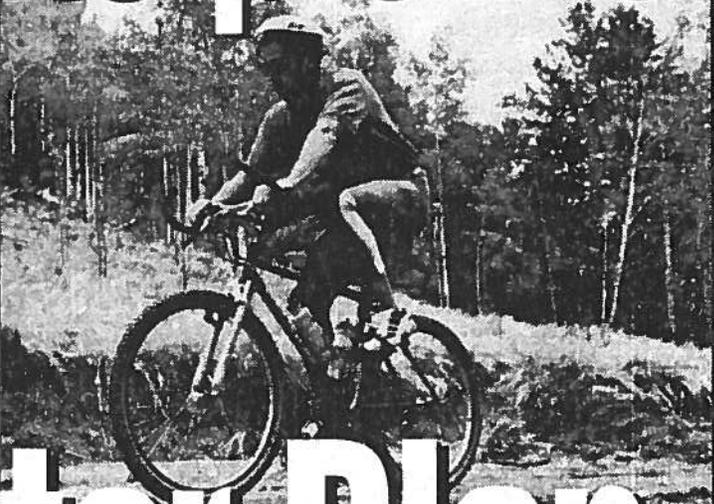
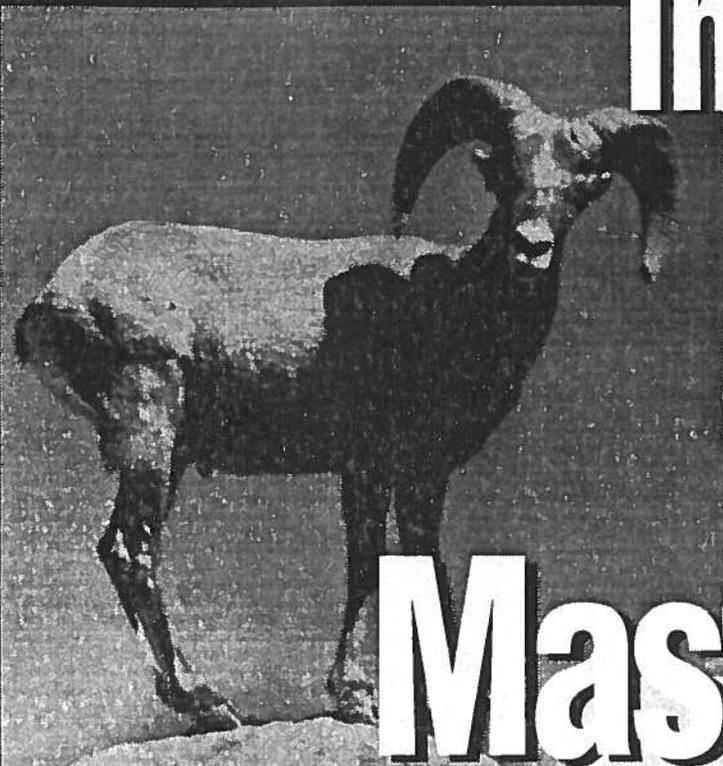
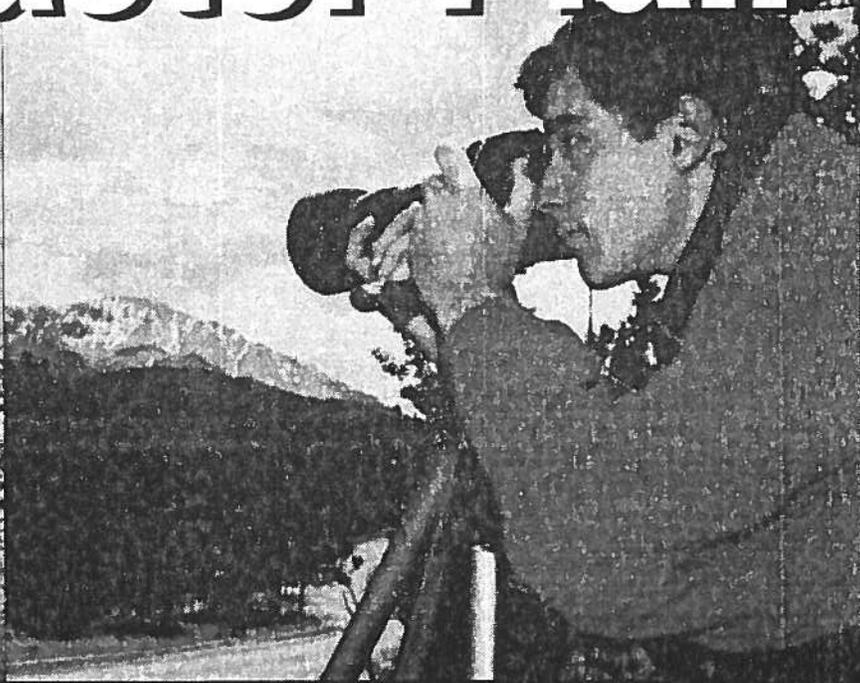
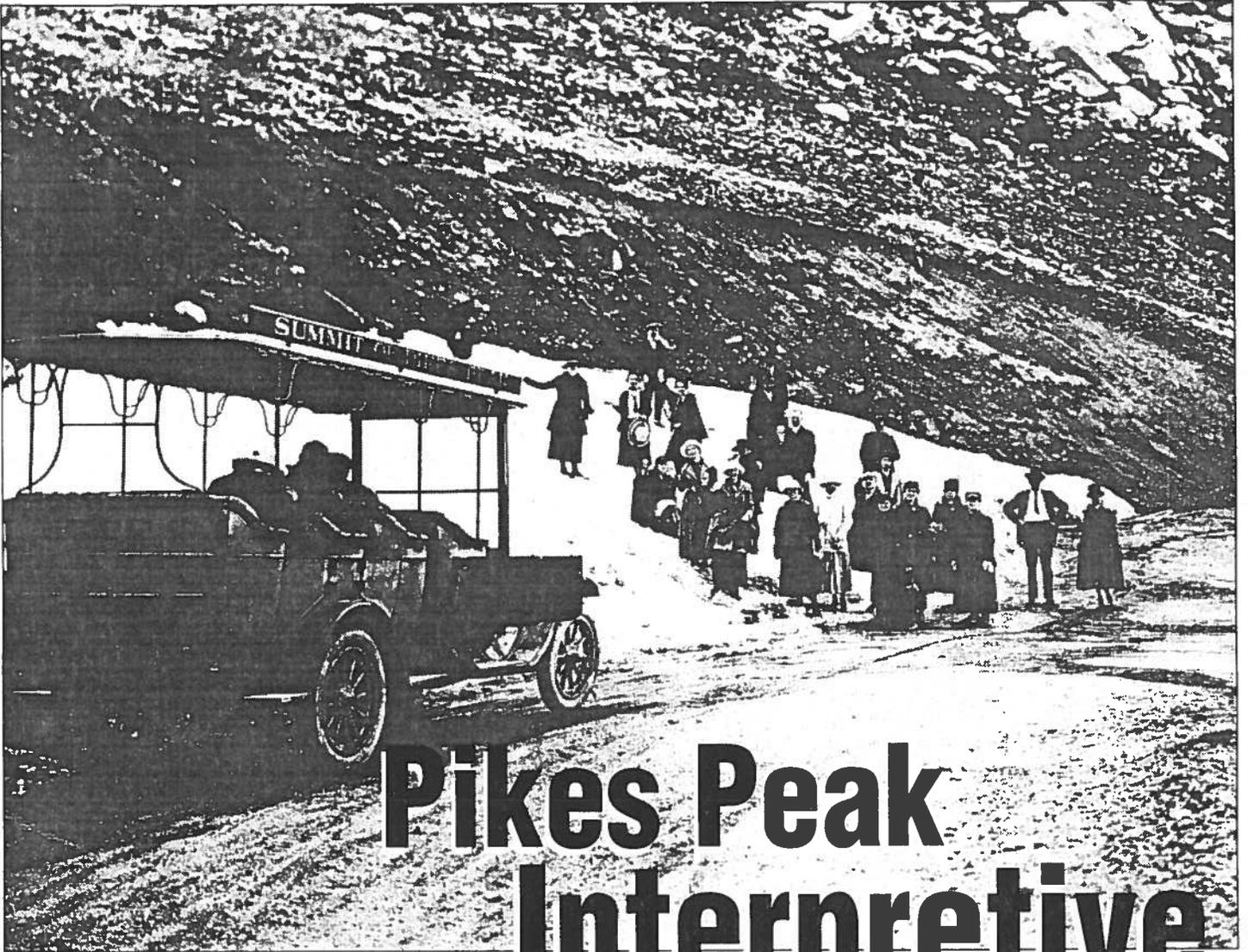


