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Curecanti National Recreation Area  
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## 2022 Superintendent's Compendium of Designations, Closures, Permit Requirements, and Other Restrictions Imposed Under Discretionary Authority

Approved:

**DEANNA GRECO** Digitally signed by DEANNA GRECO  
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*Deanna Greco, Superintendent  
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park & Curecanti National Recreation Area*

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*Date*

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Under the provisions of 54 USC, Sections 100751, 100752, 100753, 102101, 103104 and Title 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, the following designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent are established for Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Regulations listed in this compendium are a requirement in addition to those listed in Parts 1-7 of Title 36 unless otherwise noted.

In addition to these regulations, written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, are required by 36 CFR 1.5 (c) and appear in this document as italicized print or are available for review in the Chief Ranger's Office.

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## 36 CFR §1.5 – Visiting Hours, Public Use Limits, Closures, and Area Designations for Specific Use or Activities

**(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:**

### Visiting Hours

(Not applicable)

### Public Use Limits

See 36 CFR 1.6

### COVID-19 Management Strategy

The Park will follow the Department of the Interior Covid-19 response strategy:

When the COVID-19 Community Level is **LOW** or **MEDIUM** in Montrose and Gunnison Counties (CO) based on data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), individuals are not required to wear masks.

When the COVID-19 Community Level is **HIGH** in Montrose or Gunnison Counties (CO) based on data provided by the CDC, all individuals over the age of two must wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, in all common areas and shared workspaces in buildings owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the National Park Service, including, but not limited to, park visitor centers, administrative offices, lodges, gift shops and restaurants.

Masks must cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face. Masks not designed to be protective, masks with ventilation valves, and face shields do not meet the requirement.

Regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level, individuals may wear masks if they choose to do so.

If the State of Colorado, Montrose, or Gunnison Counties impose more protective mask-wearing requirements than those indicated by the COVID-19 Community Level, individuals must follow those more protective requirements within the park.

Additionally, all individuals must wear masks in or on public transportation conveyances and transportation hubs/facilities, to the extent required by current orders or directives issued by the CDC, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), or other federal agencies with jurisdiction over those conveyances or areas. As of March 4, 2022, CDC and TSA orders or directives require all individuals

regardless of vaccination status to wear masks in indoor areas of all forms of public transportation conveyances, including busses, trains, and boats/ferries, and in the indoor premises of transportation hubs/facilities. Individuals are not required to wear masks while outdoors on conveyances or while outdoors on the premises of transportation hubs/facilities.

### Closures

The following areas are closed to all public entry to protect the privacy of residents, to reduce the hazards of associated public use in maintenance and service areas, and to protect government equipment and facilities:

#### **Year-round Closures:**

- Elk Creek Maintenance Shop
- Elk Creek water treatment plant and sewer lagoons
- Elk Creek housing area (except guests)
- Lake Fork maintenance shop and yard
- Blue Mesa Dam and access road as posted
- Crystal Dam and access road as posted
- Cimarron Trestle including locomotive, tender, boxcar, and caboose
- Rail cars at Cimarron Visitor Center as posted
- East Portal yard (fenced area and residences)
- East Portal Diversion Dam (area around the dam from the buoyed cable line, Upstream of the dam to a point 100 feet downstream of the dam)
- Docks at Morrow Point and Crystal Dams
- Except as authorized, NPS and Marina dry storage area at Elk Creek
- Morrow Point Dam and access road
- Blue Mesa Dam downstream for approximately 225 yards
- Morrow Point Dam downstream for 130 yards
- Crystal Dam downstream for 200 yards

#### **Seasonal Closure:**

From approximately December 15 to April 15, all developed areas will be closed to vehicular traffic due to snow, except the following:

- Elk Creek complex
- Iola boat ramp and access road
- Old Stevens picnic area and access road
- Middle Bridge-Dillon trail parking area
- Lake City Bridge pull-off
- Dry Creek picnic area/access road
- North Willow Creek access road
- Pine Creek
- Neversink
- Lake Fork boat ramp and access road
- Beaver Creek
- Riverway

- Bay of Chickens

### **Specialized Closures:**

From March 15, 2021 through July 15, 2021, the following areas are closed to all public use: The Curecanti Needle and adjacent walls within one-half mile, including the landscape portions above the canyon wall(s) extending 50 feet from the rim edge. Developed trails and overlooks are excluded. Climbing routes along the north side of U.S. Hwy 50, one-half mile east and west of mile marker 149.

*Determination: The areas are closed to all public entry to protect the privacy of residents, to reduce the hazards of associated public use in maintenance and service areas, and to protect government equipment and facilities.*

### **Use of Unmanned Aircraft**

**Definition: The term “unmanned aircraft” means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g. model airplanes, quadcopters, and drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.**

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park and Curecanti National Recreation Area is prohibited except as approved in writing by the Superintendent.

*Determination: The NPS recognizes that the increased use and popularity of unmanned aircraft has led to incidents in which public safety, environmental and scenic values, conflicts among different user groups and impacts to cultural and natural resources have occurred or have had a reasonable possibility of occurring. When confronted with a new park use, Superintendents are directed by agency policy to proceed with caution when determining the compatibility of the new use within the context of existing use and the values for which the individual park unit was designated. This closure is an interim measure pending potential regulatory action on a national level. In June of 2014, all park Superintendents were required to insert the above language into each park’s compendium. An agency-wide prescription prohibits individual Superintendents from promulgating less restrictive measures without approval from the NPS directorate.*

### **Use of Segways and motor driven cycles**

**Definition: A Segway is a two-wheeled, gyroscopically stabilized, battery-powered personal transportation device which operates at a top speed of 12.5 mph. A motor driven cycle such as a seated scooter or road scooter are designed to travel on no more than 3 wheels and has a cylinder capacity of less than 50 cc.**

The use of Segways and motor driven cycles within park areas are permitted in accordance with state law. The operator must have a valid driver’s license, the vehicle must have a DOR registration sticker and the vehicle is permitted to operate on public roads.

