

COLORADO PARKS &
WILDLIFE
Fishing Report



TUESDAY May 16th, 2017

News and Information

Colorado Parks and Wildlife to Give Away Walleye Fillets

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will give away approximately 190 walleye fillets, free to licensed anglers on a first come, first served basis on May 20th at [Rifle Gap State Park](#). Limit of one package of two fillets per angler.

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.

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 |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Arvada Reservoir | Northeast | 5/16/17 |
| Boyd Lake | Northeast | 5/16/17 |
| Carter Reservoir | Northeast | 5/16/17 |
| Catamount Reservoir North | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Catamount Reservoir South | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Chalk Creek Lake | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Clear Creek Reservoir | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Corn Lake | Northwest | 5/16/17 |
| Cowdrey Lake | Northwest | 5/16/17 |
| Crawford Reservoir | Southwest | 5/16/17 |
| Crystal Creek Reservoir | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Daigre Reservoir | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Dillon Reservoir | Northwest | 5/16/17 |
| Fetcher City Pond | Northwest | 5/16/17 |
| Frantz Lake | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Harvey Gap Reservoir | Northwest | 5/16/17 |
| Jackson Gulch Reservoir | Southwest | 5/16/17 |
| Lake Dorothy | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Lake O'Haver | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Mann-Nyholt Lake South | Northeast | 5/16/17 |
| N Fk Michigan R Lake | Northwest | 5/16/17 |
| North Lake | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Palmer Lake | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Pastorius Reservoir | Southwest | 5/16/17 |
| Pathfinder Park Pond | Southeast | 5/16/17 |

| Body of Water | Region | Report Date |
|---|-----------|-------------|
| Pericles Pond | Southwest | 5/16/17 |
| Pike View Reservoir | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Pine Valley Ranch Lake | Northeast | 5/16/17 |
| Prospect Lake | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Ridgway Reservoir | Southwest | 5/16/17 |
| Rifle Pond, South | Northwest | 5/16/17 |
| Riverside Ponds | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Sands Lake | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Seymour Reservoir | Northwest | 5/16/17 |
| Union Reservoir | Northeast | 5/16/17 |
| Wahatoya Lake Reservoir | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Willow Springs Pond #1 | Southeast | 5/16/17 |
| Wrights Lake | Southeast | 5/16/17 |

Catch of the Week



Cody with a 17 inch 2 pound brown trout caught from Bear Creek.
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 101 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 101 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

Conditions have been decent, considering the time of the year. Inflows are only at about 40 cfs, so look for the City of Aurora to keep the flows between 80 and 120 cfs while Spinney Reservoir fills. There is plenty of snow in the high country and things will improve with warmer weather. Anglers willing to work hard and cover water are catching some great fish in South Park. There are plenty of opportunities to catch trout with surface offerings in the slower pools and tailouts. It's hard to go wrong with a size 22 to 26 Matt's Midge or Parachute Adams to fool these "risers". During the non-hatch periods, red midge larva, Pheasant Tails, Manhattan Midges, Buckskins, and Jujubaetis nymphed under a strike indicator have proven effective. Don't rule out fishing streamers or leeches either, as they are producing some excellent fish as well.

Eleven Mile Canyon

The current water temperature is about 44 degrees, with flows at approximately 72 cfs. Anglers have had success using pheasant tails, RS2's, Parachute Adams, and stoneflies.

Eleven Mile Reservoir

Trout fishing has been rated as fair. Action has slowly continued to improve. The water is still cold, but bigger fish are beginning to be more common. Most action is from North Shore to points west. Trolling, jigging, drifting bait, or working a fly have all had their moments. Spring requires switching up and trying different colors and patterns. The Arnie's Dynamac in chartreuse and orange continue to do well. They work well all over the Rocky Mountain lakes from Blue Mesa to Green Mountain. You must use a down rigger or lead core for them to work. Tasmanian Devils and Kastmasters have also

performed well. Fish have been caught suspended in 30 feet of water. Kokanee fishing has been rated as slow to fair. There have been a few small ones caught right outside of the North Shore Marina. Schools down east don't seem to be very interested yet, but a few hits give us hope. Northern pike fishing has been rated as fair. Action on smaller fish has been okay. Larger fish may be on the prowl, but have been difficult to entice. Work Husk Jerks and large Rapala's on either shoreline or from Lazy Boy to Cross Creek or Rocky Flat to the overflow channel west of Stoll. Fishing at about 12 feet of water has been good.

