

# **COLORADO DIVISION OF WILDLIFE**

## **FISHING REPORT**

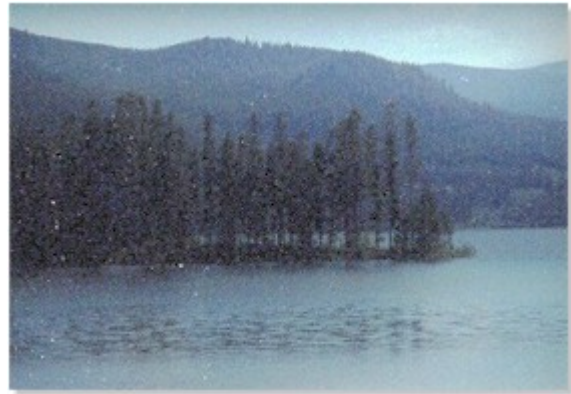
**For the week of August 23, 2011**

### **SEASONAL REPORT**

In the dim, half light of daybreak following a dark, stormy night reminiscent of an old-time horror movie, banks of fog were hanging above the water. Fittingly enough. For somewhere in the expanses of the lake, perhaps hidden in the fog, Frankenstein's fish might be on the prowl.

A faint putt, putt, puttering of a small motor droned through the heavy mists. A boat came into view.

"Have you seen the wipers, mate?" its captain queried, as a pair of anglers completed retrieving their lures and prepared to cast again.



No, not yet, but the day was young. It held considerable promise. Sooner or later, wipers were likely to appear somewhere on the surface and the morning calm would suddenly be shattered.

Wipers are found in many eastern-Colorado reservoirs and they stir the imagination. They truly are a creation of fish-culture science, a hybrid of white bass and striped bass, hence the name wipers. They were introduced to Colorado in the 1980s in hopes of providing warm-water fishermen with new big-fish opportunities and the experiment has been a success.

Wipers bring significant growth potential from their striped-bass parentage, and the Colorado record, taken from Pueblo Reservoir by Kevin Treanor in 2004, is 26 pounds, 15 ounces. Though wiper growth varies from lake to lake, the average weight for anglers might be 2-4 pounds and fish of 8-10 pounds are not too unusual.

Regardless of size, their most impressive attribute is the mule strength common to hybrids. Wipers are spirited, powerful fighters when hooked. A small wiper often seems much larger than it turns out to be, and broken lines are common among fishermen who underestimate their brute strength.

As hybrids, wipers do not reproduce naturally. Their populations are controlled through periodic stocking by Division of Parks and Wildlife aquatic biologists. Colorado is developing a source of striped-bass eggs at the Pawnee Power Plant ponds near Brush, but at present depends on other states, mainly Texas and Oklahoma, for its wiper supply.

Wipers have monstrous appetites and move in schools. They might be found almost anywhere in a lake. They can be caught from early spring to late fall on a variety of fish-imitating lures, streamer flies and baits, but the most spectacular action often happens in late summer into the fall.



Large schools of young-of-the-year shad appear near the surface and can trigger a feeding frenzy among wipers. The surface may boil as wipers gorge on the young shad and almost any shad imitation fishermen cast their way, but the binge can end as quickly as it started. The wipers disappear, headed to parts unknown. Trolling with Rat.L.Traps or similar crank baits might relocate a school.

Early mornings and late afternoons usually are the best times for finding wipers near the surface.

Binoculars are standard equipment among some wiper-boil enthusiasts. Gull activity also might be a tip-off that shad are on the surface. Boats might make an initial dash toward the surface activity, but should cut back their speed as they get closer and approach the boil slowly.

The action might be sustained; it might be short-lived. Either way, it will be memorable and it will keep fishermen coming back even after the stormiest of nights.

**INVASIVE SPECIES:** Efforts by Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials to educate boaters, anglers and others about the need to clean, drain and dry boats, waders, hiking shoes and other equipment before entering Colorado waterways have had some success, but the discovery of new invasive-species populations means the battle must go on.

Rusty crayfish recently were confirmed in Stagecoach Reservoir; New Zealand mudsnails have spread to East Delaney Butte Reservoir, and New Zealand mudsnails and Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive weed, have been found in Elevenmile Reservoir. Quagga mussel veligers recently were confirmed again in Pueblo Reservoir.

Boaters can find information about how to protect Colorado waters from invasive species on the [mandatory boat inspection program](#) page and the [State Parks boat inspection](#) page.

More information about invasive species is available in the species profiles: [New Zealand Mud Snails](#), [Zebra and Quagga Mussels](#), and [Rusty Crayfish](#). The Rusty Crayfish species profile includes

regulations prohibiting crayfish movement in western Colorado.

**NATIVE TROUT RESTORATION IN SOUTHWEST COLORADO:** The Hermosa Creek drainage north of Durango has long been a favorite spot for anglers who enjoy fishing small streams, even though native cutthroats have been displaced by non-native species like brook and rainbow trout.

Restoring native Colorado River cutthroat trout to these waters is a priority for Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The next phase of a restoration project is getting underway in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service. Non-native fish are being removed from Hermosa Creek upstream of the new barrier at Hotel Draw to the headwaters.



During this phase, anglers will still find plenty of great small-stream fishing in the area. The East Fork of Hermosa Creek, right behind the Durango Mountain Resort ski area, was reclaimed in 1992, and the small stream is full of native cutthroats. Below the barrier at Hotel Draw, the main fork of Hermosa Creek will also be fishable.

Other streams in the immediate area include upper and lower Cascade Creek, and Lime Creek. Easily accessible high-altitude lake fishing can also be found nearby at Haviland Lake, Molas and Little Molas lakes, Andrews Lake and at Vallecito Reservoir.

Read the recent press release with [additional information about the Hermosa Creek project](#).

**LAKE JOHN UPDATE:** The Lake John reclamation phase has been completed and water is flowing back into the reservoir at a rate of 20-25 cubic feet per second. The lake will remain closed to fishing until the water has been tested and the lake is refilled and restocked with trout. Restocking will include some extra-large brood stock and probably will be done in early September.

During the reclamation effort, the Lake John Resort will remain open and camping will be available in the vicinity. Other North Park fishing waters will remain open, with their usual limits and all other regulations remaining in effect.



For more detail about the reclamation process and schedule, read the [press release](#). You can also call the Steamboat Springs Parks and Wildlife office, 970-870-2197, or the Walden Work Center, 970-723-4625 for more information.

For information about Lake John, see the [fish data and management survey](#).

**WOODS LAKE BAG LIMITS TEMPORARILY LIFTED:** A native-trout reclamation project by the

Colorado Parks and Wildlife will allow anglers to keep all the brook and brown trout they catch at Woods Lake and its inlets through Aug. 31. Anglers still must have a valid Colorado fishing license, and may take fish only by legal means as defined in the state fishing regulations.

Native fish will be restocked after confirmation that all non-natives have been removed, probably this fall or next spring. Fish populations should increase to their previous levels in three to five years, but anglers could have some fish to catch as early as next summer.

For more information on the need for the reclamation and the process involved, read the [press release](#).

