

RUETER-HESS ADVISORY BOARD FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025 AGENDA

Friday, April 11, 2025 9:00 AM 13939 Ancestry Drive Parker, CO 80134

- 1. Call to Order
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Approval of the Agenda
- 2. Approval of Minutes

Attachments: Unoffical Minutes for March 14, 2025

- 3. Citizen Comment
- 4. Discussion and Action Items
 - a. Entrance Station Improvements Update
 - b. Dock Update
 - c. Aqua Sierra Conservation and Fish Assessment 2024 Overview

Attachments: Agua Sierra Conservation and Fish Assessment 2024 Overview

d. Rueter-Hess Update for March 2025

Attachments: Rueter-Hess Update for March 2025

e. Rueter-Hess Budget Update March 2025

Attachments: Rueter-Hess Update for March 2025

- 5. Other Business and Discussion
- 6. Adjournment

**The Next Regular Meeting Will be Held on Friday, May 9, 2025 @ 9:00 am. **

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MEETING DATE: April 11, 2025

ATTACHMENTS:

Unoffical Minutes for March 14 2025



RUETER-HESS ADVISORY BOARD

FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025

MINUTES

Friday, March 14, 2025 9:00 AM 13939 Ancestry Drive Parker, CO 80134

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am.

a. Roll Call

PRESENT Board Member Bill Wasserman.

Alternate Ron Redd

Board Member Austin Good Alternate Marne Hansen Alternate Michael Lawson Alternate David Anderson Alternate Amy Knopp

EXCUSED Board Member Jeff Brauer

Board Member Larry Nimmo Board Member Mary Colton Board Member Steve Shoultz Alternate Seth Hoffman

STAFF

PRESENT Celeste Deal, County Liaison

b. Approval of the Agenda

Board Member, Bill Wasserman, asked for a motion from the Board to approve today's agenda.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: David Anderson
SECONDER: Austin Good

AYES: Wasserman, Redd, Good, Hansen, Lawson, Anderson, Knopp

EXCUSED: Brauer, Nimmo, Colton, Shoultz, Hoffman

2. Approval of Minutes

Board Chair, Mr. Wasserman, asked for a motion from the Board to approve the Minutes from February 14, 2025.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: David Anderson
SECONDER: Amy Knopp

AYES: Wasserman, Redd, Good, Hansen, Lawson, Anderson, Knopp

EXCUSED: Brauer, Nimmo, Colton, Shoultz, Hoffman

3. Citizen Comment

There were none.

4. Discussion and Action Items

a. 2026 Use Fees

Amy Knopp, Manager, Rueter-Hess, shared the Use Fee presentation.

RAB members asked questions and discussed.

User parking on off-season will still require reservations. If they just want to look, staff has been allowing access and this will remain.

Pavilion and Observation Deck Fees - Fee modification or waivers are still available if requested.

Special Use- RAB discussed event numbers and fees. The RAB would like to match the County numbers on Special Use Fees and trail use.

The RAB considered Season Passes at other reservoir locations. The RAB would like to decrease the amount to \$60.00 for the year until the reservoir has higher visitation. At that time the RAB will revisit or modify the number of passes available each year.

The reservation system limits may impede moving forward but Staff will work with IT on how to make the system work.

Board Member Mr. Wasserman asked for a motion to approve the 2026 Use Fees with a few modifications to recommend to the Board of County Commissioners.

Board Member, Austin Good, made a motion to recommend the Use Fees for 2026 with the understanding that the season pass will be reduced to \$60.00 per year with no limit to the amount of passes available to help increase visitation.

RESULT: APPROVED
MOVER: Austin Good
SECONDER: David Anderson

AYES: Wasserman, Redd, Good, Hansen, Lawson, Anderson, Knopp

EXCUSED: Brauer, Nimmo, Colton, Shoultz, Hoffman

b. Dock Update

Amy Knopp, Manager, Rueter-Hess, shared the delivery date and next steps for the docks.

The docks will be delivered to the reservoir on April 9th.

Once the docks are installed a celebration and media opportunity will be scheduled.

