



Arizona Game and Fish Department

August 2026 Regional Fishing Reports

Table of Contents

[Region 1 - Pinetop](#)

[Region 2- Flagstaff](#)

[Region 3 - Kingman](#)

[Region 6 - Mesa](#)

Region 1 - Pinetop

Reservoirs -

Prepared by Marshall Stuart, Region I Reservoir Specialist

Anglers are encouraged to consult the latest [fishing regulations](#) before fishing any water. Most of the reservoirs within Region 1 are low due to drought conditions and releases for irrigation. Many of the boat ramps are out of the water and access is limited to shoreline and hand-launch watercraft on several waters that have boat ramps including: Fool Hollow, Woodland, Lyman, Scotts, Carnero, Nelson, and Black Canyon lakes. Water temperatures remain high despite monsoons providing some relief in the afternoons. Anglers fishing lakes at elevations lower than 7,000 feet are encouraged to target cool- and warm-water fish species like Walleye, Smallmouth and Largemouth bass, Channel Catfish, Yellow Perch, Bluegill, and Crappie. Anglers hoping to fish for trout should target higher elevation waters like Big Lake and the Rim Lakes (Willow Springs, Woods Canyon, and Bear Canyon) or fish some of the streams in the region (see streams report below). Fish early in the morning as water temperatures are also reaching levels that are stressful for trout in these waters.

Partial fish kills have been observed at Aker Lake, Tunnel Reservoir, and Becker Lake. Hulsey Lake is suspected to have suffered a complete fish kill this summer. Anglers and recreationalists are encouraged to watch out for Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB's) that are occurring on many of the lakes in the region. Conditions can change rapidly, consult the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality's HAB webpage for information regarding HAB's <https://azdeq.gov/AZHABs>. Specific information for popular Region 1 fisheries can be found below.

Aker Lake

8/25/2026

Water temperature: 65.5 °F

pH: 7.3

Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 7.6 mg/l

Fishing has been slow; a partial fish kill was observed earlier this summer due to low water levels and abundant aquatic vegetation. Fish are still present in low numbers. Anglers are encouraged to wait until this fall to fish Aker.



Rim Lakes (Willow Springs, Woods Canyon, and Bear Canyon)

7/9/2026

<i>Bear Canyon</i>	<i>Willow Springs</i>	<i>Woods Canyon</i>
<i>Water temperature: 70.8 °F</i>	<i>Water temperature: 69.2 °F</i>	<i>Water temperature: 67.2 °F</i>
<i>pH: 8.9</i>	<i>pH: 8.6</i>	<i>pH: 8.7</i>
<i>Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 8.9 mg/l</i>	<i>Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 8.6 mg/l</i>	<i>Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 8.8 mg/l</i>

Regular stockings will conclude in early September at the Rim Lakes, but that doesn't mean that angling opportunities stop at these waters. As water temperatures begin to cool, trout fishing will improve through the fall. The boat ramps at Woods Canyon and Willow Springs are accessible and anglers fishing from boats tend to be more successful this time of year. Fishing early in the morning will allow you to target fish when they are actively feeding. Be prepared for afternoon monsoons as they have been particularly active in this area.

Big Lake

8/17/2026

Water temperature: 66.3 °F

pH: 7.8

Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 7.9 mg/l

Fishing is moderate, anglers have reported catching large (>16in) healthy fish. Fishing early in the day is recommended as water temperatures are still approaching stressful levels which is resulting in lower feeding activity and fish seeking deeper water for refuge. Fishing should pick up as water temperatures start to cool this fall.

Becker Lake

8/12/2026

Water temperature: 73.7 °F

pH: 9.3

Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 9.1 mg/l

Becker Lake fished well this spring with several reports of anglers catching trout exceeding 20 inches. Unfortunately drought conditions and prolonged summer temperatures are starting to take a toll on trout in Becker, with fish periodically succumbing to prolonged stress from elevated water temperatures and high pH. Anglers are encouraged to wait to fish for trout on Becker until water temperatures drop below 67 and ideally below 65. Becker has special regulation in place to promote the trophy trout fishery; with catch and release only for trout; artificial fly and lure only; single-pointed barbless hooks only.

Luna Lake

8/25/2026

Water temperature: 69.3 °F

pH: 8.7

Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 9.5 mg/l

Current water temperatures and abundant algae are making conditions stressful for trout at Luna Lake. Anglers should look to fish other waters until conditions improve this fall. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, in partnership with SonicPure has installed algae suppression devices at Luna Lake in an effort to control algal blooms. SonicPure systems transmit precisely tuned ultrasonic waves that travel through the water column. These sound waves interfere with the algae's buoyancy control, causing cells to sink below the light zone and die naturally. This technology is safe for fish, zooplankton, and aquatic plants. These systems appear to be helping suppress algae and have prevented a fish kill at the lake this far. Once conditions improve this fall, anglers are encouraged to fish for Gila Trout at Luna Lake as survey results this spring showed a robust population of fish exceeding 14 inches.



Nelson Reservoir

8/5/2026

Water temperature: 72.8 °F

pH: 9.3

Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 9.8 mg/l

Nelson Reservoir is exceptionally low due to the drought and boat ramps are well out of the water. Shoreline angling opportunities are limited due to abundant aquatic vegetation and water temperatures are extremely stressful for trout. Anglers hoping to fish Nelson should fish for Crappie along weedlines from kayaks or canoes.

