

Yampa River Reopens to All Recreation Except Angling Commercial Tubing Operations Resume Immediately

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-July 18, 2025-The commercial and voluntary closures on the Yampa River, implemented earlier this week, will be lifted today for all recreation except angling. Colorado Parks & Wildlife (CPW) and the city will continue the voluntary angling closure to assist aquatic life in additional recovery time.

Effective immediately, the Yampa River will be open to tubing, rafting, kayaking, SUPing and all other water recreation except for angling. Commercial tubing operations will be permitted to resume immediately.

Commercial angling will not be allowed at this time while staff continues to consult with CPW on river conditions and aquatic health.

The voluntary fishing closure runs from Chuck Lewis to the western city limits. When water temperatures reach critical levels, it becomes difficult for fish to survive, even when practicing catch and release. River temperatures are monitored throughout Colorado's rivers using temperature loggers. The loggers record the water temperature every 15 minutes and are reviewed by CPW Aquatic Biologists at least once a week. This data in addition to other factors are used to determine the need for voluntary fishing closures.



Reopening is contingent upon a determination that conditions have sufficiently improved to support the health of aquatic wildlife. The recent voluntary fishing closure issued by Colorado Parks and Wildlife—from the Chuck Lewis State Wildlife Area to the western limits of the city—indicates that the agency does not yet consider conditions appropriate for angling activities.

Currently, water flows are sitting at 115 cubic feet per second (cfs), and water temperatures over the past few days have moved below the 75° threshold but still hang in the lower 70s. In addition, since late June, environmental releases from Stagecoach reservoir have boosted flows through the city.

That trend, coupled with slightly cooler temperatures, and possible precipitation has led to the reopening of the river for both commercial and recreational use, except for angling, for the weekend. River closures could be implemented again next week when hot and dry conditions return.

The city thanks everyone for adhering to the closure. With this combined focus on the health of the river, the community is ensuring the #1 natural resource is protected for future generations to enjoy.

-WeServeTheCity-

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