The use of Segways and motor driven cycles in park areas off the established roadway by persons with disabilities may be allowed in accordance with an individual special use permit issued by the superintendent under 36 CFR 1.6.

*Determination: The NPS recognizes the use of Segways and motor driven cycles are not designed and utilized solely by mobility impaired persons. For individuals without mobility impairments, the use of Segways and motor driven cycles are permitted to operate on public roads only. The use of Segways and motor driven cycles by persons with disabilities may be appropriate in other locations. Authorizing this use by permit gives the NPS the opportunity to ensure users understand use limitations, potential hazards due to other visitor use activities, fluctuating water levels and additional safety concerns.*

**(a)(2) Designate areas for a specific use or activity or impose conditions or restrictions on a use or activity.**

**Hunting**

- No hunting is permitted within 100 yards of any developed area including roads, parking areas, picnic areas, campgrounds or other structures, facilities, or trails.
- Trails may be used for access to hunting areas. However; weapons may not be fired from, towards, or across a trail.
- From Lake City Bridge west to East Portal: May 1-Sept 30, shotguns with shot only for bird/small game; bows and muzzle loading rifles permitted for big game in accordance with state law. Oct 1-April 30, all legal methods permitted for all species in accordance with state law.
- From Lake City Bridge (Hwy 149) to Neversink: May 1-Sept 30, shotguns with shot only for bird/small game; bows for big game. Oct 1-April 30, shotguns with shot only for bird/small game; bows for big game.
- The discharge of a weapon from, towards or across the frozen surface of Blue Mesa Reservoir is prohibited. This restriction applies to the main body of the reservoir and portions of the lake arms. This restriction does not apply to the frozen surface area of lake arms upstream of the designated “no wake” buoys in Soap Creek, West Elk, Lake Fork, and Cebolla arms.

*Determination: These restrictions are necessary to provide for public use and enjoyment of the Park in addition to ensuring visitor safety. The Blue Mesa reservoir has major facility development and receives heavy visitation during the main visitor use season. The restrictions are relaxed during large game season which coincides with a reduced visitor use season. In winter months, the frozen surface of the reservoir is very popular for ice fishing. Detecting individual fishermen on the ice can be difficult with variable winter conditions. The trajectory of a discharged round that hits the frozen water surface can be uncertain.*

## **Boating and Water Use Activities**

The following areas are closed to boating and shoreline entry:

- Blue Mesa Dam downstream for 225 yards
- Morrow Point Dam downstream for 130 yards
- Crystal Dam downstream for 200 yards
- East Portal Diversion Dam upstream for 100 yards
- Buoyed barricade sections in vicinity of dams

The area upstream from Beaver Creek within the Gunnison River canyon is closed to all upstream motorized vessels. Downstream vessels (rafts) above Beaver Creek on the Gunnison River may use an electric trolling motor that is self-inspected and free of all aquatic vegetation and aquatic nuisance species. \*See AIS Regulations.

The area downstream from the East Portal Diversion Dam is closed to motorized vessels.

NOTE: The administrative use of motorized vessels for creel surveys on the Gunnison River downstream from East Portal is authorized under conditions specified by the Superintendent.

NOTE: A map designating restricted areas for Blue Mesa reservoir is attached or available from the office of Superintendent.

### **Motorized vessels on Morrow and Crystal reservoirs:**

- Limited to motors not in excess of 25 horsepower (or jet drive equivalent)

NOTE: An authorized concessionaire may operate motorboats in excess of 25 horsepower under conditions specified by the Superintendent. Administrative patrols by NPS and BOR personnel in excess of 25 horsepower are authorized for visitor and resource protection functions and dam maintenance.



*Determination: Closures are necessary to restrict travel into areas closed by the Bureau of Reclamation for operation and security of the dams. Horsepower restrictions are necessary to preserve the quiet nature of the lower reservoirs which are designated as semi-primitive zones by the Park's General Management Plan.*

## **ANS (Aquatic Nuisance Species) Interdiction**

Prelaunch inspections conducted by a certified ANS inspector are required on all motor (including electric motor) or sail powered watercraft launching at Curecanti NRA.

Marine propulsion systems must be inspected regardless of the type of motor, engine, or watercraft. They are not exempt.

Any trailer that goes into the water must be inspected. Trailers are only exempt when they do not enter the water and the watercraft on top of the trailer is one that is hand-launched and hand powered.

Complex Watercraft (Yellow tag required): Inspection is required before launch. Complex watercraft includes but are not limited to: houseboats, cabin cruisers, pontoon boats, personal watercraft (PWC, Jet ski), ski boats, wakeboard boats, ballast sailboats, and most trailered/motorized fishing boats. Complex watercraft are required to launch from the established boat ramps at Elk Creek, Iola, Ponderosa, Lake Fork, and Stevens Creek. Inspection station and ramp hours and availability vary by season and water levels.

Hand-launch and hand powered watercraft: While subject to roving inspections, the following vessel types have low risk of carrying aquatic invasive species and these vessels can launch without a formal inspection and from any location on Blue Mesa Reservoir: Kayaks, float tubes, sail/windsurf and stand-up paddleboards, inner tubes canoes, belly boats, and rafts. Trailers used to transport such vessels may not enter the water unless they obtain a Pink Tag.

Per Colorado Parks Chapter 8 Regulation #800K the following ten types of watercraft are exempt from inspection:

Kayaks, canoes, rafts, belly boats, windsurfer board, sailboard, float tubes, inner tubes, paddleboard, and foldable plastic boat.

