

## There are essentially three major watersheds in the area

The Crowsnest, the Oldman, and the Castle. All three combine to form the Oldman River Basin, and Reservoir, a short 20 min drive east of the Crowsnest Pass.

**The Crowsnest** is primarily the Crowsnest River, although it includes several small streams like Star and Gold Creek. Fed from Crowsnest Lake, this Blue Ribbon River is abundant in smart Rainbows, and sections remain open year round to anglers.

**The Oldman** includes Racehorse creek, Dutch creek, the Oldman River and Livingstone River. This watershed is accompanied by many small creeks such as Daisy, Oyster and Pasque creek.

**The Castle** basin is composed of West and South Castle Rivers, Carbondale River as well as Lynx and Lost Creek.

**Carbondale River:** Located south of town, it lies in the burn area from the Lost Creek Fire of 2003. Sections remain untouched, while in other areas, standing black trees still exist. Access to this river is moderate, with some steeper slopes and dead-fall. The river contains some of the larger Cutthroat and Rainbows in the area, Bulltrout are also present. Large numbers of Cutt-Bow presented themselves in the last few years.

**Castle River:** Located south of town, the headwaters are South and West Castle Rivers. A popular campsite is located near the confluence. Upper sections have moderate access, sections near the campgrounds are easier, but fishing is not as productive. Cutthroat and Bulls are typically found, with some Rainbow, and Cutt-bows. Most fish average 18-20 inches, Bulls are commonly found at 20+ inches. Currently holds the provincial record for Cutthroat trout at 9.56 lbs. Caught in 1988 by a local resident.

**Crowsnest River:** Running directly through the five towns of the Crowsnest Pass makes this an excellent river stop, even if only for a few moments. The upper section is filled with small rainbows up to 20 inches. Further down Browns and Bulls can be found. Matching the hatch on this river is essential as its easy access points allow pressure in peak season.

**Dutch Creek:** A smaller creek which feeds into the Oldman River, early season or high water provides excellent fishing. It contains Cutthroat, Bulls and the occasional Cutt-Bow. Access is fairly easy at lower sections, Upper sections moderate due to bank growth thickness.

**Livingstone River:** A primary contributor of the Oldman River, the Livingstone River has been strictly catch and release for a number of years now. Located north of town, this river contains some of the best fishing in the area. Access is somewhat difficult due to steep banks, and some sections in canyons. It contains many Cutthroats around the 20 inch mark and Bulltrout are in abundance.

**Lost Creek:** A primary water source of the upper Carbondale, it is most often fished at the confluence. A narrow winding creek encased in thick trees (some green, some burnt) makes this creek a challenge to fish. It contains many smaller Cutthroat and Rainbows, around the 12 inch mark, but Bulltrout are known to be found hiding up to 20 inches.

**Lynx Creek:** The largest creek to enter the Carbondale River, Lynx Creek is teaming with smaller cutthroat, up to 15 inches. It's easily accessed at many points and areas the fire had scorched reveals many otherwise hidden holes. The sections the fire missed will test your ability to cast in tighter spaces.

**Oldman River**: One of the largest rivers in the area, it is no surprise this river also contains some of the larger fish. All types of stream trout are found here in their specific sections. Cutthroats and Rainbows up to 25 inches have been found, Bulls near the 30 inch mark. Access varies from easy to difficult depending on specific sites. The area known as “The Gap” provides a beautiful view of the river flowing between two mountains, fairly easy access and average success.

**Racehorse Creek**: A larger creek on the north side of town, Racehorse Creek is known for its larger Cutthroats (especially in early spring) as they come up from the Oldman. By fall, pools of trout are still found, but the creek typically drops significantly in size. Expect to find Cutthroat around the 20 inch mark, becoming smaller towards fall. Accessing this hot spot is generally easy, although sections up stream do have some obstacles.