



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

Photo by Carl Johnson

Wilderness, Wildlife, and Wonder

That's the new slogan for the park's centennial in 2015.

The winning entry was submitted by park volunteer Beth Honea. She has been a volunteer since 1997 and has contributed nearly 1000 hours in many different capacities including Bighorn Brigade and the Information Office. Here's what Beth wrote on her submission form: "A nod to our recent wilderness designation, recognition of what many people visit the park to encounter, and the feeling they experience in their heart and soul in seeing Rocky for the first or the one hundredth time."

On April 30, the park's Anniversary Committee met for the first time to choose finalists for the Employee/Volunteer Slogan Contest. Of the 57 entries, the committee chose 4 that they thought represented different aspects of Rocky Mountain National Park and the centennial celebration. Our management team then voted on the four selections. This slogan will be used with an official logo to establish a visual identity for the centennial and build public awareness of the fundraising, retail/products, and event/program development phases of 100th Anniversary planning and implementation. The purpose of the slogan is to represent the important aspects of Rocky Mountain National Park that we want employees and visitors to associate with the 100th Anniversary, to symbolize the past, present and future of RMNP, and to provide direction for the mission, vision, and celebration of the park's centennial.

With the centennial year scheduled to kick off on September 4, 2014, we will start to see more activity related to the anniversary. A nationwide logo contest is up next. Stay tuned for details.

Hope to see you in the park!

Vaughn Baker
Superintendent

Visitation

With this year's milder temperatures, early spring, and minimal snow accumulation, Rocky Mountain National Park visitation had already reached 352,000 visitors by the end of April; a 30.3% increase over visitation last year at the same time!

Many visitors were able to take advantage of the warmer weather by hiking or bicycling up Trail Ridge Road prior to its early opening on May 14, 2012.



Photo by Ann Schonlau

Keep Up On the Latest With Rocky....

Park Website www.nps.gov/romo

Like us on Facebook at Rocky Mountain National Park

Twitter <http://twitter.com/rmnpofficial>

Flickr http://flickr.com/photos/rocky_mountain_np

Park Information 970-586-1206

Trail Ridge Road & Bear Lake Road Reconstruction Recorded Status Line 970-586-1222



NPS Photo

Fee Free Days:

The remaining Fee Free dates in the park this year are:

June 9 (Get Outdoors Day)

September 29 (National Public Lands Day)

November 10 - 12 (Veterans Day weekend)

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Bear Lake Road Phase II

Work is underway on the second phase of Bear Lake Road reconstruction. The work is taking place from the Park & Ride – Glacier Basin Campground intersection to the junction with Trail Ridge Road, a distance of 5.1 miles. The 24 million dollar project involves significant retaining wall work in order to accommodate much-needed safety and drainage improvements. In addition on this phase, a 0.9 mile section is being rerouted away from Glacier Creek in order to prevent impacts to wetlands and riparian habitat and minimize costs. Intersections, several parking areas and a shuttle stop will be improved as well.

Bear Lake Road was completed in 1928 and until 2003, no significant improvements were made for 75 years. This project will rebuild the lower road to standards similar to the improvements done on the upper road in 2004. The surface will be improved and widened and structural and safety deficiencies will be corrected to better accommodate park shuttle buses and RVs and to improve snow plowing safety.



*Construction of Retaining Wall
NPS Photo*

When this project is complete, it will conclude over 47 miles of critical improvements on Bear Lake Road and Trail Ridge Road. This amounts to over 80% of main line park road miles that have been rebuilt since 2003.



Developing A Portion of the Bear Lake Road Re-route

Photo by John Olsen

Bear Lake Road Reconstruction



A two year major construction project has begun on the lower section of Bear Lake Road.

From May 29, through October 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bear Lake Road, approximately one mile southwest of Moraine Park Visitor Center to Bear Lake, will be accessible by free shuttle bus only, seven days a week. Private vehicles will be allowed both directions prior to 9 a.m. and after 4 p.m.

