



Rocky Mountain

National Park

COLORADO

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



United States Department of the Interior
Oscar L. Chapman, *Secretary*
National Park Service, Newton B. Drury, *Director*

Rocky Mountain National Park, in north central Colorado, was created in 1915 by act of Congress, assuring preservation of an outstanding section of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. It is one of the areas comprising the National Park System owned by the people of the United States and administered for them by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. In those areas the scenic beauty and the objects of historic, prehistoric, and scientific interest are carefully preserved and displayed for public enjoyment. The park contains approximately 400 square miles of mountainous terrain, ranging from 7,800 to 14,255 feet in elevation.

The region is famous for its rugged gorges, broad valleys, spectacular peaks, alpine lakes, flowered meadows, abundant wildlife, and plunging streams. Eternal snows dot the higher summits and valley walls. Small glaciers persist at the heads of sheltered gorges.

Easily accessible by overnight travel from midwestern States, the park is only 68 miles northwest of Denver, which is served by the principal air, rail, and bus lines. Three high-standard approach highways, one of which is Transcontinental Route US 34, make the park equally attractive as an objective or as a stop-over for motorists.

Land of Lofty Mountains

Within the park are 65 named peaks more than 10,000 feet in elevation, offering climbs varying from easy trail trips to difficult technical ascents.

Peaks	Number
Over 14,000 feet.....	1
Between 13,000 and 14,000 feet.....	14
Between 12,000 and 13,000 feet.....	27
Between 11,000 and 12,000 feet.....	13
Between 10,000 and 11,000 feet.....	10



Chasm Lake, 12,000 feet above sea level, and east face of Longs Peak

Longs Peak, 14,255 feet, is the highest summit in northern Colorado, and one of the world's most popular climbs. Two favored routes offer the mountain climber access to its summit from which remarkable panoramas spread in every direction, revealing a vast extent of the Rocky Mountains from one side and overlooking the limitless regions of the Great Plains far to the east.

Evidences of Glacial Action

One of the remarkable features of the park is the legible record of Ice Age glaciation. Much of the rugged beauty and grandeur of the landscape is the result of glacial erosion. Evidences of ice invasion are widespread and apparent even to the casual eye. Moraine Park is named for the textbook examples of moraines, or glacial deposits, found there. It is an ideal spot in which to study the work of former glaciers. A short talk on glaciers is presented by a ranger naturalist each afternoon during the summer season at the museum in Moraine Park.

Superb Scenic Highways

Trail Ridge Road, transcontinental link through the park, is America's highest continuous automobile highway. From it visitors obtain awe-inspiring views of deep forested canyons and snowy, lake-studded gorges enclosed by towering walls. Near at hand and far against the distant skies are extensive ranges of lofty peaks. Eastward, the mosaic of the Great Plains blends into the hazy horizon. More than 4 miles of the highway are above 12,000 feet in elevation; 11 miles are above the 11,000-foot timber line.

Bear Lake Road gives access to a network of trails which lead to mountain summits or penetrate gorges lined with lakes and forest glades. Bear Lake is a glacier-formed body of icy, blue-green water, set at the base of a semicircle of peaks.

Old Fall River Road, a narrow, one-way road, open for *up travel only*, is maintained for the experienced mountain driver who seeks to renew the thrill of early-day motoring. A circle drive is provided by following this steep, winding, forest-lined route and returning over the modern Trail Ridge Road.

Trails

The trails offer rich opportunities to see and explore Rocky Mountain National Park. Most of them can be traveled on horseback, but a few to more remote areas are suitable for foot travel only. Dogs and cats are prohibited on all trails.

Loch Vale, Bierstadt Lake, Dream Lake, Lake Haiyaha, Fern Lake, Odessa Lake, Ouzel Lake, and Chasm Lake on the eastern slope and Adams Falls, Cascade Falls, the Big Meadows, and Shadow Mountain in the Grand Lake vicinity on the western slope are spots of unusual beauty. Strenuous trips, such as those to Andrews Glacier, Rowe Glacier, Lost Lake, Lake Verna, Gorge Lakes, Lake Nokoni, Lake Nanita and the climbs of Longs Peak, McHenry Peak, and Mount Richtofen, should be attempted only by experienced hikers.

