



# Taylor River below Taylor Park Reservoir

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

**Dan Brauch - Aquatic Biologist (Gunnison)**

**dan.brauch@state.co.us / 970-641-7070**

**Updated February 2023**

**General Information:** The Taylor River provides excellent trout fishing opportunity for brown, rainbow and cutthroat trout on this 20 mile reach. Public access is excellent for bank fishing and available for boat fishing downstream of Five Mile access site (although most boating use is by whitewater boaters). This section of the Taylor River was listed as a Gold Medal water in January 2023.

**Location:** Gunnison county. Taylor Park Reservoir to Almont, north-east of Gunnison.

**Recreational Management:** Colorado Division of Wildlife, Forest Service

**Fishery Management:** Coldwater angling

**Purchase a Fishing License:** <https://cpw.state.co.us/buyapply/pages/fishing.aspx>

### Amenities

- Eleven miles of public access for shore or wade angling at seven river sections.
- Three public boating access points, but most boating use is primarily by whitewater boaters. Upper sections of the Taylor River should be floated by experienced whitewater enthusiasts only.
- Seasonal restrooms available at Taylor Dam Tailwater and several USFS campgrounds and access points.
- Guided wade or float fishing available from several local guide services.
- Find additional local fishing info and a list of fishing guides at:  
<https://gunnisoncrestedbutte.com/visit/trip-planning/things-to-do/fishing/>

### Regulations

#### **Special Regulations Section: Taylor River Tailwater**

Artificial Flies and Lures Only  
All trout must be returned to the water immediately

#### **Standard Regulations Section: Lottis Creek Campground to Almont**

Trout bag and possession is 4 fish

#### Previous Stocking

##### **2019**

7,500 fingerling whirling disease resistant rainbow trout/ Snake River cutthroat hybrids

##### **2018**

3,000 fingerling whirling disease resistant rainbow trout

3,300 fingerling whirling disease resistant rainbow trout / Snake River cutthroat hybrids

##### **2017**

5,200 fingerling whirling disease resistant rainbow trout / Snake River cutthroat hybrids

Natural reproduction of rainbow trout currently sustain fishery

### Sportfishing Notes

#### **Brown Trout**

65 to 85 % of angler catch, with higher catch in middle and lower sections.

