



# Dillon Ranger District Recreation Guide

White River National Forest      Summit County, Colorado

## HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO WILDERNESS!

In 2014, the nation will celebrate the 50th anniversary of President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Wilderness Act into law. This historic bill established the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) and initially set aside 9.1 million acres of federal wildlands for the use and benefit of the American people. The 1964 Wilderness Act defines "Wilderness" as areas where the earth and its communities of life are left unchanged by people, where the primary forces of nature are in control, and where people themselves are visitors who do not remain. Over the past 50 years, and as a result of America's



support for wilderness, Congress has added over 100 million acres to this unique land preservation system.

The founders of the wilderness system saw a fundamental human need for Wilderness. They were thinkers like Howard Zahniser, Aldo Leopold, and Bob Marshall. These visionaries shared a passionate conviction that wilderness is a vital link to human well-being and to American culture.

The NWPS provides many benefits, such as those relating to ecological, geological, scientific, educational, scenic, spiritual, economic, recreational, historical, and cultural uses and activities. This

system encompasses a wide variety of ecosystems throughout the country including swamps in the Southeast, tundra in Alaska, snowcapped peaks in the Rocky Mountains, hardwoods forests in the Northeast, and deserts in the Southwest. The 757 designated Wilderness Areas within the NWPS are managed by all four federal land managing agencies: the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, and National Park Service. About 5% of the entire United States—an area slightly larger than the state of California—is protected as Wilderness, with over half this total in Alaska. In the lower 48 states, Wilderness areas amount to an area about the size of Minnesota. In Summit County the Dillon Ranger District manages the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas. (See Pg. 5.)

On September 3, 2014, the nation will celebrate the 50th birthday of this landmark event that made history — its grand, golden anniversary.

For information on events in Summit County, please go to [www.summitwild50.org](http://www.summitwild50.org).



### USFS VISITOR INFORMATION

**Dillon Ranger District Office**  
(970-468-5400) is located at 680 Blue River Parkway (Colorado Hwy 9) in Silverthorne across from Target.

#### VISITOR CENTER HOURS

##### Summer Hours

(Memorial Day to Labor Day)  
Monday – Friday 8:00AM - 4:30PM  
Call for Saturday hours

##### Winter Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:30AM - 4:00PM  
Closed for Lunch  
12:30pm - 1:30pm

##### Closed Holidays

The Visitor Center offers a variety of services:

- Summer and winter recreation information
- USFS Permits and Federal Passes
- Topo maps, trail maps, field guides, & books for sale
- State of Colorado Snowmobile and OHV registration
- Gifts
- Presentations (Grades K- 12)

More information on Pg 12.

## GENERAL INFORMATION



**BIKING/WALKING:** The Summit County Recreational Pathway System (Recpath) is a 55 mile long network of paved pathways opened to non-motorized uses. It runs throughout Summit County and to Vail.



**BOATING/SWIMMING:** Boating is permitted on Dillon Reservoir. Boating and swimming are permitted at Green Mountain Reservoir. See Pg 2.



**CAMPING:** Opportunities for camping on National Forest lands include: developed campgrounds (tent and RV), backcountry (backpacking), and vehicular (dispersed) camping. Different regulations apply for each, especially in Wilderness Areas. See Pg 2.



**FIRE RESTRICTIONS:** At certain times, fire bans and/or restrictions may apply to the National Forest and Summit County. Check with local officials for more information.



**FISHING:** Permitted on most public waters in the county. Check with Colorado Parks and Wildlife for information. Fishing licenses are not sold at the Ranger District office but are available throughout the county and online. See Pg 10.



**GUNS/FIREARM USE** in the National Forest: Shooting is prohibited within 150 yards of

any residence, building, campsite, developed recreation site, or occupied area. Shooting across roads, trails or bodies of water is prohibited as well as in any manner or place which exposes a person or property to injury or damage. Damaging natural features is prohibited. Please collect spent casings.



**HUNTING:** Allowed on National Forest lands with certain restrictions and regulations. A valid Colorado hunting license, available at businesses throughout the county and online, is required. Check with Colorado Parks and Wildlife for information. Dillon Ranger District does not sell hunting licenses.



**LIVESTOCK:** Saddle, pack, and draft animals are permitted in the National Forest unless otherwise posted. Use only certified weed-free forage and minimum impact techniques (e.g. do not tie animals to trees or within 100 ft of a body of water or trail). Hay and straw are prohibited in Wilderness Areas; use pelleted feed and rolled grain.



**MINING/GOLD PANNING:** Summit County has many existing mining claims on National Forest and other lands. Before any mining or panning activities, contact Bureau of Land Management ([www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)) to avoid claim violations and the Dillon Ranger District for specific details.



**MOUNTAIN BIKING:** Permitted on designated trails within the National Forest, but prohibited in all Wilderness Areas. See Pg 10.



**NATURAL HERITAGE:** Removing any pre-historic, historic, or archeological resource, structure, site, artifact or property from the National Forest is prohibited.



**OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES (4WD/ATV/Motor Bikes):** Permitted on designated roads and trails within the National Forest, but not within Wilderness Areas. Colorado State registration is required. See Pg 10.



**SNOWMOBILING:** Permitted in certain areas within the National Forest, but not in Wilderness Areas. Colorado State registration is required. See Pg 11.



**WINTER RECREATION:** Cross country, nordic, and alpine skiing; snowboarding; and snowshoeing are permitted on National Forest land. See Pg 11.



**WOOD CUTTING:** Fuel wood cutting is permitted within the National Forest at certain times of year and at designated locations with the purchase of a Fuel Wood Permit. See Pg 12.



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DILLON RESERVOIR

Encircled by Swan Mountain and the dramatic Gore and Tenmile Ranges, Dillon Reservoir is the heart of Summit County. It is owned and operated by Denver Water and is one of Denver's main water sources. In addition to boating, it offers a variety of other activities including fishing, picnicking, bicycling, paddle boarding, canoeing, kayaking, and hiking. Water contact including swimming, water skiing and SCUBA diving are prohibited. During the winter season, non-motorized uses are allowed on the ice. Camping and campfires are allowed only in designated campgrounds around the reservoir.

More information is available at [www.denverwater.org/Recreation/Dillon/](http://www.denverwater.org/Recreation/Dillon/).

GREEN MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR

(Recreation Fee Area)

Green Mountain Reservoir is located 15 miles north of Silverthorne along Hwy 9 and has views of the Williams Fork and Gore mountain ranges. In addition to boating, it offers a variety of activities including camping, fishing, picnicking, jet skiing, water skiing, swimming and hiking. Fee stations for campgrounds are located in the campgrounds.

Season passes are also available at the Dillon Ranger District.

More information is available at [www.greenmountainreservoir.com](http://www.greenmountainreservoir.com).

ATTENTION BOATERS!

All boats must be inspected for Aquatic Nuisance Species (e.g., zebra mussels) at both Reservoirs before entering the water.



DISPERSED CAMPING

This term is used for vehicle-based camping anywhere in the National Forest OUTSIDE of a designated campground. It is generally allowed anywhere except within 100 feet of a lake, trail, or stream, or where posted as closed. It is especially appealing to people who enjoy the solitude and experience of camping away from developed campgrounds and other campers. No toilet facilities, garbage services, treated water, or fire grates are provided. Typically, dispersed camping is not allowed in the vicinity of campgrounds, picnic areas, or trailheads. However, even here occupying a campsite is limited to 14 days.



For a list of suggested sites, contact the Dillon Ranger District or see [fd.usda.gov/activity/white-river/recreation/camping-cabins](http://fd.usda.gov/activity/white-river/recreation/camping-cabins)

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING

Permits are not needed to backpack in the Dillon Ranger District. Please follow Leave No Trace ethics (See Pg 5) while in the backcountry and observe the specific regulations which pertain to the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas. Again, occupying a campsite is limited to 14 days.

A MESSAGE FROM THE DILLON RANGER DISTRICT

Dillon Ranger District is the steward of over 312,000 acres of National Forest system land in the White River National Forest - the top recreational forest in the nation. The District shares the same boundaries as Summit County. With help from invaluable partners like Friends of Eagles Nest Wilderness and Friends of the Dillon Ranger District, we are stewards of National Forest System lands which cover approximately 75% of the county and include two Wilderness Areas: Ptarmigan Peak and Eagles Nest.

The U.S. Forest Service, started by Theodore Roosevelt in 1905, is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The Forest Service has the responsibility

of managing land for many diverse uses and users: recreation (including winter sports), tourism, wildlife, fisheries, threatened and endangered species, archeological and anthropological sites, wild fires, wilderness, and commercial interests such as grazing, minerals, timber, outfitting and guiding. Dillon Ranger District has much to offer with a wide range of recreational activities for every season and diverse landscapes in a spectacular setting of the Rocky Mountain high country. This year we commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act. We hope you will join us in celebrating Wilderness and the many benefits these wildlands provide the American public throughout the country and here in our own back yard.



Jan Cutts, District Ranger Dillon Ranger District



Water, essential to all living things, is especially precious in the arid West. Our lakes and streams are particularly vital to animals such as fish and beaver, and aquatic insects which live in and around water. Improper camping and day use around water sources can negatively impact the wetlands, stream banks, and stream habitats that are their homes.

Camping too close to water can cause too much sediment to wash into a stream or lake, impacting the ability of fish to feed and reproduce, or can cause banks to fall apart, making it challenging for beavers to build dams and for stabilizing bank-side vegetation to grow. This vegetation also provides homes and food to many animals.

