

# HIGH COUNTRY HEADLINES

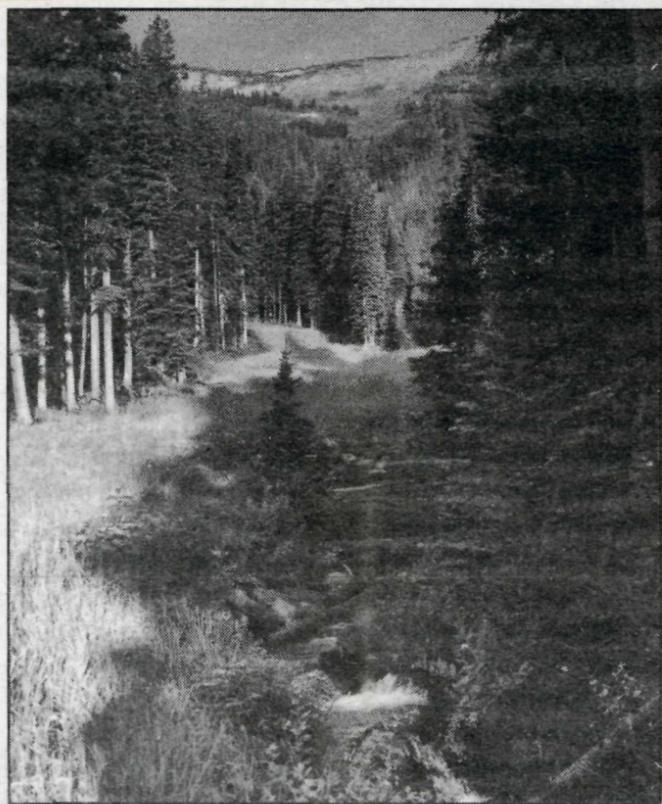
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK NEWSPAPER

August 23 - October 31, 1992

Vol. 1, No. 3

## Watchable Wildlife

### How and where to watch animals.



Ski paths wind their way through Hidden Valley.

NPS Photo by C. Evans

## Hidden Valley Lost or Found?

### Why did the National Park Service close Hidden Valley Ski Area?

In January 1992 National Park Service Regional Director Robert M. Baker announced the closure of Hidden Valley Ski Area. What led to this decision?

Rocky Mountain National Park was established in 1915. At that time Congress stated that the park must be kept unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations yet open to the "freest use" of the public. Interpretation of that legislation has changed through the years. From the 1930s to the 1950s park managers decided that building a ski area within park boundaries was a project that would provide for the enjoyment of those visiting the park. Swaths were cut through the forest to make ski paths, ski lifts were installed, and buildings were constructed to support the ski operation.

Since 1950, the preservation side of the 1915 legislation began to prevail. That is, developments do indeed degrade natural areas, so the park service began to remove old resorts, ranches, and buildings from Rocky.

In 1976, public hearings were held to determine the future of Rocky. The hearings culminated in a master plan which called for phasing out the park ski facility as soon as alternative ski areas were available in northeast Colorado. By 1991, Eldora Ski Area, 45 miles and 60 minutes away, had completed an expansion and provided an alternative and superior ski area.

During the last decade, the Hidden Valley Ski Area

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

In 1948, Aldo Leopold wrote in A Sand County Almanac, "There are some who can live without wild things, and some who cannot." Leopold described himself as one who could not live without wildlife and was an avid wildlife observer.

Watching wildlife is not new. What is new is the increasing number of people participating in this activity which is accessible to everyone.

In 1915, Rocky Mountain National Park was established to protect a significant tract of mountain scenery and the wildlife found within that 400 square mile wilderness. Since the park's establishment, wildlife viewing has grown in popularity. Today, 8 in every 10 visitors surveyed say their most important reason for coming to the park is to view wildlife. Visitors are not disappointed.

The park's wildlife is both diverse and abundant. Wildlife watchers can view bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer, coyotes, small mammals, the threatened greenback cutthroat trout, birds of prey and over 200 other species of birds. A fortunate few may see a mountain lion, a bobcat, a black bear, a river otter, or a moose.

Rocky Mountain National Park is a wildlife success story. Elk were eliminated from the park by the turn of the century, and bighorn sheep numbers were greatly reduced. Today, there are healthy populations of both species. Peregrine falcons and river otters had also disappeared, but have returned with the assistance of wildlife restoration projects. Because habitat is protected within the park, it is a sanctuary for wildlife and a destination for wildlife watchers.

### Where to Watch Elk

During September and October, thousands of visitors come to Rocky to see elk. The park is one of the premier sites in Colorado to see elk close-up. Autumn is the mating season for these animals. The sight of an 800 pound bull elk fighting for dominance and gathering a harem of cows captivates countless visitors.

The most popular areas to see elk are the Kawuneeche Valley, Moraine Park, Upper Beaver Meadows, and Horse-shoe Park. Here, from the safety of their cars, visitors can watch elk close-up.

The best viewing times are early morning and from late afternoon until dusk. Each evening, from early September until late October, park interpreters and volunteers conduct talks and provide information on the natural history of elk. (See "Ranger Programs," pages 4-6.)

Elk-watching is so popular that park roads can become very congested. Please carpool to minimize traffic. Park rangers and volunteers keep traffic moving as much as possible, but visitors should be prepared for delays. Pull over to the side of the road to view elk.

### Closed Areas Protect Wildlife

Signs have been posted in the most popular areas for viewing elk. Wildlife watchers must observe elk from vehicles and from roadsides. Closed areas protect wildlife from stress caused by visitors crowding too near, and protect visitors from being injured by animals. Bull elk are dangerous.