Visitors in private vehicles, who make the 9:00 a.m. cutoff time, will be allowed to travel out of the area throughout the day. All visitors, in private vehicles or shuttle buses, should expect at least two 20-minute delays both directions through the construction area. There will be no construction delays between Park & Ride and Bear Lake. There may be night closures during the construction. Night closures will be announced at least two weeks prior to occurring.

During the next two years, visitors who plan to go to the Bear Lake area will have easier access if they:

- * Plan Ahead
- * Carpool
- * Hike Early or Hike Late
- * Let the Shuttles Do the Driving -
 - Park in Estes Park and take the Hiker Shuttle
- * Expect Congestion

All trailheads along the Bear Lake Corridor, the Park & Ride, Moraine Park Visitor Center and Beaver Meadows Visitor Center have limited parking spaces available. For those visitors who want to access the Bear Lake area between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., starting May 29, the best option will be to park in Estes Park at the parking lot near the Fairgrounds or the Estes Park Visitor Center and take the Hiker Shuttle in to Rocky Mountain National Park.

More information on the Bear Lake Road Reconstruction Project is available at www.nps.gov/romo and a recorded road status line at (970) 586-1222.

Thank you for your patience and support during this project!

Shuttle Bus Information

The park's three shuttle routes will be modified during the Bear Lake Road Reconstruction Project. The shuttle begins operations on Saturday, May 26, of Memorial Day weekend. However, beginning Tuesday May 29, through October 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Bear Lake Road, from approximately one mile southwest of Moraine Park Visitor Center to Bear Lake, is accessible by free shuttle bus only, seven days a week. Private vehicles are allowed both directions prior to 9 a.m. and after 4 p.m. Visitors in private vehicles who make the 9 a.m. cutoff time will be allowed to travel east bound throughout the day. All visitors, in private vehicles or shuttle buses, should expect at least two 20-minute delays both directions through the construction area. There will be no construction delays between Park & Ride and Bear Lake. There may be night closures during the construction; night closures will be announced at least two weeks prior to occurring.



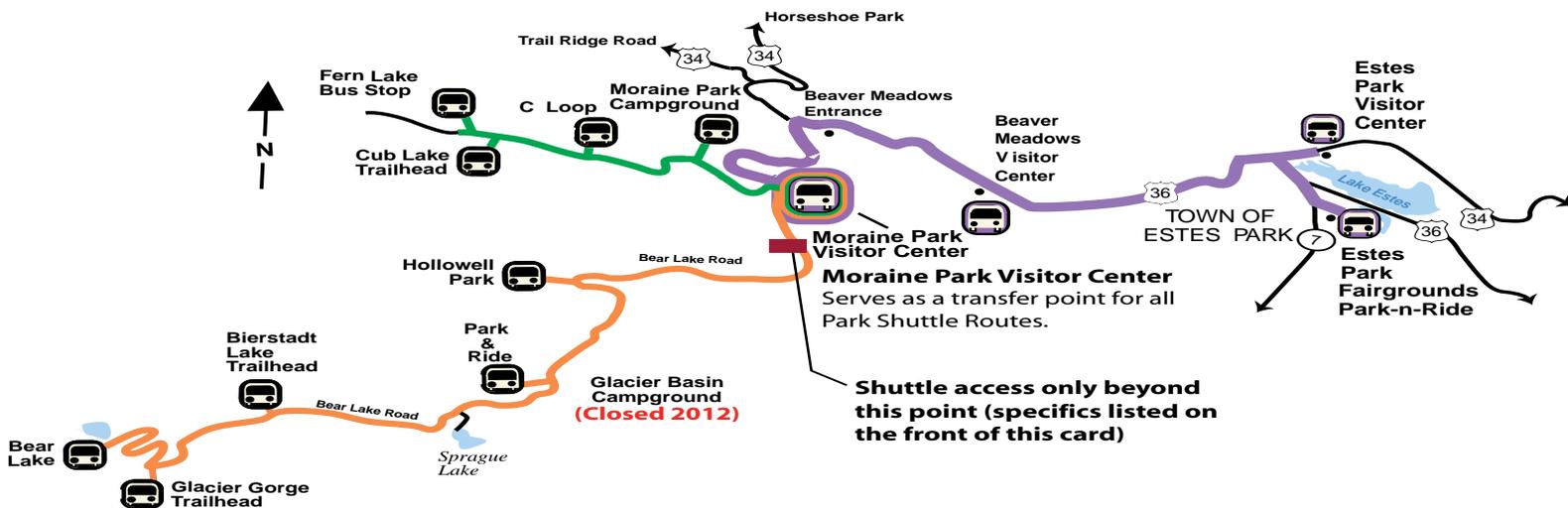
Buses on the Moraine Park Route will run between the Moraine Park Visitor Center and the Fern Lake bus stop with stops at Moraine Park Campground, Cub Lake Trailhead and Fern Lake bus stop. Moraine Park Route buses will run every 20 minutes.

