

COLORADO PARKS & WILDLIFE Fishing Report



Friday November 3rd, 2017

News and Information

Voluntary Fishing Closure in Place at the 'Toilet Bowl' below Ruedi Reservoir

Effective immediately, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is instituting a voluntary fishing closure at a popular area on the Frying Pan River located downstream from the [Ruedi Reservoir Dam](#). The fishing spot known locally as the 'toilet-bowl' will experience significantly reduced flow as water that normally feeds the pool will be re-routed to facilitate required dam maintenance. Work on the dam, owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, could continue through November 10. This project could take longer if additional work is necessary.

Harvey Gap Inspection is Complete and Emergency Fish Salvage is Lifted

Colorado Parks and Wildlife has lifted the emergency fish salvage at [Harvey Gap Reservoir](#). Effective immediately, all usual bag and possession limits for the various fish species are back in place. The reservoir is steadily refilling after the Silt Water Conservancy District lowered levels to perform an inspection of the reservoir's outlet infrastructure. According to Silt Water, they found no significant concerns.

Colorado Outdoors Article: Colorado's Outdoor Adventure Expo

Last month, Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) joined forces with partners and volunteers to host the first annual [Outdoor Adventure Expo](#) at Cherry Creek State Park. The goal of the Expo was to provide a high-quality event that connects the people of Colorado with meaningful outdoor experiences. Programs and events such as the Outdoor Adventure Expo are how CPW manifests the agency's core belief of preserving Colorado's outdoor way of life.

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 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.



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/](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
Bear Creek Reservoir	Northeast Region	11/03/2017
Boyd Lake	Northeast Region	11/03/2017
Colorado River # 3	Northwest Region	11/03/2017
Dillon Reservoir	Northwest Region	11/03/2017
Lake Estes	Northeast Region	11/03/2017
Georgetown Lake	Northeast Region	11/03/2017
Hine Lake	Northeast Region	11/03/2017
Horseshoe Reservoir	Southeast Region	11/03/2017
Martin Lake	Southeast Region	11/03/2017
Monument Lake	Southeast Region	11/03/2017
Palmer Lake	Southeast Region	11/03/2017
Pueblo Reservoir	Southeast Region	11/03/2017
Trinidad Central Park Lake	Southeast Region	11/03/2017
Trinidad Reservoir	Southeast Region	11/03/2017
Twin Lakes (Both)	Southeast Region	11/03/2017
Vallecito Reservoir	Southwest Region	11/03/2017

Catch of the Week



Michael Adams with a Larimer County carp caught using a fly.

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

Conditions Report - Metro Area

Aurora Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 56 degrees and the water level continues to drop. The public dock has been pulled for the season due to the low water level. Repair work is being done to the face of the dam. Some boat anglers may experience difficulties trying to launch and trailer. The trout fishing is rated as fair to good from shore. The best areas have been off the west and east end of the dam. The west shoreline and south shoreline are fishing well for anglers using PowerBait and we have received a few reports from anglers using spoons. Shoreline access is excellent due to the low water level. Boaters are reporting fair to good success for trout trolling 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 coming in recently from anglers 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 using jigs and drop shots.

Chatfield Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 54 degrees and the water clarity is about 2 feet in depth. The trout and perch fishing have remained fair. The trout have moved closer to shore and 12 to 15 inch fish are being caught regularly off the swim beach. A majority of the fish are being caught on worms, PowerBait, and Kastmasters. The perch are biting on minnows and small Mepps style lures. The walleye action has slowed, but some fish are still being caught by boat anglers trolling in 30 feet of water using silver colored spoons. The bass have gone deep for the season and trolling deep with a crank bait or jigging with scented plastics in the deepest water has been the most effective.

[Chatfield State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Clear Creek

The creek is flowing around 77 cfs near Golden. The fishing has been good and should remain that way as long as the weather cooperates. The best method is still a dry and dropper rig with a medium size Parawulff or Chubby Chernobyl on top and a small baetis pattern underneath. Blue, black, red, and pink are all effective colors. Purple has been the best color to use.