Fool Hollow and Show Low Lakes

Boat ramps are closed at Fool Hollow and launching watercraft over 14 feet at Show Low Lake is difficult because of the low water and abundant aquatic vegetation. Anglers are encouraged to target warmwater sportfish at both of these lakes. Channel Catfish numbers are high at Fool Hollow with anglers doing well on chicken livers, worms, or other smelly baits. Because of the turbid conditions at Fool Hollow Lake, the oxygenated portion of the water column is relatively shallow, with conditions suitable for fish limited to depths of approximately 6 feet or less. Anglers casting baits near the shoreline or shallow running baits that target these depths will find better success. Timing fishing trips at dawn and dusk is important when targeting bass, panfish and Walleye in both of these waters. The bite window can be particularly short for these species, but quality sized fish can be found in both waters. The abundant aquatic vegetation at Show Low Lake restricts shoreline anglers to areas near the dam.



Greer Lakes

<i>Tunnel Reservoir 8/5/2026</i>	<i>River Reservoir 8/5/2026</i>
<i>Water temperature: 71.3 °F</i>	<i>Water temperature: 71.6 °F</i>
<i>pH: 8.9</i>	<i>pH: 8.5</i>
<i>Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 9.7 mg/l</i>	<i>Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 9.6 mg/l</i>

Elevated water temperatures and abundant algae in Tunnel Reservoir resulted in a partial fish kill in July. Warmer water temperatures have resulted in slow fishing at Bunch and River Reservoir. The boat ramp is currently out of the water at Bunch Reservoir. Anglers fishing at River Reservoir can target Yellow Perch with small jigs and worms, although sizes are small, anglers can expect high catch rates if they find active schools.

Streams-

Prepared by Adam Zambie, Region I Streams Specialist

The majority of high elevation streams within Region 1 have maintained relatively cold water temperatures through the summer months and offer good trout fishing opportunities to hold anglers over until the arrival of fall despite low flows due to drought conditions. Anglers can take advantage of cool water temps at high elevation locations such as the West Fork Little Colorado River in the Mount Baldy Wilderness to target native Apache Trout populations in scenic mountain streams with access offered by short hikes along well maintained trails. For the adventurous angler looking for a backcountry fishing experience, relatively longer hikes into the Bear Wallow Wilderness will reward access into the region's newest Apache Trout fishing opportunity. Additional options to explore less pressured creeks in the region are abundant, and scouring maps for blue lines will yield access to great Brown Trout and Apache Trout x Rainbow Trout hybrid fisheries with a bit of bushwacking. Relatively lower elevation mainstem rivers such as the Black River offer unique opportunities for species other than trout in warmer waters, with Roundtail

Chub and Smallmouth Bass fishing being a hot ticket currently, and trophy sized Brown Trout being a “day-making” chance encounter.



High Country Stream Fisheries (Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests)

West Fork Little Colorado River (Mount Baldy Wilderness)

Anglers looking to target wild Apache Trout can utilize the West Baldy trail (off of State Route 273) to take a short 1-mile hike into the Mount Baldy Wilderness along a low gradient trail. Upon entering the wilderness boundary one will be met with a gentle meandering mountain stream winding through lush meadows lined with tall conifers. Targeting undercut grassy banks with dry flies or in-line spinners will yield willing trout ranging from 5-10 inches. For those willing to hike above the meadows on the West Baldy Trail, after a 3-mile walk from the trailhead the waterway transforms from a meandering meadow stream to a high gradient series of cascades and plunge pools. This high gradient reach lends itself to the fly fisherman looking to test their small water casting skills in a section of water seldom pressured by other anglers. Fish are very willing with a well placed cast and stealthy approach and offerings from a size 16 elk hair caddis all the way up to a size 10 hopper producing takes. However, with fish maxing out around 10 inches, smaller size flies are recommended. General statewide fishing regulations apply on this waterway with no special regulations.



West Fork Little Colorado River (Below Wilderness Boundary)

For anglers looking to target stocked Apache Trout, weekly stockings have occurred throughout August at Sheeps Crossing (off of State Route 273 adjacent to the West Baldy parking area). Trail access at Sheeps Crossing offers a low gradient 200 yard walk to access the stream, making this an excellent low mileage fishing option compared to access on the West Baldy Trail. Anglers have found success using in-line spinners, small jerkbates, dry flies, as well as nymphs set roughly 12-18 inches under an indicator. Along with socked Apache Trout, wild Apache Trout are also found in this section of stream, with nice sized specimens to be caught. General statewide fishing regulations apply on this waterway with no special regulations.



Bear Wallow Creek (Bear Wallow Wilderness)

Bear Wallow Creek was opened to fishing this year and is the newest wild Apache Trout fishing opportunity in the state. Fishing is best in the upper reaches of the stream that can be accessed from the Bear Wallow Trailhead and the Reno Trail Trailhead (both off of Forest Road 25). Both trails lead to the same spot on the upper section of the North Fork Bear Wallow Creek, with the Bear Wallow Trail being a more gradual descent and the Reno Trail being a shorter but steeper option. Following the trail further downstream to where the North and South Fork of Bear Wallow Creek converge, fish can be reliably found and the riparian area around the stream opens up to allow room to make casts. A stealthy approach is key to fishing success here, with fish being forgiving to lure/fly selection, but not forgiving to shadows being cast across their hiding spots. Best success is to be had fishing with light lures/flyes so as not to spook fish upon heavy handed casts. The average fish present is between 6-8 inches, with some larger specimens to be found in deep pools. If planning a fishing expedition into Bear Wallow Creek expect a round trip of roughly 7-10 miles. Regulations for this waterway are mandatory catch and release, with fishing permitted with single hook barbless flies and lures only.



