



Old bunkers used for a Camp Hale shooting range.  
USDA Forest Service photo by Brenda Yankoviak.

# Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument

## Frequently Asked Questions

### At a glance:

- 53,804 acres managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, White River National Forest in central Colorado.
- Former training grounds of the elite U.S. Army 10th Mountain Division that served in World War II.
- Treasured for its historical and spiritual significance, stunning geological features, abundant recreation opportunities, and rare wildlife and plants.
- Homelands of the Ute people, who referred to this area of the Rocky Mountains as *Káava'avichi*—meaning “mountains laying down.”

### What is a national monument?

A national monument is a designation given to a protected area of Federal land. National monuments encompass landscapes of beauty and diversity containing objects of historic and scientific interest. They range from rugged coastlines to vividly hued desert canyons to precious cultural and archeological sites. There are 115 national monuments managed by the National Park Service, Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management. The Camp Hale-Continental Divide

National Monument is the 13th national monument under Forest Service management. This national monument designation prompts a new management plan to be developed with public input.

### What authority does the President have to designate national monuments?

The Antiquities Act of 1906 grants the President authority to designate national monuments in order to protect “objects of historic or scientific interest.”

While most national monuments are established by the President, Congress has also established national monuments to protect natural and historic features.

### Why is this area being designated as a national monument?

Protecting the Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range area through designating the 53,804-acre Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument will preserve its important historic, prehistoric, natural, and recreational values for the benefit of all Americans. Camp Hale and the Tenmile Range are an important part of our Nation’s military and World War II history, the history of Colorado, and the ski industry. It is also an area sacred to its first inhabitants, the Ute People, and has significant natural and geologic values.

In 1992 Camp Hale was designated as a national historic site. This designation recognizes the historic significance of the site but does not offer the same protections and opportunities for additional interpretation as the national monument designation.

These important objects identified in President Biden's monument proclamation are not adequately protected by otherwise applicable law or administrative designations because neither provide Federal agencies with the specific mandate to ensure proper care and management of the monument's natural and historic features, nor do they withdraw the lands from public land, mining, and mineral leasing laws.

### **Is there public support for a Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument?**

The national monument designation builds on years of local and congressional efforts to provide recognition and protection for this area. Supporters include: Colorado Governor Jared Polis; the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs; local governments; over 40 regional and national stakeholders including wildlife, wilderness, mountain biking, snow-based recreation, veterans, hiking, and sportsmen's organizations; and over 200 local businesses. Importantly, descendants of 10th Mountain Division veterans, the 10th Mountain Division Foundation, and Colorado veterans groups also support the area's protection.



The U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division in full winter gear in the mountains above Camp Hale. Colorado Snow Sports Museum and Hall of Fame photo.

### **What information was considered in setting the boundaries of the monument?**

The boundary decision is based upon the need to protect and manage the objects identified in the proclamation. The various uses permitted in the monument as well as the monument's boundary, modified from legislative proposals for the area, reflect what is necessary to protect the area's historical sites and ecological values.

### **Will a monument designation bring additional resources to the area?**

Already, more than 15 million annual visits are made on the White River National Forest. That number is expected to increase with the designation of a national monument. However, given the increased support and attention to the monument, the Forest Service expects additional resources and extensive opportunities for partners to help manage the area and provide for enhanced visitor services.

### **Will there be any fees required with visitation to the monument?**

Monument designation does not prompt a fee.

### **What protections will national monument designation provide?**

The monument proclamation directs the Secretary of Agriculture, through the Forest Service, to protect the important historic, prehistoric, natural, and recreational values of the area for the benefit of all Americans. It also withdraws the area from new mining claims and mineral leasing. The Forest Service will develop a monument plan to determine specific management to meet this direction. The public will have multiple opportunities to be involved in the planning effort.

### **Who will manage the monument?**

The lands designated as the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument are National Forest System lands that will continue to be managed by the White River National Forest.