Pikes Peak Interpretive



Master Plan





Pikes Peak Interpretive

MASTER PLAN

Amendment to the Pikes Peak
Recreation Corridor Master Plan

PIKES PEAK RECREATION CORRIDOR INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Pikes Peak Ranger District
Pike and San Isabel National Forests

In order to further develop the interpretive efforts set forth in the Pikes Peak Recreation Corridor Master Plan an inter-agency interpretive planning team was organized. The team consists of the City of Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation group, The Pikes Peak Corridor Utilities; Aramark (Concessionaire); Kimmell Graphics; and the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, with representatives from the District, Supervisor's and Regional Offices.

This interpretive plan meets the intent and guiding policies of Forest Service Manual 2300, the Rocky Mountain Region's Interpretive Strategies and the Pikes Peak Recreation Corridor Master Plan. The purpose of this plan is to guide the development, design and implementation of interpretive services and media for the Pikes Peak Recreation Corridor.



Lt. Zebulon M. Pike

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City of Colorado Springs
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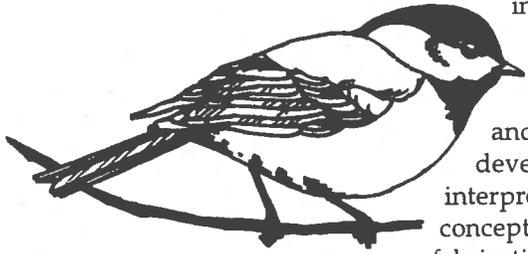
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Introduction

This plan is a supplement to the Pikes Peak Recreation Corridor Master Plan prepared by the City of Colorado Springs, September 1992. The Master Plan identifies general topics and possible media for the corridor. This plan will further guide the development and implementation of interpretive services for Pikes



Peak. It establishes interpretive themes, goals, objectives, media recommendations and design. Future development of interpretive media, such as conceptual, final design, and fabrication of exhibits will be consistent with this plan and will be evaluated according to the guidelines set forth in this document.

“

The demographic profile of Colorado's 1991 overnight pleasure travelers was quite distinct from the U.S. norm. In comparison to pleasure travelers generally, Colorado visitors were slightly younger and more likely to be: male, employed in white collar occupations and well-educated.

”

LONGWOOD

Even in the earliest historical recordings of the Peak, tourism has played a major role. In 1915, the original wagon road was reconstructed for the sole purpose of allowing tourists to visit the summit of Colorado's eastern most 14,000 foot peak by automobile.

Today, this tradition of tourism continues. The City of Colorado Springs became a partner in the management of the corridor in 1948.

Together the City and the Forest Service are striving to increase and enhance the overall visitor experience on America's Mountain.

DESIRED FUTURE

One of the ways the City and the Forest Service are working together is to enhance visitors' experiences through interpretive services, both personal and non-personal. Through these interpretive efforts the City and the Forest Service hope to accomplish the following:

- ❖ Provide a high quality experience that enhances the visitor's knowledge of the natural and cultural resources within the recreational settings of Pikes Peak.
- ❖ Provide a diversity of non-traditional opportunities to attract local residents to the area.
- ❖ Manage and sustain the natural resources of the area.
- ❖ Instill in visitors a "user ethic" which promotes respect for the environment and teaches visitors about the consequences of human activity on the Peak's resources.
- ❖ Promote a greater appreciation and understanding of the agencies involved and their management of the area.

CHALLENGES

Although these goals lie within the reach of the agencies, there are challenges in the near future that might delay the realization of these conditions. The following are the challenges of greatest concern to the planning team:

- ❖ Uncertain budget for implementing and maintaining interpretive services.
- ❖ The corridor's carrying capacity and resource protection.
- ❖ Special interest groups.
- ❖ Altitude sickness.
- ❖ Sudden changes in the weather condition.
- ❖ Getting visitors out of their cars.
- ❖ Visitor's confusion of agencies (who are they and what do each of them do?).
- ❖ Urban encroachment at the base of the Peak.

Introduction

VISITOR USE

According to *Longwood Travel USA*, a document prepared for the Colorado Tourism Board, Colorado is considered a national tourism destination. Most of Colorado's tourists come from California and Texas with Illinois and New York in a tie for third place (Longwood).

"The demographic profile of Colorado's 1991 overnight pleasure travelers was quite distinct from the U.S. norm. In comparison to pleasure travelers generally, Colorado visitors were slightly younger and more likely to be: male, employed in white collar occupations, and well-educated" (Longwood).

Four types of experiences are identified in the Longwood study. They include:

- ❖ The Touring Vacation
- ❖ The Outdoors Vacation
- ❖ The Country Resort Vacation and
- ❖ The Ski Resort Vacation

Pikes Peak can easily capitalize on the top

three categories. Currently the Peak attracts three different user groups:

- ❖ Highway drivers
- ❖ Cog Railway riders
- ❖ Barr trail hikers

However, this plan will focus primarily on highway users. Among the highway drivers, the majority are non-locals (60%), and the remainder are locals from surrounding communities. In 1996 the highway was used by 317,000 visitors.