All other vessels Capable of Holding Water (Pink Tag Required): This class of watercraft is capable of holding water and must be inspected before launch. Vessels include but are not limited to: Hobie Cat sailboats, small to medium-sized sailboats, some rowing shells, hand-launched vessels that are equipped with electric motor. Many of these vessels cannot safely or practically be launched from the improved launch sites. Pink tag vessels may launch from the following and trailers may enter the water after receiving inspection: Beaches accessible by vehicle in accordance with the "CURE Off Road Vehicle Plan".

*Determination: If invasive mussels infest Blue Mesa Reservoir, they will foul facilities like dock and ramps, encrust boats, clog engines and damage the fishery by disrupting the food chain. The invasive mussels from Eastern Europe are spreading at an alarming rate across the U.S. and are easily transported to new areas within vessels containing even small amounts of contaminated water.*

## **Use of Golf Carts**

Definition: Golf Carts are defined as a low speed vehicle (LSV). They must be licensed, insured and street legal for roadway use. The NHTSA standard requires LSV's to be equipped with headlamps, stop lamps, turn signal lamps, tail lamps, reflex reflectors, parking brakes, rearview mirror, windshields, seat belts, and vehicle identification numbers.

Definition: Lands administered by the NPS under section 1.4 (a) require that the LSV must meet the definition of a motor vehicle; the vehicle is licensed by the State, insured and street legal.

*Determination: This restriction is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety upon roadways within the park.*

## **Possession of glass containers on certain beach areas:**

The possession or use of glass containers from the water's surface to one hundred (100) feet above the high-water line at Dry Creek and Old Highway 50 swim beach is prohibited.

*Determination: The above-mentioned areas are historically used as swim & sunbathing beaches by the public, broken glass presents a safety hazard to visitors enjoying the area.*

## **Off Road Vehicle (ORV) closures**

The following areas have been closed to vehicle travel as indicated by carsonite markers:

- Dry Creek, from boat ramp west along shoreline at the approximate 7500' elevation mark
- Two track along north side of highway from MP 144 to Rainbow Lake road
- Two track on Sometime Island
- Two track access above high-water line from Old Stevens
- Travel from North Willow restroom east to next drainage
- From South Willow west to Iola
- Along shoreline of Dillon Pinnacles where marked (during low water)
- Barricaded access from Hwy 149 to south shore
- Barricaded access from Soap Creek road to shore

- The route designated as SC20 in the Curecanti Motorized Access Plan is permanently closed to motor vehicle use for resource protection purposes. This route primarily accesses state lands that are managed for wildlife habitat with an emphasis on the Gunnison Sage Grouse, a Federally listed endangered species. Closing this route to vehicle traffic in Curecanti National Recreation area will greatly assist in the State's ability to monitor and enforce state regulations as well as preserve the original management intent of the State Wildlife Area.

*Determination: In 2006, Curecanti National Recreation Area was sued for failing to promulgate a regulation to address off road vehicle use. Curecanti NRA completed an environmental assessment to address off-road vehicle use and intends to subsequently promulgate a regulation if appropriate under the final agency action. On July 10, 2012, a "Finding of No Significant Impact-FONSI" was signed by the Intermountain Regional Director. Curecanti NRA has developed a management plan to continue off-road vehicle use. This plan addresses the need to close appropriate areas to vehicle use for the protection of historical, cultural, archaeological, or sensitive resources.*

## **Cliff Jumping/Diving**

It is prohibited for any person to jump or dive off rock cliffs, ledges, bridges, or man-made structures (excluding vessels) within the boundaries of Curecanti NRA, including Blue Mesa Reservoir. The National Park Service does not advocate or promote the activity of cliff jumping or diving regardless of the height from the water surface.

Definition: For the purpose of this restriction: cliff, ledge, or man-made structure is defined to mean any formation of rock or soil, or engineered construction, or combination thereof having a height of 15' or more from the surface of the water. Jumping from a bridge or manmade structure (excluding vessels) is never allowed regardless of height.

*Determination: This restriction is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety. Due to the number of critical injuries sustained from cliff jumping and diving, Curecanti NRA is prohibiting this activity. Changing water levels and submerged hazards make cliff jumping and diving extremely dangerous. In addition, as cliff height increases, the speed at which one hits the water also increases, and the risk for serious injury goes up substantially. This speed is great enough to cause spinal compression, bone fractures, or concussions. Landing even slightly off center can be deadly.*

## **Climbing**

*The following climbing practices are prohibited:*

- The placement of new fixed anchors which would result in rock alteration during installation when the ability to place removable protection is available. Exceptions must be approved in advance by park staff.

- On an existing route, the placement of fixed anchors which would result in rock alteration, unless existing fixed anchors are deemed unsafe or in the event the first ascensionist has supplied park staff with a written request that an additional fixed anchor be placed on a route for safety reasons.

**Definition: “fixed anchor hardware requiring rock alteration for installation” refers to manufactured hardware, specifically bolts that require the drilling of rock for installation and is left in the rock by a climbing party after the completion of the climb.**

- The use of non-climbing specific hardware (i.e. concrete anchors, home manufactured equipment, etc.)
- The use of motorized equipment for drilling.
- The placement of new fixed belay/rappel stations when the ability to place adequate removable protection is available. Exceptions must have prior written approval by park staff.
- Bolting shall be allowed only in the development of new climbing routes and only in sections of the route that have no rock features adequate for the placement of removable anchors. Prior authorization is required.
- The installation and removal of pitons except when no other means exist to protect the climbing party.
- The caching or leaving of unattended equipment in any area other than a designated campsite unless:
  - the climbing party intends to return to continue the climb;
  - the placement does not exceed a period of 14 days, and either the climbing party remains in the Park during the 14 days period or approval is received from Park staff prior to departure and notification of intended return date is made.
- The intentional development of approach trails.
- The building of “cairns” or marking of approach trails.
- The removal of rock from its natural position unless it has been determined the rock poses a significant risk to the climbing party or a future climbing party.
- Chipping or the gluing on of holds.
- Removal of vegetation from the base of climbs, belay ledges or cracks.
- The use of trees as anchors unless adequate padding is used between the rope and bark surface to prevent tree damage.
- On a multi-day climb, failure to have in possession a sufficiently sized human waste container.

