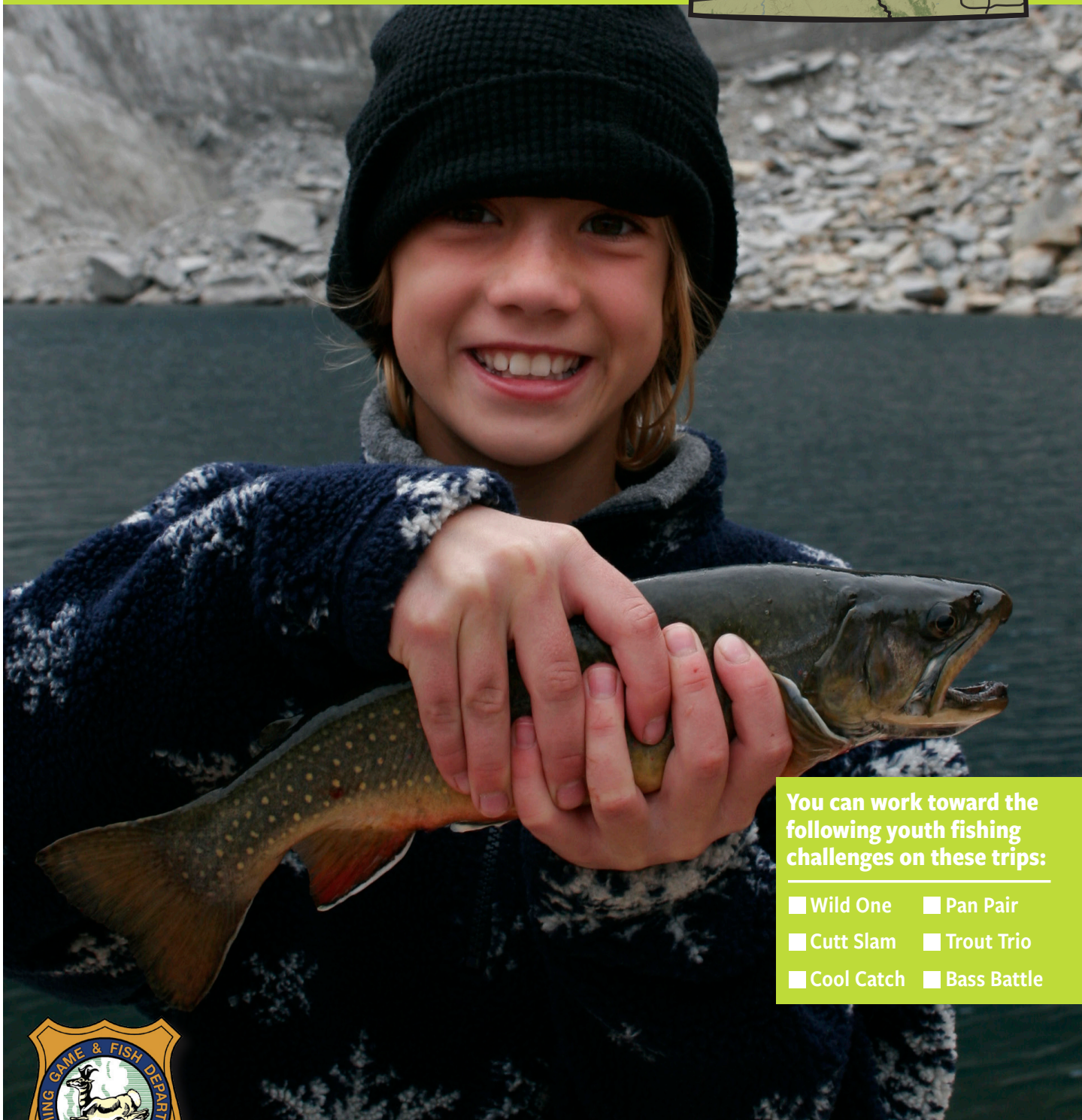
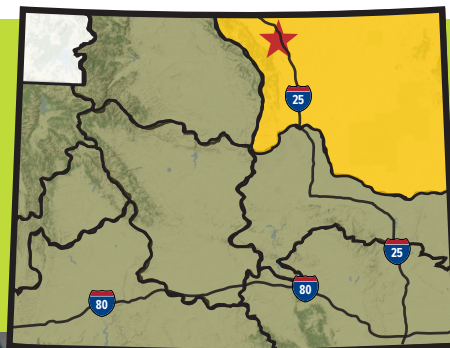


# FISHING AROUND NORTHEAST WYOMING

Regional fishing opportunities near Sheridan, Buffalo and Moorcroft.



