



Rocky Mountain National Park

Funding the Adaptive Use of McGraw Ranch

The adaptive use of this former guest ranch to create a new research center is the largest historic preservation project ever undertaken in Rocky Mountain National Park. Fifteen structures built at the McGraw Ranch between 1884 and 1966 have been adapted for use by researchers. Seven former guest cabins have been converted to researcher housing, each with bathrooms, heat, electricity and phone connections. The main house includes a kitchen, dining room, living room and laundry facilities, as well as seminar and meeting rooms. Other historic buildings house a small laboratory, office, library and areas for equipment storage.

The \$2 million project was carried out by park staff, local contractors and more than 200 volunteers who contributed over 5,000 hours to assist with the rehabilitation. In addition, numerous educational workshops were held at McGraw Ranch during the rehabilitation, providing hands-on training to the public and staff from other parks in areas such as masonry rehabilitation, log repair and window restoration.

The total cost of converting the McGraw Ranch to a park research center is \$2 million. This includes the rehabilitation of 15 structures, installation of new water and sewer systems, new electrical and communications lines, and trail and access improvements. Rocky Mountain National Park provided \$1.2 million for the rehabilitation, primarily from fee demonstration monies collected at park entry gates. The National Trust for Historic Preservation raised over \$800,000 in outside funds for the project.

Funding sources for the rehabilitation include grants from the Colorado Historical Society's State Historical Fund, the Gates Family Foundation, the Boettcher Foundation, the Bonfils-Stanton Foundation, the Quick Foundation and private gifts from more than 150 individuals across the state. The Rocky Mountain National Park Associates raised \$103,000 to rehabilitate three cabins at the ranch.

In addition to these funds, over 200 volunteers and numerous organizations contributed over 5,000 hours to the rehabilitation of the McGraw Ranch. Volunteers participated in nearly every aspect of the work on the ranch, including stabilization of the 1884 barn, window and door repairs, carpentry, electrical and plumbing work, painting and log repair.

For more information on funding, please contact Jim Lindberg, National Trust for Historic Preservation at James_Lindberg@nths.org or (303) 623-1504 or Bill Thompson, Facility Manager, Rocky Mountain National Park at William_Thompson@nps.gov or (970) 586-1298.



Volunteers worked with park staff to complete the project. (NPS-RMNP photo)