

Main McPhee Ramp opening Friday, May 8th.

Late yesterday afternoon the Dolores Ranger District made the decision to open the main McPhee boat ramp on Friday, May 8th. The boat ramp will be open from 6:00 AM to 8:00 PM, seven days a week until the end of September when operating hours will change to fall hours. Aquatic Nuisance Species inspectors will be on site to conduct pre-launch inspections of trailered and motorized boats launching on to the reservoir.

Boaters are required to follow Colorado Park and Wildlife's ANS inspection program's COVID-19 precautionary measures during inspections, launching and boating that include:

- Maintaining a social distance of six feet minimum when interacting with ANS inspectors, Forest Service staff or other people.
- Waiting for the inspector to wave them forward to the inspection station.
- Remaining in your vehicle, setting the parking brake, and turning the vehicle off.
- If boaters have a green seal receipt, keep their window closed and show it to the inspector through the window glass.
- Following the inspector's instructions if they need you to get out of the vehicle and assist with the inspection. Always maintain six feet minimum between boaters and staff or any other people.
- Avoiding groups larger than 10 individuals or gathering with anyone that doesn't reside in the boater's household.
- Docking one party at a time on McPhee boat docks.

The Forest Service is urging the public to be patient during this opening and to practice social distancing in order to decrease the risk of the transmission of COVID-19. Boaters who are in need of a full inspection and decontamination are urged to visit the lake during the week day when visitation is anticipated to be lower than during the weekend. Boaters who have tags from last year's inspections on McPhee will be able to enter the lake more quickly than boaters who need inspections.

At this time the main McPhee boat ramp is the only open boat ramp on McPhee Reservoir. House Creek boat ramp remains closed but we are working with the ANS inspectors to better understand their staffing capacity in an effort to open up that ramp for use.

The Forest Service encourages people to take local and state stay-at-home orders seriously, stay home when sick, and limit travel time wherever possible, even for approved recreation.



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