Driving a vehicle through a stream or lake can cause major damage to the bottom of a stream as well as kill incubating fish eggs and the aquatic insects that the fish eat. Gas and oil leaking from a stream-side vehicle can damage both aquatic and land animals. The Dillon Ranger District's "Respect the River" program includes habitat restoration and environmental education about our aquatic environments.

TO HELP US PROTECT OUR STREAMS AND LAKES:

- Remember, it is illegal to camp within 100 feet of a stream or lake unless the site is designated for camping, and campfires

are not allowed at lakes or within 100 ft of streams.

- Choose an existing campsite and park at least 100 feet from water unless designated.
- Stay on established roads and trails. Do not drive through streams or wetlands.
- Pack out all garbage. Do not burn aluminum foil or cans in campfires.
- Keep fires small, bring your own firewood, and never leave a fire unattended.
- Protect fish and their young: Don't build play dams, avoid fish spawning areas, leave driftwood and log jams in place, and know fishing and hunting rules.
- Protect the water: Wash well away from the water, use biodegradable soaps, dispose of all waste water and fishing spoils 200 feet from water.
- If no toilet is available, dig a 6 inch deep hole at least 200 feet from water and pack out paper waste.
- Respect restoration sites and structures.

DILLON RANGER DISTRICT CAMPGROUND & DAY USE AREAS

For Campground Reservations: 877-444-6777 or [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov). Reservations may be made from a minimum of 4 to a maximum of 240 days in advance. Most campgrounds are open from mid-May to Labor Day. Maximum length of stay at all sites is 14 days. RV Dumping stations are located at the Silverthorne and Breckenridge Sanitation Plants. Fees charged at all campgrounds.

DILLON RESERVOIR CAMPGROUNDS

Site Name	Max. RV/ Trailer Length	# of Sites	Site Services	Can Reserve?
Giberson Bay	25 ft	4 picnic		NO
Heaton Bay **	50 ft	81	H <sub>2</sub> O, electricity	YES
Heaton Bay Picnic Area**	35 ft	7 picnic		NO
Lowry	32 ft	24	electricity	YES
Peak One	50 ft	79	H <sub>2</sub> O	YES
Pine Cove	40 ft	33		NO
Pine Cove Day Use	30 ft	Parking only		NO
Prospector	32 ft	107		YES
Windy Point Group Site Forest Loop	50 ft	Groups only		YES
Windy Point Group Site Lake Loop	50 ft	Groups only		YES

GREEN MOUNTAIN RESERVOIR CAMPGROUNDS\*

Site Name	Max. RV/ Trailer Length	# of Sites	Can Reserve?
Blue River	35 ft	25	NO
Cataract Creek	25 ft	5	NO
Cow Creek North	50 ft	15	NO
Cow Creek South	50 ft	44	YES
Elliot Creek	25 ft	24	NO
McDonald Flats	30 ft	12	NO
McDonald Flats Boat Ramp	45 ft	Parking only	NO
Prairie Point	50 ft	22	NO
Willows	25 ft	25	NO

\*No electricity or water at any Green Mountain Reservoir sites.



\*\*Special note for Heaton Bay campers: Vehicles over 10 ft in length, RV's, panel trucks, and trailers of any type are prohibited at all times on the dam portion of the Dillon Dam Road. Use Frisco Exit 203 on I-70 to gain access to campground.

NEW 2014 DILLON RESERVOIR CAMPGROUND FEES

The concessionaire- operated campgrounds and day use areas at Dillon Reservoir have implemented new fees for 2014. Fees per site: Heaton Bay CG- \$21.00 (+ \$5.00 for sites with electrical hook-up), Lowry CG- \$20.00 (+ \$5.00 for sites with electrical hook-up), Peak One CG- \$21.00, Pine Cove CG - \$19.00, Prospector CG- \$20.00, Windy Point Group Site (Forest) -\$200.00, Windy Point Group Site (Lake)-\$250.00. Fees at Day Use areas are \$7.00 per day. Season passes for Day Use areas can be purchased from any Dillon Reservoir campground host.





## FOREST MANAGEMENT FOR A HEALTHY FUTURE

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The recent Mountain Pine Beetle epidemic, responsible for killing millions of lodgepole and ponderosa pine trees from New Mexico to Alaska, is in decline. In the aftermath of this outbreak a healthy understory and new views of the forest are emerging as it recovers from this critical situation. In the wake of the MPB outbreak, we can play a role by encouraging the diversity in tree species and ages necessary for overall forest health by actively managing our public and private lands. Some forests may grow back with more natural diversity than exists today, and others may regenerate back to single-aged lodgepole pines.

Visitors to our area will likely notice sections of the forest in which dead trees have been removed. These range from corridors cleared alongside trails, roads, and powerlines to multiple acres of clear cuts near our communities. These areas have been treated to reduce the risks posed to humans, our infrastructure, and our water supply by falling trees and buildup of native fuels. These areas are monitored for regeneration and replanted if necessary.

As the young forest continues to develop, the U.S. Forest Service and other public land managers can actively encourage diversity away from a single species of pine trees. In other cases it will monitor, gather information, and practice adaptive management to avoid the situation seen today.



## WATCH OUT! FALLING TREES ARE A HAZARD IN THE FOREST

- Be aware of your surroundings and avoid dense patches of dead trees. They can fall without warning.
- Stay out of the forest when there are strong winds that could blow down trees. If you are already there when winds increase, head to a clearing out of reach of any potential falling trees.
- Place tents and park vehicles in areas where they will not be hit if trees fall.
- When driving in remote areas of the National Forest, park close to a main road rather than a spur or one way section. If trees fall across a road, you may be trapped.
- Bring an axe or a chainsaw to remove fallen trees from roads in case you become trapped.
- Do not rely on cell phones for safety as there is no coverage in many areas of the National Forest.

# FIREWISE IN THE FOREST



With the large amount of beetle-killed trees in the forest, everyone must do their part to prevent wildfires. A few simple precautions will diminish the possibility of a wildfire:

- Do not discard cigarettes, matches, and smoking materials from moving vehicles, or anywhere in the forest.
- Possessing or using any kind of fireworks is illegal on our National Forest lands.
- Use caution when cooking on an open flame or grill anywhere, even in the backyard.
- All internal or external combustion engines (including chainsaws) must be equipped with a spark arrestor.
- All Off Highway Vehicles (OHV's) must have an approved spark arrestor.
- When camping, take care when using and fueling lanterns, stoves, and heaters. Make sure they are

cool before refueling. Avoid spilling flammable liquids and store fuel away from appliances.

Forest fires often start from **campfires**. A camper can be held responsible for suppression costs if their campfire starts a wildfire. [Before building a fire on National Forest lands, first contact the Ranger District or local officials for information on current fire restrictions or bans.](#) Then follow these steps:

- Use a camp stove instead of a campfire if possible.
- Campfires should be at least 100 feet (35 adult paces) from lakes, streams, trails. In addition, campfires are not allowed above tree line or at lakes in Wilderness Areas.
- Use an existing fire pit if possible, circled with rocks. Keep the fire site away from overhanging branches.
- Clear a 5-foot area around the pit, removing burnable debris down to the soil. Keep anything combustible and extra wood well away from the fire.
- Keep a bucket of water and a shovel nearby.
- When you leave, make sure the fire is completely out. Drown the fire with water and stir with a shovel or stick. Repeat until the area is cold to the touch. (Don't bury coals. They can smolder and break out.)

**Never leave a campfire unattended, not even for a minute.**

## WILD FIRES



Fire suppression resources in Summit County have worked together diligently to be prepared for wild fires. Visit [co.summit.co.us/extension](http://co.summit.co.us/extension) for valuable information from Summit County government. Then register at [www.scalert.org](http://www.scalert.org) for text messaging on all emergency concerns. In case of a threatening wild fire, Summit County will also use landline phone messages via reverse 911 to alert people in target areas as well as emergency alerts delivered by radio and television.

**If you are in the forest and see smoke or flames,** return immediately to a safe area. Call 911 with the location of the area of concern. The emergency operator will call the proper response team. This is not the time to be concerned with a false alarm!

## IS YOUR MOUNTAIN HOME FIREWISE?

Organized communities are encouraged to create linked defensible space throughout their neighborhoods. Linked defensible space creates a much better buffer from wildland fires and ember storms than individually protected homes. To learn more about defensible space on your property contact your local fire department or Dan Schroder, Colorado State University Extension Agent in Summit County, 970-668-4140, [dan.schroder@colostate.edu](mailto:dan.schroder@colostate.edu).



## NOXIOUS WEEDS - THE BAD GUYS

A noxious weed is a non-native plant which, having no natural checks in our environment, damages grazing land, crops, the environment, ecosystems, humans, or livestock. Some are truly "weeds" and some are escaped ornamentals. Most were introduced here from abroad by ignorance, mismanagement, or accident. They out-compete native plants and wildflowers for space and nutrients. Many produce thousands of seeds that can live in the soil for years.

Noxious, invasive weeds are a serious threat everywhere. Over thirty-three are in Summit County. **The five most threatening here are:**



**Oxeye Daisies**, a perennial, reproduces from seeds and roots. It has one flower per stem with 10 -30 white rays per flower from a yellow disc center. It irritates the legs and faces of animals. Its rampant growth chokes out other plants. Blooms in early summer (do not confuse with native Shasta Daisy.) Up to 2 ft. tall.



**Non-native Thistles** crowd out other plants and are toxic to wild and domestic animals.

**Canada Thistle**, a perennial, is extremely difficult to kill, reproducing from roots and seeds. Small purplish fading to white flowers (less than 1") with a single flower head on each stalk. 2 to 4 ft. tall.