Visitors average time spent on the Peak varied depending on which activities they pursue:

- ❖ The highway driver spent about two-and-a-half to three hours on the Peak. Forty minutes of that time was spent at the summit.
- ❖ Cog riders spent about three hours on the Peak with about 30 minutes at the summit.
- ❖ Barr trail hikers spent most of the day hiking with 30 minutes at the summit.

The carrying capacity on the highway is about 500 to 600 persons at one time (PAOTs). At the summit the carrying capacity is about 200 PAOTs.



What Visitors Want

Once at the Summit visitors want:

- ❖ Visitor facilities (restrooms, refreshments, souvenirs, etc.)
- ❖ Orientation to the vista
- ❖ Basic information and orientation to the Peak
- ❖ The cause for being light headed (lack of oxygen)
- ❖ Other opportunities (watchable wildlife, hiking, etc.)

What We Want Visitors To Know (K.A.B.S.)

K- Knowledge

Cultural and natural history; geology; watershed; agencies; management; opportunities

A- Attitude

Safety; ethics

B- Behavior

Ethics; respect; reduce vandalism; reduce littering

S- Sensory

Drama; WOW; emotions; wonder

Interpretive Goals



The primary role and responsibility of this interpretive effort is to communicate, through personal services and exhibits, those values that engender the understanding, appreciation, and eventual support for the various agencies involved in the management of Pikes Peak.

STATEMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

- ❖ Garden of the Gods and Pikes Peak were proposed as the nation's second National Park in 1886.
- ❖ Tourism began on the Peak in the mid-1800s first by mules, then by cog railway, later by stage coach, and finally by the present road.
- ❖ Utes used both the region and the Peak's natural resources. The Peak was used as a spiritual site.
- ❖ Early explorers and settlers used the Peak as a landmark.
- ❖ Pikes Peak is the easternmost, single 14,000 foot peak in the United States.
- ❖ Pikes Peak life zones vary from upper sonora to alpine tundra.
- ❖ Pikes Peak has played a major role in American history and folklore.
- ❖ The region's geology is significant because it produced a lone 14,000 foot peak.
- ❖ The summit is a National Historical Landmark.
- ❖ Pikes Peak is one of the few 14,000 foot peaks with a summit accessible by car.
- ❖ The summit is used for meteorological and medical research.
- ❖ The Peak is used for other research including automotive, search and rescue, aeronautical research.
- ❖ The summit offers outstanding vistas with 120 to 180 miles visibility.
- ❖ The watershed plays a major role in providing water to the Front Range of Colorado, the City of Colorado Springs, and the Eastern United States.
- ❖ The plants and animals of Pikes Peak are adapted to the alpine conditions. Some plants on the Peak grow nowhere else in the world.

GOALS

- ❖ To help visitors understand their role and responsibility in the conservation and stewardship of the natural and cultural resources of the Peak.
- ❖ To inform visitors about the cultural history associated with the Native American lifestyles of the Pikes Peak Region, discover of the mountain by explorers, settlers and tourists.
- ❖ To inform visitors about the varied habitats and ecosystems in the Plains, Foothills, Montane, Subalpine and Alpine lifezones.
- ❖ To inform visitors of the recreational activities of the Pikes Peak corridor and Summit.
- ❖ To educate visitors about the management of Pikes Peak, including: revegetation, erosion control, and fire management.
- ❖ To present a positive and professional image of the agencies by providing clear, concise orientation and interpretation of the resources on Pikes Peak.
- ❖ To create a flow of revenue that will fund interpretive services.

Interpretive Goals

OBJECTIVES

Emotional Objectives:

- ❖ WOW – Visitors will be inspired by the panoramic views, the diversity of plants and animals, and the sheer massiveness of the Peak, ascending from the valley into the heavens.
- ❖ Visitors will feel a sense of national pride as a result of learning about the natural and cultural history of the Peak.
- ❖ Visitors will feel that a trip to Pikes Peak is a "must see" because of the overall experience.

Behavioral Objectives:

- ❖ Visitors will protect the resources and will not litter, vandalize, or feed the wildlife.
- ❖ Visitors, by word of mouth, will share their positive experience of visiting the Peak.
- ❖ Visitors will become better consumers, both on site and at home, as they realize the impacts of their lifestyles on the environment.

- ❖ Visitors will support good management decisions.
- ❖ Visitors will be more aware of the various recreational opportunities available and as a result utilize the entire area, rather than the few traditional sites.

Management Objectives:

- ❖ The City will increase management revenues by new and return visits.
- ❖ There will be greater cooperation between the City and the Forest Service to provide a meaningful experience for visitors.
- ❖ Agencies will enjoy a greater visitor appreciation.
- ❖ Agencies will provide safe, accessible, and sustainable experiences for visitors.
- ❖ Agencies will present themselves in a professional manner.
- ❖ Agencies will protect the natural resources and will not allow over-commercialization and over-development.

INTERPRETIVE THEME

Experience and Explore the Drama of Pikes Peak –

from the plains to the summit.

Three main messages to be developed within the theme:

- ❖ Fame
- ❖ Formation
- ❖ Diversity

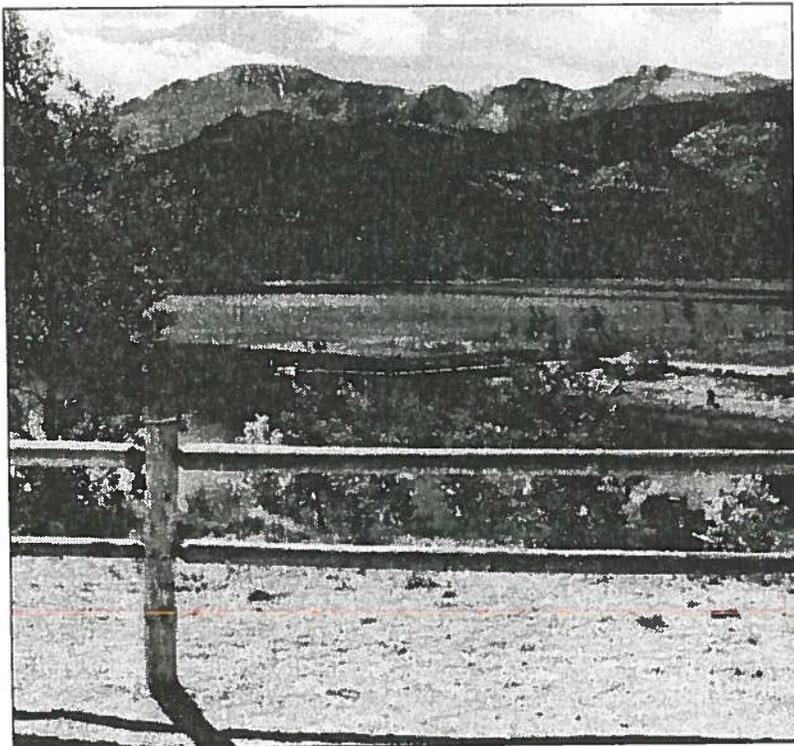


Media Recommendations

Sections 2-29 to 2-33 of the Pikes Peak Master Plan briefly outline an interpretive media plan for the corridor. Based on additional meetings of the interpretive planning team, some of the proposed media is no longer viable, some needs to be revised, while some will remain unchanged. This section will revisit the proposed media and make changes to better meet interpretive goals.

