



## Northwest Colorado Hot Spots

---

gold  
medal

**Blue River:** This water flows out of Dillon Reservoir and boasts fantastic rainbow and brown trout fishing. Fly- and lure fishing only. Location: Located on Highway 9 at the Frisco-Silverthorne Exit off Interstate 70. [Interactive Map](#)

gold  
medal

**Fryingpan and Roaring Fork Rivers:** These rivers offer some of the finest fly and lure fishing for trout in the United States. Catch-and-release sections on the Fryingpan River below Ruedi Reservoir provide an opportunity to catch rainbow trout up to 10 pounds! The Roaring Fork River offers the best mountain whitefish angling in the state. Location: Take Interstate 70 to Glenwood Springs, then Highway 82 to Basalt and Aspen. [Fryingpan Interactive Map](#) [Roaring Fork Interactive Map](#)

**Rifle Gap Reservoir:** This reservoir supports a large population of rainbow trout, but is known for the best yellow perch and walleye fishing. Boats are allowed and camping is available. A State Parks Pass is required. Location: From Rifle, 4 miles north on Highway 325. Anglers should take note of this [mercury warning](#) issued by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. [Interactive Map](#)

**Stagecoach Reservoir:** Big rainbows, 2 pounds and up, are the rule, not the exception. Stagecoach also boasts of a healthy population of northern pike. A State Parks Pass is required. Location: Seven miles east of Oak Creek, 15 miles south of Steamboat Springs. [Interactive Map](#)

gold  
medal

**Steamboat Lake:** At the base of majestic Hahn's Peak, Steamboat Lake is known for its fine rainbow trout fishing. Boats are permitted. A State Parks Pass is required. Location: From Steamboat Springs, west 2 miles on Highway 40 to County Road 129, turn north for 26 miles to the entrance. [Interactive Map](#)

**Trappers Lake:** This lake holds the largest population of native Colorado River cutthroat trout in the world! As the second largest natural lake in Colorado, this pristine body of water is located within the Flattops Wilderness Area, but is only a quarter-mile hike from the end of the road. Hand-propelled craft may be rented. Location: From Buford, 24 miles east on Highway 132. [Interactive Map](#)

**Wolford Mountain Reservoir:** Wolford Mountain Reservoir has gained a reputation for producing 16-inch rainbow trout. The area features 48 full-service campsites with electricity (fee required), picnic tables, shelters, fire grates, water, restrooms, trash removal, dump station, a concrete boat ramp and two group-use sites. Location: Located 6.5 miles northwest of Kremmling on U.S. Highway 40. [Interactive Map](#)