Arizona Game and Fish Department

November 2026

Regional Fishing Reports



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Region I — Pinetop

Jump to: **Big Lake · Rim Lakes (Willow Springs, Woods Canyon and Bear Canyon) · West Fork Little Colorado River (Mount Baldy Wilderness) · Main-stem Black River · Fool Hollow Lake · Silver Creek**

BIG LAKE

Fishing is currently excellent and anglers are reporting catching large (>16in) healthy fish. Fall weather and fishing are here and the fish are biting on flies, lures, or bait, both from a boat or from shore. Department staff believe the fishing will continue to improve as algal blooms and water temps decrease. Fishing during early winter storms, even in the snow, tends to be very productive.

One thing of note when shore fishing; anywhere in Railroad Cove is going to be very difficult due to low water levels and thick vegetation, so it will be better to stick to areas on the main lake or south cove.

RIM LAKES (WILLOW SPRINGS, WOODS CANYON AND BEAR CANYON)

Regular stockings have concluded for the year 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.

WILD BROWN TROUT FISHERIES

Fall is prime time for Brown Trout fishing in streams in the White Mountains and Rim Country. The best waters to target will be the East Fork Black River, Mainstem Black River, Chevelon Canyon Lake, and Chevelon Creek. Brown Trout will be a little less cautious and more willing to bite when they are getting ready for the long winter. This is the best time of year to target these more aggressive fish with lures or streamers. Another positive of coming up to the high country this time of year is that the streams tend to be much less busy than during the summer or early fall, so you may even have an entire stream to yourself.

SILVER CREEK

On Oct. 1, 2026, upper Silver Creek located on the Arizona Game and Fish Department's (AZGFD) Silver Creek Hatchery Property switched to its catch-and-release season regulations until March 31, 2027. During this time, only artificial flies/lures and single, barbless hooks are allowed.

Though the initial stocking was delayed due to flooding, AZGFD stocked extra large rainbow and apache trout into the lower section of Silver Creek upon the opening of the six month long catch-and-release regulation season. An additional stocking will occur around November 1st to add even more opportunity to catch fish in the lower section of the creek. For both stockings, the rainbow trout average more than four pounds and apache trout average about two lbs and most will remain in this segment of Silver Creek until April 1, 2027, when the regulations revert back to catch-and-keep. The upper section of Silver Creek will provide opportunities for anglers to catch truly large trout that will range in size anywhere from five to 15 pounds.

Anglers should be aware that fishing gear that most anglers use for trout is likely inadequate to safely land the fish the department is stocking in Silver Creek this year and could result in the mortality of these fish. Due to the size of fish being stocked, department staff are recommending that anglers fish with a fly rod no lighter than a five weight with 3X (eight pound breaking strength) tippet or a medium action spinning rod with no lighter than eight pound breaking strength line. Anglers will also need a large, long-handled dip net to land these fish and take the hook out. Anglers

should keep these fish in the water until they are prepared to take a picture. They should quickly take the picture and then immediately release the fish back into the water.

BECKER LAKE

Please remember that Becker Lake can only be fished with artificial fly and lure with a single, barbless hook. Fishing has generally been very good at Becker Lake for the past month. This is due to the fact that luckily, Becker Lake did not experience any large-scale fish kills during the summer of 2026. Even though the fish in the lake experienced tough conditions yet again, they are tending to be in good condition and ready to bite this fall.

Big fish also lurk along the weed beds on the south end. Flies to try are midges, Prince Nymph, brown Montana stone and KP Bugger. Using a boat or float tube are the best ways to fish Becker Lake. Shore fishing and wading are limited to the fishing pier and boat ramp area because of the heavy vegetation along the shore. Spin fishermen can try Z-rays, small Kastmasters or Panther Martins with the treble replaced with a single barbless hook. Please use proper catch-and-release techniques to ensure trout survive after they are released.