Horses and camp supplies may be rented at most hotels, lodges, and camps, and in neighboring villages. Competent guides arrange special trips on horse or foot. A list of authorized guides may be obtained at the chief ranger's office, and climbers attempting difficult ascents should avail themselves of expert advice available at that office.

One-way trail distances from nearest approach roads

[Distance to Nearest Half Mile]

	Miles
From Bear Lake to—	
Nymph Lake.....	1/2
Dream Lake.....	1
Emerald Lake.....	2
Lake Haiyaha.....	2
Flattop Mountain.....	4 1/2
Grand Lake via North Inlet.....	16 1/2
Grand Lake via Big Meadows.....	19
Bierstadt Lake.....	2
Odessa Lake.....	4
Fern Lake.....	5
From Glacier Gorge Parking Area to—	
Loch Vale.....	3 1/2
Lake Mills.....	3 1/2
Boulderfield.....	9
From Grand Lake to—	
Shadow Mountain.....	4
Cascade Falls.....	2 1/2
Lake Nokoni.....	9
Lake Nanita.....	9 1/2
Adams Falls.....	1/2
Lake Verna.....	7
Lone Pine Lake.....	5 1/2
From Wild Basin Campground to—	
Calypso Cascades.....	2
Ouzel Falls.....	3
Ouzel Lake.....	5 1/2
Bluebird Lake.....	7
Finch Lake.....	5
Pear Lake.....	7
Thunder Lake.....	7 1/2
Sandbeach Lake (From Copeland Lake).....	4
From Horseshoe Park to—	
Lawn Lake.....	6 1/2
Crystal Lake.....	7 1/2
Ypsilon Lake.....	3 1/2
Deer Mountain (From Deer Ridge).....	3
From Brinwood Parking Area to—	
The Pool.....	2
Fern Lake.....	4
Odessa Lake.....	5
Spruce Lake.....	5
Cub Lake.....	2 1/2
From Longs Peak Campground to—	
Eugenia Mine.....	1 1/2
Storm Pass.....	2 1/2
Chasm Lake.....	5 1/2
Boulderfield.....	7
Longs Peak.....	8
Twin Sisters.....	3 1/2
From Estes Park to—	
Old Man Mountain.....	1/2
Deer Mountain.....	3 1/2
Prospect Mountain.....	2
Gem Lake (From Devils Gulch Road).....	2
From Phantom Valley Ranch to—	
Lulu City.....	3
Poudre Pass.....	7
Thunder Pass.....	7
Red Mountain.....	3

Animal Life

Rocky Mountain National Park is a wildlife sanctuary. Visitors are requested to assist in protecting all life, including animals, birds, flowers, and trees. Any destruction, damage, or removal is prohibited by law.

American elk, or wapiti, are abundant and easily seen above timber line by the alert observer. In the autumn, meadows at lower elevations resound with bugled challenges of powerful bulls as they battle for supremacy of the herd. Rocky Mountain mule deer are numerous and widely distributed. The park is the home of the Rocky Mountain bighorn. Bands of these magnificent animals are seen occasionally at Sheep Lake and on a promontory near Milner Pass. Hikers on Specimen Mountain frequently observe them. Black bears, coyotes, bobcats, and cougars are present, but are infrequently observed.

The beaver, whose dams and other works are found along almost every drainage in the park, may be seen in the early evening hours by the patient observer.

The more common small mammals are chipmunks, Say's and Wyoming ground squirrels, marmots, Fremont and tuft-eared squirrels, and the cony. The last named is a small hay-harvesting rodent of the high-altitude rock slides. Chipmunks and ground squirrels are frequently tame. It is wisest to enjoy them without actual contact, however, for some rodents have been known to carry dangerous diseases.

Birds commonly seen along the roadsides include Clark's nutcracker, Rocky Mountain jay or camp robber, magpie, long-crested jay, mountain bluebird, mountain chickadee, and gray-headed junco. Above timber line, pipits, rosy finches, horned larks, and ptarmigans are seen frequently. A few golden eagles and several species of hawks and owls make their homes in the park. Approximately 215 varieties of birds have been recorded in the park.

