



# Fryingpan River

## Fish Management and Survey Information

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**General Information:** The Fryingpan River below Ruedi Reservoir consists of 14 miles of Gold Medal Fishing for trout. It is one section of the longest reach of Gold Medal Fishing opportunity in the state. Bank and wade fishing is available on public / government property and state leased sections of private property.

**Location:** Eagle and Pitkin counties. The Fryingpan River Gold Medal waters extend from the confluence with the Roaring Fork River at the town of Basalt and extend upstream along Fryingpan Road to Ruedi Dam. See page 2.

**Recreation Management:** USFS, CO Parks & Wildlife

**Fishery Management:** Gold Medal Trout

### AMENITIES

- Approximately 8 miles of public fishing access for shore and wade fishing at eight access locations.
- Year-round restrooms located at USFS Rocky Fork day use area near Ruedi Dam.
- Hiking trails.
- Camping located at Ruedi Reservoir.
- Guided wade fishing available from several local angler shops and outfitters.
- For additional info about local amenities and services, visit the town of Basalt web site at: [www.basalt.com](http://www.basalt.com)

### STOCKING HISTORY

#### **2009—Present**

Hofer Rainbow Trout

#### **2008**

CO River Rainbow Trout

#### **2007**

CO River Rainbow Trout

#### **2006**

CO River Rainbow Trout

### SPORTFISHING NOTES

#### **Rainbow Trout**

- Hofer rainbows have been stocked recently because of their increased resistance to whirling disease, which is present in the Fryingpan.
- Spawn in April through mid-May.
- Fishing for hofer rainbow trout is best below the dam.

#### **Brown Trout**

- The most common fish caught by anglers.
- Spawn in late October through November.
- Check local angling websites for local hatch information and fly pattern suggestions.

### REGULATIONS

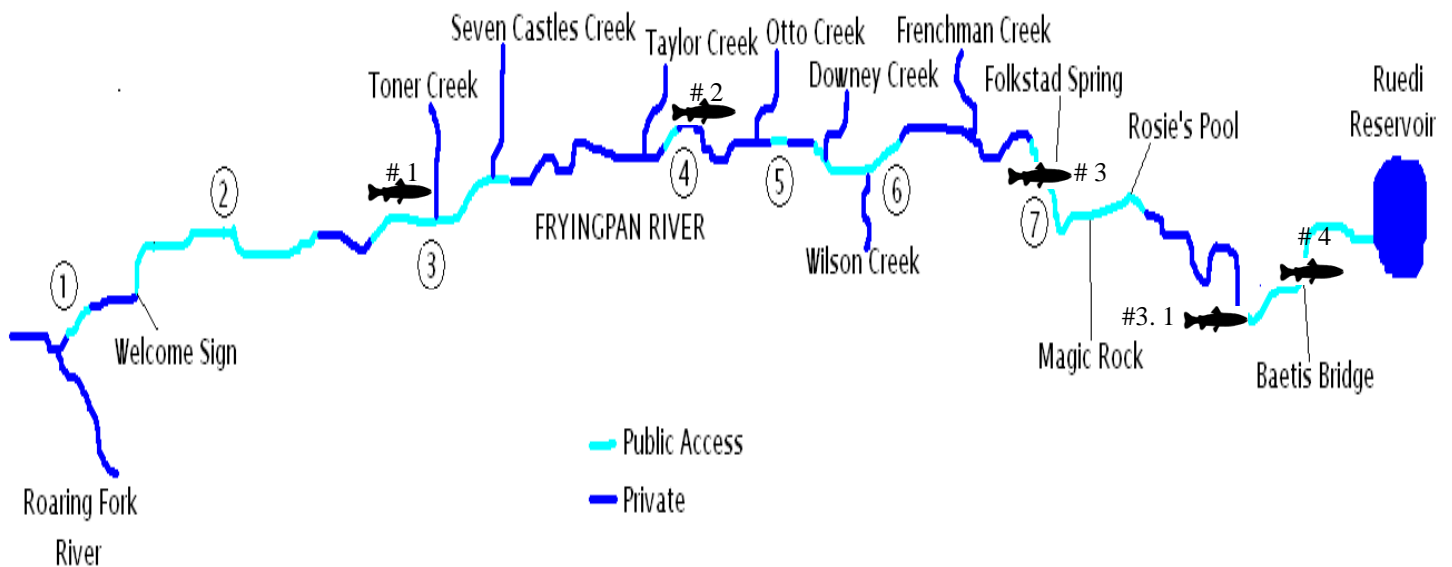
- Artificial Flies and lures only.
- All trout, except brown trout, must be returned to the water immediately.
- Bag and possession limit and maximum size for brown trout is 2 fish, 14 inches long.

