

LAND OF ENCHANTMENT GUIDES

NEWS & FISHING REPORT • WINTER 2010 / 2011

Monday, December 20th, 2010

Hi Everyone,

I hope that all of you are well and have had a good fall. Last Thursday and Friday, we got our first real snowstorm of the year, here in Northern New Mexico. It was a much welcomed event. We have had a very warm and dry early winter so we'll take any and all of the moisture we can get at this point. In any case, the dry, warmer weather made for some very good late fall/early winter fishing.

The fishing throughout September and October was very good overall, on almost all of the rivers and streams that we fish. In the last few weeks, we have been primarily fishing on the San Juan, the Chama and the lower Pecos.

Here are some more detailed descriptions of where we have been fishing this fall and of what should be happening with the fishing over the next couple of months. *All of the pictures below were taken within the last 10 weeks.*

THE PECOS RIVER RANCH

The fall fishing on The Pecos River Ranch was very good, with only a couple of days when the fish were a bit finicky (during the first real cold snap). The afternoon dry-fly fishing even held up until the end of November. The fishing for the rest of the winter out at the ranch will be dependent on the temperatures. On warmer sunny days, you can still have good luck fishing in the deeper holes. As well, the Pecos River Ranch is a very beautiful place to spend a sunny winter's day.



Winter on the river



Those trout sure are slippery!



Late October on the Pecos River Ranch

THE SAN JUAN

We have been over to "The Juan" many times this fall and the fishing has been getting continually better. Aside from a few days in October when the fish seemed very picky and harder to catch, the fishing has been excellent. We have been doing mostly float trips with a few wade trips thrown in for good measure. In the last few days, the water in Navajo Lake (the reservoir above the dam) has "turned over". This causes the water in the river to get a bit cloudy and off color - this is a good thing! The cloudy water makes it possible to use somewhat bigger flies and streamers on heavier tippet than usual. The fish tend to be less wary as well. The water flows out of the dam have been at 480± cfs since mid-October and should stay at this level throughout the winter. We will still be doing both float and wade trips throughout the winter on the San Juan.



Typical San Juan rainbow



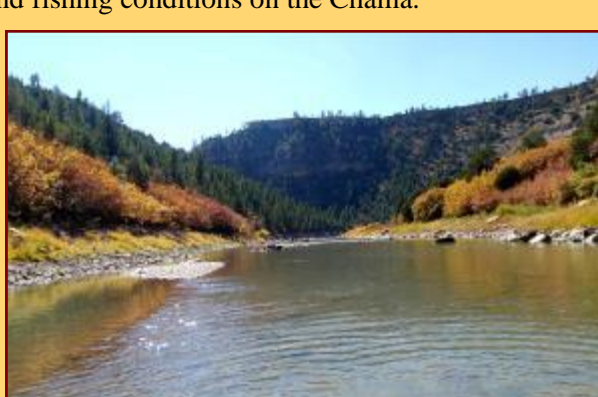
Above the Cable Hole

THE RIO CHAMA

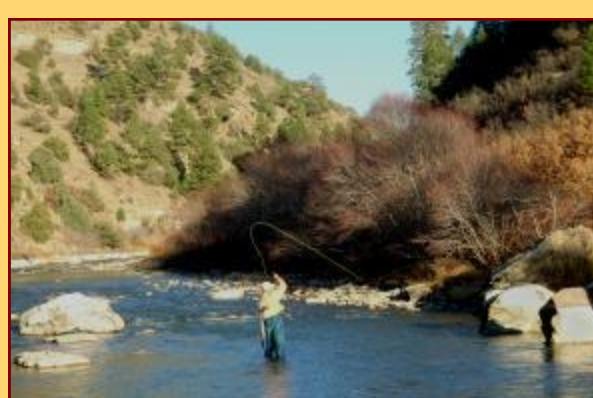
We had some great fall fishing on all of the spots we went to on the Chama this year, with many nice fish landed. Also it seems that there are more smaller fish in the river than usual, especially in the lower sections. This bodes well for continued good fishing during the upcoming season - we just have to pray for a large snow pack in the mountains this winter. As of mid-December, the water flows out of all of the dams on the Chama River have been raised, making water levels a bit high for really good fishing. The flows are ranging from 366± cfs to 533± cfs, depending on the particular dam (we like to fish with flows below 250± cfs, if possible). When the Bureau of Reclamation decides to drop the flows, the fishing should be good below all the dams throughout the winter. Get in touch with us anytime for current water flow and fishing conditions on the Chama.



Bill's beauty



Fall colors on the river



Late afternoon "fish-on"



Way to go Melissa!

OTHER RIVERS & STREAMS

As is almost always the case, with the colder winter weather and snow, all of our higher elevation freestone rivers and streams are now almost unfishable. (Note: A "freestone" river or stream is one that is not dammed and usually is created by/from snowmelt in the mountains. A "tailwater" is a river or stream that emerges from a dam-controlled lake or reservoir. Tailwaters typically have consistent water temperatures throughout the year. This makes them the best bet for winter fishing). The spots we will be targeting the most this winter will be the tailwater sections of the Chama and the San Juan and, depending on the temperatures, the lower elevation sections of the Pecos, i.e. The Pecos River Ranch. Occasionally, the Rio Grande can be good but typically it is a very fickle river, especially during the winter.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!!!

All of us at Land of Enchantment Guides would like to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous upcoming year. We would also like to thank all of our clients and friends for their support this past season; we had a blast being on the river and fishing with all of you!

As always, give us a call anytime for daily fishing and weather conditions, to book a trip or just to say hi and talk trout.

Enjoy yourselves this winter and stay well,

Noah

Noah Parker
Land of Enchantment Guides
PO Box 55
Velarde, NM 87582-0055

Cell Phone: (505) 927-5356
Office Phone: (505) 629-5688
Email: noah@loeflyfishing.com
Website: www.loeflyfishing.com

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