

Memorandum

Date: June 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 May 2025**

SUMMARY

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

UPDATES

On May 21, 2025, Park Ranger Dylan Roberts participated in the Basic Marine Operation Training course at Boyd Lake State Park. During the course, Ranger Roberts and Colorado Parks and Wildlife Officer Scott Reffel responded to a real-life emergency on the water, successfully saving the life of a local boater. Although this incident did not occur in Douglas County, Ranger Roberts and Officer Reffel exemplified dedication, skill, and composure, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to public safety.

Below is Officer Reffel's account of the incident.

There was a boater in a small 12' Laser sailboat out in the middle of Boyd Lake, near where we were ironically training on overboard recoveries and towing. At approximately 1pm, the sailor, an adult male of Fort Collins, was caught in a strong 20mph+ gust that rolled his sailboat. He was able to right and reboard the vessel three different times as winds continued to push and roll him, on the fourth attempt he became entangled in his jib line and main stay.

We responded immediately and were able to untangle the man from his lines and assisted him in boarding our boat. Dylan then assisted me in taking control of the sailboat while the wind pushed us into the dam. We were able to use multiple lash points and get the sailboat secured enough on its side to keep it from breaking, sailing away, or capsizing. I held the keel while driving the boat back and Dylan held the sailboat with his arms anchoring it to the gunwale rails, and we were able to get it to the beach. Dylan assisted me in carrying Mecklenburg, who was suffering from hypothermia to the boat ramp and into a ranger vehicle. While I worked with the man and EMTs, Dylan, without any instruction, returned and hauled in the sailboat and disassembled the mast.

When the man was released by the EMTs and we returned to load the sailboat, we found it was nearly ready to go. I loaded the masts and sails with the man, while Dylan dragged the boat through the reservoir along the beach and loaded it onto the man's trailer for him. He was released by EMTs with no injuries and did not succumb to his hypothermia. There was also no damage to the vessel or any lost property. Dylan showed great poise and calmness, he assisted eagerly without prompt or instruction, and he did so at a very capable and qualified level.

Ranger Roberts and Officer Reffel showed remarkable poise, initiative, and tactical skill throughout the incident. They took on a crucial role during a life-threatening emergency and operated at a highly competent and professional level.



Rueter-Hess Reservoir opened for another season of paddleboarding, canoeing, and kayaking on May 2nd. Visitors are making the most of sunny days on the Reservoir. A Park Ranger greets visitors at the entrance to the Reservoir, completes watercraft and fishing tackle inspections, and if they are going to access the water, they are reminded to always to wear their lifejacket.

Promoting safety remains a top priority for the Park Rangers. During proactive boat patrols, they engage with recreating paddleboarders, kayakers, canoeists, and anglers. These

proactive boat patrols position the Park Rangers to render aid during dangerous situations. So far this year, eight people have found themselves in situations where they have had to get assistance to make it safely back to the shore.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE UPDATES

- The reservoir opened to water recreation on May 2nd
- Anchor system for rowboats installed
- Spring training identified and scheduled
- Summer volunteer opportunities identified for trail maintenance and shoreline clean-up
- 2025 Special Events, contract, and concession planning

Stats (Updated 06/06/2025)

Visitation	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2025 Total
Total Visitors At Reservoir	9	14	223	224	544	251	1265
Total Trails Visitors	2894	4338	7571	7626	9230	0	31659
Total Visitors	2903	4352	7794	7850	9774	251	32924
Fishing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2025 Total
Adult Anglers	0	0	94	114	189	68	465
Youth Anglers	0	0	37	26	48	25	136
Total Anglers	0	0	131	140	237	79	587
Public Safety	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2025 Total
Trail Assist	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Trail Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Assist (Just Needed Some Help)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Water Rescue (Dangerous Or Distressed Situations)	0	0	0	0	8	2	10
EMS Requested	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number Of People Helped By EMS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overdue Groups	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Number Of People Overdue	0	0	2	2	0	0	4
Number Of People Helped During Assists	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
People Helped During Rescue	0	0	0	0	8	2	10
Number Of People Helped To Recreate Safely	0	0	0	0	9	2	11

Rules and Regulations	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2025 Total
PFD Violations	0	0	0	0	9	0	9
Swim/Wade	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Dogs On Shore	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Dogs In Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dogs Off Leash	2	3	1	0	3	0	9
Vehicles Undesignated Areas	2	1	4	0	3	0	10
Off Trail Use	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Bait Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hook Violations	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Poles Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fishing In Restricted Areas	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Total Rule Violations	4	4	5	0	34	0	47

Calendar of Events 2025		
Date	Special Event	Location
5/11/2025	PWSD Academic Tour	Reservoir
5/11 and 12 /2025	PWSD Academic Tour	Reservoir
5/13/2025	Town of Parker Parks Advisory Board Tour	Reservoir
5/14/2025	South Metro Fire Training	Reservoir
5/31/2025	Runuphill Racing	Incline
6/1 to 8/15/25	Avid4 Adventure Summer Season Day Camp	Reservoir
6/7/2025	Fransen Pittman Company 5K	Incline
6/7/2025	Journey Church Fishing	Reservoir
6/7/2025	Colorado Gun Dog Association	Hess Rd. Access
6/9/2025	Lone Tree Rec Committee Tour	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
9/13/2025	WICT Network Rocky Mountain	Incline
RAB /Partner Days		
5/11/2025	PWSD Student Visit to the Reservoir	Reservoir
8/10/2025	Castle Pines Partner Day	Reservoir
7/19/2025	Lone Tree Partner Day	Reservoir
7/27/2025	Castle Rock Partner Day	Reservoir
7/30/2025	PWSD Family Day 3-6 pm	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	Corridor Clearing	Newlin's
9/12/25	Shoreline Clean-up	Reservoir

* Canceled due to weather

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	64	0	0	0
April	11	11	33	33	88	0	0	0
May	12	12	54	54	132	0	1	0
Totals	31	31	111	111	284	0	1	0