



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
TRI-LAKES PROJECT OFFICE, 9307 SOUTH WADSWORTH BOULEVARD
LITTLETON, COLORADO 80128-6901

May 4, 2010

Mr. Scott Roush
Park Manager
Chatfield State Park
11500 North Roxborough Park Road
Littleton, CO 80125

Dear Scott:

I am writing this letter to restate the US Army Corps of Engineers position on fencing the dog off-leash area from the Chatfield Outlet Works and the South Platte River. The information you have shown in the proposed alternatives as part of the dog off-leash planning effort, meets with the requirements of flood control operations and multi-use recreation as we have set forth in our past discussions regarding the plan alternatives.

Chatfield Dam and Lake Project was authorized as one unit in the comprehensive plan for flood control of the South Platte River and its tributaries. The tributaries include Cherry Creek and Bear Creek. The South Platte River below Chatfield is considered project operations and is integral to the release of water from the dam for water supply and flood control. It is our objective to operate the project structures to allow them to effectively and safely fulfill project purposes. We also provide for public use where such a use is feasible and does not interfere with project operations. The area identified as the Fish Hatchery Settling Ponds and Dog Exercise/Training Area in our Chatfield Master Plan approved in 2001 was never intended to include the outlet works or the river.

The use of the dog off-leash area has increased substantially over the last several years. The use of the river by off-leash dogs is a safety issue. The last ten years have been years in which releases from the river have been low due to the drought. In the past few days we have released a high of 1500 cfs (cubic feet per second) from the outlet as part of flood control operations. The 1500 cfs is a lesser amount of the 5000 cfs we are authorized to release. This amount of water is dangerous for both the dogs and their owners. In the past we have noted dogs way ahead of their owners heading for the river and not under the owners control. If their dog would get into trouble in the river, there is no doubt the owner would follow them into the river to assist them. This possibility will be greatly reduced by the fence.

Under the current configuration, when a member of my staff makes a gate change that individual goes down to the river and warns users along the river that we are making a gate change and that the water will rise in the river. The individual then goes up to the tower to make a change. Unfortunately, by the time they get back to the tower a

whole new set of dogs and owners have made their way to the river and have no knowledge of the release. The rise in the river is not as noticeable in low release situations, but is extremely dangerous at high flows.

The outlet works and river area was highly used by fisherman in the past. Due to the constant traffic of dogs in the river and along the banks, the use by fishermen has dropped off dramatically. The fencing off of the river will also allow other users to return to this area.

We are also concerned with the degradation of the banks along the river. The fence will allow better management of the area and will allow us to rehabilitate impacted sites.

It is not our intention to prohibit dogs from using this area, but to encourage multi-use recreation. The dogs will be allowed to use the area, but will have to be on a leash just as they are in other areas of the park. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fred Rios". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Fred Rios
Operations Project Manager
Tri-Lakes Project Manager