



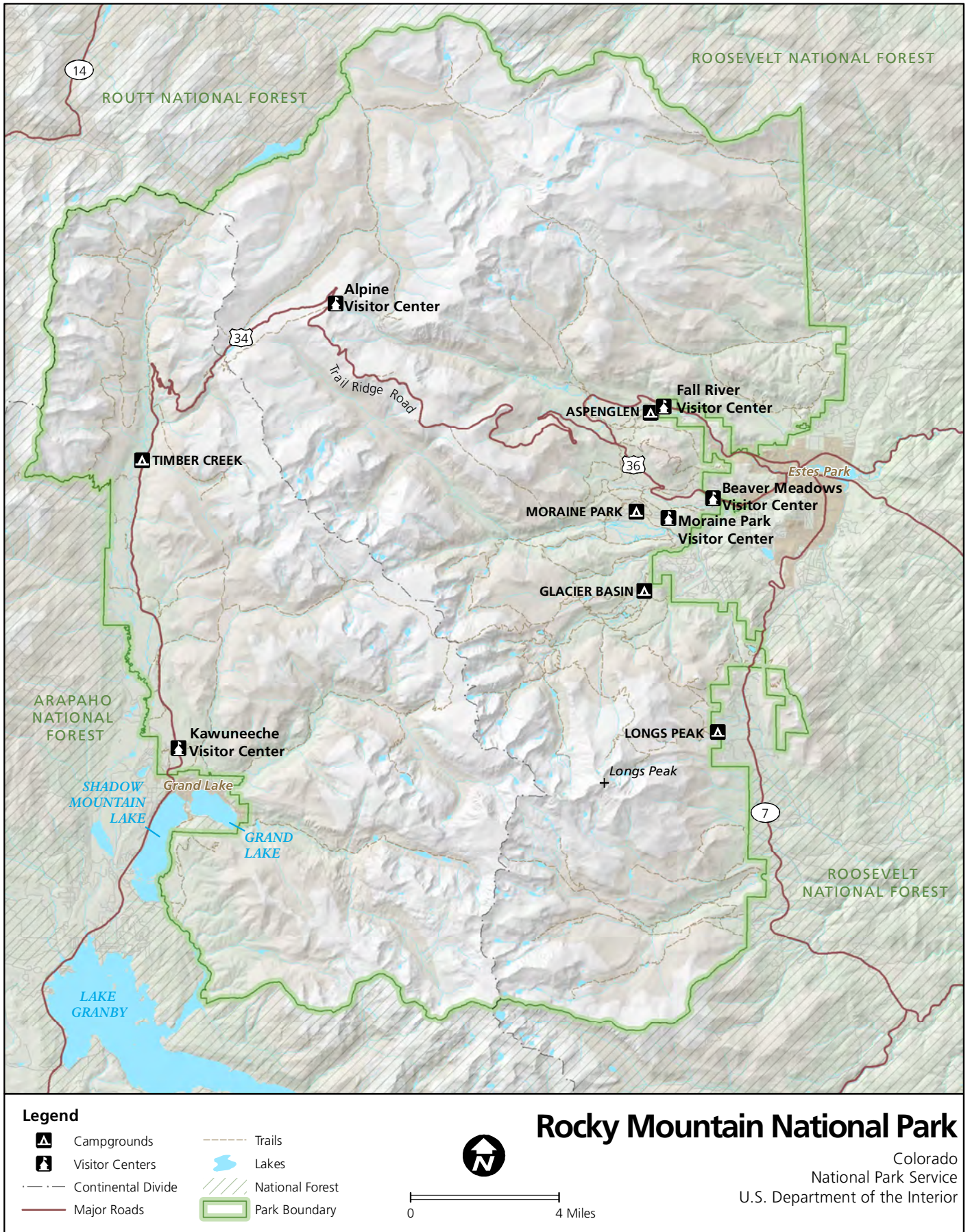
Foundation Document

Rocky Mountain National Park

Colorado

May 2013





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Mission of the National Park Service



The mission of the National Park Service is to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system, for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

The National Park Service (NPS) is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. Although numerous National Parks had been created earlier, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the act formally establishing the National Park Service to manage these sites.

The core values are a statement of the framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission.

The Arrowhead

The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The Sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

National Park Service core values:

Shared stewardship. We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.

Excellence. We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.

Integrity. We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.

Tradition. We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.

Respect. We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The national park system continues to grow, and currently comprises 398 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state (except Delaware), the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These areas include national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of nation park units throughout the nation require the same commitment to resource stewardship and management in order to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.

Approximately 22,000 diverse professionals work for the National Park Service, and each year approximately 281,303,769 people visit the units of the national park system. To meet the needs of the American people, the National Park Service cooperates with partners and works with dedicated volunteers to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.



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Introduction

Every unit of the national park system needs a formal statement of its core mission to provide basic guidance for all planning and management decisions: a foundation for planning and management. Increasing emphasis on government accountability and restrained federal spending make it imperative that all stakeholders understand the park's purpose, significance, interpretive themes, fundamental resources and values, and special mandates and administrative commitments, as well as legal and policy requirements for administration and resource protection.

The primary advantage of developing and adopting a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning and decision making from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of preparing a foundation document helps park managers, staff, and stakeholders develop or affirm an understanding of what is most important about the park and identify the additional information needed to plan for the future.

The foundation document can be used in all aspects of park management to ensure that the most important management objectives are accomplished before addressing other items that are also important but not directly critical to achieving the park purpose and maintaining its significance. Thus, the development of a foundation document for Rocky Mountain National Park is essential for effectively managing the park over the long term and protecting the park's resources and values that are integral to the park's purpose and identity.

This foundation document was developed as a joint effort among park staff, the Denver Service Center Planning Division, and the Intermountain Region. A workshop was held April 10–11, 2012, in Estes Park, Colorado. A full list of attendees and preparers is included at the end of the document.

The park atlas is also a part of the foundation project. It is a geographic information system (GIS) product that can be published as a hard copy paper atlas and as electronic geospatial data in a Web-mapping environment. The purpose of the park atlas is to act as a reference for park projects and to facilitate planning decisions as a GIS-based planning support tool. The atlas covers various geographic elements that are important for park management such as natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, and facilities. It can be developed as part of a planning project (e.g., general management plan, foundation document), although it can also be designed as an independent product.



Part 1: Core Components

All foundation documents include the following core elements:

The **park purpose** is the specific reason(s) for establishing a particular park. A park purpose statement is grounded in a thorough analysis of the park's legislation (or executive order) and legislative history and may include information from studies that were generated prior to the park's establishment. The park purpose statement goes beyond a restatement of the law to document shared assumptions about what the law means in terms specific to the park.

The **park significance statements** express why the park's resources and values are important enough to warrant national park designation. Statements of the park's significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. Significance statements are directly linked to the purpose of the park and are substantiated by data or consensus that reflect the most current scientific or scholarly inquiry and cultural perceptions, which may have changed since the park's establishment.

Interpretive themes connect park resources to relevant ideas, meanings, concepts, contexts, beliefs, and values. They support the desired interpretive outcome of increasing visitor understanding and appreciation of the significance of the park's resources. In other words, they are the most important messages to be communicated to the public about the park. Interpretive themes are based on park purpose and significance.

Fundamental resources and values are features, systems, organisms, processes, visitor experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes of the park determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they are critical to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance.

Other important resources and values are resources and values that are determined to be important and integral to park planning and management, although they are not related to the park's purpose and significance.



NPS photo by John Marino

Brief Description of Rocky Mountain National Park

Established by Congress on January 26, 1915, Rocky Mountain National Park encompasses 265,761 acres or 415 square miles of the scenic southern Rocky Mountains. Nearly one-third of the park is above tree line, or higher than 11,400 feet in elevation. Seventy-two named peaks rise above 12,000 feet, with the high point being the expansive summit of Longs Peak at 14,259 feet. The mountains provide Rocky Mountain National Park with its sense of wonder and inspiration. These great peaks contribute mightily to the “wild, fantastic views” that thrilled noted British visitor Isabella Bird more than a century ago.

The park’s mountains support a diversity of ecosystems, including montane, subalpine, and alpine biological communities, ranging in elevation from 7,600 to 14,259 feet. The park also includes lush riparian and aquatic ecosystems based in 147 lakes and 450 miles of streams that speckle and divide the other ecosystems. Stands of ponderosa pine, Douglas-fir, lodgepole pine, aspen, subalpine fir, and Engelmann spruce adorn the mountainsides. The forests are interspersed with mountain meadows.

Rocky Mountain National Park ranks as one of America’s premier wildlife watching destinations, showcasing elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, moose, black bears, coyotes, cougars, eagles, hawks, ptarmigan, and scores of smaller animals. The park provides refuge for about 60 mammal species and more than 280 recorded bird species, as well as 6 amphibians, 1 reptile, 11 fish, and countless insect species, including a large number of butterflies.

The lands now known as Rocky Mountain National Park have been home to humans for at least 10,000 years. Human evidence surfaces in a wide range of places within the current park boundaries; including the edge of glaciers, across the Continental Divide, and in valleys throughout the park. Aboriginal people, explorers, homesteaders, miners, hunters, and dude ranchers have used the area at one time or another. Archeological sites and both remnants of buildings and structures exist in the park as a record of human activity. (Only about half of the park has been surveyed for archeological sites.) The park’s archeology and historic structures environment illustrates the history of the park from American Indian use, to homesteader ranches, to its growth through the rustic phase that includes work by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and up to the Mission 66 period when parks were being updated to keep up with the burgeoning tourism industry that arrived after World War II ended. Some of these sites are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or are already on the national register and are protected in the park.



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In 1977, UNESCO included Rocky Mountain National Park in the international system of biosphere reserves, in addition to designating three research natural areas in the park as core areas of the reserve. Biosphere reserves are sites that are recognized for their roles in conserving genetic resources; facilitating long-term research and monitoring; and encouraging education, training, and the demonstration of sustainable resource use.

In 1986, 75 miles of the Cache la Poudre River were designated as part of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. The 14 miles of the Poudre within Rocky Mountain National Park are to be protected for their “outstandingly remarkable values,” be preserved in their “free-flowing condition,” and they and their immediate environments are to be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations (Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, October 2, 1968).

In 2009, Congress designated the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Area, covering about 252,085 acres, or 95% of the park. Wilderness designation protects the land’s wilderness character, natural, untrammeled, and undeveloped conditions, opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation, and scientific, educational, and historical values.

Rocky Mountain National Park’s wide range of elevations and habitats offer a wide variety of opportunities for visitors. Over 355 miles of trails offer opportunities to hikers and backpackers. Many trails are available to horseback riders, including portions of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail. Frontcountry and backcountry campers have hundreds of campsites to choose from. Mountain climbers, anglers, bird-watchers, and photographers have many opportunities to pursue their interests in the park. Visitors can also drive Trail Ridge Road, which topping out at 12,183 feet is the highest, continuous, paved road in the United States. Trail Ridge Road is designated as an All American Road by the U.S. Department of Transportation and one of 10 designated American Byways in Colorado. Although most visitors come in the summer, during the winter snowshoers and cross-country skiers can enjoy the tranquility of snow-clad meadows and forests. In 2011, a total of 3,394,326 recreational visits were recorded in the park, making Rocky Mountain National Park the 23rd most visited park unit, and the 5th most visited national park in the national park system.

The gateway communities of Grand Lake, Estes Park, and Allenspark provide visitors with a variety of services to enhance their enjoyment of the area. A majority of the connected lands are managed by the U.S. Forest Service, including the Roosevelt and Arapaho National Forests, and the Rawah, Neota, Comanche Peak, and Indian Peaks Wilderness areas.



NPS photo by Russell Smith



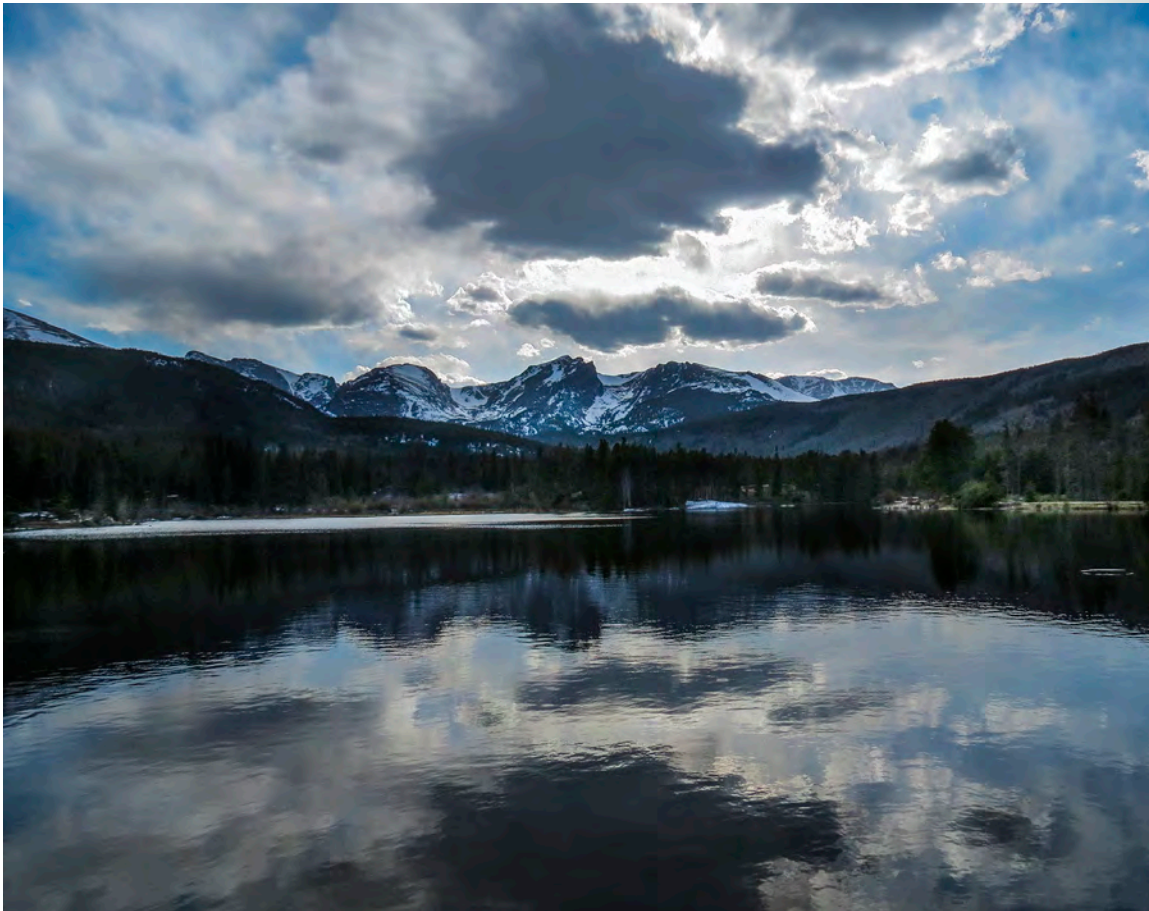
NPS photo by Russell Smith

Park Purpose

The park purpose identifies the specific reason for the establishment of a particular park. Purpose statements are crafted through a careful analysis of the enabling legislation and the legislative history that molded the establishment and development of the park. Rocky Mountain National Park was first established in 1915 when the park's initial enabling legislation was passed and signed into law (see Appendix A for enabling legislation and subsequent amendments). The purpose statement reinforces the foundation for future park management, administration, and use decisions. The following purpose statement was based on the review of park legislation, previous management documents, and discussions with park staff:

THE PURPOSE OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

is to preserve the high-elevation ecosystems and wilderness character of the southern Rocky Mountains within its borders and to provide the freest recreational use of and access to the park's scenic beauties, wildlife, natural features and processes, and cultural objects.



NPS photo by Sarah Conlin

Park Significance

Significance statements express why the park's resources and values are important enough to warrant national park designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park and are substantiated by data, research, and consensus. They describe the park's distinctive nature and help inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the park's most important resources and values.

The following significance statements have been identified for Rocky Mountain National Park (Please note that the statements are in no particular order):

1. Rocky Mountain National Park provides exceptional access to wild places for visitors to recreate and experience solitude and outstanding scenic beauty. Trail Ridge Road, the highest continuous paved road in the United States, and the extensive trail system bring visitors to the doorstep of a variety of wilderness-based recreational opportunities.
2. Fragile alpine tundra encompasses one-third of Rocky Mountain National Park, one of the largest examples of alpine tundra ecosystems protected in the contiguous United States.
3. Glaciers and flowing fresh water carved the landscapes of Rocky Mountain National Park. The park is the source of several river systems, including the Colorado River and the Cache la Poudre, Colorado's first and only designated wild and scenic river.
4. The dramatic elevation range within the park boundary, which spans from 7,600 feet to 14,259 feet and straddles the Continental Divide, allows for diverse terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, varied plant and animal communities and a variety of ecological processes. The park is designated as a United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural (UNESCO) international biosphere reserve and globally important bird area, with portions of the park's montane, subalpine, and alpine ecosystems managed as research natural areas for scientific and educational purposes.
5. The mountainous landscape of Rocky Mountain National Park has drawn people to the area for thousands of years. Visitors can see remnants of the different ways people have used this land over time, ranging from prehistoric big game drives to dude ranching to recreational tourism.



Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. They go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. Themes help to explain why a park story is relevant to people who are unconnected to an event, time, or place.

While themes are important as an organizational tool to guide management decisions, they are not intended for public use. The themes offer park staff guidance on focusing on relevant visitor experiences, and what matters to the public is how these themes are represented through park services, media, programming, and facilities.

The following interpretive themes for Rocky Mountain National Park were developed by park interpretation and management staff, with participation by representatives of the Rocky Mountain Nature Association, the park's primary education partner:

- Diverse natural ecosystems provide opportunities to understand the interconnectedness of the natural world and foster stewardship.
- Rocky Mountain National Park's spectacular mountain wilderness provides opportunities to connect to the natural world through recreation, enjoyment, learning, and spiritual renewal.
- National parks like Rocky Mountain National Park serve as a resource benchmark and play an important role as an international outdoor laboratory where changes can be monitored and the health of the planet can be assessed.
- Human use of this land has evolved over time and reflects landscape values and use from American Indians to early settlers to today's visitors.



Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management because they are critical to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance.

The preeminent responsibility of park managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are critical (fundamental) to achieving the park's purpose and maintaining its significance. These qualities are called the park's fundamental resources and values. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to legislative purpose, and are more specific than significance statements. Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management on what is truly important about the park. If they are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

This distinction is made to ensure fundamental resources and values receive specific consideration in park planning processes, because of their relationship to the park's purpose and significance.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Rocky Mountain National Park:

- **Access to wild places** – The exceptional access to wild places available in Rocky Mountain National Park increases the relevancy of the park and fosters stewardship by providing urban escape, recreational opportunities, and linking visitors back to nature. The park's high-quality roads, trails, and shuttle systems bring visitors to the doorstep of wilderness and help support a high quality visitor experience.
- **High-elevation Ecosystems** – The high-elevation ecosystems of Rocky Mountain National Park represent a dynamic interaction of southern Rocky Mountain landscapes. The park's alpine tundra, a component of this confluence, is iconic throughout the Intermountain West and holds international significance.
- **Wilderness character** – Ninety-five percent of Rocky Mountain National Park is designated as wilderness, and this vast and steep landscape strongly exemplifies the qualities that comprise wilderness character. The largely pristine and primitive landscape provides opportunities for personal challenge and a natural haven for flora and fauna to thrive.
- **Headwaters of the Continental Divide** – Headwaters provide a source of clean fresh water to four major river systems, including a 14-mile wild segment of the Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River, the Big Thompson River, and the iconic Colorado River. Water has defined the landscapes of the park and is integral to the three major ecosystems (alpine, subalpine, and montane) and some of the park's rarest habitats (alpine lakes, fens, bogs, riparian willow and aspen communities). Headwaters lakes and streams support unique communities of aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial species.
- **Ability to experience a wide variety of recreational opportunities** – Rocky Mountain National Park is a premier Colorado destination that provides an exceptionally wide range of recreational experiences for a diverse group of users. Diverse visitor opportunities can include high elevation experiences along the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, strolls around Bear Lake, climbs up lofty Longs Peak, and wildlife viewing and scenic driving along Trail Ridge Road.
- **Traces of human footprints on the landscape** – Rocky Mountain National Park's landscape has been a magnet for people through time. Visitors can still experience the remnants of these peoples' diverse uses, ranging from Paleo-Indian big game drives, to extractive activities and dude ranching, to early tourism and recreational activities that led to the popular support for the area's designation as a national park.

Other Important Resources and Values

Rocky Mountain National Park contains other resources and values that may not be fundamental to the purpose and significance of the park, but are important to consider in management and planning decisions. These are referred to as other important resources and values.