Spawn in mid October through November

#### **Rainbow Trout**

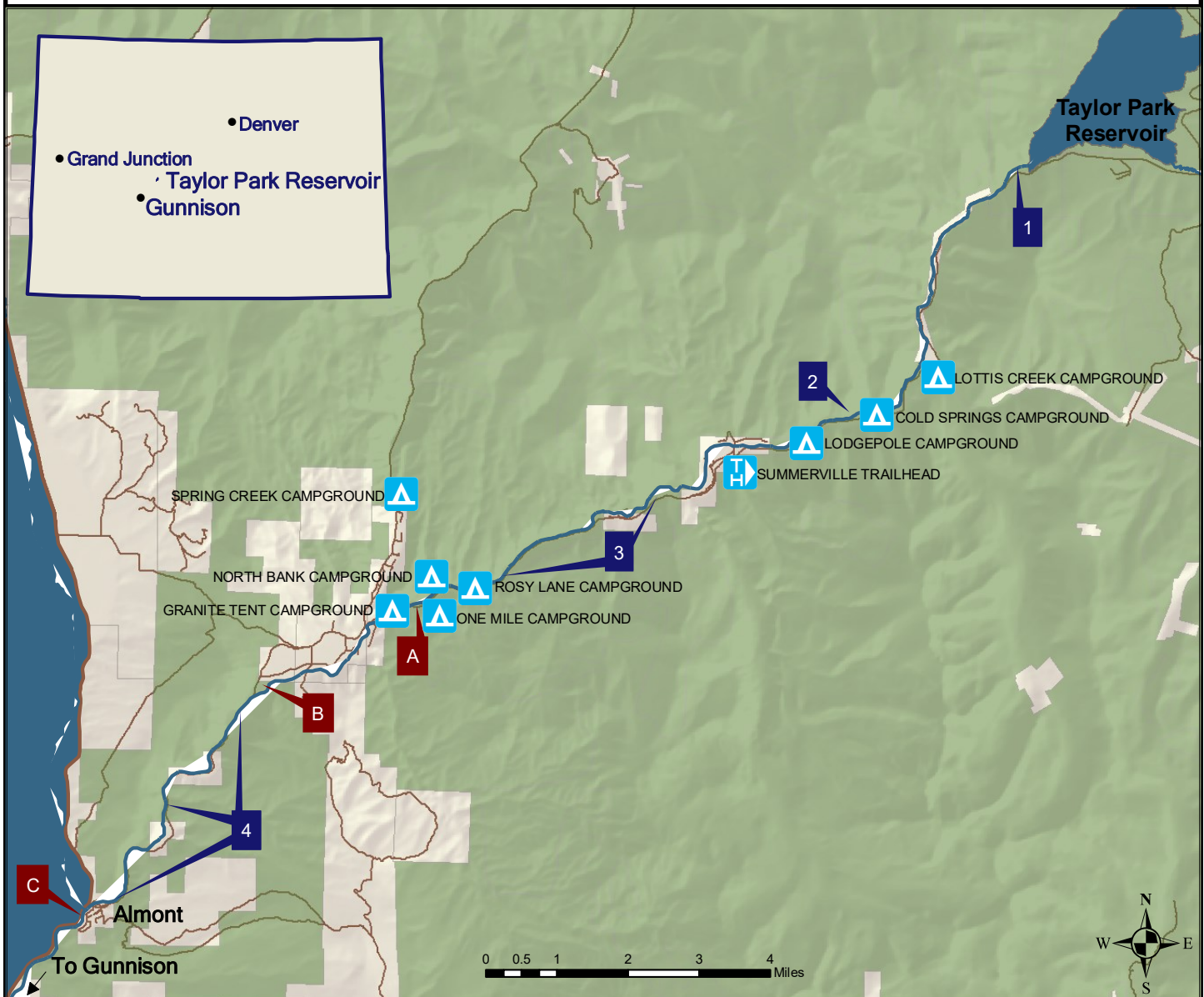
15 to 35 % of angler catch, with higher catch near Taylor Dam Tailwater

Spawn in mid April through mid May

- Due to the small public access at Taylor Dam and the extremely large fish found there, this reach can become very crowded—look downstream for some great fishing with big fish and few crowds.
- Releases from Taylor Dam result in year-round fishing opportunities.
- Wading becomes much more difficult, especially in areas closer to Taylor Dam, when flows are higher than 250 cfs.
- Look for fly pattern and hatch advice on numerous local fishing web sites.

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## MAP AND ACCESS INFORMATION



### Bank or Wading Access

- 1—Taylor Dam Tailwater, .5 miles
- 2—Lodgepole Campground to Lottis Creek Campground, 2.8 miles
- 3—Granite, North Bank, One Mile and Rosy Lane Campgrounds, 4.8 miles in two sections
- 4—Almont to Five Mile Access, 3.1 miles in three sections

### Boating Access

- A—South Bank Access—generally used by experienced whitewater boaters and kayakers only, not passable downstream without private land-owner permission.
- B—Five Mile Access—Class II to Almont, used primarily by whitewater boaters.
- C—Almont Access (just downstream of confluence of East and Taylor Rivers)

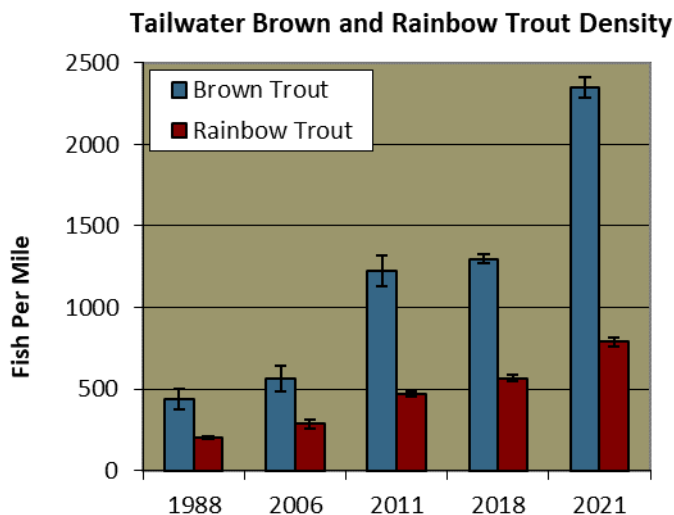
# Taylor River at Taylor Dam Tailwater (aka Hog Trough)

