

Women's Wilderness Institute – Summer Backpacking Trips *Aqua Fria Compartment*

Proposed Action:

This proposal consists of leading a backpacking trip for a group of 10 girls (16-17 year olds). They are proposing one course of 7 days sometime between 6/15 through 8/31 each year (70 Service Days¹). Most trips would probably occur during the snow free period, which is generally mid-July through August 31. Most travel will be on existing roads and trails, although some travel will occur off existing trails (travel to and from campsites). There is a special big game hunt in this area in late August, so this area may not be desirable for backpacking trips during this special rifle season.

Suburbans will be used to transport guests and equipment. Parking will be at Red Canyon Trailhead and Newcomb Creek Trailhead. The trails that will be used are the Newcomb Trail #1132 to Colorado Creek, Wyoming Trail #1101 north to Lost Ranger Peak, then east to Red Canyon. Lightweight backpacking tents, stoves and other equipment will be used. Campsites are shown on map.

Devil's Thumb – Fall Big Game Hunting *Aqua Fria Compartment*

Proposed Action:

This proposal is to use existing roads and trails to access areas in the Aqua Fria area for guided multi-day hunting/game packing trips (130 Service Days).

Trails used would be Newcomb Creek Trail #1132, Wyoming Trail #1101, Lost Ranger Trail #1131 & Grizzly-Helena Trail #1126. Travel to campsites would be off existing trails. The average group size would be 5 hunters in camp for 5-7 days and 1 guide and 1 cook. Eight to 13 horses would be used to transport guests and supplies to camps (1 horse per person plus 1 pack horse/mule for every 2-3 persons). Maximum group sizes would be limited to a combination of 25 people and livestock, with a maximum number of 15 people in any group, since part of this compartment lies within the Mount Zirkel Wilderness. Non-reserved guided camps (aka “spike camps”) would be generally used one night to minimize impacts to any single site. Wall tents or canvas tents will be used for sleeping and cook tents, and non-mechanical saws will be used for trail maintenance. Longer-term camps (reserved sites) would be desired in a few years in the Newcomb Park area and in the Newcomb, Beaver & Whalen Creek drainages. Use of the Lost Ranger Trail #1131 would require some re-construction of a short section of the trail to make this safer for horse use (parts of the current trail are somewhat challenging for expert riders). This reconstruction will be required before use of this trail by horses is authorized. Reconstruction of this trail has not been planned and may be a low priority; therefore any reconstruction could take several years before planning, funding and reconstruction could occur.

Pitchpine and Newcomb Creek Trailheads would be used. Vehicles include pickups and horse trailers. If a large group is taken, this could include a 14-horse trailer. These trailheads would be used to park vehicles with horse trailers, or parking will be at the base camps. “Base camps”

¹ One Service Day = one person for any part of a day spent in the compartment (so 1 person spending 1 hour or 12 hours in one day is still a Service Day)

(reserved sites) would be set up near these trailheads but not right at the trailhead and will not impede or discourage public use of these trailheads.

Horses will be controlled at non-reserved guided camps using high lines with tree savers or using electric fence. Hobbles may be used in limited circumstances if horses are not prone to moving long distances in hobbles.

Alternative 2:

This alternative is the same as the Proposed Action; however, the proponents also propose to use the Rainbow Lakes Trailhead and the Rainbow Lakes Trail #1130. This proposal also includes developing reserved sites near Slide, Rainbow and Round Lakes.

**Devil's Thumb Outfitter's – Summer Guided Day & Progressive Overnight
Horse Packing Trips (Weekdays & non-Holidays Only)**

Arapaho Ridge Compartment

Proposed Action:

Several groups averaging 10 people (groups may be 8-20 people including guides) will take 3-day progressive rides in this area (330 Service Days). Generally 1 guide accompanies 4 inexperienced people. One horse per person plus 1 pack horse/mule for every 2-3 persons will be used. This would mean 19-22 horses and/or mules would be used for each trip. Existing roads and trails would be used for these rides (see below). Weekdays will not include Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays.

Horses and clients would be driven to the Grassy Run or Hyannis Peak Trailheads on the east and west sides of the Arapaho Ridge Trail #1135, using NFSR 700, 106, 721, and 715. One night of camping may occur at either of these trailheads and vehicles would be parked there during rides. Wall tents would be used for camping, and horses would be highlined or electric fence would be used to control horses.

