

FISHING & HIKING



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Rifle
Ranger
District

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Rifle CO 81650
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BATTLEMENT RESERVOIRS

Reservoirs: Seven reservoirs, four have breached.

Elevation: Approximately 10300 feet.

Use: Light

Beginning Elevation: 8280 feet at trailhead.

Vegetation: Engelmann spruce, sub-alpine fir,
Grasslands and wet meadows.

Wildlife: Deer, elk, cutthroat trout, chorus frogs,
goshawk and red tail hawks, pine martin, red squirrels,
chickadees, sparrows, and house wrens among a few.

USGS Map/s: Rulison & Hawxhurst Creek

Attractions: Bookcliff's, Grand Valley, and LaSalle
Mtn. Range (on a clear day) vista's. Camping, hiking,
fishing, mountain biking, and solitude.

HISTORY:

The Battlement Reservoirs are a chain of seven reservoirs, located in a pristine high mountain setting, south of Parachute, Colorado. As it is the only good lake fishery on the south half of the Rifle District, this area is one of the most heavily used semi-primitive recreation sites on the District. The reservoirs were constructed with horse drawn equipment in the late 1800's, and some of the old equipment remains on site, which is of historical value. There is also an old trail called the "Government trail" which historically was the main route through the Battlement Mesa country used by the earliest Rangers on the old "Battlement National Forest". Ranger James Cayton was the first Ranger in the area and used the Government trail in the early 1900's to administer the Battlement Reservoirs and grazing in the area. Many parts of this trail are now grown over, and in need of maintenance and signing to restore it to usable condition.

Four of the seven dams have breached to some extent, and all the dams are in unsatisfactory condition. There are plans to re-do a few of the reservoirs in the near future. Two to three reservoirs will be maintained shallow for wildlife habitat.

ACCESS: From Rifle head west on I-70 to Parachute, 16 miles, and take exit 75. Turn left on County Road #301. Follow Co. Rd. #301 across the Colorado River to Battlement Parkway, turn right. Follow Battlement Parkway to Stone Quarry Road (signed) and turn right to Battlement Cemetery, then left on Co. Rd. #320. Continue on Co. Rd. #320 east approximately 5 miles to Battlement Reservoir Trailhead. You can continue from Battlement Reservoir Trailhead on Lava Creek Trail or Battlement Road by foot or horseback.

LAVA CREEK TRAIL: This trail was improved in 1997 and crosses Lava Creek from the Battlement Reservoir Trail head. Lava Creek trail is a non-motorized or mechanized, foot and horseback trail only. The Battlement trailhead and the beginning of Lava Creek trail is on private land, please respect private property. For more information, see the Lava Creek Trail #2160.2D Recreational Opportunity Guide (ROG) sheet.

BATTLEMENT ROAD FDR #847: Rough, steep, 4-wheel drive nightmare or it can be a haven for 4-wheel drive die-hards. This road is not recommended as novice 4-wheel drive road, sections of lava rocks, hairpin turns, and mud bogs are a few challenges one will encounter. Battlement Road **is recommended for** foot, horseback, and mountain bike use. See Battlement Road FDR #847 ROG sheet.

