



Taylor River below Taylor Park Reservoir

FISH SURVEY AND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

Dan Brauch - Aquatic Biologist (Gunnison)

dan.brauch@state.co.us / 970-641-7070

General Information: The Taylor River provides excellent trout fishing opportunity for brown, rainbow and cutthroat trout on this 20 mile reach. Public access is excellent for bank fishing and available for boat fishing downstream of Five Mile access site (although most boating use is by whitewater boaters).

Location: Gunnison county. Taylor Park Reservoir to Almont, north-east of Gunnison.

Recreational Management: Colorado Division of Wildlife, Forest Service

Fishery Management: Coldwater angling

Amenities

- Eleven miles of public access for shore or wade angling at seven access sites
- Three public boating access points, but most boating use is primarily by whitewater boaters. Upper sections of the Taylor River should be floated by experienced whitewater enthusiasts only.
- Seasonal restrooms available at Taylor Dam Tailwater and several USFS campgrounds and access points.
- Guided wade or float fishing available from several local guide services.
- Find additional local fishing info and a list of fishing guides at: [Gunnison - Crested Butte / Activities](#)

Regulations

Special Regulations Section: Taylor River Tailrace

Artificial Flies and Lures Only

All trout must be returned to the water immediately

Standard Regulations Section: Lottis Creek Campground to Almont

Trout bag and possession is 4 fish

Previous Stocking

2009

5,000 fingerling whirling disease resistant rainbow trout stocked

3,300 catchable rainbow trout stocked

2008

5,000 fingerling Colorado River rainbow trout stocked

3,000 catchable rainbow trout stocked

Sportfishing Notes

Brown Trout

65 to 85 % of angler catch, with higher catch in middle and lower sections.

Spawn in mid October through November

Rainbow Trout

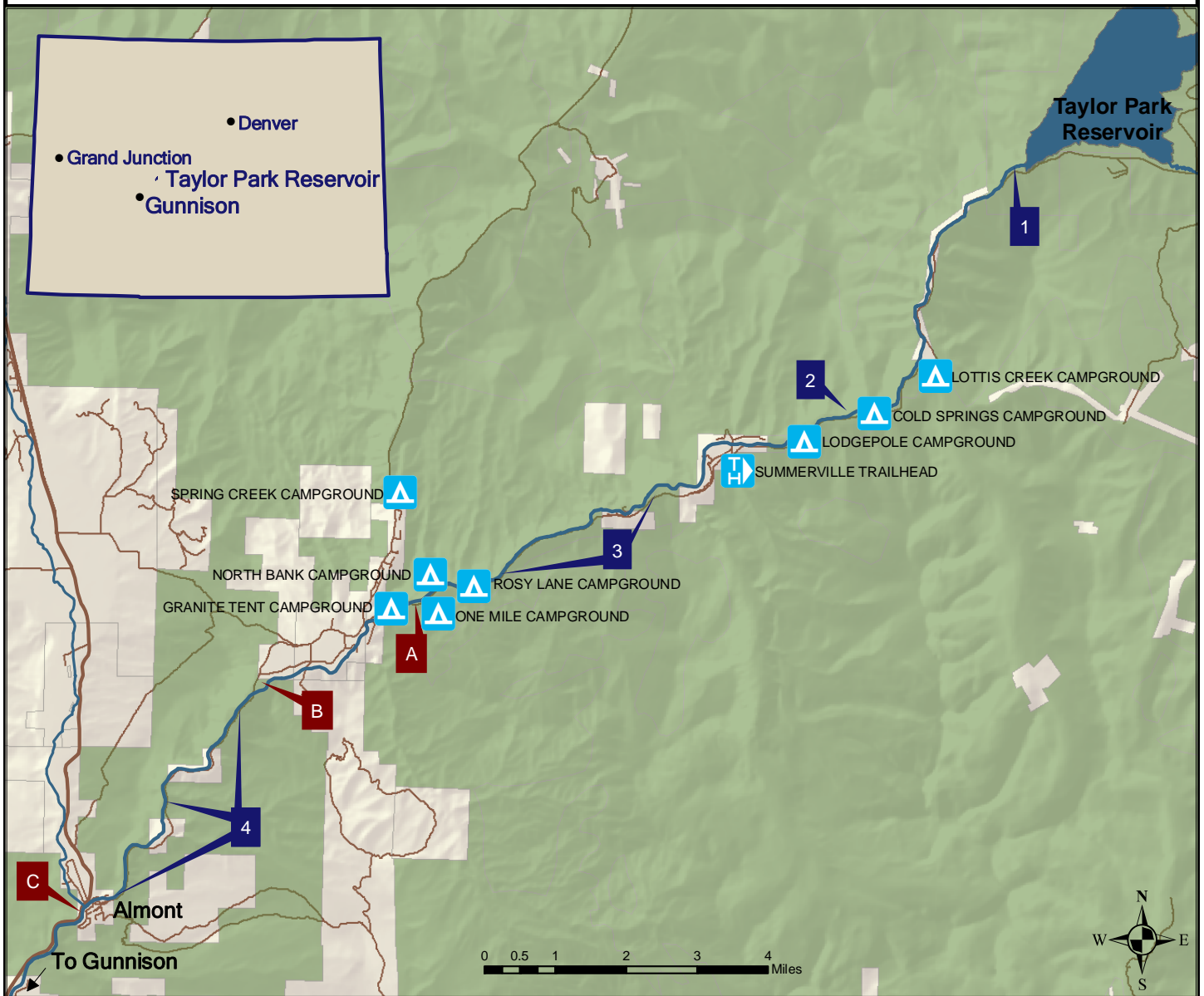
15 to 35 % of angler catch, with higher catch near Taylor Dam Tailwater