#### **FISHING FORCAST:**

As a service to anglers, Division of Parks & Wildlife biologists in the Southeast and Southwest Regions published a fishing forecast for their areas.

- [2011 Southeast Region Fishing Forecast](#) (PDF)  
\*\*Information as of June 2010
- [2011 Southwest Region Fishing Forecast](#) (PDF)  
\*\*Information as of April 2011

**BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR:** The DOW is constantly looking to improve the fishing report. If you're an angler or a business owner (bait shop, marina, etc.) and would like to contribute to the fishing report, please contact us by email: [fish.reporter@state.co.us](mailto:fish.reporter@state.co.us).

**GET THE LATEST DOW INFORMATION:** [Sign up for the DOW Insider](#). The newsletter provides the latest news on a number of hot topics.

## **CONDITIONS REPORT**

### **Denver Metro**

**Arvada Reservoir** -- Fishing is not good right now, probably because of the weather being so hot. A few perch, walleyes and smallmouth bass are being caught. Green or orange PowerBait and salmon eggs are working for trout. Anglers are catching some very large catfish. A 24-incher was caught on Aug. 14. Call 303-420-7773 to check on boating conditions because of the high winds. Aquatic bait is not allowed; this includes salamanders, leeches, crayfish, frogs and minnows. Worms are the only permitted live bait. Check out the fish board when you're here. Please do not bring your pets.

**Aurora Reservoir** -- Current water temp is 72 degrees. Trout fishing is fair to good from shore, with reports of using rainbow PowerBait on a slip rig from the dam. Boaters are doing well for trout by trolling with crawlers, spoons and Rapalas. Walleye fishing is good using bottom bouncers with crawlers and jigs tipped with crawlers. Most are not of legal size. Walleyes must be 18 inches or longer to keep.

Perch action is fair to good on jigs tipped with worms. All other species are slow or no reports. The limit for trout is two fish. Reminder: Boating is restricted to electric motors. All vessels must be inspected prior to launch. A watercraft access permit is required for all vehicles bringing in watercraft. Park hours for August are 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**Barr Lake** -- Some walleyes are still being taken on bottom bouncers at a 15-foot depth. Wipers are slowing down. Perch are picking up on lures. The water temp is about 75 degrees. No fishing is allowed in the wildlife refuge or from the Barr Lake dam. Contact the ranger office for current conditions at 303-655-1495 or check the park web site.

**Chatfield Reservoir** -- The surface temperature is about 74 degrees, the water level is 3 feet down and visibility is 2-3 feet. Fishing for smallmouth bass and walleyes remains fairly good but trout fishing is slow. Trolling spoons or crank baits in 15-20 feet of water or working jig heads with worms or leeches along the bottom have been the most productive techniques.

**Cherry Creek Reservoir** -- The surface temperature is 74 degrees. The level is down 3 feet and the water is stained, with visibility of about one foot. Fishing generally is slow in the dog days of summer, but some walleyes are being taken along humps and other breaks in the lake-bottom structure. Early mornings are the best time to fish, before the recreational boating traffic becomes heavy. Boat inspections are conducted daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the east boat ramp. Make sure you have a parks pass for your vehicle and a valid fishing license.

**Clear Creek** -- Although flows on Clear Creek are still a little above average, they're steady and it's safe to wade. The water is clear and cold, with the exception being the section below the intersection of Highways 6 and 119 in the canyon, where in-stream improvements are under way. The construction is resulting in muddy water during the workday. Fishing has been good all along the creek on a dry/dropper combo. Caddis (sizes 14 & 16) and terrestrials such as hoppers are working well on top, and attractor patterns like a size 16 or 18 orange or purple Psycho Prince are drawing lots of underwater strikes. Most are browns of 8-11-inches, with an occasional larger one keeping it interesting.

**Quincy Reservoir** -- Water temp is 73 degrees. All watercraft must be inspected before launching. All vehicles bringing in watercraft are required to have a watercraft access pass. Bass fishing is slow to fair using spinner baits, jigs, drop shots and top-water lures. Around the grasses is the most productive. Perch fishing is slow to fair, mainly by jigging and drop shots. Trout fishing has been slow with midge and Hare's Ears flies early morning and evening. Quincy is restricted to fishing with artificial flies and lures only. The limit for trout is two fish. Bass must be 18 inches or longer to possess. All boats must be hand-launched. Only electric motors are permitted. All boats, including float tubes, must check in with the ranger on duty. Park hours for August are 5:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

**South Platte River (Waterton Canyon)** -- Denver Water is dredging Strontia Springs Reservoir to remove massive amounts of Hayman Fire sediment. As a result, Waterton Canyon will be closed until Dec. 31, 2011. Neither the parking lot at the canyon's entrance nor the canyon will be accessible during the closure. Access to The Colorado Trail from Waterton Canyon also will be closed during this time. For more information, log on to [www.ColoradoTrail.org](http://www.ColoradoTrail.org)

**Standley Lake** -- Standley Lake is open for the 2011 boating and camping season. The current lake temperature is approximately 71 degrees. Fishing times are 6:30 a.m. to sunset and will be strictly enforced. Aquatic bait is no longer allowed at Standley Lake; this includes salamanders, leeches, crayfish, frogs and minnows. Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) regulations are in effect. All boats are

required to be inspected, sprayed and quarantined before entering Standley Lake. Call for more details. A \$7 fee is charged for all drive-in traffic. Drive-in access is available from 6:30 a.m. to sunset. For more information, contact the Standley Lake Nature Center at (303) 425-1097.

## **Northeast**

**Barnes Meadow Reservoir** -- With the warmer weather, fishing has slowed down a bit, especially compared to what it had been doing. Fishing is still good at the inlet area and around the dam, though. PowerBait usually also does well up there. If you want to fish with lures, try a rusty colored Pistol Pete or Mepps-style lure. Some of the fly fishermen were having luck on the surface with dry flies and some droppers. Adams and Parachute Adams always are good ones to start with, but some Stimulators also were working. You might also try a midge dropper right below the surface or even a scud pattern farther down.

**Boedecker Reservoir** -- The water level is slowly dropping but remains good. White bass have provided most of the action. Try spinners, white jigs and small Rat.L.Traps near the brushy areas. Some decent-sized crappie have been taken early in the morning but the bite is done by 7:30 a.m. Some catfish are being taken late in the day.

**Boyd Lake** -- The lake has a surface temperature of about 80 degrees, with depths up to 54 feet. Fishing for most species remains fairly good. White bass still are the most active, hitting on spinners and worms in the north end of the lake. Largemouth and smallmouth bass have been taking spinners and minnows. Bass fishing is best in the north and south portions of the lake. Some walleyes have been taken on worms and jigs in the north end, and yellow perch have been active across the lake.

**Carter Reservoir** -- The water level is going down and fishing has slowed with the summer heat. A few walleyes still are being caught during low-light periods but most have been small. Boating fishermen have taken some larger fish at night. New regulations this year have made keeper-sized walleyes more available. Boaters are reminded that all trailered watercraft must complete an Aquatic Nuisance Species (zebra mussel) inspection before being launched on this lake. That is state law and strictly enforced. Additional information is available online at [http://www.larimer.org/parks/boating inspections.htm](http://www.larimer.org/parks/boating%20inspections.htm).

