

Inside this Issue:

[Important Info...](#)

[Staying Safe...](#)

[Ranger-led Programs...](#)

[Winter Fun...](#)

Alerts:

Due to the 2013 Flood, closures still remain in some areas on the east side of the park. Rocky Mountain National Park is continuing to conduct damage assessments in the closed areas.

Stay Connected:

Official Website: www.nps.gov/romo

Follow us on Twitter: [@RMNPOfficial](https://twitter.com/RMNPOfficial)

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/RockyMountainNP

Park Information: (970) 586-1206

RMNP Rocky Mountain National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The official newspaper
of Rocky Mountain National Park



Park News

Winter 2013/2014

November 3rd, 2013 – March 22nd, 2014



The road in Endovalley was swept away during the 2013 Flood.

Backcountry Travelers May Encounter Different Conditions

Due to the flood, backcountry travelers may encounter different conditions than they have experienced in the past. Visitors may find missing foot bridges, missing trail segments, uneven trail surfaces, unstable slopes, falling trees due to soil moisture, rutted trails, damaged water bars and steps, difficult water crossings, and missing directional signs. Be prepared. Most of Rocky Mountain National Park is designated wilderness, where self-reliance, discovery and adventure are expected.

Park staff will continue to conduct damage assessments and coordinate needed infrastructure repairs. The next steps will be to assess at what level park staff will "repair" damaged trails. Ninety-five percent of the park is designated wilderness; this was a natural event which will be taken in to consideration as we move forward in determining what repairs should be made in the park's wilderness.

Historic Floods Hit Rocky Mountain National Park

By Kyle Patterson - Public Information Officer

Between September 11 and 13, 2013, Rocky Mountain National Park and surrounding east slope communities received up to 18 inches of rain causing catastrophic flooding. The park, containing many of the headwaters of this flood, received significant damages on bridges, roads and trails. However, damages in the park were relatively minor in comparison to the disastrous flooding that downstream communities east of the park experienced. The west side of the park was largely unaffected by the storm with flooding occurring only east of the Continental Divide.

By early morning September 12, park staff learned that all road access to the park from the east, specifically U.S. Highways 34, 36 and sections of State Highway 7, had been severely damaged and were closed. Trail Ridge Road, which is the highest continuous paved highway in the United States, was the only remaining way in and out of Estes Park for almost three days.

During the storm, park staff safely evacuated thousands of visitors; this included numerous search and rescue incidents, each requiring varying degrees of assistance and/or rescue. Park staff responded to numerous flash-flood issues and road closures.



Visitor Centers Estes Park Area



Beaver Meadows

Open daily 8-4:30 (closed Nov. 28 and Dec. 25). Park information, free park movie and bookstore. Backcountry camping permits are available by following the footpath just east of the visitor center to the Backcountry Office.



Fall River

Open daily 9-4; Dec. 21 - Jan. 5. Closed Dec. 25. Life-sized wildlife displays, a bookstore and discovery room where kids can touch objects and dress up as rangers, American Indians and pioneers.

Grand Lake Area



Kawuneeche

Open daily 8-4:30 Oct. - Nov. and Feb. - April. During Dec. - Jan. open Thu-Sunday 8-4:30. Hours variable Mon-Wed, call ahead to confirm. Closed Nov. 28 and Dec. 25. Park information and maps, free movie, exhibits, bookstore, backcountry camping permits.

Free Park Movie

See the stunning 23-minute park movie at the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center and Kawuneeche Visitor Center from 8:30 am-4 p.m. daily. Features spectacular aerial footage of the rugged high country of RMNP, as well as wildlife and park history. Captioned version available at Kawuneeche Visitor Center. Captioned, audio description and en Español at Beaver Meadows Visitor Center.



Park Phone Numbers



Trail Ridge Road Status: (970) 586-1222
Park Information: (970) 586-1206



Hearing impaired persons may call the TTY at (970) 586-1319



Dial 911 to report Emergencies

Entrance Fees:

Automobile Entrance Fee - Single
-family vehicle entrance fee is valid for seven consecutive days, including date of purchase. \$20

Rocky Mountain National Park Annual Pass - Provides unlimited entry to this park for one year from the date of purchase. \$40

Rocky Mountain National Park/ Arapaho National Recreation Area Annual Pass - Provides unlimited entry to both areas for one year from the date of purchase. \$50

America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass - Available to everyone which provides access to, and use of, federal recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee for one year from date of purchase. \$80

America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass - A lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents age 62 or older. \$10

America the Beautiful Military Pass - Free unlimited entry to federal recreation sites (including National Parks) for active duty military personnel and dependents with required proper identification (CAC Card or DD Form 1173) for one year.