(Special fishing regulation section, flies and lures, catch and release only)

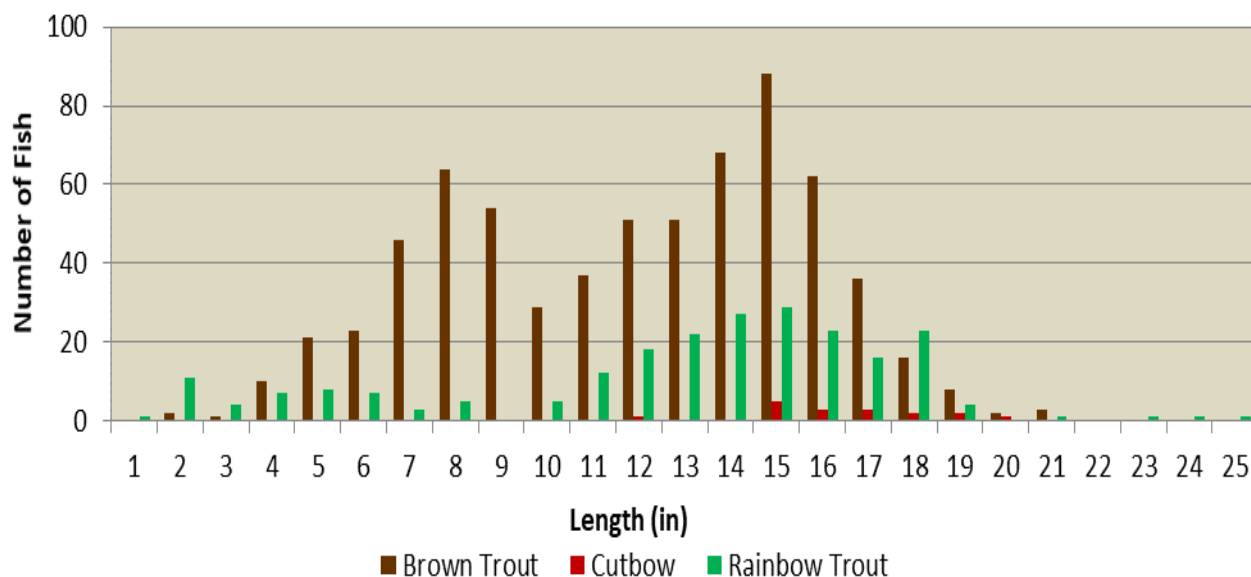
## FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION



**Figure 1.** Taylor Dam Tailwater reach of the Taylor River sampled in October, 2021. This station was sampled with the use of barge electrofishing gear.



**Figure 2.** Density estimates for the Tailwater reach, 1988-2021. The 2021 density estimate for trout was 2,351 fish per mile for brown trout and 789 fish per mile for rainbows.



**Figure 3.** Trout length-frequency for the Taylor River Tailwater sampling location 2021. Biomass estimates totaled 309 lbs. per acre for brown trout and 150 lbs. per acre for rainbow trout.