Other High Country Opportunities

A large array of high elevation creeks that flow into the Black River drainage offer anglers chances to explore the forests of the White Mountains while looking for cold trout water. Studying maps and

satellite imagery of the region will give a glimpse into multiple possibilities for the blue-lining enthusiast. A personal favorite option of mine is Fish Creek which contains Apache Trout x Rainbow Trout hybrids. Fish Creek starts directly below the dam on Aker lake, however, fishing does not pick up until downstream feeder creeks supply additional flow. The stream can be accessed by parking along Forest Road 24 near the waterway, and cross country hiking into the drainage. Targeting deep pools and log jams will lend the opportunity to catch trout in the 10-12 inch range with a few specimens growing larger. Utilizing in-line spinners, small jerkbates, dry flies, and hopper droppers are good options for Fish Creek, as well as the numerous other high country stream opportunities in the region. General statewide fishing regulations apply on this waterway with no special regulations, however, all anglers looking to explore new water should check fishing regulations before visiting a new piece of stream.



Main-stem River Opportunities

With warm summer temperatures and low flows, many comparatively lower elevation trout rivers in the region can yield slow fishing in all hours but dawn and dusk this time of year. However, targeting species other than trout in these bodies of water can produce memorable days. The Black River below the confluence of the West Fork and East Fork Black River is currently fishing great for Roundtail Chub and Smallmouth Bass. Anglers can access this stretch of river from the Buffalo Crossing area or the Bear Creek Trailhead, both along Forest Road 24. Targeting stretches of river where riffles empty into deep pools is a recipe for success with streamers being the ticket for fly fisherman and crankbaits and jerkbaits offering a good option for conventional gear. As an added bonus, you might just hook into a 20+ inch trophy Brown Trout fish, making this fishery a unique experience to catch nice size fish of many species.



Region 2- Flagstaff

Arizona Game and Fish Department Region 2, Fishing Report

Prepared by Matt Rinker, Senior Aquatic Wildlife Specialist

Updated: 8/24/2026



Overview - The forecast for Flagstaff, Williams, and the Mogollon Rim calls for decreasing chances for monsoon storms as the week progresses with a slight chance for thunderstorms over the weekend. Highs will be in the 80's and lows will be in the 50's. Water temperatures will be in the high 60's to high 70's. Lower elevations around the Verde Valley will see a chance for monsoon activity on Monday then transitioning to a Extreme heat warning for the remainder of the week with a slight chance for showers over the weekend. Highs will be in the 100's with lows in the 70's.

Now is a great time to pursue one of the Departments Bass Challenge

<https://www.azgfd.com/fishing-2/fishing-challenges/arizona-bass-challenge/>. Water temperatures are in the high 60's to high 70's in the lakes around Williams and Flagstaff which means warm water species (Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Channel Catfish, and Black Crappie) are active. Surface temperatures are at or approaching lethal limits for trout on some lakes. Trout fishing slows down with increasing water temperatures. Trout will move to deeper water and can be found in 8 to 20 feet in most lakes. Try fishing for trout early in the morning.

Bait Anglers: Worms, corn, and powerbait will be your best bet for trout. Night crawlers are a good bet for Walleye and anchovies are a good approach for Northern Pike. Catfish are commonly caught on worms, hot dogs, and anchovies. Small pieces of night crawlers and meal worms on small hooks are a good approach for panfish (Bluegill, Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, and Yellow Bass). Reminder, the use of live minnows and fish as bait are not allowed on any waters in Coconino County including all of the bodies of water listed below.

Lure Anglers: Lures with flash and vibration such as Joes' Flies, Panther Martins, Mepp's spinners, Kastmasters, Rooster Tails, crayfish imitations, Pistol Pete's, and Dare Devils are good choices. Think small for trout, 1/8 – 1/12 oz lures are best (silver, gold, or copper). Pay attention to what is working and duplicate that presentation. Warm water species like Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Black Crappie are commonly caught on crankbaits, swimbaits, soft plastics, and spinnerbaits. Pike and walleye are being caught on spinner baits, inline spinners, and chatter baits.

Fly Anglers: Producing flies this week include #10 bead-headed Simi Seal leeches (brown, black, olive, and wine), #10 bead-headed wooly buggers (brown, black, olive, and wine), #10-12 zug bug, #12-10 dragonfly larvae (olive), #18-16 zebra midge, #16-#12 pheasant tail, #12-14 prince nymph, #12-14 San Juan worm, hoppers, damselfly, stonefly, mayfly, hopper, and caddis fly patterns.

Check the [fishing regulations](#) before heading out as many of the lakes around Williams and Flagstaff have special regulations. Reminder, the use of live minnows and fish as bait are not allowed on any waters in Coconino County including all of the bodies of water listed below. Your licenses pay for the fish you catch, poachers are stealing from YOU. It is illegal to transport and release live fish in Arizona including all of the waters listed below, the illegal introduction of unwanted species is costly and diminishes the quality of our fisheries. If you observe a violation please report it to the Operation Game Thief Hotline (OGT) at 1-800-352-0700.

This Week's Top Picks

Trout: City Reservoir, Santa Fe Reservoir, Dogtown, and Knoll Lake.

Bass, Bluegill, and Black Crappie: Lake Powell, Cataract Lake, and Dogtown Lake.

Channel Catfish: Lake Powell, Santa Fe Reservoir, Kinnikinick Lake, City Reservoir, and Cataract Lake.

Northern Pike and Walleye: Upper Lake Mary.

WILLIAMS LAKES (Kaibab National Forest)

KAIBAB LAKE

8/14/2026.

