

Fishing Report



Friday July 16th, 2021

News and Information

Colorado Parks and Wildlife enacts voluntary afternoon fishing closure on sections of Yampa and Elk rivers, lifts closure on section of Colorado River

Due to low flows and warm water temperatures, [Colorado Parks and Wildlife is asking anglers to voluntarily avoid fishing after noon on sections of the Yampa River](#) that run through the boundaries of CPW's [Yampa River State Park](#) and [Yampa River State Wildlife Area](#), both located just west of Hayden, Colo. CPW is also asking anglers to avoid fishing after noon on the 1.5-mile section of the Elk River that runs through CPW's [Christina State Wildlife Area](#) to the northwest of Steamboat Springs. These voluntary fishing closures go into effect on Tuesday, July 13.

SE Region to host first in-person sportsperson caucus in a year

[The caucus is scheduled 6-8 p.m., Wednesday, July 21, and will be held at the CPW Southeast Region headquarters](#), 4255 Sinton Road, Colorado Springs, 80907, in the rear classroom. It will also be streamed live, online, via CPW's statewide Facebook page.

Big prizes beckon smallmouth bass anglers to the 7th Annual Ridgway State Park tournament




If you like fishing and would like a shot at winning as much as \$5,000, head over to Ridgway State Park starting in July and cast a line to participate in the Seventh Annual Smallmouth Bass Fishing Tournament sponsored by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. No registration is required and all you need to participate is a Colorado fishing license. In all, CPW is offering \$10,000 in [cash prizes during the tournament which runs from July 10 through August 8](#). And the more fish you catch, the more chances you have to win.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife enacts afternoon voluntary fishing closure on section of Gunnison River in Tomichi Creek State Wildlife Area

Due to low flows and warm water temperatures, [Colorado Parks and Wildlife is asking anglers to voluntarily avoid fishing after noon on the 4-mile section of Tomichi Creek that runs through CPW's Tomichi Creek State Wildlife Area](#), located just east of Gunnison, Colo. The voluntary fishing closure is in effect immediately.

The Blue Mesa Lake Trout tournament continues through July!

Anglers value both kokanee and lake trout angling opportunities. [Kokanee provide the greatest draw for overall catch and harvest; lake trout provide the greatest draw](#) for overall trophy potential. Kokanee have provided up to 85% of the May through October angler catch, while lake trout over 50 pounds and 44 inches in length have been caught at Blue Mesa.

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

Fishing Closures

Region	Type of Closure	Water Name	Location	Date Implemented	Date Removed	Contact
NW	Mandatory Full day	Yampa River	0.6 mile downstream of Stagecoach Reservoir dam within the boundary of Stagecoach Reservoir State Park	May 24, 2021		Lori Martin lori.martin@state.co.us 970.255.6186
SW	Voluntary After 12:00 pm	Dolores River	From McPhee Reservoir dam downstream approximately 12 miles to Bradfield bridge (CR 5)	June 24, 2021		John Alves john.alves@state.co.us 970-375-6721
SW	Voluntary After 12:00 pm	Tomichi Creek	4 miles of Tomichi Creek on the Tomichi Creek SWA east of Gunnison	July 7, 2021		John Alves john.alves@state.co.us 970-375-6721
NW	Voluntary Full day	Colorado River	From the Hwy. 9 bridge at Kremmling downstream to the Hwy.13 bridge in Rifle	July 7, 2021	July 12, 2021 (see note below)- REMOVED only for the Hwy. 9 bridge at Kremmling downstream to State Bridge section. The voluntary, full-day fishing closure REMAINS in effect from State Bridge downstream to the Hwy.13 bridge in Rifle.	Lori Martin lori.martin@state.co.us 970-255-6186
NW	Voluntary Full day	Colorado River	From State Bridge downstream to the Hwy.13 bridge in Rifle	July 7, 2021		Lori Martin lori.martin@state.co.us 970-255-6186
NW	Voluntary Full day	Yampa River	From the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area to the western edge of Steamboat city limits	July 8, 2021		Lori Martin lori.martin@state.co.us 970-255-6186
NW	Voluntary After 12:00 pm	Yampa River	Within the boundaries of Yampa River State Park, just west of Hayden	July 13, 2021		Lori Martin lori.martin@state.co.us 970-255-6186
NW	Voluntary After 12:00 pm	Yampa River	Within the boundaries of Yampa River State Wildlife Area,	July 13, 2021		Lori Martin lori.martin@state.co.us 970-255-6186

			between Hayden and Craig			
NW	Voluntary After 12:00 pm	Elk River	Within the boundaries of Christina State Wildlife Area	July 13, 2021		Lori Martin lori.martin@state.co.us 970-255-6186

Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Ridgway Reservoir	Southwest	6/28/2021
Lost Lake Slough	Southwest	6/29/2021
Roaring Judy Ponds	Southwest	6/30/2021
Irwin Lake	Southwest	6/30/2021
Taylor Park Reservoir	Southwest	7/1/2021
Vallecito Reservoir	Southwest	6/28/2021
Beaver Creek Reservoir	Southwest	6/29/2021
Big Meadows Reservoir	Southwest	6/29/2021
Mosquito Lake	Southwest	6/30/2021
Rio Grande Reservoir	Southwest	7/1/2021
Dolores River	Southwest	6/29/2021
Dolores River	Southwest	6/29/2021
Dolores River, West Fork	Southwest	6/29/2021
Animas River	Southwest	6/30/2021
Molas Lake, Big	Southwest	6/30/2021
San Juan River	Southwest	7/1/2021
San Juan River, East Fork	Southwest	7/1/2021
West Fork Lakes	Southwest	7/1/2021
Ridgway Reservoir	Southwest	7/2/2021
Pericles Pond	Southwest	6/29/2021
Shavano Pond	Southwest	6/29/2021
Trout Lake	Southwest	6/29/2021
Lake San Cristobal	Southwest	6/30/2021

Catamount Reservoir North	Southeast	6/28/2021
Catamount Reservoir South	Southeast	6/28/2021
San Isabel Boy Scout Lake	Southeast	6/28/2021
Lake Isabel	Southeast	6/30/2021
DeWeese Reservoir	Southeast	6/30/2021
Rampart Reservoir	Southeast	7/1/2021
South Platte River	Northeast	7/1/2021
Daigre Reservoir	Southeast	7/2/2021
Wahatoya Reservoir	Southeast	7/2/2021
Scott Pond	Northeast	7/2/2021
Fraser Lions Club Pond	Northwest	7/1/2021
Monarch Lake	Northwest	7/1/2021
Berry Creek Pond	Northwest	6/29/2021
Breeze Pond	Northwest	7/1/2021
Easter Seals Pond	Northwest	6/29/2021
Chatfield Reservoir	Northeast	6/28/2021
Trinidad Reservoir	Southeast	6/30/2021
Trinidad Reservoir	Southeast	7/2/2021
Trap Lake	Northeast	6/28/2021
Tincup Pond	Southwest	7/6/2021
Mirror Lake	Southwest	7/6/2021
Twin Spruce Ponds	Southwest	7/8/2021
Buena Vista Kids Pond	Southeast	7/6/2021
Cottonwood Lake	Southeast	7/6/2021
Fairplay Kids Pond	Northeast	7/6/2021
Twin Lakes	Southeast	7/6/2021
Twin Lakes	Southeast	7/7/2021
Fooses Lake	Southeast	7/9/2021
Monument Reservoir	Southeast	7/6/2021
Blue Lake	Southeast	7/6/2021

Bear Lake	Southeast	7/6/2021
Lake Isabel	Southeast	7/6/2021
San Isabel Boy Scout Lake	Southeast	7/6/2021
Blue Lake, Lower	Southeast	7/7/2021
Catamount Reservoir South	Southeast	7/7/2021
Red Rock Lake	Northeast	7/7/2021
Tarryall Reservoir	Northeast	7/8/2021
Barker Reservoir	Northeast	7/9/2021
Taylor Reservoir	Southwest	7/7/2021
East River	Southwest	7/8/2021
Slate River	Southwest	7/8/2021
Pothole Lake #2 (Upper)	Southwest	7/9/2021
Taylor Park Reservoir	Southwest	7/9/2021
Bear Creek Reservoir	Northeast	7/6/2021
Cherry Creek Reservoir	Northeast	7/8/2021
Big Creek Lake Lower	Northeast	7/6/2021
Dowdy Lake	Northeast	7/6/2021
West Lake	Northeast	7/6/2021
Fetcher City Pond	Northwest	7/9/2021
Hohnholz Lake #2 Little	Northeast	7/9/2021
Meadows Reservoir Big	Northwest	7/6/2021

Catch of the Week



While fishing William's Fork Reservoir, Cara caught this 36-inch lake trout. Congratulations Cara on a tremendous fish!

