

Elkhead Reservoir State Park



Who we are

Colorado Parks and Wildlife utilizes the principles of conservation - the wise use of natural resources - to effectively manage fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, boating and outdoor education for the citizens of Colorado and its visitors. Elkhead Reservoir State Park is a hidden gem in Northwest Colorado, offering over 900 acres of water for recreational boating and an excellent cool/warm water fishery. Due to the warmer climate, Elkhead Reservoir State Park is an excellent destination for early and late season hiking and mountain biking, with over 10 miles of trails running throughout the park providing scenic views of the surrounding area.

Top attractions

- Home to a variety of sportfish, including tiger muskie, largemouth bass, bluegill and crappie. (Plus, catch and keep all the northern pike and smallmouth bass you can.)
- 900 acres of reservoir for water skiing, shore and boat fishing and swimming
- Camping opportunities located in the “Elk Capital” of Colorado that serve as an excellent base camp for hunters
- Great access to Routt National Forest and U.S. Bureau of Land Management public lands
- Home of the annual Elkhead Reservoir Fishing Classic.



VICK SCHEDEL/CPW

Our partners

- Yampa River Legacy partners: Routt County, Moffat County, Town of Hayden, City of Steamboat, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, The Nature Conservancy, Yampa Valley Land Trust
- Property Landowners: The City of Craig and the Colorado River Water Conservation District

Challenges we face

- Due to a requirement to recover endangered native fish, Elkhead Reservoir is working with our partners, including local anglers, to convert the existing fishery consisting primarily of nonnative smallmouth bass and northern pike, to a fishery consisting of approved species, including tiger muskie, largemouth bass, black crappie and bluegill.

Volunteer activities

- Our campground host and work camper programs continue to provide much needed support to park staff in order to keep Elkhead Reservoir operating smoothly.
- Elkhead Reservoir State Park partners with local groups such as the Parrotheads, Totally Kids and Hayden Public Schools to perform various projects around Elkhead Reservoir, such as tree planting and trail maintenance.

Elkhead Reservoir State Park

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(970) 276-2061 • Email: elkhead.park@state.co.us
Park Manager: Jacob Dewhirst

As of July 1, 2022

Manager's Message

Our staff is excited to expand the recreation activities available at Elkhead Reservoir State Park. Within the next year, we look forward to opening our new static and 3D archery ranges, providing a fun and new way to experience Elkhead Reservoir. Park staff have been working to provide increased opportunities for hunting and fishing by extending hunt areas and the length of the boating season and stocking approved fish species, including largemouth bass, crappie, and tiger muskie. To prevent the escape of nonnative predators, Elkhead Reservoir installed a large fish screen at the reservoir's spillway, a feature that gives the park time to transition to a fishery consisting of approved species.

Geography

Region: Northwest
County: Routt and Moffat
Year Acquired: 2006
Elevation (ft): 6,365
Miles From Denver: 196

Acreage

Total Acres: 2,100

Governmental

US Cong Dist: 2nd, 3rd
CO Senate: 8th
CO House: 26th

Employees

Temporary: 9

Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~210,000

Facilities

2 Boat Ramps
20 Picnic Sites
Swim Beach

Trails

Biking: 10.5 miles
Hiking: 10.5 miles
Horseback: 10 miles
Cross Country Skiing/
Snowshoeing: 10.5 miles
Total: 10.5 miles

Roads

Unpaved: 3 miles

Recreation

Boating
Fishing
Hunting
Ice Fishing
Hiking
Snowshoeing
Jet Skiing
Picnicking
Ranger/Nature Programs
Mountain Biking
Swimming
Water Skiing/Wakeboarding/
Wake surfing
Wildlife/Bird Viewing

Camping

Campsites (basic, seasonal): 14
Campsites (electrical, seasonal): 28