**Buffalo Creek Outfitters – Summer Guided Trail Rides & Fishing, Day Use,
Weekends & Holidays Only**

Arapaho Ridge Compartment

Proposed Action:

Guided horseback rides and fishing tours will occur in this compartment. Group sizes will average 6 clients plus 1 guide, and 7 horses (70 Service Days) for up to 10 days during the summer. A pickup and horse trailer will be used to access the Arapaho Ridge Trail #1135 for horseback rides, at the Hyannis Peak and Grassy Run Trailheads. National Forest System Roads (NFSR) 700, 715 and 106 will be used for access. NFSR 715.1A was also proposed for access, however this road is slated for decommissioning with Green Ridge Timber Sales, so this will not be permitted for use by motorized vehicles, however horseback rides could occur on this decommissioned road. Weekends and Holidays include Saturdays and Sundays and legal Holidays. Some Fridays or days right before the Holidays may be included, if use would not conflict with Devil's Thumb Outfitters, who will have first priority for these days.

Guided fishing trips will be to Kathleen Lake, Arapaho Lakes (lakes without road access only), and unnamed lakes in the north ½, Section 6, T5N, R79W. Clients will walk or ride horses to the lakes (no motorized access will be allowed, even if there are already unauthorized routes into these lakes).

Alternative 2:

The proponent proposes to use Buffalo Creek drainage to Lost Creek for access on horses from their private lands. Any trails developed would be developed in conjunction with the Forest Service, constructed to Forest Service standards, and become part of the Forest Service system of trails. This would be a very low priority for the Forest Service, since it only leads to private lands.

Good Chance Guided Hunts – Fall Guided big game hunts, Day Use Only
Arapaho Ridge Compartment

Proposed Action:

Up to 10 people (average of 2-6 people) would be led on guided hunts in the Arapaho Ridge Compartment (300 Service Days). Hunts would be approximately 5-day hunts, and use would only occur during the day (no overnight use). All motorized travel would occur on existing roads, including NFSR 700, 104, 715, 719, and 106. NFSR 715.1A was also proposed for access, however this road is slated for decommissioning with Green Ridge Timber Sales, so this will not be permitted for use by motorized vehicles. Hunters and guides will walk during the hunts, however up to 6 horses would be used to pack out game, guests that can't walk well, or in emergencies. Hyannis Peak Trailhead could be used if horses are needed in this general area. Hunts are proposed from the start of archery season through the last big game rifle season (approximately the last week in August through mid-November).

Parking areas proposed are near NFSR 703, 701.1B, 701.1A, 700.2E, 700, and 720.

People hunting with cameras only may also be taken on guided "hunts". Their use patterns would be the same as that described above.

Red Feather Outfitters – Fall Guided Moose Hunts
Buffalo & Pinkham Compartments

Proposed Action:

Guests would be led on guided moose hunts in the Buffalo, Illinois, and Pinkham Compartments (15 Service Days each). Dates of hunts would be approximately 9/1 to 10/15. Average group size will be 1 client and 1 guide; however there may be more guides if the hunter is disabled or disadvantaged. Two – five horses would be used for game packing, however most of the moose hunts are done on foot. Vehicle travel will occur on motorized roads including: NFSR 80, 895, and 213. Trails used will include Beaver Creek, Buffalo, Main Fork Encampment River, Camp Creek, Pinkham Creek, North Platte Drainages, and Village Belle and Creek. Other routes may be used that are not system trails, however these will only be used by people on foot or less than 5 horses in a single time period. The hunts will occur during the day only (including dawn and dusk periods).

This outfitter is an existing outfitter and already practices Leave No Trace techniques in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness (just south of Buffalo Compartment).

PT Outfitters – Fall Guided Hunts, Day Use Only, Muzzleloader & 1st Rifle Seasons Only

Chimney Rock Compartment

Proposed Action:

The proposal is to lead guided hunts of up to 2 clients with 1 guide in the Chimney Rock Compartment (50 Service Days). Hunting is usually done on foot, but some horseback riding is done, depending on ground conditions. Any game killed where there are not open roads will be packed out on horses. Up to 3 horses would be used to pack out game. Motorized travel (pickup & trailers) would be on NFSR 103 and 104. This area is a day use only area, so no overnight camping will occur on NFS lands. Horse and foot trails will be off open designated routes, however they will generally follow old road prisms in this area (closed timber sale roads & the old main road).