**Musk and Plumeless Thistle**, biennials, have pink to purplish flowers, and grow only from seed, starting their first year as ground rosettes. **Musk thistles** have large flowers (1.5" to 3") and leaves with a white midrib and/or white edges. **Plumeless thistle** stalks and leaves are very thorny with flowers ½" to 1". Both grow up to 6 ft. tall.



**Yellow Toadflax** (*Butter and Eggs*), a perennial resembling a snapdragon, is toxic to cattle, very invasive, and difficult to control. Often sold in seed packets as "wild snapdragons", it reproduces from seeds and roots. 1 – 3 ft. tall.



**False Chamomile**, an annual, reproduces from seed and has small (less than 1") daisy-like flowers with ferny or feathery leaves. Its sap can irritate skin and mouths. Up to 3 ft. tall.



**Houndstongue**, a biennial, has five-petaled, drooping reddish-purple flowers with hairy, pointed leaves. It is toxic to animals and makes Velcro-like seeds that stick to clothing and animal fur. Up to 4 ft. tall.

PHOTOS OF NOXIOUS WEEDS COURTESY OF DR. MARY DUBLER AND THINKSTOCKPHOTOS.COM

Noxious weeds can be controlled culturally (adaptive seeding), mechanically (mowing, digging, pulling), chemically (spraying), or biologically (with natural enemies).

### To eradicate noxious weeds:

- Identify the plant. Use plant identification tools or take a sample in for identification.
- Find out what methods work best for that weed.
- Plant adapted grasses which are proven competitors.
- To avoid spreading weed seeds, put any picked weed flowers and plants in trash bags.
- Keep properties weed free and participate in local weed pull projects.
- Use only certified weed-free forage for livestock on public lands and only pelletized feed and rolled grain in Wilderness Areas.

For more information on noxious weeds, visit [www.ext.colorado.edu/sam/weed-pocket.pdf](http://www.ext.colorado.edu/sam/weed-pocket.pdf) or the Summit County website at <http://www.co.summit.co.us/index.aspx?nid=114> or call Summit County Weeds Management (970-668-4218).

Report noxious weeds on National Forest lands to Dillon Ranger District.





Boreas Pass

## SCENIC DRIVES

These drives can be accessed with 2WD vehicles. Before attempting any drives in winter weather, please check for closures or adverse conditions.



With scenic views, access to mining and railroad ruins (Baker's Tank), plus aspen viewing in the fall, popular **Boreas Pass Road** is suitable for passenger vehicles, although it is unpaved and frequently potholed. No vehicle access in the winter. From the south end of Breckenridge, turn east on Boreas Pass Road. (Map F7)

State Hwy 91 heads south over **Fremont Pass\*** past the Climax molybdenum mine to the historic mining town of Leadville. The Arkansas River's headwaters are at the bottom of the valley. Take exit #195 at Copper Mountain Resort from I-70. (Map G5)

Once the easiest access to Summit County, **Hoosier Pass\*** straddles the Continental Divide at the northern end of the Mosquito Range. The Blue River, a tributary of the mighty Colorado, runs beside the road for most of way. Take exit #203 (State Hwy 9) from I-70 at Frisco. (Map G7)

**Loveland Pass\***, which bypasses the Eisenhower Tunnel, is the highest mountain pass in the world that regularly stays open during the winter. Three ski areas flank the route through the pass. The summit is a high alpine environment, with mountain goats frequently visible and spectacular views. The twisty road can be treacherous during the winter months. Follow U. S. Route 6 south at Exit #205 Silverthorne/Dillon from I-70. (Map C7)

An unpaved 4WD trail, **Shrine Pass Road** can be traveled by sturdy 2WD vehicles and light trucks in good weather. It winds through a beautiful valley with aspen and pine forests and wildflower meadows, offering views of Mount of the Holy Cross to the southwest. No vehicle access in the winter. Exit #190 at Vail Pass from I-70 into the parking area. Turn right, heading west, onto the Shrine Pass dirt road (FSR12). (Map E4)

The drive up **Ute Pass Road** in the **Williams Fork Range** (which the Ute Indians used in their travels through Colorado) offers exquisite views of the Gore Range and the Blue River Valley far below. One of the most impressive views of the Eagles Nest Wilderness is from the top of Ute Pass. Travel North from Silverthorne on State Hwy 9 approximately 10 miles. Turn east on County Road 15 (Ute Pass Road). (Map A4)

\*These passes cross the Continental Divide

## LIVING WITH WILDLIFE IN MOOSE COUNTRY

Summit County is home to a healthy, growing population of Shiras Moose, the largest mammal in Colorado.

Moose are an amazing viewing opportunity; however, the charismatic animals have few natural enemies and are not threatened by humans. Though they are generally passive and curious, their large size and strength makes them very dangerous if approached or provoked, especially by dogs.

Because they resemble their primary predator, moose will charge any dog that approaches. In several cases, an angry moose has chased a dog back to the dog's owner, resulting in severe injuries to the person. Keep dogs on leashes!

Moose were sparse in Colorado until 1978 when wildlife managers transplanted 12 into North Park, near Walden, followed by an additional dozen in 1979. Bolstered by other transplant efforts, they have been successfully reproducing and expanding their range, numbering over 2000 animals across the state today.



Moose are the largest member of the deer family; however, they are mostly solitary animals and do not travel in herds. Adults can weigh between 800-1200 pounds, standing six-foot-high at the shoulder. They have dark brown, almost black, fur with long gray legs, long heads, large snouts and a distinctive 'bell' or 'dewlap' hanging from their throat. Bulls grow large, palmated antlers which they shed every winter and regrow each year. Moose can live up to 20 years in the wild.

Moose means 'eater of twigs' in the Algonquin language, an appropriate name as their main diet consists of willows, aspen, pine trees, and woody

shrubs. Their long legs allow them to traverse deep snow and willow bottoms in search of food throughout the year.

Moose breed during September and October, a period known as the 'rut.' Bulls can be very aggressive during this time. Cows give birth between May and June, with twins common in areas with good habitat. Cow moose are very protective of their calves and will charge aggressively if threatened.

### If you see a moose:

- Keep your distance! Enjoy them with cameras, binoculars or scopes.
- If a moose, or any wild animal, reacts to your presence, you are too close!
- **Never let a dog harass, chase or bark at a moose!**
- If you sense moose aggression - ears laid back, hackles raised, licking snout - move away slowly and look for an escape route.
- If it charges, run! Quickly get behind something LARGE (rock, tree, car, etc)!

For more information on Living with Wildlife, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife or see [www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us).



## A SHORT HISTORY OF SUMMIT COUNTY

ARTICLE BY RICK HAGUE,  
BRECKENRIDGE HERITAGE ALLIANCE

We can describe the history of Summit County in terms of gold and its different colors: brown, yellow, white, and green.

The Mountain Ute Native Americans and their predecessors for thousands of years sought "brown gold" - the herds of mountain buffalo, elk, deer, and other game that roamed the county, migrating with the seasons. The Utes left little evidence of their presence, but most of today's roads and trails follow their early routes.

The early 1800s also saw a quest for "brown gold" - trappers seeking beaver, otter, and muskrat pelts for wealthy, fashion-conscious patrons in Paris, London, and New York. These trappers also left little evidence behind. They called valleys "holes" and held annual rendezvous or general gatherings to trade and party. LaBonte's Hole was the site of such a gathering, located near the confluence of the Blue, Snake, and Ten Mile rivers, now beneath the surface of Dillon Reservoir.

The spring of 1859 witnessed the first seekers of yellow gold - the 59ers of the Pikes Peak gold rush. They streamed into Summit County over Georgia, Breckenridge, Hamilton, Tarryall, and Hoosier Passes, desperately seeking "placer" gold - nuggets and flakes associated with stream sediments. After the initial rush, life quieted down until the early 1880s when a second rush began - this time for silver, lead, zinc, and gold mined underground. The sounds of drilling and blasting echoed through the valleys into the early 1900s. Wild mining camps like Breckenridge, Frisco, (old) Dillon, Keystone, and Montezuma eventually turned into "civilized" villages that sported families, schools, and stores.

During this time, ranches sprang up in the flatter, northern part of the county. Much of their produce was sold to the miners. The railroad also came in 1882,



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Sts. John's Mine ; Mining Dredge ; Early Miners with Rocker; Mountain Ute Indians.

connecting all of the main towns to the outside world and bringing in fresh produce, supplies, and people. The "High Line" - so-called because it went over the continental divide twice on its way to Leadville - carried mineral products and lumber to Denver and points beyond.

The mining boom quieted down - other than gold dredging in several local rivers - from roughly 1910 through the 1950s when the quest for "white gold" began. Dillon Reservoir was built in the early 1960s; the town of Silverthorne was born as the dam's construction headquarters. Land developers, eager to cash in on the second-home and

recreational potential of the new lake and its surrounding mountains, rushed in. And thus the Breckenridge ski area was born in 1961, to be followed shortly by Keystone and Copper Mountain. The boom of second homes, restaurants, shops, and other development continues today.

The quest for "green gold" continues to the present - the enjoyment of forests, streams, lakes, and mountains for hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, and similar activities. This quest has brought with it an appreciation for the environment and the need to preserve it for future generations.



# WILDERNESS ... OUR LEGACY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS



*"If future generations are to remember us with gratitude rather than contempt, we must leave them something more than the miracles of technology. We must leave them a glimpse of the world as it was in the beginning, not just after we got through with it."*

-President Lyndon B. Johnson, on the signing of the Wilderness Act of 1964

## WILDERNESS FACTS

- The National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS) was created on September 3, 1964, when President Lyndon B. Johnson signed The Wilderness Act.
- The NWPS now includes 757 areas (109 million acres) in 44 states and Puerto Rico.
- About 5% of the entire United States—an area slightly larger than the state of California—is protected as Wilderness.
- Wilderness areas represent a variety of landscapes including desert, mountains, rivers, prairies, saltwater marshes, swamps, beaches and sand dunes.
- Alaska, California, Arizona, Idaho and Washington have the most wilderness acres.