### EQUIPMENT CARE

- Whirling Disease persists in the Fryingpan River and is responsible for the crash of wild rainbow trout throughout Colorado.
- Didymo or “rock snot” is also present and easily spread on the waders of anglers.
- Help control the spread of nuisance aquatic organisms by disinfecting your waders and fishing equipment using one of the following:
  - Clean mud and debris from all equipment
  - Rinse with 10% bleach solution (1 part bleach : 10 parts water).
  - Freeze overnight.
  - Commercially available Quaternary Ammonia compound (QAC) are the best method of equipment disinfection—soak equipment for 10 minutes in 4ml/L of water.

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## Map and Access Information



Map not to scale, access areas approximated

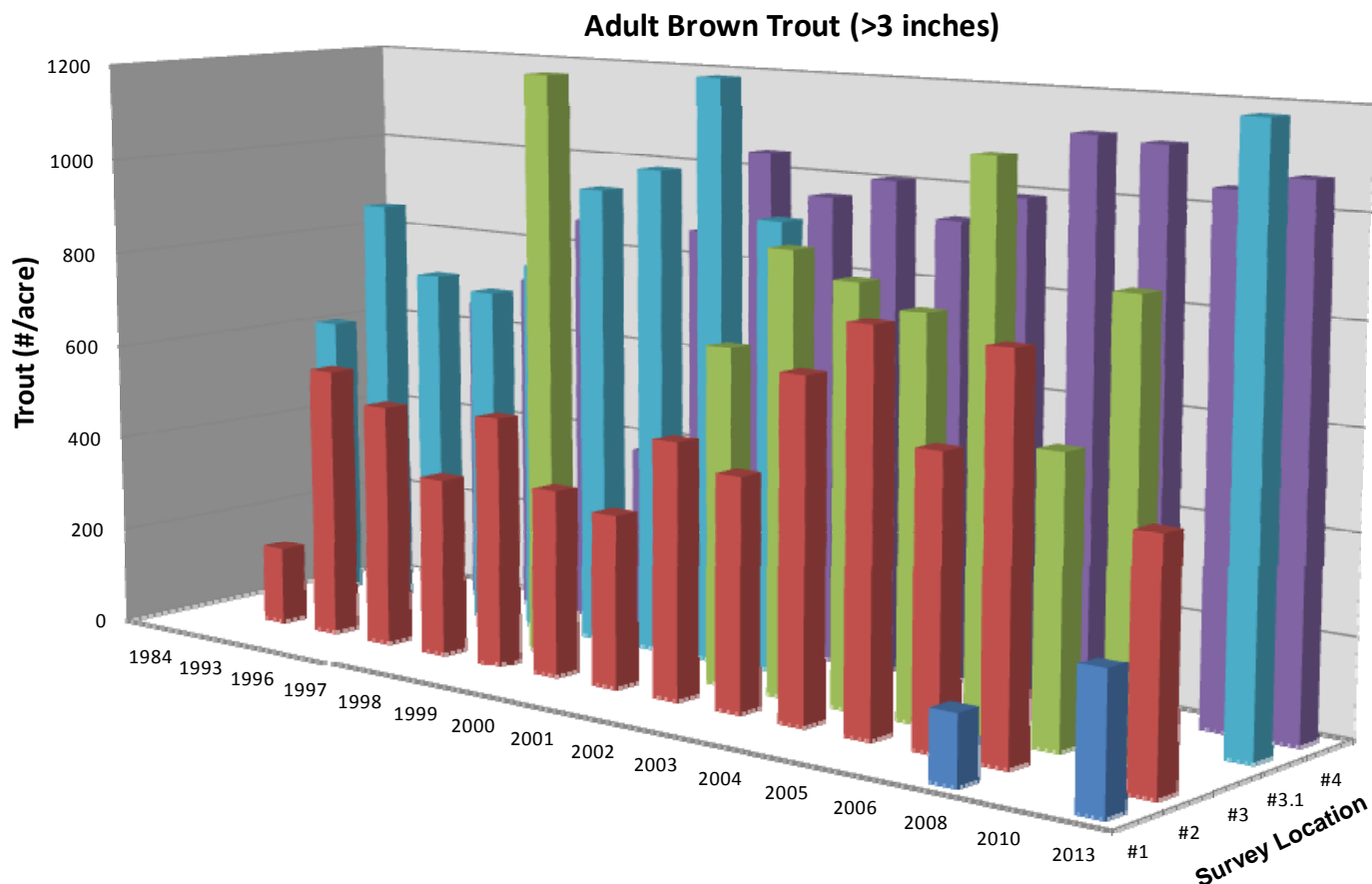
### Bank or Wading Access

- **1 — Town Access:** private property allowing public access.
- **2 — Strawberry Rock Access:** starting near mile maker 2, continues to boundary sign.
- **3 — Canyon Access:** at Fryingpan Valley Welcome Sign.
- **4 — Big Hat Access:** private property leased for public, marked with public access sign.
- **5 — Forest Service Access:** USFS pool area.
- **6 — Downey Creek Access:** begins at Peachbow Road and extends to the Cap K Ranch boundary.
- **7 — Folkstad Spring Access:** from state fishing regulation sign, continuing upstream 0.7 mile.
- **8 — Forest Service Access:** starting at approximately 11.8 miles up river below Baetis Bridge, extending to Ruedi Dam.

