

Fishing Report



Friday August 17th, 2018

News and Information

August is a great time to fish, but you might have to change your tactics.

August does not have to be the dog days of summer as many anglers believe. [Some of the best fishing of the year is available right now.](#) You may have to change your approach or where you go, but you shouldn't stay home.

"Take Me Fishing!" event

Saturday, August 18

[Free fishing poles and bait provided for kids!](#) Meet at the Pa-Cho-Chu-Puk ponds. Volunteers on hand to assist. \$7.00 entrance fee required.

Moose Festival

Saturday, August 18

The annual moose festival, come on out for moose talks, a scavenger hunt, a [fly fishing class](#), games, guided hikes, moose biology, brats and burgers, great scenery, fresh air, and you might catch a glimpse of a moose!

Program: Fly Fishing for Beginners

Tuesday, August 21

Join Naturalist Linda to [learn the art of acting like an insect!](#) Fly fishing involves lures that look just like aquatic insects and the skill to make your lure act like one. For ages 8 & up.

CPW to begin native greenback cutthroat trout reintroduction

CPW is conducting the first phase of a project to renovate the fishery in the headwaters of George Creek, located on the Arapaho National Forest in Larimer County. The removal of non-native species is being done in preparation for the reintroduction of greenback cutthroat trout to the creek. [The greenback cutthroat trout is Colorado's State Fish and is listed as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act.](#)

As fall approaches, Highline Lake adjusting ANS inspection hours

Beginning August 20th, [aquatic nuisance species inspection hours at Highline Lake State Park will be changing](#) due to a reduction in staff. In addition, the East boat ramp will close for the season on Aug.12. The West ramp will remain open until further notice.



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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](#).

Closure Information

CPW initiates Voluntary Fishing Closures on designated reaches of the Eagle River, Colorado River, Crystal River, and Roaring Fork River

Due to high water temperatures and low flows, Colorado Parks and Wildlife is [implementing voluntary fishing closures between 2:00pm and 12:00am daily](#) on sections of the Eagle River, Colorado River, Crystal River, and Roaring Fork River in Northwest Colorado. The fishing closure is effective immediately, until further notice.

Contact the [closest Colorado Parks and Wildlife office](#) for more details.

VOLUNTARY CLOSURES:

Northwest Region

Voluntary Closures between 2 p.m. and Midnight

- [Eagle River from Wolcott downstream to its confluence with the Colorado River](#)
- [Colorado River from State Bridge downstream to Rifle](#)
- [Crystal River from Avalanche Creek downstream to its confluence with the Roaring Fork River](#)
- [Roaring Fork River from Carbondale downstream to its confluence with the Colorado River](#)
- [The north fork of White River at the National Forest boundary, through the main stem of the river to the County Road 5 bridge, downstream of the Rio Blanco Lake State Wildlife Area](#)
- [The south fork of the White River from the National Forest boundary through the main stem of the river to the County Road 5 bridge, downstream of the Rio Blanco Lake State Wildlife Area](#)
- [Fraser River from Grand County Road 8 in Fraser, downstream through the towns of Tabernash and Granby to confluence with the Colorado River near Windy Gap Reservoir](#)
- [Colorado River from the confluence with the Fraser River near Windy Gap Reservoir downstream to its confluence with the Williams Fork River near Parshall](#)

For a complete up to date list of Fishing Closures currently in effect [visit the CPW Website](#)

To check closures call your CPW Regional office. In the Northeast Region, call the Denver office at 303-291-7227. In the Southeast Region, call the Colorado Springs office at 719-227-5200. In the Southwest Region, call the Durango office at 970-375-6708. In the Northwest Region, call the Grand Junction office at 970-255-6100.

Stocking Report

Body of Water	Region	Report Date
Taylor Reservoir	Southwest	8/10/2018
Staunton Reservoir #1	Northeast	8/9/2018
Staunton Reservoir #2	Northeast	8/9/2018
West Lake	Northeast	8/9/2018
Casey Pond	Northwest	8/9/2018
Sands Lake	Southeast	8/9/2018
Taylor Reservoir	Southwest	8/9/2018
San Juan River #2	Southwest	8/9/2018
Carter Lake	Northeast	8/8/2018
Ruedi Reservoir	Northwest	8/8/2018
Daigre Reservoir	Southeast	8/8/2018
Wahatoya Lake Reservoir	Southeast	8/8/2018
Taylor Reservoir	Southwest	8/8/2018
Andrews Lake	Southwest	8/8/2018
Molas Lake Big	Southwest	8/8/2018
Evergreen Reservoir	Northeast	8/7/2018
Georgetown Lake	Northeast	8/7/2018
North Fork Michigan R Lake	Northeast	8/7/2018
Granby Reservoir	Northwest	8/7/2018
Mix Lake	Southwest	8/7/2018
Trap Lake	Northeast	8/6/2018
Bear Lake	Southeast	8/6/2018
Blue Lake	Southeast	8/6/2018
Cottonwood Lake	Southeast	8/6/2018
Taylor Reservoir	Southwest	8/6/2018

Catch of the Week



Levi keeping our trout safe by landing this 28" Northern Pike at Rifle Gap!!