The first bus on the Moraine Park and Bear Lake routes will depart from the Moraine Park Visitor Center at 7 a.m. and the last bus will leave at 7 p.m.

The last bus of the day on the Moraine Park and Bear Lake routes will leave Bear Lake and Fern Lake trailheads at 7:30 p.m.

Buses on the Bear Lake Route will run between Moraine Park Visitor Center and Bear Lake with stops at Hollowell Park, Park & Ride, Bierstadt bus stop, Glacier Gorge Trailhead and Bear Lake. Bear Lake Route buses will run every 15 minutes but may be delayed during periods of road construction.

Buses on the Hiker Shuttle Route will make stops at the Estes Park Fairgrounds Park-n-Ride, the Estes Park Visitor Center, the Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, and the Moraine Park Visitor Center where passengers will transfer to buses on either the Bear Lake Route or the Moraine Park Route. The first bus will leave the Fairgrounds Park-n-Ride at 6:30 a.m. and the last bus will leave the Moraine Park Visitor Center bound for Estes Park at 8 p.m. The Hiker Shuttle will run on an hourly schedule early and late in the day, switching to a half-hour schedule from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



-  **Hiker Shuttle Express Route**
Stops at Moraine Park Visitor Center, Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, the Estes Park Visitor Center, and the Fairgrounds only
-  **Bear Lake Route** Expect major delays
-  **Moraine Park Route** Expect some delays
-  **Shuttle Bus Stop**

Heavy Winter Winds Leave Hundreds of Trees Down on Park Trails



NPS Photo

Strong winds throughout the park this past winter have led to hundreds of trees down across trails. On the evening of November 12, 2011, the east side of the park experienced extreme high winds, up to 110 MPH, which resulted in a large number of trees being uprooted or broken along most of the trail systems. These winds were well above normal wind speeds during the winter months which usually see sustained winds of up to 30 MPH with gusts of 50 MPH. Significant damage was found along

the Sprague Lake Accessible Trail resulting in the trail being closed for a short period while clean up and repairs were made. The Sprague Lake Trail has now been re-opened.

This wind event also created damage to many other trails on the east side. For example, the Bierstadt Lake Trail had 86 trees down across the trail; 28 of which were snags hanging above the trail corridor which could be released by another high wind event. Numerous large trees are down between Mills and Black Lake.

Crews have been working to remove fallen and hanging trees from hundreds of miles of trails on both sides of the park. Attention has been given to popular front country trails first, as these trails see more use. The park's main concern is visitor and employee safety. With the great quantity of fallen and hanging trees, please be aware of your surroundings while hiking in the park and be extremely cautious when going through the forest, especially when it is windy. Remember - safety is your responsibility.

Hazard Trees - Watchout!!

Falling trees are always a possible hazard when traveling in a forest. But they are particularly hazardous now as beetle-killed trees are beginning to be further weakened by weather and rotting.

Trees that are attacked by beetles can retain their needles and structural integrity for the first couple of years, even though the tree is dead and the needles are red. What happens next, and can last for more than 10 years, is the gradual weakening of the tree's structure and the eventual toppling of dead trees, particularly during high winds.

It is important for visitors to take the time to read, understand, and follow guidance related to this issue and practice situational awareness at all times. To learn more, you can find information at: bulletin boards at trailheads, the park newspaper, information office, visitor centers, and the park website.

Maintain your situational awareness and be safe!

