

FISHWATERSHEDSOILS

Healthy watersheds, native fish



The ARP partnered with CPW to help prevent Aquatic Nuisance Species such as quagga and zebra mussels from being spread or introduced into Lake Granby and Shadow Mountain Reservoir in the Arapaho National Recreation Area. More than 15,000 inspections and 1,300 boats were disinfected at inspection stations.

FISHWATERSHED 2012FACTS

- **18 miles** of stream restored.
- Acquired Little Echo Lake **(10 acres)**.
- Monitored fish populations in **4 watersheds**.
- Served as a source of drinking water for **2 million people** (13 major reservoirs, 153 authorized water facilities).



The Clear Creek Ranger District organized a kid's fishing day at Rocky Mountain Easter Seals Camp, educating kids on ethical angling and encouraging children to spend time outdoors with their families.

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) provide healthy aquatic ecosystems. With more than 2,400 miles of streams and river, 15,000 acres of lakes and ponds, and Colorado's only Wild and Scenic River; the ARP works to protect, restore and enhance aquatic ecosystems and watersheds from the prairies to the headwaters.

► Biologists continue to **monitor post-fire fish numbers and habitat conditions** in the Cache la Poudre River due to the Hewlett and High Park fires. Flooding caused serious disturbances to large portions of the river and watershed when large, visible plumes of ash and sediment poured into the river. Deposits of black sediment can still be seen along the river but numbers of trout in the lower river have not declined as much as was expected.

► The incident management teams for the **Hewlett and High Park fires** made great efforts to avoid tanked-aircraft, engines, and water tenders from spreading **aquatic nuisance species** (such as zebra mussels and whirling disease) into, between and from the fire areas.

► Partnering with Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the ARP removed more than 450 nonnative brook trout in more than three miles of Bobtail Creek and documented reproductive success of native cutthroat. The nonnative fish were removed to facilitate the persistence of a native cutthroat trout population in the **Upper Williams Fork River basin** in Grand County.

► Wildland Restoration Volunteers (WRV) and Canyon Lakes Ranger District **restored 4 miles of the North Fork Poudre River** by moving unofficial dispersed campsites away from the stream, constructing stream habitat features, and closing user-created roads in riparian areas.

► Watershed restoration projects were accomplished across the Forests. Projects included decommissioning 17 miles of road to improve **watershed and wildlife habitat** by stabilizing the sources of sediment. With the long-standing help of the **Miller-Coors Brewing Co.**, abandoned mine land reclamation, stream restoration, road closures in riparian areas, and watershed improvements were completed in the West Fork Clear Creek watershed on Clear Creek Ranger District (CCRD). Miller-Coors received the **Rise to the Future Partnership Award** for their six years of partnership help and more than 1,500 hours of volunteer labor in the Clear Creek Watershed.

► In 2012, CCRD completed **the High Peaks to Headwaters Watershed Restoration Plan**, which identifies and plans watershed restoration projects in the upper Clear Creek basin, including the South Clear Creek priority watershed.