Following is the other important resource and value for Rocky Mountain National Park:

- **Beaver Meadows Visitor Center** – Beaver Meadows is considered one of the four most significant visitor centers produced during the Mission 66 era and was designated a national historic landmark in 2001. The building was designed by Frank Lloyd Wright's studio, Taliesin Associated Architects, during the critical time following Wright's death in 1959. The 1967 visitor center expresses Wright's blending of modern architecture and modern construction materials with the surrounding environment and use of indigenous natural materials.

Summary

As one of America's first national parks, Rocky Mountain National Park is a dynamic unit of the national park system where the multiple goals of natural and cultural resource protection and recreational use and enjoyment must be carefully balanced. By stating the park's purpose, articulating significance statements, understanding primary interpretive themes, and identifying the fundamental resources and values that need protection, management decisions that fulfill the park's purpose can be made and understood. This foundation statement serves as the cornerstone for the future direction of Rocky Mountain National Park.



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NPS photo by Ann Schonlau

Part 2: Dynamic Components

Part 2 consists of two components:

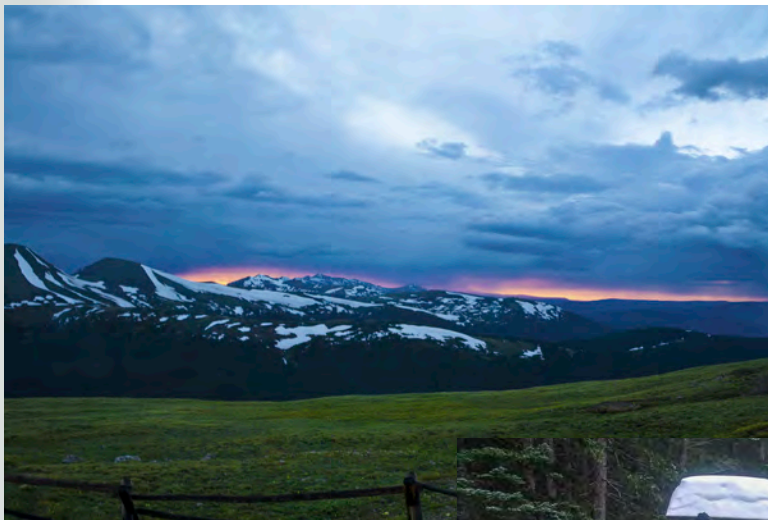
- special mandates and administrative commitments
- assessment of planning and data needs

These components are likely to change after this foundation document is published and will need to be updated periodically.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many of a park unit's management decisions are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utilities, and other partnering organizations. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that expand on or contradict a park's legislated purpose. They are park-specific legislative or judicial requirements that must be fulfilled along with the park's purpose, even if they do not relate to that purpose. Administrative commitments in general are agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, such as memoranda of agreement. These agreements form a network of partnerships designed to better fulfill the objectives of Rocky Mountain National Park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. All of these mandates and commitments either dictate some form of management action and/or allow particular uses on park lands (e.g., allowed traditional uses, easements or rights-of-way, maintenance needs, use of park facilities or lands, or emergency service responses). Thus, these mandates and commitments are an essential component in the foundation document and in managing and planning for Rocky Mountain National Park.

For more information on the park's existing commitments, please see the inventory of special mandates and key administrative commitments table in appendix D.



NPS photo by Ann Schonlau



NPS photo by John Marino

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

To meet the park purpose, maintain park significance, and manage the fundamental resource and values of the park, a rapid assessment of data and planning needs is used to identify and prioritize these needs. This is a vital part of the foundation document process and enables each park unit to evaluate and define its long-range planning needs. This assessment helps capture the condition of and threats to the various fundamental resources and values and other important resources and values and identifies what additional planning steps, data, and management efforts are necessary to maintain or protect the fundamental resources and values and other important resources and values.

There are three parts that make up the data and planning needs assessment:

1. analysis of fundamental resources and values
2. identification of key or major parkwide issues that need to be addressed by current and future planning
3. identification and prioritization of data and planning needs



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Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

The analysis of fundamental resources and values articulates the importance of each fundamental resource and value, its current condition, potential threats, and the related issues or data that warrant consideration and additional analysis for planning and management decisions. Included in the analysis is the identification of relevant laws and NPS policies related to the management of the resources as well as the recognition of stakeholder interests in these resources. The analysis of fundamental resources and values and identification of major issues leads up to and supports the identification and prioritization of needed plans and studies.



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Fundamental Resource or Value	Access to Wild Places
Relationship to Significance Statements	Related directly to the significance statement concerning how Rocky Mountain provides exceptional access to wild places for visitors to recreate and experience solitude. Also indirectly related to all other significance statements.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In general, access to wild places within the park is excellent, aided in part by facilities, roadways, and trails. • Facilities within the park are generally in great condition. • Roadways have been rehabilitated recently and are in a condition that will not require any major rehabilitation for the next 30 to 50 years. • Trail Ridge Road is designated an All American Road by the U.S. Department of Transportation in 1996. • Trail conditions in general are good, but could be improved. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitation continues to increase, leading to congestion within the park's most popular areas. • Generally, access within the park has remained stable or increased.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pine beetle damage, windthrow, and wildland fire have and continue to cause damaged and hazardous trails, roads, and backcountry campsites. • Decreased opportunities for access and solitude due to congestion and visitor crowding in many areas of the park. • Climate change effects could alter conditions that allow for visitor access. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Live operators at the Information Office improve the visitor experience in the park by responding to around 44,000 inquiries per year by phone, mail, and email. • Recently improved shuttle bus system and implemented intelligent transportation system (ITS) and four commercial tour operators along Trail Ridge Road improve visitors' access to wild places. • Park visitors can even remotely "access" the wild places of the park through park the park website, information, and applications.
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial tour operators • Colorado Department of Transportation • Colorado Tourism Office • Gateway communities of Estes Park, Grand Lake, and Allenspark • Front Range residents of Colorado • Visitors to the park • Education community who discuss access opportunities in the park • American Indian tribes

Fundamental Resource or Value	Access to Wild Places
<p>Law and Policy Guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> • NPS Transportation Planning Guidebook • Americans with Disabilities Act • Architectural Barriers Act • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 • Director's Order 42, <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in NPS Programs, Facilities, and Services</i> • Secretary of the Interior's regulation 43 CFR 17, <i>Enforcement on the Basis of Disability in Interior Programs</i> • Automobile clause – The enabling legislation for the park states that, "The regulations governing the park shall include provisions for the use of automobiles therein" (38 Stat. 798, Chap. 19). • Timber removal clause – The enabling legislation for the park states that mature or dead or down timber may be removed as deemed necessary and advisable for the protection and improvement of the park (38 Stat. 798, Chap. 19). • Specific law about shuttle buses in parks (10 year contracts, retain fee money).
<p>NPS Policy-level Condition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors have opportunities for forms of enjoyment that are uniquely suited and appropriate to the superlative natural and cultural resources found in Rocky Mountain National Park. All areas of the park—with the exceptions of private inholdings, the MacGregor Ranch, and areas that need special resource protection—continue to be open to visitors. • Visitors have reasonable access to Rocky Mountain National Park. Transportation facilities inside and outside the park (e.g. roads, parking areas, trails, and shuttles) provide access for the use and enjoyment of park resources. • To the extent feasible, park programs, services, and facilities are accessible to and usable by all people, including those with disabilities.
<p>Identified Data Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor activity information, including type of activity and use of facilities/trails/etc. • Day-use visitation statistics, including the Longs Peak trailhead, trails, and summit.
<p>Identified Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor use management plan that would address capacities of several areas of the park and determine where use should be limited, where it could be expanded, and strategies for managing use. • Backcountry/wilderness management plan.



Fundamental Resource or Value	High-elevation Ecosystems
Relationship to Significance Statements	Related directly to the significance statements concerning the fragile alpine tundra, and the dramatic elevation range in the park and resulting ecosystems. Also indirectly related to all other significance statements.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The alpine ecosystem has sustained human disturbance through recreation and development and indirectly through air pollution (chemical deposition, agricultural pesticides and nitrogen). Climate data suggests the park's high -elevation ecosystems have not changed relative to the park's other ecosystems. The subalpine ecosystem is functioning, at increased risk due to unprecedented loss of limber pine. The montane ecosystem is functioning, but at risk. Risk is being reduced with active restoration (fire frequency, riparian habitat restoration, elk management, exotic species management). <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The alpine, subalpine, and montane ecosystems are functioning, but at risk from a number of threats. Therefore, the ecosystems are declining slightly.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although currently stable, the alpine ecosystem may be at risk from increased recreation, documented increases in temperatures, changes in the availability of water, air quality degradation, elevation expansion of exotic plant species, and a reduction in the extent of alpine tundra due to upward elevation shifts in subalpine species. The subalpine ecosystem is facing unprecedented magnitude of native pine beetle outbreak across North America, and the introduction of exotic blister rust. When combined with the ongoing drought in the area, these threats may increase the vulnerability of the ecosystem to fire. The montane ecosystem is the most impacted and affected by indicators of climate change (as documented through the expansion of exotics), relative small population of beaver, and historic human development, over-population of ungulates (elk and moose), introduced aquatic exotic species due to increased recreation (zebra mussel), and loss of amphibians (90% loss of boreal toads, extirpation of leopard frogs) due to aquatic exotics. Wildland urban interface near park boundary limits ability to actively manage wildland fires for ecological purposes. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue expansion of an adaptive management throughout the park focused on ecosystem resiliency. Nitrogen deposition reduction agreement with state of Colorado, leading to reduced airborne contaminants and reduced contaminants from vehicles.
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Colorado Division of Wildlife Gateway communities of Estes Park, Grand Lake, and Allenspark Grand, Boulder, and Larimer Counties Park visitors Scientific researchers and institutions Trout Unlimited U.S. Forest Service Water Supply and Storage Company American Indian tribes

Fundamental Resource or Value	High-elevation Ecosystems
<p>Law and Policy Guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6, 4.1, 4.1.4, 4.4.1) provides general direction for managing park units from an ecosystem perspective • NPS 77, Natural Resource Management Reference Manual #77 • Superintendent’s Office Order for protection of alpine and no net loss • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • National Invasive Species Act of 1996 • Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, as amended • Executive Order 13112, “Invasive Species”
<p>NPS Policy-level Condition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The park is managed holistically, as part of a greater ecological, social, economic, and cultural system. • Park managers seek to maintain all components and processes of naturally evolving park ecosystems. Natural disturbance and change are recognized as an integral part of the functioning of natural systems. • Natural abundances, diversities, dynamics, distributions, habitats, and behaviors of native plant and animal populations are preserved and restored. • Populations of native plant and animal species function in as natural condition as possible except where special considerations are warranted. • Native species populations that have been severely reduced in or extirpated from the park are restored where feasible and sustainable. • Potential threats to the park’s native plants and wildlife are identified early and proactively addressed through inventory and monitoring. • Sources of air, water, and noise pollution and visitor uses adversely affecting plants and animals are limited to the greatest degree possible. • Visitors and staff recognize and understand the value of the park’s native plants and wildlife. • NPS staff uses the best available scientific information and technology to manage these resources. • Federal- and state-listed threatened and endangered species and their habitats are protected and sustained. NPS staff monitors the introduction of nonnative species and provides for their control to minimize the economic, ecological, and human health impacts that these species cause.
<p>Identified Data Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extent of invasive species within the park, both flora and fauna. • Maps of migration routes for avian and other species that traverse the park. • Beaver habitat and needs, including how beavers reoccupy disturbed lands. • Climate change research to follow monitoring of subalpine and montane ecosystems and species of concern. • Potential effects of limber pine loss in the park.
<p>Identified Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated integrated pest management plan that addresses exotic invasive plants and animals. • Climate change adaptation strategy, including habitat implications of climate change impacts and basic forecasting of ecological water supply.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Wilderness Character
Relationship to Significance Statements	Related directly to the significance statement concerning exceptional access to wild places for visitors and the dramatic elevation range of the park and resulting ecosystems. Also indirectly related to all other significance statements.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low-use areas of the wilderness are still relatively pristine, while others are heavily used and therefore heavily impacted. • Overall, the diversity of the wilderness still supports functioning ecosystems, contributing to a healthy natural quality. • While some restoration projects negatively affect the untrammelled quality of the wilderness, the forces of nature still are the primary influence on the landscape. • Some developments do exist within the wilderness, such as radio repeaters, patrol cabins, corrals, climate and air quality monitoring stations, and other evidence of human activity. • The park's proximity to an increasing urban population leads to congestion at access points and certain areas, such as Bear Lake, Wild Basin, Longs Peak, and Trail Ridge Road. • Despite heavy visitor use in portions of the wilderness, the majority of the wilderness offers vast opportunities for solitude and renewal. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The natural quality of the wilderness is much improved since the severe damage from uncontrolled visitor use in the 1950s and 1960s, yet new global and regional activities and threats continue to pose challenges. • The park is working toward reducing the "hands-on" trammeling activities as ecosystems return to a more natural balance. • The park removed many nonhistoric structures and high-elevation dams and has implemented a successful cross-cut saw program, supporting the undeveloped quality.



NPS photo by Peter Biddle



NPS photo by Ann Schonlau

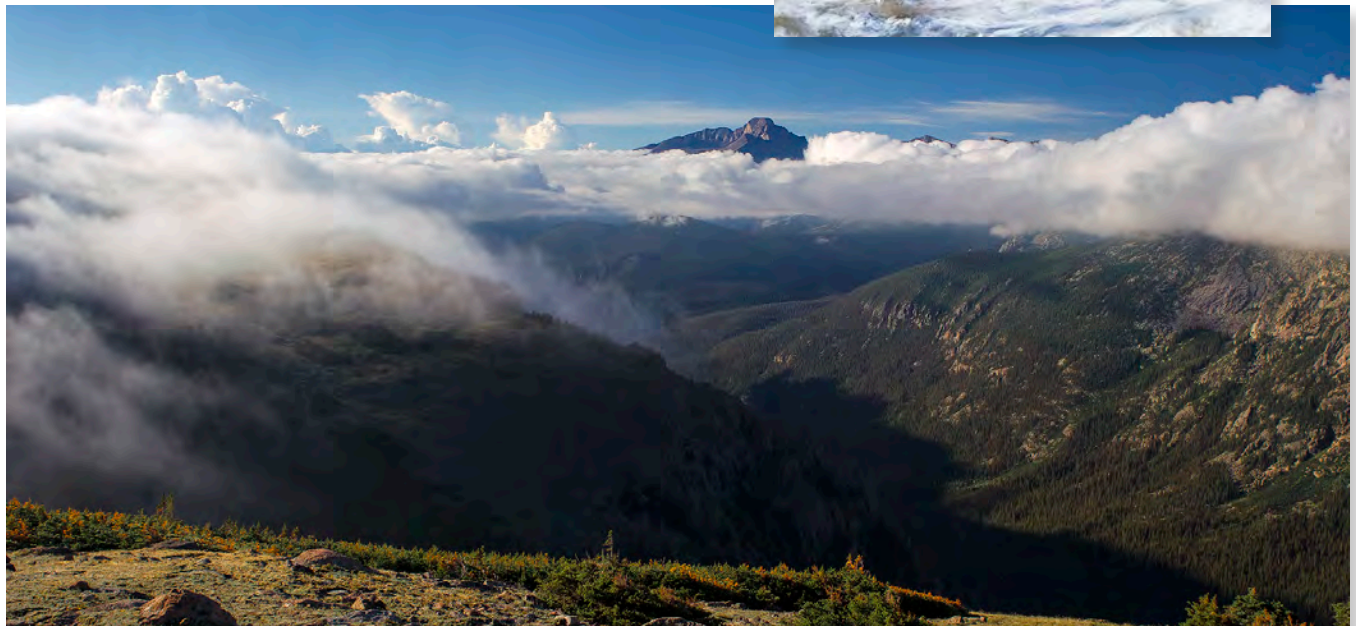
<p>Fundamental Resource or Value</p>	<p>Wilderness Character</p>
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of clarity on how the cumulative impacts of park decisions impact wilderness character. • Increasing Front Range population could lead to congested trails and high-use areas, decreasing the solitude quality. • High levels of visitor use can disturb sensitive species and contribute to soil erosion and tundra disturbance. • Growing Front Range urban areas contribute to light pollution in the night sky, as well as increased levels of ozone, nitrogen deposition, and negatively affect air quality. • Increase in social trails. • Uncertainty over how the changes in visitor use activities over time will impact wilderness character in the future. • Climate change will likely negatively impact natural processes and ecological communities. • Restoration projects to return ecological systems to their natural balance, such as elk culling projects and the Grand Ditch Breach restoration, may have negatively affected the park’s untrammeled quality in the short term, but overall have contributed to long-term improvements of wilderness character. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protection of natural sounds, through a partnership with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that has adopted new procedures for aircraft arrivals and departures at the three largest airports in the Denver Metro area. • The state of Colorado has adopted air quality resources goals for the Rocky Mountain National Park Area to reduce nitrogen deposition in lakes and on the tundra. • Education about appropriate wilderness uses and activities, such as the Leave No Trace policies. • Using Minimum Requirements Analysis to determine the least intrusive administrative actions for wilderness management. • Implementation of growing cross-cut saw program which supports the undeveloped quality. • Opportunities for wilderness visitors to obtain a higher level of solitude by exploring more remote areas of the park. • Concurrent research through the science program and data monitoring stations in the park provide a more complete picture of wilderness character. • The Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division has conducted sound surveys in the park, and future research will document remote areas and establish a baseline for natural sounds in the park.
<p>Stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial service operators (e.g., guided tours, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, photography) • Gateway communities of Estes Park, Grand Lake, and Allenspark • Scientific researchers and institution. • State of Colorado • Park visitors • Wilderness Watch • Wilderness Society • American Indian tribes

Fundamental Resource or Value	Wilderness Character
<p>Law and Policy Guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management Guideline</i> • Director's Order 41: <i>Wilderness Stewardship</i> • Wilderness Act of 1964 • PL 111-11 § 1952 – Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness (noted provisions including Grand Ditch, East Shore Trail Area, and fire, insect, and disease control as appropriate) • PL 111-11 § 1952 – Potential wilderness areas to be designated as wilderness upon cessation of uses incompatible with wilderness and publication of a notice in the Federal Register • The Park Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1998 – Banned the use of low-flying, commercial air tours over Rocky Mountain National Park.