Design guidelines are established as parameters to achieve a high quality product and to reflect professional agency images. Maximum creativity is encouraged in developing media to accomplish interpretive goals.

Listed below are interpretive opportunities intended to enhance the visitor experience on Pikes Peak. Some of the ideas listed are currently in place and some are in the planning and development phase. These elements of interpretation can and will be implemented and reviewed for their level of success. The future of interpretation on Pikes Peak is a constantly revolving process as new technology and creative means of communication present themselves. Future generations of visitors to the Peak will gain from the experiences of visitors to the mountain today and tomorrow.



Interpretive Audio Tour

The planning team, along with Aramark, are developing an audio tape tour. However, some of the logistics identified in the Master Plan are no longer viable. Because of concern about traffic congestion at the toll gate, it is proposed the tapes be made available for sale at Crystal Reservoir Visitor Center, Glen Cove and the Summit House.

A tape format has been chosen because of its low duplication cost, availability of tape players in many autos, low maintenance, revenue generation, and its value as a souvenir.

The content of the tape will focus on the cultural and natural history of the area and weave in the geology and watershed stories. Techniques to include are; sound effects to create various moods, vignettes that transport visitors in time, and visual language to help visitors see into past events. The tape will be enjoyable during ascent, descent and off-mountain listening.

A specified account for revenue generated from the sale of this tape is requested by the planning team to fund interpretive services on the mountain.

Radio Transmitter

The planning team and Pikes Peak staff members would like to recommend a radio transmitter be made available to our visitors. The signal would be broadcast regionally and provide information about current weather conditions, special events, hours and safety on the mountain and perhaps other area attractions.

Gateway

Because of the restricted flow of traffic, it is recommended that no additional media or sales occur at the Gateway. All sales and media will be deferred to the Crystal Reservoir Visitor Center.

Plans for updated signage, Gateway structural changes and a variable message sign indicating current information are in place for this area.

Crystal Reservoir Visitor Center Area

Crystal Reservoir Visitor Center now

Media Recommendations

functions as the first orientation point for visitors. It has become a focal point for personal services, orientation, recreation and visitor education about the mountain. Basic visitor services are offered as well as gift shop sales with a rustic log cabin theme. The exhibit package blends in with the retail and concessions in a relaxed, user-friendly atmosphere. Some of the exhibit topics include:

- ❖ Safety
- ❖ Recreation Opportunities
- ❖ Lifezones
- ❖ Water
- ❖ Orientation
- ❖ Pikes Peak Preservation information

Because of the year-round popularity and success of this site, several new concepts for visitor enjoyment are being looked in to. The possibility of a separate, second structure for interpretation is being investigated as well as an amphitheater and children's playground. All areas will be handicap-accessible and attempt to engage the visitor in a participatory atmosphere during their journey.

Halfway Picnic Area

This area is not addressed in the Master Plan for any interpretation. However, the planning team feels it is important to incorporate some interpretive media and programming here because of the feeding of wildlife that is occurring.

A wayside pull-off with interpretive signs addressing the down side of feeding wildlife is recommended.

Also, the staff is recommending that camping in this area become available to the public. The possibility of a hut system and tent camping has been discussed.

Glen Cove Complex

Glen Cove currently serves as a rest and safety stop for visitors. The majority of visitors who stop are descending from the summit. The Master Plan for this facility proposes returning the building to its original character, minimizing the food service section to provide for interpretive exhibits, and constructing a loop interpretive trail and outdoor plaza. Aramark,



the concessionaire, is creating an early 1900s general store atmosphere. A picnic area will be available both on the plaza and in the woods across from the Cove.

The interpretive team has identified several themes for this facility, mainly the history of highway modes of transportation. "Passers-By" exhibits will take the form of low-profile signage on the terrace addressing the stories of early travelers, notables and tales of whimsy. Inside the facility, historic photo layouts and a short video will tell the story of the Pikes Peak Auto Hill Climb, the Pikes Peak Marathon and other sporting events held on the mountain. Wildlife viewing ethics, safety, and domestic water stories will be woven into the exhibit package.

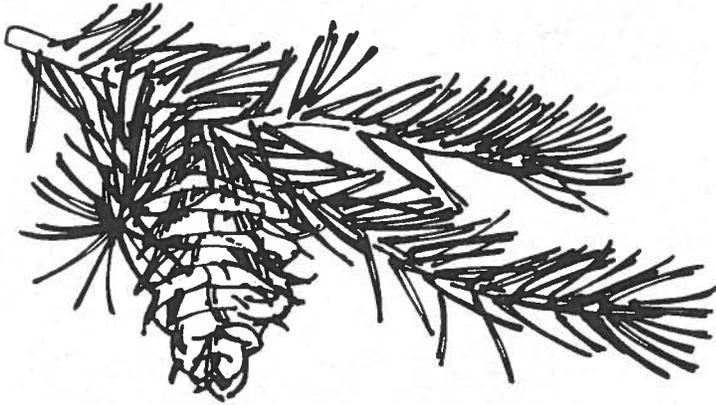
The objective is to give visitors a comfortable place to linger and while enjoying enriching information. Personal services will be attempted. Possible programs will include ranger-led walks and talks.

The Summit

The summit is the destination for thousands of visitors annually. This is what visitors come for, and it is here we want to provide them with a "WOW" experience. Visitors will feel a visit to the Peak is a "must see" trip and will recommend it to their friends and family.

Unlike the corridor, the summit will cater to all three user groups. The team has identified two types of experiences for the visitor at the summit.

Media Recommendations



1. "The Raw Experience"— visitors will have the opportunity to be one-on-one with the elements at 14,000 feet—feel the wind, and temperature, etc.
2. "The WOW Experience" – The Summit House will allow visitors to experience the Peak in the comfort of a modern facility at their own pace. Interpretive information, restroom facilities, food service and souvenirs will blend together in a flowing vista-oriented atmosphere. The exhibit package in the Summit House will encourage a sense of discovery and exploration in providing a rare opportunity to gain up-close knowledge of the alpine world. Exhibits will have vivid graphic components to help



visitors identify subject matter at a glance. Interactive elements will draw in everyone. Children and adults will revel in the opportunity to experience, discover and explore life on the summit.

