



Commercial & Voluntary River Closure Enacted

Yampa River Water Temperatures Exceeds Threshold Criteria for River Health

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-July 19, 2022-Water temperatures in the Yampa River are on the rise moving above the allowed threshold and triggering the City of Steamboat Springs to enact commercial and voluntary recreational closures for the Yampa River. The closure will remain in effect until rescinded.

“For the safety and health of the river any one of the three criteria can trigger a closure,” said Craig Robinson, Parks, Open Space & Trails Manager. “These efforts go toward the long-term health of the community’s number one natural resource. We never take a mandatory closure lightly.”

Due to high water temperatures (75+) over the past two consecutive days on the Yampa River, the city is implementing closures for all commercial activities on the Yampa River and asking the public to abide by a voluntary closure for all recreational river use.

The weather forecast calls for an extended pattern of hot temperatures to continue with little relief over the coming week required to cool the water in the river to acceptable levels.

Even as flows hover around 140 cubic feet per second (cfs) and remain attractive to users, it’s a different story for the water temperatures which significantly impact aquatic life. That’s why adhering to the closure is important for the biological health of the river even when flows remain higher.

The Yampa River experienced water temperatures greater than 75 degrees for two consecutive days, July 17 & 18, which exceeds the threshold for a mandatory river closure as outlined in the Yampa River Management Plan. Low water flows, high water temperatures, and low levels of dissolved oxygen are all unfavorable conditions to aquatic life and any one of these factors can trigger a closure.

All commercial outfitting operations are suspended under the closure. River users – tubers, SUPers, swimmers, anglers – are requested to adhere to the voluntary closure and avoid river recreation.

Notices will be posted at popular river access points and request everyone’s cooperation in protecting the Yampa River by staying out of the river until conditions improve. The health and protection of the Yampa River rates high with residents. Thank you for Respecting the Yampa.

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Contact

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