



This fishing report, provided by the Department of Game and Fish in cooperation with Dustin Berg of www.gounlimited.org (“supporting disabled anglers”), has been generated from the best information available from area officers and anglers. Conditions encountered after the report is compiled may differ, as stream, lake and weather conditions alter fish and angler activities.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! Tell us about your latest New Mexico fishing adventure, or your catch of the week. Send it to us at funfishingnm@gmail.com. We may include your story in our next report. For catches of the week include: name, age, hometown, date, location, type of fish, length and weight if possible, and bait, lure or fly used. Fish weights and measurements are provided by the angler and printed here as received.

[CHECK OUT THE LATEST STOCKING REPORT](#)



[The 2024-25 license year is here. Get your new Fishing License now!](#)

2023-24 Fishing Licenses are no longer valid. A 2024-25 Fishing License is now required since the new license year began on April 1. The [2024-25 Fishing Rules and Information Booklet \(RIB\)](#) is available online in English and will soon be available in Spanish and in print.

Check the Fishing Conditions and Trip Planner!

The Department's Fishing Conditions and Trip Planner was created using data from past Weekly Fishing Reports to develop graphs depicting fishing conditions for several species and waterbodies throughout the year. Each graph represents the average fishing conditions for each week of the year over the four-year period.



The Department has also developed an interactive Fishing Waters Map with a wealth of information on fishing locations in New Mexico. It displays

hundreds of fishing access points with information of fish species available, facilities, accessibility, boat ramps and general regulations.

[Check out the webpage to plan your trip now!](#)



Take the Bass and Trout Challenges!

To promote fishing opportunities in New Mexico and encourage anglers to branch out and discover new fishing waters and species, anglers can participate in the [New Mexico Bass Challenge](#), the [New Mexico Trout Challenge](#) and the [Master Angler Challenge](#). Who knows, you could catch a [New Mexico Record Fish](#).



Catch all the challenge species that are found throughout New Mexico or a New Mexico State Record Fish and receive a certificate and challenge coin for your accomplishment!

Land Management Agency Links

The Department reminds anglers to “know before you go” and to contact land management agencies regarding additional regulations or restrictions on specific properties of interest prior to heading afield.

- [Bureau of Land Management \(BLM\)](#)
- [U.S. Forest Service \(USFS\)](#)
- [New Mexico State Lands](#)
- [New Mexico State Parks](#)
- [New Mexico Open Gate Properties](#)
- [New Mexico Wildlife Management Areas](#)
- [U.S. Army Corps of Engineers](#)



Consult local government websites for information regarding specific city and town fishing access.

NORTHEAST

NORTHEAST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Conchas Lake: Lawrence Gonzales Jr., age 14, of Albuquerque caught a 16-inch, 2-pound smallmouth bass using a crankbait on April 5.



Pecos River: Pamela Gallegos caught an 18-inch brown trout using worms on March 23.



Rio Grande: Tiffany Mann of Albuquerque caught and released a 26-inch carp using a green streamer fly on March 24.

NORTHEAST FISHING REPORT

Cabresto Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Charette Lakes: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using Salmon-Peach PowerBait.

Cimarron River: Streamflow near Cimarron Monday morning was 18 cubic feet per second (cfs).

Clayton Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using various colors of PowerBait and worms.

Conchas Lake: Fishing for smallmouth bass and walleye was fair to good when using crankbaits.

Costilla Creek: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Cowles Ponds: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Coyote Creek: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Eagle Nest Lake: The lake is closed to ice fishing and watercraft. It is currently open to shore fishing only. Fishing for trout was fair when using PowerBait. Fishing for pike was slow to fair when using swimbaits. For updated lake conditions, visit the [park's webpage](#) or call the park office at 575-377-1594.

Eagle Rock Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Gallinas River: National Forest closures have been in place restricting fishing access. [Visit the Santa Fe National Forest webpage](#) or call the Santa Fe National Forest office at 505-438-5300 for the latest closure information.

Hopewell Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Lake Alice: Ice fishing season has ended.