Some of the exhibit topics include:

- ❖ Life on the Mountain - flora and fauna in this harshest of environments. Look a little closer at what seems to be a pile of rocks. Miniscule plant life, the water story, life zones and their residents and weather are some of the elements covered here.
- ❖ Man and the Mountain - from the earliest oral histories of Ute treks to the summit to the story of the Peak's naming, humankind has ascended and descended for many reasons in many ways. The Army research station, Pike's attempted climb, and the Bloomer girl are just a few.
- ❖ Making of the Mountain - Just how did this happen? The geologic story of America's most famous mountain.
- ❖ Enjoying the Mountain - recreation and sport have made the Peak a fantastic playground, caring for this treasure for future generations is imperative. The role of the stewards and the general public will be told here.

Interpretive Trails

Several short loop trails are proposed in the Master Plan. It is the recommendation of the planning team that the trails at Crow Gulch, Crystal Lake, and Glen Cove remain. It is also recommended that the trail for the summit either be eliminated or reduced to 1/3 or 1/2 mile. However, there is a need for a trail at the summit to facilitate the flow of pedestrian traffic. This trail should include interpretation, possibly highlighting points of interest visible from that vantage point. Also at the summit there is a 300-foot trail which drops down onto an outcropping near the tundra. This trail will allow visitors the opportunity to see plants and animals of the alpine environment and give interpreters a destination for nature hikes. The Severy Creek Trail from near Crow Gulch to Elk Park will be another opportunity for visitors to hike on a provided trail.

The purpose of these trails is to provide a different experience for the visitor other than

Media Recommendations

inside a car or building. The trails allow visitors to have a one-on-one relationship with the resources. The interpretive media used on these trails will incorporate the visitors' senses (touch, sight, hearing). The information will be conveyed in a thought-provoking manner to get visitors to draw their own conclusions. The interpretation will engage the visitor and be more experiential than didactic.

Primary topics for the trails will be the vistas, cultural and natural history and the watershed.

Barr Trail

At the time of publication, possibilities of rerouting Barr Trail to meet up with the Summit Trail were being discussed. More information will be available in future updates of this plan.

Mile Markers

Mile markers are important orientation and location tools. The planning team recommends mile markers that provide information both on the ascent and descent. The signage will include factual information about elevation, what life zone you are passing through and will have a graphic illustration of a plant or animal in the general area, encouraging travelers to look for that species. The mile markers are not geared towards interpretation but rather towards information and awareness.

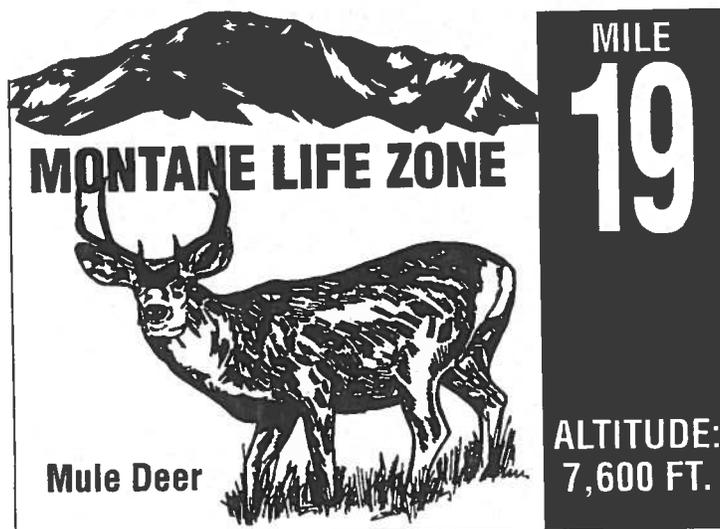
Wayside Exhibits

The planning team has identified and produced interpretive signage for 23 pull-outs, although they are not in identical placement as the Master Plan originally suggested. The wayside subjects and locations are listed on pages 11 through 15.

The objective of the wayside exhibits is to give travelers an opportunity to take a more leisurely attitude toward their Peak experience, allowing them time to acclimate and digest new, interesting information about the mountain.

Gateway Brochure

The gateway currently distributes a variety of printed products for visitors as they begin their journey. It is the recommendation of the Pikes Peak staff and the planning team that a



more condensed package of information be handed out. The brochure for the Pikes Peak Highway will now take the form of a small magazine or newspaper. It will include:

- ❖ Basic visitor information about the trip,
- ❖ maps of the highway and recreational trails,
- ❖ safety issues,
- ❖ flora and fauna,
- ❖ exhibit, food, restroom and gift sales stops,
- ❖ interpretive hikes and talks,
- ❖ kid's page,
- ❖ Pikes Peak Preservation news,
- ❖ Friends of the Peak updates,
- ❖ DOW and USFS information.

The product will be written in a "quick-read" style with graphics, maps and photos to support the articles. The information will also be made available in several different languages for international visitors.

Camping

The opportunities for camping on the Peak have been restricted in past years and the staff and planning team recommend opening certain areas for overnight visitors. The possibility of constructing cabins for guests has been discussed and is being investigated. The location and solitude the Peak offers would allow guests to experience the mountain in a new light. Tent and R.V. camping will be looked into as another possibility for visitors to enjoy the mountain.

Wayside Exhibit Signs

Crow Gulch

Site Description:

This is the first possible stop after the tollgate. It provides a developed picnic area, restrooms and trailhead. It has outcroppings of Pikes Peak granite and is located in a transition zone between mountain shrub and lower montaine.

Seasonal Accessibility:

The area is accessible year round.

Interpretive Themes:

- ❖ **Tale of Two Forests** - North vs. south facing slope forest growth.
- ❖ **Born to Burn** - The need for fires to keep the forest healthy.
- ❖ **Family Tree** - The natural cycle of life in the forest.

Site Objectives:

Visitors will be informed about forest management and the need to oversee the delicate natural processes of a healthy forest.

Desired Visitor Outcomes:

Greater understanding of forest management and what components make up a healthy forest ecosystem.

Crystal Reservoir

Site Description:

Crystal Reservoir is located at about 9,000 feet in elevation, in an upper montaine lifezone. It has a visitor center with exhibits, and gifts, several picnic tables, hiking and fishing and boating opportunities.

This location offers a spectacular view of the Peak. From the parking lot visitors can view the North Face. Three lifezones and parts of the road are also distinguishable.

Seasonal Accessibility:

The area is open year round and is accessible from the Pikes Peak Highway.

Interpretive Themes:

- ❖ **Pick a Climate** - The lifezones of Pikes Peak offers a wide variety of plant and animal life.
- ❖ **Well Traveled Water** - The history and management of the Colorado Springs water system.
- ❖ **Creation of Pikes Peak** - Geology and the making of America's most famous mountain.

Site Objectives:

- ❖ Visitors will understand why the reservoirs were built.
- ❖ Visitors will understand how the fisheries are managed.
- ❖ Visitors will gain a geological time frame within which to understand the various processes that created Pikes Peak.

Desired Visitor Outcomes:

- ❖ Visitors will adhere to the specific rules and regulations governing the fisheries.
- ❖ Visitors will feel a greater sense of stewardship toward the resources.

