



Rocky Mountain National Park WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN



Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of a wilderness management plan is to serve as: (1) a public document that defines wilderness management policies and actions used at Rocky Mountain National Park; (2) a means to identify the park's wilderness vision, long-range management goals, intermediate objectives, and options to meet those objectives; (3) a working guide for managers of the wilderness.

National Park Service policy states that "each park containing wilderness will develop and maintain a wilderness management plan to guide the preservation, management and use of that wilderness." In addition, former NPS Director Roger Kennedy outlined several key park responsibilities with regard to wilderness management in a memorandum to park superintendents dated November 4, 1994. One such responsibility was to "ensure that your park has a wilderness/backcountry plan completed by the year 2000."

The current Backcountry Management Plan for Rocky Mountain National Park was approved in 1984. This plan includes principles and guidance for wilderness management, but it primarily addresses overnight use of the backcountry.

Several visitor and administrative uses have changed since that time and these will be addressed in the wilderness plan.

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night use in the park has steadily increased since the mid-1980s. It is important to review and revise the park's management policies and guidelines regarding such use and the permitting process if necessary. The Front Range population continues to grow, resulting in even greater visitation to the park. As a result, day use and its associated impacts have increased significantly. New technology in wilderness management also requires consideration to protect natural resources for present and future generations. This plan will determine such management actions.

The National Park Service is directed to "promote and regulate the use" of national parks. . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

—NPS Organic Act of 1916

Rocky Mountain's Wilderness Vision

Rocky Mountain National Park is recognized internationally as one of the world's most outstanding natural treasures. Designated in 1977 as an International Biosphere Reserve, the park's meadows, forests, peaks, and alpine tundra are to be protected in perpetuity. To further protect wilderness values, students in the region and park visitors alike are educated about these natural resources. Rocky Mountain National Park's vision is to be a world leader and showcase for wilderness protection, management, and education.

Goals of the Wilderness Management Plan

1. Manage the wilderness resources in accordance with the Wilderness Act, the National Park Service Organic Act, Rocky Mountain National Park's enabling legislation, and National Park Service policies.
 2. Protect and preserve natural and cultural resources and the integrity of the wilderness character for present and future generations.
 3. Provide for the public's maximum freedom of use and enjoyment of the wilderness in a manner that will protect the quality of the wilderness natural and cultural resources.
 4. Provide for public understanding and support of wilderness values.
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An Opportunity to Participate

Your thoughts, ideas, and comments are valued and needed on the role of wilderness in Rocky Mountain National Park. The following public workshops are scheduled to gather your comments and suggestions:

May 19, 1997	Grand Lake, CO Town Hall 1025 Grand Ave.	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
May 20, 1997	Estes Park, CO Municipal Building 170 MacGregor Ave.	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
May 27, 1997	Fort Collins, CO Public Library 201 Peterson St.	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
May 29, 1997	Walden, CO Wattenburg Community Center	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
June 3, 1997	Boulder, CO Public Library 1000 Canyon Boulevard	7:00 - 8:30 p.m.



"Wilderness is an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. Wilderness: (1) retains its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation; (2) is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (3) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (4) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. . . ."

—Wilderness Act of 1964



Your Opinion Counts

These workshops are the first opportunity for public involvement in the planning process. If you are unable to attend, please take a moment to write down your thoughts and mail this form back to: Wilderness Management Plan, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, CO 80517. Correspondence can also be forwarded by way of our world wide web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/planning/romowild> . All comments must be received by August 15, 1997.

Possible Issues and Concerns

- ① Environmental Quality
(Visual, Air, Water, Soil, Wildlife, Vegetation, Sanitation)
- ② Quality of Experience
(Solitude, Natural Quiet, Personal Expectations)
- ③ Recreational Use
(Camping, Day Use, Stock, Climbing, Food Storage, Group Size)
- ④ Trails/Facilities
(Types, Standards, Signs, Accessibility, Bridges Structures, Privies)
- ⑤ Management Actions
(Research, Range of Opportunity, Management Tools, Administrative Use of Aircraft, Education/ Interpretation)
- ⑥ Unidentified Issues

Please use the space below for your comments. Include the above category numbers to reference your comments. Attach an additional sheet if necessary.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park, Colorado 80517

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