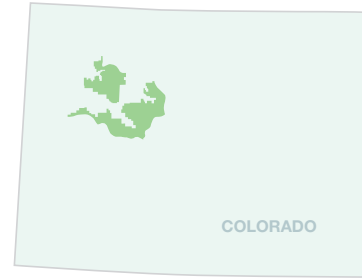


# White River National Forest



*Winter on the White River National Forest*



## Current Issues

### Travel Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The White River National Forest completed a forest-wide travel management draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) in 2006. Based on the complexity of the DEIS, the range of alternatives, the need to further incorporate the National Travel Management Rule, and the number of public comments, the Forest decided to issue a supplemental draft (SDEIS) with an additional public comment period. The forest may incorporate portions of any of the alternatives presented in the 2006 DEIS and/or the SDEIS, as well as public comments, into the final decision.

### Forest Employee Recruitment and Retention

The cost of living in resort communities such as Aspen and Vail has been extremely high for many years. Over the past decade this effect has spread to cover the majority of residential communities within the White River National Forest, including Eagle, Gypsum, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, Silt, and Rifle. Even excluding Aspen and Vail, the median price of housing across the forest exceeds 150 percent of the national average and is well beyond affordability for most federal employees. Communities within the Forest do not meet the criteria used for locality pay determinations. The impact is increasingly seen in little or no interest in vacancy announcements, job offer declinations, and high turnover.

### Recreation Enhancement Act

The White River is the most visited national forest in the nation and hosts more visitors than all but one national park. The forest is known internationally for its downhill ski programs, which together with its outfitter-guide and recreation event programs provide quality recreation opportunities to more than 10 million visitors a year. While public discussions about the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) have centered on fees charged for access and use, over half of the income this forest receives under this legislation comes from permit fees collected directly from outfitter-guides and special recreation events. The forest administers over 250 of these permits annually, resulting in a high REA amount available on this forest. These fees allow the forest to

## Headquarters

Acting Forest Supervisor: Mary Morgan  
Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor: Cal Wettstein  
808 Meadowlane Avenue  
Cody, Wyoming 82414  
307-527-6241

## Ranger Districts

### Aspen-Sopris Ranger District

District Ranger: Irene Davidson  
806 West Hallam Street  
Aspen, Colorado 81611  
970-925-3445

### Aspen-Sopris Ranger District

District Ranger: Irene Davidson  
620 Main Street  
Carbondale, Colorado 81623  
970-963-2266

### Blanco Ranger District

District Ranger: Glenn Adams  
220 East Market Street  
Meeker, CO 81641  
970-878-4039

### Dillon Ranger District

District Ranger: Jan Cutts  
PO Box 620  
680 Blue River Parkway  
Silverthorne, CO 80498  
970-468-5400

### Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District

District Ranger: Brian Lloyd  
125 West Fifth Street  
Eagle, Colorado 81631  
970-328-6388

keep open 16 campgrounds, one lodge, one rental cabin, and three heavily used recreation areas: Vail Pass, Green Mountain Reservoir, and Maroon Valley. On-the-ground maintenance and program improvements accomplished with these funds are extensive. Since the national model used to allocate recreation funds does not necessarily distribute appropriated dollars based on where fees are collected, replacing REA funds with appropriated dollars, as some have proposed, would not likely offset the loss of REA dollars and resulting reduction of public recreational opportunities on the forest.

**Eagle-Holy Cross Ranger District**

District Ranger: Brian Lloyd  
 24747 US Highway 24  
 Minturn, Colorado 81645  
 970-827-5715

**Rifle Ranger District**

District Ranger: Position Vacant  
 0094 County Road 244  
 Rifle, Colorado 81650  
 970-625-2371

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Forest Size	Total land area is 2,477,652 acres, all within Colorado.		
Number of Employees - Permanent	158		
Number of Employees - Seasonal	104		
Average Annual Budget	\$14,435,000		
Elevations	Lowest – 5,800 feet above sea level Highest - 14,265 feet above sea level		
Wilderness Areas	Collegiate Peaks	Holy Cross	Ptarmigan Peak
	Eagles Nest	Hunter-Fryingpan	Raggeds
	Flat Tops	Maroon Bells-Snowmass	
Wild and Scenic Rivers	None Potentially Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers: Crystal River Deep Creek Colorado River South Fork of the White River Cross Creek		
National Scenic or Historic Trails	Continental Divide National Scenic Trail		
National Recreation Areas	None		
Scenic Byways	Top of the Rockies Flat Tops Trail Scenic Byway West Elk Loop		
Outfitter Guides	157 outfitter guides		
Grazing	94 active allotments on 1,206,004 acres 130 term grazing permits		
Forest Management and Timber	Timber Volume Sold in fiscal year 2008 – 30,763 ccf Forest Vegetation Improved in fiscal year 2008 – 0 acres		
Hazardous Fuels Reduction Treatments	4,072 acres in fiscal year 2008		

Unique Features or Highlights

- The White River National Forest is host to a variety of flora and fauna, including populations of 50,000 elk, 120,000 deer, and roughly 400 bighorn sheep.
- A significant portion of the Upper Colorado River's water originates in the headwater regions of the forest, producing about 75 percent of the Colorado River flow above Grand Junction. The forest has 4,000 miles of perennial streams, 14,000 acres of lakes, and 120,000 acres of riparian and wetlands areas.
- The forest provides billions of dollars to Colorado's economy from multiple uses ranging from energy development to recreation. It is estimated that 25 percent of downhill skiing in the United States takes place on the forest.

Web Address

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/whiteriver/>