



ANRA Newsletter

Arapaho National Recreation Area



USDA Forest Service

2008, Volume 8

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The Arapaho National Recreation Area (ANRA)

Quick Facts:

On October 11, 1978, Congress passed Public Law 95-450 creating the ANRA. The bill moved these lands from the Rocky Mountain National Park (under the Interior Department) to the Arapaho National Forest (under the Agriculture Department).

The purpose of the Law was "... to preserve and protect the natural, scenic, historic, pastoral, and wildlife resources of the area and to enhance the recreational opportunities provided." The ANRA has approximately 36,000 acres inside its boundary of which 4,000 acres are privately owned. Over 9,000 acres are within the reservoirs' boundaries.

The AA Bar Barn is available for special occasions. The Barn is located on Green Ridge and borders the Colorado River. This beautiful location can be rented during the summer on a day-use only basis for a \$100 / day fee. For information and reservations call (970) 887-4100.

- The ability to charge fees in the ANRA changed from the Fee Demonstration Project to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act with passage of the 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act on December 8, 2004.

Greetings from the ANRA Manager

Welcome to the 2008 edition of the Arapaho National Recreation Area's (ANRA) newsletter. Because of the mountain pine beetle we have included a special insert describing the Sulphur District's response to the mountain pine beetle (MPB) epidemic. The map section shows the timber sale and fuels reduction units that have been treated, are currently being cut, or are now in the planning phases. All of these units were located in order to protect private property from wildfires. The written section of the insert de-

scribes the variety of methods the U.S. Forest Service is using to fight the beetle's effects on the mature lodgepole pine areas.

The remainder of the newsletter is similar to previous years. We hope you enjoy the articles on local wildlife, volunteer projects, wildfires, and improvement projects occurring on your public lands. We also hope you take the opportunity to come and enjoy the ANRA.

Dan Matthews, ANRA Manager

Your Fees at Work

We had a very productive year in 2007 putting the fees collected in 2006 to work. In 2006 we collected \$275,000 in fees and were able to reinvest 95 percent of those funds in the maintenance, staffing and improvements of the ANRA. The fees we collected helped us accomplish the following 2007 projects:

- Construction of the Hilltop information and fee kiosk, which highlights key boat launches.
- Completion of the Willow Creek Canal fee machine kiosk.
- Continued preventative spraying of campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads and islands to protect them from mountain pine beetle.
- Removal of hazard trees.
- Provided lake and land safety and security patrols.
- Cleaning and maintaining toilets, picnic tables, docks and information boards.
- Provide trash, water and sewer services where appropriate.
- Provide educational and interpretive programs at campgrounds and Monarch Lake.

This year we plan to install new information kiosks at all the major boat launches on Lake Granby and Shadow Mountain Reservoir by the end of the summer. We will also be



Left: Photo of new Hilltop Boat Ramp

installing new toilets at Monarch Lake and Greenridge campgrounds as well as Quinette and Willow Creek Canal picnic areas.

Proposed Fee Structure Change	
We have proposed changing the ANRA fee structure. After receiving public comment the proposal will be reviewed by the Colorado Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (CRRAC).	
Current Fee Structure	Proposed Fee Structure
1 day pass: \$5/vehicle, \$2/non-motorized	Discontinued
3 day pass: \$10/vehicle, \$5/non-motorized	3 day pass: \$10/vehicle, \$5/non-motorized
7 day pass: \$15/vehicle, \$10/non-motorized	Discontinued
Annual Pass: \$30	Annual Pass: \$25
Annual Combined Pass: ANRA/Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park: \$50	Annual Combined Pass: ANRA/Rocky Mt. Nat'l Park: \$50
Annual combined Interagency Pass: \$80	Annual combined Interagency Pass: \$80
Senior Pass: \$10	Senior Pass: \$10
For more information or to comment please contact Brad Orr: 970-887-4100 or borr@fs.fed.us. The CRRAC is tentatively planning to discuss this proposal February 27, 2008.	

2008 Fishing Events

- Three Lakes Fishing Contest was held February 1-3.
- The Lake Granby Anglers Classic is scheduled for May 31 and June 1.

You may enter the contest on line at www.granbychamber.com.

Call the Greater Granby Area Chamber of Commerce at 970-887-2311 for more information or email: grcoc@rkymtnhi.com.

