

Memorandum

Date: August 4, 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 July 2025**

UPDATES

Beginning July 1, 2025, Douglas County implemented new recreation rules that improve fishing at Rueter-Hess Reservoir. These new rules allow limited catch-and-keep fishing, marking a key milestone for recreation. Additionally, barbed hooks and scented baits are now allowed. Live bait remains prohibited. The catch-and-keep fishing limits in effect are:

- Walleye: 16"– 20" with a bag limit of 2 fish per angler
- Largemouth Bass: 14"–18" with a bag limit of 1 fish per angler
- Yellow Perch: Over 6" with a bag limit of 5 fish per angler

A Douglas County resident became the first angler to reach the full catch limit of yellow perch. His haul included fish measuring up to 12.5 inches, a promising sign for the reservoir's thriving ecosystem. Rangers help anglers check the size and species to maintain the health of the fishery.

Additionally, trolling electric motors are now allowed when actively engaged in fishing. They must be hand-tilled and rated at no more than 55 pounds of thrust. All watercraft must be launched by hand; trailers are not permitted.



Operational Updates

- Maintenance
- Dock Water Elevation Adjustment
 - Three Volunteer Events
 - Volunteer Corridor Clearing
 - Volunteer Shoreline Clean-Up
 - Rosie Rueter Social Trail Fencing 1st Phase
- Staff Development and Training
 - Continued Onboarding of New Rangers
 - Rescue X Training (Backboard)
 - New Employee Orientation
- Other
 - Fall Maintenance Planning (Trails, Mowing, Corridor Clearing)
 - 6 Special Events
 - Amateur Radio
 - Girl Scouts of Colorado
 - Lone Tree Partner Day
 - South Metro Fire Training
 - Castle Rock Partner Day
 - Douglas County Commissioner Video Shoot

Calendar of Events 2025		
Date	Special Event	Location
4/19/2025	Journey Church Fishing	Reservoir
5/11 & 12/2025	PWSD Student Visit to the Reservoir	Reservoir
5/14/2025	South Metro Fire Training	Reservoir
5/31/2025	Runuphill Racing	Incline
6/7/2025	Fransen Pittman Company 5K	Incline
6/7/2025	Journey Church Fishing	Reservoir
6/6/2025	Celebration of Life	Pavilion/Observation Deck
6/7/2025	Colorado Gun Dog Association	Hess Rd. Access
6/9/2025	Lone Tree Rec. Committee Tour	Reservoir
7/4/2025	Jaegger Family Visit to Rueter-Hess	Reservoir
7/19/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
7/21/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
7/23/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
7/24/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
8/9/2025	Ashley Elfeld Wedding	Pavilion/Observation Deck
9/13/2025	WICT Network Rocky Mountain	Incline
6/1 to 8/15/25	Avid4 Adventure Summer Season Day Camp	Reservoir
6/26 to 6/28/25	Amateur Radio Emergency Service	Hess Rd. Access
7/14 to 7/18/25	Girl Scouts of Colorado Camp Days	Reservoir
8/23/2025	Douglas County Sheriff's Office	Reservoir

	RAB /Partner Days	
7/19/2025	Lone Tree Partner Day	Reservoir
7/27/2025	Castle Rock Partner Day	Reservoir
8/6/2025	PWSD Family Day 3-6 pm	Reservoir
8/10/2025	Castle Pines Partner Day	Reservoir
8/16/2025	Parker Partner Day	Reservoir
	Partner Programing	
6/14/2025	Dash Across the Dam - Parker 5K	Reservoir
	Volunteer 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	Social Trail Closure	Rosie Rueter
9/12/25	Shoreline Clean-up	Reservoir

* Canceled due to weather

Rueter-Hess Recreation Stats (Updated 07/30/25)