Water temperature: 69.78 °F.

pH: 7.88.

Dissolved Oxygen (D.O.): 6.35 mg/l.

Turbidity: 91.27 NTU.

The Kaibab Lake day use, boat launch, and campgrounds are now open. The limit is 2 bass minimum size 13 inches, the limit is 4 Channel Catfish, the limit is 4 trout. Only boats with a single 10 horsepower (HP) motor (or less) or single electric motor are allowed on Kaibab Lake. The lake is very low and muddy, launching a boat is challenging.



CATARACT LAKE

8/14/2026.

Water temperature: 70.52 °F.

pH: 8.23.

D.O.: 6.79 mg/l.

Turbidity: 33.70 NTU.

Both the County and Forest Service day use areas are open. Only boats with a 10 horsepower motor (or less) or single electric motor are allowed on Cataract Lake. The limit is 2 bass minimum size 13 inches, the limit is 4 Channel Catfish, the limit is 4 trout. Anglers have been catching trout on worms, lures, and flies. Largemouth Bass are biting soft plastics, lures with flash and vibration such as spinner baits, and hopper patterns. Bluegill and Black Crappie can be caught using worms on small hooks under a bobber and on small flies and lures. Channel Catfish are also active.



CITY RESERVOIR (Buckskinner Park)

8/14/2026.

Water temperature: 69.42 °F.

pH: 7.86.

D.O.: 6.54 mg/l.

Turbidity: 16.20 NTU.

Buckskinner park and access to City Reservoir are open. The limit is 2 bass minimum size 13 inches, the limit is 4 Channel Catfish, the limit is 5 sunfish, the limit is 4 trout.



DOGTOWN LAKE

8/14/2026.

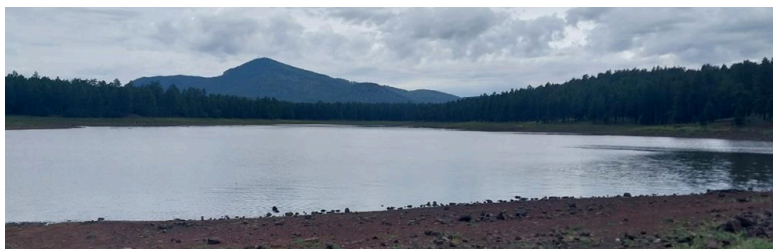
Surface temperature: 70.06 °F.

pH: 8.26.

D.O.: 7.18 mg/l.

Turbidity: 25.45 NTU.

The Dogtown Lake campground, day use, and boat launch are now open. The lake level is below the old boat ramp and launching a boat is a little challenging. Only boats with a single electric motor are allowed on Dogtown Lake. No gas powered motors. The limit is 2 bass minimum size 13 inches, the limit is 4 trout. Anglers have been catching Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass, and Black Crappie. Rainbow Trout were stocked last week.



SANTA FE RESERVOIR

8/14/2026.

Surface temperature: 69.90 oF.

pH: 8.02.

D.O.: 6.69 mg/l.

Turbidity: 6.82 NTU.

Only boats with a single electric motor are allowed on Santa Fe Reservoir. No gas powered motors. The limit is 2 bass minimum size 13 inches, the limit is 4 Channel Catfish, the limit is 4 trout. Anglers have been catching trout on worms, power bait, flies (#10 simi seal leeches, #12 Prince nymph, #12 Pistol Pete), and lures (Joe's flies). Channel Catfish are being caught on worms by the dam.



JD DAM

7/24/2026.

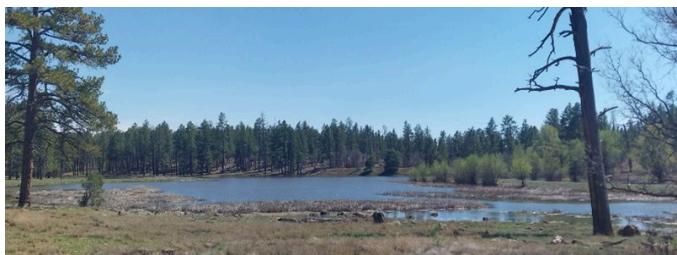
Surface temperature: 78.15 °F.

pH: 8.16.

D.O.: 6.24 mg/l.

Turbidity: 5.19 NTU.

JD Dam is catch-and-release only for trout; no trout may be kept; artificial fly and lure only; single-pointed, barbless hooks only. Only boats with a single electric motor are allowed on JD Dam. No gas powered motors. This is the time of year the surface temperatures of the water get too warm for trout. If you plan to fish J.D. Dam I suggest early mornings before the water temperatures get too hot. The water at the surface is too warm for trout, trout are hanging out in 6-10 feet of water. The lake is very weedy and fishing from shore is challenging.



RUSSELL TANK The limit is 4 trout. Access to Russell Tank is open.

WHITE HORSE LAKE

8/4/2026.

Surface temperature: 76.03 °F.

pH: 9.82.

D.O.: 6.49 mg/l.

Turbidity: 18.77 NTU.

The White Horse Lake campground, day use, and boat launch are now open. Only boats with a single electric motor are allowed on White Horse Lake. No gas powered motors. The limit is 2 bass minimum size 13 inches, the limit is 4 Channel Catfish. An algae bloom is present on the lake and elevated pH levels have caused fish to move to deeper water. Most fish are holding at 10-12 feet. Fishing is very slow.