Would you like to be featured in the next CPW Fishing Report's Catch of the Week? Share your photo!

Email dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us and put "Catch of the Week" in the subject line or submit through the CPW Fishing App.

Conditions Report - Metro

Aurora Reservoir

Park Rangers report as of 7/16/2021, trout fishing from shore is slow. Trout will be deeper so casting out 40-50 yards with PowerBait with a slip rig is recommended. Boaters are having far to good success trolling with crawlers for trout. All other species are slow or no reports. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park hours for June 5:00 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

Chatfield Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, boaters are reporting increased success trolling for walleye. We have also received reports of successful bass fishing in the southern portion of the reservoir and a handful of catfish have been landed as well using a variety of baits. For more information, contact park staff by calling 303-791-7275.

[Chatfield Reservoir](#)

Cherry Creek Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, park staff reports anglers having increased success catching walleye, crappie, trout and bluegill. Common baits being used are mealworms, wax worms, Gulp worms, and nightcrawlers on Rapala raps, buck-shot flutter spoons, blade baits, and others. No other reports on any other species at this time. For more information please call [\(303\) 690-1166](tel:3036901166).

[Cherry Creek State Park](#)

Standley Lake

Please call ahead prior to heading to the reservoir to get up-to-date lake and shoreline fishing conditions. Contact park staff at 303-425-1097.

[Standley Lake](#)

Quincy Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, bass fishing has been slow for some and good for others. Using jigs and soft plastics in the early morning and evening has worked best. There have been some reports of topwater action picking up using frogs. All other species slow or no report. Fishing is restricted to artificial flies and lures only. Only watercraft capable of being launched by hand is permitted. Trailers and vehicles are not permitted in the water. Park hours for June are 5:00 am to 9:30 pm. For more information call 303-326-8424.

[Quincy Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Northeast Colorado

Antero Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, the ANS inspection station is located at the south boat ramp. The hot bite continues at Antero with anglers reporting success both from shore and from boats using a variety of spoons and spinners.

[Antero Reservoir](#)

Arvada Reservoir

As of 7/2/2021, anglers report fishing is fair to good for smallmouth bass and sunfish. Trout fishing is poor from shore anglers as most trout head to the deeper areas of the reservoir during the heat of the day. The reservoir was recently stocked on 6/15/2021.

[Arvada Reservoir](#)

Barr Lake

As of 7/16/2021 park staff reports walleye and wiper action continue to produce for a fun-filled day of fishing. Trout fishing from shore has been poor. For the most current conditions, please contact park staff by calling 303-659-6005.

[Barr Lake](#)

Bear Creek Lake

As of 7/16/2021, anglers have reported success catching walleye with a variety of baits including trolling bottom bouncers.

[Bear Creek Lake](#)

Boyd Lake

As of 7/16/2021, park staff reports Boyd Lake is at 96% capacity and water temperature is 76 degrees. The lake is OPEN to boating. Anglers continue to report success catching walleye and white bass using a variety of spoons, spinners, jerkbaits, and crank-baits. There is no fishing permitted from marina slips or docks. Please call Boyd Lake State Park at 970-669-1739 to get the most up-to-date ice conditions.

[Boyd Lake](#)

Cheesman Canyon

As of 7/16/2021, fishing Cheesman Canyon is fishing very well producing regularly. The flows have dropped and water is very clear. You will need to be very careful with your approach to the water so as not to spook your target. Hatches are occurring in abundance and allowing for some awesome dry fly patterns to be used. However, your go-to is still nymphing in the deeper pools and runs.

Flows: 193 CFS above Cheesman Lake (7/16/2021)

[Cheesman](#)

Douglas Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, anglers are reporting more success when fishing early mornings or into the evening.

[Douglas Reservoir](#)

Dream Stream - South Platte

As of 7/16/2021, flows continue to drop along this section of river forcing fish to deeper pools and runs. Look for holding pockets and focus on deeper sections of water. Surface feeding has become more consistent with the current invertebrate activity.