An Update on Your Trails for the 2012 Season

East Side

- Alpine Ridge Trail at Alpine Visitor Center (aka Huffers Hill): Trail will be closed all summer. The installation of a sustainable step system and a hybrid asphalt tread will be completed in 2012 and the trail will reopen in 2013.
- Lake Haiyaha: Work on the Lake Haiyaha loop trail will continue in 2012 with an anticipated completion date of fall 2012. A 400 foot re-alignment has been completed and is now open to the public. Work on the Alberta Falls Trail will continue this fall. This project is being funded by the Rocky Mountain Nature Association. The trail will remain open all summer while work is being performed.
- Chasm Falls: Rehabilitation work will begin on the Chasm Falls trail in 2012. Work includes the construction of a viewing area platform. Work will be ongoing to disassemble and reconstruct a viewing platform. The platform area will be closed for the remainder of this summer.
- Flattop Trail: Rehabilitation work will begin in 2012 on the Flattop Trail. Work will include repairing drainage structures and retaining walls where necessary. Most of the work will be completed using stone to match the original Civilian Conservation Corps construction techniques. The project is anticipated to last 4 years with the work beginning at the bottom and moving uphill. The trail will remain open.
- Lily Lake: The installation of a new, accessible fishing pier has been completed.
- Finch Lake Trail: Rehabilitation work will begin in 2012 on the Finch Lake Trail. Work will include construction of log causeways and drainage improvement. Most work will improve drainage issues caused by the Ouzel Fire. This project is anticipated to last 2 years with the assistance from the Student Conservation Association. The trail will remain open.



NPS Photo

West Side:

- Coyote Valley Trail: Work on the Coyote Valley Trail will focus on repairing the tread lost during last year's Colorado River flooding. Funding for this project will be provided by the RMNA Sustainability Fund.
- North Inlet Trail: Rehabilitation work will begin in 2012 on the North Inlet Trail. Work will include repairing drainage structures and retaining walls where necessary. Most of the work will be completed using stone to match the original Civilian Conservation Corps construction techniques. The project is anticipated to last 4 years with the work beginning at the bottom and moving uphill. The trail will remain open.
- Timber Lake Trail: This trail was closed ½ mile beyond the trail head due to trail and slope instability. If conditions are favorable, this emergency closure may be lifted for pedestrian traffic only in 2012.
- All Trails: Spring opening this season has the crews removing numerous trees that blew down last winter during major wind events, use extreme caution on all trails.

Rocky Mountain National Park's International Connections

An Emblem of International Cooperation – This emblem was presented to Rocky Mountain National Park by our Costa Rica partners in March of 2012, to honor our relationship in the shared-conservation of migratory species.

Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) has a long history of international cooperation. For more than 20 years Colorado State University's Center for Protected Areas Management and Training has brought protected area managers from Central and South America to RMNP to learn about park management. Annual experiences have ranged from lectures to trail maintenance; this program continues today with an upcoming visit in July.

We also host visitors from numerous countries. For example, within the last year, we have hosted staff exchanges or extended visits from New Zealand, Costa Rica, Poland and Slovakia. We expect visits from Poland and Costa Rica again this summer. These longer term visits often result in reciprocal visits by our staff to the country of origin. In the last few years more than a dozen staff have traveled to another country to provide technical assistance, to promote international cooperation and support for the mutual benefit of the parks, and to enrich the experience and training of personnel.

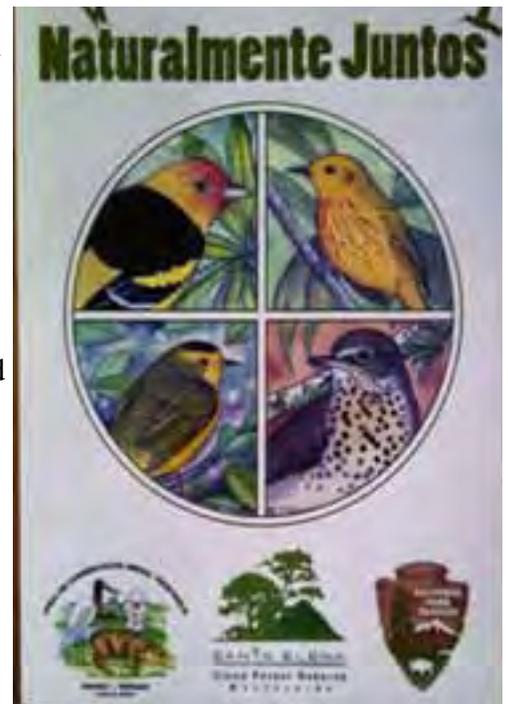
Hosting short-term visitors is also common. International guests may only stay a day to learn about issues, shared challenges and opportunities in conservation, and about park operations. Within the last year we have hosted delegations from: Australia, China, Mongolia, India, and Austria. In our summer ahead we can expect visitors from: Norway, Russia, China, Chile, and Mexico.

