

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE Fishing Report



Friday October 20th, 2017

News and Information

New Drop-box Registration for Aquatic Nuisance Inspection at Lake Pueblo

Boaters who use Lake Pueblo State Park will soon find new ramp hours and launch protocols to guard against the invasion of non-native zebra and quagga mussels, known as Aquatic Nuisance Species, or ANS. The [drop-box procedure](#) was made possible after CPW removed Lake Pueblo from the list of waters testing positive for invasive mussels earlier this year. The delisting came after five consecutive years of negative testing for the larval and adult life stages at Lake Pueblo. CPW biologists credit the aggressive boat inspection and decontamination program for stopping the spread of the invasive mussels.

2017 Elkhead Reservoir Fishing Classic Considered Major Success

Colorado Parks and Wildlife is celebrating impressive numbers after the [2017 Elkhead Reservoir Fishing Classic](#) concluded on a high note in early July. This year's event saw a sharp increase in several important measures, including prizes, participation and the number of northern pike and smallmouth bass - species not native to the Colorado River drainage - caught by anglers of all ages and abilities. A recently compiled post tournament tally showed 332 anglers caught 1,359 fish, including 963 smallmouth bass and 396 northern pike. The totals are a marked increase from the tournament's first run in 2016 when 56 anglers caught only 582 fish.

2017 Kokanee Regulations and Give-Away

This [handout](#) includes information on fishing in Colorado and is not a legal notice or a complete collection of fishing regulations and laws. It is a condensed guide issued for anglers' convenience. Copies of statutes and regulations can be obtained from a Colorado Parks and Wildlife office or viewed on our website. You will need a valid fishing license to receive 'Give-Away' kokanee. Donation certificates will be issued at the giveaways if the number of fish exceeds 10 per angler.

Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area Plans to Add 25 Primitive Campsites

The Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area (AHRA) will designate [25 primitive campsites](#) at the Salida East Recreation Site, acquired recently under a lease with the Bureau of Land Management. The 19 acre Salida East site, which features a boat ramp and a vault toilet/change facility, sits on the south banks of the Arkansas River about three miles east of Salida along U.S. Highway 50. It will be added to 16 existing recreation sites AHRA already manages under a lease with BLM's Royal Gorge Field Office in Canon City.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife Releases New Fishing App, CPW Fishing

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has launched [CPW Fishing](#), the agency's official mobile fishing app. For anglers seeking information on new fishing locations or needing to check for updated regulations while on the water, CPW Fishing is an easy way to keep angling details close at hand.



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
Anticline Lake	Southeast Region	10/20/2017
Aurora Reservoir	Northeast Region	10/20/2017
Beckwith Reservoir	Southeast Region	10/20/2017
Black Hole At Two Buttes	Southeast Region	10/20/2017
Blue Mesa Reservoir	Southwest Region	10/20/2017
Brush Hollow Reservoir	Southeast Region	10/20/2017
Carter Reservoir	Northeast Region	10/20/2017
Fountain Lake	Southeast Region	10/20/2017
Jacksons Pond	Southeast Region	10/20/2017
Mead Pond #2	Northeast Region	10/20/2017
Poudre Ponds #1	Northeast Region	10/20/2017
Pueblo West Pond	Southeast Region	10/20/2017
Runyon Lake	Southeast Region	10/20/2017
Turks Pond	Southeast Region	10/20/2017
Two Buttes Reservoir	Southeast Region	10/20/2017
Vallecito Reservoir	Southwest Region	10/20/2017

Catch of the Week



Nick Peardot with a 20 inch Poudre River rainbow trout.

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

Conditions Report - Metro Area

Aurora Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 59 degrees and the water level continues to drop. The public dock was pulled recently do to the low water level. Some boat anglers may experience difficulties trying to launch and trailer. Trout fishing is rated as fair to good from shore. The best area has been from the east and west side of the dam using power bait and spoons. We have received some reports of trout being caught at various locations around the south side of the reservoir. Shoreline access is excellent due to the low water level. Boat anglers are reporting fair to good success trolling for trout with pop gear, crawlers, and silver bright colored spoons and spinners. The walleye action is rated as slow to fair with a few good reports recently. Trolling with bottom bouncers, jerk baits, and jigs tipped with crawlers in 12 to 35 feet of water. Some perch are being caught using drop shots and crawlers in 30 to 45 feet of water.

