

Park Office

Park staff is available to answer your questions and provide first aid and emergency assistance when needed.

The park office is located on the northeast side of the reservoir on State Highway 325. From Rifle, head north on Highway 13 for approximately two miles. Turn right at Highway 325 and travel seven miles to the visitors center, located at the main entrance.

For information call (970) 625-1607 or write to:

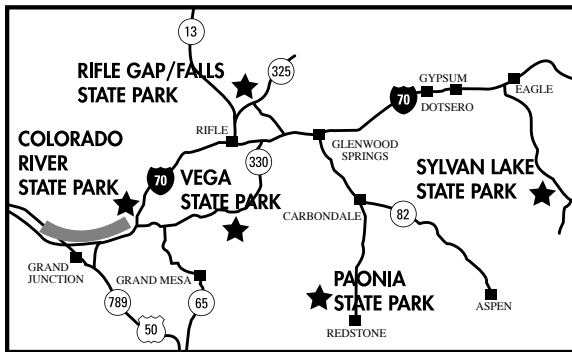


Colorado State Parks

Rifle Gap State Park

5775 Highway 325
Rifle, CO 81650

E-mail: rifle.gap.park@state.co.us



For new and current information on all Colorado State Parks visit us online at www.parks.state.co.us.

Any person who is excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program of the Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation on the grounds of race, creed, color, sex, age, handicap, or national origin, should contact the park manager, the nearest local regional office, the Division headquarters in Denver, Colorado - telephone (303) 866-3437 - or the National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127.

Cualquier persona que sea excluida, negado los beneficios, o discriminado en cualquier programa del Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation por su color, raza, credo, sexo, edad, desventaja o nacionalidad debe avisar a la oficina mas cercana de esta organizacion o por telefono a numero (303) 866-3437 o National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C., 20013-7127.

CSP-RIFG-8M-4/05

Colorado State Parks

RIFLE GAP



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Rifle Gap State Park and its 360-acre reservoir lie at the foot of the majestic Grand Hogback, just nine miles north of Rifle. The clean, clear waters of this reservoir provide excellent boating, fishing, swimming and water-skiing for warm-weather visitors and abundant ice fishing and ice skating opportunities in the cold winter months. In addition to water-oriented activities, camping, picnicking, wildlife watching and hiking are enjoyed by outdoor enthusiasts year-round in this 1,700-acre mountain park.

History

In 1964, near the abandoned site of the tiny town of Austin, the Bureau of Reclamation, working with the Silt Water Conservation District, began construction of the Rifle Gap Dam at the confluence of West Rifle Creek and East Rifle Creek. This project was completed in 1968 to provide irrigation water for farmers and ranchers in the area.

Rifle Gap became a State Park in 1967 and continues to be managed by Colorado State Parks as one of the state's finest recreation areas. The park is located at an elevation of 6,000 feet above sea level and is surrounded by pinon and cedar covered mountains.

Christo's Curtain

In 1971, the famed artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude added Rifle Gap to their unique environmental works of art. They erected a huge, bright orange curtain that spanned the entire valley at Rifle Gap. Originally, strong winds destroyed the curtain, but one year later, Christo and Jean-Claude persevered and succeeded in unfurling a second curtain which lasted undamaged for a little over 24 hours before extreme wind gusts prompted removal of the curtain. Today, visitors can visit an interpretive site along Rifle Creek that commemorates these artists unique talents.

Entrance Fees

Fees are charged year-round and pay for the operation of park facilities. Passes are available from the park visitors center, or self-service stations. All visitors are required to display a current Colorado State Park Pass on their vehicle windshield.

A **daily pass** is valid from the day purchased until noon the following day. An **annual pass** grants unlimited use of all Colorado State Parks for a full calendar year. **Aspen Leaf** annual passes are available for Colorado seniors 64 and older at a discounted rate. Camping is an additional fee.

Regulations

It is your responsibility to know and obey park rules and regulations. Please read the rules and regulations available at the park's main entrance or ask a park ranger for a current copy of park regulations.

- Respect others - keep noise down near campgrounds and wildlife areas. Observe campground quiet hours between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- A clean park is healthier for our visitors and our wildlife. If you pack it in, pack it out, and use the garbage and recycling containers.
- For your safety and the safety of others and for the protection of wildlife, keep pets under control and on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Please obey all posted pet restrictions.
- Build fires only in grills provided, tend them constantly, and make sure they are completely extinguished when no longer needed. Firewood cutting or gathering is prohibited within the park.
- Keep vehicles on designated roadways, and hike only on designated trails.
- Obey all access restrictions and trail closures in the park.

Common sense and common courtesy will help all of us enjoy the park more.

Park Activities

Camping

Rifle Gap has 47 campsites that can accommodate tents, trailers and campers, with some pull through sites for larger units located in four campgrounds on the north shore of the lake. The Christo Campground has an additional two sites along Rifle Creek, below the dam. Each campsite has a table and grill with water hydrants and restrooms nearby. Some of the sites have shade shelters over the tables. The campgrounds are open all year.

In addition to a parks pass, campers are required to purchase and display a camping permit at their campsite.

Camping permits are available at the park visitors center and the self-service stations. Camping is allowed in designated campsites only.

Campground reservations can be made by calling (303) 470-1144 in the Denver Metro area, 1-800-678-CAMP(2267) or online at www.parks.state.co.us. For information about group camping, contact the park office.

No firewood cutting or gathering is allowed in the park.