- High lines and slack lines except, those meeting conditions established under a Special Use Permit or established within a designated campsite.
- Within designated campsites, the anchoring of slack lines to natural vegetation or park property.

*Determination: This is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety. This will also protect the natural resources from excess placement of fixed climbing anchors.*

## 36 CFR § 1.6 – Activities That Require a Permit

**36 CFR § 1.6 (f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the superintendent is required and are related to Public Use Limits (in reference to 36 CFR§ 1.5(d)).**

- 1.5(d) The following activities related to Public Use Limits:
- 2.4 (d) Carry or possess a weapon, trap, or net
- 2.5 (a) Specimen collection (Take plant, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals)
- 2.10 (a) The following camping activities: (Not applicable)
- 2.12 Audio Disturbances:
- (a)(2) Operating a chainsaw in developed areas
  - (a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas
  - (a)(4) Operation of a public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to 2.50 or 2.51
- 2.17 Aircraft & Air Delivery:
- (a)(3) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne means
  - (c)(1) Removal of a downed aircraft
- 2.38 Explosives:
- (a) Use, possess, store, transport explosives, blasting agents
  - (b) Use or possess fireworks
- 2.50(a) Conduct a sports event, pageant, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, and similar events
- 2.23 Special recreation activities
- 2.37 Soliciting or demanding gifts, money goods, or services
- 2.51 (a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views
- 2.52 (c) Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising
- 2.60 (b) Livestock use
- 2.61 (a) Residing on federal lands
- 2.62 (b) Memorialization - (Scattering ashes from human cremation)
- 3.12 (b) Towing a person using a parasail, hang-glider, or other airborne device

- 5.1 Advertisements – (Display, posting or distribution)
- 5.2 (b) Sale of intoxicants in certain park areas
- 5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business
- 5.4 (a) Commercial transportation of passengers by motor vehicles within specific parks
- 5.5 (a) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings, or crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television
  - (b) Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising
- 5.6 (c) Use of commercial vehicles on park area roads (The Superintendent shall issue a permit to access private lands within or adjacent to the park when access is otherwise not available)
- 5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, path, structure, etc.
- 5.10 (a) Operation of eating, drinking, or lodging establishments
- 6.9 (a) Operation of a solid waste disposal site
- Part 7 Special Regulations

## **36 CFR §2 – Resource Protection, Public Use, and Recreation**

### **36 CFR §2.1 – Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources**

(a)(4) Dead wood (or driftwood) on the ground may be collected for personal use in the following areas:

- Below the high-water line of Blue Mesa, Morrow Point and Crystal Reservoirs and is permitted solely for personal use and not commercial activities or sale.
- BOR slash wood pile on East Portal Road.

(a)(5) The following conditions are in effect for walking, climbing, entering, ascending, or traversing the listed archaeological or cultural resource, monuments, or statues: (Not applicable)

(b) Hiking or pedestrian traffic is restricted to the trail tread or walkway on the following trails/walkways: (Not applicable)

(c)(1), (c)(2) Collection of edible fruits, berries and nuts may be gathered by hand for personal consumption only and not for the purpose of sale or exchange.

### **36 CFR §2.2 – Wildlife Protection**

(d) Hunting and trapping are authorized within the Park in accordance with Federal and State laws. Note specific closures and restrictions under Section 1.

(e) Use of an artificial light to view wildlife is prohibited within the Park.

## 36 CFR §2.3 – Fishing

(a) Fishing is authorized within the park in accordance with federal and state law. Per State law:

- Only portable ice fishing shelters are permitted and must be removed from the ice at the end of each day.
- Use and possession of live bait is limited to worms and night crawlers.
- Possession or use of live minnows or other bait fish, amphibian, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is not permitted.
- Crayfish may be taken; live crayfish may not be transported from the reservoirs.

(d)(2) (d)(4) In accordance with federal statutory law, commercial fishing is authorized in the following areas, under the conditions noted. (Not applicable)

## 36 CFR §2.4 – Weapons, Traps, and Nets

*Section 512, of the Credit Card Accountability Responsibility and Disclosure Act of 2009, P.L. 111-24, 123 Stat. 1764-65, allows persons to possess firearms while in units of the National Park and National Wildlife Refuge Systems if they are in compliance with applicable federal and state law. Specifically, Section 512 (b) states:*

The Secretary of the Interior shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm including an assembled or functional firearm in any unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife refuge System if:

- (1) The individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing the firearm; and
- (2) The possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the unit of the National Park System or the National Wildlife Refuge System is located.
- (3) The possession of a firearm in a federal building is prohibited.
- (4) The possession of a firearm is prohibited on the boat tour and in government buildings.

## 36 CFR §2.5 – Specimen collection

2.5 Specimen collection (Take of plant, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals) only allowed pursuant to the terms and conditions of a specimen collection permit.

## 36 CFR §2.10 – Camping and Food Storage

The sites and areas listed below have been designated for camping activities as noted. A permit system has been established for certain campgrounds or camping activities, and conditions for camping and camping activities are in effect as noted:

(a) Tent camping or the overnight occupancy within camper vehicles, such as pickup, coaches, trailers, and motorhomes is restricted to designated, developed, campsites in the following areas:

- Elk Creek
- Red Creek
- Lake Fork

- Cimarron
- Gateview
- Dry Gulch
- Ponderosa
- Stevens Creek
- East Portal

Within the developed campgrounds, no more than two primary recreational camping units per site, (car, pickup, motorhome, van, pop-up trailer, in which people are sleeping).

Maximum of eight people per site. In addition, if space allows, the following may also be at the site: tent(s), boat trailer(s), vehicles not used for sleeping.

