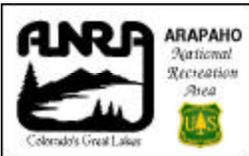


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Some items your entrance fees helped pay for in 2001:

- Purchased 2 new courtesy docks for Sunset Point and Stillwater boat launches (will be installed in May 2002).
- Shoreline erosion stabilization of 3 picnic areas on Lake Granby.
- Increased lake patrols and navigational marking.
- New ANRA brochure and navigational map.



YOUR FEES AT WORK

The Forest Service began charging an entrance fee at the ANRA last January. The new fees went into effect after almost a year of dialogue with members of the public on ways to improve facilities, services and natural resource stewardship in the ANRA in light of declining appropriations.

Under the recreation fee demonstration authority, 90% of fee receipts are reinvested in the ANRA to operate, maintain and improve the area. \$200,000 was collected through September 2001. Of this amount, \$66,000 (33% of the total collected) paid for the cost of fee collection, including the installation of 11 automated pay stations around the ANRA.

The balance of fees collected were spent as follows:

- * \$16,500: Repair and maintenance to refurbish signs, picnic tables & bulletin boards, several facilities repainted.
- * \$10,400: Health & Safety issues - water/sewer system upgrades, correcting safety hazards, new navigational buoys.
- * \$5,500: Information, interpretation & signing - new ANRA brochure & navigational map, new interpretive signs at Willow Creek reservoir.
- * \$2,200: Wildlife habitat protection - bald eagle & osprey closure signing & patrol.
- * \$34,000: Facility improvements - 2 new courtesy docks for Sunset Point & Stillwater boat launches, & improved lake entry at end of Sunset boat launch.
- * \$28,500: Operations costs for portion of 5 field rangers' salaries for land & lake patrols, information & assistance.
- * \$5,500: Law enforcement.
- * \$30,000: Carried forward to 2002 for operations, maintenance & improvements.



New ANRA Entry Station on A-Bay Road

NEW JOINT PASS

The Forest Service and the National Park Service have unveiled a new annual pass valid at both Rocky Mountain National Park and the ANRA. The pass was developed in response to feedback from many visitors who frequently visit both areas.

The new, joint annual pass is good for 12 months from purchase date and sells for \$50 at Rocky Mountain National Park and at the Forest Service in Granby, Colorado, located 1/2



mi. south on US Highway 40. The new pass admits permittee(s) and any passengers in the vehicle, or permittee's spouse, dependent children, and parents if entry is other than by vehicle.

PLANNED IMPROVEMENTS FOR 2002

- * Focus on reducing fee collection costs & improving compliance to provide more revenue for on-the-ground improvement projects.



Stillwater Boat Launch on Lake Granby

- * Installation of two new courtesy docks for Sunset

Point & Stillwater boat launches.

- * Extension of concrete ramp at Sunset Point boat launch to allow better use at lower lake levels.

* Reconstruction of boat ramp at Hilltop on Shadow Mountain Lake & addition of courtesy dock.

* Development of trailhead facilities for East Shore hiking trail.

* Purchase of barge to increase efficiency of weed harvest operations on Shadow Mountain Lake.

* No change in fee structure for 2002; new joint annual pass with Rocky Mountain National Park.

* Open newly renovated Willow Creek campground with a new group campsite.

* Add ANRA Forest Service Law Enforcement Officer.

* Complete analysis to improve forest health & reduce pine beetle infestation.

* Use capital funds to replace older toilets and add new ones where needed.

Attention Private Landowners, Guests and Visitors ... Access exclusively to private property within the ANRA does not require an entrance fee pass.

FISHING CONTEST DATES ANNOUNCED

The Grand Fishing Committee plans three fishing contests for 2002 on Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Lake and Grand Lake. The dates are: February 1-3 (ice-fishing); March 8-10 (ice-fishing); and May 18-20 (open water).

The contests offer various categories as well as prizes.

The fishing contests operate in the ANRA under a special use permit from the Forest Service.

For information on the contests, contact the Granby Chamber of Commerce at 970-887-2311 or email: (grococ@rkymtnhi.com) or call Budget Tackle at 970-887-9344.



A nice catch from Lake Granby

THREE LAKES SURVEY

The Three Lakes Watershed Association recently received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor and assess water quality in Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Lake and Grand Lake.

