

# Fishing Report



Friday May 6, 2022

## News and Information

### Upcoming Fishing Tournaments and Events

#### CPW to begin angler survey at Miramonte Reservoir beginning May 1

April 28, 2022 - Colorado Parks and Wildlife will conduct an angler survey at [Miramonte Reservoir](#) at the [Dan Noble State Wildlife Area](#) from [May 1 through the end of October](#).

#### The ice is gone from Vega Reservoir and Island Boat Ramp will open May 1

April 29, 2022 - Water enthusiasts get ready, the ice has melted and Island boat ramp at [Vega State Park](#) will be [open Sunday, May 1](#).

#### Antero Reservoir to open to boating on Sunday, May 1

April 26, 2022 - Antero Reservoir in Park County will open to boating on Sunday, May 1, [Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Denver Water announced Tuesday](#).

#### Opening dates announced for Spinney Mountain and Eleven Mile State Parks

April 22, 2022 - Colorado Parks and Wildlife Rangers at Eleven Mile and Spinney Mountain State Parks have [solidified opening dates for boating at the two neighboring parks in Park County](#).

#### Chatfield State Park making change to boat ramp in operation

April 16, 2022 - Chatfield State Park is switching its boat ramp in operation to its larger ramps on the northern side of the reservoir, [effective immediately](#).

#### Take a Friend Fishing, Hook Great Prizes

April 29, 2022 - For the fourth consecutive year, Colorado Parks and Wildlife and our partner Colorado fishing companies are encouraging anglers to take a friend fishing. As a reward for sharing your expertise and love of fishing, we've created a contest for mentors who take the time to pass on their knowledge. [We are now offering prizes for the mentor as well as the mentee!](#)

	<p>Now you can take the <a href="#">#ColoradoOutdoors</a> anywhere. Follow us on <a href="#">@instagram @coparkswildlife!</a>  <a href="http://instagram.com/coparkswildlife">http://instagram.com/coparkswildlife</a></p>
	<p>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 <a href="https://facebook.com/ColoradoParksandWildlife/">facebook.com/ColoradoParksandWildlife/</a>.</p>
	<p>Fish with us on Twitter          Colorado anglers can get updates directly from CPW on Twitter. Follow <a href="#">@COParksWildlife</a>.</p>

# Stocking Report

Water	Region	Date Stocked
<a href="#">Mountain Home Reservoir</a>	SW	4/4/2022
<a href="#">Smith Reservoir</a>	SW	4/4/2022
<a href="#">Milavec Reservoir</a>	NE	4/4/2022
<a href="#">Sleepycat Ponds</a>	NW	4/4/2022
Bel-Aire ponds	NW	4/4/2022
<a href="#">Rangely Fishing Pond</a>	NW	4/4/2022
Ives Pond	NW	4/4/2022
<a href="#">Monument Lake</a>	SE	4/4/2022
<a href="#">Palmer Lake</a>	SE	4/4/2022
<a href="#">Stabilization Reservoir</a>	SW	4/5/2022
<a href="#">Boulder Kids Pond</a>	NE	4/5/2022
<a href="#">Trinidad Reservoir</a>	SE	4/5/2022
<a href="#">Trinidad Central Park Lake</a>	SE	4/5/2022
Windwing South Pond	NE	4/6/2022
<a href="#">Windsor Reservoir</a>	NE	4/6/2022
<a href="#">Pueblo City Park Lake</a>	SE	4/6/2022
<a href="#">Anticline Lake</a>	SE	4/6/2022
<a href="#">Arkansas River 3B</a>	SE	4/6/2022
Minnequa Lake #1	SE	4/6/2022
<a href="#">Chipeta Lake</a>	SW	4/7/2022
<a href="#">Ridgway Reservoir</a>	SW	4/7/2022
<a href="#">Centennial Park Lake</a>	NE	4/7/2022
<a href="#">Smith Lake</a>	NE	4/7/2022
<a href="#">Boxelder Lake #3</a>	NE	4/8/2022
<a href="#">Douglass Reservoir</a>	NE	4/8/2022
<a href="#">Quail Lake</a>	SE	4/11/2022
<a href="#">Prospect Lake</a>	SE	4/11/2022
<a href="#">North Lake Park Pond</a>	NE	4/12/2022
Northgate Pond #2	SE	4/12/2022
Northgate Pond #1	SE	4/12/2022
Northgate Pond #3	SE	4/12/2022
Hasty Lake	SE	4/12/2022

