



Fryingpan River

Fish Management and Survey Information

Kendall Bakich - Aquatic Biologist
Glenwood Springs Service Center

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.

Recreational Management: USFS, CO Parks & Wildlife

Fishery Management: Gold Medal Trout

Travel Information

- Eight miles of public fishing access for shore and wade fishing at eight public access locations.
- Year-round restrooms located at USFS Rocky Fork Day Use Area near Ruedi Dam.
- Hiking trails.
- No camping within 1/4 mi of river, campground available at Ruedi Reservoir.
- Guided wade fishing opportunities by multiple local angler shops and outfitters.
- For additional info about local amenities and services, visit the town of Basalt web site at: www.basalt.com
- Learn about **Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS)** concerns at CPW's web-site: cpw.state.co.us

Fish Stocking

2009 to Present
Whirling Disease resistant (WDR) Rainbow Trout

Prior to 2009
CO River Rainbow Trout

Fishing 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.

Sportfishing Notes

- The Fryingpan River is Gold Medal Trout water from Ruedi Dam downstream to the Roaring Fork River. The high abundance of Quality Trout (trout >14") is due to it being a "tailwater fishery".
- The highest density of large trout can be found below the dam feeding on mysis shrimp from the reservoir.

Rainbow Trout

- Spring spawners, April through May.
- WDR Rainbow fingerlings supplement the fishery as successful recruitment of juvenile Rainbow Trout is suppressed by the presence of the WD parasite.
- WDR Rainbow trout are aggressive feeders making them easier to catch and hard fighting on the line.
- Fingerlings are stocked as "put-and-grow" fish and will utilize natural food sources to grow and develop physical and behavioral characteristic of wild fish. Ultimately, these Rainbows should convey their WD resistance to their offspring and increase production of wild Rainbows in the river.

Brown Trout

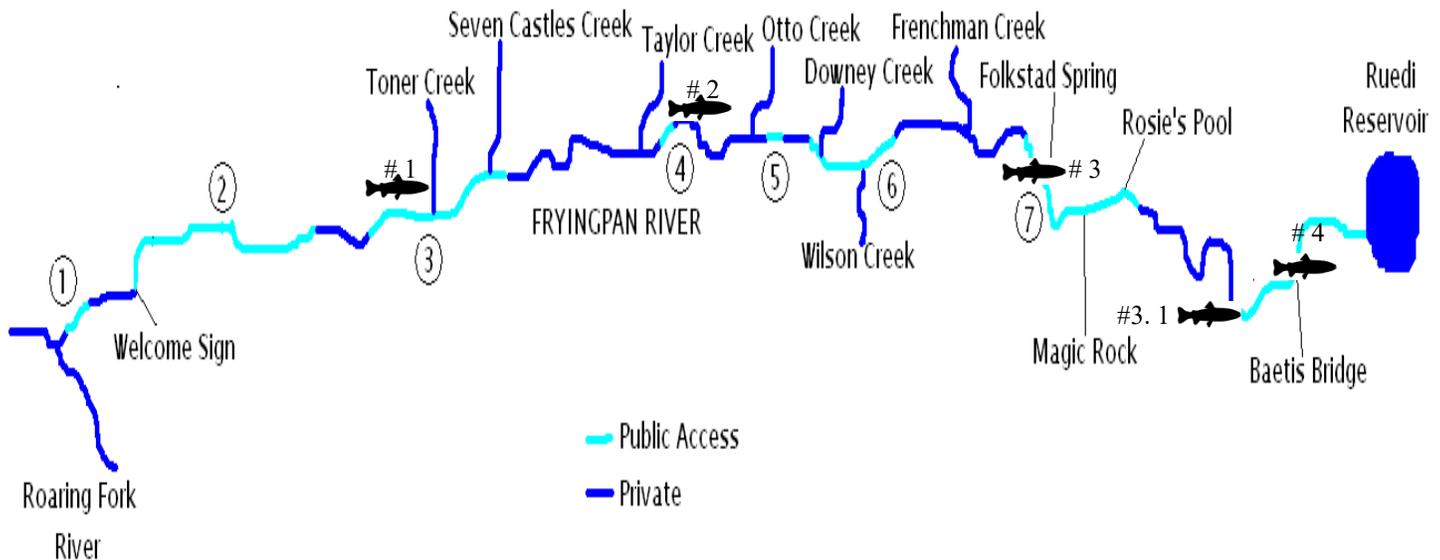
- An extremely abundant fish in the Fryingpan and most often caught by anglers. Due to high densities in most the river, harvest is encouraged for Browns ≤14" to relieve competition for resources and increase growth for other trout.
- Fall spawners, late October through November.
- Check out local fly shop websites for local hatch information and fly pattern suggestions.

DON'T BE A VECTOR—CLEAN YOUR GEAR!

