



Pueblo County Sheriff's Office

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News Release

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Sheriff's Volunteer Dive Team Jumps in to Help Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Pueblo, CO: When Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials recently sought help in replacing underwater cables of the fishery boat house at Lake Pueblo, members of the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office volunteer dive team dove right in to help.

Team members spent several hours March 6 going under the frigid water of Lake Pueblo replacing two cables attached to anchors submerged approximately 35-feet below. The team of six volunteer divers and four support personnel successfully completed the task in a little more than four hours in the 38-degree temperature water. The project brought needed stability to the fishery boathouse, which is a critical asset for the CPW walleye spawning operation designed to provide walleye fry for stocking statewide.

"This was a great opportunity for our dive team to get in the water and do some training and at the same time help out one of our partner agencies," said Pueblo County Sheriff Kirk M. Taylor. "This task, while it may sound simple, required a great deal of skill and our guys did a great job."

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials reached out to the Sheriff's Office late last year seeking assistance with replacing the cables that anchor the fishery boat house in place. CPW wanted the project completed prior to March 15, which is the start of the parks and wildlife annual massive walleye spawning operation. The Sheriff's dive team jumped at the opportunity to help CPW on the underwater project.

"This project gave us the opportunity to practice pre-mission planning and execution of dive operations, to include essential personnel needed to complete the mission," said Charles Bradley, emergency management coordinator for the Pueblo County Sheriff's Office. The operation also allowed for the team members to practice using dry suits, which have different characteristics of the suits generally used by the team in warmer water temperatures.

The all-volunteer dive team took turns working in teams of two, where they descended 25 to 35-feet underwater to successfully attach new cables to the boat house anchors. Four dive team support personnel on land also assisted with the operation.

Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials praised the sheriff's dive team members for their willingness to do the project.

“Thank you very much to the dive team for all of their patience, willingness to stay until the project was completed and to volunteer their time on a Saturday to get this completed,” said Carrie Tucker, aquatic biologist for the CPW. “All of our partners, in particular another law enforcement agency like the Pueblo County Sheriff’s, are critical to CPW accomplishing our mission statement and continuing to provide resources to the public such as fish stocking.”

Sheriff’s dive team members are required to meet all public safety dive requirements. They are a member of the Pueblo County Sheriff’s Emergency Bureau Team, which also includes the fire team and search and rescue. The dive team provides underwater rescue and recovery.

Anyone interested in joining any of the Sheriff’s Office volunteer teams can go online to obtain more information and an application at www.pueblosheriff.org.

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