

C O L O R A D O P A R K S & W I L D L I F E

Cheyenne Mountain State Park



2013 PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Development of the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Plan was made possible through the support and collaborative efforts of the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Planning Team, Colorado Parks & Wildlife Leadership Team, and interested members of the public.

This management plan is the fourth management plan to be developed based on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Park Management Plan Template, which was approved in 2009 by the Colorado State Parks Board.

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Special thanks to Computer Terrain Mapping, Inc. for their assistance in developing visual models of the Top of the Mountain trail and property and to BBC Research, Inc. for compiling the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Financial Assessment (Appendix J).

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Cheyenne Mountain Winter Sunset

Cheyenne Mountain State Park is located in El Paso County near the City of Colorado Springs in the east central portion of the State (Map 1). It is the first state park in El Paso County, and one of the newest additions to the State Park system. Since its opening to the public in October 2006, Cheyenne Mountain State Park has been touted as one of the “crown jewels” of Colorado’s State Park system, known for the exceptional quality of its facilities, recreation opportunities, and education programs. The park’s dramatic elevation change and abundance of relatively undisturbed and unfragmented habitat also make it a prime location for wildlife viewing, while interpretive displays throughout the park offer visitors a glimpse into the rich cultural and geological history of the park and surrounding lands.

Uniquely situated in a transitional zone between the Great Plains and Front Range mountains, eastern portions of the 2,701-acre park are dominated by grasslands. Moving west, the grasslands turn to shrub lands, eventually transitioning into the forested areas with steeper slopes and more dramatic geological features that characterize the park’s western half. Cheyenne Mountain, which towers 9,565 feet above sea level and offers expansive views of the Front Range, is the park’s dominant terrain feature. While Cheyenne Mountain was not originally part of the park, the City and Colorado Parks and Wildlife partnered between 2007 and 2009 to acquire 1,021 additional acres that comprise the Top of the Mountain (TOM).area

Popular recreation opportunities at Cheyenne Mountain State Park include hiking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, camping, picnicking, and geocaching. Other amenities include a visitor center with a public meeting room, an outdoor amphitheatre, 61 campsites of which 51 are full hook-ups, picnic sites, and a camper services building equipped with laundry and showers. Cheyenne Mountain State Park’s campgrounds often reach capacity during the peak-season and were the park’s largest source of revenue in fiscal years 2010 and 2011, followed by the sale of park passes. The park’s overall self-sufficiency level was approximately 70% for fiscal year 2011, which is higher than many other parks specializing solely in land-based recreation.

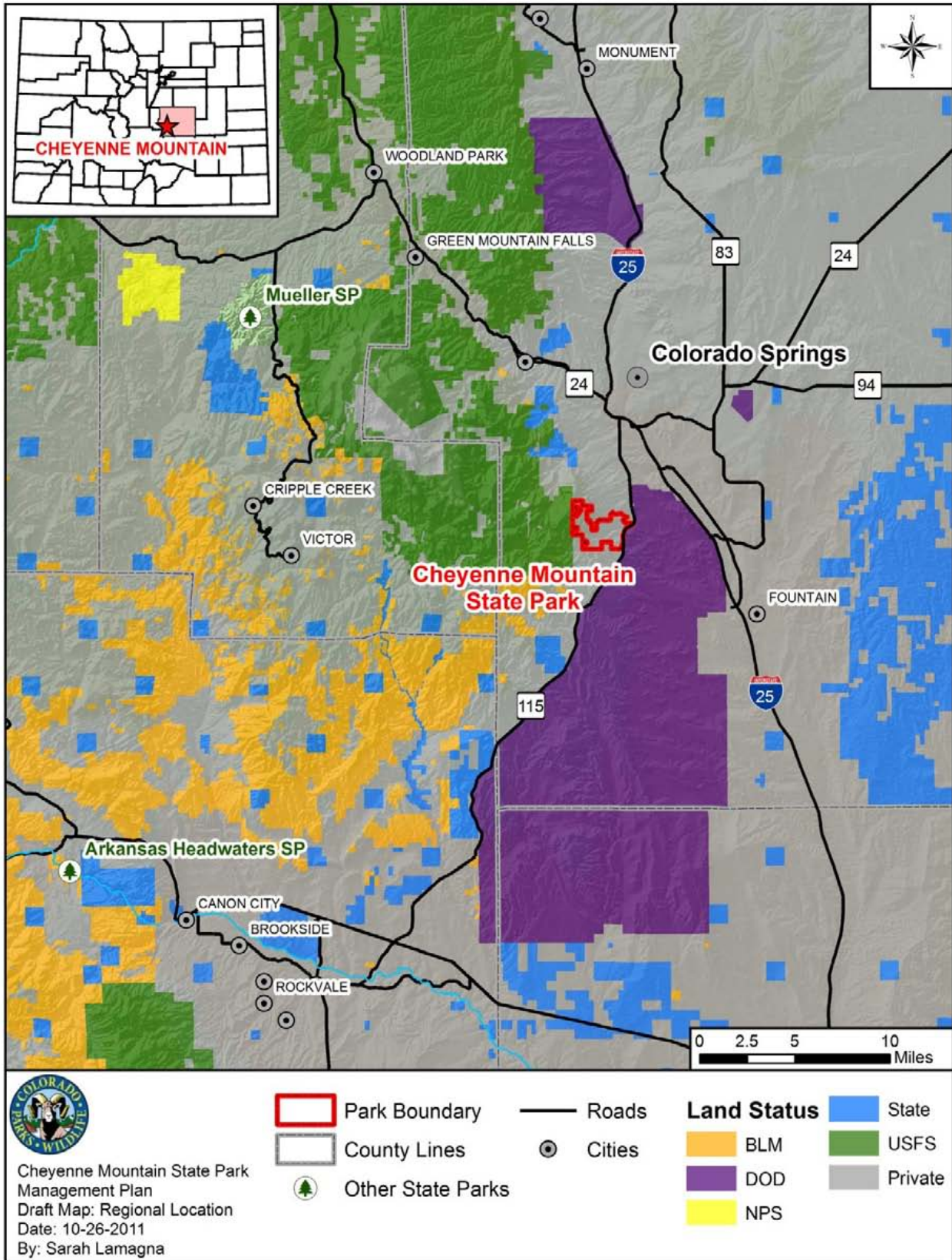
About the Plan

Management plans are an important planning tool for park managers. The Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Plan serves as the foremost guiding document for Cheyenne Mountain State Park. All other park planning documents should be consistent with this plan.

The Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Plan provides a conceptual planning framework for setting management priorities and specific management direction for park resources. The plan also:

- Serves as a guide and policy document for current and future park staff, other partnering agencies, elected officials, and interested members of the public.
- Guides management of natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

Map 1. Location and Regional Context



- Provides a framework for monitoring and maintaining resources at Cheyenne Mountain Park.
- Identifies park enhancement opportunities including possible upgrades to or new park facilities, recreation infrastructure, etc.
- Serves as a guide for future park budget allocations and annual funding requests.

Implementation of the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Plan will assist park staff in their efforts to preserve and enhance the park for future recreational users. The Cheyenne Mountain State Park Manager should regularly review the park management plan to evaluate implementation progress. This includes annually reviewing the document at the beginning of each calendar year.

The following park-level goals were developed during the management plan update. These goals provide an overarching framework for many of the suggested actions and recommendations included in Sections 5.0 and 6.0:

- Sustainably manage the natural resources and infrastructure of the park while planning ahead for anticipated increases in visitation associated with local and regional population growth.
- Protect, conserve, and interpret the significant natural, cultural, and historical resources.
- Provide high-quality customer service and opportunities to safely access and learn about park resources and enjoy popular recreation activities.
- Conduct development activities and operations in a manner that do not adversely affect park resources and environments.
- Offer a diverse range of high-quality visitor experiences and information services to best assist, inform, educate, and challenge visitors.
- Open the Top of the Mountain area to provide recreational opportunities for visitors while responsibly managing its natural resources.
- Ensure that operations and maintenance capabilities of park staff are not exceeded.
- Strengthen relations with Fort Carson and other key local and regional community partners.

Management Zoning

The management zoning scheme adapted specifically for Colorado's state parks provides a framework for identifying areas that provide for different types of visitor experiences and recreation opportunities, based on the resource constraints that occur within the park. Within each management zone, suitable types of facilities and land uses are also identified, along with the suggested visitor experience and management focus.

Influencing the zoning of Cheyenne Mountain State Park were a number of factors including natural resources, land ownership, facilities and infrastructure, and engineering suitability. Refer to Section 4.0 for detailed information on park management zones.

In addition to management zones, five distinct areas within the park have been identified and officially acknowledged in the plan (these are depicted on Map 2 and briefly discussed in Section 4.0).

Summary of Recommended Park Enhancement Opportunities

Based on resource considerations, outdoor recreation trends, visitor preferences, financial considerations and other issues identified in this plan, there are a number of possible park “enhancement opportunities” suggested for Cheyenne Mountain State Park (Map 2). These enhancement opportunities are discussed in detail in Section 5.0 Park Enhancement Opportunities and Initiatives. All of the Enhancement Opportunities and other suggested management priorities are included in the *Summary Implementation Priorities Table* included in Section 6.0. Enhancement opportunities generally include park improvements that are significant in terms of their spacial scale and level of effort needed to implement them, and may warrant considerable financial resources.

It is important to note that new facilities and infrastructure should be balanced with maintaining and preserving what we already have. Also, major new facility investments should be balanced with resource enhancements. Finally, park enhancement opportunities are not “commitments.” Implementation of enhancement opportunities and other recommendations in the management plan are contingent on the park securing adequate financial and human resources. Any park enhancement that requires additional funding or staffing must be considered or weighed within the context of other Division-wide needs.

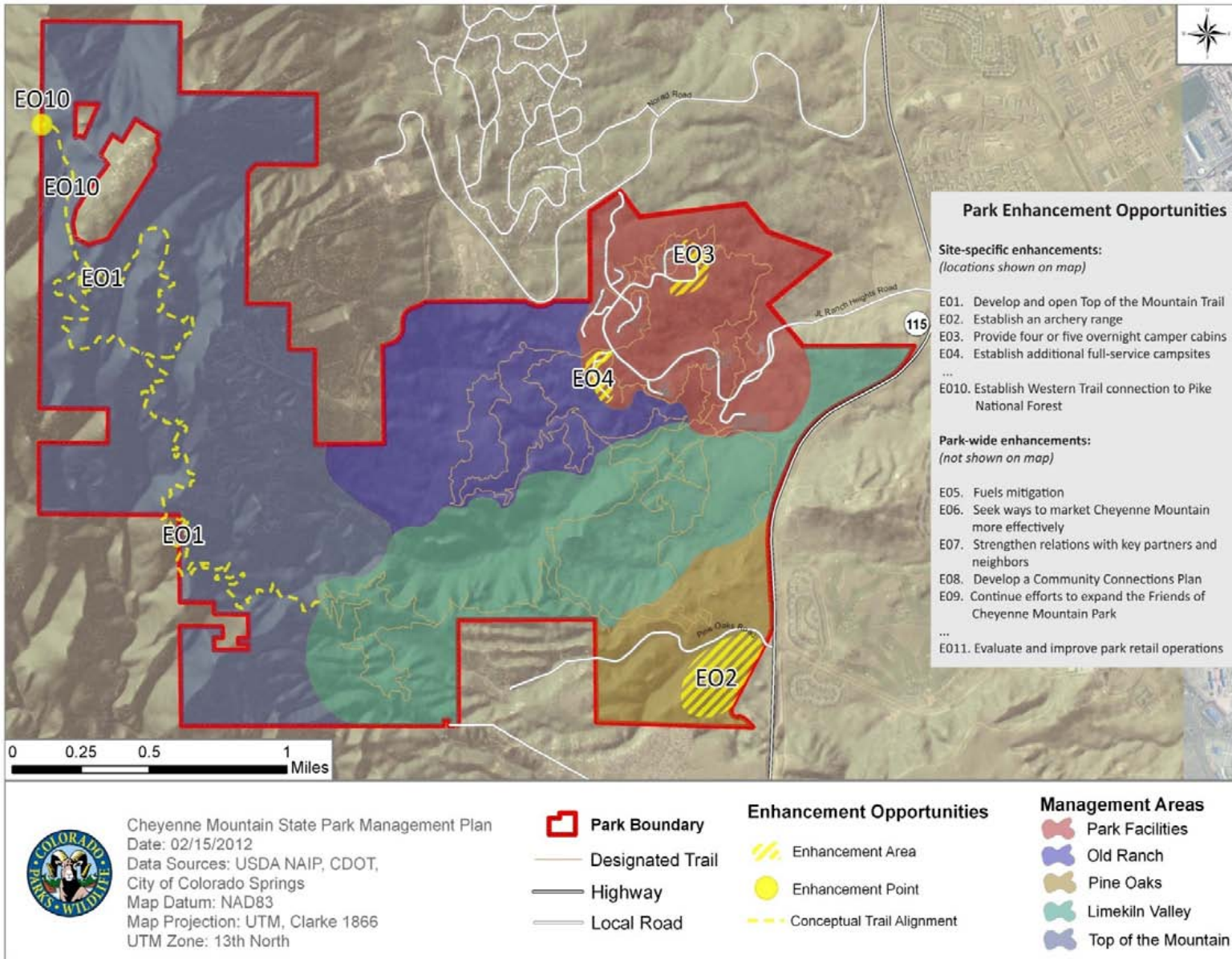
While all potential park enhancements that have been identified for Cheyenne Mountain State Park are described in this section and highlighted in Map 2, those that may potentially impact park visitation, operations, and/or revenues are further evaluated in the *Cheyenne Mountain State Park Financial Assessment* in Appendix J.

New Facilities & Infrastructure

EO1. Develop and Open the Top of the Mountain Trail (*High Priority*). A trail to the top of Cheyenne Mountain (TOM) will be a value-added amenity that will offer visitors a stunning view of the Front Range, provide access to some of the park’s more unique natural resources, and provide a strenuous physical challenge. The 5.2-miles of additional trail will eventually extend from North Talon Trail to the TOM, and cross steep terrain (with average slope being 13% and some nearing 20% grade). Trail construction will rely heavily on a volunteer workforce and will need to occur after July 15 and into the fall (to comply with mitigation requirements on Federally-Threatened species that potentially exist in the area). Construction is likely to take years to complete.

Once finished, it is envisioned that the first 1.4-miles or so of the trail would be multi-use (accommodating hikers, mountain bicyclists, and equestrians). The multi-use portion of the trail would terminate in the vicinity of the “saddle” area, which is one of the few relatively level portions of the TOM trail (see inset). Remaining portions of the TOM trail extending to the TOM loop trail would permit hiking only due to significant issues and constraints associated with construction of a sustainable trail and visitor safety. Following additional site visits in fall 2012, the CHM planning team developed the following rationale for this decision.

Map 2. Park Enhancement Opportunities



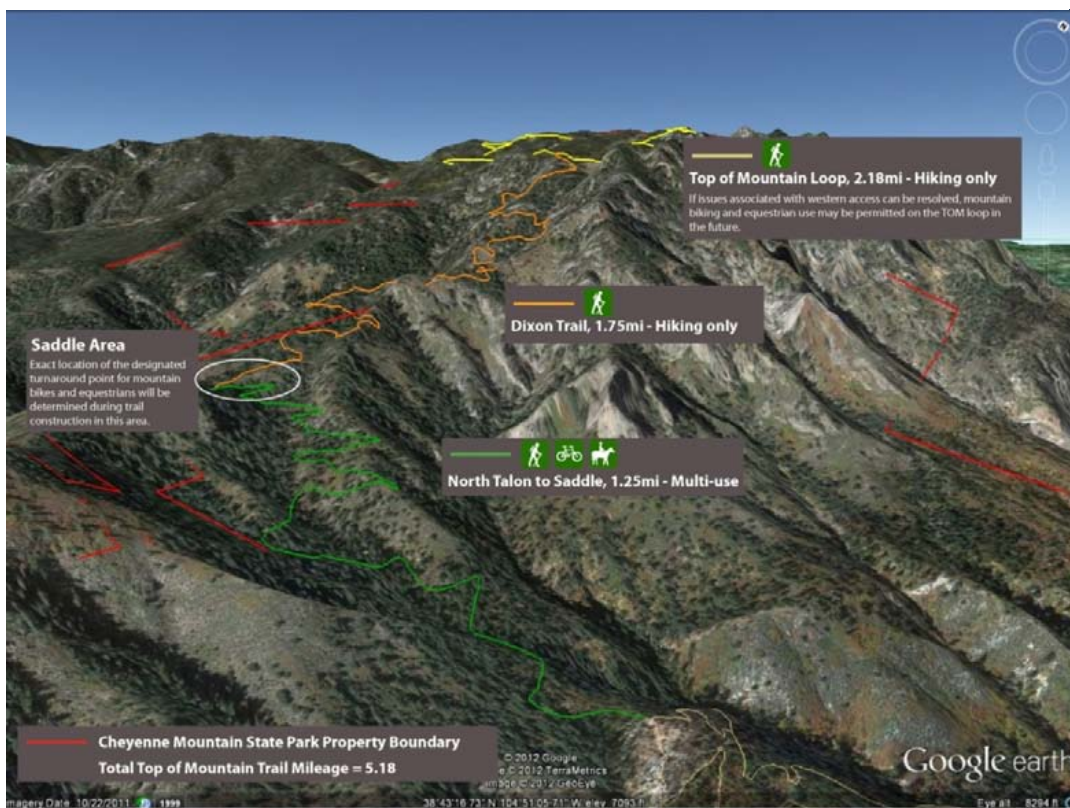
- Trail slopes of 15 percent or more extend well beyond 200 feet in several areas;
- Presence of challenging cross slopes as high as 50 percent or more;
- An abundance of decomposed granite;
- Numerous areas with exposed granite and rockfall along the proposed trail alignment; and
- Anticipated 18- to 24-inch maximum trail width.

When considered in their entirety, the Cheyenne Mountain Planning Team believes that the above factors pose an unacceptably high risk level for mountain bicyclists and equestrians and threaten long-term trail sustainability.

The uppermost TOM loop trail would remain hiking only until western access issues can be resolved between CPW and the USFS. If mountain bike and equestrian access from the west becomes viable, park staff should work with the City of Colorado Springs to seek the ability to administer park entry fees (which is currently not permissible given the existing Operating Agreement).

To accommodate equestrian use at the park, designated equestrian parking would be made available in the southeasternmost portion of main trailhead parking lot (along with other minor site improvements). From here, equestrians would take the Sundance Trail (outermost loop) to the Talon and North/South Talon trails to access the TOM trail.

Figure 1. 3D Rendering of the Top of the Mountain Conceptual Trail Alignment.



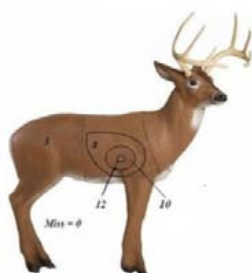
These existing connector trails will need to be improved/reinforced where necessary prior to opening to equestrian use to stabilize and reinforce the trail surface. Connector trails, and the TOM trail, should be closed during wet conditions to minimize erosion issues, particularly with additional equestrian use. Many of the soils in the area are associated with the Pierre Shale Formation, which is highly prone to slumping and sliding.

Another management consideration associated with this enhancement is that additional signage will be needed informing visitors of shared trails, as well as proper trail etiquette. An additional future management tool might also include implementation of a permit or registration system to use the trail.

Following opening of the TOM trail to public use, it is suggested that park staff evaluate trail use patterns and the possible need for remote restroom facilities at the TOM area, as well as limited overnight backcountry camping (e.g. three to six remote campsites - no campfires permitted). Monitoring trail use patterns over time and making appropriate management adjustments will be key to ensuring that trails remain sustainable.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 12/13 – FY 16/17*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Lottery/Minor Repairs Major Improvements (MRMI)*

EO2. Establish an Archery Range (*High Priority*). A 3-D archery range would be situated in the southeast portion of the park just off of Pine Oaks Road, or possibly in another more centrally-located portion of the park. Initially, it is envisioned that this facility would accommodate approximately 20 to 30 “real-life” 3-D targets situated along a 1.5-mile soft-surface walking trail at varying distances, and also a small static range for target shooting. This facility would be relatively “simple” in terms of design and management, and would align with statewide efforts to introduce more youth and families to outdoors and to generate more interest in hunting. Further, the project reflects the synergies of the newly-merged agencies (State Parks and Division of Wildlife) and offers a new, high-quality outdoor opportunity that is in relatively high demand in the local region.



Sample 3-D target

Use of both the static target range and the 3-D target range would be available to park visitors that pay the park entry fee, and possibly an additional range fee as well (see Appendix J).

Long-term operational costs would be minimized by keeping the range concept simple, and applying revenues from the site to long-term operations and maintenance. Park staff will monitor usage patterns over time to make adjustments to the range and alter management, if necessary.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 12/13 – FY 14/15*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Capital Construction/Lottery/Minor Repairs Major Improvements (MRMI)*

EO3. Provide Four or Five Overnight Camper-Style Cabins (*Medium Priority*).

Diversification of overnight facilities available at Cheyenne Mountain State Park would offer another option for park users to enjoy the park, and provide additional revenue during the off season. The original master plan for Cheyenne Mountain State Park included 12 or more cabins, however, the updated concept calls for four to five, and their size and scale would be substantially reduced from those that were originally planned.

Overnight camper cabins are proposed in the Meadows Loop Campground (the same location as some of the previous cabins that were planned during initial master planning for the park). These cabins would be outfitted with a sink and toilet (“wet” cabins) and have proved popular at other parks. The fact that existing electricity, water, and wastewater utilities have already been run to the cabin sites during initial park construction make this option viable. Cabins would be placed within the Meadows Campground loop.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 17/18*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Capital Construction*

EO4. Additional Full-Service Campsites at Prior Event Facility site (Medium Priority). As part of initial park construction efforts in 2006, electrical, water, and wastewater infrastructure was also provided to a site originally planned to accommodate a large event facility building. This 7-acre area could accommodate an additional 15 or so full-service campsites, which, based on recent overnight park visitation trends, would likely be popular. Additional camper-style cabins may be a suitable alternative, however, a definitive determination of this should only be made following implementation of cabins in the Meadows Campground (to evaluate use patterns and overall financial performance).

Prior to implementation of this enhancement, a portion of the prior event facility site could be used for overflow parking and eventually, another trailhead parking area.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 18/19*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Capital Construction*

Rehabilitation & Restoration Efforts

EO5. Fuels Mitigation (High Priority). As of 2012, about 97 acres of largely scrub oak forest had been treated/thinned to reduce fuels within the park. Park staff, in partnership with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Resource Stewardship Program, should continue to treat remaining areas of Cheyenne Mountain State Park that require fuels mitigation, insect and disease mitigation, and general forest health improvement, particularly areas surrounding infrastructure, the TOM area and near Blackmer Loop trail and the Talon trails.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 13/14 – ongoing as needed*
- *Potential Funding Sources: FEMA/Native Vegetation/Lottery (MRMI); other grants.*

Management Initiatives

EO6. Seek Ways to Market Cheyenne Mountain State Park More Effectively (High Priority). Despite being located just southwest of Colorado Springs, much of the local population remains unaware of the unique attributes and recreational opportunities available at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. In an effort to enhance the park’s visibility and expand awareness, the CPW Marketing staff worked with the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Planning Team to develop marketing strategies to help market Cheyenne Mountain State Park more effectively. These recommendations are listed in their entirety in Section 6.0; some of these are listed below.

- Annually meet with the Fort Carson Morale, Welfare, and Recreation manager to discuss potential partnership efforts.
 - Leverage internal marketing tools (e.g., parks website calendar postings, news releases, social media, e-news mailings).
 - Tap the new Public Information Officers to assist as needed.
 - Take advantage of publicizing events on the Terry Wickstrom radio show.
 - Meet with Colorado Springs Membership Director to identify opportunities to use *Visit Colorado Springs* for advertising.
 - Continue to work with the Better Business Bureau and local Chambers of Commerce to identify relationships that can be developed and enhanced.
 - Provide local hotels/attractions with park brochures and business cards.
 - Continue to conduct school outreach and programs that benefit the community.
- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing*
 - *Potential Funding Sources: Park Operating/Marketing*

EO7. Strengthening Relations with Key Partners and Neighbors (*High Priority*). Cheyenne Mountain State Park is fortunate to have two strong local neighborhoods (Pine Oaks and Broadmoor Bluffs) Federal partners (Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Fort Carson, and the U.S. Forest Service), and mountain biking and hiking groups that are valuable park supporters. Park staff hope to strengthen these partnerships in a more formal and meaningful way, and establish new or expanded partnership efforts with some of the following:

- University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
 - Audubon
 - Colorado State Extension Office in Colorado Springs
 - Trails and Open Space Coalition
 - City of Colorado Springs
 - Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce
 - Equestrian User Groups
 - Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful
 - Rocky Mountain Field Institute
 - Catamount Institute
- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing*
 - *Potential Funding Sources: NA*

EO8. Develop a Community Connections Plan (*Med Priority*). Maintaining Cheyenne Mountain State Park's strong legacy of volunteerism will require concerted efforts on behalf of park staff to evaluate the current volunteer program, adopt a long term communication plan between volunteers and park staff, expand volunteer leadership opportunities, strengthen existing community partnerships, and seek new collaborative opportunities.

Cheyenne Mountain State Park staff should work with CPW Education/Volunteer Program staff to develop a formal Community Connections Plan that would help guide park staff in their efforts to attract and sustain an effective and engaged volunteer base.

This plan could identify targeted methods for attracting and sustaining volunteers, and identify areas where volunteers could be most effective. In addition, this plan would include interpretive and educational components to help expand and improve Cheyenne Mountain State Park's already successful interpretive and educational outreach efforts.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 13/14*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Park Operating/Information and Education*

EO9. Continue Efforts to Expand the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park (High Priority). The Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park has been in place at the park since 2002 (prior to the park formally opening). Cheyenne Mountain State Park staff should continue to build on this important relationship and leverage support of the Friends' group to help implement key park enhancements and suggested actions included in the management plan (particularly construction of the TOM Trail).

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing*
- *Potential Funding Sources: NA*

EO10. Establish Western Trail Connection to Pike National Forest (Medium Priority). There are two existing historical trails that are in close proximity to the westernmost boundary of the park (the Swisher Trail and McNeil Trail). Currently, these trails are not formally recognized by the U.S. Forest Service and thus, are not promoted for public use. Establishing formal trail connections into Pike National Forest is desirable in the future, as this would provide more contiguous access from Cheyenne Mountain State Park with the 63-mile Ring-the-Peak trail, and potentially even Mueller State Park, which is about 20 miles to the northwest. Park staff should work with the U.S. Forest Service during future travel management planning efforts in the area to facilitate this access. Any trail leading from the park and connecting to the U.S. Forest Service would require additional planning, including environmental and public scoping.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: NA*
- *Potential Funding Sources: NA*

EO11. Evaluate and Improve Park Retail Operations (Medium Priority). Many park visitors appreciate the opportunity to purchase retail goods, particularly visitors that stay overnight and travel from outside the local region. Cheyenne Mountain State Park is fortunate to have designated retail space in its visitor center and camper services building. The visitor center primarily offers souvenirs, clothing, and books. The camper services building primarily offers firewood, food, beverages, and other sundries. Retail sales at the park are expected to gradually increase in response to projected growth in visitation associated with the other park enhancement opportunities.

As part of the management plan, CPW evaluated retail revenue trends and retail revenue per visitor. Between FY 2009 and FY 2011, the total cost of goods sold was about 56 percent, with average revenue of about \$40,000. This revenue more than offsets the modest amount of program and park staff time that goes into managing and overseeing the park's retail operation. In the future, Cheyenne Mountain State Park staff should continue to work with Retail Program staff to identify the most profitable goods and reduce inventory of goods that do not add to profitability.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Park Operating/Retail*

Park Description



Cheyenne Mountain provides a stunning backdrop for park visitors.

Cheyenne Mountain State Park is located in El Paso County near the City of Colorado Springs in the east central portion of the State. It is the only State Park in El Paso County, and the newest addition to the State Park system. The main feature of the 2,701-acre park is Cheyenne Mountain, which towers 9,565 feet above sea level and offers expansive views of the Front Range.¹ While Cheyenne Mountain was not originally part of the park, the City and Colorado Parks and Wildlife partnered between 2007 and 2009 to acquire 1,021 additional acres that comprise the Top of the Mountain area (TOM).

The park was formally opened to the public in October 2006 for day use, and in September 2008 for overnight use. As of 2012, Cheyenne Mountain State Park's high-quality facilities include a visitor center with a public meeting room, an outdoor amphitheatre, 61 campsites of which 51 are full hook-ups, picnic sites, and a camper services building equipped with laundry and showers. Recreational opportunities are numerous and include hiking, biking, wildlife viewing, camping, picnicking, geocaching, and education programs.

Cheyenne Mountain State Park is often touted as one of the "crown jewels" of Colorado's State Park system. Much of the park is in remarkable natural condition and diverse wildlife viewing opportunities abound due to the property's relatively undisturbed and unfragmented habitat. The park is uniquely situated in a transitional zone between the Great Plains grasslands and the forested Front Range mountains. The eastern areas of the park are dominated by grasslands; moving west the grasslands turn to shrub lands and further west the landscape transitions into the forested areas with steeper slopes and more dramatic geological features.

The approximately 3,500-foot elevation range at the park affords visitors the opportunity to witness a unique blend of both mountain and plains species. The large Limekiln drainage on the property serves as the primary corridor for wildlife movement. Deer, elk, black bear, cougar, coyote, fox, and prairie dogs are just some of the animals that call the park home. A wide variety of birds can also be found, including red-tail hawks, golden eagles, and wild turkey.

The Cheyenne Mountain State Park property has a colorful past. Archeological data provided by the Colorado State Historical Society indicates that Native Americans utilized the area primarily as a brief stopping point along their seasonal migration routes between winter and summer hunting lands. More recently, the property was used for cattle ranching from the 1880's to the mid 1900's. Between the 1930's through the 1950's the Broadmoor Hotel used the area for guest riding trails. From the 1950's until the property was purchased by State Parks, the area was closed to public use and had seen very little ranching activity.