### Wildlife Watching Ethics

1. Watch wildlife from a distance.
2. Turn off car lights and close doors quietly.
3. Stay out of closed areas.
4. Talk quietly and keep conversations to a minimum.
5. Drive slowly and be alert for animals crossing the road.
6. Keep the wild in wildlife: do not feed the animals.
7. Use of wildlife calls or spotlights is prohibited.

Harsh weather, scarcity of forage, and limited habitat can make survival difficult for wild animals. The added stress of visitors approaching too closely or deliberately harassing wildlife can harm individual animals or even small populations. Each one of us has a responsibility to watch wildlife in a way which does not disturb the animals so that wildlife will continue to live in Rocky Mountain National Park.

See  
Ranger Programs  
pages 4 and 5

elk

## Hidden Valley

(continued from page 1, column 1)

consistently lost money. The Estes Valley Recreation and Park District (EVRPD) operated the ski area from 1978-1991, and during the past six years incurred an average annual loss of \$120,000. In addition, the National Park Service subsidized the operation by \$60,000 per year.

When the EVRPD decided not to operate the ski area any longer, the park service solicited bids, but received no qualified ones.

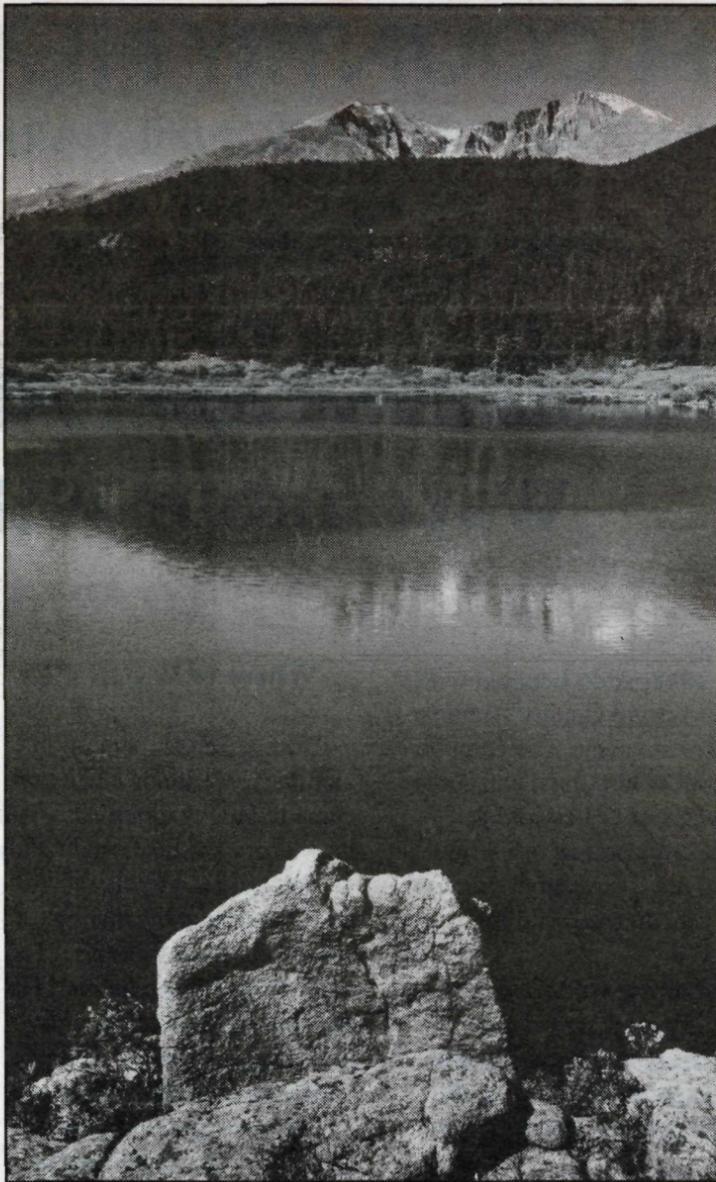
For many years snow depth at Hidden Valley was inadequate for skiing. Snow levels had to be augmented by snowmaking machines which used water from Hidden Valley Creek. Water withdrawal from the creek had the potential to harm the threatened greenback cutthroat trout.

Visitor demand for the ski area declined. Skier visits to Hidden Valley dropped from 44,000 in 1987 to 9,900 in 1991. Daily operating costs exceeded \$3,000.

The ski facilities do not conform to current national health and safety standards. Equipment is antiquated, and the ski trail design is unsafe with narrow, steep trails that merge expert skiers with beginners. Over \$1 million in improvements were identified to bring the buildings up to existing codes.

This abundance of problems led to Director Baker's decision to permanently close Hidden Valley Ski Area and allow Hidden Valley to return to its natural condition. Ski lifts will be removed. Water will no longer be diverted from Hidden Valley Creek. The scars of cut swaths through the forest will gradually diminish as the ski trails become reforested.

Although the Hidden Valley ski development will be lost, the natural beauty of the valley itself will be found, and will remain unimpaired for future generations.



© John Ward 1992

*A development at Lily Lake would have blocked this view of Longs Peak.*

## Threatened Boundaries

*Guest Editorial by Marty Zeller, Design Workshop, Denver, CO. Design Workshop is a landscape architecture, urban design, and land planning firm.*

### How can national parks maintain their integrity?

When the National Park Service celebrated its 75th anniversary, many press reports predicted an unhappy future for our magnificent national parks. These articles focused not on problems inside the parks, but on those lying just outside the boundary. Reporters drew attention to inappropriate development on park boundaries, the destruction of important wildlife habitat adjacent to parks, the cluttering of scenery with roads, buildings, and billboards, and the fencing of popular sites that prevent public access in places just beyond the authority of the National Park Service. Paul Pritchard, president of the

National Parks and Conservation Association says that, "development and industry are ringing our national parks in an ever-tightening noose."