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

- Wild One
- Pan Pair
- Cutt Slam
- Trout Trio
- Cool Catch
- Bass Battle



## WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT





## How many days do you have to fish in northeast Wyoming?

### 1 Day

The Sheridan area is probably best known for its diversity in fish species and fishing opportunities. “From the Bighorns to the Black Hills”, Northeast Wyoming offers endless possibilities for great one-day fishing trips. Probably our most popular water is the **North Tongue River**, west of Burgess Junction on Highway 14A. The upper section of the river is catch and release with flies or lures only and anglers could easily complete the “Trout Trio” by catching Yellowstone cutthroat, Snake River cutthroat, rainbow, brown, and/or brook trout while checking off the Yellowstone cutthroat for the “Cutt Slam” challenge. Access to the river typically opens up in late May after most of the high country snow has melted.

### 2 Days

If you have time and want to chase after some warm and cool water fish species, Kleenburn Ponds and Healy Reservoir should be on your list. Kleenburn Ponds are located just north of Sheridan off of I-90. Species present include largemouth bass, yellow perch, black crappie, tiger muskie, and channel catfish. Anglers could complete “Wyoming’s Wild One”, “Pan Pair”, “Cool Catch”, AND “Bass Battle” challenges all at Kleenburn. Fish are generally pretty aggressive and the ponds can be fished easily from shore or from a small boat or float tube. Healy Reservoir, 6 miles northeast of Buffalo, WY on Hwy 14/16 has turned into a destination fishery. Tiger muskie were introduced in 2012 and they are growing very large with some over 40 inches and 20 pounds, while most largemouth bass are 12+ inches with some nearing 7 pounds! If the bass and muskie aren’t cooperating, Healy Reservoir is loaded with yellow perch that will bite almost anything. Anglers fishing Healy Reservoir are most successful from small boats rather than from shore and they have the potential to complete the “Cool Catch” and “Bass Battle” challenges. Anglers should concentrate their efforts near the vegetation and brush since that’s where muskie and bass like to hunt.

### 3 Days

Two different types of fishing trips are recommended if you have three or more days to fish. The first one is a trip to **Keyhole Reservoir**. Located north of Moorcroft in the northeast corner of Wyoming, Keyhole has 10 game fish including walleye, northern pike, yellow perch, channel catfish, black and white crappie, freshwater drum, green sunfish, bluegill, and smallmouth bass. The best time to fish Keyhole is late May thru early July and anglers have the opportunity to complete several of the youth fishing challenges! Both shore anglers and boat anglers can be successful and there are numerous camping opportunities at Keyhole State Park. The next trip that we recommend is a pack-trip into the **Cloud Peak Wilderness** to fish one of the many lakes. Located west of Sheridan and Buffalo, the 189,000-acre wilderness is home to ten trout species including brook, brown, rainbow, golden, lake, Yellowstone and Snake River cutthroat, splake, tiger trout, and grayling. While several of the lakes are relatively close and can be fished in one day, the extended stay pack-trips are the most fun. When planning a pack-trip, try to pick a central location for a base camp with day hikes to other lakes. For example, a base camp at Old Crow lake puts you near **Lame Deer lake** and the **Firehole Lakes (#1 and #2)**. Anglers can accomplish the “Trout Trio” and “Cool Catch” from several waters in the Cloud Peak Wilderness.

## 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](http://wgfd.wyo.gov/Fishing-and-Boating/Fishing-Challenges)

**Or do you have questions about other fishing opportunities in northeast Wyoming, fishing locations or what the rules for fishing are?**

Visit the Wyoming Game and Fish Department website at [wgfd.wyo.gov](http://wgfd.wyo.gov) or call the Sheridan office at 307-672-7418.