Fishing Forecast – White Mountains

Fishing Rating: Hot ☠️ Good 🌟 Fair 🌟 Poor 🌟

Clear Creek -- Rating: 🌟

Clear Creek Reservoir has not been stocked since April so trout are likely fished out. Instead, target warmwater species like Largemouth Bass, sunfish, catfish and Common Carp in areas with rocky structure or edge vegetation to provide cover. As daytime temperatures cool, even in Winslow, bass should be more mobile and active. Fish in the morning from a boat or kayak, cruise around and enjoy the unique geology through the middle of the day, and then catch the evening bite at night. Try small hooks with a worm and bobber near rocks and structure for sunfish. For Bullhead and Channel Catfish, use bait on bottom such as worms and chicken livers, especially at night when catfish are most active.

Concho Lake -- Rating: ☠️

As water temperatures warm throughout the summer and water is used for irrigation, this lake becomes inhospitable to trout and tolerable for warmwater species. By fall, only kayaking and shore fishing may be possible due to low water. Use corn to catch Common Carp. Try chicken liver or worms on bottom in the evening and night for Channel Catfish.

Crescent Lake -- Rating: ☠️

Crescent lake was not stocked this year due to poor water quality. There may be a few hold over trout left from last year. Bait and shore fishermen can try nightcrawlers and PowerBait. Rocky points on the west side are good for shore anglers when the lake is weedy. Boat anglers consistently do better at Crescent than shore fishermen. Boaters can try trolling with flies, such as wooly buggers, prince nymphs or peacock ladies, or use spinners like Panther Martins, small Mepps or Rooster Tails. Use flashy lures or streamers, or bait. Summer algae blooms and low water likely decreased fishing success.

Fool Hollow Lake -- Rating: 🌟

With a variety of fish species, Fool Hollow Lake offers something for everyone, from first-time anglers to seasoned veterans. For kids and novice anglers, nightcrawlers on the bottom or under a bobber in rocky areas are a good way to go for Bluegill or Green Sunfish. More experienced anglers can try spinner baits, jigs and nightcrawler rigs around underwater rocky structure, where large Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass and Walleye lurk. This is a great lake to catch trophy-sized Walleye. Catch catfish in early fall with nightcrawlers or chicken livers on the bottom. Try small bass and sunfish mimic lures for Walleye in the rocky shallows during the evening. Water quality is good and Rainbow Trout were stocked until the end of August.
Lee Valley Lake -- Rating:

Lee Valley Lake can only be fished with artificial lures and flies. The lake was stocked with Arctic Grayling this year, but was not stocked this year with Apache Trout this year due to poor water quality. Float tubes are popular and easy to use at this lake. However, fishing success from shore is comparable to fishing from a float tube or a boat. Lee Valley holds the state record for Arctic Grayling (14.65 inches). Either end of the dam is a good place to fish from shore. Fly fishing is usually the most productive technique at this lake. Wet flies to try are hare’s ear nymphs, small peacock ladies and prince nymphs in sizes 14 to 16. Just before dark, surface action can be good with dry flies, such as small Adams, mosquito or midge larvae, and light Cahills in sizes 16 to 20. Successful spinning lures can be small Panther Martin, small Z-ray or a very small Kastmaster fished from the dam.

Luna Lake -- Rating:

Luna Lake is the last chance to fish in eastern Arizona before the New Mexico state line. Large, scenic, with lots of visitor amenities and close to the town of Alpine, Luna Lake offers good spring, early summer and fall fishing for locals and visitors alike. This lake holds the current state record for Cutthroat Trout at 6 pounds, 5 ounces. Summer algae blooms and water quality issues should be clearing up in the fall and really improve fishing. Trolling with flies works well in spring and early summer at Luna Lake. Try wooly buggers, a prince nymph, simi seal leech and other large wet flies. Nightcrawlers and PowerBait fished off the bottom also work well. Shore and boat anglers both have success at Luna. An aerator was installed this summer to improve water quality, and will only get better as fall progresses.