RAB partners will be invited to participate and encouraged to do a media release.

c. Entrance Station and Roadway Improvements Update

Amy Knopp, Manager, Rueter-Hess, updated the RAB on the entrance station improvements.

Different choices of Entrance Station Buildings and their prices were presented. RAB members discussed the buildings and prices.

Staff is researching building codes to complete the permitting process before ordering the building.

Board Member, Mr. Wasserman, asked for a motion to Approve additional funding of \$24,999 for the entrance station building at Rueter-Hess Reservoir.

RESULT: APPROVED MOVER: Amy Knopp SECONDER: Austin Good

AYES: Wasserman, Redd, Good, Hansen, Lawson, Anderson, Knopp

EXCUSED: Brauer, Nimmo, Colton, Shoultz, Hoffman

d. Rueter-Hess Update for February 2025

No discussion.

e. Rueter-Hess Budget Update for February 2025

No Discussion.

5. Other Business and Discussion

a.

Ron Redd, PWSD, informed the RAB that Commissioner Teal is encouraging the Boy Scouts to do a day camp at Rueter-Hess.

He also spoke of a possible future Eagle Scout Project at Rueter-Hess for a storage of watercraft. PWSD has predetermined a location on the property.

6. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 am.

The Next Regular Meeting Will be Held on April 11, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.



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MEETING DATE: April 11, 2025

ATTACHMENTS:

Aqua Sierra Conservation and Fish Assessment 2024 Overview

Rueter-Hess Reservoir Conservation and Fish Assessment Overview



February 1, 2025

Prepared By:

Aqua Sierra, Inc.

Excellence in Fisheries and Water Quality Management 9094 US Highway 285 Morrison, CO 80465







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Summary

Background

Successful partnerships between Parker Water and Sanitation District (PWSD), Rueter-Hess Recreation Authority Board (RAB), and Aqua Sierra, Inc. (ASI) have cultivated sustainable management benefitting drinking water storage and recreational opportunities at Rueter-Hess Reservoir (RHR). A gradual decline in habitat diversity facilitated conservation efforts in 2024 to improve habitat accessibility for various aquatic organisms while being safe for potable water and naturally blending with the landscape. Native, locally sourced stone was strategically arranged in clusters adjacent to the shoreline to form submerged islands and attract aquatic organisms as the water level rises. Regular assessments designed and conducted to sample various habitats have allowed reservoir managers to monitor fish development and establish proper fishing regulations when angling opened to the public in July 2023. While most species stocked have been observed through sampling, one avoided capture until this year. Both biologists and anglers report a vibrant fishery and successful reproduction of many game fish.

Reservoir Conservation

Primary production in RHR increased simultaneously with the surge of anthropogenic activity in the watershed and deterioration of natural elements. One of the most significant influences on reservoir health is the availability of aquatic habitats proficient in natural filtration, biodiversity, nutrient cycling, food web dynamics, and water treatment. As human activity expands across the local watershed, degradation patterns are expected to increase, and complex structures will continue to vanish.

The adopted conservation strategy was designed to blend with the native landscape, whether above or below water level, and safe for potable water. This summer, locally sourced rocks and boulders were placed outside the waterline in two locations but within the reservoir's future boundaries (Picture 1). As the water level rises and these clusters become submerged, the arrangement will provide vital habitat for aquatic organisms.



Picture 1: Habitat Improvement Areas, Boulder Piles, RHR, 2024



The ongoing stocking program aims to boost recruitment, enhance predator-prey relationships, and facilitate a resilient aquatic ecosystem. In addition to habitat improvements, approximately 14,250 large bluegills were released (Picture 2.). Since bluegills avoided capture during previous sampling, the fish were strategically stocked along the western and southern shorelines, abundant in compatible habitats, to increase survivability.



Picture 2: Bluegill Stocking, RHR 2024

Fisheries Assessment

Sampling Methodology

The E-boat method, specialized fisheries electroshocking equipment, was selected as the exclusive gear for this year's assessment. Electroshocking transmits an electrical current on demand to temporarily stunned fish within four to six feet of the boat. Stunned fish are quickly netted and placed in a live well for processing before being released back into the reservoir uninjured. All captured fish were identified, examined, and measured for total length (millimeter, mm) and weight (gram, g). Compiled data was used to calculate relative weights (Wr), relative composition, and relative biomass. Relative weight indicates the body condition of gamefish, relative composition is the proportional abundance of each species sampled, and relative biomass is the percentage of mass each species from the sample represents. Documenting species health, recruitment, and availability guides management decisions and establishes recreational angling policies.