Spawn in mid April through mid May

- Due to the small public access at Taylor Dam and the extremely large fish found there, this reach can become very crowded—look downstream for some great fishing with big fish and few crowds.
- Releases from Taylor Dam result in year-round fishing opportunities.
- Wading becomes much more difficult, especially in areas closer to Taylor Dam, when flows are higher than 250 cfs.
- Look for fly pattern and hatch advice on numerous local fishing web sites.

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MAP AND ACCESS INFORMATION



Bank or Wading Access

- 1—Taylor Dam Tailwater, .4 miles
- 2—Lodgepole Campground to Lottis Creek Campground, 2.8 miles
- 3—Granite, North Bank, One Mile and Rosy Lane Campgrounds, 4.8 miles in two sections
- 4—Almont to Five Mile Access, 3.1 miles in three sections

Boating Access

- A—South Bank Access—generally used by experienced whitewater boaters and kayakers only, not passable downstream without private land-owner permission.
- B—Five Mile Access—Class II to Almont, used primarily by whitewater boaters.
- C—Almont Access (just downstream of confluence of East and Taylor Rivers)

Taylor River at Taylor Dam Tailwater (aka Hog Trough)

(Special fishing regulation section, flies and lures, catch and release only)

FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION



Figure 1. Taylor Dam Tailwater reach of the Taylor River sampled in October, 2006. This 1800 foot station was sampled with the use of bank electrofishing gear.

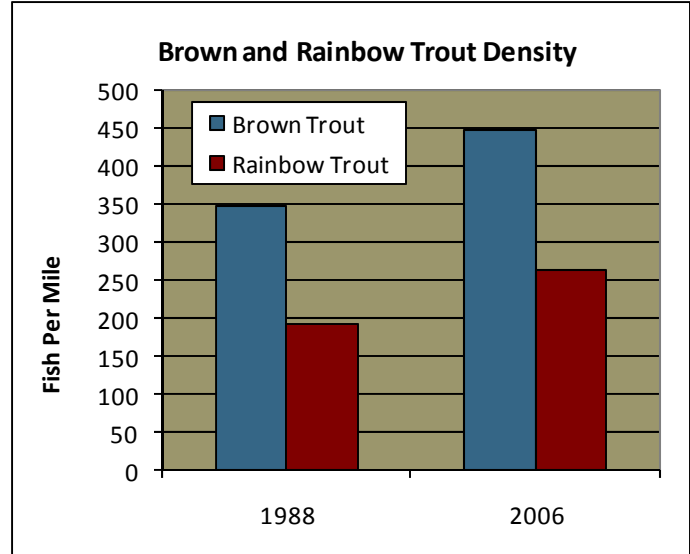


Figure 2. Density estimates for the Tailwater reach, 1988-2006. The 2006 density estimate for trout over 5 inches was 531 ± 72 fish per mile for brown trout and 281 ± 24 fish per mile for rain-