 **Fish Survey Locations:** # 1, 2, 3, 3.1, and 4.

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## Fish Survey Information



### 2013 Summary

Definition of Gold Medal Waters: must have a minimum of 60 pounds of trout per acre and 12 “quality trout” (trout greater than 14 inches) per acre.

	#1 - Toner	#2 - Taylor Ck	#3.1 - mm12	#5 - Baetis Bridge
<b>Adult Brown Trout per Acre (&gt;3")</b>	268	438	1193	1069
<b>Quality Browns per Acre (&gt;14")</b>	23	42	11	84
<b>Biomass (lbs/acre)</b>	110	275	516	669
<b>Adult Rainbow Trout per Acre (&gt;3")</b>	14	36	53	112
<b>Quality Rainbows (&gt;14")</b>	9	9	5	47
<b>Biomass (lbs/acre)</b>	2	31	35	123

**Management Notes** — Although rainbow populations in the Fryingpan crashed when whirling disease entered the river, hofer rainbow trout are providing new opportunities to catch rainbows (the large number of Gold Medal rainbows in the Baetis Bridge Survey are Hofers). Hofer rainbows are now stocked in attempt to introduce whirling disease resistance into the local rainbow population, increasing wild reproduction and recruitment. Hofer rainbow trout are aggressive fish that fight hard when caught on a fly.

Wild brown trout have experienced good survival and growth in the Fryingpan—they make up the bulk of our local Gold Medal Trout fishery. We encourage angler harvest of brown trout under 14 inches, because in many locations, like #3.1, brown trout average 9 inches and 94% of the fish are under 14 inches. Harvest helps keep the population brown trout population from becoming overpopulated and stunted.