What to Expect for 2008

The mountain pine beetle (MPB) continues to be active in the ANRA. The Sulphur Ranger District made a lot of progress in 2007. For details see the MPB insert in this newsletter.

This year hazard tree removal will continue. To protect the public, hazard trees will be removed in all the ANRA's developed recreation sites. Slash from those hazard trees will be chipped, burned or left for use as firewood depending on the location. For more information about hazard trees see the MPB insert.

Some of our campgrounds and sites will be a lot sunnier due to tree removal in response to the MPB epidemic. For more information about what the camping and picnicking sites are like, please contact our visitor information specialists at 970-887-4100.

The MPB outbreak is changing our forest however the opportunities to enjoy it will remain. We appreciate your cooperation as we continue our work.

Lake News

The ANRA will continue to have boat patrols monitoring the lakes for compliance with state safety and ANRA regulations and boating guidelines. ANRA regulations are posted at all boat launches.

Last year our lake patrol staff made numerous visitor contacts. Most contacts were to assist visitors or provide information. However some citations were issued for fishing violations, boating under the influence, un-registered boats, illegal shoreline camping, and failure to put children in life jackets in order to ensure public safety and protect the environment.

Protecting the wildlife in the ANRA is very important. We would like to take this opportunity to remind visitors that because of this there are two fall/winter closures in the ANRA. See gray box to the right. Your cooperation in respecting all closures is appreciated and required by fed-

eral regulations. For more specific information about these closures, please call the Sulphur Ranger District at 970-887-4100.

Seasonal Closures for Wildlife Protection

November 15 to March 15: No human entry from Green Ridge fence down to Columbine Creek to protect wintering Bald Eagles. Fishing is allowed from the Shadow Mountain Reservoir spill way down stream about 400 yards to the eagle closure.

December 1 to May 15: No human entry in the ANRA in the Table Mountain/Coffey Divide/Bussey Hill area located east and west of U.S. 34; north and south of Willow Creek Road and south of Arapaho Bay Road to help deer and elk travel to low-lying meadows in the winter to forage for food.

Volunteers Assist the ANRA

The ANRA was fortunate to have two couples working as volunteers through the 2007 season. Both husband and wife teams brought their own recreational vehicles to use through the summer. Don and Gerri Shook, from Gold Canyon, Arizona, are long-time volunteers for the Forest Service. They managed the Shadow Mountain picnic area and the Green Ridge boat launch area. This meant mowing the lawns, cleaning the toilets, painting the picnic tables, picking up litter, and answering hundreds of questions about the recreational opportunities in those areas.

Ken and Liana Huey, from Tabernash, Colorado, were our other volunteer couple. Once a

week the Hueys, as well as the Shooks, would staff the Monarch Lake cabin. At this scenic entrance to the Indian Peaks Wilderness the volunteers assisted hundreds of people a day, answering questions about the history, trails, animals and plants of the area. The Hueys were also helpful in maintaining and repairing a number of our recreational facilities in the ANRA, especially the AA Barn.

The U.S. Forest Service would like to thank the Shooks, Hueys and all the other volunteers that help build and maintain so many of the facilities the Forest Service provides to the public.

Osprey in the ANRA

In 2007 we gained four new osprey nests in the ANRA.

On May 14, ANRA Staff observed an osprey pair trying to build a nest on a Mountain Parks Electric, Inc. (MPEI) distribution pole near Bussey Hill. MPEI came to the rescue and installed a pole and platform for the osprey pair and installed perch excluders on the original pole on May 16. Ospreys occupied the new nest platform later that day. MPEI once again helped us out by cleaning fishing line out of the Rainbow Bay nest platform in September after the nesting pair left for migration.



Above: New Bussey Hill Platform next to distribution pole

Also in May a pair of ospreys was observed building a nest on a Western Area Power Administration (Western) transmission structure on Table Mountain. Western personnel and equipment came over from Craig, Colorado to install a pole and platform on June 5 and the osprey pair occupied the nest later that day.



Above Osprey female on a new Table Mountain nest platform behind the transmission structure.

In June, during island tree spraying for protection from mountain pine beetles, timber staff noted osprey activity on the south end of Elephant Island. At that time, Canada geese were nesting on the osprey platform on the north end of the island. By July, the ospreys had constructed a large nest on top of an old heron nest at Elephant South. Starting late in the season, the nesting pair was not successful in producing young but the site should be active again in 2008.