NPS photo by Peter Biddle

NPS photo by Russell Smith



NPS photo by Ann Schonlau

<p>Fundamental Resource or Value</p>	<p>Wilderness Character</p>
<p>NPS Policy-level Condition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Park Service manages wilderness areas, including those proposed for wilderness designation, “for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness” (16 USC 1131 Section 2(a)). • The National Park Service ensures that the land’s “primeval character and influence” is retained and protected, that visitors continue to find “outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation,” and that the landscape “generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable” (16 USC 1131 Section 2(c)). • The Wilderness Act of 1964 specifies that “each agency administering any area designated as wilderness shall be responsible for preserving the wilderness character of the area and shall so administer such area for such other purposes for which it may have been established as also to preserve its wilderness character” (16 USC 1131 Section 4(b)). • The Wilderness Act of 1964 specifies that the designation of any area of the national park system as wilderness “shall in no manner lower the standards evolved for the use and preservation of such park, monument, or other unit of the national park system” under the various laws applicable to that unit (16 USC 1133 Section 4(a)(3)). • Cultural resources that have been included within wilderness will be protected and maintained according to the pertinent laws and policies governing cultural resources using management methods that are consistent with the preservation of wilderness character and values. • Natural processes, native components, and the interrelationships among them are protected, maintained, and/or restored to the extent possible, while providing opportunities for their enjoyment as wilderness. • Present and future visitors enjoy the unique qualities offered in wilderness. These include the experiences of solitude, remoteness, risk, challenge, self-sufficiency, discovery, and observation of an untrammeled ecosystem. • Wilderness management is based on the minimum requirement concept, allowing only those actions necessary and appropriate for administration of the area as wilderness and that do not cause a significant impact to wilderness resources and character. Implementation of such actions is done using techniques and types of equipment necessary to ensure that impacts on wilderness resources and character are minimized. • The values of the wilderness in Rocky Mountain National Park are understood by the public and staff through education in wilderness ethics, use, and using management skills and techniques to promote and preserve these values. • Operations and wilderness functions are coordinated in Rocky Mountain National Park to manage and protect natural and cultural resources in wilderness and preserve wilderness character. • Ongoing communication about wilderness management policies and projects is maintained with the U.S. Forest Service and work will continue to be done with other local and regional groups, communities, agencies, and tribal governments to preserve wilderness values. • The primary qualities that define wilderness character (untrammeled, undeveloped, naturalness, solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation, and other) are monitored and are protected and managed as required.
<p>Identified Data Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day-use visitation statistics, including the Longs Peak trailhead, trails, and summit • Visitor activity information, including type of activity and use of facilities/trails/etc.
<p>Identified Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor-use management plan that would address capacities of several areas of the park and determine where use should be limited, where it could be expanded, and strategies for managing use.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Headwaters of the Continental Divide
Relationship to Significance Statements	Related directly to the significance statement concerning glaciers, flowing fresh water, and river systems. Also indirectly related to the significance statements concerning exceptional access to wild places, and the remnants of human use of the land.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The river systems (hydrologic function) of the park are impacted by water diversions, including the Grand Ditch. Water quality may be deteriorating through the incorporation of heavy metals, nitrogen, pesticides, and increased water temperatures. • Rocky Mountain National Park has reserved water rights and adjudicated water rights. There remain within the park four water diversions (Grand Ditch, Harbison Ditch, MacGregor Ranch and Copeland Lake) and three dams (Lily Lake, Sprague Lake and Copeland Lake). All in stream flows within the park are natural except for the aforementioned water diversions. • The timing of snowpack melt acts as a reserve for water release through the spring and early summer, and varies annually. • Ongoing collection of data regarding monitoring of flow timing and storage per the potential change in storm events and snowpack development. • Ongoing collection of data through creel census and fish capture surveys. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite current conditions and threats, the overall condition of the headwaters is determined to be stable.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional trend of lower stream flows, earlier and higher volume of peak flows, melting ice fields, and more rain, less snow (decreased storage capacity). These conditions may possibly be due to climate change. • There is an increased demand upon existing water rights for Front Range water use and the potential for increased water diversion. Thirty-percent of the natural flows from the Colorado River are diverted through the Grand Ditch. • Segments of the Big Thompson River and St. Vrain River have been identified by the state of Colorado as being impaired by copper, zinc, cadmium, and temperature. • Aquatic nuisance species, such as the New Zealand mud snail, could be inadvertently introduced and represent a threat to native aquatic species. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The state of Colorado has designated all streams, lakes, and wetlands within the boundary of the park as "Outstanding Waters" that "shall be maintained and protected at their existing quality." • The State of Colorado has adopted air quality resources goals for the Rocky Mountain National Park Area to reduce nitrogen deposition in lakes and on the tundra.
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bureau of Reclamation • Colorado Department of Natural Resources • Environmental Protection Agency • Gateway communities of Estes Park, Grand Lake, and Allenspark • Front Range communities • St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District • Northern Colorado Water Conservancy • Trout Unlimited • Water right holders downstream • Water Supply and Storage Co • Two state of Colorado Water Divisions: east side and west side • American Indian tribes

Fundamental Resource or Value	Headwaters of the Continental Divide
<p>Law and Policy Guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 • Clean Water Act of 1972 • Rivers and Harbors Act of 1945 • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§ 4.6.1, 4.6.2, 4.6.4 and 4.8.1.1) • Executive Order 11514: "Protection and Enhancement of Environmental Quality" • Executive Order 11988, "Floodplain Management" • Executive Order 12088, "Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards" • Director's Order 77-2, "Floodplain Management" • Special Directive 93-4, "Floodplain Management, Revised Guidelines for National Park Service Floodplain Compliance" (1993) • National Flood Insurance Program (44 CFR 60) • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual (RM) #77</i> • Rocky Mountain National Park manages a complex portfolio of water rights with legal requirements. • Rocky Mountain National Park has Federal Reserved Water Rights and adjudicated water rights on file in the Colorado State Engineer's Office. • The state of Colorado has designated all streams, lakes, and wetlands within the boundary of the park as "outstanding waters" that "shall be maintained and protected at their existing quality."



NPS photo by Russell Smith



NPS photo by John Marino

Fundamental Resource or Value	Headwaters of the Continental Divide
NPS Policy-level Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky Mountain National Park’s water quality reflects natural conditions and supports native plant and animal communities and administrative and recreational uses. All water in the park meets applicable state standards. All human sources of water pollution, both within and outside the park, that are adversely affecting the park are eliminated, mitigated, or minimized. • Streams will be managed to protect stream processes that create habitat features such as floodplains, riparian systems, woody debris accumulations, terraces, gravel bars, riffles, and pools. • A water-quantity inventory where appropriate is an essential component for aquatic resources management within an NPS unit. • Natural floodplain conditions are preserved or restored. • Long-term and short-term environmental effects associated with the occupancy and modification of floodplains is avoided when practicable. • When it is not practicable to locate or relocate development or inappropriate human activities to a site outside the floodplain, the National Park Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prepares and approves a statement of findings in accordance with Director’s Order #77-2 • uses nonstructural measures as much as practicable to reduce hazards to human life and property while minimizing impacts on the natural resources of floodplains • ensures that structures and facilities are designed to be consistent with the intent of the standards and criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program (44 CFR 60) • The most current engineering methods and techniques that minimize adverse effects on natural river processes are used to protect roads and facilities located in floodplains. • Visitors understand the dynamic nature of Rocky Mountain National Park’s river systems, and the variability and cycles of river flow, flooding, etc. • Natural and beneficial values of wetlands are preserved and enhanced. • The National Park Service implements a “no net loss of wetlands” policy and strives to achieve a longer-term goal of net gain of wetlands across the national park system through the restoration of previously degraded wetlands. • Surface water and groundwater are protected, and water quality meets or exceeds all applicable water-quality standards. • National Park Service and NPS-permitted programs and facilities are maintained and operated to avoid pollution of surface water and groundwater. • Water resources in Rocky Mountain National Park meet or exceed all federal and state water quality standards for temperature, bacteria, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, toxic substances, pH, and nutrients. • Wetlands, natural seeps, vernal pools, and ephemeral streams persist and rare species in these habitat features are protected.
Identified Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change research to follow monitoring concerning aquatic and terrestrial habitats and species of concern. • Beaver habitat and needs, including how beavers reoccupy disturbed lands. • Taxonomy and distribution of extant trout populations based on current genetic information. • Water quality for heavy metals.
Identified Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change adaptation strategy, including habitat implications of climate change impacts, and basic forecasting of ecological water supply. • Greenback Cutthroat Recovery Team / USFWS Decision. • Updated integrated pest management plan that addresses exotic invasive plants and animals. • Updated fish and fishery management plan. • Revised native trout restoration plan based on best available genetic/taxonomic information.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ability to Experience a Wide Variety of Recreational Opportunities
Relationship to Significance Statements	Related directly to the significance statement concerning how Rocky Mountain provides exceptional access to wild places for visitors to recreate and experience solitude.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors to the park find high-quality opportunities for camping, hiking, backpacking, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, fishing, climbing, skiing/snowshoeing, contemplation, picnicking, horseback riding, etc., within the park. • Congestion and visitor-use management issues exist in key portions of the park, including Bear Lake, Longs Peak, the Alpine Visitor Center, and parking lots. • Trails, roads, and facilities in the park are in generally good condition. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New social trails are appearing on a regular basis, particularly to popular climbing and fishing spots. • New recreational uses in the park are emerging and established uses are increasing. • Increased recreational use has contributed to increased safety risks, user group conflicts, and overcrowding in popular areas like Bear Lake, Lily Lake, Longs Peak, Wild Basin, and Trail Ridge Road.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased use, leading to overcrowding and congestion in certain areas of the park like Bear Lake, Lily Lake, Longs Peak, Wild Basin, and Trail Ridge Road. • Increases in bicyclists and motorists, coupled with small or no shoulders on the roads, are causing an increase in visitor safety issues. • Air quality and climate change may have adverse effects on the wide variety of recreational opportunities. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of an intelligent transportation system (ITS) and shuttle buses have facilitated increased recreational opportunities in the park. • There is a park working group currently focused on alleviating problems with social trails. • A visitor safety work group is addressing how to provide preventative search and rescue information to park visitors. • A plan is being developed that is looking to increase the number of climbing concessioners available to operate within the park. • Several park management plans, including a trails plan and a sign plan are in the review process and should be completed in the near future.

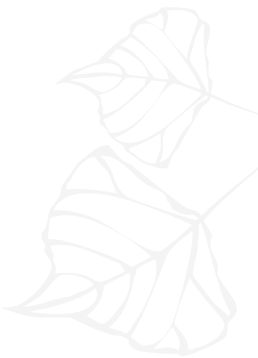


Fundamental Resource or Value	Ability to Experience a Wide Variety of Recreational Opportunities
Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial concessioners – shuttle buses, deliveries, • Companies with commercial use authorizations • Trout Unlimited • Gateway communities of Estes Park and Grand Lake • Social media followers • Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA) • Colorado Mountain Club • Youth Corps • Park visitors • Colorado Tourism Office • Conservation groups such as The Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, National Parks Conservation Association, etc. • Recreation-based clubs such as the Colorado Mountain Club, The Access Fund, Continental Divide Trail Coalition, etc. • American Indian tribes
Law and Policy Guidance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>NPS Management Policies 2006</i> • NPS Concessions Management Improvement Act of 1998 • <i>NPS Transportation Planning Guidebook</i> • Resource Protection, Public Use and Recreation: Fishing (36 CFR 2.3) • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (28 CFR 36) • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards 2006 • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 • Director's Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in NPS Programs, Facilities, and Services</i> • Wilderness Act of 1964 • Superintendent's Compendium • Specific law about shuttle buses in the parks (10-year contracts, retain fee money, etc.) • Management decisions have been made to limit the number of major bike events in the park, to one major non-competitive bike event per year.
NPS Policy-level Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitors to the park enjoy the many high-quality experiences it has to offer— to explore, seek adventure, feel solitude, be challenged, and share life experiences with others. • Interpretive and educational programs increase visitor understanding and appreciation of the park's resources. • Visitors enjoy a safe and secure experience at the park. • Conflicts among visitor-user groups are minimized. • All commercial services must be authorized, must be necessary and/or appropriate, and must be economically feasible. • Visitor services and facilities are appropriately scaled and located, the minimum necessary to serve visitor needs and protect resources and facilitate enjoyable and educational visits to the park. • Where feasible, new development is sited away from geologic hazard zones. • Accessible facilities enable disabled visitors to experience the park. • Appropriate recreational use continues to be welcomed in places where it does not impact resources or interpretive activities; all public activities in the park are determined to be appropriate. • Visitor facilities are designed and located with minimal impact on park resources and are aesthetically pleasing and functional. • Commercial services in the park are limited to those that are necessary and compatible with the park purpose. If possible, commercial support services are based outside the park rather than inside.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Ability to Experience a Wide Variety of Recreational Opportunities
Identified Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day-use visitation statistics, including the Longs Peak trailhead, trails, and summit. • Visitor activity information, including type of activity and use of facilities, trails, etc. • Visitor-safety data, currently underway as part of a four-year project to analyze accidents, trends, and safety messaging.
Identified Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visitor-use management plan that would address capacities of several areas of the park and determine where use should be limited, where it could be expanded, and strategies for managing use. • Commercial services strategy, which aligns with the recent wilderness designation; would determine which uses are necessary and appropriate, and the extent of the commercial services to be provided.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Traces of Human Footprints on the Landscape
Relationship to Significance Statements	<p>Related directly to the significance statement concerning remnants of human use of the land.</p>
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, a majority of the cultural sites within the park (including archeological sites, historic structures, cultural landscapes, and ethnographic resources) are within wilderness boundaries, so for the most part, a passive management approach has been adopted by the park, with an emphasis on the stories and not the structures. Not many people visit these sites and the overall condition of the known cultural resources is good. • Much of the park has been surveyed for Paleo-Indian, Ute, and Arapaho sites, and these resources are currently in fair condition. The sites are not endangered through visitation use. In the past, interpretive tours of the game drive areas were conducted, but have since been discontinued to protect the sites. • Many of the historic structures were taken down in the 1960s in favor of natural features, including lodges, dams, sawmills, a golf course, a ski lodge, and a skating rink. The remaining historic structures are well maintained. • Extractive and mining structures are also being managed passively. Lulu City has been managed to exist in its dilapidated, ghost town state. The sawmills at Wild Basin are moldering naturally. A good trail and some interpretation of Eugenia Mine still exist. • The sites that are being actively preserved include Holzworth historic site as an early guest ranch; McGraw Ranch as a research center; Beaver Meadows Visitor Center; CCC walls along Trail Ridge Road; CCC trails; Mill Creek; historic ranger stations and cabins; Agnes Vail shelter; Trail Ridge Road; Shadow Mountain Fire Lookout; Onahu Lodge for housing and several adaptive uses; and the William Allen White Cabin for the artist-in-residence program. In general, these sites are in good condition. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The condition of the cultural resources in the park has been stable.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Traces of Human Footprints on the Landscape
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wildland fire. • An increase in visitation to archeology and historic sites could result in resource degradation. • The availability of information on cultural sites, particularly through the internet, could draw attention and increased use to certain sites, leading to degradation of the sites by increased visitation. • Collection of resources by visitors unaware or disobeying regulations. • Potential for graffiti, arson, and other acts of vandalism. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historic preservation laws currently outline future uses sufficiently. • Increase interpretation of cultural sites as they age in order to preserve the stories. • Conduct HABS/HAER documentation for the fire lookout cabin on Shadow Mountain. • Limited potential for historic leasing of some sites. • Adaptive reuse of additional cabins and historic structures. • More frequent engagement with tribes and stakeholders leads to increased interpretive opportunities of the park's cultural resources and ethnographic record.
<p>Stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colorado State Historic Preservation Office • National Trust for Historic Preservation • National Parks Conservation Association • Arapaho Tribe of the Wind River Reservation, Wyoming • Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma • Southern Ute Indian Tribe of the Southern Ute Reservation, Colorado • Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation, Utah • Ute Mountain Tribe of the Ute Mountain Reservation, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah • Early family descendants • Inholders • Colorado Mountain Club • YMCA • Rocky Mountain Nature Association • Wilderness groups • Other conservation groups



NPS photo

NPS photo by Ann Schonlau



Fundamental Resource or Value	Traces of Human Footprints on the Landscape
<p>Law and Policy Guidance</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> • NPS <i>Museum Handbook</i>, Parts I, II, and III • 36 CFR 79 "Curation of Federally Owned and Administered Archeological Collection" • 36 CFR 800 "Protection of Historic Properties" • <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeological Documentation</i> • <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 USC 470) • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 • Historic Sites Act of 1935 • Museum Act of 1955, as amended • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • Director's Order 24: <i>Museum Collections</i> • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resources Management Guideline</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology; Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act</i> • Executive Order 13007, "American Indian Sacred Sites" • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Programmatic Agreement among the National Park Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (2008) • Director's Order 41: <i>Wilderness Stewardship</i> • Wilderness Act of 1964 • Rocky Mountain Cultural Resources Management Strategy (2012 draft)



Fundamental Resource or Value	Traces of Human Footprints on the Landscape
NPS Policy-level Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural landscapes are preserved with their attendant significant physical attributes, biotic systems, and uses (when those uses contribute to historical significance). • Laws pertaining to historic preservation remain applicable within wilderness, but must be generally administered to preserve the area's wilderness character. • Historic structures are inventoried and their significance and integrity are evaluated under National Register of Historic Places criteria. • The qualities that contribute to the listing or eligibility for listing of historic structures on the national register are protected in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (unless it is determined through a formal process that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable). • To the extent practicable, permitted by law, and not clearly inconsistent with essential agency functions, the National Park Service accommodates access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and avoids adversely affecting the physical integrity of these sacred sites. • The National Park Service will consult with lineal descendants and Indian tribes regarding cultural items subject to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA) when such items may be inadvertently discovered or intentionally excavated on park lands. • Potentially sensitive natural and cultural resources and ethnographic resources are protected. If disturbance of such resources is unavoidable, formal consultation with traditionally associated American Indian tribes or other traditionally associated peoples and groups, Colorado state historic preservation officer, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, as appropriate, is conducted. • Government-to-government consultation is conducted and maintained with each of the tribes traditionally associated with the Rocky Mountain landscape. • Archeological sites are identified and inventoried and their significance is determined and documented. • Archeological sites are protected in an undisturbed condition unless it is determined through formal processes that disturbance or natural deterioration is unavoidable.
Identified Data Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology surveys for the remaining unsurveyed sections of the park. • Vulnerability assessment for cultural resources. • Infrastructure assessments for Perry Cabin (Sprague Lake), Trail Ridge Road remnant (Lake Irene), and Wigwam Tea Room. • Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) for fire lookout on Shadow Mountain.
Identified Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long-term management strategy for Perry Cabin, Lake Irene Cabin, and Wigwam Tea Room.

Identification of Key Parkwide or Major Issues

All parks face a variety of issues that need to be addressed currently or through future planning. An issue is a point or matter that needs to be decided. A key parkwide or major issue may raise questions regarding park purpose and significance, or they may be other questions that rise to a level of importance that in the judgment of the NPS staff require them to be addressed in future planning.

A few key parkwide issues exist at Rocky Mountain National Park, but are more specifically addressed elsewhere in the “Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values” and identified planning and data needs. These issues included

- congestion and visitor use management issues in key sections of the park, including Bear Lake and the Longs Peak parking and campground area
- overall parkwide transportation issues
- adapting management to changing ecosystems due to climate change and other factors, such as nitrogen deposition
- the need for data and better understanding of backcountry uses

Prioritization of Planning and Data Needs

This section ranks the need for future plans and studies or research for Rocky Mountain National Park. This is a comprehensive review and synthesis of plans and data needed to protect and maintain Rocky Mountain National Park’s fundamental and other important resources and values, as well as address key parkwide and other major issues. The ranking of planning and data needs for Rocky Mountain National Park were considered from 2012 through 2017. This list will be revisited by park management as appropriate.

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation, and the importance of these core Foundation elements, the prioritization criteria considered the direction related to protecting fundamental resources and values and the other important resources and values, park significance, and/or park purpose. Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as “high priority,” and other items identified, but that did not rise to the level of “high priority” were listed as “other priority.” In the case of data needs, no high priority needs were identified, so the data needs were grouped into “secondary tier” and “other priority”. This information will be used by the park, NPS regional offices, and the NPS Washington office in determining the park’s priorities and considering future funding needs.



NPS photo by John Marino



NPS photo

Data Gaps –The following table summarizes the data gaps that need to be filled before decisions can be made.

Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data Need	Priority (Primary, Secondary, or Other)	Notes
FRV	Day-use visitation statistics	Primary	These statistics would also include information on the Longs Peak trailhead, trails, and summit.
FRV	Visitor-activity information	Secondary	This information would include the type of activity and use of facilities, trails, etc.
FRV	Extent of invasive species within the park	Secondary	Including information about both flora and fauna.
FRV	Taxonomy and distribution of extant trout populations based on current genetic information.	Secondary	
FRV	Potential effects of limber pine loss in the park	Secondary	
FRV	Maps of migration routes for avian and other species that traverse the park	Secondary	
FRV	Beaver habitat and needs	Secondary	This data would include information about how beavers reoccupy disturbed lands.
FRV	Archaeology surveys for the remaining unsurveyed sections of the park	Other	
FRV	Vulnerability assessment for cultural resources	Other	
FRV	Infrastructure assessments for Perry Cabin (Sprague Lake), Trail Ridge Road remnant (Lake Irene), and Wigwam Tea Room	Other	
FRV	Historic American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (HABS/HAER) for fire lookout cabin on Shadow Mountain	Other	
FRV	Visitor-safety data	Other	This data collection effort is currently underway as part of a four-year project to analyze accidents, trends, and safety messaging.

Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Data Need	Priority (Primary, Secondary, or Other)	Notes
FRV	Water quality for heavy metals	Other	We are seeing water quality criteria exceedances for some heavy metals. Obtain Total maximum daily load (TMDL) data from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.
FRV	Climate change research	Other	This research would follow monitoring in subalpine and montane ecosystems, aquatic habitats, and species of concern. Also monitoring of flow timing and storage per the potential change in storm events and snowpack development.
	Complete QA/QC of FMSS data and complete asset data gaps	Other	

Planning Needs—the following table summarizes where a decision-making process is needed to set long-term strategy.

Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning Need*	Priority (High or other)	Notes
FRV	Visitor-use management plan, including an integrated or stand-alone transportation plan	High	This planning would address capacities of several areas of the park and determine where use should be limited, where it could be expanded, and strategies for managing use.
FRV	Backcountry/wilderness management plan	High	
FRV	Commercial services planning	High	This planning would align with the recent wilderness designation and would determine which uses are necessary and appropriate, and the extent to which the commercial services are to be provided.

* Not all “plans” necessarily require NEPA



Other planning needs were also identified and listed. The “other” category is not all inclusive.

