

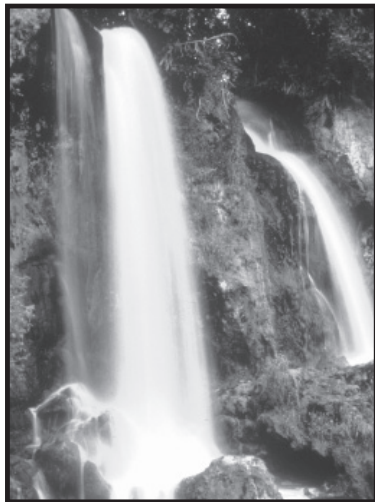


# rifle falls state park

FY 07-08 PARK FACTS

## about the park

Rifle Falls State Park is located approximately 14 miles north of Rifle on State Highway 325. This park is extremely popular with families due to its trio of 70 foot-high waterfalls, excellent hiking and ample shade. Mysterious limestone caves to the northeast of the falls provide families with a great introduction to cave exploration. Rifle Falls State Park is the closest you'll get to the tropics in Colorado. The park's lush vegetation and waterfalls have attracted photographers and movie crews from around the country who take advantage of the area's unique scenery.



**total visitation, FY 07-08**  
(July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008)  
66,318

**county**  
Garfield

**congressional district**  
3

**state legislative districts**  
Senate 8  
House 57

**year became a state park**  
1966

**ownership**  
100% State Parks  
0% other

**land acres**  
48 acres

**water acres**  
0 acres

**elevation**  
6,800'

## park inventory

**miles of road**  
paved 0.4  
unpaved 0.1

**miles of trails**  
hiking 2.0  
biking allowed

**number of boat ramps**  
0

**number of campsites**  
20

**number of cabins/yurts**  
0

**number of picnic sites**  
12

**concessions at the park**  
none

**major buildings/structures**  
temporary residence



## top attractions

- In April 2007, Rifle Falls was listed as one of the 10 best waterfalls in the west by *Sunset Magazine*.
- The waterfalls and caves at Rifle Falls are spectacular and virtually unique to Colorado.
- Campsites and picnic sites are extremely popular with families. The picnic sites have ample shade and are nearly always fully occupied on weekends during the summer. Reservations are highly recommended, even during the week.
- Our thirteen campsites with electric hook-ups and seven walk-in tent sites are also extremely popular. Campsite #20 has been recognized as one of the best campsites in the Colorado State Parks system.

## contact information

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

## challenges

- Park management continues to explore ways to maintain the truly unique and inspiring natural resources found throughout the park, while also encouraging visitors to explore all that the area has to offer. Increasing visitation to the area keeps management focused on the sensitive balance between man and nature.
- The park supports a wide array of visitors including hikers, sightseers, back-country campers, RV campers, and especially families longing for a cool and shady place to picnic. Maintaining an area that supports the needs of all of these groups in a relatively small park area has been a successful and evolving effort.

## budget and operations

### number of full-time employees\*

3.5

\* The three-park complex of Rifle Falls, Rifle Gap, and Harvey Gap share 3.5 full-time employees.

### number of temporary employees\*

3.0

\* temporary employees are hired for periods up to six months in length

### number of volunteers\*

14

### total volunteer hours contributed\*

2,042

\* Volunteer and volunteer hours figures are from calendar year 2007. These figures represent a combined total for Rifle Falls, Rifle Gap and Harvey Gap.

### total operating expenses\*

\$612,959

\* These figures represent a combined total for Rifle Falls and Rifle Gap.

### capital construction expenses\*

\$90,217

\* These figures represent a combined total for Rifle Falls and Rifle Gap.

### total revenue generated\*

\$449,749

\* These figures represent a combined total for Rifle Falls and Rifle Gap.

## partners

- The local boy scout troop performs a spring, summer and fall clean up at the park complex.
- Rifle Correctional Center provides inmate labor crews that assist with park maintenance on a daily basis throughout the year.

## volunteer activity

- We actively recruited camp hosts throughout the summer and placed an emphasis on trying to retain quality camp hosts for next season.
- We have verbal commitment from the local boy scout troop to continue to perform a "park clean-up" in spring, summer and fall.
- We have developed an excellent relationship with Western Colorado Astronomy Club and they presented astronomy programs using their equipment during July 4th and Labor Day Weekend. They have committed to continue providing this service in the future.

## vision statement for Colorado State Parks

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.



## land acquisitions FY 07-08

none

## ratios

### full-time staff to annual visitors

1:18,948

