

# Fishing Report



Friday July 13th, 2018

## News and Information

### CPW's Cast, 'Blast 'N Twang' in Craig

Colorado Parks and Wildlife, in cooperation with the Wyman Museum, Northwest Colorado Outfitters Chapter, Mule Deer Foundation, RTS Hunting LLC/Visintainer RFW and A-1 Rooter, will host a free, 'Family Cast, Blast N' Twang,' Saturday, July 14, from 4:00-8:00pm at the Wyman Museum in Craig. [Learn the basics of shooting, archery, and fishing in a fun, family environment.](#)

### Family Fishing Clinic at a High Mountain Lake

Sunday, July 15: 9:00am-2:00pm Beat the heat of summer and escape to the mountains. [Have you ever wanted to take your family fishing but were not sure where to start?](#) We will teach you multiple techniques that will catch trout anywhere in the country.

### Colorado Parks and Wildlife initiates voluntary fishing closure on the Yampa River through Steamboat Springs

Due to minimal water flow and high temperatures, [CPW is initiating a voluntary fishing closure on the Yampa River](#) between the [Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area](#) and the western edge of Steamboat Springs. Trout are cold-water fish that have evolved to function best in 50-60 degree waters. When temperatures exceed 70 degrees, they often stop feeding and become more susceptible to disease.

### 4<sup>TH</sup> Annual Smallmouth Bass Tournament Set for Ridgway State Park, July 7-28

Anglers can vie for [\\$5,000 in cash prizes as well as actively participate in an important wildlife-management](#) activity at this year's Fourth Annual Smallmouth Bass Tournament. The tournament is sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife.



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<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://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
Staunton Reservoir #1	Northeast	7/2/2018
Staunton Reservoir #2	Northeast	7/2/2018
<a href="#">Urad Mine Lake</a>	Northeast	7/2/2018
<a href="#">Big Creek Lake, Lower</a>	Northeast	7/2/2018
<a href="#">Grand Lake</a>	Northwest	7/2/2018
Memorial Park Pond	Southeast	7/2/2018
<a href="#">Turquoise Lake</a>	Southeast	7/2/2018
Twin Lakes	Southeast	7/2/2018
<a href="#">Taylor Park Reservoir</a>	Southwest	7/2/2018
<a href="#">Island Lake</a>	Southwest	7/2/2018
<a href="#">Ward Creek Reservoir</a>	Southwest	7/2/2018
Nast Lake	Northwest	7/3/2018
Ivanhoe Lake	Northwest	7/3/2018
<a href="#">Chapman Reservoir</a>	Northwest	7/3/2018
<a href="#">Ruedi Reservoir</a>	Northwest	7/3/2018
<a href="#">Rifle Gap Reservoir</a>	Northwest	7/3/2018
<a href="#">Andrews Lake</a>	Southwest	7/3/2018
<a href="#">Molas Lake Big</a>	Southwest	7/3/2018
<a href="#">Cobbett Lake</a>	Southwest	7/3/2018
<a href="#">Evergreen Reservoir</a>	Northeast	7/5/2018
<a href="#">Clear Lake</a>	Northeast	7/5/2018
<a href="#">Georgetown Lake</a>	Northeast	7/5/2018
<a href="#">Beaver Creek Reservoir</a>	Southwest	7/5/2018
<a href="#">Weir &amp; Johnson Reservoir</a>	Southwest	7/5/2018
<a href="#">Georgetown Lake</a>	Northeast	7/6/2018
<a href="#">Meadow Lake</a>	Northwest	7/6/2018
<a href="#">Lake San Cristobal</a>	Southwest	7/6/2018

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## Catch of the Week



Mackenzie with a massive Rainbow Trout caught at an undisclosed location.

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

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## Conditions Report - Metro

### Aurora Reservoir

This 762-acre impoundment is located off of E. Quincy Avenue, two miles east of E-470. As of **7/9/2018** Water temperature is nearing 70 degrees. Trout fishing from shore has been slow to fair with a few good reports using PowerBait off the dam and open areas along the south shoreline. The trout are running deeper now, focus on fishing deeper areas like the dam casting out 40-50 yards with PowerBait off a slip rig! Boaters also reporting fair to good conditions on trout trolling with crawlers and lures. Walleye action from boats appears to be starting to pick up trolling with bottom bouncers and jigs tipped with crawlers. Yellow perch action is picking up from shore and from boats using jigs tipped with worms. Restricted to electric motors only. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park hours July 5:00am-9:30pm.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

### Chatfield Reservoir

This 1,356 impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park, as of **7/10/2018** water temperature is in the low 70's. Trout fishing has slowed with the warmer water temperatures. Fishing for smallmouth has been good during the low light periods of the day using top water baits. Walleye fishing is still consistent with fish being caught on various presentations from jigs to live bait rigs. **Please note that due to the Chatfield Reallocation construction fishing access from the west side of the park (Eagle Cove - Kingfisher) is closed. Please access the lake from the east side of the reservoir.**

[Chatfield State Park](#)

### 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 **7/9/2018** the trout have been tougher to catch but some success has been reported using nightcrawlers along the bottom. Walleye fishing is still productive during the cooler parts of the day either trolling crankbaits or using a jig tipped with a leech or nightcrawler.