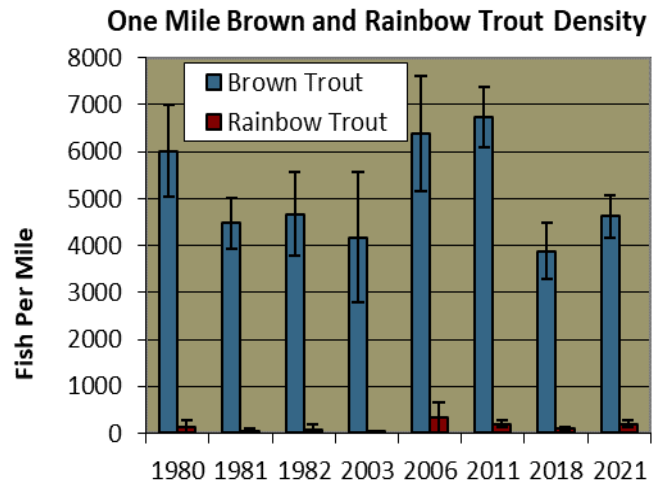
# Taylor River at One Mile Campground

## (Standard fishing regulation section)

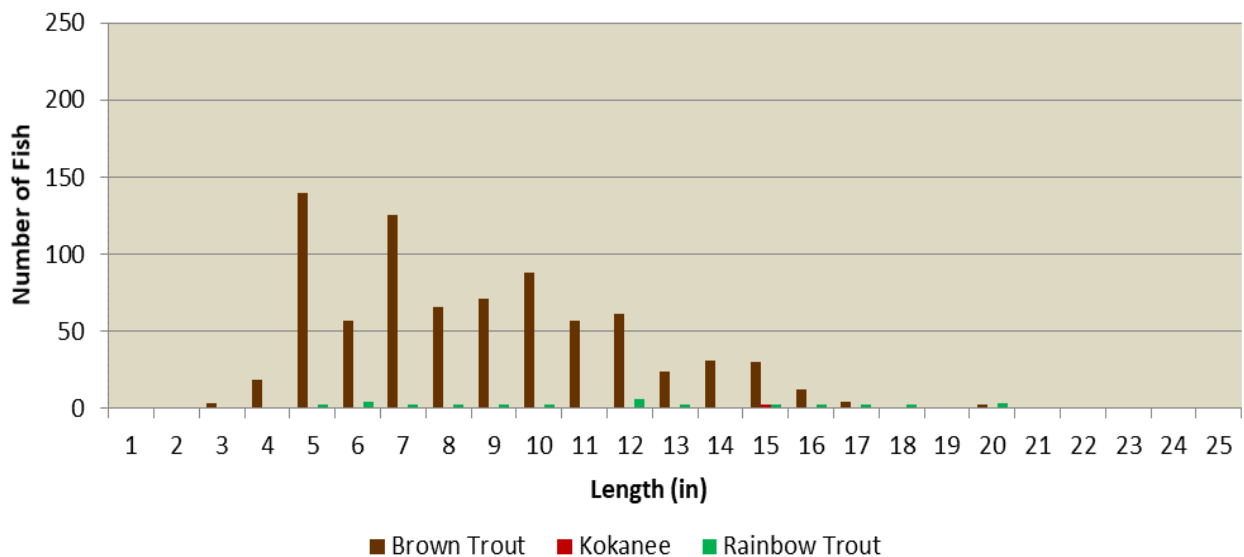
### FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION



**Figure 4.** One Mile reach of the Taylor River sampled in October, 2021. This 1,000 foot station was sampled with the use of barge electrofishing gear.



**Figure 5.** Density estimates for One Mile reach, 1980-2021. The 2021 density estimate for trout was 4,616 fish per mile for browns and 192 fish per mile for rainbows.



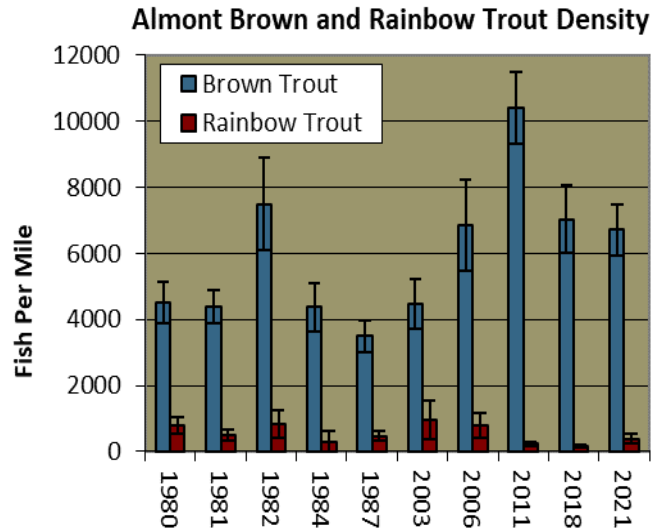
**Figure 6.** Brown and rainbow trout length-frequency for the Taylor River One Mile reach, 2021. Bio-mass estimates totaled 188 lbs. per acre for brown trout and 19 lbs. per acre for rainbow trout.