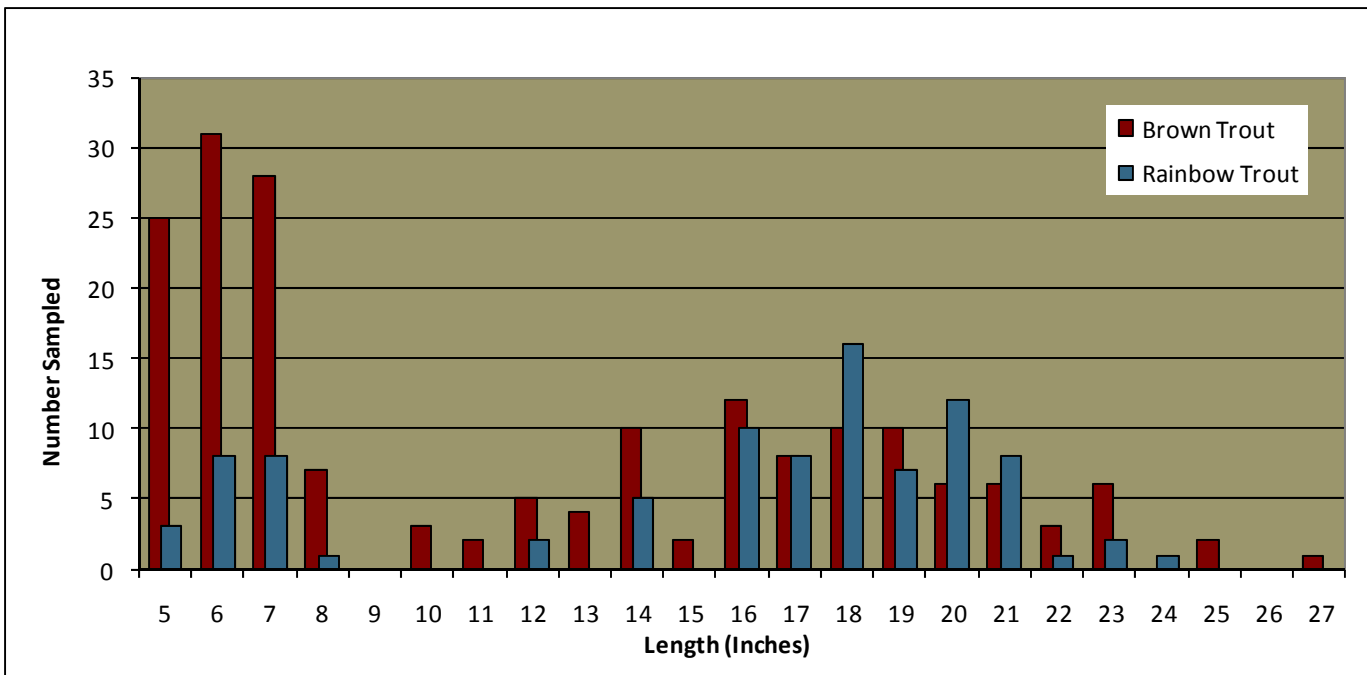


Figure 3. Brown and rainbow trout length-frequency for the Taylor River Tailwater sampling location 2006. There was an estimated 109 ± 15 lbs. per acre of brown trout and 100 ± 4 lbs. per acre of rainbow trout.

Taylor River at North Bank Campground

(Standard fishing regulation section)

FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION



Figure 4. North Bank reach of the Taylor River sampled in October, 2006. This 1000 foot station was sampled with the use of bank electrofishing gear.

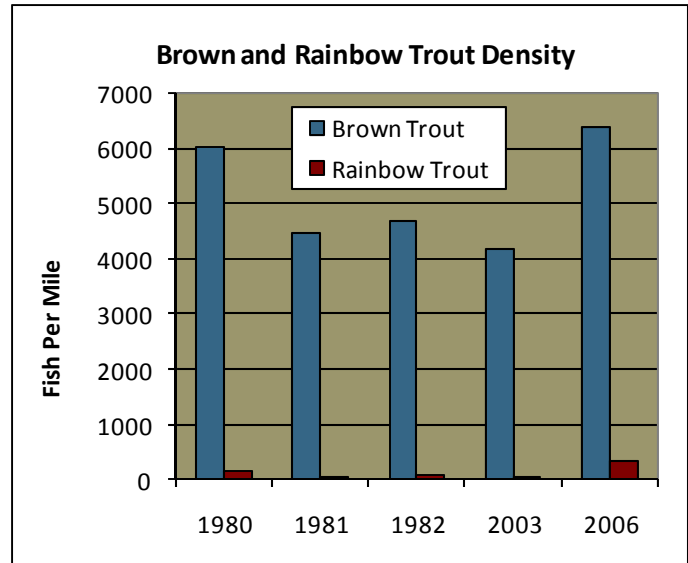


Figure 5. Density estimates for North Bank reach, 1980-2006. . The 2006 density estimate for trout over 5 in. was $6,388 \pm 1,221$ fish per mile for browns and 343 ± 326 fish per mile for rainbows.

