

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE Fishing Report



Friday September 8th, 2017

News and Information

Poudre River Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan Approved by CPW Commission

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission has unanimously approved the Fish and Wildlife Mitigation and Enhancement Plan submitted by Northern Water for the [Northern Integrated Supply Project](#) on the Poudre River in Northeast Colorado. This plan is designed to address the impacts to fish and wildlife due to the development and water diversion associated with NISP.

Mexican Independence Day Celebration at Barr Lake, September 16

This event will include performances by the traditional dance troop Colorado Mestizo Dancers, and park rangers will be on hand to give fishing tips for [Barr Lake](#). We will also be awarding door prizes every half hour. If you have a favorite salsa recipe, enter it in our contest and you could win a cash prize. First place gets \$100! To enter the contest, please contact the Nature Center at 303-659-6005.

Cherry Creek State Park Outdoor Adventure Expo, September 23 through 24

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will hold the inaugural [Outdoor Adventure Expo](#) at Cherry Creek State Park the weekend of September 23 through 24, 2017. New adventures begin here with three separate recreation areas (Outdoor, Shooting, and Water) which offer archery, biking, fishing, OHV rides, paddle boarding, rock climbing, sailing, shooting and more! All ages are welcome. Bring yourself, a friend, or bring the whole family!

Introduction to Fly Fishing at St. Vrain State Park, September 30

Come learn and fall in love with the sport of fishing! You will learn fishing ethics, knot tying, casting, baiting, and more. Then you will test out your new skills. This is a [free clinic](#) to everyone 5 years old and older. Registration is required and space is limited to 20 people. All fishing equipment will be provided.

Bag Limits Lifted at Sylvan Lake State Park

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has authorized an [emergency fish salvage](#) at Sylvan Lake State Park, lifting bag limits for all species in the reservoir beginning September 1st, until further notice. A spawning closure will remain in place from the reservoir's inlet to a half mile upstream between September 1st and November 30th. Anglers are prohibited from fishing in this area until December 1st to protect spawning brown and brook trout. Next spring, CPW will drain the lake almost entirely to work on a major construction project to repair and upgrade the lake's dam.



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



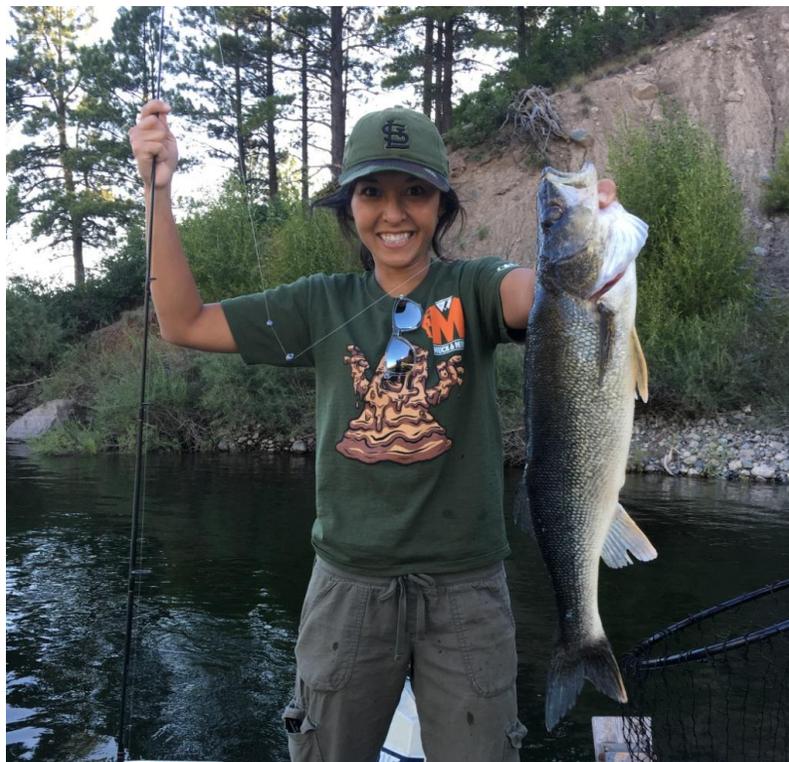
Fish with us on Twitter
Colorado anglers can get updates directly from CPW on Twitter. Follow [@COParksWildlife](#).

Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Anticline Lake	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Bear Lake	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Beckwith Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Black Hole At Two Buttes	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Blue Heron Pond Southwest	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Blue Lake	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Clay Creek Pond	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
De Weese Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Emerald Lake	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Frantz Lake	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Jacksons Pond	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
La Junta Kids Pond	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Midwestern Farms Pond	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Mix Lake	Southwest Region	9/8/2017
Monument Lake	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Ordway Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Pathfinder Park Pond	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Pike View Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Platoro Reservoir	Southwest Region	9/8/2017
Prospect Lake	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Pueblo West Pond	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Quail Lake	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Rampart Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Riverside Ponds	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
San Isabel Lake	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Thurston Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Turks Pond	Southeast Region	9/8/2017

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Turquoise Lake	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Twin Lakes (Both)	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Two Buttes Reservoir	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Valco Pond #1	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Valco Pond #3	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Valco Pond #4	Southeast Region	9/8/2017
Willow Springs Pond #2	Southeast Region	9/8/2017

Catch of the Week



Carrie Van Hoesen with a Vallecito Reservoir walleye.

