



Raptor Protection Closures

WHY CLOSURES?

Since the 1960's, populations of raptors, or birds of prey, have declined dramatically nationwide. Loss of habitat, increases in pesticide use, and hunting have taken a great toll on their numbers.

Recent restoration efforts, combined with stricter laws and key habitat protection, have stimulated a recovery of raptor populations across the country.

Rocky Mountain National Park contains excellent habitat for birds of prey. Golden eagles, kestrels, turkey vultures, peregrine and prairie falcons, and red-tailed and Cooper's hawks are especially suited to the park's craggy rock outcroppings.

Unfortunately, the same cliffs that lure raptors also attract rock climbers. The presence of climbers is likely to affect the nesting success of raptors.

In order for wildlife managers to gather information and ensure that raptors can nest undisturbed, specific areas within the park are closed temporarily to public use during nesting season.

With your support and cooperation, birds of prey--superb indicators of an ecosystem's health--can thrive in Rocky Mountain National Park.

WHEN?

Initial closures occur in March and April, when raptors return to the region and scout for nesting sites. Areas containing general habitat preferred by raptors are closed during this time.

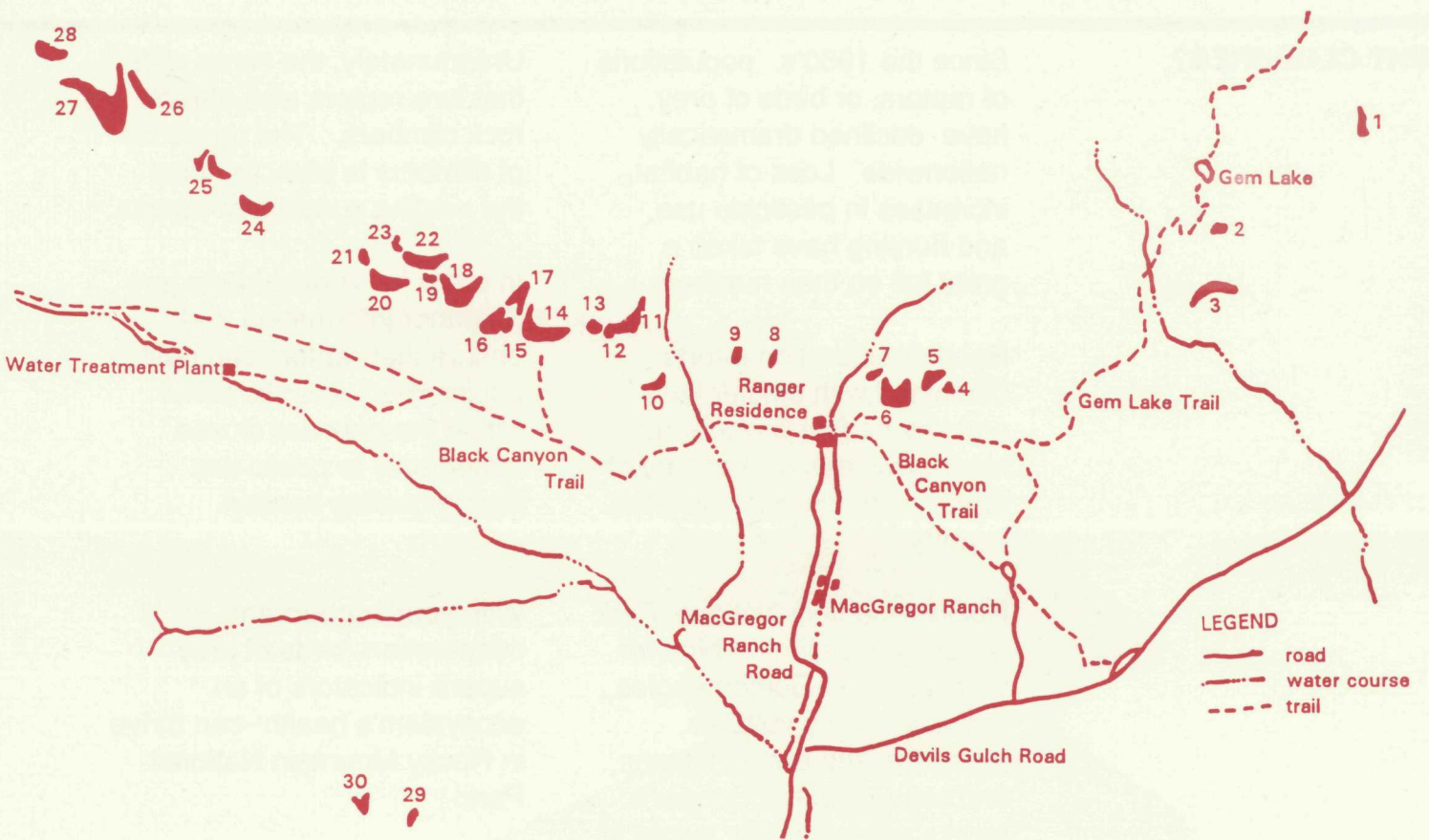
Once raptors have selected nesting spots, the initial closures are lifted. Then, the specific zones chosen for nesting sites are closed.

Generally, the popular climbing features, shown on the back of this brochure or as described in several current climbing guides, are temporarily closed to all public use and travel from mid-March to mid-July. These closures may be rescinded at an earlier date or extended longer if determined necessary.

CHECK AT PARK VISITOR CENTERS, WITH A PARK RANGER OR AT CLIMBING TRAILHEADS FOR SPECIFIC CLOSURES AND DATES. *Violators will be cited.*

GENERALLY, CLOSURES INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, THE FOLLOWING POPULAR CLIMBING FEATURES ON LUMPY RIDGE:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Alligator Rock | 11 Batman Rock | 21 Sunshine Buttress |
| 2 Out West Crag | 12 Batman Pinnacle | 22 Citadel |
| 3 Crescent Wall | 13 Lightning Rock | 23 Observatory Dome |
| 4 Triangle Rock | 14 The Book | 24 Thunder Buttress |
| 5 Gollum's Arch RockS | 15 Bookmark Pinnacle | 25 The Parish |
| 6 Twin Owls | 16 Bookmark | 26 Sundance Needle |
| 7 Rock One | 17 Left Book | 27 Sundance |
| 8 Flounder Rock | 18 Bookend | 28 Sundance West |
| 9 Christmas Crag | 19 Lens Rock | 29 Window Rock |
| 10 Checkerboard Rock | 20 Pear | 30 Castle Rock |



SHEEP MOUNTAIN

CLIMBING ROUTES WILL BE CLOSED AS REQUIRED