# Taylor River at Almont (Standard fishing regulation section)

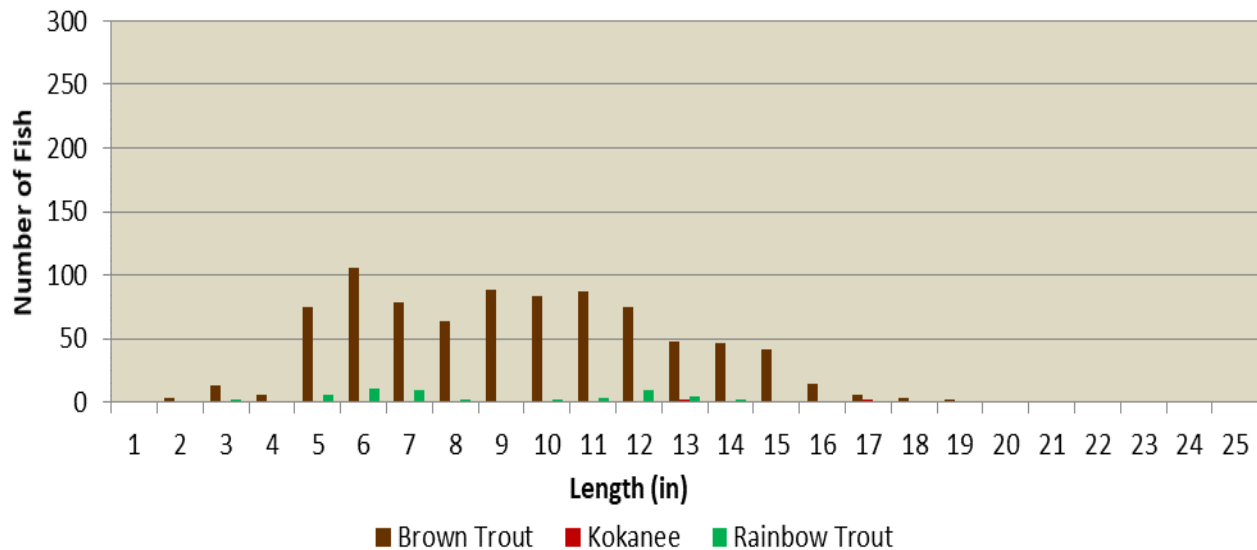
## FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION



**Figure 7.** Almont reach of the Taylor River sampled in October, 2021. This 1,000 foot station was sampled with the use of barge electrofishing gear.



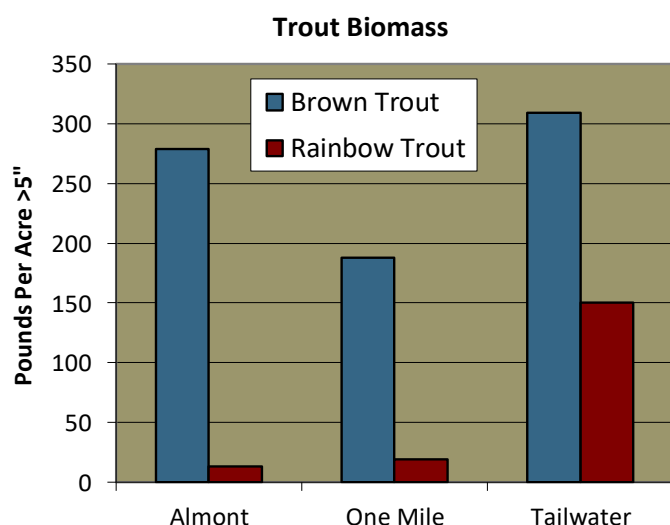
**Figure 8.** Density estimates for the Almont reach, 1980-2021. The 2021 density estimate for trout was 6,715 fish per mile for browns and 389 fish per mile for rainbows.