America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Access Pass - A free lifetime pass for U.S. citizens or permanent residents with a permanent disability.

Fees may be paid by check, cash, or credit card.

Stay Safe

Avalanches

Avalanches can be easily triggered by backcountry travelers.

Wear an electronic transceiver when traversing avalanche terrain, and avoid skiing or snowshoeing in steep gullies. If caught in an avalanche, make swimming motions and try to stay on top of the snow.

For current avalanche conditions, check at a visitor center, call (970) 586-1206, or see the Colorado Avalanche Information Center website.



Backcountry Travel

Avoid traveling alone in the backcountry. Detailed information about your trip itinerary should be left with a responsible person so park authorities can be notified if you fail to return.

Be prepared for all types of weather conditions when hiking, skiing, or snowshoeing. Always carry essential survival items, regardless of the length of your trip. Don't depend on a cell phone for emergency help as many locations in this rugged park have no cell service.

Camping is only allowed in designated sites and areas. Visitors must obtain a required backcountry permit for all overnight camping and can purchase them at the Beaver Meadows Backcountry Office or Kawuneeche Visitor Center.

Write to: Backcountry Office, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517 or call (970) 586-1242 for more information.

The administrative permit fee of \$20 is required for backcountry permits between May 1 and October 31; there is no charge in winter.



Can I take antlers?

It is illegal to collect or possess antlers, animal parts or natural features (rocks, pinecones, etc.) from the park. Leave antlers and other park resources for others to enjoy.



Falling Trees

Falling trees are an ever-present hazard and can fall without warning. Be particularly watchful around dead trees when it's windy, or following a snowstorm when branches are heavy with snow.



Fishing

A Colorado State fishing license is required to fish in the park. Fishing regulations are available at the park's visitor centers.



High Elevation

Each year a large number of visitors experience symptoms of altitude sickness. These include headaches, dizziness, and eventually unconsciousness. High altitude can also aggravate existing medical conditions such as heart and lung diseases. Take your time and be sure to drink plenty of water. The only cure for altitude sickness is to go down to a lower elevation.



Hypothermia

Drowsiness, impaired judgment, excessive shivering and slurred speech are all signs of hypothermia. Prevent this condition by wearing insulating, wind-proof layers and drinking plenty of fluids.



Mountain Lions

Keep the following in mind when traveling in mountain lion country:

- ◆ Travel in groups and make noise as you hike closely together. Keep children close!
- ◆ If you see a mountain lion, stop, stay calm, and back away slowly. Never approach a lion or turn your back and run. Stand tall and look large. Raise your arms. Protect small children by picking them up.
- ◆ If approached, make loud noises, shout, clap hands, clang pots or pans, and fight back if attacked.

You Are Responsible

It is your responsibility to be safe, and to know and obey park rules. Park safety information and rules and regulations can be found at visitor centers, entrance stations, on trailhead bulletin boards, and on the park website at www.nps.gov/romo.

Pets

For the safety of your pet and the benefit of park wildlife and other visitors, pets are only allowed in picnic areas, parking lots, campgrounds, and along roadsides. They should never be left unattended in vehicles if it creates a danger to the animal or if it becomes a public nuisance. Pets must be on a leash no longer than six feet when outside vehicles. *Stop in a visitor center for more information on where pets are permitted outside of the park.*



Stay Together!

Always stay together as a group and avoid traveling alone in the backcountry. Detailed information about your trip itinerary should be left with a responsible person so park authorities can be notified if you fail to return. Safety is your responsibility!



When Viewing Wildlife

- Obey wildlife closure areas and "no stopping" traffic zones.
- Use parking areas along the road. If not available, pull your vehicle completely off the road and do not park on vegetation.
- Approaching animals may cause them stress, leading to disease or illness. If you cause an animal to move or change its behavior, you are too close!
- Wildlife can be unpredictable. For your safety and theirs, enjoy and photograph wildlife from a distance.
- Never feed wildlife, including birds and chipmunks.

Travel Tips

The Essentials:

- Lots of water
- Hat and gloves
- High-energy food
- Sunglasses with UV protection
- Sunscreen
- Topographic map & compass/GPS
- Waterproof matches
- Sturdy footwear & extra socks
- Layers of clothing (jackets & pants)
- Storm gear
- Whistle
- First aid kit
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Pocket knife
- Common sense!

