

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE Fishing Report



Friday August 11th, 2017

News and Information

Kids Mentor Day at Barr Lake, August 12

Representatives from Colorado Parks & Wildlife, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Trout Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, & Environmental Learning for Kids will be at the [Barr Lake Nature Center](#) to teach kids outdoor skills such as archery, fishing, canoeing & laser shooting. This event will be from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Call the Nature Center to RSVP, 303-659-6005.

Cheyenne Mountain State Park Adventure Day, August 12

Up for an adventure? Enjoy being outdoors? Have fun and win prizes at [Cheyenne Mountain State Park Adventure Day!](#) Bring your friends and family to compete in seven skill stations scattered throughout the park. Enter as either an individual or as a group. Each time you successfully complete a station, you will receive a raffle ticket and be eligible to win valuable prizes. The more stations you complete during the allotted time, the more chances you have to win. The adventure begins at 9:00 a.m. at Limekiln Trailhead and will continue until 2:00 p.m.

Family Cast N' Blast in Craig, August 19

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Wyman Museum, Northwest Colorado Outfitters Chapter, Mule Deer Foundation, Nine Mile Guest Ranch and Northwest Pawn, will host a free, '[Family Cast N' Blast](#),' Saturday, August 19, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Wyman Museum in Craig. Colorado Parks and Wildlife officers and volunteers will help anyone interested in learning the basics of shooting, archery and fishing in a fun, family environment.

Kids Fishy Crafts Day at Eleven Mile State Park, August 19

Anyone can catch a fish, but how would you like to make a fish? Bring a parent and join an interpreter for a fun morning of [fishy crafts](#); including the ancient Japanese art of Gyotaku. An adult must accompany children. This event is from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. at the North Shore Amphitheater.

New Flathead Catfish Record by Weight Set at Lake Pueblo

A Canon City man fishing in Lake Pueblo State Park has reeled in a state [record flathead catfish](#), for weight. Fishing from a boat with his family on Father's Day, June 18, Michael Flock landed a flathead that weighed in at 30 pounds, 9.6 ounces and measured 38 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches long. Flock's catch erases the previous record set on January 19, 2015, by Tony Chavez of La Junta, who caught a 27 pound flathead catfish below John Martin Reservoir.

Colorado Residents Urged to Take Advantage of Late Season Whitewater Rafting Conditions

Huge winter snowpack followed by steady monsoonal rainfall in the central mountains has produced what experts describe as rare late season [whitewater rafting](#) conditions on the Arkansas River. Most rafting customers come during peak flow months of June and July. Now, the crowds are dropping fast making this late whitewater a real bonus for area residents.



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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/.



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
Animas River #2	Southwest Region	8/11/2017
Beaver Lake	Southwest Region	8/11/2017
Big Meadows Reservoir	Southwest Region	8/11/2017
Carter Reservoir	Northeast Region	8/11/2017
Cottonwood Lake	Southeast Region	8/11/2017
Cowdrey Lake	Northwest Region	8/11/2017
Elk Creek, East	Northwest Region	8/11/2017
Fooses Lake Lower	Southeast Region	8/11/2017
Grand Lake	Northwest Region	8/11/2017
Grizzly Reservoir	Northwest Region	8/11/2017
Hayden Meadows Reservoir	Southeast Region	8/11/2017
Monarch Lake	Northwest Region	8/11/2017
Muddy Pass Lake	Northwest Region	8/11/2017
N Fk Michigan R Lake	Northwest Region	8/11/2017
Ruedi Reservoir	Northwest Region	8/11/2017
Sands Lake	Southeast Region	8/11/2017
South Platte River # 3A	Northeast Region	8/11/2017
Turquoise Lake	Southeast Region	8/11/2017
Twin Lakes (Both)	Southeast Region	8/11/2017
Urad Mine Lake	Northwest Region	8/11/2017
Vallecito Reservoir	Southwest Region	8/11/2017

Catch of the Week



A young angler with an Eastern Front Range largemouth bass at Stalker Lake.

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

Conditions Report - Metro Area

Aurora Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 73 degrees and the reservoir is full. The fishing has been excellent this past week with the cloud cover and rain. Anglers are reporting catching pan fish and walleye on worms and leeches. The perch have become more active and anglers are having luck using a jig tipped with bait.