<a href="#">Las Animas Pond</a>	SE	4/12/2022
<a href="#">Ordway Reservoir</a>	SE	4/13/2022
<a href="#">Runyon Lake</a>	SE	4/13/2022
<a href="#">Fountain Lake</a>	SE	4/13/2022
<a href="#">Izaak Walton Longmont Pond</a>	NE	4/14/2022
<a href="#">Viele Lake</a>	NE	4/14/2022
<a href="#">Glenmere Lake</a>	NE	4/14/2022
<a href="#">Bittersweet Lake</a>	NE	4/14/2022
<a href="#">Huerfano River #2</a>	SE	4/14/2022
<a href="#">Pathfinder Park Pond</a>	SE	4/14/2022
<a href="#">Brush Hollow Reservoir</a>	SE	4/14/2022
Dragon Fly Pond	NE	4/14/2022
<a href="#">Horseshoe Reservoir</a>	SE	4/14/2022
<a href="#">Martin Lake</a>	SE	4/14/2022
<a href="#">Hine Lake</a>	NE	4/15/2022
<a href="#">Sloans Lake</a>	NE	4/15/2022
<a href="#">City Park Lake</a>	NE	4/15/2022
<a href="#">Kriely Pond</a>	NE	4/19/2022
<a href="#">Slough Pond</a>	NE	4/19/2022
<a href="#">Mckee Lake</a>	NE	4/19/2022
<a href="#">Old Pond</a>	NE	4/19/2022
<a href="#">Beaver Lake</a>	NW	4/19/2022
Rodeo Pond	NW	4/19/2022
<a href="#">Harper Lake</a>	NE	4/19/2022
<a href="#">Golden Gravel Pond</a>	NE	4/19/2022
<a href="#">Milavec Reservoir</a>	NE	4/20/2022
<a href="#">Boxelder Lake #3</a>	NE	4/20/2022
<a href="#">Douglass Reservoir</a>	NE	4/20/2022
Stratton Pond	SE	4/20/2022
Hale Pond #1	SE	4/20/2022
Hale Pond #2	SE	4/20/2022
Hale Pond #3	SE	4/20/2022
<a href="#">Echo Canyon Reservoir</a>	SW	4/20/2022
St. Vrain SP Sandpiper	NE	4/20/2022
<a href="#">Union Reservoir</a>	NE	4/20/2022

<a href="#">Webster Lake</a>	NE	4/20/2022
Willow Bend Pond	NE	4/21/2022
<a href="#">Loveland Service Center Pond</a>	NE	4/21/2022
<a href="#">Centennial Lake</a>	NE	4/21/2022
<a href="#">Ehrlich Lake</a>	NE	4/21/2022
<a href="#">McPhee Reservoir</a>	SW	4/21/2022
Duckwood Pond	SE	4/21/2022
<a href="#">Monument Lake</a>	SE	4/21/2022
<a href="#">Palmer Lake</a>	SE	4/21/2022
<a href="#">Bear Creek Reservoir</a>	NE	4/22/2022
<a href="#">Arvada Reservoir</a>	NE	4/22/2022
<a href="#">Ridgway Reservoir</a>	SW	4/25/2022
<a href="#">Vallecito Reservoir</a>	SW	4/25/2022
<a href="#">Cowdrey Lake</a>	NE	4/25/2022
<a href="#">Quincy Reservoir</a>	NE	4/25/2022
<a href="#">Brush Hollow Reservoir</a>	SE	4/25/2022
<a href="#">Severance City Pond</a>	NE	4/26/2022
<a href="#">Windsor Reservoir</a>	NE	4/26/2022
<a href="#">Riverside Park Lake</a>	NE	4/26/2022
<a href="#">Roaring Judy Ponds</a>	SW	4/26/2022
<a href="#">Home Lake</a>	SW	4/26/2022
<a href="#">Smith Reservoir</a>	SW	4/26/2022
<a href="#">Seymour Reservoir</a>	NE	4/26/2022
<a href="#">Dome Lake Upper</a>	SW	4/26/2022
Twin Spruce Ponds	SW	4/26/2022
<a href="#">Summit Reservoir</a>	SW	4/26/2022
<a href="#">Thornton Gravel Lake #2</a>	NE	4/26/2022
<a href="#">Thornton Gravel Lake #3</a>	NE	4/26/2022
Mann-Nyholt Lake South	NE	4/26/2022
<a href="#">McCall Lake</a>	NE	4/27/2022
Blanca Vista Park Pond	SW	4/27/2022
<a href="#">Wetherill Pond</a>	SW	4/27/2022
<a href="#">Dome Lake Upper</a>	SW	4/27/2022
<a href="#">McPhee Reservoir</a>	SW	4/27/2022
<a href="#">Standley Lake</a>	NE	4/27/2022

