

Fishing Forecast – North Central AZ

Fishing Rating: Hot  Good  Fair  Poor 

Dogtown Lake - Fishing Rating:

Fishing at Dogtown is good. During the summer the trout will hit the traditional trout baits. Fishing for bass and crappie will pick up as the water warms this summer.

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.

For folks using bait I would try fishing garlic "flavored" PowerBait in a variety of colors.

Fain Lake - Fishing Rating:

Trout are stocked all year long with the exception of July and August. Channel catfish are stocked during the summer. During July and August focus on the catfish. There is no fee to enter this Prescott Valley gem.

Frances Short Pond - Fishing Rating:

Frances Short is a great place to take young anglers to catch lots of crappie, bluegill and catfish during the summer. A small piece of worm fished under a bobber will catch the crappie and sunfish while hot dogs work for the catfish.

Goldwater Lake - Fishing Rating:

Trout are stocked 1-2 times a month during most of the year. There is a \$2 daily fee for this City of Prescott lake. Trout fishing should continue to be exciting because of the number of trout stockings. As water temperatures rise for the summer, the trout will go deeper. Try orange or yellow Power Eggs or PowerBait on a 12 to 18 inch leader. The Largemouth Bass fishing should be good this year following last year's stocking. You can't go wrong throwing plastics. If you choose to target bass, remember that the limit is one fish 13" or larger. Channel catfish have not been stocked in Goldwater in years, but the fish that are still in it are large. Don't be afraid to try to catch some of these behemoths.

J.D. Dam - Fishing Rating:

JD 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 Lake is full. Kaibab has been stocked with several loads of bigger trout so folks will be catching then this summer.

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.

For folks using bait I would try fishing garlic "flavored" PowerBait in a variety of colors especially once the water warms up.

Kinnikinick Lake - Fishing Rating: 

Most years the road into Kinnikinick is closed during the winter months because of snow. Last winter the road remained open all winter and folks were catching big trout on lures in December and January. If the roads are open and the lake is ice free fishing could be good. Do not ice fish. The ice is usually not safe. Remember live bait fish can not be used anywhere in Coconino County.

Knoll Lake: Unknown

The lake is full and has been stocked with trout. Anglers do well using PowerBait on the bottom.

Lower Lake Mary – Fishing Rating: 

Lower Lake went from being dry during the fall to about 3/4 full. Fishing will be picking up as the lake shrinks. The good news is even if you're not catching fish at the lake, they are always growing bigger. With the cooler-than-normal spring, the fish will be more active this summer. We stocked several loads of larger trout this year, so don't be surprised if you catch some bigger fish. 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 Wednesday's when I is free. Trout fishing can be good well into June. 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 you hook sizes smaller, say #6 to #10 and light lines (4-6 pound test). Largemouth Bass can be a good bet in the middle of the summer. Try fishing in the backs of the shallower coves. Catfish can be caught on cut hot dogs, anchovies and nightcrawlers in about 25 to 30 feet of water. Catfish are stocked the first weekend in June. Look for the bite to really pick up after that. This lake carries many holdover catfish from previous stockings, so your fishing success is not necessarily tied to the stocking date.

Mingus Lake - Fishing rating: 

Trout are stocked through June. The bullhead catfish should be biting as it warms. 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 being caught, especially in the area around Grasshopper Point. Try woolly buggers or spinners. Look for our Oak Creek pamphlet that includes exact, G.P.S. positions of stocking locations available at regional offices.

The stockings of rainbow trout occur weekly. Areas stocked depend on accessibility to the creek and parking availability for the stocking truck. Bait anglers should drift salmon eggs or worms below a bobber with the current. Anglers drifting flies under a bobber can also catch rainbows.

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 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 is being stocked with trout and catfish. Fishing will be good using standard trout methods.

Upper Lake Mary - Fishing Rating: 

Since January, the lake has went from less than 20% of capacity to full. Anglers have been catching lots of walleye all spring on worms. Expect this to continue.

Verde river - Fishing rating: 

The summer forecast for the Verde is grim. With the warm dry winter, it is possible the National Forest closures due to extreme fire danger may occur and may make it difficult to access the river. Verde River cities like Cottonwood and Camp Verde will likely allow access.

Watson Lake - Fishing rating: 

As water temperatures rise for the summer, the trout will go deeper, but the largemouth will move into shallower water. Try plastic worms or crappie jigs for the Bass and you may get lucky and catch a holdover Trout with type of bait. The \$2 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: 

This lake has a great largemouth bass population. Early summer you can still fish and do well, but the aquatic vegetation makes fishing this lake in mid to late summer very difficult.