

Alpine Lodge

Fishing Guide

Fishing In and Around Red River

State Requirements: All residents & nonresidents must purchase a Fishing License in order to meet legal requirements to fish in the state. Out of state residents 12 years and older can purchase the following licenses at The Starr Angler and Frye's Old Town. Licenses include all stamps necessary to fish in the National Forest. (Fees subject to change.)

Temporary 1 Day License	\$22.00
Temporary 5 Day License	\$34.00
Jr. Year License (12-17)	\$33.00
Full Year License	\$66.00
Senior Year License (70 & Over)	Free for NM Residents

Red River in Town - 3 miles of public water

The Alpine sits on 250 yards of some of the most prime fishing in the town of Red River. The entire town offers fishing for Rainbow Trout in the famous Red River which meanders through the center. The river is stocked 3 to 4 times a week by both the State and the Town with Rainbow Trout up to 25 inches in length. Popular ways to fish for trout in town is by using Power Bait, Salmon Eggs, Spinners, and Flies. The Town also offers two ponds right off Pioneer Road. The first pond is designated for children 12 and under. The second pond is open to everyone. Be sure to have your License - this area is patrolled heavily by Fish & Game. Also, please observe all No Trespassing signs.

West of Town - There is about 5 miles of river west of town (toward Questa)

Flowing through moderately developed camp grounds the Red River offers anglers spectacular views and great pocket water. This area is open to all anglers to try their luck for the trophy trout everyone dreams of. Much like in town, fishermen can use any type of bait and fish for stocked Rainbows, Wild Browns, and Brook Trout. The stretches of stream nearest the camp sites see the most fishermen but it's the adventurer who is willing to hike just a short distance into the wilderness who will see the most luck. Popular ways to fish this section include using Power Bait, Salmon Eggs, Spinners, and Flies. The stream in the canyon is managed by the Forest Service and is for public use. The stream from the Mine to Questa is seldom fished. Due to run off from the Mine and several waste water plants just up from the Mine, PH levels in the river are too high to sustain an ample food supply for fish. Fish can live in this area and the water isn't harmful but without lots of food the fish won't hang around very long.

East of Town (The Upper Valley) – 7 miles of stream to Wheeler Peak Village

This stretch of stream runs through a deep, heavily wooded canyon that is overgrown and difficult to fish. It is also dotted with bits of private land which are posted for No Trespass (and the owners mean it). This section is designated as Special Trout Waters (regulations exist on the way you fish, and the number and size of the fish you can keep). In the upper sections you are only allowed to fish with artificial lures or flies with a single barb less hook. Your limit in this section is 0. Recommended for experienced fly fishermen – it is one of the best dry fly sections on the river.

The Lower Red - Below Questa 4 miles to the confluence with the Rio Grande

This part of the Red River runs through a 500-1000ft. canyon dumping into the Rio Grande. This has been considered one of the best streams to catch Wild Brown Trout in the country. Access is limited to four trails which consist of very rugged terrain. This is also considered to be Special Trout Waters, with fishing limited to artificial lures or flies with a single barb less hook. Your limit is 1 fish 16 inches or larger. This section is for the true adventurer who is after wild landscape, solitude, and truly wild fish. This is also one of the best winter fisheries in the state with several warm springs flowing into the river. The Lower Red River holds the largest fish in the entire stream and fisherman need experience wading and fishing deep plunge pools and fast water

in order to fool the fish. This area sees a lot of pressure and the fish seem to be smarter than the average fish. For a challenge and an adventure, you will never forget the Lower Red River (but remember it is a full day's excursion).

The Rio Grande - 70 miles of the first river to be dedicated Wild and Scenic by Congress in 1968

The Big River flows through a 70 mile Gorge which is part of the Rio Grande Rift, one of the largest tectonic cracks in the world that continues to widen today. In 1968 Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Rio Grande Gorge, along with the Lower Red River became the country's first National Wild and Scenic River. With all history aside, guides who have been fishing this big river for 50 years will tell you that no two days are ever alike. The minute you think you know how to catch fish on this stream it shows you another side.

The Wild Rivers Recreation Area (just north of Questa) is a breathtaking challenge. Designated as Special Trout Waters, you are limited to fishing with artificial lures and flies with a single barb less hook. If you don't mind hiking out of the 1000 ft. Gorge with fish, you will have no problem landing some 16 inches or larger (this is the standard size in this section of river) and meeting your limit. This section of river is majority pocket water with long, flat water runs (great for Pike). You will have to bolder hop from pool to pool and when you're exhausted from fishing all day you still have to hike from the river to the rim (elevation varies). Don't let all the hard work discourage you, 20 inch browns and 25 inch rainbows are common and a few fish that people make up stories about. Make sure you take plenty of water with you and a way to get more (you'll need it). The temperature is usually 20 degrees hotter at the bottom of the Gorge and an experienced guide is extremely helpful (let him carry all the supplies).

In between Questa and Taos is the small village of Arroyo Hondo. Turn right at Herb's Lounge and follow the dirt road to the John Dunn Bridge. This road takes you to the base of the Gorge. (This is a popular put-in spot for white water enthusiasts wishing to tackle the infamous 'Taos Box'). Fishing up from the bridge is best but it is a little bit of a walk. The riffles produce the most fish and if you feel like wading the river it is only about waist deep (on average). This area is the most heavily used in the Rio Grande Gorge and fishing will most likely be slow. For those not willing to hike into the gorge, this is your only option to fish the Rio Grande north of Taos.

Valle Vidal Unit - Pristine wilderness along the Colorado border.

The 100,000-acre Valle Vidal Unit was added to Carson National Forest in 1982. Originally part of the 2 million acre Maxwell Land Grant, it was purchased in 1973 by the Pennzoil Company and offered to the IRS as settlement for taxes owed by the company. The property, named for a small, stunning valley in the area, is beautiful and unspoiled; full of breathtaking scenery and abundant wildlife. The Valle Vidal Unit holds one of the largest populations of native Rio Grande Cutthroat trout in the state. It is closed to fishing from January 1st to June 30th in order to eliminate added stress on the fish during their spawning season.

The Rio Costilla is the prime river in the Valle Vidal. From the Alpine Lodge, take a left out of the parking lot and head west to Questa (Hwy. 38). Once in Questa, take a right at the only stop light in town (Hwy. 522 North) and head toward Costilla. When you enter Costilla you will take a right on State Road 196 (right before the Shamrock gas station). You will follow ST. Rd. 196 until it turns to dirt and continue to the park (17 miles). You will see the river on your right and from the first cattle guard you cross the river is open to the public (make sure you have a State Fishing License with a Habitat Stamp). In order to maintain a large population of fish, the Rio Costilla is a catch and release only stream. All fish must be returned immediately.

The staff of the Alpine Lodge hopes that you enjoy this guide. Please feel free to give us feedback on the suggested fishing spots and let us know your favorites. Take care and have a wonderful fishing trip.