Why get so worked up about what's happening on the boundaries of national parks when the parks themselves consist of hundreds of thousands of acres of protected lands? The answer is that national parks are not zoos or holding pens; they are not fenced-off theme parks - they are part of much larger natural systems. Boundaries to national parks were not drawn to protect these larger natural systems, but the health of national parks depends upon preserving what lies beyond their boundaries.

The spectacular features of national parks attract all sorts of human activity including home building and tourist developments. Although one more house will probably not cut off an elk migration route, the cumulative effect of many houses will. Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the national parks frequently cited

### Why get so worked up about what's happening on the boundaries of national parks when the parks themselves consist of hundreds of thousands of acres of protected lands?

as suffering from incremental development along its edges, particularly along the boundary from the towns of Estes Park to Allenspark.

The controversy over development around Lily Lake dramatized this issue. Situated on the edge of the park, Lily Lake commands one of the most dramatic views of Longs Peak. Developers proposed a condominium development around the lake which would have destroyed views, cut off wildlife routes to the lake, and diminished water quality. At the eleventh hour, the land was acquired by a charitable foundation working with a national nonprofit organization, the Conservation Fund. While the immediate problem was solved, what happens the next time a critical parcel of land is proposed for inappropriate development? Can we risk waiting for another white knight?

There are better ways to address development along the park's boundary. A new spirit of cooperation between the National Park Service and surrounding communities and counties is required. Some park neighbors view the National Park Service with skepticism. However, the National Park Service and its neighbors have common interests which should be the basis for tackling problems. Acquisition of land outside the park boundary by the National Park Service is not always a solution since federal funds are scarce, and local hostility can result from federal land purchases. Moving boundaries sometimes just moves the problems.

A new approach would be to develop park protection ideas

with the cooperation of public and private sectors and constituencies. Once the lands important for scenery, plants, animals, and water quality are identified, a variety of new ways to protect them could be tried.

For example, many local landowners wish to protect scenery, and would limit destruction of their lands if there was a public or non-profit program that worked cooperatively with them. Many tracts along park boundaries can be developed in ways which preserve nature. A set of design suggestions could be prepared which show creative ways to build homes and businesses which don't destroy views or wildlife routes.

Plans to protect the important lands bordering national parks need to consider not only the protection of nature but also the health of local economies. Since people are attracted to parks by their natural setting, the long-term economic and environmental health of both parks and the land surrounding parks depend on protecting that setting. In most communities that border parks, strong environmental protection means a strong economy.

Working ahead to protect neighboring lands would be an alternative to frenzied efforts like the costly acquisition of Lily Lake. As Americans, we often respond to a problem only when it becomes a crisis. If we wait until "development and industry are ringing our national parks," it will be too late. It is time to stop complaining about problems along the borders of our national parks and get on with the tough business of crafting solutions which address environmental and economic realities. A program for Rocky Mountain National Park could well serve as a national model for how we can protect the integrity of our national parks, creatively and cooperatively, with the help of park neighbors. Public support is essential to resolve boundary problems.

# COMMON SENSE

## Don't Leave Home Without it

Special conditions warrant extra caution. Every visitor should be wary of these hazards.



### Hypothermia Or The Big Chill

Hypothermia, the lowering of the core body temperature, is a serious and sometimes fatal threat, especially to those who are unprepared. Symptoms include drowsiness, loss of judgement or coordination, slurred speech, and uncontrolled shivering. On all your explorations, be prepared for sudden weather changes, carry extra layers of protective clothing, wear a hat (50% of your body heat escapes from your head and neck), snack frequently on high carbohydrate foods, and drink plenty of water.

### Lightning One Strike and You're Out!

Afternoon thunder and lightning storms frequently occur in the Rockies. Recognize approaching storms by observing changes in wind direction and velocity, darkening clouds, and sounds of thunder.

When thunderstorms approach, avoid mountain-tops, ridges, open areas, tall or lone trees, rocky overhangs, streams, ponds, or puddles. If you are caught in the open when lightning is imminent, squat with hands on knees, keep head low, and wait for the storm to pass. Hikers should plan to be below treeline by early afternoon to avoid lightning.

### Stop Thieves!

Unfortunately, national parks are not crime free. Valuables left in vehicles or at campsites are especially vulnerable. Help protect your property by not leaving valuables at your campsite or in open sight in your vehicle. Always lock your vehicle. Take valuables with you or lock them in your trunk. Do not leave cash, wallets, or purses in the glove box or under the seat. Report any theft, attempted theft, or suspicious people in parking areas to a ranger.



### High Altitudes Are Heart-Rending. Take It Easy

Rocky Mountain National Park's high elevation can be invigorating, but it can also cause high altitude sickness for visitors used to living at lower elevations. Symptoms of altitude sickness include nausea, dizziness, headache, insomnia, rapid heart-beat, and shortness of breath. To minimize the effects of high altitude, take it easy for the first few days, increase fluid intake, avoid alcohol and cigarettes, eat lightly and frequently, and get plenty of rest.

Ultra-violet radiation at high altitudes threatens exposed skin and eyes. Wear sun glasses with ultra violet protection. Wear a hat. Protect exposed skin with sunscreen.