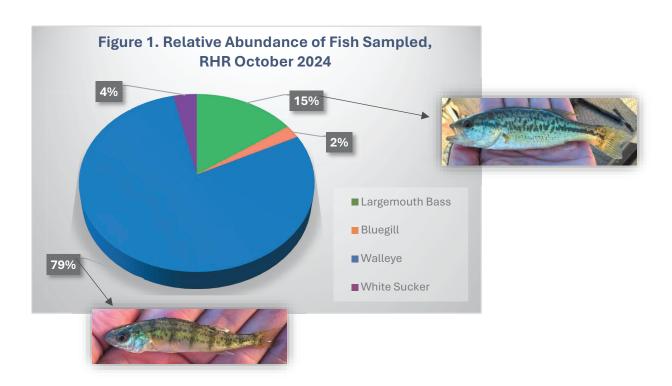
Sampling Results

Eighty-five fish (Table 1) were captured over 3,114 seconds of active electroshocking along the eastern and southern shoreline, a catch per unit effort of one fish every 36 seconds. All fish sampled were juveniles or young adults demonstrating successful reproduction of two primary predators, walleye and largemouth bass. The single class of walleye and two size classes of largemouth bass comprising over ninety percent of the catch (Figure 1) revealed these sports fish remain in good condition.

Table 1: Fish Species Sampled in RHR, October 2024

SPECIES	NUMBER CAPTURED	AVE LENGTH (mm)	AVE LENGTH (in)	AVE WEIGHT (g)	AVE WEIGHT (lb)
Micropterus salmoides Largemouth Bass	13	123.08	4.85	26.24	0.06
Lepomis macrochirus Bluegill	2	137.50	5.41	49.40	0.11
Sander vitreus Walleye	67	91.45	3.60	7.56	0.02
Catastomous commersonii	3	165	6.50	51.23	0.11
Ctenpharydon idella Grass Carp	2	n/a	n/a	9071.85	20





Discussion

Significant highlights include the recovery of bluegill adjacent to stocking locations and documenting successful reproduction of largemouth bass and walleye. The inlet channel produced the most significant catch per unit effort, although three sampling sites showed considerable fish activity. Abandoned redds were observed in new locations, indicating potential reproduction. A large channel catfish escaped netting but was visually documented by biologists. Creel survey reports from anglers at the reservoir reported walleye, yellow perch, largemouth bass, channel catfish and grass carp (Table 2).

Table 2: RHR Creel Survey Data, 2024

SPECIES	SIZE (in, lbs)
Micropterus salmoides	8" – 12"
Largemouth Bass	> 3lbs
Perca flavescens	3"- 4"
Yellow Perch	6"-8"
Sander vitreus	6"-8"
Walleye	18" - 24"
<i>Ictalurus punctatus</i> Channel Catfish	> 18"
Ctenpharydon idella Grass Carp	> 20lbs





Proposed Recreational Fishing Updates

The fishing program for RHR reflects an adaptive management approach aimed at balancing conservation and recreational interests. After reviewing survey data, updates to regulations are suggested as a commitment to enhance the angler experience while preserving ecological integrity. Recognizing the importance of sustaining a young ecosystem and maintaining drinking water standards, revisions prioritize documenting species recruitment before considering significant harvest. Selective slot sizes and bag limits for walleye, largemouth bass, and yellow perch *may be considered*, as well as increasing daily angler reservations, if supported by park rangers, to accommodate demand. However, if the daily number of anglers increases, shoreline accessibility must be simultaneously improved to designate fishing zones. Lastly, public education should continue emphasizing the importance of visitor feedback, rules and regulations, and responsible fishing practices.

Table 3: Proposed Slot Sizes and Bag Limits for Fish Harvest at RHR in 2025.

