

The Fish Tale

July 2026 Newsletter

Gunnison Gorge Anglers

Colorado Trout Unlimited
Fly Fishers International



President's Message

Because the entire Gunnison River basin is experiencing historic drought conditions, high water temperatures are likely this summer. Trout Unlimited provides clear guidelines on how water temperature dictates trout health and angling ethics. Water temperatures below 65°F are ideal, while readings between 65°F and 68°F indicate stress. **Any temperature exceeding 68°F to 70°F is considered lethal or highly detrimental to trout survival due to dropping oxygen levels.**

The official **Trout Unlimited** temperature guide dictates how you should adjust your angling:

Temperature Range	Trout Activity & Condition	Angling Recommendations
Below 65°F	Happy & active: Trout metabolic rates are prime, and dissolved oxygen levels are highest.	Prime fishing conditions. Cast without restrictions.
65°F – 68°F	Stressed: Oxygen is rapidly dropping, making it harder for trout to recover after a fight.	Practice extreme caution: Use heavier tippet to land fish quickly, keep fish entirely in the water, and skip handling or photos entirely.
Over 68°F	Lethal conditions: Stress increases exponentially, and post-release mortality rises sharply even with careful handling.	Stop fishing: Leave the trout alone to avoid adding fatal stress.

It is highly encouraged to carry a stream thermometer to check conditions yourself. These are designed with a tough casing or probe to avoid broken glass. Also, for voluntary and mandatory fishing closures due to high temperatures, track the [Colorado Parks & Wildlife](#) conditions map.

Enjoy the summer and I hope you make time to get out on a river or lake near you. Be safe and stay hydrated.

Yours in conservation,

John Hamill, President
Gunnison Gorge Anglers
Hamilldsrt50@msn.com

Upcoming Events

- **Fly Fishing Outing - July 16th** at Riverbottom Park in Montrose with John Hamill and other board members. We plan to fish 4 p.m. - late/dark, and grill some hot dogs. Register [here](#).
- Flies & Lies is on summer break, returning in September or October
- **Troutapalooza and International Fly Fishing Film Festival - September 23rd** at the Sheridan Opera House in Telluride
- **“Summer” Bash - October 9th** at Baldridge Park in Montrose

Other News and Current Events

While it is important to consider water temperatures when trout fishing, it is also important to consider our environment and health. Be sure to bring plenty of water and cover up from the sun when fishing on these hot, dry, and unfortunately smokey days. This [map](#) shows air quality and smoke outlooks. Be safe and have fun.

Our new merch is in! GGA tshirts and hats are here, sunhoodies should arrive later this month. If you would like a free tshirt or hat, please join us at the fishing outing on Thursday, July 16th in Montrose. You will need the secret code: *"I read the newsletter"*. We currently have a limited number of shirt sizes and hat colors. If you cannot attend this event, you'll have more chances to pick up some swag.

Did you know that GGA is a partner in the Valley Floor Project that will be completed this fall? This revitalization project includes mine reclamation, habitat restoration, and reintroduction of native plants and species. Read more about the Valley Floor project on the San Miguel River [here](#).

Want to host a fishing outing? Let us know! Send us an email to gunnisongorgeanglersctu@gmail.com with Fishing Outing in the subject line. The chapter will accommodate snacks, beverages, and some flies. You are not expected to teach fly fishing or guide, just explain how you like to fish that water and have fun.

Connect with Gunnison Gorge Anglers

Facebook: [Gunnison Gorge Anglers](#)
Instagram: [@gunnisongorgeanglers](#)
Website: <https://gunnisongorgeanglers.tu.org/>
Email: gunnisongorgeanglersctu@gmail.com
Newsletter Submissions: [Google form](#)
CTU Event Calendar: <https://coloradotu.org/events>

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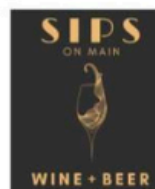
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