**Dowdy Lake (Red Feather)** -- Fishing for stocker-sized rainbow trout has been fair to good. PowerBait, salmon eggs and small lures have worked well.

**Flatiron Reservoir** -- Fishing for trout has slowed with the summer heat. No boats of any kind are allowed. Remember to stay off dams and hydroelectric structures.

**Horsetooth Reservoir** -- The water temperatures is 77 degrees and clarity is good. The level has come down noticeably and continues to drop. Fishing has been slow. Leeches and worms fished near the bottom occasionally catch walleyes and smallmouth bass. Boat traffic is heavy and at times can make fishing difficult.

**Jackson Reservoir** -- The lake is full and the surface water temperature is about 78 degrees. Fishing for wipers still is fair from the dam and along the west shore on the usual al baits. An occasional walleye and some trout also are being caught. For further questions or information, please call the park office at (970) 645-2551.

**Joe Wright Reservoir** -- Fishing has picked up and many anglers were catching grayling last weekend. Kastmasters were the lure of choice for most of the anglers fishing with lures. Elk-Hair Caddis and yellow

Humpies were working best for the fly fishermen. Most were catching grayling in the 8-10 inch range, but a few bigger ones were reported as well, mostly from those in boats. If you choose to take a boat out, no gas motors are allowed and no boat ramp is available, so you will have to carry it to the lake. Fishing is by artificial flies and lures only.

**Jumbo Reservoir** -- Water levels are down about 6 feet and still dropping. The water temperature is in the mid 80s and the color is very muddy. Fishing has been slow for all species except bullheads. A lot of bullheads are being caught with night crawlers from the banks. The boat ramp is open and is on the east side. All boats must be inspected. The minimum size for walleyes and wipers is 15 inches.

**Lon Hagler Reservoir** -- Fishing generally has been slow this year. Catfish early and late in the day comprise most of the catch.

**Lonetree Reservoir** -- The water has dropped more than three feet but still is at a good level. Bass have been hitting top-water lures and buzz baits during the first hour after dawn and the final hour before dark. White bass have been fairly active, but fishing for walleyes has slowed. Young-of-the-year shad have been very plentiful, keeping wipers and other game fish well-fed and making them more difficult to catch.

**Long Draw Reservoir** -- The Long Draw Road is open. The lake is full and ready for fishing. Since it is full, fishing along the bank is a lot easier. It is also a lot easier to get a boat in, also (no gas powered motors). The lake has been fishing slower, but decent, with some nice fish caught. Mepps and Rooster Tails have been working best. Fishing is with artificial flies and lures only.

**North Sterling Reservoir** -- Parks staff reports the reservoir is down about 10 feet, with the outlet running. The water temperature is in the mid 70s. A lot of wipers in the 15-19 inch range are coming from the south boat ramp, north dam and Darby Point areas on worms, crawfish, green mussels, jigs and shad-imitation crank baits. Walleyes of 16-20 inches are being taken around the Goose Island and Darby Arm areas on Lindy rigs with slow-death hooks tipped with leeches or worms. Catfish are on the flats, with drifting dead shad as cut bait working best. Crappie have slowed, but some are still being caught along the dam and the marina bay areas on minnows and tube jigs. Trout and smallmouth bass are along the dam and south boat ramp areas and are being caught on spinners, jigs, or typical baits.

**Parvin Lake (Red Feather)** -- Fishing for rainbows along the dam generally has been good. Large brown Woolly Buggers, Rapalas, tube jigs and Kastmasters have been productive. An occasional tiger muskie also has been reported. Anglers may use only artificial flies and lures, and the daily and possession limit is two trout.

**Pinewood Reservoir** -- Though the action has slowed in August, fishing for pan-sized trout still is fair with the usual assortment of baits and hardware. A few 20- to 25-inch tiger muskies have been reported. Make sure to check size requirements before keeping any fish.

**Poudre River** -- The river recently was flowing at 130 cfs at Ft. Collins and 378 cfs at the mouth of the canyon. So, it continues to drop. It is a little lower above Gateway, running at 336 cfs. With these flows, the river is clear and very fishable, offering some of the best fishing of the year, and it just keeps getting better. Above the narrows, the flow is less and the fishing just as good. With the clearer water, all of the usual lures and baits have been working well. Fly fishermen now are able to have some great fishing. The levels are good for nymphing during the day, and caddis and PMDs have been hatching in the mornings and evenings.

**Prewitt Reservoir** -- Water levels are starting to drop and the temperature is in the mid 80s. Fishing has

been slow from the bank. Boaters are catching a few wipers using live shad. Catfish fishing has been good from a boat. The boat dock is in. The minimum size for walleyes and wipers is 15 inches.

**Union Reservoir (Calkins)** -- Fishing generally has been slow, but some catfish and wipers have been taken near the inlet late in the day. For more information please call the reservoir office at 303-772-1265.

## **Northwest**

**Blue River (Dillon to Green Mtn. Res.)** -- Flows from Dillon Dam have come down, to 192 cubic feet per second on Tuesday morning and very near the long-term average. Conditions for fishing and wading have greatly improved. Though nymphing still is the most consistent, some surface activity has been reported.

**Colorado River (Glenwood to Rifle)** -- The Colorado River has been fishing very, very well of late. Flows have dropped to 2,150 cfs and the river is clear as can be. The Colorado has been clear and green. Awesome golden stonefly hatches throughout, mixed with caddis, have been the bread and butter on the river. Fish the shallow, fast riffles with short, heavy rigs with stonefly nymphs, and the slower, deeper sections with caddis and Baetis rigs. Late-evening dry fly fishing with caddis can provide some fun times on the Colorado. These fish are powerful, so hang on. Recommended flies: Pat's Rubber Legs, 20-Inchers, Princes, Stimis, Soft-Hackle Peacock, Electric Caddis.

**Colorado River (near Granby)** -- Recent flows below Windy Gap and below Parshall were 790 cfs and 862 cfs, respectively. The water temperature remains cooler than normal for this time of year due to continued snow melt and catch rates are very good. Copper Johns, RS-2s, Prince Nymphs, chartreuse Woolly Buggers, San Juan worms and egg patterns are commonly used. Caddis, mosquito, dun and dragonfly patterns are good when hatching. In the immediate Granby area and downstream to the bridge at the lower end of Byers Canyon, bait fishing is permitted and two fish may be kept. From the east side of the bridge abutments (the west end of Byers Canyon) down to Troublesome Creek, including the Williams Fork River from the reservoir, catch-and-release rules apply and fishing is by artificial flies and lures only.

**Crystal River** -- The Crystal River has cleared up. Fishing has been fair to good of late. The best spots have been from Redstone down to Carbondale. Look for good numbers of caddis and stoneflies throughout the day. Try Stimis, Elk-Hair Caddis and Adams for dries; bead-head Princes, PTs, San Juan worms and Hare's Ears for nymphs.

**Delaney Buttes Reservoirs** -- Though the hatches have tapered off, fishing still is fairly good on deep-nymphing rigs, damselflies, small Woolly Buggers and imitations of terrestrial insects that have been blown onto the water. Mornings have been the best time, with fish retreating to deeper water later in the day. Fishing on all three lakes is by artificial flies and lures only. The bag and possession limit for trout is two and size restrictions apply.