<a href="#">Ketner Lake</a>	NE	4/27/2022
<a href="#">Spectacle Lake</a>	SW	4/28/2022
<a href="#">Palisade Riverbend Park Pond</a>	NW	4/28/2022
<a href="#">Crawford Reservoir</a>	SW	4/28/2022
ST. Vrain State Park Sandpiper	NE	4/28/2022
<a href="#">ST. Vrain State Park Coot Pond</a>	NE	4/28/2022
<a href="#">Webster Lake</a>	NE	4/28/2022
<a href="#">Wahatoya Lake Reservoir</a>	SE	4/28/2022
<a href="#">Chatfield Reservoir</a>	NE	4/28/2022
<a href="#">Eaglewatch Lake</a>	NE	4/28/2022
Berthoud City Reservoir	NE	4/29/2022
Highland Lake	NE	4/29/2022
Dragonfly Pond	NE	4/29/2022
<a href="#">Lon Hagler Reservoir</a>	NE	4/29/2022
Las Animas Pond	SE	4/29/2022

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## Catch of the Week



Great catch Amelia! Great time at St. Vrain State Park!

Have a fish you are proud of? Share your photo!  
Email [dnr\\_fish.reporter@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us) and put "Catch of the Week" in the subject line

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## Conditions Report - Metro

### Aurora Reservoir

This 762-acre impoundment is located off E. Quincy Avenue, two miles east of E-470. Open to boating. Electric trolling motors only. **As of 4/24/2022**, water temp 43 degrees. Due to low water levels the public dock is not available. The water level is coming up but it will be awhile before the public dock will be of use. Trout fishing from shore is slow to fair using power bait, spoons and flies. Fly casters try leech patterns and prince nymph. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park Hours for April 6:00am-8:30pm.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

### Chatfield Reservoir

This 1,356-acre impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park. **As of 5/6/2022**, Anglers are reporting a slowdown in walleye fishing and have noticed walleye starting to move to their normal summer structures (points, weed edges, roadbeds). Smallmouth on rocky shorelines using tubes, worms, jerkbaits, and crankbaits. Trout action is fair and have been caught using worms, PowerBait, spinners and jerkbaits.

[Chatfield Reservoir](#)

### Cherry Creek

This 881-acre impoundment is located in Cherry Creek State Park, in Aurora. There are two entrances to the park, the east entrance off S. Dayton St. and the west entrance off S. Parker Rd., **As of 5/6/2022**, No current information at this time. Please contact the park directly at (303) 690-1166.

[Cherry Creek Reservoir](#)

### Quincy Reservoir

**As of 4/24/2022**, Water temp is 49-51 degrees. Trout fishing is slow to fair using spoons and flies. Bass fishing has been slow. Try the dam for smallmouth with jigs. Restricted to artificial flies and lures only. Electric motors only and only hand launched watercraft permitted. Vehicles and trailers are not permitted in the water. April Park Hours: 6:00am-8:30pm. For more information call 303-326-8424.