Plant Life

With a wide range of elevations represented, a remarkable variety of plant life occurs within the park. More than 700 species of flowering plants have been identified. The blue columbine is perhaps the most famous flower of the area and is the official State flower of Colorado. Gentians, primroses, lilies, penstemon, paintbrushes, and many other colorful flowers add to the summer beauty of the mountains. Above timber line, dense mats of flowers spread everywhere.

The principal trees are: Engelmann spruce and alpine fir at high elevations; lodgepole pine, typically in dense stands in middle elevations; and ponderosa pine growing in open stands at lower elevations. Limber pine is frequent in high rocky places, assuming grotesque forms at timber line. Douglas-fir is widely distributed at lower elevations. Colorado blue spruce is conspicuous along streams at the eastern edge of the park. Rocky

Aerial view of Longs Peak and the Front Range





Rocky Mountain Big Horn

Rules and Regulations

[Briefed]

The park regulations are designed to protect you and your property. You, as prudent owners of this national park, can help protect its natural beauty by warning the careless visitor and by reporting infractions of the regulations. The following synopsis is for your general guidance. Complete regulations may be seen at the office of the superintendent and at ranger station

Fires.—The park's greatest peril. Build fires only in designated campgrounds and never near or on roots of trees, dead wood, moss, dry leaves, forest mold, or other vegetable refuse. Campfires should not be left unattended. Before leaving, the last spark should be extinguished with water. *Don't take chances—make sure your fire is out. All fires away from designated camps are prohibited, except upon written permission from a park ranger.* Throwing away cigarettes, cigars, matches, or any other burning material along roads and trails is prohibited.

Camps.—Automobile campers must camp in designated areas. Camps must be kept clean and sanitary. Place empty cans and garbage in receptacles provided for this purpose.

Public Property, Trees, Flowers, and Animals.—The destruction, injury, or disturbance of public property, trees, flowers, rocks, animals, or other features is prohibited. *Please leave the flowers for others to enjoy*

Fishing.—Fishing is permitted in nearly all lakes and streams. All hooked fish less than 6 inches long shall be carefully handled with moist hands and returned at once to the water. Ten fish (not exceeding

a total of 10 pounds) constitute the limit for a day's catch or in possession, except during such times as a lesser limit is prescribed by the laws of the State of Colorado. Colorado State fishing license is required. Current information regarding fishing regulations may be obtained at the park information office and at ranger stations.

Automobiles.—Please observe the park traffic rules and drive carefully at all times. The automobile permit fee, covering the calendar year, is \$1; an additional fee of \$1 is charged for trailers. All fees are deposited in the United States Treasury and are not available for expenditure in the park. Congressional appropriations are the only source of funds for administration or development.

Speed.—The speed limit is 20 miles per hour on curves and 35 miles per hour on straight stretches. Commercial trucking is prohibited.

