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[Ranches for Sale](#)

[Ranches by Type](#)

[About Us](#)

[News and Marketing](#)

[Contact](#)

## MOUNTAIN WEST HATCH REPORT



## COLORADO



## North Fork Ranch - Bailey

The North Platte River has stabilized to an ideal summer flow following a large run off this year. Afternoon sprinkles and cloud cover can trigger epic red quill hatches that we have not seen since last year. With the first successful dry fly day of the season down, we are looking forward to the drake hatch soon!

## Hidden Lake Ranch - Pagosa Springs

Hopper season is in full swing! Big fish taking big bugs is what we're seeing on Weminuche Creek. Drop a small beadhead off one of your chubby chernobyls or favorite hopper pattern to increase your chances during the midday sun. The lakes are fishing very well with attractors on the surface and small leeches and other streamer patterns. Look for rising fishing during the early morning and evening PMD and caddis hatches.

## Ranch on the Roaring Fork - Aspen

Courtesy of our friends at the [Taylor Creek Fly Shop](#): Bye, bye runoff. It's summertime and the fishing and water conditions are much improved now. In general, look for the fish to be stacked up in the softer water eating general attractor patterns. Hatches are predominately caddis, BWOs and midges. Stoneflies, PMD and green drake nymphs are also fishing well. And of course, don't count out the San Juan worm either. Look for the fishing to go from 0-100 in no time flat. Fish the softer pockets and seams and you'll get 'em. The green drake hatch is coming in the next few weeks – clear your schedule and plan accordingly.

## Elk Creek Ranch - Meeker

After a significant winter snowpack flushed through the valley in the form of the annual, albeit longer than usual, spring run-off, the fishing is now prime time. Denver-based Live Water Properties Broker [Brian Hartley](#) experienced the prolific hatches and eager fish last week. In the evenings, the caddis hatch was a spectacle to behold - every streamside willow was seemingly alive with caddis flies, and the trout were taking every opportunity to gorge themselves on the clumsy flies as they briefly touched down on the water. The YZ Ranch portion of the Elk Creek Ranch is enjoying a myriad of surface mayfly activity with basic adams-style patterns proving very effective to bring large sipping rainbows to the net. Cicadas and hoppers are out in big numbers and the terrestrial fishing is on the verge of turning on in a big way.

## Sleeping Dog Ranch - Gunnison, Colorado

Courtesy of our friends at [Crested Butte Angler](#): The fishing at Sleeping Dog Ranch has been absolutely phenomenal. Hoppers are the name of the game in the morning as thousands are swarming around the meadow. No dropper is necessary - the fish are looking up all day long. Mid-day brown drakes, yellow sallies and caddis begin hatching, and the fish will key in on those. If the hopper bite begins to slow, throw on a larger mayfly pattern such as a parachute adams or a royal wulff and get ready, these wild brown trout are voracious. You can't ask for more than big fish eating dry flies on small water, and that's exactly what Sleeping Dog Ranch has to offer. Have fun!

## Dolores Canyon Lodge & Ranch - Pleasant View

The fishing at Dolores Canyon Ranch, on the banks of the Lower Dolores River, has been nothing short of

fantastic. Both pink PMDs and yellow PEDs have been coming off 2 or 3 times a day, with a smattering of blue-winged olives mixed in to create a delicious trout cocktail. As we move into the mid-summer, the fish are beginning to key in on various terrestrials, including hoppers, ants and beetles.

## MONTANA



### **Smokin' Rock Ranch - Swan Valley**

Run-off is still affecting water levels in the Swan River, but unlike many other Montana rivers that experience turbid conditions during this time, the Swan stays relatively clear. Brown, tan and green caddis, blue-winged olive and PMD mayflies, and small golden stoneflies are staple food items for the rainbow and west slope cutthroat population. Terrestrials, like ants and beetles, are a major food source for the trout beginning in late July, and the fish are always interested in a variety of attractor dry fly patterns.

### **Blackfoot Rivers Confluence - Ovando**

Dry fly fishermen should expect good evening caddis hatches and some yellow sallies during the day. Bring plenty of size 14 and 16 Goddard and elk hair caddis with size 10 and 12 stimulators. There are a few green drakes around and attractors like a royal wulff or yellow humpy also work well. Ants are good to use, and hopper season is just around the corner. Nymphing with hare's ear, prince nymph and other beadheads has been effective. Try a white zonker if you are looking for a bigger fish.