[Cherry Creek State Park](#)

### Quincy Reservoir

As of **7/9/2018** Water temp is in the low 70's. The water level is good. Bass fishing has is rated as slow to fair with an occasional good report using jigs, chatter baits and senkos. A few reports of top water action on bass using frogs. Reports of smallmouth being caught off the dam using jigs and Ned rigs. Trout fishing is slow, a few reports using spinners and flies. Fly fishermen have been reporting success in the early morning and evening. Park Hours for July 5:00am-9:30pm. Restricted to artificial flies and lures only. Electric motors only and hand launched watercraft only-trailers and vehicles prohibited in the water. For more information call 303-326-8424.

[Quincy Reservoir](#)

# Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

## Barr Lake

As of 7/8/2018 activity has picked up the past couple weeks. Walleye are regularly being caught throughout the lake and from shore. Reports of smaller fish being caught have increased, so have a tape measure ready to make sure it's legal! Wiper action has also increased significantly, with several being caught from shore around the ramp. Worms fished low and slow seem to be doing the trick!

[Barr Lake State Park](#)

## Bear Creek Reservoir

As of 7/9/2018 water levels are full and the temperature is in the mid 70's. Trout fishing is good from shore using PowerBait floating off the bottom. Fishing for the saugeye in the reservoir has been fair along the southern shore using a jog with a curly tail grub. Smallmouth bass have been caught along the rocks on the dam using a variety of baits. *Reminder, this is a city of Lakewood Park, a state parks pass is not valid at this park.*

[Bear Creek Reservoir](#)

## Boyd Lake

Aquatic Nuisance Species Inspection hours for the month of May are 6:00 am-10:00 pm daily. As of 7/11/2018 water temperatures are in the low 70's fishing has been good for trout using traditional baits all over the lake. The crappie and white bass seem to have transitioned a bit deeper and are being caught in the main lake. Bass fishing is fair, jerk baits for Smallmouth and lipless crankbaits or spinnerbaits for Largemouth. Walleye have been caught throughout the lake mainly on live bait close to the bottom. *Reminder - No fishing from marina slips or docks (next to is okay but can't use them in any way.*

[Boyd Lake](#)

## Eleven Mile Reservoir

As of 7/6/2018 the trout fishing is fantastic with fish being caught in various areas of the lake, fish have been caught a bit deeper as the water temperature warms. Some anglers are reporting many large fish being caught. Anglers are also reporting some success with Kokanee Salmon fishing deeper, orange has been a color mentioned as catching salmon lately. Pike fishing has been slow.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

## Jackson Lake

As of 7/6/2018 water levels are high however they are starting to drop. Fishing has slowed with the higher water temperatures. Some walleye have still been caught using jigs with a variety of baits. Fishing for wiper has been sporadic with some good days and some slower days.

[Jackson Lake State Park](#)

## Spinney Mountain Reservoir

As of 7/9/2018, water temperatures are slowly rising and the fishing is continuing to pick up. Visibility has been reported around 7-10 feet with multiple hatches occurring this past week. With many hatches the dry fly action has been picking up using a variety of mayfly patterns and stimulators. Anglers reported success catching trout in 8-16 feet of water using silver spoons. Weeds are becoming more prevalent and the trout and pike have both been caught on the edges of the weed beds.

[Spinney Mountain State Park](#)

## Staunton State Park

As of 7/8/2018, both ponds have recently been stocked and the trout fishing is great. Our ADA accessible fishing pier is complete and ready to be fished from. Please contact the park about how we can provide an accessible fishing experience. Due to construction access to the ponds is currently available from the Ranch Hand Group Picnic parking area only. There is no public access below the dams on Elk Creek Road. Do not drop people or equipment off at this location.

[Staunton State Park](#)

# Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

## Arkansas River

**July 10th - Upper River:** The upper Arkansas river is in excellent shape! Fishing along the edges has been extremely productive, and this is by far the easiest section of the Arkansas to wade fish at current flows. Below the confluence with Lake Creek, the river picks up 420 cfs from the reservoir outflow (clear water!) which helps to stabilize clarity through Granite. From now on, focus with stonefly and caddis patterns along the edges, where fish can find respite from the faster water. It won't be long until we see Drakes up at Hayden Meadows! Large attractor dry/dropper (Golden stoneflies, Yellow Sally stones, and caddis) set-ups, along with streamers should produce fish and make for a fun day.

