



rifle falls state park

FY09-10



who we are

Rifle Falls State Park is extremely popular due to its trio of renowned 70 foot-high waterfalls. *Sunset* magazine named Rifle Falls as the “must see waterfalls in the West.” Fascinating limestone caves to the northeast of the falls provide families with a great introduction to cave exploration. The park’s lush vegetation and unique scenery attract hikers, photographers and others from around the country.

Visitors to Rifle Falls State Park spend about \$3 million annually in local communities.

Source: *Corona Research, Colorado State Parks Marketing Assessment, “Visitor Spending Analysis 2008-2009.”*

top attractions

- *Sunset* magazine previously listed the falls at Rifle Falls State Park as one of the 10 best waterfalls in the western U.S.
- The 70 foot-high waterfalls and caves at Rifle Falls are spectacular and very unique to Colorado.
- Campsites and picnic sites are extremely popular with families. The picnic sites have ample shade and are very popular on summer weekends. Reservations are highly recommended, even during the week.
- Campsite #20 is recognized as one of the best campsites in the Colorado State Parks. Make a reservation early.

our partners

- Rifle Area Chamber of Commerce
- Colorado Sportsman’s Wildlife Fund
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Numerous local school districts
- Farmer’s Irrigation Company
- Silt Water Conservancy District

challenges we face

- Rifle Falls is a small park but has become one of the most popular day-use facilities in the area. The park often reaches capacity on weekends, with visitors turned away.
- Infrastructure needs at the park are significant, and made more troublesome by budget constraints. Without adequate maintenance, visitor satisfaction with park facilities may decline.
- As park visitation increases, staff concerns over natural resource management and protection increase.



our enduring vision

Colorado State Parks offer exceptional settings for renewal of the human spirit. Residents and visitors enjoy healthy, fun-filled interaction with the natural world, creating rich traditions with family and friends that promote stewardship of our natural resources. Park employees and their partners work together to provide ongoing and outstanding customer service through recreational programs, amenities and services.

statistics and ratios

Visitation FY 09-10: **75,223**

Estimated expenditures within 50 miles of the park: **\$3,034,303 (2008-2009)**

Full-time staff: **1**

Visitor to full-time staff ratio: **75,223:1**

Temporary employees: **3**

Volunteers: **22 (shared with Rifle Gap State Park and Harvey Gap State Park)**

Volunteer hours contributed: **4,457 (shared with Rifle Gap State Park and Harvey Gap State Park)**

County: **Garfield**

Congressional District: **3**

State Legislative Districts
Senate: **8** House: **57**

expenses/revenue

Total operating expenses: **\$34,353**

Total construction expenses: **\$0**

Total revenue generated: **\$121,239**

Self-sufficiency ratio: **353%**
(FY 09-10 revenues/operating expenses)

park inventory

Year became a state park: **1966**
Land acres: **48**
Elevation: **6,800'**

Ownership

State parks: **100%**
Other: **0%**

Miles of Roads

Paved: **.4**
Unpaved: **.1**

Miles of Trails

Hiking: **2.0**

Campsites: **20**

Picnic sites: **12**

Concessions: **0**

Major buildings/structures:

Amphitheatre
Group picnic area
Temporary worker quarters

land acquisitions FY 09-10

There were no new acquisitions in FY 09-10.

volunteer activities

- Camp hosts provide the ability to monitor and manage park campgrounds. Every effort is made to retain quality camp hosts for the next season.
- Local boy scouts perform a "park clean-up" in spring, summer and fall.
- Through the park's excellent relationship with the Western Colorado Astronomy Club, the park is able to offer astronomy programs to visitors over July 4th and Labor Day Weekends. The Club provides the telescopes and other equipment and conducts the presentations.

to contact us:

Rifle Falls State Park • (970) 625-1607 • c/o Rifle Gap State Park • Park Manager: Aaron Fero
5775 Highway 325 • Rifle, CO • 81650 • rifle.gap.park@state.co.us • www.parks.state.co.us

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Colorado State Parks