Chatfield Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 60 degrees and the water level is about 3 feet down. Anglers are reporting fair to good fishing for trout and walleye using spinners and crank baits. Some large walleye over 18 inches have been caught recently. The reservoir still has a lot of floating weeds, so be prepared to clean your lures often.

[Chatfield State Park](#)

Quincy Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 58 degrees. The water level is low and continues to drop. Aquatic vegetation is heavy along the shoreline as well as muddy shoreline conditions. The trout fishing has remained slow. The bass fishing is rated as slow to fair from shore and boats. We have received some reports from anglers using soft spinner baits, chatter baits, and jigs. Quincy will be closed for the season starting November 1.

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir

Anglers are reporting good fishing conditions at the reservoir as of recently. There are a lot of weeds floating near the shoreline and anglers are catching a majority of the fish in the deeper water. Large trout over 22 inches are still being caught consistently. Fly anglers are catching fish using woolly buggers, leeches, and clouser minnows. Spin anglers are having luck using tube jigs and spoons.

Boyd Lake

The water temperature is currently around 59 degrees. The water level is normal and the water clarity is around 3 feet. Anglers are reporting good fishing for bass and pan fish. Worms and minnows have been the most effective baits and Kastmasters are currently the most effective lure. The fish have moved closer to the shoreline and many fish are being caught in less than 8 feet of water.

[Boyd Lake State Park](#)

Dream Stream

The river has seen a recent drop in water flows and is currently flowing around 66 cfs. Anglers can expect good hatches of midges, blue winged olives, and tricos over the next couple of weeks. The fishing is currently rated as fair for trout. Effective patterns include eggs, red midge larva, pheasant tails, and buckskins. Anglers are experiencing good dry fly activity in the slower runs and pools. There are a lot of kokanee salmon in the river right now. Please be aware of the brown trout and kokanee salmon spawning beds and avoid fishing over them.

Eleven Mile Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 53 degrees. Boating will be allowed on the reservoir until October 31. The fall fishing action is in full swing, with a lot of nice fish being caught. Cuttbow, rainbow, cutthroat, and brown trout have all made appearances. Numerous fish in the 5 to 7 pound class are bending rods across the lake. Trolling from a boat has turned back on recently. The bite has been spread throughout the day. A lot of different baits are working. The action should continue until the water gets below 50 degrees and then things tend to slow down. The kokanee salmon fishing is rated as slow to fair. Anglers are catching the kokanee on Arnies Dynamac, Mack's Kokanee Killer, and Wedding Rings on a down rigger or lead core. The northern pike fishing is rated as good. This time of year many anglers are working the west end weed lines and drop offs. We like the rocks on the east end of the lake to the buoy line on either side all the way to Witchers. The rock drop offs hold great fish that are very active right now. Spinner baits, tubes, and sticks are all producing fish throughout the day.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Jackson Lake

The current water temperature is around 54 degrees. The lake level is still good and is currently around 5 feet down. Boating will remain open until October 31. The fishing has been good for channel catfish, walleye, freshwater drum, and wiper.

[Jackson Lake State Park](#)

North Sterling

The lake is currently around 52 degrees and the water level is about 25 feet down. The South Ramp is still open. The fishing has been slow for boat anglers, but some fish are being caught from the shore. The walleye and crappie are being caught at the South Ramp parking lot on the west side of the lake for anglers using jigs and worms. The catfish are being caught at the inlet on chicken liver and shrimp.

[North Sterling State Park](#)

South Platte River at Deckers

The river is currently flowing around 160 cfs. The fishing is currently rated as fair to good. The morning action has been slow, but the fish become more active around noon when a majority of the insects begin to hatch. The dry fly action has been very good for anglers using blue winged olive, trico, and midge patterns. Small nymphs including the RS-2, mercury midges, and jujubaetis are very effective this time of year.

