

RECREATION HERITAGE

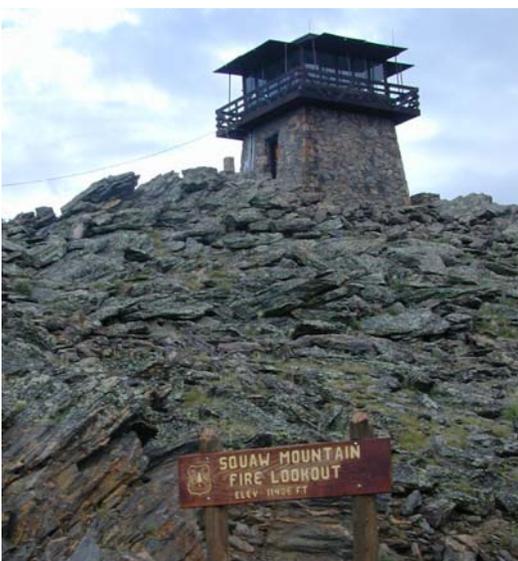
Trails, campgrounds, permitting



A Sulphur Ranger District crew installs signs to mark the Never Summer Wilderness boundary.

RECREATION 2013FACTS

- *Visitors to the Indian Peaks Wilderness requested nearly 2,000 day and overnight permits.*
- *During the 2013 camping season, the ARP campgrounds generated more than \$1.6 million in adjusted gross revenue.*
- *Mount Evans Road was open for 124 days from May 25 through Sept. 30, with approximately 145,000 visitors.*



The Squaw Mountain Fire Lookout opened to the public for overnight reservation in 2013 on Clear Creek Ranger District.

The Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland (ARP) are some of the most visited places in the National Forest System. Its close proximity to the Denver metro area, combined with intermixed private-public land pattern, provides easy access to a wide range of recreation activities as well as management challenges to address user conflicts, visitor needs and impacts to resources as all types of activities increase. The opportunities are vast, from snowmobiling, snowshoeing and skiing, to camping, boating, rafting, hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, bird watching and scenic driving. The ARP provides more than 1,360 miles of trails, 53 campgrounds, three ski areas, a national recreation area, Colorado's only Wild and Scenic River, and an internationally known birding area.

► **Winter Park Resort** finished the last 10 miles of downhill mountain bike trails approved in **Winter Park Resort Trail Enhancement Projects**. Sulphur Ranger District (SRD) completed an environmental assessment and Winter Park Resort began the first year of a three year project to upgrade almost six linear miles of **aging snowmaking line** and install about one mile of new snowmaking line. SRD also amended its special uses permit for **Winter Park Ski Area** to expire at the end of 2015.

► The Forest completed construction of the **Baker Draw Designated Shooting Area** on the Pawnee National Grassland (PNG). The site includes a parking area, information kiosk, and 30 shooting lanes with 26 benches. The site was made possible by grants from **Colorado Parks and Wildlife** and **National Rifle Association**. Other critical support was provided by Weld County, Chesapeake Energy, Anadarko, Noble Energy and the U.S. Army Reserves.

► The Forests' implemented several Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act cases. With the assistance of the **Regional Office's Office of Tribal Relations**, the remains of the Gordon Creek Woman were laid to rest on the Forest, in the general area of where she was originally buried. The Forest also worked with the **Ute Mountain Ute Tribe** and the University of Colorado Museum to re-bury the remains of 235 Native American individuals. These reburials took place in the Spring of 2013.

► **Squaw Mountain Fire Lookout** built in 1940 by the Civilian Conservation Corps opened for public rental on Clear Creek Ranger District (CCRD) in July 2013. This historic stone building stands at 11,486 feet in elevation and has 360 degree views of **Mount Evans, Longs Peak, Pikes Peak** and the eastern plains.

► SRD constructed 1.1 miles of **rerouted, sustainable trail** on Twisted Ankle and 0.3 miles on South Fork Loop trails in the very popular Idlewild Trail System. The project included 1.4 miles of **trailside hazard tree removal** along both segments. The new trail construction **dramatically reduced soil erosion** thereby protecting water quality in the south fork of Ranch Creek while enhancing user experience.

► SRD constructed approximately **200 feet of new buck-and-rail fence** and installed new signs on Rollins Pass adjacent to the Trestle Trail for the protection of cultural resources. The new fence sections **prevent motorized encroachment onto the historic railroad bed** and the Trestle Trail, which accesses the historic Riflesight Notch Trestle.

► PNG completed construction of the **Pawnee Buttes Trailhead**, building a new parking area, rerouting the trail and adding picnic tables and shelters, restrooms, and interpretive information at the trailhead. The Federal Highway Administration's **National Scenic Byway Program**, the **Pawnee Pioneer Trails Scenic and Historic Byway Committee** and **Cedar Creek Wind Energy, LLC**. Supported this project. A portion of the new trail is also accessible for persons with disabilities.

► Partners helped **Boulder Ranger District (BRD)** construct **0.75 miles of the Waldrop Connector Trail in the Brainard Lake Recreation Area** to connect the new Brainard Gateway Trailhead to the existing trail network. Motorized partners helped sign, pick up trash, and repair damage to roads through Adopt-a-Road agreements. A new partnership agreement was established between the BRD and the **Boulder Climbing Community** to work on climbing issues. BRD hosted a **National Trails Day** event to work on repairing damage to over one mile of the Coulson Gulch Trail, uniting cyclists, hikers and equestrian enthusiasts in a common effort.

► CCRD partnered with **Lookout Mountain Nature Center, Lakewood Bear Creek Park** and **Denver University** for a special high altitude outdoor astronomy event on Mount Evans. This special event gave folks the opportunity to learn about cosmic connections while peering through telescopes and navigating the night sky.

► In partnership with the **Friends of Santiago**, the Forest created a site stewardship program for the historic Santiago Mill. **Volunteers** from Historic Georgetown are at the mill site every weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day. They provide **onsite interpretation** and a presence to **prevent vandalism**. In partnership with the **Historic Georgetown Trust**, the roof on the cab of the mill was repaired and the Santiago Mill was listed on the Colorado State Register of Historic Places.

► **The Echo Lake Campground Shelter** had the roof replaced and the masonry on the chimney was repointed. **HistoriCorp** spent two weeks on the project and replaced existing shake roofing with fire resistant shake. The log ridge caps had to be fashioned by hand out of lodgepole trees. With the repointing of the masonry chimney the fireplaces in the shelter are safe for the public to use again.

► Canyon Lakes Ranger District acquired a Federal Highways Administration/Scenic Byway grant to replace **88 interpretive panels along the Poudre Canyon**. Interpretive panels were individually designed and are currently being fabricated.

► SRD, with contributions from Grand Lake residents and the **ARP Foundation**, was able to purchase and **install 10 new park benches in Point Park**. The fundraising effort also allowed the district to design and fabricate two new educational signs for the park.



A bull moose strolls through the base of Winter Park Resort in March 2013.

RECREATION BENEFITS COLORADO

Did you know? Spending by recreationists in the ARP supported approximately 4,000 full and part-time jobs during a 2010 study, as well as contributed \$117 million in labor income and \$202 million to Gross Domestic Product.



Blowdown on the Clear Creek Ranger District.