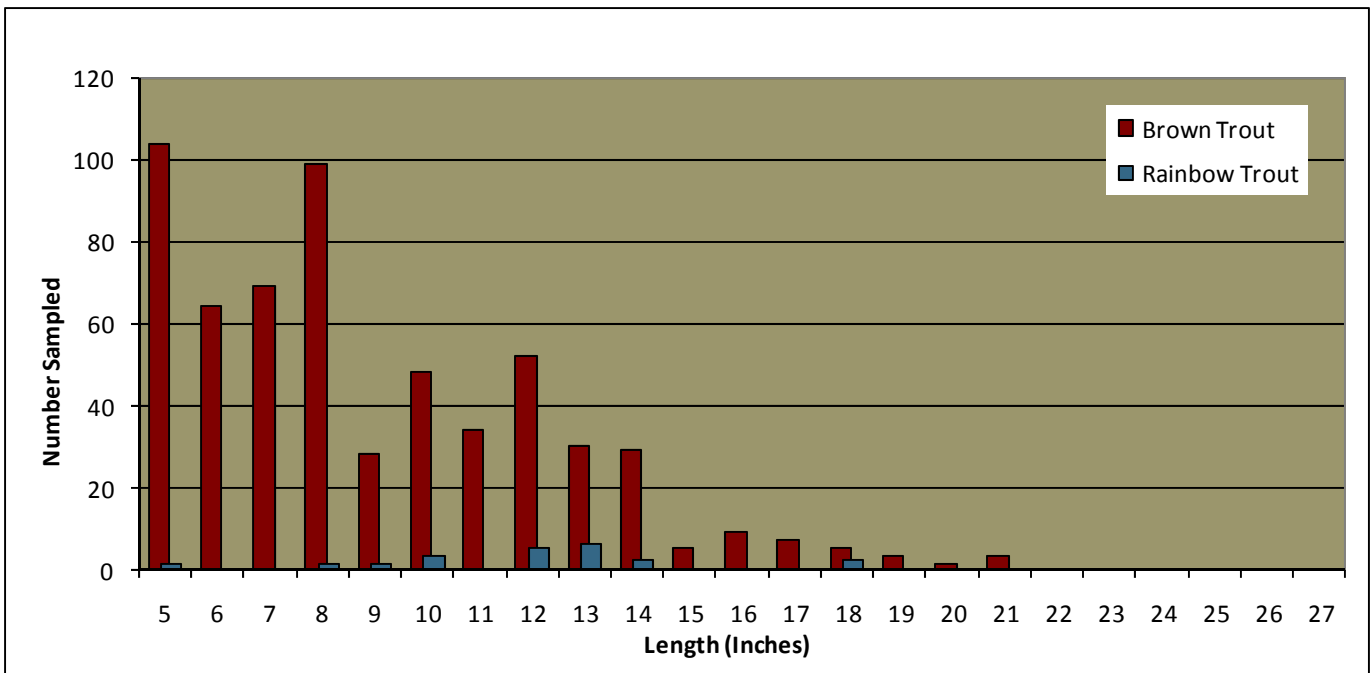


Figure 6. Brown and rainbow trout length-frequency for the Taylor River North Bank reach, 2006. There was an estimated 313 ± 60 lbs. per acre of brown trout and 34 ± 32 lbs. per acre of rainbow trout.

Taylor River at Almont

(Standard fishing regulation section)

FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION



Figure 7. Almont reach of the Taylor River sampled in October, 2006. This 1000 foot station was sampled with the use of bank electrofishing gear.

