Watercraft Inspection and Boat Launch Areas

Complex Watercraft (Yellow Tag)

Inspections required prior to launch.
Inspection required after retrieval.
May only launch from concrete boat ramps (major launch sites).

Complex watercraft include, but are not limited to: houseboats, cabin cruisers, pontoon boats, personal watercraft, ski boats, wakeboard boats, ballast sailboats, and most trailered or motorized fishing type boats.
These vessels can launch at any one of four locations after receiving an inspection:

- Elk Creek
- Lake Fork
- Iola
- Stevens Creek

Summer hours are 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Available inspection stations and ramp hours vary by season. Please visit go.nps.gov/mussel for current and upcoming hours and the latest information.

State Hand Launch List (Green Tag)

No inspection required.
May launch anywhere.
No trailers allowed in water.

The Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife has identified the following vessel types as low risk for carrying invasive species and these vessels can launch without an inspection from any location on Blue Mesa Reservoir:

- kayak
- canoe
- float tube
- belly boat
- sail board
- windsurf board
- inner tube
- raft

Owners of these vessels can receive a season-long launch pass and sticker for their vessel via appointment by calling (970) 209-2335.

The hand-launch season pass helps rangers identify vessels from a distance that are free to launch anywhere. A season pass for this class of vessel is not required, but is encouraged.

Trailers used to transport these vessels may not enter the water at any time. If a trailer must enter the water upon launch or retrieval, the vessel must be inspected prior to launch.

Hand Launched Vessels Not Included on State List (Green Tag)

Assessment required prior to launch.
May qualify for annual pass.

Watercraft not included on the Colorado State hand launch list may still qualify for an annual hand-launch pass.

These vessels must be hand-launched (no trailer enters the water during launch or retrieval), must not have a gas powered, water-cooled, or electric motor and must not have enclosed containers or compartments that regularly hold water.

An assessment of any vessel not specifically included on the Colorado State hand launch list is required.

All Other Vessels Capable of Holding Water (Pink Tag)

Inspection required prior to launch.
Inspection required after retrieval.
May launch at specified locations.
In certain locations, trailers may enter water.

This class of watercraft has compartments capable of holding water and are required to receive an inspection each time the watercraft is launched and retrieved.

This class of craft includes but is not limited to:

- "Hobie Cat" style sailboats
- small to medium sized sailboats
- some rowing shells
- hand launched vessels that are fitted with a gas powered, water-cooled, or electric motor.

Many of these vessels may not be able to safely or practically launch and retrieve at concrete boat ramps; Several specific areas have been designated to accommodate launching these watercraft, after receiving an inspection.

Pink tag vessels may launch from the following locations and trailers **may** enter the water after receiving an inspection at the following locations:

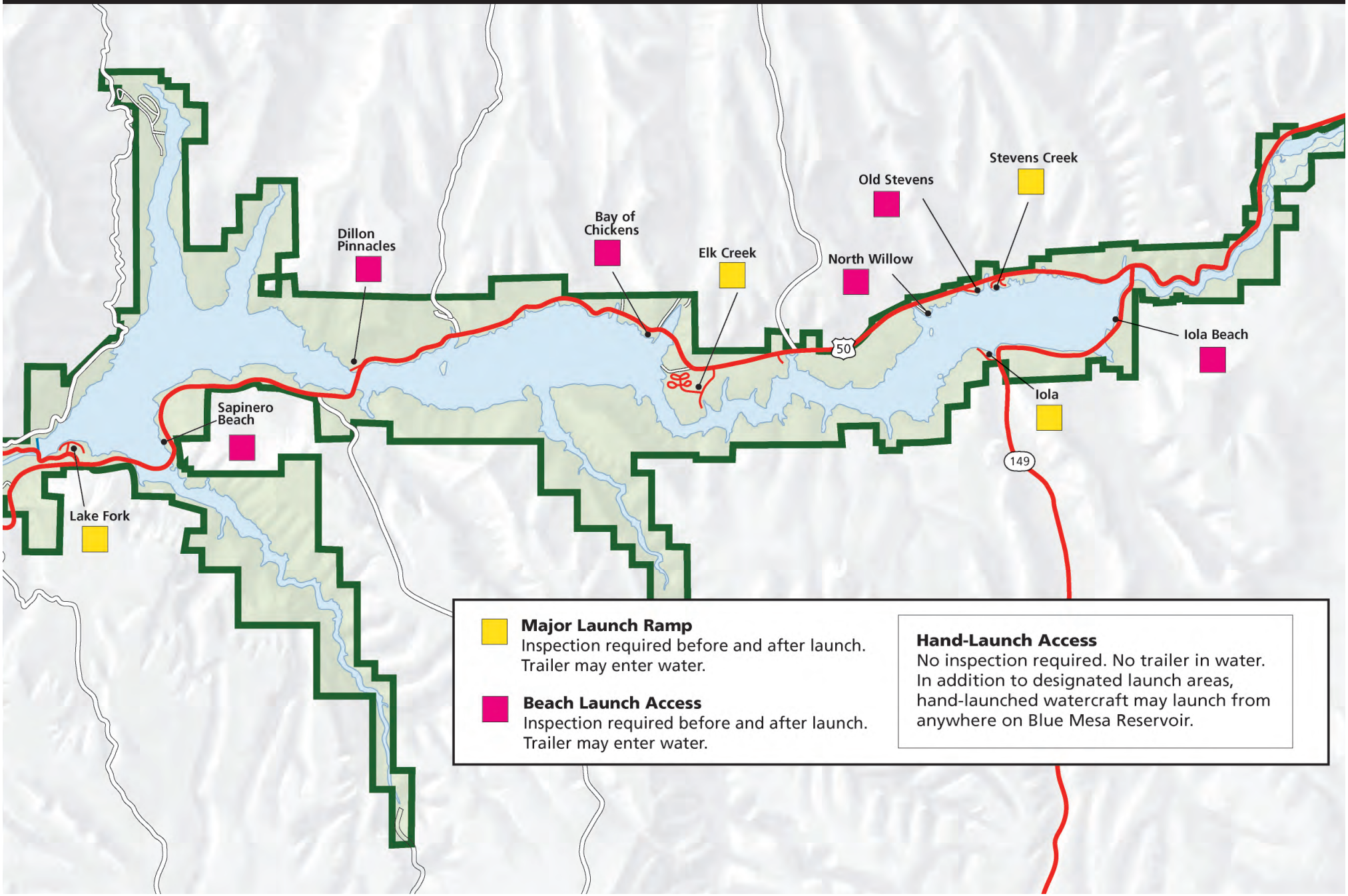
- Iola beach
- Bay of Chickens
- Dillon Pinnacles beach
- Old Stevens beach
- North Willow beach
- Sapinero beach

For More Information

For more information on these regulations, inspection station hours, or on the entire Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Program at Curecanti National Recreation Area, please visit our website, call or email.

On the web: go.nps.gov/mussel
By phone: (970) 641-2337 ext 205
By email: cure_info@nps.gov

Curecanti

National Recreation Area
National Park Service

U.S. Department of the Interior