**July 10th- Middle River:** The middle basin is in excellent shape, as tributary flows drop and the release from Twin Lakes is cut back a bit. Conditions are very similar to what we find in early summer: fish holding in the slow, sheltered lies where they can ambush vulnerable food as it drifts by in the faster water. Much of this holding water is right up on the bank, or near it where both float fishermen and wade fishermen can easily reach it.

Fish large attractor patterns along the banks wherever slower water can be found. With the growing presence of yellow sallies along the edges, sally dries or nymphs are an excellent option. We're seeing an increasing amount of surface interest, as more and more fish begin to eat Chernobyl Ants and stimulators. Dry/Dropper rigs with sallies or big attractor dries and caddis, sally, or attractor nymphs have been getting great reports. Streamers are also a good option as the brown trout fry emerge and are vulnerable as they acclimate to the changing river conditions. Advice to wade fishermen is to stay on the bank if possible, as the swift current can make for challenging wading. The fish are likely in the water you want to stand in!

**July 10th - Below Salida:** The river is in excellent shape, and is really beginning to turn on. Summer hatches are beginning to show themselves, with a handful of golden stonefly sightings and lots of yellow sally activity below Salida (with reports all the way up through Granite) the past week. Combining tributary flows receding and significant decreases in the release from Twin Lakes, flows are excellent and clarity is great on the river today. We've had consistently good reports the past couple of days from anglers fishing along the edges with attractor dry/droppers or shallow nymph rigs. Think summertime tactics, with fish taking up ambush lies near the banks waiting opportunistically for food to come their way. The pockets and edges along the shoreline provide a break from the current and holding water for the trout. Stonefly nymphs and caddis pupa fished under an attractor dry fly will move fish along the edges, and the presence of immature brown trout fry in the river make for excellent streamer fishing.

[Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area](#)

## John Martin Reservoir

As of 7/7/2018 due to a low water year throughout the state and the Arkansas River drainage water levels are dropping and the fishing has been tougher. Walleye fishing is slow with water temperatures in the mid 70's. Fishing for white bass and wiper can be good if anglers are able to figure out where the bait that these fish are feeding on is located. Crappie fishing has also slowed drastically as the water temperatures have forced the fish into deeper water.

[John Martin Reservoir State Park](#)

## Lake Pueblo State Park

As of 7/10/2018 Surface temperature is 76 degrees. Fishing has slowed somewhat due to the warmer weather. However, anglers need to fish deeper water right now and concentrate fishing efforts to early and late in the day. Soft plastics and crankbaits should produce a few bass. Anglers looking for walleye should be fishing in deeper water now that the lake temperature has come up and is on the rise. Minnows and leeches have been productive for walleye. There have also been reports of walleyes caught drifting with a jig and nightcrawler along the bottom. There have been a few reports of wipers being caught while trolling. Boaters are reminded that the boat ramps open at 5 AM and close at 11 PM daily.

[Lake Pueblo](#)

## Trinidad Reservoir

As of 7/4/2018 the lake is at 783 surface acres with a surface elevation of 6189.24. Surface water temps around 70 degrees. Shore fishermen are catching trout on homemade dough bait, PowerBait (green color) and worms all along south shore. Reilly Canyon has slowed down to a trickle with off color water and sandbars starting to emerge. Boaters have done very well targeting walleye, 10-14in fish are being caught. Smallmouth caught early in the morning and late evening. Trout are caught during all hours. Worm harnesses and crank baits have worked well.

[Trinidad Lake State Park](#)

# Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

## Elkhead Reservoir

As of **7/9/2018** fishing at Elkhead is fair with lots of pike and smallmouth caught during the CPW tournaments. Anglers were reporting success on various lures for both species. Keep in mind at the NORTH EAST ACCESS Pre inspection is required for all non-exempt hand launched vessels. You are required to have a seal and receipt to launch. Exempt vessels are: Kayaks, Canoes, Rafts, Belly Boats, Windsurfers (paddle boards), Sailboards, foldable plastic boats, float tubes and inner tubes.

[Elkhead Reservoir State Park](#)

## Rifle Gap Reservoir

As of **7/5/2018** Perch fishing has been good using various baits throughout the lake. Walleye fishing has been good if you can find the fish on structure throughout the lake. Special fishing regulations at Rifle Gap Reservoir include a bag and possession limit of 1 walleye 18 inches or greater; bag and possession limit for yellow perch is 20.

[Rifle Gap State Park](#)

## Stagecoach Reservoir

As of **7/8/2018** the lake is starting to experience some algae blooms which can make the fishing tougher with decreased water clarity. Some pike have been caught on various baits along the edges of the weed beds. Trout fishing has been good with many smaller fish being caught using PowerBait or nightcrawlers. The occasional larger fish has been caught. Water temperatures are continuing to rise and could negatively affect the fishing.

