



## **TROUT UNLIMITED AND THE PURGATOIRE WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP JOIN FORCES TO ADDRESS THE HEALTH OF THE PURGATOIRE RIVER WATERSHED**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRINIDAD, Colo. -- On June 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the Leone Room at TSJC, Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Purgatoire Watershed Partnership (PWP) are having a joint meeting featuring a presentation that will benefit anyone interested in their watershed health. Jason Willis, TU's Mine Restoration Field Coordinator, is presenting on abandoned mines and their effect on the watershed. Before the presentation, he is touring around the area to get a feel for what abandoned mine conditions are like in the Purgatoire Watershed. The meeting, as all the PWP and TU meetings are, is open to the public. Refreshments and dinner will be provided.

Trout Unlimited, which is a non-profit organization, has been dedicated to conserving, protecting, and restoring North America's coldwater fisheries and their watershed's since 1959. The Trinidad TU chapter has been making great strides in the health of the Purgatoire Watershed and its fish population. "Trout Unlimited was instrumental in the Purgatoire River Improvement Project, providing an Embrace-a-Stream grant for the stream assessment and feasibility study, which led to funding from the Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District and Pioneer Natural Resources for the Demonstration Project in 2012." said Joanie Muzzulin. "We are very happy that Colorado Parks and Wildlife stocked this area recently with rainbow trout. Colorado Trout Unlimited has been supportive every step of the way for this new chapter. They even awarded the Purgatoire River Anglers chapter with their Exemplary Project Award at the Annual Meeting this past April."

The Purgatoire Watershed Partnership is a non-profit organization based out of Trinidad, Colo. Its mission is to proactively acquire and maintain a watershed-wide stakeholder partnership aimed at the assessment, restoration, protection, and improvement of all aspects of the Purgatoire River Watershed. Since its establishment last September, the PWP has been working hard to get stakeholders involved. "We really want the community to be involved in the health of the watershed." said Rachel Theler, Watershed Coordinator for the PWP. "The more voices that speak up, the more diverse and cohesive a plan for a healthy watershed will be."

If you have any questions or would like to become a member of either organization, please contact Joanie Muzzulin at [jmuzzulin@gmail.com](mailto:jmuzzulin@gmail.com) (TU) or Rachel Theler at [rachel@purgatoirepartnership.org](mailto:rachel@purgatoirepartnership.org) or 719-846-3681 ext.119 (PWP).