Flows: 149 CFS above Eleven Mile (7/16/2021)

[Dream Stream](#)

Eleven Mile Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, The 11 Mile Marina reports “Trout fishing is very good. The bite may be sporadic but when it’s on it’s on. Lots of fish being caught in the 12 to 14-inch range and a very strong showing for fish over 20. It has been a good season for browns. Generally still much harder to catch they have been making a strong showing this year. Many cuttbows from 18 to 21 being landed. Variety is the spice of fishing life. Many baits have worked. Those that fish their favorite with confidence catch fish. Fly rod, spin rod, cast rod, bait rod all catching.

Kokanee fishing is excellent for some and poor for others. Straight out from the Marina in 60 feet of water. Pink is a good color. Use a dodger. Use a Lead core (we have them “ready to fish” for sale) A little secrete scent no a lot of scent doesn’t hurt. The scent will only be disclosed in-store. Be patient work it hard. Find the fish and stay on them. No electronics good luck. Don’t forget the net!

Northern pike fishing is good. Some very nice fish have been landed by anglers from shore working Rapala’s. The BMX in perch and rainbow trout have proved they are worth the money. Shallow water is productive depending on the time of day. As water continues to heat up Spinner Baits will be more productive. Late in the afternoon has been a good time.”

<https://www.11milesports.com/fishing-report>

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Evergreen Lake

As of 7/16/2021, anglers have reported success catching stocker rainbow trout. CPW also wants to warn anglers of aggressive elk behavior in the area. DO NOT FEED THE WILDLIFE.

[Evergreen Lake](#)

Horsetooth Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, anglers have reported success catching smallmouth bass with soft plastics. Catfish are getting landed at night and some trout have been caught during the day using a variety of lures.

[Horsetooth Reservoir](#)

Lon Hagler Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, we have received reports of anglers catching catfish using a variety of bait. Reports also indicate bass action is picking up and that top feeding has been more consistent.

[Lon Hagler](#)

North Sterling Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, park staff reports fishing for walleye and crappie remain good using a variety of lures. Wiper action has recently picked up as well as a few catfish getting landed as well. The reservoir is OPEN to boating. The Inlet is OFF and the Outlet is OFF. Contact the park for the latest ice conditions at 970-522-3657.

[North Sterling Reservoir](#)

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, park staff reports northern pike fishing is excellent in the shallows currently. Trout fishing continues to produce very well. Scuds and leeches have worked well for nymphing and woolly buggers have been the go-to for streamers.

[Spinney Mountain Reservoir](#)

St. Vrain State Park

As of 7/16/2021, bluegill, sunfish, pumpkin seed, and other smaller fish and panfish will do well on small jigs, flies, and spinning lures; anglers also have luck with small live bait on ponds where it is legal to use bait.

Please contact the park for the most up-to-date conditions by calling 303-678-9402.

[St. Vrain State Park](#)

Waterton Canyon - South Platte

As of 7/16/2021, there are an increasing number of caddis as well as blue-winged olive and midge hatches. Work pools and slow riffles and be ready for aggressively feeding fish. Anglers have also reported success nymphing while others have tried dry droppers.

Flows: 65 CFS at Waterton (7/16/2021)

[South Platter River](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River - Leadville to Buena Vista

As of 7/11/2021, *Braden Baker with Ark Anglers* writes, "The upper river is clear and unaffected by recent rain and has been fishing very well. The river north of Buena Vista offers the best wade fishing conditions on the river, particularly above the Lake Creek confluence in Hayden Meadows but even the river in Granite is now very approachable. We've also had really good reports from the pocket water sections north of Buena Vista through the tunnels, Railroad Bridge, and Numbers. Be prepared for yellow sallies, golden stoneflies, brachycentrus caddis, and pale morning duns above Buena Vista. Gray drakes are also beginning to hatch in Hayden Meadows, yielding even more good dry fly opportunities on the upper river. Guides and DIY anglers are reporting very good dry and dry-dropper fishing this week. "

Flows: 121 CFS at Hayden Meadows, 470 CFS at Granite (7/16/2021)

<http://www.arkanglers.com/>

[Arkansas River](#)

Arkansas River - Buena Vista to Salida

As of 7/11/2021, *Braden Baker with Ark Anglers* writes, "Flows are now being augmented for recreational levels and we anticipate the river remaining about this level for the next several weeks. Flows are great for floating but the edges are getting more and more workable for wade fisherman. As yellow sally, golden stonefly, and caddis hatches grow stronger and grasshoppers become more available as terrestrial food, dry dropper and shallow nymphing tactics are becoming increasingly productive. Fish are definitely getting more surface-oriented in their feeding. There are lots of pale morning dun nymphs in the system and hatches mid-day into the afternoon, especially on cloudier days. The next few weeks should provide some of the best fishing of the whole summer! Following a low water spring and an underwhelming runoff, fish are healthy and have fared well through the high water. Water temperatures are currently in the ideal range for our fisheries so anglers can confidently fish all day long without fear of overstressing the fish."