Region II — Flagstaff

Jump to: **Kaibab Lake · Cataract Lake · City Reservoir (Buckskinner Park) · Dogtown Lake · Santa Fe Reservoir · J.D. Dam · Whitehorse Lake · Russell Tank · Lower Lake Mary · Upper Lake Mary · Frances Short Pond · Ashurst Lake · Kinnikinick Lake · Mormon Lodge Pond · Marshall Lake · Oak Creek · West Clear Creek · Wet Beaver Creek/Beaver Creek · Blue Ridge/C.C. Cragin Reservoir · Knoll Lake · Huffer Tank · Lees Ferry · Lake Powell**



REGIONAL OVERVIEW

TOP PICKS FOR FALL FISHING

Trout — Frances Short Pond, Santa Fe Reservoir, Dogtown Lake and Kinnikinick Lake..
Bass, Bluegill and Black Crappie — Lake Powell, Cataract Lake and Dogtown Lake.
Channel Catfish — Lake Powell.
Northern Pike and Walleye — Upper Lake Mary and Lake Powell (Walleye only).
Now is a great time to pursue the department's **trout** challenge. Water temperatures have dipped into the 50s in the lakes around Williams, Flagstaff and the Mogollon Rim. With cooler temperatures and precipitation in the forecast this week, fall trout fishing is in full swing in the high country. Cooler water temperatures mean trout are no longer limited to deep water. Many fish can be caught close to shore. Pay attention to what is working and duplicate that presentation for continued success. Now is a great time to couple a small game hunt with a fishing excursion for some "cast and blast" action.

KAIBAB LAKE

The lake is very low and muddy, launching a boat is challenging. The camp grounds have closed for the winter season.

CATARACT LAKE

Anglers have been catching trout on worms, lures, and flies. Now is a good time to try Cataract Lake if you are in need of your Tiger Trout for the Trout Challenge.



CITY RESERVOIR (BUCKSKINNER PARK)



Access to City Reservoir (Buckskinner Park) is closed due to poor road conditions caused by recent storms.

DOGTOWN LAKE

Despite the recent storms, the lake level remains low and launching a boat is still challenging. Trout fishing has improved with the colder weather and recent storms. Anglers are still catching Black Crappie, but with the cooler temperatures the bite has slowed.

SANTA FE RESERVOIR



Anglers have been catching trout and Yellow Perch on worms, power bait, flies (#10 simi seal leeches, #12 Prince nymph, #12 Pistol Pete), and lures (Joe's flies, Kastmaters, and Super Dupers). The lake level has come up some with the recent storms and the lake is turbid (dirty).

J.D. DAM



Fall is a good time to pursue Tiger and Brown Trout in JD Dam. Fishing from a float tube is the best approach, as the lake is pretty weedy. JD Dam is catch-and-release only for trout. No trout may be kept, artificial fly and lure only and single-pointed, barbless hooks only. JD Dam is full, but the water is turbid (dirty) from recent storms.

WHITEHORSE LAKE



With the water temperatures now in the 50s the bite at Whitehorse lake has slowed significantly. The warm water species that reside in White Horse Lake are transitioning to their winter routine of congregating around structure. The campground and main entrance gate are closed for the winter season.

RUSSELL TANK

Russell Tank has not been stocked in 2026 due to low water levels.

LOWER LAKE MARY



Lower Lake Mary picked up some water with the recent storms, but remains fishless at this time.

UPPER LAKE MARY



The lake level has increased with recent storms improving boating access. Water temperatures have dropped as a result of recurring storms and fishing has slowed down.

FRANCES SHORT POND



Anglers have been catching Rainbow Trout and Bluegill. Worms under a bobber, powerbait, small lures, and flies are all a good bet.

ASHURST LAKE



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. Fishing has been slow.

KINNIKINICK LAKE

Fall is a great time to pursue Brown and Tiger Trout in Kinnikinick Lake. Time your fishing trip with the opening of small game and duck season for a cast and blast outing. Both Brown and Tiger Trout have been recently stocked. The lake has picked up a lot of water from recent storms.

MORMON LODGE POND

The pond has not been stocked since May. Fishing is slow.

MARSHALL LAKE

Marshall Lake was not stocked in 2026.

OAK CREEK



Access to recreation areas throughout much of upper Oak Creek Canyon reopened on September 17, 2026. However, there is still potential for flash flooding through upper Oak Creek and

West Fork Oak Creek. Access to the West Fork Oak Creek and Call of the Canyon Recreation area will remain closed through February 27, 2027 due to flash flooding and runoff associated with the Pocket Fire. More information can be found on the **Coconino National Forest website**. 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. Large flood pulses continue to occur due to the recent tropical storms. Pay attention to incoming weather and stay safe out there. For the most up to date stream flow conditions visit the USGS **National Water Dashboard.**

WEST CLEAR CREEK

Roundtail Chub are often caught in sections of West Clear Creek; please release them unharmed. Fall stocking of Rainbow Trout has resumed. Stream flow has been fluctuating dramatically with recent storms. Check conditions before heading out.

