

Ragged Mountain Reservoir



Photo courtesy of Tailwheel Basics, LLC. Copyright 2005-2008.

Ragged Mountain Reservoirs are presently comprised of two dams located in the Ragged Mountain region immediately west of Charlottesville. The two reservoirs, Upper Ragged Mountain Reservoir and Lower Ragged Mountain Reservoir are formed by dams in series on an unnamed tributary to Moores Creek. Together these dams form the Ragged Mountain Reservoir System. The upper dam was constructed in 1885 and originally had a normal pool level of 654.7 feet. The lower dam was constructed in 1908 and has a normal pool elevation of 641.0. Both reservoirs are connected by a ten inch diameter pipe. During low-flow conditions, the normal pool level in the upper reservoir equalizes and is controlled by the lower reservoir pool level. The drainage area for both reservoirs is 1.81 square miles. The lower reservoir dam height is 67 feet. The current total permanent pool holds 513.6 million gallons of water with 462 million gallons usable storage estimated in 2002. The upper and lower reservoirs are one of the raw water supplies to the Observatory Water Treatment Plant. These reservoirs are popular for canoeing, kayaking, and fishing as well as hiking along the surrounding trails. Both swimming and motor boating are prohibited since these reservoirs are a community raw water supply.