### **Blackfoot Spring Creek - Ovando**

Size 16 to 20 rusty spinners and PMDs are the dominant food for fish eating dries. Trico's should start in the next month or so. Ants and beetles along with small hoppers are also worth a try. Trout are easily spooked on the calm sunny days and are giving anglers a fun challenge. Make sure to bring small scuds, size 14 to 20 pheasant tails and lightning bugs, and your favorite PMD, cripple, or emerger.

### **Mallard Lake on Rey Creek - Three Forks**

Rey Creek is seeing PMD and caddis action, but a small nymph or bugger has been most effective. Small hoppers with a size 16 beadhead dropper is one of the best set-ups. The trout on Mallard Lake are starting to look for damsels and calibetis. Try slow stripping a small olive bugger, hare's ear or scud.

## **Madison Spring Creek Ranch - Three Forks**

Healthy snowpacks led to an excellent early summer on the Lower Madison. Consistent caddis and PMD hatches throughout recent weeks have meant great dry fly activity, particularly in the mornings and evenings. An atypical amount of big fish (20" +) have been landed thus far on the Lower Madison this year, particularly by fishermen dead-drifting crayfish and small streamer patterns through parts of the river's deeper buckets and runs. The section of the river flowing through Madison Spring Creek Ranch continues to fish well. Its braided nature makes it increasingly accessible to wade fishermen as flows decrease. If our hot weather continues, the Lower Madison fishery will slow down in the afternoons, but should remain strong in the cool mornings. Darlington Spring Creek also had a great spring and early summer fishing season with similar patterns bringing fish to hand. Small streamers can be effective for producing big fish on Darlington, and as the summer wears on, hopper fishing along the grassy banks of the creek should become increasingly productive. As a spring creek, the restored section of Rey Creek traversing Madison Spring Creek Ranch is resistant to the temperature fluctuations seen in Darlington and the main river. Healthy hatches of PMDs, caddis, and midges continue. Crippled mayfly patterns and small emergers have been effective. As terrestrial fishing begins, small beetle and ant patterns on light tippet should bring fish to the surface, but you'll need long casts and sneaky approaches.

## **Running Colter Ranch - Belgrade**

Bull Run Creek is experiencing dependable PMD hatches and rusty spinner falls most days with a few caddis and midges still around. Small ants and beetles have also provided good dry fly activity with hoppers just a few weeks away. Size 16 to 20 pheasant tails, Dave's emergers and lightning bugs, plus small scuds, have been effective when nymphing in the deeper holes.

## **Smith River Angling Home - White Sulphur Springs**

Salmonflies are finished on this stretch of the Smith River, but there are still good yellow sallie hatches and great evening caddis. Bring lots of elk hair caddis and small stimulators. Size 10 to 16 beadheads about 6 feet down from an indicator are consistent producers on this stretch. Looking for a trophy brown? In the evening, try a big streamer in the deeper holes and undercut banks, and you might catch the fish of a lifetime.

## **Shields River Valley Ranch - Livingston**

River flow is steadily dropping from the higher run-off levels of June and early July and fish are very active. Current hatches include caddis, mayfly and small stonefly, and fish are eating both nymph and adult imitations. Small beadheads and imitative dries are the rule during most of the day. Toward evening and with overcast conditions, streamers and bigger nymphs have been effective for larger brown trout - wooly buggers, any type of sculpin pattern, and rubber-legged girdle bugs are great choices. Hopper fishing will really start to shine in a week or two.

## **Antelope Creek Ranch - Big Timber**

The Yellowstone River is currently running about 10,300 cfs, which is about 25% higher than median flows. The river still has a green tint to it, but visibility is good and getting better as water levels steadily drop. Caddis and mayfly hatches are occurring daily and fish are getting into regular feeding patterns targeting these bugs. Streamers and big stonefly nymphs are always effective on the Yellowstone, particularly when

used as a point fly with a small beadhead dropper. In late July and all of August, fish are receptive to ant, beetle and hopper surface presentations, as well as attractor dries like royal wulffs or trudes. The kamloop rainbows in the two ponds on the ranch eagerly hit a variety of stillwater flies including scud imitations, leeches, and both damsel and callibeatis patterns.