WET BEAVER CREEK/BEAVER CREEK

There is the potential to catch a native sucker or Roundtail Chub; please release them unharmed. Fall stocking of Rainbow Trout has resumed. Stream flow has been fluctuating dramatically with recent storms. Check conditions before heading out.

BLUE RIDGE/C.C. CRAGIN RESERVOIR

Green Sunfish and Golden Shiner are unlimited and invasive; please remove them if caught. The boat launch is open. Rainbow Trout have become active with the drop in temperatures. Flies (Simi-seal leeches) and lures (in-line spinners and spoons) have been working well. October's tropical storms have filled C.C. Cragin Reservoir.

KNOLL LAKE

Anglers are finding success trolling inline spinners such as Joe's flies. The Knoll Lake campground is closed for the winter season. Recent storms have increased the lake levels.

HUFFER TANK

No recent information.



LEES FERRY

Fishing has been slow with most anglers landing 0-7 fish per day. Folks fishing with lures have been finding some success. Tropical storms temporarily impact the turbidity of Lees Ferry. Check USGS gage data for up to date information on stream flows and conditions of the Colorado River at Lees Ferry before planning your next trip.



LAKE POWELL

Check **Wayne's Words** for recent reports and fishing tips.

Region III — Kingman

Jump to: **Dead Horse State Park Lagoons · Goldwater Lake (Upper) · Goldwater Lake (Lower) · Watson Lake · Mingus Lake · Yavapai Lakes · Fain Lake · Lake Mead · Willow Beach on Lake Mohave · Lake Mohave · Colorado River Below Davis Dam**



DEAD HORSE STATE PARK LAGOONS

The fishing has been slower at the Dead Horse Lagoons this month, but anglers have still been catching Channel Catfish and some Largemouth Bass. For the Largemouth Bass try casting small hard and soft plastics (~6") near patches of aquatic vegetation and using slow, finesse presentations. For Channel Catfish, common baits include chicken liver, cut-up hot dogs, and corn. No fish stockings have taken place this month.

Special Regulations: The limit is four trout, two bass, four catfish, and ten sunfish. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations.

GOLDWATER LAKE (UPPER)

There are some excellent fishing opportunities in Upper Goldwater this month with the Rainbow Trout stockings taking place on the weeks of 10/05 and 10/19 and a Brown Trout stocking on the week of 10/12. Anglers commonly use PowerBait, PowerEggs, and small in-line spinners to target these species. Fly fishermen may opt to use midges or leech presentations to catch nice trout.

Special Regulations: The limit is one 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)

Trout fishing has been very successful in the Lower Goldwater as the temperature has come down. Rainbows, Gilas, and the occasional Brown Trout can be caught on inline spinners and spoons for conventional fishing, while fly fishermen may use nymphs or dry flies just before dark. Largemouth Bass can be caught on small soft plastics. No fish stockings have occurred recently. 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

Channel Catfish and Largemouth Bass are being caught out of Watson. The catfish are typically being caught with nightcrawlers, anchovies, and cut-up hotdogs. Largemouth bass can be caught using many different baits and lures, but small plastics and nightcrawlers have been working well recently. No fish stockings are planned for the lake.

Special Regulations: None. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide fishing regulations. Note: The Arizona Department of Environmental Quality has issued a fish consumption advisory for Largemouth Bass in Watson Lake for high levels of PFAS chemicals. More information is available at https://azdeq.gov/fca.

MINGUS LAKE

The fishing has been poor at Mingus this month due to water quality issues. While Rainbow Trout were stocked in the lake in September, fishing success has been low. Yellow Bullhead can still be caught out of the lake however, and anglers usually use chicken liver, cut-up hotdogs, and nightcrawlers.

Special Regulations: None. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide **fishing regulations**.

YAVAPAI LAKES

Fishing has remained slow at the Yavapai Lakes due to poor water quality. Channel Catfish may be caught using nightcrawlers, cut-up hot dogs, and chicken liver. Largemouth Bass have been caught using soft plastic worms and hard plastics. No fish stockings have taken place this month.