Picnicking

Picnic tables are located along the lake shore and near the swim beach for picnicking.

Fishing and Hunting

Fishing for rainbow and brown trout, walleye, perch and smallmouth and largemouth bass attracts fishermen to Rifle Gap during all seasons of the year. Rifle Gap is widely known as one of Colorado's premier ice fishing locations. Hunting within the park boundaries is controlled, but the surrounding National Forest and BLM lands provide outstanding big-game hunting opportunities adjacent to the park. Rifle Gap State Park provides an excellent base camp area for many hunters each fall. Information on regulations and hunting seasons is available from park staff and the park office.

Water Sports

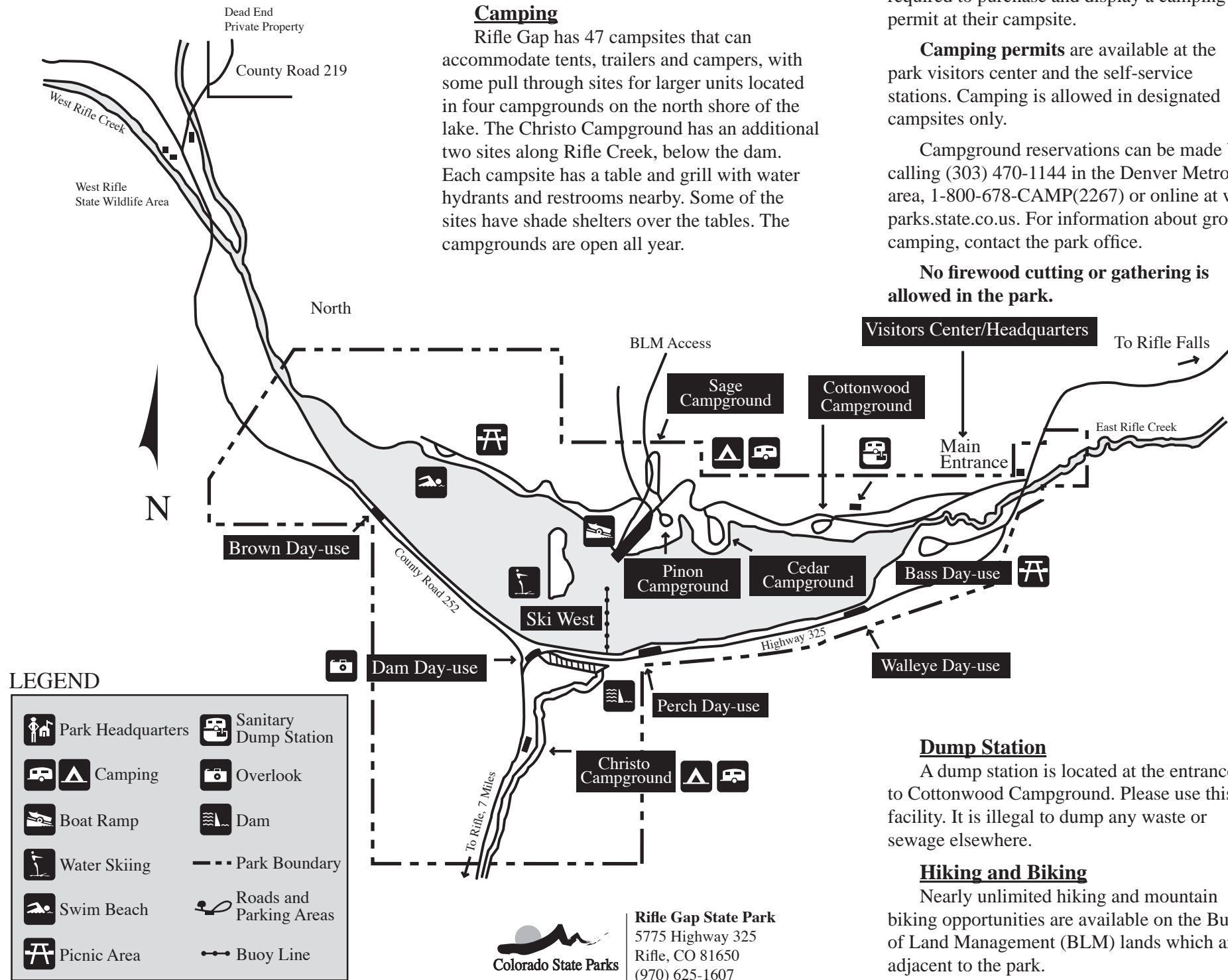
Water skiing, motor boating, personal watercraft, fishing and swimming draw water sports enthusiasts to Rifle Gap each year. Swimming is permitted only at the swimbeach and is at the individual's own risk. Diving, sailing and windsurfing are also popular activities on the lake's sparkling waters.

Winter Sports

Winter is a quiet season at Rifle Gap. Cold weather enthusiasts visit the park for ice fishing, ice skating and cross-country skiing. Winter camping and wildlife watching also attract many visitors.

Wildlife

Wildlife watchers can view mule deer, elk, rabbits, chipmunks, beavers and raccoons in the park. Birds are also common visitors to the park, with waterfowl, great blue herons, raptors, songbirds and hummingbirds commonly seen.



Dump Station

A dump station is located at the entrance to Cottonwood Campground. Please use this facility. It is illegal to dump any waste or sewage elsewhere.

Hiking and Biking

Nearly unlimited hiking and mountain biking opportunities are available on the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands which are adjacent to the park.