Lake Maloya: Ice fishing season has ended. The ADA dock is open to anglers, with priority given to mobility-impaired persons.

Los Pinos River: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Maxwell Lake 13: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Monastery Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using salmon eggs and gold spoons. The lake is part of the Department's [Open Gate Program](#). Please [visit our website for more information about this property](#).

Morphy Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using PowerBait and olive Hare's Ear flies.

Pecos River: Streamflow near Pecos Monday morning was not measured due to ice. Fishing for trout was good when using live worms and Woolly Bugger flies.

Red River: Streamflow below the Red River Hatchery on Monday morning was 49 cfs. Fishing for trout was fair when using salmon eggs.

Rio Grande: Streamflow below the Taos Junction Bridge on Monday morning was 370 cfs. Fishing for trout was good when using BWO flies, mayfly nymphs, caddis dry flies and streamer flies. Fishing for pike was fair to good when using streamer flies.

Rio Hondo: Streamflow near Valdez Monday morning was not measured due to ice.

Rio Mora: Streamflow near Terrero Monday morning was not measured due to ice.

Rio Pueblo: Streamflow near Peñasco Monday morning was not measured due to ice.

Santa Cruz Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using Green Garlic PowerBait and Pink PowerBait.

Shuree Ponds: Closed until July 1.

Springer Lake: Fishing for all species was slow.

Storrie Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using worms and Garlic PowerBait.

Stubblefield Lake: Fishing for all species was slow.

Ute Lake: Fishing for walleye was fair when using jerkbaits and paddle-tail swimbaits. Fishing for white bass was good when trolling using various crankbaits that dive 8-10 feet deep. Fishing for smallmouth bass was fair to good when using chatterbaits and swimbaits. The main lake water surface temperature was in the lower 50 F range, and the water's color was lightly stained from wind.

NORTHWEST

NORTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Cochiti Lake: Aimee Esquibel (above left) of Los Lunas caught a 13-inch, 3-pound smallmouth bass using a white shad swimbait on April 1. Thomas Vigil (above center) of Tijeras caught a 20-inch, 4-pound catfish using a nightcrawler worm on April 1. Jim Spence (above right) caught a 36-inch pike using an orange Mamba fly on March 31.



Navajo Lake: Dar Gunnink and Eli Huddleston of Aztec caught a 20-inch brown trout and a 27-inch pike using crankbaits on April 4.



Rio Chama: Mark Mondragon of Rio Chama caught a 25-inch brown trout using a nymph fly below Abiquiu Lake on April 7.



San Juan River: Eric Ferguson, age 14, of Albuquerque caught and released a 19-inch rainbow trout and a 20.5-inch cutbow using his hand-tied size 20 Red Annelid fly on April 4.



Tingley Beach: Gavyn, Luka and Kamila Miller (above left), ages 9, 5 and 3, of Albuquerque caught several trout using Salmon-Peach PowerBait on April 6. Ray Garcia (above right) of Albuquerque caught a 23-inch rainbow trout using a red-and-black Wacky Rigged worm on April 1.

NORTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Albuquerque Area Drains: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Bluewater Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Panther Martin spinners, Kastmaster lures and Yellow Garlic Glitter PowerBait. Fishing for tiger muskie was fair when using blue and silver spinners.

Brazos River: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Canjilon Lakes: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Cochiti Lake: Fishing for bass was fair when using white swimbaits. Fishing for catfish was fair when using nightcrawler worms. Fishing for pike was fair when using orange Mamba flies and jerkbaits.

El Vado Lake: Closed due to dam construction project. For more information, [visit El Vado Lake State Park's webpage](#) or call 575-588-7247.

Fenton Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Kastmaster lures and chartreuse PowerBait. [For updated lake conditions and potential closure information, visit the park's webpage](#) or call the park office at 575-829-3630.

Grants Riverwalk Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Heron Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Jemez Waters: Streamflow near Jemez Monday morning was 136 cfs.

Laguna del Campo: Closed until May 1.

Lagunitas Lakes: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Lake Farmington: Fishing for trout was good when using corn-scented PowerBait.