[Stagecoach Reservoir State Park](#)

## Vega

As of **7/9/2018**, Fishing is excellent with anglers reporting PowerBait and small silver or gold spinners the most successful baits to use. Early Settlers boat ramp is CLOSED for the season. Oak Point and the Island boat ramps remain open at this time. The lake level is receding rapidly. Don't forget to stop at the entrance and have your boat inspected prior to launching. The ANS inspection station is open from 6:00am to 8:30pm 7 days a week.

[Vega State Park](#)

# Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

## Blue Mesa Reservoir

This 8,900 acre reservoir is located west of Gunnison. As of **7/2/2018**, water levels are much lower compared to last year and concentrating the fish. Kokanee Salmon fishing has been good at various depths trolling. Smaller lake trout are being caught in large numbers at the deeper depths of the water column. Perch fishing has also been good along the rocky sections of shoreline. Anglers can check on current conditions and boat ramp inspection schedules by contacting Curecanti National Recreation Area at (970-641-2337).

[Blue Mesa Reservoir](#)

## Crawford

As of **7/3/2018** Water temps are in the low 70's. We have had reports of perch, crappie, trout and catfish being caught recently. Perch have been very active over the past week with anglers reporting large amounts of bites.

[Crawford State Park](#)

## Mancos

### Shoreline CLOSURE 6/13/2018

Due to National Forest closure for wild fire protection Mancos State Park has closed portions of the facility, including the shoreline, with the exception of the rip-rap of the dam face and shoreline fishing areas on either side of the dam. Appropriately inspected craft may still be launched from the boat ramp; however, there is no other shoreline access from the craft. This closure is expected to last at minimum through **7/13/2018**. The lake is open water and has been stocked with thousands of rainbow trout already this spring. Additional stockings will occur through the summer. Mancos is a great place for consistent action from trout and yellow perch. Most of the trout action is from 10-12 inch fish, but there's very good opportunity at an 18-20 inch trout and a few 12+ inch perch. There is great opportunity for kids to catch fish. Most anglers are finding success with bait (PowerBait, eggs, and crawlers) fishing just off bottom or under a slip bobber. For a chance at the yellow perch and trout, a small jig fished under a bobber on a long leader and tipped with a piece of worm is a good bet. Casting or trolling typical in-line spinners (Panther Martins, Mepps) from boats is another approach at the trout. Hand-launchable boats (non-motorized kayaks, canoes, belly boats, etc) are a great way to fish the lake in this off-season. This is the first year in more than 15 years that the lake has not gotten decent ice to fish. A park pass is required on vehicles in the park. Daily park passes are available at the self-serve pay station at the park entrance.

[Mancos State Park](#)

### Ridgway Reservoir

As of 7/4/2018 fishing for trout is good, smallmouth bass is picking up especially for shore fisherman. Lures of choice are worms, small cast masters, and dark Pat's rubber legs stone-fly imitation. Smallmouth Bass have also been caught on top-water baits during the low light periods of the day. Fishing Ponds at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk have been fishing well with small worms, salmon eggs, and small fly patterns. The larger cutthroat in the ponds will take the occasional bait fish imitation of a small rainbow trout. Pa-Co-Chu-Puk River: has been fishing well with baetis nymphs, with enough hatches to witness a dry fly bite at times. The green wing drake hatch should be happening anytime now.

[Ridgway State Park](#)

### Taylor Park Reservoir

As of 7/2/2018 fishing has slowed some for trout with the recent full moon however baits fished off the bottom in 20 feet of water. Lake trout have been tough but the deeper portions of the reservoir is where those fish can be caught using nightcrawlers off the bottom. Pike have been caught anywhere in the reservoir that has good weed growth.

[Taylor Park Reservoir](#)

## Conditions Report - Statewide

### Rivers and Creeks

The runoff is slowing down and flows are beginning to return to normal levels on the rivers and streams throughout the state. This means anglers will be able to find more suitable water to fish allowing for many more opportunities at catching fish. With the lower flows due to a low water year dry fly bites are the talk of the time. Remember that the hatches are becoming more frequent in the spring, so keep an eye for surface activity and do not hesitate to switch to a dry fly presentation, especially during the warmest parts of the day. We are approaching some of the best dry fly hatches of the year and anglers should be excited for the prospect of surface feeding. Mayfly and caddis patterns should be consistent fish producers this time of year. Another great mid-summer pattern is terrestrial dry flies on smaller bodies of water. Beetles, Hoppers, and Ants will cause some of the most ferocious strikes this time of year from eager trout. Nymphing with generalist patterns such as Hares Ears or Pheasant Tails will be productive throughout the summer. Anglers are also encouraged to keep an eye for larger stoneflies and bump up the size on their nymphs to match that of the stoneflies present in the system.

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DNR Fish Reporter



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