- Whirling Disease (WD) persists in the Fryingpan River and is responsible for the crash of wild trout reproduction throughout Colorado.
- Didymo or "rock snot" is present in the Fryingpan and easily spread on the wader gear of anglers.
- Mudsnaills are present in waters on the Front Range and in the Gunnison.
- **Help control the spread of ANS by disinfecting your gear between water** by using one of the following:
 - ⇒ CLEAN mud and debris from all equipment
 - ⇒ DISINFECT by one of the following:
 - DRY for 2 days
 - FREEZE overnight
 - HEAT in 140F water for 10 minutes
 - SOAK - best method: soak for 20 minutes in QAC, Quaternary Ammonia Compound (6oz/gallon of water) or better than nothing soak gear with 10% bleach or 409.

Fryingpan River

Map and Access Information



Map not to scale, access areas approximated

Bank or Wading Access

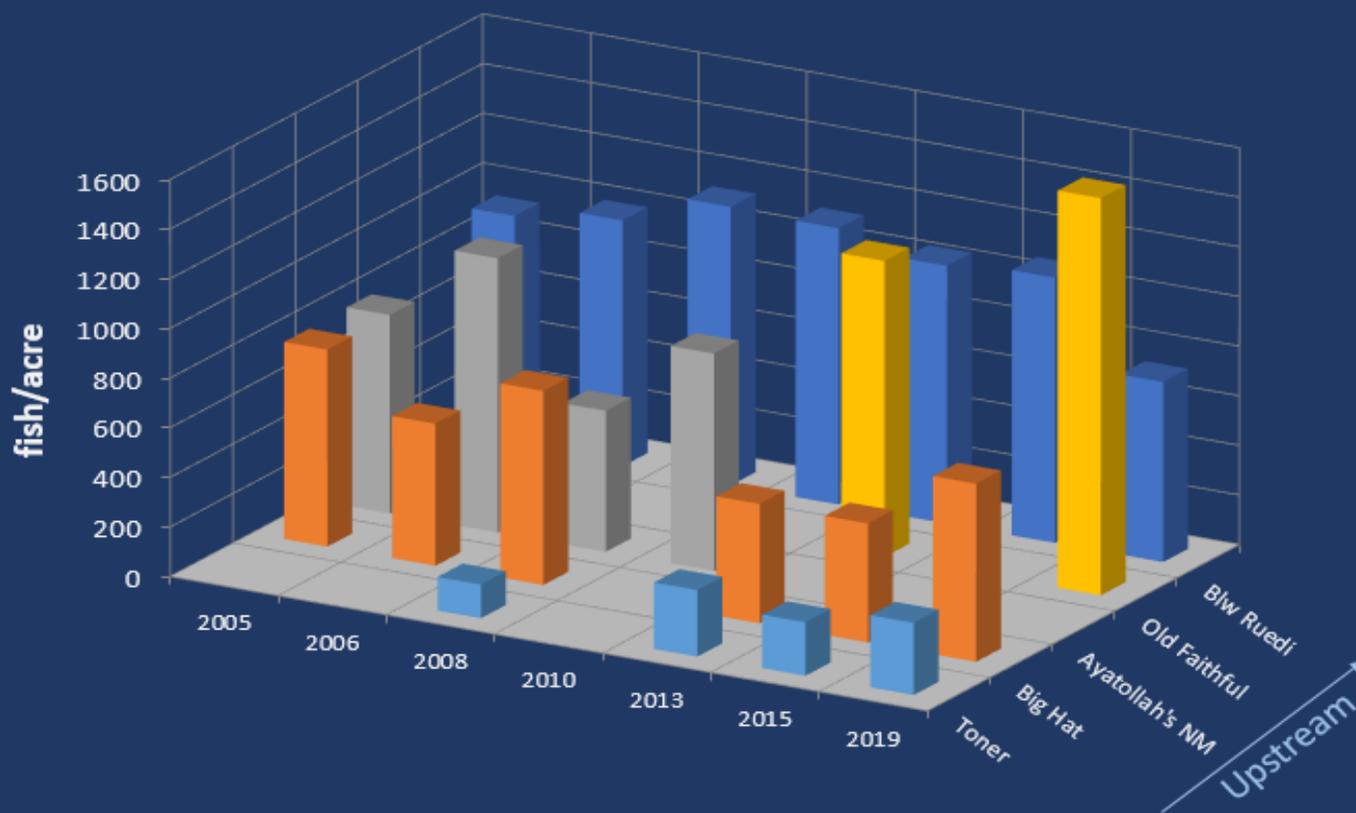
- **1 — Town Access:** private property allowing public access
- **2 — Strawberry Rock Access:** starting near mile maker 2, continues to boundary sign
- **3 — Canyon Access:** at Fryingpan Valley Welcome Sign
- **4 — Big Hat Access:** private property leased for public, marked with public access sign
- **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 Toner, #2 Big Hat, #3 Ayatolla's Nightmare, #3.1 Old Faithful, and #4 Below Ruedi (abv Baetis Bridge)

Fryingpan River

Fish Survey Information

Adult Brown Trout - ABUNDANCE



2019 Survey Data

	#1 - Toner	#2 - Big Hat	#3.1 - Old Faithful	#5 - Blw Ruedi
Adult Brown Trout per Acre (>6")	291	717	1622	1346
Quality Browns per Acre (>14")	12	97	14	52
Biomass (lbs/acre)	104	376	435	540
Adult Rainbow Trout per Acre (>6")	2	289	129	63
Quality Rainbows per Acre (>14")	<1	26	5	27
Biomass (lbs/acre)	1	47	34	49

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. Gold Medal status is met in the Fryingpan with a combination of Rainbow and Brown Trout.

