FISHING AROUND WEST CENTRAL WYOMING

Regional fishing opportunities near Pinedale, LaBarge and the Bridger Wilderness area.

You can work toward the following youth fishing challenges on these trips:
- Cutt Slam
- Habitat Counts
- Cool Catch
- Trout Trio

WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT
CCC pond is a small 5 acre body of water located just outside the city limits of Pinedale. Directions are simple; turn off Hwy 191 onto Fremont Lake 23-154 Road. Continue on this road for 5 miles, turn west as if you are heading to Fremont Lake, stay to the left (south) and continue until you see the road sign for CCC Pond. For those of you trying to complete the “Trout Trio” or “Cool Catch” challenges, the WGFD stocks rainbow trout and brown trout and occasionally grayling and golden trout. This pond is easy to fish from shore, kayak or float tube. Spinners or flies work great. And when all else fails, throw a sinker and worm.

Head out for an easy 1 night backpacking trip. Gather your fishing gear, load up a light weight backpack with a tent, sleeping bag, and some food and head to the mountains. It is an easy 5 to 6 mile hike to Upper and Middle Sweeney Lakes. You will start your adventure at the Elkhart Park Trailhead, located in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. Turn off Hwy 191 onto the Fremont Lake 23-154 Road and continue until you reach the trailhead. Sweeney Lakes are located in the Bridger Wilderness and will provide you an opportunity to catch a golden trout while camping in an amazing setting. Goldens are finicky and not the easiest to catch but are worth the effort. Best hours to fish are early morning or late evening. While you are there, fish Miller Lake for some easy to catch Brook Trout or head to Lower Sweeney Lake for some Cutthroat Trout.

Are you working toward your Cutt Slam? Why not load the truck full of fishing and camping gear and spend some quality time car camping in the mountains. For Colorado River cutthroat trout, the suggested water is LaBarge Creek. From Pinedale, head south on Hwy 189, about 1 mile past the town of LaBarge you will turn on the LaBarge Creek road. Continue on this road (paved and later turns to dirt) until you reach the USFS boundary. After you caught your Colorado River cutthroat trout, continue on this road until you reach the Tri-Basin Divide. Head towards the Greys River. You will need to travel a few miles down this road before you start fishing for your Snake River cutthroat. OK, after you got that fish, now it is time to catch your Bonneville cutthroat trout (also called Bear River cutthroat trout). Head back up the Greys River road to the Tri-Basin Divide. Head towards the Smiths Fork River. You can fish in the Smiths Fork or continue to the Thomas Fork drainage. This will compete 3 of the 4 subspecies needed for the “Cutt Slam” or kids can stop there for the “Trout Trio." You can accomplish this in three days. Set a base camp in LaBarge watershed and you can get to all of these waters in a single day or take your time and spend 3 or more.

Find out more

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 have questions about other fishing opportunities in west central 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 Pinedale office at 307-367-4353.