### **How will Tribal Nations be affected?**

To the maximum extent permitted by law and in consultation with Tribes, protection of Indigenous sacred sites and traditional cultural properties in

the monument and access by members of Tribes for traditional cultural and customary uses will continue. In recognition of the importance of these lands and objects to Tribal Nations, and to ensure that management decisions affecting the monument reflect Tribal expertise and Indigenous Knowledge, the Forest Service will meaningfully engage with Tribal Nations with cultural ties to the area, including the Ute Tribes, in the development of the management plan and to inform subsequent management of the monument. The Forest Service will also pursue opportunities for co-stewardship through management planning and implementation, including entering into cooperative agreements with Tribal entities that have cultural ties to the monument, and shall explore opportunities to provide support to Tribal Nations to participate in planning and management of the monument.

### **What types of recreational activities are currently allowed and will they change within the national monument?**

Snowmobiling, ATV riding, hunting, camping, fishing, horseback riding, mountain biking, backcountry skiing, climbing, and other recreational uses are popular activities in the monument. There are two campgrounds in the monument, and more than 80 miles of hiking trails including a portion of the Continental Divide Scenic Trail and the Masontown Trail. There are also rental huts in the area that local guides and outfitters use to provide off-road vehicle and jeep tours, snowmobiling, snowcat tours, guided hikes and skiing, avalanche education, and children's outdoor activities. The Continental Divide and Tenmile Range within the national monument includes 10 peaks over 13,000 feet in elevation, and



The slopes where the elite 10th Mountain Division trained for winter warfare in World War II now provide exceptional winter recreation opportunities. USDA Forest Service photo by Corey Myers.

the 14,265-foot Quandary Peak, one of Colorado's most iconic and visited "Fourteeners." The Forest Service will continue to manage and permit these opportunities, consistent with the proper care and management of the objects protected by this proclamation.

The monument proclamation directs the Forest Service to develop a travel management plan to ensure appropriate access for the management and use of the area. Motorized and mechanized vehicle uses, including mountain biking, shall continue to be permitted on the roads, trails, and areas, unless inconsistent with the care and management of the monument.

### **Will existing mining or grazing permits be affected within the national monument?**

A limited amount of recreational prospecting occurs in the monument which would not be affected. The monument designation will withdraw the area from all forms of location, entry, and patent under mining laws, and from disposition under all laws relating to mineral and geothermal leasing.

Laws, regulations, and policies followed by the Forest Service in issuing and administering grazing permits on all lands under its jurisdiction shall continue to apply with regard to the lands in the monument.

### **Will monument designation affect wildland fire response or fuels treatment of the area?**

Vegetative management treatments will continue to be used to address the risk of wildfire, insects, or diseases that could endanger natural and cultural resources or threaten public safety. Reducing the risk of severe wildland fire is a critical factor in protecting the objects of the monument.

### **Are existing water, flood control, utility and transmission infrastructure, or railroad rights-of-way/corridors affected?**

The monument area includes significant water and utility infrastructure. The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights, including water rights, maintenance of water or flood-control infrastructure, state highway and railroad corridors or rights-of-way, and existing utility and telecommunications rights-of-way or