¹ Denver Public Library Digital Collections. 31 March 2011.
<http://digital.denverlibrary.org/cdm4/item_viewer.php?CISOROOT=/p15330coll22&CISOPTR=4108&CISOBX=1&REC=8>

Purpose of the Plan

The Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Plan serves as the foremost guiding document for Cheyenne Mountain State Park. The ultimate purpose of developing the park management plan is to outline the vision for the park (see inset) and priorities that will provide for both the public's enjoyment and the protection of the park's resources. The management plan provides a conceptual planning framework for setting management priorities and specific management direction for park resources. The plan also:

- Serves as a guide and policy document for current and future park staff, other partnering agencies, elected officials, and interested members of the public.
- Guides management of natural, cultural, and recreational resources.
- Provides a framework for monitoring and maintaining resources at Cheyenne Mountain State Park.
- Identifies park enhancement opportunities including possible upgrades to or new park facilities, recreation infrastructure, etc.
- Serves as a guide for future park budget allocations and annual funding requests.

Included in the plan is a description of the complete spectrum of recreational, cultural, and natural resources at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Implementation of the management plan will assist park staff in their efforts to preserve and enhance the park for future recreational users.

The Cheyenne Mountain State Park Manager and park staff should regularly review the management plan to evaluate implementation progress. This includes annually reviewing the document at the beginning of each calendar year.

Cheyenne Mountain State Park Vision Statement:

Cheyenne Mountain State Park is a family-oriented park nestled next to one of Colorado's largest metropolitan areas. The park features dramatic scenery, unique geology, surprisingly diverse vegetation communities, and abundant wildlife. Park staff will continue to set a high standard for engagement with the natural environment while conserving and enhancing park resources for future generations through interpretive, educational, and volunteer programs. Visitors can expect high-quality outdoor experiences and customer service.

Relationship to the Parks and Wildlife Mission and Vision

Using the overarching CPW mission and historical state park strategic planning documents as a guide, the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Plan serves as the primary "go-to" planning document for Cheyenne Mountain State Park staff. While current and Division-wide plans are in progress and will continue to be updated over time, this management plan is the primary guidance document for park-level planning efforts.

CPW Mission

The mission of Colorado Parks and Wildlife is to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the state, to provide a quality state park system and to provide enjoyable outdoor recreation opportunities including hunting, angling, and wildlife viewing that educate and inspire current and future generations to serve as active stewards of Colorado's natural resources.

Park Goals

The following park-level goals were developed during the management plan update. These goals provide an overarching framework for many of the suggested actions and recommendations included in Sections 5.0 and 6.0.

- Sustainably manage the natural resources and infrastructure of the park while planning ahead for anticipated increases in visitation associated with local and regional population growth.
- Protect, conserve, and interpret the significant natural, cultural, and historical resources.
- Provide high-quality customer service and opportunities to safely access and learn about park resources and enjoy popular recreation activities.
- Conduct development activities and operations in a manner that do not adversely affect park resources and environments.
- Offer a diverse range of high-quality visitor experiences and information services to best assist, inform, educate, and challenge visitors.
- Open the Top of the Mountain property to provide recreational opportunities for visitors while responsibly managing its natural resources.
- Ensure that operations and maintenance capabilities of park staff are not exceeded.
- Strengthen relations with Fort Carson and other key local and regional community partners.

The Cheyenne Mountain State Park Management Plan should be updated about every 10 to 15 years by park and other Division staff (e.g., Division planning, region, natural resource, and capital development staff). To ensure that the management plan is a dynamic document that meets the changing needs of the park and visitors over time, it may also be supplemented with updated information as needed, including minor changes to management actions, additional management actions that help the park adapt to changing recreation trends, and additional mapping as new data comes available. This may occur during the annual review at the beginning of the calendar year, or whenever relevant information becomes available. In addition, at the 5-year mark, the Park Manager should perform a detailed review of the plan and determine whether any formal amendments are necessary.

Park management plans may also need to be amended when changes in circumstances are significant enough to merit changing the plan. Examples of when formal amendments to the plan may be necessary include:

- Changes to the park land base (e.g., additional lands are purchased or portions of the park are sold off)
- Major new facilities or infrastructure are planned for the park
- A policy or directive is instituted that significantly affects park management direction
- Major changes to land use occur within or adjacent to the park
- Changes to the management zoning are necessary

- Significant environmental stress (i.e., fire, unanticipated invasive species, drought, etc.)

Relevant Planning Efforts

The following is a list of some of the relevant plans that were reviewed and considered in developing this management plan:

- Cheyenne Mountain State Park Master Plan (2003)
- Cheyenne Mountain State Park Revised Business Plan (2007)
- Cheyenne Mountain State Park Biological Assessment (2010)
- Cheyenne Mountain Stewardship Plan Addendum for the Top of the Mountain (2009)
- Cheyenne Mountain State Park Natural Resource Stewardship Plan (2005)
- Cheyenne Mountain State Park Geologic Hazards Report (2011)
- Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (2008)
- El Paso County Land Development Code (2008)
- City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Plan (2001)
- Colorado Springs Open Space Master Plan (2007)
- Colorado Springs Open Space Plan Review (2002)
- Pike and San Isabel National Forest Plan (1984)

Public Input Process

Public input is an important part of the management planning process. In 2008, following the acquisition of property to the west of the original park boundaries, public meetings were initiated to gather input regarding future uses to occur on the Top of the Mountain area of the park, and to allow people a chance to voice issues or concerns. However, due to budget constraints, change of park personnel, as well as various other reasons, this process was delayed.

In July 2011, a planning team was reconvened to develop a management plan for the entire park. Public input was solicited throughout this process through meetings with targeted stakeholder groups and public open house events. Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff held three meetings with stakeholder groups at Cheyenne Mountain State Park on October 21, 2011. First, a diverse group of stakeholders representing various potential trail user groups, including hikers, runners, mountain bikers, and equestrians, discussed their visions for a new trail alignment to Cheyenne Mountain summit. Next, a representative from the Colorado Bowhunters Association led CPW staff on a walking tour of a proposed 3-D archery range within the Park boundary to the south of Pine Oaks Road. Finally, at an evening meeting hosted by the Pine Oaks Road Homeowners Association, Parks and Wildlife staff explained the management plan timeline and current progress while gathering feedback from the nine community members present. Additional stakeholder meetings were conducted by the planning team with the above stakeholders throughout the planning process.

Public Open House Meetings

Members of the public were encouraged to provide input on the management plan at two public open house meetings conducted on November 29, 2011 at the Cheyenne Mountain Junior High School Commons, 1200 West Cheyenne Road, Colorado Springs and on July 25, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza of Colorado Springs, 2886 South Circle Drive, Colorado Springs. The public was also invited to submit comments online or via mail. Visitor surveys completed as part of the *Corona Research Field Intercept Survey* between June 2008 and May 2009 also contributed public feedback that was considered during development of this plan.

November 2011 Public Input

The first open house meeting on November 29, 2011 was attended by about 65 interested community members and provided them with an opportunity to learn about the planning process. Colorado Parks and Wildlife staff presented the public with ideas on potential park enhancement opportunities being considered, updated mapping, and a folder with summary handouts.

Attendees offered CPW staff valuable feedback on issues of interest and were invited to respond to a questionnaire to gather direct feedback on the importance of existing recreational opportunities and potential park enhancements. The questionnaire was also accessible on the Cheyenne Mountain State Park website from November 29, 2011 until December 20, 2011, encouraging feedback from those who were unable to attend the open house. A total of 713 questionnaires were completed either at the public meeting or online. Questionnaire responses indicated strong support for existing park programs and recreation opportunities. Additional amenities that ranked high in terms of relative importance included additional hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails.

July 2012 Public Input

Colorado Parks and Wildlife hosted a second public open house meeting on July 25, 2012 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel – Colorado Springs to present the Cheyenne Mountain State Park 2012 Draft Management Plan. Ninety-two people attended the meeting. The public was invited to submit feedback on the draft management plan via a written questionnaire at the meeting or through a similar online questionnaire. A total of 98 questionnaires were completed either at the public meeting or online. As with the earlier public meeting, there was tremendous interest in potential trail uses on the TOM trail. The public was invited to rank and comment on individual park enhancement opportunities, suggest other enhancement opportunities, and provide general feedback. Refer to Appendix B for more detailed discussion of public input gathered during the management planning process.

Key Stakeholders

Key public and agency partners were involved in the development of the management plan in order to ensure its success. Other key stakeholders participated in public open houses and/or were contacted individually during development of the plan to ensure they were informed of the planning process and that they could weigh in on management plan recommendations if desired.

- City of Colorado Springs
- El Paso County



Park staff talk with members of the public at one of the key stakeholder meetings.

- Trails, Open Space, and Parks (subcomponent of the City of Colorado Springs)
- Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station (CMAFS; aka NORAD)
- Fort Carson
- Cheyenne Mountain State Park Friends Group
- Cheyenne Mountain State Park Volunteers
- Homeowners Associations (i.e. Broadmoor Bluffs and Pine Oaks)
- Medicine Wheel Mountain Bikers
- Colorado Bowhunters Association
- Pikes Peak Backcountry Horsemen
- Catamount Institute
- U.S. Forest Service (San Isabel National Forest)
- Environmental groups (i.e. Audubon society)
- Running organizations
- Private landowners
- Broadmoor Stables
- PJ Anderson
- Denman Corporation
- Trails and Open Space Coalition

Visitor Survey

Historical visitor surveys were used as another tool to further gauge visitor ideas, needs, and issues. Detailed results from the 2009 Corona Research Visitor Survey (discussed in *Section 3.0 – Park Setting and Resources*) provided a rich dataset that strengthened and supported the management plan update. Cheyenne Mountain State Park staff and volunteers collected 215 completed surveys between June 2008 and May 2009.

Influences on Management

There are a number of “external” factors, or issues that are largely beyond the control of park staff that may influence park management (e.g., land development patterns and zoning adjacent to the park, population projections, partnerships, etc.). Some of the more significant “external” forces that either indirectly or directly influence park management that were factored into the Plan are summarized below:

- Budget and staff have been constricted due to Division-wide efforts to reduce costs. In FY 2010, Cheyenne Mountain State Park lost two full-time positions, leaving three full-time staff instead of five.
- The Forest Service is planning to complete a travel management plan to determine whether to open two historic trails (Swisher Trail and McNeil Trail) that previously lead

from San Isabel National Forest into the western portion of the park, however, this plan is not in the queue for another five years or so.

- Public motorized access to the Top of the Mountain is prohibited from western access route (FS Road 369) per long-standing agreements with the U.S. Forest Service.
- Water is limited at the Top of the Mountain and not available for public use.
- The Fort Carson Military Base population continues to grow.
- Numerous easements and management agreements that apply to the Top of the Mountain have stipulations that must be adhered to (e.g. no public fees are to be collected, no fires)
- Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station (CMAFS) is immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the park and requires that various provisions be adhered to in order to ensure that the safety of park visitors and security of the CMAFS facilities are not breached.
- Mexican spotted owl (a Federally-protected “Threatened” species) is known to occur just outside the southwestern boundary of the park within a Mexican Spotted Owl Protected Activity Center (PAC) and the western half of the park falls within designated Critical Habitat for this species.
- Merging of Colorado State Parks and Colorado Division of Wildlife into a single agency— Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- Planned future development immediately northwest of the park and also near the southeast corner of the park.

Management Considerations

Management considerations include issues and concerns that have been identified by park staff based on first-hand experience, knowledge, and/or information gathered from the public during the open house meetings and through survey responses. Some of the specific key management considerations addressed in this plan are listed below.

- **Top of the Mountain.** Initial efforts to master plan the Top of the Mountain Area initiated in 2008 were delayed due to a number of issues including budget reductions, park and region staff turnover, and the need to consider this area and potential trail uses within the context of the broader park as a whole. Much of the public input collected during this process remains applicable to the park management plan update.
- **Underutilized and Underdeveloped Infrastructure.** Cheyenne Mountain State Park’s initial master plan called for a range of visitor amenities that were not fully implemented, and in some instances only partially developed due to funding shortfalls and changes in Division leadership. Park staff needs to revisit the feasibility of implementing some of these facilities and/or altering their scope/scale to fit the vision of the park.
- **Strengthening Relations with Key Partners and Neighbors.** Cheyenne Mountain State Park is fortunate to have two strong local neighborhoods (Pine Oaks and Broadmoor Bluffs) and Federal partners (CMAFS, Fort Carson, and the U.S. Forest Service) that

have proven to be valuable park supporters. Park staff hope to strengthen partnerships with key partners and neighbors in a more formal and meaningful way.

- **Balancing the Need to Accommodate More Visitors and Increase Revenues While Maintaining High-Quality Outdoor Recreation Experiences.** Cheyenne Mountain State Park is fortunate to be situated near a heavily-populated urban area and a growing population that enjoys the outdoors and can learn from its many unique natural features. However, there is a need to balance increased use over time with natural resource conservation. Some of the current pressures that were considered during the planning process included the opening of the Top of the Mountain to a variety of trail uses, an increasing number of special use activities such as mountain bike race events (that are growing in popularity and stressing parking and displacing other park users), and demands for an archery range at the southeastern most boundary of the park.
- **Long-term Operations and Maintenance.** Long-term operations and maintenance needs at Cheyenne Mountain State Park must be weighed alongside the inherent financial constraints of Colorado Parks and Wildlife.
- **Volunteer Program.** The Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park, volunteer naturalists, and trail stewards are important assets and allow visitors to give back to the park on a personal level. Enhancing the Volunteer Program will provide vital services to the park and maintain a healthy relationship with the public.
- **Environmental Education.** Cheyenne Mountain State Park offers premier and unique opportunities for environmental education just outside the City of Colorado Springs. Environmental education will continue to be a priority at this park.
- **High Quality Vegetation and Wildlife Habitat.** Cheyenne Mountain State Park is fortunate to have high quality native vegetation and wildlife habitat that needs to be preserved and maintained for the enjoyment of future park visitors.

2.0 REGIONAL PLANNING CONTEXT



Mountain Biking is a popular activity at the park.

Average daily temperatures at Cheyenne Mountain State Park range from 28°F in January to 70°F in July, and may fluctuate by as much as 29°F in a given month (Table 1). The climate is typically cool in the summer with moderate night and day temperature fluctuations. Winters tend to be cold with temperatures often dipping into the teens at night. The warmest month of the year is July with an average maximum temperature of 84°F.

Average annual precipitation totals 17.4 inches (Table 2). Rainfall is fairly evenly distributed throughout the year. August is the wettest month, with an average precipitation total of 3.5 inches.

Table 1. Cheyenne Mountain State Park Mean Temperatures²

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Max °F	42	45	52	59	68	79	84	82	74	63	50	42	62
Mean °F	28	32	38	45	55	64	70	68	60	49	36	29	48
Min °F	15	18	24	31	41	50	55	54	45	34	23	16	34

Source: COLORADO SPRINGS MNPL AP Weather station, 5.51 miles from Colorado Springs

Table 2. Cheyenne Mountain State Park Average Precipitation Totals

Month	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual
Inches	0.3	0.4	1.1	1.6	2.4	2.3	2.9	3.5	1.2	0.9	0.5	0.4	17.4

Source: COLORADO SPRINGS MNPL AP Weather station, 5.51 miles from Colorado Springs

Physical Setting

Cheyenne Mountain State Park is a 2,701-acre park located in southwestern El Paso County just south of Colorado Springs and is uniquely situated between the eastern plains and the Colorado Front Range. El Paso County encompasses approximately 2,185 square miles, nearly twice the size of Rhode Island.³ Within the county, the elevation ranges from 5,095 feet on the southern border to 14,110 feet on the summit of Pikes Peak, near the western boundary.⁴ Within the park, the elevation ranges from 6,050 feet⁵ to 9,565 feet on the summit of Cheyenne Mountain near the western boundary of the park.

Eco-Regional Setting

Cheyenne Mountain State Park lies within the Fountain Creek watershed of the Arkansas River Basin.⁶ The Fountain Creek Watershed is located along Colorado's central Front Range and is a

² IDcide – Local Information Data Server. 1 April 2011. <<http://www.idcide.com/weather/co/colorado-springs.htm>>

³ El Paso County, Colorado. 5 April 2011. <http://www.elpasoco.com/About_elpaso_county.asp>

⁴ Ibid

⁵ Cheyenne Mountain Fact Sheet FY07-08. 5 April 2011. <<http://parks.state.co.us/Parks/CheyenneMountain/Publications/Pages/CheyenneMountainStateParkPublication.s.aspx>>

⁶ Colorado Division of Water Resources. 5 April 2011. <<http://water.state.co.us/DivisionsOffices/Div2ArkansasRiverBasin/>>

927-square mile watershed that drains south into the Arkansas River at Pueblo. The watershed is bordered by the Palmer Divide to the north, Pikes Peak to the west, and a minor divide 20 miles east of Colorado Springs.⁷

The area is characterized by extremes in temperature and precipitation, large elevation changes, steep gradients, diverse ecosystems, and a multitude of water uses. Portions of El Paso, Teller and Pueblo counties make up the watershed, which encompasses the municipalities of Pueblo, Colorado Springs, Fountain, Manitou Springs, Green Mountain Falls, Woodland Park, Palmer Lake, and Monument.⁸

Adjacent Land Use and Land Ownership

The Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station (CMAFS; aka NORAD) and the Broadmoor Oaks residential neighborhood are adjacent to the northern boundary of the park. The JL Ranch is located to the northeast, and is currently vacant land. The property is 520 acres and is owned by Denman Investment Company. The military facilities of Ft. Carson are located across Highway 115 to the east of the park. At the southern end of the park is the community of Cheyenne Mountain Estates;⁹ the La Mesa Del Angeles Mobile Home Park, a 225-unit trailer park along Pine Oaks Road; and the Rock Creek Mesa subdivision which is a 30-dwelling unit per acre development.

Much of the land to the east and south of Cheyenne Mountain State Park is zoned A-5 and F-5. The F-5 zoning district is a five-acre district intended to accommodate the conservation of forest resources, protect the natural environment and preserve open space, while accommodating limited residential use. The A-5 zoning district is a five-acre district primarily intended to conserve agricultural resources and ranching operations and accommodate limited residential use.¹⁰

Ft. Carson Army Base

Fort Carson is an army post located south of Colorado Springs directly to the east of Cheyenne Mountain State Park on the other side of Highway 115. The post comprises 137,403 acres; an additional 235,300 acres make-up the Piñon Canyon Maneuver Site, a training area part of the army installation located 150 miles south of Fort Carson. Camp Carson was established in 1942 as a temporary camp to prepare soldiers for combat during World War II. In 1954, the Federal Government decided to make the camp a permanent installation and changed the name to its current designation.¹¹ Currently, over 28,000 soldiers are stationed at Fort Carson, with more than double that amount when accounting for family members and contractors.

⁷ Fountain Creek Watershed, 2009. Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments. Web 6 June 2011.
<<http://www.fountain-crk.org/>>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Colorado State Parks. Cheyenne Mountain Natural Resources Stewardship Plan, August 3, 2006. p11

¹⁰ El Paso County Land Development Code, April 2, 2007. Web 28 April 2011.
<http://adm.elpasoco.com/Development%20Services/Documents/Land%20Development%20Code/ldc_chapter_3.pdf>

¹¹ Fort Carson The Mountain Post. Installation Design Guide. 2007. Accessed September 22, 2011.
<http://www.carson.army.mil/DPW/FtCarsonDesignGuide/frameset_index.htm>

U.S. Forest Service

A portion of the 1.3-million acre Pike National Forest is located just west of Cheyenne Mountain State Park and is part of the Pike and San Isabel National Forests Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC) unit, managed by the U.S. Forest Service. In 1984, the Record of Decision was signed for the Land and Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the PSICC, also known as a Forest Plan. The Plan sets comprehensive long-range decisions concerning the use and management of the land for the next 50 years. During the planning process, five alternatives were analyzed and ultimately one alternative was selected as the preferred alternative. The alternative selected for management of the unit “emphasizes recreation, wilderness, plus commodity values and income producing goods and services, and provides a high-level of non-commodity outputs. Wildlife and fish habitat [will] be improved, water yield [will] increase, and recreation opportunities [will] be improved...”¹²

More specifically, Management Area Prescriptions were developed for each management area within the Pike and San Isabel National Forests; these prescriptions guide direction for specific areas of land. The land adjacent to Cheyenne Mountain State Park is within management area 2B which emphasizes “rural and roaded-natural recreation opportunities.”¹³ Permissible recreational activities in this area include both motorized and non-motorized activities such as driving for pleasure, viewing scenery, picnicking, fishing, snowmobiling, and cross-country skiing. However, in order to protect physical and biological resources, off-highway vehicles (OHVs) such as snowmobiles and ATVs may be prohibited or restricted to designated routes.¹⁴ Visual resources in area 2B are to be managed as to provide a landscape that is visually appealing; specifically, landscape rehabilitation is to be used to provide more viewing opportunities and improve visual variety. Clearcutting of specific forest types (aspen and lodgepole pine) and shelterwood cutting in interior ponderosa pine, mixed conifer and Englemann spruce-subalpine fir forests is the harvest method applicable to management area 2B. Lastly, “mineral and energy resources activities are compatible with goals of this management area subject to appropriate stipulations as outlined in the general management direction.”¹⁵

At the time of plan adoption, the Forest Manager wrote that the Plan is “the alternative most compatible with the goals and objectives expressed by the State of Colorado. In particular, the Proposed Action best integrates the recreation opportunities and needs identified by the State of Colorado Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan and meets the National Forest share of wildlife habitat management goals expressed by the State of Colorado, Division of Wildlife.”¹⁶

Planned Development

Residential and commercial development on the JL Ranch property northeast of Cheyenne Mountain State Park is likely to occur in the near future. The property was annexed by the City of Colorado Springs in 1987 and a master plan was developed shortly thereafter, outlining future development. In 2000, Denman Investment Company sold a substantial portion of the

¹² USDA Forest Service. The Pike and San Isabel National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan, 1984. Accessed August 28, 2011. <http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsm9_032376.pdf>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

property to Colorado State Parks. After the sale of the property, an amended Master Plan and Annexation Agreement were proposed and approved. While the master plan provides for a maximum density of 2,005 residences, the vesting portion of the annexation agreement allows for 800 units to be vested, or otherwise guaranteed for development.¹⁷ Due to a downturn in the housing market, the developer had not developed the property and the ten-year vesting period expired in early 2010. Subsequently, the developer requested and was granted an extension of the vesting period for an additional 10 years, to expire on May 23, 2020.

A JL Ranch Land Use Plan dated March of 2011 outlined plans for a 380-acre residential and commercial development in the area bounded by Cheyenne Mountain State Park's northeast boundary, Norad Road, Highway 115, and JL Ranch Heights Road.¹⁸ The planned development would include between 750 and 800 dwelling units, consisting of a mix of single-family and town homes geared predominately toward an active adult community. While developed parcels would be set back from the park boundary by an open space buffer, alterations to the park viewshed, particularly along JL Ranch Heights Road, are likely to be significant. Additionally, the proposed community's proximity to the park boundary may present challenges in managing access.

High prospects for development also exist on a 12-acre property southwest of the Highway 115 and Pine Oaks Road intersection, directly abutting the Park's southeast corner. A recent site plan developed for The Equity Group and Talos Holdings, LLC proposes a 216-unit apartment complex and retail site at this location.¹⁹ The plan specifies gate-controlled access to the community's two and three story residential buildings and various other amenities, including detached garages, a clubhouse, and swimming pool. Viewshed impacts of the new development will be minimal in light of existing development along the Highway 115 corridor.

In 2000, the City of Colorado Springs adopted an amended Comprehensive Plan to guide the physical growth of the city through 2020.²⁰ Included in this plan are an Existing Land Use Map and Land Use Map 2020. The Existing Land Use Map details current development trends, and Land Use Map 2020 represents a framework for development through the year 2020.²¹

Thirteen broad categories were used to create Land Use Map 2020, three of which are adjacent to the north, northeastern, and southeastern portions of Cheyenne Mountain State Park. These three categories are intended to encourage low- to medium-density development. The likelihood of future development occurring immediately to the north and northeast of the park is high and will lead to an increase in population adjacent to the parks' boundaries. The potential upside associated with this growth includes a likely increase in visitation to the park; which may enhance long-term park revenues. However, the cons associated with a larger population base and increased visitation include potential pressures on park natural resources and infrastructure.

¹⁷ City of Colorado Springs. City Planning Commission Agenda. December 16, 2010. Web 14 August 2011. <https://www.springsgov.com/units/planning/cpc201012/Item_5.pdf>

¹⁸ OZ Architecture. JL Ranch Heights Land Use Plan. March 18, 2011.

¹⁹ SGN+A Inc. Cheyenne 5 Apartments: Project Information.

²⁰ City of Colorado Springs Comprehensive Plan, March 27, 2001. Web 19 April 2011. <<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=3053>>

²¹ Ibid.

Regional Recreation and Tourism Trends, Needs, and Opportunities

Cheyenne Mountain State Park is the first and only state park in El Paso County. However, the county is home to numerous local and county parks, open spaces and some Federal land.

A small portion of Pike National Forest is located in the northwestern corner of El Paso County. It is part of the larger Pike and San Isabel National Forest and Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands (PSICC) unit. In total the unit makes up nearly 3 million acres, of which Pike National Forest totals about 1.3 million acres. With an elevation of 14,110 ft., Pike's Peak is the most well known recreation attraction in the National Forest and in the region.²² This popular summit is accessible via Manitou Springs west of Colorado Springs and is approximately 6 miles from the Colorado Springs city limits.

As of 2012, the City of Colorado Springs managed seven regional parks that make up a total of about 7,391 acres. Garden of the Gods is the most well known and is a very popular visitor draw in the region. The park is 1,319 acres and is known for its towering red rock formations. It is designated as a National Natural Landmark, having been recognized by the Department of the Interior as "a nationally-significant natural area."²³ Recreational opportunities at the park include mountain biking, picnicking, hiking, and rock climbing. Portions of the park are also handicap/ADA accessible. Visitors to Garden of the Gods can experience the park free of charge.

Recreational opportunities at other city-owned regional parks include, baseball/softball, fishing, tennis, mountain biking, rock climbing, picnicking, soccer and volleyball; with some parks having handicap/ADA accessibility.

El Paso County manages six regional parks, two nature centers, and one regional recreation area. The closest to Cheyenne Mountain State Park is Bear Creek Regional Park to the north. This park boasts picnic tables with grills, hiking and equestrian trails, an archery range, horseshoe pits, play fields, a playground, tennis courts, a basketball court, an exercise course, and a community garden.

In 2002, the Colorado Bowhunters Association (CBA) submitted a proposal to Cheyenne Mountain State Park to develop an outdoor archery range that would accommodate 3-D targets in the southeastern portion of the park. The CBA believes that this portion of Cheyenne Mountain State Park is ideally situated for an archery range due to the presence of hilly terrain that would serve as a backstop for targets and the potential to simulate real-life hunting conditions. The CBA also believes that developing an archery range at the park would provide a valuable recreational opportunity that is consistent with CPW's broadened mission as a result of the 2011 merger, and strong local and regional demand for archery ranges. Currently, the only accessible outdoor archery range in the immediate area is located on the Air Force Academy and accessibility since 9/11 has been somewhat difficult. There are no 3-D ranges located in El Paso County. According to the CPW licensing section there are 3,312 individuals that have purchased an archery license for either limited species or unlimited species in 2010. There were an additional 2,571 licensed archers in adjacent Fremont, Pueblo, and Teller counties.

²² USDA Forest Service, August 3, 2009. Web 20 Jun 2011. <<http://www.fs.usda.gov>>

²³ City of Colorado Springs, 2009-2010. Web 20 June 2011. <<http://www.springsgov.com/Page.aspx?NavID=1999>>

Other Nearby State Lands

Colorado Parks and Wildlife also manages the Ramah Reservoir State Wildlife Area (SWA) and the Turkey Track Ranch State Trust Land. Ramah Reservoir is located in the northeast section of El Paso County, approximately 40 miles northeast of Cheyenne Mountain State Park. The property is 797 acres and is open to the following recreational activities: hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, birding, sail boating and archery.

Turkey Track Ranch is located in the southeast section of El Paso County. The 8,887-acre unit is open to big and small game hunting from September 1st through the end of February.

Population Trends

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the total population in 2010 in El Paso County was 622,263 people. The county's population grew by 20.4 percent since 2000 and is the state's most populous county.²⁴ The Colorado State Demography Office (SDO) provides population projections for El Paso County at 795,144 and 6,700,765 people for the entire state by the year 2025²⁵; an increase of 28 and 33 percent, respectively.

Colorado Springs is El Paso County's largest city in terms of population. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the total population in 2010 was 416,427 people, which is an increase of 15.4 percent since 2000. As population increases, this is likely to drive added visitation to Cheyenne Mountain State Park over time—making this relatively new park an even more sought after local and regional asset.

The 2008 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) as well as the 2010 Colorado State Park Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) cite demographic changes to be one among many important future considerations in the management of Colorado's public lands. Specifically, these plans mention the changing ethnic and age structure in Colorado; most notably an increasing Hispanic population and the aging of the baby boomer generation.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the Hispanic population in Colorado has increased by 41.2 percent from 2000-2010. The total Hispanic population in 2010 in El Paso County was 93,665 people; accounting for approximately 15 percent of the total population in the county and representing a 60 percent increase since 2000.

While the baby boomers represent a national trend, the significant in-migration of this group into Colorado has amplified the state's demographic. With more leisure time, comparably high disposable income, and concern for health and fitness, baby boomers are expected to increase the demand for recreation services.²⁶ In 2000, people age 65 and older represented nine percent of the population in the county, or 44,787 people. According to the 2010 Census, this number increased to 62,051 people, representing nearly 10 percent of the population and a 38.5 percent increase since 2000.

²⁴ US Census Bureau. 5 April 2011. <<http://2010.census.gov/news/releases/operations/cb11-cn39.html>>

²⁵ Colorado State Demography Office. 5 April 2011. <http://dola.colorado.gov/demog/pop_cnty_forecasts.html>

²⁶ Colorado Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan Executive Summary, 2008. p12.

3.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS



Cheyenne Mountain State Park is home to a diverse array of wildlife.

This section provides an overview of the current condition of park resources and other issues that are relevant to management efforts at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Also outlined in this section are details on current land use and land ownership, park administration and special functions, visitation, existing recreation opportunities, natural and cultural/historical resources, and other elements that directly or indirectly influence park management. When considered together, this information provides: 1) a contextual framework for understanding management needs and constraints, and 2) a “baseline” from which to identify Enhancement Opportunities and Implementation Priorities (highlighted in Sections 5.0 and 6.0).

