




















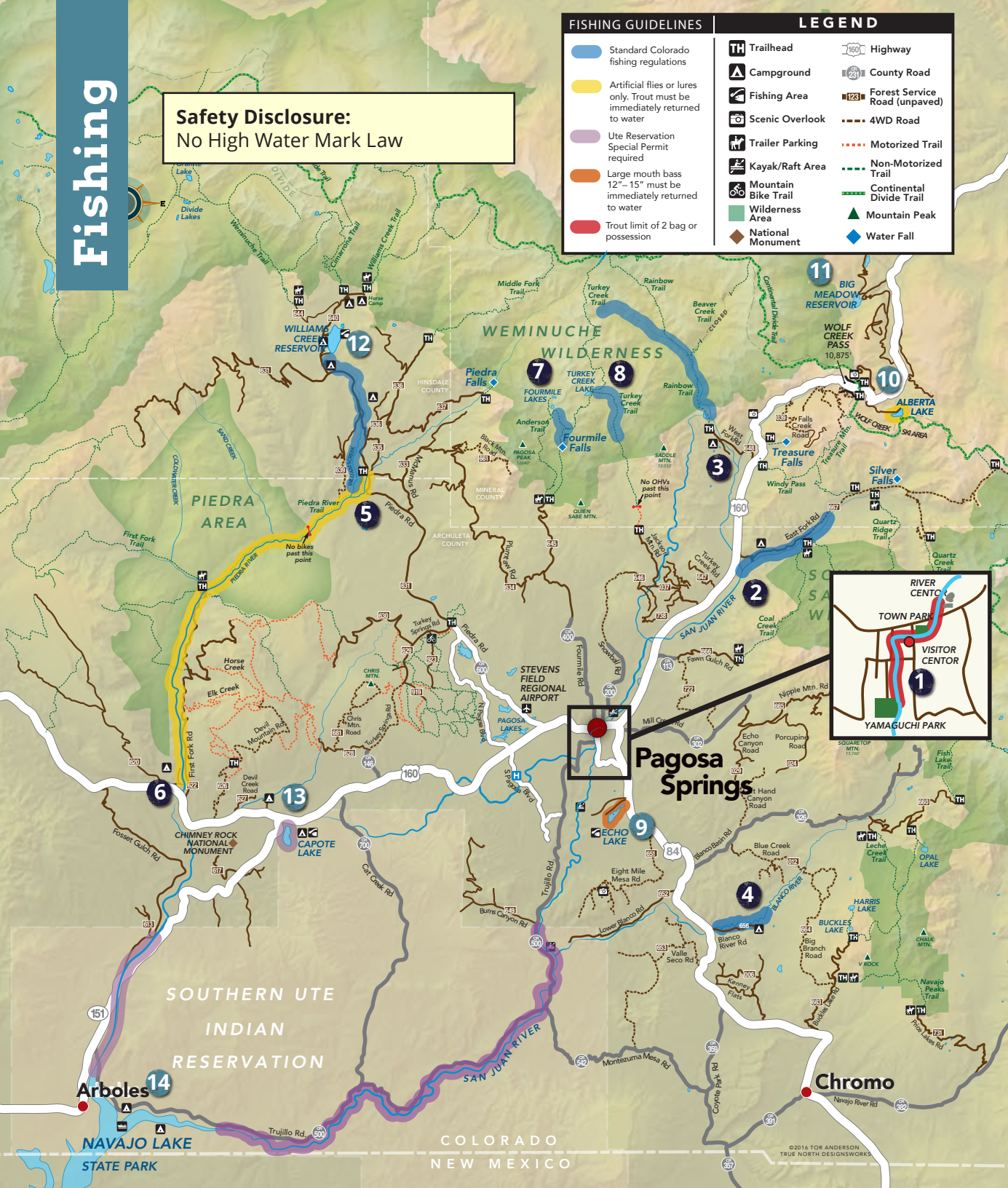


# Fishing

**Safety Disclosure:**  
No High Water Mark Law

FISHING GUIDELINES		LEGEND	
	Standard Colorado fishing regulations		Trailhead
	Artificial flies or lures only. Trout must be immediately returned to water		Campground
	Ute Reservation Special Permit required		Fishing Area
	Large mouth bass 12" - 15" must be immediately returned to water		Scenic Overlook
	Trout limit of 2 bag or possession		Trailer Parking
			Kayak/Raft Area
			Mountain Bike Trail
			Wilderness Area
			National Monument
			Forest Service Road (unpaved)
			4WD Road
			Motorized Trail
			Non-Motorized Trail
			Continental Divide Trail
			Mountain Peak
			Water Fall