Buffalo Creek Outfitters – Fall Guided Big Game Hunts/Game Packing, 2nd-4th Seasons, Day Use Only

Chimney Rock Compartment

Proposed Action:

Guide big game² hunters (up to 6) on horses and mules (up to 4 horses and 2 mules) during 2nd through 4th season (20 Service Days). Vehicle access will be on existing Forest Roads 103 and 104. Horse and mule travel will not necessarily use existing roads and trails; they will check various places (shown on map) however they could hunt anywhere in the compartment, depending on where they find big game.

Buffalo Creek – Summer Interpretive Tours, Day Use Only

Dennis Hump Compartment

Proposed Action:

Up to 6 guests will be driven around this compartment in Pinzguaers³ (4WD, street legal vehicle), suburbans or crew cab pickups with one guide (20 Service Days). Existing roads NFSR 103 and 700 will be used. Some short hikes up to Little Haystack, Ryder Lakes, and other areas may be taken, if clients are interested. This use will only occur during the day. Messages or key items of discussion will include: natural history of the area (geology, ecology, flora and fauna, riparian areas), cultural history (mining and ranching), and public land management (agencies, management direction, conservations and stewardship, and sustainable use). Since these tours are given to fill a need by the public and the Forest Service combined, Buffalo Creek Ranches

² Originally Buffalo Creek Outfitter was tentatively approved to apply for moose hunting, however, upon further review of the Colorado Division of Wildlife hunting regulations, no moose permits are given in this area. Therefore, outfitting/guiding for moose hunts will not be allowed.

³ These are customized rubber tired, 4x4 vehicles approximately 5'8" wide by 13.8' long and seat up to 10 people; total loaded weight is about 6500 pounds. A picture of this vehicle can be found at <http://www.actionmobile.com/710M.htm>

will work with the Forest Service to provide appropriate information about public land management.

Coyote Creek – Fall Guided Big Game Hunts, Day Use Only

Dennis Hump Compartment

Proposed Action:

Up to 2 clients per 1 guide will be led on guided big game hunts in the Dennis Hump Compartment (180 Service Days). Moose may be hunted during archery and muzzle loading seasons only. Four clients per week may be housed (on private land) and guided. Clients may ride horses or walk and game will be packed out. Two to seven horses will be used. Horses will be highlined (with tree savers) when not being ridden. Motorized travel (pickups and horse trailers) will travel on NFSR 700, 700.2C, 103, and 103.3A. Foot and horse travel will occur throughout the compartment, however some general areas of travel are indicated on the attached map. This area is a day use only area, so no overnight camping will occur on NFS lands. Proposed staging area for parking with horse trailers are shown on the map. The Forest Service is proposing Hyannis Peak Trailhead be used instead of Coyote Creek's proposed Bundy Park parking, because of the trailhead space available and the Forest Service's desire to make use of designed and constructed trailheads.

Buffalo Creek – Fall Guided Moose Hunts, Day Use Only

Dennis Hump Compartment

Proposed Action:

Because moose permits are very limited, there will probably not be moose hunters every year, and if there are, there are usually only 1 or 2 individual hunters each time. Although unlikely to be this high a number, up to 6 people could be guided for moose hunting in this compartment (20 Service Days). Hunters will be guided on foot and on horseback (up to four horses and 2 mules), and the main roads traveled will be NFSR 103 and 700. Horse and mule travel will not follow existing roads and trails; they will check various places (shown on map) however they could hunt anywhere in the compartment, depending on where they find moose.

Buffalo Creek – Summer Guided Fishing

Hidden Lakes Compartment

Proposed Action:

Up to 5 people (up to 6 people including guides) will be taken on guided fishing trips along Chedsey Creek and Burns Reservoir (30 Service Days). Suburbans and crew cab pickups will be used to transport people along NFSR 60, 615, 626 and 612. These trips will take place during the day, and no overnight camping will occur.