SPECIES	SLOT SIZE	BAG LIMIT
Sander vitreus Walleye	16 – 20 inches	Up to two fish per angler
Micropterus salmoides Largemouth Bass	14 – 18 inches	Up to one fish per angler
Perca flavescens White Sucker	≥ 6 inches	Up to five fish per angler

Selective Harvest

While there are signs of successful reproduction and growth among top-tier fish species, like largemouth bass, and mid-tier species like yellow perch, data remains scarce for other species.

➤ A selective harvest of walleye, largemouth bass, and yellow perch *may be considered*; however, changes shall not be implemented until July 1, 2025, to surpass the spring spawning season.

Number of Daily Anglers

On average, Park rangers reported that 28% of anglers did not show up for their reservation, and occasional rates surpassed 50%.

If supported by local park rangers, daily fishing passes could be increased by up to 20%, or twenty additional anglers per week.

Accessibility

Clear paths to intentional shoreline sites will accommodate more anglers without compromising sensitive aquatic and terrestrial habitats.

> Improving access and designating specific fishing zones for anglers is suggested.

Public Education

Angler awareness is effective for collaborative compliance in conservation.

Messaging across all platforms should emphasize the importance of the creel survey responses, adherence to rules and regulations, and responsible fishing practices.



Summary

The Master Plan for Rueter-Hess Reservoir (RHR) requires a strong commitment between collaborative partnerships to protect an invaluable drinking water supply while preserving the land as a wildlife sanctuary accessible to the public. Aqua Sierra, Inc. (ASI) offers professional guidance to the Parker Water and Sanitation District (PWSD) and Rueter-Hess Recreation Authority (RHRA) to uphold the multi-use design as a reliable, clean water source. The spring fish assessment was postponed so that bluegill could be stocked in early July, and habitat improvement began with several large boulder clusters, exceeding sixty square feet, strategically placed within the reservoir's boundaries to be flooded as the water level rises. The fall fish assessment demonstrated successful walleye and largemouth bass reproduction, and bluegill were documented. Data supports updates to the recreational fishing program to enhance the angler experience, but young reservoirs must be closely monitored for adverse impacts on the fishery. Slot sizes and bag limits for walleye, largemouth bass, and yellow perch *may be considered*, as well as increasing daily angler reservations to accommodate demand. Even with these changes, preservation, conservation, and education remain paramount to the long-term success of RHR.





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MEETING DATE: April 11, 2025

ATTACHMENTS:

Rueter-Hess Update for March 2025



Memorandum

Date: April 2, 2025

To: Douglas County Advisory Boards

From: Amy Knopp, Manager of Rueter-Hess Reservoir

CC: Steven Shoultz, CPRE, Assistant Director of Parks, Trails & Building Grounds

Subject: Rueter-Hess Recreation Update for March 2025

SUMMARY

This is the Rueter-Hess Recreation update for March 2025.

UPDATES



The ice has melted, and on Saturday, March 8, 2025, Rueter-Hess Reservoir welcomed its first angler of the year! Mother Nature couldn't have timed it better—the reservoir opens for fishing just as daylight saving time begins. Starting Sunday, March 9, visitors will enjoy an extra hour of recreation, with access extended from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. As temperatures continue to rise, non-motorized watercraft use will be coming soon!

Patience paid off and there were big smiles all around as the first fish of the season were caught at Rueter-Hess Reservoir on March 15, 2025. A 5-pound, 22-inch walleye and a 3.63-pound, 21-inch walleye were caught by two fishermen excited to come back to Rueter-Hess after successful fishing trips last year. Rangers have also received reports of lots of bites along shore and we are excited to see what people catch as the season starts to pick up.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES

- Buoy preparation, anticipated to be dropped in reservoir 1st week of April
- Research pedal kayaks for possible rental opportunities
- Safety Boat preparation clean, start, and operate
- Inspect reservoir for any safety hazards
- Entrance station preparation
- Hired new Ranger Hannah Blake
- Inspect trails
- Created online patrol log