Liam Knight Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

McGaffey Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Navajo Lake: Fishing for brown trout was slow to fair when trolling using crankbaits. Fishing for pike was fair to good when using crankbaits and Streamer flies.

Rio Chama: Streamflow below El Vado Lake Monday morning was 309 cfs; streamflow below Abiquiu Lake Monday morning was 181 cfs. Fishing for trout below Abiquiu Lake was slow to fair when using flies. [Please remember, from the river-crossing bridge on U.S. Highway 84 at Abiquiu upstream 7 miles to the base of Abiquiu Dam is special trout waters with a bag limit of only two trout.](#)

Rio Grande: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Riverside Park Pond (Aztec Pond #1): Fishing for trout was fair when using rainbow-colored, Garlic PowerBait.

San Gregorio Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

San Juan River: Streamflow near Archuleta Monday morning was 509 cfs. Fishing for trout in the quality waters was fair to good when using size 20 Red Annelid flies and small Pheasant-Tail nymph flies. Fishing for trout in the bait waters was fair to good when using green PowerBait and nightcrawler worms near Crusher Hole and Cottonwood Campground.

Seven Springs Kids' Pond: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using salmon eggs, worms and Yellow PowerBait.

Tiger Park Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using green leech pattern flies.

Tingley Beach: Fishing for trout was good when using Salmon-Peach PowerBait and red/black Wacky Rigged worms.

Trout Lakes: We had no reports from anglers this week.

SOUTHWEST

SOUTHWEST CATCHES OF THE WEEK



Quemado Lake: Tommy Lemme of Silver City caught a 16.5-inch rainbow trout using crawfish bait on April 4.

Elephant Butte Lake: Daxon Ferguson, age 5, of Albuquerque caught a 14-inch crappie while trolling an Erie Dearie lure tipped with a minnow on March 27.

SOUTHWEST FISHING REPORT

Alumni Pond: Closed for repairs until further notice.

Bear Canyon Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Pink and Rainbow PowerBait and black-and-yellow Panther Martin spinners.

Bill Evans Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using crankbaits and Garlic PowerBait.

Caballo Lake: Fishing for catfish was fair to good when using cut bait. Fishing for walleye was fair when using blue crankbaits.

Elephant Butte Lake: Fishing for bass was good when using minnows. Fishing for crappie was fair when using Erie Dearie lures. Fishing for catfish was good when using cut shad bait and cut carp bait. The main lake water surface temperature was in the lower 50 F range.

Escondida Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using PowerBait and salmon eggs.

Estancia Park Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Gila River: Streamflow near Gila Monday morning was 292 cfs.

Glenwood Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Lake Roberts: Fishing for trout was good when using Natural-Scent, Glitter PowerBait.

Percha Dam: Fishing for white bass was fair when using Underspin Swim Jigs.

Quemado Lake: Fishing for all trout was fair when using crawfish baits.

Rancho Grande Ponds: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Rio Grande: Streamflow below Elephant Butte Dam on Monday morning was 1,060 cfs. Fishing for bass in the riverside ditches near Los Lunas was fair to good when using smoke-colored plastic grubs.

Snow Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Trees Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Young Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

SOUTHEAST

SOUTHEAST CATCH OF THE WEEK

Alto Lake: *Olivia, age 11, caught an 11-inch rainbow trout using Orange PowerBait on April 7.*



Green Meadow Lake: Kody Price of Eunice caught his first fish, an 11-inch rainbow trout, using homemade dough bait and white PowerBait Power Eggs on April 5.

SOUTHEAST FISHING REPORT

Alto Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using Orange PowerBait.

Bataan Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Berrendo Creek: Please visit the [Open Gate webpage](#) for more information on this property.

Black River: Streamflow at Malaga Monday morning was 7 cfs.

Blue Hole Park Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Bonito Lake: Closed until further notice by the City of Alamogordo due to fire damage. The lake is full but needs time for aquatic habitat to develop to sustain a healthy fish population. The city hopes to reopen the lake for recreational purposes in June.