Other Interpretive Media:

- ❖ Outdoor amphitheater for naturalist presentations.
- ❖ Children's interpretive playground.
- ❖ Museum/Interpretive center.

North and South Catamount Reservoirs

Site Description:

Northwest of Crystal Reservoir on the opposite side of the Highway.

Seasonal Accessibility:

The area is accessible year round.

Interpretive Themes:

- ❖ **Recreational Uses** - Dual purpose of the reservoirs.

Wayside Exhibit Signs



- ❖ **Watershed** - Explanation of the City of Colorado Springs Water System.
- ❖ **Fire Suppression** - The natural cycle of life in the forest.
- ❖ **Wildlife**- Inhabitants and visitors to the reservoirs.
- ❖ **Wetlands** - The vital role wetlands play in the ecosystem on the mountain.
- ❖ **Orientation Map**

Site Objectives:

Inform visitors about forest management, the water system and recreational opportunities.

Desired Visitor Outcomes:

Enlightened view of the water resources made available on the mountain.

Halfway Picnic Area

Site Description:

Located at mile marker 10

Seasonal Accessibility:

The area is accessible year round.

Interpretive Themes:

- ❖ **Black Bear** - A frequent visitor to the area, and avid scavenger.
- ❖ **Scavengers** - Birds of the area.
- ❖ **Porcupine**- Lifestyle of the sharp and painful.

Site Objectives:

Want visitors to understand

Desired Visitor Outcomes:

Greater understanding of forest management and what components make up a healthy forest ecosystem.



11 Mile Marker

Site Description:

This is an undeveloped site located about 50 yards from the 11 mile marker water station. It will require a 50 yard path and observation platform.

The site is located in a sub-alpine forest overlooking the three reservoirs of North Slope Recreation Area. It also provides spectacular views of the Front Range, eastern plains, and South Park.

Seasonal Accessibility:

The area will have year round accessibility and handicap accessibility.



Wayside Exhibit Signs

Interpretive Significance/Local Management Issues:

- ❖ Provide a vista and photo opportunity.
- ❖ Orientation to the geography.
- ❖ The vista is "ah" inspiring – provide an inspirational quote.

Interpretive Story Development:

- ❖ Want to capture the sense of "ah" and inspiration.
- ❖ Want visitors to feel a sense of wonder and provide them with the opportunity to reflect on just how incredibly beautiful the area is.

Interpretive Themes:

- ❖ Reflection on the grandeur of nature in comparison to the finite of humanity.

Site Objectives:

- ❖ Want visitors to feel humble in the cathedral of nature.
- ❖ Want American citizens to feel proud to be Americans and fortunate to have this type of opportunity.
- ❖ Want international visitors to feel that Americans are doing a good job of providing for and managing public lands.

Desired Visitor Outcomes:

- ❖ Americans will take greater responsibility in the conservation and stewardship of their public lands.

- ❖ Visitors will respect the natural resources and not litter or vandalize.
- ❖ Visitors will have greater respect for the agencies managing the peak.

Interpretive Medium:

One geographic orientation sign with an inspirational quote and a photo point.



Old Ski Area

Site Location:

Located about one mile below Glen Cove in a sub-alpine lifezone at the 11.5 mile marker.

Site Description:

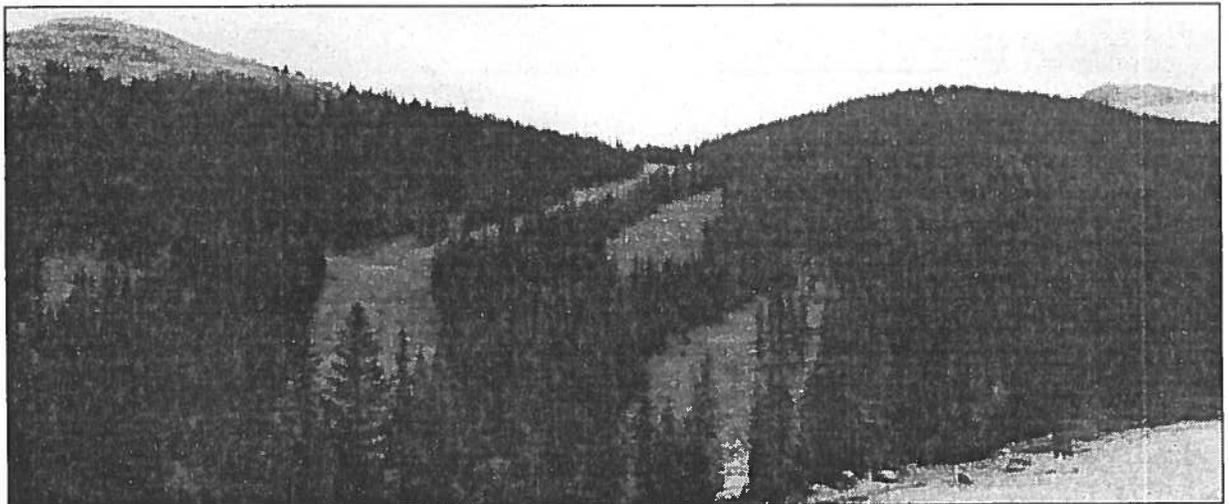
The Pikes Peak Ski Area was one of the first ski areas in Colorado. Unfortunately the ski area didn't survive. Currently the Forest Service is disassembling and revegetating the area. A large parking lot is still in existence, creating a negative visual impact.

Seasonal Accessibility:

The site will have year round accessibility.

Interpretive Significance/Local Management Issues:

This site provides an ideal opportunity to



Wayside Exhibit Signs



Devil's Playground

address the cost of providing different types of recreational opportunities. The costs are not so much monetary as they are impacts on the resources.

Provide the history of the ski area, why it was constructed and why it didn't survive.

Explain how the Forest Service is rehabilitating the area.

Interpretive Story Development:

The environmental cost of providing recreational opportunities.

When a ski area is no longer wanted.

Interpretive Themes:

Developed recreational opportunities have an environmental cost--as the recreationalist do you feel the benefits are worth it?

Site Objectives:

- ❖ Want visitors to realize that developed recreational opportunities they may take for granted, such as picnic areas; fishing reservoirs; hiking trails; ski areas; roads; etc., have environmental impacts.
- ❖ Want to challenge visitors to think about the impacts and determine if their experiences is worth it.
- ❖ Want to challenge visitors to adhere to the concept of "sacrifice areas" in order to provide popular recreational opportunities.

Desired Visitor Outcomes:

- ❖ Want visitors to realize that developed recreation sites did not come with the rocks. They are a result of managers responding to the public desire to have certain types of recreational opportunities.
- ❖ Visitors will understand that their lifestyles costs the environment and challenge them to consider whether these costs are acceptable.
- ❖ Visitors will have a greater sense of stewardship towards the resources.
- ❖ Visitors will have a greater appreciation for the work natural resource managers do in providing recreational opportunities and minimizing environmental impacts.

