



South Platte River At Cheesman Canyon

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Tyler Swarr - Aquatic Biologist (Upper South Platte Basin)

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General Information: Cheesman Canyon provides quality fishing for Rainbow Trout, cutbows, and Brown Trout. Famous for its size of trout, scenic canyon, and proximity to Denver and Colorado Springs.

Location: Jefferson and Douglas County line. Five miles southwest of Deckers, CO.

Size: Approximately 3 miles in length

Recreational Management: United States Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling for trout species

USFS South Platte Ranger District Website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/psicc/about-forest/districts/?cid=fseprd565545>

Purchase a Fishing License: <https://www.cpwshop.com/purchaseprivilege.page>

Amenities and General Info.

- Parking lots/access points (2)
- Hiking trail: Hiking is the only way to access Cheesman Canyon. You can access the Gill trail from the USFS parking lot 4 miles southwest of Deckers off of CTY HWY 126, or from Cheesman Reservoir Road 211. Both ways into Cheesman Canyon require climbing and descending steep terrain.
- Outhouses at parking lots
- Informational kiosks

Regulations

- From Cheesman Reservoir Dam downstream to the upper Wigwam Club property line:

Fishing by artificial flies and lures only. All trout must be returned to the water immediately upon catch.

Previous Stocking

- None in recent history. Both Brown Trout and Rainbow Trout naturally reproduce in this section of the South Platte River.

Sportfishing Notes

The upper section of Cheesman Canyon was not affected by sediment from the Hayman or Schoonover fires. Three quarters of a mile downstream of Cheesman Dam is Schoonover Gulch. During heavy summer rain events, this gulch can add a significant amount of sediment to the South Platte River from the fires, making fishing and wading difficult.

Summer

- Fishing is best during periods of stable water releases out of Cheesman Reservoir. With water releases coming from the middle and bottom of the water column, trout remain active during hot summer months.

Winter

- This tailwater fishery remains ice free most of the winter, although the Gill trail can be icy in areas. Target fish in deep runs or pools during this time of year.



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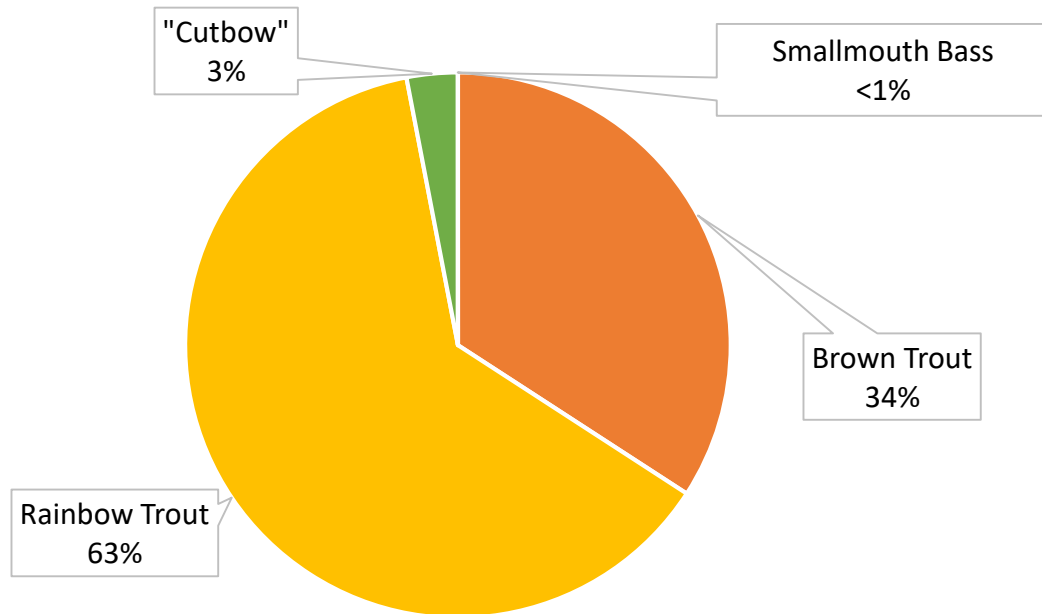
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Upper Cheesman Canyon Survey Information

2019 Annual Survey Species Composition



Upper Cheesman Canyon Electrofishing Data For All Trout

| Year | #/Mile | Biomass (lbs per acre) | Density (# per acre) | # > 14" |
|------|--------|------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| 2004 | 3915 | 891 | 587 | 155 |
| 2005 | 3260 | 786 | 487 | 138 |
| 2006 | 3053 | 585 | 456 | 110 |
| 2008 | 3831 | 586 | 572 | 96 |
| 2009 | 3874 | 600 | 579 | 102 |
| 2010 | 4646 | 710 | 694 | 133 |
| 2012 | 5161 | 823 | 771 | 156 |
| 2013 | 5425 | 1007 | 810 | 202 |
| 2015 | 2684 | 479 | 401 | 81 |
| 2016 | 4555 | 859 | 681 | 152 |
| 2018 | 4985 | 904 | 748 | 159 |
| 2019 | 3132 | 749 | 749 | 90 |