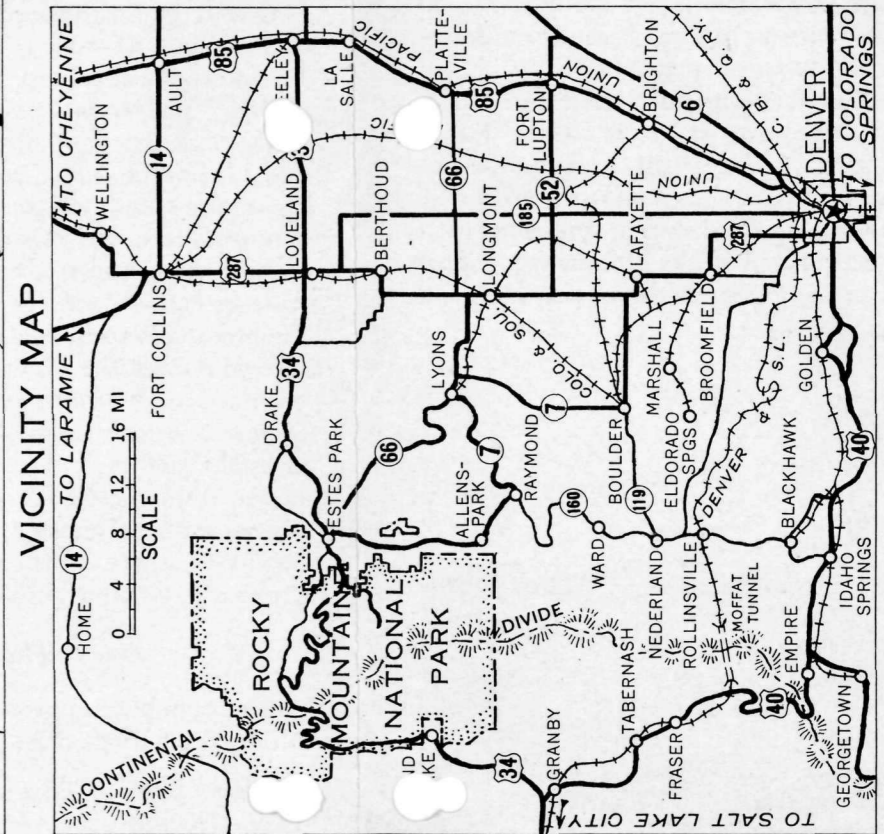
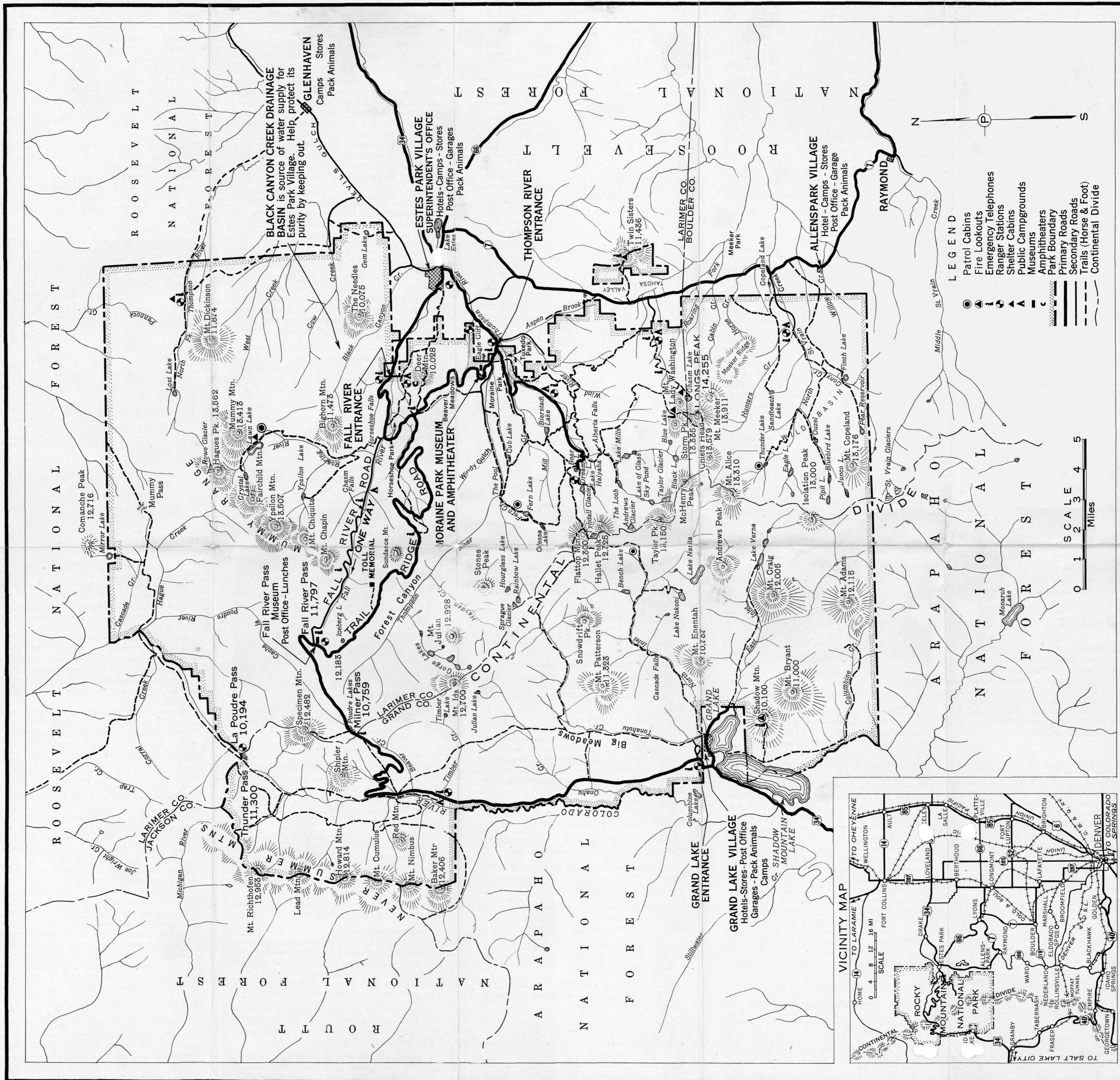
Firearms.—Unless adequately sealed, cased, broken down, or otherwise packed to prevent their use while in the park, firearms are prohibited, except upon written permission from the superintendent.