**Elk River** -- The Elk has dropped after extremely high flows earlier in the season and is fishable.

**Frying Pan River** -- The Frying Pan has been fishing exceptionally well as water flows now are at 179 cfs. Good hatches of PMDs are being seen from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., followed by a nice rusty-spinner fall at dusk. The nymph fishing has been solid all day. Best times for the green drakes have been 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. and the dusk hours, 8 p.m. to dark. Light tippetts of 6X and 7X are necessary, especially when

fishing dry flies. Hot flies have included the following: PMD Flag Dun, PMD Sparkledun, Film Critics, Drake Sparkledun, Pheasant Tails, Jujubaetis, Barr's Emergers, Sparklewing RS-2s, CDC Rusties, Para Spinners, 20-Inchers, Gilled Green Drakes and Tim's Mysis.

**Granby Reservoir** -- Fishing from the bank can be good early morning and late evening. On hot, bright, sunny days, catching can be difficult during the middle of the day and surface water temps are making finding and catching fish much harder. The reservoir is full, creating increased good feeding areas for fish. For many fishermen, trolling is working. Fishing remains good below Shadow Mountain Dam, even with lower, slower water conditions. Night crawlers, meal and wax worms and sucker meat are viable baits. Fish Creek spinners, Matzuos, Rapalas, Kastmasters, Tasmanian Devils, etc., are good lures. Trolling worm rigs and lures, jigging, bottom fishing (crappie rigs work well), spin-casting and fly fishing are good ways to catch fish. Slip bobber rigs also work well.

**Grand Lake** -- Surface water temperatures finally have become warm enough to negatively affect fishing. Bank fishing is best in late evening, nighttime and early in the morning. Cloudy days can provide better shallow-water fishing throughout the day. Lures, night crawlers, meal and wax worms are working. Jigging with sucker meat is common and productive. The lake is more than 270 feet deep and can be difficult to learn, but also very rewarding. The water level remains constant. It has very large lake trout, nice-sized rainbows, cuttbows, browns and kokanee salmon. Trolling lures and worm rigs, bottom fishing the shallow areas, slip-bobber rigs, and fly fishing all are used to catch fish. The mouth of the channel, the public boat dock area, and the West Portal are prime spots.

**Harvey Gap Reservoir** -- The water temperature is around 72 degrees. The level is going down but remains pretty high. The parks staff reports good fishing for rainbow trout across the lake and for northern pike. Fishing for yellow perch has been fair, best near the boat ramp.

**Highline Lake** -- At last report, large bass and crappie still were biting at Highline Lake. Fishing for trout and catfish has slowed with the summer heat. Parks staff is reminding anglers that if they catch a northern pike at either lake to please remove it from the water and notify the park staff.

**Lake Avery** -- Fishing has slowed in August. Trolling with gold or black-and-yellow spinners from small boats still is taking some trout. Shoreline fishing has been relatively poor.

**Lake John** -- The rehabilitation has been completed and the water is flowing back into the lake. It will remain closed to fishing until the lake has refilled, the water has been tested and the lake has been restocked, probably in early September.

**Rifle Gap Reservoir** -- The water level has been going down but still is pretty high. The surface temperature is around 70 degrees. Fishing for trout and perch reportedly is good across the lake. Pike activity has been good in shallow areas along the east end, and quite a few walleyes recently have been taken.

**Roaring Fork River** -- Gin-clear and fishing great. Flows are about average for this time of year and accessibility for wading is much better than in recent weeks. Don't jump on the river too early in the morning; let the river and the fish warm up first. Best times have been 10 a.m. to dusk. Fish the soft riffles with stonefly and caddis rigs and the slower, deeper runs with PMD and Baetis rigs. The best evening hours are 7 p.m. to dusk. Look for caddis in heavy numbers on the surface. Skate the fly. Move, shake, wiggle and hop those caddis dries when fishing them; the fish want them dancing on the water. Recommended flies: Stimis, Pearl Elk-Hair Caddis, Outtrigger Caddis, Micro Mayfly, PTs, RS-2s, Biot Baetis Emerger, Beerhead Baetis.

**Shadow Mountain Reservoir** -- When there is moving water (pumping out of Granby Reservoir, which hopefully will happen soon) fishing the pump canal and the area around the mouth of the canal can be highly rewarding using flies, slip-bobber rigs, lures and night crawlers on the bottom. Kokanee, rainbows, browns and sometimes lake trout can be caught. Small jigs tipped with wax worms, mealworms, PowerBait or eggs are commonly used. The Pine Beach area, the channel between this reservoir and Grand Lake and the deeper water along the east shoreline are good fishing spots. Trolling, bottom fishing, spin-casting and fly fishing are good methods to use. Rising water temperatures are slowing the finding and catching of fish. Fishing remains good in the spillway below the dam.

**Stagecoach Reservoir** -- The reservoir is open to boating and a pre-inspection for ANS is required prior to launching. The marina inspection station is open daily 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and the Morrison Cove ramp will be open Friday-Sunday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., throughout the season as staffing allows. Pike activity has picked up and a few 20- to 25-pounders have been landed. Trout are hitting on flies, lures, PowerBait and worms. The level is high and the water temperature is 74 degrees. The reservoir is starting to turn and areas of shoreline have algae scum. Tailwaters fishing is good using eggs and San Juan worms above sizes 18-24, olive RS2s, WD40s and Barr's Emergers. The reservoir is expected to be 8-10 feet low by September.

**Steamboat Lake** -- Fishing has slowed but still can be OK. Boaters appear to be doing better than shoreline anglers. Boat inspection for aquatic nuisance species is mandatory.

**Trappers Lake** -- Summertime fishing for mostly cutthroat trout has been good. Fishermen in float tubes have enjoyed good success on suspended nymphs, ant patterns and Irresistibles.

**Vega Reservoir** -- The level has been dropping because of irrigation demands but remains fairly good. Trout fishing has been fair to good from boats and the shore.

**White River** -- The river has dropped. Although it's still a little high for the season, it is fishable. Hopper/dropper combos with a bead-head Prince Nymph or Pheasant Tail as the dropper have been effective. Caddis and Parachute Adams patterns have produced on the surface.

**Williams Fork Reservoir** -- Rainbows, browns, cuttbows, lake trout, northern pike and kokanee are available. Trolling, jigging, fly fishing, bait and lures can catch fish. Night crawlers, meal and wax worms, sucker meat, PowerBait, eggs and many lures and flies are used. Only the east boat ramp is open. Inspections are mandatory for all trailered boats and begin at 6:00 a.m. The ramp is closed 1/2 hour after sunset. Permanent boat storage is prohibited. Pike are active, rewarding anglers with fairly good success. However, rising surface temps make finding and catching lake trout and even rainbows more difficult, but not impossible. Camping is available. No reservations are accepted.