Park Land Ownership

The land that comprises Cheyenne Mountain State Park is owned by three public entities: Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the City of Colorado Springs, and the State Land Board (Map 3). Colorado Parks and Wildlife owns approximately 1,246 acres of land: 196 acres in the northwest corner acquired in 2009 from Myra Benjamin and 347 LLC, and 1,050 acres in the eastern portion of the Park acquired in 2000 from the Denman Investment Corporation, Inc. (Appendix A). These properties were purchased in part with funds from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) through its Legacy Grant Program. El Paso County, where Cheyenne Mountain State Park is situated, is eligible for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program on the acres owned by CPW in fee title.

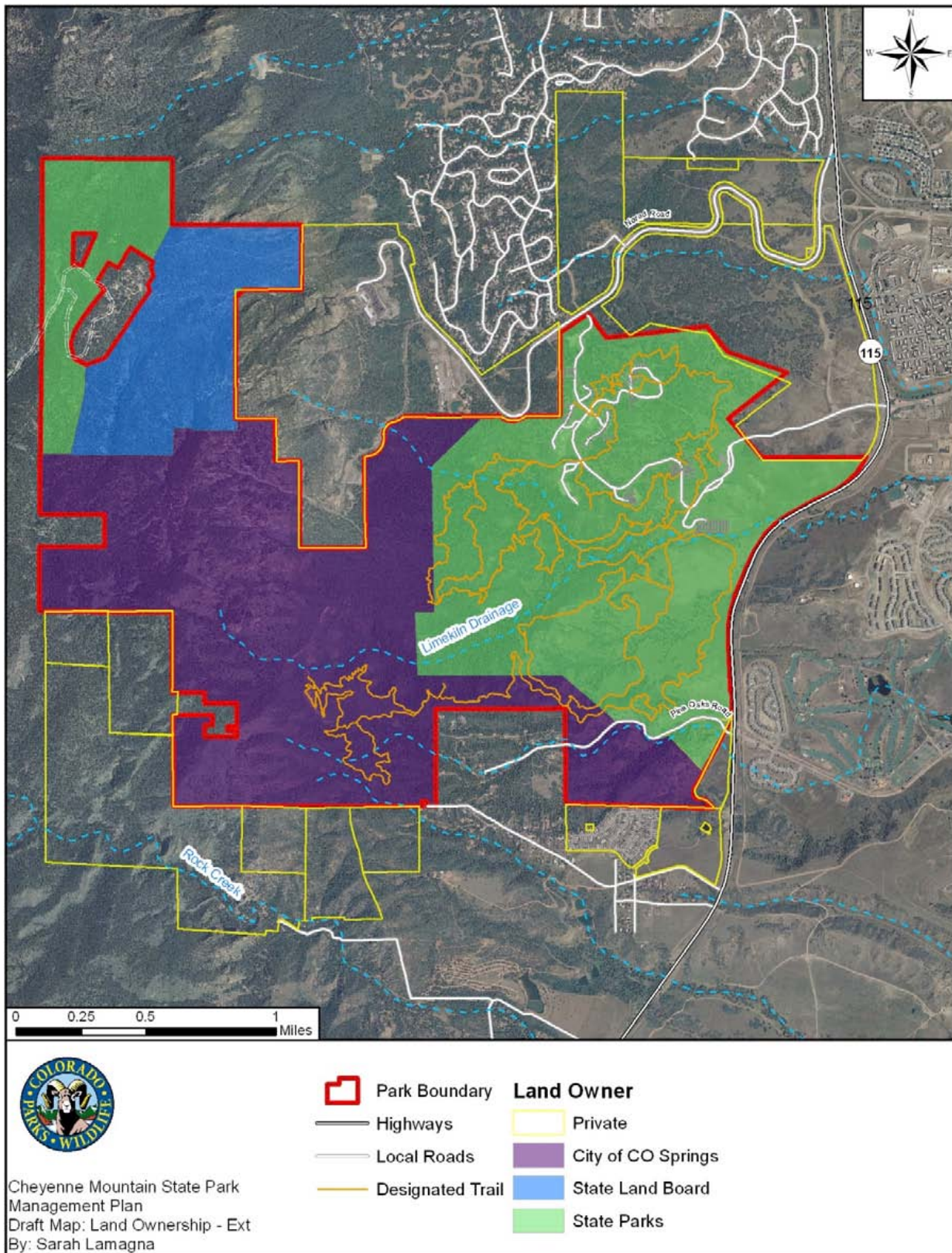
The City of Colorado Springs owns approximately 1,169 acres in the western area of the park. Almost half of these acres (620) were acquired from CPW in 2000 immediately after CPW acquired them from the Denman Corp. The City placed a set of covenants on these acres restricting the development and uses of the property, akin to a conservation easement, and also authorized the implementation of a land management plan for the property. Shortly thereafter, CPW and the City entered into an interagency agreement whereby the City gave CPW the authority to manage the City’s acres for outdoor recreational purposes. Between 2007 and 2009, the City acquired the remaining 549 acres from various private landowners, and in 2009 the agreement was amended to include these additional acres under CPW management.

The State Land Board owns approximately 289 acres of land in the northwest corner of the park, which it acquired in 2007 and 2008 from Myra Benjamin and Bert Reissig.

There are several conservation easements both within and outside of the park. Approximately 921 acres of land owned by the three entities on the west side of the Park are encumbered by conservation easements held by Colorado Open Lands, a non-profit land trust. The purpose of these easements, which were granted between 2007 and 2009, is to restrict or prohibit any residential or commercial development of the properties and to protect their natural resources in perpetuity. Colorado Open Lands’ staff monitor these easements on an annual basis to confirm compliance with easement requirements.

CPW holds a conservation easement on approximately 55 acres of land owned by the Denman Corporation that lies just outside of the park’s northwest boundary, on the northeast side of the J-L Ranch parcel. The conservation easement was granted to CPW by the Denman Corporation in 2000 in order to transform the property into a buffer of open space and to

Map 3. Land Ownership



protect the scenic views of the park. Park staff are responsible for annual monitoring of the property to ensure that Denman (or any future landowner) is complying with the easement requirements.

Natural Resources

Cheyenne Mountain State Park is uniquely situated in a transitional zone between the Great Plains grasslands and the forested Front Range mountains, with diverse habitats including short-grass prairie, oak woodlands, ponderosa pine forests, and Douglas-fir forests. The eastern portion of the park is dominated by a mosaic of shrublands and open grasslands and transitions into more forested habitats moving west. The predominant physical features in the area include Cheyenne Mountain in the western portion of the park, and Pikes Peak to the northwest of the park. The following sections summarize some of the key natural resources that occur at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Map 4 highlights key, sensitive natural resources that occur at the park. A more extensive description of natural resources is available in the *Cheyenne Mountain State Park Stewardship Plan (2005)* and the *Stewardship Plan Addendum for the Top of the Mountain (2009)*.

Wildlife

Mammals

The park provides habitat for a diversity of wildlife species. Frequently observed mammals include mule deer, black-tailed prairie dogs, Abert's squirrel, golden-mantled ground squirrel, mountain cottontail rabbit, whitetail jackrabbit, and various mice and rodents. Less frequently seen mammals include elk, black bear, mountain lion, bobcat, coyote, and swift fox.

Mule deer living near Cheyenne Mountain State Park are resident throughout the year and do not make seasonal migrations to higher or lower elevations. Home ranges of mule deer in the Front Range are relatively small, ranging from about 290-800 acres because of habitat conditions and abundant food supplies.²⁷ The oak shrub lands on Cheyenne Mountain are important summer and winter habitat for mule deer and elk. The entire park lies within a formally-recognized state concentration area for mule deer.

Numerous wildlife corridors are found throughout the park and receive heavy use by many different species. The most notable wildlife corridor follows the north fork of Limekiln Creek in the Limekiln drainage. The migration route for many of the large mammals found within the park, including elk, runs approximately west-to-east along the Limekiln Creek wildlife corridor.²⁸ Near the elk migration route, an elk calving area also exists. This area is very important for maintaining a healthy population of elk in the park through providing a known and safe area for elk to birth young. Elk usually return to elk calving areas year after year unless a disturbance occurs.

Bighorn sheep are known to occur in the area, but do not typically occur within the park. Suitable habitat exists in the mountainous western section of the park and habitat similar to the park's is occupied by bighorn sheep north of Colorado Springs near the Air Force Academy.

²⁷ Kufeld, R.C., Bowden, D.C. and D.L. Schrupp. 1989. Distribution and movements of female mule deer in the Rocky Mountain foothills. *Journal of Wildlife Management* 53:871-77.

²⁸ Trina Lynch, CDOW Division Wildlife Manger for Colorado Springs region, personal communication.

The nearest known bighorn sheep use area is approximately five miles west of the park property.

A large black-tailed prairie dog (*Cynomys ludovicianus*) colony occurs on the eastern side of the park near the highway and a second colony occurs along the southeastern border of the park. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service recently listed black-tailed prairie dogs as a candidate species for federal protection. Several factors have led to population declines, with the most significant factors being sylvatic plague, habitat fragmentation and poisoning. In 2003, the Colorado Division of Wildlife estimated Prairie dogs were occupying 2-3% of their historic suitable habitat in Colorado,²⁹ Prairie dogs, a keystone species for short-grass prairie, are ecologically important to the health and maintenance of the short-grass prairie ecosystem.³⁰ Part of their importance is due to abandoned prairie dog burrows being used by many other species for shelter, including burrowing owls (listed Threatened in CO), and mountain plovers (a CO Species of Special Concern), as well as their influence on the plant and soil communities where they live. Prairie dogs are also an important food source for many species, including Blackfooted ferrets (federal endangered species), swift fox, rattle snakes, and many raptors including bald eagles, ferruginous hawks (both listed as CO Species of Special Concern), and golden eagles (known to nest in the park).

A number of rare or sensitive rodent species potentially occupy the grassland areas of the park. These species include: the 13-lined ground squirrel, the spotted ground squirrel, the plains harvest mouse, the olive-backed pocket mouse, the plains pocket mouse, the silky pocket mouse *bunkerii* ssp., and ord's kangaroo rat.

Additionally, cliffs on the east-facing slopes of Cheyenne Mountain may also house bat colonies. Townsend's big-eared bats and fringed-tailed bats are found in the foothills and usually nest in cliffs/caves near coniferous forests. The Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine forests beneath the steeper cliffs on Cheyenne Mountain provide excellent potential habitat for these species. Map 5 and Map 6 display the many significant wildlife features at the park, illustrating major habitat and wildlife ranges. Refer to Appendix C for a complete list of wildlife species at Cheyenne Mountain.

Birds

Cheyenne Mountain State Park lies within an important migratory bird route and provides essential breeding and migratory habitat for many species of birds.³¹ The diversity of habitat structure contributes to the wide diversity of bird species that occur at the park. Breeding and migratory bird surveys conducted in 2001, 2011, and 2012 unveiled a variety of species. These surveys have produced a park bird list that includes 160 species, of which 104 have been directly observed in the park and 121 with nesting habitat in the park.

Several species tracked by the Colorado Natural Heritage Program due to rarity or declining population numbers are found in the park. The ovenbird, a species whose breeding is imperiled in Colorado, has been documented breeding in the park and at least four occupied breeding territories have been identified. Surveys and observations in the park have found



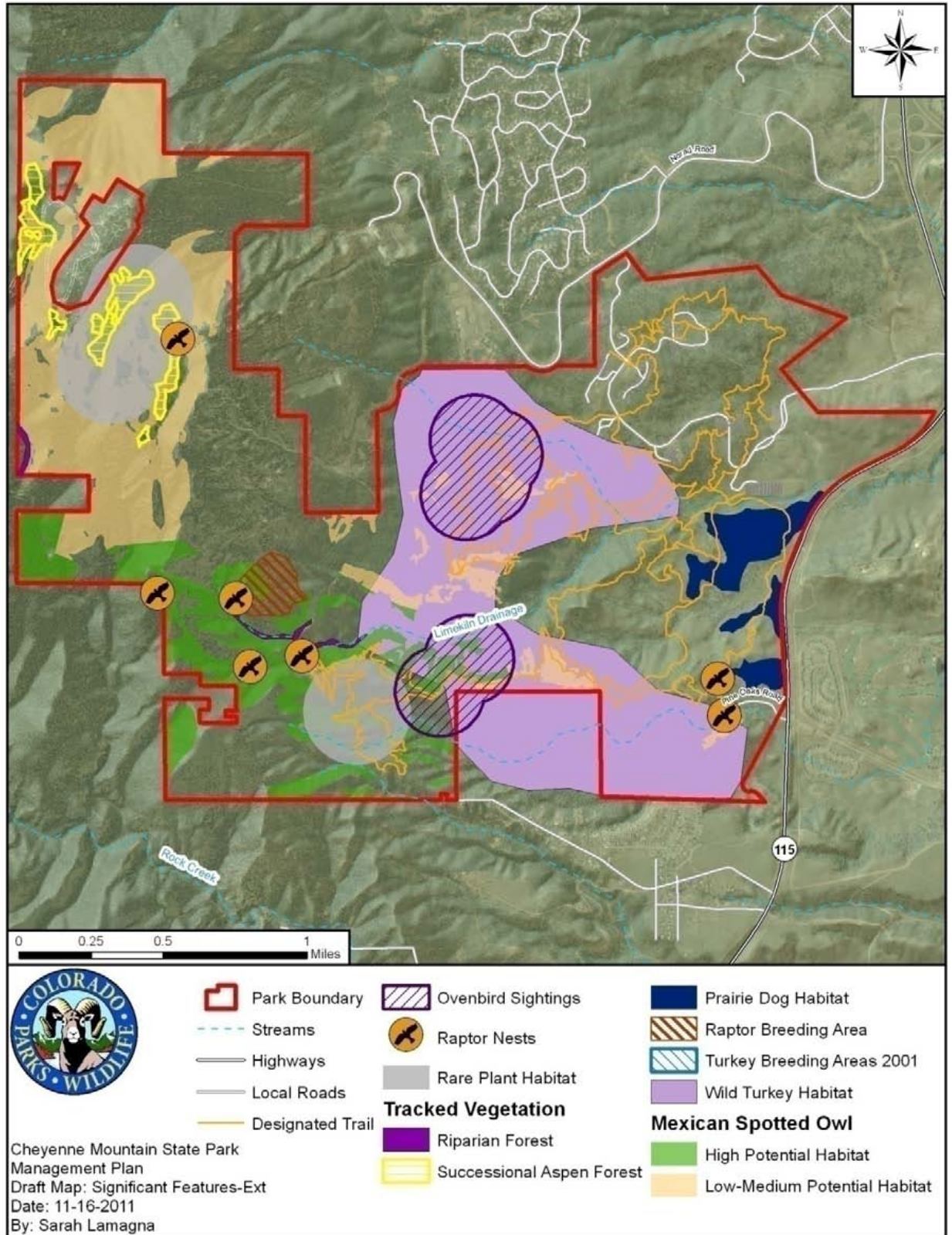
Magpies are a common bird in the eastern region of the park.

²⁹ Colorado Division of Wildlife – Colorado Grassland Species Working Group. 2003. Conservation Plan for Grassland Species in Colorado. p 14.

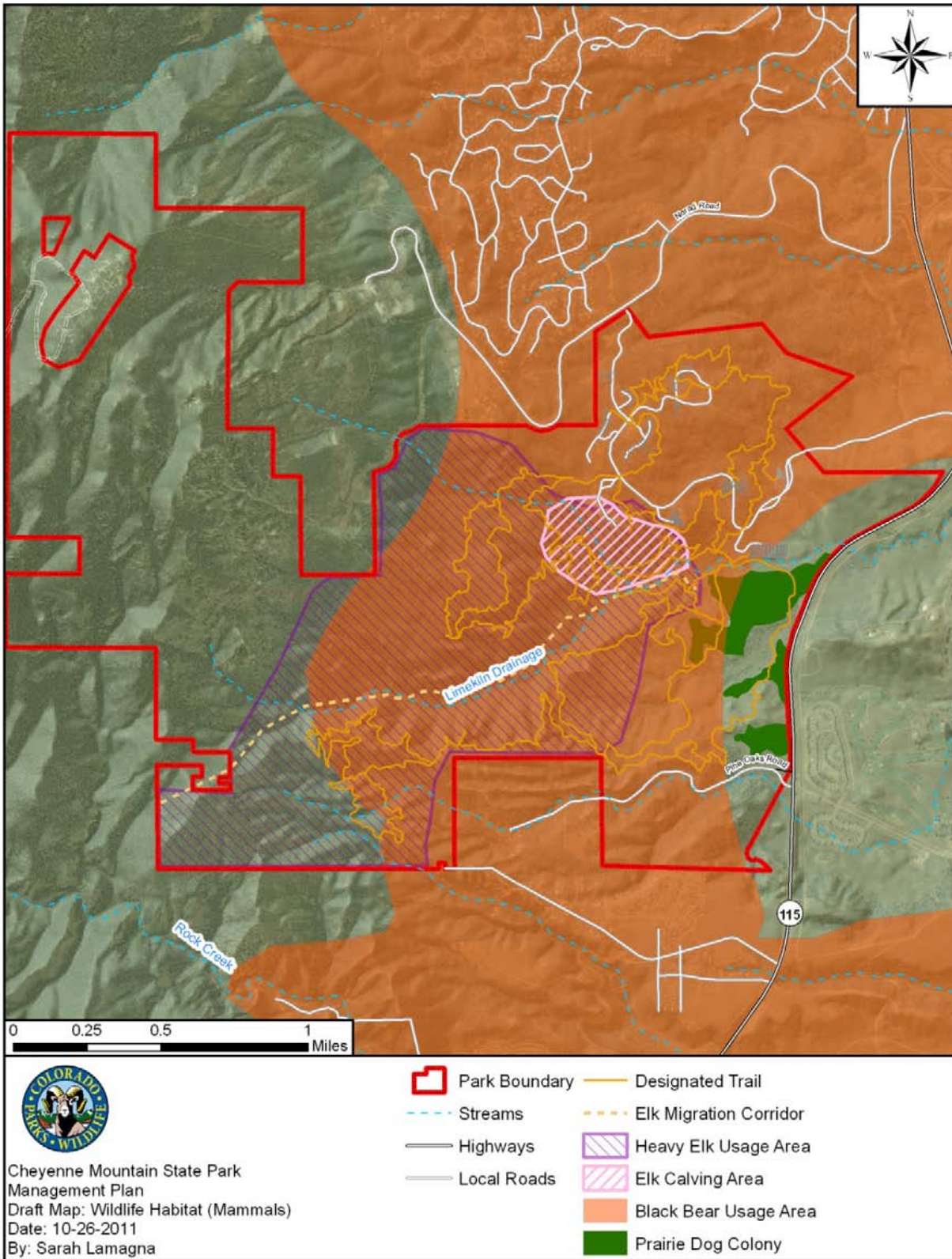
³⁰ Kotliar et al. 1999, pp.183, 185.

³¹ Debra Pomim, Audubon Society. Personal communication. 2005.

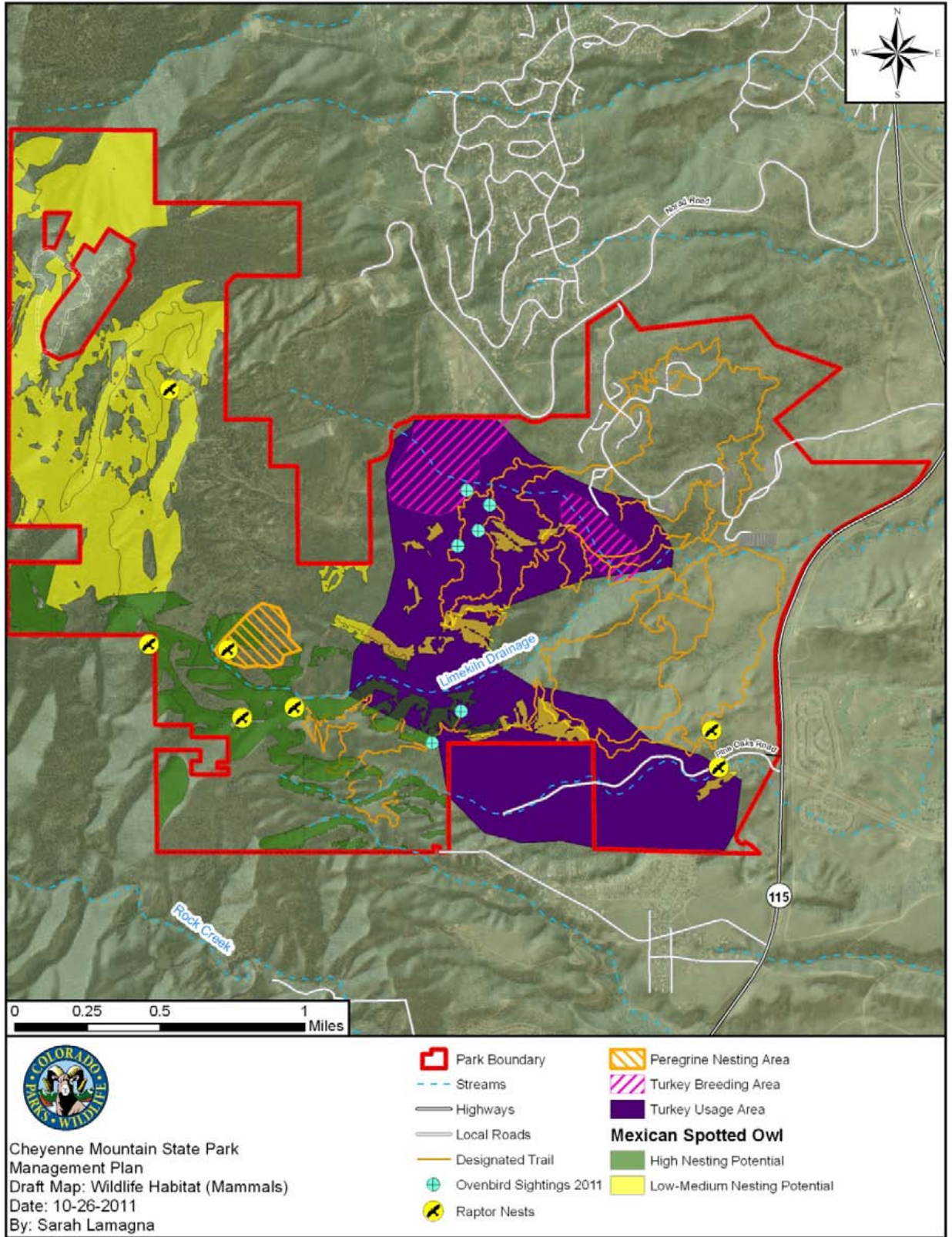
Map 4. Significant Features



Map 5. Wildlife habitat (mammals)



Map 6. Wildlife habitat (birds)



five additional Colorado Natural Heritage program species that occur within or near the park: ferruginous hawk, prairie falcon, Mexican spotted owl, Short-eared owl, and gray vireo.

The ovenbird, a ground nesting warbler, is typically considered to be an eastern bird species and the populations at Cheyenne Mountain may represent the westernmost boundary of their range.³² Ovenbird populations often decline rapidly as their habitat becomes more fragmented, so the presence of this bird is considered to be a good indication of habitat continuity. Ovenbirds were ranked as fairly common birds during breeding bird surveys conducted in 2001, 2011, and 2012 and were especially prevalent along the Limekiln drainage and the area around Cougar's Shadow trail.

Surveys observed several other ground and shrub nesting birds known to breed in the park. These species are likely benefiting from the exclusion of dogs on trails, as dogs often follow scents near the ground made by birds and other animals.³³ Some of these nesting species include spotted towhee, black-chinned hummingbird, dusky flycatcher, warbling vireo, western scrubjay, blue-grey gnatcatcher, gray catbird, Virginia's warbler, black-headed grosbeak, blue grosbeak, and lazuli bunting.

Rare raptor species use the park to nest or forage for food include ferruginous hawks, prairie falcons, short-eared owls, and bald eagles. Prairie falcon numbers have declined in Colorado due to urbanization and human disturbance, and large parts of their range continue to be threatened by these factors.³⁴ Golden eagles, a species sensitive to human disturbances, are known to nest in the steep cliffs throughout the area and successful nesting occurred within the park as of 2012.

Habitat for several owl species exists at the park. Flammulated, Northern Saw-whet, Short-eared owls, Barn, and Great-horned owls have been observed in the park. Flammulated owls are small forest owls that hunt insects and nest in tree cavities, often made by woodpeckers. This species is listed on the Audubon Watchlist as "yellow", which indicates their numbers are declining and conservation efforts are recommended. Flammulated owls were confirmed nesting on the Top of the Mountain parcel in 2009. Northern Saw-whet owl habitat lies within the spruce-fir coniferous forests of the park. A short-eared owl was photographed by a park employee in 2010. Two Saw-whet territories were identified in the Limekiln drainage during the 2010 Mexican spotted owl surveys. Barn owls have been known to nest in the immediate vicinity of the golden eagle eyrie. Great-horned owls are one of the most widespread and common owls in North America.

Potentially suitable foraging and nesting habitat for the federally-threatened Mexican spotted owls exists within the upper reaches of the park. Mexican spotted owls requires forested, steep-walled, moist canyon bottoms for nesting sites, humid, old-growth, mixed conifer forests for foraging sites, and are often associated with mesa topography in Colorado.³⁵ The entire west half of the park lies within federally designated critical habitat and a portion of the southwest portion of the park lies within a federally designated Protected Activity Area (PAC) for a Mexican spotted owl breeding area. Surveys for Mexican spotted owls were performed



Flammulated owl nesting in the Top of the Mountain area

³² Steve Jones, environmental consultant. personal communication.

³³ Dave Hallock. Environmental consultant. Cheyenne Mountain Breeding Bird Survey, 2011.

³⁴ Andrews, R., and R. L. Righter. 1992. Colorado Birds: A Reference to Their Distribution and Habitat. Denver Mus. Nat. Hist., Denver.

³⁵ Johnson, C. L. 1997. Distribution, Habitat, and Ecology of the Mexican Spotted Owl in Colorado. M.S. thesis. University of Northern Colorado. Greeley.

in the “saddle” area at the apex of Limekiln drainage in 2010 and 2011. No positive results for Mexican spotted owls were recorded during these surveys.

Suitable habitat for burrowing owls (a state- ‘threatened’ list species) is found in the grasslands near the known prairie dog colonies.³⁶ Burrowing owls depend on active prairie dog colonies for habitat. This species uses abandoned prairie dog burrows in which to nest and rear their young. Burrows marked with white wash and owl pellets can indicate use as a nest. Populations of burrowing owls exist at Fort Carson Army Base³⁷. Their presence at Cheyenne Mountain is yet to be confirmed.

The variety and high quality of habitats in the park provide for a large array of raptor species. The population of ferruginous hawks that forage at Cheyenne Mountain currently appears to be healthy and stable, but is dependent on healthy and stable prairie dog populations within the park. Ferruginous hawk populations decline as their habitat becomes fragmented, so this species is a good indicator of habitat fragmentation and the general health and stability of an ecosystem.³⁸ The Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service give ferruginous hawks “Sensitive Status” and this species is a Colorado “species of concern”. Prairie falcons require cliffs for nesting sites that are located next to the prairies where they feed.³⁹ In Colorado, this habitat is primarily found in the foothills along the Front Range. Prairie falcon populations are currently stable throughout their range, however, the Colorado Natural Heritage Program considers this species to be at risk and likely to experience problems in the future as development continues to encroach into the foothills. Cheyenne Mountain State Park provides nesting sites for prairie falcons and protects important prairie falcon habitat from further human encroachment. Northern Harriers, American Kestrels, Rough-legged hawks, red-tailed hawks and sharp-shinned hawks are also observed in the park.

Cheyenne Mountain provides potentially important habitat and nesting grounds for peregrine falcons. Historic peregrine falcon nesting sites are known to occur nearby in the cliffs above Rock Creek and Bear Creek. As of August 20, 1999, the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) delisted the peregrine falcon as an endangered species. The State of Colorado currently classifies the peregrine as “recovered” and as a “species of special concern.” The Colorado Division of Wildlife (in 1994, 1996, & 1999, prior to merging with Colorado State Parks) documented two peregrine nesting sites in cliffs (one and one and one half miles) south of the park and a potential nesting area in the cliffs along the western edge of the park (occupied by prairie falcons in 2011). Additional fieldwork is required to verify current nesting sites and explore the possibility of peregrine nesting sites existing in the cliffs above Limekiln Creek.

Short-eared owls are a long-winged owl of the open country. Habitats used in the park are the mosaic of grasslands and scruboak woodlands, likely for foraging. This ground nesting species is fully tracked by the Colorado Natural Heritage program due to impacts to breeding and breeding habitats. The U.S. Forest Service gives ‘Sensitive Status’ to this species.

³⁶ Brown, H. 2001. Raptor Survey for Cheyenne Mountain State Park- Short Report.

³⁷ Perfors, Estep, Bunn. 2010. Fort Carson Pursues Proactive Burrowing Owl Management. USAEC Environmental Update. Fall/Winter 2010.

³⁸ Reynolds, R. T., Graham, R. T., Reiser, M. H., Bassett, R. L., Kennedy, P. L., Boyce, D.A., Goodwin, G., Smith, R., and E. L. Fisher. 1992. Management recommendations for the Northern Goshawk in the southwestern United States. USDA Forest Service, General Technical Report RM-217. Fort Collins, Colorado.

³⁹ Platt, S.W. and J.H. Enderson. 1989. Falcons. In Proc. Western Raptor Manage. Symp. and Workshop. Natl. Wildl. Fed., Washington, D.C., pp. 111–117.

Wild turkeys are abundant at Cheyenne Mountain due to the abundance of Gambel oak and ponderosa pine cover interspersed with open grasslands in the park.⁴⁰ As large ground nesting and dwelling species, this presence of good cover, combined with the exclusion of dogs on park trails, creates good breeding areas for this species. The park provides important winter habitat for large concentrations of wild turkeys, as well as two active turkey breeding areas in the central region of the park.⁴¹



Wild Turkey with young.

Reptiles and Amphibians

Little is known about the presence of amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates in the park. Due to the absence of any continuous running water and the scarcity of wetland areas, amphibian species are likely minimal. Bull snakes and western rattlesnakes are common in the grasslands and in the oak scrublands, as well as along the perennial drainages. Racers and western hognose snakes may also be common in the grasslands and oak scrublands. Although unconfirmed, short-horned lizards are likely throughout the site, while eastern fence lizards are likely to be present in the rocky outcrops throughout the grasslands and drainages.

Fish

Cheyenne Mountain State Park does not have sufficient water resources to support fish.