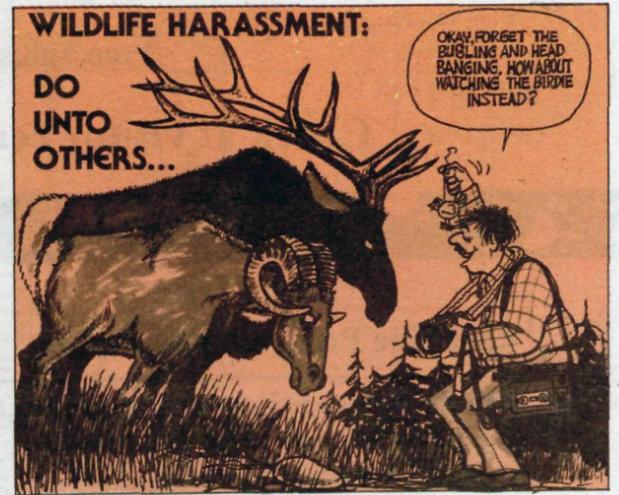
### Don't Take a Dive

Glaciers and snowfields are dangerous. Most have steep slopes and end in a jumble of boulders. Many visitors have been seriously injured or killed from venturing onto these super slides.

Avalanches are serious safety hazards during the winter. Check at visitor centers for avalanche condition information. Avalanches may occur on any snow covered slopes with slope angles of 25 to 55 degrees. Overnight camping in the backcountry requires a free permit. For extended day hikes or climbs always let someone know your plans.

### Beware of Fire

Help prevent human-caused fires. Be careful with cigarettes and other smoking materials. Build fires only in designated fire containers. Always put fires completely out when not tending them. In the backcountry and away from developed campgrounds, use self-contained stove units to reduce fire risk and protect natural resources. Heed special fire danger conditions and warnings. Report unattended fires to the nearest ranger station.



### No Close Encounters - Bears and Other Animals Are Dangerous

Rocky Mountain National Park is not a feeding or petting zoo. Photograph all wildlife from the safety of your vehicle or from at least a 25 yard distance. Respect the wildness of park animals by not feeding them. A \$50 fine may be issued to anyone who feeds or disturbs wildlife.

### Bear With Us

Grizzly bears were exterminated from Rocky Mountain National Park, but black bears still find a home here. Unnatural foods can cause sickness and even death to bears. Please take the following precautions so that neither you nor a bear gets hurt. Never approach a bear. Enjoy them from a distance. Do not store food in your tent. Store food in air-tight containers in the trunk of your car. Ice chests are not bear-proof. Backcountry campers should hang their food in a tree. Suspend your food at least 10 feet above the ground and 4 horizontal feet from the tree trunk. Pack out all your refuse from the backcountry and always keep a clean camp. A \$25 fine may be issued for improper storage of food.

### Giardia - A Gut Reaction

Giardia is a microscopic organism found in many lakes and streams. If ingested it can cause diarrhea, cramps, bloating, and weight loss. To kill Giardia, boil all water for 3 to 5 minutes, or use a water filter system that eliminates giardia.

### Construction Projects Underway - Please Give Road Crews a Brake!

Emergencies (911)  
or for assistance call:  
Estes Park (303) 586-2371  
Grand Lake (303) 627-3471

Parents: Watch your children. Keep them in sight at all times. Rocky Mountain National Park is a beautiful place, but it can be unforgiving. The park is full of potential hazards.

# RANGER PROGRAMS

Free Talks, Walks, and Hikes for August 23 to October 31, 1992

Check at visitor centers for additional programs not listed in this paper.

*Black bear*



East Side Program Description	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hummingbirds to Eagles - Bring binoculars for this 2 hour bird walk. Meet at Cub Lake trailhead. Mondays only through 9/28.		8:00 AM through 9/28					
Raptor Rendezvous - Learn about birds of prey on this 2 hour walk. Bring binoculars and guidebooks. Meet at Twin Owls parking lot.				9:00 AM through 9/30			
Lily Lake Explorations - Meet at Lily Lake Visitor Center parking area for this 1 1/2 hour walk. Daily through 9/27. Weekends only in October through 10/25. ♿	10:00 AM through 10/25	10:00 AM through 9/21	10:00 AM through 9/22	10:00 AM through 9/23	10:00 AM through 9/24	10:00 AM through 9/25	10:00 AM through 10/24
Alpine Aspects - Learn about several survival strategies of tundra plants and animals. Meet at the Alpine Visitor Center for this 30 minute talk. Daily through 10/11. ♿	10:30 AM through 10/11	10:30 AM through 10/5	10:30 AM through 10/6	10:30 AM through 10/7	10:30 AM through 10/8	10:30 AM through 10/9	10:30 AM through 10/10
Winter's on the Way - Discover some of the changes that come to the mountains as summer gives way to fall. Meet at Moraine Park Museum for this 30 minute talk. Daily through 10/31.	10:30 AM through 10/25	10:30 AM through 10/26	10:30 AM through 10/27	10:30 AM through 10/28	10:30 AM through 10/29	10:30 AM through 10/30	10:30 AM through 10/31
Animals in Autumn - Discover the ways animals of the park prepare for winter in the Rockies. Meet at Lily Lake Visitor Center for this 30 minute talk. Daily through 9/27. Weekends only through 10/31.	2:00 PM through 10/25	2:00 PM through 9/21	2:00 PM through 9/22	2:00 PM through 9/23	2:00 PM through 9/24	2:00 PM through 9/25	2:00 PM through 10/31
A Glimpse of Rocky - Meet at Moraine Park Museum for this 30 minute talk. Topics vary. Daily through 10/31. ♿	2:30 PM through 10/25	2:30 PM through 10/26	2:30 PM through 10/27	2:30 PM through 10/28	2:30 PM through 10/29	2:30 PM through 10/30	2:30 PM through 10/31
Blooms and Berries - What's blooming and fruiting now? Enjoy learning about Rocky's plant life. Meet at Cub Lake trailhead for this 1 1/2 hour walk. Friday and Saturday through 9/26.						2:30 PM through 9/25	2:30 PM through 9/26
Skins and Skulls - Examine skins and study skulls during a 30 minute talk at Headquarters Visitor Center. Friday and Saturday through 9/26. Saturday only through 10/31. ♿						3:30 PM through 9/25	3:30 PM through 10/31
Elk Echoes- Learn about elk adaptations, migration and mating behavior. Meet at the Sheep Lake information kiosk in Horseshoe Park for this 30 minute program. Daily from 8/29 through 10/31. ♿	6:00 PM begins 8/30 through 10/25	6:00 PM begins 8/31 through 10/26	6:00 PM begins 9/1 through 10/27	6:00 PM begins 9/2 through 10/28	6:00 PM begins 9/3 through 10/29	6:00 PM begins 9/4 through 10/30	6:00 PM begins 8/29 through 10/31

