

**With ROTARY Club of Gunnison**  
**Blue Mesa Lake Fishing Tournament May 4 and 5, 2024**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- Check in at the Tournament Headquarters trailer located on the boat ramp at Elk Creek Marina on **Friday, May 3, 2024 from noon to 6:00 p.m.** to receive your flight confirmation, a tournament hat, and a lath with your team number on it to identify you at the dock as a participant when your boat is inspected. **Those arriving after that Friday window may check-in at the trailer after 4:30 a.m. on Saturday.** Each boat will be inspected each day and an Official will then issue each team a colored ribbon to attach to their lath as proof of inspection. **DUE TO THE EARLY DATE, IT IS POSSIBLE THE DOCKS WILL NOT BE IN PLACE, SO YOU MUST HAVE YOUR BOAT READY TO BE INSPECTED AS IT IS LAUNCHED.** Tournament Officials **WILL WEAR ORANGE VESTS** and will be available by 5:00 a.m. each day for this purpose.
- All contestants will depart from and return to Elk Creek Marina. The boat ramp will open at 5:00 a.m. each day for boat launching. Starting times and weigh-in times will be strictly enforced to give everyone the same opportunity; however, please be advised the NPS may choose to delay the start based upon available daylight or severely inclement weather. Should that occur, each team's departure will be adjusted accordingly, and all teams will still have the same amount of time to fish.
- Participants signed registration acts as a release and waiver of liability and indemnity agreement.
- The NPS requires that a **CURRENT** launching permit be affixed to each boat and that each boat has been certified to have completed the Zebra Mussel inspection process **BEFORE** launching. Launching permits are available **ONLY** from the NPS at the Visitor's Center daily until 5:00 pm, at the self-service kiosk at the entrance to the campground, or by mail from the NPS. Visit the NPS website at [www.nps.gov/cure](http://www.nps.gov/cure) or you may call them at 970-641-2337 for information. The NPS advises that camping on the ramp and leaving unhooked trailers in the ramp parking spaces is prohibited and citations will be issued for those violations.

**CONTEST RULES**

1. Participants must possess a **CURRENT** Colorado fishing license. Boats must display a current registration.
2. Participants must abide by all CPW fishing regulations.
3. All species of fish taken from Blue Mesa Lake may be entered into the competition except Suckers, Lake Trout (Mackinaw), Perch, and Northern Pike. Fish of undetermined species shall be permitted on a case-by-case basis.
4. Fish must be a minimum of 12 inches in length to be entered into the competition.
5. Tournament decisions shall be made by the tournament officials and will be final.
6. Participants may have their fish inspected at any time by tournament officials.
7. Each team shall be allowed to enter four **(4) live fish per day** of the tournament.
8. A team shall consist of two (2) members who will fish out of one boat that has been inspected prior to each day's fishing. No non-entrant passenger(s) shall be allowed in any boat during tournament fishing.
9. Fish must be taken in a legal manner. Foul hooked or snagged fish will not be eligible for entry.
10. Fish must be taken from a boat. Teams may not enter fish caught from the bank or by a non-team member.
11. Fish may not be taken inside the 'no wake' areas surrounding either marina and may not be taken in the Gunnison River east of the Lake City bridge; (CSH #149).
12. Fishing too close to someone on the bank or another boat may be cause for disqualification.
13. Fish must be taken between the hours determined by the flight assignment.
14. Fish shall be weighed on the same scale.
15. Fish are subject to cleaning and inspection after being weighed.
16. The winner of any tie in total fish weight shall be determined by the heaviest catch on the first day of the contest and all weights following the winner of the tie shall then move down one place in the standings.
17. **FISH MUST BE ALIVE** or previously tagged by a tournament official as alive and caught that day. Officials will be stationed at these areas 7:30 a.m. through 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and 7:30 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. on Sunday for your convenience. If you have any doubt a fish may not be alive at weigh-in **GET IT TAGGED! KOKANEE ARE VERY FRAGILE AND DIE QUICKLY. IF YOU PLAN TO ENTER A KOKANEE INTO THE CONTEST....GET IT TAGGED AT ONCE BY A TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL.**
  - Check-in Table
  - Lake Fork basin
  - Cebolla Creek basin
  - Iola basin

**SPECIAL INFORMATION**

1. **BOAT SLIPS:** are expected to be available if the weather cooperates. Call the Marina concessionaire at 970-641-0707 for information.
2. **BOAT LAUNCHING:** (if slips and docks are in place, get your boats inspected early, launched, and into a slip if possible. This will minimize launching issues on a long, narrow, and dark ramp on opening morning.
3. **BOAT LAUNCHING:** (if slips and docks are not in place) ramp will be divided into two marked lanes. One lane will be for turning around in the widest section (approx. 150' from restrooms) and backing the rest of the way down to

the water (approx. 100'). The other lane will be a return lane for exit travel. We will have MARKERS dividing the lanes and attendants will assist drivers. This process will require much care, patience, and assistance from other participants that everyone gets in and out safely.

4. **MUSSEL INSPECTIONS: (IF REQUIRED)** Inspection Station is open daily beginning at 5:00 a.m. In order that all teams are ready to go on Saturday, it is imperative that boats are inspected on Friday. Contact NPS at 970-641-2337 or [www.nps.gov/cure](http://www.nps.gov/cure) for additional information.
5. **MACKINAW CONTEST:** A separate contest MAY be available for the largest Mack caught. Contest Rules will be given at check-in if this contest is available.

### **FISHING TIMES (flights #1 and #2 are reversed for Sunday)**

	<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>SUNDAY</b>
Flight One: TEAMS #1-40	<b>START 6:15 END 2:15</b>	<b>START 6:30 END 12:30</b>
Flight Two: TEAMS #41-80	<b>START 6:30 END 2:30</b>	<b>START 6:15 END 12:15</b>
Flight Three: TEAMS #81-120	<b>START 6:45 END 2:45</b>	<b>START 6:45 END 12:45</b>

- Teams will be divided into three flights each consisting of 40 teams and all teams will have an equal length of time to fish.
- Different starting and ending times are designed to maximize safety and to minimize traffic conflicts. All outgoing boats must pass the Tournament Official displaying the red flag at the end of the dock within the no wake area at the Elk Creek Marina and display their lath with colored ribbon attached as proof of inspection. **If** the main dock is not installed by start time this process will occur concurrently with live-well inspections on the ramp at the time of launch.
- All teams will **START** from the inside edge of the 'no wake' area upon the activation of a beacon located on the east end of the ECM dock. **If** the main dock is not yet installed, the beacon will be transported to the highest accessible point where everyone can see it from the 'no-wake' area. **All incoming teams must check in with the Tournament Officials at the east end of the ECM dock (or at the end of the ramp if the main dock is not yet installed) by their END time.** Officials will ask for your team number and if you have fish to weigh and will record your time of arrival. **Proceed thereafter without delay to the headquarters trailer. You must be in line to weigh within 20 minutes of your END time.** Two successive air horn blasts from the headquarters trailer will alert participants that five minutes remains for that flight to weigh-in.
- The first flight for each day will have priority to weigh in ahead of the second flight on each day. The third flight will weigh in at the same time each day. Teams not checking in on time at the completion of fishing times forfeit the right to weigh fish for that day. Teams finishing early may weigh in upon completion.
- **CONTESTANTS OBSERVED VIOLATING ANY RULES OF THIS TOURNAMENT MAY BECOME INELIGIBLE TO WEIGH FISH ON THAT DAY.**

The ROTARY Club of Gunnison thanks each of you for your support!!

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING TOURNAMENT SPONSORS:

