

## Memorandum

**Date:** October 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 September 2025

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### UPDATES

#### **9/11 Stair Climb Honoring Heroes**

On Thursday, September 11th, Lone Tree Brewing Company hosted the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb at Rueter-Hess Incline. This stair climb consisted of traversing the incline 11 times in honor of the first responders who scaled the World Trade Center's Twin Towers. The event honored both first responders and fallen heroes while supporting the Colorado State Fire Fighters Foundation. The event inspired other regular Incline visitors to attempt additional trips up the stairs that day. One local firefighter conquered the incline in his bunker gear (firefighting uniform). Lone Tree Brewing Company is interested in holding this as an annual event at Rueter-Hess.



#### **Sonar Technology on Rueter-Hess Recreation Patrol Boat**

A new advanced sonar system has been installed on the patrol boat at Rueter-Hess Reservoir to enhance public safety, support recreational activities, and improve angling experiences.



This sonar unit provides real-time underwater imaging and environmental data, enabling Park Rangers to:

- Support Anglers by identifying active fish habitats and sharing that information to improve fishing success.
- Enhance Visitor Safety by detecting underwater hazards and monitoring fluctuating water levels to ensure dock accessibility.
- Assist Watercraft users by providing up-to-date water temperature readings and conditions for safer recreation.

In addition to recreational benefits, the sonar system significantly strengthens emergency response capabilities. It allows Park Rangers and first responders to quickly locate missing persons or submerged objects, dramatically improving search and rescue response times.

This investment in technology reflects a continued commitment to public safety, environmental stewardship, and high-quality visitor experiences at Rueter-Hess Reservoir.

## **2025 SEPTEMBER RUETER-HESS OPERATIONAL UPDATES REPORT**

September was a successful month at Rueter-Hess Reservoir, marked by a well-attended Labor Day weekend and a vendor-sponsored Sunset Paddle event. Additional hosted activities included the 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb and Recognize and Exercise for Veterans. Park rangers also represented the reservoir at the Douglas County Parks, Trails, Historic Resources, and Open Space Fall Festival, where they engaged with attendees and shared information about Rueter-Hess.

Throughout the month, park rangers continued weekly dock adjustments to accommodate fluctuating water levels, ensuring safe and improved shoreline access for watercraft. As visitation begins to taper, staff have shifted focus to seasonal maintenance tasks such as mowing, trimming, weeding, harrowing, and clearing trail corridors. Rangers also participated in ongoing professional development, including Fire Safety, Stop the Bleed, Active Threat, and GIS training.

Additional projects included repairing signage damaged by wind microbursts and addressing trail impacts on the Incline, Rosie Rueter, and the social trail leading to the rock outcropping site. To protect a culturally sensitive area, the social trail was closed off using buck-and-rail fencing to discourage further access.

Meanwhile, Douglas County Road and Bridge initiated a roadway improvement project on the reservoir side. This included paving from Hess Road to the Overflow Lot and constructing an eastbound deceleration lane at the entrance intersection. These improvements are expected to improve traffic safety, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and enhance the overall visitor experience.

