



## **Water Partnership Boosts Flows In Yampa River**

*Series of Water Releases Maintains Biological Integrity of Tributary*

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-July 23, 2021**-Every drop of water makes a difference in the Yampa Valley as summer continues to provide a hot hold on the region and water flows dwindle, water temperatures remain high and dissolved oxygen levels become scarcer in waterways.

With flows in the Yampa dipping below 60 cfs and temperatures approaching 80° F, the City of Steamboat Springs and the Colorado Water Trust (CWT) are, once again, partnering to initiate releases from Stagecoach Reservoir to improve flows and temperatures in the Yampa River.

“This marks the eighth year in the past decade that the Colorado Water Trust leased water out of Stagecoach Reservoir for release to the Yampa River to help maintain healthy streamflow and water temperatures,” commented Michelle Carr, Water Distribution & Collection Manager for the city. “The combined efforts through these partnerships along with the strong support of the public for the closures really makes a difference for our favorite river.”



Beginning on Monday July 26, the Upper Yampa Conservancy District (UYCD) will begin releasing the Colorado Water Trusts’ leased water from Stagecoach Reservoir at a rate of 20cfs in addition to the approximately 20cfs that the district is currently releasing into the Yampa River.

The CWT leased 2,000 acre-feet of water from Stagecoach Reservoir this year which will continue to be released if conditions remain hot and dry in the Yampa Valley. The 2,000-acre-foot pool is anticipated to last approximately 25 days at the release rate of 20 cfs.

As the CWT’s 2,000-acre-foot pool is depleted, the city will work with our local partners and community stakeholders to coordinate additional reservoir releases as necessary to maintain the health of the Yampa River.

The city is participating in weekly Yampa River coordination meetings to evaluate river conditions and the effect of the releases on flow and temperature. The river remains closed to recreation and river flows and temperatures can be monitored online through the [5<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge station](#).

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