**Willow Creek Reservoir** -- The reservoir is full and fishing is good in the early morning and late evening. The weather has been hot and sunny, with a few rain showers, raising the surface water temperature and making catching more difficult during the heat of the day. Motorized boating is still prohibited but people are fishing from the banks. Rainbows, browns and kokanee salmon are waiting for fishermen to try their luck. This is a beautiful area with a nice campground, easy access and less fishing pressure than other area bodies of water. Night crawlers, meal and wax worms, PowerBait, eggs, lures and flies are used to get the fish to bite. Kayaks, belly boats, canoes, and non-trailered rowboats can be used to good advantage.

**Yampa River (Hayden through Craig)** -- The water is clear and fishing has picked up. Not much dry fly activity is happening on the lower sections, but streamers and nymphs are turning fish. The upper river

near Steamboat is very active on dries and nymphs. For a chance at a good pike, try the ponds at the Yampa River State Park campground. They are stocked regularly and will produce some good fish. Anything big should attract the pike. All pike caught in the ponds should be returned to the pond or killed prior to leaving the site. Be very cautious around the river; it is deep and fast at the present time. All state park boat access is open to the river. Still, watch for debris, especially on outside corners when floating.

**Yampa River (Stagecoach through Steamboat)** -- The river remains above average for the date but is clear and fishing very well. The high runoff changed some of the channel, but the trout fared well, are in good condition and are hungry. Though some caddis are evident in the evening, most of the activity is below the surface. A variety of nymphs and streamers has been productive. Grasshoppers are just starting to appear in the hayfields and veteran anglers are expecting exceptionally good fishing well into September.

## **Southeast**

**Adobe Creek Res. (Blue Lake)** -- The low-water ramp is the only usable boat ramp. Fishing for all species generally is slow, but fair for catfish at night, with occasional crappie and carp about the only fish being caught. The fire ban remains in effect for Blue Lake.

**Antero Reservoir** -- Denver Water's drawdown is complete and the level is down two feet. The water temperature is about 63 degrees and clarity is good. Weed growth is significant. Fish are active early in the morning and on windy days. Otherwise, fishing has been slow. Leeches, nymphs and Kastmasters do OK but not great. Operation of the south boat ramp has been reduced to Friday through Monday. The north ramp remains open seven days a week. Only small trailered boats, canoes and other small craft can access the south ramp. Boats of any size can use the north ramp. Boating hours are 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

**Arkansas River (Buena Vista to Salida)** -- Flows are coming down, with a volume of 504 cfs at Nathrop on Monday. Browns Canyon is a busy place this time of year but fishing remains very productive. Pale morning dun hatches in the afternoons and caddis late in the day are topping the hatch chart. Nymph in the mornings with a small dark stonefly or Flashback Pheasant Tail.

**Arkansas River (Leadville to Buena Vista)** -- The upper Arkansas River is in prime condition, flowing at 389 cfs below Granite on Monday. Fish are working yellow Sally stoneflies, pale morning dun mayflies, caddis, some green/gray drakes and terrestrials. At these flows, fish are moving off the edges and taking full advantage of the river-bed structure.

**Arkansas River (Salida to Canon City)** -- Bighorn Sheep Canyon is mostly clear, with occasional summer thunderstorms occasionally creating a little murkiness. Monday's flows were 500 cfs at Wellsville and 598 cfs at Parkdale. Fishing has been very good. Trout are onto yellow Sallies, pale morning duns and caddis, but also will come up for big attractor dries through most of the day. Expect a great late summer and fall on this section of river.

**Bonny Reservoir** -- Fishing is fair to good for all species. The water temp is around 77 degrees. A few walleyes are being taken on crank baits, some still in the 5- to 7-pound range. A good number of catfish on typical baits. A few people using jugs. White bass (some over 17 inches) hitting well on Rat.L.Traps in the early mornings and late evenings. Emergency fishing regulations are in effect: No daily bag,

possession or size limits apply to any game fish. Any taking over the standard bag or possession limit requires filling out a form when leaving the lake. Forms are available at the Visitor Center, Foster Grove and the northeast corner of the dam on self-serve signs. Most boats are launching without trouble. Boat-ramp depth is 3-4 feet.

**Catamount Reservoirs, North & South** -- South Catamount Reservoir will provide anglers with good to excellent fishing. Fishermen are having their best luck fishing worms, both off the bottom, and under a few feet from the surface. Water at South Cat is lower than at Crystal and North Catamount reservoirs, but the fishery continues to hold strong numbers of catchable-size trout. North Catamount offers anglers exceptional opportunities to catch limits of catchable trout, with a good possibility of catching a fish in the 15- to 18-inch range. Anglers are having the most success using flies that represent various stages of the mayfly hatch. Water levels remain low in the reservoir, but the fishing remains good to excellent. Please remember that North Cat is flies-and-lures only.

**Cheesman Reservoir** -- Cheesman Reservoir will remain closed to public access through 2011 while Denver Water completes upgrades to the dam. The Gill Trail through Cheesman Canyon remains open for walk-in access to the South Platte River. The reservoir is expected to reopen next year.

**Clear Creek Reservoir** -- For the week ending Aug. 21, fishing remained spotty. Worms and chartreuse PowerBait produced some decent catches of trout from shore, mostly from the upper end of the reservoir near the inlet. The water level continued to recede, exposing sections of shoreline that did not exist at higher levels, when it went up into the brush. Fly fishermen have had modest success with dry flies or nymphs during mid-morning and afternoon hatches. Trolling with the usual lures at all depths produced limit catches for some fishermen, but for others just a pleasant, three-hour boat ride. No tiger muskies were spotted. Some kokanee were landed, suggesting greater numbers are just around the corner. Trout have been a bit larger than stocker-size, suggesting they are from stocking in previous years.

**Crystal Creek Reservoir** -- Fishing at Crystal Reservoir should be good to excellent. Most anglers are having success with PowerBait and worms fished a few feet off the bottom. Water levels remain low, but that has not affected the fishing. Easy access and proximity to the Pikes Peak gift shop make Crystal Reservoir a great place for family outings.

**Crystal Lake** -- This small, flies-and-lures-only lake is just a few miles south of Leadville on Highway 24. It is stocked with catchable rainbows and sometimes cutthroats. Lots of those fish have been caught in recent weeks, with things slowing in mid-August. Small browns were stocked in May and brook trout are present in lower numbers. Submerged vegetation in this very shallow body of water makes it difficult to fish with lures except near the outlet.

**Eleven Mile Reservoir** -- The north-shore and Witcher's Cove ramps are open. Trout fishing is good. Reports of catches have been increasing this week, with bag limits being taken regularly. Sunset to sunrise seems to be the most productive time on the southern and western sides of the reservoir. Various colors of PowerBait, Kastmasters, Tasmanian Devils, micro jigs, worms and salmon eggs are producing the best results. Success also has been reported with scented marshmallows such as garlic. Kokanee salmon reports have been sporadic. Pike fishing is good. Pike action is heating up, with the most productive area being the west end of the reservoir. Success is being seen in the Witcher's Cove area and Coyote Ridge, as well. Large tube jigs, spinners, Rapalas and rainbow Dardevles are having marked success.

