

The Exhibit at the Kauffman House Museum and Gallery has been made possible by generous donations from Cabela's and the Colorado Department of Parks & Wildlife, Rocky Mountain National Park, the Centennial Committee, and the Town of Grand Lake.

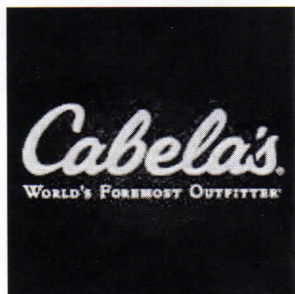
The animals on exhibit in the gallery are from Cabela's with assistance from Douglas Means, VP; and from the district office of Parks and Wildlife, Kirk Oldham, district officer.

Donna Lyons, local artist, painted the wall of the Gallery as a backdrop for our Wildlife Exhibit.

The Denver Public Library loaned the drawings by Muriel Wolle of the old mining towns in our area.

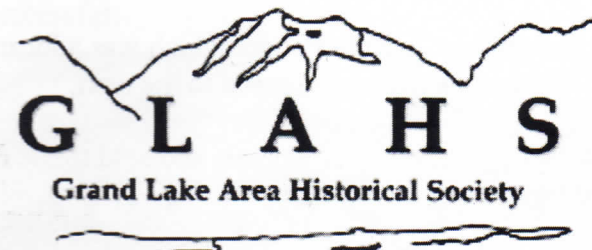
The National Park uniforms were loaned from the cache at Rocky Mountain National Park. Thanks goes to all those people on the committee and park staff who helped arrange for their display.

The Exhibit at the Kauffman House Museum in Grand Lake will be open from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. daily May 23 – September 7, 2015, weekends in September and Special Events monthly throughout the winter until April 2016.



## Wilderness, Wildlife, Wonder

CHANGES – 100 YEARS OF ROCKY'S WEST SIDE





***Change is inevitable. Change is constant.***

***Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better.***

To understand the changes that have happened over the past 100 years in Rocky Mountain National Park, we have to look at what led to the changes; to what happened before Rocky Mountain National Park was established in 1915.

Gold was discovered in California 1849  
Explorers investigated the Rocky Mountains  
Hunters and Trappers roamed through the area  
Homestead Act of 1861 opened land to development  
Indians were moved to reservations by 1879  
Miners came to Grand County 1879 - 1884  
Water needed in eastern Colorado  
Grand Ditch was built beginning in 1890  
The railroad arrived in Grand County in 1906  
The automobile was invented and available

Indians made a minor impact on the area. Their numbers were small, maybe bands of 100. They were seasonal visitors who came to hunt and fish and harvest timber. Trails in the park and game drives are evidence of their presence.

Trappers named the Cache la Poudre which was a location for storing their supplies from one season to the next.

Hunters took large supplies of animals and sold to the markets in Denver and other cities.

Homesteaders and Ranchers cleared the valley of willows in order to plant timothy hay, straightened the rivers and built irrigation ditches.

Enos Mills convinced Congress to establish Rocky Mountain National Park and it was signed by President Woodrow Wilson on January 26, 1915 and the dedication was held in Estes Park on September 4, 1915. The Colorado River District is made up of the land west of the Continental Divide.



***Change is inevitable.***

We accept the change of seasons and know that it varies from year to year and is not always the same. Most changes in nature we have no control over. When people interfere we are not always successful.





Change is slow in some cases – the mountains have changed but we aren't always here to see those changes. The park has the third uplift of mountains that have taken place over millions and thousands of years. Yet we see evidence of change through rock slides, avalanches, and mud slides. In the 1970s we can see evidence of a mud slide above the Holzwarth Historic Site when the Grand Ditch broke and took out many trees.

Again in 2003 a ditch break in the far north section of the Grand Ditch flooded the valley below and moved rocks and trees into the headwaters of the Colorado River. Along the river all of the beaver dams were destroyed and the water raised the level of Granby Reservoir which resulted in opening the dam and releasing water down the river to prevent damage to the dam there.