Related to an FRV or OIRV?	Planning Need*	Priority (High or other)	Notes
FRV	Updated integrated pest management plan	Other	This plan would address exotic invasive plants and animals.
	Update the park's asset management plan	Other	Updating this plan would aid the park in later developing a capital investment strategy.
	Incorporation of the Green Parks Plan into operations, the park's environmental management system and long-range transportation plans	Other	
FRV	Long-term management plan for Perry Cabin, Lake Irene, and Wigwam Tea Room	Other	
FRV	Climate change scenario planning and adaptation strategy	Other	This plan would include habitat implications of climate.
FRV	Greenback Cutthroat Recovery Team / U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Decision	Other	
FRV	Updated fish and fishery management plan	Other	(On hold pending USFWS determination)
FRV	Revised native trout restoration plan based on current genetic/ taxonomic information	Other	(On hold pending USFWS determination)

* Not all “plans” necessarily require NEPA



Part 3: Preparers, Consultants, and Meeting Attendees

Rocky Mountain National Park

Vaughn Baker, Superintendent
Ben Bobowski, Acting Deputy Superintendent
Mark Magnuson, Chief Ranger
Dave Pettebone, Wilderness Program Manager
John Hannon, Business Management Specialist
Jess Asmussen, Park Ranger
Bill Thompson, Chief of Facility Management
Danny Basch, Facility Manger (Operations)
Kirsten Hardin, Facility Manager (Projects)
Ken Rybkiewicz, Supervisory Maintenance Worker
Larry Frederick, Chief of Interpretation
Chelsea Hernandez, Park Ranger (Interpretive)
Katy Sykes, Information Office Technician
John Mack, Acting Chief of Resource Stewardship
Mike Lewelling, Fire Management Officer
John Chaney, Contract Specialist
Larry Gamble, Chief of Planning and Compliance

Intermountain Regional Office

Art Hutchinson, Chief of Planning
Judy Rosen, Project Manager

Washington Support Office

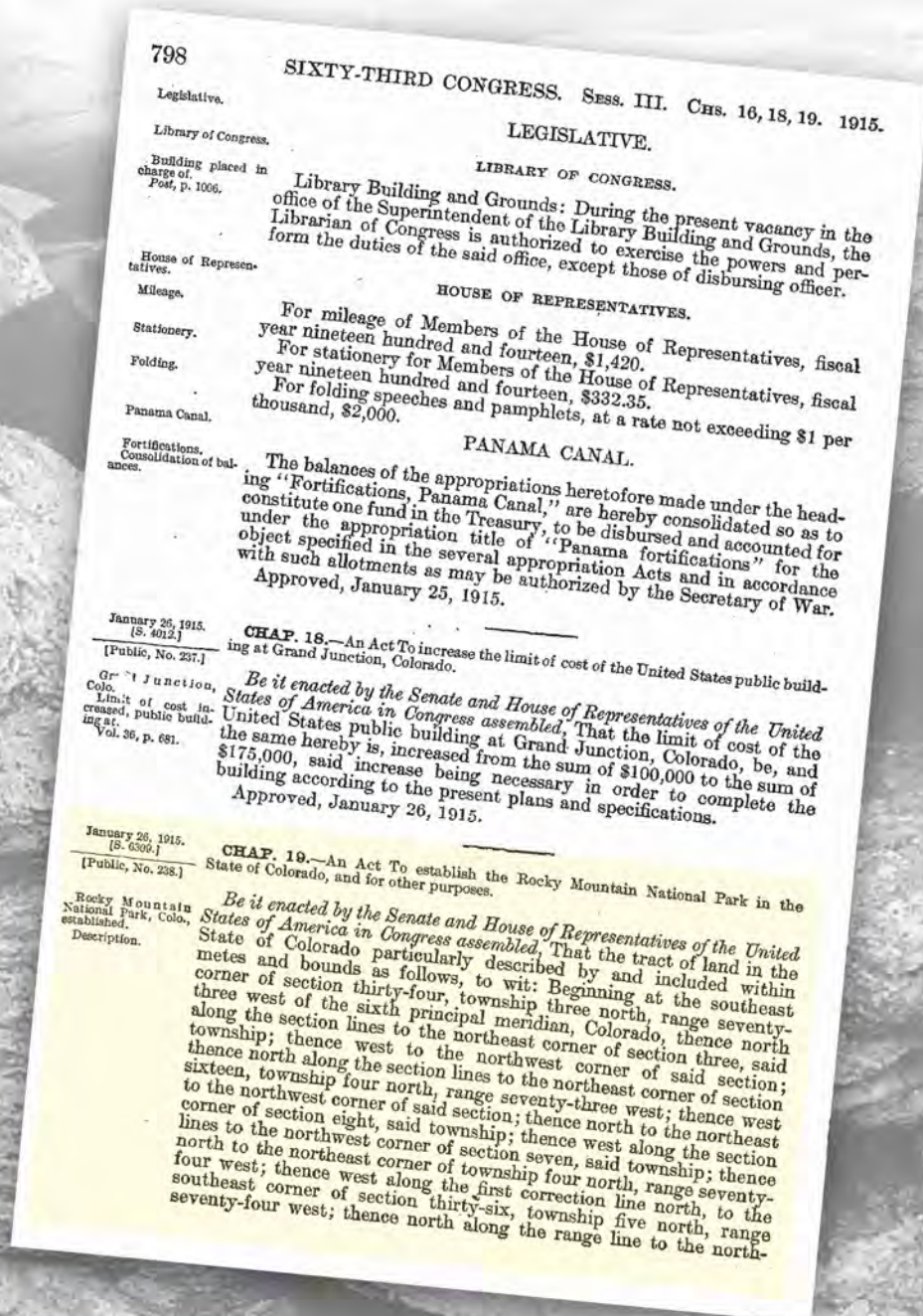
Nancy Shock, Foundation Coordinator, Park Planning and Special Studies
Leigh Welling, Chief, Climate Change Response Program
Wendy Berhman, Concessions Management Planner, Park Planning and Special Studies

Denver Service Center, Planning Division

Tokey Boswell, Project Manager
Chris Church, Project Manager
Sarah Conlin, Natural Resource Specialist
Michael Rees, Natural Resource Specialist
Melody Bentfield, Contract Librarian

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Other Acts

Rocky Mountain National Park is established by Congressional Act of January 26, 1915 (P.L. 63-238, 38 Stat.798)



SIXTY-THIRD CONGRESS. SESS. III. CH. 19. 1915.

east corner of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section thirteen, said township; thence west to the northwest corner of the southeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section fourteen, said township; thence north to the northwest corner of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section twelve, said township; thence south along the range line to the southeast corner of said section; thence east along the section lines to the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of section ten, township five north, range seventy-three west; thence north to the northeast corner of the southeast quarter of the northeast quarter of said section; thence east to the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of said section; thence east to the southeast corner of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of section two, said township; thence north to the northeast corner of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter of said section; thence east to the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter, said section; thence north to the northeast corner of the northeast quarter of the southwest quarter of said section; thence east to the southeast corner of the northeast quarter of section one, said township; thence north along the range line to the northeast corner of section thirty-six, township seven north, range seventy-three west; thence west along the section lines to the intersection with the west bank of the Big South Cache la Poudre River in township seven north, range seventy-five west; thence southeasterly along the west bank of said river to the mouth of a tributary of said river, probably in section one, township six north, range seventy-five west; said tributary heading at La Poudre Pass in section twenty, township six north, range seventy-five west; thence southwesterly along the west bank of said tributary to its head; thence across the continental divide to the headwaters of the North Fork of the Grand River, which also heads at La Poudre Pass; thence down the west bank of the North Fork of the Grand River to its intersection with the section line between sections twenty-nine and thirty, township six north, range seventy-five west; thence south along the section lines to the southeast corner of section eighteen, township five north, range seventy-five west; thence west along the section line to its intersection with the west bank of the North Fork of the Grand River; thence down the west bank of the North Fork of the Grand River to its intersection with the section line between sections twenty-five and thirty-six, township four north, range seventy-six west; thence east to the northeast corner of section thirty-six, said township; thence south along the range line to the southeast corner of said township; thence east along the township line to the northeast corner of the northwest quarter of section four, township three north, range seventy-five west; thence south to the southwest corner of the northeast quarter of section nine, said township; thence west along the quarter section line to its intersection with a creek in section seven, said township, this creek being an outlet of Grand Lake, and flowing into the North Fork of the Grand River; thence southerly along the said creek to its junction with the west bank of the North Fork of the Grand River; thence southerly along the township line between townships two and three north; thence east along township three north, range seventy-three west of the sixth principal meridian, Colorado, the place of beginning, all of said above-described tract now being included within the boundaries of the counties of Grand, Boulder, and Larimer, in the State of Colorado,

SIXTY-THIRD CONGRESS. Sess. III. CHS. 19, 20. 1915.

is hereby reserved and withdrawn from settlement, occupancy, or disposal under the laws of the United States, and said tract is dedicated and set apart as a public park for the benefit and enjoyment of the people of the United States, under the name of the Rocky Mountain National Park: *Provided*, That the United States Reclamation Service may enter upon and utilize for flowage or other purposes any area within said park which may be necessary for the development and maintenance of a Government reclamation project.

Sec. 2. That nothing herein contained shall affect any valid existing claim, location, or entry under the land laws of the United States, whether for homestead, mineral, right of way, or any other purpose, whatsoever, or shall affect the rights of any such claimant, locator, or entryman to the full use and enjoyment of his land. Whenever consistent with the primary purposes of the park the Act of February fifteenth, nineteen hundred and one, applicable to the location of rights of way in certain national parks and the national forests for irrigation and other purposes, shall be and remain applicable to the lands included within the park. The Secretary of the Interior may, in his discretion and upon such conditions as he may deem wise, grant easements or rights of way for steam, electric, or similar transportation upon or across the park.

Sec. 3. That no lands located within the park boundaries now held in private, municipal, or State ownership shall be affected by or subject to the provisions of this Act.

Sec. 4. That the said park shall be under the executive control of the Secretary of the Interior, and it shall be the duty of the said executive authority, as soon as practicable, to make and publish such reasonable rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the laws of the United States, as the said authority may deem necessary or proper for the care, protection, management, and improvement of the same, the said regulations being primarily aimed at the freest use of the said park for recreation purposes by the public and for the preservation of the natural conditions and scenic beauties thereof. The said authority may, in his discretion, execute leases to parcels of ground not exceeding twenty acres in extent in any one place to any person or company for not to exceed twenty years whenever such ground is necessary for the erection of establishments for the accommodation of visitors, may grant such other necessary privileges and concessions as he deems wise for the accommodation of visitors, and may likewise arrange for the removal of such mature or dead or down timber as he may deem necessary and advisable for the protection and improvement of the park. The regulations governing the park shall include provisions for the use of automobiles therein: *Provided*, That no appropriation for the maintenance, supervision or improvement of said park in excess of \$10,000 annually shall be made unless the same shall have first been expressly authorized by law.

Approved, January 26, 1915.

January 28, 1915.
[S. 2337.]

[Public, No. 239.]

CHAP. 20.—An Act To create the Coast Guard by combining therein the existing Life-Saving Service and Revenue-Cutter Service.

Coast Guard,
Revenue-Cutter and
Life-Saving Service, to
compose.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there shall be established in lieu of the existing Revenue-Cutter Service and the Life-Saving Service, to be composed of those two existing organizations, with the existing offices and positions and the incumbent officers and men of those two services, the Coast Guard, which shall constitute a part of the military forces of the United States and which shall operate under the Treasury Department in time of peace and operate as

Proviso.
Reclamation Service
use allowed.

Existing entries, etc.,
not impaired.

Rights of way.
Vol. 31, p. 790.

Present ownership
not affected.

Regulation of con-
trol, etc.

Leases for accommo-
dations of visitors, etc.

Proviso.
Limit on appropria-
tions.

The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail is established by Congressional Act of November 10, 1978 (P.L. 95-625, 92 Stat. 3512)

PUBLIC LAW 95-625—NOV. 10, 1978

92 STAT. 3511

(2) Within three complete fiscal years from the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall develop and transmit to the Committees referred to in subsection (b) a general management plan for the historic site consistent with the purposes of this section. Such plan shall indicate—

Plan, transmittal to congressional committees.

- (i) facilities needed to accommodate the health, safety, and educational needs of the public;
- (ii) the location and estimated cost of all facilities; and
- (iii) the projected need for any additional facilities.

CROW CREEK VILLAGE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE

SEC. 512. (a) The Secretary shall prepare and transmit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives within two years from the date of enactment, a feasibility/suitability study of the Crow Creek Village archeological site, Buffalo County, South Dakota, as a unit of the National Park System. The study shall include cost estimates for any necessary acquisition, development, operation and maintenance, as well as any feasible alternatives for the administration and protection of the area, including, but not limited to, Federal financial and technical assistance to the State of South Dakota, Buffalo County or other suitable entity.

Feasibility/suitability study, transmittal to congressional committees. 16 USC 1a-5 note. Cost estimates.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of the Army is directed to take such actions as may be necessary to preserve and protect such site from any adverse impact on the site and to refrain from any activities which might cause such impact until two years from the date of submission of the study by the Secretary.

Site preservation.

Subtitle B—Trails

SEC. 551. The National Trails System Act (82 Stat. 919; 16 U.S.C. 1241), as amended, is further amended as follows:

- (1) In section 2(a) after "promote" insert "the preservation of"; and after "outdoor areas" insert "and historic resources".
- (2) In section 2(a) delete "(ii)" and the remainder of the sentence and insert "(ii) secondarily, within scenic areas and along historic travel routes of the Nation, which are often more remotely located."
- (3) In section 2(b) delete "and scenic" and insert ", scenic and historic".

16 USC 1241.

(4) In section 3 redesignate subsection "(c)" as "(d)", and insert a new subsection (c) as follows:

National historic trails. 16 USC 1242. 16 USC 1244.

"(c) National historic trails, established as provided in section 5 of this Act, which will be extended trails which follow as closely as possible and practicable the original trails or routes of travel of national historical significance. Designation of such trails or routes shall be continuous, but the established or developed trail, and the acquisition thereof, need not be continuous onsite. National historic trails shall have as their purpose the identification and protection of the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment. Only those selected land and water based components of an historic trail which are on federally owned lands and which meet the national historic trail criteria established in this Act, are established as initial Federal protection components of a national historic trail. The appropriate Secretary may subsequently certify other lands as protected segments of an historic trail upon application from State or local governmental agencies or private interests involved

Protected segments, certification.

92 STAT. 3512

PUBLIC LAW 95-625—NOV. 10, 1978

if such segments meet the national historic trail criteria established in this Act and such criteria supplementary thereto as the appropriate Secretary may prescribe, and are administered by such agencies or interests without expense to the United States.”

Ante, p. 3511.
16 USC 1242.

(5) In the new section 3(d) delete “or national scenic” and insert “, national scenic or national historic”.

Establishments.
16 USC 1244.

(6) Change the title of section 5 to read “NATIONAL SCENIC AND NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAILS”.

(7) In section 5(a), insert in the first sentence after the word “scenic” the words “and national historic” and change the second sentence to read: “There are hereby established the following National Scenic and National Historic Trails:”

(8) In section 5(a)(1), in the first sentence, after the word “Appalachian”, insert “National Scenic”, and in section 5(a)(2), in the first sentence, after “Pacific Crest”, insert “National Scenic”.

Oregon National
Historic Trail.

(9) In section 5(a), delete paragraph (3) and insert in lieu of the following new paragraphs:

“(3) The Oregon National Historic Trail, a route of approximately two thousand miles extending from near Independence, Missouri, to the vicinity of Portland, Oregon, following a route as depicted on maps identified as ‘Primary Route of the Oregon Trail 1841-1848’, in the Department of the Interior’s Oregon Trail study report dated April 1977, and which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director of the National Park Service. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mormon Pioneer
National Historic
Trail.

“(4) The Mormon Pioneer National Historic Trail, a route of approximately one thousand three hundred miles extending from Nauvoo, Illinois, to Salt Lake City, Utah, following the primary historical route of the Mormon Trail as generally depicted on a map, identified as, ‘Mormon Trail Vicinity Map, figure 2’ in the Department of the Interior Mormon Trail study report dated March 1977, and which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

Continental
Divide National
Scenic Trail.

“(5) The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, a trail of approximately thirty-one hundred miles, extending from the Montana-Canada border to the New Mexico-Mexico border, following the approximate route depicted on the map, identified as ‘Proposed Continental Divide National Scenic Trail’ in the Department of the Interior Continental Divide Trail study report dated March 1977 and which shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Chief, Forest Service, Washington, D.C. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail shall be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 7(c), the use of motorized vehicles on roads which will be designated segments of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail shall be permitted in accordance with regulations prescribed by the appropriate Secretary.

16 USC 1246.

Lewis and Clark
National Historic
Trail.

“(6) The Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, a trail of approximately three thousand seven hundred miles, extending from Wood River, Illinois, to the mouth of the Columbia River in Oregon, following the outbound and inbound routes of the Lewis and Clark Expedition depicted on maps identified as, ‘Vicinity Map, Lewis and Clark Trail’ study report dated April 1977. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the office of the Director, National Park Service, Washington, D.C. The trail shall be administered by the Secretary of the Interior.

Cache la Poudre added to the Wild and Scenic Rivers System by Congressional Act of October 30, 1986 (P.L. 99-590, 100 Stat. 3330)

100 STAT. 3330

PUBLIC LAW 99-590—OCT. 30, 1986

Public Law 99-590
99th Congress

An Act

To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

Oct. 30, 1986
[H.R. 4350]

Conservation.
National parks,
monuments, etc.

Wild and Scenic
Rivers System.

TITLE I—CACHE LA POUFRE, COLORADO

SEC. 101. Section 3(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:
“(56) CACHE LA POUFRE, COLORADO.—The following segments as generally depicted on the proposed boundary map numbered FS-56 and dated March 1986, published by the United States Department of Agriculture, each to be administered by the Secretary of Agriculture; except that those portions of the segments so designated which are within the boundary of Rocky Mountain National Park shall continue to be administered by the Secretary of the Interior:

“(A) Beginning at Poudre Lake downstream to the confluence of Joe Wright Creek, as a wild river. This segment to be designated the ‘Peter H. Dominick Wild River Area’.

“(B) Downstream from the confluence of Joe Wright Creek to a point where the river intersects the easterly north-south line of the west half southwest quarter of section 1, township 8 north, range 71 west of the sixth principal meridian, as a recreational river.

“(C) South Fork of the Cache la Poudre River from its source to the Commanche Peak Wilderness Boundary, approximately four miles, as a wild river.

“(D) Beginning at the Commanche Peak Wilderness Boundary to a point on the South Fork of the Cache la Poudre River in section 1, township 7 north, range 73 west of the sixth principal meridian, at elevation 8050 mean sea level, as a recreational river.

“(E) South Fork of the Cache la Poudre River from its intersection with the easterly section line of section 30, township 8 north, range 72 west of the sixth principal meridian, to confluence of the main stem of the Cache la Poudre River, as a wild river.

With respect to the portions of the river segments designated by this paragraph which are within the boundaries of Rocky Mountain National Park, the requirements of subsection (b) of this section shall be fulfilled by the Secretary of the Interior through appropriate revisions to the general management plan for the park, and the boundaries, classification, and development plans for such portions need not be published in the Federal Register. Such revisions to the general management plan for the park shall assure that no development or use of parklands shall be undertaken that is inconsistent with the designation of such river segments as a wild river. For the purposes of the segments designated by this paragraph, there are authorized to be appropriated \$500,000 for development and \$2,500,000 for land acquisition.”

Appropriation
authorization.
Real property.

PUBLIC LAW 99-590—OCT. 30, 1986

100 STAT. 3331

SEC. 102. Inclusion of the designated portions of the Cache la Poudre River and the Wild and Scenic Rivers System under section 101 of this title shall not interfere with the exercise of existing decreed water rights to water which has heretofore been stored or diverted by means of the present capacity of storage, conveyance, or diversion structures that exist as of the date of enactment of this title, or operation and maintenance of such structures. Nor shall inclusion of the designated portions of the Cache la Poudre River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System be utilized in any Federal proceeding, whether concerning a license, permit, right-of-way, or other Federal action, as a reason or basis to prohibit the development or operation of any water impoundments, diversion facilities, and hydroelectric power and transmission facilities below Poudre Park located entirely downstream from and potentially affecting designated portions of the Cache la Poudre River, or relocation of highway 14 to any point east of the north-south half section line of section 2, township 8 north, range 71 west of the sixth principal meridian, as necessary to provide access to Poudre Park around such facilities: *Provided*, That due consideration shall be given to reasonable measures for minimizing the impact of such facilities and road relocation on the designated segments. Congress finds that development of water impoundments, diversion facilities, and hydroelectric power and transmission facilities located entirely downstream from the designated portions of the Cache la Poudre River below Poudre Park, in accordance with the provisions of this section, is not incompatible with the designation of portions of the Cache la Poudre River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System under section 101 of this title. The reservation of water established by the inclusion of portions of the Cache la Poudre River in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System shall be subject to the provisions of this title, shall be adjudicated in Colorado Water Court, and shall have a priority date as of the date of enactment of this title.

Water.
16 USC 1274
note.

Energy.

Energy.