Flows: 856 CFS at Hecla Junction (7/16/2021)

<http://www.arkanglers.com/>

[Arkansas River](#)

Blue Lake

The lake was recently stocked on 6/15/2021.

[Blue Lake](#)

Hugo SWA Ponds

As of 7/16/2021, anglers are reporting good bass action and some catfish being landed as well. Bass were caught with a variety of lures and crawlers. Catfish were caught using a variety of baits.

[Hugo SWA Ponds](#)

John Martin Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, both the East and West boat ramps are open. Anglers have noted an increase in bass and wiper action and a few catfish have been landed at night. As a reminder to anglers, underwater spearfishing may be used as a method of fishing in accordance with regulations issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Underwater spearfishing is prohibited within 100 feet of any marina, boat ramp, swim beach, or dam infrastructure.

[John Martin Reservoir](#)

Kissel Pond

As of 7/16/2021, anglers have reported fishing for catfish and crappie is good and trout fishing is currently poor.

[Kissel Pond](#)

Lake Pueblo

As of 7/16/2021, anglers reported success trolling for walleye. Shore anglers have reported poor trout fishing recently but have seen an increase in topwater action from bass. The shad should be showing up in force in the next couple of weeks so get ready for some fun walleye action!

[Lake Pueblo](#)

Rosemont Reservoir

The reservoir was recently stocked on 6/18/2021 and 6/21/2021. With the warm dry temperatures returning, so the trout have returned to the deeper sections of the reservoir. Fishing early mornings and evenings can prove to be beneficial for both the angler and fish.

[Rosemont Reservoir](#)

Runyon & Fountain Lakes

The lakes were stocked on 5/10/2021, 4/19/2021, 3/19/2021, 2/26/2021, and 1/27/2021. Fishing overall has been fair to good with a variety of artificial lures.

[Runyon Lake](#)

[Fountain Lake](#)

Trinidad Lake

As of 7/16/2021, park staff reports boaters have had luck trolling rapalas and worm harnesses. South Shore has produced good size trout very regularly using PowerBait and doughballs. Call the park for the most up-to-date conditions at 719-846-6951.

[Trinidad Lake](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Blue River

As of 7/16/2021, anglers have reported success with caddis imitations and flows are allowing for dry flies.

Flows: 421 CFS below Green Mountain Reservoir (7/16/2021)

[Blue River](#)

Eagle River

As of 7/16/2021, continue to look for fish in pocket water and banks. Nymphing is proving to be very successful even with the increase in surface activity.

Flows: 340 CFS below Gypsum (7/16/2021)

[Eagle River](#)

Grand Lake

As of 7/16/2021, *Fishing with Bernie Guide*, Dan Shannon reports, "Fishing has remained fair to good for all species. The best time of the day to be on the water is first thing in the morning before it gets very busy with boat traffic. Rainbow trout and brown trout are being caught in 10-15 feet of water, trolling Tasmanian Devils, deep-diving crankbaits or spoons and a snap weight have been producing. Focus on the areas with moving water or sharp transition to shallow water. Lake trout are active in water from 45-90 feet, Chartreuse colored spoons or radical glow grubs on a lead head have been working well tipped with a small piece of sucker."

<https://www.fishingwithbernie.com/>

[Grand Lake](#)

Green Mountain Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, reports indicate reservoir levels are still low, especially for this time of year. No new fishing reports and those received stated very slow and tough fishing.

[Green Mountain Reservoir](#)

Harvey Gap

As of 7/16/2021, the lake is open water and fishing fair to good. Anglers state that northern pike and smallmouth bass fishing is picking up with the warming water temperatures. Trout and perch have also been landed using PowerBait, worms, and a variety of lures.

