

# Fishing the Upper Rio Grande

## Our Favorite Spring Fishing Spots

### Million Reservoir

**Location:** FS 360.1B

Elevation 8,700 ft. The 4 acres of water, offers a variety of Rainbow Trout, which are best caught on either bait, lures, or flies. The reservoir is located on the Beaver Creek Reservoir road, on the edge of South Fork and is then only about 5 miles, through some of the best site seeing forest the Rio Grande has to offer.

**On the Map:** H5

**Bait:** All

### Big Meadows Reservoir

**Location:** FS 410

Elevation 9,200 ft. 114 acres of water, with easy access for kids, and seniors, and is HANDICAPP-accessible. Big Meadows offers a variety of fish including rainbow and brook trout, salmon and German browns. They are all caught equally well with bait, lures, and flies. It is farther from town than the other reservoirs, at a distance of 18 miles, but the drive is well worth the fish found in its waters.

**On the Map:** G6

**Bait:** All

### South Fork of Rio Grande

**Location:** Hwy. 160

Several pullouts along this 11-mile stretch of river provide for a variety of habitats and fish. Mostly Brookies and Browns, but Rainbows and Cutthroat as well.

**On the map:** G,H 6

**Bait:** All

### Beaver Creek Reservoir

**Location:** FS 360

Elevation 8,850 ft. 114 acres of water offers easy access for kids, seniors, and is handicap accessible. Like Big Meadows there are various types of trout, browns, and salmon, found in its waters. Caught on any type of rig that you may want to use whether bait, lure or flies. This is one of the closest lakes to town, with exceptional fishing, with a drive time of only 15-20 minutes. The lake itself is approximately 8 miles outside of town, with a spectacular drive that warrants a slower drive time. This lake also offers exceptional winter ice fishing.

**On the Map:** H6

**Bait:** All

### Park Creek

**Location:** Hwy 160/FS 390

From Alberta Park reservoir at 10,180 ft. to its confluence with the South Fork of the Rio at 8,900 ft., this stream will surely test your stamina and skills at nabbing a native Cutthroat.

**On the map:** G7

**Bait:** Artificial fly/lure

### Coller State Wildlife Area

**Location:** Hwy 149

This State Wildlife Area is a great example of management in the public interest. The water is great for for wading fly fishers who enjoy boulders and structure. There are numerous excellent access points near bridges with riverside parking areas, with different sections being suited to varying water levels and fishing styles. You'll find some good springtime walk-wades and floats... and have the river all to yourself. It's best to catch it now because during the summer, the Rio Grande becomes a popular destination.

