



paonia state park

FY 07-08 PARK FACTS

about the park

Camp near a babbling stream and water-ski on a mountain reservoir in view of the majestic Ragged Mountains at Paonia State Park. Steep mountainsides give this lake an alpine flavor. Paonia features water-skiing, fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, camping, outdoor photography and some of the most outstanding mountain scenery in Colorado. The park's natural beauty and abundance of wildflowers make it a "must see" for photographers and nature lovers. Paonia State Park is located approximately 16 miles northeast of the town of Paonia on State Highway 133. The 334 surface-acre reservoir was built by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in 1960. Paonia State Park is at an elevation of 6,500 feet and is surrounded by the Gunnison National Forest.

total visitation, FY 07-08
(July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008)
25,521

county
Gunnison

congressional district
3

state legislative districts
Senate 5
House 61

year became a state park
1964

ownership
0% State Parks
100% other

land acres
1,523 acres

water acres
334 acres

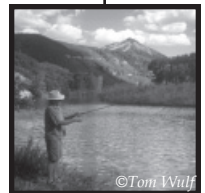
elevation
6,500'



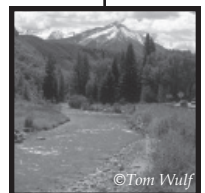
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top attractions

- camping
- fishing
- water recreation
- proximity to West Elk Wilderness
- proximity to Gunnison National Forest
- located on the West Elk loop of the Colorado Scenic Byway program
- proximity to Redstone/Marble Historic Districts



park inventory

miles of road
paved 0.0
unpaved 0.6

miles of trails
0.0

number of boat ramps
1

number of campsites
11

number of cabins/yurts
0

number of picnic sites
11

concessions at the park
none

major buildings/structures
shop building

contact information

Paonia State Park • Park Manager: Steve Werner • c/o Crawford State Park • PO Box 147 • Crawford, CO • 81415 • 970-921-5721 • crawford.park@state.co.us • www.parks.state.co.us

challenges

- One of the biggest challenges we face is how to minimize the impact of non-paying users helping themselves to the facilities close to Highway 133. That stretch of highway does not have any other rest stop facilities, so it seems quite natural for people to stop at our Spruce Campground or Anthracite day-use area to use our facilities. Unfortunately, it is not as natural for them to want to pay our fees to use those facilities. We do not have SWP funds to eliminate that problem or keep up with the maintenance that is required to facilitate those people. Perhaps better signing might lessen the problem, but perhaps we need to work with the Forest Service or Colorado Department of Highways to get a free facility provided for people somewhere else along that stretch of highway.
- It would be great if we could come up with alternative recreational opportunities on the park to prolong our high visitation season. The boat ramp at Paonia is almost always closed before the last of July due to water fluctuation. We would like to explore the possibility of putting in another boat ramp closer to the lower end of the reservoir.



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land acquisitions FY 07-08

none

partners

Fire Mountain Canal Water Users
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Colorado Division of Wildlife
Colorado Department of Transportation
West Elk Scenic Byway

volunteer activity

Several volunteer couples as well as an individual volunteer helped with revenue collection, cleaning restrooms, and general maintenance.

vision statement for Colorado State Parks

Colorado State Parks offer exceptional settings for renewal of the human spirit. Residents and visitors enjoy healthy, fun-filled interaction with the natural world, creating rich traditions with family and friends that promote stewardship of our natural resources. Park employees and their partners work together to provide ongoing and outstanding customer service through recreational programs, amenities and services.

budget and operations*

**Paonia is operated as a component of Crawford*

number of full-time employees

0.5

number of temporary employees**

1.0

***temporary employees are hired for periods up to six months in length*

number of volunteers*

196

total volunteer hours contributed*

8,016

**Volunteer and volunteer hours figures are from calendar year 2007. These figures represent a combined total for Crawford, Sweitzer and Paonia.*

total operating expenses

\$21,173

capital construction expenses

\$0

total revenue generated

\$10,030

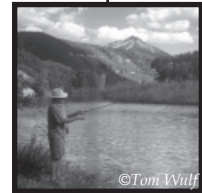
ratios

full-time staff to annual visitors

1:51,042



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