Additionally, our gateway community of Estes Park has a sister city relationship with Monteverde, Costa Rica. Over the last three years a relationship has been forged by the protected areas proximate to their respective gateway community – a commitment to the shared-conservation of more than 150 migratory bird species we have in common.

A final thought. Director Jon Jarvis has shared this perspective:

“Our presence on the international stage brings a legitimacy and weight to the efforts of the protected area community at a time when threats to our institutions come from all corners...we have as much to learn as we have to give, as we certainly do not have all the ideas....” Jarvis 2011.

We encourage all staff to learn about protected areas management around the world, and to engage with our international guests when the opportunities present themselves.



Rocky's Sister Parks Program Agreement Renewed with Tatra National Parks



Signing of the second five year sister park agreement April 2012– (from left to right) Marián Šturcel Deputy Director of the state forests of Tatra National Park (TANAP); Pawel Majko, Director, Tatra National Park (TANAP), Slovakia; Pawel Skawinski, Director, Tatra National Park (TPN), Poland; Vaughn Baker, Superintendent, Rocky Mountain National Park, USA; Ambassador Lee Feinstein, U.S. Embassy, Warsaw; Ambassador Theodore Sedgwick, U.S. Embassy, Bratislava; Tomas Kasaj, Slovakian Consul to Krakow.

In September 2007, and again in April of 2012, Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) signed a sister park agreement with the Tatra National Parks in Poland (TPN) and Slovakia (TANAP). U.S. Ambassador to Poland Lee Feinstein, in coordination with U.S. Ambassador to Slovakia Theodore Sedgwick joined our conference and led a ceremony to renew RMNP's sister park agreement, celebrate our productive relationship, and share their time and knowledge in Earth Day activities with park staff, the public and media.

Consistent with this agreement and in cooperation with the U.S. Embassies in Poland and Slovakia, the Tatra National Parks and RMNP co-hosted a park management and research conference held around Earth Day in Zakopane Poland. The purpose of the conference and the visit was to renew our sister park agreement for another five years as described above, and to promote international cooperation and support for the mutual benefit of the parks. Superintendent Vaughn Baker, Chief of Resource Stewardship Ben Bobowski, and Public Information Officer Kyle Patterson presented at the 5th annual park management conference on the following topics: philanthropy, communication, branding, training, and public relations.

RMNP has four comparative research projects ongoing between our park and the Tatras. As a product of this trip, two additional projects are likely to be implemented. Shared-science projects will inform our understanding of ecological responses to climate change, air quality, and beetle impacts. As we continue our productive relationship, look for staff from Poland to come to RMNP later this year to learn about wildlife management and park operations.

Visitors from Mongolia

Park staff met with a small group of park managers from Mongolia on April 27, 2012. The group consisted of; Gala Davaa -- The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Program Director for Mongolia, who served as translator, Mr Batkhurel -- Director of the Environmental Protection Agency of one of the grassland provinces of Mongolia and Mrs. Purevsuren -- a specialist from the protected areas department of the Ministry of Environment.

The group was interested in a number of issues of common concern including preservation of park ecosystems and visitor management. The visitors were particularly interested in learning about tools and procedures used for National Park Service planning. One member of the group was very interested in the park's bear proof trash can and dumpster design. The group was hosted by The Nature Conservancy. During their stay in Colorado the group also visited a Nature Conservancy facility on the Colorado plains and the Boulder County Open Space Department.