Special Regulations: The limit is two bass: minimum of 13 inches, four catfish, 10 sunfish, and four trout. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide **fishing regulations**.

FAIN LAKE

Rainbow Trout fishing is back on in Fain after stocking on the week of 10/19. Anglers usually catch these trout on PowerBait, PowerEggs, and small inline spinners. Channel Catfish and Largemouth Bass are also being caught at Fain. 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.

Special Regulations: The limit is two bass: minimum of 13 inches, four catfish, 10 sunfish, and four trout. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide **fishing regulations**.

LAKE MEAD

Water temperatures have fallen quite a bit since last month, and the fishing has improved. Anglers can catch Striped Bass, Smallmouth, and Largemouth. Tips include fishing grass beds or finding a shad boil and using shad lures such as reaction baits, swimbaits, and jerkbaits. On sunnier days try fishing in deeper water with those lures.

Special Regulations: The limit has been changed to unlimited striped bass of any size, five trout, and 15 crappie. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide **fishing regulations**.

WILLOW BEACH ON LAKE MOHAVE

The fishing has been good at Willow Beach with anglers catching plenty of Striped Bass and Rainbow Trout. Anglers are targeting these trout using PowerBait, PowerEggs, and inline spinners. Striped Bass fisherman are doing well on swimbaits and plugs.

Special Regulations: The limit is five trout and there is no longer a 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**.

LAKE MOHAVE

Striped Bass, Largemouth Bass, and Smallmouth Bass have all been caught at Mohave recently. Trolling using swimbaits with a shad imitation is a very effective way of catching Striped Bass, while Largemouth and Smallmouth can be found in coves in the early mornings. Trolling on white buck tailed jigs and using swimbaits with baitfish imitations have overall been the most effective lures recently, but anchovies work well too.

Special Regulations: The limit is five trout and there is no longer a limit for striped bass over 20 inches. Striped Bass may be taken by spear or spear gun from that portion of Lake Mohave between Hoover Dam and Cottonwood Landing. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide **fishing regulations**.

COLORADO RIVER BELOW DAVIS DAM

Rainbow Trout stocking from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has started, so now is a great time to go fishing. Anglers can catch these trout using PowerBait and small inline spinners. Smaller striper are still plentiful in many of the coves and by Rotary Park. Anglers are catching these striper using anchovies, soft plastics, and hard plastics. Try using plastic baits in a trout coloration for a higher chance of success.

Special Regulations: The limit is six bass; minimum size 13 inches, and five trout in any combination. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide **fishing regulations**.

Region IV — Yuma

Jump to: **Lake Havasu · Alamo Lake · Martinez Lake · Mittry Lake**

LAKE HAVASU

Water temperatures at Lake Havasu are in the mid 70s to low 80s throughout the day. Anglers have reported catching lots of Largemouth Bass, Sunfish, and Channel Catfish near vegetation in the coves. Catfish are reported to be feeding aggressively, so now is your time to get out there! Striped Bass fishing has also been decent.

Special Regulations: a limit of 10 trout, six bass, minimum size 13 inches; the limit is 25 sunfish or crappie in any combination. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide **fishing regulations**.

ALAMO LAKE

Water temperatures at Alamo Lake fluctuate in the 70s throughout the day. Expect fair to good biting in the early morning and late night. Anglers have reported catching Largemouth Bass early in the morning with topwater frogs, brush hogs, and Texas rigs in deeper water. Black Crappie has been successfully caught with slow-trolling small jigs, crappie tubes, and live bait near structures. Refer to the state-wide **fishing regulations** for Alamo Lake.

MARTINEZ LAKE

Water temperatures at Martinez Lake are in the mid 70s to low 80s throughout the day. Anglers have reported decent catches of Largemouth Bass using senkos, creature baits, and swim jigs. Catfish were caught using stink baits, dough baits, and chicken liver. Bluegill have been easy to catch in shallow areas.

Special Regulations: The limit is 10 trout, six bass, minimum size 13 inches; the limit is 25 sunfish or crappie in any combination. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide **fishing regulations**.

MITTRY LAKE

Water temperatures at Mittry Lake are in the mid 70s to low 80s throughout the day. Anglers have reported catching Largemouth Bass using senkos, dropshots, ned rigs, and swimbaits. For Catfish,

anglers have had success using stink baits, dough baits, live bluegill, and chicken liver on a Carolina rig. Bluegill have been caught using plastic rigs and mealworms. Carp has been caught with doughballs, corn, and hair rigs.