SEC. 103. (a) GRANTS AND ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall provide grants and technical assistance to the city of Fort Collins, Colorado, to carry out a study regarding the designation of the following area as a national recreation area: the 18.5-mile segment of the Cache la Poudre River Corridor from the northwest boundary of the city of Fort Collins urban growth area to the Weld-Larimer County line.

(b) STUDY.—The study under this section shall include each of the following:

- (A) a comprehensive evaluation of the public recreation opportunities and flood plain management options which are available with respect to the river corridor involved;
- (B) an evaluation of the natural, historical, and recreational values of such corridor;
- (C) patterns for possible land acquisition within the corridor which are deemed necessary for the purpose of resource protection, scenic and integrity, or management and administration of the corridor area;
- (D) cooperative management proposals for the administration of the corridor area;
- (E) the number of visitors and types of public use within the corridor area that can be accommodated in accordance with the full protection of its resources; and

100 STAT. 3332

PUBLIC LAW 99-590—OCT. 30, 1986

(F) the facilities deemed necessary to accommodate and provide access for such visitors and uses, including the location and estimated costs of such facilities.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Within three years of the date of enactment of this title, the Secretary of Agriculture shall transmit to the Congress a comprehensive report containing the results of the study conducted pursuant to this section.

Appropriation authorization.

(d) FUNDING.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated up to \$150,000 to carry out the provisions of this section.

(e) COST SHARING.—Not more than 75 per centum of the cost of the study carried out under this section shall be paid by the United States: *Provided*, That in no event shall the contribution of the United States exceed \$150,000. The remaining portion of such costs shall be contributed by interested parties. The portion contributed by such interested parties may consist of appropriated funds or contributed services.

SEC. 104. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior shall, within 30 days of the enactment of this title, complete the exchange as described in the Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact, Trust For Public Land Proposed Land-for-Land Exchange, signed by the Rocky Mountain Regional Forester, on August 22, 1985, to acquire certain private lands in the portion of the Cache la Poudre River designated in section 3(a)(56)(B) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1274(a)(56)(B)).

TITLE II—FARMINGTON, WEST BRANCH, CONNECTICUT AND MASSACHUSETTS

Farmington Wild and Scenic River Study Act, 16 USC 1271 note. Fish and fishing.

SEC. 201. This title may be cited as the "Farmington Wild and Scenic River Study Act".

SEC. 202. (a) The Congress finds that—

(1) the West Branch of the Farmington River and related land areas possess resource values of national significance, such as significant white water rapids, undeveloped lands, scenic and cultural areas, important sport fisheries, and prime agricultural lands;

(2) based on the National Rivers Inventory by the National Park Service, published in January 1982, this portion of the Farmington River is eligible for study for inclusion in the wild and scenic rivers system;

State and local governments.

(3) there is strong support among local, State, and Federal officials, area residents, and river users for a concerted cooperative effort to manage the river in a productive and meaningful way; and

State and local governments.

(4) in view of the longstanding Federal practice of assisting States and local governments in protecting, conserving, and enhancing rivers of national significance, the United States has an interest in assisting the States of Connecticut and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the appropriate local governments in managing the river.

(b) Section 5(a) of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (16 U.S.C. 1276(a)) is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

"(92) FARMINGTON, WEST BRANCH, CONNECTICUT AND MASSACHUSETTS.—The segment from the intersection of the New Hartford-Canton, Connecticut, town line upstream to the base of the West Branch Reservoir in Hartland, Connecticut; and the segment from

**Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness (249,339 acres)
is designated as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation
System by Congressional Act of March 30, 2009 (P.L. 111-11)**

123 STAT. 1070

PUBLIC LAW 111-11—MAR. 30, 2009

correct any clerical or typographical error in the map or legal description.

(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description filed under paragraph (1) shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Secretary.

(c) HYDROLOGIC, METEOROLOGIC, AND CLIMATOLOGICAL DEVICES, FACILITIES, AND ASSOCIATED EQUIPMENT.—The Secretary shall continue to manage maintenance and access to hydrologic, meteorologic, and climatological devices, facilities and associated equipment consistent with House Report 98-40.

(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE WILDERNESS.—Nothing in this subtitle precludes authorized activities conducted outside of an area designated as wilderness by this subtitle by cabin owners (or designees) in the Mineral King Valley area or property owners or lessees (or designees) in the Silver City inholding, as identified on the map described in section 1902(1)(A).

(e) HORSEBACK RIDING.—Nothing in this subtitle precludes horseback riding in, or the entry of recreational or commercial saddle or pack stock into, an area designated as wilderness by this subtitle—

(1) in accordance with section 4(d)(5) of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1133(d)(5)); and

(2) subject to any terms and conditions determined to be necessary by the Secretary.

SEC. 1904. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this subtitle.

**Subtitle N—Rocky Mountain National Park
Wilderness, Colorado**

SEC. 1951. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) MAP.—The term “map” means the map entitled “Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Act of 2007” and dated September 2006.

(2) PARK.—The term “Park” means Rocky Mountain National Park located in the State of Colorado.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

(4) TRAIL.—The term “Trail” means the East Shore Trail established under section 1954(a).

(5) WILDERNESS.—The term “Wilderness” means the wilderness designated by section 1952(a).

SEC. 1952. ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK WILDERNESS, COLORADO.

(a) DESIGNATION.—In furtherance of the purposes of the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), there is designated as wilderness and as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System approximately 249,339 acres of land in the Park, as generally depicted on the map.

(b) MAP AND BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

16 USC 1132
note.

(A) prepare a map and boundary description of the Wilderness; and

(B) submit the map and boundary description prepared under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

(2) AVAILABILITY; FORCE OF LAW.—The map and boundary description submitted under paragraph (1)(B) shall—

(A) be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the National Park Service; and

(B) have the same force and effect as if included in this subtitle.

(c) INCLUSION OF POTENTIAL WILDERNESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On publication in the Federal Register of a notice by the Secretary that all uses inconsistent with the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) have ceased on the land identified on the map as a “Potential Wilderness Area”, the land shall be—

(A) included in the Wilderness; and

(B) administered in accordance with subsection (e).

(2) BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION.—On inclusion in the Wilderness of the land referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall modify the map and boundary description submitted under subsection (b) to reflect the inclusion of the land.

(d) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN LAND.—The following areas are specifically excluded from the Wilderness:

(1) The Grand River Ditch (including the main canal of the Grand River Ditch and a branch of the main canal known as the Specimen Ditch), the right-of-way for the Grand River Ditch, land 200 feet on each side of the center line of the Grand River Ditch, and any associated appurtenances, structures, buildings, camps, and work sites in existence as of June 1, 1998.

(2) Land owned by the St. Vrain & Left Hand Water Conservancy District, including Copeland Reservoir and the Inlet Ditch to the Reservoir from North St. Vrain Creek, comprising approximately 35.38 acres.

(3) Land owned by the Wincenstsen-Harms Trust, comprising approximately 2.75 acres.

(4) Land within the area depicted on the map as the “East Shore Trail Area”.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—Subject to valid existing rights, any land designated as wilderness under this section or added to the Wilderness after the date of enactment of this Act under subsection (c) shall be administered by the Secretary in accordance with this subtitle and the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.), except that—

(1) any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the effective date of that Act shall be considered to be a reference to the date of enactment of this Act, or the date on which the additional land is added to the Wilderness, respectively; and

(2) any reference in the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.) to the Secretary of Agriculture shall be considered to be a reference to the Secretary.

(f) WATER RIGHTS.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

Effective date.
Federal Register,
publication.
Notice.
16 USC 1132
note.

123 STAT. 1072

PUBLIC LAW 111-11—MAR. 30, 2009

(A) the United States has existing rights to water within the Park;

(B) the existing water rights are sufficient for the purposes of the Wilderness; and

(C) based on the findings described in subparagraphs (A) and (B), there is no need for the United States to reserve or appropriate any additional water rights to fulfill the purposes of the Wilderness.

(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subtitle—

(A) constitutes an express or implied reservation by the United States of water or water rights for any purpose; or

(B) modifies or otherwise affects any existing water rights held by the United States for the Park.

(g) FIRE, INSECT, AND DISEASE CONTROL.—The Secretary may take such measures in the Wilderness as are necessary to control fire, insects, and diseases, as are provided for in accordance with—

(1) the laws applicable to the Park; and

(2) the Wilderness Act (16 U.S.C. 1131 et seq.).

SEC. 1953. GRAND RIVER DITCH AND COLORADO-BIG THOMPSON PROJECTS.

(a) CONDITIONAL WAIVER OF STRICT LIABILITY.—During any period in which the Water Supply and Storage Company (or any successor in interest to the company with respect to the Grand River Ditch) operates and maintains the portion of the Grand River Ditch in the Park in compliance with an operations and maintenance agreement between the Water Supply and Storage Company and the National Park Service, the provisions of paragraph (6) of the stipulation approved June 28, 1907—

(1) shall be suspended; and

(2) shall not be enforceable against the Company (or any successor in interest).

(b) AGREEMENT.—The agreement referred to in subsection (a) shall—

(1) ensure that—

(A) Park resources are managed in accordance with the laws generally applicable to the Park, including—

(i) the Act of January 26, 1915 (16 U.S.C. 191 et seq.); and

(ii) the National Park Service Organic Act (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.);

(B) Park land outside the right-of-way corridor remains unimpaired consistent with the National Park Service management policies in effect as of the date of enactment of this Act; and

(C) any use of Park land outside the right-of-way corridor (as of the date of enactment of this Act) shall be permitted only on a temporary basis, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary; and

(2) include stipulations with respect to—

(A) flow monitoring and early warning measures;

(B) annual and periodic inspections;

(C) an annual maintenance plan;

(D) measures to identify on an annual basis capital improvement needs; and



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NPS photo by John Marino

Other acts

*Acquisition Authority

- Act of June 12, 1917 (P.L. 65-21, 80 Stat. 152), authorized the Secretary to accept donations of patented lands or rights-of-way over patented lands.
- Act of September 18, 1922 (P.L. 67-307, 42 Stat. 847), authorized acquisition by donation of lands described.
- Act of February 24, 1925 (P.L. 68-460, 43 Stat. 973), authorized exchange of lands described.
- Act of March 2, 1929 (P.L. 70-1009, 45 Stat. 1536), authorized acceptance from the State of exclusive jurisdiction over lands comprising the park.
- Act of July 14, 1945 (P.L. 79-144, 59 Stat. 466), authorized exchange of lands described.
- Act of August 24, 1949 (P.L. 81-263, 63 Stat. 626), authorized acquisition of lands within boundary, by purchase or otherwise, for development of an eastern approach to the park.
- Act of August 17, 1961 (P.L. 87-146, 75 Stat. 383), authorized exchange of lands described.
- Act of October 26, 1974 (P.L. 93-477, 88 Stat. 1445), authorized acquisition of lands described.
- Act of December 22, 1980 (P.L. 96-560, 94 Stat. 3271), authorized addition or transfer of lands by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or by exchange.
- Act of November 29, 1989 (P.L. 101-192, 103 Stat. 1700), authorized the Secretary to acquire, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or by exchange, lands or interests therein within the area added to the park by the Act.
- Act of July 9, 1996 (P.L. 104-158, 110 Stat. 1407), directs that BLM lands in Gilpin County, CO, will be exchanged with Lake Gulch Inc. for the 40 acres of 'Circle C Church Camp' lying within the boundaries of the park.
- Act of November 12, 1996 (P.L. 104-333, 110 Stat. 4093), requires that the Secretary seek to acquire, by donation or exchange, lands within the park boundary owned by the city of Longmont and referred to in section 111(d) of the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1980.
- Act of October 26, 2005 (P.L. 109-93), directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the MacGregor Trust approximately 70 acres of Federal land located near MacGregor Ranch and identified on the referenced map, in exchange for 5.9 acres of non-Federal land located near MacGregor Ranch and identified on the referenced map. As a condition of the exchange of land, the Secretary shall reserve a perpetual conservation easement on the Federal parcel for the purposes of protecting, preserving, and enhancing the values of the 70-acre parcel.
- Act of May 12, 2006 (Private Law No. 109-01), permits the specified holder of a 25-year reservation of use and occupancy to continue to occupy the subject property for the remainder of her natural life, subject to terms and conditions noted in the Act.
- Act of March 30, 2009, authorizes the Secretary to lease the Leiffer tract. The tract contains 12 acres located outside the boundary of the park and was donated to the United States.

Boundary Revisions

- Act of February 14, 1917 (P.L. 64-316, 39 Stat. 916), revised boundary to include additional lands as described.
- Act of September 18, 1922, authorized addition of administrative site as described.
- Act of June 2, 1924 (P.L. 68-172, 43 Stat. 252), authorized transfer of described lands from the park to Colorado National Forest.
- Act of June 9, 1926 (P.L. 69-363, 44 Stat. 712), revised boundary to exclude lands described.
- Act of June 21, 1930 (P.L. 71-404, 46 Stat. 791), revised boundary to include additional lands as described.
- Proclamation No. 1917, July 17, 1930 (46 Stat. 3029), revised boundary to include additional lands as described.
- Proclamation No. 1985, January 11, 1932 (47 Stat. 2498), revised boundary to include additional lands as described.
- Proclamation No. 2160, March 5, 1936 (49 Stat. 3501), revised boundary to include additional lands as described.
- Act of July 14, 1945, authorized addition, by exchange, of lands described.
- Act of August 24, 1949, revised boundary to include an additional 140 acres.
- Proclamation No. 3144, June 27, 1956, revised boundary to include additional lands as described.
- Proclamation No. 3374, September 23, 1960, revised boundary to include additional lands as described.
- Act of August 17, 1961, authorized addition, by exchange, of lands described.
- Act of October 26, 1974, revised boundary to include additional 1,556.21 acres.
- Act of December 22, 1980 (P.L. 96-560, 94 Stat. 3271):
 - » revised the boundary as depicted on the map entitled “Boundary Adjustments, Rocky Mountain National Park”, numbered 121-80,047, dated October 1, 1979; the Twin Sisters area shown on map E-5 shall remain a part of the park;
 - » authorized an exchange with the Secretary of Agriculture of lands within the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area;
 - » authorized deletion of lands owned by the City of Longmont in area E-5 if the city determines that the lands are needed for development of a reservoir;
 - » directed the Secretary to convey to the City of Grand Lake, Colorado, without compensation, not to exceed 2 acres within area GL-5.
- Act of November 29, 1989, authorized Secretary to revise the boundary to include, upon acquisition, lands added by the Act.
- Act of October 26, 2005, provides for the exchange of lands identified on the map numbered 121/80,154, dated June 2004, and directs the Secretary to revise the park boundary to reflect the acquisition of the non-Federal land.

Acreage Limitations

- None

Statutory Ceiling for Land Acquisition

- Act of October 26, 1974, authorized appropriations not to exceed \$2,423,740.
- Act of December 22, 1980, does not establish a ceiling for land acquisition for lands described.

Remarks

- Act of November 29, 1989, authorized the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the owner of two particular tracts in the park to ensure the right of use as a single family residence, unless the tracts are being developed or are proposed for development that would substantially change its use.

*Denotes section revised April 7, 2009



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Appendix B: Related Federal Legislation, Regulations, Executive Orders and Director's Orders

Legislation and Acts

- Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1974
- Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979
- Clean Air Act of 1977
- Clean Water Act of 1972
- Endangered Species Act of 1973
- Migratory Bird Treaty Act of - 1918
- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
- National Parks Omnibus Management Act of 1998
- National Park Service Organic Act of 1916
- National Trails System Act of 1968
- National Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968
- Redwood Act, Amending the NPS Organic Act of 1978
- Wilderness Act of 1964

Code of Federal Regulations

- Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1, General Provisions
- Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 2, Resource Protection, Public Use and Recreation
- Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 4, Vehicles and Traffic Safety
- Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 5, Commercial and Private Operations
- Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 7, Section 7.7, Special regulations for Rocky Mountain National Park



Executive Orders

- Executive Order 11514, “Protection and enhancement of environmental quality”
- Executive Order 11593, “Protection and enhancement of the cultural environment”
- Executive Order 11644, “Use of off-road vehicles on the public lands”
- Executive Order 11988, “Floodplain management”
- Executive Order 11989, “Off-road vehicles on public lands”
- Executive Order 11990, “Protection of Wetlands”
- Executive Order 12003, “Energy Policy and Conservation”
- Executive Order 12088, “Federal Compliance with Pollution Control Standards”
- Executive Order 12372, “Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs”
- Executive Order 12898, “General Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Population”
- Executive Order 12962, “Recreational Fisheries”
- Executive Order 13007, “Indian Sacred Sites”
- Executive Order 13112, “Invasive Species”
- Executive Order 13186, “Responsibilities of federal agencies to protect migratory birds”
- Executive Order 13352, “Facilitation of Cooperative Conservation”
- Executive Order 13423, “Strengthening Federal Environmental, Energy, and Transportation Management”
- Executive Order 13514, “Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance”

NPS Director’s Orders (partial list)

- Order 12: Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision Making and Handbook
- Order 18: Wildland Fire Management
- Order 28: Cultural Resource Management
- Order 41: Wilderness Preservation and Management
- Order 47: Soundscape Preservation and Noise Management
- Order 77: Natural Resource Protection
- Order 77-1: Wetland Protection
- Order 77-2: Floodplain Management

NPS Management Policies 2006



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NPS photo

Appendix C: Inventory of Key Past Planning Documents

Management Document	Date of Completion
Wilderness recommendation	1974
Master Plan	1976
Trail Plan	1982
Land Protection Plan	1985
Statement for Management	1992
Commercial Horse Use Plan/EA/FONSI	1993
Backcountry/Wilderness Management Plan/EA/FONSI	2001
Snowmobile Management Plan/EA/FONSI and rulemaking	2002
Invasive Exotic Management Plan EA/FONSI	2003
Bark Beetle Management Plan/EA/FONSI	2005
Final EIS, Elk and Vegetation Management Plan	2008
Natural Resource Condition Assessment	2010
Fire Management Plan/EA/FONSI	2012



Appendix D: Inventory and Analysis of Special Mandates and Key Administrative Commitments

Special Mandates

Designation of the Park as a UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve (January 17, 1977). Biosphere reserves are sites that are recognized for their roles in conserving genetic resources; facilitating long-term research and monitoring; and encouraging education, training, and the demonstration of sustainable resource. The International System of Biosphere is administered by the United Nations Education, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). There are also three designated research natural areas (RNAs) in the park as core areas of the biosphere reserve. Although the biosphere reserve designation does not alter the purpose for which Rocky Mountain National Park was established or change management requirements, to the extent practicable, superintendents will incorporate biosphere reserve objectives into their plans and interpretive programs. Opportunities will be pursued to use the designation as a framework for local, regional, and international cooperation (*NPS Management Policies 2006* §4.3.6).

Designation of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, Including Sections within Rocky Mountain National Park (P.L. 95-625) (November 10, 1978). National scenic trails are subject to all the requirements specified in the National Trails System Act (PL 90-543). The act provides directions on facilities and uses of the trail and trail markers (section 7c). The National Park Service is directed to cooperate with other land managers, nonprofit organizations, and user groups to facilitate appropriate trail use, to the extent that trail management and use would not cause unacceptable impacts (*NPS Management Policies 2006* §9.2.2.7).

Designation of the Cache la Poudre River as a Unit of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System (P.L. 99-590) (October 30, 1986). Fourteen miles of the river in the park are designated as a wild river. The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (PL 90-542) requires the National Park Service to protect and enhance water quality, free-flowing condition, and outstandingly remarkable values of the Cache la Poudre River. The river is to be managed with the goal of no degradation and the enhancement of the values for which it was established. Section 4.3.4 of *NPS Management Policies 2006* states that no management actions may be taken that could adversely affect the values that qualify a river for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

Designation of the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness (P.L. 111-11) (March 30, 2009). Section 1952 designated the wilderness area. The wilderness area is part of the National Wilderness Preservation System and is subject to the requirements of the Wilderness Act (P.L. 88-577). The National Park Service is required to manage the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness “. . . for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such a manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness . . .” and to protect the area and its wilderness character (§2(a)). The act mandates what uses can occur and are prohibited, including recreational uses, commercial uses, and developments.

Grand River Ditch, Big Thompson Project, and Windy Gap Project. PL 111-11 also included several mandates for several water delivery tunnels and ditches. Section 1952(d) excluded the Grand River Ditch, land owned by the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, land owned by the Wincenstern-Harms Trust. Section 1953 mandates that any agreement between the National Park Service and the water supply and storage company that operates and maintains the Grand River Ditch in the park ensure that any land outside of the right-of-way corridor remain unimpaired. Section 1953(d) states that the designation of wilderness will not prohibit or affect current and future operation and maintenance activities in, under, or affecting wilderness related to the Alva B. Adams Tunnel or other Colorado – Big Thompson Project facilities within the park. Section 1953(f) prohibits new reclamation projects in the park.