Site Location:

Located about a mile above Glen Cove in the alpine lifezone at mile marker 16.

Site Description:

The site functions as a parking lot and trail head. It receives its greatest use during the Pikes Peak Hill Climb.

Since it is located in an alpine lifezone, it is exposed to the elements.

Seasonal Accessibility:

Accessible between Memorial Day until the first major snow storm (usually in November).

Interpretive Significance/Local Management Issues:

- ❖ Intense lightning storms in the area.
- ❖ Alpine lifezone
- ❖ Cripple Creek and Victor are visible from here - the mining history of the area.

Interpretive Story Development:

- ❖ How the area got its name.
- ❖ How the elements have shaped the natural resources in the area.
- ❖ What made miners think there was gold in "them thar hills".

Interpretive Themes:

- ❖ The elements are the "king of the mountain".
- ❖ Why did miners come to this region seeking their fortunes?

Site Objectives:

Want visitors to realize the elements call the shots up here and that it's to their benefit to respect them.

Desired Visitor Outcomes:

Visitors will take precautions to ensure their own health and safety.

Pikes Peak Preservation

Pikes Peak Preservation is a national campaign for America's Mountain coordinated by the City of Colorado Springs, Pikes Peak. Other Partners for the Peak include ARAMARK, Pikes Peak Observatory, Friends of

the Peak (for educational outreach), The Gazette, Colorado Springs Utilities, the City's Parks and Recreation Department, and the Pikes Peak Auto Hill Climb Educational Museum.

A multi-year, \$30-\$40-million fundraising effort is underway to build a new summit house, make erosion, drainage, and road improvements on Pikes Peak, and provide new interpretive and

educational opportunities for visitors.

The existing Summit House was built in 1964 and is currently sinking into the mountain's permafrost. While still safe, the building must be supported by 40 hydraulic jacks.

Approximately \$10.5-\$12 million is needed to build the new Summit House, which tentatively will be open for the summer of 2000. An additional \$6-\$8 million is needed to demolish the old Summit House, build a new utility building and restore the top of America's Mountain environmentally. \$12-\$16 million is slated to address environmental concerns on the Peak.

Plans for the mountain also include the development of elementary and high school science and history curriculum, a grassroots community involvement program, and high-altitude product testing and research opportunities.

Improving America's Mountain is a collaborative effort. Pikes Peak Preservation is seeking the support and assistance of other groups or individuals, both locally and nationally, who are interested in the preservation and enhancement of Pikes Peak.

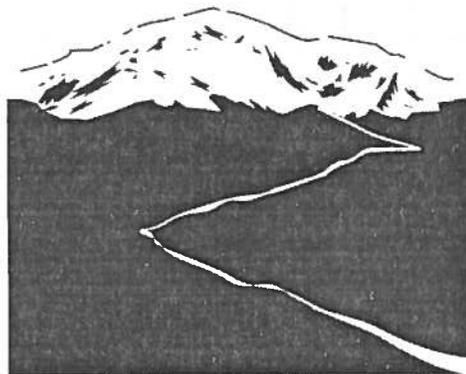
To volunteer or contribute to Pikes Peak Preservation, contact:

Pikes Peak Preservation

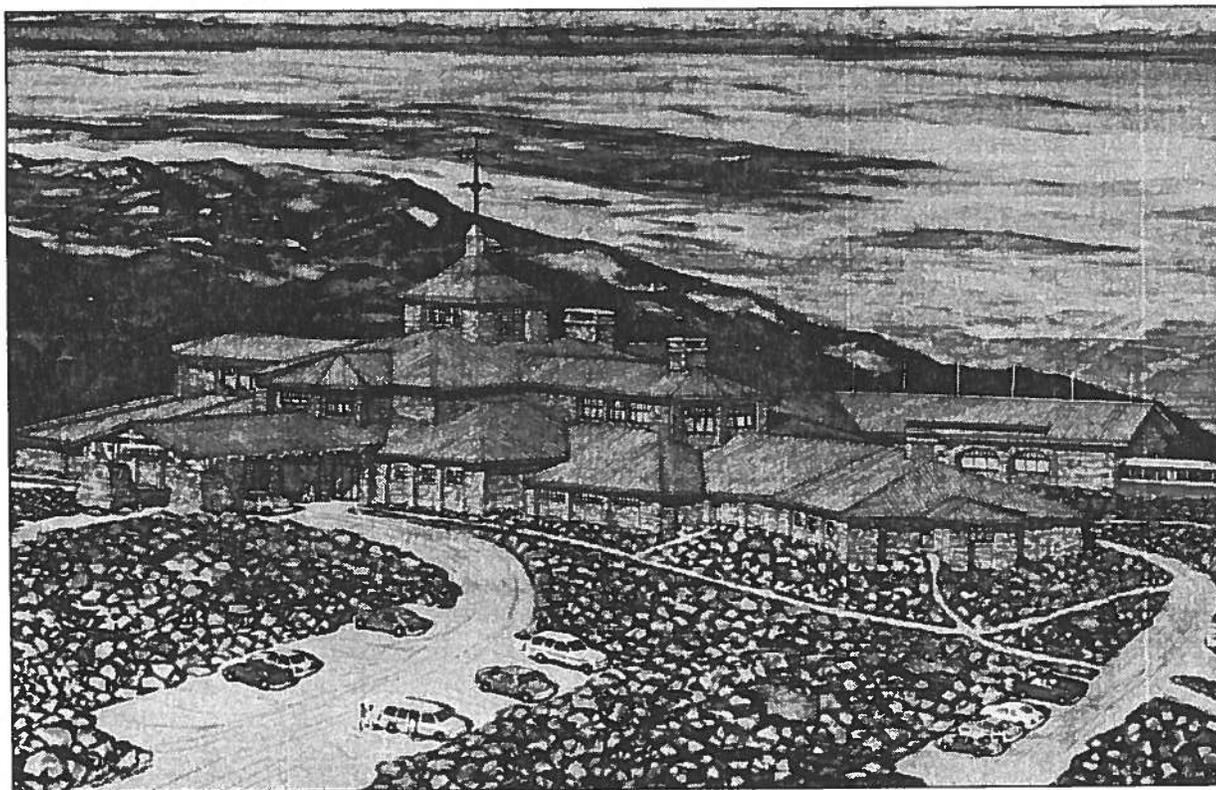
(719) 636-5764

1-888-734-PEAK (7325)

email: thepeak@worldnet.att.net



Pikes Peak Preservation



Vegetation Management

Driving for pleasure, sightseeing, and watching wildlife are among the top ten most popular recreation opportunities in America (Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission, 1962 and America's Great Outdoors report, 1990).