Special Regulations: limit of 10 trout and six bass, minimum size 13 inches; limit is 25 sunfish or crappie in any combination. For species not listed, or bodies of water without special regulations, refer to the state-wide **fishing regulations**.

Region V — Tucson

Jump to: **Riggs Flat Lake · Rose Canyon Lake · Patagonia Lake · Parker Canyon Lake · Peña Blanca Lake · Arivaca Lake · Roper Lake**

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

November marks the return of Rainbow Trout stockings in most of our lower elevation lakes (Dankworth Pond, Parker Canyon, Patagonia, and Roper), and the end of the stocking season in the mountain lakes (Riggs Flat and Rose Canyon).

PARKER CANYON LAKE

Water is very low but boats are still able to be launched. Bass and other warmwater fish will be making their final push to fatten up before the winter, when their metabolism slows way down and

they are less willing to chase fast moving baits. Enjoy throwing a variety of faster moving baits in shallow water, especially at the beginning of the month. As water temperatures continue to dip, seek transition zones to deeper water and lengthen your pauses on retrieves of lures such as jerkbaits. The large amount of vegetation in the lake will begin to die back, giving you more flexibility to utilize lures that are not weedless. A large amount of Rainbow Trout were stocked in mid-October, will be stocked twice again in November, and will be stocked a third time with larger (approx. three lb) individuals, also in mid-November.

ROSE CANYON LAKE

Several thousands of Rainbow Trout have been stocked monthly since February and anglers should have little trouble catching these fish with a variety of methods. We plan on stocking some larger than typical size fish (approx. 3 lb) in the middle of the month. Although the campground gate typically closes in early November, walk in access is still available. As water quality improves and temperatures cool, expect trout to be feeding more actively until water temperatures reach the 40s. This means a hotter dry fly bite as well as improved success with stripping streamers at a fast pace. For non-fly anglers, lures such as super dupers, kastmasters and small in line spinners will likely be the ticket over baits such as powerbait or corn.

RIGGS FLAT LAKE

The September and October Rainbow Trout stockings were postponed due to high pH. We anticipate the water quality to improve in November and plan on stocking some larger than typical size fish (approx. three lb) a couple weeks prior to the gate closing for the season on November 15. As water quality improves and temperatures cool, expect trout to be feeding more actively until water temperatures reach the 40s. This means a hotter dry fly bite as well as improved success with stripping streamers at a fast pace. For non-fly anglers, lures such as super dupers, kastmasters and small in line spinners will likely be the ticket over baits such as powerbait or corn.

ROPER LAKE

Recent surveys have shown that Roper Lake has a high quantity of good sized (>five lb) Largemouth Bass. Creature baits punched through cattails often yield success for those trying to catch Largemouth Bass at this lake. Bass and other warmwater fish will be making their final push to fatten up before the winter, when their metabolism slows way down and they are less willing to chase fast moving baits. Enjoy throwing a variety of faster moving baits in shallow water, especially at the beginning of the month. As water temperatures continue to dip, seek transition zones to deeper water and lengthen your pauses on retrieves of lures such as jerkbaits. Larger size Rainbow Trout (approx. three lb) will be stocked in early November.

PATAGONIA LAKE

No issues launching any size boat. Bass and other warmwater fish will be making their final push to fatten up before the winter, when their metabolism slows way down and they are less willing to chase fast moving baits. Enjoy throwing a variety of faster moving baits in shallow water, especially at the beginning of the month. As water temperatures continue to dip, seek transition zones to deeper water and lengthen your pauses on retrieves of lures such as jerkbaits. The first Rainbow Trout stocking will occur in mid-November. Anglers have success in the fall using sonar to locate large schools of Black Crappie and target them with small jigs tipped with various plastics.

ARIVACA LAKE

Only small boats and kayaks are able to be launched by hand off the shore. Because of the low water level reducing the surface area of the lake, the Largemouth Bass and Sunfish fishing has remained excellent at this lake with typical setups for those with a means to launch a small boat or float tube by hand. Bass and other warmwater fish will be making their final push to fatten up before the winter, when their metabolism slows way down and they are less willing to chase fast moving baits. Enjoy throwing a variety of faster moving baits in shallow water especially in the beginning of the month. As water temperatures continue to dip, seek transition zones to deeper water and lengthen your pauses on retrieves of lures such as jerkbaits.