Lyman Lake -- Rating:

The largest lake in the region with great amenities and no boat motor restrictions, Lyman Lake State Park attracts anglers, as well as campers and water skiers year-round. Spring 2018 population surveys found large numbers of Walleye and Channel Catfish throughout the lake. Try fishing for Largemouth Bass, Walleye and sunfish along rocky or weedy areas of the lake. Predatory fish like Walleye and bass should be concentrated in the deeper, northern areas near the dam. Fish for catfish with nightcrawlers or chicken livers on bottom at night. Catch carp with corn or dough baits. Lyman Lake has filled significantly since the low water of 2018 changing fish behavior and habitat. Try new techniques in new areas if your usual methods aren’t working.

Nelson Reservoir -- Rating:

Nelson Reservoir was not stocked this year due to poor water quality. There may be a few hold over trout left from last year. Water levels are still good as the lake filled this spring and continued spilling into early summer. The southern end is the most shallow and may be totally inaccessible due to weeds. Fish from a boat or along the rocks at the dam. This lake has been known to produce trophy sized Black Crappie. Try spinners such as Panther Martins or Z-rays, artificial flies and bait, especially nightcrawlers. Green Sunfish are plentiful and can be easily caught along the rocky shoreline with nightcrawlers. Target
Rainbow Trout during overcast days or even as it's raining when fish may be more active and less concerned with shadows overhead.

**Patterson Ponds* -- Rating:**

Located in St. Johns, this Community Fishing Water is stocked with Rainbow Trout in fall. Try using small Panther Martins or gold Kastmasters. Bluegill are stocked in early summer and Channel Catfish are stocked in the later summer months. Look for Rainbow Trout stockings in October and November. Fish with chicken livers or nightcrawlers on bottom during the evening and night when catfish are most active. A regular AZ fishing license or a community fishing license is required to fish here. The pond daily bag limits in community fishing waters (2 trout; 2 catfish; 5 sunfish) apply.

**Rainbow Lake -- Rating:**

Because so much shoreline is privately owned, Rainbow Lake is best fished from a boat. Water levels are low this year and there are minimal weeds. Anglers may have some luck casting near structure with spinner baits for Largemouth Bass and Northern Pike. Help remove illegally introduced Northern Pike by harvesting any caught. Fish on the bottom with nightcrawlers or stink baits to catch catfish. Grass Carp (White Amur) are stocked into this lake to control weed populations; statewide daily harvest limit is 1 per day, minimum 30 inches. Bow fishing is not a legal method of take for Grass Carp. However, Grass Carp are a fun summer treat when other fish aren’t biting. Try small hoppers, green or white flies, or small lures – anything that might look like plants – and let a Grass Carp tow you around for the afternoon.

**Scott Reservoir -- Rating:**

Rainbow Trout were stocked in spring and catchable Channel Catfish were added to boost the population. While trout may be fished out, catfish are fun in the evenings on corn, chicken livers, night crawlers, or your own special stinkbait. Other warmwater species like Largemouth Bass or Bluegill may be restocked when further necessary dam maintenance is complete.

**Show Low Lake -- Rating:**

With campground, bathrooms, fish cleaning station and boat rentals, Show Low Lake is a great place to get away from it all while having amenities close by. Rainbow Trout are stocked in spring and summer, while naturally reproducing Walleye, sunfish, bass and Channel Catfish provide fishing opportunities the rest of the year. Fingerling Channel Catfish were stocked this year to increase populations in the future. Use nightcrawlers or chicken livers on bottom to target catfish. In fall, water stratification breaks up thanks to cooler days. Trout remaining after the last stocking are more active and disperse throughout the lake. Fishing for trout is best in the morning and in the evening as the sun sets; use worms, PowerBait, or small lures.

The AZ State Record Walleye was caught here weighing in at 16lbs! Use fish mimics throughout the water column, especially in the evenings and near rocky structure. 2018 spring population surveys showed nice Smallmouth Bass; the largest fish was over 3 lbs and found right by the dock. It’s time for
Show Low Lake to produce another state record and fall after summer crowds have left is a great time to do it!

**Woodland Lake -- Rating:**

Rainbow Trout were last stocked in May, so few remaining trout are likely persisting. Fingerling Channel Catfish were stocked during the spring to grow big for the coming years. Adult Channel Catfish can be caught using bait on bottom, especially at night. Small bass and sunfish may be hiding under the floating dock and can be fun with a small hook, worm and bobber.

