

## Fishing Forecast – North Central AZ

Fishing Rating: Hot  Good  Fair  Poor 

### Dogtown Lake - Fishing Rating:

Fall is a great time to fish Dogtown Lake. October and November are the months when big holdover trout are caught on the lake.

Anglers can catch nice size holdover rainbow trout on lures such as Rooster Tails, Joe's Flies and small spoons. Fly anglers should be successful using woolly buggers and bead-head prince nymphs. Folks using flies and lures might also catch a nice brown trout.

Anglers using bait can try fishing garlic "flavored" PowerBait in a variety of colors.

### Fain Lake - Fishing Rating:

Fain Lake was recently added to the list of Community waters. This means that you can use a community fishing license or your general fishing Licence. This also means that even more fish get stocked than before. Trout are stocked all year long with the exception of July and August. Fishing can be good following the stockings using PowerBait, Panther Martins or Super Dopers. Fly fishing at Fain Lake can be extremely successful even if the traditional baits are not working. There is no fee to enter this Prescott Valley gem.

### Frances Short Pond - Fishing Rating:

Fall is the time we restart trout stocking on Frances Short Pond. Trout anglers do well fishing with flies and lures such as Rooster Tails. Bait anglers catch trout on PowerBait.

### Goldwater Lake - Fishing Rating:

Trout are stocked twice a month during most of the year. While trout are not stocked in January, this can be a great time to go fishing there. There are typically less anglers around and the fish that are caught are larger because they have had time to grow since there stocking. Trout fishing should continue to be exciting because of the number of trout stockings. Try orange or yellow Power Eggs or PowerBait on a 12- to 18-inch leader. Small spinners or try 1½-inch crappie tubes for trout. In addition to the great rainbow trout fishing, Gila trout have been stocked in Goldwater. There are world record size Gila trout in the lake right now. If you ever wanted to catch a World Record fish, this is a great opportunity. There is a \$3 daily fee for this City of Prescott Lake.

### **J.D. Dam - Fishing Rating:**

J.D. is full and was restocked last fall and this spring with tiger trout. Remember regulations on J.D are flies and lures only with single barbless hooks all fish must be immediately released. This lake is managed as a catch-and-release fishery.

### **Kaibab Lake - Fishing Rating:**

Kaibab has been stocked with several loads of bigger trout so folks will be catching this fall. October and November are usually great times to trout fish in the Flagstaff/Williams area.

Anglers can catch rainbow trout on lures such as Rooster Tails, Joe's Flies and small spoons. Fly anglers should be successful using woolly buggers and bead-head prince nymphs.

Anglers using bait can try fishing garlic "flavored" PowerBait in a variety of colors especially once the water warms up.

### **Kinnikinick Lake - Fishing Rating:**

Kinnikinick was stocked with tiger trout this summer and will be stocked with catchable brown trout near the end of September. Expect fishing to be good for browns and tigers as the water temperatures cool. In the fall most of the fish are caught on spinners and other flashy lures. There is always a chance that you will catch a big brown trout or channel catfish fishing in Kinnikinick.

### **Lower Lake Mary – Fishing Rating:**

Expect fishing at Lower Lake Mary to take off once the water temperatures cool this fall. There are still lots of big trout to catch in the lake. For fly and lure anglers, try leech pattern flies and spinners. Bait anglers will do well using worms under a bobber early and PowerBait during the day.

### **Lynx Lake - Fishing rating:**

There is a \$5 use fee for Lynx Lake except for it is FREE every Wednesday. While trout are not stocked in January, this can be a great time to go fishing there. There are typically less anglers around. Try fishing PowerBait suspended under a bobber in 10-15 feet of water. Chartreuse and Captain America colors typically work well. Be sure to keep your hook sizes smaller, say, No. #6 to #10 and light lines (4-6 pound test).

### **Mingus Lake - Fishing rating:**

Last stocked in October. This is the last load for Mingus this year. The Forest Service locks the gate for vehicle traffic around Nov. 15. Walk-in traffic will still be permitted after that date. If you don't mind the hike, try the PowerBait or Power Eggs, but have spinners or small split-tail grub if the PowerBait doesn't work.

### **Oak Creek - Fishing Rating:**

Fly anglers and folks using lures can catch some nice sized brown trout on Oak Creek with some big browns possible, especially in the area around Grasshopper Point. Try woolly buggers or spinners.

Remember the reach of the creek between Call of the Canyon Crossing (West Fork parking lot) and Junipine Resort is open to catch-and-release fishing only using flies and lures with a single-point barbless hook. This reach is not stocked and has some nice brown trout in it.

### **Perkins - Fishing Rating:** unknown

Perkins is usually not accessible.

### **Santa Fe - Fishing Rating:**

Santa Fe was stocked with trout and catfish. Fishing will be good using standard trout methods.

### **Upper Lake Mary - Fishing Rating:**

The lake has gone from less than 20 percent of capacity to full since January. Anglers have been catching lots of walleye all spring on worms. Expect this to continue.

### **Verde river - Fishing rating:**

Trout stocking resumes in October. Trout may be difficult to locate but Catfish (Channel and Flathead) and Smallmouth or Largemouth Bass are abundant and in feeding mode. Use plastic worms or creature baits for the Bass and even nightcrawlers. Chicken liver or commercial Catfish bait could land you some nice Catfish. Fish the deep pools for the cats and fish the undercut banks for the Bass.

### **Watson Lake - Fishing rating:**

Trout are stocked four times between October and February. This size of the lake can make it difficult to fish from shore, but the city has been improving the trails system every year and this lake really grows trout. It is common for anglers who know what they are doing to catch trout up to 4 pounds. Trout will hold over during the summer at Watson Lake, growing the whole time. Catching one of these older fish will make your week. Gila trout were stocked at Watson for the first time this December.

Look for the trout swimming the shore line after a stocking and will go deeper after they have been in the lake for a while and when the temperatures increase. Use small spinners or nightcrawlers if the PowerBait doesn't work. Fish off the boulders that you can reach especially if there is some submerged trees they can hide under. The \$3 parking fee is very reasonable for this beautiful lake.

**Whitehorse - Fishing Rating: unknown**

We have not received reports from Whitehorse. The lake is fishable and there is only crappie, bass and bluegill. Trout will not be stocked in Whitehorse due to water quality.

**Willow Lake - Fishing rating:** 

Things really slow down in the winter.