At Elk Creek campground, camping is limited to a visit of 14 consecutive nights during a 30-day period in Loops A & D (reserved sites). All other sites (first come first serve) are limited to 30 consecutive days per visit.

At Stevens Creek campground, camping is limited to a visit of 14 consecutive nights during a 30-day period in Loop A. All other sites are limited to 30 consecutive days per visit.

At Lake Fork campground, camping is limited to 30 consecutive days per visit.

At Cimarron, Dry Gulch, East Portal, Gateview, Red Creek, and Ponderosa campgrounds, camping is limited to a maximum stay of 14 consecutive days within a 30-day period.

- Campers reaching their consecutive days limits must move to another designated campground for a minimum of 14 days before returning to the same camp area.
- Registered sites must be occupied. "Occupied" implies the site has been used or slept in once within a 12-hour period.

The following sites can be reserved with the National Recreation Reservation System: Loop A & D of Elk Creek, Loop A at Steven's Creek, and the upper and middle sections of Lake Fork.

Backcountry camping is limited to a visit of fourteen (14 day) consecutive nights for a total of 30 days during the calendar year.

Backcountry, boat, and boat-in camping are permitted in the following zones/areas:

Blue Mesa Reservoir:

Cebolla Arm

Lake Fork Arm

West Elk Arm

Soap Creek Arm up to Saddle Creek. Camping on either side of the arm north of Saddle Creek is prohibited.

- Along the South shore and on Red Creek island except within ½ mile of any developed area,



bridge maintained public road or backcountry campsite.

- Overnight occupancy of vessels is permitted at rental slips at Elk Creek and Lake Fork marinas.  
\* The use of portable generators by visitors in the Marina areas is prohibited
- Overnight boat camping is prohibited within the main channel of Iola, Cebolla and Sapinero basin, and within ½ mile from any developed area.
- Morrow Point Reservoir: (no overnight fee required)  
Narrows (site 1)  
Blue Creek (site 2)  
Curecanti Creek (site 3)  
Nelson Gulch (site 4)  
“Deadman’s Curve” (site 5)  
Hermits Rest (site 6 and 6A)
- Crystal Reservoir:  
Crystal Creek

Note: A map of designated camping areas/zones is available from the Superintendent’s office.

Determination: This restriction is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety. This will protect the natural resources by tracking use patterns.

## **36 CFR 2.11 - PICNICKING**

(not applicable)

## **36 CFR §2.12 - Audio Disturbances**

(a)(2) Operating power saws in developed areas except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.

(a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.

(a)(4) Operation of a public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to 2.50 or 2.51

## **36 CFR §2.13 – Fires**

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is generally prohibited, except as provided for in the following designated areas and/or receptacles, under the conditions noted:

### Designated Areas:

- Fires are permitted in provided grills or designated campfire sites at all developed campgrounds, picnic areas, and designated backcountry campsites.
- Ground fires are prohibited elsewhere within the Recreation area, except below the high-water line of Blue Mesa reservoir.
- Container fires are permitted on the frozen surface of Blue Mesa Reservoir

### Established Conditions for Fires:

(a)(2) The following restrictions are in effect for the use of stoves or lanterns:

- Open flame or gas/propane barbecues are prohibited within 100 feet of marina areas.

(b) Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions:

- Fires below high water will be extinguished after use and the site restored to its original state. Fire rings shall be broken and dispersed. Charcoal will be removed, and ashes dispersed.
- In designated areas fires must be extinguished until cold to the touch.

(c) High fire danger closures will be in effect as noted:

- The Superintendent may close all or a portion of the Park to the lighting or maintaining of a fire during periods of high fire danger.

## **36 CFR §2.14 – Sanitation and Refuse**

(a)(2) The use of government refuse receptacles or facilities for dumping household, commercial or industrial refuse, brought as such from private or municipal property may be allowed under the following conditions: (Not applicable)

(a)(9) Backcountry visitors must use vault toilets. Otherwise, all solid human waste must be buried in at least 6"-8" deep cat hole at least 100 feet from water (200 feet is recommended), camps, or trails. A WAG (Waste Alleviation and Gelling) bag or other appropriate system is recommended. All toilet paper and hygiene products must be packed out.

## **36 CFR §2.15 – Pets**

**Definition: "Pet" means dogs, cats, or any animal that has been domesticated. (36 CFR 1.4)**

(a)(1) The following structures and/or areas are closed to the possession of pets:

- Morrow Point boat tours
- Marinas and docks, except direct travel to and from a boat.

(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed of in accordance with the following conditions:

- Pet excrement must be picked up by pet owners and then must be disposed of in areas where trash receptacles are present.
- (b) Where hunting is allowed, the following conditions apply for use of dogs for support of such activity in accordance with Federal and State laws:
- May be used in support of these activities in accordance to applicable Federal and State laws.
  - Dogs must be leashed when not actively engaged in hunting activity.
- (e) Pets may be kept by park residents under the following conditions:
- Under the terms and conditions established by the Superintendent's directive (Pet Policy).

### **36 CFR §2.16 – Horses and Pack Animals**

- (a) The following animals are designated as pack animals: horses, burros, mules, or other hoofed mammals.
- (b) The use of horses or pack animals is permitted on the following trails, routes, or areas:
- The signed portion of Dillon Pinnacles trail is designated for horses or pack animals.
- (d) Free trailing or loose herding is permitted on the following trails/routes, subject to the conditions noted: (Not Applicable)
- (g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals:
- Overnight livestock use is permitted only where corrals have been established at Dry Gulch, and Ponderosa Campgrounds. Portable corrals may be erected west of the creek in Dry Gulch and Red Creek Campgrounds.
  - Picketing or tying livestock to natural features such as trees is prohibited.
  - Grazing is prohibited. All hay utilized within the Park must be certified as weed free in compliance with Gunnison County standards.