Alternative 2:

The proponent would also like to take clients fishing to Summit Lake, Teal Lake, and Tiago Lake. These lakes are either associated with developed campgrounds or within ¼ mile of developed campgrounds.

Solid Rock Outdoor Ministries – Summer Guided Backpacking & Hiking

Illinois Compartment

Proposed Action:

Groups of up to 15 people will take guided backpacking trips into the Illinois Compartment (144 Service Days). This use will probably occur mid-July through August 31 to take advantage of snow free trails and camping conditions. Travel to the start of hikes would be by passenger vans on NFSR 740, 750 and 758. Groups will include up to 7 clients per 1 staff, but usually will be 5 clients per 1 staff. Trips will last 3-4 days. Lightweight backpacking tents, stoves and other equipment will be used. Hiking will be on system trails (NFST 1143 and 1186) and non-system routes. The clients will be made aware that there may be motorcycles legally using trail 1186 during the same time periods that they are there.

Buffalo Creek Outfitter – Fall Guided Big Game Hunts, Day Use Only

Illinois Compartment

Proposed Action:

Up to 6 hunters each will be guided on big game hunts (excluding moose), either on foot or on horseback (up to 5 horses and 2 mules, 20 Service Days). These guided hunts will be day use only (may include dawn & dusk, but they will not stay overnight). Existing roads to be used include NFSR 740, 750, 758 and 765 (non-motorized methods only) and existing trails to be used will be NFST1186, 1141, and 1143. The clients will be made aware that there may be motorcycles legally using trails 765, 1186, and 1141 during the same time periods that they are there.

Red Feather Outfitters – Fall Guided Moose Hunts

Illinois Compartments

Proposed Action:

Guests would be led on guided moose hunts in the Illinois Compartment (15 Service Days). Dates of hunts would be approximately 9/1 to 10/15. Average group size will be 1 client and 1 guide, however there may be more guides if the hunter is disabled or disadvantaged. Two – five horses would be used for game packing, however most of the moose hunts are done on foot. Vehicle travel will occur on motorized roads including: NFSR 740, 750, 756, and 755. Trails used will include Trail 1141, Snyder Creek, Parkview Creek, Illinois Creek, and Jack Creek. Other routes may be used that are not system trails, however these will only be used by people on foot or less than 5 horses in a single time period. The hunts will occur during the day only (including dawn and dusk periods).

This outfitter is an existing outfitter and already practices Leave No Trace techniques in the Never Summer Wilderness Areas.

Buffalo Creek Outfitter – Summer Interpretive Tours (Teller City/Mining).

Day Use Only

Owl Mountain Compartment

Proposed Action:

Up to 6 guests will be driven around this compartment in Pinzguaers (4WD, street legal vehicle), suburbans or crew cab pickups with one guide (30 Service Days). NFSR 740, 792, 791, 790, 760, 770 (to gate), and 780 will be used. Up to one hour may be spent at Teller City Historic Site and Day Use area. Some short hikes may be taken, if clients are interested. This use will only occur during the day.

Messages or key items of discussion will include: natural history of the area (geology, ecology, flora and fauna, riparian areas), cultural history (mining and ranching), and public land management (agencies, management direction, conservations and stewardship, and sustainable use). The Forest Service especially desires interpretation of the historic mining in the area (including Teller City). Since these tours are given to fill a need by the public and the Forest Service combined, Buffalo Creek Ranches will work with the Forest Service to provide appropriate information about public land management.

Devil's Thumb Outfitters – Summer Guided Horseback Rides (overnight & day rides)

Wheatley Compartment

Proposed Action:

Several groups averaging 10 people (groups may be 8-20 people including guides) will take 3-day progressive rides in this area (150 Service Days). Generally 1 guide accompanies 4 inexperienced people. One horse per person plus 1 pack horse/mule for every 2-3 persons will be used. This would mean 19-22 horses and/or mules would be used for each trip. Existing roads and trails would be used for these rides (see below).

Horses and clients would be driven to Wheatley Creek Trailhead or Slide Mountain. One night of camping may occur near the trailheads and vehicles would be parked there during their rides. Wall tents would be used for camping, and horses would be highlined or electric fence would be used to control horses.