## **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

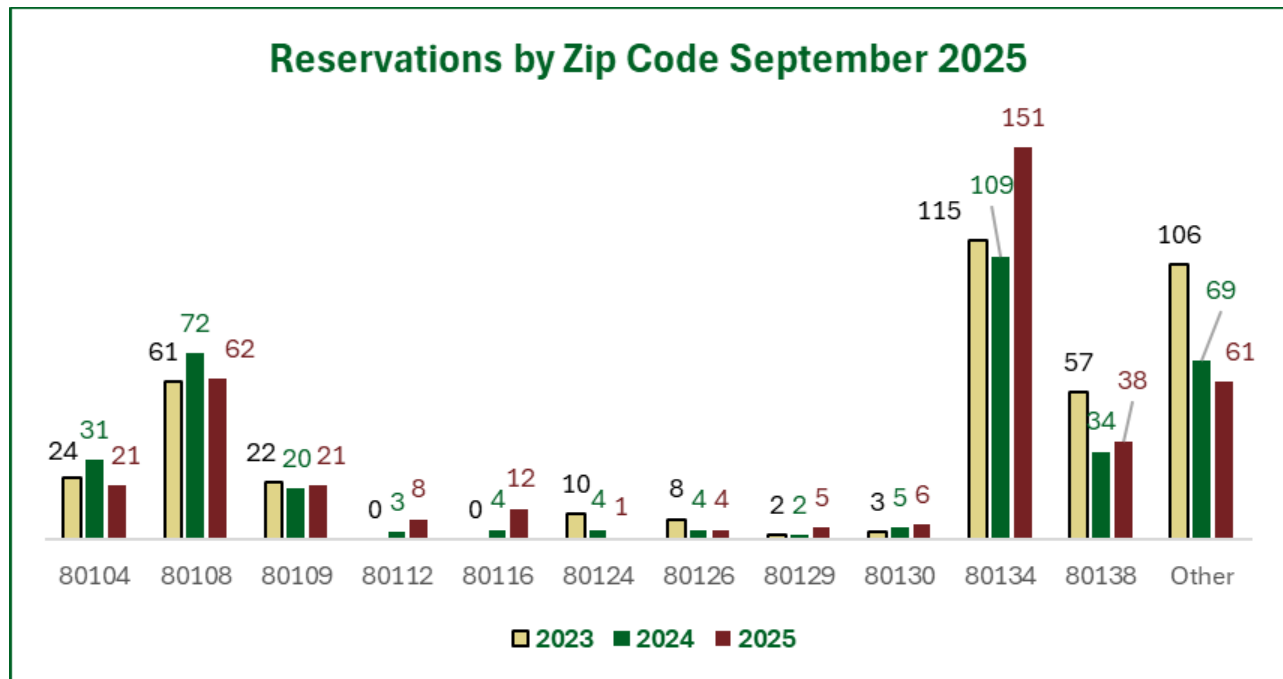
7/21/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
7/23/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
7/24/2025	South Metro Dive Rescue Training	Reservoir
8/9/2025	Ashley Elfeld Wedding	Pavilion
9/11/2025	Lone Tree Brewery 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb	Incline
9/13/2025	WICT Network Rocky Mountain	Incline
6/1 to 8/15/25	Avid4 Adventure 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
	<b>RAB /Partner Days</b>	
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
	<b>Partner Programing</b>	
6/14/2025	Dash Across the Dam - Parker 5K	Reservoir

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
Totals	58	58	174	149	9	220	2	0.50