### **36 CFR §2.17 – Aircraft and Air Delivery**

- (a)(1) The following areas have been designated pursuant to special regulations for operating or using aircraft: (Not applicable)
- (a)(2) The operation or use of aircraft under power on water less than 500 feet from designated swimming beaches, boat docks, piers, or ramps is permitted in the following areas under the conditions noted: (Not Applicable)
- (a)(3) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne

means, pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.

(c)(1) The removal of a downed aircraft, components, or parts thereof is allowed, subject to written authorizations from the Superintendent, under the following terms and conditions:

- Requires Special Use Permit

## 36 CFR §2.18 – Snowmobiles

(c) In addition to 36 CFR, Section 2.18, Snowmobile use is allowed under 36 CFR, section 7.51 (c)

(1) That the operators and machines conform to the laws and regulations governing the use of snowmobiles as stated in this chapter and those applicable snowmobile use promulgated by the state of Colorado where they prove to be more stringent or restrictive than those of the Department of the Interior.

(2) *Designated water surface and routes.* Snowmobile use is confined to the following water surface routes:

(i) The frozen surface of Blue Mesa Reservoir: and

(ii) *Designated Access Points:* Lake Fork Marina, McIntyre Gulch, Sapinero Beach, Dillon Pinnacles, Windsurf Beach, Elk Creek Marina, Dry Creek, North Willow, Old Stevens, Iola, Willow Creek and the most direct route from each of these access points to the frozen surface of Blue Mesa Reservoir.

(3) *Identification of designated access water surface routes.* The designated water surface and routes are identified on maps available at the office of the Superintendent and on the recreation area Web site.

(4) *Snowmobile requirements.* Snowmobiles are limited to a maximum of 1200 pounds gross vehicle weight (GVW), including cargo but excluding the weight of the driver and any passenger.

## 36 CFR §2.19 – Winter Activities

(a) The following park roads and/or parking areas may be used for skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, inner tubing, tobogganing, and similar winter activities under the conditions noted:

- Skiing, snowshoeing, and sledding are permitted on park roads closed to motor vehicle traffic pursuant to winter conditions.
- Sledding on designated boat ramps, winter walkways or on any road open to vehicle traffic, is prohibited.

(b) The towing of persons on skis, sled or other similar device by motor vehicle or snowmobile is allowed in the following areas:

- Permitted on the frozen surface of Blue Mesa Reservoir.

### **36 CFR §2.20 – Skating, Skateboards and Similar Devices**

The use of roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, or similar devices are allowed in the following areas:

- Residential areas and on any paved park roads that are closed to vehicular traffic.

### **36 CFR §2.21 – Smoking**

The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures or facilities are closed to smoking and the use of e-cigarettes:

- In the interior of all NPS owned, leased, or administered buildings, including shared government quarters.
- Within 25 feet of any entrance or exit primarily accessed by the visiting public.
- Within 25 feet of any entrance or exit not generally accessed by the public, where smoking would result in smoke traveling through doorways, windows, air ducts or other openings.
- Within any type of government owned or leased vehicle, including heavy equipment, watercraft, or aircraft.

### **36 CFR §2.22 – Property**

(a)(2) The following describes areas where property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hours, and the conditions under which property may be left. Vehicles and boat trailers may be left unattended for a maximum of 14 days at:

- Red Creek campground
- Dry Gulch campground
- Dillon trailhead
- Lake Fork storage area. At the Lake Fork fenced lot (intersection of Hwy 92 and Hwy 50), overflow parking is limited to empty boat trailers only for a total of 14 days until November 1st.
- Hermits Rest trailhead
- Curecanti Creek trailhead
- Pine Creek trailhead and trailer parking lot
- Mesa Creek trailhead parking lot
- East Portal walk-in campground parking lot
- Cimarron picnic lot

Vessels may be beached or anchored for periods longer than 24 hours by registered campers within a designated campground or campers in designated backcountry camping areas only. Vessels may not be beached or anchored on shore in the Elk Creek marina area within the No Wake buoys.

When the Stevens Creek launch ramp closes for the season, vessels that have been inspected for mussels at an NPS mussel inspection station may be kept overnight or up to 14 days in the cove areas adjacent to Stevens Creek campground. Vessel operators must display the “MUSSEL FREE” inspection certificate on the dashboard of their vehicle while operating their vessel. Vessel operators must also display the NPS provided tag or sticker on their boat while it is beached.

### 36 CFR §2.23 – Recreation Fees

(b) Recreation fees, and/or a permit, in accordance with 36 CFR part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activity, recreation events or specialized recreation uses:

Entrance Fee Areas:

Fee Campground Locations:

<b>Campgrounds</b>	<b>Summer May - October</b>	<b>Senior/Access May - October</b>	<b>Winter November-April</b>	<b>Senior/Access November-April</b>
<b>Stevens Creek</b>	\$16.00	\$8.00	Closed	Closed
<b>Elk Creek</b>	\$16.00	\$8.00	\$8.00	\$4.00
<b>Dry Gulch</b>	\$16.00	\$8.00	Closed	Closed
<b>Red Creek</b>	\$16.00	\$8.00	Closed	Closed
<b>Lake Fork</b>	\$16.00	\$8.00	Closed	Closed
<b>Ponderosa</b>	\$16.00	\$8.00	Closed	Closed
<b>Cimarron</b>	\$16.00	\$8.00	Closed	Closed
<b>East Portal</b>	\$16.00	\$8.00	Closed	Closed
<b>Elk Creek Loop “D”</b>	\$22.00	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$10.00

## Campground Fees

Note: All expanded amenity fees are discounted 50% for Interagency Senior/Access pass holders. Former Golden Age Access passes are still valid. A limited service fee (50% of full price) is charged for all campgrounds when water is unavailable.

