

# Angler Harvest Program

January 1 – April 30, 2026

Flaming Gorge Reservoir

## **Program Goal**

To help restore balance to the Flaming Gorge Reservoir fishery by catching and harvesting Lake Trout <25 inches.

## **Conservation Message**

Lake Trout are an important part of the Flaming Gorge fishery, though they have been reclassified as a nongame species for management purposes. Currently, there are too many Lake Trout under 25 inches in length and this overabundance is placing unsustainable predation pressure on other sport fish species. Harvesting smaller Lake Trout helps restore balance within the fishery, supporting healthier populations of trout, Kokanee Salmon, and trophy-sized Lake Trout. While Lake Trout are now listed as a nongame species, this was only done as a management tool. They remain excellent table fare and anglers are encouraged to keep the fish they catch. For more information on efforts to restore balance in the Flaming Gorge fishery, including tips on finding and catching smaller Lake Trout, preparation ideas, and recipes, please visit the [Flaming Gorge Reservoir Management](#) page.

## **Award Categories – by Individual**

- Most Lake Trout
  - Anglers who place in the top five of most fish earn a portion of the prize money.
    - First place - \$1,500
    - Second place - \$1,000
    - Third place - \$500
    - Fourth place - \$300
    - Fifth place - \$200
- Tagged Lake Trout
  - The first ten tagged Lake Trout entries receive a \$125 cash award.
  - To enter a tagged fish, participants must present the whole fish to a Game and Fish or Division of Wildlife employee so the tag number and fish can be verified. The date and location of capture must also be provided.
- Random Draw – 35 winners
  - There will be 35 - \$150 cash awards drawn randomly at the conclusion of the program.
  - Each valid Lake Trout head submitted will count towards an entry into the random draw. As an example, entering 42 heads will equal 42 entries into the random draw.
- All payout places and amounts are subject to increase with increased monetary contributions.

## **Program Rules**

1. This program is restricted to Lake Trout <25 inches from Flaming Gorge Reservoir. Lake Trout <25 inches from both the Wyoming and Utah side of the reservoir are eligible for submission.
2. The angler harvest program will begin January 1, 2026 and end at midnight on April 30, 2026.
3. Fish and associated online surveys must be submitted by midnight on April 30, 2026. Any bags and surveys submitted after the aforementioned date and time shall be disqualified.
4. Anglers may submit heads in receptacles as often as they would like during the program. There is no limit on the number of times an angler can submit heads.
5. All Lake Trout submitted shall be less than 25 inches in length. Heads submitted larger than 5.5 inches will be disqualified. Head length is measured snout to the end of the gill plate.

6. Only heads of Lake Trout will count towards entries. Submission of whole or partial Lake Trout will result in disqualification of those fish.
7. Submissions are by individual, no team entries. Team submissions will be disqualified.
8. Head depositories (freezers) will be located at the Buckboard Marina store, Lucerne Valley Marina fish cleaning station, the Flaming Gorge Resort, and behind the Game and Fish office in Green River. All depository locations are available for entries 24hrs a day from January 1 – April 30, 2026.
9. Forms must be completely filled out for submissions to count. Digital submission forms are available via QR codes at depository locations and can be filled out from your phone's internet browser. You can also find the forms online at <https://www.flaminggorgecountry.com/lake-trout-harvest-program/>. Paper forms will be available at the WGFD Regional Office in Green River.
10. Recipients of awards will be contacted by May 31, 2026.
11. Program organizers assume no liability for anglers participating in this event. It is highly recommended that all participants wear life vests while on the water or ice.
12. A USFS Recreation Use Pass may be required for anglers using certain areas in the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area. It is the participant's responsibility to be aware of those locations.
13. If fishing in Wyoming and using an ATV, a Wyoming Off-road Vehicle Permit is required. It is your responsibility to make sure you are complying with all local, state and federal regulations.
14. All participants must observe all US Coast Guard, WGFD, USFS, and Sweetwater County rules and regulations concerning sport fishing and safe boating on Flaming Gorge Reservoir. This includes WGFD Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) regulations.
15. Violation of regulations: All participants must have a valid fishing license and abide by all WGFD regulations concerning fishing, AIS and boating. If participants are cited with a violation, they are disqualified from the program.
16. Wyoming AIS inspection requirements:
  - Any watercraft that has been in a water infested with zebra/quagga mussels within the last 30 days is required to undergo a mandatory inspection by an authorized inspector prior to launching during ALL months of the year. Any watercraft transported into Wyoming from March 1 through November 30 must undergo a mandatory inspection by an authorized inspector prior to launching.
  - A list of suspect and positive waters can be found at the following website:  
<https://wgfd.wyo.gov/fishing-boating/aquatic-invasive-species-prevention>
  - All watercraft must have a Wyoming AIS decal before boating on any waters of the state. Decals are available online, at WGFD regional offices and at licensed vendors.
17. Utah AIS requirements:
  - If boating in Utah, all boat operators must complete the "Full Year Certification" provided at <https://stdofthesea.utah.gov/> and subsequently purchase and display the current year Utah AIS decal. Decals are available online and at UDWR regional offices.
  - Any watercraft that has been used out-of-state or in a zebra/quagga mussel contaminated water must wait the required dry times (30 days in winter; 18 days in spring), or receive a professional decontamination before launching
  - The completed Full Year certificate is required to be on your person while boating in Utah. The completed certificate can be digital or hard copy.