Have a fish you'd like to show off? [Share your photo](#) and include "catch of the week" in the subject line. Feel free to share any additional info/details on your catch!

Conditions Report - Metro

Aurora Reservoir

This 762-acre impoundment is located off of E. Quincy Avenue, two miles east of E-470. As of **8/1/2018** water temp is 69 degrees. Trout fishing from shore is slow. Occasionally we have received a good report using PowerBait off the dam. Boaters are reporting fair to good conditions on trout, trolling with crawlers and lures. Some nice trout in the 18 -21 inches range have been caught recently. Walleye action from boats is slow to fair with an occasional good report. Some reports of largemouth being caught on top water lures. Restricted to electric motors only. For more information call 303-326-8425. Park hours August 5:30am-9:00pm.

[Aurora Reservoir](#)

Chatfield Reservoir

This 1,356 impoundment is located in Chatfield State Park, as of **8/16/2018** the water surface temperature is sitting at about 69 degrees. The shad schools are splitting causing the walleye to scatter in search of food making the walleye fishing very difficult. The smallmouths are biting especially top water in the early morning, before 10am. Later in the day look for the smallmouth to be feeding off of minnows at medium depths or next to obstruct structures.

[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 **8/16/2018** the walleye fishing is on fire at Cherry Creek right now! The shad are schooled together so the walleye are in hunt mode. Anglers are having a lot of success with blade baits and other shad imitations. Trolling for walleye is also producing a lot of fish up until the heat of the day, about 3pm. If you can find a shad ball in the morning hours, get that line out there and hold on!

[Cherry Creek State Park](#)

Quincy Reservoir

As of **8/10/2018** the water temp is 65 - 69 degrees. As far as the warm water species goes, Quincy has been doing great as of late. If you are a trout fisher maybe it's time to expand your interest because the bass and pan fish have been very active and feeding heavily especially on top water lures. For bass particularly, reports of hoppers and poppers have been very successful (these flies and lures are particularly good in the mornings and evenings). The reservoir has also been a destination for people to flock on the weekends so it has been crowded so try fishing on a weekday. Park Hours for August 5:30am-9:00pm. 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

Boyd Lake

Aquatic Nuisance Species Inspection hours for the month of May are 6:00 am-10:00 pm daily. As of **8/16/2018**, anglers are throwing crankbaits (i.e. #5's shad Rapalas) and catching bass, especially whites. Trout are deep right now and reports of Lindy Rigs are producing well. *Reminder -No fishing from marina slips or docks (next to is okay but can't use them in any way).*

[Boyd Lake](#)

Bear Creak

Updated **8/10/2018**. Fly fishing mindsets for smaller creeks, especially in the foothills, needs to be focused towards the summertime conditions we are showing (hot days, lower flows with mixed thunderstorms). Think smaller in the morning such as a PMD or #18-20 sized caddis. As the afternoon approaches hoppers and bigger terrestrials will attract the trout. Trout will always be feeding below the surface as well so try a hopper dropper rig and mix the lower fly around (nymphs and emergers) and colors depending on the cloud coverage and sun intensity.

Flows: 2.5 CFS (8/16/2018)

[Bear Creek](#)

Cache la Poudre

As of **8/16/2018** - The Poudre is fishing decent to good right now. You will be looking at your typical summer hatches this time of year. For early mornings the PMD's are coming off around the #18 size, so keep them small. Also be on the lookout for trico hatches most likely during the mid-morning. If you are not aware of what a Trico spinner fall is, read our tip of the week! Later in the day when it heats up use your hopper dropper rigs and as the day progresses, the caddis hatch should be on the menu.

Flows: 270 CFS near Rustic and 100 CFS at Fort Collins

[Cache la Poudre](#)

Deckers and Cheesman Canyon

As of **8/16/2018**, the flows are up again as Denver Water released a lot of water out of Chessman Reservoir to drain some sediment caused by a recent flash flood in July. The canyon hasn't had much in terms of new hatches but smaller sized midges and baetis flies have been getting some fish. Pat's rubber legs have been a good lead fly followed by your RS2's, baetis emergers, and midges etc. Keep the nymphing flies small, around the #20 range. For the Deckers area, a lot of the same flies mentioned last week will still get some fish as flows are very similar. Reports coming in are saying smaller Pat's rubber legs, San Juan worms, caddis imitations, PMD emergers and Juju Baetis are catching plenty of fish.