<b>Group Campsites</b>	<b>Summer May - October</b>	<b>Winter November-April</b>
<b>East Elk Creek</b>	\$53.00	Closed
<b>Red Creek</b>	\$28.00	Closed

Note: No discounts on group campsites

## Daily Site Use Fee Areas:

<b>Boat Permits</b>	<b>Fees</b>	<b>Senior/Access fees</b>
<b>Two Day</b>	\$4.00	\$2.00
<b>Two Week</b>	\$10.00	\$5.00
<b>Annual</b>	\$30.00	\$15.00

Special Recreation Permit Fee (Such as but not limited to, group activities, recreation events, and the use of motorized recreation vehicles): (Not applicable)

(c) The collection of recreation fees will be suspended during the following periods:

Identified by order of the Director of the National Park Service. The designated fee free days in 2021 are 1/18, 4/17, 8/4, 8/25, 9/25 and 11/11/2021.

## **36 CFR §2.35 –Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances**

(a)(3)(i) Not applicable

### **36 CFR §2.37 – Noncommercial Soliciting**

The solicitation or demand for gifts, money, goods, or services requires a permit under 2.50, 2.51, or 2.52, and is subject to the terms and conditions specified therein.

### **36 CFR §2.38 – Explosives**

(a) Use, possess, store, transport, explosives, blasting agents except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit. When permitted, the use, possession, storage, and transportation shall be in accordance with Federal and State laws.

(b) Use or possess fireworks except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.

### **36 CFR §2.50 -Special Events**

2.50(a) Special Events (i.e. wedding, commercial photography (see 36 CFR§ 5.5), ceremony, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, and similar events) permit required.

### **36 CFR §2.51-Public Assemblies**

2.51 Public Assemblies (i.e. meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views) permit required.

A map which designates these areas will be available upon request, in the office of the Superintendent.

### **36 CFR §2.52-Sale or distribution of printed matter**

2.52(c) Sale or distribution of printed matter (that is not solely commercial advertising). Permit required.

### **36 CFR §2.60 Livestock Use and Agriculture**

(a) Absent a permit, the running-at-large, herding, driving across, allowing on, pasturing, or grazing of livestock of any kind in a park area for agricultural purposes is prohibited. Additionally, a permit can only be issued in the following circumstances:

(a)(1) As specifically authorized by Federal statutory law: or



(a)(2) As required under a reservation of use of rights arising from acquisition of a tract of land.

(a)(3) As designated, when conducted as a necessary and integral part of a recreational activity or required in order to maintain a historic scene.

2.60(b) Grazing Livestock Use, allowed only pursuant to the terms and conditions of a license, permit or lease.

### **36 CFR §2.61 – Residing on Federal Land**

2.61(a) Residing in park areas, other than on privately owned lands, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit, lease or contract is prohibited.

### **36 CFR §2.62 – Memorialization**

(a) Authorization from the Director of the National Park Service is required to install a monument, memorial, tablet, structure, or other commemorative installation in a park area.

(b) A permit is required for the scattering of ashes from cremated human remains.

## **36 CFR§ 3 – Boating and Water Use Activities**

### **36 CFR§ 3.3- Am I required to obtain a permit to operate a vessel in a park area.**

All motorized and/or state-registered vessels on Blue Mesa Reservoir will be required to have a boat permit.

\$30.00 for an annual permit (calendar year)

\$10.00 for a 14-day permit

\$4.00 for a 2-day permit

### **36 CFR §3.8 – What Vessel Operations are Prohibited?**

(a)(2) Designated launch sites:

- Iola
- Stevens Creek
- Elk Creek

- Lake Fork
- Ponderosa

Unimproved launch sites are identified as follows:

- Wilson's landing
- Old Steven's
- North Willow Creek
- Dry Creek
- Bay of Chickens
- Dillon Pinnacles (Middle Bridge)
- Lake access areas from US Highway 149 at mileposts 116.6 and 116.5
- Lake access areas from US Highway 50 at milepost 149.5 and milepost 132.7

Note: Effective 2009 – Non motorized launch only at unimproved sites

All unimproved sites below the high-water line accessible areas for Pink Tag hand launching. Within the Pink Tag description (see page 4), hand launched gas powered, or water-cooled motors are included with hand launching Pink Tags.

Boat launching and access is restricted to hand-carried craft in the following areas:

- East Portal along the Gunnison River except for the ramp 1 mile east of the diversion dam.
- Pine Creek (for Morrow Point Reservoir)
- Curecanti Creek Trail (for Morrow Point Reservoir)
- Hermits Rest Trails (for Morrow Point Reservoir)
- Mesa Creek Trail (for Crystal Reservoir)

Note: Trailers or other non-motorized wheeled devices maneuvered by hand may be used to assist in launching. Other types of launching devices at these locations would require a Special Use Permit.

(4) Vessels must meet the following size, length, or width restrictions:

- Vessels in excess of 65 feet are prohibited on Blue Mesa Reservoir

(b)(1) Areas designated as wakeless:

- Elk Creek and Lake Fork marinas
- Lake Fork, Soap Creek, West Elk and Cebolla arms (as marked)
- Dry Creek cove (as marked)
- Bay of Chickens (as marked)
- Lola boat ramp
- Steven's Creek ramp

Slow, 5 mph area:

- Upstream from Lake City bridge

### **36 CFR 3.12 – WATER SKIING**

(a) The towing of persons by vessels is permitted in the following areas under the terms and conditions noted:

- The surface of Blue Mesa Reservoir is designated as open to water skiing in compliance with 36 CFR 3.12 and 3.1 (a), and Colorado state regulations.

3.12 (b) Towing a person using a parasail, hang glider or other airborne device requires a permit.

### **36 CFR 3.16 – SWIMMING AND WADING**

(a)(1) The following areas are closed to swimming and wading:

- Within 100 feet of marina, docks, anchorage's, and between the buoy line above the dams.
- Within 100 feet of Lake City, Middle and Lake Fork bridges.