PEÑA BLANCA LAKE

No issues launching any size boat. Bass and other warmwater fish will be making their final push to fatten up before the winter, when their metabolism slows way down and they are less willing to chase fast moving baits. Enjoy throwing a variety of faster moving baits in shallow water, especially at the beginning of the month. As water temperatures continue to dip, seek transition zones to deeper water and lengthen your pauses on retrieves of lures such as jerkbaits. Large amounts of aquatic vegetation in shallower areas will slowly begin to die back at the end of the month, allowing for more of the lake to be worked by non-weedless presentations. Recent fall electrofishing surveys by AZGFD have found some quality fish starting to appear in greater numbers in Pena Blanca Lake, with multiple fish between five-eight lbs. Lake turnover has been starting from the end of November - December in recent years and lasting through January, which reduces the oxygen to very low levels. Expect poor fishing during the turnover. Rainbow Trout are stocked following the turnover.

Region VI — Mesa

Jump to: **East Verde River · Horton Creek · Canyon Creek · Tonto Creek · Haigler Creek · Christopher Creek · Canyon Lake**

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

October and November are a great time to head up to the Payson area streams to fish. Fall is here with cooler mornings and the change of leaves with yellow hues starting to make an arrival, while some leaves have started to fall. We are still seeing good monsoon activity in Rim Country with afternoon clouds and storms making consistent appearances. Recent remnant hurricane

rains have brought more moisture to the area with many streams flash flooding but quickly coming back to base Fall flows. Daytime highs for the area are in the 60s and 70s with lows in the 40s, which is a relief from the hot summer temperatures we have been having. The changes in conditions will translate into better fishing opportunities for both wild and stocked trout as some waters have had weekly stockings in October and the early to mid part of November. This is also the time of year when wild Brown Trout begin to spawn in a few of these regional creeks.

EAST VERDE RIVER

The East Verde River is split into two management reaches, depending on where you are fishing on the creek. From the headwater springs to the Salt River Project (SRP) Pumphouse the regulations include catch-and-release only, immediately release trout, no trout may be kept, artificial fly and lure only, single-pointed barbless hooks only and no bait. There is an unlimited bag limit for Largemouth and Smallmouth bass as well as Channel and Flathead catfish. Statewide daily bag limits apply downstream of the SRP Pumphouse. The East Verde River is accessible by Houston Mesa Rd and includes various recreation sites such as First Crossing, Waterwheel, Second Crossing, and Verde Glen, which are all stocking locations. During the month of October, weekly stockings of Rainbow Trout have happened at these recreation sites. Weekly stockings will continue until the second week of November. Focus on deep pools at Waterwheel, First Crossing, and Second Crossing for your best bet at catching trout using a variety of techniques including powerbait (salmon peach and chartreuse), spinners (gold bladed panther martins) or flies (black wooly buggers). Fishing in the catch-and-release section above the SRP Pumphouse has been slower recently after the most recent rains and flooding events. Anglers are still reporting catching fish on the fly but expect slower sessions on this stretch of water. Fishing plunge pools and close to cover with nymphs will be a great way to lure fish out. The East Verde River is susceptible to flooding events as are much of the other area streams. After a few days of high flows, the water will come back to base Fall flow and will be fishable again.

HORTON CREEK

Horton Creek is managed as a catch-and-release Brown Trout fishery and regulations include catch-and-release only, immediately release trout, no trout may be kept, artificial fly and lure only, single-pointed barbless hooks only and no bait. Access to Horton Creek is granted by Horton Creek Trail 285 that starts at Upper Tonto Creek Campground and ends at Horton Springs at the base of the Mogollon RIm. The last 3/4 mile of the creek is typically dry although there may be water in this section due to monsoon weather. Brown Trout can be caught immediately when water starts to appear once you hike 3/4 miles into the perennial section of creek. Fishing for Brown Trout is great throughout the creek, although if you want to beat the crowds it is recommended to hike 1.5 to 2 miles along the trail before starting to fish as the lower part of the creek will get more visitors. Similar to the EVR and other area creeks, Horton has experienced large flooding events following the remnant hurricane rains. The creek will flash flood then quickly return to base Fall flows after a couple of days. As the water levels and turbidity begin to drop, this is a great opportunity to target Brown Trout. The water is just clear enough to fish yet not spook the fish. This is my favorite condition to target fish and have double digit days. Popular fly patterns include hothead leeches (black or olive) or large prince nymph patterns. Both can be fished under an indicator focusing around cover. On clear water and warm days, small dries such as a size 14-16 elk hair caddis can be a good option. Brown Trout spawning season is underway as fish are gearing up by beginning to make redds in the tailout of pools. Redds are spawning beds for trout and are often round/oval depressions with finer gravel and substrate. Please be mindful if wading through the stream to not disturb redds and not to target fish that are actively spawning.

