

Memorandum

Date: November 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 October 2025**

UPDATES

Buck and Rail Fence

Park Rangers at Rueter-Hess Reservoir recently installed an additional 90 feet of buck-and-rail fencing along the Rosie Rueter Trail at the Incline. This enhancement aims to protect fragile vegetation, promote the growth of native plants, and support a thriving ecosystem for local wildlife.

In keeping with Douglas County's commitment to sustainability and resource protection, all materials used for the fencing were reclaimed from older fences previously decommissioned on other County properties.

Staying on designated trails is not just encouraged, it's essential. Off-trail hiking can lead to the creation of "social trails," which damage sensitive environments, accelerate erosion, and compromise the natural balance of the park. By respecting trail boundaries and supporting preservation efforts like this one, to help ensure the long-term health of Rueter-Hess and its natural beauty for generations.



Fall Fishing



As autumn settles over Rueter-Hess Reservoir, the fishing remains steady, with walleye continuing to be the primary catch. While many of the walleye reeled in exceeded the 16 to 20-inch catch-and-keep limit, anglers remain enthusiastic about the consistent action on the water. Shoreline fishing is also picking up as the water temperature starts to lower. Paddle season will be coming to a close on November 16th but fishing will still remain open from the fishing dock or on the shoreline until ice forms on the reservoir.



OCTOBER 2025 RUETER-HESS OPERATIONAL UPDATES REPORT

Park ranger staff participated in the October 2nd Parks celebration at Highlands Heritage Regional Park by providing kids with casting lessons, fish coloring, and information about Rueter-Hess reservoir.

On October 23rd, staff attended the County sponsored Emergenetics for the Minds Training to maximize professional relationship efforts. Staff continue to complete on-line training, updates to operational guidelines, manuals, and other administrative responsibilities.

Octobers mild weather allowed park rangers to get a head start on finalizing the end of the season mowing and trimming of the Rueter-Hess trails, fishing access, parking lots, and picnic areas before snowfall. Staff inspected trails for major safety hazards and filled holes, cut branches, and removed large rocks. The County owned rental boats received maintenance ensuring they are ready for next season. Non-essential buoys were pulled and cleaned for next year's use. The dock removal process and logistics are being planned and will commence over the next few weeks.

SPECIAL USE CALENDAR

Calendar of Events 2025		
Date	Special Event	Location
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/Obs
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
TBD	Women Inspiring Leadership	Incline
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
9/11/2025	Lone Tree Brewery 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb	Incline
9/13/2025	WICT Network Rocky Mountain	Incline
6/1 to 8/15/25	Avid4Adventure Summer Season Day Camp	Reservoir
6/26 to 6/28/25	Amateur Radio Emergency Service	Reservoir
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

