

# Fishing Report



Friday June 29th, 2018

## News and Information

### Ridgway State Park swim beach closed due to low water; boat ramp open

Due to an [unusually dry winter and a paltry spring run-off](#), the water level is very low at the reservoir at Ridgway State Park and park officials have announced that the swim beach is closed. The boat ramp for motorized craft is open and will remain so throughout the summer.

### Colorado parks and Wildlife officers prepare for Operation Dry Water

[Boaters at state parks will see heightened enforcement](#) of boating under the influence (BUI) laws as Colorado Parks and Wildlife participates in the national Operation Dry Water during the weekend of June 29-July 1. The three day operation is designed to educate boaters and reduce the number of accidents and deaths related to alcohol and drug use on our waterways.

### 4<sup>TH</sup> Annual Smallmouth Bass Tournament Set for Ridgway State Park, July 7-28

Anglers can vie for [\\$5,000 in cash prizes as well as actively participate in an important wildlife-management](#) activity at this year's Fourth Annual Smallmouth Bass Tournament. The tournament is sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

### 2018 Free Fishing Tournaments at Elkhead Reservoir State Park and Ridgway State Park

[Win big, no entrance fees for either tournament!](#) The Elkhead Reservoir Tournament will target Smallmouth Bass and Northern Pike with one of each being tagged, if a 2018 tagged fish is caught the angler will receive a cash prize of \$1,500! For the Ridgway tournament the target species is Smallmouth Bass with cash prizes for most Smallmouth Bass caught!



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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/](https://facebook.com/ColoradoParksandWildlife/).



Fish with us on Twitter  
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# Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
<a href="#">Tarryall Reservoir</a>	Northeast	6/18/2018
<a href="#">North Michigan Reservoir</a>	Northeast	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Sunset Lake</a>	Northwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Mesa Lake</a>	Northwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Jumbo Reservoir</a>	Northwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Cottonwood Lake #1</a>	Northwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Cottonwood Lake #4</a>	Northwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Kitson Reservoir</a>	Northwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Casey Pond</a>	Northwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Frantz Lake</a>	Southeast	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Manitou Reservoir</a>	Southeast	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Schryver Park Pond</a>	Southeast	6/18/2018
<a href="#">North Lake</a>	Southeast	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Eggleston Lake Big</a>	Southwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Dome Lake Upper</a>	Southwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Beaver Creek Reservoir</a>	Southwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Millions Lake</a>	Southwest	6/18/2018
<a href="#">Jefferson Lake</a>	Northeast	6/19/2018
<a href="#">South Platte River</a>	Northeast	6/19/2018
<a href="#">Tarryall Reservoir</a>	Northeast	6/19/2018
<a href="#">Bellaire Lake</a>	Northeast	6/19/2018
<a href="#">Fetcher City Pond</a>	Northwest	6/19/2018
<a href="#">Wahatoya Lake Reservoir</a>	Southeast	6/19/2018
<a href="#">Daigre Reservoir</a>	Southeast	6/19/2018
<a href="#">Manitou Reservoir</a>	Southeast	6/19/2018
<a href="#">Rampart Reservoir</a>	Southeast	6/19/2018
<a href="#">Pastorius Reservoir</a>	Southwest	6/19/2018

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
<a href="#">Echo Canyon Reservoir</a>	Southwest	6/19/2018
<a href="#">Alexander Lake</a>	Southwest	6/19/2018
<a href="#">Hotel Twin Lake</a>	Southwest	6/19/2018
<a href="#">South Platte River</a>	Northeast	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Windsor Reservoir</a>	Northeast	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Grizzly Reservoir</a>	Northwest	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Lost Man Reservoir</a>	Northwest	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Maroon lake</a>	Northwest	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Dumont Lake</a>	Northwest	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Rosemont Reservoir</a>	Southeast	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Monument Reservoir</a>	Southeast	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Turquoise Lake</a>	Southeast	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Catamount Reservoir South</a>	Southeast	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Rampart Reservoir</a>	Southeast	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Mirror Lake</a>	Southwest	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Pothole #1 (Lower)</a>	Southwest	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Pothole #2 (Upper)</a>	Southwest	6/20/2018
<a href="#">Tincup Pond</a>	Southwest	6/20/2018
Scott Pond	Northeast	6/21/2018
<a href="#">Estes Lake</a>	Northeast	6/21/2018
<a href="#">Granby Reservoir</a>	Northwest	6/21/2018
<a href="#">Fraser Lions Club Pond</a>	Northwest	6/21/2018
<a href="#">Breeze Pond</a>	Northwest	6/21/2018
Granby Town Pond #1	Northwest	6/21/2018
<a href="#">Granby City Pond</a>	Northwest	6/21/2018
<a href="#">Lake Dorothey</a>	Southeast	6/21/2018
<a href="#">Beckwith Reservoir</a>	Southeast	6/21/2018
<a href="#">Vallecito Reservoir</a>	Southwest	6/21/2018
<a href="#">Carp Lake</a>	Southwest	6/21/2018