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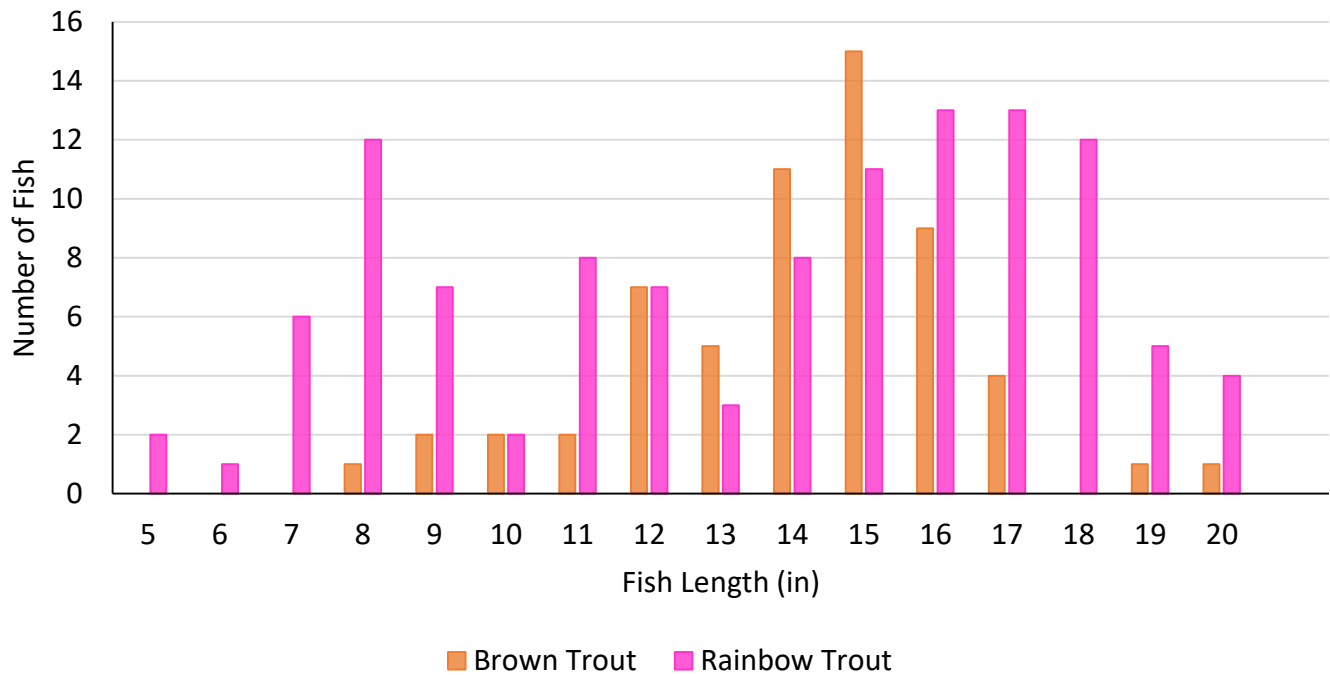
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Upper Cheesman Canyon Survey Information

2019 Annual Survey Length Frequency Histogram



The length frequency histogram for the number of trout captured during the 2019 annual electrofishing survey. The number of fish captured is shown for fish greater than 5 inches in length. Each bar represents fish captured in one inch increments.





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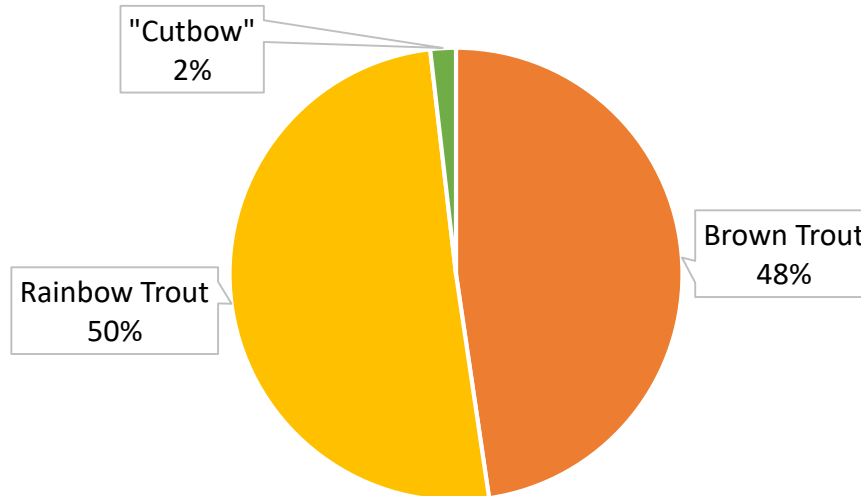
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Lower Cheesman Canyon Survey Information

