Who we are

Lone Mesa is undergoing management planning and development and is open for limited and permitted public hunting during the big game seasons on the park’s outstanding elk, deer and bear habitat. Lone Mesa State Park encompasses over 11,700 incredibly scenic acres, ranging in elevation from 6,800 feet to over 9,000 feet. The management of Lone Mesa includes administering special use permits for public hunting and grazing, involvement in volunteer programs and other service partnerships, and operating the Lone Mesa State Park Office and Visitor Center in Dolores. The Dolores office sells OHV, snowmobile and boat registrations, provides wildlife licensing services as a TLS agent, and operates a Parks & Wildlife retail store with a variety of southwest Colorado maps, books and guides.

Visitors to Lone Mesa State Park spend about $2.1 million annually at local businesses.\(^1\)

Top attractions

- Lone Mesa State Park is home to a number of unique plants, including the extremely rare Colorado native cushion bladderpod (*Physaria pulvinata*) and the fabaceae (*Astragalus bisulcatus*).
- The park’s limited-access big game hunt provides a high quality experience.
- Lone Mesa’s outstanding scenery includes unique sandstone mesas and old-growth Ponderosa pine.
- The park includes a number of historic and cultural sites.

Our partners

- Great Outdoors Colorado
- Dolores K9 Search and Rescue Team
- Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Farm and Ranch Enterprise
- Town of Dolores
- San Juan Mountains Association
- Dolores School District RE 4A
- Southwest Colorado Wetlands Focus Area Committee
- Counties of Montezuma and Dolores
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Colorado State Forest Service
- U.S. Forest Service
- City of Cortez
- Colorado Native Plant Society
- Colorado Natural Heritage Program
- Counties of Montezuma and Dolores
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management

Challenges we face

- Managing for wildfires with an emphasis on preparedness and ready response efforts.
- Providing stewardship of globally-unique natural and cultural resources.
- Fulfilling the growing responsibilities and community need for parks and wildlife services in a three-location complex (Lone Mesa, Dolores Office and Mancos State Park) with one full-time staff member.
- Moving forward with public park planning efforts, infrastructure development and public access.

Volunteer Activities

- Lone Mesa involves volunteers in the operation of the Dolores Office and hunter check-in, as well as a variety of stewardship and community projects.
- Along with other non-member equestrians, members of the two local chapters of Backcountry Horsemen participate in the park’s Range Rider Program, helping manage the park’s rotational grazing plan.
- Ongoing volunteer opportunities include fence maintenance, weed control and bluebird nest box monitoring.

Manager’s Message
Lone Mesa State Park provides a renowned big game hunting experience with low hunter density and high quality habitat. During this “caretaking” phase of the park’s life, CPW staff and other partners have discovered globally-rare resources on this incredible property. Our current operation and management of the property balances financial sustainability with a unique customer experience, wise resource stewardship and cautious planning for a special future.

Geography
Region: Southwest
County: Dolores
Year Acquired: 1999
Elevation: 7,400 ft
Miles From Denver: 400

Acreage
Total Acres: 11,780

Governmental
US Cong Dist: 3rd
CO Senate: 6th
CO House: 58th

Employees
Permanent: 0.5
Temporary: 3
Volunteers: 11
Volunteer Hours: 454

Annual Visitation
12,332

Roads
Unpaved: 33.8 miles

Recreation
Hunting