



Colorado where they backpacked to different locations to overnight camp. **Schulyer Jonassen**, shared, "I knew it was going to be a lot of fun, but I was just nervous and a little scared since I had never been camping before." Mr. Ottmer wanted this class to be for everyone of all experience levels, but he made sure everyone was well informed and prepared for the trip. Students learned how to properly pack their backpacks which ranged from 30-70 pounds, how to "leave no trace," and how to stay safe and healthy while away. Students filtered river water for drinking and cooking, hung bear bags from trees, and stay safe from any wildlife they encountered.

Coronado and Mr. Ottmer introduced a ... new class available to seniors this year. This class involves two backpacking and camping expeditions to Gunnison, Colorado and Moab, Utah; spending time outside learning about the environment and problems it is facing; and volunteering with organizations in Colorado assisting in data collection and research.

which is why Mr. Ottmer has made the class and experiences that come with is completely free. Not only is being outside extremely beneficial for physical and mental health, but it is more important now than ever to be educated on the environment and things happening to it. He explained, "I want my students to learn more about critical concerns- about the lack of water in the Western United States, and focus on the importance of biodiversity and endangered species."

It took three years of hard work and planning, building a learning and teaching curriculum for the course, and countless meetings with the school board to get the Outdoor Education class approved at Coronado High School.

The class works closely with River Watch of Colorado, frequently collecting water samples in Monument Creek, measuring different properties to give data to the organization.

Mr. Ottmer has dedicated so much of his time and effort into making this class possible because of his passion for teaching science to students in a real-world setting outside the classroom. It is important that experiences like these are accessible and welcoming for all,

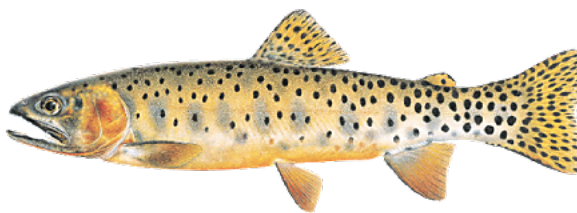
This year the Outdoor Education class took a four day camping trip to Curecanti National Recreation Area in Gunnison,

While in Gunnison, the class hiked to the bottom of Black Canyon, learning about native plants and animals. "The most memorable part was hiking down to the bottom of Black Canyon. I would go back there in a heartbeat." **Gemma Gallucci** remarked. Despite the challenges that may have been posed by this trip, it was an unforgettable trip.

**IT'S A GREAT CLASS TO RAISE
AWARENESS ABOUT OUR
ENVIRONMENT AND OUR EARTH.
- Gemma Gallucci**



GONE FISHIN'



Over the years, Mr. Ottmer had the dream to raise trout eggs with his outdoor class. He reached out to the Division of Wildlife in search of trout eggs and they became available in early October. Each day, students go into class and test the water to ensure that it is safe for the trout to grow in. They pour in bacteria to create a stable environment for the fish to grow in. These trout are grown for the entire year and are released into a critical habitat that is in need of more fish. It took around three weeks of care for the trout eggs until they began hatching into little alevin fish. Just like Mr. Ottmer's dream for the outdoor class- good things need time and care.



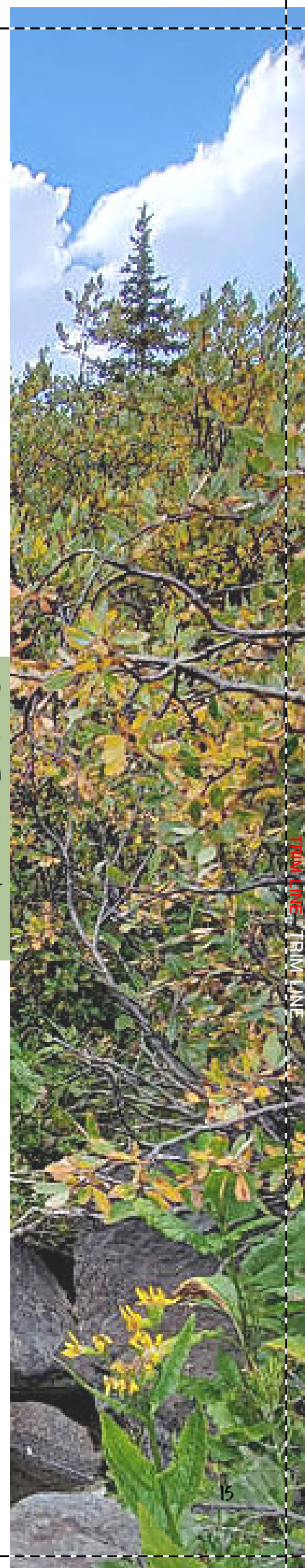
1. Erin Gray, Casiana Malec, and Scarlet Leifer are crossing a creek.
2. Steve Ottmer and his students looking over the bridge on a hike.
3. The students enjoying the last night of the trip by the campfire with s'mores. Amelia Echols, Sr. ate 8!
4. Students eating their dinner in the dark.
5. The group stops for a photo as they begin their hike to the campsite.



IF YOU ASK STEVIE MYERS WHY THE OUTDOOR ED CLASS IS ONE OF HIS FAVORITES, HE WILL TELL YOU, "TWO PERIODS LONG OF MR. OTTMER, WHO IS AWESOME, ALL SENIORS, WE TAKE A LOT OF TRIPS, AND IT'S JUST A REALLY GOOD BUNCH OF PEOPLE! YOU REALLY HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN A LOT IF YOU USE IT PROPERLY."

MEET SHELBY

Shelby is a 16 year old Russian tortoise who will live to be about 70 years old. She was given to Mr. Ottmer from a former student 6 years ago. Shelby has turned from a class pet into so much more. "She's like a therapy pet for students," Mr. Ottmer remarked. "I have students who come in some days that are having a bad day and then pick up Shelby and just pet her shell."



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