2019 Annual Survey Species Composition



Lower Cheesman Canyon Electrofishing Data For All Trout

| Year | #/Mile | Biomass (lbs per acre) | Density (# per acre) | # > 14" |
|------|--------|------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| 1994 | 3413 | 339 | 381 | 178 |
| 1996 | 2968 | 314 | 334 | 161 |
| 1997 | 3624 | 366 | 404 | 209 |
| 1998 | 5240 | 678 | 584 | 170 |
| 1999 | 6871 | 797 | 766 | 240 |
| 2000 | 4431 | 504 | 494 | 206 |
| 2001 | 3705 | 417 | 413 | 162 |
| 2002 | 4357 | 463 | 486 | 177 |
| 2003 | 3541 | 537 | 501 | 183 |
| 2004 | 3758 | 551 | 477 | 201 |
| 2005 | 4530 | 574 | 579 | 190 |
| 2006 | 3873 | 406 | 494 | 124 |
| 2008 | 4040 | 358 | 516 | 83 |
| 2009 | 3732 | 389 | 477 | 81 |
| 2010 | 3644 | 373 | 466 | 111 |
| 2012 | 4028 | 414 | 515 | 129 |
| 2013 | 3978 | 580 | 508 | 196 |
| 2015 | 4744 | 491 | 606 | 142 |
| 2016 | 5102 | 743 | 652 | 248 |
| 2018 | 5533 | 828 | 706 | 274 |
| 2019 | 4364 | 695 | 915 | 239 |



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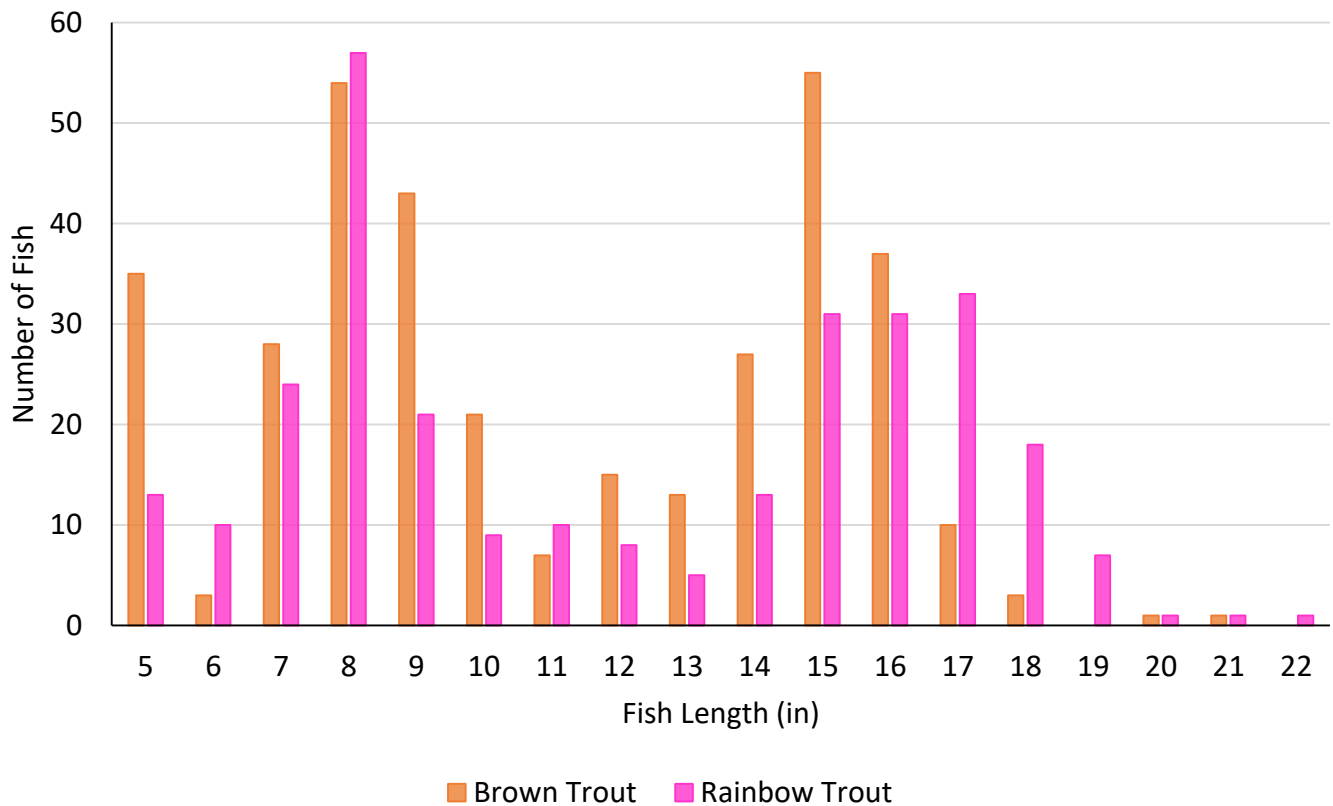
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