

Wilderness.net's Neota Wilderness Fact Sheet



Introduction

The United States Congress designated the Neota Wilderness in 1980 and it now has a total of 9,927 acres. All of the wilderness is in Colorado and is managed by the Forest Service.

Description

Bordering Rocky Mountain National Park on the south and surrounded by other Wilderness areas, little Neota actually stands in a huge expanse of virtually roadless country. With elevations ranging between 10,000 and 11,896 feet, snow enjoys a long life here. Neota protects flattened ridges of granite atypical of the steep-sided Rockies. Just outside the southwestern boundary, Iron Mountain at 12,265 feet looks down on three main drainages within the area: Trap, Corral, and Neota Creeks. Along the summer-wet valleys of these streams, willows and sedges grow thick and occasionally hide a moose or two. You'll find spruce and fir on the lower slopes, home to deer and elk. You won't find a lot of maintained trails, but you will have ample opportunities to be alone.

Leave No Trace

How to follow the seven standard Leave No Trace principles differs in different parts of the country (desert vs. Rocky Mountains). Click on any of the principles listed below to learn more about how they apply in the Neota Wilderness.

1. [Plan Ahead and Prepare](#)
2. [Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces](#)
3. [Dispose of Waste Properly](#)
4. [Leave What You Find](#)
5. [Minimize Campfire Impacts](#)
6. [Respect Wildlife](#)
7. [Be Considerate of Other Visitors](#)

For more information on Leave No Trace, [Visit the Leave No Trace, Inc. website.](#)

Area Management

The Neota Wilderness is part of the 111 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System. This System of lands provides clean air, water, and habitat critical for rare and endangered plants and animals. In wilderness, you can enjoy challenging recreational activities like hiking, backpacking, climbing, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, horse packing, bird watching, stargazing, and extraordinary opportunities for solitude. You play an important role in helping to *"secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness"* as called for by

the Congress of the United States through the Wilderness Act of 1964. Please follow the requirements outlined below and use Leave No Trace techniques when visiting the Neota Wilderness to ensure protection of this unique area.

General Wilderness Prohibitions

Motorized equipment and equipment used for mechanical transport is generally prohibited on all federal lands designated as wilderness. This includes the use of motor vehicles, motorboats, motorized equipment, bicycles, hang gliders, wagons, carts, portage wheels, and the landing of aircraft including helicopters, unless provided for in specific legislation.

In a few areas some exceptions allowing the use of motorized equipment or mechanical transport are described in the special regulations in effect for a specific area. Contact the Forest Service office or visit the websites listed below for more specific information.

These general prohibitions have been implemented for all national forest wildernesses in order to implement the provisions of the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act requires management of human-caused impacts and protection of the area's wilderness character to insure that it is "unimpaired for the future use and enjoyment as wilderness." Use of the equipment listed as prohibited in wilderness is inconsistent with the provision in the Wilderness Act which mandates opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation and that wilderness is a place that is in contrast with areas where people and their works are dominant.

Wilderness-Specific Regulations

Wilderness managers often need to take action to limit the impacts caused by visitor activities in order to protect the natural conditions of wilderness as required by the Wilderness Act of 1964. Managers typically implement 'indirect' types of actions such as information and education measures before selecting more restrictive measures. When regulations are necessary, they are implemented with the specific intent of balancing the need to preserve the character of the wilderness while providing for the use and enjoyment of wilderness.

The following wilderness regulations are in effect for this area. Not all regulations are in effect for every wilderness. Contact the Forest Service office or visit the websites listed on the 'Links' tab for more specific information about the regulations listed.

ALL VISITORS

-- Group size is limited to no more than a combination of 12 people and/or pack or saddle stock. Larger groups must obtain a permit prior to entering the Wilderness.

-- All campfires are prohibited within 200 feet of any lake, stream, or trail.

-- Camping is prohibited within 200 feet of any lake, stream, or trail.

-- Dogs must be leashed at all times.

-- Mechanical transportation (including wagons, game carts, or other vehicles) is prohibited.

STOCK USERS

-- Corralling, hobbling, tethering, or picketing pack or saddle stock is prohibited within 200 feet of

any lake, stream, or trail.

Contacts

Canyon Lakes Ranger District

2150 CENTRE AVE

BLDG E

FORT COLLINS, CO 80526

Phone: 970-295-6700

Remarks: Our Office hours are from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday thru Friday.

Links to Other Websites

[Arapaho-Roosevelt National Forest, Neota Wilderness](#)

Links on Wilderness.net

[National, Regional and Local Wilderness Organizations \(NGOs\)](#)

A listing of societies, organizations, coalitions and other wilderness-related advocacy and stewardship groups.

[Career and Volunteer Opportunities](#)

A listing of sites providing information about wilderness- and environmentally-related career and volunteer opportunities.

Applicable Wilderness Law(s)

Law	Date	Acreage Change (in acres)
Public Law 96-560	December 22, 1980	9,900

Colorado Wilderness Act - Public Law 96-560 (12/22/1980) To designate certain National Forest System lands in the States of Colorado, South Dakota, Missouri, South Carolina, and Louisiana for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System

 [download 96-560](#)