Weather and Road Conditions

Winter driving conditions can change rapidly. call (970) 586-1206 for daily road and driving conditions, or stop at a visitor center. Snow tires may be recommended during periods of heavy snow. For Trail Ridge Road status call (970) 586-1222.

Weather permitting, lower elevation park roads remain open. Trail Ridge Road is closed between Many Parks Curve and the Colorado River Trailhead. The treeless, open central section of Trail Ridge Road experiences strong winds, heavy snow, and blizzard conditions, making it unsafe to maintain through the winter. Closures can be lowered to other points if conditions warrant.

Old Fall River Road – Closed to vehicles. Open to hikers, skiers, and snowshoers.

Park Partners

Love Rocky Mountain National Park? Help us make it even better!



If you've walked the Lily Lake Trail, explored the Fall River Visitor Center, or introduced a child to nature through the park's Junior Ranger Program, you know our work.

Rocky Mountain Nature Association
www.rmna.org

Become a Member or donate today!

At RMNA Stores, Your Purchase Makes A Difference!

Visit RMNA stores in any park visitor center for the best RMNP t-shirts, games, jewelry, books, maps and other great park items. Proceeds support the park!



EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES & TOURS IN THE PARK!
ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS
970-586-3262 www.rmna.org



Free Ranger Led Programs | East Side

| | LENGTH | LOCATION | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-------------------|-------------------------------|------------|-----|-----|------------|-----|-----|------------|
| Animals in Winter Discover the amazing adaptations that allow animals to survive the long winter in Rocky Mountain National Park. | 20-30 minute talk | Beaver Meadows Visitor Center | 1:30 p.m. | | | | | | 1:30 p.m. |
| Snowshoe Ecology Walk Come snowshoe with a ranger. Learn techniques to traverse various terrain as you explore the natural world of a subalpine forest. Ages 8 through adult only. <i>Bring your own snowshoes.</i> No previous experience needed. January 4 – March 23 | 2 hours | by reservation | 12:30 p.m. | | | 12:30 p.m. | | | 12:30 p.m. |

Reservations
Reservations are necessary and may be made no more than seven days in advance. (limit of six people per reservation) Call (970) 586-1223 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily.

Groups
Part of an organized group? Please call (970) 586-3777. Reservations can be made in advance for groups.

Additional Programs:

Full Moon Walk

1 to 1.5 hour walk. November 17, December 17, January 15, February 14, and March 16. Explore the park by the light of the full moon. Times and locations will vary each month.

Reservations are necessary (no more than 7 days in advance). Call (970) 586-1223 from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. daily. Six people per reservation for this program.

Outdoor gear appropriate for the conditions will be required.



Holiday Programming

Join us over the holiday season for a calendar full of fun family activities. December 21 - January 1, the park will be offering special programs to celebrate the winter season.

Please stop by a visitor center or call (970) 586-1206 for specific topics and times.

Spring Break Programming – Check at visitor centers for additional programs offered in March.

Programs may be canceled in the event of extreme weather or high winds. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Free Ranger Led Programs | West Side

| | LENGTH | LOCATION | SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|--|-----------|---------------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| Ski the Wilderness in Winter Join a ranger for a mostly-level cross country ski tour. Bring your own skis and poles with large baskets. Ages eight through adult only. Reservations required. | 1.5 hours | Kawuneeche Visitor Center | | | | | | | 9:30 a.m. 12/28 – 1/25 |
| Beginner Snowshoe Join a mostly-level snowshoe hike with a ranger. Bring your own snowshoes and ski poles with large baskets. Ages eight through adult only. Reservations required. | 2 hours | Kawuneeche Visitor Center | | | | | | | 1 p.m. 12/28 – 3/8 |
| Intermediate Snowshoe A more rigorous tour with elevation gains of up to 500 ft. Requires the ability to maintain a good pace over uneven terrain at high altitude. Bring your own snowshoes and ski poles with large baskets. Ages eight through adult only. Reservations required. | 2 hours | Kawuneeche Visitor Center | 1 p.m. 12/29 – 3/9 | | | | | | |

Reservations are required for all west-side winter tours, and may be made no more than seven days in advance. Programs may be canceled in the event of extreme weather or high winds.

Park entrance pass required for all programs. Call (970) 627-3471 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. to make reservations in advance. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Programs may be canceled in the event of extreme weather or high winds. All children must be accompanied by an adult.



Junior Ranger Program

Los libros de guardaparque juveniles son para niños que tiene 12 años o menos. se pueden obtener sin costo en el centro de visitantes del parque. Si se completa el libro con éxito puede recibir una insignia!

