



---

## Curecanti National Recreation Area

Release date: Immediate

Contact(s): Sandra Snell-Dobert

Phone number: 970-641-2337, ext. 227

Date: 10/23/2009

Release code: 10-3

### Late 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 on October 25, 2009. With decreasing staff levels and diminishing daylight hours and the end of Daylight Savings Time, such changes are necessary and unavoidable.

Stevens Creek boat ramp will remain closed to vessel launching and retrieval as it has since September 8.

Elk Creek and Lake Fork boat ramp hours will be 7 a.m. through 5 p.m. beginning October 25. Both entrance and exit inspections at Elk Creek will continue to 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.

Due to nighttime temperatures below freezing and the potential for water lines and portable decontamination units to freeze, boat decontamination will no longer 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 the 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 late November or early December as daylight continues to decrease.

-NPS-