[Quincy Reservoir](#)

# Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

## Antero Reservoir

As of **April 26, 2022** - Antero Reservoir in Park County will open to boating on Sunday, May 1, [Colorado Parks and Wildlife and Denver Water announced Tuesday](#). As of **5/4/2022**, Angler's Covey reports, "Antero has been ice free for about 7 days now. The boat ramps opened over the weekend and shore fishing is good right now as well. Fish are cruising fairly tight to shorelines so this is a great time to approach the lake from the shore. There is actually a winter storm warning today but conditions will improve as we move through the rest of the week.

Fish are feeding opportunistically all over the lake. Static nymphing and slow stripping nymphs, wooly buggers and leeches have been effective.

### Fly Patterns:

Scuds, orange, pink, and green #12-18, Egg patterns #14-16, Mayers Radiant jig mini leach, black, brown, Wooly buggers-brown, black, purple, olive #6-12, #14-16, Squirrel leaches, black, brown, olive #14-16, Chironomids-red, black #14-20, Zebra midge-black & red, #16-20

Streamers: Stay to the rule of muted colors on bright days and flashier colors on cloudy days. The streamer bite should greatly improve as the water temps slowly warm."

[Angler's Covey](#)  
[Antero Reservoir](#)

## Cheesman Canyon - South Platte River

As of **5/4/2022**, Angler's Covey reports, "The flows came down significantly overnight from 235 CFS to 125 CFS. This is somewhat expected as we think they will try and start filling up Cheesman reservoir. Flows will be augmented through the North Fork for downstream water demand. It's hard to even speculate when the flows in this area will increase again. As the water temp warms, we will see increasing caddis activity throughout the month. It will be cold in the mountains today with better weather coming towards the weekend.

Fish are feeding all throughout the river right now but will become somewhat concentrated with the drop in flows. It's a bug factory right now with midges, BWO's, and even some Caddis and yellow sallies hatching. Fishing is technical as usual. Small bugs and light tippet are the standard year round in the canyon, but larger food sources are also key right now. Be sure to mix in some larger offerings right now with the water increase. Leeches, scuds, worms, crane fly larva, larger profiled midges, and BWOs are all taking fish.

Fish are keying in hard on midge and baetis imitations both subsurface and on top of the water. The big spring midge is still around but their smaller counterparts are becoming more abundant again. The spring "olives" are also becoming a dominant food source and the fish are really keying in on them. They will start being more prevalent as the days get longer and the sun gets higher.

Cheesman has been getting busier in recent weeks. **Remember this:** If you arrive and there are no spots left in the parking lot, don't park on the road. You will get a ticket!"

[Angler's Covey](#)  
[Cheesman Canyon](#)

## Dream Stream

As of **5/4/2022**, Angler's Covey reports, "The flows are still at about 125 CFS and will remain that way until Spinney fills. The inflow to Spinney is currently only 63 CFS. This means that snowpack higher up has not started to really melt yet. It will be a while before we see any increases in flow on the Dream. It will be very windy and snowy today with better weather coming towards the weekend.

Fishing has been okay but you will have to cover ground. Crowds are non-existent right now so you should have a lot of real estate to fish. And you'll need it. There are some resident fish throughout the system but you will have to work for them. Be prepared to cover ground. The lake run fish have all gone back to the lake. There are still some nice resident fish, but be prepared to work for them.

Please be sure to move around and not camp out in one spot all day. With the pressure also comes the reminder to be a good neighbor. There is a lot of river.

Midges, eggs, and leaches have been the staple food sources on the Dream. Anglers can also start to mix in some baetis and larger profiled midges into their offerings.

Please be sure to keep away from any redds in the river. These spawning beds will produce fry (baby trout) in the spring and are vital to sustaining the fish population. Tread Lightly!”

[Angler's Covey](#)  
[Dream Stream](#)

### **Eleven Mile Reservoir**

As of **4/28/2022**, 11 Mile Marina reports, “The lake is ice free and open to boating effective 1/2 hr before sunrise Saturday May 1. The wind has still been bad but a little less of late. WATER FLOW: 123 CFS IN 123 CFS OUT. TROUT: GOOD: The ice off bite is on. Chartreuse is a good color as well as white and black. Fish are active throughout the day. Typically, it is a little slow out of the boats early season because the action is hot and heavy from shore in shallow water.

