



## who we are

The clean, clear waters of Rifle Gap State Park’s 360-acre reservoir provide some of the best boating, fishing, swimming, and water-skiing in western Colorado. The surrounding mountains and the narrow “Gap” often yield great wind conditions for sailing and windsurfing. The west beach is popular among swimmers. Anglers catch rainbow and German brown trout, walleye, pike, smallmouth and largemouth bass and yellow perch. The park is located at approximately 6,000-foot elevation, surrounded by piñon and cedar covered mountains. The park is also the historic site where Christo and Jean-Claude hung their “Valley Curtain” project in 1972, a 400-meter long orange hanging curtain across Rifle Gap.

Visitors to Rifle Gap State Park spend about \$10.8 million annually in local communities.

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



## top attractions

- The primary draw to the park is the 360 surface-acre reservoir, which contains extremely clean water, attracting boaters, water-skiers and anglers.
- The reservoir also supports a wide variety of fish species, including perch, walleye, trout, crappie, bass and pike.
- Rifle Gap is literally a gap in the surrounding mountains. This helps to create good winds for wind surfing on the reservoir.
- Famed artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude erected Christo’s curtain downstream from the reservoir in 1972.



## our partners

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



## challenges we face

- Significant infrastructure expansion and improvements in recent years have increased maintenance responsibilities - both financially and to staff resources. Without adequate maintenance, facilities may not meet customer satisfaction.
- Visitation at the park continues to increase, placing increased demands on limited resources. Park management is working to find ways to address this issue effectively.
- There are some challenges in managing a park that is really three separate parks in a single complex.



## 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: **217,607**

Estimated expenditures within 50 miles of the park: **\$10,812,518 (2008-2009)**

Full-time staff: **4**

Visitor to full-time staff ratio: **54,402:1**

Temporary employees: **10**

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

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

County: **Garfield**

Congressional District: **3**

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

## expenses/revenue

Total operating expenses: **\$567,452**

Total construction expenses: **\$ 77,374**

Total revenue generated: **\$375,981**

Self-sufficiency ratio: **66%**  
(FY 09-10 revenues/operating expenses)

## park inventory

Year became a state park: **1966**  
Land acres: **981**  
Water acres: **360**  
Elevation: **6,000'**

### Ownership

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

### Miles of Roads

Paved: **2.5**  
Unpaved: **1.8**

### Miles of Trails

Hiking: **0**

**Boat Ramps:** **1**

**Campsites:** **89**

**Picnic sites:** **14**

**Concessions:** **0**

### Major buildings/structures:

Visitor center  
Group picnic area  
Camper services building

## 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.

## to contact us:

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