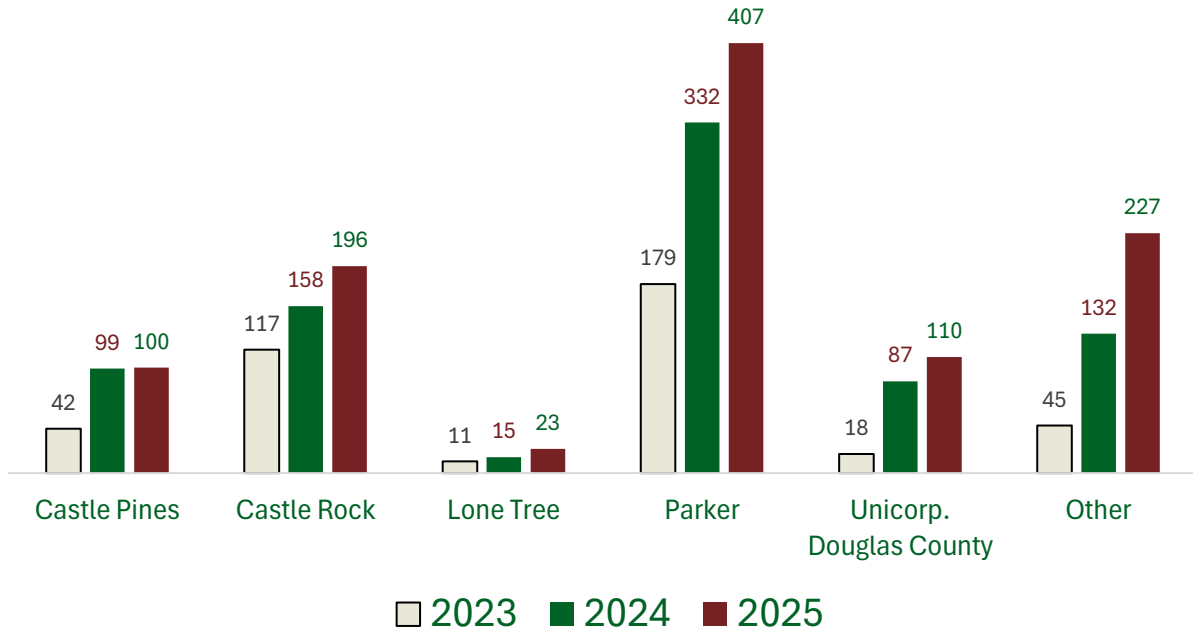
Visitation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	2025 Total
Reservations Made	2	3	130	140	312	819	1081	2487
Total Trails Visitors	2894	4338	7571	7626	9230	10395	8964	51018
Total Visitors	2903	4352	7794	7850	9774	12114	11130	55917
Fishing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	2025 Total
Adult Anglers	0	0	94	114	189	266	339	1002
Youth Anglers	0	0	37	26	48	133	142	386
Total Anglers	0	0	131	140	237	399	481	1388
Public Safety	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	2025 Total
Trail Assist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trail Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Water Assist (Just Needed Some Help)	0	0	0	0	1	16	6	23
Water Rescue (Dangerous Or Distressed Situations)	0	0	0	0	8	6	1	15
EMS Requested	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number Of People Helped By EMS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Overdue Groups	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	7
Number Of People Overdue	0	0	2	2	0	4	10	18
Number Of People Helped During Assists	0	0	0	0	1	16	6	23
People Helped During Rescue	0	0	0	0	8	7	1	16
Number Of People Helped To Recreate Safely	0	0	0	0	9	23	7	39

Rules and Regulations	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	2025 Total
PFD Violations	0	0	0	0	9	22	182	213
Swim/Wade	0	0	0	0	5	12	40	57
Dogs On Shore	0	0	0	3	2	4	0	9
Dogs In Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Dogs Off Leash	2	3	1	1	3	3	0	13
Alcohol On Property	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Vehicles Undesignated Areas	2	1	4	0	3	18	51	79
Off Trail Use	0	0	0	1	4	2	1	8
Bait Violations	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Hook Violations	0	0	0	2	5	5	0	12
Poles Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fishing In Restricted Areas	0	0	0	1	3	9	15	28
Fishing License Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Fishing Permit Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Rule Violations	4	4	5	8	34	80	292	427