### **36 CFR 3.18 – SCUBA AND SNORKELING**

(a) SCUBA diving and snorkeling is permitted in the following swimming, docking, and mooring areas under the terms and conditions noted:

- Permitted only in waters open to powerboats.
- Prohibited within marina and docking areas, except in accordance with conditions which may be established by the Superintendent.
- NOTE: NPS and BOR divers are permitted in closed areas for maintenance, SAR and training functions.

## **36 CFR §4-Vehicles and Traffic Safety**

## 36 CFR §4.11 – Vehicle Load, Weight, and Size Limits

(a) The following load, weight, and size limits, which are more restrictive than State law, apply to the roads indicated under the terms and conditions, and/or under permit as noted:

- Overall vehicle length with trailer may not exceed 22 feet on the East Portal road.
- Trailers are prohibited in the Pine Creek parking lot except for the purposes of loading and unloading.
- On the frozen surface of Blue Mesa reservoir, only recreational vehicles with Colorado or similar state park recreational registrations designated for non-highway use. No street legal vehicles on the frozen surface of the lake, a vehicle weight limit may not exceed 2000 lbs.

## 36 CFR §4.30 – Bicycles

**Definition:** The term “e-bike” means a two- or three-wheeled cycle with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts (1 h.p.).

E-bikes are allowed in Curecanti National Recreation Area where traditional bicycles are allowed. E-bikes are prohibited where traditional bicycles are prohibited. Except where use of motor vehicles by the public is allowed, using the electric motor to move an e-bike without pedaling is prohibited.

A person operating an e-bike is subject to the following sections of 36 CFR part 4 that apply to the use of traditional bicycles: sections 4.12, 4.13, 4.20, 4.21, 4.22, 4.23, and 4.30(h)(2)-(5).

Except as specified in this Compendium, the use of an e-bike within Curecanti National Recreation Area is governed by State law, which is adopted and made a part of this Compendium. Any violation of State law adopted by this paragraph is prohibited.

## 36 CFR §4.31 – Hitchhiking

- Hitchhiking is permitted in the following areas under the terms and conditions noted:  
On the portions of Hwy 50, 92, and 149, that traverses through the Recreation Area.

## 36 CFR §5– Commercial and Private Operations

### 36 CFR §5.1 –Advertisements

Advertisements – (Display, posting, or distribution.), requires a permit.

### 36 CFR §5.2– Sale of Intoxicants

(b) Sale of intoxicants in certain park areas, requires a permit

## 36 CFR §5.3 – Business Operations

Business Operations requires a permit.

## 36 CFR §5.4 – Commercial Passenger Carrying motor vehicles

(a) Commercial transportation of passengers by motor vehicles within specific parks, requires a permit.

## 36 CFR §5.5 – Commercial Photography

(a) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings, or crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television, requires a permit.

Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising requires a permit.

The following types of filming activities may occur in areas open to the public without a permit and without advance notice to the NPS: 1) Outdoor filming activities [outside of areas managed as wilderness]. 2) Five persons or less and equipment that will be carried at all times, except for small tripods used to hold cameras. The organizer of any other type of filming activity must provide written notice to the Superintendent at least 10 days prior to the start of the proposed activity. Based upon the information provided, the Superintendent may require the organizer to apply for and obtain a permit if necessary to:

- maintain public health and safety;
- protect environmental or scenic values;
- protect natural or cultural resources;
- allow for equitable allocation and use of facilities;
- avoid conflict among visitor use activities.

If the Superintendent determines that the terms and conditions of a permit could not mitigate the concerns identified above in an acceptable manner, the Superintendent may deny a filming request without issuing a permit.

The 2 See section entitled “Filming in Wilderness”. Superintendent will provide the basis for denial in writing upon request. The NPS will consider requests and process permit applications in a timely manner. Processing times will vary depending on the complexity of the proposed activity. If the organizer provides the required 10 day advance notice to the NPS and has not received a written response from the NPS that a permit is required prior to the first day of production, the proposed filming activities may occur without a permit. The following are prohibited:

(1) Engaging in a filming activity without providing advance notice to the Superintendent when required.

(2) Engaging in a filming activity without a permit if [the activity takes place in areas managed as wilderness or if]3 the Superintendent has notified the organizer in writing that a permit is required.

(3) Violating a term and condition of a permit issued under this action. Violating a term or condition of a permit issued under to this action may also result in the suspension and revocation of the permit by the Superintendent.

The required compendium action must set forth any additional park-specific requirements that apply to filming activities generally (for example, limitations on hours or locations), and be justified in a written determination pursuant to 36 C.F.R. §1.5(c). The determination must state the reasons why the action has been taken and must be made available to the public upon request. The written determination may be placed in the compendium immediately after the action. Superintendents are encouraged to reference this Memorandum and use the information contained in it to develop the written determination. Superintendents must notify the public of this new framework for managing filming activities. Methods of notification may include signs posted in conspicuous locations, maps, park brochures, and information posted online.

Existing statements about filming activities in park compendiums should be removed and replaced with the language above. 54 U.S.C. § 100905, 43 C.F.R. Part 5 and 36 C.F.R. § 5.5 should not be cited as authorities for any compendium actions related to filming. The citation for the required language above should be 36 C.F.R. § 1.5. 36 C.F.R. § 5.5 may still be cited as the authority for requirements related to still photography and audio recordings.

### **36 CFR §5.6 – Commercial Vehicles**

(c)Use of commercial vehicles on park area roads (The superintendent shall issue a permit to access private lands within or adjacent to the park when access is otherwise not available).

### **36 CFR §5.7 Construction**

Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, path, structure, etc. Requires a permit.

### **36 CFR §5.10 Eating, Drinking or Lodging Establishments**

(a)Operation of eating, drinking, or lodging establishments in certain park areas, requires a Permit

### **36 CFR § 6.9- Solid Waste Disposal Sites in Units of the National Park System**

(a) Operation of a solid waste disposal sites –requires a permit.