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with adventure all year long.  
Come back again and again!*

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- Home to Mesa Verde National Park
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- Fine accommodations and restaurants for all budgets
- Gateway to the San Juan Skyway,  
“America’s Most Beautiful Drive”
- Day tours to historic and scenic wonders
- Indian dancers, storytellers, art, pottery, and trading posts
- Excellent area hiking, camping, bicycling and fishing on public lands
- Beautiful 18-hole golf course

*We have additional brochures about area  
Day Trips, Archaeology Tours, Hiking, Biking,  
Fishing and even Skiing. Just ask, they’re free!*

**CORTEZ • DOLORES • MANCOS • TOWAOC**  
**MESA VERDE**  
*Country*®

VISITOR INFORMATION BUREAU  
P.O. Box HH, Cortez, Colorado 81321  
800-253-1616 (USA and Canada)  
[www.mesaverdecountry.com](http://www.mesaverdecountry.com)

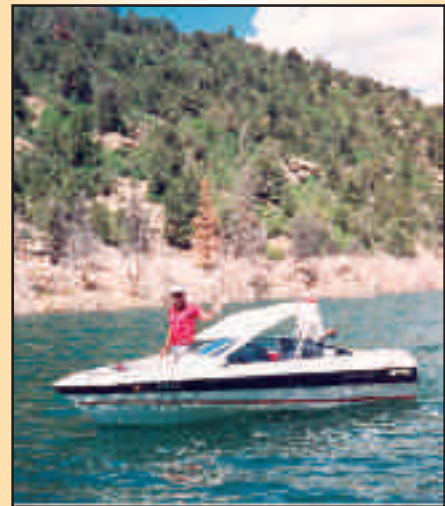
Revised 3/2010



**BOATING/CAMPING**

## McPhee Recreation Area in Mesa Verde Country®

**CORTEZ • DOLORES • MANCOS • TOWAOC**



*Experience Colorado  
from the Beginning!*



## Welcome to McPhee Recreation Area

McPhee Lake offers a wide variety of experiences. With over fifty miles of shoreline, McPhee Lake is the largest reservoir on the San Juan National Forest and the second largest in the state of Colorado. This means there are plenty of opportunities for water lovers to enjoy a variety of water sports, including boating, water skiing, sailing, flat water canoeing, and fishing.

Whether you fish from the bank or by boat, you are sure to catch something with the wide variety of warm and cold water species McPhee Lake has to offer, including; Rainbow trout, Kokanee Salmon, Bass and Panfish.

McPhee Lake has two large Recreation Areas; McPhee and House Creek, which offer developed boat ramps and campground facilities. There are several areas around the lake accessible only by boat, that offer a back-country experience as well as day use areas that are accessible by vehicle.

**McPhee Campground** is located on a mesa 500 feet above the lake, with road access to the boat launch area.

- 76 campsites
- Wheelchair accessible sites available
- Flush toilets
- Shower and laundry house available during summer months
- Walk-in tent sites
- Electricity available at additional charge
- RV Dump Station
- Group Campground/Picnic Areas available

### Boat Launch Area

- 6-lane concrete boat ramp
- Fish cleaning station
- 2 courtesy boat docks
- Food concession during summer months
- Flush toilets, drinking water
- Parking area

**Open:** year round, except for snow closures.

**Location:** Eight miles northwest of Dolores, Colorado off Highway 184 on the southwest shoreline.

### Reservations available:

Call: 877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

For additional information, contact:

Dolores Public Lands Office  
29211 Highway 184  
Dolores, CO 81323  
(970) 882-7296  
[www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/sanjuan)



