

# Rifle Gap 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. 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 wind conditions that are great for sailing and windsurfing. The west beach is popular among swimmers. Anglers catch rainbow and German brown trout, walleye, pike, smallmouth bass, largemouth bass and yellow perch. The park is located at approximately 6,000-foot elevation, surrounded by piñon and cedar covered mountains.

## Top attractions

- The pristine waters of the 360 surface-acre reservoir, which attracts boaters, paddle boarders, water-skiers and anglers.
- Rifle Gap, literally a gap in the surrounding mountains, helps create good winds for windsurfing on the reservoir.
- The wide variety of fish species supported by the reservoir, including perch, walleye, trout, crappie, bass and pike.
- Excellent deer hunting and fair elk hunting areas are located adjacent to the park. Several hunting groups set up base camps in the campgrounds at Rifle Gap.

## Our partners

- Colorado River Valley Chamber of Commerce
- Numerous local school districts
- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- Farmer's Irrigation Company
- Silt Water Conservancy District

## Challenges we face

- 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.
- Fluctuating water levels may affect boating and swimming conditions each year.
- Meeting the desires and addressing the concerns of anglers, while continuing to work with partner agencies to complement efforts of the Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program is an ongoing challenge. This work includes installing and maintaining a fish screen to prevent movement of incompatible fish from Rifle Gap to the Upper Colorado River.



VIC SCHEDEL/CPW

## Volunteer Activities

- Camp hosts provide additional resources for monitoring and managing park campgrounds. Every effort is made to retain quality camp hosts for the next season.
- Local scouts perform a park clean-up in spring, summer and fall

# Rifle Gap State Park

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(970) 625-1607 • Email: rifle.gap.park@state.co.us  
Park Manager: Brian Palcer

As of July 1, 2022

VIC.SCHENDEL/CPW

## Manager's Message

We are pleased that Rifle Gap is being discovered and that visitation numbers have been on the rise over the past several years. Our campgrounds are full every weekend from early May until the end of September. The staff at the park take pride in making sure the park and its facilities are clean and inviting to our visitors. We have recently made landscaping improvements to our visitor center area, making this an attractive first impression of the park. In addition, fishing for a variety of species has improved, offering additional opportunities to our anglers who already hold the park's reservoir in high regard. Ice fishing is also a highlight during the winter. We look forward to seeing you at Rifle Gap State Park!

### Geography

Region: Northwest  
County: Garfield  
Year Acquired: 1967  
Elevation: 6,000 ft  
Miles From Denver: 200

### Acreage

Total Acres: 1,341

### Governmental

US Cong Dist: 3<sup>rd</sup>  
CO Senate: 8<sup>th</sup>  
CO House: 57<sup>th</sup>

### Employees

Permanent: 6  
Temporary: 19  
Volunteers (FY 22 together with Rifle Falls State Park): 183  
Volunteer Hours (FY 22 together with Rifle Falls State Park): 12,443

### Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~250,000

### Facilities

Boat Ramp  
Dump Station  
Group Picnic Area  
14 Picnic Sites  
Visitor Center

### Roads

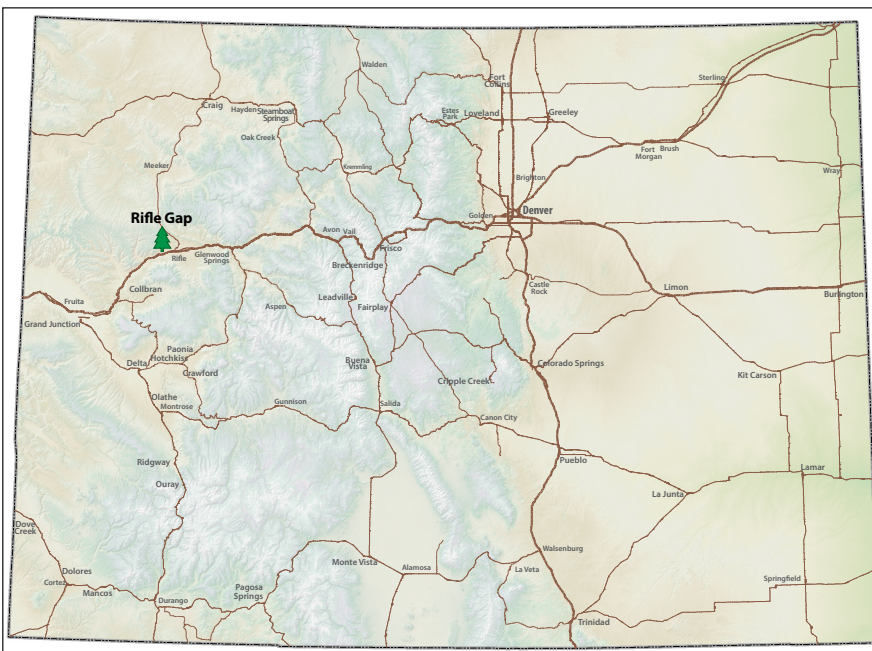
Paved: 2.5 miles  
Unpaved: 1.8 miles

### Recreation

Boating  
Cross Country Skiing/Snowshoeing  
Fishing  
Ice Fishing  
Ice Skating  
Jet Skiing  
Picnicking  
Ranger/Nature Programs  
Swimming  
Water Skiing  
Wildlife/Bird Viewing  
Winter Camping

### Camping

Campsites (basic): 28  
Campsites (electrical): 26  
Campsites (full-hookup): 35



DUSTIN DOSKOCIL/CPW