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## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Release date:** June 4, 2009

**Contact:** Craig Robinson 879-4300

**Who:** City of Steamboat Springs Parks, Open Space and Recreational Services

**What:** Respect the Yampa Campaign

**When:** Summer 2009

**Where:** Yampa River

### **City Urges Community to Respect the Yampa**

The City of Steamboat Springs, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Yampa Valley Fly Fishers, Friends of the Yampa and other advocates for the Yampa River are requesting that all user groups RESPECT THE YAMPA. This campaign is a continued effort to educate the public of the goals and visions adopted in the 2004 Yampa River Management Plan (YRMP).

The YRMP identified uses that were appropriate for specific stretches of the Yampa River. In particular, it stated that private tubing should be discouraged upstream of Fetcher Park (located off of Pine Grove Road next to Alpine Lumber). No tubing access should occur at River Creek Park (located at Walton Creek Road) or Rotary Park (located at Mt. Werner Road). These City owned lands on the upper stretch of the Yampa have been identified as having high quality wildlife and aquatic habitat and are sensitive to human disturbance. Less intense use was identified for this area with primary activities of education, wildlife viewing, fishing and paddling (rafts, kayaks and canoes). Having respect for the wildlife, the fishery and other users of the Yampa is requested and all private tubers should put in at or downstream of Fetcher Park. Parking is limited at Fetcher Park, but ample parking exists at Howelsen Park (Howelsen Hill, ice arena, rodeo grounds, and ball fields) for the put in and at Stockbridge Multi Modal Center/Community Center for the take out.

Additionally, the YRMP identified some basic Rules and Etiquette to be employed while enjoying appropriate uses on the Yampa River. The goal of the rules is to Respect The Yampa by not trashing the river with loose items (flip flops, water bottles, cans, etc) and to Respect other users by allowing them to enjoy the river too. Other rules include: No Alcohol, No Glass, No Coolers, No Dogs. It is requested that you enjoy tubing safely and responsibly, following these basic Rules and Etiquette.

As part of the Campaign, volunteer groups have organized to conduct river cleanups, count and survey river users, educate all river users and minimize conflicts between private tubers and anglers. For those interested in volunteering for any of these activities or would like information about the Yampa River Management Plan, please contact Craig Robinson, City of Steamboat Springs (879-4300).

For more information on the Respect the Yampa Campaign, please call Backdoor Sports (879-6249).

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