



# News Release

Public Affairs Office  
PO Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
505/248-6911  
505/248-6915 (Fax)

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Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas) [www.fws.gov/southwest/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/)

## Free Fishing in the SW for National Fishing and Boating Week

National Fishing and Boating Week is June 4-12, and free fishing derbies have been set up across the nation for your enjoyment! No fishing licenses will be required for these special events. Come and celebrate with friends and family at one of the many free fishing day activities planned in your area. Several of the events being held in the southwest are listed here, but be aware that there may be others. Don't miss out on this fun and free way to celebrate our nation's most precious gift- the great outdoors- with the ones you love.

### Arizona

**Saturday, June 11, Parker Canyon Lake** (near Elgin), 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The free fishing event will be part of the National Get Outdoors Day event held at Parker Canyon Lake, in cooperation with Game and Fish, the USDA Forest Service, and other agencies and conservation groups. The elevation of Parker Canyon Lake is 5,400 feet, so the weather will be several degrees cooler than Tucson. Camping and boat rentals are available for a fee at Parker Canyon Lake; call the store for more information at (520) 455-5847. For further information about the free fishing event, please contact Wildlife Manager Karen Klima at (520) 975-6490.

**Saturday, June 11, Goldwater Lake** (near Prescott), 8 a.m. to noon. The Arizona Game and Fish Department Kingman region and the City of Prescott are planning a day of free fishing for the whole family. Staff will be on hand to assist anglers. Bait will be provided and loaner rods will be available. For more information, please call the Arizona Game and Fish Department Kingman office at (928) 692-7700.

**Saturday, June 11, Garrett Tank** (near Seligman), 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Throughout the day, there will be demonstrations on casting, baiting, cleaning, and cooking catfish. The weather can be variable, so dress in layers. Sunscreen is recommended. Loaner poles and bait will be available for use. For further information, please contact Wildlife Technician Jennifer Cordova at (928) 422-0155.

**Saturday, June 11, Roper Lake** (near Safford), 7 a.m. to noon. This event, done in cooperation with Arizona State Parks, is open to all without any fees or prior registration for the fishing, and there will be rods/reels, bait, and other gear available for participants to use. Park entrance fees still apply. Participants will need to supply any food and drinks they might require. Weather can be warm this time of year, so be sure to bring sun screen and come out and enjoy fishing at one of Arizona's premier state parks. For more information, please contact Wildlife Manager Devin Skinner at (520) 591-7880.

### New Mexico

**June 11, Lake Van** (just east of Dexter). There will be a free fishing day event held at Lake Van. Dexter National Fish Hatchery and Technology Center, will be supplying 500 catfish for the event. Contact the refuge at (575)734-5910.

## **Texas**

**Saturday, June 11, at the Uvalde National Fish Hatchery** (Uvalde). The Hatchery is hosting a Youth Fishing Derby. Previous fishing derby events have had over 300 area residents in attendance. The event will provide youth the opportunity to catch some hatchery raised channel catfish, while enjoying the outdoors. Contact the Hatchery at (830) 278-2419.

Remember that bag limits and other fishing regulations are in full effect and must be observed on free fishing days. Have fun and catch a big one!

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).

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