[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](#)

North Sterling

The lake temperature is at about 72 degrees and full. The inlet is OFF and the outlet is ON. Walleye and larger perch have been caught off the South Ramp parking lot, Darby Point, Elks Bay, up both arms, and Balanced Rock. Jigs with worms, crankbaits, and plain worms have been working well for anglers. Crappie have come out in the marina and Elks Bay as well as Balanced Rock and trolling the dam. Trout have come out along the dam as well. There have been some wiper coming out off Darby Point and up the Darby arm. Catfish have come out at the inlet.

[North Sterling State Park](#)

Spinney Reservoir

The fishing at Spinney has been excellent. There have been a lot of trout in the 20 to 24 inch range being caught at both ramps on Channel scuds, chironomids, and egg patterns. Lure anglers from shore who are using dynamic lures, kastmasters, and tube jigs are all seeing action.

[Spinney Mountain State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Adobe Creek Reservoir

Anglers have been catching crappie, which have been consistently small in size, but most are catching 6 to 10 a day. There have also been some saugeye and largemouth being caught.

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 swing 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 rattletails. 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

Bass fishing has slowly started to pick up. There have been a few anglers who have managed to catch some crappie, but not in great numbers. Anglers have also been catching some decent sized saugeyes. Fishing for catfish has been poor. Anglers have also been catching some 10 inch trout.

Trinidad Lake

The lake is at approximately 949 surface acres. Fishing from the south shore has been slow due to high water. The trout that have been caught are in the 16 to 20 inch range and have been off PowerBait and worms. Reilly Canyon, where the river comes in, has been slow due to the muddy water from recent rains. Anglers have also been catching a few catfish and bass.

[Trinidad Lake State Park](#)

Turks Pond

Fishing has picked up recently for a variety of species. Crappie are still being caught off the dam using jigs. Catfish are picking up and are hitting on typical baits. You may have to sort through a few bullheads to catch the channel catfish. Bullheads do seem to be fewer in numbers this year. Trout are being caught as well on PowerBait and nightcrawlers. There have been a few nice bass caught on jigs as well.

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

Two Buttes

Fishing has picked up recently for most species. The water temperature has been in the lower 60 degree range with the water clarity being still somewhat muddy. The recent rain and snowstorms have not added much water at all to the lake. Bass are beginning to move into shallower water and are being caught on several different lures with spinnerbaits, jigs, and lipless crankbaits leading the way. Crappie are biting throughout the lake on small jigs. Most are on the small size, but there have been some in the last week measuring in at over 13 inches. Saugeye are being caught around the lake, mainly on jigs and worms. It may take a little time to find them, but when you do, they have been more than willing to take the bait. Catfish are also being caught on typical baits. There have been a few wiper caught as well on crankbaits and jigs.

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River

The current water temperature is about 39 degrees, with flows at approximately 199 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 260 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](#)

Jackson Gulch Reservoir

Anglers have been having success catching rainbows in the 18 to 24 inch range. Most anglers have been having success using PowerBait, eggs, and crawlers, fishing just off the bottom or under a slip bobber. For a chance at yellow perch, a small jig fished under a bobber on a long leader and tipped with a piece of worm is a good bet. Trolling typical in-line spinners from boats is another great approach for trout. The lake will likely stay full until after July 4th of this year. The newly-inundated habitat can be a good place to look for larger rainbows and browns cruising the shoreline for prey at dusk and down. Use a perch imitation crankbait.

[Mancos 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



COLORADO

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Department of Natural Resources