Lastly, ANRA personnel found a new nest on the east shore of Shadow Mountain Lake. This nest produced one chick in 2007 and is near the location of a historic nest tree that fell down in 1993. This nest is in Rocky Mountain National Park and is called Lookout Junction.

We are indebted to the many neighbors and visitors who call to report osprey activities, new nests, and injured birds. We also greatly appreciate our partners the Colorado Division of Wildlife, MPEI and Western for all their help.



Above: Common Raven Nest at Table Mountain.

Bird Watchers Corner

ANRA 2007 Notable Sightings

- Common Raven: Two nests, one in Table Mountain and one in Knight Ridge
- Cooper's Hawk: Three nests near Lake Granby
- One Sora in Knight Ridge in late June
- One Cordilleran flycatcher nesting at Monarch Lake cabin
- White pelicans: 185 at "Pelican Bay" on Shadow Mountain Lake
- A cluster of Cooper's Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, and Swainson's Hawk nests on a remote lake Granby shoreline (near four Osprey nests)

Wildfire Assistance

The 2007 season was a bit unusual. Only one wildland fire occurred on lands administered by Sulphur Ranger District (SRD). The North Supply Creek Fire was started by lightning on July 7. It was less than an acre and entirely controlled by Forest Service personnel.

There were several other fires in the Grand County area last year. SRD firefighters responded to five of these on private property, as well as one lightning caused fire on the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest west of Kremmling. The most significant event was the 50 acre Y-Fire at YMCA of the Rockies' Snow Mountain Ranch, which was supported with mutual aid response from all emergency service

providers in the county. The Forest Service provided an engine crew, fuels crew and other district personnel. SRD fire management staff also provided key leadership roles during initial attack action and the days following the fire.

Our firefighters also participated in national fire support with assignments on 20 -person fire crews fighting fires in Minnesota, Michigan, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, California, Oregon as well as Colorado.

We continue to train and prepare for next year's fire season. Please continue to be careful with all fires as you visit and enjoy the ANRA and the Sulphur Ranger District.

School Classrooms in the ANRA

The job of conserving our natural resources is presently in our hands, but that baton gets passed on to future generations so quickly. For the past 25 years, Grand County second, fifth and eighth grade students have participated in full-day conservation education days in the ANRA.

Last year, 120 second graders learned about everything from pine beetles to water bugs, and fire to outdoor survival on their day at Pine Beach. A similar number of fifth graders spent their day at Monarch Lake canoeing, studying wildlife skins and skulls, and orienteering with compasses and maps. The entire eighth grade class from East Grand Middle School attended and split their day between Pine Beach and Rocky Mountain

National Park, studying firsthand water quality, wildlife, mountain pine beetles and landscape changes.

All of these education days were designed to connect these students to the public land in their own back yard and expand their understanding of the natural world around them.

We greatly appreciate the Bureau of Land Management, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado State Forest Service, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Grand County Search and Rescue, Grand County Wilderness Group, YMCA of the Rockies, Grand Lake Metropolitan Recreation District, Trail Ridge Marina, and Grand County Water Quality for helping make these education days possible.

Osprey and Eagle Report

Ospreys

- 4 new nests
- 38 active nests
- 25 successful (produced young) nests
- **51 chicks fledged (NEW District record)**

(One chick died in September. It was found hanging upside down and entangled in fishing line.)

Golden Eagles

- 1 active nest, 2 eggs
- 2 chicks fledged

Bald Eagles

- 1 active nest site
- 2 chicks fledged

(Although our Columbine Lake pair were active again this year, they abandoned their nest site and built a new nest near the top of Green Ridge in a 34-inch diameter Douglas-fir. This nest cannot be seen from the waters of Columbine Bay. We're unsure why they selected a more remote nest site.)

Contact Us

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Office Hours:
 Monday thru Friday
 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Mark your Calendars!!!

Work Your Pass Off day is scheduled for May 10, 2008. Join the ANRA crew and other forest volunteers in various projects around the ANRA. Receive a free annual pass for your efforts. In May, a notice will appear in the local paper announcing the event or call the Sulphur Ranger District for details.

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