Fire may be an act of nature but also caused by humans. Indians often used fire to move animals for an easier hunt. The last major fire in the park in the 1880s was thought to have been set by Indians to move the animals toward the reservation so they could have meat to eat when the government didn't provide what was promised. Since that time fire has been suppressed to prevent damage to the resources of the park. Small fires have been extinguished to protect the visitor. Because of this the forest aged and adult trees were more susceptible to the pine beetle.



The pine beetle is a natural insect that appears about every 20 years in the lodgepole pine tree forests. In the late 1990s and early 2000s with the pine trees reaching the end of their life span, the beetle became an epidemic and killed 90% of the adult pines in the Kawuneeche valley. Park policy was to let nature take its course. Trees have been removed that were dangerous to visitors in campgrounds, along the roads and trail and back country campsites. In areas such as the visitor center, housing area and Holzwarth Historic Site a few trees were sprayed to prevent the beetle from attacking the trees.





Arapaho Indians were invited to the park in 1915 to inform park officials about the names that the Indians called different landmarks throughout the park. The many Indian names that were given to the peaks and trails were from that expedition. The valley along the Grand River was called Kawuneeche – an Arapaho name meaning Valley of the Coyote.



In order for visitors to see the park it was necessary to build better roads. The road on the West side of the park followed the Colorado River and was often impassible, especially with the spring thaw and flooding of the Grand River.



After much discussion construction began on the Fall River Road. Surveying was done by the Grand County Surveyor, Franklin I. Huntington and the road building contract was awarded to Richard McQueary. Work began in 1918 and the road was completed in 1920.



In the 1930s the CCC camps were built in the park and work began to clear the way for a new road that reduced the number of curves and traveled across the tundra. Trail Ridge Road opened in 1933. It was paved in 1940s for improved travel through the park.

The West side enhanced parking or improved roadway pullouts, widened the roadway in 1984 – 85. New Trailhead signing was installed.





When the park was established there were lots of animals and fish within the park boundaries. In the 1800s this area had mountain buffalo, wolves, and grizzly bear. These have been hunted out and haven't returned.

It wasn't long until hunters had reduced the number of elk. Fishermen took out record numbers of fish. Early park officials allowed the trapping of predators in order to protect the elk, deer, sheep and other animals. The definition of a predator changed over the years. The elk herd was reestablished in the 1930s when elk were reintroduced in the park from Yellowstone.

The Colorado Division of Wildlife, with park encouragement, introduced 17 and 18 moose to Colorado near Walden in 1978 and 1979. Moose have thrived in the environment on the West side of the mountains where there is a wet riparian habitat. There are many moose in the park and visitors enjoy seeing them in the wild.



Trout hatcheries were built and the lakes and streams were stocked with German Brown Trout, Brook and Rainbow Trout in order to have more recreational fishing. These fish did not allow the native Cutthroat Trout to thrive.



Harbison Trout Hatchery at Columbine Lake

Without enough fish, the river otter disappeared and they were reintroduced in the 1990s.



Beaver have moved out of the park in large numbers as the food and habitat changed. Mountain goats are kept out of the park due to the fact they carry disease that will kill the Big Horn Sheep. Park officials do not want to bring in wolves because the park is not large enough to contain them and they wish to protect the cattle raised in the area by ranchers.



Politics has changed other parts of the park. In 1921 the name of the Grand River was changed to the North Fork of the Colorado River. The South Fork left Monarch Lake and joined the North Fork under Granby Reservoir. Early documentation called Grand Lake the headwaters of the Colorado as the water left the lake and joined the North and South Fork rivers in the valley below.

Park boundaries have changed over the years. In 1915 the park had **358.3** square miles. Today it is **415.25** square miles. Guest Ranches along the Colorado River were purchased by the park from 1940, when the Harbison property was acquired, until 1974 when the Holzwarth Neversummer Ranch was purchased. It took an act of Congress to approve the enlargement of the park and appropriate the money for the purchase. Park policy at the time was to return the land to nature and remove buildings that had no use. Some cabins are seasonal park housing.

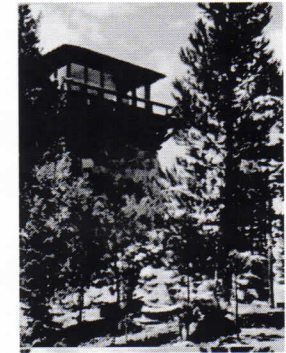
Lands are still being traded with the Forest Service to make management easier.