FLAGSTAFF LAKES (Coconino National Forest)

LOWER LAKE MARY The daily bag limit is 4 trout per day and 4 Channel Catfish per day. Northern Pike are unlimited, but must be immediately killed or released. Only boats with a single 10 horsepower motor (or less) or a single electric motor are allowed on Lower Lake Mary. Lower Lake Mary is dry.



UPPER LAKE MARY

8/7/2026.

Surface temperature: 73.90 °F.

pH: 8.19.

D.O.: 6.36 mg/l.

Turbidity: 89.40 NTU.

Upper Lake Mary boat launches are open. Up lake of the Narrows is very shallow (~1-2 feet deep). Statewide limits apply for the fish species in Upper Lake Mary, check your regulations (page 6). The

lake level is low and launching a boat can be challenging at the current lake level. Anglers have been catching Northern Pike, Walleye, and a few bass. Lures with a lot of flash and vibration (in-line spinners, spinner baits, and chatter-baits) have been working the best. For best results cover a lot of water to find predatory fish holding close to shore.



FRANCES SHORT POND

8/13/2026.

Surface temperature: 66.03 °F.

pH: 7.66.

D.O.: 5.10 mg/l.

Turbidity: 86.71 NTU.

The limit is 2 bass minimum size 13 inches, the limit is 4 Channel Catfish, the limit is 5 sunfish, the limit is 4 trout. The pond is very dirty from recent runoff. Anglers have been catching bluegill on worms under a bobber.



ASHURST LAKE

8/13/2026.

Surface temperature: 68.62 °F.

pH: 8.83.

D.O.: 6.87 mg/l.

Turbidity: 16.99 NTU.

FR 82E to Ashurst Lake and campgrounds are open. Only boats with a single 10 horsepower motor (or less) or a single electric motor are allowed on Ashurst Lake. The limit is 4 trout. Northern Pike and Green Sunfish were illegally introduced and are not managed for in Ashurst Lake. Northern Pike and Green Sunfish are unlimited in Ashurst Lake, please kill any Northern Pike and Green Sunfish caught. The lake level is very low and launching a boat is difficult. With the warming temperatures trout fishing has slowed considerably. Try fishing early in the morning and in 6-10 feet of water.



KINNIKINICK LAKE

8/13/2026.

Surface temperature: 68.31 °F.

pH: 8.07.

D.O.: 6.81 mg/l.

Turbidity: 62.24 NTU.

FR 125 to Kinnikinick Lake is open. Only boats with a single 10 horsepower motor or single electric motor are allowed on Kinnikinick Lake. Please do not put rocks on the boat launch as the lake levels rise the rocks become hazards for boats and trailers. A few folks have been catching nice Channel Catfish on bait.



MORMON LODGE POND

7/22/2026.

Surface temperature: 74.33 °F.

pH: 8.63.

D.O.: 8.50 mg/l.

Turbidity: 9.59 NTU.

Mormon Lodge and access to the pond are open.



MARSHALL LAKE

FR 128 to Marshall Lake is now open. Only boats with a single 10 horsepower motor or single electric motor are allowed on Marshall Lake.



VERDE VALLEY STREAMS (Red Rock Ranger District, Coconino National Forest)

OAK CREEK

8/24/2026.

Stream Flow: 29.2-31.0 cfs.

Water temperature: 64.6-69.3 °F.

Turbidity: 20.5-27.8 FNU.

Starting January 1, 2023, the catch and release section on Oak Creek has been expanded to include Oak Creek from the Highway 89A bridge at Slide Rock State Park upstream to the Sterling Springs Fish Hatchery property boundary including the West Fork Oak Creek. This section will be catch and release only for trout, artificial fly and lure only, barbless hooks only. Oak Creek is currently at base flow 31.00 cfs on August 24, 2026 @ 8:45 a.m. With monsoons active the potential for large pulses through upper Oak Creek is still probable. Access to Oak Creek from Grasshopper Point upstream to the West Fork Oak Creek at Call of the Canyon Recreation area is closed through September 30, 2026 due to flash flooding and runoff associated with the Pocket Fire. More information can be found on the Coconino National Forest Website

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/r03/coconino/alerts/oak-creek-temporary-area-closure-0>. The Department has delayed stocking of Oak Creek until the impacts from the Pocket Fire can be evaluated. Once conditions are suitable stocking will resume.



WET BEAVER CREEK/BEAVER CREEK

8/24/2026.

Stream Flow: 7.00-7.66 cfs.

Bass are unlimited harvest in Wet Beaver and Beaver Creeks. There is the potential to catch a native sucker or Roundtail Chub, please release them unharmed. The limit is 4 trout.



WEST CLEAR CREEK

8/24/2026.

Stream Flow: 16.7-17.4 cfs.

Stream temperature: 73.0-77.7 °F.

Smallmouth Bass are unlimited harvest in West Clear Creek. Roundtail Chub are often caught in sections of West Clear Creek, please release them unharmed. The limit is 4 trout.



MOGOLLON RIM LAKES (Mogollon Rim Ranger District, Coconino National Forest)

BLUE RIDGE/C.C. CRAGIN RESERVOIR

8/24/2026.

Reservoir elevation: 6,684.76 ft.

Current volume: 7,329 acre feet.

Percent full: 49% (and dropping).

Surface temperature: 73.17 °F.

pH: 7.97.

D.O.: 6.57 mg/l.

Turbidity: 1.35 NTU.

Rock Crossing campground is open. Only boats with a single 10 HP (or less) motor or a single electric motor are allowed on C.C. Cragin Reservoir. Green Sunfish and Golden Shiner are unlimited and invasive, please remove them if caught. The boat launch is open, but the lake level is not up to the concrete boat launch making launching challenging, but feasible.