The East Shore Trail Area. Section 1952(d) in PL 111-11 excluded land within the “East Shore Trail Area” from wilderness. Section 1954(e) allows for (but does not require) the construction of a multiuse trail, including nonmotorized bicycles. The trail was to maximize the opportunity for sustained use of the trail without causing harm to affected resources or conflict among users. Until construction of the trail is authorized, the area shall be managed to protect any wilderness characteristics of the area and to maintain the suitability of the area for inclusion in wilderness (§1954(d)(3)).

Designation of the Park as a Class I Airshed. A major purpose of the Clean Air Act (CAA) is “[T]o preserve, protect, and enhance the air quality in national parks, national wilderness areas, national monuments, national seashores, and other areas of special national or regional natural, recreational, scenic, or historic value” ((PL 88-206; 42 U.S.C. §7470(2)). Accordingly, the 1977 Amendments designated certain public lands as “Class I” areas, which included national parks over 6,000 acres and national wilderness areas over 5,000 acres that were in existence when the amendments were enacted. Class I is the highest level of air quality protection under the Clean Air Act. The National Park Service is to minimize air quality pollution emissions associated with park operations, including visitor use activities (NPS *Management Policies 2006* §4.7.1).

Prohibition of Commercial Air Tour Operations. Section 806 of the National Parks Air Tour Management Act of 2000 (PL 106-181) prohibits commercial air tour operations in the airspace over Rocky Mountain National Park.

Motorized Boat Use. Under 36 CFR §7.7(c) the operation of motorboats is prohibited on all waters in the park.

Snowmobiles Use. Under 36 CFR §2.18(c) the use of snowmobiles is prohibited in parks except on designated routes and water surfaces that are used by motor vehicles or motorboats. In Rocky Mountain National Park, the park is closed to snowmobile use, except for the North Supply Access Trail—snowmobiles may operate on this trail solely for the purpose of gaining access between national forest lands on the west side of the park and the town of Grand Lake on specified dates.

Use of Automobiles. The park’s 1915 enabling legislation (§4) specifically states that the regulations governing the park shall include provisions for the use of automobiles in the park.

Key Administrative Commitments

While the park has other administrative commitments that are updated regularly, listed below are the key and more perpetual commitments. This table is intended to be a changing portion of the document, and the park maintains and updates this information periodically.



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Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Eagle Rock School and Professional Development Center	General Agreement	6/7/2012	6/6/2017	Eagle Rock School	To inspire an environmental/public service ethic in the next generation in all its diversity.	
Grand County	Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	6/10/2012	Signed Record of Decision (ROD)	Grand County	Grants Cooperating Agency status during preparation of the Grand Ditch Breach Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).	
Rocky Mountain Nature Association	Cooperating Association Agreement	8/11/2011	8/10/2016	Rocky Mountain Nature Association	Provide support and assistance to the interpretive, educational, and research activities of the NPS and provide interpretive and educational materials to the public.	
Estes Park Volunteer Fire Department (EPVFD)	Cooperative Agreement	3/31/2010	9/30/2010	EPVFD	Enhancing the fire protection capability of the Estes Park area.	Can be renewed annually in writing up to a maximum of 5 years.
Grand Lake Fire Protection District (GLFPD)	Cooperative Agreement	11/23/2009	9/30/2010	GLFPD	Enhancing the fire protection capability of the Grand Lake Fire Protection District	Can be renewed annually in writing up to a maximum of 5 years.
Poudre Heritage Alliance (PHA)	Cooperative Agreement	10/13/2009	10/13/2014	PHA	Provide technical and financial assistance to the PHA regarding the development and implementation of the Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area Management Plan.	
City of Longmont	Cooperative Agreement	3/25/2008	3/24/2018	City of Longmont	Assist with the administration of Longmont inholding in Wild Basin to prevent resource damage.	
Allenspark Fire Protection District (FPD)	MOU	8/26/2010	8/25/2015	Allenspark FPD	Enhancing the fire protection capability of the Allenspark FPD	
Grand Lake Fire Protection District	General Agreement	9/22/2010	9/21/2015	Grand Lake FPD	Provide structural fire suppression and other emergency services assistance in and near the park.	
Grand County Sheriff's Office	General Agreement	5/7/2010	5/6/2015	Grand County Sheriff's Office	Mutual law enforcement and other emergency services assistance in and near Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO)	

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Estes Valley Fire Protection district	General Agreement	6/23/2010	6/22/2015	Estes Valley FPD	Provide structural fire suppression and other emergency services assistance in and near the park.	
Boulder County Sheriff's Office	General Agreement	4/27/2010	4/26/2015	Boulder County Sheriff's Office	Provide mutual law enforcement and other emergency services assistance in and near the park.	
McGraw Ranch Road Association, Inc.	General Agreement	4/6/2010	4/5/2015	McGraw Ranch Road Association	Maintenance and use of the McGraw Ranch Road.	
Fort Laramie National Historic Site (FOIA)	Mutual Understanding	3/8/2010	Does not Terminate	FOIA	ROMO livestock care and retirement at FOIA. ROMO to provide FOIA radio system maintenance and signs.	
Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW)	General Agreement	1/13/2010	9/30/2014	CPW	Elk culling program pursuant to the ROMO Elk and Vegetation Management Plan.	
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests (ARNF)	MOU	6/4/2009	6/3/2014	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	Cooperation and coordination in the achievement of mutual goals.	
Larimer County, ARNA, Colorado State Forest Service	MOU	12/8/2008	12/31/2014	Larimer County, ARNA, Colorado State Forest Service	Coordinated wildfire management	
Town of Estes Park	General Agreement	12/1/2008	11/30/2013	Town of Estes Park	Mutual law enforcement assistance in and near the park.	
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests	MOU	12/3/2008	Concurrent with Radio Frequency Authorization	ARNF	Provide for the sharing of specific radio frequencies that are authorized/licensed to each party.	
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)	Interagency Agreement	6/19/2010	6/18/2015	USFWS	Cooperative fishery and aquatic resources investigations and management within the park.	
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests	Interagency Agreement	4/28/2009	5/1/2014	U.S. Forest Service, Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center	NPS to provide funding to the U.S. Forest Service for staffing the Fort Collins Interagency Dispatch Center.	
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)	Interagency Agreement	6/11/2009	9/30/2013	NRCS	Collecting, evaluating, growing, and increasing of plant materials.	

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests	Interagency Agreement	6/25/2009	12/31/2014	ARNF	Coordination of search and rescue (SAR) on park or national forest lands.	
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)	Interagency Agreement	7/14/2009	9/1/3013	BLM	Facilitate the exchange of personnel, equipment supplies, and services.	
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests	Interagency Agreement	7/14/2009	9/1/3013	ARNF	Cooperation in accomplishing research and resource management activities. Facilitate the exchange of personnel, equipment supplies, and services.	
Rocky Mountain Research Station	Interagency Agreement	7/22/2008	8/1/2013	Rocky Mountain Research Station	Cooperation in accomplishing research. Facilitate the exchange of personnel, equipment supplies, and services.	
MacGregor Ranch Conservation Easement	Conservation Agreement	10/13/1983	Perpetuity	MacGregor Ranch Trustees	Conservation of traditional ranch.	
Lily Lake Water Rights	Stipulation and Final Judgment	6/1/2000	Perpetuity	Numerous Lily Lake partners	Preservation of water rights.	
Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River Designation	Legislation	10/30/1986	Perpetuity	Recreational users, ARNF, water users	Protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.	P.L. 99-590.
International Biosphere Reserve	Nomination and Designation	1/17/1977	Perpetuity	UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme	1) conservation of important biological resources; 2) development of environmentally sound economic growth; and 3) support for research, monitoring, education, and information exchange related to conservation issues.	
All American Road	Designation	9/1/1996	Perpetuity	U.S. Department of Transportation	Recognized by the U.S. Department of Transportation for its archeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and/or scenic qualities.	
Spur 66 ROW in park			Perpetuity	Colorado State Patrol		Original right-of-way (ROW) for Spur 66 dating back to the 1950s was never acquired by the NPS.

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Fall River Visitor Center	Master Agreement and Exhibits	11/30/1998	5/30/2025	Rocky Mountain Nature Association (RMNA), Shirley S. Scrogin Charitable Trust, H.W. Stewart, Inc., NPS	Construction, Operation and Maintenance of the Fall River Visitor Center	Exhibit "A" – Fall River Visitor Center Property Description (legal description) Exhibit "B" – Fall River Visitor Center Property Description Subject to Cross Parking Agreement (map) Exhibit "C" – Fall River Visitor Center Lease (300 month lease starting June 2000 and ending May 2025 – extension is possible – between Scrogin Trust as Lessee and the National Park Service as Lessor) Exhibit "D" – Fall River Visitor Center Cross Parking and Easement Agreement (between Scrogin Trust and Stewart, Inc.) Exhibit "E" – Fall River Visitor Center maintenance Agreement (between Stewart, Inc., Scrogin Trust and National Park Service).
Prospect Mountain Telecommunications Site	ROW	3/29/1963	Perpetuity	NPS	Radio Transmission Station	Transferred Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) ROW measuring 225 ft. by 270 ft. (1.39 ac.) to NPS.
Prospect Mountain Access Road - Heron	Contract and Grant of Easement			Heron, LLC	Use of existing roadway for access to Prospect Mountain telecommunications site.	
Prospect Mountain Access road - BOR	MOU	1/1/1963	Perpetuity	NPS	Grants NPS permission to operate and maintain an underground and aboveground power line. Also permission to use Reclamation operation and maintenance road which services the Prospect Mountain Tunnel surge tank.	
Reserved Water Rights – East	Decree	10/10/1994	Perpetuity	Department of Justice (DOJ), State of Colorado, water users	Water right seniority dating to 1915.	
Reserved Water rights - West	Decree	10/10/2000	Perpetuity	DOJ, State of Colorado, water users	Absolute water rights for the Colorado River drainage	

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Bureau of Reclamation	Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)	4/12/1938	Perpetuity	Reclamation, Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (NCWCD)	No surface construction within the boundaries of the park where they were located at the time.	
Air Tour Ban	Legislation	10/21/1998	Perpetuity	Air tour operators, Federal Aviation Association (FAA).	Bans commercial air tours over the park.	P.L. 106-181. Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) 78.
Wilderness Designation	Legislation	4/30/2009	Perpetuity	American public and numerous interest group stakeholders	To secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness.	P.L. 111-11.
Continental Divide National Scenic Trail	Legislation	11/10/1978	Perpetuity	American public and numerous interest group stakeholders	To promote the preservation of, public access to, travel within, and enjoyment and appreciation of the open-air, outdoor areas, and historic resources of the Nation.	P.L. 90-543 and P.L. 95-625, as amended through P.L. 111-11. U.S.C. 16 §1241-1251.
Grand Ditch	ROW	1800s	Perpetuity	Water Supply and Storage Company, City of Greeley, City of Fort Collins, City of Thornton	Transmountain water diversion from the Upper Colorado River Basin to the Poudre River Basin at La Poudre Pass	Excused from wilderness. See P.L. 111-11.
County Road 491	ROW	Varies	Perpetuity	Grand County. Landowners served by Colorado Road (C.R.) 491.	Access to public and private property	The NPS never acquired the ROW for approximately 2/3 the length of C.R. 491 in the park.
C.R. 49 and C.R. 491 – Maintenance	General Agreement	9/25/2012	9/24/2017	Grand County Road and Bridge	Provide assistance to Grand County Department of Road and Bridge for winter maintenance on C.R. 49 and C.R. 491.	
Grand Lake Cemetery	Permit	5/12/1997	Perpetuity	Town of Grand Lake	Access to and use of the Grand Lake Cemetery.	
Grand Lake Snowmobile Trail	Final Rule	9/2/2004	Perpetuity	Town of Grand Lake, Snowmobile related businesses	To designate a snowmobile route within the park.	Amends 36 CFR part 7. Specific to ROMO.
Ballanger Life Estate	Deed	10/22/1986	Life Estate	B.G. and Wanda Ballanger		
Provision for Automobile Use	Legislation	1/26/1915	Perpetuity		The regulations governing the park shall include provisions for the use of automobiles therein (U.S.C. Title 16 § 195).	

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Removal of Timber	Legislation	1/26/1915	Perpetuity		Arrange for the removal of such mature or dead or down timber as may be necessary and advisable for the protection and improvement of the park.	
Leasing Authority	Legislation	1/26/1915	Perpetuity		Execute leases to parcels of ground not exceeding 20 acres in extent in any one place to any person or company for not to exceed 20 years whenever such ground is necessary for the erection of establishments for the accommodation of visitors.	
Nitrogen Deposition Reduction Plan	Policy Resolution	12/1/2009		Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment	Reduce the rate of nitrogen deposition in the park.	
Continental Divide Research Learning Center				Continental Divide Research Learning Center	Facilitate research efforts and provide educational opportunities.	
East Shore Trail - non-wilderness	Legislation	3/30/2009	If a decision is made not to build a bicycle trail	Wilderness advocacy groups, Headwaters Trails Alliance, International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA), Grand County, and Grand Lake	To allow consideration of bicycle use on the East Shore Trail.	
Colorado Cessation of Jurisdiction 1929	State Statute	2/9/2029	Perpetuity	State of Colorado, private inholders	Ceded exclusive jurisdiction to the United States.	Accepted by act of Congress on 3/2/29 (45 Stat. 1536).
Colorado Cessation of Jurisdiction 1962	State Statute	4/21/1961	Perpetuity	State of Colorado, private inholders	Ceded exclusive jurisdiction to the United States for lands added since 1929.	Accepted by Secretary of the Interior on 2/1/62.
Specimen Ditch ROW	ROW	1800s	Perpetuity	Water Supply and Storage Company, City of Greeley, City of Fort Collins, City of Thornton	Transmountain water diversion from the Upper Colorado River basin to the Poudre River basin at La Poudre Pass.	

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Access Road Through MacGregor Ranch	Executor's Deed	1/30/1976	Perpetuity	NPS, MacGregor Ranch	Acquisition of 393.38 ac. in Black Canyon.	Included conveyance of an access easement over the existing road along Black Canyon Creek. There are no limitations on use of the access easement in the deed. Town of Estes Park has an interest in the access road as well.
Access Trail Through MacGregor Ranch – Gem Lake	ROW	10/13/1983	Perpetuity	MacGregor Ranch Trustees	Conveyed trail ROW to NPS for Gem Lake Trail.	ROMO Tract No. 10-101.
Access Trail Through MacGregor Ranch – Black Canyon	ROW	10/13/1983	Perpetuity	MacGregor Ranch Trustees	Conveyed trail ROW to NPS for Black Canyon Trail.	ROMO Tract No. 10-105.
Access Trail Through MacGregor Ranch – Twin Owls Connector Trail	ROW	10/13/1983	Perpetuity	MacGregor Ranch Trustees	Conveyed trail ROW to NPS for "MacGregor Ranch Trail."	ROMO Tract No. 10-104. This became the Twin Owls Connector Trail between the Lumpy Ridge Trailhead and Twin Owls.
Liveries within the park	Concession Contract	1/1/2002	12/31/2016	High Country Stables		
Trail Ridge Store	Concession Contract	1/1/2007	12/31/2016	Xanterra Parks and Resorts		
Shuttle Bus Contract	Transit Contract	1/1/2013	4/30/2023	McDonalds Transit		
Reclamation – NPS Administration of West Portal				Reclamation	Provides for the park to administer 80 acres of Reclamation land at the West Portal of the Alva B. Adams Tunnel as a trailhead parking area for the East Inlet Trail.	
Estes Valley Land Trust (EVLТ)	MOA	4/4/2012	4/3/2017	EVLТ	Coordinating and accomplishing land protection activities intended to benefit Rocky Mountain National Park.	
Early warning systems in park						
SnowTel Sites in park NRCS. Snowcourses						

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Wincenstsen-Harms Trust	Legislation	11/29/1989	Perpetuity	Wincenstsen-Harms Trust	Authorized the Secretary to enter into an agreement with the owner to ensure the right of use as a single family residence, unless the tracts are being developed or are proposed for development that would substantially change its use.	P.L. 101-192.
Wincenstsen-Harms Trust	Legislation	4/30/2009	Perpetuity	Wincenstsen-Harms Trust	Excluded from Wilderness Designation.	
Camp Timberline Access	Prescriptive Easement	Unknown	Perpetuity	Camp Timberline	Provides road access to Camp Timberline.	Access road goes through the Longs Peak Campground.
Norman Nesbit Access	Prescriptive Easement	Unknown	Perpetuity	Norman Nesbit	Provides road access to Norman/Sarah Nesbit Property.	Access road goes through the Longs Peak Trailhead parking lot.
Lily Lake replenishment water rights and Lois Smith						
St. Vrain and Left Hand WCD	General Agreement	2/4/2013	2/3/2018	St. Vrain and Left Hand WCD	Assist with land management	
Colorado (?) State Historic Preservation Office						
BMVC National Landmark						
William Allen White Cabin						
Corral Creek Ranger Station						
Class I Airshed	Legislation	8/7/1977	Perpetuity	State of Colorado.	The preservation of any future, and the remedying of any existing, impairment of visibility in mandatory Federal Class I areas which impairment results from manmade air pollution.	1977 Clean Air Act § 169A (91 Stat. 685, P.L. 95-95).
Rocky Mountain Nature Association	General Agreement	4/12/2007	Concurrent with Co-operating Association Agreement	Rocky Mountain Nature Association	Agreement to Authorize Educational Programs.	
Cairns Ranch LLC	Boundary Fence Agreement	8/18/2005	None	Cairns Ranch LLC.	Accommodate existing fence on NPS property.	
Sister Parks						
Globally Important Bird Area	Designation	10/24/2001	Perpetuity	American Bird Conservancy	Significant for world bird conservation.	

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Leiffer property leasing authority	Legislation	3/30/2009	Perpetuity		Provides leasing authority for the Lieffer tract.	P.L. 111-11.
Green Pipeline						
Water rights and diversions not owned by NPS					There are a number of water rights and diversions located within the park that are owned by outside entities. Refer to separate water rights records for specific information.	
Grand Lake Lodge Signs	Special Use Permit (SUP)	12/21/2010	12/20/2015	Grand Lake Lodge	Establish and maintain four single-sided signs on Trail Ridge Road in the vicinity of the Grand Lake Lodge entrance.	Issued to Grand Lake Ventures, LLC.
Forsyth Inholding	SUP	10/1/2011	9/30/2016	Stephen and Judith Forsyth	Right to use Niwot Cabin in Moraine park (owned by NPS) until a land exchange can be completed between the Permittee and the NPS.	
Grand County National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP)Site	SUP	10/1/2011	9/30/2016	Grand County and other partners	Installation, operation and maintenance of a NADP station.	10m x 10m area located east of Trail Ridge Road and more specifically described as UTM NAD 83 Zone 13N Easting 429468 Northing 4457012.
Town of Grand Lake Snowmobile Crossing	SUP	3/1/2011	2/29/2016	Town of Grand Lake and snowmobile businesses	Installation and maintenance of a snowmobile crossing warning sign, warning light, and appurtenances.	Warning sign and light are installed prior to the start of the snowmobile season each year and are removed at the conclusion of the season.
Grand Lake Lodge Water Facilities	SUP	12/21/2010	12/20/2015	Grand Lake Lodge	Continuing use of present water facilities	Right of use of 2-in domestic waterline within a 3975 ft by 6 ft area extending from Tonahutu Creek to the park boundary. Includes right to use 0.8 mi of service road extending from the Harbison Ditch to the park boundary.
Grand Lake Lodge Access	SUP	12/21/2010	12/20/2015	Grand Lake Lodge	Access road to the Grand Lake Lodge from Trail Ridge Road.	24 ft wide by 732 ft long. Issued to Grand Lake Ventures, LLC.
UTSD Sewer	ROW	8/27/2009	8/26/2019	UTSD	Operate and maintain existing sewer interceptor line.	

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date	Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Town of Estes Park Electric	ROW	7/17/2002	7/16/1952	Town of Estes Park	Installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead and underground electrical lines	Powerlines serve NPS and private inholders on the east side of ROMO.
Mountain Parks Electric	ROW	7/17/2002	7/16/1952	Mountain Parks Electric	Installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead and underground electrical lines	Power lines serve NPS and private inholders on the west side of ROMO
ComCast of Colorado	ROW	3/29/2004	3/28/1954	ComCast of Colorado	Installation, operation, and maintenance of underground cables at CRD.	
Century Link (Qwest)	ROW	5/29/2008	5/28/1958	Century Link	Installation, operation, and maintenance of overhead and underground communication lines at CRD.	Communications lines serve NPS and private inholders on the west side of ROMO.
Prohibition on Motorized Boat Use	Regulation			Anglers, researchers, park staff	The operation of motorboats is prohibited on all waters in the park.	36 CFR §7.7(c).
Black Canyon Water Treatment Plant				Town of Estes Park	Estes Park Black Canyon water treatment plant is deactivated to protect water quality. (?)	Park inholding
Cascade Dam on Fall River				Town of Estes Park	ROMO provided water rights (and Western Area Power Administration power?) in exchange for the Town not using water rights and a diversion at Cascade Dam to reactivate the historic Fall River Hydroelectric Plant following the 1982 Lawn Lake Flood.	