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

Conditions Report - Metro Area

Aurora Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 72 degrees and the water level is down a couple of feet. The fishing has slowed down over the past week for both shore and boat anglers. Some fish are being caught on crank baits and swim baits, but the action is sporadic. Boat anglers are having some success catching walleye near the middle of the reservoir. The walleye are averaging from 15 to 20 inches in length. The afternoon winds have caused some delays in the fishing activity and anglers should fish early in the morning for the best conditions.

Chatfield Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 71 degrees and the water level is around 5 feet low. The nice weather we have been getting over the past week has created some great fishing conditions. Anglers are also reporting a significant decrease in recreational activity at the reservoir. Anglers are catching fish throughout the reservoir from boats and from the shore. Shoreline anglers are mainly catching bass using streamers and spinners. The bass are averaging from 8 to 12 inches in length. Boat anglers are having a lot of luck catching walleye while trolling through the middle of the reservoir. Some anglers are also catching a few perch from a boat.

[Chatfield State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 63 degrees and the water level is full. The fish are biting well and anglers are having success from the shore and from a boat. The fish are not as spread out as they were a few weeks ago, so anglers now have to work a little harder to find the fish. Large rainbow trout and cutthroat trout over 20 inches are still being caught regularly. Anglers fishing out of belly boats and pontoons are getting the most bites trolling with a woolly bugger or a spinner.

Dream Stream

Look for excellent fishing conditions for weeks to come. Anglers should prepare for hatches of midges, caddis, yellow sallies, blue winged olives, and tricos. The flows have returned to their normal historic levels now that things have dried out in the high country. Look for excellent fishing with dry flies and nymphs. Effective patterns include #14 San Juan Worms, #14 Scuds, #10 Pine Squirrel Leech, #18 Mercury Flashback Pheasant Tails, #18 Buckskins, caddis larva, #18 Barr's Emerger and #16 Barr's Graphic Caddis. Anglers can expect to see excellent hatches of pale morning duns, caddis, and tricos. The slower pools, back channels, and tail outs are providing some good surface activity.

Eleven Mile Reservoir

The trout are currently beefing up on crayfish. Many fish will have a variety of sizes in them. The big fish are eating full size adult crayfish. The best bait will be tube and marabou jigs, woolly buggers, and crayfish patterns. Bait anglers continue to do well using PowerBait and a night crawler and marshmallow combo. The kokanee salmon action is very sporadic. A majority of the bites have come very early and very late in the day. The best chance to catch a kokanee is still near the North Shore to Duck Island, although a few big fish are still being caught off of Rocking Chair, Lazy Boy, and Rodgers Mountain. The fish are still hugging the bottom in whatever depth you are in. Every now and then you might get surprised to find the fish up high in the teens. Green, pink, and orange are still the best colors. Dodgers and pop gear are also still helping. Mack's Wedding Rings and Kokanee Killers are a good choice and of course we catch everything in this lake on a Kastmaster. Pink has been the predominate color of choice. The northern pike action continues to improve. Spinner baits, Husky Jerks, X-Raps, and large spoons all have seen some good action. Anglers should work the weed lines on the west end or drop offs around the rocks at North Shore or Rocky Flats. The North Shore in the shallows has seen decent action during late morning and early afternoon.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Clear Creek Reservoir

The trout fishing at Clear Creek Reservoir remains fair for both shore and boat anglers. Early morning and late evening has been the best time to target trout. Successful shore anglers usually use garlic scented PowerBait fished off the lakes bottom. Boat anglers targeting trout are having a lot of success on blue colored spinners. Boat anglers are still picking up a few trout on Kastmasters as well. The kokanee salmon fishing conditions have improved drastically with a few anglers landing multiple kokanee salmon. Almost all of the successful kokanee salmon anglers started fishing at dawn. A boat angler recently caught a 26 inch tiger musky during the late evening on crank baits. The reservoir is closed to trailer motorized watercrafts on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Starting September 7, boating hours will change to 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

John Martin Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 78 degrees and the water level is higher than average. The water clarity is around 2 to 3 feet in depth and anglers are reporting that the water is brown and dirty. The fishing is rated as fair to good for most species. Bait is currently more effective than artificial lures. Night crawlers are currently the best bait. The catfish are biting the most consistently. The afternoon winds have been heavy and anglers are recommended to fish early in the morning for the most action.

[John Martin State Park](#)

Monument Lake

The current water temperature is around 69 degrees and the water level is normal. Anglers are having luck catching bass near the weed beds using crank baits, swim baits, and spinners. Some fly anglers are catching bass using black and olive colored woolly buggers. The pan fish bite has slowed down but some fish are biting on streamers. The trout fishing has been very slow since the lake closure.

