

Fishing Report



Friday December 1st, 2017

News and Information

Bear Creek Roundtable receives national award for collaboration

The Bear Creek Roundtable, a collaboration of about two dozen agencies including Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Pikes Peak Ranger District on the Pike-San Isabel National Forests and the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI), has been honored nationally for its collaboration to [protect threatened greenback cutthroat trout](#) in Bear Creek while responding to recreational demands of the Colorado Springs community.

2018 Ice Fishing Tournament Dates Announced

Jan. 6 Chatfield
 Jan. 6 Eleven Mile
 Jan. 7 Stagecoach
 Jan. 20 Boyd

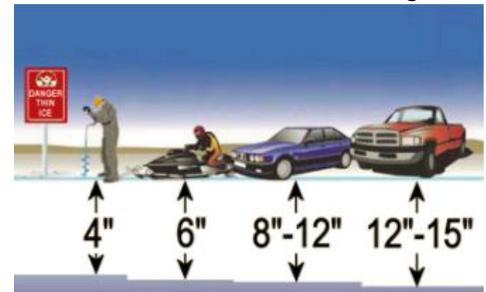
Jan. 26-28 Granby
 Feb. 3 Eleven Mile
 Feb. 10 Blue Mesa
 March 3 Eleven Mile

Tournament Dates and Locations subject to change. For the most current information, contact tournament host.

Ice Safety Tips

There probably is no such thing as “safe” ice, but there are some guidelines anglers should consider. In Colorado, ice conditions can vary from lake to lake. Along the Front Range, it is especially important that anglers check ice conditions before heading out because of the region’s notoriously variable weather conditions. Many of the most popular lakes are within [Colorado State Parks](#) and anglers should check with the specific park staff about ice thickness before heading out.

- Know how to judge ice conditions
- It is always a good idea to drill test holes
- Always have a safety kit (ice chisel or auger, ice picks, nylon rope, wool blanket, thermos of hot liquids, cell phone)
- Be aware of ice covered with snow. Snow acts like a blanket can hide cracked and weak ice or open water.



Read more about Ice Fishing Safety at:

<http://cpw.state.co.us/learn/Pages/IcefishingSafety.aspx>

2017 Kokanee Regulations

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.



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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
Dillon Reservoir	Northwest Region	11/22/2017
Fountain Lake	Southeast Region	11/21/2017
Runyon Lake	Southeast Region	11/21/2017
Spinney Mountain Reservoir	Southeast Region	11/22/2017
St. Vrain State Park Mallard	Northeast Region	11/27/2017
St. Vrain State Park Sandpiper	Northeast Region	11/27/2017
Willow Creek Reservoir	Northeast Region	11/20/2017

Catch of the Week



Jason enjoyed success on the Cache la Poudre River near the town of Fort Collins.

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

Conditions Report - Metro Area

Aurora Reservoir

CLOSED TO BOATING- This includes all hand launched watercraft such as canoes, kayaks, float tubes, paddle boards etc... Trout fishing is rated as fair to good from shore. Best areas have been off the west and east end of the dam and south shoreline using PowerBait and a few reports using spoons, spinners and flies. A few reports of walleye being caught from shore along the West Dam and south shoreline using jerk baits.
For more information, call 303-326-8425. Park hours December 7:00am-5:30pm. Closed December 25th and January 1st.

Quincy Reservoir

Closed for the season. Scheduled to re-open March 1st 2018. For more information, call 303-326-8425.

Chatfield Reservoir

The current water temperature is about 45 degrees with 1-2 feet visibility and the reservoir depth is typical for this time of year. Trout are picking up with the cooler water temperatures, (just from shore) the most success is being had using the typical baits; worms, PowerBait, and Kastmasters. Walleye action is slow, but can still be caught from a boat trolling deep 30', with something shiny. Watch the sizes, many of what are being caught are undersized. Some Channel Catfish are being caught off of Catfish Flats and the Gravel Ponds using cut bait, frozen shrimp, and other typical catfish baits.

Large and Small Mouth Bass have gone deep for the season, like the Walleye. Although you may still have a bit of luck from a boat.

Try fishing the underwater gravel ponds/springs in the south wakeless. Try trolling deep with crank baits or jigging with scented plastics. Carp are being caught at the Rox Cove/Plum Creek inlet using flies and stink bait.

No reports of Crappie.

