlife>



Check out our CPW community on Facebook. Colorado anglers can "like" the CPW Facebook page to get tips, share stories and more. If you love the outdoors, this is the place to be. Before you head out, head for facebook.com/ColoradoParksandWildlife/.



Fish with us on Twitter
Colorado anglers can get updates directly from CPW on Twitter. Follow [@COParksWildlife](#).

Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Barr Lake	Northeast	5/9/17
Bear Creek Reservoir	Northeast	5/9/17
Brighton City Park Lake	Northeast	5/9/17
Chatfield Pond #1	Northeast	5/9/17
Cherry Creek Reservoir	Northeast	5/9/17
Chipeta Lake	Southwest	5/9/17
Columbia Reservoir	Northeast	5/9/17
Granby Reservoir	Northwest	5/9/17
Home Lake	Southwest	5/9/17
Mead Pond #2	Northeast	5/9/17
Milavec Reservoir	Northeast	5/9/17
Monument Lake	Southeast	5/9/17
Monument Reservoir	Southeast	5/9/17
Mount Elbert Forebay	Southeast	5/9/17
N Fk Michigan R Lake	Northwest	5/9/17
North Sterling Reservoir	Northeast	5/9/17
Pericles Pond	Southwest	5/9/17
Pine Valley Ranch Lake	Northeast	5/9/17
Quincy Reservoir	Northeast	5/9/17
Shavano Pond	Southwest	5/9/17
Summit Reservoir	Southwest	5/9/17
Taylor Reservoir	Southwest	5/9/17
Turks Pond	Southeast	5/9/17
Twin Spruce Ponds	Southwest	5/9/17
Walsenburg Kids Pond	Southeast	5/9/17

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Willow Springs Pond #1	Southeast	5/9/17

Catch of the Week



John with a 5 pound rainbow caught from Poudre Ponds.
Have a fish you're proud of? [Share your photo](#)

Conditions Report - Metro Area

Aurora Reservoir

The current water temperature is approximately 49 degrees. Trout fishing has picked up recently, and anglers have had success using PowerBait from the dam. Boaters have had success trolling with pop gear and crawlers. Walleye fishing has been slow; there have been a few reports of anglers using swim baits from the shore and boaters using jigs. Anglers have had success catching smallmouth using jigs and swim baits from the points. For more information call 303-326-8425.

Boyd Lake

The lake is at approximately 818 surface acres with a mid-day temperature of 50 degrees. Fishing for largemouth and smallmouth has been good, with anglers having success with worms and spinners at the marina inlet. Fishing for trout has been excellent, with anglers having success using various bait and lure throughout the lake. Fishing for walleye has been good, with anglers having success using worms and lures at the southern end of the lake and in deeper water at the northern parts of the lake.

[Boyd Lake State Park](#)

Chatfield Reservoir

The current water temperature is approximately 52 degrees. Anglers have had success catching smallmouth using Bass Poppers along the flats and close to the bank. Anglers have had success catching trout using Parachute Adams later in the afternoon.

[Chatfield State Park](#)

Quincy Reservoir

The water temperature is about 53 degrees. Fishing for trout has been slow to fair; anglers have had success using spoons, spinners, and flies. Bass fishing has slowed with the recent cooler weather. There have been reports of them moving to more shallow water. Anglers have had success using soft plastics, jigs, and swim baits. There have been a few reports of anglers having success using jigs from the dam. For more information call 303-326-8424.

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Cheesman Canyon

The current water temperature is about 43 degrees, with flows at approximately 118 cfs. Anglers have had success leading with either a stonefly or scud pattern and trailing with a RS2, Juju Baetis, or WD-40.

Deckers

The current water temperature is about 44 degrees, with flows at approximately 123 cfs. Anglers have had success leading with either a stonefly or leech pattern and trailing with a RS2, Juju Baetis, Buckskin, or Barr's Emerger.

Dream Stream

The current water temperature is about 43 degrees, with flows at approximately 80 cfs. Anglers have had success using stoneflies, San Juan Worms, caddis, and midge patterns.