[11 Mile Marina](#)  
[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

### **North Sterling Reservoir**

As of **3/26/2022**, No Recent Report. The Inlet is ON and the Outlet is OFF. North Sterling Reservoir is currently OPEN to boating. Water levels are about 5ft from full and rising.

Elks boat ramp is OPEN

South Ramp is CLOSED - Off season

Please keep a lookout for possible floating debris, and always be aware that unmarked hazards may exist. If debris or hazards are discovered, please notify park staff. Before boating, check that your vessel has all of the required safety items onboard. Contact the park for the latest conditions at 970-522-3657.

[North Sterling Reservoir](#)

# Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

## Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista

As of 5/3/2022, Braden Baker with Ark Anglers writes, "The upper Arkansas is now in full spring mode with blue winged olive may fly hatches occurring most afternoons, particularly on overcast days. Plan accordingly and arm yourself with size #16-18 blue winged olive dry flies, emergers, and nymphs. Nymphs will drift on a daily basis and are most active mid-day through early afternoon especially in shallow, riffled areas. These nymphs often migrate to the slower edge water areas to hatch, often creating a conga line of vulnerable duns on the surface of the water where resident trout can easily surf and intercept them before they take flight. Hatches mostly occur between 1:00 and 4:00PM. Though fish may still be near winter water the increasing temperatures and insect activity have prompted the dispersion of fish into slightly shallower, varied water and occupation of more of the northern corridor. Midges are still a very prolific food source up north and a midge larva or pupa in #16-20 is a reliable dropper to work into your setup. These and the mayfly nymphs referenced above work well when paired with a weighted attractor nymph like a golden stonefly in a #10-12. Immature golden stonefly nymphs are molting this time of year and are more vulnerable to predation, and as such are a safe bet for a larger nymph to incorporate into your nymph fishing. It's advised to work the deeper, slower water in the mornings and shift focus to shallow riffles and runs nearby as the day warms."

[ArkAnglers](#)

[Arkansas River](#)

## Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Salida

As of 5/4/2022, Braden Baker with Ark Anglers writes, "While blue winged olives are still hatching in the middle basin, the water has warmed enough to start prompting caddis activity in Salida. We've seen a few hatches of Brachycentrus caddis in town and yesterday had caddis hatching as high up as Big Bend. Today's cooler weather definitely paused active hatches but the river just above Salida still had adult caddis present along the edges of the river that would occasionally tease fish up to the surface to feed. We had reports of good blue winged olive activity today, as well, which fits with the overcast conditions. We see weather in the 70s again starting Thursday which will restart caddis hatches through and upstream of Salida.

Hatches can generate great surface feeding mid-day and into the afternoon, but egg-laying behavior in the evenings can also offer good dry fly opportunities after most anglers have quit for the day. Hatches will intensify here this week, and we may see overlapping hatches of blue winged olives and caddis tomorrow (5/4) with the forecasted cloud cover. Fish are responding to dry and double dry caddis rigs on the surface and caddis pupa fished as droppers or fished solo on a tightline swing. A dead-drifted caddis dry fly can be effective at times, but often an animated imitation given regular twitches and shakes can imitate the naturals better and prompt aggressive strikes. You will still find fish in deeper water at times but the warmer conditions and expanding food options are driving trout to spread out and occupy more types of water throughout the corridor. Shallower runs and riffles are very productive as the warming trend continues.

In spring we generally rely on nymphing and dry-dropper fishing as the primary approach to the Arkansas, running wet flies underneath an indicator, sighter, or an attractor dry fly. Caddis adults and pupa are best imitated with flies in #14-18, and the venerable Puterbaugh Foam Caddis is one of the tried and true adult imitations that has consistently proven itself on the Arkansas for decades. Find a buggy, scraggly caddis pupa like a Kryptonite Caddis or Dirty Bird to imitate the pupal stage of caddis. To imitate blue winged olive nymphs a pheasant tail, two-bit hooker, micro-mayfly, frenchie pheasant tail, etc. is definitely worth packing in a #16-18 as we move through May. Mayfly duns are usually a size #18 and Extended Body Blue Winged Olives, Gulper Specials, and Comparaduns are all effective imitations. Golden stoneflies are molting underwater and offer a chance to fish a much larger nymph in sizes #10-12 to imitate the naturals and double up as an attractor. Midges round out the menu and are still incredibly plentiful, effective as a larva, pupa, or even adults in #16-20 throughout the day depending on conditions."

