

May 24, 2017 Release from Dolores Water Conservancy District

McPhee Reservoir Aquatic Invasive Species Updates: Access Points Closed to Address Mussel Concerns & Traffic Changes to McPhee Boat Ramp

The Dolores Water Conservancy District (DWCD) and Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) have been permitted to restrict access to several informal boat launching sites at McPhee Reservoir. Specifically vehicular access in the Sage Hen and on the Dolores Cemetery Road have been temporarily restricted due to concerns over the potential introduction of aquatic invasive species from unauthorized launching of trailered boats at the reservoir.

Motorized boats and trailers are a prime method for introducing invasive species into uninfected waters. Historically boats have been launched from various shoreline areas around McPhee Reservoir bypassing the two developed boat ramps with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife aquatic invasive species inspection stations. All trailer boats must go through the inspection station at the scheduled times below.

Watercraft Inspection Hours of Operation will be:

May 1, 2017 – September 24, 2017	6:00 am – 8:00 pm	7 days a week	Main Boat Ramp
Sept. 25, 2017 – October 31, 2017	8:00 am – 6:00 pm	7 days a week	Main Boat Ramp
May 1, 2017 – September 24, 2017	6:00 am – 8:00 pm	Friday - Monday	House Creek Boat Ramp
Sept. 25, 2017 – October 31, 2017	8:00 am – 6:00 pm	Friday - Monday	House Creek Boat Ramp

Hiking, biking horses and ATV's remain allowed along the McPhee shoreline roads while we prevent unauthorized boat launches. All exempt hand-launched watercraft (kayaks, belly boats, float tubes, canoes, windsurfer boards, inner tubes, rafts, sailboards and paddle boards) that do not require Colorado Parks and Wildlife Certified Aquatic Invasive Species inspections will still be allowed at the closed access points.

McPhee Ramp Traffic: Additionally DWCD & Reclamation remind you that traffic patterns have changed for 2017 at the McPhee boat ramp. In prior years, inspections were located on a bad slope that did not allow boats to drain properly. This year we have moved the inspection station to the upper paved parking lot where boats can now drain. This requires all users to follow the one way direction in a clockwise manner from upper lot to lower lot. More detail is shown on the attached diagram. There should be no two way traffic in the parking lots.

As we enter the first holiday weekend with warmer weather we expect larger crowds to visit McPhee. We hope everyone will be patient and keep each other safe around these traffic & access changes put into place to protect McPhee Reservoir from invasive mussels.

For more information contact Ken Curtis, Engineer, Dolores Water Conservancy District, 970.882.2164 x5 or Ethan Scott, Resource Specialist, Bureau of Reclamation, 970.385.6572 or USFS at 970-882-7296.

On the way off the lake all boats should pull in for an exit inspection and green tag to make the next entry inspection go much quicker.

PLEASE CLEAN DRAIN & DRY YOUR BOAT AFTER EVERY LAUNCH