

State Forest State Park



Who we are

Colorado Parks and Wildlife utilizes the principles of conservation - the wise use of natural resources - to effectively manage fishing, hunting, wildlife viewing, camping, motorized and non-motorized trails, boating and outdoor education for the citizens of Colorado and its visitors. State Forest State Park contains over 70,000 acres of Colorado's great outdoors. Breathtaking mountain beauty greets visitors and provides a quintessential Rocky Mountain setting for backpacking, hiking, horseback riding, lake and stream fishing, hunting, wildlife watching, camping, four wheeling, snowmobiling, skiing, snowshoeing and just relaxing. The State Forest is high country, ranging in elevation from 8,500 to 12,500 feet, along the west side of the Medicine Bow Mountains and into the north end of the Never Summer Range.

Top attractions

- Moose may be spotted year round at State Forest State Park— North Park is home to the largest moose herd in Colorado, estimated to number between 600 and 700 animals
- Eighty miles of motorized roads and trails
- Seventy miles of groomed snowmobile trails
- Fifty miles of snowshoe and skiing trails, of which 12 miles are groomed
- Five alpine lakes and two river systems.

Our partners

- Colorado State Land Board
- North Park Snow Snakes
- Routt and Roosevelt National Forests
- Colorado State Forest Service
- Jackson County Government, Sheriff's Office, Search and Rescue
- Rocky Mountain National Park
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management
- Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge
- City of Ft. Collins Water
- North Park Ambulance Service
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corp
- Silver Spur Ranches
- North Park Fire / Rescue
- Northern Colorado Backcountry
- North Park School District Horsemen
- Medicine Bow & Red Feather Outfitters
- Walden Chamber of Commerce Visitors Bureau
- Roundup Riders of the Rockies
- Colorado Mountain School

Challenges we face

- No concessionaire contract currently to operate the yurt system, Agnes Creek Cabin and the Nokhu Hut
- Balancing the needs of all agencies and users with responsible resource conservation
- Maintaining high-use facilities, such as campgrounds and over 100 miles of trails
- The large size of the park and the diversity of recreational activities within it keep the six full-time staffers very busy!

Volunteer activities

- Volunteers serve as campground hosts at Ranger Lakes and North Michigan Campgrounds.
- Volunteers help at special events, such as the Colorado State Forest Moose Festival.
- Diamond Peaks Ski Patrol and Nordic Rangers patrol the backcountry and respond to rescues.



VIC SCHENDEL/CPW

State Forest State Park

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Park Manager: Josh Dilley

As of July 1, 2022

VIC SCHENDEL/CPW

Manager's message

State Forest State Park took over management of the privately managed KOA campground at the entrance to North Michigan Reservoir in the summer of 2018. This fifty year old facility is in need of restoration, including much needed code compliance and repair of the infrastructure. The KOA campground, now named North Park Campground, will continue to be under construction through the summer of 2023. There are now two long term concession services: Medicine Bow Outfitters, and Colorado Mountain School, that will be providing expanded backcountry services to help keep up with demand. The Bureau of Land Management, the State Land Board and Colorado Parks and Wildlife are working together to create a management plan for the North Sand Hills, to manage increasing crowds.

Geography

Region: Northwest
County: Jackson
Year Acquired: 1972
Elevation: 9,100 ft
Miles From Denver: 143

Acreage

Total Acres: 70,932

Governmental

US Cong Dist: 2nd
CO Senate: 8th
CO House: 13th

Employees:

Permanent: 6
Temporary: 16
Volunteers (FY 22): 36
Volunteer Hours (FY 22): 3,452

Annual Visitation

FY 22: ~320,000

Facilities

2 Boat Ramps
Dump Station
Mooring/Docking
14 Picnic Sites
Corrals
Visitor Center

Trails

Summer Non-Motorized: 99.4 miles
Summer Motorized: 58.1 miles
Winter Non-Motorized: 65.1 miles
Winter Motorized: 81.1 miles
Combined total trail miles: 136 miles

Roads

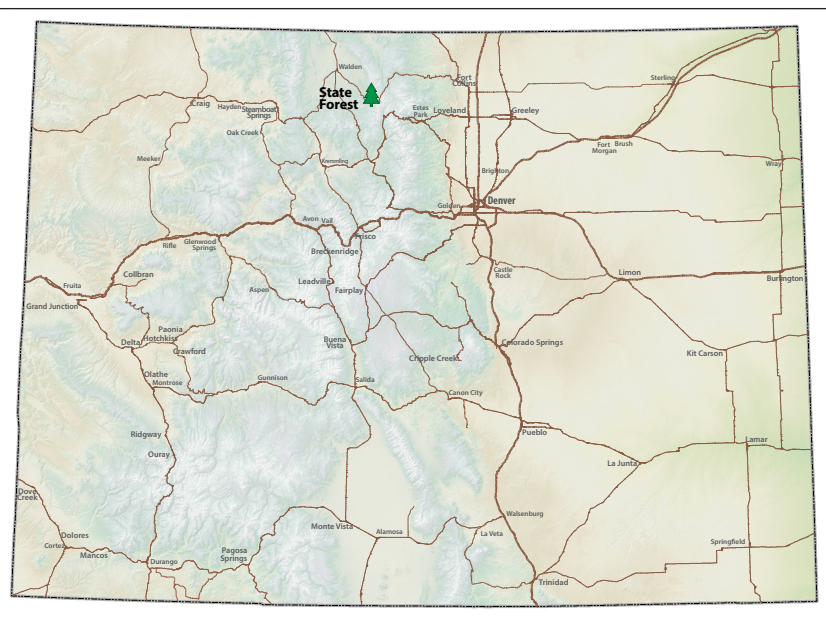
Unpaved: 62.5 miles

Recreation

Boating (wakeless only)
Fishing
Geocaching
Hunting
Ice Fishing
Ranger/Nature Programs
Paddle Boarding
Sailboarding
Snowtubing
Wildlife/Bird Viewing
Winter Camping

Camping

Cabins (year-round): 6
Campsites (basic, seasonal): 156
Campsites (electrical, seasonal): 32
Campsites (primitive, seasonal): 40



MIKE DELLEVENE/CPW