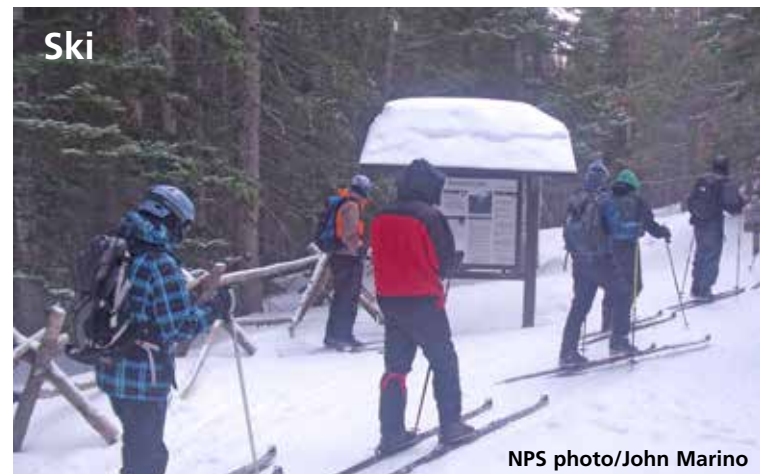
Free Junior Ranger books are available at park visitor centers for children ages 12 and under. A successfully completed book earns a badge!

You are an important part of this park. Stay in touch. Contact us anytime at: romo_junior_ranger@nps.gov

Winter Fun in Rocky

Winter is a spectacular time to visit the wilderness of Rocky Mountain National Park. With a little bit of preparation, many exciting activities await you. Be sure to layer up with insulating, waterproof clothing, wear sunglasses and use sunscreen.

Things to Do



Podcast Highlight

Check out nps.gov/romo and click on PHOTOS & MULTIMEDIA for more podcasts, blogs, and videos!



RMNP Podcasts

Snowshoe

Ever thought how fun it would be to hike in the winter, to see the beautiful Rocky Mountain National Park backcountry, but there's all that snow? Consider snowshoeing!

It's as easy as strapping snowshoes on your boots and grabbing a couple of poles. No training is necessary – if you can hike, you can snowshoe. Most park trails can be explored with snowshoes. A few pieces of equipment are essential: you will need a pair of snowshoes and waterproof boots. Poles are helpful for maintaining balance, but optional. Waterproof pants or gaiters help keep you warm and dry.

Cross-country Ski

Picture yourself gliding through a silent forest full of fresh, white snow. Cross-country skiing is a rejuvenating sport that pairs physical exercise with the beauty of nature. You will need skis and poles with large baskets. Waterproof pants or gaiters help keep you warm and dry. In general, terrain and deeper snows on the west side of the park make for better for cross-country skiing, but you are welcome to strap on your skis throughout the park.

Sledding

Hidden Valley is the one place in Rocky where sledding is allowed. No tows are provided; you walk your sled, saucer, or tube up the hill and slide down. It is a pretty gentle hill, being the bottom of the bunny slope of the former Hidden Valley Ski Area. Skiers, snow boarders, and snowshoers may pass through but must use caution around sledders, and slow down to yield the right-of-way. Park rangers and volunteers may be there to help, but in general, you're on your own. A restroom is at the bottom of the hill by the parking lot. On most weekends when there's an attendant, a warming room is also available. Winter winds can scour the area, causing conditions to vary, so call the park Information Office for the latest information, 970-586-1206.

Snowshoe or Ski with a Ranger

Check the 'Free Ranger-Led Programs' page for snowshoe and cross-country ski opportunities with a ranger; reservations are required.

What if I Don't Have My Own Equipment?

The communities of **Estes Park** and **Grand Lake** have shops where winter recreation equipment, including snowshoes, cross-country skis, poles, boots, sleds, tubes, saucers, gaiters, stabilizers can be rented or purchased.

Toward a Greener Park Recycling Available in Major Park Locations



Glass, plastic #1 and #2, and aluminum may be recycled in park campgrounds and at major park locations. Look for our distinctive recycling containers or ask at any visitor center or campground for their locations.



Leave No Trace

With approximately 3 million visitors every year, the wild lands of Rocky Mountain National Park are heavily used. While hiking, camping, and all your park activities, do your part to preserve this national treasure by following the seven easy Leave No Trace Ethics:

- Plan ahead and prepare
 - Travel and camp on durable surfaces
 - Dispose of waste properly
 - Leave what you find
 - Minimize campfire impacts
 - Respect wildlife
 - Be considerate of other visitors
- For more information visit <http://www.lnt.org/>