**Hayden Meadows Reservoir** -- Fishing success for recently stocked good-size fish has improved significantly, with PowerBait, worms and artificials. This small reservoir is just off Highway 24 at the Arkansas River crossing south of Leadville. The reservoir is stocked heavily each summer and fish carry over to the following spring. Fishermen's success is usually good after stocking.

**Holbrook Lake** -- Fishing is slow for all species. Holbrook has had various stages of water levels the past five years, ranging from completely full to almost dry. Currently the level is low. As a result, fisheries management has been very difficult. From year to year, various fishing opportunities may exist at Holbrook as fish enter through the canal system, but formal fisheries management will only resume when the risk of lake depletion has been minimized to the point where fish stocking can be successful.

**Horseshoe Reservoir** -- Shore fishermen are catching trout on various colors of PowerBait and worms. Multiple reports came in of tiger muskie being caught, and of walleyes and bass from the shore and from boats. The lake is open to boating from sunrise to sunset. All vessels must be inspected when entering and exiting the lake.

**Hugo Ponds** -- Fishing is slow for all species mid-day. Anglers hoping to catch largemouth bass, bluegills and channel catfish should consider fishing early in the evening and at night.

**Jacksons Pond** -- Jackson's Pond is an 8-acre pond immediately south of the town of Eads. It is seasonally stocked with catchable rainbow trout. Other species available include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, crappie, bluegill, channel catfish and carp. Fishing has been fair for trout and slow for all other species

**Jefferson Lake** -- Fishing for recently stocked and occasionally larger trout has been fairly good on night crawlers, salmon eggs, PowerBait and Dardevle-type spoons. Some mackinaw also are being taken from shore, but most have been relatively small. Larger ones are in deeper water and might be available to fishermen using float tubes.

**John Martin Reservoir** -- The level has dropped to its lowest point since the summer of 2006 but has been holding steady. Only the east boat ramp is operative and the dock has been pulled. The ramp has a low angle of slope, and low-profile vehicles and large boats may have difficulty launching. Fishing for white bass in 8-15 feet of water has been good on jigs and Kastmasters. A few catfish still are being taken in the spillway. Few people have been fishing because of the summer heat. All gasoline-powered vessels must be inspected prior to launching.

**Karval and Kinney Lakes** -- Karval Lake experienced a fish kill on Aug. 12 due to low dissolved oxygen, brought on by a lake turnover. Anglers fishing Kinney Lake will be more successful in evening and at night. Night crawlers should be the bait of choice for bluegills and channel catfish. Another good choice for channel cats would be stink baits.

**Lake Henry** -- Water levels are good, although the water has dropped some due to irrigation needs. The boat ramp is in good shape. Fishing for catfish is fair. The fire ban no longer is in effect.

**Lake Meredith** -- Water levels recently increased due to runoff, but will likely soon go down to meet irrigation demands. Fishing for wipers is slow to fair, with an occasional channel catfish also being caught. The fire ban no longer is in effect.

**Manitou Lake** -- Fishing at Manitou Lake remains very slow. Anglers are having the most success with night crawlers fished a few feet from the bottom. Manitou Lake continues to be a wonderful facility for family outings. Easy access, clean restrooms, and numerous picnic areas make Manitou Lake a great family destination. Fishing action should pick up once water temperatures allow for resumed stocking

**Martin Lake** -- Trout continue to bite on PowerBait and night crawlers. Pike are being caught on various colors of spoons. Some fishermen reported last week that the walleyes were biting on jigs of various colors. Boaters are reminded that ramps are open from sunrise to sunset. All vessels need to be inspected when entering and exiting the park.

**Midwestern Pond** -- Midwestern Farms Pond is a 35-acre lake located six miles east of Granada on Highway 50. This deep pond has been stocked with rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass, saugeye, crappie, wiper, striper, yellow perch and bluegill. Fishing has been fair for rainbow trout and slow for all other species. No fireworks are allowed.

**Montgomery Reservoir** -- The small lake at the foot of Hoosier Pass will remain closed to fishing through 2011 so that repairs to the outlet can be completed.

**Mt. Elbert Forebay** -- Fishing success for shore fishermen is fair, with catches of recently stocked trout. The 40- to 42-inch-long, 25-pound mackinaw caught several weeks ago is still being talked about. The lake is stocked with catchable-sized rainbows and cutthroats from late May through August. The mack limit is one fish, and all fish between 22 and 34 inches must be released. Carry-on boats and float tubes are permitted on the Forebay, but boaters should be aware of possible dramatic fluctuations of the water level.

**Nee Gronda Reservoir** -- Currently, there is no usable boat launching facility available at Nee Gronda; hand-launch boating only. Following the severe fish kill of 2009-2010, the lake has been restocked with all species. Spring sampling revealed fair numbers of channel catfish and wipers available to anglers. All fires are prohibited.

**Nee Noshe Reservoir** -- Nee Noshe is very low. Currently, no boat launching facility exists at Nee Noshe. Fall inventory sampling by DOW aquatic staff revealed no fish present. Water quality is very poor. If no fresh water is added, Nee Noshe could go dry in the near future. All fires are prohibited.

**Nichols Reservoir** -- Nichols is accessed by a 1.8-mile hiking trail leading down from the Rampart Reservoir dam. Fishing success has been good for pan-sized trout. Most anglers are reporting catches using PowerBait and night crawlers.

**Pueblo Reservoir** -- The water level has come down approximately 30 feet from the high-water mark. The temperature is 78 degrees and clarity is good. Daytime temperatures have been hot and fishing has slowed. Some wipers are being taken at daylight, and trolling near the dam still is turning up a few walleyes. As usual, recreational boating traffic has been heavy.

**Queens Reservoirs** -- Upper and Lower Queens reservoirs are dry. Fires and fireworks are prohibited.

**Rampart Reservoir** -- Angling at Rampart remains fair for shore anglers for catchable trout, with the action slowing for lakers. Most success has been by anglers fishing from boats. The DOW would like to thank boaters for their cooperation in the watercraft inspection program.

**Rosemont Reservoir** -- Anglers are reminded that this is a fly-and-lure only water. Fishing has been reported as good to very good with lots of action on bead-heads and smaller fly patterns.

**Skaguay Reservoir** -- Fishing is fair for stocker rainbow trout and a few cutthroats and browns. Fish recently have been hitting flies, baits and smaller lures. A few northern pike also are showing up in the bag but most are small. The water level is dropping and is now about 40 inches below full. Water in West Beaver Creek below the dam is high and fairly clear. Fishing there is fair for small browns and an occasional cutthroat. Flies are the most consistent.

**South Platte River (btwn Spinney and Eleven Mile)** -- The flow was down to 199 cfs as of Aug. 22. Trout

action has been good, with fishermen seeing plenty of action. Various fly patterns working: San Juan worms, scuds, caddis larvae and pupae, crane fly larvae, Barr's Emergers, Flashbacks and hoppers. The South Platte between Spinney Mountain and Eleven Mile reservoirs is catch-and-release only, and only artificial flies and lures may be used.

**South Platte River, Deckers area** -- Recent flows from Cheesman Dam have been steady at around 325 cfs and the river is clear. Some good Trico hatches have been reported and trout have tuned into the spinner fall, but the activity tends to be localized. Terrestrial insects have been plentiful. Some pale morning duns also are around but the hatches have been sporadic.