[ArkAnglers](#)

[Arkansas River](#)

## Arkansas River - Salida to Canon City

As of 5/4/2022, Braden Baker with Ark Anglers writes, "Today's weather was a little cooler and overcast, and though it paused active caddis hatches around Salida, there were plenty of adult caddis still present in and below Salida to prompt fish to look to the surface for food. Some areas saw good blue winged olive hatches as well, which is to be expected under conditions like this. The rest of the week warms up and presents good sunshine which will all prompt resurgence of caddis hatches through and above Salida. Starting Thursday, we expect to be back up in the 70s.

Before the cooler weather today, active caddis hatches were as far up as Big Bend and gave anglers some incredible dry and dry dropper fishing opportunities. You may also see adult caddis flying further upstream over the next few days which may present evening opportunities to catch fish focused in on egg-laying behavior. This is a great time to get back to the water

for some evening dry fly fishing once most anglers have wrapped up for the day. Tomorrow is a cooler, cloudier forecast that should be good for blue winged olives, but we've got several more beautiful 60 and 70 degree days ahead this week which are excellent conditions for spring caddis. These hatches are what we hope to see to pump up the resident trout population prior to runoff. Prepare yourself with adult caddis patterns like the Puterbaugh Foam Caddis in #14-16 and various green pupa imitations in #14-18 to either fish as droppers or on the swing. Free-living larva patterns in #14-18 continue to produce along the bottom behind attractor nymphs like golden stoneflies. Interest in golden stonefly nymphs (#10-12) is also high as we are now in middle of spring molting activity. Prior to the caddis hatch coming off, anglers should focus on fishing larva and pupa patterns in anticipation of surface oriented feeding. Don't forget about midges; they are still one of the most available food sources by volume and will continue to be an important factor through the spring. Think #18-20 most of the time for these smaller larva, pupa, and adults.

Where blue winged olives typically hatch in the highest numbers on cloudy days, caddis seem to prefer beautiful, sunny weather and at least 54 degree water. By May, caddis and mayflies can both hatch simultaneously creating a fun puzzle for anglers to work through to discern what trout like best. Blue winged olive nymphs and duns (#16-18) are usually best fished on a dead drift, whereas animation is often the key to a successful match of caddis behavior. This is where swinging a caddis pupa through a riffle or skating/twitching a caddis dry fly along the surface can incite very aggressive strikes, as fish are accustomed to seeing movement from natural caddis. Sometimes fishing in the heart of a caddis hatch can prove challenging at best, as your fly is amongst countless real insects and fish may not find your pattern. Many anglers have their best luck on the leading or trailing edge of the densest hatch activity, when keeping track of your fly is easier and you aren't competing with as many naturals.

In spring we recommend fishing multiple nymphs under an indicator, sighter, or even under a large, buoyant dry fly. With warmer temperatures present in the valley, surface oriented, opportunistic feeding has started to yield sporadic eats of large attractor dry flies. Many of our guides are relying on dry-dropper rigs until the opportunity presents to switch to a mayfly or caddis specific dry fly.”

[ArkAnglers](#)  
[Arkansas River](#)

### **Lake Trinidad**

The lake is at 768 surface acres with a surface elevation of 6188.01. Water level is stable. Islands have appeared and some hazards may not be marked. As of **5/5/2022**, Shore anglers were doing well catching big trout on doughbaits and worms. Boaters have reported varying conditions; trout have been the most reported catch. Smallmouth have been common as well. Water temp between 51-55 degrees. The boat ramp is open! All vessels are required to have an inspection prior to each launch. Inspection hours are 8:00AM - 4:00PM daily by calling either 719-989-7194 or 719-220-0197.