KNOLL LAKE

FR 300 and FR 295E into Knoll Lake are open. Only boats with a single electric motor are allowed on Knoll Lake. The lake level is below the boat launch and launching a boat is feasible, but challenging. No gas powered motors. Remember the statewide limit is 4 trout per licensed angler per day. Anglers are finding success trolling inline spinners such as Joe's flies. Rainbow Trout will be stocked this week.



HUFFER TANK

7/22/2026.

Surface temperature: 69.97 °F.

pH: 8.26.

D.O.: 6.35 mg/l.

Turbidity: 5.30 NTU.

Huffer Tank has dropped ~6 feet since spring. A few fish were active on July 22, 2026.



LEES FERRY, COLORADO RIVER

8/24/2026.

Water Temperature: 68.5-70.3 °F.

Dissolved Oxygen: 5.8-7.8 mg/l.

pH: 8.1-8.4 std units.

Discharge Rate: 6,350-9,130 cfs.

Turbidity: 0.8-1.4 FNU.

Fishing has been slow with most anglers landing 0-7 fish per day. Folks fishing with lures have been finding some success.



LAKE POWELL

8/24/2026.

Surface temperature: (Wahweap Bay) 77.0-87.0 °F.

Lake Elevation: 3,518.96 MSL (and dropping).

Each calendar year, you must complete a few requirements before launching at a Utah waterbody.

1. Register your vessel with your state's Division of Motor Vehicles (or the equivalent in any state/province for boat registration) – you will need your bow number to enroll in the Utah AIS program.

2. Complete the annual [DWR mussel-aware boater education course](#). Print out your proof of course completion or download it to your [DWR Hunting and Fishing app](#).
3. [Enroll your vessel in the Utah AIS Program](#). An annual fee per watercraft applies: \$20 for Utah residents and \$25 for non-resident vessels.
4. A current-year AIS decal will be mailed to you; affix it to your boat with the instructions enclosed in the mailer.

Important: You must have a professional decontamination completed before launching your vessel in any Utah waterbody – regardless of season – if:

- You are entering Utah from another state
- You have been at a mussel-infested water and not met the 30-day dry time required for complex boats (vessels containing inboard motors, inboard/outboard motors, ballast tanks, bilges, live wells, generators, AC units and any other raw water systems)

More information available at:

<https://stdofthesea.utah.gov/ais/motorized/>

Provided by Dan Keller on www.wayneswords.net

Lake elevation continues to hover around 3,524 feet and will slowly decline, exposing new rocky points and islands. During the dog days of summer, the best fishing is generally during the first few hours of daylight and again during the evening. Fish can still be caught throughout the day, but most species are moving deeper or holding close to shade and steep structure.

Striped Bass (Striper)

Striped bass provide the most exciting fishing opportunity this month. Surface-feeding activity has increased as young stripers chase recently hatched threadfin and gizzard shad. Most stripers caught are smaller one- and two-year-old fish, but they are in good condition and great to eat. Last week we found large schools of striped bass feeding on the surface at Red Canyon and Ticaboo.

Watch closely for splashing, scattered surface activity and small groups of birds. Some schools look more like slurps than full boils and may disappear as soon as a boat approaches. Anglers reported surface-feeding stripers between Bullfrog and Knowles, along the main channel in the mid-lake area, near the Escalante and around the San Juan.

Smallmouth Bass

Smallmouth bass remain dependable, although many of the fish being caught are small. Post-spawn fish have moved away from the shallows and are found around broken rock, submerged ledges, secondary points and offshore humps. Start the morning with a topwater lure along rocky points and shorelines. As the sun rises, move into 20–30 feet of water and fish slowly along the bottom.

Largemouth Bass

Largemouth bass are more difficult to locate during the heat of summer. Concentrate on the backs of canyons, shaded cuts and coves that still contain submerged brush. Early morning is the best time to throw topwater lures, spinnerbaits or shallow-running crankbaits around brush.

After sunrise, use a Texas-rigged plastic, Senko, jig or drop-shot around the deepest available brush and nearby rock. Largemouth numbers are lower than smallmouth numbers, but some quality fish continue to be caught, including many reported bass over 4 pounds.

Bluegill, Crappie, and Catfish

Bluegill can be found in protected coves containing brush, shade and relatively calm water. Use a small jig, piece of worm or lightweight drop-shot rig. Bluegills continue to be active on hot sunny days and are often willing to bite anytime of the day. Crappie are less predictable, but a few continue to be caught around brush and shaded canyon structure. Last week I had success catching several bluegills with a Z-Man micro ned-rig on a 1/10 oz jig head.

Channel catfish are becoming increasingly active as the water warms. Fish sandy beaches and gradually sloping coves during the evening or after dark. Anchovies, hot dogs, cut bait, worms and prepared catfish bait will all catch fish.

July Fishing Plan

Be on the water before sunrise. Spend the first two hours watching for striper surface activity and throwing topwater lures for bass along rocky points. After the surface bite slows, troll main-channel points and canyon mouths to locate stripers.

During the middle of the day, fish deeper rocky structure with Ned rigs, tubes and drop-shot rigs. Return to the main channel during the evening and watch for surface activity.