CANYON CREEK

Canyon Creek is managed as a put-and-take Rainbow Trout fishery from the OW Bridge upstream to the springs with statewide daily bag limits applying for trout. Fishing for Rainbow Trout in this section of creek has been slow as the last stockings occurred in late September. However, anglers targeting holdover stocked trout have had some success on various colors of powerbait such as chartreuse and salmon peach as well as nightcrawlers in deeper stocking pools. Rainbows are also inclined to hit the fly, especially nymphs such as prince nymphs and egg patterns. Wild Brown Trout also inhabit this section of creek although they are harder to get to the net and are good at

hiding in the boulder cover. Fishing will continue to improve for Brown Trout in this section. Oftentimes these fish will eat a large black leech along the undercut of boulders and even pockets of water most anglers would walk past. The lower section of Canyon Creek is managed as a catch-and-release Brown Trout fishery with special regulations including catch-and-release only, immediately release trout, no trout may be kept, artificial fly and lure only, single-pointed barbless hooks only and no bait. Recent remnant hurricane rains have increased water levels and turbidity, making angling conditions more favorable for these spooky fish. This is one of the best times to target this creek with streamers or large nymph patterns. Popular and effective patterns include hothead leeches, larger bead or cone headed buggers (black, olive, orange, purple), and stonefly nymphs under indicators. Streamers can be fished a number of ways including stripping from upsteam-downstream and vice versa as well as cross current stips. On warmer days, terrestrials such as hoppers are still out and about; consider trying this pattern out. Brown Trout at Canyon Creek are starting their spawning season, similar to Horton Creek. Please watch out for trout redds as not to disturb them when wading and avoid targeting spawning fish when they are susceptible in shallow water. Canyon Creek has New Zealand Mud Snails (NZMS) primarily in the lower section of the creek. These are highly invasive and a threat to stream health. There are several Aquatic Invasive Species signs throughout the creek that have important information on disinfecting your gear between fishing trips. Please follow these guidelines. If anglers want to fish both sections of Canyon Creek, fish the upper section first then later on fish the lower section to prevent the spread of NZMS.

TONTO CREEK

Tonto Creek is managed as a put-and-take Rainbow Trout fishery with weekly stockings of Rainbow Trout from the powerlines on the Tonto Creek Hatchery Rd downstream to the Derrick TH. Tonto Creek is a very popular angling destination and access is easiest by the Tonto Creek Hatchery Rd north of SR-260. This road parallels the creek and there are various pullouts and parking lots to set up at. Access is also granted by Bear Flats Access Rd. Anglers have been having success with various colors of powerbait, worms, and salmon eggs in stocking pools. Tonto Creek weekly stockings have continued this month and will end in mid November. Wild Brown Trout are also present in the creek downstream of the Horton Creek Confluence downstream to Bear Flats. No

reports have come in for Brown Trout fishing at Tonto Creek, however, similar tactics that work on other rim creeks will work at Tonto. Downstream of the 260 Bridge and Kohls Ranch anglers seeking solitude will find deep pools and pockets that hold impressive Brown Trout. This is a good creek for anglers that want to trout fish with spinning gear as Tonto has some of the largest pools in rim country. Floating or countdown rapalas, spinners, and spoons are good options to target 10' plus cools with cover. Fly anglers also have good opportunities throwing larger streamer flies including articulated streamers to imitate forage fish. Brown Trout at Tonto Creek are starting their spawning season, similar to other Brown Trout fisheries in the area, please watch out for trout redds as not to disturb them when wading and avoid targeting spawning fish when they are susceptible in shallow water. Tonto Creek also has New Zealand Mud Snails (NZMS) although their distribution is more limited relative to Canyon Creek. Aquatic Invasive Species signs are also posted along the creek with information on disinfecting gear. Please follow these guidelines.