## Rules and Regulations

### Remember These Rules:

- **Overtaking/Passing:** Boat being passed has right-of-way.
- **Meeting Head-On:** Keep to the right.
- **Crossing:** Boat on the right has right-of-way. Slow down and permit it to cross. Remember.....courtesy pays!
- Forest Service and State Parks are not available for boat rescue.
- **Skipper is alert & SOBER...**and in right frame of mind.
- Colorado State boating and fishing regulations apply on McPhee Lake.
- Bass 10-15" **must** be released.
- Camping debris and trash in dispersed areas must be carried out.
- Human waste disposal: Please stay at Least 100 feet from high water line. Dig a small hole about 8" deep. Cover it with soil after using.
- Please dump sewage in appropriate receptacles. A waste disposal station is located at the McPhee and House Creek Campgrounds.
- Campfires are restricted to fire grates in the developed campgrounds and to within the high water line when using dispersed areas.
- **Wakeless Zones:** Located in House Creek, Dry Canyon and Beaver Creek arms, in the Sage Hen fisherman access area (fish habitat) and around the boat ramps.

**Enjoy** your visit here. Please keep these things in mind:

- **Sun:** Watch out, sunburn occurs very easily at this altitude.
- **Water Temperature:** Hypothermia is a constant threat in cold water combined with high winds.
- **Navigational Hazards:** As with any lake there may be hazards such as floating debris and shallow water depths. Exercise caution!!

**FIREWORKS ARE PROHIBITED ON  
NATIONAL FOREST LANDS.**



## House Creek Recreation Area

**Open:** April 1 through November 30

**Location:** 15 miles north of Dolores, on the east shoreline, off the Dolores-Norwood Road (FR #526)

### House Creek Campground

- 60 campsites
- 2 wheelchair accessible sites
- Tables
- Fire grates/tables
- Drinking water
- Composting toilets
- Electricity available at additional charge
- RV Dump Station
- Group Campground/Picnic Areas available

### Boat Launch Area

- 4-lane concrete boat ramp
- 1 courtesy boat dock
- Parking area



## Lone Dome Recreation Area

### Below The Dam

Catch and release fishing for 12 miles from McPhee Dam to Bradfield Bridge. Artificial flies and lures only.

### Ferris Canyon Campground

7 Campsites, tables, fire grates, drinking water and composting toilets

### Cabin Canyon Campground

- 11 Campsites, tables, fire grates, drinking water and composting toilets
- A concrete trail allows wheelchair access to the river

Lone Dome Road closed to motorized vehicles December 1 to March 31 from Salter Canyon to McPhee Dam (Winter Wildlife Closure)