East Side Evening Programs	Sunday	Tuesday	Friday	Saturday
Aspenglen Campground ♿	8:30 PM 9/6 only		8:30 PM through 9/4	8:30 PM through 9/5
Glacier Basin Campground ♿	8:30 PM 9/6 only		8:30 PM through 9/4	8:30 PM through 9/5
Headquarters Visitor Center ♿ 7:30 PM nightly 8/23 to 9/6			7:30 PM through 9/26	7:30 PM year round
Moraine Park Campground ♿	8:30 PM 8/23, 8/30, 9/6	8:30 PM 8/25, 9/1 8:00 PM 9/8, 9/15, 9/22	8:30 PM 8/28, 9/4 8:00 PM 9/11, 9/18, 9/25	8:30 PM 8/29, 9/5 8:00 PM 9/12, 9/19, 9/26

West Side Program Description	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Birdwatching Along a Mountain Meadow - Meet at the Never Summer Ranch parking area for this 1 mile, 2 hour easy walk. Field guide and binoculars helpful. Fridays through 9/4.						8:00 AM through 9/4	
Birdwatching Through an Aspen-Conifer Forest - Look for birds on this easy 1/2 mile, 2 hour walk. Meet at Timber Lake trailhead. Saturdays through 9/5.							8:00 AM through 9/5
Half Way to Paradise - Enjoy great views of Grand Lake and one of the park's loveliest waterfalls on this moderate 5 mile, 4 hour hike. Meet at East Inlet trailhead. Fridays through 9/11.						9:00 AM through 9/11	
Hike the Divide - Enjoy tundra vistas on this moderate to difficult hike. Meet at Milner Pass. Bring warm clothes, water, rain gear, and hiking shoes. 4 hours. Mondays and Saturdays through 9/12.		9:00 AM through 9/7					9:00 AM through 9/12
Seldom Scene - Explore the lovely headwaters of the Cache La Poudre River. Starts at east end of La Poudre Lake. Easy to moderate walk. 3 miles, 3 hours. Tuesdays through 9/8.			9:00 AM through 9/8				
Dude Ranching in the Rockies - Meet at the Never Summer Ranch trailhead for a 1/2 mile history walk. 1 1/2 hours. Daily through 9/7.	10:00 AM through 9/6	10:00 AM through 9/7	10:00 AM through 9/1	10:00 AM through 9/2	10:00 AM through 9/3	10:00 AM through 9/4	10:00 AM through 9/5
Skins 'N Things - Take a close look at mammal bones and skins. Drop by the Kawuneeche Visitor Center during the scheduled hour. Sundays, Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays through 9/12.	10:00 AM through 9/6		10:00 AM through 9/8			2:00 PM through 9/11	10:00 AM through 9/12
Colorado: Life Along the River - Learn about the plants and animals that make this valley their home. Meet at the Colorado River trailhead. 1 mile, 2 hours. Through 9/12.	2:00 PM through 9/6		2:00 PM through 9/8		2:00 PM through 9/10		2:00 PM through 9/12
Especially for Kids - Games, activities and stories provide a challenge to kids ages 6-12. Meet at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center. 1 hour. Sundays through 9/6.	2:00 PM through 9/6						
Water the Sculptor - Marvel at water's artwork on this 1 1/2 hour walk. Meet at the East Inlet trailhead. Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays through 9/11.		2:00 PM through 9/7		2:00 PM through 9/9		2:00 PM through 9/11	
Walk into Twilight - Wear warm clothes and bring a flashlight for a 2 hour evening stroll. Meet at Onahu Creek trailhead. Wednesdays and Fridays through 9/11.				7:15 PM through 9/9		7:15 PM through 9/11	

West Side Evening Programs	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Timber Creek Campground	8:15 PM through 9/6	8:15 PM through 9/7	8:15 PM through 9/8	8:15 PM through 9/9	8:15 PM through 9/10	8:15 PM through 9/11	8:15 PM through 9/12



This orange symbol indicates the program is wheelchair accessible; some assistance may be required.



This yellow symbol indicates that the first part of the program is wheelchair accessible; some assistance may be required.

## Wapiti Walks

Learn about elk behavior, migration, and population. Check at visitor centers for dates, time, and location.



# READ AND RESEARCH

## Book Review

by Curt Buchholtz

### The Magnificent Mountain Women

by Janet Robertson

University of Nebraska Press, 220 pages. Hardcover, \$21.95.

How two women coped with a frigid environment and the isolation of a remote cabin is a highlight of this book.

Author Janet Robertson of Boulder argues that it is time to set the record straight. Since most of Colorado's explorers, prospectors, and promoters were men, they have dominated the historical headlines.