### RUETER-HESS RECREATION STATS (UPDATED 10/02/25)

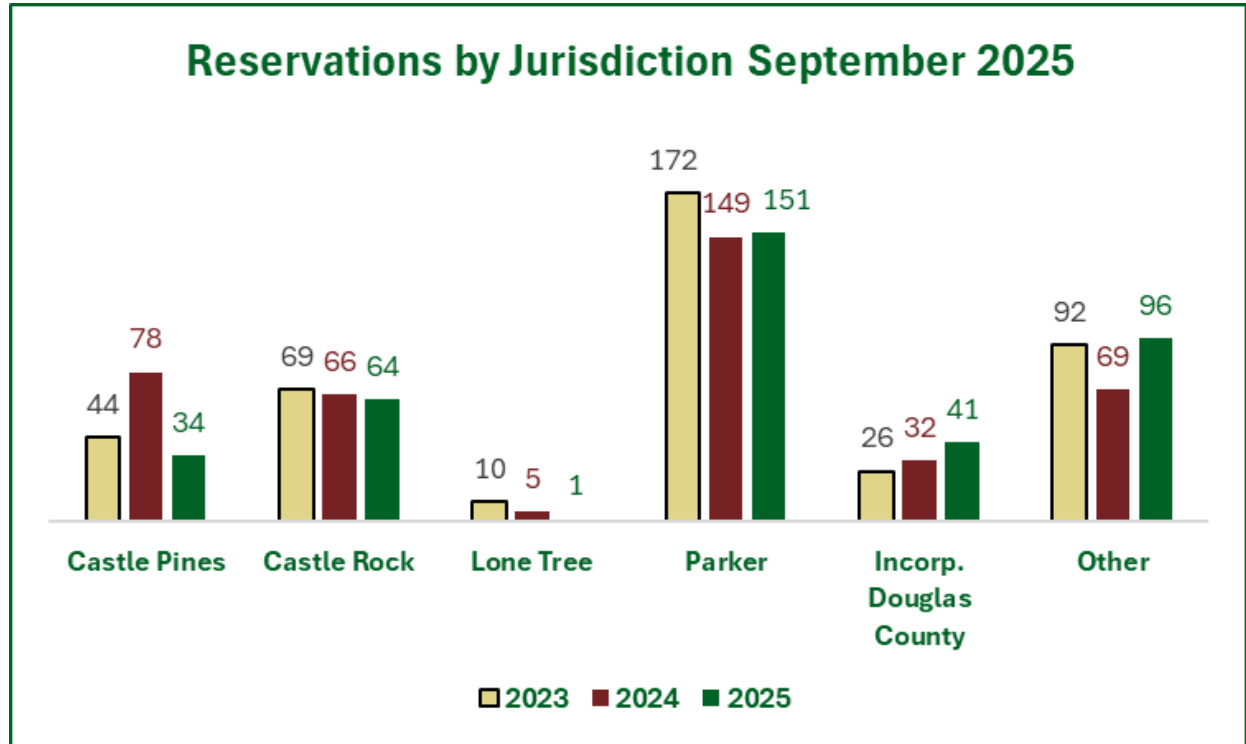
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Special Use	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2025 Total
Total Special Activities/Events	0	0	0	0	4	28	33	15	2	82
Total People Attending Special Activities/Events	0	0	0	0	95	1334	843	718	25	3015
Fishing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2025 Total
Adult Anglers	0	0	94	114	189	266	376	457	148	1,644
Youth Anglers	0	0	37	26	48	133	155	176	51	626
Total Anglers	0	0	131	140	237	399	531	633	199	2,270
Watercraft Inspections	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2025 Total
Total Watercraft Inspections	0	0	0	0	202	830	1242	987	315	3,576
Public Safety	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2025 Total
Trail Assist	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Trail Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Water Assist (Just Needed Some Help)	0	0	0	0	1	16	6	3	6	32
Water Rescue (Dangerous Or Distressed Situations)	0	0	0	0	8	6	1	2	0	17
EMS Requested	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	1
Overdue Groups	0	0	1	1	0	1	4	2	0	9
Number Of People Overdue	0	0	2	2	0	4	10	4	0	22
Number Of People Helped During Assists	0	0	0	0	1	16	7	3	6	33
People Helped During Rescue	0	0	0	0	8	7	1	2	0	18
Number Of People Helped To Recreate Safely	0	0	0	0	9	23	8	5	6	51
Rules and Regulations	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	2025 Total
PFD Violations	0	0	0	0	9	22	188	60	0	279
Swim/Wade	0	0	0	0	5	12	44	17	0	78
Dogs On Shore	0	0	0	3	2	4	6	2	0	17
Dogs In Water	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Dogs Off Leash	2	3	1	1	3	3	0	1	0	14
Alcohol On Property	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Vehicles Undesignated Areas	2	1	4	0	3	18	51	2	0	81
Off Trail Use	0	0	0	1	4	2	3	7	0	17
Bait Violations	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	0	5
Hook Violations	0	0	0	2	5	5	0	0	0	12
Poles Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Fishing In Restricted Areas	0	0	0	1	3	9	15	5	0	33
Fishing License Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
No Fishing Permit Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Rule Violations	4	4	5	8	34	80	310	96	0	541



Rueter-Hess Usage by Zip Code September 2023 - 2025			
Zip Code	2023	2024	2025
80104	24	31	21
80108	61	72	62
80109	22	20	21
80124	10	4	1
80126	8	4	4
80129	2	2	5
80130	3	5	6
80134	115	109	151
80138	57	34	38
Other	106	69	61

\*Statistics are approximate as our payment system experienced difficulties during September.  
 The reservoir was closed for 3-days to complete road paving.



Usage By Jurisdiction September 2023 - 2025					
City	2023	2024	2025	Partner Day 2024	Partner Day 2025
Castle Pines	44	78	34	110	72
Castle Rock	69	66	64	101	35
Lone Tree	10	5	1	59	42
Parker	172	149	151	69	74
Unincorporated Douglas County	26	32	41	--	--
Other	92	69	96	--	--

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