

## Memorandum

**DATE:** July 1, 2024  
**TO:** DOUGLAS COUNTY ADVISORY BOARDS  
**FROM:** AMY KNOPP, MANAGER OF RUETER-HESS RESERVOIR  
**CC:** STEVE SHOULTZ, CPRE, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF PARKS, TRAILS & BUILDING GROUND  
**SUBJECT:** RUETER-HESS RECREATION UPDATE FOR JUNE 2024

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### SUMMARY

This is the Rueter-Hess Recreation update for June 2024.

### UPDATES

#### Memorial Day Visitation at Rueter-Hess

Rangers and staff at Rueter-Hess Reservoir prepared during the winter for the opening of paddle sports and the first big weekend of the summer paddle season. On Memorial Day over 110 reservations were made, slightly over Labor Day the busiest day in 2023. A lucky 268 people came out over the course of the day to paddle and fish the pristine waters. Rangers worked as a team as the reservoir saw its busiest day since Douglas County was named management of recreation one-year ago.

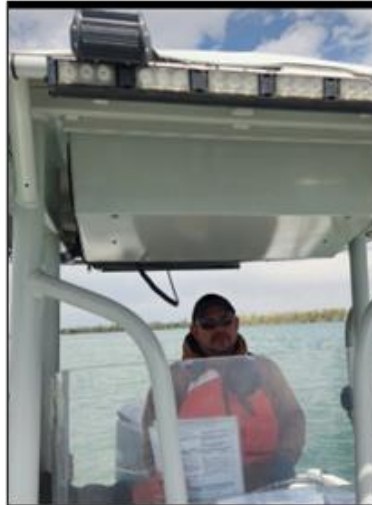


#### Why Lifejackets Are Required At Rueter-Hess Reservoir

The summer recreation season is just getting started, and one local news outlet is reporting an unsettling trend. The Colorado Sun reported that “at least 18 people” have drowned this year in rivers, lakes, and reservoirs (2024, June 12). That same article noted that 32 people drowned in 2023 and 42 people drowned in 2022. Douglas County, in collaboration with Parker Water and Sanitation District and the Rueter-Hess Recreation Advisory Board, have always required a crucial safety measure that everyone must wear a personal flotation device (commonly known as a lifejacket) that is properly sized and in good condition when accessing the water. This rule is not just a formality but a vital step towards ensuring the safety of all our visitors. As you enter, our friendly staff will remind those engaging in paddle sports to always keep their lifejackets on, a small action that can make a big difference.

Rangers proactively educate people on the importance of wearing a lifejacket. They routinely perform boat patrols. In 2023, the Rangers contacted 82 people for not wearing their lifejacket and performed 20 water-based rescues in

which 36 people were saved from dangerous situations and taken back to shore on the patrol boat. So far this year, the Rangers have not had to perform any water-based rescues. However, 12 people have been contacted for not wearing their lifejacket while recreating on the water.



(Photo shows a park ranger wearing a lifejacket while operating the patrol boat.)

Source: The Colorado Sun. (2024, June 12). "Alarming spike in water-related deaths reported by Colorado Parks and Wildlife". Retrieved from [https://gazette.com/life/outdoors/alarming-spike-in-water-related-deaths-reported-by-colorado-parks-and-wildlife/article\\_9b831042-2442-11ef-8a25-3bf609bb84e1.html](https://gazette.com/life/outdoors/alarming-spike-in-water-related-deaths-reported-by-colorado-parks-and-wildlife/article_9b831042-2442-11ef-8a25-3bf609bb84e1.html)

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES**

- Full implementation of summer operations
- Added row boats to rental fleet
- Two rangers completed Mountain Bike Training course
- Seasonal interviews for entrance/inspection station
- Planning for ranger expansion to regional parks
- Severe weather repairs on parking lots, entry ways, and trails

Calendar of Events		
All Summer Season	Avid4 Adventure Summer Season Day Camp	Reservoir
4/11/2024	Rock Canyon High School (Fishing)	Reservoir
5/31/2024	South Suburban Fire Training	Reservoir
6/1/2024	Fransen Pittman Company 5K	Incline
6/1/2024	Colorado Gun Dog Association	Hess Road Access
6/8/2024	Women Inspiring Leadership	Incline
06/21/24 to 6/23/24	Amateur Radio Emergency Service	Hess Road Access
07/15/24 to 07/19/24	Girl Scouts of Colorado Camp Days	Reservoir
RAB /Partner Days		
6/14/2024	PWSD Bring Your Child to Work Day	Reservoir
6/22/2024	The City of Castle Pines Partner Day	Reservoir
7/20/2024	The City of Lone Tree Partner Day	Reservoir

7/24/2024	PWSD Family Day 3-6 pm	Reservoir
8/3/2024	The Town of Castle Rock Partner Day	Reservoir
8/17/2024	The Town of Parker Partner Day	Reservoir