RUETER-HESS VOLUNTEER HOURS

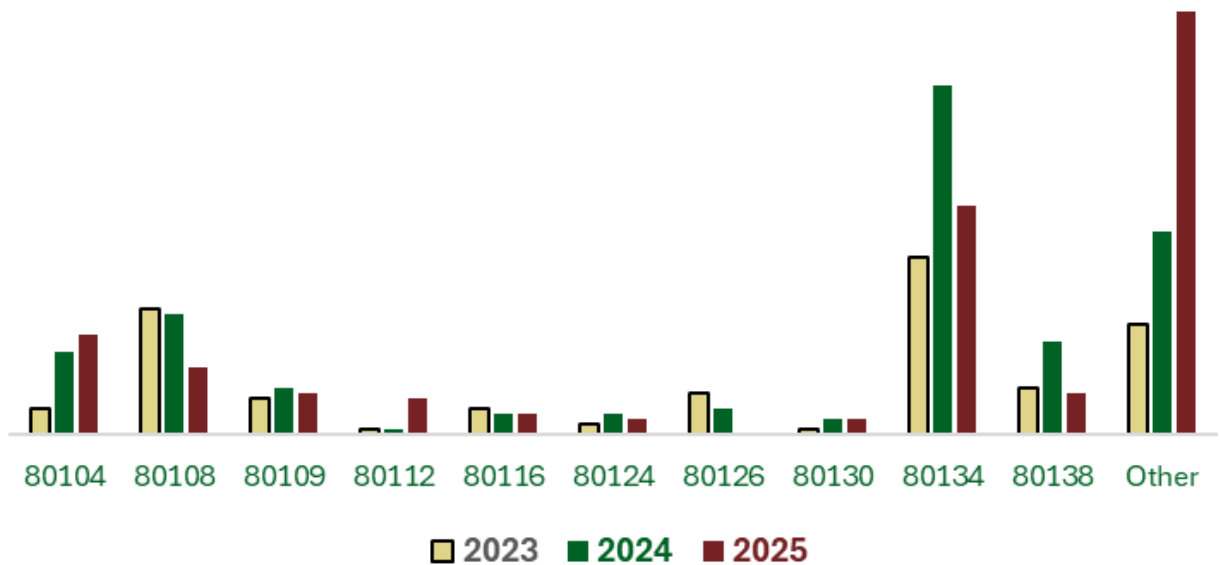
RUETER-HESS VOLUNTEER HOURS 2025								
Month	Number of Hosted Events	Number of Volunteers	Hours of Service	Hours of Check-Ins & Inspections	Bags of Trash Collected	Feet of Shoreline Maintained	Bags of Weeds Pulled	Miles of Trail Maintained
March	8	8	24	24	0	0	0	0.00
April	11	11	33	33	0	0	0	0.00
May	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
August	2	2	6	6	0	0	0	0.00
September	1	1	3	3	0	0	0	0.00
October	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Totals	58	58	174	149	9	220	2	0.50

RUETER-HESS RECREATION STATS (UPDATED 11/04/25)

Visitation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2025 Total
Reservations Made	2	3	130	140	312	819	1080	868	419	181	0	0	3,954
Total Visitors At Reservoir	9	14	223	224	544	1719	2292	1826	723	289	0	0	7,863
Total Trails Visitors	2894	4338	7571	7626	10216	10395	9194	9236	8369	6895	0	0	76,734
Total Visitors	2903	4352	7794	7850	10760	12114	11486	11062	9092	7184	0	0	84,597
Special Use	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2025 Total
Total Special Activities/Events	0	0	0	0	4	34	41	23	4	0	0	0	106
Total People Attending Special Activities/Events	0	0	0	0	95	1398	965	798	51	0	0	0	3307
Fishing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2025 Total
Adult Anglers	0	0	94	114	189	266	376	457	148	142	0	0	1,786
Youth Anglers	0	0	37	26	48	133	155	176	51	41	0	0	667
Total Anglers	0	0	131	140	237	399	531	633	199	183	0	0	2,453
Watercraft Inspections	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2025 Total
Total Watercraft Inspections	0	0	0	0	202	830	1242	987	315	102	0	0	3,678