Vegetation

Cheyenne Mountain State Park is a highly complex site in terms of vegetation and features 11 distinct vegetative classes, offering visitors a wide range of aesthetic values (Map 7). A short hike through the park could easily traverse four or more distinct plant communities that are becoming increasingly rare along the Front Range. The condition of the vegetation rivals that of Aiken Canyon, a 1,621-acre preserve about 20 miles south of the park that has been conserved by the Nature Conservancy for its diversity of plant communities.

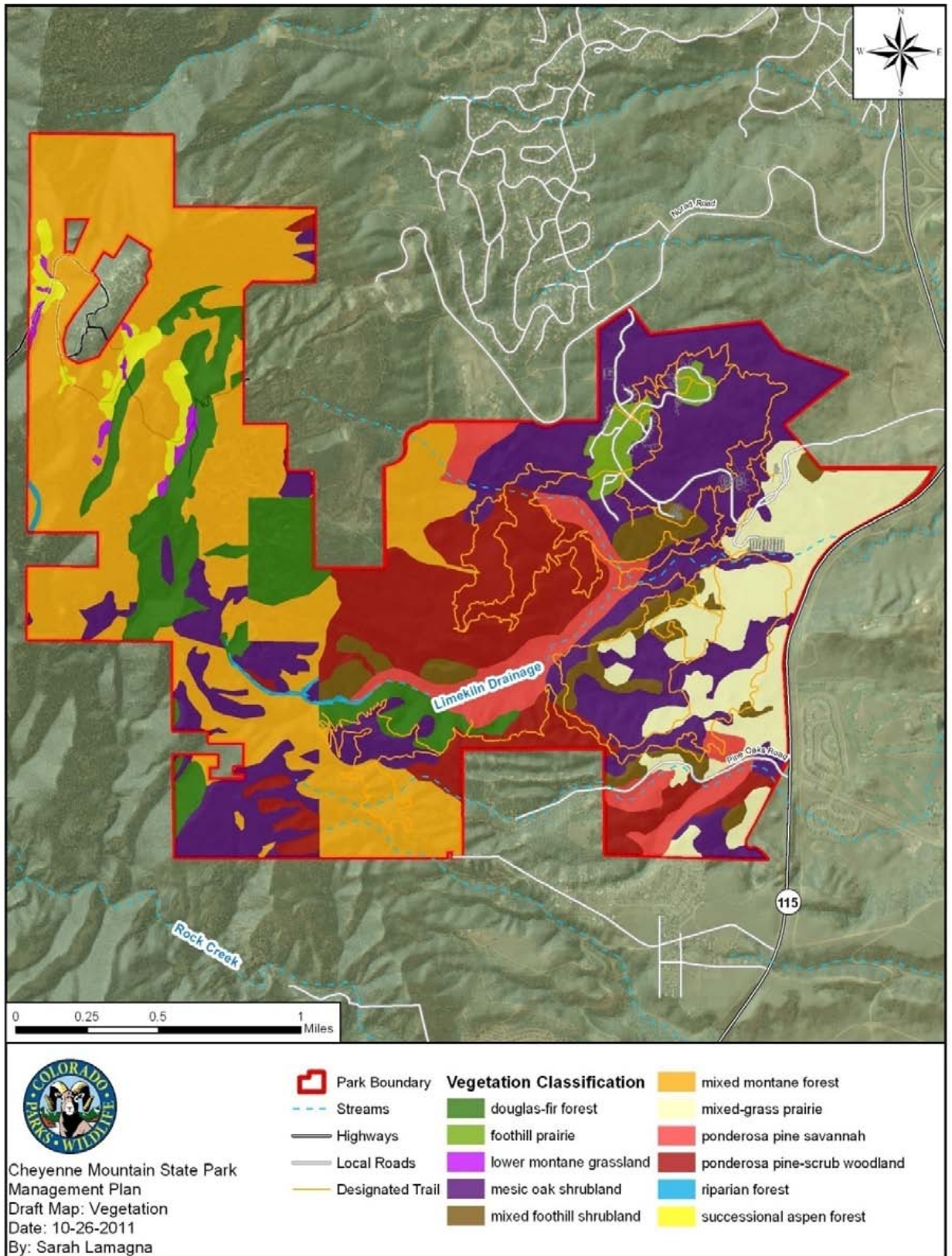
The park occupies an important transitional zone between Great Plains grassland communities and montane coniferous forest along Colorado's Front Range. Major vegetation types include mixed-grass prairie, oak shrubland, ponderosa pine forest, Douglas-fir forest and mixed montane forest. To a lesser extent, the park also supports communities of mixed foothill shrubland, riparian forest, foothill prairie, lower montane grasslands, and successional aspen forest. For a complete vegetation species list, please refer to Appendix D.

Surface water is almost nonexistent on the park, largely due to hydrologic alterations created with the construction of the adjacent Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station facility in the 1960's. Riparian communities are therefore very limited in both composition and extent. Grasslands are abundant in the eastern portion of the park, at elevations around 6,000 feet. At least three grassland types are present – mixed grass prairie, foothill prairie, and lower montane grassland. These communities are highly diverse and include such species as little bluestem, needle-and-thread, and western wheatgrass. Areas of foothill prairie also include mountain muhly, green needlegrass, Junegrass, and purple three-awn. Blue grama is a common understory species in both

⁴⁰ Hoffman, D. M. 1962. The wild turkey in eastern Colorado. Technical Publication No. 12. s.l., Colorado Game and Fish Department.

⁴¹ Brown, H. 2001. Turkey Gobble Count Breeding Area Survey Results for Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

Map 7. Vegetation Cover



communities. Dominant species in lower montane grasslands include Thurber fescue, Parry's oatgrass, fringed brome, poverty oatgrass, and a diverse array of forbs.

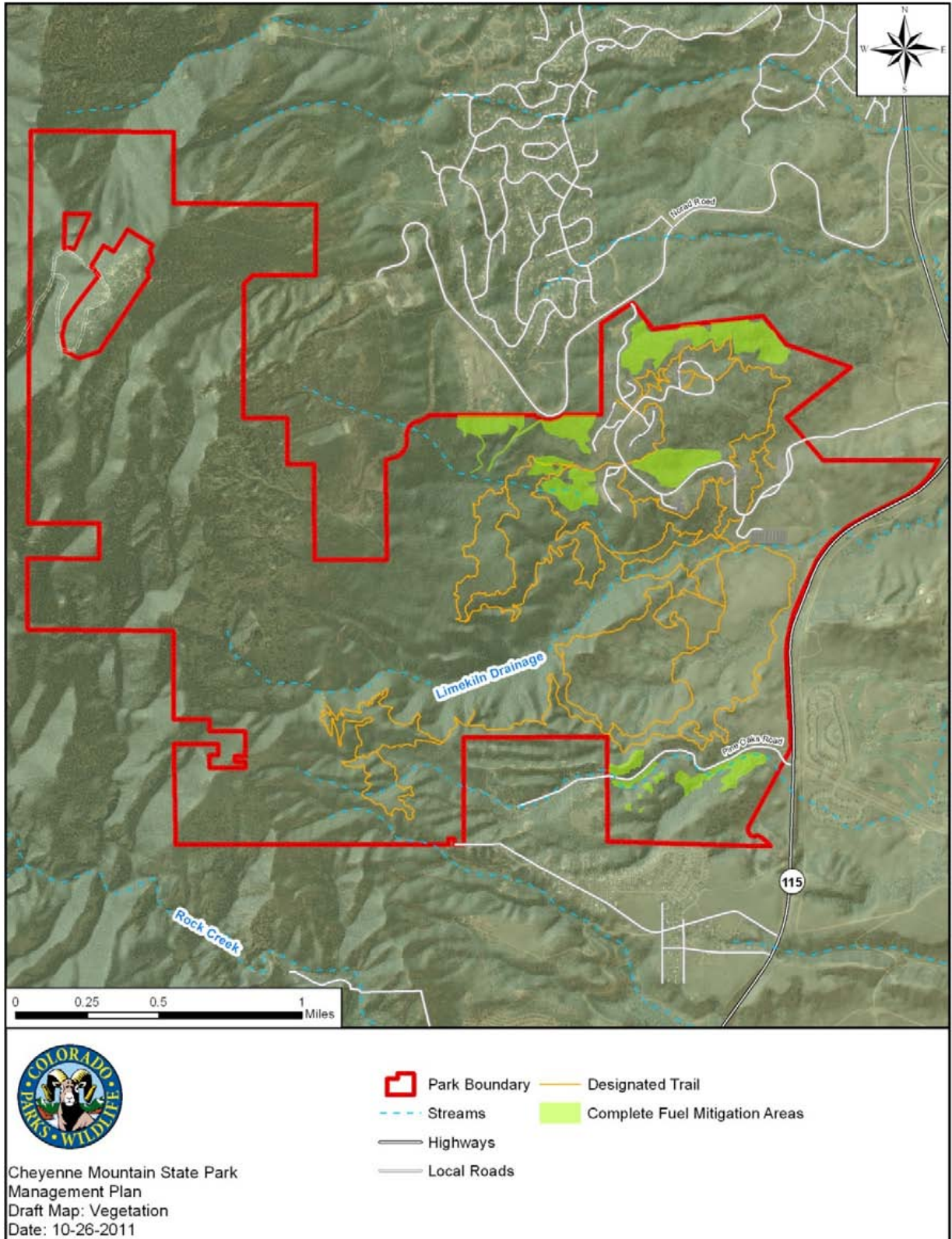
Moving west across the park, grassland areas grade into montane shrublands dominated by Gambel's oak and mountain mahogany. Oak dominates most of the shrubland community in the park, but patches consisting of mountain mahogany and yucca can be found on dry, south- and east-facing slopes within the park. Cactus, side-oats grama, and indian rice-grass make up most of the understory in this distinct shrubland community. Large areas of oak-dominated shrubland can be found on both sides of the Limekiln drainage. This community is essentially a mosaic of oak thickets and grassland meadows, with patches of snowberry and a few ponderosa pine and pinyon pine scattered throughout. Ponderosa pine forests are best developed along and to the north of the Limekiln Creek drainage, and include both scrub-woodland and savannah community types. Gambel oak, mountain mahogany and skunkbrush are common in the understory of the scrub-woodland community, and this type dominates most of the ponderosa pine forest in the park. Less common is ponderosa pine savannah, which is characterized by low shrub cover and a dense understory of grasses, including blue grama, side-oats grama, mountain muhly, and little bluestem.

Vegetation in the higher elevations of the park is a mosaic of mixed montane forest, Douglas-fir forest, and aspen stands. Canopy composition of mixed conifer stands include aspen, white fir, limber pine, ponderosa pine, and Engelmann spruce, often composed of multi-aged patches.⁴² Douglas-fir/white fir forest is also common at the park, especially in the steep, shaded portions in the western section, and north-facing slopes along the Limekiln drainage. The understory of this community is typically sparse, but open portions along the upper Limekiln drainage contain dense stands of American plum, chokecherry, and poison ivy. Three aspen stands, thought to be declining in extent, fringe grassland meadows in drainage valleys in the northwestern portion of the park.

Cheyenne Mountain State Park received several fuels mitigation treatments from 2004 to 2011 (Map 8). The park was evaluated for wildfire hazard and forest health concerns in the 2004 Fuels Management Plan and subsequent 2009 "Top of the Mountain" Forest Management Plan. Treatments have consisted of selective thinning of ponderosa pine and creating patch cuts in Gambel oak stands to decrease contiguous fuels near high use areas and evacuation routes. Future efforts will build upon these completed treatments by maintaining patch cuts, continuing to create a mosaic of openings in dense Gambel oak stands, and improving forest health across the landscape.

⁴² Colorado Forest Management. 2009. Forest Management Assessment and Recommendations Plan -- Cheyenne Mountain State Park "Top of the Mountain" 1021 Acres. Prepared for Colorado State Parks. Colorado Forest Management, LLC. Wheatridge, CO.

Map 8. Completed fuels mitigation areas (2004-2011)



Invasive Weed Species

Weed infestations are currently minimal at Cheyenne Mountain State Park, which is uncommon for most areas along Colorado's Front Range. If small, isolated populations of invasives are allowed to spread and not adequately controlled, their distributions could expand rapidly.⁴³ The high integrity of existing native plant communities in the park have likely been preserved largely due to the limited disturbances that have occurred at the site.⁴⁴ Noxious weeds identified during field surveys were predominately found in grassland meadows and roadside areas. Efforts made to minimize soil and vegetation disturbances in the park will greatly reduce the spread of invasive weed species.

Canada thistle is likely to spread along drainages following any sort of natural or man-made disturbance. Musk thistle, yellow toadflax, and smooth brome are likely to spread into disturbed pasture areas and along road and trail corridors. Non-native green ash and Chinese elm trees are also species of concern, but will spread more slowly than perennial weeds.

Noxious weeds in the western portion of the park include Canada thistle, musk thistle, and mullein. Smooth brome and other non-native pasture grasses were also noted and abundant in places. Canada thistle is common along the four-wheel drive road in the meadows on Cheyenne Mountain. Canada thistle is an aggressive and common noxious weed. It reproduces both by seed and by root, and can easily dominate entire plant communities. Dalmatian toadflax was also found along the road that leads to the top of the mountain. Common mullein was also found along the historic Dixon trail. This noxious weed invades sites where the soil has been disturbed, such as road cuts.

Downy brome, also known as cheatgrass, is present in the park. This noxious weed can invade grassland communities and displace native plants. Its success lies in that it is an annual with early season growth habits so it completes its lifecycle prior to many native species starting to grow. Upon completion of its growing season, cheatgrass's early season growth creates tall, abundant, continuous dry fuels creating extreme wildfire hazards. Cheatgrass thrives in disturbed areas and outcompetes native vegetation.

Smooth brome is widespread on the property, especially in meadows and roadside areas, and is common in the rest of the park and in the region. This species is a tall, cool-season grass that was widely planted for forage and erosion control. Although smooth brome is not listed on the state noxious weed list, it is considered an invasive weed as it spreads aggressively from rhizomes, crowding out and replacing native vegetation. It is undesirable as it has replaced native biodiversity in the meadows on Cheyenne Mountain. A list of noxious weed species known to occur at Cheyenne Mountain State Park is shown in Table 3.

⁴³ Natural Resource Consulting, LLC. 2003. Cheyenne Mountain State Park: Weed Management Plan.

⁴⁴ Chris Lieber, City of Colorado Springs. Personal communication.

Table 3. Noxious weed species that occur at Cheyenne Mountain State Park⁴⁵

Common Name	Scientific Name	Habitat Type	State List
Alfalfa	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	meadows	not listed
Black medic	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	meadows	not listed
Bull thistle	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	meadows, drainages	B
Canada thistle	<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	meadows, drainages	B
Cheatgrass	<i>Bromus tectorum</i>	meadows	C
Chinese elm	<i>Ulmus pumila</i>	near old homestead	not listed
Common burdock	<i>Arctium minus</i>	meadows	C
Common mullein	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>	meadows, trail corridors	C
Curly dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>	meadows	not listed
Dalmatian toadflax	<i>Linaria genistifolia dalmatica</i>	meadows, road corridors	B
Dandelion	<i>Taraxicum officinale</i>	meadows, forest clearings	not listed
Diffuse knapweed	<i>Centaurea diffusa</i>	meadows, road corridors	B
Green ash	<i>Fraxinus pennsylvanica</i>	near old homestead	not listed
Jim Hill mustard	<i>Sisymbrium altissimum</i>	meadows	not listed
Kentucky bluegrass	<i>Poa pratensis</i>	meadows	not listed
Kochia	<i>Kochia scoparia</i>	meadows, road corridors	not listed
Musk thistle	<i>Carduus nutans</i>	meadows	B
Myrtle spurge	<i>Tithymalus myrsinites</i>	meadows	A
Orchard grass	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	meadows	not listed
Russian thistle	<i>Salsola iberica</i>	meadows, road corridors	not listed
Smooth brome	<i>Bromus inermis</i>	meadows, forest clearings, road corridors	not listed
Salsify	<i>Tragopogon dubius</i>	meadows	not listed
Teasel	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	meadows and wet areas	B
Yellow sweet clover	<i>Melilotus officinalis</i>	meadows	not listed
Yellow toadflax	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>	meadows	B

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species

There are six species of special concern with legal requirements and restrictions on the property: Mexican spotted owl, flammulated owl, short-eared owl, golden eagle, and possibly peregrine falcon. Mexican spotted owls are listed as Threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service⁴⁶ and State Threatened by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.⁴⁷ Flammulated owls and short-eared owls are listed as a Sensitive Species by Region 2 of the U.S. Forest Service.⁴⁸ Golden and bald eagles are protected under the Federal Eagle Protection Act.⁴⁹ American peregrine falcons are listed as State Special Concern by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.⁵⁰

⁴⁵ Sources: *Cheyenne Mountain State Park Stewardship Plan*, 2006 and the *Stewardship Plan Addendum for Top of the Mountain*, 2009.

⁴⁶ USDI Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. Recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl: Vol.1. Albuquerque, New Mexico. 72pp.U.S.

⁴⁷ Colorado Division of Wildlife. Colorado Endangered, Threatened and Species of Special Concern. Available at: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/SpeciesOfConcern/Birds/Pages/BirdsOfConcern.aspx> (Accessed December 16, 2011).

⁴⁸ U.S. Forest Service. 2001. Region 2 Sensitive Species Evaluation Form: Flammulated owl. Available at: http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5253652.pdf (Accessed December 16, 2011).

⁴⁹ 16 U.S.C. 668-668d.

⁵⁰ Colorado Division of Wildlife. 2009. American Peregrine Falcons. Available at: <http://wildlife.state.co.us/WildlifeSpecies/Profiles/Birds/PeregrineFalcon.htm>. (Accessed December 1, 2009).

The Mexican spotted owl is one of three subspecies of spotted owl. They are the southernmost spotted owl subspecies and their habitat is disjointed from the other two subspecies habitat. Federally-designated critical habitat for Mexican spotted owl covers the entire area of the park that encompasses Cheyenne Mountain, as well as the upper half of the original park boundary.⁵¹ Critical habitat extends north to Roxborough State Park in Douglas County. Habitat for Mexican spotted owls includes montane forests.⁵² In large tracts of contiguous forest, Mexican spotted owls have been shown to prefer areas with more complex vertical structure, like old-growth areas. During the winter, these owls will migrate to lower elevations with pinyon pine-juniper woodland; Fort Carson, adjacent to Cheyenne Mountain, has an area of winter range for Mexican spotted owls. Primary prey species are small rodents and occasionally bats. Areas of land used by Mexican spotted owls are called protected activity centers (PACs). PACs include nest or roost sites within a 600-acre area as well as very steep slopes (45 degrees or more). PACs are vital habitat for Mexican spotted owls and only six exist in Colorado. The Rock Creek PAC covers a portion of the park that encompasses Cheyenne Mountain and the Little Fountain Creek PAC is just to the south.

Flammulated owls are small (approximately six inches tall), secretive, possibly migratory owls that occur sporadically in western forests. Little is known about the biology and behavior of flammulated owls. They are currently being intensively studied by Region 2 of the U.S. Forest Service at the Manitou Experimental Forest, a designated research area about 30 miles northwest of the park. Demographic studies are currently being used to determine habitat productivity differences and territory sizes of flammulated owls.⁵³ Current research on habitat preferences suggests that flammulated owls apparently prefer ponderosa pine habitat with oak or aspen and Douglas-fir forests.⁵⁴ They are nocturnal insectivores that nest in tree cavities often excavated by woodpeckers. Flammulated owls have one of the slowest rates of reproduction among North American owls. Females lay 2-3 eggs and stay on the nest during incubation while being fed by the male of the pair. The greatest threat to this species is thought to be logging.⁵⁵ A flammulated owl was documented on top of Cheyenne Mountain on June 9, 2009.

Short-eared owls are a bird of open grasslands. This long-winged bird (33-40" wingspan) can be seen flying with floppy wing beats in the day and night and hunts mainly at dawn and dusk. Short-eared owls can be seen flying low over open ground while locating its prey by ear. Its nest is a scrape in the ground lined with grasses. Females lay 1-11 creamy white eggs. This species chooses to inhabit areas based upon the availability of prey. This species is declining in the southern portion of its range due to degradation and loss of habitat.⁵⁶



A flammulated owl was detected on top of Cheyenne Mountain in 2009

⁵¹ USDA Fish and Wildlife Service. 1995. Recovery plan for the Mexican spotted owl: Vol.1. Albuquerque, New Mexico. 72pp.

⁵² Birds of North America. 2009. Web page; available at: <http://bna.birds.cornell.edu/bna/>. Accessed December 6, 2009.

⁵³ Linkhart, B. D., Reynolds, R. and R. Ryder. 1998. Home range and breeding habitat of breeding Flammulated Owls in Colorado. *Wilson Bulletin* 110(3): 342-351.

⁵⁴ Hayward, G.D. and J. Verner. 1994. Flammulated, boreal and great gray owls in the United States: a technical conservation assessment. USDA Forest Service General Technical Report RM-253. NatureServe. 2009. NatureServe Explorer: An online encyclopedia of life [web application]. Version 7.1. NatureServe, Arlington, Virginia. Available <http://www.natureserve.org/explorer>. (Accessed: December 8, 2009).

⁵⁵ "Flammulated Owl," National Audubon Society, <http://birds.audubon.org/species/flaowl>, accessed December 7, 2011.

⁵⁶ Cornell Lab of Ornithology. http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Short-eared_Owl/id.

Golden eagles are among the largest raptors in Colorado. They nest in trees or on sheer cliffs that are often hundreds of feet high. There are estimates of 200-500 breeding pairs of golden eagles in Colorado. Although they nest in every part of the state, one of the highest concentrations of nests is along the Front Range. Territories defended by nesting pairs are several square miles in size.⁵⁷ The golden eagles eyrie on Cheyenne Mountain is found at lower elevations in the southern portion of the park.

Falcons have been sighted on the property, but it is not known whether there are peregrine or prairie falcons nesting in these areas. Peregrine falcons were once severely reduced in population size from the effects of DDT in the environment; recovery programs during the late 1970's through the 1990's increased population numbers ten-fold in Colorado during that time period.⁵⁸ Peregrine falcons mate for life and nest on ledges of high cliffs. Pairs generally demonstrate fidelity to nest sites, returning to the same site year after year. They prey on rodents and small- to medium-sized birds, foraging in conifer and riparian forests within their territories. Prairie falcons also nest on ledges of cliffs. They prefer nesting habitats to be adjacent to open prairie areas for foraging. They prey on birds and small mammals. Conservation concerns for this species exist due to habitat loss.

Table 4. Rare animal species occurring at Cheyenne Mountain State Park⁵⁹

<i>Animal Species</i>	<i>Status (Global Rank/State Rank/Other)</i>	<i>Habitat</i>
Black-tailed Prairie Dog (<i>Cynomys ludovicianus</i>)	G4/S4 /Federal: Candidate: ("warranted but precluded")	Shortgrass steppe and mixed grass prairie. Appear to benefit from poor range conditions.
Ferruginous Hawk (<i>Buteo regalis</i>)	G4/S3B,S4N /State: Threatened	Nest sites restricted to shortgrass prairie, but versatile locations--trees, ground, cliffs, or human-made structures. Especially sensitive to disturbance, excessive grazing, farming, and prairie dog eradication.
Flammulated Owl (<i>Otus flammeolus</i>)	G4/S4	Prefer ponderosa pine habitat with oak or aspen and Douglas-fir forests. Nest in tree cavities often excavated by woodpeckers. Sensitive to logging.
Golden Eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>)	G4/S3B,S4N/State: Threatened; Federal : Threatened	Breeds primarily in montane areas. Nest in trees or on sheer cliffs. Require large foraging areas.
Ovenbird (<i>Seiurus aurocapillus</i>)	G5/S2B,S2N	Breeds in foothill riparian thickets and in aspen or ponderosa pine forests with an understory of Gambel oak or other shrubs. Nests on ground in deciduous and mixed woodland where forest floor is open below and carpeted with old leaves. Requires a large area of contiguous interior forest habitat to breed.
Peregrine Falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>)	G4T3/S3B,S2N/Federal: Delisted, monitored 5 years	Need inaccessible high places for nesting. Very adaptable to habitat types.
Prairie Falcon (<i>Falco mexicanus</i>)	G5/S4B,S4N	Prefers nest sites on overhanging ledges or sheer cliffs with broad vistas. Typical habitat is open and treeless terrain with nearby cliffs

⁵⁷ Snow, C. 1973. Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos*. U.S. Dept. Int., Bur. Land Manage. Tech. Rept. No. 7, Denver, Colorado.

⁵⁸ Craig, G.R. and J.H. Enderson. 2004. Peregrine Falcon Biology and Management in Colorado, 1973-2001. Colorado Division of Wildlife Technical Publication No. 43. DOW-R-T-43-04. Colorado Division of Wildlife. Denver, CO.

⁵⁹ Sources: Cheyenne Mountain State Park Stewardship Plan, 2006 and the Stewardship Plan Addendum for Top of the Mountain, 2009.

Another USFS sensitive species potentially occurring in the western section of the park is the northern goshawk. Goshawks are relatively rare in Colorado. They are secretive birds that preferentially nest in mature and old growth conifer forests. Goshawks are also sensitive to disturbance at nest sites.⁶⁰

Table 5. Rare plant species and communities near Cheyenne Mountain State Park

<i>Plant species and communities</i> ⁶¹	<i>Global Rank</i> ⁶²	<i>State Rank</i> ³⁰
James' teasel (<i>Telesonix jamesii</i>)	G2	S2
Carrionflower (<i>Smilax lasioneuron</i>)	G5	S3S4
Golden columbine (<i>Aquilegia chrysantha</i>)	G4T1Q	S1
American yellow lady's slipper (<i>Cypripedium parviflorum</i>)	G5	S2
Front Range milkvetch (<i>Astragalus sparsiflorus</i>)	G3	S3

Hydrology

Groundwater

While the variety of geological attributes and soil types at the park are noticeably broad and complex, the presence of surface hydrology is as noticeably absent. Although small seeps and springs are present in limited quantity, other surface hydrology features such as streams, ponds, and larger wetland areas are not present. Limekiln Creek (the largest drainage feature in the park) and the creek along Pine Oaks Road are intermittent drainages that experience flow from snowmelt and storm water runoff, but do not maintain consistent flows associated with ephemeral or perennial stream systems. Storm water and snowmelt do provide intermittent periods of flow, but a more consistent hydrological regime is required to support concurrent riparian development and aquatic communities associated with lotic (flowing) aquatic systems. Historically, the surface and groundwater hydrology was likely quite different. The construction of NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense) Command Center in the early 1960's created a significant change in the local groundwater regime. Development of large-scale subsurface water storage facilities at NORAD is thought to have removed the primary source for surface water on the adjacent property, including the park area. However, data on historical groundwater hydrology is needed to confirm the exact extent of the hydrological impacts of NORAD.

Small springs and seeps occur within different areas of the park and provide a source for groundwater discharge or recharge. Although the quantity of these hydrological features is limited, they provide an essential source for the biological communities and act as a conduit to groundwater recharge or discharge.

Geology & Soils

Geology

Cheyenne Mountain State Park provides a dramatic setting of rocky cliff faces and steep ravines that rise sharply from the eastern plains of Colorado. The geological history within and around the park dates back nearly two billion years. As part of the Pikes Peak massif, the

⁶⁰ U.S. Forest Service. 2009. Regional Forester's Sensitive Species List. USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Region. Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/projects/scp/sensitivespecies/index.shtml> [October 8, 2009].

⁶¹ Stewardship Plan Addendum for Top of the Mountain, 2009.

⁶² Colorado Natural Heritage Program. CNHP Conservation Status Handbook (Tracking Lists). Available at: <http://www.cnhp.colostate.edu/download/list.asp> (Accessed December 16, 2012).

Precambrian granodiorite bedrock of Cheyenne Mountain is more than 1.7 billion years old, some of the oldest known rock in Colorado. This bedrock was welded together, faulted (broken), and intruded by younger Pikes Peak granite (1 billion years old), which is exposed several miles west of the Top of the Mountain property.^{63,64} Movement along the Ute Pass Fault, which runs along the eastern base of Cheyenne Mountain, caused the severe thrusting of the bedrock to form the cliffs.⁶⁵ The granitics emerge sharply from Cretaceous bedrock layers (limestones and sandstones) that flank the east toeslope. Most of the Cretaceous bedrock is covered by recent (Quaternary) colluvial fans and landslide and talus deposits; it has limited exposure in the Limekiln Valley where the creek tumbles down the mountain.

The geological history within and around the park dates back nearly two billion years. The bedrock supporting Cheyenne Mountain is part of the Pike's Peak massif, some of the oldest known rock in Colorado.

The topography on the western side of the park presents slopes up to 80% and elevations exceeding 9,000 feet. The elevation within the park ranges from 6,050 feet in the eastern section to 9,565 feet at the top of Cheyenne Mountain. Here, the geologic history within the park still dates back to over one billion years ago. The oldest materials consist of the grayish, granite, metamorphic rocks. In contrast, the eastern side of the park has broad alluvial slopes from 0 to 15%, and an elevation of approximately 6,000 feet. Cheyenne Mountain, the most dominant feature towering above the park, consists primarily of Pikes Peak granite. Over time, constant erosion has removed enormous amounts of sedimentary rock exposing the underling core. These core rocks are made up of schists, granites, and gneisses that were derived during the Precambrian age (1 to 1.75 billion years ago). The Laramide Orogeny, which occurred during the Tertiary Period (about 65 to 54 million years ago), was the second of two events that created the Front Range anticline by geologic uplifting, followed by millennia of erosional processes.

Cheyenne Mountain State Park possesses an unusually diverse set of geologic hazards. Common geologic hazards within the Cheyenne Mountain area, including the park, faults, rockfall, landslides, and expansive collapsing soils. Influence of these hazards has occurred within the last few hundred years, and are likely to occur again within the park. The geologic hazard that causes the most economic loss related to natural hazards within Colorado is the presence of swelling soils, primarily where the Pierre Shale is exposed or near the surface. Additional geologic hazards that exist within the park include unstable slopes and potentially unstable soils, which indicate there is potential for landslides, earth flows, rockfalls, and earthquakes. Two recent landslides have been mapped in the park which occurred within the last 20 years and may still be active.⁶⁶

⁶³ Trimble, D. and M. Machete, 1979. *Geology Map of the Greater Denver Area, Front Range Urban Corridor Colorado, U.S Geological Survey Miscellaneous Investigations Series Map I-856-H.*

⁶⁴ Morgan, M., C Siddoway, P. Rowley, J. Temple, J. Keller, B. Archuleta, and J. Himmelreich, 2003, Geologic map of the Cascade quadrangle, El Paso County, Colorado: Colorado Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado, 46 p.