## SUMMIT COUNTY WILDERNESS AREAS

### EAGLES NEST WILDERNESS AREA

This area was designated Wilderness in 1976 and has a total of 133,471 acres. The Gore Range begins north of Interstate 70 near Frisco and continues north toward Green Mtn. Reservoir. Heavy snow accumulates on the heights of the mountains of the Gore Range, providing a major contribution to the waters of the Colorado River. This is an area more vertical than horizontal, with sheer rock faces, steep ridges, deep valleys, jagged peaks, and dense forests in the lower elevations. Approximately 180 miles of trail provide access to this area, many of them dead-ending at a spectacular lake.

**What Is Wilderness?** *"A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain."*

-Federal Wilderness Act of 1964

### PTARMIGAN PEAK WILDERNESS AREA

This area was designated Wilderness in 1993 and has a total of 12,760 acres. The Williams Fork Mountains leap up and away into Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness from just below the western entrance to the Eisenhower Tunnel on Interstate 70. A typical lodgepole-pine forest rises to Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir and then on to alpine tundra at the highest elevations. From the boundary along the top of the mountain ridgeline, the terrain drops into the wet, lush, and lovely drainages of the South and Middle Forks of the Williams Fork Rivers.

### SPECIAL REGULATIONS THAT APPLY TO THESE LOCAL WILDERNESS AREAS:

- Motor vehicles, motorized or mechanized equipment, and mountain bikes are prohibited.
- Group size is limited to 15 people.
- Dogs must be leashed at all times.
- Campfires are not allowed at the lakes, within 100 ft of streams or trails, or above treeline.
- Camps must be at least 100 ft from lakes, streams and trails
- Hay and straw are prohibited for livestock- use pelletized feed or rolled grain.
- Pack and saddle animals should not be hitched or tethered within 100 ft of lakes, streams or trails.
- Equipment, supplies, and personal property cannot be left longer than 72 hours.



Wilderness boundary sign

## OUR NATIONAL FOREST IS BEING "LOVED TO DEATH"

Many popular areas have become crowded and show signs of resource damage. It is important for all of us to

### "Leave No Trace"

**Plan Ahead and Prepare.** Know the terrain and any regulations applicable to the area you're planning to visit and be prepared for extreme weather or other emergencies. This will enhance your enjoyment and ensure that you've chosen an appropriate destination. Small groups have less impact on resources and the experience of other backcountry visitors.

**Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces.** Travel and camp on established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow. Good campsites are found, not made. Camp at least 200 feet from lakes and streams and focus activities



on areas where vegetation is absent. In pristine areas, disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.

**Dispose of Waste Properly.** Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your camp for trash or food scraps. Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug six to eight inches, at least 200 feet from water, camp and trails. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products. To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

**Leave What You Find.** Cultural or historic artifacts, as well as natural objects such as plants or rocks, should be left as found.

**Minimize Campfire Impacts.** Cook on a stove. Use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. If a campfire is built, keep it small and use dead sticks found on the ground.

**Respect Wildlife.** Observe wildlife from a distance. Feeding wildlife alters their natural behavior. Protect wildlife from your food by storing rations and trash securely.

**Be Considerate of Other Visitors.** Be courteous, respect the quality of other visitors' backcountry experiences and let nature's sounds prevail.

This copyrighted language has been reprinted with permission from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)



FEATURED TRAILS AND ROADS

Challenge Level: E = Easy; M = Moderate; S = Strenuous

(W) = Trail is all or part in Wilderness Area; L = Loop Trail; V = Varies

Key #	Trail Name	Miles One Way	Hiking Challenge Level	Horse	Mountain Biking	OHV & Motorcycle	4x4	X/C Ski & Snowshoe	Elevation Gain/Loss	Map Coordinates
1	Acorn Creek (W)	4.0	S	•				•	2965/294	B4
2	Angler Mountain	2.5	M	•				•	1200/0	C5
3	Argentine Pass	2.2	S	•	•				1958/66	C8
4	Bakers Tank	2.7	E-M	•	•			•	796/326	F7
5	Bemrose Ski Circus	5.7 L	E-S					•	1805/1813	G7
6	Boreas Pass Road	6.6	E-M		•	•	•	•	1153/11	F7
7	Boulder Lake - Lower (W)	2.7	M	•				•	828/571	C4
8	Buffalo Mountain (W)	2.8	S					•	2996/0	D5
9	Burro	4.0	E-M	•	•			•	414/904	F6
10	Cataract Lake - Lower (W)	2.0	E					•	136/126	B2
11	Cataract Lake - Upper (W)	5.0	S	•				•	2650/634	B2
12	Chihuahua Lake	3.4	S	•				•	1774/0	C8
13	Upper Crystal Lake	5.0	S	•				•	2805/0	F6
14	Deer Creek Road	4.0	M-S		•	•	•	•	2059/7	D8
15	Eaglesmere Lakes (W)	3.6	M	•				•	1695/22	B2
16	Elliott Ridge (W)	6.1	M	•					1525/273	B1
17	French Gulch	4.1	E-S	•	•				1749/9	E7
18	Georgia Pass Road	4.5	S		•	•	•	•	1791/35	E7
19	Gold Hill	3.0	M	•	•			•	1070/368	E6
20	Gore Range (W)	45.0	E-S	•				•	7600/8147	B2-F5
21	Grays & Torreys Peaks - Primary Route	4.2	S						3566/565	B7
22	Hunkidori Mine Road	3.1	M-S	•	•			•	978/258	C7
23	Indiana Creek Road	1.8	M		•	•	•	•	782/0	F7
24	Keystone Gulch Road	6.6	E-M	•	•	•	•	•	2363/0	D6
25	Lenawee	3.8	S	•	•			•	2495/708	C8
26	Lily Pad Lake (W)	1.4	E-M					•	127/35	D5
27	Lost Lake (W)	5.6	M	•				•	2249/118	B3
28	Mayflower Gulch	2.8	M-S	•	•	•	•	•	1435/16	G5
29	McCullough Gulch	1.3	M	•				•	815/1	G6
30	Meadow Creek (W)	4.7	M-S	•				•	2743/0	D5
31	Mesa Cortina to So.Willow Falls (W)	4.2	E-M					•	1043/253	D5
32	Middle Fork Road (Swan River)	9.2	M		•	•	•	•	3136/1020	E7
33	Miners Creek Road	2.5	M-S	•	•	•	•	•	845/12	E6
34	Mohawk Lakes via Spruce Creek	3.4	M	•	•			•	1977/37	F6
35	Mount Baldy	4.5	S	•	•	**	•	•	3035/0	F7
36	Mount Royal/Masontown	2.0	S	•					1385/13	E5
37	North Ten Mile Creek (W)	3.4	M-S	•				•	1668/0	D5
38	North Fork Road (Swan River)	4.2	M		•	•	•	•	1774/0	E7
39	Old Dillon Reservoir	0.8	E-M		•			•	137/10	D5
40	Oro Grande	4.4	E	•	•			•	403/481	C6
41	Peaks	7.8	M-S	•	•			•	253/1218	E6
42	Pennsylvania Creek Road	2.5	M		•	•	•	•	2102/937	F7
43	Peru Creek Road	4.0	M-S		•	•	•	•	968/11	C7
44	Ptarmigan (W)	6.1	M-S	•	•			•	2827/404	C5
45	Quandary Peak	3.1	S					•	3330/0	G6
46	North Rock Creek	1.6	M-S	•				•	543/5	C4
47	Saints John Road	2.9	M-S		•	•	•	•	968/11	D7
48	Sally Barber Mine Road	1.4	E-M	•	•			•	393/0	E7
49	Sapphire Point	0.7L	E		•			•	98/107	D6
50	Shrine Mountain Trail	2.3	M	•				•	940/160	E4
51	Slate Lake - Lower (W)	8.3	M	•				•	1834/1412	B3
52	Slate Lake - Upper (W)	9.3	M	•				•	2797/1412	B4
53	Spring Creek Area	V	M-S	•	•	•	•	•	V	A1
54	Straight Creek	5.4	E-M	•	•	•		•	1809/0	C6
55	Surprise Lake (W)	2.6	M-S	•				•	1489/0	B2
56	Swan Valley Area	V	M-S	•	•	•	•	•	V	E7
57	Tenderfoot	1.8	M-S	•	•			•	639/18	C6
58	Tipperary Lake (W)	4.5	M	•				•	1670/652	B2
59	Ute Peak	4.9	M	•				•	2974/253	A4
60	Vail Pass Winter Rec. Area*	V	E-S					•	V	F4
61	Webster Pass Road	3.7	M-S		•	•	•	•	1507/0	C8
62	Wheeler Lakes (W)	3.1	S	•				•	1437/29	E5
63	Wheeler National Recreation Trail	14.0	S	•	•			•	4843/2932	E5-G6
64	Wilder Gulch	3.5	M	•	•			•	1253/21	F4
65	Williams Peak Road	11.4	M-S		•	•	•	•	4042/625	A2
66	Willow Lake / Salmon Lake (W)	7.7	M-S	•				•	2367/434	C4

\*RECREATION FEE DEMO AREA \*\*LICENSED MOTORCYCLES ONLY



SUGGESTED (#) = KEY # FROM TRAIL

EASY TRAILS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

**French Gulch (#17):** The first few miles of French Gulch with views of Mt. Baldy, a steep climb to French Pass with spectacular views of the surrounding mountains.