Flows: Deckers 358 CFS (8/16/2018) CFS Canyon 358 CFS (8/16/2018)

[Deckers and Cheesman Canyon](#)

Eleven Mile Reservoir

As of **8/13/2018**, the trout fishing has been great especially near Roger's Mountain, Howbert Point, Sucker's Cove and near the islands. Try using pink and green PowerBait along with Kastmasters, plastic Worms or tube jigs in White/Green variations. The Kokanee salmon are tough to catch at the moment. Try the main channel at about 30-35 feet deep near Deer and Duck Island. Trolling with Cowbells, Kokanee Killers, or down riggers have shown some success as well. Northern Pike fishing is good right now. Try the west side along the shallows and weed beds. Try using Rapala's, tube jigs, Kastmasters or Krocodiles.

[Eleven Mile State Park](#)

Horsetooth Reservoir

As of **8/16/2018** the water level is at 71% capacity and sitting down 26 feet below the "full" mark. Water surface temperature is about 76 degrees making it difficult for shore anglers as the fish are retreating to deeper waters. Boaters who cover a lot of water and under water structures are having success with the warm water species especially bass. Worms and minnows for bass have been the best bet for bait fishing as well as mid to deep level crank baits.

[Horsetooth Reservoir](#)

Pikeview Reservoir (Colorado Springs)

Located off of Garden of the Gods Rd and just East of I-25, this reservoir has just about all the typical species of fish found in Colorado. From warm water fish like largemouth bass to other species such as trout and pike - this small, urban reservoir has it all. As of **8/10/2018** fishing reported as decent to slow. When recently stocked the fishing will be good but during these warmer days fish have been lethargic and deep. Look to mix up the techniques/lures and fish during the cooler times of the day. This reservoir packs some resident fish that have avoided the "hook" over the years and can reach very decent sizes. Throw them something that they don't see every day to spark their curiosity, you could get a taker and be on our next catch of the week!

[Pikeview Reservoir](#)

Jackson Lake

As of **8/11/2018** water levels are dropping every day at approximately a tenth of an inch. Surface water temperatures are approximately 82 degrees. Fishing has been fair to good for channel catfish, crappie, wiper and walleye. Even with the lower water levels, boating is still open for the time being.

[Jackson Lake State Park](#)

North Sterling

As of **8/13/2018**, Water temperature is about 76 degrees with some warmer temps in the shallow coves. The lake is about 20 feet down from full and dropping at about 2-3 feet a week. Fishing is fair for Walleye, Crappie and Wiper, with slower bites being reported lake wide. Shore fishermen are reporting a decent Catfish bite at the West Trailhead lot. The Reservoir is OPEN to BOATING. The Inlet is OFF and the Outlet is ON.

[North Sterling State Park](#)

Spinney Mountain Reservoir

As of **8/13/2018**, trout fishing remains good and they are currently feeding off of chironomids, spoons, tube jigs and Tasmanian Devils are getting a lot of takers right now as well. Northern pike fishing has been great! Your typical locations such as weed beds and sandbars are currently where you can find the pike. The pike are focusing on Rapalas and tube jigs. Try putting a tube jig over a spoon so the treble hook is exposed. Retrieve more or less like a typical spinner with a few jigs here and there. When tube jigs are on, the extra action/presentation the spoon gives can sometimes be the little push the fish needs to take your lure.

[Spinney Mountain State Park](#)

South Platte - Middle Fork

As of **8/16/2018**, fishing at the Dream has been good. Trico hatches have been very strong anywhere from 7:30 to 11am. Be prepared to switch to your trico set up when you see it happening (see the tip of the week). Some bigger resident fish have been caught out of slots and deeper runs. BWO's, caddis, stoneflies and even egg patterns have convinced some fish in current seems and riffles. Some suggested flies are natural pheasant tails size #18-20, Bling Midge Cream, Radiation Baetis, and Two Bit Hookers all in the #18-20 range have been getting some good takers.

Flows: 125 CFS (8/16/2018)

[South Platte - Middle Fork](#)

Conditions Report - Southeast Colorado

Arkansas River-Below Lake Pueblo

As of **8/16/2018**, the tail waters below the reservoir are still low so use caution on these trout. Pay close attention to the water temperatures. Nightly temperatures are dropping a little allowing for some cooler, morning conditions. The lower flows can give you a good opportunity to try some sight fishing. Morning hours are going to be the best bet before it gets too hot before 10 am. We recommend fishing above Pueblo Blvd as anything below will have the higher water temps to avoid stream fishing (>66 degrees).