⁶⁵ Chronic, H., and Williams, F., 2002. *Roadside Geology of Colorado.* Missoula, Montana: Mountain Publishing Company.

⁶⁶ Houck, K. 2001. Geologic Hazards in Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

The Pikes Peak granite at the base of Cheyenne Mountain has expanded horizontally and overridden adjacent sedimentary rock for a distance of approximately one mile and abuts with Pierre Shale. Within the park boundary, there are geologic faults that run generally north/south. The Ute Pass fault is accompanied by two other faults that are located in the western half of the park boundary. Indications of quaternary movement have been identified; however, presently there is some disagreement as to the activity level of these faults.⁶⁷ The fault is known to have moved in the late Paleozoic, late Mesozoic and early Cenozoic eras. It moved in the late Cenozoic era near Woodland Park and there is some evidence to suggest that it moved in the Quaternary Period about two to four miles north of the park boundary. Earthquakes have occurred near it in historical time. Therefore, it may be an active fault capable of producing a damaging earthquake. Other characteristics of the geology here are far more active. In early 1999, heavy rain caused significant landslides on adjacent property⁶⁸ and likely created mudflows (unconfirmed) within the park area. Rock falls of varying size and intensity have also occurred within the last 40 years.

Other natural hazards within the park, including flooding and wildfire, have the potential to trigger or exacerbate geologic hazards.⁶⁹

Soils

The soils found in the park vary considerably due to the influence of the topography, elevation and the geology. Map units listed by the El Paso County Soil Survey identify the dominant soil types found within the area of Cheyenne Mountain (Map 9).⁷⁰ Some of the major soil series associated with the park include:

- **Rock Outcrops** are exposed formations, typically found on steep, rocky slopes with shallow soil development. Rock outcrops comprise approximately 30% of the Rock Outcrop-Coldcreek-Tolman Complex, the dominant soil type on the strongly sloping to extremely steep terrain that comprises much of the park's western region. Rock outcrops consisting of Pike's Peak granite and other igneous rocks comprise 30% of the moderately to extremely sloping Kulter-Broadmoor Rock outcrop complex in the park's far northwestern corner.
- **Coldcreek and Tolman** soils are found on cold, sub humid to semiarid mountains and foothills. These soils were formed from mixed acidic igneous material, generally have a cobbley or gravelly loam surface layer, and are deep and well drained. These soils are found on the west side of the park. Coldcreek soils support conifer forest. Tolman soils support vegetation like Rocky Mountain juniper, ponderosa pine, and mountain mahogany plus mountain muhly, big bluestem, side-oats grama, and western wheatgrass.
- **Jarre-Tecolote** soils found on mild, semi-arid foothills and plains formed from alluvium derived from acidic igneous rocks. They consist of stony to gravelly loam with some sand and clay. Vegetation is mainly mountain muhly, little bluestem, needle-and-thread grass, Parry oatgrass, and Junegrass.

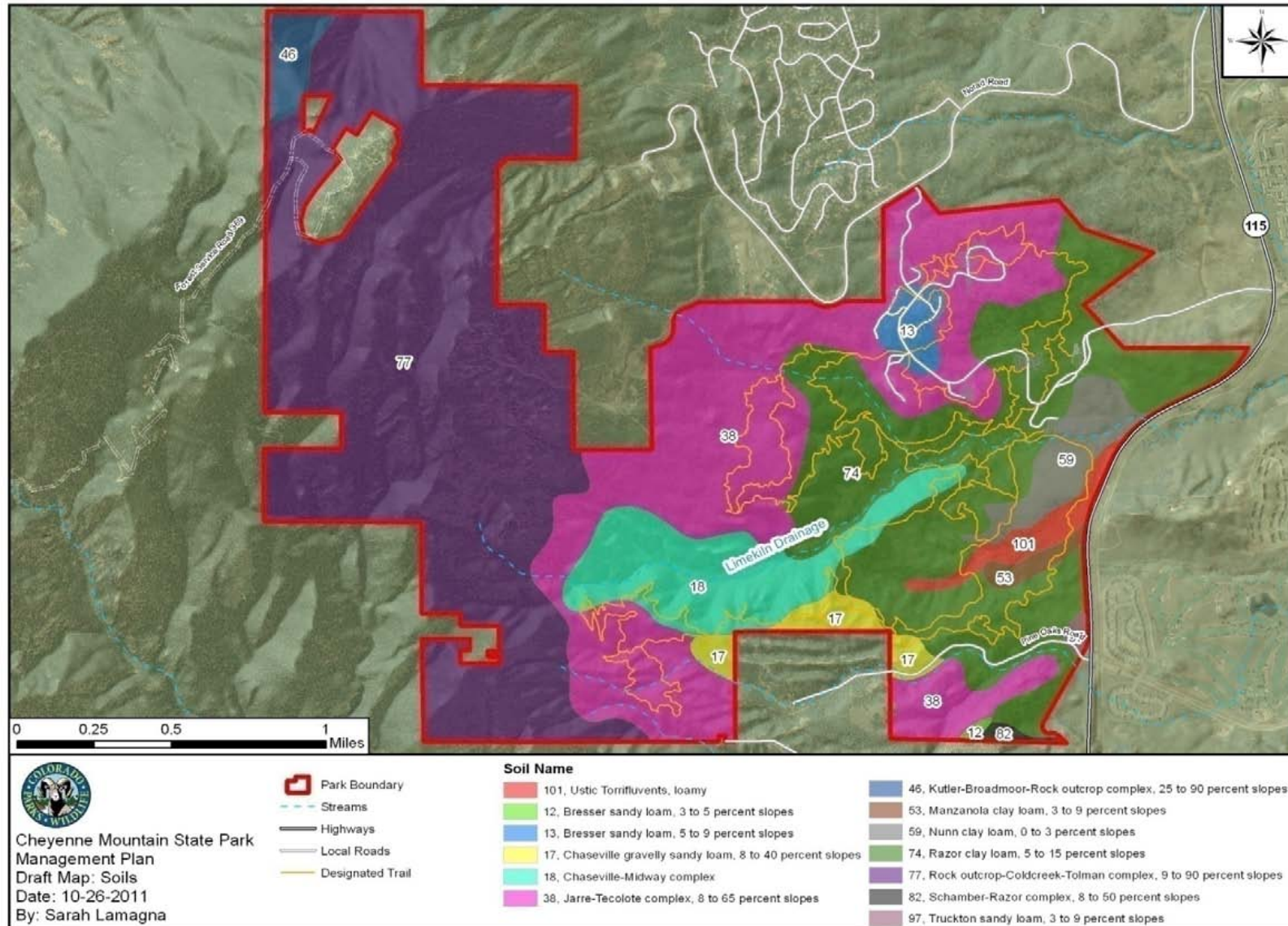
⁶⁷ Kirkman, R. M., and W. P. Rogers. 1981. Earthquake potential in Colorado; a preliminary evaluation: Colorado Geological Survey Bulletin A3, 3 plates, scales 1:100,000, 1:62,500, 171 p.

⁶⁸ pers. comm., M. Squires.

⁶⁹ Houck, K. 2001. Geologic Hazards in Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

⁷⁰ NRCS. 1981. El Paso County Soil Survey.

Map 9. Soils



- **Razor** clay loam is found on plains, hills and breaks to major drainages. This moderately deep, well drained clayey soil formed in residuum derived from calcareous shales on uplands. This soil covers much of the park's eastern reaches and supports vegetation like western wheatgrass, needle-and-thread grass, Junegrass, blue grama, and side-oats grama.
- **Chaseville** soils are formed in arkosic alluvial sediment on alluvial fans, terraces, and sideslopes and consist of gravelly, sandy loams with high permeability. Supported vegetation and shrubs includes western wheatgrass, side-oats grama, needle-and-thread grass, little bluestem, and mountain mahogany.

Soil erodibility is a concern in the western section of the park starting at the base of Cheyenne Mountain and continuing to the top. A steep slope, in some cases exceeding 80%, combined with loose soils combine to create erosive conditions.

Cultural and Historical Resources⁷¹

Early History

A variety of historic influences have affected Cheyenne Mountain State Park's past. Archeological data provided by the Colorado State Historical Society indicates that Native Americans utilized the area primarily as a brief stopping point along their seasonal migration routes between winter and summer hunting lands. While it is believed they used the land, there is little physical evidence to indicate that the land was used for any extended period of time.⁷²

Early Settlers and Homesteads

a) Base of Cheyenne Mountain

Under the Homestead Act of 1862, Cheyenne Mountain and all of its lower reaches became available for homesteading. For 100 years, between 1880 and 1979, only three families owned the land within the original boundaries of Cheyenne Mountain State Park. John Lytle, an area resident homesteading in nearby Turkey Creek Canyon, used the lower portion of the property and surrounding areas for cattle ranching from 1880 to 1890. Later, a mail route was established through the property to serve a route between Colorado Springs and Cañon City, and shortly afterwards, the Lytle homestead was used as a sub post office to meet the needs of the local residents in the area.⁷³ During the late 1800s, there was also a short-lived limestone quarry at the western end of the property. The remains of the old Limekiln Road that provided access can still be seen.

In 1890, Lida M. Touzalin and her sister bought property from John Lytle. The Touzalin sisters lived on the property until 1939, when they exchanged the entire ranch and buildings, as well as an additional 40 acres purchased in 1905, for a house occupied and owned by Lloyd and Dorothy Jones at 34 Lake Ave, less than one mile from the Broadmoor Hotel. County records show that the Jones obtained the Cheyenne Mountain property through a series of acquisitions dating from May 3, 1937 to June 1, 1939. After acquiring the initial 1,500 acres from the Touzalins, Jones added another 700 acres on the south end.

⁷¹ All cultural history information on the park was collected by Ann Brown, unless otherwise noted.

⁷² Thomas & Thomas. Cheyenne Mountain State Park Master Plan. July 21, 2003. pp. 5-6.

⁷³ Ibid.

When the Jones moved onto the property, there was a large Tudor style ranch house where the family lived, a log cabin, a guest house, and various outbuildings. Lloyd Jones raised registered Hereford cattle and began putting together the JL Ranch in 1936.⁷⁴ Surprisingly, the “JL” moniker had nothing to do with the land’s original settler, John Lytle. When Lloyd Jones first went to register his brand in 1929, he found that “LJ” brand was already taken, so he just flipped his initials, thus creating the “JL” brand. Lloyd’s wife, Dorothy, who suffered from tuberculosis, gave birth to five children between 1916 and 1923, and thus must not have been too incapacitated by her disease. Throughout the 1930s, 40s, and 50s, guests of the nearby Broadmoor Hotel often traversed the land on horseback. More intrepid riders used these routes for access to the top of Cheyenne Mountain and the Pike National Forest beyond.⁷⁵



Large Tudor style ranch house that was demolished after the Jones family moved to Montana

The Jones family continued their cow and calf operation on the ranch, grazing more than 200 cattle, until shortly after the construction of the North American Aerospace Defense Command’s (NORAD) Combat Operations Center in 1961. According to son, Casey Jones, “When they built NORAD it screwed up all the springs on the ranch. They just dried up.”⁷⁶ Although Lloyd Jones subsequently sued the government and won an unknown sum of money, the lack of a source of water for his livestock forced the family to move the ranching operation to Montana.

b) Top of Cheyenne Mountain

Approximately 800 acres of land on top of Cheyenne Mountain was homesteaded in 1917, with actual grants being conveyed between 1922 and 1926 to Thomas Dixon and Bert Swisher.⁷⁷ Dixon had a house in the middle valley, while the Swisher cabin was near the present day antenna farm. Timber was harvested locally to build the homesteads.⁷⁸ Dixon accessed his cabin by way of a hiking trail that descended the southeast flank of Cheyenne Mountain. Segments of this historic trail are still evident today. Some sources speculate that Thomas Dixon was the son of William F. Dixon, a pioneer whose Dixon Ranch and apple orchard later became part of the Broadmoor.⁷⁹

Bert Swisher’s cabin was constructed to the north of Dixon’s, near the location of the present day antenna farm. Swisher accessed his property by hiking the Old Stage Road that ran from the Broadmoor to the Cripple Creek mining district.⁸⁰ His wife, Myra Ann, and young children would stay at the cabin during the week, and Bert, who had a plumbing business in Manitou Springs, would return on weekends. Each evening during the week, Myra Ann would light a fire on the edge of the mountain to let Bert know that all was well at the homestead.⁸¹

“Dixon and Swisher ended up in a contest over the issuance of the patent to Dixon’s property. Swisher believed that he had properly applied for the homestead for the entirety of the property in 1917. After involvement by their attorneys and letters to the Secretary of the

⁷⁴ Cheyenne Edition, Nov. 2, 2001 by Dave Vickers.

⁷⁵ Thomas & Thomas. Cheyenne Mountain State Park Master Plan. July 21, 2003. pp. 5-6.

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Erdmann, Dieter. 2009. “From NORAD to Parks...A Tale of the Cheyenne Mountain Project. Colorado Open Lands Fall Newsletter.

⁷⁸ Thomas & Thomas. Cheyenne Mountain State Park Master Plan. July 21, 2003. pp. 5-6.

⁷⁹ Erdmann, Dieter. 2009. “From NORAD to Parks...A Tale of the Cheyenne Mountain Project. Colorado Open Lands Fall Newsletter.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ Ibid.

Interior, it was determined by the government that Dixon had applied one month earlier and had better title.”⁸²

Recent History

a) Plane Crash

On the night of October 12th, 1957, a T-33 military training jet crashed into the southern shoulder of Cheyenne Mountain during an attempted instrument approach to the Peterson Field runway at the end of a routine flight from Scott Air Force Base in Illinois. Pilot Lt. Col. Stevens H. Turner, a World War II veteran and an experienced pilot, and co-pilot Capt. Roy V. Cook, a Korean war veteran and holder of the Distinguished Flying Cross, were both killed in the crash.⁸³ Ground search and rescue operations were initiated after air traffic control was unable to reestablish communication with the aircraft following a transmission at 8:12 p.m., during which the pilot said, “I missed Tower” in an alarming tone.⁸⁴

An air search commenced the following afternoon after cloud cover had diminished and fragments of the wreckage were spotted on the west side of a ridge on the south shoulder of Cheyenne Mountain. Civilian Fred Engel of Limekiln Canyon was the first to arrive at the wreckage and directed the medical corpsmen to the site.⁸⁵ The bodies were recovered on October 14th in a H-13 helicopter flown by 1st Lt. Joe Underwood after a series of unsuccessful attempts due to the extremely rugged terrain and high winds. The subsequent accident investigation cites failure to follow proper instrument approach procedures, pilot fatigue and haste, and worse than anticipated weather conditions as probable factors in the crash.⁸⁶ Debris from the wreckage is still scattered throughout the crash site on Cheyenne Mountain.

b) Construction of NORAD Cheyenne Mountain Combat Operations Center

NORAD’s Cheyenne Mountain Combat Operations Center (now the Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station) became operational in 1966, after five years and 1.1 million pounds of explosives were used to blast a 470 cubic yard cavity deep in the Mountain’s granite core. The facility’s primary purpose was the early detection of a nuclear attack on the U.S. and Canada. The underground operations center covers 4.5 acres and houses eleven buildings, providing a combined 200,000 square feet of floor space. It has its own power plant and four reservoirs, with a total capacity of 1.5 million gallons of water, but relies on Colorado Springs for its water supply.

The JL Ranch property was overseen by a caretaker after the Jones family moved their operation to Montana. The Jones’ later gave permission to have all of the buildings demolished by Ft. Carson as a training exercise due to increasing liability concerns with continued trespassing and vandalism of the old home site. Today a single stone foundation, closed well, and various fences are the only remaining evidence of the ranching operations.⁸⁷

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph, October 14, 1957. Climbers Reach Jet Crash Where Two Lost Lives: Ent Men Die As Craft Hits Cheyenne Mt.

⁸⁴ Report of Aircraft Accident. 1957. Report provided by Freedom of Information Act Manager, Louie F. Alley at Air Force Safety Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

⁸⁵ Colorado Springs Gazette-Telegraph, October 15, 1957. Bodies of Two Recovered From Jet Crash Scene.

⁸⁶ Report of Aircraft Accident. 1957. Report provided by Freedom of Information Act Manager, Louie F. Alley at Air Force Safety Center, Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

⁸⁷ Thomas & Thomas. Cheyenne Mountain State Park Master Plan. July 21, 2003. pp. 5-6.

c) Denman Investment Corporation, Inc.

In 1981, a group of investors in the Philippines, represented by Denman Investments Corporation, Inc. of Vancouver, British Columbia purchased the JL Ranch. From 1981 until June of 2000, this group leased the property to smaller ranching operations that used stock tanks for water. In 1987, the City of Colorado Springs annexed 1,665 acres of the JL Ranch owned by Denman Investment Corp. Approximately 650 acres of the original ranch were excluded from the annexation because the land was deemed too steep for development.⁸⁸

JL Ranch gained international media attention briefly in 2005 with allegations that Denman Investment Corp. had secretly purchased and nominally owned the land for former Philippines dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Victims of Marcos's violent reign filed a lawsuit for title of the 520 remaining acres of JL Ranch, seeking to collect on a \$2.8 billion judgment they were awarded in 1995 against the Marcos estate by a jury in Hawaii.⁸⁹ The Ranch property has since been the subject of continuing litigation; however, the plaintiff's have so far been unsuccessful in their bid to garnish the assets of Denman Investment Corp. and its predecessors.

d) Establishment of Cheyenne Mountain State Park

In June of 2000, almost exactly 63 years from the day that Lloyd and Dorothy Jones purchased the first parcel of the property, 1,680 acres of the former JL Ranch (all south of NORAD Road) were purchased by the State of Colorado and its partners for the establishment of Cheyenne Mountain State Park, with the northern 520 acres being retained by Denman Investment Corp. Previously, the entire ranch had been slated for extensive residential and commercial development.

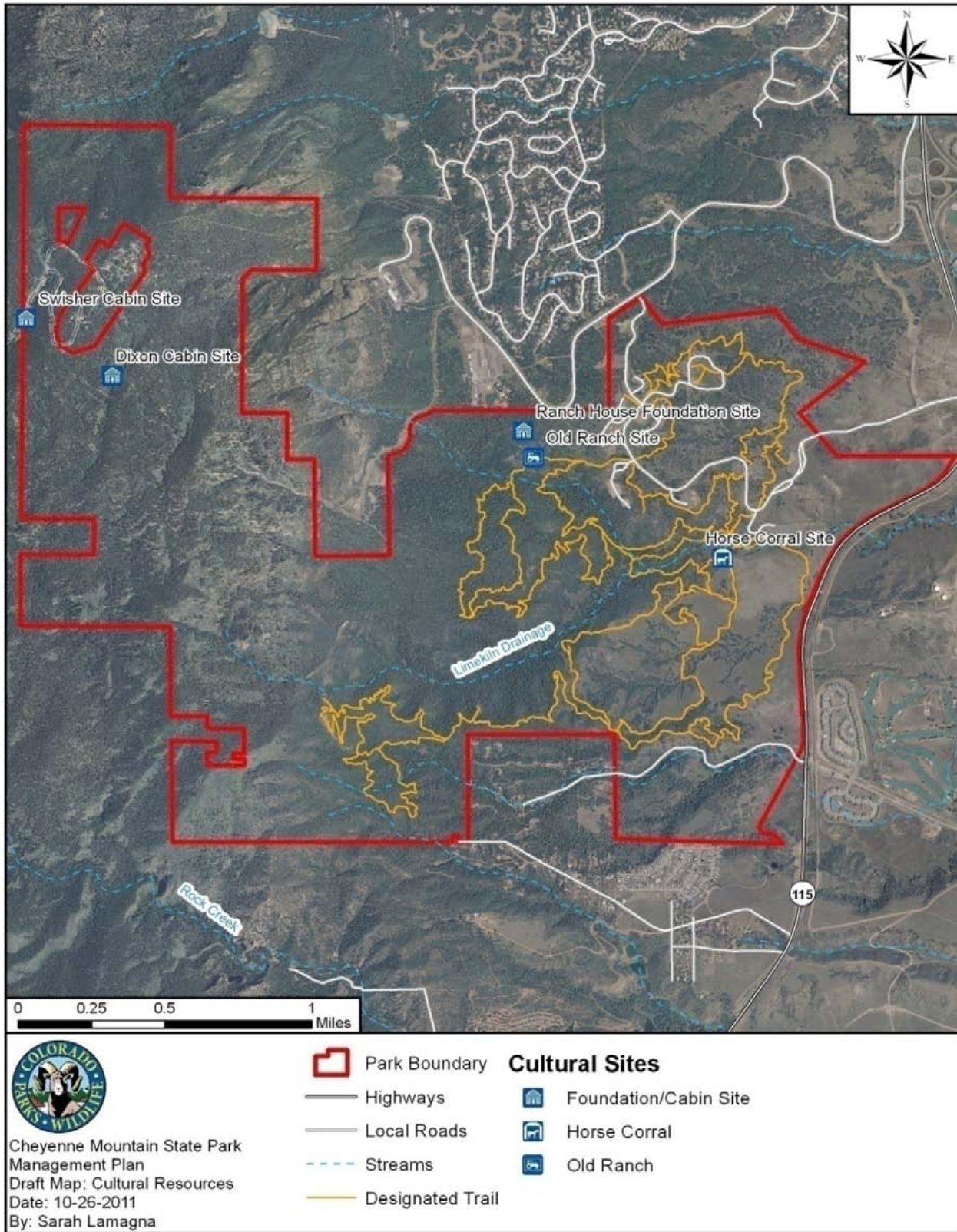
"Eighty-one years after their grandfather had been granted a homestead on top of Cheyenne Mountain, Bert Swisher's grandchildren, Bert Reissig and Myra Ann Benjamin, through Cheyenne Mountain Reserve, LLC, purchased the entirety of the Dixon property and the two properties were finally combined. Upon their mother's death in 1994, Bert Reissig and Myra Benjamin hired P.J. Anderson, an attorney and former El Paso County Planning Director, to investigate a non-compete agreement that their grandfather, Bert Swisher, had signed when he deeded the antennae farm property in the 1950s.

Bert and Myra wished to preserve the property to honor their grandfather's legacy, but at the same time needed to generate income from the land. Settlement of a lawsuit with the owners of the antennae farm allowed Bert and Myra to obtain ownership of additional acreage, along with access to their lands via an approved road. This settlement, however, also opened the door to the potential development of the land, a scenario that was looking increasingly probable.

⁸⁸ Colorado Springs Gazette, Aug. 12, 1987, B1. Laden.

⁸⁹ Caldwell, Alicia. Denver Post. April 16th, 2005. Available at <http://www.denverpost.com/fdcp?unique=1327082548222> (Accessed 1/19/12)

Map 10. Cultural Sites



Shortly after Colorado State Parks and the City of Colorado Springs had announced the acquisition of the JL Ranch and their intent to create Cheyenne Mountain State Park at the base of the Mountain, P.J. Anderson, a founding member of the Colorado State Parks Foundation, approached those agencies to gauge their interest in purchasing the property. While State Parks and the City's levels of interest were high, they had just made a major investment in the JL Ranch, and due to the high development potential of the summit, the price tag for the property was too high. Nevertheless, Bert, Myra and PJ were determined to preserve rather than develop the property.

Ultimately, the landowners donated conservation easements to Colorado Open Lands in 2007, 2008, and 2009 over a total of 925 acres. This was followed closely by the acquisition of these preserved parcels by State Parks and the City of Colorado Springs; the final phase of the transaction was completed in January 2009.”⁹⁰

Scenic Resources

Cheyenne Mountain State Park features expansive scenic views of the eastern plains, and the foothills, including Cheyenne Mountain. As an important transitional zone between great-plains grassland and mountain coniferous forest, the park hosts a stunningly diverse array of plant communities, whose high aesthetic value and habitat integrity are becoming increasingly scarce along the Front Range. The landscape's geological history is also evident in the many geological formations, including rock outcrops and large drainages that punctuate the park's dramatic elevation change from its eastern to western boundary.

Wildlife is another important scenic attraction. Most every park visitor has the opportunity to see prairie dogs and wild turkey, two of the park's most prominent wildlife residents. On the eastern grassland portions of the park, prairie dogs are present by the hundreds and to the west, among the higher ponderosa pines and oak-filled valleys, turkey can be found year round. For more dramatic wildlife viewing, visitors may also have the opportunity to see the larger mule deer, elk, black bear, mountain lion, whitetail deer, coyote, falcons, eagles and the Mexican spotted owl.⁹¹

Recreation Resources

Trails

As of 2012, Cheyenne Mountain State Park had 16 trails, with a combined length of approximately 20 miles, that wind throughout much of the park (Map 11). All trails are easy to moderate in difficulty with minimal elevation gain and take hikers and bikers on a nature adventure through the park (Table 6). Each trail at Cheyenne Mountain State Park has offers its own unique experience. In the winter months, some of the trails are groomed to allow for snowshoe and cross-country skiing opportunities.

⁹⁰ Erdmann, Dieter. 2009. "From NORAD to Parks...A Tale of the Cheyenne Mountain Project. Colorado Open Lands Fall Newsletter.

⁹¹ Ibid.

Map 11. Park Trails (2012)

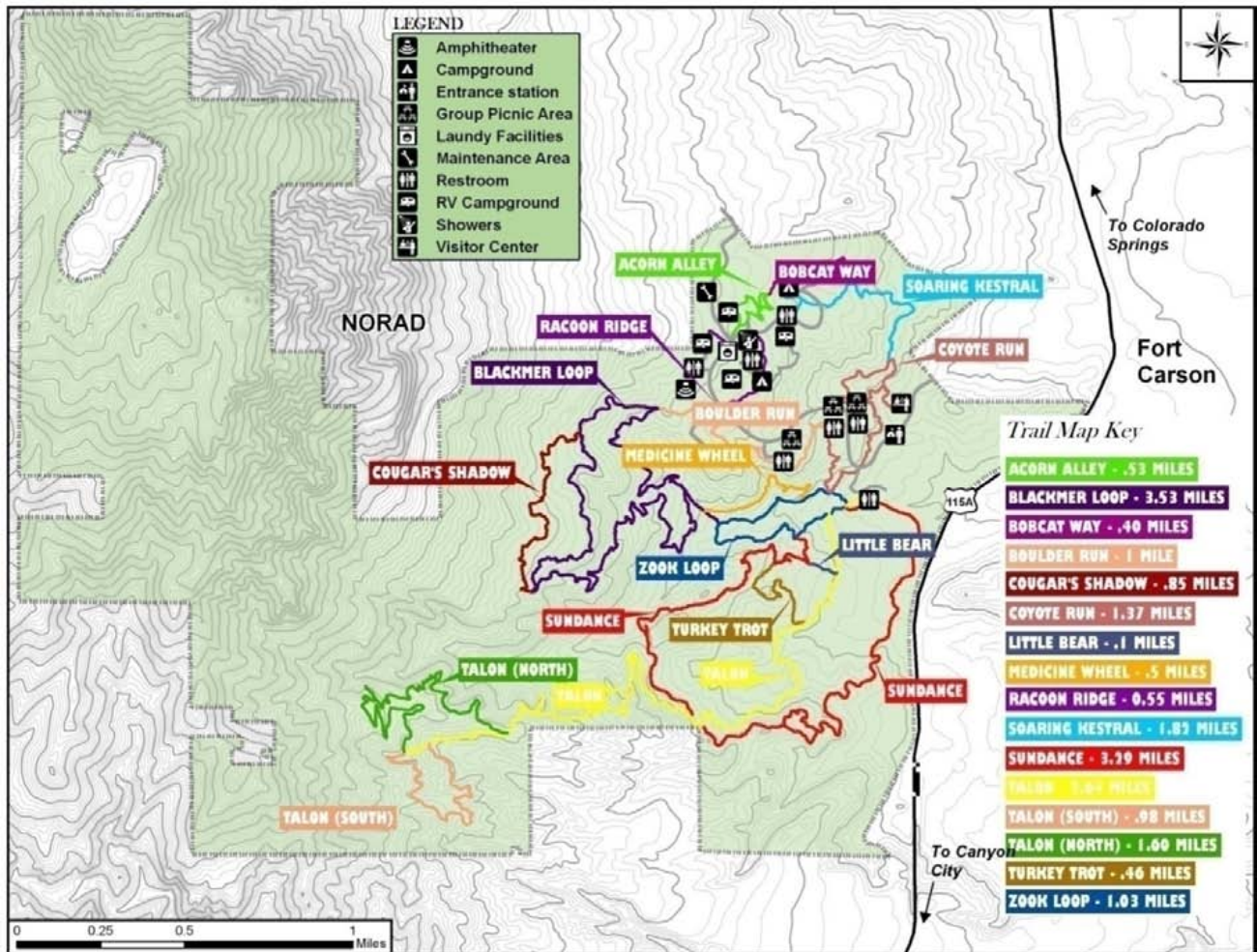






















Table 6. Cheyenne Mountain State Park Trails.