Bosque Redondo Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Bottomless Lakes: Fishing for trout was fair when using PowerBait.

Brantley Lake: Fishing for walleye was fair when using hot dogs.

Carlsbad Municipal Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using Pink PowerBait.

Chaparral Park Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Corona Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Dennis Chavez Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Eunice Lake: Fishing for trout was fair when using Kastmaster lures.

Green Meadow Lake: Fishing for trout was good when using homemade dough bait and white PowerBait Power Eggs.

Greene Acres Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Grindstone Reservoir: Fishing for trout was good when using Mepps spinners.

Harry McAdams Park Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Jal Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Lake Van: Fishing for trout was fair when using spinners.

Ned Houk Ponds: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Oasis Park Lake: Fishing for trout was fair to good when using a variety of different PowerBait.

Pecos River: Streamflow below Sumner Lake Monday morning was 75 cfs. Fishing for smallmouth bass was good when using black Streamer flies.

Perch Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Rio Bonito: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Rio Ruidoso: Streamflow at Hollywood Monday morning was 19 cfs.

Rock Lake Hatchery Kids' Pond: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Santa Rosa Lake: Fishing for bass was fair when using Senko worms.

Sumner Lake: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Timberon Ponds: We had no reports from anglers this week.

Tips, Tricks and Stories – Fenton Lake and Jemez River Update

By Dustin Berg

In true New Mexico spring fashion, one minute it feels like summer and the next there is snow falling from the sky. ... Last week, we had a couple of very nice sunny days. On Thursday, my wife Melissa and I decided to spend an afternoon driving through the Jemez Mountains with a plan to end up fishing at Fenton Lake.

Driving up through San Ysidro towards Jemez Springs, I noticed the lower sections of the Jemez River were quite murky. I'd imagine the snowmelt is the main factor causing the murky waters since it had been a few days since we had any precipitation. Above Jemez Springs, the water clarity improved and continued to get better as we gained elevation. By the time we reached La Cueva where the State Road 126 turnoff to Fenton Lake is located, the river was looking quite fishable.

Fishing pressure along the Jemez River was very light, so I did not get to ask anyone how the fishing had been. If I had to guess, I'd think anyone using nymph flies, salmon eggs or worms would stand a fair chance of catching some trout out of the river right now.

It was about 2 p.m. before we reached Fenton Lake. There were approximately 10 groups of people fishing. We noticed a couple of them catching fish right when we arrived. Last summer when we tried to fish Fenton Lake, there were tons of people fishing; last Thursday was relatively not a busy day at the lake and there was plenty of space available to fish.

On my first cast, I caught a rainbow trout! I was using a trusty green Kastmaster lure. Melissa situated her camp chair and we proceeded to set her fishing rod up with a bait-fishing setup. We set her rod up with a small size-12 hook about 4 feet away from a ¼-ounce weight. The plan

was for her to fish close to the bottom of the lake while I cast lures that fished the upper water levels. For bait, Melissa used Garlic Chartreuse PowerBait. On her first cast, she caught a fish, too!

It was shaping up to be an epic day fishing, but the bite slowed after the first several minutes. We averaged a bite about every 10 minutes and ended the day catching and releasing a mixture of 12 rainbow and brown trout averaging about 12 inches long. The big fish of the day was a 15-inch rainbow trout that I caught using a silver Kastmaster lure.



Melissa with a rainbow trout she caught using Garlic Chartreuse PowerBait at Fenton Lake.



Dustin with a 15-inch rainbow trout caught using a silver Kastmaster lure.

As I mentioned, we did let everything we caught go, but I did develop a hankering for smoked trout. I'll have to be prepared next time to keep a few fish for the smoker. Do you have favorite trout recipes you'd like to share? I'd love to hear how my fellow anglers like to cook their fish.

All in all, it was a good day fishing, and as usual, it is always nice to be in the mountains breathing in the fresh air.

Let us know how your fishing trip goes! Share your tips and tricks with your fellow anglers by emailing us at funfishingnm@gmail.com and let's help the next generation of anglers find success.

Thanks for reading and supporting our angling community!



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