HAIGLER CREEK

Haigler Creek is managed as a wild Rainbow and Brown Trout fishery in the headwaters as well as a put-and-take fishery near the Haigler Canyon/Campground and Alderwood Recreation Sites. Access to Haigler involves a long gravel road (4x4) is recommended but not required to be able to get to the creek. To access the headwaters anglers can hike down the Fisherman's Point hill ~one mile hike down to the creek at a steep grade. Parking and start of trail is here: 34.240677, -110.954931. Anglers who arrive at the creek will want to work upstream or downstream with either option being a great choice to see solitude and wild trout. This section of creek has a handful of large 10' plus foot pools and a limited number of wild Brown Trout but relatively larger fish. Spinners and rapalas (crankbaits) work well in these larger pools as well as larger streamer flies that will get deep in the water column. Leech patterns also work under an indicator in these deeper areas. Further upstream more classic pocket water awaits with plunge pools and other trout habitat in the form of undercuts and boulders dominate the area. Densities of wild Rainbows are high in this section of creek but spooky. Anglers looking to target these fish should stealthily approach and throw a variety of flies at them including elk hair caddis, purple haze, ants, and other terrestrial bugs. Nymphs will also work up here with a good variety of patterns working. Further downstream near the campground, fishing has been slow since the creek was not stocked most of the summer due to high water temperatures

this creek gets every summer. Fishing for wild Rainbow and Brown trout has been great on jig style leeches stripped in as well as under indicators in deeper pools with flow and undercut banks

CHRISTOPHER CREEK

Christopher Creek is managed as a put-and-take fishery for Rainbow Trout. Wild Brown Trout are also present within the creek from See Canyon TH downstream to the confluence with Tonto Creek. There are a few ways to access Christopher Creek with popular access spots including See Canyon Trailhead and Christopher Creek Campground. Fishing from See Canyon Trailhead upstream to springs is good for wild Brown and Rainbow trout. Anglers have been having moderate success on small black and brown jig leeches when working boulders and other cover. Weekly Rainbow Trout stocking has been occurring during the month of October and will end mid November. Anglers targeting these fish will have success on a variety of trout baits including powerbait and nightcrawlers

CANYON LAKE

Closed for drawdown — As of Sept. 16, the lake is closed for about 16 weeks for critical dam safety inspections and maintenance. (On Sept. 8, Tonto National Forest closed the lake, including all boat ramps and access points, in preparation.) Salt River Project (SRP) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lower Canyon Lake for critical dam safety inspections and maintenance once every 20 years. While inspections and maintenance are regularly performed on the dams, some critical equipment is located underwater, which makes it inaccessible without lowering the lake level. According to SRP, the lake's water level will be lowered by approximately 54 feet through a drawdown process. The work will focus on the normally submerged portions of Mormon Flat and Horse Mesa dams, as well as the river channel downstream of Horse Mesa Dam. No water will be wasted, just stored in other reservoirs while the work is performed. The lake drawdown will not interfere with water delivery from the Salt and Verde river reservoirs to SRP's water customers. Benefits of the project support the operational safety of the dams for water storage and flood control, and help ensure water reliability for the more than 2.5 million Valley residents who receive water from SRP reservoirs. The drawdown will also provide an opportunity for other agencies and businesses to perform any

necessary maintenance work and repairs to their facilities. For more information, visit **SRP's website**.

Apache Lake

Accounts of a fish kill at Apache Lake were reported by anglers on 10/18/2026. Reports indicated fish crowding along the shoreline and in backs of coves from Burnt Corral and upriver to the Roosevelt Dam with impacts to various species including shad, bass, catfish, and carp. A site visit was conducted on 10/19/2026 where water quality parameters and water samples from three locations were collected for testing. Tests and algal cell counts indicated there were no signs of a golden algae kill or a harmful algal bloom. Fish kills can be caused by a variety of factors, some of which may remain unknown. Regional managers and biologists believe the fish kill likely occurred due to a dissolved oxygen crash, which could have been caused by lake turnover in the river section of Apache Lake or high inflow from rains increasing turbidity and decreasing photosynthesis for a brief period of time. At this time, regional managers believe this fish kill is concentrated in the riverine section of Apache Lake. Monitoring efforts will continue to ensure minimal impacts on the fishery.