*ROW- Right of Way, SUP- Special Use Permit, IA- Interagency Agreement

Appendix E. Excerpts from “Building Blocks for Wilderness Stewardship – Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness”

History of Wilderness Designation

“The Wilderness Act is a vision of a ‘wilderness forever future’ protected by law. It is the result of a community of visionary conservationists including Aldo Leopold who penned the land ethic, Benton McKaye who envisioned the Appalachian Trail, Bob Marshall who established the Wilderness Society, and Howard Zahniser who was the primary author and advocate of the wilderness legislation. These people, and many others, contributed to the vision of a system of wild lands protected with the most permanent protection our country can give to its public lands¹.” On September 3, 1964, Lyndon B. Johnson signed The Wilderness Act into law, under which areas designated as wilderness,

“... shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character...” (The Wilderness Act - Public Law 88-577 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136))

The Wilderness Act also mandated that the Secretary of Interior examine areas larger than 5,000 acres for their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System. Rocky Mountain National Park completed a wilderness study in 1973, and the Rocky Mountain Wilderness Recommendation was completed in 1974, proposing,

“... a plan for the establishment of a Wilderness with five units totaling 239,835 acres within Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, in accordance with the Wilderness Act of 1964. A total of 5,169 more acres are recommended for potential wilderness addition, to be added to the wilderness at which time they qualify.” (Final Environmental Statement Wilderness Recommendation (FES 74-36))

The proposed acres comprised 91.5% of the total area of the park at the time. These five units consisted of the (1) Mummy Range Unit of 83,920 acres, including two research natural areas, (2) Never Summer Unit, including 9,500 acres of the Never Summer Mountains, (3) Trail Ridge Unit between Trail Ridge and Fall River roads, (4) Enos Mills Unit, with 139,915 acres of some of the most popular backcountry destinations and glacial areas, and the (5) Meadow Mountain Unit, of 2,200 acres in the southeast corner of the park.

On December 22, 1980, the Colorado National Forest Wilderness Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-560) transferred 2,959 acres of existing wilderness from the U.S. Forest Service Indian Peaks Wilderness to Rocky Mountain National Park, but the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness recommendation remained in limbo for 35 years after its 1974 proposal. In January 2009, Senator Udall of Colorado introduced The Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness and Indian Peaks Wilderness Expansion Act,

“to include in the National Wilderness Preservation System certain land within the Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado, to protect— (A) the enduring scenic and historic wilderness character and unique wildlife values of the land; and (B) the scientific, educational, inspirational, and recreational resources, values, and opportunities of the land.” (111 S. 190 IS)

This bill was never voted on, but 249,339 acres were officially designated under the Omnibus Public Land Management Act (P.L. 111-11), passed by Congress on March 30, 2009 (attached below). This Act is a compilation of over 160 pieces of legislation, and added 2.1 million acres to the National Wilderness Preservation System.

¹“Wilderness Education and Interpretation Resource Notebook,” (2004) National Park Service



NPS photo



NPS photo by John Marino

Current Land Status

The Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness is comprised of 252,085 acres, about 95% of the total area of the park. It is bordered by the Indian Peaks Wilderness to the south, the Never Summer Wilderness to the west, the Neota Wilderness to the north, and the Comanche Peak Wilderness to the north. Wilderness areas are to possess the following characteristics (as identified in the Wilderness Act):

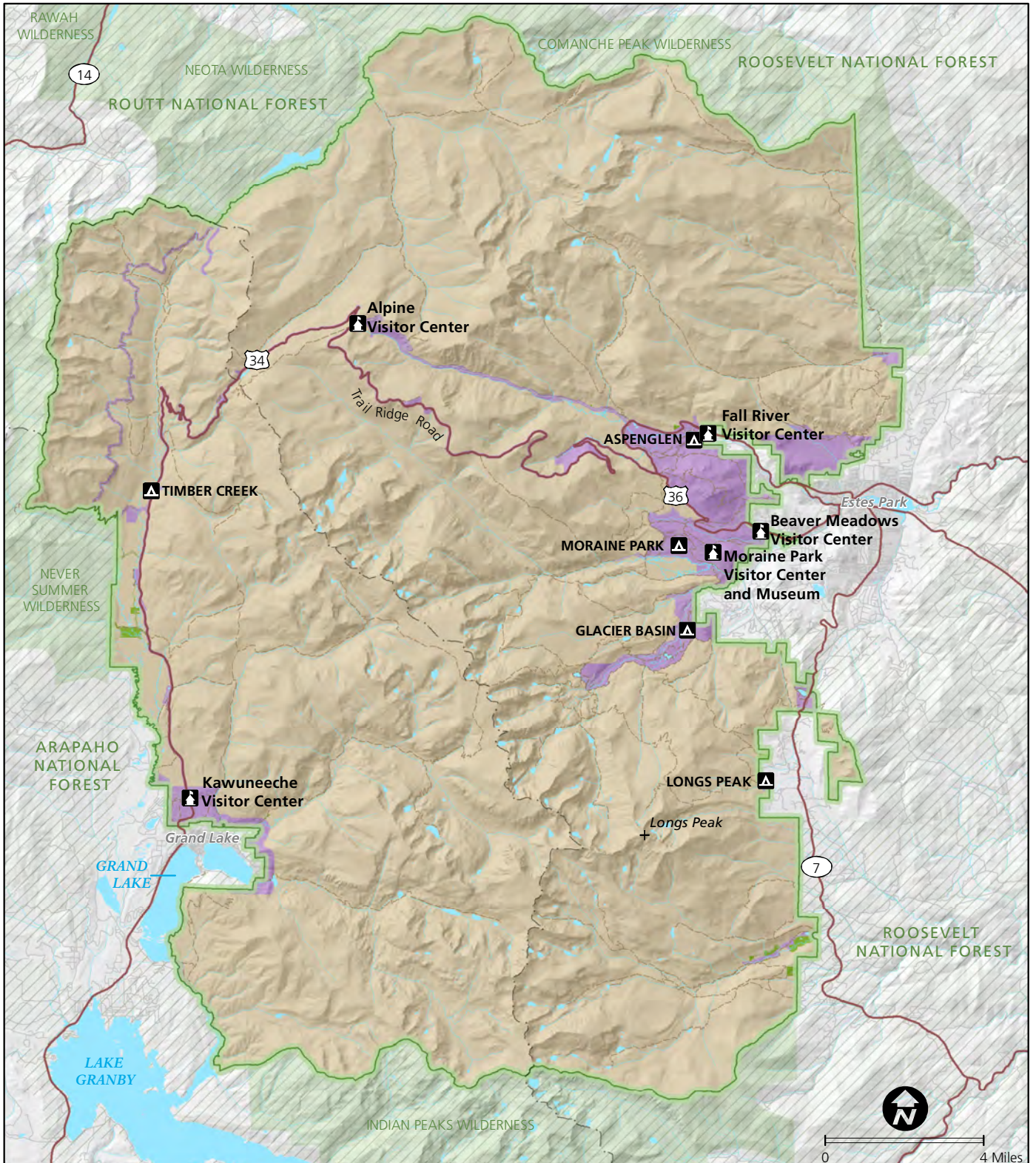
- The earth and its community of life are untrammeled by humans, where humans are visitors and do not remain;
- The area is undeveloped and retains its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation;
- The area generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of humans' work substantially unnoticeable;
- The area is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions; and
- The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation.

The Rocky Mountain National Park is designated as a UNESCO International Biosphere Reserve. The wilderness also contains 14 of the 75 miles the Cache la Poudre, designated as a Wild and Scenic River in 1986.













Many inholdings still exist within the park, but the park has taken an active role in converting these areas to park ownership. None of the inholdings are located within designated wilderness. The majority of inholdings are around Moraine Park, in Wild Basin, and the west side of the park. The Park maintains a complete list of inholdings.

A map is provided below, and for more detailed boundary descriptions and maps, see Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Boundary Descriptions (2010).





Legend

-  Campgrounds
-  Visitor Centers
-  Continental Divide
-  Major Roads
-  Trails
-  Lakes
-  National Forest
-  Park Boundary
-  National Forest Wilderness
-  Non-Wilderness
-  Designated Wilderness
-  Potential Wilderness

Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness

Colorado
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Relationship to Other Policies and Programs

Several policies and programs could affect or would be influenced by wilderness stewardship planning at Rocky Mountain National Park.

The 2006 National Park Service Management Policies mandate the preservation of wilderness character. Section 6.1, states: “The purpose of wilderness in the national parks includes the preservation of wilderness character and wilderness resources in an unimpaired condition. . .” Section 6.3.1 states: “In addition to managing these areas for the preservation of the physical wilderness resources, planning for these areas must ensure that the wilderness character is preserved.”

The Rocky Mountain National Park Master Plan was written in 1976. The master plan outlines the following broad goal for park management:

“The park experience, now and in the future, should be a dynamic interaction of human values based on the perpetuation of natural features in as near to pristine conditions as possible. This plan recognizes man, where present, as part of the park’s ecosystem, but the major emphasis is on the perpetuation of natural processes.” (Master Plan 1976)

The Wilderness/Backcountry Management Plan was written in 2001. Several topics have arisen since its implementation that may need to be addressed in future planning efforts, such as visitor use, climate change, commercial use, backcountry campsite management, the crosscut saw program, and emerging technology and recreational activities.

Wilderness stewardship planning is meant to complement and operate in conjunction with other park planning efforts. It also values the wilderness resource in a more holistic way, including experiential, scenic, natural, wild, and other qualities. Existing programmatic plans that have a relationship with wilderness stewardship planning include: the Trail Plan, Commercial Horse Use Plan (1993), Bark Beetle Management Plan (2005), Vegetation Restoration Plan (2006), Invasive Exotic Plant Management Plan(2003), Elk and Vegetation Management Plan (2008), Fire Management Plan (2012), and the Grand Ditch Breech Restoration Plan (current).

Programs, such as the NPS Inventory and Monitoring Program (I&M Program), also play an important role in and have a connection to wilderness character assessment, monitoring, and planning. Rocky Mountain National Park is part of the Rocky Mountain Network (ROMN). The ROMN monitors vital signs related to landscape dynamics, climate, air and water quality, and species and communities. These vital signs are in various stages of protocol completion and data gathering.



NPS photo by Ann Schonlau

NPS photo

Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Character Narrative

The Rocky Mountain Wilderness is a land of dynamism and variation. Characterized by the mighty presence of the rugged southern Rockies, these stalwart mountains are the product of almost 2 billion years of continual change. Pressure and heat from tectonic plate movement and repeated uplifting and erosional cycles produced the diverse types and ages of rocks we see today. As the climate changed, glaciers carved fresh shapes and scars as well as deposited new rock and debris into the valleys.

Even today, this wilderness is in constant flux. During the summer, lakes and other popular destinations bustle with visitors seeking a connection with nature and the freedom of an unstructured environment. As the autumnal bugling of rutting elk fades into winter, quiet settles on the wilderness, and skiers and snowshoers enjoy the serenity and stillness brought on by the white blankets of snow that shroud the landscape, until spring thaws release sounds of rushing water and bring new life to the southern Rockies.

An incredible variety exists within the 252,085 acres of the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness. The Continental Divide runs north to south through the wilderness and contrasts the wetter climate and smoother faces of the western slope with the drier rugged terrain to the east. Due to the steepness of the landscape, communities change rapidly with elevation. One can experience the warm scent of ponderosa pines, sun-dappled meadows and golden groves of aspen in lower elevations, the harsh climate and tiny bold plants of the distinctive alpine tundra, or the brilliant austerity of the glacial zones.

The dynamic mosaic of landscapes within Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness serves as a haven and escape for visitors from around the globe, as well as those in the quickly growing urban areas near the park. The park has been designated a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and researchers worldwide and from surrounding universities come to study and learn here. The unique accessibility of this wilderness provides a wide array of recreational and educational opportunities to millions of people.

The following narrative describes the four qualities of wilderness character as they pertain to the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness.



Natural Quality. *Wilderness maintains ecological systems that are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization*

The Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness protects a diverse and dynamic ecosystem. Three major ecological biomes exist within the park's wilderness: montane, subalpine, and tundra, the latter of which is the best representation of tundra in the southern Rockies. This wilderness harbors some of the oldest peat fens in the world as well as exemplary glacial features. Over one third of the wilderness is above treeline and includes 60 peaks above 12,000 feet. Four major river basins originate in the park, including the Colorado River that provides water to 19 states. In addition, the Cache la Poudre is the only designated Wild and Scenic River in Colorado. The natural quality of the Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness is recognized by the American Bird Conservancy and is a Colorado Watchable Wildlife Site. Moreover, it is designated as a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve and includes three Research Natural Areas. Researchers from surrounding universities and around the world come to study this wilderness for its value as an ecological reference baseline and to obtain data of high global and regional significance.

The variety of habitats within the park supports over one thousand species of plants and many species of animals from large mammals, such as moose and elk, to insects and organisms. The loss of natural predators, including the gray wolf and the grizzly bear, has contributed to considerable increases in the elk population. Today, the elk population within the park fluctuates between 1,000 and 3,200 animals, according to season, with a detrimental impact to the vegetation on which they feed. Although the large elk population is damaging aspen and willow communities, the park's culling projects and construction of enclosures are restoring vegetative communities and hydrologic function to the park's meadows.

Climate change is one of the greatest threats to the natural quality of wilderness character. The park has become a proverbial "canary in the coalmine," as changes in climate here are indicative of regional and global change. In particular, high elevation species in the park will be most affected by climate change as a result of habitat loss. For example, Pika habitat is being driven farther up mountain peaks and the current infestation of mountain pine and spruce beetle is causing widespread loss of conifer species. This has attracted scientists to Rocky Mountain National Park to study the effects of climate change on the park's ecological systems.

The Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness provides a refuge for several threatened, endangered, and sensitive species such as the Canada lynx and wolverine that face threats from habitat loss. Currently, the park's biodiversity is threatened by exotic and invasive species. Vegetative species such as knapweed, leafy spurge, and yellow toadflax pose concerns for park management. The widespread and invasive chytrid fungus is causing declines in boreal toad populations. However, a newly discovered population of Boreal Toads provides optimism that this important species will continue to proliferate. The park is also working to restore native Colorado River and Greenback Cutthroat trout and remove exotic fish from lakes and streams that are remnants of previous fish-stocking activities.

Anthropogenic activities from the surrounding area, and sometimes from within the park, also effect the natural quality of Rocky Mountain National Park's Wilderness. Clean air is a positive value provided by the park's wilderness; however, pollution from Denver and the Front Range area contribute to increased levels of ozone, nitrogen deposition, and reduced visibility within the park. High levels of visitor use can disturb sensitive species, contribute to soil erosion, and cause long term damage to alpine tundra. Clearly, managing for both use and preservation in this wilderness setting is a challenging task for park managers. Despite the challenges presented here the diversity of Rocky Mountain National Park's Wilderness still supports functioning resilient ecosystems that emanate biologic and geologic wonder.

Untrammeled Quality: *Wilderness is essentially unhindered and free from modern human actions that control or manipulate the community of life*

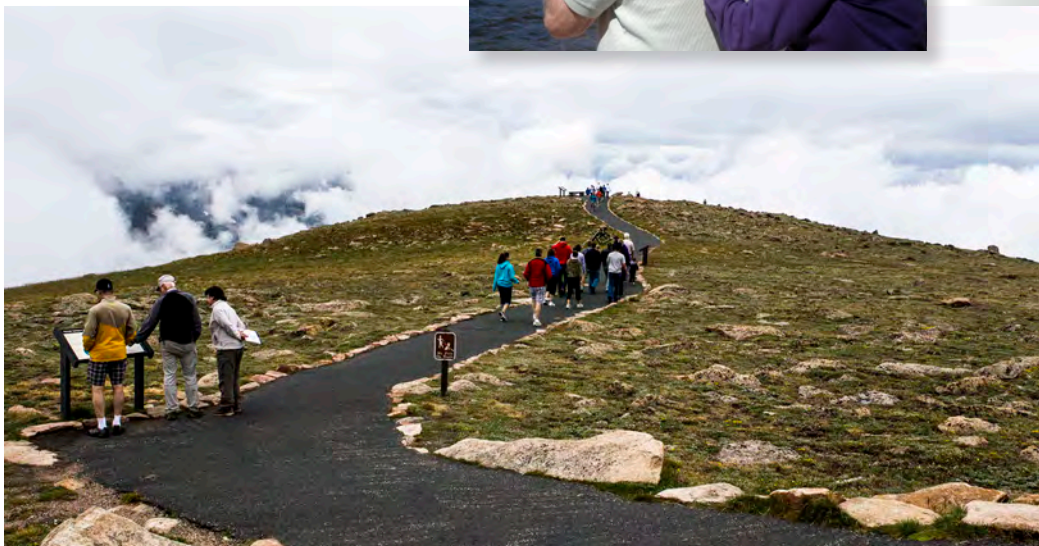
Historically, the land protected within Rocky Mountain National Park's Wilderness has accommodated a variety of human uses including recreation, farming and ranching, hunting, and mining. Detrimental impacts caused by historical uses that would now be considered incompatible with park purposes have prompted park management to consider actions to correct for past uses. Park managers are challenged to balance the consequences and outcomes of management actions vs. non-actions and the resulting implications to the park's wilderness character. The untrammeled quality of wilderness asks park managers to practice restraint when considering actions within wilderness.

Many ecological systems within the park are returning to their natural state and show fewer disruptive impacts from human effects. For example, aspen and willow communities are improving as a result of the park's Elk and Vegetation Management Plan and the hydrologic regime in Big Meadows has been restored to mitigate for previous agricultural practices. Actions to restore these areas cause short term effects to the untrammeled quality of wilderness, however, the successful outcome of these projects ensure that future interventions will not be necessary and the long term protection of the untrammeled quality of the park's wilderness.

In much of this wilderness nature reins autonomously and the sense of wildness is remarkable. The forces of nature are evident in the primal interactions of animals, glacial scars, and the freeze-thaw erosional cycles that shape the landscape. Prescribed fire, research activities, and restoration projects are aimed at improving natural quality of Rocky Mountain National Park's Wilderness, one of the values it was established to protect. Ideally, as these ecosystems return to a more natural condition, some of these activities can be reduced.



NPS photo by John Marino



NPS photo by Ann Schonlau

Undeveloped Quality. *Wilderness retains its primeval character and influence, and is essentially without permanent improvements or modern human occupation*

Bordering the heavily populated and rapidly growing Front Range Urban Corridor, Rocky Mountain National Park's Wilderness remains a wild and untamed area that provides visitors respite from structured, demanding lives and encroaching development. The land within the park is primarily undeveloped and provides a primitive setting for visitors to experience. In recent years the park has removed many non-historic structures including dams, old irrigation reservoirs, roofed pit toilets, lodges, and ski lifts which have improved the undeveloped quality. However, some developments still exist within the park's wilderness. Structures such as radio repeaters, patrol cabins, informational signs, horse corrals and hitchrails were established before the park's wilderness designation and provide important administrative functions. Many cabins and shelters are historic and these structures, along with other cultural resources, contribute positively to park's wilderness character. The cabins and structures within the park's wilderness, such as the Agnes-Vaille shelter below Longs Peak, foster connections to people and the early history of Rocky Mountain National Park. In addition, the park maintains a system of established campsites and some privies throughout the park to accommodate recreational demand. Structures affect the undeveloped quality of wilderness and as such the park strives to maintain a rustic character to structures in the wilderness to minimize their aesthetic effects.

Scientific research is an important activity in the park and a stated purpose of the Wilderness Act. A variety of research takes place in the park and some involve the installation of equipment to collect data. Data collected from monitoring stations and research activities allow park managers to make informed decisions to protect the park's natural and cultural resources. Most scientific equipment is installed for less than one year; however, there are some long term scientific installations in the park's wilderness. For example, the air, water, and weather monitoring equipment installed at Loch Vale in 1983 provides important data about climate change and is an important source of information towards statewide air quality policy. The park's natural resource division has developed a spatial database to track the location of all current scientific installations in the park to ensure that researchers are accountable for their equipment.

Opportunity for Solitude or Primitive and Unconfined Recreation. *Wilderness provides outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation*

Rocky Mountain National Park's Wilderness is an exceptionally accessible and popular natural area. The park is adjacent to Estes Park, about a 1 hour drive from the cities of Boulder and Fort Collins, and less than 2 hours from Denver. Approximately four million people live along the neighboring Front Range Urban Corridor and in 2011 the park's annual visitation was 3.28 million people. This accessibility is both a unique value and a challenge for park managers trying to maintain the park's wilderness character. Despite the high levels of use throughout the park there are still abundant opportunities for visitors to find solitude and a variety of primitive and unconfined recreation experiences.