Women roamed the Rockies too, says Robertson. But their stories have been largely ignored. Until now.

The lives of dozens of women are detailed here. Common to them all is an affection for mountainous terrain. "The book's underlying theme," she begins, "is how this harsh land affected these women and how they in turn have enriched our appreciation for the mountains by their writing, their work, and their example."

Robertson admits that many of the ladies she selected for biographical review are "unknown or by now forgotten." A few are familiar: Anna Dickinson climbing Longs Peak, Isabella Bird

visiting Estes Park, Ruth Ashton Nelson writing "Plants of Rocky Mountain National Park", Gudrun Gaskill helping construct the 470 mile Colorado Trail.

A thorough researcher and lively writer, Robertson does an admirable job of mixing the famous figures with the unknowns. Included here are women active as botanists, mountain climbers, naturalists, homesteaders, and adventurers. Most are highly educated.

All of their stories deserve telling. For example, the tragic tale of Agnes Vaille, who died on a 1925 Longs Peak climb, reveals a sports-woman filled with bravado and felled by exhaustion and sub-zero January temperatures.

"Entering the Colorado high country," Robertson concludes, "women left behind a predictable support system, exchanging it for a self-reliance that almost none had been adequately prepared for. The Colorado mountains forced women, as well as men, to rapidly establish their priorities, to separate social niceties from practical ways of coping."

Most important, Robertson's research leaves no doubt that women indeed left an indelible mark on mountain history.



Will global change cause treeline to creep to higher elevations?

© John Ward 1978

## Will Global Change Affect Rockies?

### Scientists ask questions about how climate change will affect Rocky Mountain National Park.

As worldwide concern over the greenhouse effect grows, scientists from the National Park Service, Colorado State University, the University of Colorado, and the University of Wyoming are working to discover how global climate change will affect Rocky Mountain National Park and the northeastern Colorado Rockies. National Park Service ecologist Dr. Tom Stohlgren heads the research team in this project which seeks to answer several questions about how sensitive park ecosystems will respond to climate change.

Over the next 30 to 100 years, increasing levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, methane, and chlorofluorocarbons (freons) are expected to

cause dramatic change in the world's climate. One study predicts a warming of 3°C to 4°C (5° to 7° F) in the Colorado Rockies over the next 50 years. Scientists believe that a rise in global temperature will cause changes in hydrology (precipitation and snow melt patterns) and vegetation dynamics (where plants live and how well they grow). In addition, researchers are investigating the connection between global change and the frequency of fires and insect infestations.

**Over the next 30 to 100 years, increasing levels of atmospheric greenhouse gases are expected to cause dramatic change in the world's climate.**

The team of scientists will establish a series of long-term study sites to measure and record changes in plant species, soil, climate, and

hydrology. The data collected will help scientists to better understand the connection between living things and their environment and to create mathematical models to predict the response of park ecosystems to global change.

The scientists are especially interested in these questions: Which ecosystem processes are most sensitive to global change? Will the growth, reproduction, and locations of forests change? Will treeline rise and allow trees to invade the tundra? Will snow melt patterns and stream flow be altered? Will Rocky Mountain National Park's great diversity of living things be diminished?

Throughout the next few decades, Dr. Stohlgren and others will work to answer these questions in their attempt to understand the consequences of global change.



### Be a Partner with the Park JOIN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATURE ASSOCIATION

Individual (\$15);

Family (\$25); Supporting (\$50);

Contributing (\$100); Lifetime (\$1000).

Enclosed is my tax deductible membership contribution.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: Nancy Wilson, Membership Coordinator, Rocky Mountain Nature Association, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, CO 80517

mountain lion

# PLANS AND PROJECTS

mountain lion

## Photography - New Perspective on Land Use

Robert Glenn Ketchum is asked to photograph Rocky Mountain National Park and local community.

Rocky Mountain National Park, the town of Estes Park, and the Cultural Arts Council of Estes Park have joined forces to commission internationally acclaimed artist and author Robert Glenn Ketchum to produce photographs to capture the essence of the national park, Estes Valley, and adjacent lands. The project is scheduled to begin January 1993.

Ketchum's pictures will be used to promote wise land use planning. "My purpose will be to photograph the park and the community as they are, to show the things you already see every day and hold them up as a window to the world," says Ketchum.

Ketchum is the recipient of several awards and honors including the United Nations Outstanding Environmental Achievement Award and the Ansel Adams Award for Conservation Photography. He was elected to the Global 500 Roll of Honor for "outstanding practical achievements in the protection and improvement of the environment."

Ketchum cannot predict which scenes he will photograph during his work on the Rocky Mountain project, but he says that his images will provoke thought. "I see this project as being about the relationship between the Park Service and a gateway community," Ketchum commented.

The community of Estes Park is linked with Rocky Mountain National Park geographically, economically, and socially. Estes Park and other communities near national parks furnish services to visitors that parks cannot always provide. To maintain

economic vitality, gateway communities must ensure that parks are preserved and protected.

"Project sponsors hope this project will strengthen the bonds between the park and surrounding communities. The result may be a model for the future protection of park values and community economics," says Jim Mack, Chief Park Interpreter.

Already, an important partnership has been established as a result of the proposed photographic commission. The Cultural Arts Council of Estes Park, the town of Estes Park, and Rocky Mountain National Park have formed a steering committee to oversee the project and to seek funding.

Ketchum plans to photograph each season in Rocky Mountain National Park and the surrounding area during a two year period. When the project is completed, both the town and the park will be able to use the collection of photographs for educational and outreach programs.