Dogs and Cats are prohibited on all trails and other Government lands in Rocky Mountain National Park, except on highways, roads, parking areas, Timber Creek, Aspenglen, Longs Peak and Wild Basin Campgrounds, Bear Lake, Grand Lake, and Sprague's Lodges, Woods Cottages, Brinwood Hotel, and in designated picnic areas accessible to automobiles, provided such animals are on leash, crated, or otherwise under physical restrictive control at all times. Dogs and cats are prohibited in Glacier Basin and Endovalley Campgrounds and at Fern Lake Lodge and Forest Inn.

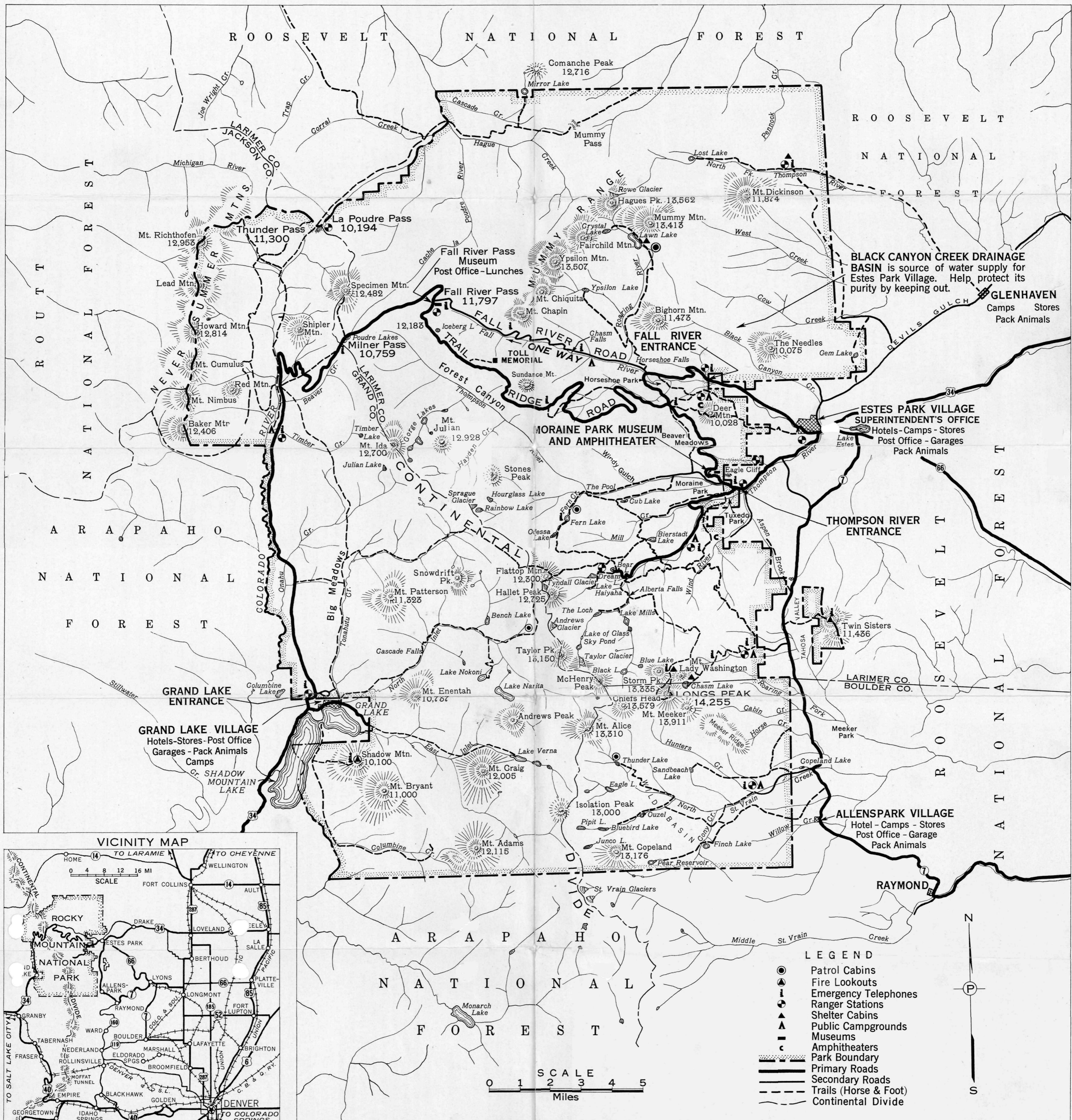
Park Rangers are for your protection and guidance. Do not hesitate to consult them. Accidents, complaints, and suggestions should be reported to a ranger or to the superintendent's office.