Visitors From India

On April 25 and 26, 2012, Rocky Mountain National Park hosted a group of 35 protected-area managers from India. The visit of the group was coordinated by the Colorado State University, Center for Protected Area Management and Training. Over the course of the two day visit the group met with a variety of park staff to learn about and discuss the overall park mission, administrative and management issues, working with local communities, interpretation, elk management, wilderness, law enforcement, trail maintenance and emerging management challenges. The group also toured the park, seeing a variety of wildlife, playing in the snow (a first experience for some of the group members) and enjoying a lovely rainbow display at Rainbow Curve.

During the visit, one of the course participants, Dr. Anil K. Bhardwaj of the Wildlife Institute of India gave an engaging brown bag presentation on "National Park Management Issues in India: Balancing Conservation and Human Livelihoods in Periyar Tiger Reserve."



NPS Photo

Beaver Meadows Visitor Center Renovation

The renovation, which began last fall, was completed on March 1, 2012, several months early. The project consisted of four parts: a new ADA accessible elevator (lift) between floors, conversion of restrooms to two family restrooms, a bridge between the front plaza and the walkway around the outside of the auditorium and a new information desk. The building is a National Historic Landmark and was dedicated in 1967. It serves as park headquarters and houses many of our staff. Nearly 400,000 visitors pass through the building annually.



*New 'through' walkway around the BMVC auditorium.
NPS Photo*



*Park employee Graham Kopp, meticulously building the new information desk for the BMVC.
NPS Photo*



*Interpretive Ranger Don Stewart assists visitors at the newly built information desk.
NPS Photo*

Saturday evening programs have resumed in the auditorium and the park movie is now being played on upgraded, high definition, audio visual equipment.

Access the park newspaper from our website for a full schedule of free ranger-led programs going on in the park on both the east side (Estes Park) and the west side (Grand Lake).

<http://www.nps.gov/romo/parknews/newspaper.htm>

Protecting Your Park, Tips for Traveling Lightly on the Land



Photo by Ann Schonlau

Authors: David Pettebone & Tara Vessella

Rocky Mountain National Park, which sees nearly 3 million visitors annually, is an incredibly popular destination for recreationists. While some natural resource impacts resulting from recreational use are inevitable, visitors can apply a few strategies to minimize their mark on the land. The Leave-No-Trace (LNT) ethic was developed as a set of principles for recreationists to follow to ensure that they “travel lightly on the land.” Many outdoor users are aware of LNT principles but know them only in part, thus, the potential of the LNT ethic to minimize resource impacts from outdoor recreation is often not fully realized. In this article, we provide a few principles from the LNT ethic to educate and encourage park users to travel sustainably.

Backcountry Travel and Wilderness Routes

Whenever possible, travel on durable surfaces such as established trails, rock, gravel, dry grasses or snow. It takes only a few passes by hikers to affect vegetation and promote erosion processes (Cole, 1991), thus, it is important in popular areas to concentrate use on existing trails and to walk single file in the middle of a trail, even when a trail is wet or muddy. Some guidebooks provide information and maps about wilderness routes to remote locations within the park. The park asks that visitors who choose to follow these routes tread lightly. Please do not take shortcuts along wilderness routes and create a larger area of impact than necessary. If a route is very muddy due to weather or season, please consider a different destination and let the area recover naturally until passable. This is particularly important in tundra areas where impacts to vegetation species can take over 100 years to recover. When in areas with no established trails visitors should disperse their travel and

group to prevent the creation of new trails and impacts. The use or creation of cairns for route finding is prohibited within Rocky Mountain National Park. Understanding how to use map and compass to navigate across a landscape will eliminate the need to leave markers such as flagging or cairns to retrace one's steps and preserve opportunities for discovery for all park users.