Chatfield Reservoir

The reservoir is currently around 75 degrees. The water clarity is clear and conditions are ideal. Anglers are reporting fair to good fishing for bass and trout. Fly anglers are having luck using black and olive streamers as well as nymphs dropped below a bubble. Worms and bead heads are the best subsurface flies. Spin anglers are having luck using spoons and spinners. We have not received any reports on the walleye fishing.

[Chatfield State Park](#)

Cherry Creek Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 74 degrees and the water level is up about half a foot. Anglers are still reporting seeing a lot of shad in the water, meaning the fish have plenty of food to feed on. A slow and easy presentation is the best method to get a bite. The walleye are active and feeding throughout the reservoir in less than 15 feet of water. Anglers are also catching plenty of carp with slower presentations.

[Cherry Creek State Park](#)

Quincy Reservoir

The current water temperature remains around 72 degrees and the water clarity is clear. Anglers are reporting very slow trout fishing as of recently and they only seem interested in very small dry flies. The smallmouth bass are biting well and anglers are having the most luck near the dam. Top water is the best option for the bass as well and anglers are having success using bass poppers. Mid day fishing is the slowest, so try to get to the reservoir in the morning or evening.

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Big Thompson River

The river is flowing around 85 cfs near Estes Park. Flows will be above average for the next month due to the above average rainfall we have been getting. This means there will be plenty of food being pushed downstream and the fish will be feeding on big bugs. The most effective rig is a purple Chubby Chernobyl dry fly trailed by a beadhead nymph below. Anglers are reporting that the fishing this year is the best they have seen in years, so head over to Loveland or Estes Park soon!

Boulder Creek

The creek is flowing around 65 cfs in town and the water clarity is clear. The fishing has been excellent since the flows have dropped below 100 cfs. Anglers are catching the most fish on a dry dropper rig with a terrestrial on top and a soft hackle dropped below. The fish are feeding actively on top in the evening and the elk hair caddis is the dry fly of choice. Always let the caddis skate across the water surface at the end of each drift to increase your odds of getting a strike. The larger fish are being caught on nymph rigs in the deep holes.

North Sterling

The current water temperature is around 78 degrees and the lake is about 18 feet down. The wiper fishing has slowed but some fish have come out at the South Ramp and Balance Rock for anglers using worms, minnows, and mussels. The walleye and crappie fishing has been slow. The catfish are coming out at night near the West Trailhead and off the South Ramp and anglers are having luck using mussels, chicken liver, and shrimp.

[North Sterling State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River Headwaters

The upper river is in excellent shape, and the fishing here has been really productive lately. The discharge from Twin Lakes and Clear Creek Reservoirs has declined and the section near the inlet is still the best place for the wade angler to get in the water, especially when compared to the higher flow rates of the lower river. We are seeing a lot of caddis and yellow sally stonefly activity through Hayden Meadows down to Granite. Grasshoppers are beginning to become more important as the larger aquatic insect activity in the river slows down. The flows at the middle river are finally down below 1,000 cfs in Brown's Canyon, and Chalk Creek is running clear, giving us excellent conditions in Browns Canyon. There is a wide range of insects available to fish right now, from small midges, caddis and pale morning duns up to much larger stoneflies and grasshoppers. Depending on where our afternoon showers fall, any of our tributaries have the potential to be problematic.

[Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#)

Blue Lake

The fishing has been good for channel catfish. Anglers from shore have had success using a variety of baits for catfish. The crappie is slow. Anglers fishing from boats have reported catching a few saugeye. The high water boat ramp is usable.

Clear Creek Reservoir

The trout fishing has been slow from both shore and boat at Clear Creek Reservoir. Early morning has been the best time to fish for trout. The size of the rainbow trout caught by anglers ranged from 8 to 12 inches. Shore anglers reported that the trout are still biting PowerBait off the lake's bottom. A few boat anglers hooked into trout on Kastmaster lures and Tasmanian Devil lures. The kokanee salmon fishing from a boat remains extremely slow. Only one kokanee salmon was netted from a boat this week. The reservoir is closed to trailer motorized watercrafts on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The current boating hours are from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Jackson Lake

The lake level is still good and it is roughly 2.7 feet down. The current surface water temperature is around 74 degrees. The lake is open to boating. Fishing had been good for channel catfish, walleye, freshwater drum, and wiper in the early morning and in late evening.