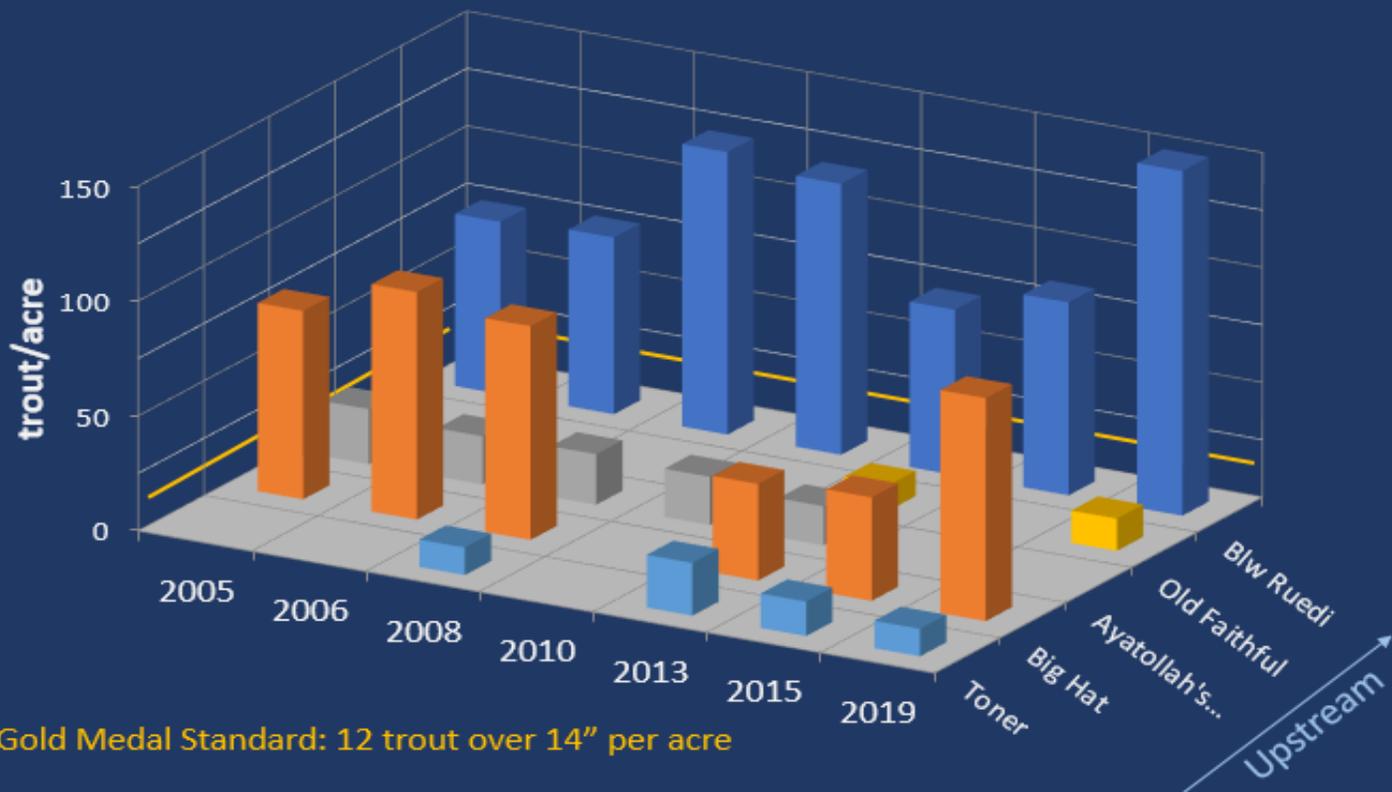
Management Notes — Although wild Rainbow populations in the Fryingpan crashed when WD was introduced in the river, WDR Rainbow trout provide the opportunity to catch Rainbows. WDR Rainbows are now stocked in order to convey WD resistance to the resident Rainbow population, increasing wild reproduction and recruitment. WDR Rainbow Trout are aggressive fish that fight hard when caught on a fly.

Wild Brown Trout experience excellent survival in the Fryingpan and they make up the bulk of our local Gold Medal Trout fishery. Harvest of Brown Trout under 14 inches is encouraged because in many locations, like "Old Faithful", where Brown Trout average less than 10 inches and 94% of the fish are under 14 inches. The incredible abundance of trout, despite being small, also contribute significantly to the biomass in surveys. Harvest can help keep the Brown Trout population from becoming overpopulated and stunted.

Fryingpan River

Fish Survey Information

Gold Medal Trout - ABUNDANCE



Gold Medal Trout - BIOMASS

