



# vega state park

FY09-10



## who we are

Vega Reservoir is the largest body of water in Mesa County and is only 60 miles from Grand Junction, making this park a destination area for people wanting the mountain camping experience without a lot of travel. The park provides a wide variety of recreational experiences such as hiking, boating, fishing, nature observation, water skiing, jet skiing, camping, picnicking, ice fishing, snowmobiling, cross country skiing, and winter camping. Vega State Park is also a gateway to the Grand Mesa National Forest, especially for off-highway vehicles, snowmobiles, hunting, and horseback riding.

Visitors to Vega State Park spend about \$8 million annually in local communities.

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

## top attractions

- At 8,000 feet in elevation, Vega Reservoir is one of the most productive cold-water lakes on the western slope for rainbow trout.
- Vega State Park is a popular staging area for off-highway vehicle and snowmobile enthusiasts with easy access to more than 300 miles of trails on the Grand Mesa.
- An abundance of oak brush, chokecherry, serviceberry, and aspen trees make wildlife watching and viewing fall colors popular activities at Vega State Park.
- School and community groups take advantage of the park's open space, facilities and environmental education programs, since Vega State Park is only 12 miles from the town of Collbran.

## our partners

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Colorado Division of Wildlife
- Rocky Mountain Nature Association
- Collbran Job Corps
- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado
- Plateau Valley Fire Protection and EMS District
- Western Colorado Conservation Corps
- Mesa County Schools – Districts 50, 51, & 52
- Collbran Water Conservancy District
- Town of Collbran
- Plateau Valley Hospital District
- Colorado State Patrol
- Mesa County Sheriff's Department
- Mesa County Roads
- Leon Creek Cattle Pool Association
- Vega Lodge

## challenges we face

- It is our goal to get as many children and adults into the outdoors as possible.
- Complete renovation is needed for Oak Point campground. Electric and water hookups are needed in 8-10 sites at Aspen Grove campground. More shade shelters and shade trees are needed in the campgrounds.
- Construction of Vega's North Trail began with youth crews from the Collbran Job Corps, Western Colorado Conservation Corps, and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado help, however finding volunteers to complete this new trail and maintain existing trails is a big challenge.
- Approximately 15 miles of boundary fence needs repairs or replacement. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) will cooperatively fund materials each year, but the park needs an annual budget for on-going fence repairs.
- County roads through the park are in constant need of repair due to heavy equipment traffic, from oil and gas drilling operations on nearby private lands.

## 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: **181,283**

Estimated expenditures within 50 miles of the park: **\$8,056,945 (2008-2009)**

Full-time staff: **4**

Visitor to full-time staff ratio: **45,321:1**

Temporary employees: **11**

Volunteers: **28**

Total volunteer hours contributed: **4,204**

County: **Mesa**

Congressional District: **3**

State Legislative Districts  
Senate: **7** House: **55**

## expenses/revenue

Total operating expenses: **\$441,982**

Total construction expenses: **\$0**

Total revenue generated: **\$219,921**

Self-Sufficiency ratio: **50%**  
(FY 09-10 revenues/operating expenses)

## park inventory

Year became a state park: **1959**

Land acres: **925**

Water acres: **898**

Elevation: **8,000**

### Ownership

State parks: **0%**

Other: **100%**

### Miles of Roads

Paved: **6.0**

Unpaved: **4.0**

### Miles of Trails

Hiking: **3**

OHV and snowmobile  
trail head

**Campsites:** **110**

**Cabins:** **5**

**Picnic sites:** **22**

**Concessions:** **0**

### Major buildings/structures:

Visitor center

Maintenance shop

Camper services building

Group picnic shelter

## land acquisitions FY 09-10

There were no new acquisitions in FY 09-10.

## volunteer activities

- Volunteers at Vega work the park visitor center selling nature education items, park passes, permits, and registrations.
- Campground hosts help work with the public. They also clean cabins, restrooms, and campsites, and do facility or equipment repairs, as well as mowing and weed treatment.
- Winter volunteers perform building and grounds maintenance, snow removal, and do environmental education programs in area schools as well as working in the visitor center and park office.

## to contact us:

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**42 great**  
state parks!



Colorado State Parks