Pikes Peak offers all of these opportunities. However, these opportunities can be enhanced by vegetation treatments. The objectives of the treatments are to:

- ❖ Open and enhance vistas of the Peak and the valley.
- ❖ Create open parks and meadows to enhance

edge habitat areas for large mammals (deer, elk, sheep) and for other wildlife which requires this type of habitat.

- ❖ Provide a greater diversity of plants and animals.
- ❖ Create a greater mosaic landscape which is more pleasing to the eye.

The Pikes Peak Ranger District is fully capable of planning and implementing vegetation treatments for the corridor. It is the recommendation of the planning team that a comprehensive vegetation management plan be developed and implemented for the corridor.

History

Interpreters first appeared on the summit in 1988 as part of a cooperative agreement between the City of Colorado Springs and the Forest Service. Since its inception the program has grown and has become an intricate part of the overall Peak experience.

It is the desire of the planning team to continue providing personal service and to expand the program to incorporate the entire corridor and eventually the cog railway. Through the sales of interpretive media, the planning team desires to make the personal service program as cost effective and self-

sustaining as possible. A percentage of the profits will be used to hire, train, and implement an on-going personal service program for the corridor.

Volunteer Corp

The management and staff of Pikes Peak are moving forward with establishing a volunteer corp to work in harmony with the interpreters on the mountain. The volunteers will be trained to greet and answer visitor's questions about the mountain and surrounding areas and assist the interpreters in programming. The volunteer program is available for registration in the spring of 1998.

City of Colorado Springs

Eugene Smith, Visitor Services Supervisor
 Victor Eklund, Jr., Natural Resources Planner
 Bill Stooky, Natural Resources Superintendent
 Hans Schalk, Pikes Peak Director
 Leigh Robertson, Interpretive Specialist

Aamark Leisure Services Inc.

Jim DePinto

Friends of Pikes Peak

Gail Snyder

USDA Forest Service

Frank Landis, Recreation Planner
 Frogard Ryan, Interpretive Specialist
 Linda Hecker, Interpretive Specialist

Colorado Division of Wildlife

Jena Ehrenhart

Kimmell Graphics

Maureen Kimmell, Designer

Planning Team

Appendices

Most commonly asked questions by visitors

"Do the people who work in the Summit House live up here?"

During their work week most employees stay on the summit.

"Do the City and Forest Service interpreters live up here, too?"

No, each interpreter drives up the Peak on one or two days per week. The rest of the week, City interpreters work at Garden of the Gods and other visitor centers. Forest Service interpreters work at different campgrounds throughout Pike National Forest, visit day care centers and schools.

"How long is the Cog Railroad and how much does it cost?"

The Cog Railroad is 9 miles long and costs \$ 20.50 per person.

"How long is the Pikes Peak Highway and how much does it cost?"

The highway is 19 miles long and costs \$ 6 per person.

"Where are Denver, Colorado Springs, Cripple Creek?"

"Which mountain ranges can I see from here?"

(These questions will have to answered with the help of a location map or interpreters)

"What lives up here?"

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, Pika, Yellow Bellied Marmots, Golden Eagles, Coyotes are among some of the creatures you might encounter.

"Does the sun ever shine up here?"

Yes, it is commonly sunny in the mornings, before noon. The weather can change rapidly. There are many lightning storms, and it can snow any day of the year.

"Did Pike ever make it up Pikes Peak?"

No, Pike's trek to the Peak ended unsuccessfully, and he concluded, that no man could reach the summit of this mountain.

"How high is Pikes Peak?"

It is 14,110 feet!

"Is it the tallest mountain in Colorado?"

No, Mount Elbert is the tallest. It is 14,434 feet (4399 meter). There are 54 mountains over 14,000 feet in Colorado (some people say 53).



BIGHORN SHEEP

- ❖ Bighorns are the largest mountain sheep in North America, with rams reaching 350 pounds or more.
- ❖ About 250 bighorns live on Pike's Peak.
- ❖ Their coat is brown in spring, fading to silvery-gray in winter.
- ❖ They have a prominent white rump patch.
- ❖ Both sexes have horns.
- ❖ Horns of the ewes are short, spiked and not curled.
- ❖ The ram has majestic curling horns.
- ❖ The bighorn's horns are true horns; they are not shed every year like antlers of deer or elk.

DILEMMA OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN

- ❖ Before settlers arrived, bighorn sheep lived at all elevations.
- ❖ Bighorn feeding grounds are open, grassy areas adjacent to steep, rocky cliffs.
- ❖ They avoid grazing where their view is blocked because they rely on their eyes to alert them when danger approaches.
- ❖ Early settlers, trying to protect their homesteads, began controlling forest and range fires. Their actions were understandable, but fire suppression had unforeseen adverse effects on wild sheep.
- ❖ Fire plays a major role in keeping bighorn habitat in prime condition and making more areas available to sheep.

Appendices

KATHARINE LEE BATES

- ❖ Bates was born on August 12, 1859.
- ❖ Graduated from Wellesley College 1880.
- ❖ Poetry published throughout U.S.
- ❖ Departed for Europe in 1890; noted the lack of liberty in England, Scotland, Wales and Spain.
- ❖ Colorado College President William F.Slocum invited Bates in 1893 to join faculty of the summer school.
- ❖ Bates accepted and taught English literature
- ❖ She went up Pike's Peak on July 22, 1893, taking a train to Cascade, horse drawn prairie wagon to Glen Cove, then replacing the horses with four mules for the rest of the way.
- ❖ She described the Peak as "Gate of Heaven Summit", stayed for 1/2 hour and wrote the words to the poem that evening.
- ❖ The words were first printed in "The Congregationalist" on July 4th, 1895; there were many requests to set it to music, so she rewrote it to what is now the theme AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL.

"AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL"

O beautiful for spacious skies,
 For amber waves of grain,
 For purple mountain majesties,
 Above the fruited plain!
 America! America!
 God shed his grace on thee
 And crown thy good with brotherhood
 from sea to shining sea!



PIKE'S TREK TO THE PEAK

- ❖ July 15, 1806: General James Wilkinson sent Lieutenant Zebulon Pike to find the headwaters of the Red and Arkansas Rivers.
- ❖ Nov. 15, 1806: four miles East of Las Animas, Pike first sighted the Peak.
- ❖ Nov. 24, 1806: Part of Pike's expedition set out to reach the base of the mountain. After only 12 miles they were forced to set up camp without water. Pike commented on the extreme cold.
- ❖ Nov. 25, 1806: they got an early start, hoping to climb the Peak.
- ❖ Nov. 26, 1806: left behind all blankets and food, expecting to return before nightfall. They had a difficult day and stayed in a cave.
- ❖ Nov. 27: woke up sore and hungry, started marching. The summit of the Peak was snow-capped and appeared 15 or 16 miles away.
- ❖ Pike believed that under these conditions - the snow, the elevation, his men in summer overalls and without food - no man could reach the summit. They descended down.
- ❖ Pike never reached the summit of Pike's Peak.

