

Brown Trout

The spotting pattern is composed of black spots and also red-orange spots surrounded by light blue.

Rainbow Trout

Identifying marks are black spots on a light body and a red stripe along the sides of the fish.

Brook Trout

The pectoral, pelvic and anal fins are often orange, edged with black and white. The body is dark with red spots surrounded by blue and white spots.

Cutthroat (Native) Trout

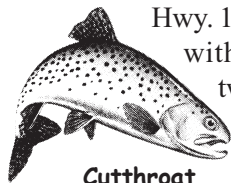
Cutthroat have a crimson slash on either side of the throat beneath the lower jaws.

Fishing is Fun in Pagosa Country

There are few areas that can boast of the quantity and quality of fishing waters to equal those in Pagosa Country. Streams, rivers, beaver ponds and lakes are all easily accessible and offer excellent fishing opportunities. Listed herein are a few of the favorite fishing spots, and except as indicated, require possession of a Colorado fishing license. State regulations prohibit use of live minnows as bait for fishing except in Navajo Lake. Licenses, bait and fishing equipment are available at sporting goods stores and other places of business throughout the area. For more information, contact: Colorado Division of Wildlife at (303) 297-1192 or www.wildlife.state.co.us Good Luck!!

Piedra River

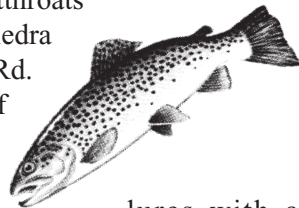
A good Trout stream (Browns, Rainbows, Cutthroats and some Brook Trout). The stretch of the Piedra River from the Piedra River bridge on FS Rd. 631 (Piedra Rd.) to the lower boundary of the Tres Piedras Ranch (1.5 miles above



Cutthroat (Native) Trout

Hwy. 160) can only be fished with artificial flies and

two trout bag limit. The easiest access to the Piedra River is U.S. Highway 160 west of Pagosa Springs about 22 miles where the river crosses under the highway. A Forest Service campground is just north of Hwy. 160 and the Piedra River.



lures with a

Navajo Reservoir

Large Catfish, Trout, Bass, Pike, Crappie and Perch can be caught here. About one-third of Navajo Reservoir is located in Colorado, the remaining two-thirds, in New Mexico. Once over the Colorado line, fishermen are required to purchase New Mexico fishing



licenses. Live minnows may be used as fish bait in both the Colorado and New Mexico portions of Navajo Lake. The lake can be accessed from Pagosa Springs

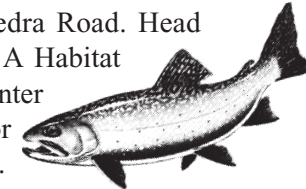
by heading west on U.S. Highway 160 about 17 miles, then turning south on Colorado State Highway 151 and going about 20 miles. (Colorado State Park fee area.)

San Juan River Below Navajo Dam

(New Mexico fishing license required). These are trophy fish waters and are regulated by posted signs which tell fishermen what kind of bait they may use. The first ¼ mile below Navajo Dam is catch and release. The remaining 3½ miles is one trout 20 inches or longer. Artificial flies and lures with barbless hooks.

Williams Creek Reservoir

Excellent fishing for Rainbow and Brook Trout, also Kokanee Salmon. Salmon are best taken with artificial lures and live bait (worms). In the vicinity of Williams Creek Reservoir are four U.S. Forest Service campgrounds. Mountain views are tremendous. To get there, follow U.S. Highway 160 approximately 2½ miles west from Pagosa Springs to Piedra Road. Head north about 24 miles. A Habitat Stamp is required to enter State Wildlife Areas for persons 19 through 64.



Brook Trout

Green Sunfish

This sunfish has a short and deep body. As with all sunfish, the dorsal (top) fin is not split. It is olive in color with short, rounded pectoral fins and yellow trim on the fins.

Largemouth Bass

The upper jaw extends beyond the eye and often there is a horizontal stripe extending the length of the body.

Yellow Perch

There are six or seven distinctive vertical bars on the sides of the fish. The dorsal (top) fins are definitely separated with two or three spines in the forward dorsal fin. There are two spines on the anal fin, (bass have three), and a spine on the end of the gill flap.

Channel Catfish

These catfish have a forked tail and younger fish have dark spots on the body.

San Juan River

Excellent fishing for Rainbow and Brown Trout. This is for the fisherman who wants to fish but doesn't want to travel far. The San Juan runs right through Pagosa Springs.

Fourmile Lakes

Cutthroat Trout fishing in both lower and higher lakes. Take Fourmile Road north until the road ends. Hike about six to seven miles on the trail visible from the road's end to the lower lake. The second lake is another half mile walk. Fourmile Falls can be seen about three miles in. Very scenic. The altitude increases rapidly after the falls - be prepared for a strenuous but beautiful hike.

Fourmile Creek

Access is the same as Fourmile Lakes. The creek begins near the trailhead. Good Brook and Cutthroat Trout fishing after high water has dropped (about mid-June).

Big Meadow Reservoir

Good Brook and Rainbow Trout fishing. Excellent campground. To get to the reservoir, head northeast from Pagosa Springs on U.S. Highway 160 past Wolf Creek Ski Area and down the east side of Wolf Creek Pass about six miles to the road. A sign is posted for the reservoir.

Shaw Lake

Access is the same as to Big Meadow Reservoir. Shaw Lake is about two miles past the reservoir and is a good Cutthroat Trout fishery.