## **Historic Black Bluffs on the Yellowstone River - Park City**

The flows are running a bit above normal for the date, but clarity is improving. In the main channel, it's best to work a nymph rig that gets down into the current and depth. Try big ugly, rubber leg stonefly nymphs, bitch creek, girdle bug, San Juan worms and buggers on the edges. If there is a window of a foot or so of visibility on the edges, try tossing streamers off the bank.

## **WYOMING**



## **Salt River Preserve - Star Valley**

The Salt River has seen a consistent slowing of flow over the past couple weeks as it nears ideal fishing conditions. The most recent readings have placed the flow just below 800 cfs, down nearly 20% since last week, though still slightly above median flows. The morning temperatures offer excellent surface fishing as trout key on the hatches of PMDs, caddis, yellow sallies, drakes, and smaller stone flies. Other dry fly options to throw would be smaller terrestrials, such as ants or beetles, and even attractors. In the afternoon, try to place nymphs in the deep lies along banks and deep riffle.

## **Rome Hill Ranch - Ten Sleep**

The many miles of Spring Creek on the ranch allow for different fishing techniques. In the meadow section, fish are hanging out under the cut banks and deeper holes, so terrestrials thrown tight to the bank are effective. In the canyon section, attractors in the plunge pools and deeper runs will get attention.

## **Stone Creek Ranch - Star Valley**

The flows are healthy, the water is cold, and the fish are on the bite! Dry fly fishing is at its peak right now with eager cutthroat hammering large hopper and terrestrial patterns. Pulling streamers through deeper holes may get the bigger fish to bite, but there is no shortage of action on the Salt River these days.

## **Fall Creek Ranch - Jackson Hole**

We are using terrestrial imitations including ants, beetles and hopper patterns in these ideal water conditions with eager fish. Fishing Coburn Creek with any attractor pattern in the prime holding water or under the willows and undercuts is productive.

## **Lazy Bar F Ranch - Cody**

The South Fork of the Shoshone is on fire. After a heavy snowpack and late runoff, the fish are hungry. After fishing Lazy Bar F last week, the most challenging aspect was trying to find something that the fish wouldn't eat. With the river still running high, we focused on the side channels and smaller pools pulling the South Fork slam, rainbow, brown, cutthroat and brook trout out of every spot. With the high water, the South Fork should fish well throughout September and provide some of the best and most scenic wade fishing Wyoming has to offer.

## **Circle Lazy H Ranch on Fall Creek - Jackson Hole**

Fishing on the ranch has been fantastic lately. Plenty of PMDs around and the hopper fishing on the south fork of Fall Creek is action packed. There are damsel flies being taken on the pond and plenty of eager fish in the creeks.

## **Riffles 'n Rises Ranch - Star Valley**

Fishing on the Riffles 'n Rises Ranch has been excellent. Expect to see golden stones on the Salt River for the next few weeks, followed by PMDs and terrestrials. The PMD hatch in the spring creeks is turning on mid-morning, and fish are also keying in on smaller terrestrials like ants and beetles. The damselfly fishing in the spring pond should start to produce larger fish in the near future.

## **Faler Creek Ranch - Daniel**

Due to the large snowpack and occasional rains, the flows are just getting into prime condition. While nymphs and streamers are steady producers, the dry fly action is starting to heat up with yellow sallies, grey drakes, and PMDs among the favorites.

## **IDAHO**



## **Teton River Confluence Ranch - Teton Valley**

Bitch Creek, Badger Creek and the Teton River are all fishin well with attractor patterns. Larger foam flies are still producing fish, but the cutthroat seem more willing to eat smaller hoppers and mayfly patterns during the heat of the day. A recent fishing trip on Bitch Creek yielded several larger fish on streamer patterns during low light overcast conditions.

## **Teton Whitetail Meadows - Teton Valley**

Teton Whitetail Meadows is in prime fishing shape. A 3-weight with a small box of mayfly and hopper patterns is all that is needed. Schroeder's parachute hopper, royal wulff and a parachute adams were the flies of choice this past week on our scouting trip. The brook trout are eager and willing to eat almost anything drifted (or skated) overhead, and the water is gin-clear so sight fishing for these brook trout and cutthroats is a lot of fun.