Publications

General, scientific, and historical publications pertaining to the park are sold in the museums during the summer season. A complete list may be obtained by inquiry at the office of the park naturalist at park headquarters in Estes Park Village.



MAP OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



BLACK CANYON CREEK DRAINAGE BASIN is source of water supply for Estes Park Village. Help protect its purity by keeping out.

GLENHAVEN
Camps Stores
Pack Animals

ESTES PARK VILLAGE SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE
Hotels - Camps - Stores
Post Office - Garages
Pack Animals

THOMPSON RIVER ENTRANCE

LARIMER CO. BOULDER CO.

ALLENSPARK VILLAGE
Hotel - Camps - Stores
Post Office - Garage
Pack Animals

RAYMOND

VICINITY MAP



LEGEND

- Patrol Cabins
- ▲ Fire Lookouts
- ⓞ Emergency Telephones
- Ⓜ Ranger Stations
- ▲ Shelter Cabins
- ▲ Public Campgrounds
- Museums
- Amphitheaters
- Park Boundary
- Primary Roads
- Secondary Roads
- - - Trails (Horse & Foot)
- - - Continental Divide

SCALE
0 1 2 3 4 5
Miles

Revised Nov. 23, 1949. J.J.B. N.P.R.M. 7011 Feb. 2, 1942

MAP OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Mountain juniper is present on the dry, less fertile slopes at low elevations. There are three species of poplar, the quaking aspen being the most abundant and colorful.

Park Season

Rocky Mountain National Park is open to travel the entire year. However, because of heavy snows, the Trail Ridge Road is normally closed to transmountain travel by about October 25. It is not again open until May 30 or later. Winter travel over the road is possible to the upper end of Hidden Valley on the eastern slope, and to Beaver Creek, 11 miles inside the Grand Lake Entrance. Accommodations for winter visitors are available in the villages of Estes Park and Grand Lake.

Winter Use

The principal winter use area in Rocky Mountain National Park is at Hidden Valley along the Trail Ridge Road, 12 miles west of Estes Park. Three down-mountain ski trails and several practice areas are located at Hidden Valley, where both the expert and novice skier will find slopes and ski runs to his liking. Shelter cabins are provided at this area for the use of winter sports enthusiasts. Cross-country touring may be enjoyed by the experienced skier at numerous locations on the eastern side of Rocky Mountain National Park and on the western slope in the vicinity of Grand Lake.



Atop the Front Range



American elk above timber line

How to Reach the Park

Motorists arriving from eastern points approach the park over U. S. Highway 34, via Loveland, through the scenic Big Thompson Canyon; via Longmont, over the North St. Vrain Highway (State Route 66); or over the scenic South St. Vrain Highway (State Route 7), via Lyons and Raymond. Travel from the west approaches the park, via Grand Lake, over U. S. Highway 34 from its junction with U. S. Highway 40 near Granby.