Flows: 70 CFS (8/16/2018)

[Lake Pueblo State Park](#)

Upper Arkansas - Above Lake Pueblo

As of **8/16/2018** the typical summer rigs will produce. PMD hatches in the morning and hopper droppers when it warms up after about 10-11am will yield fish. The flows are well below historic averages so fish will be on the lookout and skittish. Use your sight fishing skills and approach slowly with a soft presentation. The caddis hatch has been active so use emergers early and when you see the hatch progress later in the day, experiment with different sizes. Try an elk hair caddis that sits high in the water and floats well (foam bodied) followed by a caddis emerger. Experiment with emergers that have reflective material and some without. The weekend shows possible storms so you will be getting cloud coverage coming and going. Flows: 80 CFS (8/16/2018)

Catamount and Crystal Reservoirs (Pikes Peak)

As of 8/10/2018 fishing has been decent. Water temps are low so trout will be heading a little deeper during the warmer days and afternoons. Anglers have been having some success with terrestrials and other top water bugs. During the summer months and hot weather focus your bug patterns to hoppers, aunt patterns and beetles. Try and bubble with a 20 inch plus leader to your fly. Early morning and evening will see more active fish. Water levels were reported as low. Summertime conditions means different bugs and hatches. If you are lure fishing, test your depths instead of repeating the same retrieval as fish will start to move deeper throughout the day. Sometimes even jigging a Kastmaster or other jigs (usually at a 15-20 + foot range) will tempt holding fish at deeper depths during warm days

[Catamount Reservoirs](#)

Lake Pueblo State Park

As of 8/16/2018 fishing has been decent to slow. The water levels are low for the reservoir and sitting at about 64% capacity so careful of underwater structures if you are boating. Surface water temps are around 77%. Bass are going to still be active during these water conditions so be on the lookout for shad balls. Reports of fishing being caught at the 10-15 foot levels. Largemouth bass have been active in the coves. Try some Texas rigged plastics around structures.

[Lake Pueblo State Park](#)

Lathrop State Park

As of 8/6/2018 the surface temperature at Martin Lake is approximated at 72 degrees. With temperatures rising to around 90 degrees or more, the fishing has been abundant during early mornings and late evenings. Pike have been the most popular catch during the summer months using fake smelt (smelt is a very small fish similar to a minnow). With the frequent rain we have been getting during the evenings, trout have been very active during these times. Trout in Martin Lake have been known to be feeding on PowerBait and night crawlers. Largemouth bass have also been another popular fish being caught, especially with crayfish lures and shallow water lures. The surface temperature at Horseshoe Lake is approximated at 69 degrees. The most popular fish Horseshoe has to offer is the infamous tiger muskie. The largest tiger muskie recorded at Horseshoe Lake was 46 inches long and weighed at 25 pounds. With reports from fisherman on the lake, crappie and trout have been the most caught here. Smallmouth bass have been another frequent catch using Sammy lures and spinner bait in the evenings.

[Lathrop State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Northwest Colorado

Harvey Gap

As of 8/10/2018 the fishing at Harvey has been really good. Reports are coming in that perch of all sizes are being caught. Pike and trout are also reported coming out in good numbers. Morning fishing will draw the best results. As the day heats up use some heavier Kastmasters to get deeper to the trout escaping the hotter surface water temperatures. Pike will also take a Kastmaster so make sure to tie a strong knot.

[Harvey Gap](#)

Lake John

As of 8/13/2018 the fishing at Lake John SWA has been "great" for both shore and boat anglers! From shore the weed beds are fairly high but anglers with patience have been rewarded with success when using night-crawlers and pink colored PowerBait. Boat fisherman are reporting success with rooster tails in the brown color, black/white Dardevles and great success with olive colored wooly buggers. We've received very good reports from the Delaney's the past couple of weeks but the best fishing is going to be at night. After dark, the bigger fish are biting from shore. Other good news is the mosquitoes are calming down. Nothing coming out of Cowdrey because of no signs of anyone fishing it at the moment. Lack of crowds at Crowdrey presents a great opportunity to get some space and possibly some hungry fish! Overall the conditions are hot and dry so prepare to have the best luck during the morning and evening hours when temperatures are lower. Please don't forget that we have a general store here and bait & tackle shop. We also have cabins available if you are wanting to stay out at the lake! Call us for a reservation.