## **Duck Creek Preserve at Henry's Lake - Island Park**

The healthy flows and cool water on Duck Creek is ideal for the dog days of summer on Henry's Lake. With the hotter summer temps on the lake, these trout start moving up into the cooler water tribs. Duck Creek is a prime example. Fishing a hopper dropper pattern will produce good numbers and the early morning and evening PMD and caddis hatches, are a great time to find rising fish.

## **OREGON**



## **Luelling River Retreat - Madras**

The salmonfly and golden stone hatches are over and so are the throngs of fly fishermen plying the waters of the Lower Deschutes. This is great news for avid fly fishermen, as this time has the best hatches on the river for the year. Huge caddis hatches come off throughout the dog days of summer. Fly fishermen focus on the back eddies in the evening, where reddsides throw caution to the wind and rise with reckless abandon. It is not unusual to have double digit hook-ups in the few hours of waning sunlight. Besides caddis, expect PMDs, Pale Evening Dunns, green drakes and crane flies. In the heat of the day, nymphs can be deadly, but in the mornings and evenings, throw CDC and X-caddis dries. If the hatch is large and the fish are taking emergers, switch to sparkle pupae or soft hackle patterns in size 12-14. Other flies that work are yellow sallies, PMD comparaduns and sparkle duns. For mid-day nymphing, stick with the old standards like pheasant tails, hare's ears, and attractor patterns. If all else fails, tie on a big streamer and strip it through deep pools. The large reddsides will strike with fury.

The steelhead and salmon have started entering the Lower Deschutes and fish are being landed on the swing upstream of Maupin. It won't be long before steelhead and salmon are right in front of Luelling River Retreat. This fishing will carry us into late fall and winter. Classic patterns such as the freight train, Mack's canyon, green butt skunk, and purple perils are all great wet flies to swing up a Deschutes steelhead this time of year.

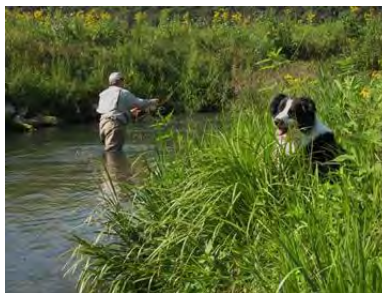
## CALIFORNIA



## Indian Creek Lodge - Douglas City

Trinity River flows have reduced to 450 cfs allowing for great access all over. This is the time to start targeting the the spring-run Chinook, averaging 10-20 pounds. Swing through the deeper pools and riffles to tie into these brutes. Although the primary steelhead season on the Trinity is September through March, fish are in the system nearly year round and as summer progresses there is an increasing likelihood of coming across early summer-run steelhead. For a shot at big browns, try swing leeches and other streamers. Nearby Lewiston Lake is also fishing well with callibaetis starting around 9:00 A.M. and the potential for carpenter ants and other terrestrials as the day continues.

## IOWA



## Prairie Song Farm - Waukon

Brook Creek and Waterloo Creek are running clear and cold with temperatures averaging in the low 50s, and anglers are experiencing excellent fishing on Prairie Song Farm. The early morning hours are active with opportunistic trout looking up for daily feeding of tricos and caddis. Fishing remains consistent throughout the day with terrestrial patterns as there are more than 3 different types of hoppers consistently found on the prairie grasses that overhang these spring creeks. With over 4,500 fish per mile, one can expect to have an active day of dry fly fishing this time of year.



## NEW MEXICO



### Cañones Creek Ranch on the Chama River - Chama

The Chama River has benefited from healthy afternoon thunderstorms and rain showers this past month. These showers keep the flows from getting too low and maintains cool water. Fishing has been great using hopper patterns and various chernobyl patterns. Dropping a small to medium sized beadhead off the back of one of these will increase your chances during the mid day sun and heat. The deeper pools are still producing large browns eager to smack a streamer if it comes too close. The stocked ponds are always fishing well by slow stripping a nymph, small streamer or throwing a small parachute adams or hopper pattern along the grassy banks.



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