

ANRA News

Serving Colorado's Great Lakes Region

2015 Edition

USDA Forest Service

Volume 15

SUMMER BREEZE



Indian Peaks Wilderness Area creates the backdrop for a sailboat crossing Lake Granby.

Amazing history lurks beneath Lake Granby

By Tim Nicklas

Grand County Historical Association

Knight Ridge, overlooking Arapaho Bay, is named for the Knight Ranch, which now lies under the water of Lake Granby. Knight Ranch was established in 1919 by St. Louis financier Harry Knight. This was the era when Grand County was making a name for itself as Colorado's dude ranch capital. Nonetheless, the Knight Ranch was more of a luxury resort than a dude ranch.

The Knight Ranch had an airstrip, which allowed Charles Lindbergh to regularly fly in and meet Harry Knight's guests.

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Summer school for outdoor enthusiasts

John DeLancy

Visitor Information Specialist

Visitors to the Arapaho National Recreation Area (ANRA) have many choices for activities, from boating, hiking and fishing to kayaking, canoeing and bird watching. In the winter months, visitors enjoy ice fishing, snowmobiling and cross country skiing.

During the summer, the recreation area's six campgrounds provide an ideal jumping off point for all types of adventures. Evenings can be spent

around campfires under a canopy of brilliant stars.

One of the events that ANRA campers enjoy is the Saturday evening programs put on by Forest Service interpreters at Stillwater and Green Ridge campgrounds from Memorial Day to Labor Day. When he's not out fighting fires, Smokey Bear has even been known to make an appearance.

Programs provide interesting information about the area's lakes and riv-

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Forest Service interpreter John Simmons demonstrates the wing span of a pelican during an evening program in the Arapaho National Recreation Area.

LOCK IT UP



Bear bins provide a safe place to store food and cookware to keep both humans and animals safe from dangerous encounters. Bear resistant food storage lockers can be found at more than 50 campground sites in the ANRA. If you are camped at a site with a bin, especially if you are sleeping in a soft sided camper or tent, be sure to place all your food, stove and cookware into the locker when leaving the camp and at night.



Did you know?

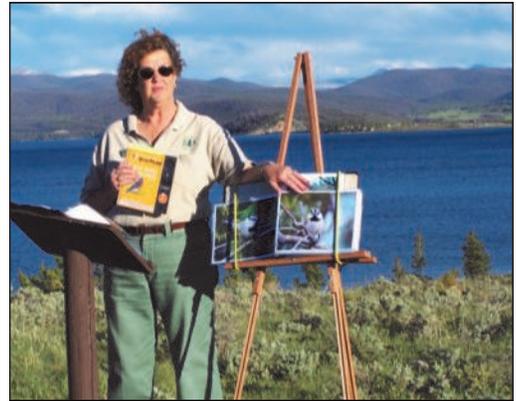
Black bears, which are common in the ANRA, are very smart and very hungry. In fact, bears need some 20,000 calories a day in late summer and fall to gain enough fat to survive the winter. Bears also have a sense of smell 100 times more sensitive than humans and can seek out a food source from miles away.

Summer School

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ers, is natural history, common animals such as pelicans and moose, or even alpine wildflowers. There is always time after the programs to ask questions and get some ideas about where to go on tomorrow's adventures.

The evening programs are not only an opportunity for visitors to meet with our Forest Service team; they are also an important means of getting our visitors the information they need. Whether local ospreys are endangered by carelessly left fishing line or local bears are becoming curious about campers' picnic baskets, evening programs



Bird watching is a popular activity in the ANRA. Forest Service interpreter Penny Dibble offers insights into what species call Colorado's Great Lakes Region home.

are a means of making ANRA visitors' stays not only more enjoyable, but safer for everyone.

Raising the next generation of public lands stewards

"To be a good steward of the land, one must know, appreciate and love the land. To know the land, one must have an intimate connection to the land."

— Joseph Cornell

Grand County students grow up surrounded by more than 1 million acres of public lands, making it all the more important that these young people are given a sense of stewardship and connection to the land around them.

For more than 30 years, the Forest Service has partnered with other local public land agencies and nonprofits to provide an educational experience that aims to nurture these values in our youngest citizens. Point Park (2nd grade) and Monarch Lake (5th grade) conservation



Students learn about how the mountain pine beetle impacted the ecosystem around Monarch Lake.

education days are the highlight field trips for students and teachers alike. Eight stations complement the school curriculum and give students a variety of safe, enjoyable outdoor experiences. Students learn about wildlife, forest management, water quality, pond life, local history, wilderness, fishing, Leave No Trace ethics, fire

management and canoeing.

While those are the highlights, education and outreach programs start in preschool with programs about how animals survive winter and continue into middle school with programs on water quality and amphibians.

Offering education days to local school children helps build their appreciation for the land, as well as the plants and animals that live on it. It strengthens their emotional connection and understanding of nature, leading today's students to become good stewards of public and private lands in the future, while improving their understanding of the world around them.

"I had no earthly idea about Monarch Lake because I hadn't been there before. I really liked the stations. I think I'll take my parents back to Monarch Lake." — Brandon, 5th Grade, Fraser Valley Elementary

Moose on the loose; keep your dog on a leash

Although moose can provide excellent wildlife watching opportunities, they can also be very dangerous, especially while walking dogs off leash. Moose can weigh up to 1,200 pounds and stand 6 feet tall at the shoulder.

Moose can be aggressive any time of year, but particularly bulls during the fall rut and cows when they are with their young in the spring and summer. They can be especially aggressive toward dogs and may even go out of their way to confront one.



