FISHING AROUND NORTHWEST WYOMING

Regional fishing opportunities near Cody, Thermopolis and Meeteetsee.

You can work toward the following youth fishing challenges on these trips:

- Wild One
- Pan Pair
- Cutt Slam
- Habitat Counts
- Cool Catch
- Percid Prize
- Trout Trio
- Bass Battle

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
Cody Country is best known for its trout fishing and offers a broad spectrum of great one day fishing trips. Second to none in the northwest, the North Fork of the Shoshone River offers exceptional fishing for rainbow and Yellowstone cutthroat that make their way out of Buffalo Bill Reservoir each spring to spend the summer in the river and its tributaries. While part of the river is closed from April 1 to July 1, the upper stretches are open year-round. Simply head towards the Yellowstone National Park border, park along the side of the road, and take on the challenge of tangling with one of these migrating fish to work towards completing the “Cutt Slam” challenge.

If your schedule allows for two full days of fishing, we recommend staying close to Cody to fish some of the amazing lakes that are within a 15-45 minute drive of downtown Cody. We will start this tour in town, at Beck Lake. This lake is the quarry site for the rock that was used to build Buffalo Bill Cody’s historic Irma Hotel and other downtown buildings. Today, Beck Lake is home to black crappie, yellow perch, channel catfish, largemouth bass, and rainbow trout. One morning at Beck Lake could result in the successful completion of the “Percid Prize,” “Cool Catch,” “Wyoming’s Wild One,” “Bass Battle,” AND “Pan Pair.” That’s the potential for 5 of 9 Youth Fishing Challenges at one lake! Next, we recommend West Newton Lake which is home to Yellowstone cutthroat trout and great scenery. This lake is best fished from a small watercraft such as a canoe but fishing from shore can be phenomenal. A little further north of town off county road 7RP, are Hogan and Luce reservoirs. These lakes have plentiful populations of cutthroat and rainbow trout. Scenery, elbow room, and established campsites are plentiful. South of Cody and west of Meeteetse is Upper Sunshine Reservoir. This lake is well known for it’s eager cutthroat trout. Fishing from shore and boat are both great ways to get into action packed fishing.

A three day fishing trip in northwest Wyoming can easily be the trip of a lifetime. With little hesitation, we recommend a trip to the far northwest corner of the region where mountain vistas are endless; alpine lakes and streams are teeming with cutthroat, brook, golden, and rainbow trout as well as grayling. On top of that, public land abounds. Sandwiched between or encompassed by the North Absaroka and Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness areas, this part of the Cody Region rivals any place in the Rocky Mountain West for a camping-fishing combo trip. To start, Dead Indian Creek and Crandall Creek are a must for those who want to check off Yellowstone cutthroat trout from the “Cutt Slam”. You can camp at one of the many established forest service campgrounds along the Clark’s Fork River or in the Beartooth Mountains and Sunlight Basin. For the more adventurous, we recommend loading up a backpack and hiking into one of the many alpine lakes on the Beartooth Plateau. There are countless options for multi-day backpacking trips (with a fishing rod of course!) on the plateau. Lily Lake is a nice family camping spot that is road accessible. Lily Lake is stocked each year with grayling and Yellowstone cutthroat trout for your chance at the “Cool Catch” challenge. Sunlight Creek in Sunlight Basin is a favorite brook trout stream among Cody locals and for good reason; the scenery, accessible water, and hungry brook trout make for a fantastic combination. No matter how you piece together a trip in this part of Wyoming, you are sure to have an unforgettable experience.

Want to get more information about the youth fishing challenges or their adult equivalents? Visit the Wyoming Game and Fish Department fishing challenge website at wgfd.wyo.gov/Fishing-and-Boating/Fishing-Challenges

Or do you just have questions about other fishing opportunities in northwest Wyoming, fishing locations or what the rules for fishing are? Visit the Wyoming Game and Fish Department website at wgfd.wyo.gov or call the Cody office at 307-527-7125.