Trinidad Lake

The current water temperature remains near 71 degrees. The fishing from the south shore has been steady as of recently. The anglers who are getting the most bites are having luck using worms and PowerBait. Reilly canyon has been good for anglers going after walleye and catfish. The walleye have been averaging small in size. The catfish are being caught with worms and chicken liver. Boat anglers have been catching trout and walleye consistently. Worm harnesses and trolling have worked for boat anglers fishing in 15 to 20 feet of water.

[Trinidad Lake State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Elkhead Reservoir

Anglers are reporting that the bass, pike, crappie, and bluegill are fishing well at the reservoir. Keep in mind there is an honor system seal station for hand launched vessels at the northeast access. You are required to have a seal and receipt on all non-exempt hand launched vessels. Exempt vessels include kayaks, canoes, rafts, belly boats, windsurfers, paddle boards, sailboards, float tubes, and inner tubes.

[Elkhead Reservoir State Park](#)

Harvey Gap

Anglers are catching a lot of fish since the fish salvage started. Night fishing is still allowed at the park to encourage the salvage of channel catfish. Use caution when fishing near the shoreline for it is currently very muddy.

[Harvey Gap State Park](#)

Lake John

The current water temperature is around 65 degrees and the lake is full. Anglers are reporting good fishing in the morning and evening hours. Large trout in the 15 to 20 inch range are being caught frequently. Streamers representing any baitfish or leech patterns are working great for fly anglers. Spin anglers are having luck using night crawlers and Kastmasters. Dark colored flies and lures are currently working the best.

Pearl Lake

The fishing is currently very slow and anglers should head over to Steamboat Lake for better fishing opportunities.

[Pearl Lake State Park](#)

Rifle Gap

The fishing has been great for boat anglers, but shore anglers are having some difficulty recently. Over the last couple of weeks the perch fishing has picked up. The larger perch are being caught near the island on the east end of the lake and near Rainbow Point.

[Rifle Gap State Park](#)

Steamboat Lake

The fishing has been picking up with the cooler evening temperatures. Shore anglers are having luck using PowerBait under a bubble while the boat anglers are getting a lot of bites on Kastmasters. Early morning and late evening are the best times to have an opportunity to catch a fish.

[Steamboat Lake State Park](#)

State Forest State Park

The fishing at North Michigan Reservoir has been decent as of recently. Anglers are having luck catching cutthroat trout with silver spoons, bottom bouncers, and salmon eggs. The rainbow trout are biting at Ranger Lakes but the fishing has slowed down. Pink PowerBait is producing the most strikes. The high alpine lakes are producing good cutthroat trout for anglers using dry flies and streamers.

[State Forest State Park](#)

Vega

The fishing has been good recently with anglers reporting catching some nice rainbow trout in the 12 to 16 inch range. Anglers are having the best luck using PowerBait, worms, and spinners. Kastmasters are also working very well. The lake levels are receding daily and water levels are still low and will continue to drop. The Island boat ramp is open. The Early Settlers and Oak Point boat ramps are closed for the season. All boats must have an inspection prior to launching.

[Vega State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Rio Grande River at Wagon Wheel Gap

The river is currently flowing around 450 cfs near Wagon Wheel Gap. Late summer fishing on the Rio Grande can be tough due to the smaller hatches and cooler temperatures. Some blue winged olives are starting to hatch, but their numbers are still small. The best method is still a hopper dropper setup, but nymph rigs and streamers are also getting some bites. Some sections are still good for floating, but wade fishing is the best approach right now.

San Juan River

The river is currently flowing around 100 cfs near Pagosa Springs. The low flows are creating some warm water conditions and anglers are catching the most fish during the early morning and late evening hours. Anglers are reporting seeing good hatches of caddis and pale morning duns which is creating great dry fly opportunities. Hoppers and other terrestrial patterns are still effective throughout the day.

Conditions Report - Statewide

Rivers and Creeks

The consistent summer fishing is now reaching the end of the season and anglers should be prepared for changing conditions once we enter autumn. Nighttime temperatures are beginning to drop, creating better fishing opportunities throughout the day. Water levels will stay low and steady until winter, unless we experience some substantial rain storms or snow storms in the high country. The blue winged olives are starting to hatch on some bodies of water, and anglers should expect these hatches to double in size by the end of September. The baetis in Colorado tend to be smaller in size during the fall months compared to the spring months, so anglers should be using smaller dry flies in sizes 18 to 22. Midges will also become a more substantial food choice for the fish as the season continues. Brown trout and kokanee salmon both spawn during the fall and this is a great time of year to start planning a trip for the annual run. Spawning activity is sporadic and difficult to time, so anglers should plan multiple short trips rather than one long trip to a specific location. Streamers are very effective flies for getting territorial strikes from spawning fish. Egg patterns are also very effective for catching fish during the spawn because other fish species will follow the spawning fish upstream to feed on their eggs. Fishing during the early morning and late evening hours will begin to slow down due to cooler temperatures, but anglers can expect good fishing any time of day throughout September.

DNR Fish Reporter