**STATS**

Visitation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul
Reservations made	10	14	81	130	349	784	0
Reservations attended	7	7	52	105	274	680	0
No show reservations	3	7	29	25	75	104	0
Number of visitors at reservoir	15	17	118	176	706	1747	0
Incline visitors	3537	3106	5325	5879	6593	8051	0
Coyote Run Loop visitors	690	545	341	737	514	1655	0
Newlin Gold trail visitors	10	17	71	72	70	119	0
Total Visitors	4252	3685	5855	6864	7883	11572	0
Vehicles allowed in because they couldn't make a reservation (Failed Reservation)	0	0	0	2	0	3	0
Reservation System Feedback	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2024 Total
Reservation complaints	0	0	1	0	2	1	4
Vendor reported reservation complaints	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Complaints via email or phone	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total complaints	0	0	1	0	2	4	7
Fishing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2024 Total
Adult anglers	1	0	51	111	156	218	537
Youth anglers	0	0	14	15	65	97	191
Total anglers	1	0	65	126	221	315	728
Tackle Box Inspections	1	0	51	103	148	216	519
Fishing checks	1	0	39	96	216	243	595

Special Events	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2024 Total
Partner days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Partner days attendance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Partner programming days	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Partner programming days attendance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Special Events/Use	0	0	0	1	2	19	22
Special Events/use attendance	0	0	0	18	46	1029	1093
Total special activities/events	0	0	0	1	2	19	22
Total people attending special events	0	0	0	18	46	1029	1093
Public Safety	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2024 Total
Water assist (just needed some help)	0	0	0	0	1	23	24
Trail assist	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Number of people helped during assists	0	0	0	0	1	26	27
Water rescue (dangerous or distressed situations)	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Trail rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
People helped during rescue	0	0	0	0	0	6	6
Overdue groups	0	0	0	1	2	10	13
Number of people overdue	0	0	0	2	4	28	34
Number of people helped to recreate safely	0	0	0	0	1	32	33
EMS Requested	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Number of people helped by EMS	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Ranger Patrol (hours)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2024 Total
Foot patrol	34.00	56.00	124.00	189.00	188.00	181.00	772.00
Bike patrol	0.00	0.00	2.00	6.00	18.00	10.00	36.00
Boat patrol	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.00	49.00	115.00	195.00
Vehicle and ATV patrol	41.00	57.00	69.00	121.00	159.00	99.00	546.00
Entrance Station	242.00	226.00	311.00	339.00	224.00	236.00	1578.00
Training	56.00	79.00	101.00	84.00	30.00	5.00	355.00
Admin at HHRP	427.00	354.00	157.00	39.00	57.00	19.00	1053.00
Holiday/Vacation/PTO	72.00	60.00	104.00	73.00	125.00	235.00	669.00
Total hours	872.00	832.00	868.00	882.00	850.00	900.00	5204.00

<b>Watercraft Inspections</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>2024 Total</b>
Paddleboard inspection	0	0	0	35	199	719	953
Canoe inspection	0	0	0	1	16	11	28
Kayak inspections	0	0	0	4	120	178	302
Windsurf inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total watercraft inspection</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>908</b>	<b>1283</b>
Paddleboard cleaned	0	0	0	12	35	128	175
Canoe cleaned	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Kayak cleaned	0	0	0	2	23	19	44
Windsurf cleaned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total watercraft Cleaned - allowed to launch</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>220</b>
Failed Paddleboard inspection	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Failed Canoe inspection	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Failed Kayak inspections	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Windsurf and Wing surf inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Failed inspections (not allowed to launch)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Rules and Regulations</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>2024 Total</b>
PFD violations	0	0	0	0	15	45	60
Swim/wade	0	0	0	0	7	36	43
Dogs on shore	0	0	0	0	2	2	4
Dogs in water	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Dogs off leash	1	4	7	4	2	1	19
Alcohol on property	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Undesignated areas	6	4	7	0	21	35	73
Off trail use	0	0	4	5	5	1	15
Bait violations	0	0	0	0	6	14	20
Hook violations	1	0	2	0	3	15	21
Poles violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishing in restricted areas	0	0	0	20	10	5	35
Fishing license violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No fishing permit violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total rule violations</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>293</b>

Trail Maintenance (hours)	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2024 Total
Trail maintenance	9.0	21.0	39.5	32.0	14.0	43.0	158.5
Establish new trail	0.0	0.0	4.5	18.0	0.0	0.0	22.5
Fishing access maintenance	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	3.0	0.0	3.0
Establish new fishing access	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Parks Tech's with machinery	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total trail maintenance hours	9.0	21.0	44.0	50.0	17.0	43.0	184.0
Comments & Questions	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2024 Total
Allowed activity	0	2	4	16	7	5	34
Biking	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Boating	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
Camping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishing	4	5	11	13	0	1	34
General questions	0	0	15	12	5	9	41
Hiking	0	0	0	7	0	0	7
Inspections	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Passes	2	2	4	1	1	1	11
Refunds	0	0	0	0	3	10	13
Rentals	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Reservations and fees	1	2	9	13	10	21	56
Special events	0	0	0	1	1	3	5
Trails	0	0	3	3	3	1	10
Grand total	8	11	46	70	31	52	218
Facility Closure	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2024 Total
Facility closure for water quality	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Impacted reservation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Facility closure for weather	3	0	3	0	0	0	6
Total number of impacted people	0	0	0	0	0	0	0