**South Platte River, Elevenmile Canyon** -- Flows now are down close to seasonal averages, about 190 cfs. Trico mayflies, pale morning duns and caddis are all still hatching. Flies: Trico dun, spinner and drowned-spinner patterns (#22-24) are all working throughout the morning. The PMDs are coming off around 11 a.m. Caddis dries (#16-18) and Graphic Caddis (#16-18), along with many attractor dry flies such as H&L Variants and Royal Wulffs; and terrestrials like hoppers and ants will work in the afternoon. Please remember that Elevenmile Canyon regulations are flies and lures, catch-and-release only, upstream of Springer Gulch Bridge. Lots of illegal fishing is happening in the canyon, but the standard regulation water holds lots of fish and not as many people. There, you can keep four fish per person.

**Spinney Mountain Reservoir** -- The lake is full. Both boat ramps are open. Fishing is good in shallow areas and from boats near the dam with flies, especially adult damselflies, midges, and Callibaetis, doing better than lures this week. Pike action is picking up, with good catches being produced every week. Good fishing on the Dream Stream below the dam using San Juan worms, scuds, midges, grasshoppers and caddis pupae. Spinney Mountain Reservoir fishing is with artificial flies and lures only. Bag limit for all species of trout is one fish 20 inches or larger. No limit on northern pike. Spinney is open 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset, with no boating or fishing past half-an-hour after sunset. Boat inspections are required for all trailered vessels before entering the state park.

**Thurston Reservoir** -- Thurston Reservoir currently has good water levels. Fishing has been fair for largemouth bass; slow for all other species. Fireworks are prohibited.

**Trinidad Reservoir** -- Trinidad Lake covers about 505 surface acres with the surface temp around 67 degrees. Fishing for rainbows, walleyes and catfish remains strong. Everything this time of year typically works; Night crawlers, PowerBait, dough balls, lures and flies. Remember, you are not allowed to launch your boat without it first being inspected. Boaters beware of floating debris and unmarked hazards as the water level continues to drop. Anglers are reminded to check the regulations for bass and walleyes. Boaters also are advised to wear their PFDs. For further info, call the visitors center at 719-846-6951.

**Turquoise Lake** -- Fishing is slow to fair as the doldrums of August take hold. Some better catch rates are reported in spots like the inlet. The east side of the dam has improved dramatically over the past week. PowerBait is still the preferred bait. The lake is stocked on a regular basis during the summer with catchable-size rainbows and cutthroat trout. The south and east shorelines usually offer good fishing for mackinaw. The limit for mackinaw is two out of the total four-fish limit, with no size restriction.

**Twin Lakes** -- Water levels in the two lakes are still probably as high as they will get this year. Lots of previously shoreline vegetation now is submerged and attracting fish. Fishing around willows that are below the water line can be good. As usual, the catching still is fair to good for catchable-sized rainbows on worms and hardware below the power plant. Boat inspections are conducted at the Dexter Point ramp from 6 a.m. to dark, seven days a week during the summer season. The mackinaw population

continues to improve.

**Two Buttes Reservoir** -- Two Buttes Reservoir currently is dry. When the lake refills, fish stocking will resume. Anglers can still fish the Black Hole pond below the dam for trout (seasonal), bass, bluegill and catfish.

**Wrights Lake** -- Wrights Lake, six miles west of Nathrop, is flies-and-lures only. Fishing has been very consistent from May through the early part of June. Most anglers use flies with a fly rod or fly-and-bubble setup. Lure fishing has been slower. The extreme west shore is private, so avoid that end of the lake.

## **Southwest**

**Animas River** -- Though the flow can fluctuate from day to day, the river has dropped to its long-term average for the season and is fishable. Recent fish surveys done by Colorado Parks and Wildlife show the highest population of trout in the Gold Medal reach downstream of the Lightner Creek confluence.

**Beaver Creek Reservoir** -- The water level is 20-25 feet below the high-water mark. It will be maintained at or below that level the entire summer. Anglers are advised to be cautious on the steep-sided slopes and when launching their boats. The water level currently is below the concrete boat ramp. Consequently, larger boats will have a difficult time launching. Anglers have reported fair to good fishing.

**Big Meadows Reservoir** -- Anglers have reported fair fishing from boats and from the shore. Fish are ranging in size from 10 to 15 inches.

**Blue Mesa Reservoir** -- Some of the mature salmon have started their annual run up the Gunnison River. The remaining mature fish are being caught at depths of 80-120 feet in the canyon section of the lake. Immature salmon are being caught in Cebolla and Sapinero basins 20-50 feet deep. Trout fishing throughout the lake remains excellent trolling cow bells and various lures from the surface down to 30 feet.

**Crawford Reservoir** -- Reports of catfish weighing 1-5 pounds have been consistent. Crappie anglers have had some luck on the west side of the lake. Trout and perch have been reported, but not in great numbers. Anglers are still catching large pike. Remember that many people do not report the smaller fish like perch, crappie or trout as often as they do the larger fish. So if a species isn't being reported, it doesn't mean it's not being caught.

**Dolores River (lower)** -- Flows below McPhee Reservoir have been fairly constant. Fly fishermen have been doing fairly well with deep-drifted hellgrammite (stonefly) patterns. Very little surface activity has been reported.

**Dolores River (upper)** -- The river above McPhee Reservoir is clear and has been fishing quite well. Fishermen have been doing well with stonefly nymphs (hellgrammites), spinners and other small lures. Fish the river high in the drainage, above and below Rico, where public access is available and the fish habitat is good. Much of the lower part of the river is private.

**East River** -- With a flow of 219 cfs at Almont on Tuesday, the river is in good condition for fishing.

**Groundhog Reservoir** -- Trout up to 24 inches are being caught on flies and a variety of lures. Fish also are being taken by trolling with Pop Geer, and on PowerBait and Nitro Dough.

**Gunnison River (Upper from Almont to Blue Mesa)** -- The flow has steadily been coming down and on

Tuesday morning was 624 cubic feet per second. That's slightly below average for the season and the water is generally clear and fishable. Fish still are feeding along the edges of primary currents. Large Prince Nymphs, stoneflies, Western Coachmen and similar patterns, with some weight on the leader, have been among the most productive. Mepps-type spinners also work well.

**Jackson Gulch Reservoir** -- Fishing has been excellent for 10- to 12-inch rainbow trout (limit 4) and 4- to 6-inch yellow perch (no limit). Trollers are still having the most success with in-line spinners and 1/4-ounce jigs. Shore anglers are catching trout on PowerBait, salmon eggs, worms and night crawlers. Fly fishing is very good, especially evenings and early mornings. Yellow perch love those worms. Be sure to bring plenty of bait as there is no place to buy it nearby. Rainbow trout will be stocked monthly through the summer. Jackson Gulch requires an ANS inspection before launching boats. Regular inspection hours at the lake are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. A daily pass is required for day use of the park. For more information: [www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us) or call 970-533-7065.