[Lake John SWA](#)

Rifle Gap Reservoir

As of **8/7/2018** pike and trout are being caught throughout the lake. Bass fishing has been good near the Cedar Campground as well as near the dam. Keep in mind that there are a couple of *fishing regulations that are specific to Rifle Gap* for walleye bag/possession limit= 1 fish Size= Must be 18 inches or greater
All other species are same as the statewide regulations.

[Rifle Gap State Park](#)

Rifle Falls

Latest report **8/10/2018**. Rainbow and cutthroat trout are found in East Rifle Creek which flows through Rifle Falls. Fish up to 19 inches long have been taken, with 6-9 inch fish being the average size. Brown and Black flies or spinners work the best. Bait, except for live fish, can be used.

[Rifle Falls](#)

Vega

As of **8/5/2018**, Early Settlers and Oak Point boat ramps are CLOSED for the season. The Island boat ramp remains open at this time. The lake level is receding rapidly. Fishing is good. Yellow PowerBait is landing some nice rainbows and cutthroats. Don't forget to stop at the entrance and have your boat inspected prior to launching. The ANS inspection station is open from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. 7 days a week. If at any time it is closed, please come to the Visitor Center for boat inspections.

[Vega State Park](#)

Conditions Report - Southwest Colorado

Blue Mesa Reservoir

This 8,900 acre reservoir is located west of Gunnison. As of **8/16/2018**, the kokanee are beginning to school and are being caught using various jigging techniques. They are somewhat finicky and not easily caught so be sure to switch up the colors and presentation to find what is on the menu. Perch have been caught in the shallows with small Maribou jigs and worms attached. Water levels are about 50 feet below "full". Anglers can check on current conditions and boat ramp inspection schedules by contacting the Curecanti National Recreation Area at (970-641-2337).

[Blue Mesa Reservoir](#)

Ridgway Reservoir

As of **8/10/2018** fishing for trout is good, lures of choice are worms, salmon eggs, spinners, and Rapala's. Fishing ponds at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk have been slow to decent with small worms, and egg imitations. Pa-Co-Chu-Puk River has been fishing well with small nymphs, pale morning duns/nymphs, with occasional Green Drake hatches. Pink Cahill's have been producing excellent. Terrestrial season is here with hoppers, ants, and similar producing fish.

[Ridgway State Park](#)

Taylor Park Reservoir

As of **8/16/2018**, lots of rainbows are coming in off of trolling rigs with pop gear and worms. Lake trout are catchable but really deep, around 80 feet. Anglers have been catching the lake trout off of sucker meat and worms. Pike fishing has mainly produced smaller sized fish from the weed beds using big spoons and spinners. Water levels are down about 20 feet at the moment.

[Taylor Park Reservoir](#)

Conditions Report - Statewide Conditions

Colorado fisheries have been experiencing the heat and dry conditions that typically come with this time of year. Many streams are experiencing low flows and high water temperatures. It is recommended to consider other options than fishing waters that are over 66 degrees. Low flows also provides the opportunity to try sight fishing for feeding trout. Clear skies will mean it is easy for the fish to spot you so be mindful and use soft presentations. For lake fishing the warm water species are active in most waters. Use poppers in early morning to get some good top water action from bass. For walleye fishing, keep an eye out for shad balls. Depending on the lake, shad are still schooling which will be followed by hungry walleye in example Cherry Creek.

Tip of the Week

This week's tip is for the fly fishers out there that want to add a summertime weapon to their arsenal. The technique is called a "trico spinner fall". A trico is part of the mayfly genus and are very small insects. When you see a hatch it will look like a small cloud of dark, small flies. Trico duns usually only live for only a few hours, flying above the water surface. Once they die they will turn into a "spinner" which is the dead version of the trico. Trout love an easy meal so when hundreds of these small flies die and float on the water's surface, they basically need to just open their mouths, swallow and smile. Fishing a spinner fall can be somewhat challenging due to the size and quantities of these bugs but it can also be very rewarding because of both the top water thrill and the amount of fish that can be landed in a small amount of time. Try your best to match the body size and color of the spinners best you can and a 100% dead drift is key. Try a dry-dropper rig. The dry (the spinner with clear or white wings #18-24) attached to some monofilament tippet (6x), followed by about 8-10 inches of sinking fluorocarbon tied to your dropper trico. Ask a local fly shop about what color/size they recommend for the area you are going to be fishing. When identifying the hatch, be aware of these dark clusters of tiny bugs above the water surface. The feeding trout will likely be just downstream "gulping" up the dead spinners. The takes from the fish will be subtle so keep a close eye on your lead fly.

Good luck and email us how you did with this technique!

Have a suggestion or request?

Email us at 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.

DNR Fish Reporter



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources