



Pecos River Ranch Trip Report



Picture a high desert valley, with a beautiful, wild stream clearing from runoff, a private river of seven miles, a stream filled with large rainbow trout up to 26 inches and you have found the Pecos River Ranch in northern New Mexico. In the four days of fishing I caught somewhere between 80 to 100 trout with the great majority of the fish over 15 inches and trending towards and over 20 inches.

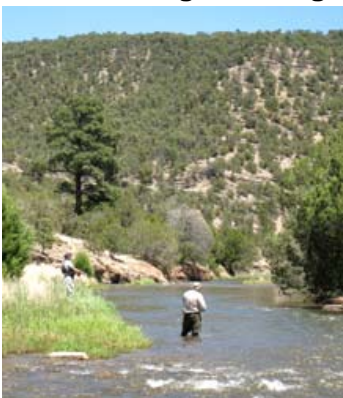
The days were near perfect with the temperature ranging between 70 to 75 degrees. The trip was also superb because our guide was one of the consummate fly fishing instructors and a person you enjoy being around.

The days of fantastic fly fishing in the United States are not over – it is just harder to find.

My fishing partner and I were mesmerized by the river and the ranch, are antsy to return and are planning another trip to the Pecos in the fall. Speaking of the ranch, it is a tremendous facility that is owned by the actor, Val Kilmer. Pam Sawyer, the General Manager, is an old pro who knows how to take care of guests.



Another delight during our stay at Pecos Ranch was the birth of a foal and the birth of a baby buffalo.



Fishing in the evening without a guide is encouraged and a number of large fish were caught in the evening hours within view of the lodge.

The Pecos is an interesting fishing river as the water moves quickly and the riffles are deep and full of fish and even the pools are fast moving waters.

I was fishing a set of riffles and had picked up four trout and was ready to move on when the guide said keep fishing this stretch and I picked up six more trout. I have fished numerous streams where small trout were the preponderance of fish caught. I don't remember catching five small trout.

I caught 26 inch and 24 inch rainbows whose acrobatics were frequent and a wondrous show. I caught an unbelievable number of fish above 15 inches and a few small browns.

It didn't make a difference whether we were using dries, nymphs or streamers, the Pecos River is a startling reminder of what trout fishing must have been like 50 to 100 years ago when our fathers and grandfathers fished.

By Russell Schreck (at right with fishing friend, Mayln Malquist, with a Pecos double header)