[Trinidad State Park](#)

# Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

## Blue River - Silverthorne

As of 5/6/2022, Cutthroat Anglers report, "The Blue's flows are at 70 CFS which is a good flow to fish this tail water. We will start to see ice come off of the river below town with the warmer weather. With this flow, small bugs and fine tippet will be the name of the game for the foreseeable future. We are seeing a few Blue Wing Olives hatching, and midges as usual. A nymph rig with small natural imitations of Baetis and midges have been working well for us recently. Sight fishing is the name of the game here so if you don't see fish- keep moving. A tandem dry fly rig, featuring tiny midge or Baetis imitations as the second fly can also produce a few takes when fished to trout that seem to be looking up. You can expect the water to be crystal clear most of the time! However, things such as an increase in flows and increases in atmospheric temperatures may lead to stain in the water. Stain may also enter the system in the afternoons due to road melt runoff."

[Cutthroat Anglers](#)

[Blue River](#)

## Colorado River - Parshall Area

As of 5/6/2022, Cutthroat Anglers report, "The water in this section is still in the low 40 degrees. Fish will be holding in slow and deep pools. Eggs, small stoneflies, small baetis and midges have been the ticket. A small Black Pheasant Tail trailed with an RS2 has been the hot rig as of late. Have your dry fly box ready if you come across a spring midge hatch. If water clarity worsens use larger offerings like Pat's Rubber Legs, San Juan Worms, and large flashy midges. Clarity has become worse with runoff conditions. 1-2 feet"

[Cutthroat Anglers](#)

[Colorado River](#)

## Eagle River

As of 5/6/2022, Cutthroat Anglers report, "Expect some stain to enter the water system during bouts of warmth. If you find open water use eggs, stonefly, baetis, and midges. The fish will mostly be concentrated in the deep pools. Streamers have also been productive when water clarity worsens. Make sure you are getting your flies down to the right depth and you'll find more success."

[Cutthroat Anglers](#)

[Eagle River](#)

## Vega

As of 5/6/2022, All boat ramps are closed at this time. The Island boat ramp will open Sunday, May 1st. You must come to the Visitor Center between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. for all boat inspections. The lake is ice-free and there is no snow on the ground. The south road and gravel pit area remain closed due to snow and muddy conditions. Hand launching of small non-trailer watercraft is allowed at this time. Please make sure to come to the Visitor Center to have all engines inspected prior to launching. The Island boat ramp will open on Sunday, May 1st. All boat inspections will be conducted at the Visitor Center from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

[Vega Reservoir](#)

# Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

## Animas River at Durango

As of 5/6/2022, Duranglers reports, "Water Temp: 47.66 ° F, Flow: 1620 ft<sup>3</sup>/s, Water Level: 3.90 ft. It's Runoff time. Unless we get some cold days, it's going to be high, cold, and dirty for a few weeks. When it starts to clear, streamers and big nymphs will be on the menu. Pat's Rubberlegs and prince nymphs in about as big as you can. Streamers: GD Sculpin Snack, Kreelex, Mini-Dungeon, Sculpzilla, Sculpinator.

[Duranglers](#)

[Animas River](#)

## Ridgway Reservoir

As of 4/2/2022, The boat ramp, and motorized boating is open for the season. Hours are currently 8-4.

As a reminder, to boat on Ridgway Reservoir, a pre-launch boat inspection for ANS is MANDATORY for all motorized vessels and trailered vessels. If you have any questions about launching or the inspection process, feel free to contact the park at 970-626-5822.

[Ridgway State Park](#)

## Rio Grande

As of 5/6/2022, Duranglers reports, "752 CFS (30 Mile) 1280 CFS (Wagon Wheel), Flows are coming up with snowmelt. You can float right now, but fish will be keener to eat a streamer or nymph rig. Flows will continue to rise unless we get some cooler days. Nymphs: Prince nymphs 10-16, Runt Stone Golden 12-16, Flashback Pheasant Tail 14-18, Duracell Jig 12-16. Dries: Parachute Adams in 18-24, BWO CDC Comparadun 18-22, Extended Body BWO 18-20. Streamers: Black Buggers, Sparkle Minnow, Mini-Dungeon, Peanut Envy.