Summer boat traffic, wind and extreme heat can make afternoon fishing difficult. Carry plenty of water, watch the weather closely and use caution around newly exposed rock islands. With a little searching, anglers can still catch a variety of species at Lake Powell. Last week I was camping on the lake and planned to take the boat out to fish near camp after dinner. The wind picked up enough to start waves rolling and crashing onto shore. Rather than fighting the wind attempting to maneuver a boat I decided to walk along the shore and see what I could catch. I would make 3 or 4 casts and if I didn't catch a fish walk a few more steps along the shore to cast to new areas. I quickly learned the wind was working in my favor as it was pushing young shad right up near shore and fish were actively feeding on the abundance of shad. I usually don't count the fish I catch but the shore fishing was so good, in fact much better than fishing we had from the boat all trip that I decided to keep count. I ended up with 13 smallmouth bass, 6 stripers, 4 bluegill, and one channel catfish, all caught within about 20 minutes along less than 100 yards of shoreline. So, if you find yourself fighting the wind and still want to fish you might consider tying up your boat on a wind-blown shoreline and take your favorite fishing rod and a pocket full of jigs for a nice stroll on the beach.

Good luck, be safe, and harvest some stripers!

Region 3 - Kingman

Dead Horse State Park Lagoons -

Anglers have been catching some nice Channel Catfish and Largemouth Bass out of the lagoons this month. The catfish have been reliably caught on corn and chicken liver, and cut-up hotdogs or nightcrawlers work well too. Largemouth Bass have recently been caught on Texas or wacky rigged soft plastic worms, but smaller hard plastics (6") are also effective. No stockings have taken place this month. Special Regulations: The limit is 4 trout, 2 bass, 4 catfish, and 10 sunfish. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

Goldwater Lake (Upper) -

Channel Catfish and Largemouth Bass have been the majority of catches at the upper Goldwater this month. Anchovies, nightcrawlers, and cut-up hot dogs have been great for catching catfish, while the bass have been caught on small moving baits and plastics. Some Rainbow Trout are still being caught as well, usually on either Powerbait or small inline spinners. No stockings have taken place this month. Special Regulations: The limit is 1 bass; minimum of 13 inches. Single electric motor only. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

Goldwater Lake (Lower) -

Both Rainbow Trout and Largemouth Bass have been being caught out of the lower Goldwater recently. These Rainbow Trout can be caught using small inline spinners and if fly fishing, midges and leech imitations. Largemouth are pushing up closer to shallow and are being caught with moving baits and plastics. No stockings have taken place this month. Artificial Fly and Lure Only. Special Regulations: Catch and release only, artificial flies and lures only. Float tube only watercraft restriction. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

Watson Lake -

Anglers are catching Channel Catfish and Largemouth Bass out of Watson this time of year. Largemouth Bass can be caught on smaller plastics, and are usually found within thicker patches of aquatic vegetation. Channel Catfish can be caught using nightcrawlers, chicken liver, and cut-up hot dogs. No stockings have taken place this month. Special Regulations: None. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

Mingus Lake -

While the fishing has been slower this month, anglers are still catching some Yellow Bullhead at Mingus. These catfish can be caught using nightcrawlers, anchovies, and cut-up hot dogs. No

stockings have taken place this month. Special Regulations: None. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

Yavapai Lakes -

Anglers have been catching Channel Catfish and Largemouth Bass at the Lakes. Channel Catfish can be caught using nightcrawlers, cut-up hot dogs, and chicken liver. Largemouth Bass have been caught using soft plastic worms and hard plastics, especially crankbaits. Special Regulations: The limit is 2 bass: minimum of 13 inches, 4 catfish, 10 sunfish, and 4 trout. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

Fain Lake -

The fishing at Fain has been slower this month, and not as many catches are being reported this time of year, so try going earlier in the morning or late in the evening. Anglers can target Channel Catfish and Largemouth Bass. The catfish are being caught on corn, cut-up hotdogs, and chicken liver. Largemouth Bass can usually be caught using soft or hard plastics. Both species can be caught on nightcrawlers. No stockings have taken place this month. Special Regulations: The limit is 2 bass: minimum of 13 inches, 4 catfish, 10 sunfish, and 4 trout. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

Lake Mead -

The fishing has been slow on Mead this month, but anglers have still been catching some decent Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Striped Bass. Fishing in the early mornings and late nights will maximize your chances as the fish should be closer to the surface in shallower water. For these fish it's best to use reaction baits, crank baits, and flukes in a shad pattern. If fishing in the middle of the day, target deep waters using finesse presentations. Special Regulations: The limit has been changed to unlimited striped bass of any size, 5 trout, and 15 crappie. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

Willow Beach at Lake Mohave -

Anglers have been catching Striped Bass and Rainbow Trout at Willow. For the stripers, it's reported that using swimbaits and plugs in a trout pattern has had lots of success. The Rainbow Trout are still going strong for those fishing on or shortly after each Thursday that they are stocked. Anglers are using worms, PowerBait, and spinners to catch these fish. Special Regulations: The limit is 5 trout, there is no limit for striped bass over 20 inches. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

Colorado River Below Davis Dam-

With lower water levels below the Davis Dam, shore fishing has been producing lots of good-sized Channel Catfish and Striped Bass. Popular baits for the catfish include chicken liver, cut-up hotdogs, and nightcrawlers while both hard and soft plastic swimbaits can catch the bass. Anchovies have also been great for catching either species. Special Regulations: The limit is 6 bass; minimum size 13 inches, and 5 trout in any combination. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