**STREAMS**

**Show Low Creek Tailwater -- Rating:**

The large pool below Show Low Lake dam is stocked once in early September to finish out the summer fishing season. Fishing will start to drop off a couple weeks after the final stocking. Try flies or small lures to draw fish from bottom or under cover.

**Show Low Creek Meadows -- Rating:**

This new Community Fishing Water located at the Show Low Bluff trailhead in Show Low provides multiple opportunities for anglers and families alike. Hiking trails and a disc golf course provide extra fun! Show Low Creek Meadows be stocked with catchable sized Rainbow Trout each month throughout the fall. Fishing will continue to improve as water temperatures cool. There should also be holdover Bluegill and large Channel Catfish from summer stockings. Angling is permitted from the trailhead and bridge, upstream to the Hampton Inn on Hwy 260 / White Mountain Blvd in Show Low. Bait can be used, but daily bag limits are 2 trout, 2 catfish, 1 bass (minimum size 13”) and 5 sunfish.

**Silver Creek -- Rating:**

Silver Creek is stocked weekly through September with Apache Trout and/or Rainbow Trout. Silver Creek is open to harvest from Apr. 1 until Sep. 30. including bait fishing, 6 trout daily bag limit. NO HARVEST IS PERMITTED AFTER SEPTEMBER 30. On October 1, the catch and release season begins. Only artificial lure or fly with single point barbless hook may be used. Super catchable rainbow trout will be stocked on October 1. Fishing at Silver Creek will be very good except during the hottest and brightest parts of the day. Sight fish with dry flies or small nymphs in the morning and evening. Nymphs and midges drifted through the largest pools can be effective during the day. Small single hook lures will also be effective. Silver Creek is a Game and Fish Commission-owned property; entry is only allowed from 30 minutes after sunrise to 30 minutes before sunset, about 7:00am – 5:00pm. During catch-and-release season in the fall and winter, both the upper and lower section may be fished. No unauthorized entry is ever allowed in the hatchery grounds.
**Black River–West Fork -- Rating:**

Fishing is good for stocked Apache Trout and wild Brown Trout. The stream is stocked weekly with Apache Trout until mid-September. Flow levels are higher and slightly off color during monsoon run off, but will drop and clear as monsoon storms subside. Try dry flies, nymphs, streamers, small lures or PowerBait for trout. Hoppers or hoppers with droppers will work well in early fall when insects are most active. West Fork Campground is now open up to the first river crossing. When hiking upstream of the campground, West Fork Black River upstream of Hayground Creek is catch and release, artificial lure or fly only with single point barbless hook. Hayground Creek is closed to all fishing. As fall progresses, watch out for spawning Brown Trout. Try not to target fish on redds or step on redds in the stream. This creek has a great population of wild browns. Protecting spawning fish will allow these populations to thrive.

**Black River-East Fork -- Rating:**

Fishing is good for stocked Apache Trout and wild Brown Trout. The stream is stocked weekly with Apache Trout from May to mid-September. Flow levels are higher and slightly off color during monsoon run off, but will drop and clear as monsoon storms subside. Try dry flies, nymphs, wooly buggers, streamers, small lures or PowerBait for trout. Hoppers or hoppers with droppers will work well in early fall when insects are most active. As fall progresses, watch out for spawning Brown Trout. Try not to target fish on redds or step on redds in the stream. This creek has a great population of wild browns. Protecting spawning fish will allow these populations to thrive.

**Little Colorado River in Greer -- Rating:**

Fishing for wild Brown Trout should improve as water temperatures cool. Try dry flies, small nymphs, small lures or PowerBait for trout. Flow levels are higher and slightly off color during monsoon run off, but will drop and clear as monsoon storms subside. As fall progresses, watch out for spawning Brown Trout. Try not to target fish on redds or step on redds in the stream. This creek has a great population of wild browns. Protecting spawning fish will allow these populations to thrive.

**Little Colorado River – Sheep's Crossing/West Fork – Rating:**

Water temperatures are down and the spawning season has concluded, so wild brown trout are in their overwintering habitat. This means the biggest and slowest pools. There may be some stocked Apache trout left in the deeper pools and undercut banks. Try nymphs and Wooly Buggers dead drifted through the pools. Small Kastmasters may draw out a few fish during the warmest parts of the day. Shelf ice will continue to form and hinder fishing until spring temperatures.

*Community Fishing Program water*