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River Headwaters

The upper river is in excellent shape, and is very easy to wade. Although the fish will still come up and eat smaller dry flies on the surface, nymphing some of the deeper runs and pools is beginning to prove more effective. We have had good streamer fishing reports from the upper river at Hayden Meadows. There is no need to get started early in the morning here because the nighttime temperatures in Leadville make for cold water in the mornings, so let the day warm up before heading to the stream. Afternoon blue winged olive hatches have been impressive here lately, so be prepared. The middle river has been fishing well and the water clarity is clear. The fish are still responding to attractor dry flies imitating grasshoppers and stoneflies. Blue winged olives and midges are becoming more important as the weather cools down. At these flows, do not be afraid of tying on smaller patterns. Midges as droppers in the morning have been productive, and mayfly nymph's sizes 16 to 18 work well through the afternoons. The key is finding the right water. At these lower flows, fish are dispersed away from the shoreline throughout the riverbed, so spend more time picking apart likely lies out towards the main current and adjusting dropper depth until you find the sweet spot.

[Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#)

Lathrop

Martin Lake is fishing well for catfish. Anglers are reporting catching the catfish at night using stink bait and night crawlers. An angler recently caught a 7.5 pound catfish. Some anglers are also catching northern pike on crank baits. An angler recently caught a 30 inch northern pike. Any lure that imitates a shad or sucker bait fish has been effective recently. We have not received many reports from anglers fishing Horseshoe Lake. Some anglers reported seeing large schools of bait fish throughout the reservoir. Effective lures include Panther Martins and Kastmasters for smallmouth bass, trout, and muskie.

[Lathrop State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

James M. Robb Colorado River

The lakes in the state park were stocked in early October and the fishing has improved with the cooler temperatures. The fishing has been productive for spin anglers using any kind of bait. Fly anglers are having the most luck during the early mornings and late evenings. The most effective flies are woolly buggers and small dry flies.

[James M. Robb State Park](#)

Stagecoach Reservoir

The fishing is heating up for both shore and boat anglers and anglers are reporting good numbers of fish. A majority of the fish being caught are rainbow trout. Many anglers are having luck fishing near the inlet, Lot 14, and Lot 16. Anglers should also try near Keystone Cove and Morrison Cove. The fish are biting on PowerBait, night crawlers, spoons, jigs, and crank baits.

[Stagecoach Reservoir State Park](#)

State Forest

The fishing at North Michigan Reservoir has been good with anglers catching a lot of cutthroat trout on green PowerBait with salmon scent and the rainbow trout are biting salmon eggs. A majority of the fish caught were small to average size. The fishing at Ranger Lakes is also good with many anglers filling their possession limit of rainbow trout. Anglers are having the most success using PowerBait in all colors.

[State Forest State Park](#)

Vega

The Island boat ramp is currently open. Early Settlers and Oak Point boat ramps are CLOSED for the season. The gravel pit area is open. Please use caution when driving near the lake as it is easy to become stuck. The fishing has been good with anglers reporting catching some nice rainbow trout in the 12 to 16 inch range using PowerBait, worms, and spinners.

[Vega State Park](#)

Yampa River

The river is currently flowing near 50 cfs below Stagecoach Reservoir. The fishing is great right now. Getting out early in the morning or late evenings is a sure way to beat the crowds. We have seen fish rising in the evening and during overcast and stormy days to very small caddis. Make sure you are fishing 6x fluorocarbon tippet, micro split shot, and small indicators as this section is low, clear, and the fish are extra spooky this time of year. Effective nymph patterns are the Bling Midge, Black Beauty, Rainbow Warrior, RS2, Brassie, WD-40, and Zebra Midge. Effective dry fly patterns include Adult Midge, Hackle Dun Baetis, Parachute BWO, Hi Vis BWO, and Griffiths Gnat.

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 55 degrees and the water level is around 8 feet down. The fishing has been rated as very slow as of recently. Some anglers are catching rainbow trout on spoons and tube jigs from a boat. Anglers are reporting seeing kokanee salmon throughout the reservoir near the surface, but anglers are not having luck catching them. Snagging for kokanee opens on November 1.

Ridgway Reservoir

The reservoir is fishing well for rainbow trout. Anglers are having success using spoons and spinners. The smallmouth bass are also biting well on spinners. The kokanee salmon are now starting to head upstream to spawn, but a majority of the fish are still preparing for the run.

[Ridgway State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide

Rivers and Creeks

Nighttime temperatures have dropped significantly, 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. Brown trout and kokanee salmon both spawn during the fall and this is a great time of year to fish 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 throughout October.

DNR Fish Reporter



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