**Lower Cataract Lake (#10):** Beautiful views of the lake, a picnic area, a great summer spot for a family day.

**Oro Grande (#40):** A gentle, undulating trail with outstanding views of the mountains of the Tenmile and Crowsnest National Forests.

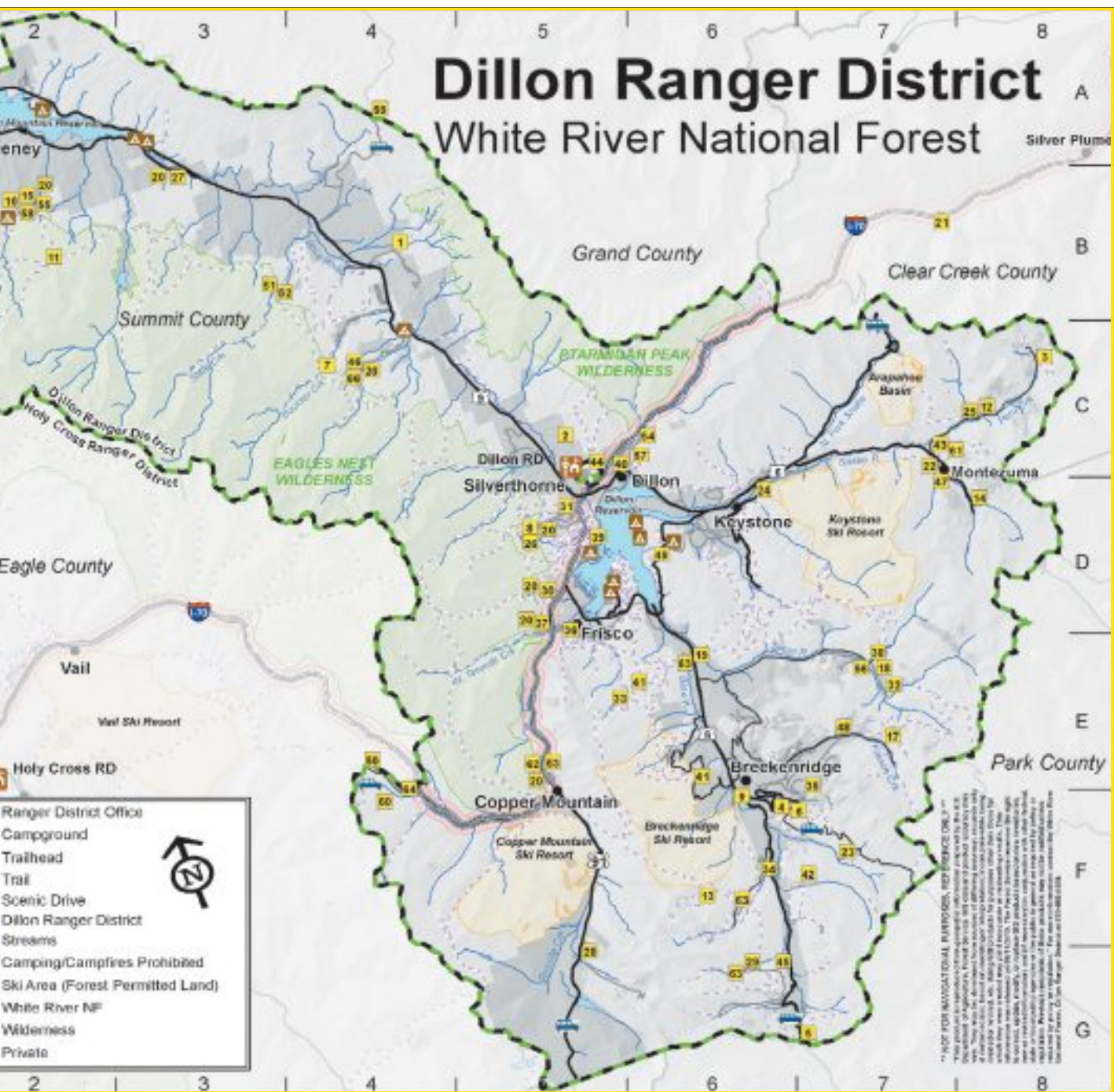
**Sapphire Point (#49):** A loop hike overlooking the Dillon Reservoir, don't miss sunset at the overlook.

WATERFALLS AND CASCADES

**Cataract Creek Falls (#10):** This hike takes you through evergreen and aspen forests, offering views of the surrounding mountains. The trail drops 300 feet over the falls, dropping 300 feet over the falls. Climbing to the falls is not recommended.

**Continental Falls (#34):** This hike takes you past beautiful lakes, endless braids of water, a spectacular waterfall, old mining camps, and views of the valley and mountains.





## D HIKES:

ROAD INFORMATION TABLE, SHOWN AS TRAILHEAD ON MAP.

climbs up the valley. Then climbs mountain views. Beautiful mountain lake, a resting place.

lating trail with little of Dillon Reservoir and Gore Ranges.

with picnic tables overlook!

S

trail circles Lower and aspen forests with. The falls can be ft down the cliffs. ended.

is a steady climb of cascading water, a bins, wildflowers, and

**White Falls (#29):** This hike offers majestic cascading water and waterfalls. The fields are often covered with an abundance of wildflowers. Above the waterfall is a beautiful glacial lake.

**South Willow Falls (#31):** Four silvery cascades, a self-zer-fizzle chute, plunge over mammoth rocks at the falls.

### SPECTACULAR SCENERY & DESTINATION HIKES

**Baker's Tank (#4):** Century old water tank used to service locomotives.

**Buffalo Mountain (#8):** After passing two historic mining cabins, the trail climbs steeply to the 12,774 ft summit. If you're lucky, you might get a glimpse of a mountain goat at the top!

**Lenawee (#25) and Chihuahua Lake (#12):** Many mining relics and spectacular views.

**Mayflower Gulch (#28):** Glacier-carved amphitheatres, many mining ruins, and magnificent views!

**Shrine Mountain (#50):** Beautiful panoramic views; can see Mt. of the Holy Cross on a clear day.

**Willow and Salmon Lakes (#66):** Pristine lakes and magnificent mountain amphitheatres.

### WILDFLOWERS

July is the peak season for wildflower viewing. Favorite places are **Acorn Creek (#1)**, **Boreas Pass Rd (#6)**, **Shrine Mountain Trail (#50)**, **Wilder Gulch (#64)**, **Tenderfoot (#57)**, **Gore Range Trail (#20)**, **Upper Cataract Lake (#11)**, and **Ute Peak (#59)**.

### BIRDWATCHING

**Alfred M. Bailey Bird Nesting Area (#46)** and **Blue River State Wildlife Area** (Coordinates **A3** on map. Access at Prairie Point Campground).

### FOURTEENERS

Interested in Colorado's famous Fourteeners? DRD is home to **Quandary Peak (#45)** and **Grays and Torreys Peaks (#21)**. They provide incredible views, but to stay safe follow the designated routes and be prepared for an extended hike above treeline. These fragile alpine ecosystems are very susceptible to damage from foot traffic, so please practice **Leave No Trace** principles. For more about climbing Fourteeners safely and sustainably, see the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative at [14ers.org](https://www.14ers.org).

### SPRING SNOWMELT SCHEDULE

by elevation in an average snowfall year

**MID-MAY**  
dry 9,500' and lower

**JUNE 1st**  
dry 9,500' to 10,000'

**MID-JUNE**  
dry 10,000' to 10,500'

**JULY 1st**  
dry 10,500' to 11,500'

**MID-JULY**  
dry 11,500' and above

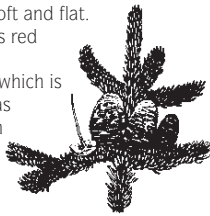
**FREE individual guides for all trails are available at the DRD Visitor Office or at [www.dillonrangerdistrict.com](https://www.dillonrangerdistrict.com)**

# Common Trees and Wildlife of Summit County

All illustrations © Zackery Zdinak

## Fir

Needles are soft and flat. Douglas fir has red bark and the Subalpine fir (which is a "false" fir) has silvery smooth bark.



## Spruce

Has sharp needles and grayish-brown, scaly, rough bark. Engelmann spruce is the most common spruce here; the Blue Spruce is Colorado's state tree. Many animals eat its twigs, bark and seeds.



## Lodgepole Pine

Needles grow in twisted clusters of two. Most here are now affected by pine beetles. Red needles indicate dead or dying trees.



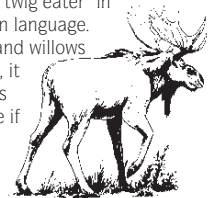
## Aspen

Deciduous trees with heart shaped leaves and silvery bark. Often, aspen groves are one organism connected at root system.



## Moose

Name means "twig eater" in the Algonquian language. Found in wetland willows and the forest, it can be fearless and aggressive if threatened.



## Elk

Native American name is "Wapiti". In winter found in mountain valleys; in summer near timberline. Fall mating call is a distinctive "bugle".



## Mule Deer

Gray in color, known for large "mule size" ears. In winter found in mountain valleys and in summer forest wide.



## Mountain Goat

White with black horns. Found above timberline on steep, rocky slopes. Male is bigger with larger horns. Often unafraid of humans.



## Big Horn Sheep

Tan colored. Male has large, curved horns; female has smaller spikes. Found on rocky, exposed cliffs and talus slopes. Often seen grazing by roadsides.



**WILDLIFE SAFETY ...** The animals that live in the forest are not tame. Although they may become somewhat accustomed to humans, at any time their behavior can be unpredictable and even dangerous.