Eleven Mile Canyon

The current water temperature is about 44 degrees, with flows at approximately 79 cfs. Anglers have had success using pheasant tails, RS2's, Parachute Adams, and stoneflies.

Eleven Mile Reservoir

The current water temperature is about 50 degrees. Trout fishing has been fair with most anglers seeing an improvement from last week. Cutbows and a fair amount of browns are being caught. Anglers have had success trolling with Arnie's Chartreuse Dynamac. Anglers should try fishing at depths of 20 to 30 feet near Goose Island and western points. Kastmasters and Rapalas have also been working well. The temperature still hasn't risen enough for the spring spawn for northern pike. Anglers have had success catching giant pike using chartreuse PowerBait from the shore.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Jackson Lake

The lake level is nearly full with a surface temperature of approximately 57 degrees. Fishing has been fair to good for crappie, walleye, and trout.

[Jackson Lake State Park](#)

Spinney Reservoir

There have been a lot of rainbow trout in the 20 to 24 inch range being caught at both ramps on scud, chironomid, and egg patterns. Lure anglers have had success using dynamic lures, kastmasters, and tube jigs from the shore.

[Spinney Mountain State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River

Upper River: Cooler weather has halted the melt and the river is clear and stable. BWO's are the main menu item right now, but caddis larva and pupa are becoming increasingly available and important. In the afternoons, be prepared for BWO hatches; we've had excellent reports on the river above Buena Vista. Nymphing slow, consistent pools and runs early and mid-day in the upper basin can be productive, with fish moving into faster riffles to feed when nymphs are drifting, primarily in the afternoons. Be thorough in your approach, and adjust your weight and depth accordingly.

Middle River: Last week saw our first caddis emergence above Salida, and had insects active up to Big Bend. Anglers should see opportunities to fish dry flies over the next few days, and pupa and larva patterns are extremely effective both on a dead drift and on a swing in anticipation of bugs on the water. BWO's are still very prevalent in this area (with hatches coming on cloudy days), so combinations of caddis and mayfly nymphs have been effective during non-hatch periods. Spring fishing is now underway up through Browns Canyon and the Milk Run. Daily nymphal drifts of BWO's, as well as some good cloudy day hatches, have energized the fish population and allowed them to disperse from winter water. Also, look for morning caddis larval drifts. With the significant decrease in flows, crossing the river at Hecla is now relatively easy and the wading through the Big Bend area is much easier. Cloudy weather this week should produce some excellent afternoon hatches, and yield great dry fly fishing scenarios.

Lower River: There have been reliable reports of caddis activity up to the Big Bend area, both hatching insects and egg-laying adults, and any days of warm sunshine should bring more of the same, prompting hatches around the Salida area. The "hatch" is not a blanket occurrence like years ago; anglers are more likely to find pockets of intense activity scattered through the river corridor. We've had many reports of fish rising to take adult imitations in areas where caddis are in the air, even if there is not a hatch occurring in the moment. Prospecting with dry flies in the afternoon can be productive if you can cover water. Cloudy days will still yield BWO hatches, so stay prepared. We are also seeing good crane fly and midge activity. Flows are at a level that is conducive to both wade and float fishing. We are still seeing consistent BWO nymphs drifting daily, and duns on the water on cloudy afternoons. Nymphing will still probably be your best bet throughout the day, but don't limit your strategy to deep water; shallow riffles can be productive in the afternoons once mayfly nymphs become more available.

(Courtesy of [ArkAnglers](#)).

[Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#)

John Martin Reservoir

The recent water temperature has been about 56 degrees. Saugeye have been biting up around the rocky points of the main lake, mostly on small silver crankbaits and rattletraps. The crappie bite has been sporadic recently. The white bass and wiper bite has been decent around the stilling basin and spillway, and starting to pick up on the main reservoir. Anglers have had success using various lures and live baits. There have been a few reports of drum being caught on the main reservoir with flies and crankbaits.