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
<a href="#">Beaver Lake</a>	Northwest	6/22/2018
<a href="#">McKee Lake</a>	Northwest	6/22/2018
<a href="#">Dinkle Lake</a>	Northwest	6/22/2018
<a href="#">Island Lake</a>	Northwest	6/22/2018
<a href="#">Rifle Gap Reservoir</a>	Northwest	6/22/2018
<a href="#">Rosemont Reservoir</a>	Southeast	6/22/2018

## Catch of the Week



Kevin caught this Cutbow on the Dream Stream in South Park using a Pale Morning Dun fly.

Have a fish you're proud of? [Share your photo](#)

## Conditions Report - Metro

### Aurora Reservoir

This 762-acre impoundment is located off of E. Quincy Avenue, two miles east of E-470. As of **6/24/2018** Water temp is 66 degrees. Trout fishing from shore has been slow to fair with a few good reports using PowerBait off the dam and open areas along the south shoreline. The trout are running deeper now, focus on fishing deeper areas like the dam casting out 40-50 yards with PowerBait off a slip rig! Boaters also reporting slow to fair conditions on trout. Boaters have reported anywhere from slow to fair reports on walleye using jigs, bottom bounces and jerk baits. Restricted to electric motors only. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park hours June 5:00am-9:30pm.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

### Chatfield Reservoir

This 1,356 impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park, as of **6/24/2018** water temperature is in the high 60's. Trout fishing is good throughout the reservoir using both bait and lures such as inline spinners. Walleye fishing has been good, swimbaits and crankbaits have been reported to be catching fish. Anglers are also reporting walleye being caught using bottom bouncers and live bait. Pitching jigs with artificial tails in shallow water has also been catching fish. Smallmouth Bass have also been active along rocky shores in the lake with fish being caught on various presentations. Reports of good action for bass using topwater baits. Swim baits in the 3-4 inch range and scented plastics have been good producers for smallmouth bass. **Please note that due to the Chatfield Reallocation construction fishing access from the west side of the park (Eagle Cove - Kingfisher) is closed. Please access the lake from the east side of the reservoir.**

[Chatfield State Park](#)

## Cherry Creek

This 881-acre impoundment is located in Cherry Creek State Park, in Aurora. There are two entrances to the park, the east entrance off S. Dayton St. and the west entrance off S. Parker Rd. As of **6/27/2018** fishing for trout has been productive both from shore or boat using many different techniques. Walleye are being caught trolling bottom bouncers with crawler harnesses and jigs have been working too. The average size walleye is still around 16-17 inch range with some large specimen being taken occasionally. Fishing for bass around the weeds has also been productive the last few weeks.

[Cherry Creek State Park](#)

## Quincy Reservoir

As of **6/24/2018** Water temp is 68 degrees. The water level is good. Bass fishing has slowed down some lately and is rated as slow to fair. Reports from boaters and shore anglers using jigs, chatter baits and sinkos. A few reports of top water action on bass using frogs. Reports of smallmouth being caught off the dam using jigs and Ned rigs. Trout fishing is slow to fair, a few reports using spinners and flies. Fly fishermen have been reporting success in the early morning and evening. Park Hours for June 5:00am-9:30pm. Restricted to artificial flies and lures only. Electric motors only and hand launched watercraft only-trailers and vehicles prohibited in the water. For more information call 303-326-8424.

[Quincy Reservoir](#)

# Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

## Barr Lake

As of **6/21/2018** water clarity has improved over the past few days, and water level is beginning to drop. Walleye have been active throughout the lake. Bass have been biting in the early morning and evening hours, concentrated along the weed line. Trout season is winding down as the water temp warms up, so now is the time to head out! Please remember fishing is not allowed in the canals surrounding the lake.

