



CONNECTIONS

TRI-COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

FISH SCREEN BEING INSTALLED AT RIDGWAY RESERVOIR TO REDUCE NON-NATIVE FISH SPECIES

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) in conjunction with the US Bureau of Reclamation (BUREC) is mitigating non-native fish species at Ridgway Reservoir with the installation of a metal fish screen at the reservoir emergency spillway.

CPW strives to provide the best fishing opportunities that are appropriate for each body of water in the state. Biologists must carefully consider a variety of factors: native fish species, water quality, water temperature, available forage, the needs of water users, how water will be used, federal and state laws, and more. Due to the native fish which live in rivers

downstream of the reservoir, bass are not a desirable species for Ridgway Reservoir. Smallmouth bass, which were illegally introduced many years ago, can escape and survive in rivers downstream. Smallmouth bass are predators and consume significant numbers of young endangered native fish.

The fishery at Ridgway Reservoir is primarily comprised of rainbow trout and kokanee salmon with trophy brown trout and splake available. Yellow perch also offer a good eating fish for anglers. Annually, July tournaments at the reservoir have reduced smallmouth bass numbers substantially. Fishing at Ridgway Reservoir is best from a boat, as it allows access to more of the lake, but there are ample angling opportunities from the reservoir shore at this State Park.

“The installation of this fish screen will enable Tri-County more flexibility in the operation of the reservoir,” Mike Berry,” Tri-County Water Conservancy District General Manager said. “Especially when it comes to managing water and storage supplies.”



**CURRENT
RIDGWAY
RESERVOIR
LEVEL:**

80% FULL

Conservation CORNER

Water conservation helps today and in the future

Water is a finite resource – even though about 70 percent of the Earth’s surface is covered by water, less than 1 percent is available for human use. Despite the water supply and infrastructure challenges faced by many communities across the US, each American uses an average of 82 gallons of water each day at home. Every drop counts:

Did you know?

Bathrooms are the largest use of water in the home, using more than 50 percent of all indoor water.

Approximately 5 to 10 percent of US homes have easy-to-fix leaks that drip away 90 gallons a day or more.

Heating water is typically the second largest use of energy in a home (after space heating and cooling).

Replacing showerheads with WaterSense labeled models can save multiple gallons of water every time you take a shower?

Replacing old, inefficient faucets and aerators with WaterSense labeled models can save the user thousands of gallons of water per year.

Install a water - saving displacement device. For older toilets, buy or make a device that won't harm your plumbing such as a toilet dam or weighted plastic jug full of water. Be sure that installation does not interfere with operating parts. DO NOT use a brick - it may disintegrate and cause problems.

Take shallow baths and plug the drain before you run water. Keep showers short by minimizing required flow at the source.

Re use bath water to water your plants or shrubs or for cleaning jobs like floors or cars.

