

FISHING REPORT

Regional Overview – Two days shy of setting a record for the latest first snowfall, old man winter finally makes its first appearance of the season this Thursday and Friday. The forecast is for widespread accumulating snow and an abrupt change to colder temperatures. The highs Thursday will come early then cool throughout the day to temperatures much more typical of the week before Thanksgiving. Preliminary snow forecasts suggest 2 to 4 inches across the lower elevations, while the southeast Wyoming mountains could see almost a foot of the white stuff. Strong winds arrive as the snow ends, though, with blowing and drifting snow Friday. Heading into the weekend, temperatures will moderate back to the 50s and 60s, making for some mild temperatures for the first part of next week. It's that time of year when the open water fishing season is getting its last gasp and the ski and snow sport season is just getting started. This weekend looks like angling will remain a good option at the lower elevations, while skiing will be marginal and only at the high elevations.

Ranking Categories

- ★ To ensure fish dinner, go to the local grocery store
- ★★★★★ Toss a line and get a fish; the fish aren't picky

Granite, Crystal and North Crow reservoirs ★★½

The buzz: The fishing is still good, but will likely be a bit sluggish with the colder temperatures expected the next couple days.

Suggested bait, lures and flies:
Night crawlers
Powerbait (various colors)
Salmon eggs
Panther martins
Mepps spinners
Bead head prince nymphs
Chironomid patterns
Bead head buggers (olive, black, brown)

Laramie Plains lakes ★★

The buzz: The fishing is good across the basin. Lake Hattie is giving up some real lunkers even fishing from the bank near the dam. There's also good to very good action at Twin Buttes. It's a tad slower at Meebourn and Sodergren.

Suggested bait, lures and flies:
Night crawlers
Powerbait (various colors)
Salmon eggs
Kastmasters (silver, gold)
Little Cleos
Bead head buggers (olive, black)

Orange blossom specials
Bead head prince nymphs
Bead head pheasant tails
Crawfish patterns

Laramie River ★★

The buzz: The action on the river is hit or miss. One angler reported trying several locations and coming up empty.

Suggested bait, lures and flies:
Rubber legged buggers
Crystal buggers
Yuck bugs
Double bunnies
Stalcup crawdads

Snowy Range ★★

The buzz: Keep an eye on the Wyoming Highway Department website to know if Snowy Range Pass remains open after this upcoming storm. Access could be limited if the forecast is correct and the Medicine Bow Mountains receive close to a foot of snow. Add some wind and this could be the end of angling at the higher elevations.

Suggested bait, lures and flies:
Night crawlers
Royal wulff
Bead head pheasant tails
Zua bugs

Parachute Adams
Orange scuds

North Platte River – Gray Reef ★★

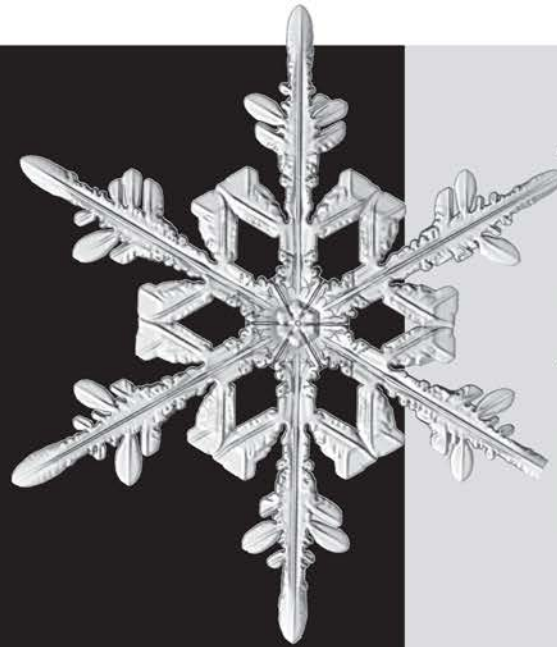
The buzz: The fishing will likely slow with the cold and snowy weather, but it is expected to really pick up as temperatures rise.

Suggested bait, lures and flies:
San Juan worms
Rock worms
Olive scuds
Barbwires
Vanilla buggers
Pheasant tails
Barr emergers

Upper North Platte River ★★½

The buzz: The water flow gauges indicate the river is still flowing at the Colorado state line. That means the fishing is still on from there through the Upper North Platte River valley.

Suggested bait, lures and flies:
Stonefly nymphs
Bead head nymphs
San Juan worms
Hot head leeches
Tan scuds
Olive scuds



This week's SNOW REPORT

Information compiled by Amber Travsky

Quick numbers

Wyoming downhill areas

Snowy Range Sid Area: Opens Nov. 25

Hogadon Sid Area: Opening TBA

Jackson Hole Mountain Resort: Opens Nov. 24

Grand Targhee: Opening TBA

Snow King Sid Area: Opens Dec. 5

Colorado downhill areas

Arapahoe Basin: 18-inch base; 3 trails and one lift open

Breckenridge: Opening TBA

Copper Mountain: Opens Nov. 18

Eldora: Opens Nov. 18

Keystone: Opens Nov. 18

Loveland: 28-inch base; one trail and one lift open

Steamboat: Opens Nov. 23

Winter Park/Mary Jane: Opens Nov. 23

While there's been a bit of snow in the high country of the Medicine Bow Mountains, the snow forecasted to arrive Thursday will be the first significant storm of this upcoming ski and snow season. Ski area opening dates are fast approaching, though, thanks to the ability of the resorts to make snow. Unless Mother Nature turns on the snow the next couple weeks, though, ski area openings will likely offer very limited terrain and some resorts may delay their opening days.

According to the U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service snow measuring station, the only station reporting snow in the Medicine Bow Mountains is Sand Lake with a depth of 8 inches.

The northwestern corner of the state has fared much better as far as the arrival of snow. Jackson Hole Mountain Resort opens Nov. 24 and reports 57 inches of snow so far this season. Over the pass at Grand Targhee Resort, opening day has been delayed due to the unseasonably warm weather.

In Colorado, Loveland and Arapahoe Basin are open for the season with limited terrain. In addition, Copper Mountain, Eldora and Keystone are scheduled to open Friday, but there is the possibility of delayed openings until more snow arrives.