**On the Map:** G-H4

**Bait:** Artificial fly/lure



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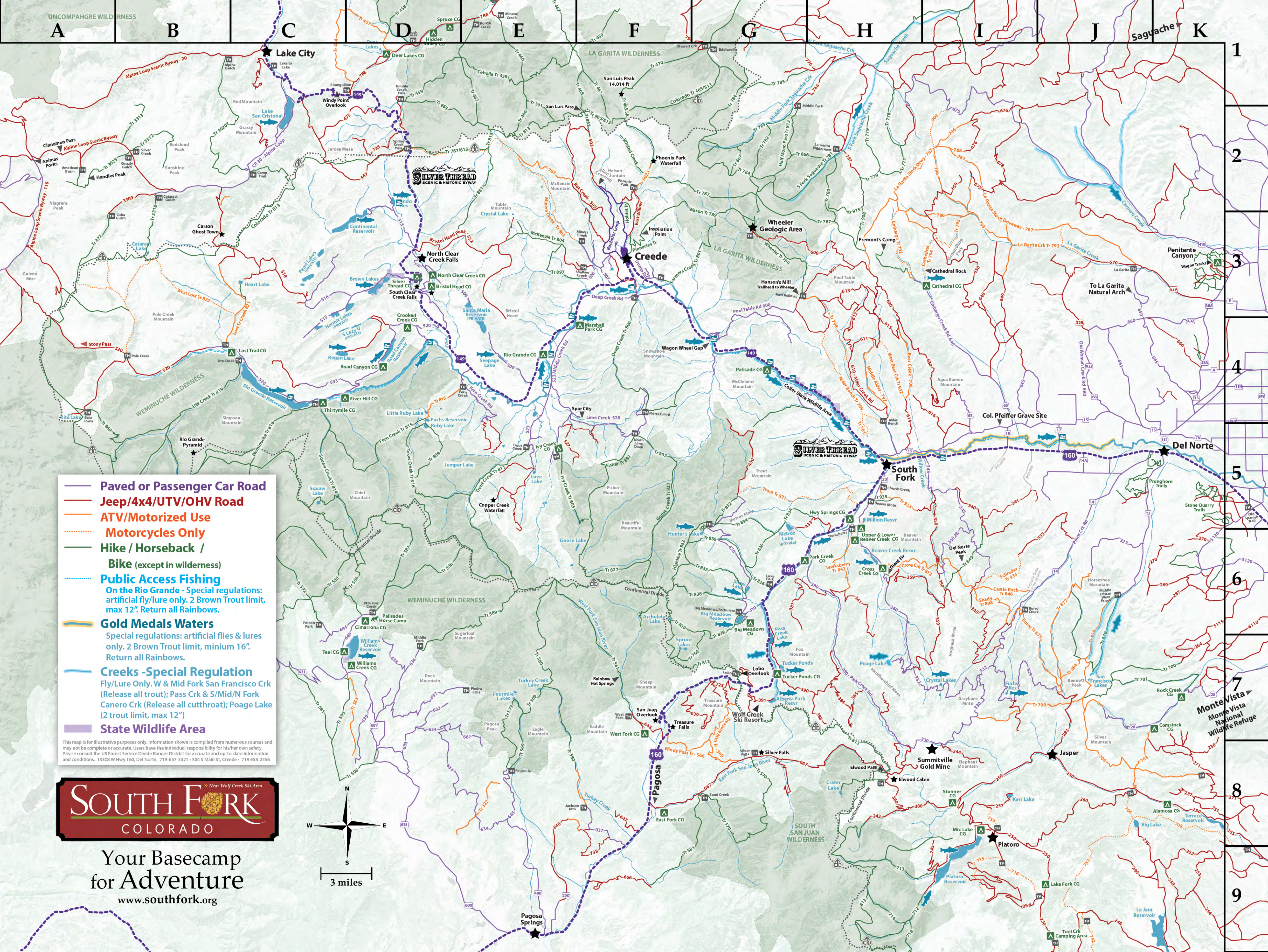
### Salmonfly Hatch

South fork and the Upper Rio Grande river are not only known for their fifteen miles of Gold Medal Water, but also for the Salmonfly Hatch associated with it. Usually starting in mid-June, you can follow the hatch all the way up the river to the headwaters ending sometime in July when the terrestrials take over.



More Spots at [www.fishtheupperrio.com](http://www.fishtheupperrio.com)



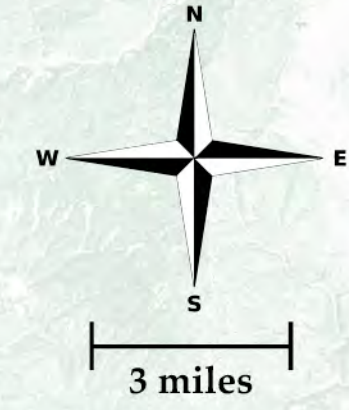


- Paved or Passenger Car Road
- Jeep/4x4/UTV/OHV Road
- ATV/Motorized Use
- Motorcycles Only
- Hike / Horseback / Bike (except in wilderness)
- Public Access Fishing  
On the Rio Grande - Special regulations: artificial fly/lure only. 2 Brown Trout limit, max 12". Return all Rainbows.
- Gold Medals Waters  
Special regulations: artificial flies & lures only. 2 Brown Trout limit, minimum 16". Return all Rainbows.
- Creeks -Special Regulation  
Fly/Lure Only. W & Mid Fork San Francisco Crk (Release all trout); Pass Crk & S/Mid/N Fork Canero Crk (Release all cutthroat); Poage Lake (2 trout limit, max 12")
- State Wildlife Area

This map is for illustrative purposes only. Information shown is compiled from numerous sources and may not be complete or accurate. Users have the individual responsibility for his/her own safety. Please consult the US Forest Service Divide Ranger District for accurate and up-to-date information and conditions. 13308 W Hwy 160, Del Norte, 719-657-3321 • 304 S Main St, Creede • 719-658-2556



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