



# South Platte River At Deckers

## FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

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**General Information:** The South Platte River at Deckers provides quality fishing for rainbow trout and brown trout. This section of the South Platte River transitions from a higher gradient canyon valley type into a lower gradient meadow valley type. Visit United States Forest Service/South Platte Ranger District's web-site at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/psicc/spl/>

**Location:** Jefferson and Douglas County lines at Deckers.

**Size:** Approximately 8 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 (numerous)
- Camping
- Picnic areas
- Outhouses at most parking lots
- Information Kiosks
- Fly shop
- Country Store
- Coffee/ice cream shop

### Regulations

- From the lower boundary of the Wigwam Club downstream to Scraggy View Picnic Ground:  
     Fishing by artificial flies and lures only.  
     The bag and possession limit and minimum size for trout is two fish, 16 inches in length.

### Previous Stocking

2010

Rainbow Trout

2009

Rainbow Trout

2008

Rainbow Trout  
Brown Trout

2007

Rainbow Trout  
Brown Trout

2006

Rainbow Trout  
Brown Trout

### Sportfishing Notes

This section of the South Platte River has been severely impacted by both the Hayman and Schoonover Fires of 2002. During heavy summer rain events, Schoonover Gulch, Wigwam Creek, Fourmile Creek, and Horse Creek 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. Target fish in deep runs or pools during this time of year.

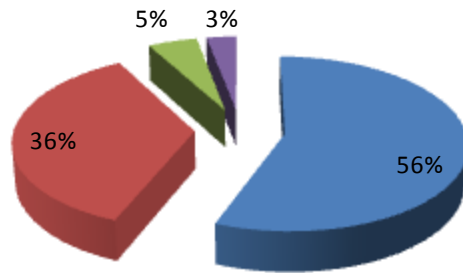


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## 2010 Above Deckers % Species Composition

■ Brown Trout ■ Rainbow Trout ■ Sucker ■ Other



This electrofishing station is 657 feet in length and is located approximately one-third of a mile upstream of Deckers. This station is affected by the Hayman and Schoonover Fires of 2002, with sediment impacts coming in from Schoonover Gulch, Wigwam Creek and Fourmile Creek.

**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. The 2009 # per mile and density numbers are high because poor water quality below Deckers prohibited the hatchery truck from spreading out stocked rainbow trout better.

### Above Deckers Electrofishing Data For Both Brown And Rainbow Trout

Year	# Per Mile	Biomass (lbs per acre)	Density (# per acre)	# > 14"
1994	4257	243	474	53
1996	2864	178	290	32
1998	3229	202	360	52
1999	3593	240	400	51
2000	2213	209	247	66
2001	2156	216	240	89
2002	2255	143	253	48
2003	1505	126	197	30
2004	1229	129	161	47
2005	2342	158	305	38
2006	2041	116	265	13
2007	2014	132	262	21
2008	1814	139	236	37
2009	3751	178	489	32
2010	1151	88	149	24

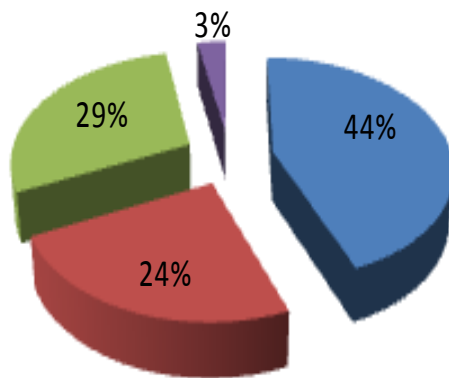


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## 2010 Below Deckers % Species Composition

■ Brown Trout ■ Rainbow Trout ■ Sucker ■ Other



This electrofishing station is 610 feet in length and is located approximately two-thirds of a mile downstream of Deckers. This section of river has been affected by the Schoonover Fire of 2002, with sediment impacts coming in from Schoonover Gulch, Wigwam Creek, Four-mile Creek and Horse Creek.

**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 both the numbers and size of the trout have declined. This is due to sediment impacts from the above mentioned tributaries but primarily due to Horse Creek.

Below Deckers Electrofishing Data For Both Brown and Rainbow Trout

Year	# Per Mile	Biomass (lbs per acre)	Density (# per acre)	# > 14"
1995	5627	300	611	52
1996	4474	238	486	45
1997	4176	302	453	87
1998	5464	343	594	76
1999	8169	472	887	65
2000	5654	488	614	112
2001	4220	406	458	103
2002	4806	293	521	72
2003	1515	132	216	17
2004	1081	93	153	13
2005	2680	166	379	11
2007	1385	84	196	16
2008	1781	154	251	22
2009	1786	117	252	16
2010	909	65	129	10