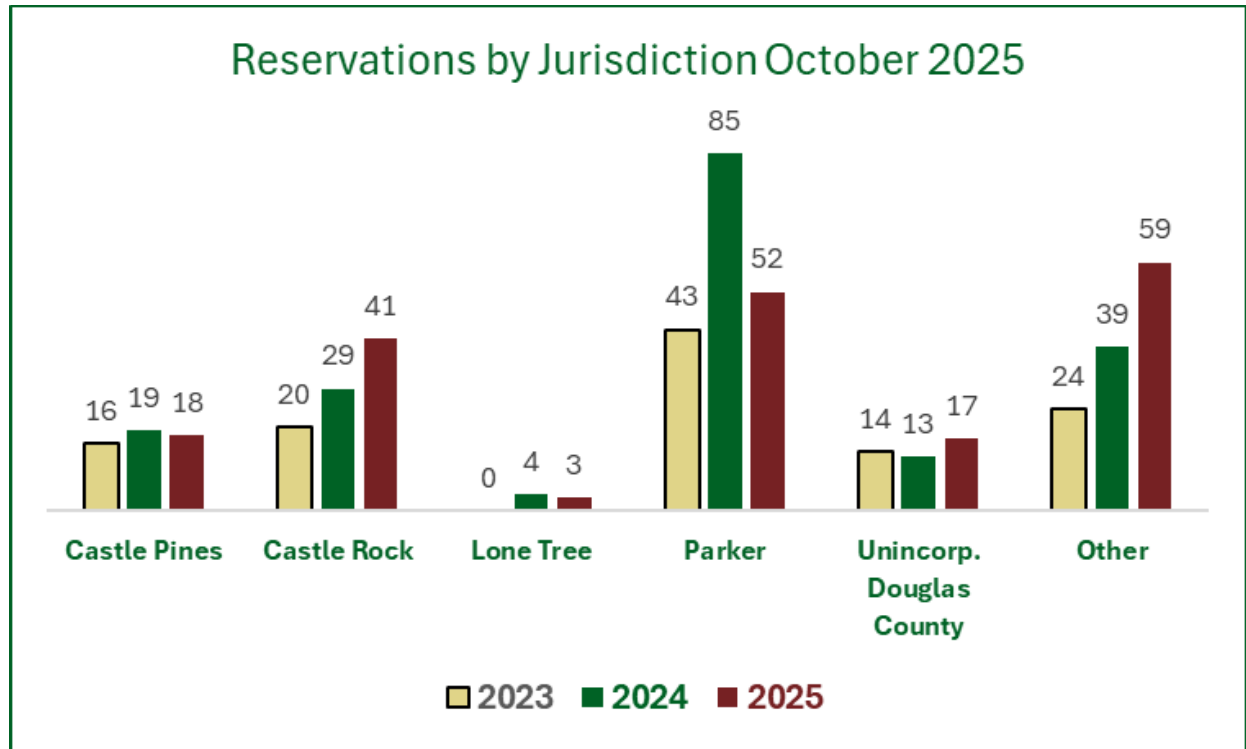
Public Safety	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2025 Total
Trail Assist	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Trail Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Water Assist (Just Needed Some Help)	0	0	0	0	1	16	6	3	6	1	0	0	33
Water Rescue (Dangerous Or Distressed Situations)	0	0	0	0	8	6	1	2	0	1	0	0	18
EMS Requested	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number Of People Helped By EMS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Overdue Groups	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	2	0	1	0	0	10
Number Of People Overdue	0	0	2	2	0	4	10	4	0	2	0	0	24
Number Of People Helped During Assists	0	0	0	0	1	16	7	3	6	2	0	0	35
People Helped During Rescue	0	0	0	0	8	7	1	2	0	1	0	0	19
Number Of People Helped To Recreate Safely	0	0	0	0	9	23	8	5	6	3	0	0	54
Rules and Regulations	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	2025 Total
PFD Violations	0	0	0	0	9	22	188	60	32	2	0	0	313
Swim/Wade	0	0	0	0	5	12	44	17	13	1	0	0	92
Dogs On Shore	0	0	0	3	2	4	6	2	2	0	0	0	19
Dogs In Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
Dogs Off Leash	2	3	1	1	3	3	0	1	0	2	0	0	16
Alcohol On Property	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Vehicles Undesignated Areas	2	1	4	0	3	18	51	2	1	1	0	0	83
Off Trail Use	0	0	0	1	4	2	3	7	6	2	0	0	25
Bait Violations	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	1	0	0	7
Hook Violations	0	0	0	2	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Poles Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	4
Fishing In Restricted Areas	0	0	0	1	3	9	15	5	1	0	0	0	34
Fishing License Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Fishing Permit Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Rule Violations	4	4	5	8	34	80	310	96	60	10	0	0	611

Reservations by Zip Code October 2025



Rueter-Hess Usage by Zip Code October 2023 - 2025

Zip Code	2023	2024	2025
80104	5	16	19
80108	24	23	13
80109	7	9	8
80112	1	1	7
80116	5	4	4
80124	2	4	3
80126	8	5	0
80130	1	3	3
80134	34	67	44
80138	9	18	8
Other	21	39	81



Usage By Jurisdiction October 2023 - 2025					
City	2023	2024	2025	Partner Day 2024	Partner Day 2025
Castle Pines	16	19	18	110	72
Castle Rock	20	29	41	101	35
Lone Tree	0	4	3	59	42
Parker	43	85	52	69	74
Unincorporated Douglas County	14	13	17	--	--
Other	24	39	59	--	--