



Cheesman Canyon

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Jeff Spohn - Aquatic Biologist Upper South Platte River Basin

6060 Broadway Denver, CO 80216

email: jeff.spohn@state.co.us

General Information: Cheesman Canyon provides quality fishing for rainbow trout and brown trout. Famous for its size of trout, scenic canyon, and proximity to Denver and Colorado Springs, this tailwater fishery can intimidate even the best fishermen. Visit United States Forest Service/South Platte Ranger District's website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/spl/>

Location: Jefferson and Douglas County line. 5 miles southwest of Deckers.

Size: Approximately 3 miles in length

Management Agency: United States Forest Service (recreation manager)

Purchase A Fishing License: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/ShopDOW/AppsAndLicenses/>

Amenities

- 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 south west of Deckers off of CTY HWY 126, or from the Cheesman Reservoir road off of USFS Road 211. Both ways into Cheesman Canyon require climbing and descending steep terrain.
- Outhouses at parking lots
- Information 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 reproduce naturally 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.



Cheesman Canyon

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

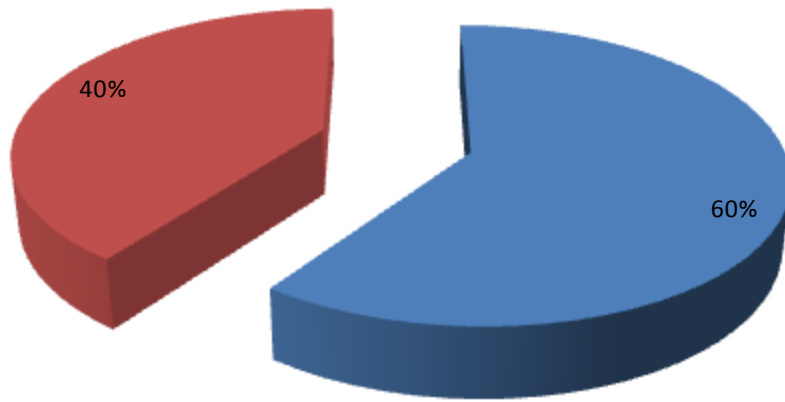
Jeff Spohn - Aquatic Biologist Upper South Platte River Basin

6060 Broadway Denver, CO 80216

email: jeff.spohn@state.co.us

2010 Upper Cheesman Canyon % Species Composition

■ Brown Trout ■ Rainbow Trout



The Upper Cheesman Canyon electrofishing station is 285 feet in length and is located upstream of the Denver Water gauging station. This station is unaffected by the Hayman and Schoonover Fires of 2002 and gives a great comparison versus impacted areas of the South Platte River downstream.

Left: This graph shows the percentage of fish by species caught in our 2010 electrofishing survey. Notice that this section of river does not contain any suckers.

Below: This chart shows historic trends for both brown trout and rainbow trout for this section of river. Notice the high number of trout greater than 14 inches.

Upper Cheesman Canyon Electrofishing Data For Both Brown And Rainbow Trout

Year	# Per 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



Cheesman Canyon

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

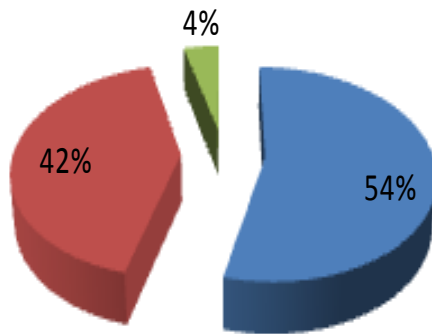
Jeff Spohn - Aquatic Biologist Upper South Platte River Basin

6060 Broadway Denver, CO 80216

email: jeff.spohn@state.co.us

2010 Lower Cheesman Canyon % Species Composition

■ Brown Trout ■ Rainbow Trout ■ Sucker



The lower Cheesman Canyon electrofishing station is 518 feet in length and is located approximately 1/2 mile up-stream of the upper Wigwam Club property line. This section of river has been affected by the Schoonover Fire of 2002. Although this station has received a lot of sediment from rain events starting in 2003, it still hold a large number of nice trout.

Left: This graph shows the percentage of fish by species caught in our 2010 electrofishing survey.

Below: This chart shows historic trends for both brown trout and rainbow trout for this section of river. Since 2003 trout numbers have remained consistent.

Lower Cheesman Canyon Electrofishing Data For Both Brown and Rainbow Trout

Year	# Per 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