



Curecanti National Recreation Area

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Fall Changes to Mussel Inspection Program at Blue Mesa Reservoir

Superintendent Connie Rudd announced today that there will be several changes in hours and locations of mussel inspection stations at Curecanti National Recreation Area after Labor Day weekend. With decreasing staff levels and diminishing daylight hours, such changes are necessary and unavoidable.

Stevens Creek boat ramp will be closed to vessel launching and retrieval beginning September 8. The campground will remain open.

Elk Creek and Lake Fork boat ramp hours will be 7 a.m. through 7 p.m. beginning September 8. Both entrance and exit inspections at Elk Creek will be done at the Elk Creek Marina, rather than the campground entrance.

Vessels that have been slipped or on the water for more than 24 hours must go through a high risk inspection and possibly decontamination - vessels fitting this description will require a longer inspection time.

No motorized or trailered vessel launching or retrieval is allowed outside of Elk Creek and Lake Fork boat ramps. . .only hand launched watercraft may launch outside of these locations and their trailers may not enter the water.

Consistent with previous years, the Elk Creek and Lake Fork docks will be removed in October due to fluctuating water levels. The Elk Creek and Lake Fork boat ramps will not be plowed, though the adjacent parking lots will be cleared of snow as quickly as possible.

Due to nighttime temperatures below freezing and the potential for water lines and portable decontamination units to freeze, boat decontamination may not be available at Lake Fork. Boats requiring decontamination will be sent to Elk Creek. The best way to assure that your boat does not require decontamination is for it to be clean, drained and dried of any standing water upon arrival at Blue Mesa Reservoir.

Due to freezing fall temperatures and the likelihood that our large decontamination unit will have to close, the proper decontamination may not be available to vessels coming in with attached adult mussels. Those vessels may be denied access to the lake until they obtain decontamination at another facility.

The reservoir and inspection stations will remain open until the water at Elk Creek and Lake Fork boat ramps freezes. Hours will reduce again in November and December as daylight decreases.

Superintendent Rudd says, “My staff and I wish to thank all recreational users for a good summer of cooperation and support. The mussel prevention program has been successful because of concerned boaters, anglers and recreationists supporting the efforts. Cleaned, drained and dry vessels are the key to remaining mussel free, and staying on the right track to preserving this valuable recreational resource.”

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