[John Martin State Park](#)

North Gateway Park

Anglers have continued to catch rainbows that have recently been stocked. Anglers have also been catching trout in the 10 to 18 inch range on various baits and lures. As the weather continues to warm, expect a stronger bite from warm-water species.

Trinidad Lake

The lake is at approximately 949 surface acres. Fishing from the south shore has been slow due to high water. Anglers that have been catching trout at the south shore have been using worms and PowerBait. Reilly Canyon, where the river comes in, has been slow due to the muddy water from recent rains. Anglers have been catching a few catfish and bass in the canyon. Boaters have been catching mostly trout and walleye. Perch have been caught from both shore and boat. Jigs tipped with worms have been the go-to.

[Trinidad Lake State Park](#)

Turks Pond

Fishing has been good for a variety of species. There is water being pumped into the lake and the level is rising with somewhat muddy conditions. Fishing continues to be good for crappie, bullheads, channel catfish, and trout. There have been a few reports of wiper and saugeye as well. Anglers have had success catching trout using PowerBait and nightcrawlers. Crappie, wiper, and saugeye have been hitting on white twistertails. The boat ramp is currently usable for smaller boats.

Just a reminder; gas motors are not allowed on this lake, so boats must be either electric, wind, or hand powered.

Two Buttes

The current water temperature is about 50 degrees, and will continue to rise with the approaching warm weather. The water is currently off-colored, with visibility down to about 12 to 18 inches. The water level is continuing to slowly drop, so watch for underwater hazards as the lake slowly recedes. The south boat ramp is currently useable. Bass, crappie, saugeye, catfish, and wiper are biting around the lake. Bass have been hitting on jigs and Texas rigged worms. Crappie, saugeye, and wiper are hitting on white and chartreuse twister tails on 1/8 to 1/4 oz jig heads. Catfish are hitting on worms and chicken livers.

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River

The current water temperature is about 39 degrees, with flows at approximately 98 cfs at Silverthorne. Anglers have had success leading with a mysis pattern and trailing with a red or black midge pattern.

Fryingpan River

The current water temperature is about 40 degrees, with flows at approximately 205 cfs below Reudi Reservoir. Anglers have had success leading with a mysis pattern and trailing with a red or black midge pattern.

Highline Lake

There have been reports of crappie, catfish, and 12 to 13 inch trout being caught. Anglers have had success towards the middle of the lake.

[Highline Lake State Park](#)

Rifle Falls

Anglers have had success catching rainbows and cutthroats in East Rifle Creek, which flows through Rifle Falls. Trout measuring up to 19 inches have been taken, with the average catch being in the 6 to 9 inch range. Patterns in either brown or black have been working well, along with spinners.

[Rifle Falls State Park](#)

Vega Reservoir

The island boat ramp is open, and the gravel pit area is now open for shore fishing. There is a considerable amount of water flowing into the lake at Plateau Creek, the inlets, and the feeder canal. Fishing for trout has been very good, with anglers having success catching 18 to 22 inchers using PowerBait, worms, and Panther Martins.

[Vega State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Crawford Reservoir

There have been reports of pike, carp, trout, and perch being caught. Anglers have been catching pike in depths of 20 to 42 feet, and perch at around 10 feet. Anglers have been catching trout near the dam.

[Crawford State Park](#)

San Juan River

The current water temperature is about 44 degrees, with flows at approximately 1860 cfs at Pagosa Springs. Anglers have had success using San Juan Worms, Prince Nymphs, and leech patterns.

Conditions Report - Statewide

Rivers and Creeks

As we head into the spring season, anglers can expect to be fighting the crowds for a spot on the river. Rainbow, cutthroats, and cutbow trout are all into their spawn, so be cautious of redds while wading on the rivers and creeks. Redds are easily distinguishable with their lighter color, ranging anywhere from 2 to 5 diameters in size. As the temperatures continue to rise, anglers can anticipate the BWO hatches to start coming in stronger. For patterns, try sticking to BWO's, Stoneflies, Caddis, Juju Beatis, RS2's, Parachute Adams, and Pheasant Tails. Anglers should look for ideal times to be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DNR Fish Reporter



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