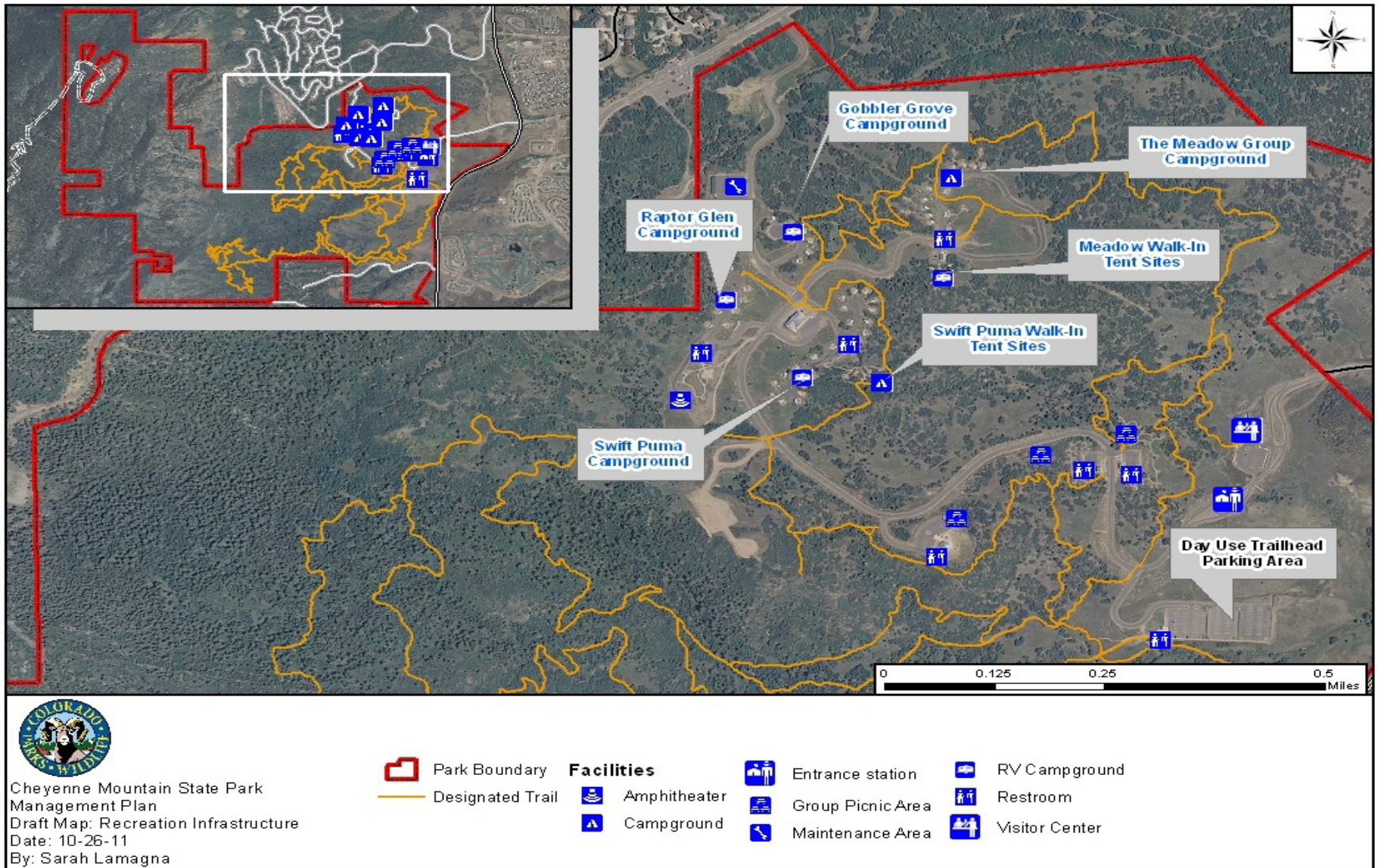
Trail*	Miles	Description	Type/Difficulty	Summer Uses	Winter Uses**
Acorn Alley	0.53	The Acorn Alley Trail is 0.53 miles of easy hiking or biking along a gentle slope on a universally accessible pathway. This trail circles the Gobbler Grove Campground.	easy, ADA accessible		
Blackmer	3.52	The Blackmer Loop Trail is 3.52 miles of moderate trail with moderate elevation gain. The trail is a park staff favorite because of great pines and rock gardens along the route.	moderate		
Bobcat Way	0.4	The Bobcat Way Trail is 0.40 miles of easy, gentle slope. The trail is a spur from the Acorn Alley Trail and connects to the Soaring Kestrel Trail.	easy		
Boulder Run	1.0	The Boulder Run Trail is a one-mile moderate trail with some elevation gain offering a nice view of park open space and the Limekiln Valley, an active wildlife corridor.	moderate		
Coyote Run	1.37	The Coyote Run Trail is 1.37 miles of easy to moderate, gentle sloping interpretive trail that's close to the visitor's center. Great for a learn-as-you-go experience, a great horned owl has been spotted here.	easy to moderate		
Cougars Shadow	0.85	The Cougars Shadow Trail is a 0.85-mile, moderate, thick forest and nicely shaded single-track trail ideal for mountain bikes.	moderate		
Little Bear	0.1	The Little Bear Trail is a 0.1-mile easy, flat connection trail near a prairie dog town.	easy		
Medicine Wheel	0.5	The Medicine Wheel Trail is a 0.5-mile moderate, single-track perfect for mountain biking.	moderate		
Raccoon Ridge	0.55	The Raccoon Ridge Trail is a 0.55-mile easy gentle slope of a trail.	easy		

Trail*	Miles	Description	Type/Difficulty	Summer Uses	Winter Uses**
Talon	2.64	The Talon Trail is a 2.64-mile moderate trail with increasing elevation gain and changing scenery. It begins as a prairie hike and traverses through the scrub oak and montane habitats.	moderate		
Talon North	1.60	The Talon North Trail is a 1.60-mile moderate trail with some elevation gain. It offers a short spur trail that leads to an overlook.	moderate		
Talon South	0.98	The Talon South is a 0.98-mile moderate trail with a gentle slope. Hikers meander through lush vegetation and the trail bisects a large rock fin before looping south through interesting terrain.	moderate		
Soaring Kestrel	1.82	The Soaring Kestrel is a 1.82-mile moderate trail with some elevation gain, along scrub oak marked with an interpretive sign and nice valley views.	moderate		
Sundance	3.29	The Sundance Trail is 3.29 miles of easy, mostly flat trail with minor elevation gain. The trail winds along the outskirts of one of the parks' prairie dog colonies.	easy		
Turkey Trot	0.46	The Turkey Trot Trail is a 0.46-mile easy, mostly flat trail that connects with other trails on the valley floor.	easy		
Zook Loop	1.03	The Zook Loop Trail is a 1.03-mile easy, mostly flat trail that connects with several trails. It leads to "The Rock Garden," which is a great place to sit and enjoy the wonders of nature.	easy		
Total	20.64				

*Proposed trails included in Section 5.0 are not included in this table. This is intended to provide a snapshot of trails that exist as of November 2012.

**Trails may be used for cross country skiing and snowshoeing during periods of significant snow accumulation.

Map 12. Recreation Facilities and Infrastructure



Camping

Cheyenne Mountain State Park offers a variety of camping opportunities with its four campgrounds, 61 campsites (consisting of 51 full hook-up and 10 basic tent sites), and a camper services building. All campgrounds are located in the northeastern section of the park (Map 12). Camping is available in the off-season with limited facilities.

Camper Services Building

The park offers a camper services building which serves as the hub of the campground. Services include: camper registration, park information, camp store with grocery and gift items, restrooms, coin-operated showers, coin-operated laundry, playground, pay phone, activity room, and educational displays. The camper services building closes each year on the third Monday in October.

Full-Service Campgrounds

The park boasts 51 full-service campsites that include water, electrical and sewer hook-ups for RV/tent campers. All campsites have a picnic table, fire ring, and an emergency water hydrant. The Raptor Glen Campground is the western most campground and offers 10 full-service sites. The Gobbler Grove Campground offers 7 full-service sites. The Swift Puma Campground is the southernmost campground and offers 27 campsites, of which 6 are walk-in basic. Two of the campsites in the Swift Puma Campground are ADA accessible. As the name suggests, the Meadows Group Campground is the group camping area; the Campground offers 5 groupings of 17 campsites. Four of the sites are walk-in basic, of which two are ADA accessible. Two additional ADA accessible sites are full-service sites. Every “grouping” also includes a unique gathering area, or “commons area”, that has several picnic tables, a barbeque grill, and an additional fire ring for group gatherings. There is a restroom and a coin-operated shower facility in the Meadows Campground.



A typical full-service campsite overlooking the eastern plains

Walk-In Campgrounds

In addition to the 51 full-service deluxe campsites, the park offers 10 unique walk-in basic sites (Table 7). All of these sites have a picnic table, fire ring, and an emergency water hydrant. Six of these sites are located in the Swift Puma Campground, and the other 4 are located in the Meadows Group Campground. Two of the walk-in sites at the Meadows Group Campground are ADA accessible. The Meadows Group Campground also has a restroom and a coin-operated shower facility.

Table 7. Total Campsites by Campground (2011).⁹²

Campground	Basic	Electric	Total Campsites
Raptor Glen (sites 1-10)	0	10	10
Gobbler Grove (sites 11-17)	0	7	7
Swift Puma (sites 18-44)	6	21	27
Meadows (sites 45-61)	4	13*	17
Total	10	51	61

*The Meadows Campground includes five group camping areas that can accommodate 78 people at 13 sites.

⁹² On any given day, Cheyenne Mountain State Park Staff hold four to five campsites for overflow camping.

Camping facilities at Cheyenne Mountain State Park were opened to the public in November 2008. Additional years of data collection are needed to analyze longer term trends in overnight use. Total overnight use participation was similar between 2009 and 2010 (fiscal years 2010 and 2011), with over 8,000 campsite reservations made each year (Table 8).

Table 8. Total Overnight Use Participation by Campsite Type (FY 2009-FY 2011).⁹³

Campsite Type	Overnight Use Participants			
	FY 2009*	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2009-2011
Basic	421	1,127	1,297	2,845
Deluxe	2,434	6,656	6,576	15,666
Group	387	291	441	1,119
Grand Total	3,242	8,074	8,314	21,221

*Camping opened to the public in November of 2008.

Average campground occupancy during peak season months (May-September) at Cheyenne Mountain State Park was 63% in FY 2010 and 64% in FY 2011 (Table 9). These averages are generally higher than comparable parks that are situated in similar proximity to urban areas; parks like Golden Gate and Chatfield average about 39% and 63% occupancy between May through September, respectively. Like other parks along the Front Range, occupancy typically remains high through mid-October, declines significantly from November through March, and then rises again in April.

Table 9. Percent Campground Occupancy by Month (FY 2009-2011).⁹⁴

Month	FY 2009*	FY 2010	FY 2011
Jul	—	69%	75%
Aug	—	69%	65%
Sep	—	56%	56%
Oct	—	54%	37%
Nov	0%	5%	1%
Dec	1%	1%	1%
Jan	2%	4%	6%
Feb	4%	6%	5%
Mar	16%	7%	12%
Apr	19%	28%	30%
May	50%	53%	52%
Jun	68%	66%	72%
Peak Season Monthly Average	59%	63%	64%
Off-Season Monthly Average	7%	15%	13%

*Camping opened to the public in November of 2008 (mid FY 2009).

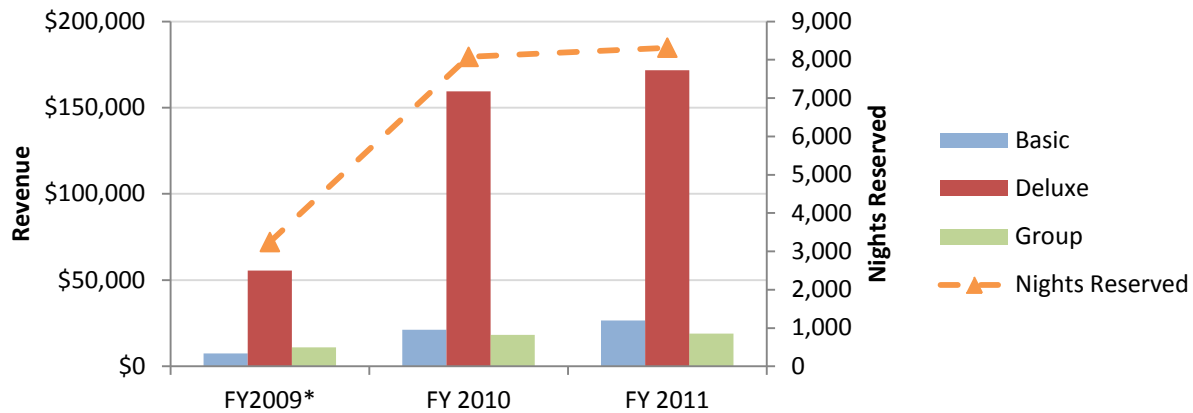
⁹³ Colorado Parks & Wildlife, internal camping revenue and participation report from PARKS database.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

According to the 2009 Corona Insights Visitor Intercept Survey, 19% of park visitors stay overnight at Cheyenne Mountain State Park compared to a Division-wide average of 38% at other parks that allow overnight camping. However, camping was not allowed in the park until the end of 2008, so this statistic may not accurately reflect current overnight use at Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

In fiscal year 2009, camping fees accounted for about 41% of total park revenues. Camping fees generated the largest percentage of revenue in fiscal years 2010 and 2011, comprising 52% and 56% of total revenues, respectively (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Total Revenue and Reservations by Campsite Type (FY 2009-FY 2011).⁹⁵



*Camping opened to the public in November of 2008 (mid FY 2009).

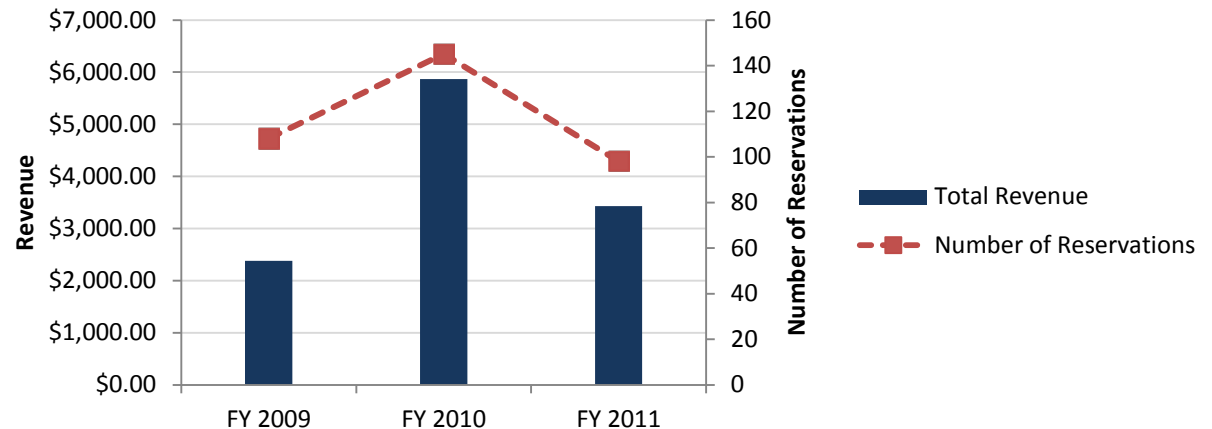
Picnicking

Forty-one picnic sites serve day-users in the northeastern section of the park. A picnic table and grill are provided at each site and they are available year-round on a first-come, first-served basis. In addition to the day-use picnic sites, the Prairie Skipper outdoor event facility serves as the park’s group picnic site. It can accommodate up to 200 people, has parking for 86 vehicles, and includes a shaded pavilion with electric service, picnic tables, a volleyball court, restrooms, and a playground. The facility costs \$150.00 for a Monday-Friday rental and \$200 for a Saturday or Sunday rental in fiscal year 2012.

Revenues from group picnic site reservations were highest in fiscal year 2010 at \$5,865. Although revenues declined to \$3,430 in fiscal year 2011, they remained above the 2009 total of \$2,379 (Figure 3).

⁹⁵ Ibid.

Figure 3. Group Picnic Site Revenue and Reservations (FY 2009-2011).



Hunting/Wildlife Viewing

Although hunting is not currently allowed in Cheyenne Mountain State Park, limited small game hunting is recommended in appropriate locations of the park. In addition, numerous opportunities for hunting exist on surrounding public lands.

Geocaching

In recent years, geocaching has become a popular activity in parks across the country and Cheyenne Mountain State Park is no exception. A GPS device is used to locate caches that contain clues to find other caches hidden throughout the park. GPS units were available for rental at the park Visitor Center for \$10 per day in fiscal year 2012. The park also offers GPS/Geocaching instructional programs throughout the summer season.

Interpretation and Environmental Education

As part of its recreational development, the park has also invested in a range of interpretive infrastructure, including trails, bulletin boards, and an amphitheater.

Great Outdoors Colorado

The Great Outdoors Colorado grant program has provided funding for an interpreter at Cheyenne Mountain State Park on a temporary, seasonal basis. The annual allocation for this Volunteer & Education Program budget has averaged \$13,258 over the past five years. However, due to organizational restructuring associated with the merger of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, it is unknown whether funding will be available for this position beyond FY 2012-2013. Without this position, interpretive offerings at the park may be scaled back as well.

Interpretive Facilities

Many of the park's buildings and infrastructure include elements that facilitate interpretive activities including exhibits, displays, and a classroom, which is also available for rent for parties, meetings, and small events.

Park Headquarters/Visitor Center

Consisting of a large visitor center and park offices, the park headquarters provides a space and materials for interpretive activities. The visitor center provides materials such as brochures and maps, as well as books and other items for sale.

Interpretive Opportunities along Trails

Interpretive wayside signs have been placed along most trails at Cheyenne Mountain State Park, helping visitors locate points of interest along the trail. As of 2012, all signage was relatively new and in good condition.

Amphitheater

Many of the park's interpretive programs are staged at the Prairie Falcon Event Facility, a scenic, rock-step outdoor amphitheater that can accommodate a maximum of 200 people.

Camper Services Building

An interpretive exhibit at the Camper Services Building showcases the cultural history of the land within the original park boundary. Temporary staff offer a modest supply of food and beverage items, as well as ice, firewood, and some camping supplies, for sale at the camper services building from the second Friday in April until the third Monday in October.



Amphitheater at the Prairie Falcon Event Facility

Interpretive Programs

Cheyenne Mountain State Park hosts a diverse array of interpretive programs year-round. The primary focal points of interpretation and environmental education at Cheyenne Mountain State Park include resident wildlife and vegetation, as well as the cultural history of the park and surrounding areas. While many of the programs are youth and family-oriented, a number of the park's naturalist-led hikes are targeted toward adult visitors. Frequent program topics include the following:

- *Junior Ranger Program* – Junior Ranger Programs provide children ages 7-12 and their guardians with a meaningful experience and interaction with the natural environment that helps promote stewardship at an early age. Participants learn to enforce park rules and regulations, respond to wildlife encounters, and administer basic first aid through interactive role playing scenarios.
- *Apprentice Ranger Program* – This fledgling program provides teenagers with an opportunity to continue and build upon skills introduced in the Junior Ranger program, while working side-by-side with Park staff.
- *Kids Connecting with Nature Series* – This program series offers children ages 3-5 and their parents, opportunities to engage in first hand exploration and discovery of the natural world. Program themes include *Pre-School Trail Adventures*, *Let's Find Frogs*, *The Antics of Ants*, and *Hug a Bug!*.
- *Exploring Park Ecosystems Hikes* – A series of themed hikes acquaint adult visitors with the Park's diverse flora and fauna communities. Program topics include *The Short-Grass Prairie*, *The Montane Shrubland*, *The Montane Forest*, and *"What's Bloomin'" Plant Discovery Hikes*.

- *Family Mystery Hikes* – These naturalist-led hikes challenge families to solve a puzzle, riddle or mystery as they walk and search for hidden clues along an easy, one mile trail. Popular themes include bird and spider identification, and winter survival.
- *Full Moon Hikes* – Participants are offered a unique opportunity to observe the Park’s nocturnal wildlife on these guided, evening strolls.
- *GPS/Geocaching* – Monthly classes offer families lessons in GPS navigation. Participants then apply their skills to locate hidden geocaches throughout the park.
- *Amphitheater Programs* – Presentations are held at the Prairie Falcon Event Facility amphitheater every Friday and Saturday during the summer. Programs cover a wide variety of topics, such as *Bear and Mountain Lion Awareness, Bats, Rattlesnakes, Hummingbirds, Cowboy Jokes/Poetry, and History of Cheyenne Mountain State Park.*

The park relies on a core group of about 20 volunteer naturalists who provide invaluable assistance in organizing and delivering interpretive programs. Local individuals and organizations, including the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, snake expert Dick Holiday, and the Pueblo Raptor Center, have all provided additional volunteer support during the Park’s annual *No Child Left Inside* day, part of a national initiative to get children outside to exercise, explore, and enjoy the natural environment. The Park interpreter and volunteer staff also operate an activity booth at Fort Carson’s annual Earth Day event.

Facilities and Infrastructure

The Cheyenne Mountain State Park buildings inventory includes the following facilities listed below. Please refer to Appendix E for a more detailed inventory of park facilities and infrastructure. All facilities are new and in excellent condition, having been built in 2007.

Park Office/Visitor Center

The Visitor Center is located off of the main park road. The approximately 6,700 square foot facility with parking for 79 vehicles was constructed in 2007. It features interpretive displays and hands-on activities for kids. A stone fireplace serves as a cozy stop in or out of the park, and an outdoor patio is a great place to relax and enjoy the views on a warm, sunny day. The Visitor Center is also home to “The Trail’s End”, the park’s book and gift shop. There is a conference/meeting room facility that will accommodate a maximum of 50 people (30 people seated), and is available for rent at a charge of \$100 per day (in fiscal year 2012).

Park Entrance Station

The park entrance station is located on the main park road just past the Visitor Center. The facility is approximately 217 square feet. There is a bathroom located in the station with a sink and one flush toilet.

Prairie Skipper Event Pavilion

The Prairie Skipper Event Pavilion is located off of the main park road. It will accommodate 200 people and has parking for 86 vehicles. The group facility provides a state-of-the-art shaded pavilion complete with electric service, picnic tables, restroom facilities, a volleyball court, and a children’s playground. It is available for daily rental during the summer months through September. In FY 2012, the rental fee was \$150.00 per day for Monday-Friday rental and \$200.00 per day for Saturday or Sunday rental (in FY 2012).

Amphitheater

The Prairie Falcon Event Facility is an outdoor amphitheater with rock step amphitheater-style seating. The facility is open May - October and accommodates a maximum of 200 people; however, parking is limited. In FY 2012, rental fees were: \$300.00 per two hour increment on Fridays and Saturdays from the first weekend in May through September; \$150.00 per two hour increment Sunday through Thursday; and \$150.00 per two hour increment Fridays and Saturdays in October.

Camper Services Building

The camper services building is located off of the main park road, conveniently accessible from all four campgrounds. A small lot adjacent to the building has parking for 20 vehicles. The building opens on the second Friday in April and closes for the season on the third Monday in October every year. The building consists of a retail store that sells firewood, ice, camping amenities, some snack foods and drink, souvenirs and clothing. An activity room is located inside the building and there is a playground located outside. Coin-operated showers and laundry facilities are available for camper convenience.

Maintenance Shop and Shed

The maintenance shop and shed are located in the far northwestern section of the park off of the main park road. The two buildings have a gross area of approximately 6,845 square feet. Each building is built on a concrete foundation, with nonbearing curtain walls and metal roofs.

Picnic Area Flush Facilities

There is one flush facility at each of the Elk Run, Turkey Roost and Group Picnic areas. All facilities are of the same design, 900 square feet in size, they are built on concrete foundations with concrete block walls and metal roofs.

Campground Flush Facilities

There is one flush facility at each of the Swift Puma and Lower Meadow campgrounds. There is an additional restroom facility at the Day Use Trailhead. All three facilities are of the same design—900 square feet in size built on concrete foundations with concrete block walls, and metal roofs.

Operations and Maintenance

Significant investments were made in the development of facilities at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. These facilities currently include a visitor center, park entrance station, event pavilion, amphitheater, camper services building, maintenance shop and shed, 6 flush toilet buildings, 41 picnic sites, 61 campsites, 2.7 miles of paved road, 0.3 miles of unpaved road, and 20 miles of trails.

General Park Operations

All of the Park's major facilities are generally operational during the peak use season, from May through mid-October. The Visitor Center, Swift Puma Campground, and park entrance are open and maintained year round. The Entrance Station is open as staffing allows. Annual and Daily Park Passes are available at the Visitor Center during staffed hours, from 9:00 AM to

4:00 PM daily. Self-service day passes are available during hours that the Entrance Station or Visitor Center is not open.

Vehicles

The Park has six full-time fleet vehicles. As of spring 2012, four were in excellent condition with less than 25,000 miles, while two have more than 100,000 miles and require frequent service. A fire truck owned by Colorado State Forest Service and on permanent loan to the Park is ready for use in the event of an emergency. Other equipment includes three ATVs, two Polaris Rangers, three Yamaha UMax golf carts, and five patrol bikes. When feasible, minor equipment repairs are performed in the Park maintenance shop, while most vehicle servicing and major equipment repairs are sent outside for repair.

Campgrounds

Camping is restricted to designated sites. A tent pad, picnic table, emergency water hydrant, and fire ring (with ash screen) are provided at all campsites. Additional amenities at full-hookup campgrounds include electrical, water, and sewer hookups. Campground operations are overseen by two sets of volunteer camp hosts each year.

Campground reservations are accepted from the second Friday in April through the third Monday in October. Sites not reserved are offered on a first-come, first-served basis. After the third Monday in October, only the Swift Puma campground remains open, offering 16 full-hookup and six walk-in tent sites with limited services. Park pass and camping permits can be purchased at the self-service kiosk or the Visitor Center when the Camper Services Office is closed.

Camp hosts, rangers, and maintenance staff assist in the cleaning and maintenance of the Park's 61 campsites. While the campgrounds are relatively new and generally in excellent condition, common repairs include the periodic replacement of circuit breakers at the Park's 51 sites with 50-amp electrical service, repairing leaking water hydrants, and the frequent service and replacement of sewage grinder pumps at the Meadows Campground. Grinder pumps located throughout the campground pump waste to a high point, then allow wastewater to flow into the Colorado Springs sanitary sewer system through gravity feed. Currently, grinder pumps at the Meadows Campground lack sufficient waste volume because the park facilities in that area were never built to their design capacity. As a result, park staff annually hires a contractor to pump out waste from the sewer line at a considerable cost of approximately \$3,000 each year.

Picnic Sites

All rangers and maintenance staff assist in the periodic cleaning and maintenance of the park's 41 day-use picnic sites and group picnic area at the Prairie Skipper Event Pavilion. A picnic table and grill are provided at each day-use site and they are available year-round on a first-come, first-served basis. The group picnic area is available for daily rental during the summer months through September.

Road Access

Currently, the park maintains about 2.7 miles of paved road and an additional 0.3 miles of unpaved road to the site of a planned events center. There are 623 parking spaces distributed throughout the park's 8 lots. The park contracts for crack sealing of all paved surfaces every

few years, as needed. Rangers and maintenance staff routinely implement measures to protect the integrity of the road edges, which are threatened by continual erosion of the road shoulders. Virtually all of the park's roads were in very good to excellent condition in 2012, except for a small area near the Swift Puma campground. Here, separations had emerged in the asphalt due to the instability and shrink-swell actions of the underlying soil. Although the area was resurfaced in 2010, the problem has worsened as cracks and separations continue to develop. While a larger excavation and repair is planned for 2013, the area is expected to require routine maintenance.

Trail Access

Trails are generally maintained by park staff and volunteer groups.

Trash and Waste Disposal

Trash is collected in dumpsters and disposed of by licensed contractors, Waste Connections of Colorado. All wastewater generated by flush-restroom facilities, showers, and RV water and sewage hookups flows into the City of Colorado Springs sanitary sewer system.

Fencing and Wayfinding

Boundary fencing has been constructed and maintained along most of the park boundary to delineate Park property from private landholdings and county right-of-ways. Fencing is shared with Cheyenne Mountain Air Station to the north, Denman Investment Corp. to the north and east, the Colorado Department of Transportation along the park's western boundary with Highway 115, and private landowners to the south. The Park's brochure provides a map that reasonably depicts the boundaries of the park.

A large stone sign along the entrance road welcomes visitors at the park boundary. Signage has also been placed along roadways outside the park to advertise amenities and direct visitors.

Noxious Weeds

Park staff and volunteers are actively engaged in identifying, monitoring, and removing noxious weeds within the park. In addition, the park uses a contractor for noxious weed control services for two weeks each year, usually in the spring and fall. Since 2010, this contractor has been asked to perform additional weed control measures on the Top of the Mountain property, after noxious weeds such as Canada thistle had been identified on the roadsides. In previous years, additional support was available through a GOCO-funded natural vegetation employee; however, funding for this program was withdrawn in 2012.

Information Technology

Much of the parks' day-to-day business is currently conducted via web-based programs linked to external servers for various reporting functions, which require fast, stable internet connections. These reporting functions include revenue collection, visitation counts, budgeting and accounting, law enforcement queries, payroll and personnel management. Most of these administrative tasks are completed by staff working out of the Visitor Center & Park Headquarters, which is adequately served by a T-1 line that is part of the State's CSN broadband network.

Computer hardware at the park Visitor Center consists of seven stand-alone desktop computers and one laptop with standard network capabilities. The computers are linked to two printers, and a file server. There are also two other locations linked to the main Visitor's Center via Motorola Canopy wireless LAN connections. The Campground Services Building and The Maintenance/Shop each contain small networks that have the capability to connect to the server in the Visitor Center. Each has two computers and a printer.

The Visitor Center network is only five years old and is pretty modern, so major rework/rewiring would not be required at this time. One upgrade that should be considered is establishment of a wireless access point in the conference room. Budget elements that should be planned for are the lifecycle of the IT equipment, computers, and server. According to the state lifecycle requirements, these should be modernized/replaced every four years.

Utilities

Electrical Service

Electricity at Cheyenne Mountain State Park is provided by Colorado Springs Utilities. There are 15 electric meters scattered throughout the park. The highest usage occurs during the summer months (May-August), when campgrounds are busy.

Natural Gas

Natural gas used to heat all furnaces and hot water tanks at Cheyenne Mountain State Park is provided by Colorado Springs Utilities. Energy consumption has been minimized through the use of on-demand hot water tanks in most buildings. There are 10 natural gas meters scattered throughout the park.

Water Supply and Wastewater Treatment

All water supply and treatment services are provided by Colorado Springs Utilities. There are 22 water meters dispersed throughout the park.

Circulation

The road system at Cheyenne Mountain State Park consists of 2.7 miles of paved roads and a 0.3-mile unpaved spur road leading to the site of the event center that was originally planned for the park.

Visitation

Hiking and biking are the main attractions for visitors to Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Over 20 miles of trails provide visitors with an array of landscapes to choose from and an abundance of wildlife makes Cheyenne Mountain State Park an ideal place for wildlife watching as well. Camping is also popular, but comprises a relatively small proportion of all visitation. Educational program offerings are diverse and provide a learning laboratory for adults and children alike.

Visitor Demographics

In fiscal year 2009-2010, Cheyenne Mountain State Park attracted nearly 150,000 visitors. A 2009 Visitor Intercept Survey, conducted by Corona Insights, gathered 217 surveys, and

provided extensive visitation data for Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Although much of the survey was conducted prior to the park allowing overnight camping and overnight visitors, results still provide useful insight into visitation trends and demographics. Some of the key findings are provided below.

Age

Cheyenne Mountain State Park has a slightly higher than average number of visitors between the ages of 45-54 (26% compared to 22% division-wide), and visitors 55-64 (21% compared to 18% division-wide).