The Grand Lake Lodge was originally on park land in 1920 and in the 60s land was traded to make the Lodge private property.



Five fire lookout towers were built in the park. The only one remaining is the one on Shadow Mountain. The first tower was built there in 1931, followed by a permanent tower that was manned by rangers until 1968.



During the depression, CCC camps were built in Rocky Mountain National Park. Two camps were on the West side. The first was built near Timber Creek Campground and the second south of Grand Lake where Shadow Mountain Reservoir is now located. The men worked clearing trails and roads from 1933 – 1942. Much of the work was in clearing the land to be flooded by the Colorado Big-Thompson project.



## Grand Lake Entrance Station

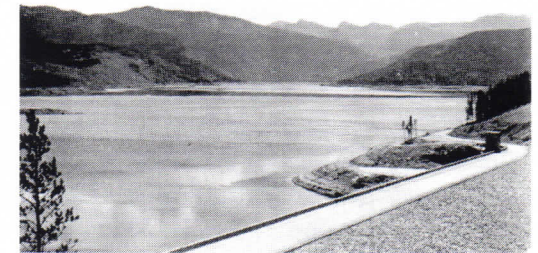


Improvements in the park have changed the opportunities for visitors. Mission 66 projects brought better facilities, especially restrooms, and visitor centers for the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the park and National Park Service.

The Kawuneeche Visitor Center was built in 1966 and improved with an addition in 1990.



The need for water east of the Continental Divide, where the majority of the people live and agriculture needed the water to raise crops for people and animals, led to the completion of the Colorado-Big Thompson project. It took many years for the project to be approved. Construction began before World War II and was interrupted during the war. Shadow Mountain Reservoir was completed in 1946. Granby Reservoir was constructed with the canal and pumping plant to move water through Shadow Mountain to Grand Lake and through a tunnel under the park to Mary's Lake in Estes Park. Water began flowing through the tunnel in 1959.



This project continues to provide water from Fort Collins to Boulder with nearly 300,000 acre feet of water moving through the 9 ft wide 13 mile tunnel to the east side of the mountains.

After the reservoirs were built the lakes were part of the Shadow Mountain National Recreation Area and it was managed by the park for 22 years. In 1976 the lakes were transferred to the National Forest

Service and became the Arapaho National Recreation Area.





Safety of the park visitor has led to the blocking of entry into any mine areas. Retaining walls on trails and overlooks have been built to prevent accidents. The wall at Adams Falls is an example.



Other activities include the removal of exotic plants that were not native to the area. Studies are being done on what effect certain animals have on the plants and food sources for other animals.

Another change for visitor safety is the implementation of use of filters for the water. Until the 1960s it was determined that drinking the water in the streams of the park was safe if the water was moving. However, animals have contracted diseases that cause Giardia and digestive issues in humans, so for our safety we can no longer drink the water without treatment.



Rocky Mountain National Park is the only National Park with an active cemetery. The Grand Lake Cemetery within the park boundary is five acres in size. Graves have been at that site since the 1870s. When the park was established the cemetery

operated with a yearly permit. When Shadow Mountain Reservoir was built several graves from the 1880s were moved to the present cemetery. In 1996 a permanent arrangement was approved and the Town of Grand Lake will maintain the cemetery at its current size and establish a new location for burial outside the park.

Climate change is definitely affecting the park. The temperatures on the tundra and at the Alpine Visitor Center have recently reached 70 degrees during the summer which is the highest in the history of the park.

In 2005 the park was designated a National Wilderness Area. Over 90% of the park is protected from development and the use of power tools and machinery. Rangers travel the back country on foot or horseback. Trail crews work with hand tools to make trails and bridges. Protection of the resource for the future is a prime consideration of all activity in the park.

***It is change, continuing change, inevitable change that is the dominant factor in society today. No sensible decision can be made any longer without taking into account not only the world as it is, but the world as it will be.***

***The choices we make today will affect the changes we see in the future. What changes do you think will happen in the next 100 years at Rocky Mountain National Park?***