## Rivers

- San Juan River**  
*Stocked:* Rainbow, Brown, Brook and Cutthroat Trout  
*Native Fish (return to water immediately):* Humpback Chub, Bonytail Chub, Colorado Pikeminnow and the Razorback Sucker
- East Fork of the San Juan River**  
Rainbow, Brown, Brook and Cutthroat Trout
- West Fork of the San Juan River**  
Rainbow, Brown, Brook and Cutthroat Trout
- Blanco River**  
Rainbow, Brown, Brook and Cutthroat Trout
- Piedra River**  
Rainbow, Brown, Brook and Cutthroat Trout
- Fourmile Creek and Lakes**  
Rainbow, Brown, Brook and Cutthroat Trout
- Turkey Creek and Lake**  
Rainbow, Brown, Brook and Cutthroat Trout

## Reservoirs and Lakes

- Echo Canyon Reservoir**  
Rainbow Trout, Largemouth Bass, Yellow Perch, Green Sunfish, Crappie and Channel Catfish
- Alberta Reservoir**  
Brook and Cutthroat Trout
- Big Meadows and Shaw Lakes**  
Big Meadows has Brook, Cutthroat and Rainbow Trout; Shaw Lake has Cutthroat Trout and Kokanee Salmon
- Williams Reservoir and Williams Creek**  
Rainbow, Brook and Cutthroat Trout, and Kokanee Salmon
- Lake Capote**  
Rainbow and Brown Trout, Largemouth Bass and Channel Catfish
- Navajo Reservoir**  
Catfish, Trout, Bass, Pike, Crappie, Perch and Kokanee Salmon

## How to Release a Fish

To practice catch-and-release while fishing, follow these steps to ensure the fish return to the water with minimal damage. Any fish you plan to release **MUST** be returned to the water immediately.

**TIME IS ESSENTIAL** Quickly play and release fish. A fish played for too long will be too exhausted to recover.

**KEEP FISH IN THE WATER** as much as possible.

**REMOVE THE HOOK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE** Single barbless hooks can often be removed while the fish is still in the water.

**GENTLE HANDLING IS ESSENTIAL** Avoid squeezing or placing your fingers on the gills or eye sockets. It is best to hold a fish gently by its belly or by the area in front of the tail.

**TO REVIVE AN UNCONSCIOUS FISH** hold it upright in the water. Move the fish forward and backward so that water runs through the gills. It may take a few minutes, when it begins to struggle, release it.

**WHEN PHOTOGRAPHING A FISH** hold it horizontally and do not squeeze the fish. Do not put your hands in its gills or hold it vertically by its gills.

## Game Fish (2 fish limit)



**RAINBOW TROUT**  
Black spots on a light body and red stripe along sides.



**BROOK TROUT**  
Pectoral, pelvic and anal fins often orange, edged with black and white; body is dark with white and red spots inside blue circles.



**BROWN TROUT**  
Spotting pattern is made up of black spots and red-orange spots inside light blue circles.



**CUTTHROAT (NATIVE) TROUT**  
Crimson slash on either side of the throat beneath the lower jaw; heavier spotting towards the tail.