[Duranglers](#)

[Rio Grande](#)

# Conditions Report - Statewide

River flows have picked up around the state due to high runoff coming from our winter snowfall. Fish are still being caught in streams but it has become more difficult. Anglers around the state will be looking to sections of the river where water flow is at its slowest, think banks and pockets. Majority of anglers will be turning toward lake fishing until the flows start to settle down. Lakes will be fair in clarity as we will start seeing a great increase in runoff feeding in. Keep an eye on these hatches so you can throw your most qualified fly or lure.

## Tip of the Week

### Texas or Carolina

#### Texas Rig

In the late 1940's, Nick Creme began developing new applications for the rubber worms, which he and his wife produced in their kitchen, in Akron Ohio. This led him to start the Creme Lure Company; and in 1949, he introduced the "Creme Wiggle Worm". The popularity of his lures soon out-grew their small kitchen. He started up a small manufacturing company in Akron, which still fell short of supplying the ever increasing orders. He and his wife decided to move their business into the heart of bass fishing, where he opened a new manufacturing plant, in Tyler Texas. This is where the "Texas Rig" was conceived by Nick Creme in the early 1960's. He modified his "Wiggle Worm Lure" by adding a slip sinker and making the rig "weedless" by turning the hook point back into the body of the worm.

Since its conception, the Texas rig has remained one of the most productive set-ups for bass. This simple rig is used throughout the country, by anglers who compete professionally in bass tournaments and beginners alike.

#### Carolina Rig

The history of the Carolina Rig or the "do-nothing" rig, as it is referred to, is not clear. We do know it appeared on the scene over 30 years ago.

The Carolina rig is similar to the Texas rig, but adds a plastic bead. The bullet weight clicks against the glass bead creating noise, and attracting more bass. It also protects the knot from being damaged by the weight.

Both the Texas and Carolina rigs are cast out and left to settle to the bottom. Retrieve is achieved by slowly cranking the reel, while slowly raising the rod tip, or by using a long slow sweeping motion.

#### Tackle for the Texas Rig and the Carolina Rig

- **Types of Hooks**

1. Offset Worm Hook
2. Offset Wide Gap Worm Hook (Preferred)
3. Straight Shank Worm Hook

- **Sizes**

1. 1/0 to 6/0 (Hook size, will depend on the size of the plastic bait used)
2. With hooks rated as *ought*, the larger the number, the larger the hook (e.g. a size 6/0 is larger than a 1/0)

- **Bullet weights** - Bullet weights refer to the shape of the weight. They resemble a bullet, in which the large end is concave.
- **Composition** - Brass, steel or the new Tungsten Nickel is preferred over lead, because they make more noise, and are earth friendly.
- **Size** - Bullet weights are available from 1/16 oz. to 3/8 oz. (The lighter the weight, the better. Only use enough weight as is necessary, for distance and windy conditions)

#### How to setup for Texas or Carolina Rigs

1. Run the line thru the tapered end of the bullet weight so the line comes out the larger end which is concave.
2. If setting up Carolina style; take the end of the line which has been run thru the bullet weight and run it thru a 1/4 - 5/16 plastic bead.
3. Tie the hook to the end of the line. (Some anglers prefer using a leader connected to a barrel swivel in between the weight and the hook)
4. Push the point of the hook into the head of the plastic worm, or other bait, approximately 1/4 - 3/8 of an inch and out one side.
5. Pull the hook thru the bait until the eye of the hook is imbedded in the head of the worm.
6. Turn the hook 180 °, grasp the worm at the point where the bend of the hook touches the body of the bait and hold in place. While holding the worm at that point, move it up to the point of the hook, and push the point thru the body of the worm. Pull the point of the hook back into the body of the bait, and push the point of the hook back into the bait barely below the surface. This will make the bait weedless.
7. A medium or heavy action rod should be used with a sensitive tip.
8. Fishing line should be 10-15 lb test.

**NOTE:** If you get hung up on debris not to pull too hard! If the rig comes free, it can come back at you with amazing speed. Wearing sunglasses is recommended.

Have a suggestion or request?

Email us at [dnr\\_fish.reporter@state.co.us](mailto:dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us)

We would love to hear back from our subscribers regarding fishing reports, tips, and requests of material you would like to start seeing more of. Any useful feedback helps us make our fishing reports a “go to” resource for anglers fishing Colorado’s waters.

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DNR Fish Reporter



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