

## Stocking Trout Fry With Gilpin County Elementary School Students

West Denver TU recently supported the Elementary School's "Trout in the Classroom" program. Fifth grade students from Blackhawk, led by teacher Vanessa Grenader, raised trout from eggs during the school year. Now the fish were fingerlings, and ready to be stocked in Clear Creek.

River Watch volunteers Dennis Wiles and Keith Greenwell met the students at the Mayhem Gulch parking area, south of Idaho Springs. Dennis talked with the kids about water quality monitoring, and demonstrated the dissolved oxygen and Ph. measuring equipment.



Students helped Dennis calibrate the oxygen sensor



The fish arrived at Mayhem Gulch in a cooler, with a temperature monitor and oxygenator.



We checked the stream temperature, which was 7.4° Celsius (45 degrees Fahrenheit). The temperature in the cooler was 10.3° C (51° F). By adding stream water, and some ice, we gradually lowered the cooler water temperature to help acclimate the fry to their new environment. Finally, the fry were ready to go.



Eight month old trout fry

Each student had the experience of releasing a fry. Only a few toes got wet!



Don't let my fish escape, Keith!





Off you go, little fish!



Vanessa with some of her students. Check out the hand-painted tee shirt!

Many thanks to Vanessa, school staff, parents and students for the opportunity to help with the Trout in the Classroom program at Gilpin Elementary!