[Barr Lake State Park](#)

## Bear Creek Reservoir

As of **6/27/2018** water levels are full and the temperature is nearing 70 degrees. Trout fishing is good from shore using PowerBait floating off the bottom. Fishing for saugeye and smallmouth bass is good from shore and from boat. Try swimbaits along the dam face for both smallmouth and saugeye. *Reminder, this is a city of Lakewood Park, a state parks pass is not valid at this park.*

[Bear Creek Reservoir](#)

## Boyd Lake

Aquatic Nuisance Species Inspection hours for the month of May are 6:00 am-10:00 pm daily. As of **6/21/2018** water temperatures are in the mid to high 60's fishing has been good for trout using traditional baits all over the lake. Anglers are starting to report success with crappie fishing using live bait below a bobber. Bass fishing is getting better, jerk baits for Smallmouth and lipless crankbaits or spinnerbaits for Largemouth. Walleye have been caught throughout the lake mainly on live bait close to the bottom. *Reminder - No fishing from marina slips or docks (next to is okay but can't use them in any way.* PLEASE NOTE: Any live fish collected for use as bait may only be used in the same body of water from which they were collected. All live bait/fish from a commercial source and transported by anglers must at all times be accompanied by a receipt for the source. See the Colorado Fishing Regulations for further clarification and information.

[Boyd Lake](#)

## Carter Lake

As of **6/25/2018** fishing along the southwest end of the reservoir has been good for bass. Fishing for walleye has been tough however when you find the fish they are willing to bite live bait on a jig or pulled behind a bottom bouncer. Trout fishing has been good throughout the lake on a variety of lures. There have also been reports of anglers having success casting to shore and landing largemouth bass.

[Carter Lake](#)

## Eleven Mile Reservoir

As of **6/26/2018** the trout fishing is fantastic with fish being caught in various areas of the lake, it seems most baits are working this time of year. Anglers are reporting many large fish being caught. Anglers are also reporting some success with Kokanee Salmon fishing deeper, pink has been a color mentioned as catching salmon lately. There have also been a few pike reported in the shallower sections of the reservoir the majority of the pike caught are small.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

## Spinney Mountain Reservoir

As of 6/22/2018, water temperatures are slowly rising and the fishing is continuing to pick up. Visibility has been reported around 7-10 feet with multiple hatchers occurring this past week. Anglers reported success catching trout in 8-16 feet of water using callibaetis nymphs in tan and green coloration.

[Spinney Mountain State Park](#)

## Staunton State Park

As of 6/26/2018, both ponds are typically stocked the first week of each month starting in May, with rainbow trout. Our ADA accessible fishing pier is complete and ready to be fished from. Please contact the park about how we can provide an accessible fishing experience. Due to construction access to the ponds is currently available from the Ranch Hand Group Picnic parking area only. There is no public access below the dams on Elk Creek Road. Do not drop people or equipment off at this location.

[Staunton State Park](#)

# Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

## Arkansas River

**June 12th** - Upper River: The upper Arkansas river is in excellent shape! Fishing along the edges has been extremely productive, and this is by far the easiest section of the Arkansas to wade fish at current flows. Below the confluence with Lake Creek, the river picks up 382 cfs from the reservoir outflow (clear water!) which helps to stabilize clarity through Granite. From now on, focus with stonefly and caddis patterns along the edges, where fish can find respite from the faster water. It won't be long until we see Drakes up at Hayden Meadows! Large attractor dry/dropper (Golden stoneflies, Yellow Sally stones, and caddis) set-ups, along with streamers should produce fish and make for a fun day.

**June 12th**- Middle River: The middle basin is in excellent shape, as tributary flows drop and the release from Twin Lakes is cut back a bit. Conditions are very similar to what we find in early summer: fish holding in the slow, sheltered lies where they can ambush vulnerable food as it drifts by in the faster water. Much of this holding water is right up on the bank, or near it where both float fishermen and wade fishermen can easily reach it.

Fish large attractors patterns along the banks wherever slower water can be found. With the growing presence of yellow sallies along the edges, sally dries or nymphs are an excellent option. We're seeing an increasing amount of surface interest, as more and more fish begin to eat chernobyl ants and stimulators. Dry/Dropper rigs with sallies or big attractor dries and caddis, sally, or attractor nymphs have been getting great reports. Streamers are also a good option as the brown trout fry emerge and are vulnerable as they acclimate to the changing river conditions. Advice to wade fishermen is to stay on the bank if possible, as the swift current can make for challenging wading. The fish are likely in the water you want to stand in!

**June 12th** - Below Salida: The river is in excellent shape, and is really beginning to turn on. Summer hatches are beginning to show themselves, with a handful of golden stonefly sightings and lots of yellow sally activity below Salida (with reports all the way up through Granite) the past week. Combining tributary flows receding and significant decreases in the release from Twin Lakes, flows are excellent and clarity is great on the river today. We've had consistently good reports the past couple of days from anglers fishing along the edges with attractor dry/droppers or shallow nymph rigs. Think summertime tactics, with fish taking up ambush lies near the banks waiting opportunistically for food to come their way. The pockets and edges along the shoreline provide a break from the current and holding water for the trout. Stonefly nymphs and caddis pupa fished under an attractor dry fly will move fish along the edges, and the presence of immature brown trout fry in the river make for excellent streamer fishing.

[Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#)

## Lake Pueblo State Park

As of 6/26/2018 Surface temperature is 73 degrees. Fishing has slowed somewhat due to the warmer weather. However, anglers need to fish deeper water right now and concentrate fishing efforts to early and late in the day. Soft plastics and crankbaits should produce a few bass. Anglers looking for walleye should be fishing in deeper water now that the lake temperature has come up and is on the rise. Minnows and leeches have been productive for walleye. There have been a few reports of wipers being caught while trolling. Boaters are reminded that the boat ramps open at 5 AM and close at 11 PM daily.

**Arkansas River Tailwater:** The river below the dam is running a lot lower than in past years. The flows have been between 600 and 800 cfs. Caddis, midges, and a few blue wing olives have been making up the hatches recently. Streamers and spinners can also be effective. The river is tinted green right now with about 18 inches of clarity. This bodes well, as anglers can use heavier tippet/line during this time as the fish are not as leader shy during the higher flows.

[Lake Pueblo](#)

### **Trinidad Reservoir**

As of **6/22/2018** the lake is at 872 surface acres with a surface elevation of 6196.42. Surface water temps around 63 degrees. Shore fishermen are catching trout on homemade dough bait, PowerBait (green color) and worms all along south shore. Reilly Canyon has slowed down to a trickle with off color water and sandbars starting to emerge. Boaters have done very well targeting walleye, 10-14in fish are being caught. Lots of smallmouth being caught early in the morning and late evening. Trout are caught during all hours

[Trinidad Lake State Park](#)

## **Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado**

### **Elkhead Reservoir**

As of **6/28/2018** fishing at Elkhead is slow currently with anglers reporting catching bass and pike, things will pickup as the water clears up. Keep in mind at the NORTH EAST ACCESS Pre inspection is required for all non-exempt hand launched vessels. You are required to have a seal and receipt to launch. Exempt vessels are: Kayaks, Canoes, Rafts, Belly Boats, Windsurfers (paddle boards), Sailboards, foldable plastic boats, float tubes and inner tubes.

[Elkhead Reservoir State Park](#)

### **Rifle Gap Reservoir**

As of **6/25/2018** Perch fishing has been good using various baits throughout the lake. Walleye fishing has been good if you can find the fish on structure throughout the lake. Special fishing regulations at Rifle Gap Reservoir include a bag and possession limit of 1 walleye 18 inches or greater; bag and possession limit for yellow perch is 20.

[Rifle Gap State Park](#)

### **Stagecoach Reservoir**

As of **6/21/2018** Late spring/early summer fishing is on! Many anglers are having luck (or limiting out on rainbows) at the Inlet/Lot14/Lot16 area, Keystone Cove, and Morrison Cove. Successful anglers are reporting luck with PowerBait, PowerGrubs, nightcrawlers, mealworms, spoons, jigs, stick and crank baits. TAILWATERS FISHING (c/o The Steamboat FlyFisher): The "tailwater," also known as the upper Yampa, is one of the most productive stretches of river year-round. The dam keeps the flows and water temperature nearly consistent for the entire year. The DOW keeps a close eye on the water and river bank health which makes for incredible fishing. **Due to low water flow caused by dry conditions, CPW has enacted an emergency fishing closure on this heavily fished portion of the Yampa River below Stagecoach Reservoir.** The closure begins June 14 and will continue until further notice. For more information, contact Mike Porras **970-255-6162**.

[Stagecoach State Park](#)

### **Vega**

As of **6/21/2018**, Fishing is excellent with anglers reporting PowerBait the most successful bait. All three boat ramps are open at this time. The lake level is receding rapidly. Don't forget to stop at the entrance and have your boat inspected prior to launching. The ANS inspection station is open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. 7 days a week.

[Vega State Park](#)

## **Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado**

### **Blue Mesa Reservoir**

This 8,900 acre reservoir is located west of Gunnison. As of **6/22/2018**, Water levels are much lower compared to last year and concentrating the fish. Kokanee Salmon fishing has been good 20 to 50 feet below the surface. The kokanee salmon fishing is expected to be fantastic once again throughout this summer. This time of year trolling is the ticket, figure out the depth and the color and you should be in for an exciting day of catching. Lake trout fishing is starting to slow down however; some anglers are reporting large fish being caught and released. Smaller lake trout are being caught in large numbers at the deeper depths of the water column. Trolling seems to be the most productive currently for Kokanee and the few trout being caught. Anglers can check on current conditions and boat ramp inspection schedules by contacting Curecanti National Recreation Area at (970-641-2337).