## Native Western Slope Fish (immediate release)



**HUMPBAC CHUB**  
Green to silver and white with an abrupt hump behind the head.



**BONYTAIL CHUB**  
Slight hump and a long, narrow tail.

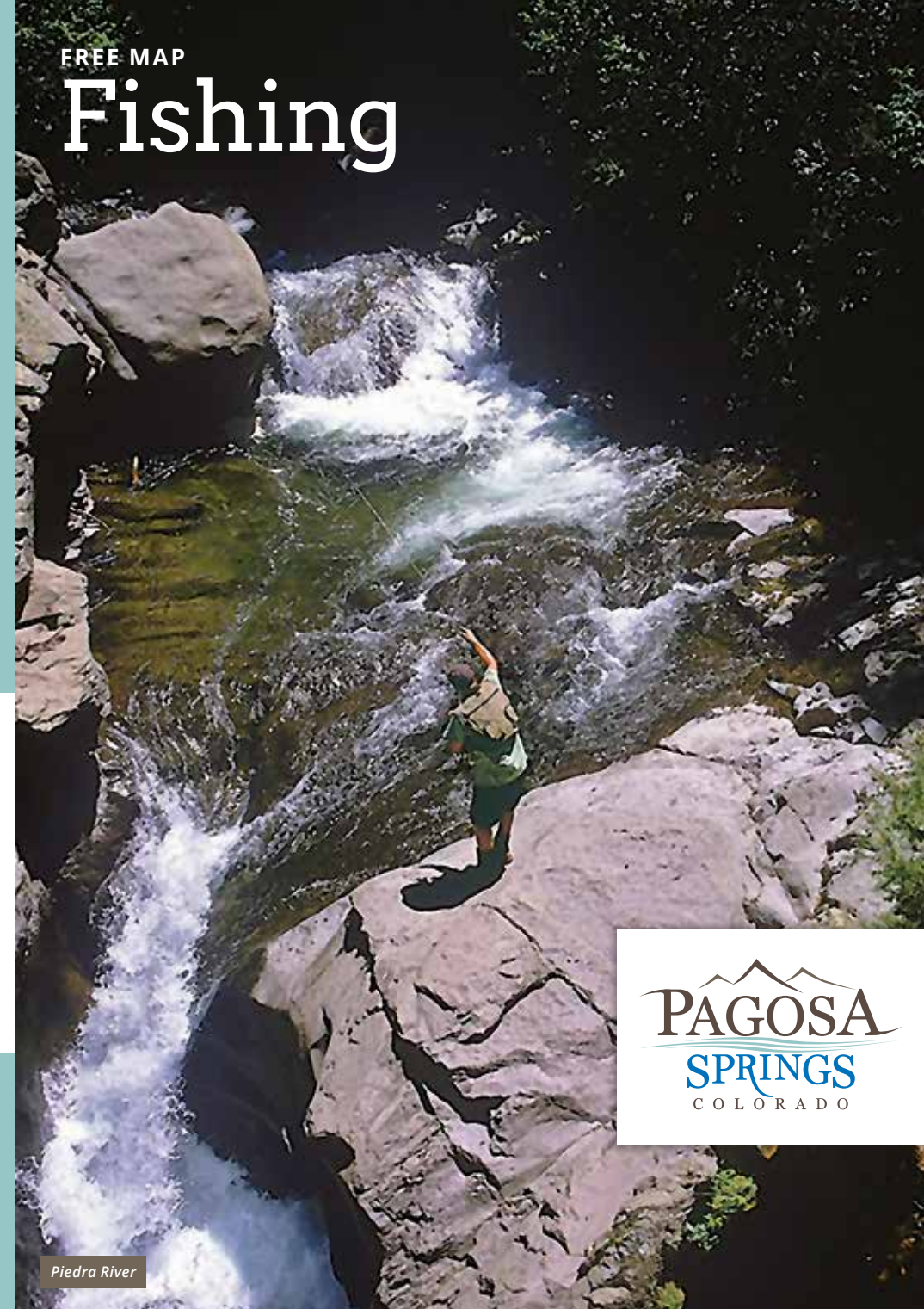


**COLORADO PIKEMINNOW**  
Adults may be green-gray to bronze on backs and silver to white along sides and bottom.



**RAZORBACK SUCKER**  
Bronze to yellow fish with a sharp-edge keel behind the head.

## FREE MAP Fishing



**PAGOSA SPRINGS**  
COLORADO

[www.visitpagosasprings.com](http://www.visitpagosasprings.com)





# Welcome to Pagosa Springs!

Welcome to the beautiful Pagosa Springs area. We hope to make your fishing experience as wonderful as possible. In order to maximize the quality of fishing in downtown Pagosa, town merchants, along with support from local government, have joined together to stock trophy size trout in the river during spring, summer and fall. Ideally, we'd like for everyone to enjoy hooking into a playful rainbow or a large brown trout. Because of that, please practice careful catch-and-release (see other side of brochure). If you do keep fish, please stay at or under the daily two fish limit. Also note the native fish to the Western Slope (shown on other side of brochure) and release these immediately, as they are protected species. Please enjoy our wonderful waters.