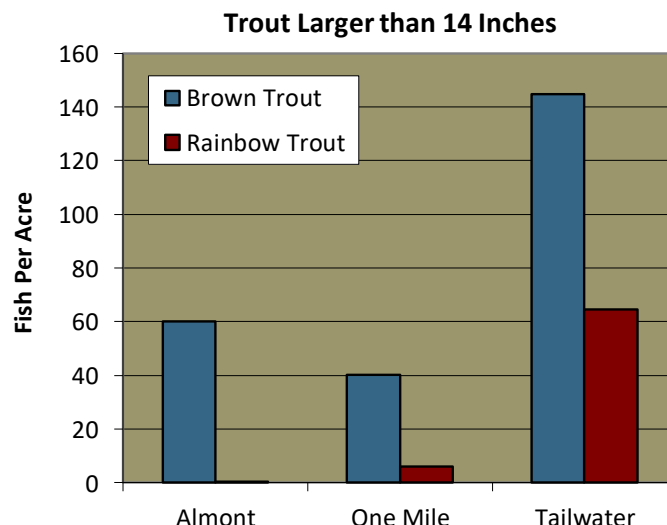
**Figure 9.** Brown and rainbow trout length-frequency for the Taylor River Almont reach, 2021. Biomass estimates totaled 279 lbs. per acre for brown trout and 13 lbs. per acre for rainbow trout.

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## FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION



**Figure 10.** Biomass estimates for brown and rainbow trout one year old and older from three reaches of the Taylor River 2021.



**Figure 11.** Density estimates for quality sized brown and rainbow trout from three reaches of the Taylor River 2021.

### Management Notes

The Taylor River downstream of Taylor Park Dam provides great opportunities for trout fishing on this tailwater stream. The first half mile of public access below Taylor Park Dam receives the most attention from anglers due primarily to the influx of a high energy food source from Taylor Park Reservoir. *Mysis relicta* were introduced into Taylor Park Reservoir in 1973 and were documented to be a reproducing population in 1981. Since that time, entrainment of significant numbers of mysis into the Taylor River has resulted in elevated growth and condition of fish in the lower Taylor River. Due to the level of angling use, these trout are also very educated and difficult to catch. Lower reaches of the Taylor River provide excellent opportunities for quality sized brown and rainbow trout with numbers of large rainbow trout declining as you move downstream.

The Taylor River fishery has benefited greatly from water management coordination to benefit the Taylor and Gunnison River fisheries and to provide flows for other purposes (primarily thorough an exchange agreement which allows for Taylor Reservoir stored water to be delivered from Blue Mesa Reservoir). This coordinated effort to improve beneficial water use has resulted in two major benefits to the fishery: improved natural reproduction and survival of brown trout due to stabilization of winter flow releases since 1990 and improved summer flows which result in improved growth of both brown trout and rainbow trout. These changes, coupled with the introduction of mysis as a food source at the Taylor Dam Tailwater, have resulted in expanded numbers of quality sized trout throughout the lower Taylor River. The Taylor River downstream of Taylor Park Reservoir was designated a Gold Medal water in January, 2023, reflecting that the lower Taylor River exceeds Gold Medal standards for biomass and quality trout density (Gold Medal standards are 60 pounds of trout and 12 trout over 14 inches in length per acre).

Most angling use on the Taylor River below Taylor Park Reservoir is by shore and bank angling, but float fishing of the lower portions of the lower Taylor River is also an option for anglers. Anglers often head to the tailwater section of the Taylor River due to it's renowned quality trout fishery, but lower sections of the Taylor River also provide great quality trout fishing opportunities with significantly less crowding.