RUETER-HESS VOLUNTEER HOURS 2025								
Month	Number of Hosted Events	Number of Volunteers	Hours of Service	Hours of Check-Ins & Inspections	Bags of Trash Collected	Feet of Shoreline Maintained	Bags of Weeds Pulled	Miles of Trail Maintained
March	8	8	24	24	0	0	0	0.00
April	11	11	33	33	0	0	0	0.00
May	19	19	57	50	3	20	1	0.25
June	10	10	30	26	3	0	1	0.00
July	8	8	24	10	3	200	0	0.25
Totals	56	56	168	143	9	220	2	0.50

Rueter-Hess Recreation

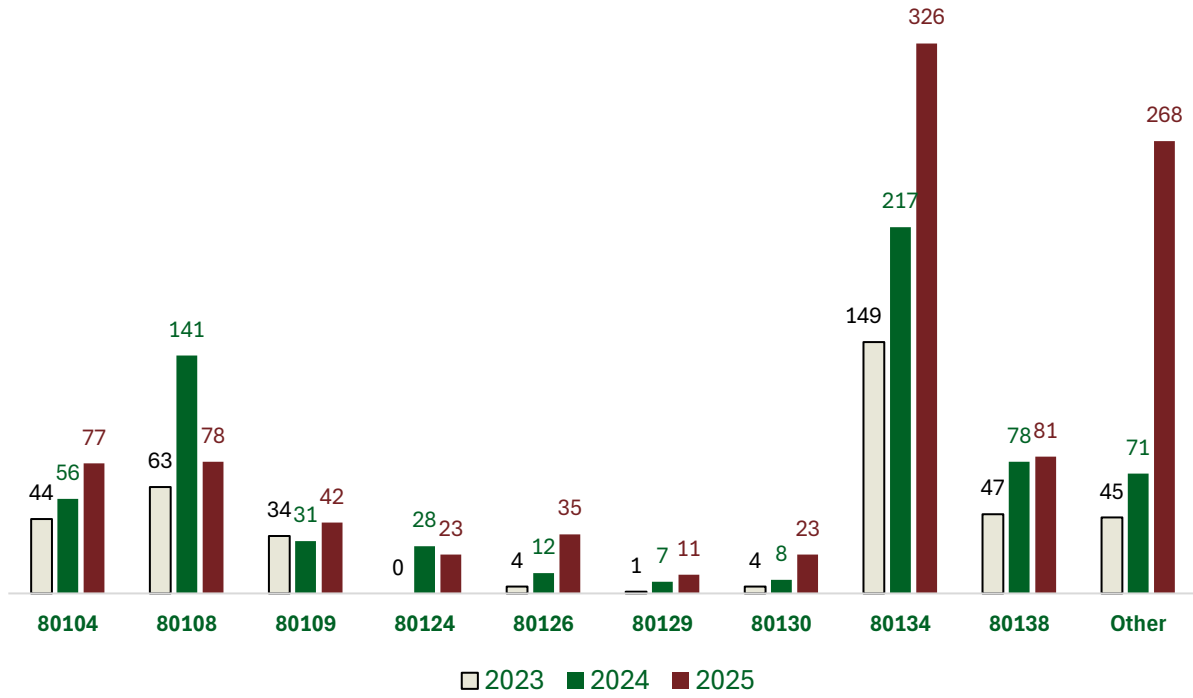
Reservations by Jurisdiction July 2025



Usage By Jurisdiction July 2023 - 2025

City	2023	2024	2025
Castle Pines	42	99	100
Castle Rock	117	158	196
Lone Tree	11	15	23
Parker	179	332	407
Unincorporated Douglas County	18	87	110
Other	45	132	227

Reservations by Zip Code July 2025



Rueter-Hess Usage by Zip Code July 2023 - 2025

Zip Code	2023	2024	2025
80104	44	56	77
80108	63	141	78
80109	34	31	42
80124	0	28	23
80126	4	12	35
80129	1	7	11
80130	4	8	23
80134	149	217	326
80138	47	78	81
Other	45	71	268