

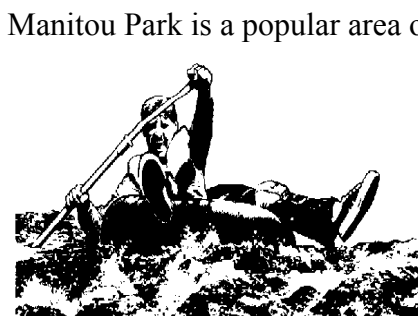
# Colorado's Pike National Forest

- Biking, Hiking, Horseback, Winter Sports and Summer Recreation



Located south of Denver and west of Colorado Springs in central Colorado. The 1,106,604 acres of Pike National Forest falls within Clear Creek, Teller, Park, Jefferson Douglas and El Paso counties. The recreation resource on the Pike National Forest is widespread and varied. Marking the north end of the is Mount Evans at 14,264 ft. elevation surrounded by the 73,000 acre Mount Evans Wilderness. Mount Bierstadt, another of Colorado's 'fourteeners' at 14,060 ft elevation is also located in the Mount Evans Wilderness. Northward west of South Park in the western part of the Forest, are the high elevations of the Mosquito Range from Guanella Pass southward to the Buffalo Peaks country. Except for Geneva and Jefferson Creeks, the recreation resource in this large expanse of Park County remains primarily primitive and undeveloped, accessible mainly by four-wheel drive, horse or foot. Remains of early daymining railroads and stage routes are still easily discernible, further adding to the attraction of the area. More 'fourteeners' are found west of Fairplay: Mount Lincoln 14,286, Mount Bross 14,172 ft., and Mount Democrat at 14,148 ft. The Pike National Forest offers sightseeing, hiking, lake fishing, boating, picnicking, mountain biking, 4 wheel drives, ATV's trails and cross-country skiing.

**ATTRACTIONS:** Tarryall Creek and Lost Park are jump off points for the Lost Creek Wilderness where motorized travel is prohibited. This approximately 106,000 acre area provides a place within an hours drive of the metropolitan area of Colorado Springs where an individual can experience a wilderness setting. The Lost Creek Wilderness contains bold outcrops of Pikes Peak granite that have been carved into an infinite variety of forms and shapes by the forces of erosion. Great dome like forms, spires, turrets and arete crests characterize the landscape. Talus slopes of huge boulders are common. Stream courses are tortuous and have in places carved underground channels through fine talus debris. In addition to its great scenic beauty, the area offers the geologist, professional or amateur, and outstanding opportunity to study the effects of erosion of granite in a semi-arid climate.



Manitou Park is a popular area on the Pike National Forest in Teller County. This picturesque area of ponderosa pines and grass serves mainly as a "basecamp" for visitors to the Pikes Peak Region. Numerous Forest Service campgrounds and commercial campgrounds are used to capacity from the middle of June to Labor Day. Manitou Lake Picnic Ground in the area is heavily used year around for fishing and picnicking. The remainder of National Forest land in Pikes Peak rising to 14,110 ft. elevation is the most dominant and well known recreation attraction on the National Forest in El Paso County. The Pikes Peak Toll Road which was completed in 1915, is operated by the City of Colorado Springs under permit from the Forest Service. Over 300,000 people use the toll road each year. Revenues from the tolls are used entirely for maintenance and improvement of the road and summit house. The famous "Cog Road" carries thousands to the top of the Peak. Thousands more hike up the Barr Trail from Manitou Springs. This 11.7 mile trail was designated a National Recreation Trail in 1979.

The Pike National Forest offers sightseeing, hiking lake fishing, boating, picnicking and cross-country skiing at the 500 acre Rampart Reservoir, a 60 minute drive from Colorado Springs.