Archuleta Lake on the Continental Divide Trail

## Rivers

- 1 SAN JUAN RIVER (DOWNTOWN):** The downtown stretch of the San Juan River can be accessed at several locations in town, including behind the River Center, Town Park, Visitor Center and Yamaguchi Park.
  - 🚫 All trout - bag and possession limit of 2.
  - ★ Downtown Pagosa Springs is regularly stocked with trout. It offers some of the best fishing in the area and is a great place for children and beginners.
- 2 EAST FORK OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER:** Hwy 160 East for 10 miles; right on East Fork Road. Fishing is available anywhere the river can be accessed, except on private property.
  - 🚫 Portions of the San Juan River run through private property, particularly on this road. Please be respectful and stay off private property!
  - ★ The road goes through the East Fork Canyon passing dramatic "beehive" rock formations and offers great camping.
- 3 WEST FORK OF THE SAN JUAN RIVER:** Hwy 160 East for 14 miles; left on West Fork Road. Fish by the bridges over the river, along the road in the vicinity of West Fork Campground.
  - 🚫 Portions of the San Juan River run through private property, particularly on this road. Please be respectful and stay off private property!
  - ★ Two nearby campgrounds.
- 4 BLANCO RIVER:** Hwy 84 South for 12 miles; left on Blanco River Road #656.
  - ★ River access close to the road and at the Forest Service group campground when unoccupied.
- 5 PIEDRA RIVER:** PIEDRA RD ACCESS - Piedra Road North (CR 600/FS 631) for 16 miles; park at the Piedra River Trailhead. Fishing restrictions begin at the Piedra River Bridge on Piedra Road (FS 631) and continues downstream to First Fork Road.
  - 🚫 1. Artificial flies or lures only.  
2. All trout are catch-and-release and must be returned to water immediately.
  - ★ Great scenic river fishing with camping in the area.
- 7 FOURMILE CREEK AND LAKES:** Take Fourmile Road (CR 400/FS 645) for 8 miles; right at junction to the trailhead. Follow Fourmile Trail.
  - ★ Great backcountry fishing requiring moderate to strenuous 6 – 7 mile one-way hike to access lake. Creek is accessible at various points near the waterfall.
- 8 TURKEY CREEK AND LAKE:** Hwy 160 East for 6 miles; left on Jackson Mountain Road to the trailhead, Follow Turkey Creek Trail.
  - ★ Great backcountry fishing requiring a strenuous 9 mile one-way hike to access lake. Creek is accessible at various points along the trail.



Williams Creek Reservoir

East Fork of San Juan River

Buckles Lake

## Reservoirs and Lakes

- 9 ECHO CANYON RESERVOIR (STATE WILDLIFE AREA):** Hwy 84 South for 6 miles; turn right.
  - 🚫 Largemouth Bass 12 – 15 inches must be returned to the water immediately.
  - ★ This is the closest lake fishing to town; accessible all year, it is great for ice fishing in the winter. In the summer, motorized boats are allowed, but restricted to wake-free boating; includes boat ramp.
- 10 ALBERTA PARK RESERVOIR (STATE WILDLIFE AREA):** Hwy 160 East for 23 miles; right into Wolf Creek Ski Area. Follow Forest Service Road #391 approximately 1.5 miles to where the parking lot and boat ramp are located.
  - 🚫 1. Artificial flies or lures only.  
2. All trout are catch-and-release and must be returned to water immediately.
  - ★ Motorized boats are allowed but restricted to wake-free boating.
- 11 BIG MEADOWS RESERVOIR (STATE WILDLIFE AREA):** Hwy 160 East for 26 miles; left on County Road 410. Located on Wolf Creek Pass.
  - ★ Camping is available around Big Meadows, motorized boats are allowed, but restricted to wake-free boating; includes boat ramp.
- 12 WILLIAMS RESERVOIR (STATE WILDLIFE AREA) AND WILLIAMS CREEK:** Piedra Road North (CR 600/FS 631) for 25 miles.
  - ★ This 508-acre mountain lake is surrounded by lush forests and towering peaks, with several campgrounds nearby. Motorized boats are allowed, but restricted to wake-free boating; includes boat ramp.
- 13 LAKE CAPOTE:** Hwy 160 West for 17 miles; located at Hwy 151 intersection. The sections of the Piedra River and San Juan River that run through the Ute Indian Reservation can be accessed at several different points. Please be respectful of private property. Visit <http://www.southernute-nsn.gov/wrmweb/fishing> for details.
  - 🚫 Please note that fishing at Lake Capote or anywhere else on Reservation land requires a daily permit (available at Lake Capote) instead of a Colorado fishing permit.
  - ★ Lake Capote is a 45-acre lake; motorized boats are allowed, but restricted to wake-free boating.
- 14 NAVAJO RESERVOIR:** Hwy 160 West for 17 miles; left on Hwy 151 and continue 35 miles.
  - 🚫 With 1/3 in Colorado and 2/3 in New Mexico, if you cross into New Mexico you will need a New Mexico fishing license.
  - ★ Navajo Lake State Park is a 15,000-acre reservoir that allows large boats, rents boats and has boat ramps. It is the only place in the Pagosa area that live minnows may be used as bait. Camping is offered at campgrounds, with primitive camping allowed along the shore of the lake.