- Always observe wildlife from a safe distance. Use a camera or binoculars to "get close." Do not approach or try to feed a wild animal.
- Always leave a wild animal an escape route to avoid a confrontation.
- Keep a clean camp to discourage unwanted encounters.
- To protect yourself, your pet, and wildlife, keep your pet on a leash in the forest.
- Animals with young are especially sensitive to disturbance and can be very aggressive. Please observe any posted spring closures.

For more information on wildlife and wildlife safety: [www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)

## Black Bear

All Colorado bears are "Black Bear". Colors range from black and brown to cinnamon. Take precautions with food and garbage in bear country.



## Mountain Lion

Large cat often found where deer and elk are abundant (main food source). Usually solitary animals. Very secretive and seldom seen by humans.



**Can you tell them apart?** They both live on the ground and are important food sources for many predators. They eat plants, fruits, seeds, and insects and are ready guests at any picnic. But don't feed them! It's bad for their health.

## Golden-Mantled Ground Squirrel

Lives on the ground, not in trees. Stripes are only on the body, not on face. Are deep hibernators during the winter.



## Chipmunk

Small rodent with stripes on head and body. Uses its cheek pouches to carry food. Is seldom seen above ground in winter.



## Lynx

Medium sized cat; grayish brown; long ear tufts; long legs and large snowshoe-like paws. Reintroduced to Colorado in 1997 and protected as a "Threatened Species".



## Red Fox

Small canine, majority are reddish in color. Has long, bushy tail with white tip. Unafraid, commonly seen in towns.



## Coyote

Medium-sized canine; gray to tan with a bushy tail. Can become unafraid of humans. Makes a variety of high-pitched howls, yips, yelps, and barks.



## Bobcat

Cat with gray to brown spotted coat and black-tufted ears. Can be mistaken for lynx, but have shorter legs and smaller paws.



## Porcupine

Nocturnal, loves to chew anything. Eats tree bark and plants. Cannot throw quills, but each is needle sharp and barbed. Forest dweller.



## Snowshoe Hare

Forest dweller. Changes color with the season: brown in summer, white in winter. Can run up to 32 mph. Primary food for the lynx.



## Yellow-Bellied Marmot

Found in steppes, meadows, talus fields and other open habitats. When approached, marmots will give a warning whistle – hence, the nickname "whistle pig".



## Beaver

Second largest rodent in the world. Found in wetland areas building dams, canals and lodges. Primarily nocturnal. When alarmed, dives rapidly while slapping water with its broad tail.



## Pika

Small relative of the rabbit, lives in talus slopes at or above timberline. Its gathered piles of flowers and grasses can be seen in summer drying on rocks for its winter food supply. Often detected by its shrill alarm call, "Peeeeeek".



## Red-Tailed Hawk

Most common hawk in North American. Tail is uniformly brick-red above and pink below. Its cry is a hoarse rasping scream of "Kree-eee-ar."



## Osprey

Large raptors often seen near lakes and streams. Eats almost exclusively fish. Brown upper parts and grayish white head & belly. Common resident in Summit County.



## Gray Jay

Common resident of the forest. Hides food in bark and trees for later use. Also known as the "Camp Robber", will approach people for handouts and boldly snatch food left unsecured, even for an instant.



## Steller's Jay

Large jay found year-round in evergreen forests. The head/crest is charcoal-colored; lower body is an iridescent silvery blue. May become used to people.





# Featured Wildflowers of Summit County

Wild flowers are beautiful but fragile. Please don't pick. Leave them to multiply so that they will return to be enjoyed by future generations.  
The height and abundance of wildflowers are in proportion to the amount of moisture they receive. Plant Family name in parentheses.

*Photos courtesy of Dr. Mary Dubler. For more information, see [wildflowersofcolorado.com](http://wildflowersofcolorado.com).*



## Alpine Sunflower

(Aster/Sunflower) Large, bright yellow, nodding flowers on woolly stems. Flowers always face the east. Also called Old-Man-of-the-Mountain. Up to 10" tall.



## Buckwheat

(Knotweed) Cream colored clusters of flowers that turn rose-pink as they age. Has stout, hairy stems. Also called the Umbrella Plant and Indian Tobacco. Up to 8" tall.



## Chiming Bells

(Borage) Pink buds mature into light blue, bell-shaped, nodding blossoms that hang in dense clusters. Also called Bluebells. Both tall (to 4 ft.) and short (to 12") varieties.



## Columbine

(Hellebore) Blue columbine became Colorado's state flower in 1896. It represents the colors of the state flag: the blue of the skies, the gold of the mineral wealth, and the whiteness of the snow. Up to 3 ft. tall.



## Little Pink Elephants, Elephant Head

(Figwort) Dense pink to reddish to purple flowers on tall spikes that look like tiny little pachyderms-trunks, ears, head and all. This shape is helpful to pollination. Up to 2 ft. tall.



## Fireweed

(Evening Primrose) Pink to red to purplish flowers with 4 rounded petals. Leaves can be 8" long. Named because it readily populates burned or disturbed areas. Up to 6 ft. tall.



## Green Gentian

(Gentian) Greenish-white, cross-shaped flowers with a purple center clustered along a tall stem. Can live up to 60 years storing energy to bloom and make seeds! Also called Monument Plant and Elkweed. Up to 6 ft. tall.



## Heart Leaved Arnica

(Aster/Sunflower) Yellow, daisy-like flowers that grow in huge patches under shade of pines or aspen trees. All parts of the plant have medicinal uses. Up to 20" tall.



## Indian Paintbrush

(Figwort) Color ranges from white or pale yellow to dark red. Flowers are dense upright spikes at the top of a stem. Is semi-parasitic and cannot survive without a host plant. Up to 24" tall.



## Lupine

(Pea) Related to the Bluebonnet. Blue or purple pea-like flowers on a tall stem. Has large, hairy seed pods. Elk and bear eat the seeds and pods, but they are poisonous to humans. Up to 24" tall.



## Mariposa Lily

(Mariposa) Three cupped white to purple petals with lavender to light green centers. Mariposa is Spanish for "butterfly". Grows on a slender stem from a bulb. Also called Sego Lily. Up to 20" tall.



## Frosty Ball Thistle

(Aster/Sunflower) Striking native thistle with nodding heads on white hairy stems with long spines. Found in sunny areas. Also called Dragonhead Thistle. Up to 2' tall.



## Pasqueflower

(Buttercup) White to dark lavender petals with bright yellow centers. Plant is covered in fine silky hairs, which help insulate it. Blooming as early as March, its name means Easter flower. Up to 12" tall.



## Penstemon

(Figwort) Light blue to dark purple small, tubular flowers in tiered clusters. Their upper lip has 2 lobes; the lower has 3. Found in disturbed soil. There are over 250 varieties of Penstemon! Up to 30" tall.



## Snow Buttercup

(Ranunculus) Golden yellow flowers with overlapping petals. Grows in wet areas. Common above tree line. Up to 10" tall.



## Tansy Aster

(Aster/Sunflower) Purple daisy-like flower with small yellow centers. Blooms late summer and fall. The many different asters, sunflowers and daisies all belong to the same plant family! Up to 3 ft. tall.



## Wild Geranium

(Geranium) Lavender flowers up to 1 1/2" across growing in bushy clumps. Potted geraniums come from a different genus. Up to 30" tall.



## Wild Iris or Western Blue Flag

(Iris) Purple flower with sword-like leaves growing in wet areas. Poisonous! Indians are rumored to have made arrow poison from them. Up to 2 ft. tall.



## Wild Rose

(Rose) Pink, five-petaled flowers with yellow centers on thorny bushes. Typical rose leaves. Fall fruit (hip) is red and edible. Up to 6 ft. tall.



## Yarrow

(Aster/Sunflower) Small, flat-topped, white flowers with yellow centers. Leaves are flat and very fine, and have been used for medicinal purposes since the time of the ancient Greeks. Up to 3 ft. tall.

## 2012 TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The 2012 White River National Forest Travel Management Plan provides a wide range of motorized and non-motorized uses and experiences to suit the public's recreation and travel needs while protecting the forest's natural resources. The new TMP adds more trails to the District and designates roads, trails, and areas open to motorized and mechanized travel in both summer and winter. Nationally, travel management has adopted a "closed unless posted open" policy meaning it is the user's responsibility to recognize that unless a trail or road is posted as open to a certain use, it is closed to that use.



## MOTOR VEHICLE USE MAP

**Motor vehicle users** should obtain a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) showing National Forest System routes that are designated as open to motorized travel. It also displays allowed uses by vehicle class and seasonal use allowances, and provides information on other travel rules and regulations. Routes not shown on the MVUM are not open to public motor vehicle travel. All summer routes open to motor vehicles will be identified with a sign. The MVUM is free to the public at the Dillon Ranger District office and is available online at [www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver](http://www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver).

**Mountain bikers** must stay on trails designated for that use. Trails have signposts with the symbols for uses allowed on that trail. If the mountain bike symbol is not on the sign, mountain biking is not allowed on it.

## NEW WHITE RIVER NATIONAL FOREST MAPS NOW AVAILABLE

The US Forest Service now has available for sale at the Dillon Ranger Station a new 2013 edition of the White River National Forest map. This map includes not only the Dillon Ranger District in Summit County, but other White River National Forest Districts such as Aspen-Sopris, Blanco, Eagle/Holy Cross, and Rifle Ranger Districts.