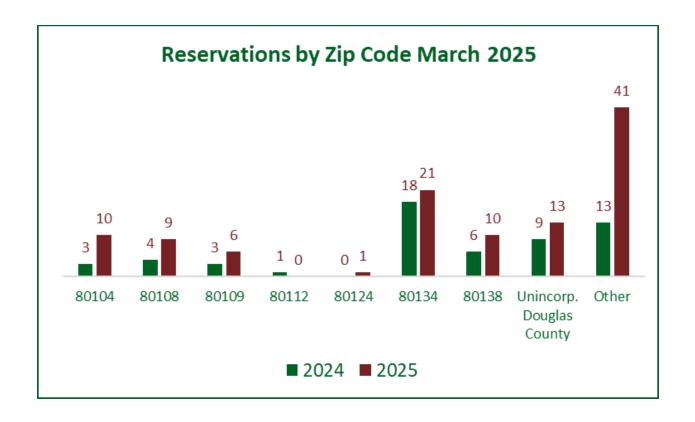
	Calendar of Events 2025	
	Special Use	
6/1 to 8/15/25	Avid4 Adventure Summer Season Day Camp	Reservoir
TBD	Fransen Pittman Company 5K	Incline
TBD	Colorado Gun Dog Association	Hess Rd. Access
TBD	Women Inspiring Leadership	Incline
June	Amateur Radio Emergency Service	Hess Rd. Access
7/14 to 7/18/25	Girl Scouts of Colorado Camp Days	Reservoir
Sept. 2025	Runuphill Racing	Incline
	RAB /Partner Days	
TBD	PWSD Bring Your Child to Work Day	Reservoir
8/10/2025	Castle Pines Partner Day	Reservoir
7/19/2025	Lone Tree Partner Day	Reservoir
TBD	PWSD Family Day 3-6 pm	Reservoir
7/27/2025	Castle Rock Partner Day	Reservoir
8/15/2025	Parker Partner Day	Reservoir
	Partner Programing	
6/14/2025	Dash Across the Dam - Parker 5K	Reservoir
	Voluneteer Programming	
4/3/25	Rocky Outcropping Fence	Incline
4/10/25	Rocky Outcropping Fence	Incline
4/17/25	Tentative Rocky Outcropping Fence	Incline
6/30/25	Corridor Clearing	Coyote Loop
7/18/25	Shoreline Clean-up	Reservoir
7/25/25	Corridor Clearing	Newline
9/12/25	Shoreline Clean-up	Reservoir

<u>STATS</u>

Visitation	Jan	Feb	Mar	2025 Total
Total Visitors At Reservoir	9	14	223	246
Total Trails Visitors	2894	4338	7453	14685
Total Visitors	2903	4352	7676	14931
Fishing	Jan	Feb	Mar	2025 Total
				IOtal
Adult Anglers	0	0	94	94
Adult Anglers Youth Anglers	0	0	94 37	
•				94

