

## Southwest Idaho's Family Fishing Waters

I took the kids fishing the other day and I thought it might be useful to share a few places I take the kids fishing. My girls love to fish and it always brings excitement and a smile when they catch one.

Idaho Fish & Game has a website with many locations in southwest Idaho and around the state that are stocked regularly and are managed as family fishing waters.

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/ffw>

Fishing can always be hot and cold but for the most part we have had positive experiences. It helps when you fish soon after they are stocked so check stocking reports.

<http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/apps/stocking>

Our fishing consists mostly of a bobber and worm. My girls like to also cast spinners when it gets slow. The following is a list of places where I've had success over the past few years.

The optimist youth sports complex in Boise has a pond at the entrance that is good for Bluegill and Sunfish. Casting out into the fountain when it is running usually brings success. Moving water is always a good place to cast on these ponds.



Fishing at the Optimist pond



We like fishing the pond at the entrance to our subdivision for Crappie and Bluegill.



A Crappie



We fish for Trout at Merrill Pond in Eagle. There are also some warm water species you might hook into as well. There have been a few big Bass caught but I wouldn't count on it. Check the website or fishing proclamation for other places in the Treasure Valley.

We've had good luck in Fischer Pond on the south end of Cascade. We've been there several times when the action has been nonstop for Trout and Crappie.

Tripod, Herrick, Horsethief & Sagehen Reservoirs are all fun places to fish for Trout. They provide a nice outdoor environment between Boise and Cascade. Fishing in the mornings and evenings is best! Some of these places offer easy access to great camping.



Fishing at Tripod Reservoir

Another great place for early spring fishing is the Hagerman Valley. Areas of the Hagerman Wildlife Management Area like Oster Lakes open March. 1. We've gone down in March a few times. We've had great fishing days and not so great days due to the crowds. Going on a weekday should help.

We fished Billingsley Creek at the fish hatchery on Vader Grade Road on opening day once and had a great time catching fish. The fish included Yellow Rainbow Trout which is something unique to the area hatcheries. We fished in the morning and spent the afternoon at the park for Hagerman Days.



Yellow Rainbow Trout

Kids under age 14 don't need a fishing license as long as they are fishing with a licensed adult. There is always a free day of fishing in early June for those that would like to try fishing. Fish and Game provides the equipment and help to get people started in this great sport. It's a good way to see if you like it before spending money on a license and equipment.

A benefit to getting them out is that they don't have a screen in front of their face. It requires patience waiting for the fish to bite and untangling line but it sure is worth the smiles!