Region 6 - Mesa

Overview - This time of the year can be a great time to head up to Rim Country to fish the regional creeks for wild and stocked trout. We are in the hot days of summer right now with daytime ambient temperatures regularly exceeding 90 degrees below the rim. However, the occasional afternoon monsoons have provided some much needed relief on a lot of the area streams. Check the weather before you make a trip as the chances of monsoons increase in the afternoons, making the mornings a great time to get out to fish. I typically fish early in the morning and try to be off the water before noon, then fish an evening bite after the storms. This is the time of year to be fishing in the headwater section of creeks as they stay the coldest compared to downstream reaches of the creeks. Tonto is a great example with good fishing in cooler upstream water compared to warmer water at Bear Flats. If possible, bring a thermometer to check stream temperatures before fishing. Fishing during warm water conditions can cause stress to trout and possible delayed mortality if practicing catch and release. A few quick tips:

- Fish early in the mornings before stream temperatures rise
- Land fish quickly and release fish, if possible, without removing fish from water
- Avoid fishing any water over 67-68 degrees, as fish mortalities can increase after handling
- Target headwaters as temperatures have been staying in the upper 50s even mid day

Bartlett Lake -

See [Gary Senft's recent reports](#) from Bartlett, Apache and Roosevelt lakes

East Verde River -

Upper East Verde River has been fishing well for wild rainbow trout, with a handful of bugs working well. This is the time of year to be throwing dry flies here and at the rest of the Rim creeks. Popular and effective patterns include terrestrial bugs such as black ants and beetles, mini hoppers, as well as elk hair caddis. Various small nymphs presented well around habitat will entice these fish to come out to eat as well when fish are tucked under cover. Try Pheasant Tails, Hares Ears, or Prince Nymphs as well as leeches (black or olive). Please remember, this is a special regulation water upstream of the Pumphouse. This is catch-and-release only for trout; no trout may be kept; artificial fly and lure only; single-pointed barbless hooks only. Fishing downstream of the Pumphouse near popular recreation sites such as Third Crossing, Second Crossing, Water Wheel, and First Crossing has been slow and poor due to high turbidity and warm water temperatures. No trout have been stocked for a couple of months. Statewide regulations apply to this section of creek downstream of the SRP Pumphouse



Horton Creek -

Horton Creek has been fishing well for wild brown trout in the mornings and evenings. Local anglers are having great success with dry flies including an assortment of terrestrial flies with black ants and cicadas working really well. The brown trout at Horton Creek are opportunistic and will readily eat a fly if it is well presented. Small streamers are also a good choice if the dry fly action is slow. Stripping or jigging a fly next to boulders, logs, and other fish holding habitat typically gets a positive response and a fish on the line. This is catch and release only for trout; no trout may be kept; artificial fly and lure only; single-pointed barbless hooks only. Water temperatures have been consistently cold with daytime temperatures staying in the upper 50s/lower 60s.



Canyon Creek -

Canyon Creek is one of the streams that is susceptible to higher stream temperatures, especially in the Lower Section where it is managed for catch and release trout. Currently, the Lower Section has been experiencing water temperatures that have been exceeding 68 degrees and getting as high as 77 degrees further down towards the reservation boundary. Water quality and conditions are poor at this time with excessive plant growth in these areas that can make fishing difficult to impossible in some spots. Bringing a stream temperature thermometer and fishing early in the morning will be the best practice. Terrestrial dry flies such as cicadas, ants, and grasshoppers will work well if you can present it without spooking these fish in the clear water. Special regulations in the Lower Section are catch and release, artificial lure and fly, no bait. Meanwhile, the upstream section near the hatchery typically stays cool enough to fish most of the day without causing too much stress to fish. On 8/27/26, water temperatures were 57 mid day. Water temperatures stay consistent in the upper 50s to low 60s in this section. Rainbow Trout stockings will resume in September. There are also opportunities here for wild brown trout in this section. I like to throw nymphs such as Copper Johns, Pheasant Tails, and black Wooly Buggers at stocked trout. Statewide trout fishing regulations apply to this upper section, upstream of the OW Bridge.



Pine Creek -

Upper Pine Creek (upstream of the town of Pine) is a unique and remote wild rainbow trout fishery within the region. Recent fish surveys have found good densities of fish in this section despite low water conditions. Water conditions are quite lower and more clear than earlier this summer, however stream temperatures remain in the upper 50s/lower 60s. A recent visit yielded 10 wild Rainbow Trout all on chubby chernobyls and beetle patterns, however subsurface flies such as small streamers and nymphs will work as well. The fish here are very eager, but very spooky and a sneaky approach is needed when targeting these trout. Due to the remoteness of this location, contacting a regional biologist is recommended to discuss access.



Bonita Creek -

Bonita Creek is one of the coldest streams in the region with temperatures in the low to mid 50s. A recent stream temperature check noted that this stream retains cold water year round with temperatures staying under 57 degrees during the summer making this one of the best year round streams to fish. Stream flow is also great in comparison with other waters on the rim right now. Native Gila Trout are in Bonita Creek and are eager to fly or flashly lures. AZ mini hoppers have been a success for surface eats as well as adding a dropper such as a black copper john or prince nymph. Small, jig streamers with green or orange beads have also worked well. Fish are very opportunistic in this creek to a well presented fly or lure.



Tonto Creek -

Tonto Creek has continued to be stocked every week with catchable Rainbow Trout with stockings occurring upstream of AZ Highway 260. Bear Flats is currently not being stocked due to high water temperatures and increased turbidity. A recent stream temperature check indicated that stream temperatures during the day regularly exceed 70 degrees in the section of Bear Flats. Stocked Rainbow Trout fishing upstream of the 260 bridge can be good with an assortment of subsurface flies such as hare's ears, pheasant tails, black leeches, wooly buggers, spinners, or a variety of baits (powerbait and worms). Targeting the stocking pools will be the best bet for success.