As part of this study, a Three Lakes User Survey is also being conducted. Participation in this survey will help local agencies and organizations

(including the Forest Service) provide more responsive management of water, air, soil, vegetation, wildlife, fisheries and recreation resources in the Three Lakes area, which includes the ANRA. The survey is being



Boating is popular in the ANRA

distributed for 12 months throughout the Three Lakes area. Copies of the survey may be obtained from the Forest Service in Granby upon request. Also check out the Three Lakes Watershed Association's website at www.threelakeswatershed.com.

ANRA FOREST HEALTH ANALYSIS UNDERWAY

Over the last several years many lodgepole pine trees in Grand County have been killed by a mountain pine beetle infestation. One of the epicenters of this beetle infestation is in the ANRA and on adjacent private lands. Through both natural and human influences the vegetation in the ANRA is largely semi-mature to mature lodgepole pine. This uniform, uneven-aged vegetation is highly susceptible to insect and disease outbreaks.

A key objective in the ANRA is retaining forest vegetation for scenic and aesthetic values. To accomplish this long term will require developing more diversity in species and age in the vegetation there. Beetles have caused substantial lodgepole death (especially in larger, mature trees) within the developed recreation sites and

many undeveloped areas that serve as foreground and background settings and scenery in and around the ANRA. If the beetle infestation is not mitigated, mortality within the lodgepole pine stands in and around the ANRA is likely to increase — in developed recreation sites and in undeveloped areas that provide the scenic backdrop. Additionally, trees killed by the beetles eventually fall, increasing the rate of heavy fuels accumulation and the risk of potential wildfire. The resulting loss of forest cover will likely have adverse effects on public recreation and enjoyment within the ANRA and negatively impact many adjacent private property owners.

Many private landowners have expressed concern about the beetle infestation and resulting loss of mature lodgepole pine trees. In efforts to suppress the beetles

some of these landowners have treated lodgepole stands on their properties and have requested that the Forest Service treat adjacent, affected public lands to promote suppression and fuels reduction across the broader landscape.

The beetle infestation is widespread in the ANRA and is an indication of the susceptibility of the fairly even-aged, lodgepole monoculture that dominates the area. While it is not feasible to treat the entire infestation area in a timely manner, there is a need to address the mountain pine beetle infestation in high value areas of the ANRA and take measures to establish a healthier, more diverse vegetative cover in the area. These high value areas include the developed recreation sites, key scenic corridors, and areas adjacent to private lands.

The Forest Service is currently analyzing ways to develop more diverse, uneven aged vegetation in key areas of the ANRA, which will:

- * Promote insect and disease resistance
- * Prevent the accumulation of forest fuels in developed recreation sites and along key scenic corridors
- * Maintain short term key scenic values and improve scenic diversity longer term
- * Complement treatment efforts on adjacent private lands

If you are interested in this analysis of treatment of this beetle infestation, please contact Bill Dunkelberger at the Forest Service in Granby (970-887-4100).

ANRA PROVIDES VALUABLE HABITAT FOR OSPREYS AND EAGLES

The ANRA is home to the largest southern and easternmost breeding colony of ospreys in the Pacific Flyway. Biologists monitoring this summer breeding population documented a steady increase from 19 active nests in 1990 to 28 active nests in 2001 when 28 osprey chicks were successfully fledged from these nests, compared to a low of only 7 chicks in 1995 and a high of 32 chicks in 1999.

Wintering in Central and South America, ANRA ospreys return each April to their previous year's nest site. Although fish,

their primary prey, are plentiful once the lakes and rivers melt, ospreys face many challenges on their breeding grounds. Severe spring and summer storms may cause wind damage to nests or blow eggs out of nests. Early summer snow storms may bury eggs in snow causing them to chill enough to kill embryos inside the eggs. Ospreys compete for nest sites and food with bald eagles, Canada geese and great blue herons. Ravens prey on eggs and chicks. Discarded monofilament line may entangle os-



Lake Granby with the Continental Divide in the background

prey wings or talons when fishing, and may be carried into the nest when snagged on branches that ospreys scavenge and use

(Continued on Back Page)

The ANRA covers 36,000 acres including Meadow Creek reservoir and Monarch Lake, popular trailheads into the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area.

HOMELAND SECURITY INCLUDES ANRA RESERVOIRS

Following the September 11 terrorist attacks, the US Bureau of Reclamation identified the water facilities at ANRA reservoirs as potential targets and initiated measures to heighten security. At the Bureau's request the Forest Service imposed restrictions prohibiting all watercraft within

100 yards of all dams. This restriction could remain in effect for an indefinite period and is subject to change at any time. Public use of the lakes has



Sign restricting use of Sunset Point Campground

been allowed throughout this security alert. Please call the Forest Service at 970-887-4100 for current information.

