

Memorandum

Date: March 3, 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 February 2025**

SUMMARY

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

UPDATES

In February Rueter-Hess staff installed cleats and anchors on the rentable row boats. These cleats will allow for an anchor to be properly used when utilizing the crafts. Anchors may enhance the experience for users, allowing them to fully enjoy nature and birdwatching, while also providing anglers the ability to anchor in at prime fishing spots. These anchors also help boats stay in a specific location in varying weather conditions.



February provided a rollercoaster of weather reaching 70 degrees one day and dropping to below zero within a week. Park rangers are watching water level fluctuations for possible trail route adjustments and are preparing for future docks that will enhance the summer season experience. As soon as the ice melts, the reservoir will open for fishing.

As we soon transition to spring, extreme weather fluctuations provide challenging conditions on natural surface trails. Park rangers are preparing for trail maintenance work once the weather stabilizes. Until then they are encouraging visitors to visit early in the day when the ground is frozen to avoid slippery and muddy conditions.



Due to rising water levels, the main trail has become increasingly difficult to navigate, with parts of it turning muddy and soon expected to be fully submerged. To maintain safe access to the area and prevent hikers from attempting to cross hazardous or submerged sections, a bypass trail was created and reopened this past weekend. The installation of signage was crucial to guide hikers along the new route and alert them to any potential hazards. With over 9,000 users last year, the Coyote Loop trail remains a popular route, and this bypass ensures visitors can still complete the loop and enjoy the park safely.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES

- The reservoir opened to fishing on March 7th
- Park Ranger Supervisor hired to provide field and operational guidance
- Anchor system for rowboats installed
- Spring Training identified and scheduled
- Ranger hiring in progress
- Summer volunteer opportunities identified for trail maintenance and shoreline clean-up
- 2025 Special Events, contract, and concession planning

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

STATS

Visitation	Jan	Feb	2025 Total
Total Visitors At Reservoir	9	14	42
Total Trails Visitors	2932	4107	7039
Total Visitors	2941	4121	7081

Public Safety	Jan	Feb	2025
Trail Assist	0	0	0
Trail Rescue	0	0	0
Water Assist (Just Needed Some Help)	0	0	0
Water Rescue (Dangerous Or Distressed Situations)	0	0	0
EMS Requested	0	0	0
Number Of People Helped By EMS	0	0	0
Overdue Groups	0	0	0
Number Of People Overdue	0	0	0
Number Of People Helped During Assists	0	0	0
People Helped During Rescue	0	0	0
Number Of People Helped To Recreate Safely	0	0	0
Rules and Regulations	Jan	Feb	2025
PFD Violations	0	0	0
Swim/Wade	0	0	0
Dogs On Shore	0	0	0
Dogs In Water	0	0	0
Dogs Off Leash	2	3	6
Alcohol On Property	0	0	0
Vehicles Undesignated Areas	2	1	7
Off Trail Use	0	0	0
Bait Violations	0	0	0
Hook Violations	0	0	0
Poles Violations	0	0	0
Fishing In Restricted Areas	0	0	0
Fishing License Violations	0	0	0
No Fishing Permit Violations	0	0	0
Total Rule Violations	4	4	13

