



San Juan River, Pagosa Springs

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

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General Information: The San Juan River, running through the scenic town of Pagosa Springs, provides the angler with an opportunity to capture quality rainbow, brown, and cutthroat trout while the family soaks in the riverside hot spring pools. Public access is very good for bank, wade, or float fishing on this 2 mile reach of river. Although mostly private, float fishing opportunities exist for another 16 miles downstream under certain water flow conditions.

Location: Archuleta County. Reach starts at the intersection of US 160 and Highway 84 down to Apache Street Bridge (see map) in Pagosa Springs, Colorado

Primary Management: Coldwater angling

Survey Data: [Angler Use and Fish Sampling Info](#) on Page 3

Amenities

- Two miles of public access for shore or wade angling at numerous access sites along the Pagosa River-walk
- Two boating access points for deployment or pickup of rafts (see map)
- Seasonal restrooms available at Town Park
- Guided wade or float fishing available from several local guide services.
- For additional info about local amenities and services, visit the Pagosa Springs web site at: www.townofpagosasprings.com

Regulations

From US 160 and 84 Highway intersection downstream to Apache St. Bridge

Bag and possession limit is 2 trout.

Above and Below Pagosa Reach (see above)

Standard bag limit for trout is 4 per day and 8 in possession. Mostly private land above and below access by raft or drift boat only.

Previous Stocking

2009

Rainbow Trout 2,235 (“magnum” trout; 15% > 3lbs; stocked by Town of Pagosa)

3,128 rainbow catchables and 10,000 brown trout fingerlings

10,000 whirling disease resistant rainbow fingerlings

2008

Rainbow Trout, 8,842 (mostly 12 inch trout with ~25% stocked over 3 lbs some over 5 lbs done by the Town of Pagosa)

Brown Trout, 10,000 fingerlings

Sportfishing Notes

Rainbow Trout

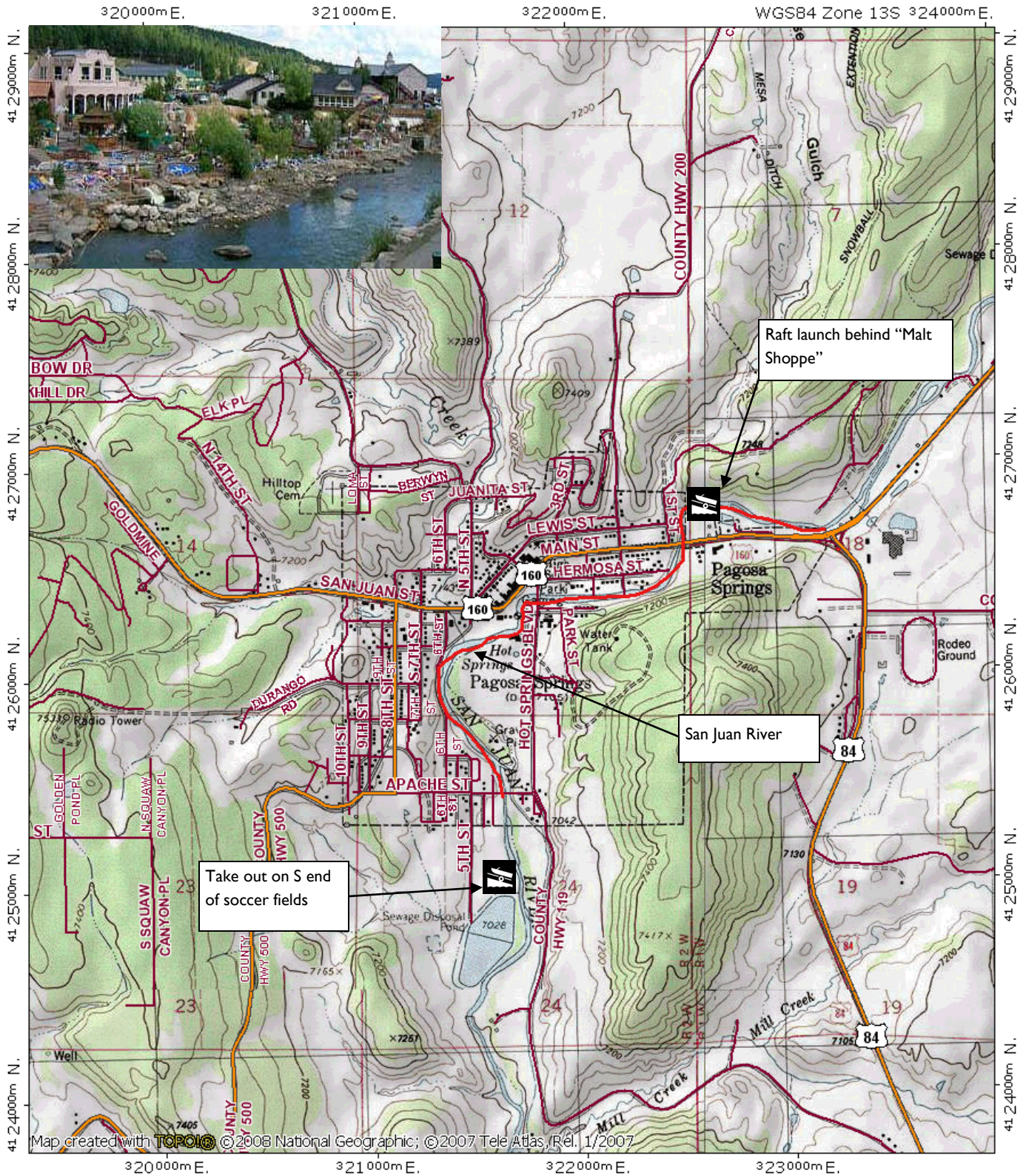
- 95% of fish captured are rainbow trout. Since the Town of Pagosa Springs started it’s quality fishing program it is not uncommon to capture 3-5 lb rainbow in the 20-25 inch range after stocking during the summer months

Brown Trout

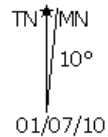
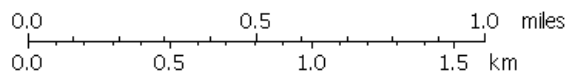
- Brown make up a smaller percentage of the catch but provide a quality angling experience in the fall during the spawning season (October—mid November)

San Juan River in Pagosa Springs

TOPO! map printed on 01/07/10 from "Untitled.tpo"



Map created with TOPO! © 2008 National Geographic; © 2007 Tele Atlas, R.É. 1/2007



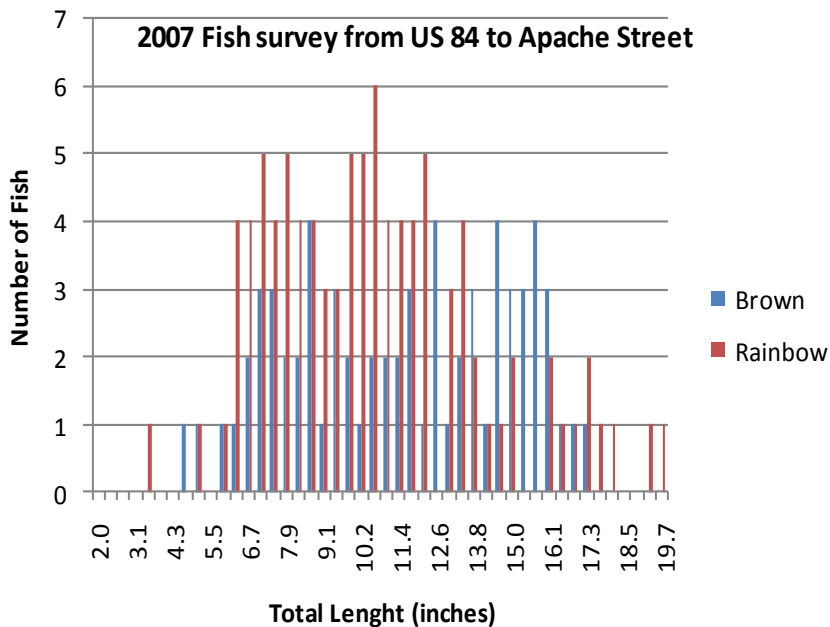
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ANGLER USE AND FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION

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Year	All Trout (number of fish/mi)	Biomass- RBT* (lbs/ac)	Biomass- BRN* (lbs/ac)	Biomass- All Trout (lbs/ac)	BRN>14 in (fish/ac)	RBT>14 in (fish/ac)	All Trout>14in (fish/ac)
2005	693	19	21	40	12	29	41
2007	1134	41	19	60	14	2	16

*RBT = rainbow trout; BRN = brown trout. Fish data obtained by a “mark and recapture” effort using a raft electrofishing boat with a “throwable” anode. Fish surveys typically done the last week of August or first week of September every other year, stream conditions permitting.



- Population Estimates per Mile (2007):

Rainbow trout	875
16 > 14"	
Brown trout	258
130 > 14"	

Management Notes — Fish populations in the San Juan River through Pagosa are primarily sustained through annual stocking of fingerling rainbow and brown trout as well as catchable rainbow trout. The Town of Pagosa Springs has been very proactive in developing a quality fishery through this reach by funding and stocking trophy trout and obtaining grants and constructing instream habitat (i.e., pools and cover boulders). Periodically, the CDOW assesses angler success and attitudes by conducting a “Creel Census”. A creel census was done in 2001 revealing that approximately 2,140 anglers captured a total of 3,770 fish between July 1st and September 30th for a catch rate of 1.57 fish per hour. 95% of the catch were rainbow trout and 79% of those trout were released back into the river.

The San Juan River also supports a robust population of native fish species, particularly bluehead sucker. Native fishes (or non-game fish) must be returned to the water immediately.