Connections with transcontinental air lines, railroads, and bus lines are made at Denver, Greeley, and Granby by the Rocky Mountain Motor Co. during the travel season. Visitors, who have only a limited time to spend in the park, may take advantage of new fast schedules provided by the public carriers. Daily connections with these fast schedules are made at Denver and other terminals near the park.

All-expense tours, covering loop trips from Denver to Estes Park over the Trail Ridge Road, returning, via Granby and Berthoud Pass, over U. S. Highway 40, are offered during the summer. Special trips within the park are conducted under special franchise from the Secretary of the Interior. Touring car service is available at established rates. Further information may be obtained from the Rocky Mountain Motor Co., 1730 Glenarm Place, Denver 2, Colo. Bus service to the park begins in early June and continues until late September. Limited service is available the entire year.

Free Public Campgrounds

Six free public campgrounds are maintained in Rocky Mountain National Park.

Glacier Basin, on Bear Lake Road, 7 miles from Estes Park—70 camp sites. No dogs or cats permitted.

Aspenglen, near Fall River Road, 5 miles from Estes Park—34 camp sites.

Endovalley, on Fall River Road, 9 miles from Estes Park—11 camp sites. No dogs or cats permitted.

Timber Creek, on Trail Ridge Road, about 10 miles north of Grand Lake Entrance—76 camp sites.

Wild Basin, 2½ miles west of Copeland Lake, on dirt road South St. Vrain Highway—minimum facilities.

Longs Peak, at foot of Longs Peak Trail, ¾ mile above Hewes-Kirkwood Inn—minimum facilities.

Visitors with trailers or camping equipment will find these campgrounds attractive for maximum enjoyment of outdoor life. Water and sanitary facilities are available. Camping is limited to 30 days in any campground.

Accommodations

Hotels, lodges, and camps within the national park, as listed below, are operated under franchise from the Secretary of the Interior. Requests for information on rates, accommodations, and reservations should be addressed directly to the concessioners listed below. The latest approved figures are also on file at the superintendent's office.

As dining room facilities are limited, reservations should be made in advance when meals only are desired.

Bear Lake Lodge, Estes Park, Colo., American plan accommodations, early June to mid-September.

Forest Inn, Estes Park, Colo. At "The Pool" on Fern Lake Trail. Board and lodging in tents and cabins. Season June 20 to September 15.

Grand Lake Lodge, Grand Lake, Colo. American and European plan accommodations. Rooms with or without bath. Season early June to mid-September.

Camp Woods, Estes Park, Colo. Just inside Thompson River Entrance. Housekeeping cabins. Late May until late September.

Brinwood Hotel, Estes Park, Colo. In upper Moraine Park. American plan accommodations. Season mid-June to mid-September.

Spragues Lodge, Estes Park, Colo. In Glacier Basin, below Bear Lake. American plan accommodations.

Numerous hotels, lodges, and camps are located on private lands in or adjacent to the national park. For information may be obtained by directing inquiries to the Estes Park Chamber of Commerce and to the Grand Lake Chamber of Commerce.



Bear Lake and the Front Range

Naturalist Services

Schedules of free naturalist services are offered from early June until mid-September. These include field trips by foot or automobile; campfire programs; self-guided nature trails; museums; illustrated talks; and nature demonstrations. Field trips are arranged for children.

The principal center for evening illustrated talks is at Moraine Amphitheatre in Moraine Park. In inclement weather, programs are held indoors at the museum nearby. Programs presented cover a wide variety of subjects concerned with the geology, biology, history, and conservation problems of the park.

Campfire programs and illustrated talks also are scheduled in some of the campgrounds.

The principal museum is at Moraine Park. Here are historical exhibits; displays of birds and mammals in natural habitats; archeological exhibits, featuring a life-size Indian camp; rock collections; and mounted insects. The story of glaciation is presented in a glass-enclosed room overlooking some of the most remarkable glacial evidences in the Rocky Mountains.

A small branch museum is maintained at Fall River Pass, featuring plant and animal life of the high country and historical geology. A self-guiding nature trail is maintained at Bear Lake.

Complete schedules of naturalist activities are posted weekly at public places in and near the park. Copies may be obtained at all park museums or received by mail upon written request.