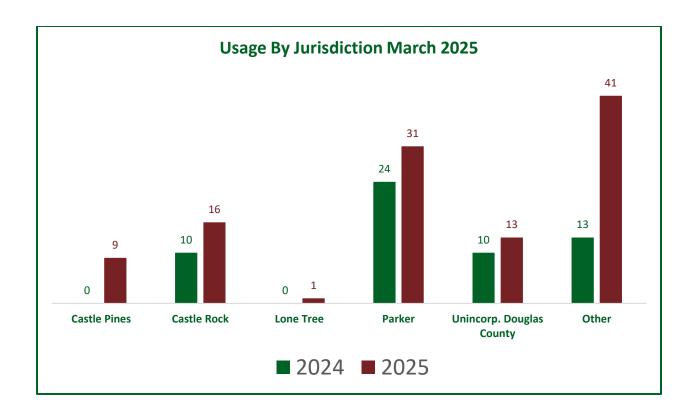
Public Safety	Jan	Feb	Mar	2025 Total
Trail Assist	0	0	0	0
Trail Rescue	0	0	0	0
Water Assist (Just Needed Some Help)	0	0	0	0
Water Rescue (Dangerous Or Distressed Situations)	0	0	0	0
EMS Requested	0	0	0	0
Number Of People Helped By EMS	0	0	0	0
Overdue Groups	0	0	1	1
Number Of People Overdue	0	0	2	2
Number Of People Helped During Assists	0	0	0	0
People Helped During Rescue	0	0	0	0
Number Of People Helped To Recreate Safely	0	0	0	0
Rules and Regulations	Jan	Feb	Mar	2025 Total
PFD Violations	0	0	0	0
Swim/Wade	0	0	0	0
Dogs On Shore	0	0	0	0
Dogs In Water	0	0	0	0
Dogs Off Leash	2	3	1	6
41 1 10 5				
Alcohol On Property	0	0	0	0
Vehicles Undesignated Areas	0 2	0	0 4	7
		-		
Vehicles Undesignated Areas	2	1	4	7
Vehicles Undesignated Areas Off Trail Use	2	1 0	4 0	7 0
Vehicles Undesignated Areas Off Trail Use Bait Violations	2 0 0	1 0 0	4 0 0	7 0 0
Vehicles Undesignated Areas Off Trail Use Bait Violations Hook Violations	2 0 0	1 0 0	4 0 0	7 0 0
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Vehicles Undesignated Areas Off Trail Use Bait Violations Hook Violations Poles Violations Fishing In Restricted Areas	2 0 0 0 0	1 0 0 0 0	4 0 0 0 0 0	7 0 0 0 0

www.douglas.co.us Rueter-Hess Reservoir



Rueter-Hess Usage by Zip Code	Number of Reservations		
Zip Code	2024	2025	
80104	3	10	
80108	4	9	
80109	3	6	
80112	1	0	
80124	0	1	
80134	18	21	
80138	6	10	
Unincorporated Douglas County	9	13	
Other	13	41	
Totals	57	111	

www.douglas.co.us Rueter-Hess Reservoir



Usage By Jurisdiction March				
City	2024	2025		
Castle Pines	0	9		
Castle Rock	10	16		
Lone Tree	0	1		
Parker	24	31		
Unincorporated Douglas County	10	13		
Other	13	41		
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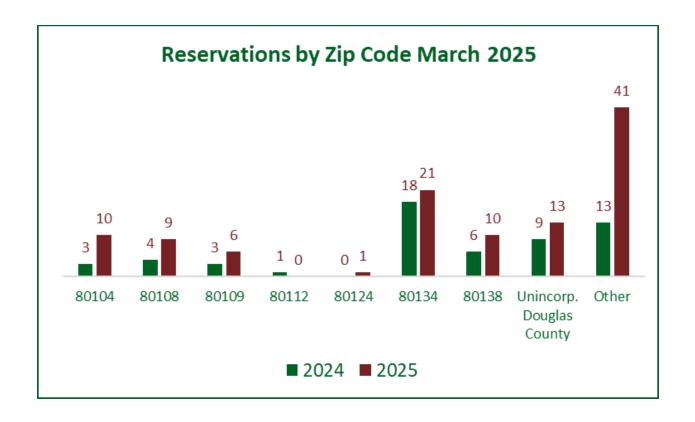
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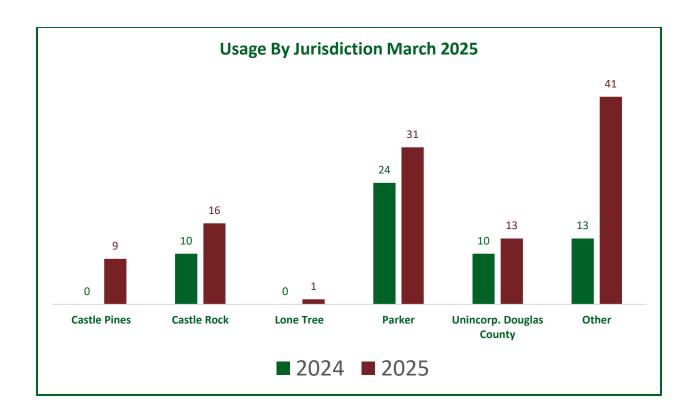
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www.douglas.co.us Rueter-Hess Reservoir



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Rueter-Hess Reservoir www.douglas.co.us



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