[Harvey Gap](#)

Lake Granby

As of 7/2/2021, *Fishing with Bernie Guide*, Dan Shannon reports, "Water temp has increased to 70 degrees in the afternoon with the warm weather. Fishing has remained good, the time of day has been the difference in the fish activity with early and late both being most productive times. Rainbows and Brown Trout are finding the cooler water in the mouths of the creeks and deeper water 10-20 feet. Trolling lures such as deep diving crankbaits, or spoons and spinners on lead core that target these depths has been key. Lake trout fishing has been better than average for this time of year with good numbers of fish as well as opportunity for larger fish. 50-85 feet have been the most productive depths. Dark-colored jigs tipped with sucker have remained the go-to bait while staying mobile to find the active fish, with the location changing depending on the day."

<https://www.fishingwithbernie.com/>

[Lake Granby](#)

Lake John

As of 7/16/2021, *Lake John Resort* reports indicate fishing has picked up and anglers are landing some large trout! A variety of spinners, spoons, and jigs have been used as well as nightcrawlers. Please be aware of potential fire restrictions.

<https://lakejohnresort.com/>

[Lake John](#)

Mack Mesa Lake

After months of hard work, Mack Mesa Reservoir is now refilled and has been restocked with bluegill to start developing a forage base for the largemouth bass and other species to be stocked later this summer. Those warm water species include largemouth bass, black crappie, bluegill, and channel catfish. CPW also plans to stock trout in time for the fall and ice fishing seasons.

[Mack Mesa Lake](#)

Rifle Gap

As of 7/16/2021, park staff reports “walleye, northern pike, perch and smallmouth bass fishing is good.”

[Rifle Gap](#)

Vega Reservoir

Park staff reports as of 7/16/2021, The Island boat ramp is open at this time. Inspection hours are from 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. daily. Fishing has slowed down a bit, however, anglers are reporting catching some nice rainbows in 16 - 20 inch range using silver spinners, PowerBait and worms. Lake levels are below normal.

In order to prevent boats from launching during hours that ANS inspections are not available, the park has installed new gates and one-way spike strips. The spike strips will allow boats to exit the lake after hours at the Island boat ramp but will prevent anyone from entering the lake during non-inspection hours. Boaters that plan to exit the lake after inspection hours should park and use the Island boat ramp so that they are not behind locked gates after hours. The south road and the gravel pit area are open for the season.

[Vega Reservoir](#)

Williams Fork Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, *Fishing with Bernie Guide*, *Randy H* reports, “Ramp hours are 6AM to 8PM. Water capacity is at 92%, the lake is going down. Inflow is 68 cfs, out flow is 221. Surface temp is 66 early AM warming to 72+ on calm days. The warm water has driven the Lake Trout and Northern's to deeper water. The Lake Trout bite is fair to good early morning then drops off, but you can keep on biting fish with frequent moves. We are catching Lakers in 60 to 80 foot and seeing them on the bottom at 120 plus. Grubs or tubes tipped with sucker meat is producing bites. The Lake Trout bite picks up again late afternoon. Northern's are slow. I'm seeing close follows with no bites. The Northern's in Williams Fork have contracted a skin disease that I'm seeing on fish that follow my lures. The disease possibly can be spread to clean fish by landing nets or your hands. Bleach water can be used to disinfect landing nets and hand sanitizer for your hands if you boat an infected fish.”

<https://www.fishingwithbernie.com/>

[Williams Fork Reservoir](#)

Yampa River

As of 5/25/2021, due to critically low water flows caused by dry conditions and minimal snowpack levels, Colorado Parks and Wildlife has implemented a mandatory fishing closure on a 0.6-mile stretch of the Yampa River between the dam at Stagecoach State Park downstream to the lowermost park boundary. The closure began on May 25 and will continue until further notice.

[Yampa River](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Animas River at Durango

As of 7/13/2021, *Duranglers* reports, "With flows dropping and temps rising, it's good to hold yourself to some personal Hoot Owl regs. Get out early until noon or 1, bring a thermometer, and get off when it gets above 65-66. The morning mission has been fantastic on the Animas with mayfly and caddis pupa nymph rigs, and PMDs are starting to show."