Dispose of Waste Properly

When ready to leave a rest stop on the trail inspect your area for trash or spilled food and pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter that you packed in with you. It is sometimes tempting to throw fruit or other "natural" food items into the woods, but remember, these foods are not "natural" to the wildlife that inhabit these areas. Providing human food to wildlife promotes habituation and increases the potential for human/wildlife conflicts. The proper disposal of human waste in wilderness areas is essential; a cat-hole dug 6 to 8 inches deep, 200 feet from water, camps, and trails, is standard practice when facilities are not available in wilderness. Always pack out toilet tissue and sanitary items as wildlife will expose these and decomposition rates of these items are slow. Also consider using a portable waste bag for solid human waste. These bags are available free-of-charge to climbers and overnight users at the park's Backcountry Office and at some trailheads.

Rocky Mountain National Park is a special place for visitors of all ages. This park has become a very popular area which has resulted in many remote locations gaining increased visitation. Federal land managers have the ability to influence a variety of management issues, but it is not done without help from all who visit the areas. Preserving the park's wilderness character is a shared responsibility and we hope that this article provides better understanding of ways to tread lightly in the park's wilderness. Please share these ideas with friends and family and most importantly with visitors who may not be aware of the marks they may leave behind in the wilderness. Feel free to speak with a ranger if you have questions or concerns on any topics mentioned in this article.

Happy trails!



Photo by John Marino

Rocky's Native Voice Program Teaches the Next Generation and Park Staff

Rocky Mountain National Park is ensuring that the Next Generation of Ute and Arapaho will be active participants in telling their stories and contributing to the overall interpretation of the park. To tell the interpretive story of a site, each park collaborates with tribes to guarantee their stories are included now and for the future. Since meeting with the Northern Ute tribal council and with the Sky People Higher Education Program for the Northern Arapaho in 1998, the park has been building a long-standing relationship with each group. Due to past relocation of tribes to reservations in Utah and Wyoming, several challenges faced the park including logistics, travel and funding to ensure the tribes had access to the park's educational opportunities.

After several years of planning and securing funds through an initial National Park Foundation grant, the interpretation staff brought the first group of Ute students, tribal elders and native language teachers to the park in 2003. Each summer, a group of Ute students, elders and teachers have been able to participate in an educational visit to the park and share information with park staff. Students visit cultural relevant sites in the park, learning about their cultural history and about the park's plant species and ecology. Elders share cultural stories, ceremonies and teach the Ute language to their youth while inviting park staff to participate. From the visits, a park data list is being compiled on Ute names for common park plants and general information for park staff to use for public programs. In addition, three years ago, the Utes gave their first public program, dancing in ceremonial dress, at Moraine Park Campground which delighted 180 park visitors. Currently, the park is working on a partnership with both the Ute and the Estes Park History Museum for developing a "Ute Garden" on the museum's outdoor grounds to help celebrate the park's upcoming 100th anniversary in 1915.

For the last four years, Arapaho students, teachers and elders from the Sky People Higher Education Program, have visited the park re-creating the historical 1914 Toll/Arapaho expedition (before the park was established) when the Arapaho named many of the park's features. Similar to the Ute, each year Arapaho students, elders and teachers visit culturally relevant sites re-creating the trip, learning cultural stories and sharing native language with students and park staff, while in return they learn about the park's plants and ecology. The park collaborates with the University of Colorado's linguistics department to ensure access to the Arapaho during each visit. In return, an Arapaho language book is being developed for park staff to use. For the park's 100th anniversary celebration, the Arapaho have established a committee to celebrate the Arapaho/Toll expedition at Rocky Mountain National Park and the town of Estes Park.

Rocky Mountain National Park continues to work on partnering opportunities to fund Rocky's Native Voice Program to ensure continued involvement of Tribes and University's in the interpretation of the park.



The Winter Season Brought Much Success to Rocky's Fire Management Plan

During this past winter season, fire managers at Rocky Mountain National Park burned an unprecedented volume of slash, which was the result of hazard tree mitigation projects and fuels reduction projects. In some areas of the park, forest fuels have accumulated to levels that would support large unwanted wildfires. Thinning these areas reduces the probability of undesirable consequences caused by wildland fire. Beetle killed trees, as well as other hazardous trees are cut and piled in areas of high visitation where falling trees would endanger the public or cause damage to infra-structure.



