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Fly-Fishing Nirvana – 5 Traits of an Ideal Fishing Property

GUNNISON-CRESTED BUTTE, Colo. — Not all fishing properties are created equal. When shopping for a slice of fly-fishing paradise, there are several qualities to consider.

Wilder on the Taylor's master fishing guides have offered several suggestions based on decades of guiding experience in the Rocky Mountains. With more than 2,100 acres located along a two-mile private stretch of the Taylor River in the mountains, Wilder on the Taylor offers ownership in a ranch community that dates back to 1893 and is ideally situated in the between Gunnison and Crested Butte, Colorado.

Tailwater advantages

For the serious fly fisherman, it's all about the water, fish, insects, weather, knowledge and equipment. Low moisture years can be devastating as warm temperatures and low river flows create stress for the trout, resulting in high mortality rates and fewer aquatic insects they feed on such as mayflies, caddis flies and stoneflies. Trout are happiest in water temperatures between 45 ° and 60° F.

When freestone rivers across the West are occasionally closed down during peak summer months due to low water, tailwater fisheries such as the Taylor River in Colorado's Gunnison-Crested Butte Valley can be a saving grace. Regulated flows assure that a cold, well-oxygenated 45° F water is being released from the bottom of the Taylor Reservoir.

With a 2-mile private stretch of the Taylor River running through Wilder's 2,100+ acres, hatches are consistently strong and fish fat and healthy throughout the summer and fall. Owners and guests are able to fish uninterrupted throughout the season.

A wide range of options on-site and nearby

Not everyone is ready to wade in a flowing river, while others are looking for waterways that test their skills. Examine the on-property and nearby options available to beginner, intermediate and experienced fishermen.

At Wilder on the Taylor, six fishing ponds are sprinkled around the historic ranch property for people who want to learn or share fly-fishing techniques with family and friends. Rarick Creek casually meanders through picturesque meadowlands to provide sublime experiences when the river is running high from snowmelt in spring and early summer and for people who are learning and growing into their fly rods and waders. The base camp lawn located at center of the property, all 15 of the Taylor River homesteads, and various entry points around the ranch provide direct access to one of Colorado's best-known fishing waters.

“Matt Weaver of Five Rivers in Bozeman, Montana helped construct Rarick Creek with all materials found on-site. We also carefully repurposed rock from the ranch in the careful construction of roads,” notes Ron Welborn, development partner at Wilder on the Taylor.

Nearby are several stretches of the Taylor River that are open to the public as well as the East, Slate and Gunnison rivers, Cement Creek, Taylor Reservoir, Blue Mesa Reservoir, Roaring Judy Fish Hatchery and several other mountain lakes and creeks.

Access to fishing knowledge

No matter the experienced level, the availability of an on-site fishing guide is priceless. Wilder on the Taylor’s master fishing guides bring years of experience to the role and post regular fishing [reports](#) available to anyone.

Stewardship of natural resources

Since 1893, Wilder on the Taylor has been owned and managed by families that have made it one of the most iconic and well cared for properties in Colorado. Don and Shelly Sabrowski have served as ranch managers since 1995 and work closely with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and master fishing guides are charged with watching over the health of the waterways and fish.

The Taylor River is already an incredible wild fishery, so stocking is unnecessary. “Most fly fishermen appreciate the challenge of fishing for wild fish and with more than 6,000 trout per mile of river. Wilder has one of the finest fisheries in the western United States,” Welborn says. “We do stock Rarick Creek which runs through the property, and our six ponds as they provide a great learning experience for kids and adults who have little or no fly-fishing background.”

Wilder also is involved in several philanthropic causes such as hosting wounded soldiers and military veterans through the Fort Carson chapter of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing nearly every year and welcoming other wounded warrior groups and providing fund-raising auction packages for the Adaptive Sports Center in Crested Butte.

Swapping stories and insights

What’s the point of fishing if you don’t have a chance to share photos, stories, information and experiences? Wilder on the Taylor’s base camp is where fishermen connect with Warner and other guides hired from local outfitters and where he keeps fishing equipment current and in top-notch shape.

The Founder’s Porch and spacious lawn are the perfect places to relax, enjoy a beverage and check the fishing board for conditions, tips for flies to use, and more. Concierge/Chef Elena Marquez is available to prepare lunch during a busy fishing day or dinner after a morning and afternoon on the water. Plus, there are miles of on-property and nearby trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding to mix up activity options.

To find out more about Wilder on the Taylor and [Crested Butte land for sale](#), visit www.WilderColorado.com.

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[Wilder on the Taylor](#) is an angling paradise and a recreational and preservation-oriented ranch community located on more than 2,100 acres. The historic cattle and hay ranch is conveniently situated on County Highway 742 between Gunnison and Crested Butte and surrounded by the Colorado Rocky Mountains. Each homestead is a minimum of 35 acres and has access to miles of private fishing water and trails, master guides, concierge services and a base camp for dining, relaxing and socializing. Wilder is dedicated to preserving, protecting and perpetuating the traditions of western Colorado. For additional information, follow [@WilderColorado](#) on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).