During the summer months, popular trailheads like Bear Lake, Wild Basin, and Longs Peak accommodate high levels of day use visitors. However, there are many less used trailheads where visitors can escape from crowds and find solitude just minutes up the trail. The park also manages overnight use through a permitting system to ensure a variety of experiences are available throughout the park. Overnight campers can choose a variety of recreation opportunities in the park's wilderness during the summer including camping in designated sites, cross-country zones, and bivy zones for technical rock climbers. To promote solitude, designated campsites are located out of sight from trails and other campsites and only a few campsites are located within a drainage. For example, the Glacier Gorge drainage teams with day users but there is only one overnight campsite available. Thus, outstanding opportunities for an intimate and personal experience in this often busy area are available for overnight campers. Cross-country camping zones without designated campsites provide opportunities for visitors who seek more primitive and self-reliant wilderness experiences. Similarly, overnight user during the winter months are not required to camp in designate sites and are free to choose their camping sites.

The rugged landscape, high altitude, and ever changing weather in the park's wilderness provide a dramatic landscape where visitors can challenge themselves. Moreover, the ruggedness of the park exacerbates the remoteness of the landscape because of the difficulty to access many areas in the park's wilderness. Park administration provides detailed and extensive safety, awareness, and outdoor ethics consultation through a variety of messaging outlets to proactively prevent emergency situations and the need for emergency response operations. However, visitors are sometimes overwhelmed by the ruggedness of the park and emergency response is required to provide for visitor safety. All efforts are made to extricate injured visitors without mechanized equipment but helicopters are needed at times to transport severely injured visitors to nearby medical facilities.

Due to the park's popularity and high use, administrative actions are sometimes needed to protect natural/cultural resources. Trails and campsites need to be cleared of downed trees in the springtime and closure signs need to be installed to protect wildlife habitats from disturbance. To reduce the use of motorized tools the park is developing a cross-cut saw program to ensure that visitors will not be disturbed by unnecessary noise during their visit to the wilderness. The use of crosscut saws and manual tools strengthens park staff's connection to the land, perpetuates traditional skills, and ensures that park operations do not compromise opportunities for solitude and primitive experiences.

Some activities that occur outside of the park's wilderness can impact opportunities for solitude and the primitive setting of wilderness. Sights and sounds from roads, light pollution, and overhead aircraft are all reminders of urban society. Many issues such as these are beyond the control of park management, however, there exists some opportunities for park management to improve the park's wilderness character and visitors' experiences. For example, Rocky Mountain National Park is the only park in the National Park Service to have a legislatively imposed ban on commercial overflights. More recently, the park is collaborating with the Federal Aviation Administration to consolidate flight paths over Trail Ridge Road to minimize airplane noise over much of the park's wilderness.

There is a wide range of opportunities for visitors in Rocky Mountain National Park's Wilderness. Some people like to feel dwarfed and humbled at the base of a daunting mountain range while some like to conquer mountain peaks and soak in the vast splendor below. There is opportunity to find utter isolation as well as share experiences other while witnessing a rare wildlife interaction or an exquisite sunset. Those who know this park well have their favorite wilderness retreats, accessible by foot, snowshoe, ski, rope, crampon, or horseback. There is a rich history of mountaineering, climbing, and hiking in the area, which has fostered communities that support and value these activities. Despite heavy visitor use in portions of the park, the majority of Rocky Mountain National Park's wilderness offers vast opportunities for solitude, renewal, and the chance to test oneself against the challenges of the wildest aspects of nature.

Appendix F. Cache la Poudre- Wild and Scenic River Values Statements

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act

In 1968, Congress passed the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The act “declared to be the policy of the United States that certain selected rivers of the Nation, which with their immediate environments, possess outstandingly remarkable scenic, recreational, geologic, fish and wildlife, historic, cultural, or other similar values, shall be preserved in free-flowing condition, and that they and their immediate environments shall be protected for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.”

Under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, designated rivers are classified as wild, scenic, or recreational. The classifications primarily relate to the degree of development along the river. Regardless of the classification, each designated river in the national system is to be managed in a way that protects and enhances the values that prompted its designation. According to the act, the three classifications are defined as follows:

- “Wild” river areas – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments and generally inaccessible except by trail, with watersheds or shorelines essentially primitive and waters unpolluted. These represent vestiges of primitive America.
- “Scenic” river areas – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are free of impoundments, with shorelines or watersheds still largely primitive and shorelines largely undeveloped, but accessible in places by roads.
- “Recreational” river areas – Those rivers or sections of rivers that are readily accessible by road or railroad that may have some shoreline development and that may have undergone some impoundment or diversion in the past.

The Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River Designation

In 1986, Congress designated 75 miles of the Cache la Poudre River as a component of the national wild and scenic river system (P.L. 99-590). As of June 2012, it is Colorado’s first National and only Wild and Scenic River. Thirty miles are classified as “wild,” and forty-five miles are classified as “recreational.” Fourteen miles of the “wild” segment are within Rocky Mountain National Park, and sixteen miles of the “wild” segment and forty-five miles of the “recreational” segment are within Roosevelt National Forest, which is administered by the U.S. Forest Service.

The Cache La Poudre River is located east of the Continental Divide, in the northern Front Range of Colorado. The “wild” segment of the river starts at Poudre Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park, then flows north and east through the Comanche Peak Wilderness in the Roosevelt National Forest. The river eventually passes through the City of Fort Collins, and then joins the South Platte River east of Greeley.

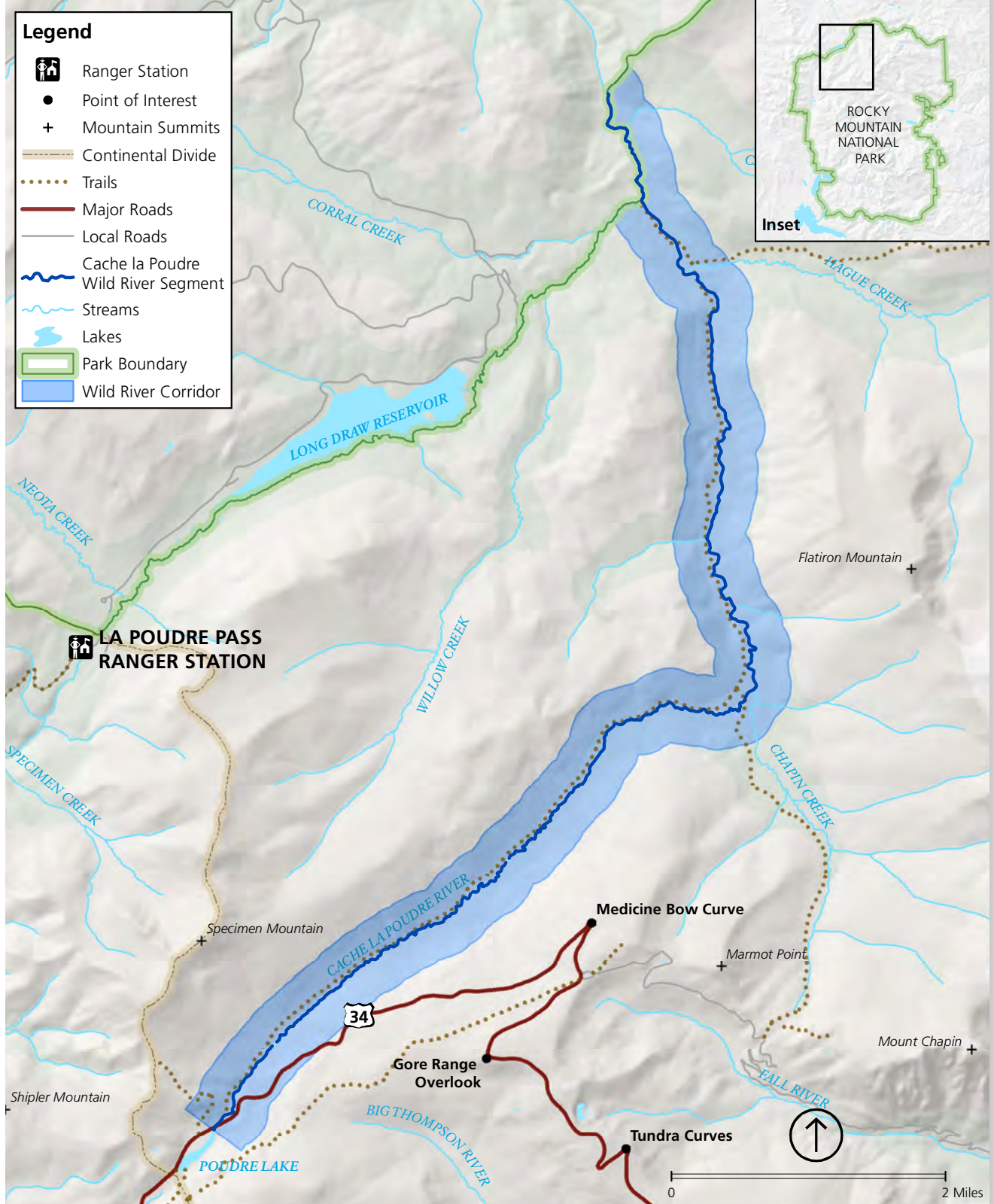
The National Park Service has delineated the wild and scenic river corridor boundary within Rocky Mountain National Park based on the requirements of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The act states that the corridor width cannot exceed an average of 320 acres per mile, or an average of 0.25 miles from the banks on both sides of the river; although, boundaries can be wider or narrower in places as long as no more than 320 acres per mile are included. Boundaries are measured from the ordinary high water mark. The river corridor boundary within the park was created using geographic information system (GIS) technology. The active river channel was first digitized using high-resolution aerial imagery. The active channel was then buffered 0.25 mile on each side of the river. The following map illustrates the established boundary. The total size for this portion of the Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River designation equals 3,234 acres.

The 2009 wilderness designation overlaps the Wild and Scenic River designation except at the headwaters area adjacent to Trail Ridge Road.

Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River

Rocky Mountain National Park
Colorado

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Wild and Scenic River Values

Outstandingly remarkable values (ORVs) are defined by the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as the characteristics that make a river worthy of special protection. In addition, free-flowing condition and water quality are also integral to the protection of wild and scenic rivers. Because free-flowing condition and water quality support the integrity of the ORVs and are key components for future management, they are included as part of this statement. Thus, the foundation for wild and scenic river management is a clearly defined set of ORVs, free-flow condition, and water quality.

The Interagency Wild and Scenic Rivers Coordinating Council has issued criteria for identifying and defining outstandingly remarkable values. The criteria guidance states that:

An ORV must be *river related or dependent*. This means that a value must be located in the river or on its immediate shorelands (generally within 0.25 mile on either side of the river) contribute substantially to the functioning of the river ecosystem owe its location or existence to the presence of the river

An ORV must be *rare, unique, or exemplary* at a comparative regional or national scale. Such a value would be one that is a conspicuous example from among a number of similar values that are themselves uncommon or extraordinary. The Cache la Poudre was compared to similar high-elevation rivers in the southern Rocky Mountains.

Based on this criteria, the National Park Service has determined the wild segment of the Cache la Poudre River in Rocky Mountain National Park contain the following set of ORVs: scenic, recreational, cultural, and ecological. A description for each of these values is provided below, followed by a description of the river's free-flowing condition and water quality:

Scenic. The Cache la Poudre River carves its way through a wide, expansive valley in the northwestern portion of the park. Dense montane forests line the edge of wet meadows along the valley bottom, framed by stunning, high-elevation mountains and ridgetops of the Mummy Range. From Trail Ridge Road, millions of visitors each year take in the unparalleled beauty of this wild river valley. Seasonal variations, exceptional air quality, dark night skies, and wildlife viewing add to the exceptional scenic quality of the Cache la Poudre River landscape.

Recreational. Visitors to the wild section of the Cache la Poudre find outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive forms of recreation. Activities include hiking, backcountry camping, fishing, horseback riding, and occasional kayaking for the most adventurous paddlers. The Poudre River Trail extends along the entire length of the river within the park—providing non-motorized access to the remotest reaches of the wild and scenic river designation. Fishing for self-sustaining populations of native trout in a wilderness setting further exemplifies the outstandingly remarkable recreational values of the river.

Cultural. Historical accounts trace the name of the Cache la Poudre River to early French fur trappers who were caught in a snowstorm and buried their gunpowder in a cache near the mouth of the river. Its name signifies the importance of the river during the times of these early explorers, yet the river's cultural significance extends long before and after this period. The river and its surroundings were vital to American Indians for hunting and gathering, as evidenced by numerous archeological sites found within the wild and scenic river corridor. Settlements near the Cache la Poudre started in the late 1800s for the purposes of mining, timber harvesting, ranching, and eventually recreational tourism. As a result, visitors can see remnants of the different ways people have used the river over time.

Ecological. The wild section of the Cache la Poudre River supports an intact high-elevation riverine ecosystem that contains a diverse assemblage of fish, wildlife, and plant species. The designated wild and scenic river corridor provides excellent habitat for a variety of wildlife species including bighorn sheep, mule deer, elk, bear, mountain lion, golden eagles, peregrine falcons, and many other birds, small mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Overall, the vegetation is diverse with the most productive wildlife habitats occurring within the river's riparian areas. In addition, the warmer, drier south-facing slopes of the river valley support sparse, low-growing sub-alpine plant communities. On cooler, moist north-facing slopes, tree cover is abundant.

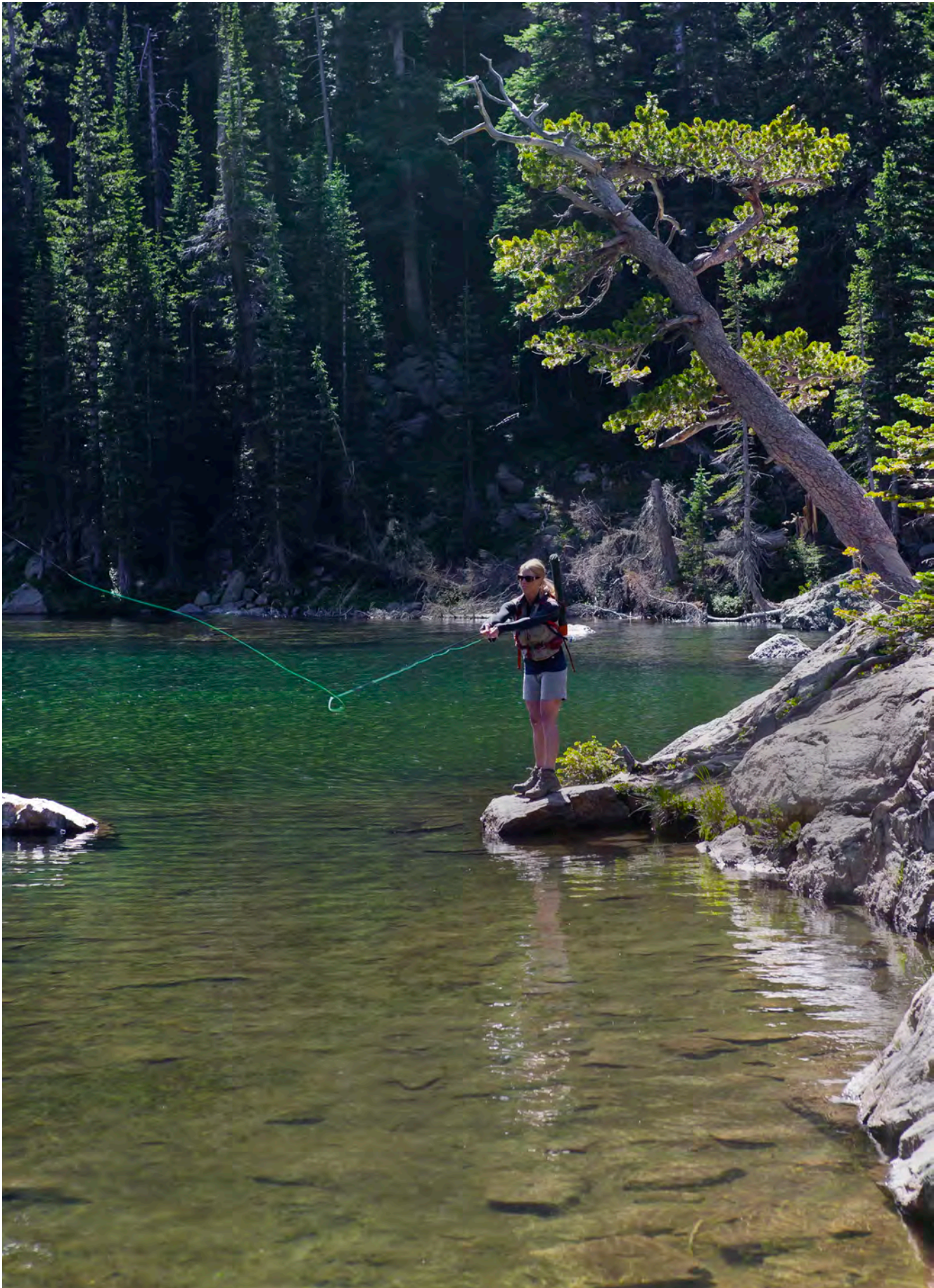
The Cache la Poudre River also provides exceptional native trout habitat, providing an important refuge for the threatened greenback cutthroat trout. The historic range of this rare trout species lies almost entirely within Colorado, and in 1994, the greenback cutthroat trout was designated as the official state fish of Colorado. Greenbacks were thought to be extinct in 1937 due to over-fishing and competition from non-native trout stocked in greenback waters. It was not until the 1960s, when populations of greenbacks were discovered through extensive survey work. Since then, conservation initiatives are helping to re-establish self-sustaining populations of this species. The Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River is an essential component of this recovery effort.

Free-Flowing Condition. The designation of the Cache la Poudre Wild and Scenic River was the result of long-standing efforts to strike a balance between conservation and water supply interests regarding the use and protection of this unique and valuable river.

Since the 19th century, the Cache la Poudre River has been intensively managed for importation, storage, and conveyance of water. One of the earliest trans-mountain diversion structures in Colorado, the Grand Ditch, carries water from the headwaters of the Colorado River into the wild section of the Cache la Poudre River along the park boundary. The vast majority of the Poudre River within the park is not affected by man-made activity. Additional diversion structures and small reservoirs were built in subsequent years in the Poudre River basin. As a result, natural river flows near where the Cache la Poudre exits the park are supplemented by releases from Long Draw Reservoir. These releases from upstream water projects have improved river flows for fisheries, recreation, and scenic quality, while meeting the needs of downstream users. The major downstream use of the water is for irrigation and municipal use, while many non-consumptive uses are served along the way.

Water Quality. Water quality throughout the wild segment of the Cache la Poudre River is critical to many aquatic life forms, streamline plant communities, and visitors. Water quality is considered excellent and within the natural range of variability for high alpine streams. Due to the lack of human impacts, it is considered an important benchmark by which to measure the influence of climate change on high-elevation riverine ecosystems.





NPS photo by Ann Schonlau

**Intermountain Region Foundation Document Recommendation
Rocky Mountain National Park**

May 2013

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Intermountain Regional Director.

Vaughn Baker

5-21-13

RECOMMENDED

Superintendent, Rocky Mountain National Park

Date

J. Wessels

5/21/13

APPROVED

Regional Director, Intermountain Region

Date

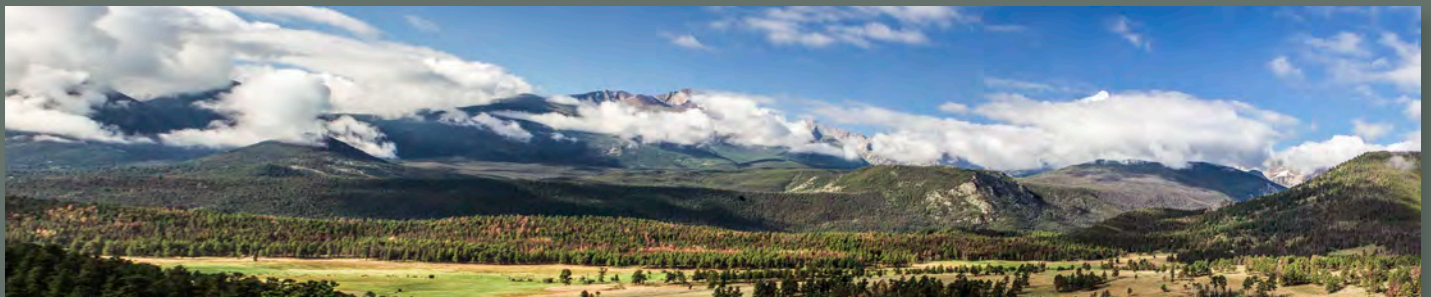


As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

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May 2013

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