Flows: 475 CFS at Durango (7/13/2021)

[Duranglers](#)

[Animas River](#)

Blue Mesa Reservoir

As of 7/16/2021, anglers have reported fun topwater action in the early mornings and evenings. Lake trout are still holding in deeper water t. [The Blue Mesa Lake Trout tournament continues through July!](#) The Lake Fork and Elk Creek boat ramps are open and have hours 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

[Blue Mesa Reservoir](#)

Dolores River

As of 7/13/2021 *Duranglers* reports, "The upper Dolores drainage is fishing solid. Dry dropper all day every day. Watch for hatches of caddis, PMDs, and moths."

Flows: 128 at Dolores (7/13/2021)

[Duranglers](#)

[Dolores River](#)

Gunnison River

As of 7/13/2021 *Duranglers* reports, "If you want to catch more fish, put on the nymph rig and fish deep with weight. If you want to catch fish like a well-adjusted person who isn't all about numbers and actually likes to have fun, fish a dry. PMDs, Caddis, and some Yellow Sallies are out and about. Fish a dry/dropper for the best of both worlds."

Flows: 655 CFS below Gunnison Tunnel (7/13/2021)

[Duranglers](#)

[Gunnison River](#)

James M. Robb Colorado River

As of 7/16/2021, park staff reports, "Fishing has begun to slow due to warmer temperatures. Trout will be deeper. Bluegill and Sunfish will be more productive. Please ensure the responsible and ethical release of fish and properly dispose of fishing line. Remember, the daily limit for trout is four fish per person."

[James M. Robb Colorado River - Corn, Fruita, and Connected Lakes](#)

San Miguel River

As of 7/13/2021, *Duranglers* reports, "Flows are pretty solid right now for this high country river. Don't overthink it too much: dry/droppers on your favorite 4 weight and have fun!"

Flows: 207 CFS near Placerville (7/13/2021)

[Duranglers](#)

[San Miguel River](#)

San Juan River at Pagosa Springs

As of 7/13/2021 *Duranglers* report, "Solitude on the river in town Pagosa is limited to the first and last hours of the day. Expect lots of tubers and swimmers. Midday will be hot, so if you are not early, get up higher in elevation. Mayflies, smaller stones, and caddis have been hatching. Dry dropper setups are best."

Flows: 110 CFS at Pagosa Springs (7/13/2021)

[Duranglers](#)

[San Juan River](#)

Uncompahgre River

As of 7/13/2021, *Duranglers* reports, "The small bugs will still work, but flows have been bumped so make sure to try some bigger stuff like leeches and SJ worms with the midge and mayfly nymphs. Watch for Caddis in the afternoons, or put on a streamer or bugger!"

Flows: 257 CFS below Ridgway Reservoir (7/13/2021)

[Duranglers](#)

[Uncompahgre River](#)

Tip of the Week - Know Before You Go

- **The Colorado Fishing Atlas:** The latest interactive mapping tool offered by Colorado Parks and Wildlife allows users to search for fishing opportunities by species, specific interest or proximity to their home or destination. Spend a few minutes viewing a series of [short video tutorials](#) to learn about all the great new features or jump right in and start scouting from the comfort of your home today.
- **Road/Land closures:** Check for closures in the area you plan to fish. This information, from the BLM and USDAFS, changes often so go to their websites for current closures: [BLM for Colorado](#), [US Forest Service](#) (you'll need to know in which forest you will be fishing).
- **Forest Safety:** Forest Service officials want to remind you to watch out for falling trees, especially in areas affected by the 2.5 million acre mountain pine beetle epidemic. Check out [US Forest Service](#) for more information on guidelines, safety tips and Bark Beetles.
- [Hotel accommodations and activities](#) in your fishing area.
- Camping? See the Colorado [State Parks general camping rules](#). Fishing in a Colorado State Park? The [individual Parks](#) also have important fishing information. The [USDA Forest Service](#) website also provides camping information for Forest Service lands.

If you'll be camping during your fishing trip, please help protect our forests by buying your firewood in Colorado. Firewood can spread harmful insect pests and diseases such as emerald ash borer, siren wood wasp, gypsy moth, Asian longhorned beetle, and oak wilt disease. If you have brought firewood from another state, please burn it immediately. For more information contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture at 303/239-4140.

- [Firebans:](#) A link to the Colorado Division of Emergency Management fire bans and restrictions information.

We love to hear back from our subscribers regarding fishing reports, tips, and requests for the 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. If you would like to report water and/or fishing conditions to be used in the next fishing report, feel free to submit a report to dnr_fish.reporter@state.co.us.

DNR Fish Reporter



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