Opal Lake

Good Rainbow Trout fishing. The beaver ponds and stream below the lake also offer excellent fishing. To reach, head south out of Pagosa Springs on U.S. Highway 84 approximately eight miles to Blanco Basin Road. Follow east to Castle Creek. Turn right across the Blanco River and follow the road two miles to a parking area identified by a sign denoting the trail head. The lake is a two

Echo Lake

Stocked with Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Green Sunfish and Channel Catfish. Trout are best caught with lures, flies or natural bait such as worms; Bass, with top surface lures, crank baits with pork frogs or rubber worms. Perch are best taken with live bait; Sunfish, with worms and sometimes flies; and Catfish, with cut bait (Suckers or commercial stink baits). Echo Lake is also excellent for Trout and Bass ice fishing throughout the winter. Access is easy, three miles from Pagosa Springs on U.S. Highway 84. A Habitat Stamp is required to enter State Wildlife areas for persons 19 through 64.

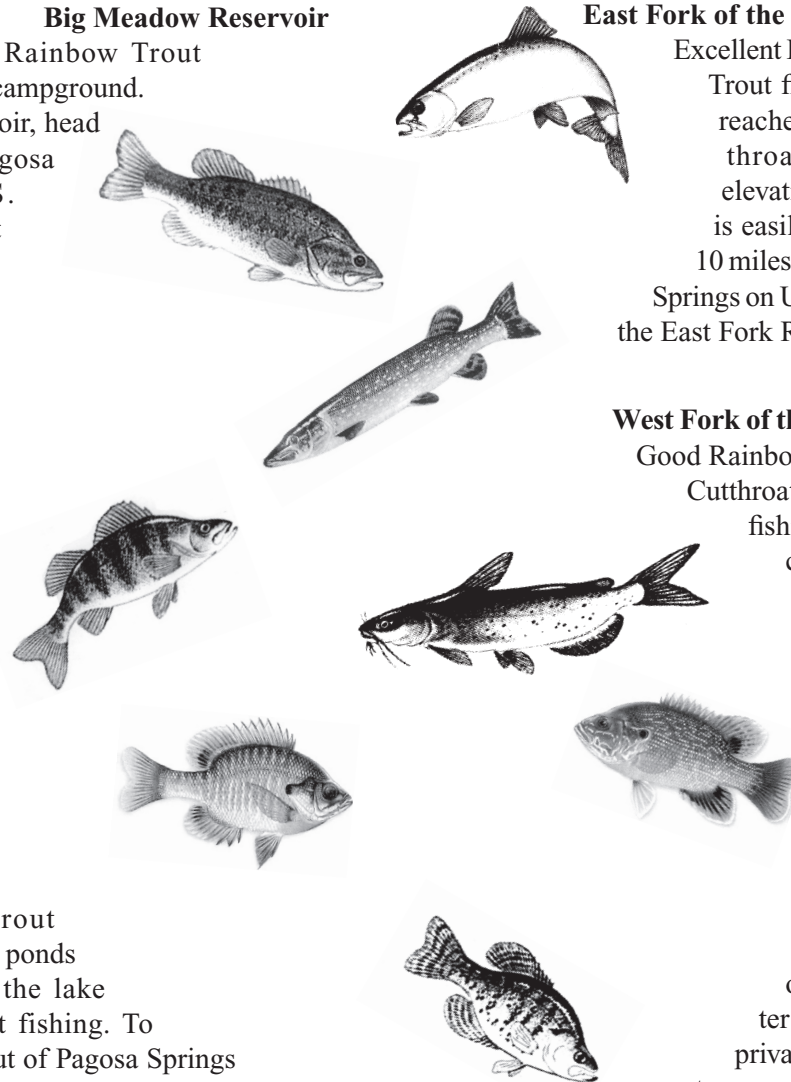
East Fork of the San Juan River

Excellent Rainbow and Brown Trout fishing on the lower reaches; Brook and Cutthroat Trout at higher elevations. The East Fork is easily accessible, about 10 miles northeast of Pagosa Springs on U.S. Highway 160 to the East Fork Road.

West Fork of the San Juan River

Good Rainbow and Cutthroat Trout fishing. There are two campgrounds in the vicinity. Easy access - take U.S. Highway 160 east out of Pagosa Springs approximately 17 miles to the West Fork Road. Hike from the trail head at the end of the road for better fishing. Watch for private property downstream and upstream.

Smallmouth Bass



Turkey Creek Lake

Good Brook Trout fishing. To get there, head east on U.S. Highway 160 approximately seven miles, turning north on Jackson Mountain Road and driving five miles until reaching a large parking lot. Turkey Creek Lake is located 9½ miles from this point and can be accessed by following a trail from the parking lot.

Turkey Creek

Access is the same as for Turkey Creek Lake. Turkey Creek is about three miles in on the trail to Turkey Creek Lake. Good Brook, Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout fishing.

Buckles and Harris Lakes

Good Rainbow Trout fishing. To reach the lakes, take U.S. Hwy. 84 south about 20 miles to Buckles Lake Road. Follow this road, which leads to a parking area and trailhead, then hike in a half mile to Buckles Lake, another mile to Harris Lake.

Bluegill

This sunfish has a large black spot near the base of its soft dorsal fin. Its pectoral fins are long and pointed.

Northern Pike

This top predator has large irregular teeth and a long, narrow body with forked tail. Jaw is elongated and shaped like a duck's bill.

Kokanee Salmon

At the end of their third summer, females develop a red-gray-white pattern while males develop a hook jaw and turn brick red.

White Crappie

White crappie have six spines on the dorsal fin and a banded body. Black crappie have seven to nine spines on the dorsal fin and a mottled body.

Smallmouth Bass

The upper jaw does not extend beyond the eye and the fish usually has vertical stripes along its sides.