[Blue Mesa Reservoir](#)

### **Crawford**

As of **6/22/2018** Water temps are in the high 60's. We have had reports of perch, crappie, trout and catfish being caught recently. Perch have been very active over the past week with anglers reporting large amounts of bites using smaller presentations. The catfish can be caught on a variety of baits along the bottom.

[Crawford State Park](#)

## Haviland Lake

This lake is located 18 miles north of Durango and has easy access. As of **6/22/2018** anglers have reported success catching brook and rainbow trout on a variety of spinners, flies, and PowerBait. With the 416 Fire, please be sure to contact the U.S. Forest Service regarding closures in the area and the most up-to-date information pertaining to the 416 Fire. Boating is prohibited, except for float tubes or craft propelled by hand or electric motor.

[Haviland Lake SWA](#)

## Mancos

### Shoreline CLOSURE 6/13/2018

Due to National Forest closure for wild fire protection Mancos State Park has closed portions of the facility, including the shoreline, with the exception of the rip-rap of the dam face and shoreline fishing areas on either side of the dam. Appropriately inspected craft may still be launched from the boat ramp; however, there is no other shoreline access from the craft. This closure is expected to last at minimum through **7/13/2018**. The lake is open water and has been stocked with thousands of rainbow trout already this spring. Additional stockings will occur through the summer. Mancos is a great place for consistent action from trout and yellow perch. Most of the trout action is from 10-12 inch fish, but there's very good opportunity at an 18-20 inch trout and a few 12+ inch perch. There is great opportunity for kids to catch fish. Most anglers are finding success with bait (PowerBait, eggs, and crawlers) fishing just off bottom or under a slip bobber. For a chance at the yellow perch and trout, a small jig fished under a bobber on a long leader and tipped with a piece of worm is a good bet. Casting or trolling typical in-line spinners (Panther Martins, Mepps) from boats is another approach at the trout. Hand-launchable boats (non-motorized kayaks, canoes, belly boats, etc) are a great way to fish the lake in this off-season. This is the first year in more than 15 years that the lake has not gotten decent ice to fish. A park pass is required on vehicles in the park. Daily park passes are available at the self-serve pay station at the park entrance.

[Mancos State Park](#)

## Ridgway Reservoir

As of **6/22/2018** fishing for trout is good, small mouth bass is picking up especially for shore fisherman. Lures of choice are worms, small cast masters, and dark Pat's rubber legs stone-fly imitation. Fishing Ponds at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk have been fishing well with small worms, salmon eggs, and small fly patterns. The larger cutthroat in the ponds will take the occasional bait fish imitation of a small rainbow trout. Pa-Co-Chu-Puk River: has been fishing well with baetis nymphs, with enough hatches to witness a dry fly bite at times. The green wing drake hatch should be happening anytime now.

[Ridgway State Park](#)

## Taylor Park Reservoir

As of **6/28/2018** fishing has slowed some for trout with the recent full moon however baits fished off the bottom in 20 feet of water. Lake trout have been tough but the deeper portions of the reservoir is where those fish can be caught using nightcrawlers off the bottom. Pike have been caught anywhere in the reservoir that has good weed growth.

[Taylor Park Reservoir](#)

# Conditions Report - Statewide

## Rivers and Creeks

The runoff has begun and is increasing flows on the rivers and streams throughout the state. The extra flows will surely get the substrate stirred up which will flush some of the larger insects and worms into the flow and the trout will surely be feeding heavily. This means anglers must use a bit larger and flashier presentations when fishing these conditions. With the rivers and streams flowing much faster through most sections it is important to find the seams of slack water along fast current. This is where the fish will be feeding as it takes less energy to stay in the slack current and the food will be flushed to them. With the fish being concentrated in the slower moving water during the run-off it is important to make sure those flies drift directly in their path. Be sure not to use too much split shot though because the last thing you'll want to do is to have to retrieve a snag in those cold waters. Remember that the hatches are becoming more frequent in the spring, so keep an eye for surface activity and do not hesitate to switch to a dry fly presentation, especially during the warmest parts of the day. We are approaching some of the best dry fly hatches of the year and anglers should be excited for the prospect of surface feeding. Mayfly and caddis patterns should be consistent fish producers this time of year.

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DNR Fish Reporter



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