## DIGITAL MAPS FOR MOBILE DEVICES

The U.S. Forest Service now offers access to a variety of visitor maps for people using Android and iOS devices. The PDF Maps Mobile App, developed by Avenza Systems Inc., is available as a free download from iTunes and the Android Play Store. The app provides access to Forest Service maps, such as motor-vehicle-use maps (which are free) and other forest maps (which may have costs associated them). The maps are geo-referenced with the user's location appearing as a blue dot. In areas of national forests where internet connections are unavailable, the app and static maps work well if users download the maps prior to their visit.

In geographic areas with Internet availability users will be able to use the products with live data. The interactive map is expected to be available on a limited basis starting in March 2014.

# SUMMER RECREATION

## NON-MOTORIZED TRAVEL



## MOUNTAIN BIKING



Summit County offers great mountain biking for all skill levels. Please check the trail chart on Page 6 for a list of trails open to mountain bikes.

With the implementation of the new White River Travel Management Plan, mountain biking is only allowed on trails that display a mountain biking symbol on the trail sign post. For more information and trail conditions, see [www.summitfartire.org](http://www.summitfartire.org).

## MOUNTAIN BIKING RULES OF THE TRAIL

- Ride only on open trails (all Wilderness Area trails are closed to mountain biking.)
- Yield to hikers, horses, and uphill mountain bikers- they have the right of way.
- Stay in control of your bicycle.
- Avoid skidding around corners, riding on muddy trails, and riding off the trail.
- Never scare an animal

## HIKING AND TRAIL SAFETY REMINDERS

- Wear a hat, high SPF sunscreen, and sunglasses.
- Wear hiking boots or good walking shoes.
- In your pack carry: extra food and water, first aid kit, map/ compass, flashlight, toilet paper and plastic bag, rescue whistle, pocket knife, rain gear, and clothes that can be layered for warmth.
- Tell someone where you are going.
- Check weather report before starting your day: [www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)
- Do not rely on cell phones, GPS units, or other "hi tech" devices. They do not always work in mountainous or densely forested areas. Do not rely solely on technology in the backcountry.



## NON-MOTORIZED TRAIL ETIQUETTE

- Travel in small groups to avoid undue stress to forest resources. In Wilderness Areas, group size is limited to 15 people.
- Be considerate of other trail users. Slower hikers should allow faster hikers to pass.
- Dogs should be leashed or under voice control. Dogs should be restrained by leash or hand when encountering other hikers and users. In Wilderness Areas dogs must be on a 6 ft. leash.
- **ALL users yield to horses.** When encountering horses, mountain bikers and hikers should stand quietly off the downhill side of the trail and allow horses to pass.
- Mountain bikers should yield to hikers and horses, announcing their presence to them well in advance of passing.
- Livestock should be tied OFF the trail at rest stops (even short ones!)
- During snow melt (mud) season, all users (motorized and non-motorized) should stay on paved trails and roads. For hikers and bikers, Summit County Recpaths are a good alternative.

Gore Range Trail in Eagles Nest Wilderness



## MOTORIZED TRAVEL

## OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE TRAVEL



All Off-Highway Vehicles (ATVs, 4WD, and all non-highway licensed vehicles) must be on designated roads and trails in the Dillon Ranger District. These roads and trails vary in level of difficulty and degree of technical expertise needed. **Cross-Country (off-route) travel is prohibited.** This is to reduce the impact to natural resources such as wildlife, fragile wetlands, and alpine environments in this spectacular area. All OHVs must be registered with Colorado State Parks.

*Note: Motorized vehicles are prohibited in Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas.*



Deer Creek Road

## STAY THE TRAIL: OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE ETIQUETTE

- Ride only on routes wider than your vehicle.
- Ride only on routes open to your vehicle.
- Ride over obstacles; not around them.
- Be an ambassador to non-motorized trail users including livestock and wildlife.
- Louder doesn't mean faster.
- Slow down for your fellow riders.

## FISHING

Many opportunities exist in the Ranger District to fish local streams, lakes, and reservoirs (Dillon and Green Mountain). The Blue River from the Dillon Dam to Green Mountain Reservoir is designated a Gold Medal Trout Stream. Fishermen should know local regulations. Many streams and lakes may be fished only with artificial lures and flies, and are catch and release only. Also some waters may have special regulations or may be habitats for protected and endangered fish species. Many waters are located entirely or in part on private lands where trespassing is prohibited. A state fishing license is required for anyone 16 and older.

For more information, see [www.wildlife.state.co.us/fishing](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us/fishing).





OHV AND SNOWMOBILE REGISTRATION

Off Highway Vehicles (ATVs, OHVs, motor bikes) and snowmobiles operated on public land or trails in Colorado **must be registered with Colorado State Parks**. Out of state residents who bring OHVs or Snowmobiles into Colorado must purchase a Colorado Non-Resident permit. Permits are available throughout the state. See [www.parks.state.co.us](http://www.parks.state.co.us) for details.



Skiing to Janet's Cabin (Summit Huts)

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING AND SNOWSHOEING

Many summer trails can be used for cross-country skiing or snowshoeing in the winter. (See Pg 6). Many of these routes are not marked in winter, so please use caution while route finding. Avoid snowshoeing directly on top of ski trails; if possible, snowshoe next to the ski tracks.

SKI RESORTS

Four ski areas operate under Special Use Permits from the White River National Forest, Dillon Ranger District. Each offers a wide variety of winter and summer activities. For additional information please visit their websites. Arapahoe Basin: [www.arapahoebasin.com](http://www.arapahoebasin.com) Breckenridge: [www.breckenridge.com](http://www.breckenridge.com) Copper Mountain: [www.coppercolorado.com](http://www.coppercolorado.com) Keystone: [www.keystoneresort.com](http://www.keystoneresort.com)

NORDIC CENTERS

Breckenridge Nordic Center: [www.breckenridgenordic.com](http://www.breckenridgenordic.com) or 970-453-6855 Frisco Nordic Center: [www.frisconordic.com](http://www.frisconordic.com) or 970-668-0866 Keystone Nordic Center: [www.keystoneresort.com/activities/nordic-center.aspx](http://www.keystoneresort.com/activities/nordic-center.aspx) or 970-496-4386 Gold Run Nordic Center: [www.townofbreckenridge.com](http://www.townofbreckenridge.com) or 970-547-7889

BACKCOUNTRY HUT SYSTEM

A system of reservable lodging in backcountry locations in Summit and neighboring counties provides a variety of huts, cabins, and backcountry shelters for public use. All are open November to May; some are open in summer. Summit Huts: For more information contact [www.summithuts.org](http://www.summithuts.org) Tenth Mountain Division Huts: For more information contact [www.huts.org](http://www.huts.org)

WINTER RECREATION



Snowmobiling at Vail Pass

SNOWMOBILING

There are designated areas for snowmobiles throughout the Dillon Ranger District. With the implementation of the new White River Travel Management Plan, it is the user's responsibility to obtain a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) to know which routes are open to snowmobiling. Users must obtain current information about the areas and know the boundaries. Snow depth must be at least 6 inches to operate a snowmobile. Snowmobiling is not allowed in Wilderness Areas.

- **Swan Valley Snowmobile Area** Located near the town of Breckenridge at the end of Tiger Road, this area offers miles of groomed roads that climb through spruce and fir forests. A great option is riding to the Continental Divide at Georgia Pass to enjoy spectacular views of the surrounding mountains. (Map E7)
- **Spring Creek Snowmobile Area** Located north of Green Mountain Reservoir, miles of forested roads are groomed by the High Country Snowmobile Club for all skill levels. Closer to Elliot Ridge there are open meadows and alpine terrain. This area borders the Eagles Nest Wilderness which is CLOSED to snowmobiles, so please observe all posted boundary signs. (Map A1)
- **Montezuma Snowmobile Area** Near the town of Montezuma are numerous snowmobile rides in the drainages of Deer Creek, Webster and Saints John. There is a variety of terrain

options from lower forested slopes to open alpine areas. Be respectful of private property in this area. The Peru Creek drainage near Montezuma is a winter non-motorized area.

For snowmobile information see, [www.snowmobilecolorado.com](http://www.snowmobilecolorado.com).

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

- Ride single file, keep to the right and pass on the left only when the trail is clear.
- Yield the right-of-way to skiers, snowshoers and those passing or traveling uphill.
- Use common snowmobiling hand signals to communicate with your group and other riders.

EDUCATE YOURSELF

- Obtain a map of your destination and determine which areas are open to snowmobiles.
- Always check the weather forecast and avalanche conditions.
- Pack a small backpack full of emergency items.
- Be prepared with tools and supplies for repairs.
- Carry an avalanche beacon, shovel and probe at all times in avalanche terrain.

AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

- Avoid trails with less than 6 inches of compacted snow.
- Be respectful of wildlife's wintering habitats.
- Motorized and mechanized vehicles are not allowed in designated Wilderness Areas.

are available at these locations and show users which routes are open to motorized and non-motorized travel.

Vail Pass Facts:

- Total Area- 55,000 acres
- Elevation Range- 9,200 ft to 12,693 ft.
- Motorized Trails- 67 miles
- Groomed Trails- 50 miles
- Non-Motorized Trails- 52 miles
- Motorized-Assisted ski terrain- 3,300 acres



Summit of Buffalo Mountain, 12,777 ft.

HIGH ALTITUDE PRECAUTIONS

Above 8000 feet barometric pressure decreases, the air is thinner, and less oxygen is available. Heart rate may increase and breathing can become faster and deeper, especially with physical exertion. Some people experience headaches, nausea, trouble sleeping and unusual tiredness. These usually go away in a couple of days. If symptoms are severe, persist or worsen, consult a doctor as these can be symptoms of Acute Mountain Sickness.

At higher altitudes the air is also drier and the sun's ultraviolet rays are more intense.