**McPhee Reservoir** -- The level continues to drop at an estimated rate of 6-8 inches a day. The surface temperature is 78 degrees and clarity is good. Smallmouth bass have been hitting top-water lures, jigs, Twister Tails and crank baits. Fishing for walleyes has been good in 8-20 feet of water near the dam and over rocky shoals and sandbars. Worm harnesses and crank baits have been the ticket. Kokanee fishing has come alive. Fish are in 20-30 feet of water and being taken on Pop Geer and trolling spoons. Crayfish-color jigs are producing a few crappie, and catfish still are taking the usual baits off the bottom.

**Mountain Home Reservoir** -- Although the water level is considerably low, fishing for rainbows has been fair, with reports of fish up to 16 inches in length.

**Narraguinne Reservoir** -- The water level has dropped an estimated 20 feet from this year's high-water mark and continues to recede. Fishing for walleyes of 12-20 inches remains good on harness rigs with night crawlers. Some decent-sized bass have been hitting top-water lures. Fishermen also have been catching catfish off the bottom and some crappie.

**Navajo Reservoir** -- The water temp is 70 degrees and fishing still is fair. A Rocky Mountain Team Series bass tournament last weekend produced 10 fish with a weight of 24.19 pounds for the winning team. Crappie fishing is slow, pike fishing fair, and catfish fishing fair on shrimp and cut bait, both on trotlines and rod-and-reels. Fishing should pick up as mornings and the water start to cool.

**Ridgway Fishing Ponds** -- The Pa-Co-Chu-Puk ponds of Ridgway State Park are excellent for children because they are the only water below the dam not restricted to artificial flies and lures or catch-and-release fishing. A limit of four trout per person may be kept there, by children and licensed adults, 16 years and older. The ponds are stocked monthly throughout the summer. Fishing continues to be good. Try worms, grasshoppers and red salmon eggs. Fly fishermen might try a black Woolly Bugger or a gold-ribbed Hare's Ear, size 14.

**Ridgway Reservoir** -- The lake is full, but it is starting to slowly drop. Fishing has been good for rainbows from shore and by trolling. Try using a black-and-red Rooster Tail or a silver or gold Kastmaster for rainbows. The smallmouth bass have been biting along the dam and the points of the west shore. PowerBait and worms work great from the shore. The water is clearing up, so the fishing is turning on. Some 16-inch rainbows are being caught. Watch for late-afternoon thunderstorms; a couple of strong ones moved in during the past week.

**Rio Grande River** -- Tuesday's water flows were 341 cfs at Del Norte and 261 at Wagon Wheel Gap. The water is generally clear, except after rain showers. Anglers have reported good success by floating the

river and on the Collier State Wildlife Area.

**Road Canyon Reservoir** -- Fishing has been good, with a number of individuals catching their limits in a few hours. Fish have ranged in size from 12 to 20 inches. The algae has remained relatively low this year compared to years past, allowing good fishing from shore.

**San Luis Lake** -- Due to low snowpack, the reservoir will not be filled this season. The boat ramp has been closed to motorboats for the season and only hand-launched boats are permitted.

**Sanchez Reservoir** -- Due to low water levels, the concrete boat ramp is closed and likely will remain that way for the remainder of the year. However, boats are allowed to launch from the shore, but there is some risk of getting stuck. Mandatory boat inspections are still in place and all boats must be inspected prior to launching. The inspection station will be open from approximately 30 minutes before sunrise to 30 minutes after sunset. Please make sure your boat is clean, drained and dry. Due to the discovery of rusty crayfish, an invasive species, all crayfish must either be returned to the water alive or killed by removing the head from the body or thorax before they can be removed from the reservoir. Anglers have reported fair to good fishing for northern pike and walleyes.

**Smith Reservoir (San Luis Valley)** -- Fishing has been fair to good for rainbow trout. Some anglers have reported fish up to 22 inches and 4.5 pounds. The water level is currently below the bottom of the concrete boat ramp.

**Summit Reservoir** -- Fishing for catfish has been fairly good. Catfish and a few decent-sized rainbow trout have been taking night crawlers.

**Taylor Reservoir** -- Lake trout are deep, at 80-plus feet. Fishing off the bottom with night crawlers is working very well. Trolling with a downrigger works great, pulling Dodger and Apex lures. Always tip the lure with a worm. Rainbows are all over the lake and mostly at about 25-30 feet. Trolling with Pop Geer (cow bells) and night crawlers, or adding a small lure on a long leader is working. Pike are starting to wake up. Some have been caught by trolling in the shallow water along the east bank. A few kokanee have been caught, but mostly by chance. Nights already have been freezing, but the last couple of days have had lots of sunshine and no rain.

**Taylor River** -- The river on Tuesday was flowing at 345 cfs below Taylor Dam and 411 cfs at Almont. The river still is swift but fishable. Be cautious when trying to wade, but look for trout in pockets of relatively quiet water behind rocks and along the edges. Large, weighted nymphs and streamers have been the most consistent. Attractor dry flies also have taken some fish.

**Totten Reservoir** -- Northern pike and good-sized bass have been hitting top-water lures, buzz baits and shallow-running crank baits. Some large yellow perch are being taken on flies and small spinners. The minimum size for largemouth bass at the lake is 15 inches.

**Tucker Ponds** -- The ponds were stocked through July.

**Uncompahgre River in Ridgway Park** -- The water temperature on the river at Pa-Co-Chu-Puk is about 48 degrees and it is starting to clear up since the lake stopped spilling. Fishing has been good. Fishermen have been picking up rainbow and cutthroat trout. Soft-hackles, #14 Yellow Sally, and #20 Callibaetis are working. Flows are around 600 cfs. With flows being high, watch for drop-offs when wading. Remember that the river is catch-and-release fishing only, with artificial flies and lures only.

## **STOCKING REPORT**

The table below identifies where catchable trout were recently stocked at the time of this report. Links to past weeks' reports (as pdf files) will be listed below the table for reference.

<b>Body of Water</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>Northeast Region</b>	
Golden Gate State Park Ponds	W of Arvada
<b>Northwest Region</b>	
Beaver Lake	E of Marble
Breckenridge Reservoir	Breckenridge
Copper Mountain Reservoir	Copper Mountain
Green Mountain Reservoir	S of Kremmling
Island Lake	Marble
Cowdrey Lake	NW of Walden
McKee Lake	Marble
Meadow Lake	N of New Castle
Monarch Lake	SE of Granby
Officers Gulch Pond	W of Frisco
Ranger Lake	SE of Gould
Ten Mile Creek	Above Frisco
Walden Kids Pond	Walden
Willow Creek #2	N of Granby
Willow Creek Reservoir	N of Granby

<b>Southeast Region</b>	
Chalk Creek	W of Nathrop
Fooses Lake	W of Poncha Springs
Skaguay Reservoir	E of Victor
Turquoise Reservoir	W of Leadville
Twin Lakes	S of Leadville
Wrights Lake	SW of Nathrop
<b>Southwest Region</b>	
Beaver Creek Reservoir	S of South Fork
Big Meadows Reservoir	SW of South Fork
Fruita Pond #1	Fruita
Millions Lake	SW of South Fork
Road Canyon Reservoir	W of Creede
San Cristobal Lake	S of Lake City

## Past Stocking Reports

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