It has not yet been decided if the Ketchum project will result in a publication or photographic exhibit. Jim Mack emphasized, "The most important aspect of the project is communication. If the national park and adjacent communities can develop a plan to preserve the area's natural resources with the help of Ketchum's images, then the photographic commission will be a success."

Anyone interested in the future of Rocky Mountain National Park and Estes Park is invited to show support. Contributions can be made through the Cultural Arts Council of Estes Park to the Robert Glenn Ketchum Project, P.O. Box 4135, Estes Park, Colorado, 80517. The Council's number is (303) 586-9203.



©Robert Glenn Ketchum

This photograph by Robert Glenn Ketchum is not just a pretty picture. Cuyahoga Valley's Brandywine Falls looks like a tranquil landscape, but it is disturbed and polluted by industrial waste. Ketchum hopes his photographs promote discussion about vulnerable natural areas.

mountain lion

## More Wheelchair Access Trails Coming Soon

**Sprague Lake and Bear Lake Trails will be smooth-riding by fall 1993.**

People with wheelchairs might not consider Rocky Mountain National Park user-friendly. But they're in for a surprise. Soon to be completed are wheelchair access loop trails around Sprague Lake and Bear Lake.

These projects are possible through private donations given through the non-profit Rocky Mountain National Park Associates. The Morrison Trusts of Denver started the park's accessibility efforts by funding the Beaver Ponds boardwalk. After that success, the National Park Service made the Sprague Lake trail easier to navigate

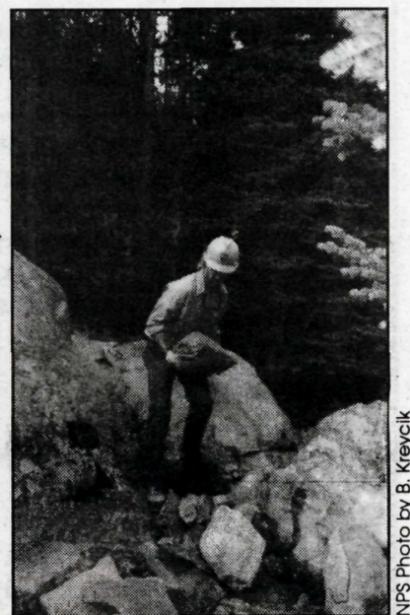
and added a special backcountry campsite called Handicamp.

This year the Morrison Trusts, the Chevron Companies, and the Adolph Coors Foundation all contributed to the Sprague Lake Loop, a project expected to cost about \$55,000. The Adolph Coors Foundation has also provided a gift of \$50,000 and a challenge grant of \$50,000 for Bear Lake trail improvements.

Volunteer groups are assisting National Park Service trail crews in making these trails handicap accessible. Interpretive signs and viewing spots will be placed along these trails as a part of the improvements.

Those interested in making a contribution to the handicapped trail projects should

contact Curt Buchholtz, Rocky Mountain National Park Associates, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, CO 80517.



NPS Photo by B. Kreycik

Construction is nearing completion on the Sprague Lake Trail.

# Visitor Transportation System

## Bus Schedule

Free shuttle service from Glacier Basin parking lot to Bear Lake daily until September 7 and weekends through September 20.

The Glacier Basin parking lot to Bear Lake loop includes stops at Bierstadt Lake Trailhead and Glacier Gorge Junction.

August 23, 28, 29, 30  
September 4, 5, 6, 7

From 8:00am to 9:30am, the bus leaves every half hour from Glacier Basin parking lot. Between 9:40am and 5:30pm, the bus leaves every 15 minutes from Glacier Basin parking lot.  
**The last bus leaves Bear Lake at 6:00pm.**