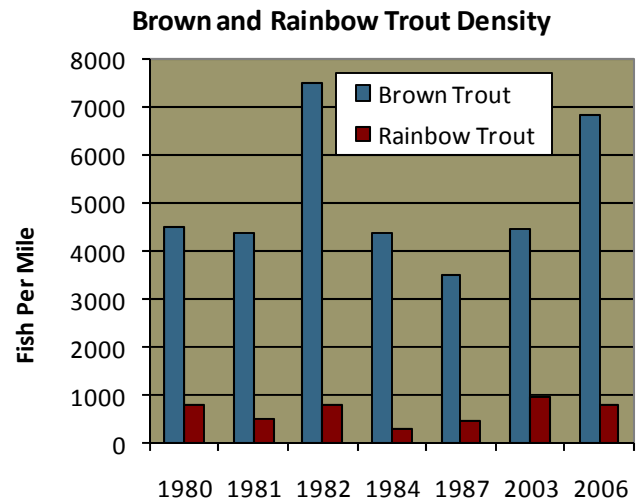


Figure 8. Density estimates for the Almont reach, 1980-2006. . The 2006 density estimate for trout over 5 Inches was $6,859 \pm 1,381$ fish per mile for browns and 787 ± 390 fish per mile for rainbows.

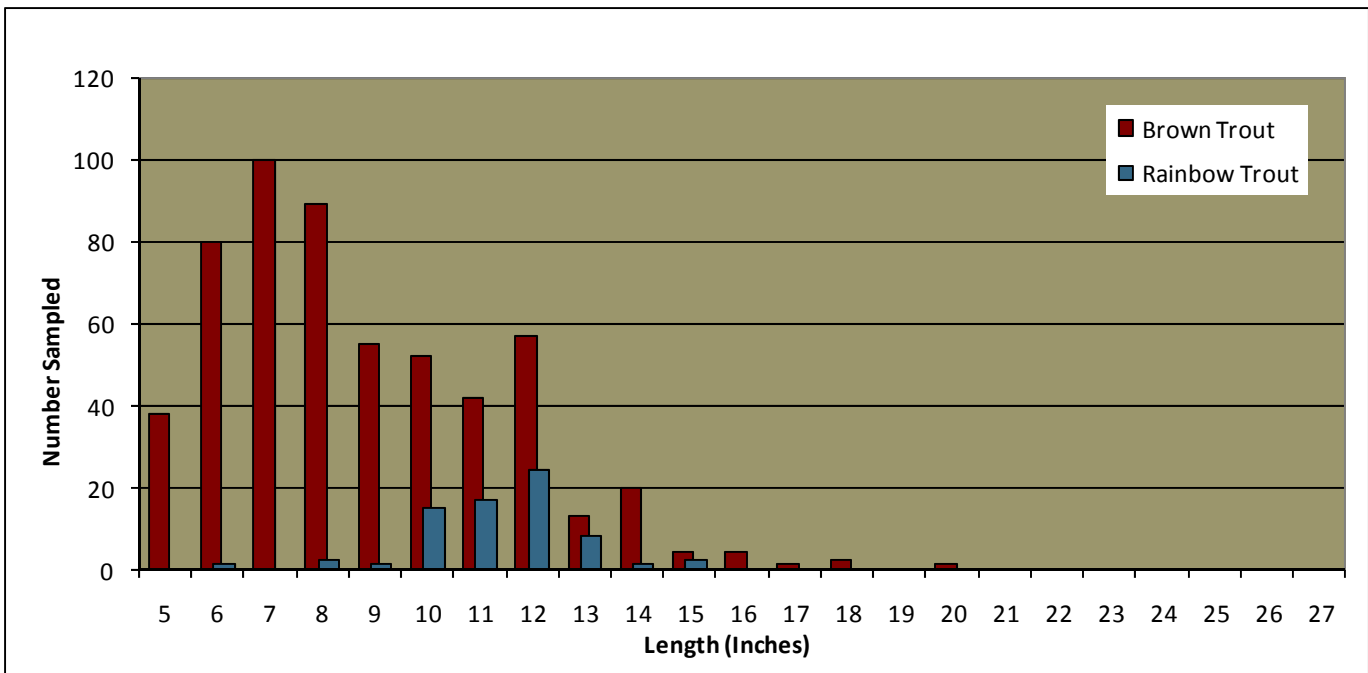


Figure 9. Brown and rainbow trout length-frequency for the Taylor River Almont reach, 2006. There was an estimated 210 ± 42 lbs. per acre of brown trout and 40 ± 20 lbs. per acre of rainbow trout.