Cheyenne Mountain State Park has a lower than average number of visitors between the ages of 18-24 (5% compared to 7% division-wide), 25-34 (11% compared to 16% division-wide), and 65 or older (10% compared to 11% division-wide). Cheyenne Mountain State Park had an identical average number of visitors in the age group 35-44 compared to the division as a whole (22%).

Ethnicity

Eighty-nine percent (89%) of visitors are white, 3% Hispanic, 2% Native American, 2% African American, and 1% Asian. These percentages are comparable to division-wide averages, with the exception of a higher percentage of whites than most parks (89% compared to 83% division-wide).

Gender

The gender make-up for visitors to Cheyenne Mountain State Park is very similar to the make-up across all parks. Forty-five percent (45%) of survey respondents were male, which was identical to the statewide average. Forty-nine (49%) percent of survey respondents were female, compared to the state average of 47%.

Eighty-four percent (84%) of visitors were comprised of one to three males per group.

Transportation

Eighty-four percent (84%) of visitors access Cheyenne Mountain State Park in their own vehicles, which is much higher than the division-wide average (74%). Thirteen percent of visitors access the park in an RV/camper which is slightly lower than the division-wide average of 17%. Two percent of visitors claimed they used the bus to get to the park.

Group Size

Over half of all visitors to the park came with at least two people in their vehicle (52%) which is higher than the division-wide average of 43%. The mean number of persons in a vehicle was 2.63, which is just slightly lower than the division-wide average of 2.69.

Distance from Home

Eighty-one percent (81%) of visitors traveled less than 25 miles to visit Cheyenne Mountain State Park, which is substantially higher than the division-wide average of 41%. This figure is comparable to other parks that are in or nearby a densely populated urban center (Chatfield, 81% and Cherry Creek, 88%). This figure demonstrates that prior to 2010, most people visiting Cheyenne Mountain State Park were probably local area residents.

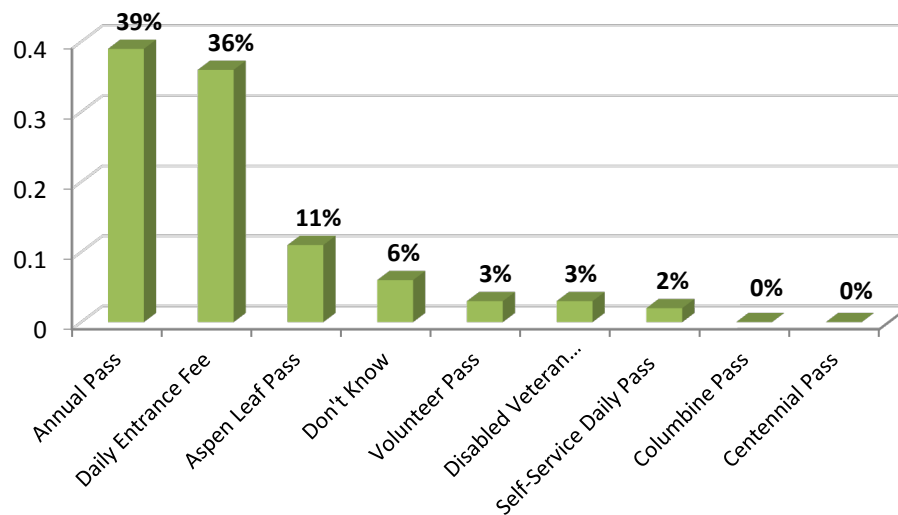
Visitors to Cheyenne Mountain State Park live a median distance of 12 miles from the park, which is lower than the division-wide average of 35 miles. State park proximity to a large urban center most likely accounts for the higher percentage of visitors traveling less than 25 miles to reach the park.

Ninety-two percent (92%) of visitors to Cheyenne Mountain State Park are Colorado residents and 8% are out-of-state. These figures only slightly differ from the statewide averages of 88% and 12%, respectively.

Type of Entrance Pass Used

Thirty-nine percent (39%) of visitors use an annual pass to visit the park. This is 5% more than the division-wide average of 34%. Thirty-six percent of visitors use a daily pass to enter the park. This is a slightly lower than average percentage compared to visitors who pay daily entrance fees at most parks (41% division-wide).

Figure 4. Type of Entrance Pass Used



Visitation Trends

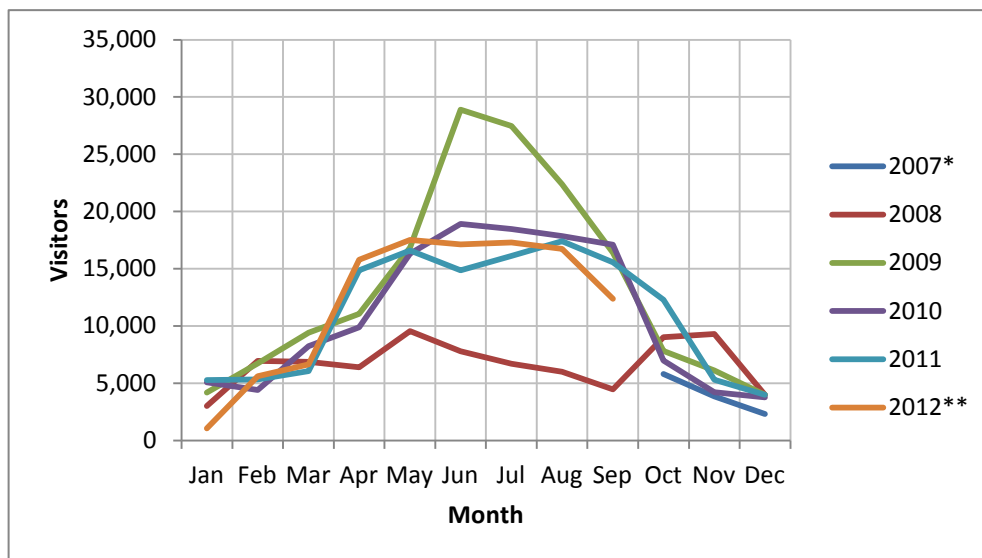
As the newest addition to the state park system, Cheyenne Mountain State Park has become increasingly popular with the public since its opening. Visitors view many of the features the park has to offer very positively. In particular, the facilities, cleanliness, customer service, trails, park programs, safety, and information and signage all rank very high among visitor satisfaction.

Annual and Monthly Visitation

Since the park opened to the public in late 2007, visitation trends have fluctuated at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. This is most likely due to the park being a new addition to the system as well as the recession that hit in 2008. Annual visitation averaged approximately 126,500 visitors per year at the park from late 2008-2011, and peaked in 2009 with just over 160,000 visitors. May through September typically attracts the highest number of visitors to the state park system, while December and January typically have the lowest visitation numbers (Figure

5). Although visitation at Cheyenne Mountain State Park follows the Division trend for 2009 and 2010, the case is much different for all other years. In 2007, the first year of operation, visitation totaled a little over 11,000 people. In 2008, visitation fluctuated significantly, most likely due to the recession. Visitation followed similar trajectories between 2010 and 2011, but fell short of 2009’s peak season high mark. Lower peak-season visitation in 2011 may have been the result of a fire ban instituted during the summer dry season.

Figure 5. Annual Park Visitation (2007-2011).



*2007 figures are for October 1, 2007 through December 31, 2007 only.

**2012 figures available through September 2012 only.

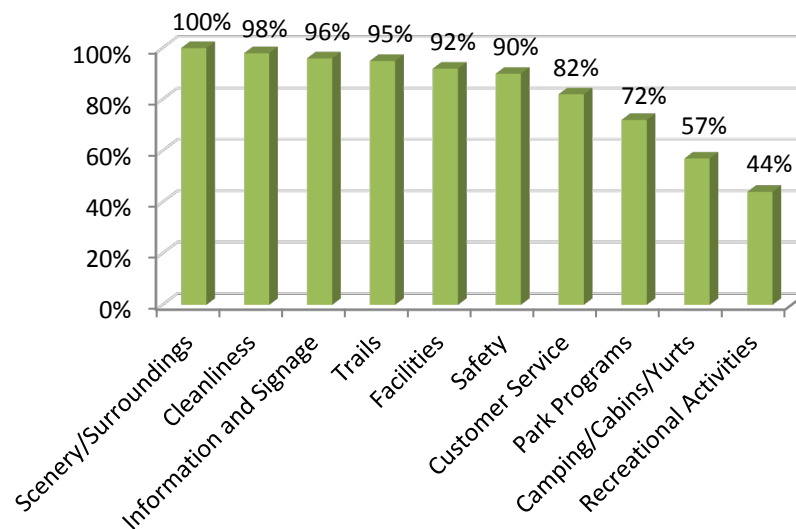
Importance of Park Features⁹⁶

According to the 2009 Visitor Intercept Survey, 96% of Cheyenne Mountain State Park’s visitors rate their overall quality of experience at the park as “excellent” or “good” (ranked 5th out of 42 state parks). Of the 10 park features surveyed, Cheyenne Mountain ranked in the top ten state parks for 8 of them; 7 ranked 1, 2, or 3 out of 42 state parks. The two features ranking below a 10 out of 42 state parks were “camping/cabins/yrurts” and “recreational activities”.

One explanation for the high quality of experience at Cheyenne Mountain State Park is its being a relatively new addition to the state park system. It was opened to the public in 2008 and all facilities were built the previous year (2007). It has the added advantage of assessing the success of interpretive and environmental programs at other state parks and tailoring its programs based on past successes and failures.

⁹⁶ The information in this section was derived from the “Visitor Intercept Survey Report”. Corona Insights Marketing Assessment 2008/2009.

Figure 6. Importance of Park Features 2009 (Very Important or Somewhat Important)



Visitor Preferences

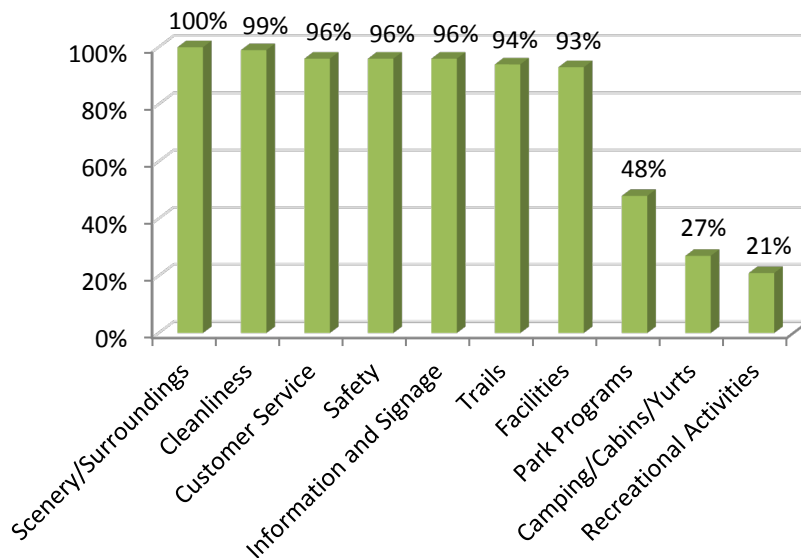
In addition to visitor trend data, the visitor intercept survey conducted by Corona Insights in 2009 provided details about visitor preferences. Several key findings about visitor preferences at Cheyenne Mountain State Park are outlined below:

- Compared to other state parks, Cheyenne Mountain State Park visitors ranked their satisfaction with “park features” as good to excellent. Visitor satisfaction with cleanliness as well as facilities at the park ranked the highest (both ranked 1 out of 42 state parks), customer service as well as trails both ranked 2 out of 42 parks, and park programs, safety, and information and signage all ranked 3 out of 42 state parks.
- Ninety-one (91%) percent of visitors who participated in an interpretive or environmental program ranked the program as good or very good. Overall, Cheyenne Mountain State Park ranked 22 out of 42 state parks in this category.
- Over half of visitors (59%) preferred more “backcountry-oriented” parks than “amenity-oriented” parks (35%).
- Fifty-six (56%) percent of visitors would greatly increase or slightly increase the number of times they visit Cheyenne Mountain State Park if the park offered more natural/primitive experiences.
- Thirty-five (35%) percent of visitors would greatly increase or slightly increase the number of times they visit Cheyenne Mountain State Park if the park offered more primitive campsites.
- Half (50%) of visitors would greatly increase or slightly increase the number of times they visit Cheyenne Mountain State Park if the park offered more non-motorized trails.
- Thirty-six percent (36%) of visitors would greatly increase or slightly increase the number of times they visit Cheyenne Mountain State Park if the park offered more interpretive or environmental programs. The same is true for programs aimed at kids

and youth; thirty-three percent of visitors would greatly or slightly increase the number of times they visit the park.

- Only 48% of respondents were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with park programs, only 27% of respondents were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with camping/cabins/yurts, and only 21% of respondents were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with recreational activities. One explanation for the low satisfaction ratings were that 50%, 66%, and 74% of respondents answered “don’t know” when ranking those features, respectively. Interestingly, park programs ranked 3 out of 42 state parks for visitor satisfaction.

Figure 7. Satisfaction with Park Features 2009 (Very Satisfied or Somewhat Satisfied)



Park Administration and Special Functions

FTE and SWP Staffing

There are currently five full-time employees assigned to the park. These include a Park Manager (PMV), Senior Ranger (PMIII), Park Manger II (PMII), Maintenance Technician (Tech IV), and Administrative Assistant (AAIII). An organizational chart and the job-related duties of the full-time staff are included in Appendix F.

Cheyenne Mountain State Park also typically employs approximately 12 to 13 temporary employees during the summer months and two during the off season. These employees occupy essential front-line positions as seasonal rangers, gate attendants, visitor center attendants, and maintenance workers.

Volunteers

Cheyenne Mountain State Park’s enthusiastic volunteers play a vital role in the day-to-day operation of the park. Volunteers help provide visitors with exceptional service by fulfilling the roles of park naturalists, visitor center attendants, trail maintenance, weed warriors and camp

hosts, to name a few. Volunteers also monitor the park's raptor population and assist with other important resource stewardship duties. Although unpaid, volunteers attend trainings just as paid staff, and are eligible to receive certain incentives including an annual Volunteer Park Pass after completing 48 hours of service.

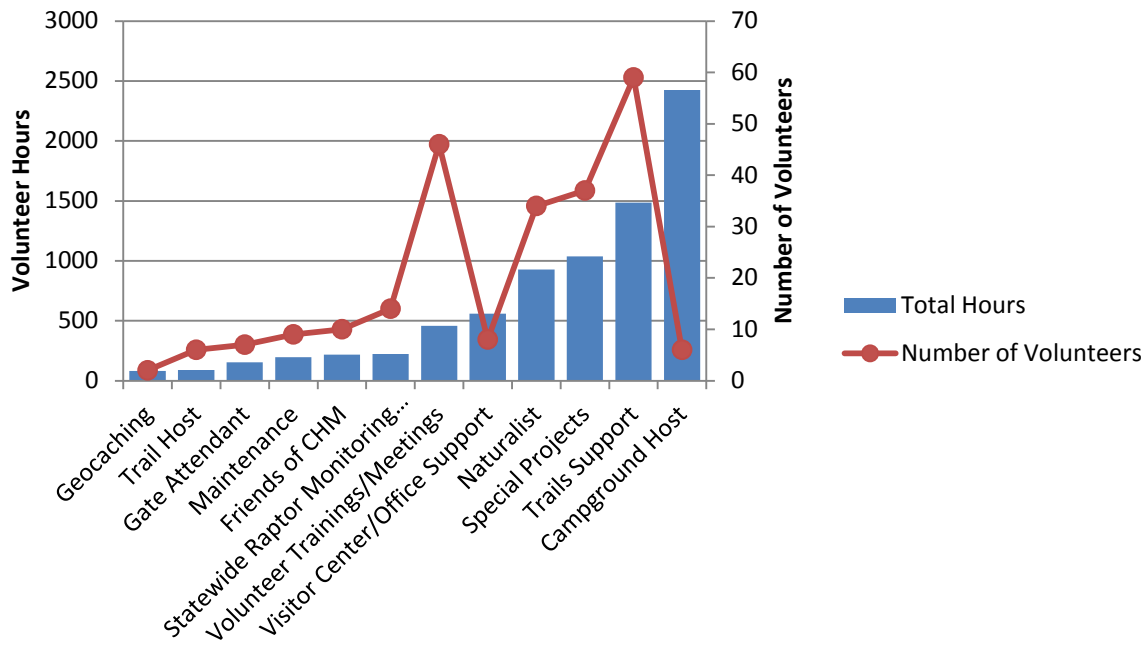
The inclusion of a core group of volunteers from the earliest phases of Cheyenne Mountain State Park's planning and construction have helped establish a strong culture of volunteerism at the park. Early volunteer involvement included developing a volunteer handbook, conducting volunteer open houses, providing initial and on-going training for new volunteers, and assisting with the grand opening of the park. Even before opening to the public, Cheyenne Mountain State Park received the inaugural Statewide Volunteer & Education Program Summit Award for most volunteer hours in the Southeast Region. In 2011, the park reached almost 7,856 volunteer hours, slightly down from 8,600 hours in 2010. As of 2011, there were only eight parks in the state with more volunteer hours. Figure 8 shows volunteer hours for 2011 by type of volunteer project.

The park has accommodations for either two individuals, or two couples to host the campgrounds for two, six-month periods each year. One campsite with full hook-ups is specifically used by campground hosts throughout the duration of their stay at no charge. Hosts generally perform light maintenance duties, including picking up litter, cleaning fire pits, and restroom upkeep. Hosts provide information for park visitors, additional security, and have a welcoming presence.

The ongoing efforts of the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park volunteer organization have been evident in virtually all facets of the park's operation, particularly in the Adopt-A-Trail Program, the lobbying and acquisition of the Top of the Mountain property, and continued involvement in all special events at the park, including their highly successfully *No Child Left Inside* days. Friends' leadership has been tapped often by other parks for advice on how to successfully build a Friends group. They have also assisted with the 2010 State Parks' National Volunteer Coordinator's Conference and other statewide Friends efforts. The group's success may be attributed to a highly motivated park staff working together as a team to incorporate volunteers on every level of park operation and the coordinated and thoughtful development of a volunteer program plan, opportunity descriptions, volunteer handbook, implementation recognition model, and incorporation of volunteer input.

The importance of volunteerism at Cheyenne Mountain State Park has become increasingly evident in light of continued budget cuts. In 2011, volunteers were crucial in maintaining park operations despite staff turnover, a record year of staff shortages, and many other challenges.

Figure 8. Volunteer Hours by Type (2011).



Enforcement, Public Safety, & Emergency Response

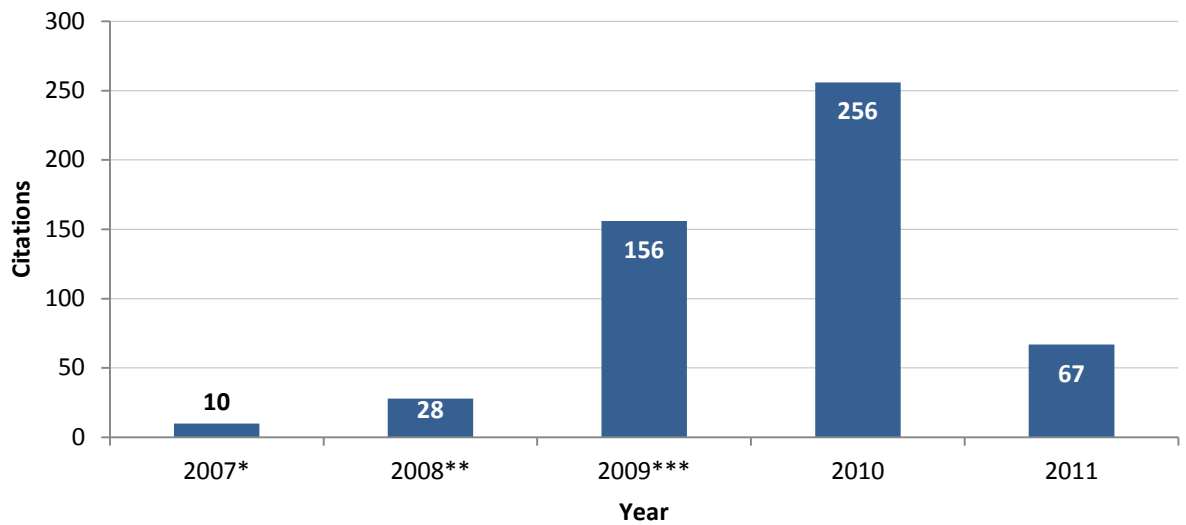
Enforcement issues at Cheyenne Mountain State Park are not nearly as significant as they are at other larger parks that accommodate overnight use. When enforcement is necessary, park rangers’ actions are guided by three priorities (ranked highest to lowest):

- Ensure the safety and well-being of the public
- Protect personal property and the Park’s natural and man-made resources
- Enforce administrative functions, such as issuing fees or permits

Failures to obtain or display a valid park pass accounted for 78% of all citations for available data between 2007 and 2011 (Figure 9). The two next most common enforcement issues were traffic and dogs violations, which comprised 9% and 6% of citations respectively during the same period. (See Appendix G for complete citation and medical assist data).

Only ten medical assists have occurred at Cheyenne Mountain State Park since the park’s opening in 2007, considerably fewer than many other parks.

Figure 9. Total Citations by Year (2007-2011).



*2007 figures are for June 1st through December 31st only.

**2008 figures are for January 1st through June 30th only.

***2009 figures are for July 1st through December 31st only.

Rattlesnake Encounters

Sightings of rattlesnakes are fairly common at Cheyenne Mountain State Park, so care is taken to minimize the danger of rattlesnake encounters. Signs in the parking areas inform visitors that rattlesnakes inhabit the park and request that visitors stay on established park trails. Records are kept of rattlesnake sightings. Interpretive programs and park literature discuss what actions a visitor should take upon encountering a rattlesnake.

Encounters with Black Bear or Mountain Lion

Information signs are posted at the trailheads informing visitors of the precautions to take in the event of an encounter with a bear or mountain lion. Sighting records are posted at the Visitor Center.

Storm Alert

A siren from the Fort Carson Army Base weather alert system can be heard from the park and indicates that severe weather may be in the area. The Cheyenne Mountain State Park brochure encourages visitors to treat the siren as a warning and take appropriate precautions.

Emergency Response

The most likely emergencies to occur at Cheyenne Mountain State Park include medical emergencies, search and rescue operations, rock rescue operations, and wildfires threatening structures or natural resources. Park rangers are trained in cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, first aid, and emergency response. They provide emergency assistance until the paramedic staff from Colorado Springs Fire Department, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, and/or Fort Carson Fire Department arrives. Table 10 outlines staff emergency procedures in the event of a life-threatening or non-life-threatening incident at the park.

Table 10. Emergency Response Protocol

Emergency	Contact	Staff Procedure
Medical Emergency	Colorado Springs Fire Department	Notify Pueblo State Patrol dispatch center and request assistance of the Colorado Springs Fire Department and assist search coordinator in rescue operation
Search and Rescue	El Paso County Search and Rescue	Notify Pueblo State Patrol dispatch center and request assistance of the El Paso County Search and Rescue and assist search coordinator in rescue operation
Rock Rescue	Colorado Springs Fire Department Search and Rescue Team	Notify Pueblo State Patrol dispatch center and request assistance of the Colorado Springs Fire Department Search and Rescue Team.
Wildland or Structure Fire	Colorado Springs Fire Department	Notify Pueblo State Patrol dispatch center and request assistance of the Colorado Springs Fire Department

Easements and Agreements

This section includes a brief summary of the various easements and agreements that are relevant to Cheyenne Mountain State Park. Park staff should consult with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Real Estate Section for complete copies of these documents, some of which have been included in Appendix H for quick reference.

City of Colorado Springs

- a) Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions

The City placed a set of covenants, conditions, and restrictions on the 620 acres it acquired from CPW prior to executing the Operation and Maintenance Agreement. The Declaration restricts the development and uses of the property, akin to a conservation easement, and also authorizes the implementation of a land management plan for the property. This document was recorded on June 5, 2000, in the County records at Reception No. 200063516.

- b) Operation and Maintenance Agreement

Colorado Parks and Wildlife entered into an Operation and Maintenance Agreement with the City of Colorado Springs on August 28th, 2000, setting forth mutual operation and maintenance responsibilities for the 620 acres of City-owned J-L Ranch Open

Space within Cheyenne Mountain State Park. The agreement's intent was that the State-owned and City-owned property encompassing Cheyenne Mountain State Park "be viewed as one seamless, functional park and open space system operated by the State." The primary responsibilities of CPW enumerated by this agreement include: the development and implementation of management plans; holding annual meetings with City officials to discuss matters of mutual concern; complying with the City's TOPS ordinance and the Great Outdoors Colorado Stewardship Policy for Land Conservation Projects; erecting fences and controlling access; and obtaining permission from the City prior to the use of hazardous pesticides or herbicides. The agreement is perpetual unless terminated by one of the parties with due notice to the other party. This agreement was not recorded in the County records.

c) First Amendment to Operation and Maintenance Agreement

The Operation and Maintenance Agreement was amended on June 8th, 2009 to include the 549 acres of City-owned property within the Top of the Mountain acquisition area. These acres were acquired by the City from various private landowners between 2007 and 2009. Also included in the amendment was a provision prohibiting charging entrance fees to trail users who access the top of Cheyenne Mountain from trails located outside the park. This amendment was not recorded in the County records.

d) Utility Easement

Colorado Parks and Wildlife granted a permanent utility easement to the City on February 25, 2005, in order to allow the City to construct, operate, and maintain pipelines, transformers, and other similar above ground and underground structures along a corridor in the northern portion of the J-L Ranch. This easement was recorded on February 28, 2005, in the County records at Reception No. 205027725.

Denman Investment Corporation, Inc.

a) Joint Development Agreement

Colorado Parks and Wildlife entered into a Joint Development Agreement with Denman Investment Corporation, Inc. on June 1st, 2000 for the joint development of the J-L Ranch. The agreement facilitates the coordinated development and shared expense of an access road, the enlargement of an intersection with State Highway 115, and the extension of utilities for the mutual benefit of the new park and a proposed development on an adjacent 537 acres retained by Denman. Under the agreement, Denman would carry out the improvements as an independent contractor, while the State would reimburse 10% of the "reasonable, allocable, and allowable" costs of construction. The agreement was to terminate upon the completion of construction of all improvements and the City's acceptance of Denman's plats of the access road and utility easement. This agreement was recorded on June 5, 2000, in the County records at Reception No. 200063514.

b) Utility Easement

Denman Investment Corporation granted a 60-foot wide utility easement to CPW on June 18th, 2000. This perpetual, non-exclusive easement was granted for the purpose

of providing “underground water, underground sanitary sewer, underground telecommunication, and underground electrical power service” to Cheyenne Mountain State Park. The easement encumbers a portion of Denman’s property adjacent to the northeast corner of the Park. This easement was recorded on June 5, 2000, in the County records at Reception No. 200063512.

c) Access Road Easement

Denman Investment Corporation granted a 100-foot wide access road easement to CPW on June 18th, 2000. This perpetual, non-exclusive easement was granted for the purpose of providing “administrative and public vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle ingress and egress” to Cheyenne Mountain State Park. The easement encumbers a portion of Denman’s property adjacent to the northeast corner of the Park. This easement was recorded on June 5, 2000, in the County records at Reception No. 200063511.

d) Conservation Easement

Denman Investment Corporation granted a deed of easement in gross, including a conservation easement, to CPW on June 18th, 2000. The easement encumbers approximately 55 acres of Denman’s property adjacent to the northeast corner of the Park and serves as open space and buffer from nearby residential development. This perpetual easement prohibits the construction of any facilities, structures, or signs, excluding those necessary for public safety and information, within a variable width open space tract running along the southern boundary of the Denman property. This easement must be monitored on an annual basis by park staff in order to ensure that Denman is in compliance with its terms. This easement was recorded on June 5, 2000, in the County records at Reception No. 200063510.

State of Colorado, Department of Transportation

a) Easement

Colorado Parks and Wildlife granted a permanent easement to CDOT on June 2nd, 2010 for the purpose of realignment of Pine Oaks Road on the southeast corner of the Park. This easement was recorded on March 10, 2011, in the County records at Reception No. 211024815.

United States Forest Service

a) Special Use Permit

A Special Use Permit allowing CPW to use Forest Service Road 369 expired in 2009. An SF-299 permit application and payment were submitted by CPW to the USFS in 2010 to obtain a new permit. Forest Service staff completed a field inspection on June 9th, 2011. The application was approved in 2011 and a new permit will be issued in 2012.

Partnerships

Partnerships with various government local, state, and federal agencies and other organizations have played a key role in the establishment and continuing development of

Cheyenne Mountain State Park. These vital partnerships offer mutual benefits in diverse areas including conservation, restoration, funding, education, and other tasks. The following table illustrates some of the major partnerships with the park.

Table 11. Partnerships

Partner	Nature of Partnership
<i>LOCAL</i>	
City of Colorado Springs	The City of Colorado Springs has provided invaluable strategic and financial support in both the original purchase and sale agreements leading to the establishment of the Park and the subsequent Top of the Mountain acquisition.
El Paso County	Cheyenne Mountain State Park staff work in partnership with several County departments, including Planning, Cooperative Extension, and Road & Bridge departments.
El Paso County Sheriff Office	The Sheriff's office assists Park Managers with law enforcement and assists with emergency dispatch.
Local School Districts: Colorado Springs Schools	Cheyenne Mountain State Park hosts an annual <i>No Child Left Inside</i> day attended by local school groups.
Pine Oaks Subdivision Broadmoor Bluffs Subdivision Cheyenne Mountain Estates	Cheyenne Mountain State Park is dedicated to working with residential community neighbors to insure public safety and address quality of life concerns.
Cheyenne Mountain Propagation (CMP)	Cheyenne Mountain State Park has a close relationship with CMP (also known as the antenna farm), sharing the same roadway to the top of the mountain. CMP also keeps the roadway open 365 day a year for access and provides top of the mountain eyes and ears as well as gated security to the top of the mountain.
<i>STATE</i>	
Colorado State Forest Service	Park staff works with the Colorado State Forest Service on wildland fire matters and forestry issues.
Colorado State Patrol	The Colorado State Patrol helps with law enforcement and emergency dispatch.
<i>FEDERAL</i>	
U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	The park shares a boundary with Pike/San Isabel National Forest - the two agencies work together on resource management and recreational issues.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Park staff works with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on endangered species management on an as needed basis.
Fort Carson Army Base	Cheyenne Mountain State Park staff maintains regular contact with the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Division to inform them of park programs and has a relationship with their Fire Department on Fire and Medical Response to the park. Park interpretive volunteers and staff operate an activity booth at Fort Carson's annual Earth Day event.
Cheyenne Mountain Air Station (NORAD)	Park Staff works closely with CMAFS staff on security issues, fire response, and medical response.