Effects of high altitude can be minimized with these recommendations:

- Take time to allow your body to adjust. Minimize physical activity your first day.
- Drink plenty of fluid- two or three times more than usual. Take water with you to avoid dehydration.
- Avoid alcoholic beverages, caffeine, and salty foods.
- Get plenty of rest.
- Always wear hats, sunscreen, and sunglasses - even in the winter!
- Avoid hypothermia in all seasons: Dress in layers and be prepared for changing weather and colder temperatures, even in the summer.
- Remember - children, babies and pets can be affected, too!

AVALANCHE SAFETY

Be prepared when traveling into the backcountry during the winter! Check the weather/avalanche forecast with the Colorado Avalanche Information Center, choose safe routes, carry avalanche safety equipment and know how to use it. Avalanche education is the best way to avoid being injured or killed in an avalanche. Before traveling into the backcountry make sure that you have the knowledge and education to make informed decisions.

Colorado Avalanche Information Center (CAIC) website: <http://avalanche.state.co.us> or Summit County Hotline #970-668-0600.



VAIL PASS WINTER RECREATION AREA

Vail Pass Winter Recreation Area is open to motorized and non-motorized uses and requires the purchase of a day or season pass to enter the area. It is open from approximately November through May, snow conditions permitting. Fee stations to purchase these passes are located at all of the trailheads. Season passes may also be purchased at the Dillon Ranger District Visitor Center. Maps

Weather Information for Summit County												
Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. Max °F	31	34	39	46	56	67	73	71	64	54	39	32
Avg. Min °F	0	3	11	18	27	34	39	38	31	22	11	3

In an average year, March and April experience the heaviest snowfalls. July and August are the months of heaviest rainfall with afternoon thunderstorms occurring almost daily. If lightning is near, please use caution when above treeline and descend if necessary.

IMPORTANT  
CONTACT  
INFORMATION

Dillon Ranger District-Summit County  
(970) 468-5400  
[www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver](http://www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver)  
(Quick Links: Ranger Districts)  
[www.dillonrangerdistrict.com](http://www.dillonrangerdistrict.com)

Holy Cross Ranger District - Minturn  
(Vail)  
(970) 827-5715  
[www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver](http://www.fs.usda.gov/whiteriver)  
(Quick Links: Ranger Districts)

USFS Campground Reservations  
(877) 444-6777  
[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

Colorado Road Conditions  
(877) 315- 7623 or (Cell) 511  
[www.cotrip.org](http://www.cotrip.org)

Summit County Road Information  
(970) 668-1090

National Weather Service  
(303) 494-4221  
[www.weather.gov](http://www.weather.gov)

Colorado Avalanche Information  
Center  
(970) 668-0600  
[avalanche.state.co.us](http://avalanche.state.co.us)

Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Hotline (970) 725-6200  
[www.wildlife.state.co.us](http://www.wildlife.state.co.us)

Summit Stage Bus Service  
Free county wide transportation  
(970) 668-0999  
[www.summitstage.com](http://www.summitstage.com)

St. Anthony Summit Medical Center  
Frisco, CO  
(970) 668-3300

Summit County Noxious Weeds  
(970) 668-4218 or (970) 668-4252

Summit County Non-Emergency  
Dispatch  
(970) 668-8600

FOR ALL EMERGENCIES, CALL 911  
DO NOT RELY ON CELL PHONE  
COVERAGE IN FOREST OR SKI AREAS!

Our Many Thanks!

Comments or questions about this publication should be made to

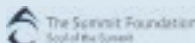
Dillon Ranger District:  
970-468-5400 or [www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/contact/feedback/](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/contact/feedback/)

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Summit County Government



Friends of the Dillon  
Ranger District



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VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

YOU CAN HELP



FRIENDS OF THE DILLON  
RANGER DISTRICT

(FDRD) is a non-profit organization that engages hundreds of volunteers each year in projects and programs that directly benefit National Forest lands in Summit County. In 2013, our volunteers dedicated over 8,000 hours to maintaining our local trails, planting trees, educating visitors, and other efforts to restore our forest.

To find out more about volunteer opportunities or to make a donation to support our programs, visit [www.fdrd.org](http://www.fdrd.org) or the Dillon Ranger District Office. Your support will directly benefit the public lands that form the heart and soul of our community!

FDRD events, projects, and other activities are a great way to meet members of our mountain community and visitors who share a love for this special place.

FDRD also offers free guided on-hill nature tours through our Ski With a Ranger program at three Summit County ski resorts during the winter, and partners with the Town of Frisco to put on Fall Fest in September, a fun community event celebrating the forest.



FRIENDS OF EAGLES  
NEST WILDERNESS

The Friends of the Eagles Nest Wilderness (FENW) is an all-volunteer, apolitical, public land stewardship organization founded in May 1994. FENW assists the US Forest Service in managing and caring for Eagles Nest, Ptarmigan Peak, and Holy Cross Wilderness areas in Summit and Eagle Counties. Our four central beliefs and operating tenets are education, outreach, stewardship, and advocacy.

Each year, FENW volunteers spend countless hours of active stewardship in trail work, erosion control, and invasive and noxious weed control. They also promote public contact, social monitoring, and campsite inventory and reclamation.

We welcome all visitors to the Dillon Ranger District and ask you to remember to recreate responsibly. We invite you to join in our efforts to encourage active stewardship of America's public lands. You can find out more by visiting [www.fenw.org](http://www.fenw.org) or by asking an FENW volunteer.

YOUR DOG  
IN THE FOREST

Dillon Ranger District loves dogs! As a responsible pet owner, following some simple rules and guidelines will help ensure you and your dog have a safe and pleasant experience in our National Forest. These rules help keep your pet from disturbing other visitors or wildlife.

- In the Eagles Nest and Ptarmigan Peak Wilderness Areas, dogs must be on a 6 ft. leash at all times.
- In other US Forest areas, unleashed dogs must be within 10 ft. of their owners and under voice control. When meeting other hikers and dogs, please hand- restrain your pet. Off-leash dogs can intimidate children, other hikers, other dogs, or be hazardous to mountain bikers or horses.

Leashing your dog, even in non-Wilderness areas, is strongly encouraged. Leashing protects them from negative

encounters with other dogs, vehicles, and wild animals such as porcupine, coyotes, and moose (See "Moose" Pg. 4). A leashed dog doesn't get lost or run away, and won't be tempted to chase, harass or injure wildlife. (A chased animal expends valuable calories, or may have a heart attack or miscarriage from stress.) And if your free roaming dog encounters a potentially aggressive animal like a bear or moose, it may panic and lead them back to you.

Be a Responsible Owner:

- Dog feces can contain disease-causing pathogens. Bag and dispose of pet waste. If this is not possible, move it off the trail out of the way of other hikers.
- On long hikes, carry water for your dog as well as for yourself.
- When hiking in snow, booties can help protect your dog's paws.

To report or find a lost dog, contact Summit County Animal Shelter, 970-668-3230



Porcupine quills in the snout are painful and hard to remove.

DISCLAIMER: Printed May 2014: The information in this publication is for informational use only. It was deemed accurate at the time of printing but is subject to change. All users should check with the Dillon Ranger District or other appropriate sources for more detailed and/or up-to-date information.



NATIONAL FOREST  
PERMITS & PASSES

PERMITS

Available at the Dillon Ranger District Visitor Center

**Fuel Wood (seasonal):** A permit allowing individuals to harvest standing dead or downed dead trees for firewood use. Usually sold June through November. (Fee)

**Pole and Post (Other Forest Products):** A permit allowing individuals to harvest wood products for uses other than fuel wood. (Fee)

**Mushroom (seasonal):** A permit allowing individuals to harvest up to 67 pounds of mushrooms. (No Fee)

**Christmas Tree (seasonal):** A permit allowing individuals to harvest lodgepole pines in designated areas during the Christmas season (Thanksgiving through Christmas). (Fee)

**Fuel Reduction Tree Removal:** A permit allowing property owners to remove hazardous dead or dying trees from adjacent National Forest land. (Fee)

Contact the Dillon Ranger District or see website for more information.

FEDERAL PASSES

Available at the Dillon Ranger District Visitor Center

**Senior Pass:** A lifetime pass for US citizens or permanent residents 62 or older with proof of age. (One-time fee)

**Access Pass:** A lifetime pass for US citizens or permanent residents with a documented permanent disability. (No fee)

**Annual Pass:** An annual pass covering entrance and day-use fees on federal lands. Valid 12 months from purchase. (Fee)

All passes admit the passholder and accompanying passengers in a private vehicle to National Park sites. Passes may provide discounts at other federal recreation sites.

YOUR SAFETY IN THE  
NATIONAL FOREST

Users of National Forest lands have a great responsibility for their own safety. Hazards in the forest include changing weather, snow, avalanches, landslides, caves, overlooks, falling trees or limbs, high or fast water, contaminated water, wild animals, becoming lost, overexertion or hypothermia, mining hazards involving excavations, tunnels and equipment, shafts, and decaying structures; changing road and trail conditions, and potential exposure to unreasonable acts of others.

It is the user's responsibility to be aware of hazards and to use proper safety procedures and equipment to minimize risks and hazards. Remember many areas of the National Forest do not have cell phone coverage.

GIVE A HOOT,  
DON'T POLLUTE!



Did you know litter can last this long?

Orange Peels.....	6+ mths
Cigarette Butts .....	2-5 yrs
Toilet Paper .....	2-3 yrs
Plastic Bags.....	10-100 yrs
Aluminum Cans .....	200-500 yrs
Disposable Diaper .....	450 yrs
Plastic Bottles .....	500+ yrs
Glass .....	1,000+ yrs
Styrofoam.....	Forever