Be sure to measure your caught fish and know your regulations and species of fish.

Licenses and caught fish are regularly checked by Park Rangers.

[Chatfield State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Boyd Lake

Trout fishing has been excellent using lures, worms, and PowerBait lakewide. Anglers have had success with walleye using bottom bouncers. Largemouth and White Bass have been hitting lures and worms in the Marina Inlet and northwest portion of the lake.

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.

South Platte River at Eleven Mile

Low flows are allowing anglers to traverse the area with ease. Flow is currently 88 cfs with mid-day water temperatures sitting around 40°F. Reported fish species include Brown Trout, Cutthroat Trout, and Rainbows. A 6X tippet is recommended using blue-winged olive patterns or midges.

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River Headwaters

Fish are definitely holding consistently near deeper water as temperatures cool down, but will not hold in the heavier, faster current at these flows. In fact, fish can still be found in shallow water when food is available as the sun warms the streambed. Midges are becoming more and more important, particularly subsurface in the mornings. At these flows, don't be afraid of tying on smaller patterns. Midges as droppers in the morning behind a stonefly nymph have been productive, and mayfly nymphs sizes #16-18 work well through the afternoons. The key is finding the right water. Spend more time picking apart likely lies out, just inside the main current and adjusting dropper depth until you find the sweet spot. Flows are higher than we usually see this time of year, which makes for great late season float fishing conditions and concentrates fish more towards the banks.

[Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#)

Lake Pueblo

The lake is open to boating 24 hours a day, but no loading or unloading of vessels will be allowed after hours. The north and south boat ramps are useable year round and only closed for high water, bad weather or if blocked by ice during the winter months. In an effort to standardize the opening/closing of ramps in bad winter weather, we are instituting a new policy.

- If the schools in Pueblo School District 70 are closed for bad weather: the ramps will be closed that day.
- If the schools in District 70 are on a two hour delay: the ramps will open at 9:00 am.

The information regarding school closings in D70 are widely reported on local television and radio stations. D70 also posts this information on their main page. As always, ramps may also be closed early on days with bad winter weather.

[Lake Pueblo State Park](#)

Trinidad Lake

The lake is at 942 surface acres with a surface elevation of 6201.35

Fishing from south shore has been decent; the surface temperature remains in the Mid 40's. Fish that are being caught around the lake have been with worms and PowerBait (rainbow/peach color). Reilly canyon where the river comes in is slow and flooded, 12-16in trout are being checked by rangers. The boat ramp is closed for the season.

[Trinidad Lake State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Stagecoach Reservoir

The fishing is heating up with anglers reporting good numbers of fish being caught both in the reservoir and below the dam. Many anglers are having luck and often limiting out on rainbow trout at the Inlet/Lot14/Lot16 area, Keystone Cove, and Morrison Cove. Many anglers are having luck using PowerBait, night crawlers, spoons, jigs, and crank baits.

[Stagecoach Reservoir State Park](#)

Steamboat Lake

Ice is forming in the coves. Shore fishing is slowly coming to an end.

[Steamboat Lake State Park](#)

Vega

Fishing has been good with fish being in the 12 - 18 inch range. Try PowerBait, worms and spinners. Ice is beginning to form on Plateau Creek and the Inlet, but no lake ice yet.

The Gravel Pit area is open but the South Road is closed so you will need to access it via the county road (64 6/10 Rd). Please use caution when driving near the lake as it is easy to become stuck. All boat ramps are CLOSED for the season. You may still hand launch small un-trailerred boats from shore. Anything with a gas engine must still be inspected prior to launching. Please come to the visitor center 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for inspections.

[Vega State Park](#)

Yampa River

Fishing conditions on the Yampa are good with mid-day water temperatures at 47°F. Mid-day and on seems to be the best time to fish for trout using 5X tippet. Flow is currently around 150 cfs. Hatches to keep in mind include midges, eggs, and worms.

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Animas River

The flow has decreased to around 174 cfs. The temperatures have recently dropped to near 36°F. The blue winged olives are still around, but the midges are becoming a major food source as we approach winter. Nymph rigs have been the most productive, but streamers are getting more bites by the day as we enter the post brown trout spawn.

San Juan River

With winter months approaching midges and mayflies will work best. The current flow is measured at 60 cfs with water temperatures around 34°F. Rainbow, browns, and cutthroat can all be found in the San Juan.

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



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