August 24 to 27, August 31 to September 3, and September 12, 13, 19, 20

The bus leaves every half hour from the Glacier Basin

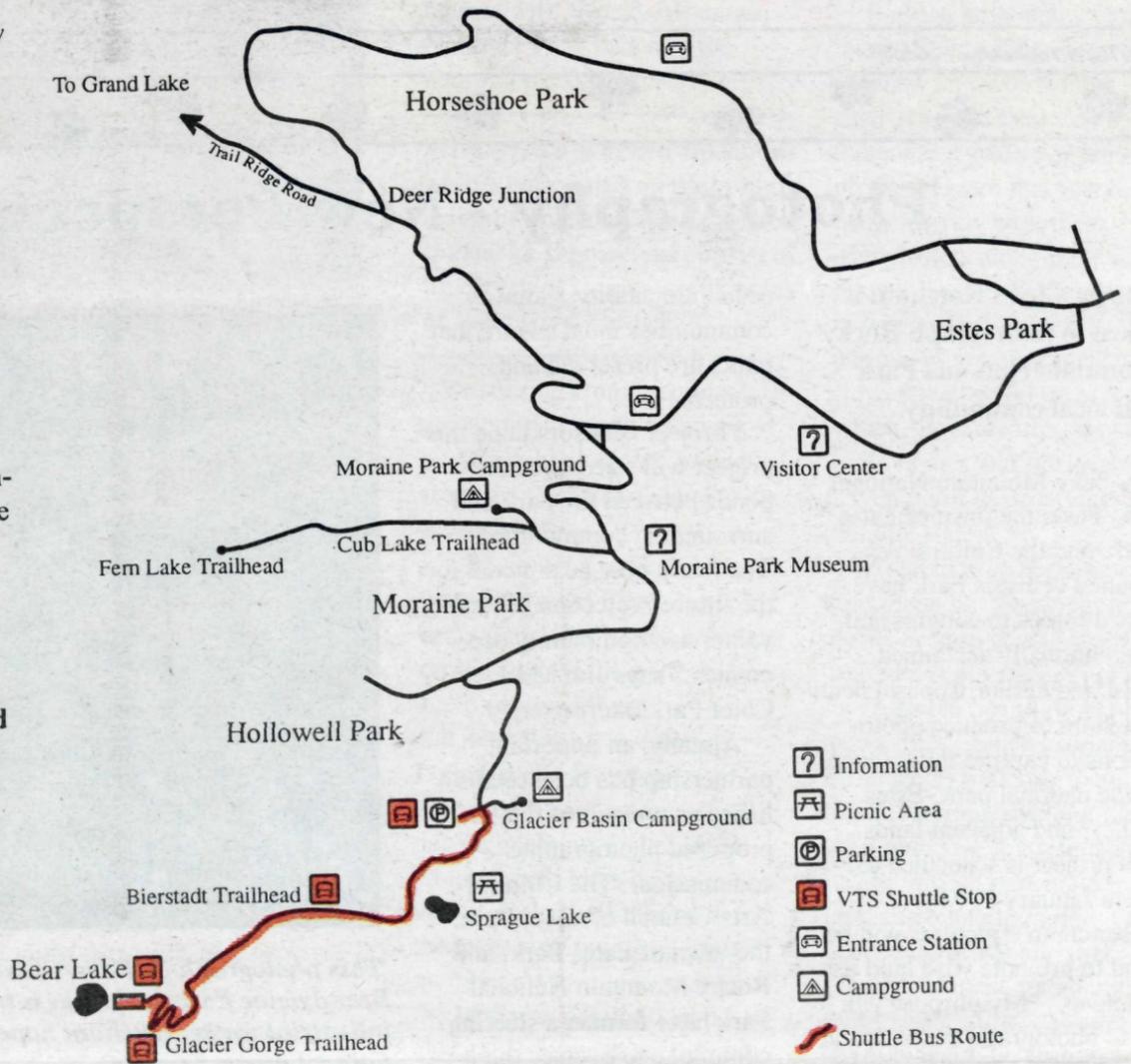
parking lot between 9:30am and 5:30pm.  
**The last bus leaves Bear Lake at 6:00pm.**

## Construction at Bear Lake and Sprague Lake

Trail and building construction is underway at Bear Lake Trailhead and Sprague Lake Trail from 7am to 5pm, Mon. - Fri. Use the shuttle bus to ease congestion. The Bear Lake Trail remains open with access around construction sites. A 250m/800ft section of Sprague Lake Trail is closed to complete the handicapped accessible path

around the lake. The remainder of the 8km/.5mi Sprague Lake Trail is open.

**No drinking water is available at Bear Lake. Hikers should bring their own water or get water at Glacier Basin Campground or Sprague Lake, the last drinking water sources before Bear Lake.**



## General Information

### EMERGENCIES

National Park Service rangers are here to provide assistance if an emergency occurs. If you need help, dial 911.

### EMERGENCY MESSAGES FROM HOME

Emergency messages may be delivered to a camper if the caller is able to provide:

- the camper's name
- campground name and site number
- vehicle description and license plate number

Please give this information to anyone who might need to get an emergency message to you.

### GENERAL PARK INFORMATION

may be obtained by calling:

(303) 586-2371 (Estes Park)

(303) 627-3471 (Grand Lake)

TDD - Telecommunications Device for the Deaf: (303) 586-8506 from 8am-4:30pm.

or by writing to:

Superintendent

Rocky Mountain National Park

Estes Park, CO 80517

### CAMPGROUND INFORMATION

Moraine Park, Longs Peak, and Timber Creek campgrounds are open year-round. Glacier Basin campground closes September 8, and Aspenglen campground closes September 28. Water is turned off in the other campgrounds in late September.

You can make reservations in advance for Moraine Park and Glacier Basin Campgrounds by calling:

MISTIX at 1-800-365-2267 or by writing:

MISTIX, P.O. Box 85705

San Diego, CA 92186-5705

through September 7.

**Campground Quiet Hours** are from 8pm - 8am. Please be considerate of fellow campers by observing quiet hours.

### BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Free permits are required for all backcountry camping. For information you may write to:

Backcountry Office

Rocky Mountain National Park

Estes Park, CO 80517

To make reservations you may stop by the Headquarters Backcountry Office from 7am - 7pm through September.

On the west side of the park you may obtain a permit at the Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

### FISHING

Colorado state fishing permits are required and are available at local sporting goods stores. Check at visitors centers for Rocky Mountain National Park fishing regulations.

### LOST AND FOUND

Lost and found items are kept at the Backcountry Office adjacent to Headquarters Visitor Center. You may file a lost or found report in person at the Backcountry Office or call (303) 586-2371.

### CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Estes Park 1-800-443-7837 or (303) 586-4431

Grand Lake (303) 627-3402

### NATIONAL FORESTS

Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests:

Estes Park - (303) 586-3440 through Labor Day

Ft. Collins - (303) 482-3822

Granby - (303) 887-3331

## VISITOR CENTER SCHEDULES

**Headquarters** - Open daily from 8am - 9pm through September 6. Starting Labor Day hours are 9am - 5pm daily.

**Moraine Park Museum** - Open daily from 9am - 5pm until October 31.

**Alpine Visitor Center** - Open daily from 9am - 4pm through October 12.

**Lily Lake Visitor Center** - Open daily from 9am - 5pm through September 27. Open weekends only in October from 9am-4pm through October 25.

**Kawuneeche Visitor Center** - Open daily from 8am - 6pm through September 12, and 8am - 4:30pm, September 13 through December 12.

**Never Summer Ranch** - Open daily from 9am - 4pm through September 7.

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