NPS Photo

The burn crews were comprised of personnel from all facets of the Resource Stewardship Division such as Fuels Management, Fire Effects, Forestry and the Alpine Hotshots. Throughout the winter, the crews burned a total of 5681 piles for 1,271,741 cubic feet of material during 46 burn days!

Thinning and hazard tree projects will continue during the summer of 2012. Future treatment areas include but are not limited to: Fall River Entrance trails east of Glacier Basin Campground, trails around Bear Lake, Twin Sisters parking area, and 40 acres south of Lily Lake. On the west side of the park, a treatment will take place along Trail Ridge Road between the Colorado River Trailhead up to Lake Irene. Many additional areas will be treated as planning is completed and funding acquired. Piles remain near Deer Ridge Junction, the northwest aspect of Deer Mountain, Sprague Lake, and Bear Lake Road. Pile burning operations will continue in these areas throughout next winter. Fire managers continually monitor weather conditions, air quality, environmental regulations, and safety factors during all operations.

Firewood collection permits may become available in the future.

Rocky Mountain National Park BioBlitz and Biodiversity Festival

Grab your daypack and join the National Geographic Society and the National Park Service at the Rocky Mountain National Park BioBlitz, a two-day event, August 24-25, when teams of scientists, naturalists, community leaders, students and the public will join forces to discover and inventory the biodiversity in this majestic national park.

Part scientific endeavor, part festival and part outdoor classroom, the BioBlitz's goals are to explore, discover and document the living creatures in the park; provide scientists and the public an opportunity to do field work together; and to better understand how to protect the natural environment in the future. "Explorers" of all ages are needed.

The Biodiversity Festival will serve as the Base Camp for the BioBlitz and will be at the Estes Park Fairgrounds, located at 1209 Manford Avenue. The festival will start at 10 a.m. Friday, August 24, and at 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 25. Highlights of the festival include family activities, live music, exhibitors, and opportunities to talk with scientists and join them in action.

On-site parking and shuttle service to the park will be provided at the Fairgrounds. The Biodiversity Festival is open and free to the public and does not require advance registration. However, advance online registration is required to participate in BioBlitz activities in the park. Whether you have a couple of hours or a full day available, learn what activities are best for you! To learn more about the Rocky Mountain National Park BioBlitz or to register, log on to www.nationalgeographic.com/bioblitz or call (800) 638-6400 ext. 6186.

100 Years of Rocky Mountain National Park

On September 4, 1915, several hundred people gathered in Horseshoe Park to celebrate the dedication of America's newest playground, Rocky Mountain National Park. Signed into law on January 26, of that same year by Woodrow Wilson, the 385.5 square mile Rocky Mountain National Park would forever protect the incredible resources found within its boundaries so that future generations might also benefit from their beauty and wildness.



Nps Photo

Over the years, Rocky Mountain National Park has continued to delight and inspire visitors from down the street and around the world with spectacular scenery and recreational opportunities.

As the 100 year anniversary of its establishment approaches, Rocky Mountain National Park will be planning events and working with partners and surrounding communities to commemorate the events and relationships that have made the park what it is today.

In order to accommodate the greatest variety of events possible, celebration of the Rocky Mountain National Park 100th Anniversary will begin on September 4, 2014, and will continue until September 4, 2015. Over the course of the year, a calendar of events will be offered by park organizations and surrounding communities to celebrate Rocky Mountain National Park's natural and cultural history and the relationships that have developed over the last 100 years.

By celebrating the past, the resources that are protected here and the people who have found connections to them can look forward to another 100 years of Rocky Mountain National Park.

In preparation for our 100th Anniversary, the Rocky Mountain Nature Association and Rocky Mountain National Park will be sponsoring a National Logo Contest to create an official symbol to represent the 100 year anniversary. It will be used for educational, promotional, and marketing pieces throughout the celebration. Interested applicants over the age of 18 with graphic design experience should look for a press release and rules of participation to be released this summer.

For information on 100th Anniversary planning, questions about how to tie your organization or event to the 100th Anniversary, or to be added to our 100th Anniversary mailing list and receive updates on planning and events, please email ROMO_100th_Anniversary@nps.gov or contact Barbara Hoppe, 100th Anniversary Coordinator, at 970-586-1202.