USDA Forest Service

9 Ten Mile Drive
P.O. Box 10
Granby, CO 80446

Phone: 970-887-4100
Fax: 970-887-4102

We're on the Web!
[www.fs.fed.us/arnl/districts/srd/
arapaho-national-recreation-area/
index.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/arnl/districts/srd/arapaho-national-recreation-area/index.htm)

Your Fees at Work for You

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LAKE GRANBY WATER LEVEL OUTLOOK FOR 2002

The lakes of the ANRA are part of the Colorado-Big Thompson trans-mountain water diversion project. The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District manages the storage and distribution of water in Lake Granby, Shadow Mountain Lake, and Willow Creek reservoir. Many visitors to the ANRA in 2001 were surprised by lower water levels in Lake Granby, especially after two years of relatively high water. It is important to note that Lake Granby, too, is a man-made reservoir, created primarily to provide water to Colorado's northern Front Range for agricultural, hydroelectric, and domestic needs. Recreation is an important, but secondary benefit of the reservoir. Climate (especially precipitation) and water usage dictate the level of Lake Granby, which may fluctuate up to 90 feet. (Willow Creek reservoir's water may also fluctuate as it is pumped into Lake Granby. The level of Shadow Mountain Lake remains nearly constant, enabling the flow of water from west to east slope.)

Granby's full pool elevation is 8280 feet. In 1999, a very wet year, the reservoir was near high pool most of the summer. In 2000, another year with above average precipitation Granby was about 10 feet below high pool most of the summer. 2001 was quite a bit drier and the reservoir only filled to 8264 feet and then dropped another 10 feet by summer's end. While it is too early to predict what water levels will be in Granby for 2002, given average precipitation through the coming year, lake levels could be somewhat lower than 2001. Boaters should plan accordingly.

Lower lake levels may present some launching and navigational challenges to boaters. The Forest Service will endeavor to maintain boat-launching access and provide navigational marking as lake levels change. And there is plenty of lake left out there, even at lower water levels. (Also, the fishing is rumored to improve as the water drops!)

HABITAT FOR OSPREYS AND EAGLES

Continued from Page 3

for nest materials. Although ospreys and humans share the fish in the lakes and rivers, they may be at odds when anglers or hikers stray under their prominent shoreline nests during the breeding season. Relatively tolerant, ospreys will loudly object to violators of their nest area, and, if flushed from their nests, expose their eggs and chicks to over-heating, over-cooling or predation.

The ANRA is also a summer home to one bald eagle breeding pair and a winter home to over a dozen juvenile and mature eagles. In the coldest of winters, open waterways for fishing and waterfowl hunting are scarce. The warm waters flowing out of Shadow Mountain Lake keep a portion of the Colorado River ice-free and bald eagles congregate along this open stretch of water. The Forest Service, Rocky Mountain National Park and Colorado Division of Wildlife protect this critical winter habitat by posting and enforcing a closure to all human entry from Nov. 15 through Mar. 1. As severe winter temperatures push bald eagles to the edge of their ability to stay warm, any energy they waste when startled or disturbed by human visitors may affect their over-winter survival.

CAMPGROUND TO REOPEN WITH NEW LOOK

The campground at Willow Creek Reservoir in the ANRA was completely rebuilt over the summer of 2001. Forest Service capital improvement funds provided for reconstruction of this popular, but rather worn facility that was originally built in the 1950's.

The newly refurbished campground will reopen to the public in May, 2002, providing 35 campsites, new toilets, a re-ramped water system, a new group site for up to 20 people, new trails and a new pavilion at a scenic overlook.

Fee funds helped pay for in-



New Group Site at Campground

terpretive signs at the new overlook with sweeping views of the reservoir. As bears have been sometime visitors to this campground in the

past, new, state-of-the-art bear-proof storage boxes have been provided throughout the campground. A new toilet was also constructed at the west boat launch and picnic area. Most of the campsites can accommodate RV's up to 24 feet in length.

Willow Creek Campground is managed by Thousand Trails Management Services under permit from the Forest Service and some sites will be reservable through the National Recreation Reservation System (1-877-444-6777); www.reserveusa.com.