[Jackson Lake State Park](#)

Lake Merideth

Anglers have been catching channel catfish and black bull heads using a variety of baits including night crawlers, shrimp, mussels, and cut bait. Anglers have had some success catching wipers using mussels as bait. The wipers have been caught using various jigs and spinners. The fishing for all other species has been slow.

Lake Pueblo

The current surface temperature is around 77degrees. The fishing has been fair to good lately. Look for walleye in deeper water now that the temperature has gone up. Lindy rigs, grubs, and live bait are producing walleye. The bass fishing is improving, and soft plastics, spinner baits, and crank baits will still produce some fish, as well as top water baits in the early morning. Early and late in the day will produce better results now that the water has warmed up. We have not received many reports on trout fishing recently. The catfish are being caught on the west end using chicken liver.

[Lake Pueblo State Park](#)

Lathrop

The fishing at Martin Lake was good this past week. There were reports of trout being caught on worms, PowerBait, and spinners. Anglers did not catch anything very big, but there were plenty of fish caught in the 12 to 15 inch range. Several anglers reported catching northern pike in the 18 to 24 inch range. One angler brought in a 42.5 inch pike that they caught on a silver Kastmaster. A different angler reported catching a 28 inch wiper.

[Lathrop State Park](#)

North Gateway Park

The fishing continues to remain slow. Anglers are catching catfish, bass, crappie, bluegill, and some trout during the early mornings and late evenings.

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Colorado River

The river is flowing around 1,350 cfs near Kremmling. Anglers are catching a lot of trout recently on stoneflies, yellow sallies, caddis, and pale morning duns. Nymphing continues to be the most effective method, but the fish are starting to feed on the surface more frequently. Hopper patterns are also working, so a hopper dropper rig is very productive. Wade fishing has become a better option now with the lower water flows. Streamer fishing has been a great choice during the afternoon and evening storms.

Eagle River

The river is flowing around 300 cfs near Avon. Currently there are still good hatches of caddis, yellow sallies, stoneflies, and pale morning duns. The entire river is now providing good access for wade anglers. Nymphing seems to be the best option in the morning, then the fish transition into dry flies near mid day.

Lake John

The fishing has been rated as good in the past week. The frequent rain storms have caused some delays in the fishing, but the storms are quick and short. Many anglers are catching trout in the 10 to 15 inch range, while the occasional 20 inch trout is being caught. Worms and PowerBait are working great as well as gold and silver Kastmasters. Fly anglers are having luck with streamers and damsel fly nymphs during the day and dry flies near dusk.

State Forest State Park

The fishing at North Michigan Reservoir is good and we received a lot of reports of anglers catching rainbow trout on PowerBait, worms, and salmon eggs. Some cutthroat trout have also been caught recently. The fishing at Ranger Lakes has been on and off this week. On the days the fish are biting, the rainbow trout seem to be the most active. PowerBait is the most effective method. The cutthroat trout at the high alpine lakes are actively biting flies and silver spinners.

[State Forest State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Navajo Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 67 degrees at Two Rivers Marina. The fishing at Lake Navajo has been good recently. Overall, the fishing has slowed down with the warmer water. The northern pike fishing has been good with large crank bait lures. The smallmouth bass fishing has been productive with smaller crank bait lures. Some anglers are catching large small mouth in the 4 to 5 pound range. The catfish fishing has been good near the arms where the San Juan and Piedra rivers enter the lake. Anglers are catching catfish on night crawlers and stink baits in the deeper water.

[Navajo State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide

Rivers and Creeks

Summer fishing conditions have arrived and anglers are taking full advantage of the manageable water flows. It is officially dry fly season and the fish are actively feeding on the surface. It is also mosquito and horsefly season, so do not forget your bug spray. Large dry flies such as Elk Hair Caddis, Yellow Sallies, and Renegades are working well throughout the state. The fish are still biting on large nymphs such as San Juan Worms, Stoneflies, and Prince Nymphs, but be prepared to transition into smaller nymphs once the water temperatures rise. Anglers should start using smaller leaders and tippetts since the water clarity will continue to improve into autumn. Rainfall will be the only factor that changes water conditions throughout the summer. As summer continues, it is important to focus on fishing during early mornings and late evenings, since the fish will become lethargic during the heat of the day.

DNR Fish Reporter



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