## Fisherman Access

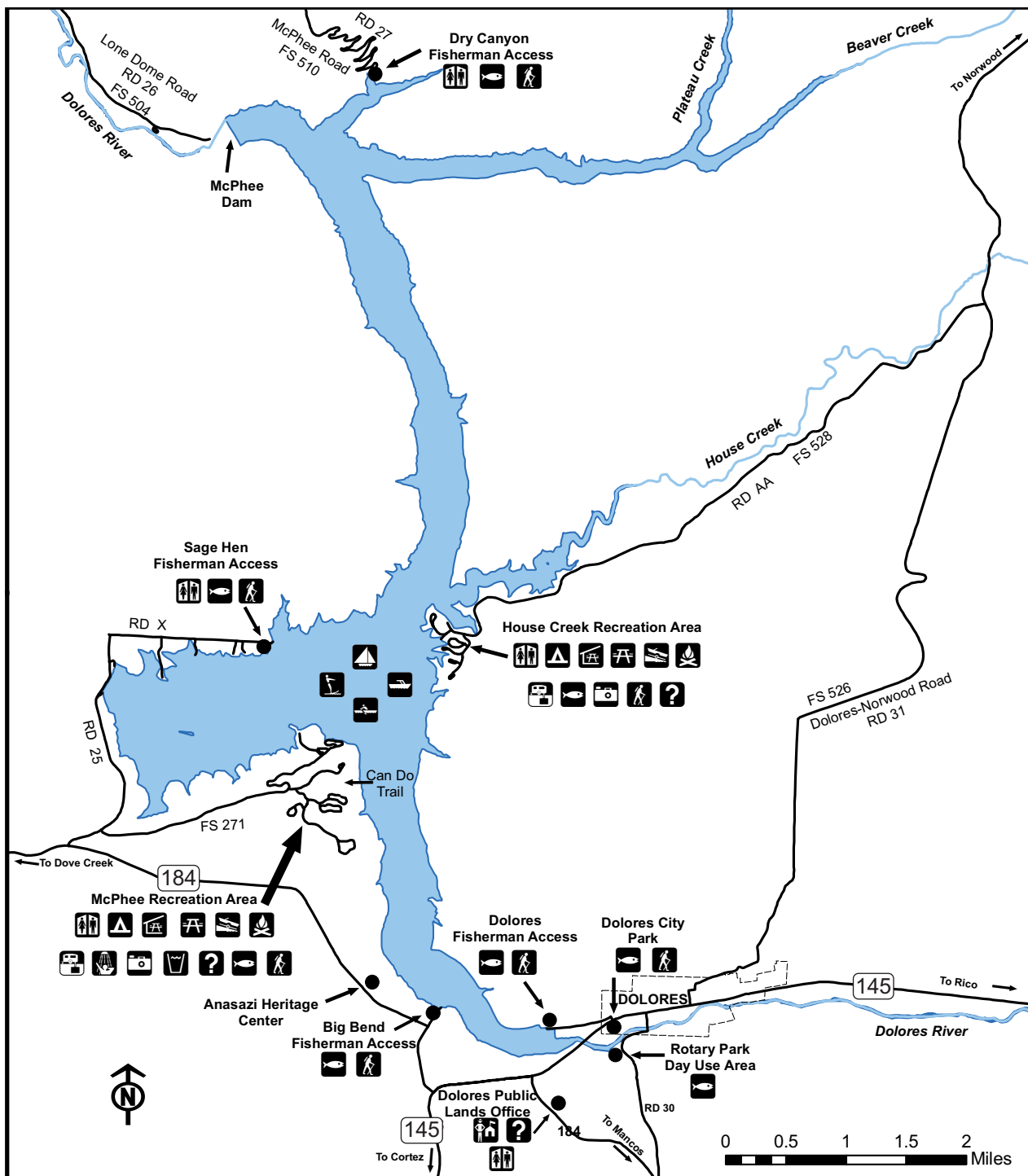
### DAY USE AREAS

- **Dry Canyon Fisherman Access**  
15 unit graveled parking area, toilet
- **Dolores Fisherman Access**  
20 unit graveled parking area
- **Big Bend Fisherman Access**  
Two 10 unit graveled parking area
- **Rotary Park**  
River access, park in designated parking only
- **Sage Hen Fisherman Access**  
Graveled parking, toilet. Area closed dusk to dawn.

**Water Skiing:** Due to the speed necessary for water skiing, this activity is restricted to the main body of the reservoir or high speed areas. Conflicts between uses of the reservoir may occur. Please respect all uses and provide adequate space.

### SAFETY FIRST! TRIP CHECKLIST

- Before going afloat, check equipment to see that it is loaded correctly.
- Be sure not to overload the vessel.
- Fire Extinguisher and Safety Equipment aboard and accessible
- Coast Guard approved PFD (life jacket) for each person on board
- Lines coiled and out of way
- Ample fuel in tanks
- Paddles or oars on board
- Lights or whistles work
- Water is bailed and boat does not leak
- Bilges clean, clear, free from gasoline vapors
- No fuel leaks and any spilled gasoline wiped up
- Weather OK for boating
- Gear fastened and out of the way
- Passengers seated: boat trim
- Propeller clean of weeds, rock, impediments
- Motor safety chain attached to boat
- Motor shut-off valve open
- Tool kit and extra parts on board



Water Elevation:  
 6924 at normal high water  
 6855 at minimum pool  
 6894 at average pool

145 State Highway  
 CR County Road  
 FS Forest Road

Miles of Shoreline:  
 50 miles at normal high water  
 33 miles at minimum pool

Ranger Station  
 Information  
 Restrooms

Camping  
 Fire Place  
 Group Picnic Shelter  
 Picnic Area

Drinking Water  
 Showers  
 Overlook  
 Sanitary Dump Station

Hiking  
 Marina  
 Boat Ramp  
 Fishing

Motor Boating  
 Sail Boating  
 Row Boating  
 Water Skiing