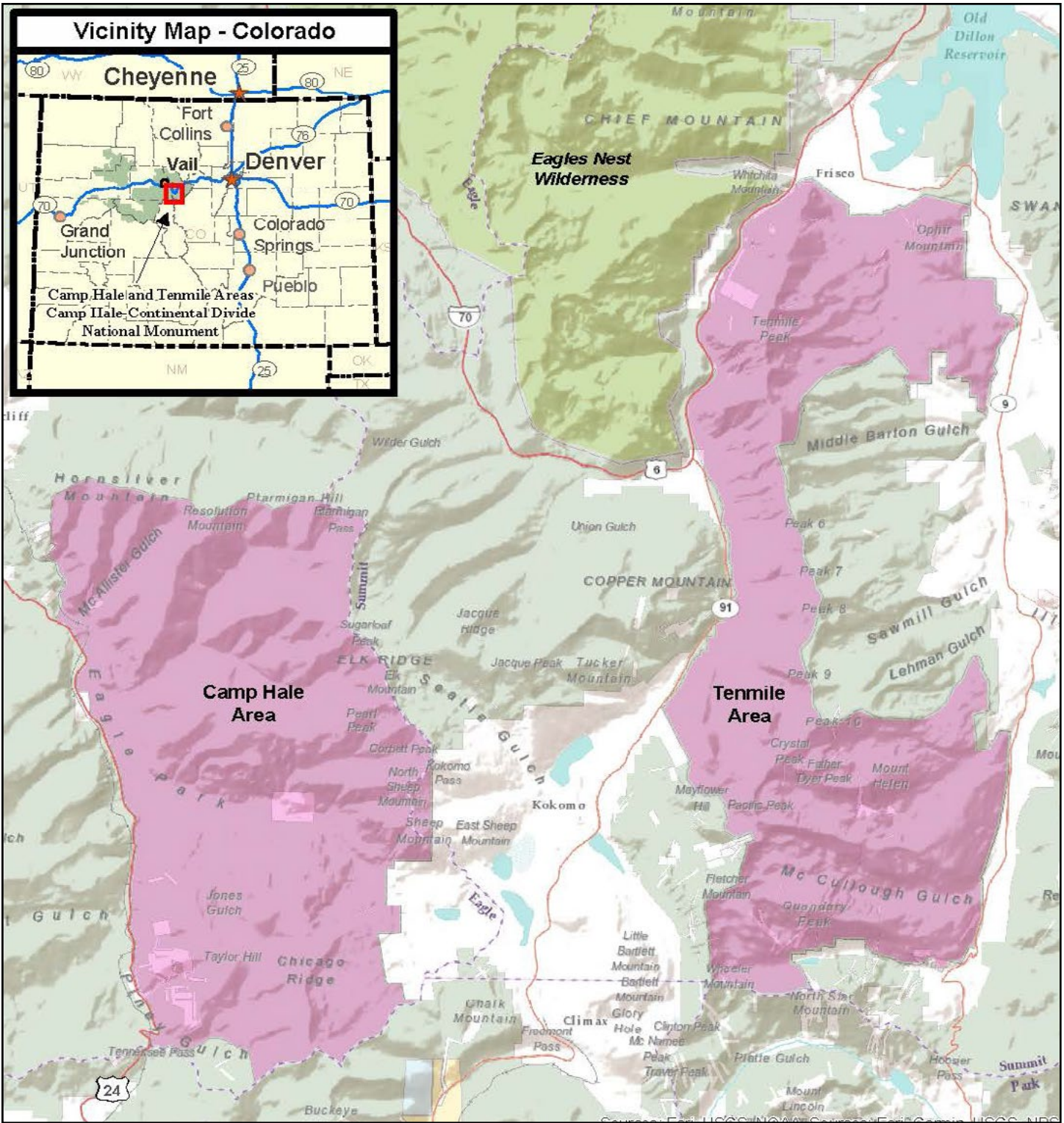
facilities. Existing water resource, flood control, utility, pipeline, or telecommunications facilities located within the proposed monument may be expanded, and new facilities may be constructed within the monument, to the extent consistent with the proper care and management of the objects protected by the designation and subject to special use authorities and other applicable law.

**Does this designation apply to private land?**

The monument designation only applies to National Forest System lands and the Federal mineral estate. The proclamation states that if the Federal Government were to voluntarily acquire any additional lands or interests in lands within the monument boundaries, those would be included in the national monument.



The Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument offers world-renowned winter recreation opportunities, including snowmobiling. National Forest Foundation photo by Emily Olsen.



Map of the new Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument on the White River National Forest in Colorado. The pink areas of the map denote the monument boundaries.