Celebrating Wilderness
in Grand County
WILDERNESS
Country to
Young In ~
National
Wilderness
Areas
NEVER
SUMMER
GRAND
COUNTY
INDIAN
PEAKS
BYERS
PEAK
VASQUEZ
PEAK
JAMES
PEAK
Granby
Hot Sulphur Springs
Tabernash
Fraser
Winter Park
Berthoud Falls
Ward
Nederland
40
72
119
119/72
Wilderness
Arapaho Roosevelt National Forest
Counties
County Boundary
Roads
Never Summer
With names like Cirrus, Cumulus, Stratus, and Nimbus, this storm-wracked range boasts 17 peaks above 12,000 feet. The abundant moisture has created an exceptionally large and old forest of spruce and fir.
In Bowen Gulch, some trees have been measured at four feet in diameter and are estimated to be 600 years old while, to the north, ponds and bogs provide habitat for seldom-seen muskegs, wood frogs and pygmy shrew. Some 20 miles of trail allow visitors to explore this wilderness' gulches and high passes.
Indian Peaks
Grand County's first wilderness today is one of the most popular and heavily used wilderness areas in the country due to its close proximity to Denver. Sculpted by the last glacial period, the area's rugged peaks are named after tribes of the American West, with seven rising above 13,000 feet. Visitors can explore 28 miles of maintained trail and more than 50 lakes in this wilderness that spans the Continental Divide.
Byers Peak
Standing at 12,804 feet, Byers Peak is a distinct feature in the landscape of Grand County, visible from Granby to Winter Park. More than half of the wilderness area surrounding the summit stands above treeline.
Far from any roads, this wilderness is home to mountain goats, ptarmigan and marmots. Although comparatively small, some 23 miles of trail offer visitors some of the finest ridge hiking in the state.
Vasquez Peak
Seven miles of the Continental Divide National Scenic Trail run across this alpine landscape, which also serves as headwaters to Vasquez Creek, an important water resource for Denver. During summers, large herds of elk graze in the high alpine tundra.
Harsh winters bring fierce winds, creating a region of Krummholtz and avalanche prone slopes. Hikers can explore 17 miles of trail that provide an opportunity to venture above treeline and enjoy expansive views of the Fraser Valley.
Grand County Wilderness Group
Celebrating 20 Years of Service for Wilderness
Walt and Sally Bobb were Grand County residents dismayed about the amount of trash being left around Crater Lake (their favorite spot in Indian Peaks Wilderness). In 1994, they organized a group to assist the Forest Service in protecting the wilderness by educating the public and helping to maintain trails and campsites.
The group slowly grew, and today it has more than 115 members, who are continuing the Bobb's vision of stewardship. Today, GCWG volunteers staff the Monarch and Junco Lake cabins, assist the Forest Service with trail maintenance and offer educational hikes for the public.
Groups like the GCWG promote active stewardship and responsible use of wilderness. You can help the Forest Service in its wilderness stewardship by joining a local wilderness friends group or volunteering. Look for announcements of GCWG upcoming events at
Learn more at:
Aldo Leopold
I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in. Of what avail are forty freedoms without a blank spot on the map?
1964
1978
1980
1993
1994
1994
Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grassland
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YOURS
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