A moose rests in tall grasses in the ANRA.

To ensure safety for yourself and your pet, and promote the welfare of local wildlife, use a leash while walking dogs in moose habitat (river bottoms,

wetlands and willows).

Look for fresh moose sign (tracks and scat), make your presence known and be observant of your surroundings. Move back slowly if any moose shows signs of aggression, including: hair standing up on the neck and back; snout licking or rolling head; and, eyes or ears backward. Leave an escape route for any moose you encounter and enjoy watching from a distance.

BIRD WATCH



Gray jays may be best known as 'camp robbers' because of their wit and persistence in finding food. These birds, common in the ANRA, eat nearly anything and survive the winter by caching bits of food mixed with sticky saliva in cracks and crevices throughout the forest. These cache sites are thoughtfully located above the anticipated snowline. A gray jay may cache approximately 20,000 bits of food throughout its territory. Winter survival is a memory test, requiring the retrieval of food from at least 1,000 locations.

BRIDGE TO NOWHERE



Volunteers helped build a solid new bridge across the Roaring Fork. The trail that follows this tumbling high mountain stream leads to several alpine lakes and offers hikers a diverse forested environment to explore along the way.

Beneath Lake Granby

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Harry Knight gained a fortune as a stockbroker in St. Louis and was an early aviation enthusiast. He was also the president of the St. Louis Flying Club around the time that Charles Lindbergh was planning his solo flight from New York to Paris. As the president of the St. Louis Flying Club, Harry Knight took on the role of being the major fundraiser for Lindbergh's aircraft, the Spirit of St. Louis.

Following his epic flight across the Atlantic in 1927, Lindbergh was seen regularly flying over Colorado's Continental Divide to greet his benefactor's guests at the Knight Ranch. Those not flying into the ranch would often ride a stagecoach from Granby. In addition to the airstrip and Lindbergh, guests enjoyed hiking, fishing, horseback riding, and hunting. Some guests would take a pack train up into the "High Lakes" up on the continental divide. The resort also had a miniature golf course. The ranch eventually grew to cover over 1,500 acres and contained several guest cabins and a 27 room guest lodge along the Colorado River.



Guests of at the Knight Ranch. Charles Lindbergh is kneeling on the far right and Harry Knight is standing in the top row, second from left.

By the mid-1930s, Lindbergh's visits had all but come to an end. In the early 1940s, planning of the Granby Dam was in progress and it was determined that the Knight Ranch was in the path of the water of the impending reservoir. In 1946, the large guest lodge was dismantled and moved.

The other buildings, equipment, and livestock were auctioned off and the Knight Ranch closed. Many of those buildings exist on the Arapaho Valley Ranch today.

WORK YOUR PASS OFF



Volunteers can earn a free ANRA Annual Pass by helping collect trash and debris along shorelines, boat launches and picnic areas each spring. Participants meet at Sunset Boat Ramp or Green Ridge Boat Ramp at 8 a.m. on the third Saturday of each May. Cleanup typically lasts until noon. Dress for weather changes and bring work gloves, water, and boots for walking on uneven ground. No pre-registration required.

Upcoming dates:

- May 16, 2015
- May 21, 2016

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Use your smart phone to follow this QR Code to learn more about the ANRA and the status of recreation opportunities.

U.S. Forest Service

Sulphur Ranger District
Arapaho National Forest
PO Box 10
9 Ten Mile Drive
Granby, CO 80446
Phone: 970-887-4100



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Serving Colorado's Great Lakes Region

Fees help educate, protect and serve the public

By Dan Matthews

ANRA Manager

Melting heavy snowpack and early summer rains caused Lake Granby to rise 63 feet in a matter of just two months in 2014, as much as two feet in a single day! Those rising waters kept ANRA crews busy moving buoys that mark hazardous rocks lurking below the surface and adjusting docks at boat launches to keep them accessible.

Although all that snow was great for skiers and snowmobilers, it made for a lot of plowing and shoveling as ANRA crews worked to protect the area's historic buildings from collapsing and to keep the parking lots available for winter recreation users.



Deep snow nearly buried the Junco Lake Cabin in the ANRA during the winter of 2013-14.

We continue to make improvements at the AA Bar Ranch Barn, which is a popular historic site that can be rented for small weddings and other events. In 2014, we removed the parking lot wooden buck and rail fence that designated the parking area and replaced it with large rocks to create more parking spaces. We also added new signs and removed dead standing trees to make the area safer.

The road to the barn is also the trailhead for the Colorado River Trail, which was rerouted in the past year to prevent erosion on steep banks. Two other trails that lead out of ANRA trailheads — Roaring Fork and Columbine — saw major upgrades and reroutes this year with



A new interpretive panel in Point Park discusses natural history at the headwaters of the Colorado River.

help from volunteers. Meanwhile, dead and dying hazardous trees along the Doe Creek Trail were greatly reduced.

In the fall of 2014 we greatly improved the erosion problems we were having at the Green Ridge boat ramp by adding new rock and improving the drainage. This work made it safer to use the area and reduced sediment entering into the lake.

Point Park in the Town of Grand Lake continues to see improvements, including a new railing on the dock with a spectacular view of Mount Craig (aka Mt. Baldy) and two new interpretive panels that tell some of the natural history of Colorado's Great Lakes region.

Please let us know if you have other ideas for putting your fees to work for you!



As the reservoir rises and falls, crews hustle to move buoys that mark hazards under the water's surface.