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FISH SAMPLING INFORMATION

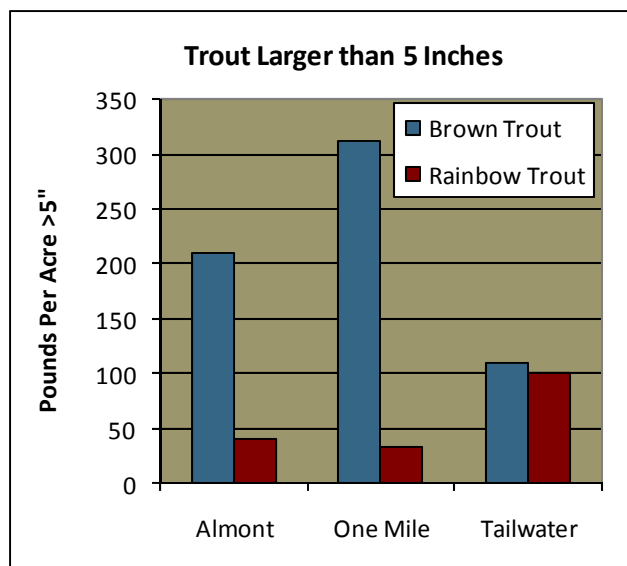


Figure 10. Biomass estimates for brown and rainbow trout one year old and older from three reaches of the Taylor River 2006.

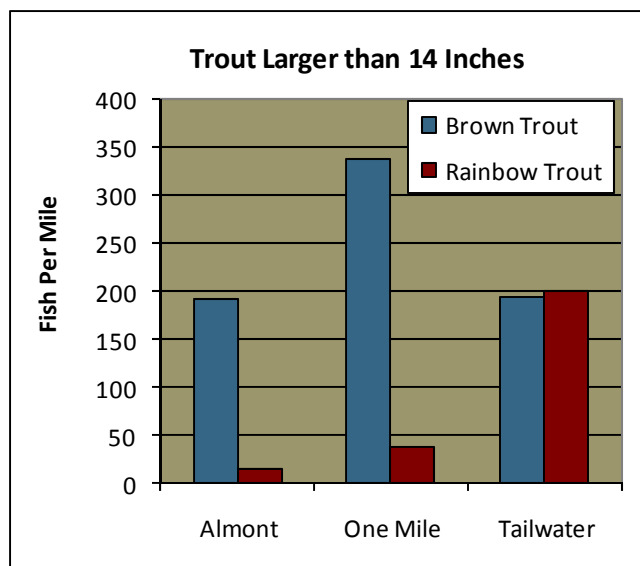


Figure 11. Density estimates for quality sized brown and rainbow trout from three reaches of the Taylor River 2006.

Management Notes

The Taylor Dam Tailwater is a significant destination fishery but is comprised of a short .4 miles of public water. This reach experiences about the same level of angling use as all other public reaches on the Taylor River below Taylor Park Reservoir combined. The reason for all this interest: entrained mysis influence on growth and survival of quality and trophy sized trout. *Mysis relicta* were introduced into Taylor Park Reservoir in 1973 and were documented to be a reproducing population in 1981. Since that time, entrainment of significant numbers of mysis into the Taylor River has resulted in the growth of some of the largest brown and rainbow trout in the West. Due to the level of angling use, these trout are also very educated and difficult to catch. Lower reaches of the Taylor River provide excellent opportunities for quality sized brown and rainbow trout, with numbers of quality sized fish nearly as high in middle reaches as in the Tailwater reach (although not as many extremely large fish). Lower reaches do see more whitewater boating use, however, but this use generally does not negatively impact fishing.

The Taylor River fishery has benefited greatly from water management changes meant to benefit the Taylor and Gunnison River fisheries and to provide flows for other purposes (primarily through an exchange agreement which allows a trade of stored water rights between Taylor Park and Blue Mesa Reservoirs). These water management changes have resulted in two major benefits: improved natural reproduction and survival of brown trout due to stabilization of winter flow releases since 1990 and improved summer flows which result in improved growth of both brown trout and rainbow trout. These changes, coupled with the introduction of mysis as a food source at the Taylor Dam Tailwater, have resulted in expanded numbers of quality sized trout throughout the lower Taylor River.

Most angling use on the Taylor River below Taylor Park Reservoir is by shore and bank angling, as most boating use on the Taylor River is by whitewater boaters.