Eleven Mile Reservoir

The current water temperature is around 45 degrees and the water clarity varies throughout the reservoir. The reservoir is closed to vessels requiring inspection for Aquatic Nuisance Species. The only vessels exempted from inspection will be permitted until ice over including kayak, canoe, raft, belly boat, windsurfer board (including paddle boards), sailboard, and float tube. Marine propulsion systems that are gasoline, diesel, or propane are prohibited. Electric motors are permitted. The trout fishing is rated as very good to excellent. The fishing is not slowing down as the water temperature drops to around 45 degrees. Although there are times of no action, there are also times with wild and great action. Anglers are catching a lot of fish in the 17 to 20 inch range. Many fish in the 22 to 25 inch range are being landed. Cutthroat and cuttbow trout are the majority of trout species being caught, but some brown trout are showing up. The last few days saw all techniques working. Jigging, fly fishing, trolling, and using bait are all effective. Purple was the surprise color of the week catching large trout and pike. Black and white or just black and just white were very consistent jigging colors. The shallow water has seen large trout on the cruise. The northern pike fishing is currently rated as fair. There have not been many fish caught, but those caught are quality fish for the most part. This time of year, many anglers are working the west end weed lines and drop offs. Spinner baits, tubes, and sticks are all producing. Bites times are later in the morning.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Jackson Lake

The lake level is still decent and is approximately 4 feet down. The current water temperature is around 52 degrees. The lake is closed to boating for the season. The fishing had been good for walleye and wiper as of recently.

[Jackson Lake State Park](#)

North Sterling

The reservoir is now closed to boating. Fishing has been slow from a boat with some fish being caught from shore. The walleye and crappie are coming out at the South Ramp parking lot on the west side. They are biting mostly on jigs and worms. The catfish are coming out at the inlet by anglers using chicken liver and shrimp. The outlet has been salvaged and drained.

[North Sterling State Park](#)

Poudre River

The river is flowing around 50 cfs through Fort Collins and anglers are reporting excellent fishing conditions in town and up the canyon to Mishawaka. Dry fly fishing has been very productive on the entire river for anglers using caddis and blue winged olive patterns. Using a double dry fly set up is the most effective method. Nymphing has also been productive and the fish are going crazy over the color purple right now. Anything from purple streamers to purple midge pupae will produce strikes. Rainbow trout in the 18 to 22 inch range are being caught frequently and anglers are now reporting catching large brown trout over 20 inches throughout the river system. The morning fishing has been slow and the fish are not becoming active until mid-morning.

South Platte River at Deckers

The river is currently flowing around 100 cfs near Trumbull. The summer and fall hatches have thinned out and the trout are now focusing on midge and blue winged olive patterns. The fish are grouping up, so anglers will have to find the deeper holes in order to catch fish. Do not give up on an area after catching some fish since there are likely many more there. Egg patterns are still effective. Small nymphs in the #20 to #24 size range in black, red, and olive are the most productive. The dry fly fishing has been slow.

St. Vrain Ponds

There are 11 fishable ponds at St. Vrain that are stocked on a regular basis. Bald Eagle Pond is artificial flies and lures only. Bald Eagle Pond and Blue Heron Reservoir are trophy bass fisheries and all bass caught on these two ponds must be immediately returned to the water. Only one catfish in your bag and possession limit can exceed 20 inches on Blue Heron Reservoir. Blue Heron has been producing some good sized Black Crappie, Bass, and Saugeye on jigs and lures.

[St. Vrain State Park](#)

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 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. The middle river is fishing well, but crossing the river is not recommended until flows get down below the 500cfs mark. The fish are definitely holding consistently in or near deeper water as temperatures cool down. Midges are becoming more important, particularly subsurface. At these flows, do not be afraid of tying on smaller patterns. Midges as droppers in the morning behind a stonefly nymph have been productive and mayfly nymphs in 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 anglers should spend more time picking apart likely lies out towards the main current and adjusting dropper depth until the fish are found.

[Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#)

Lake Pueblo

The current water temperature is around 62 degrees and slowly dropping as the days are shorter and the nights are getting cooler. The fall bite is starting to pick up, as fish will move up to shallower water in pursuit of shad. The fishing has been fair to good lately. The bass fishing is picking up as the bass are gorging on shad. The walleye fishing has been fair to good with a few smaller walleye beginning to move up into shallower water chasing shad. Grubs and small crank baits will produce bites for walleye in shallow water. There have been a few reports of trout being caught on PowerBait from the shore. There have also been a few reports of trout being caught trolling throughout the lake.

[Lake Pueblo State Park](#)

Lathrop

The water temperature at Martin Lake is currently around 43 degrees. Recently, visitors have been catching some nice size catfish. While the fishing for other species has tapered off, the fishing can still be good depending on the time of day and location. The trout and sunfish will gather around structures and will move up and down in the water column as the day warms and cools. Finding structures to fish around is key this time of year. The northern pike will be active on nice days this time of year during the warmest part of the day between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. During these times, pike can occasionally be persuaded to take top water baits, making for some exciting hits. The water temperature at Horseshoe Lake is currently around 44 degrees. The lake is closed to boating for the season, but shore fishing remains good.

[Lathrop State Park](#)

Trinidad Lake

The current water temperature is around 50 degrees. The fishing from the south shore has been decent. A majority of the fish are being caught around the lake with worms and PowerBait. Reilly canyon, where the river comes in is fishing slow, but some anglers are catching some small perch and decent trout. Boat anglers have been catching mostly trout and walleye. Worm harnesses and trolling less than 2mph have worked in water depths around 20 feet.