Miscellaneous Services

Medical services are available at the gateway villages of Estes Park and Grand Lake. At Estes Park, several doctors maintain offices during the summer, and three are present the entire year. There is a well equipped clinic in Estes Park.

Summer telegraph offices are operated in Estes Park and Grand Lake, providing service for all hotels and lodges in and near the national park. Telegraph and telephone services are available throughout the year.

Catholic and Protestant religious services are conducted each Sunday in Estes Park, YMCA Conference Grounds, and Grand Lake.

Mail arrives and departs several times daily at Estes Park and is on daily schedule at Grand Lake.

Saddle horses may be rented by the hour, day, week, month, or season at prevailing rates from numerous livery stables in and near the national park.

Ranger Stations

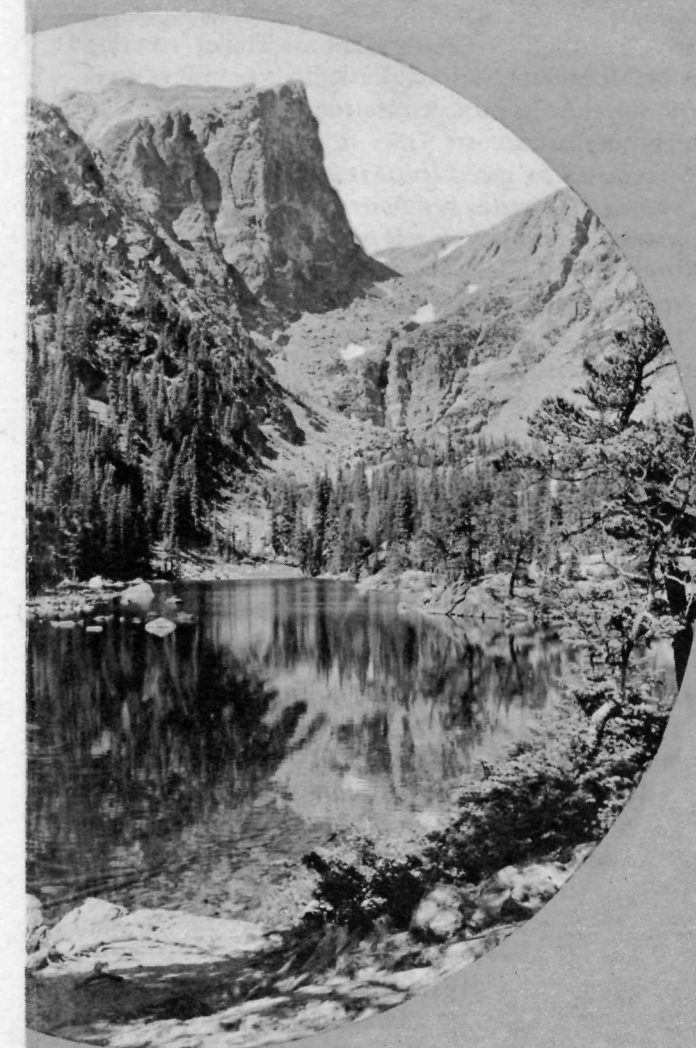
Protection activities center in the office of the chief ranger at park headquarters. To provide adequate protection of the park, and better service to visitors, permanent ranger stations are in operation the year around in more accessible locations. During the summer period of heavy travel, additional stations are operated at scattered strategic locations. Some of these outlying stations also serve as patrol cabins for the ranger force during autumn, winter, and spring months.

The National Park Service operates fire lookouts on Twin Sisters (elevation 11,436 feet) on the eastern slope, and on Shadow Mountain (elevation 10,100 feet) on the western slope. Both of these lookout stations are reached by trail and may be visited during the summer.

Park rangers are assigned to patrol trails by foot and horseback and to patrol park highways by automobile. These men are responsible for park protection and are prepared to render assistance to visitors when needed. When in doubt, ask a ranger.

Administration

Park headquarters are maintained in the Village of Estes Park, 4 miles east of Rocky Mountain National Park. A superintendent is in immediate charge. Comments regarding service should be directed to him. Violators of park rules and regulations are given hearings before the United States Commissioner at park headquarters.



Rocky Mountain

National Park

COLORADO