[Trinidad Lake State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Rifle Falls

The rainbow and cutthroat trout are being caught in East Rifle Creek which flows through Rifle Falls. Fish up to 19 inches long have been taken recently, but a majority of the fish are averaging 6-9 inches in length. Brown and black flies or spinners work the best. Bait, except for live fish, can be used.

[Rifle Falls State Park](#)

Rifle Gap

Fishing has been slow as of recently. Over the last week 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](#)

Stagecoach Reservoir

The fishing is heating up with anglers reporting good numbers of fish being caught throughout the reservoir. Many anglers are having luck and often limiting out on rainbow trout near the inlet, Lot14, Lot16, Keystone Cove, and Morrison Cove. Several anglers are having success with PowerBait, night crawlers, spoons, jigs, and crank baits.

[Stagecoach Reservoir State Park](#)

State Forest

Ranger Lakes is still the best spot to fish within the park. Several anglers said Gulp Earthworms are a good choice to bring in the rainbow trout. PowerBait of all colors and salmon eggs are also great choices at this location. North Michigan Reservoir and the High Alpine lakes have not seen much action this week due to the colder weather moving in.

[State Forest State Park](#)

Vega

The Island, Early Settlers, and Oak Point boat ramps are all 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 18 inch range using PowerBait, worms, and spinners.

[Vega State Park](#)

Yampa River

The current water flow is around 42 cfs below Stagecoach Reservoir. The river is fishing great right now. Getting out early in the morning or late in the evening is a sure way to beat the crowds. We have seen fish rising in the evening to very small caddis, especially on overcast or stormy days. Make sure you are fishing 6x fluorocarbon tippet, micro split shot, and small indicators. Effective nymphs include the Bling Midge, Black Beauty, Rainbow Warrior, RS2, Scuds, Brassie, WD-40, and Zebra Midge. Effective dry flies include Adult Midge, Hackle Dun Baetis, Parachute BWO, Visadun Baetis, Parachute Midge, Hi Vis BWO, and Griffiths Gnat.

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir

The fishing at Blue Mesa has been slow as of recently. Some anglers are having luck catching rainbow trout jiggling from a boat. The kokanee action has slowed down significantly since the spawn, but anglers are reporting seeing some fish swimming around the Elk Creek boat ramp. Snagging is permitted from November 1 to December 31, and we expect to receive some good reports for kokanee in the upcoming weeks.

Navajo Reservoir

The water temperature at Two Rivers Marina is about 60 degrees. The fishing is picking up by the day with the cooler water temperature. Anglers are catching a few pike and bass throughout the lake as of recently. Anglers are also catching trout in the Piedra River right before it reaches the lake.

[Navajo State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide

Rivers and Creeks

Winter is right around the corner and river anglers will soon be forced to fish tail-water fisheries that provide steady flows throughout the winter. Now is the time to get your last fishing trips in at your favorite small creeks and slow flowing tributaries. Many waters throughout the state are still providing excellent dry fly fishing opportunities on mid-sized (#14 - #18) caddis and blue winged olive patterns. Dropping a small midge nymph (#20 - #22) off of the dry fly is producing fish during the warmer hours of the day. As the blue winged olive hatches begin to thin out going into December, expect the fish to start focusing their diet on small midge adult and nymph patterns. There is no need to start fishing before the sun has warmed the water, but the fishing will remain steady in the evening hours until sunset. Focus on fishing deeper holes with slow flowing runs as the fish will start congregating to these areas to conserve energy. The fish will not travel far to bite your fly this time of year due to their slower metabolism, so be sure to cover every section of the run before moving on. If you are not catching fish in an area that looks productive, try changing your fishing position, use a smaller indicator, or add more split-shot to your line before switching flies. If these changes do not produce bites, try using smaller fluorocarbon tippet (6X - 7X) matched with a smaller fly. However, do not end a day on the water without also trying large nymph patterns (#8 - #12) such as black and golden stoneflies, San Juan worms, eggs, and woolly buggers. To prevent from spooking the fish, winter anglers should approach runs from downstream with stealth, and should also avoid entering the water near the good areas. The low and clear water conditions, along with the limited areas to fish during the winter months will cause the fish to be more aware of their surroundings due to daily fishing pressure. Catch and release anglers should be aware that the fish will take longer to revive during the winter months and the fish should remain in the water as long as possible. This means dealing with cold hands for extended periods, or preparing a method to safely release the fish including using catch and release gloves and/or using your fishing net to revive the fish under water.

DNR Fish Reporter