In addition to these groups, Cheyenne Mountain State Park is fortunate to have a strong "friends" group. The Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park serves to protect, enhance and preserve for all time the natural state and spectacular beauty of the park. Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park are also dedicated to working in partnership with the park staff to promote recreational and educational activities as well as advocating for important park issues.

Special Uses

Cheyenne Mountain State Park hosts various special running, mountain biking, and charity events throughout the year. In 2011, the park hosted 8 special events, drawing a combined total of 1,600 participants. The Park generates considerable revenue from special activity agreements through fees for application, entrance, vending, and parking lot and facility rental. Some of the special events held at the park in 2012 included:

- *Cheyenne Mountain Explosion* – The Cheyenne Mountain Stage Race of the Mountain States Cup (MSC) is a three-day mountain biking event held in early April, offering various short track, time trial, and cross country races. The USA Cycling-sanctioned event is organized by Bigfoot Productions, LLC.
- *Climb to Conquer Cancer of Colorado Springs* – Climb to Conquer Cancer is a one day, non-competitive event, where multiple teams of 8 to 15 people participate in a hike and a festival featuring entertainment, food, and a special celebration of cancer survivors.
- *Fort Carson Mountain Bike Race* – The Fort Carson Adventure Program & Education (APE) and Fort Carson Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) host a mountain bike race at Cheyenne Mountain State Park in mid-April open to military and nonmilitary communities and targeted toward first-time racers.
- *Sand Creek International Classic* – A USA Cycling sanctioned mountain bike race owned and managed by Sand Creek Sports, Inc. held in mid June. It is one of just seven USA Cycling Pro XCT (Cross Country Tour) races held in the US. In 2010, the event attracted 152 competitors representing 36 states and six foreign countries.⁹⁷
- *XTERRA Trail Run* – This endurance running event, in its fourth consecutive year as of 2011, is held in early October or April and features trail marathon, half-marathon, and 5K races.

Concessions

No concessions are offered at Cheyenne Mountain State Park.

Park Budget and Finances

Cheyenne Mountain State Park relies on annual appropriations for “personal services” funding and three other annual budget allocations to manage the park (i.e., operating, utilities, and temporary worker allocations). Larger expenditures for items such as road repairs, facilities upgrades, capital equipment, and other enhancements must be requested annually through the Southeast Region’s “Major Repairs and Minor Improvements” budget line, which compete with similar requests from other parks in the region on a priority basis. Table 12 provides a breakdown of the park’s total budget in FY 2011 and FY 2012.

⁹⁷ Sand Creek Sports, Inc. Available at: <http://www.sandcreeksports.com/documents/InternationalClassicWhitePage.pdf> (Accessed January 12, 2012).

Table 12. Park Budget (FY 2011 - FY 2012)

Budget Category	FY 2011	FY 2012
Permanent Personal Services	\$298,448	\$298,448
General Operations		
Operating	\$60,835	\$63,405
Utilities	\$97,146	\$97,146
Temporary Labor	\$126,682	\$126,682
Vegetation Management	\$0	\$30,087
Lottery Projects	\$26,700	\$27,000
Volunteer (Statewide)	\$2,700	\$4,730
Environmental Educators (Statewide)	\$14,700	\$12,700
Fleet Vehicle Fixed Lease	\$18,998	\$16,931
Retail Incentive	\$4,230	\$0
TOTAL	\$650,439	\$677,129

Sections below highlight some of the recent budget allocations and expenditures for each of the primary budget categories.

Operating Expenses

The park's "Operations" budget declined sharply between fiscal years 2008 and 2010, remained stable between fiscal years 2010 and 2011, and rose slightly in fiscal year 2012. This budget covers day-to-day expenses associated with maintaining the park's facilities and managing various functions associated with the work unit. In fiscal year 2011, the park spent \$52,185 of its \$60,835 operating budget. The largest portion went toward telecommunication costs (about \$11,515/year by fiscal year 2011 budget figures). Telecommunications costs include telephone, internet, and information technology services. General maintenance and fleet vehicles comprised 14% and 16% of the total operating budget in fiscal year 2011, respectively.

Table 13. Operating Expenditures (FY 2011).

Expenditure	FY2011	% of Total
Maintenance	\$7,100.00	13.6%
Security Monitoring Service	\$1,300.00	2.5%
Fleet	\$8,300.00	15.9%
Communications (tele)	\$11,515.00	22.1%
Communications (radio)	\$5,000.00	9.6%
Fuel	\$1,100.00	2.1%
Trash	\$4,000.00	7.7%
Postage/shipping	\$2,100.00	4.0%
Copy Machine	\$2,100.00	4.0%
Marketing	\$1,200.00	2.3%
Pest Control	\$400.00	0.8%
Training/Professional Improvement	\$500.00	1.0%
State Printing	\$3,820.00	7.3%
Office Supplies	\$3,750.00	7.2%
Total	\$52,185.00	100.0%

Utilities

Cheyenne Mountain State Park’s “Utilities” budget covers the annual costs for electricity, natural gas, and water expenditures. The utilities budget increased from just \$28,766 in fiscal year 2008 to \$141,113 in fiscal year 2009. Although the utilities allocation has remained constant at \$97,146 since fiscal year 2010, about \$23,000 of the utilities budget was transferred to temporary worker allocations in both fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

In fiscal year 2011, the park spent \$55,135.32 of its \$97,146 utilities budget. Electric services and water were the two largest expenditures, comprising 42% and 45% of the total, respectively.

Table 14. Operating Expenditures (FY 2011).

Expenditure	FY2011	% of Total
Electric	\$23,088.00	41.9%
Gas	\$7,272.00	13.2%
Water/waste water	\$24,775.32	44.9%
Total	\$55,135.32	100.0%

Personal Services

Personal services account for the single largest component of Cheyenne Mountain State Park’s operating budget. The park’s personal services budget declined by \$231,521 between fiscal years 2009 and 2011 with reductions in staff, including a full-time Park Resource Technician position. In fiscal year 2011, Cheyenne Mountain State Park expended \$298,448 on personal services (salary for 5 FTE, including a Park Manager, Senior Ranger, Park Manger II, Maintenance Technician, and Administrative Assistant).

Temporary Workers

In addition to Cheyenne Mountain State Park’s five full-time employees, the park hires an additional 12 to 13 temporary employees during the summer months and two during the off season as seasonal rangers, gate attendants, visitor center attendants, and maintenance workers. Temporary worker budget allocations declined from \$243,469 in fiscal year 2008, to \$126,682 in fiscal year 2012, a decline approximately equivalent to the wages of 12 temporary employees. Consequently, an additional \$23,000 was transferred from the utilities budget in both fiscal years 2011 and 2012, allowing the park to hire approximately two additional temporary employees.

In fiscal year 2011, Cheyenne Mountain State Park expended \$147,372 of its \$149,682 temporary worker budget. In fiscal year 2012, seasonal park rangers and maintenance technicians are projected to comprise the largest proportions of temporary employee expenditures.

Table 15. Projected Temporary Employee Expenditures (FY 2012).⁹⁸

Position	Amount	% of Total
Visitor Services (Law Enforcement)	\$41,098	31%
Maintenance Services	\$39,728	30%
Visitor Services (Administration)	\$28,406	22%
Visitor Services (Campground)	\$14,926	11%
Visitor Services (Entrance Gate)	\$6,352	5%
Total	\$130,509	100%

Overall Budget Trends

Revenue Trends

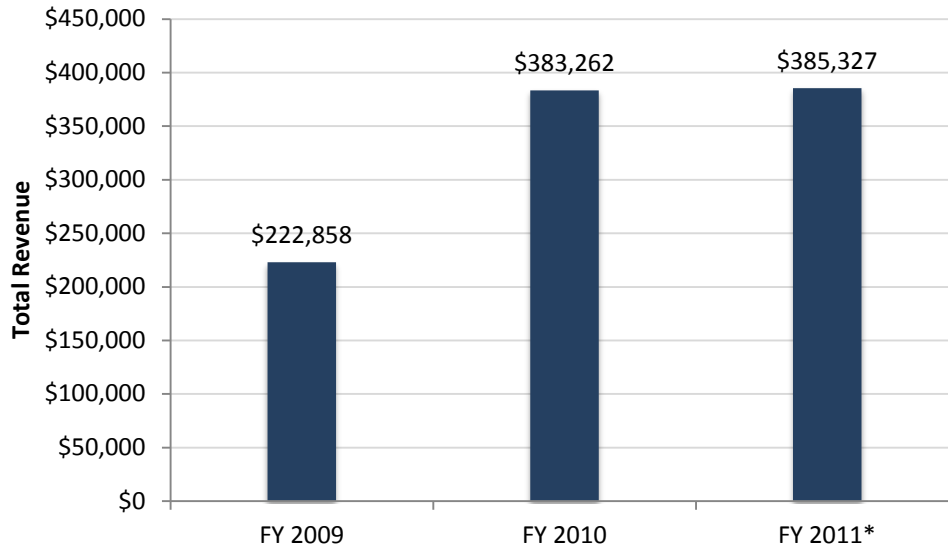
Colorado Parks and Wildlife is required by C.R.S. 33-12-100.2 to be financially self-supporting to the extent possible.⁹⁹ This has implications not only for any new venture or facility, but also for existing operations. Consequently, CPW monitors park self-sufficiency over time. At Cheyenne Mountain State Park, the overall self-sufficiency level (revenue divided by personnel, operating, utility, and temporary staff expenditures) was approximately 70% for fiscal year 2011. This figure fell close to the four year average of 76% self-sufficiency reported in the Colorado State Parks Five-Year Financial Plan (FY 10-11 — FY 14-15).¹⁰⁰ Summary revenue tables are provided below, as well as a revenue summary over the past three fiscal years.

⁹⁸ Projected Temporary Employee Expenditure figures provided by Mitch Martin, Cheyenne Mountain State Park Manager, February 2012.

⁹⁹ C.R.S. 33-12-100.2 states specifically that... “Because of the nature and operation of such state parks and recreation areas, the system can be largely self-supporting, and the users of such resources can help fund the system’s operation and maintenance. The General Assembly declares and intends that as a matter of state policy the system of state parks and state recreation areas should be financed as much as reasonably possible through revenues derived from the users of such system.”

¹⁰⁰ Colorado State Parks. Five Year Financial Plan: FY 10-11 – FY 14-15.

Figure 10. Total Park Revenue (FY 2009-2011).



* 2011 figures do not include the month of December.

Figure 11. Fiscal Year 2010 Revenue Breakdown

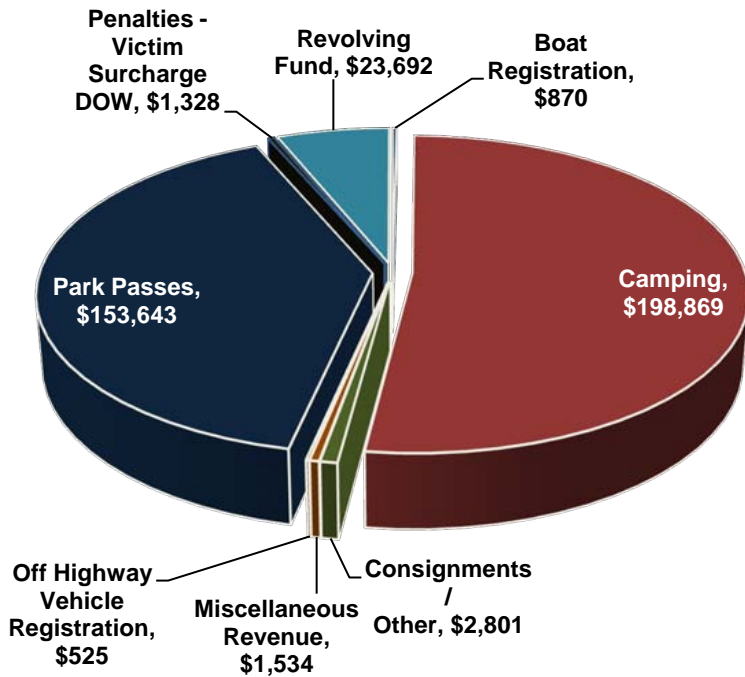


Figure 12. Fiscal Year 2010 Monthly Revenue

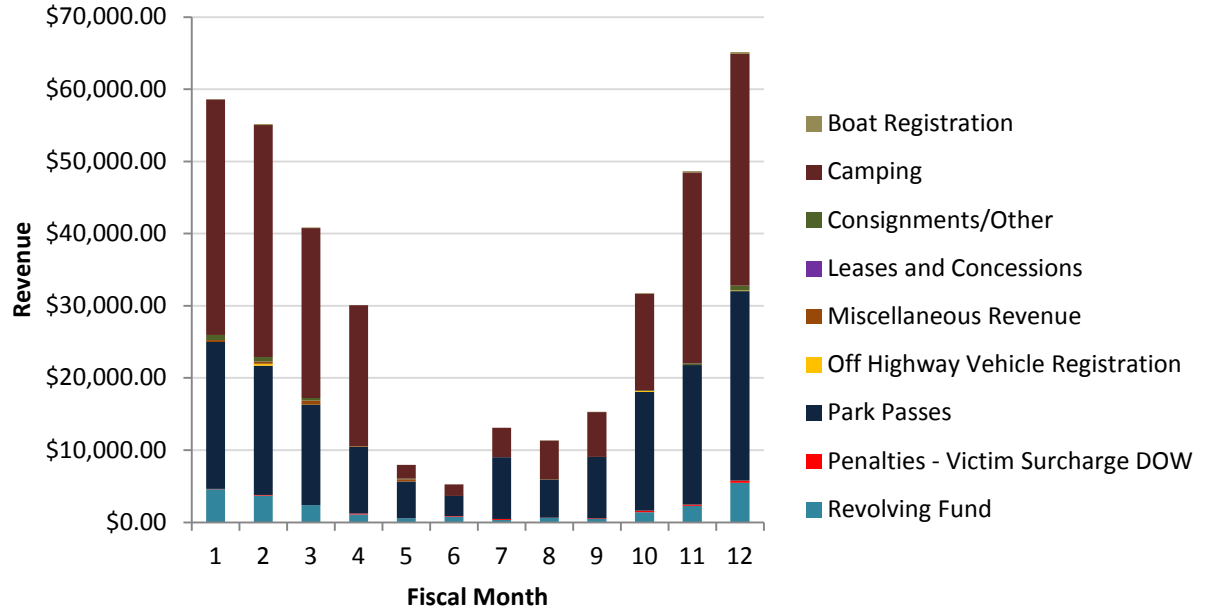


Figure 13. Fiscal Year 2010 Monthly Revenue as a Percentage of Total Month Revenue

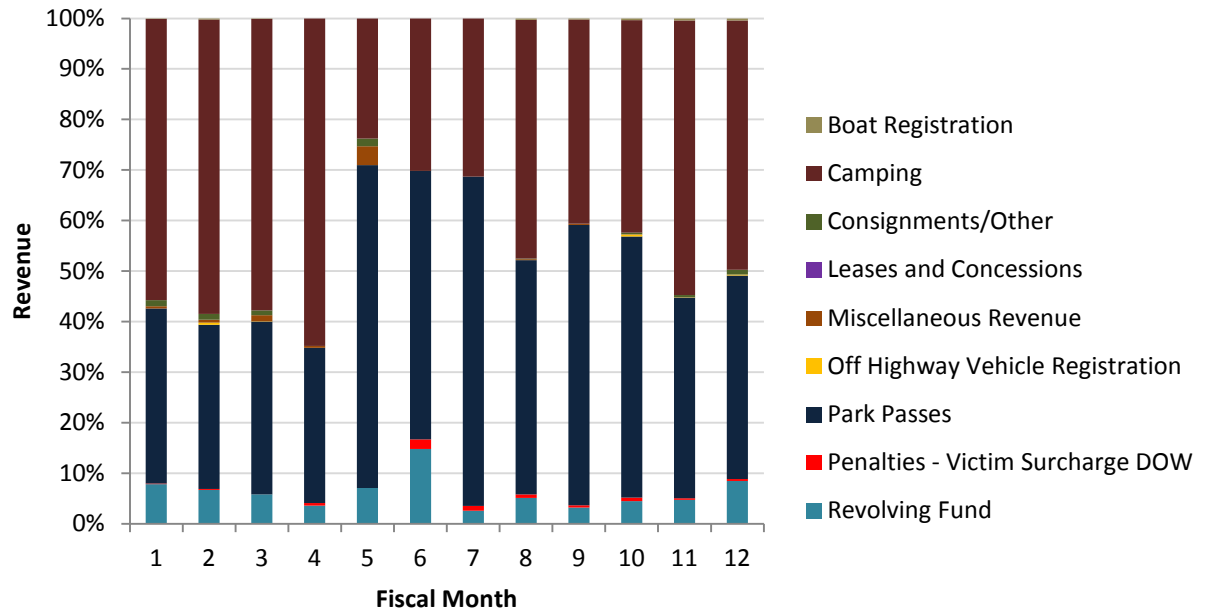


Figure 14. Fiscal Year 2011 Revenue Breakdown

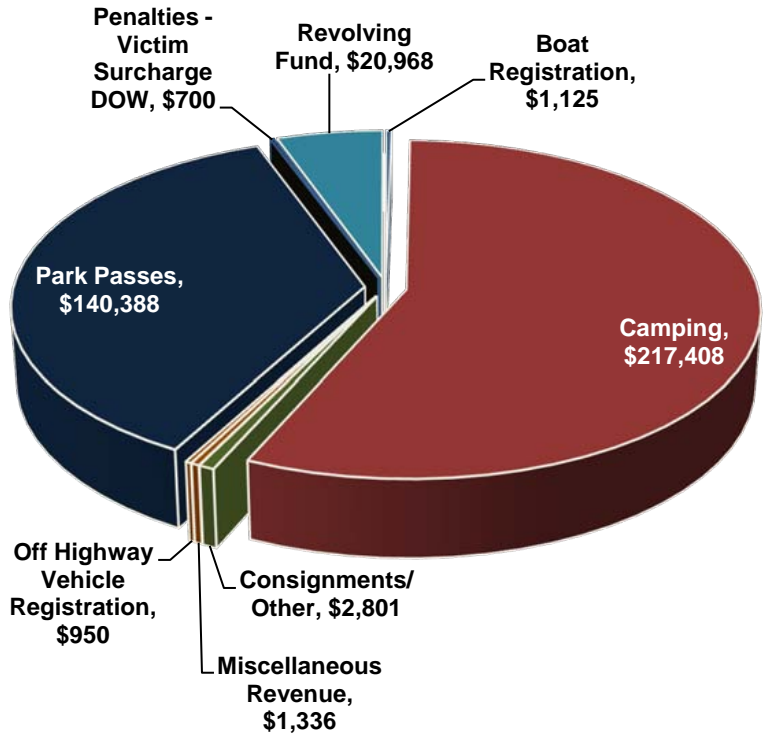


Figure 15. Fiscal Year 2011 Monthly Revenue.

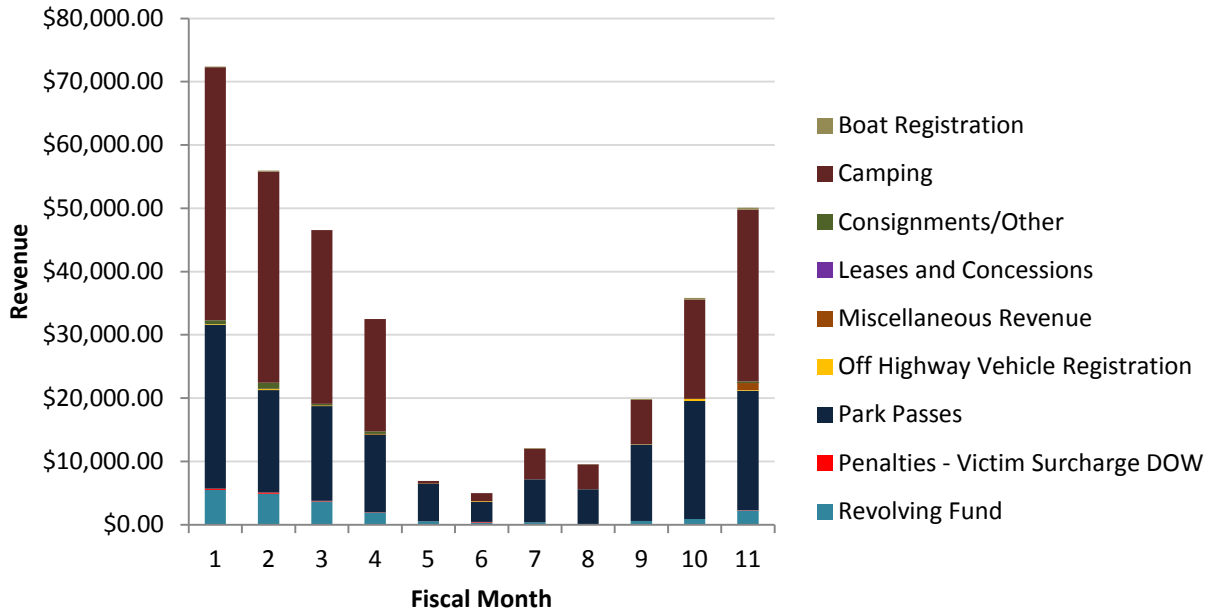
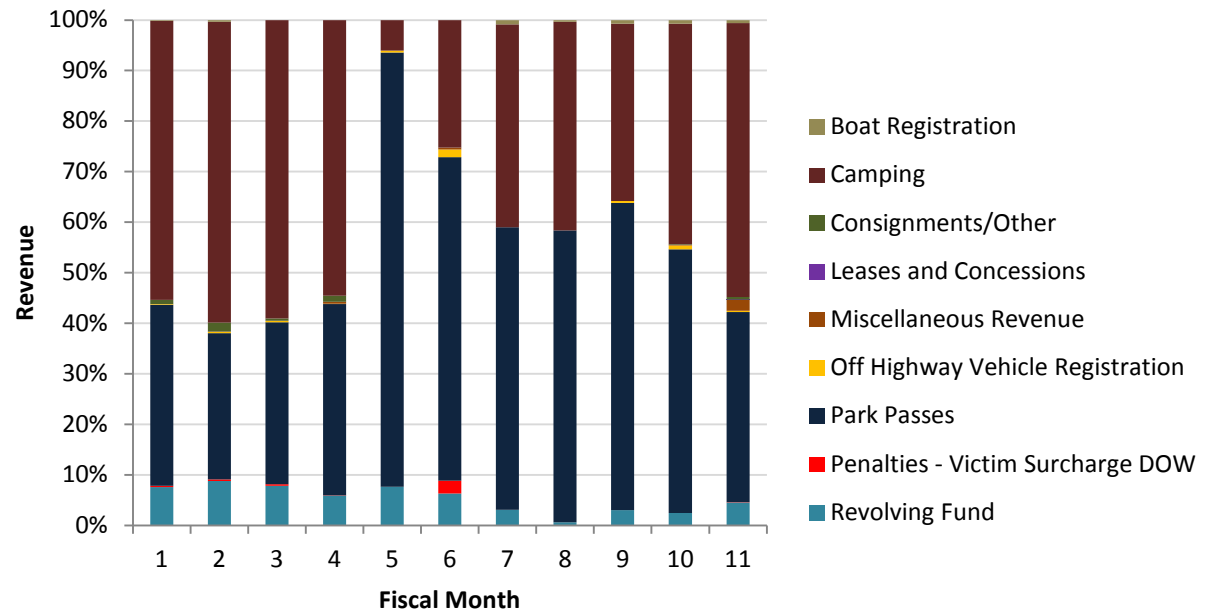


Figure 16. Fiscal Year 2011 Monthly Revenue as a Percentage of Total Month Revenue



Economic Value

Cheyenne Mountain State Park has a positive impact on the economy of neighboring communities, though relative impact is much less when compared with other parks in the system. Annual salaries associated with the park's full-time and temporary employees contributed over \$149,000 to the local economy in direct payroll in fiscal year 2011.

In addition to visitor trend data, the visitor intercept survey conducted by Corona Insights in 2009 provided details about visitor spending. Key findings about visitor spending in and near Cheyenne Mountain State Park are outlined below:

- Visitors spent an average of \$41.61 per vehicle within 50 miles of Cheyenne Mountain State Park, which is lower than the division-wide average of \$125.17 per vehicle.
- According to Corona Insights, all visitors who responded to the survey contributed a total of over \$1.5 million in total annual expenditures to Cheyenne Mountain State Park and the surrounding communities within a 50-mile radius of the park.
- Local residents who visited the park spend on average less per vehicle than non-local visitors (\$69.13 vs. 113.83).

4.0 MANAGEMENT ZONING

Methodology for Determining Management Zones

The management zoning scheme adopted for Colorado State Parks provides a framework to identify areas that provide an array of visitor experiences and recreation opportunities, based on the resource constraints that occur within the park (Table 16). Within each management zone, suitable types of facilities and land uses are also identified, along with the suggested visitor experience and management focus.

By providing specific zones that account for resource constraints and are established to meet different types of visitor experiences and recreation opportunities at Cheyenne Mountain State Park, visitors can select areas that most closely meet their desires and expectations, and minimize long-term impacts to the resources. In addition, management zoning helps park managers mitigate potential conflict between user groups, identify management needs, sustainably manage the unique resources at the park, and more effectively plan future park development.

The first step in establishing management zones at Cheyenne Mountain State Park entailed compiling relevant mapping data. Specific maps used in the mapping zoning overlay process factored in: 1) land ownership (Map 3); 2) sensitive resources (Map 4); 3) cultural resources (Map 10); and 4) recreation infrastructure and facilities (Map 12). In addition, engineering suitability (Map 13), was factored into management zone mapping. Engineering suitability mapping was based on factors such as slope, soils, geologic hazards, wetlands and floodplains, and access to utilities (Appendix I).

Description of Management Zones

Using the above zoning scheme, a zoning map was developed for Cheyenne Mountain State Park that identifies appropriate management zones (Map 14). As an officially-designated “state park”¹⁰¹, Cheyenne Mountain State Park is primarily zoned as “Natural” (about 75 percent) which emphasizes maintaining the natural character, the native flora, the wildlife habitat, and the ecological functions of this area. Much of the western two-thirds of the park is characterized as natural. Another 20 percent is designated “Passive Recreation”, which is concentrated near existing campgrounds and other areas that serve as transition zones between developed and natural zones. “Development” zoning is generally concentrated in areas that are in close proximity to existing park facilities and infrastructure.

¹⁰¹ Colorado Department of Parks and Outdoor Recreation - *General Provisions; Article 10; General Provisions*. 2011. Print.

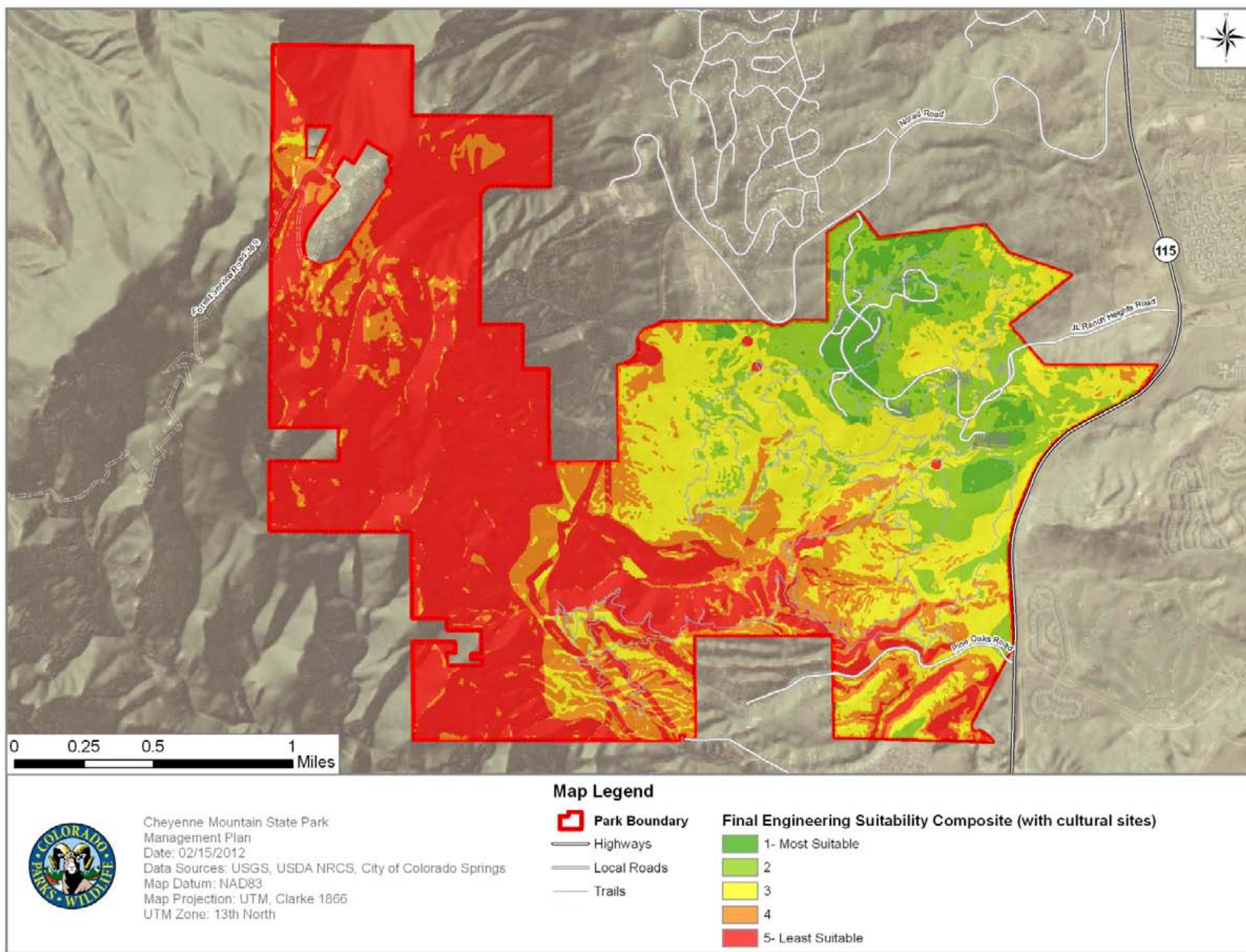


Management zones help ensure that areas of the park are managed appropriately for the benefit of visitors and natural resources.

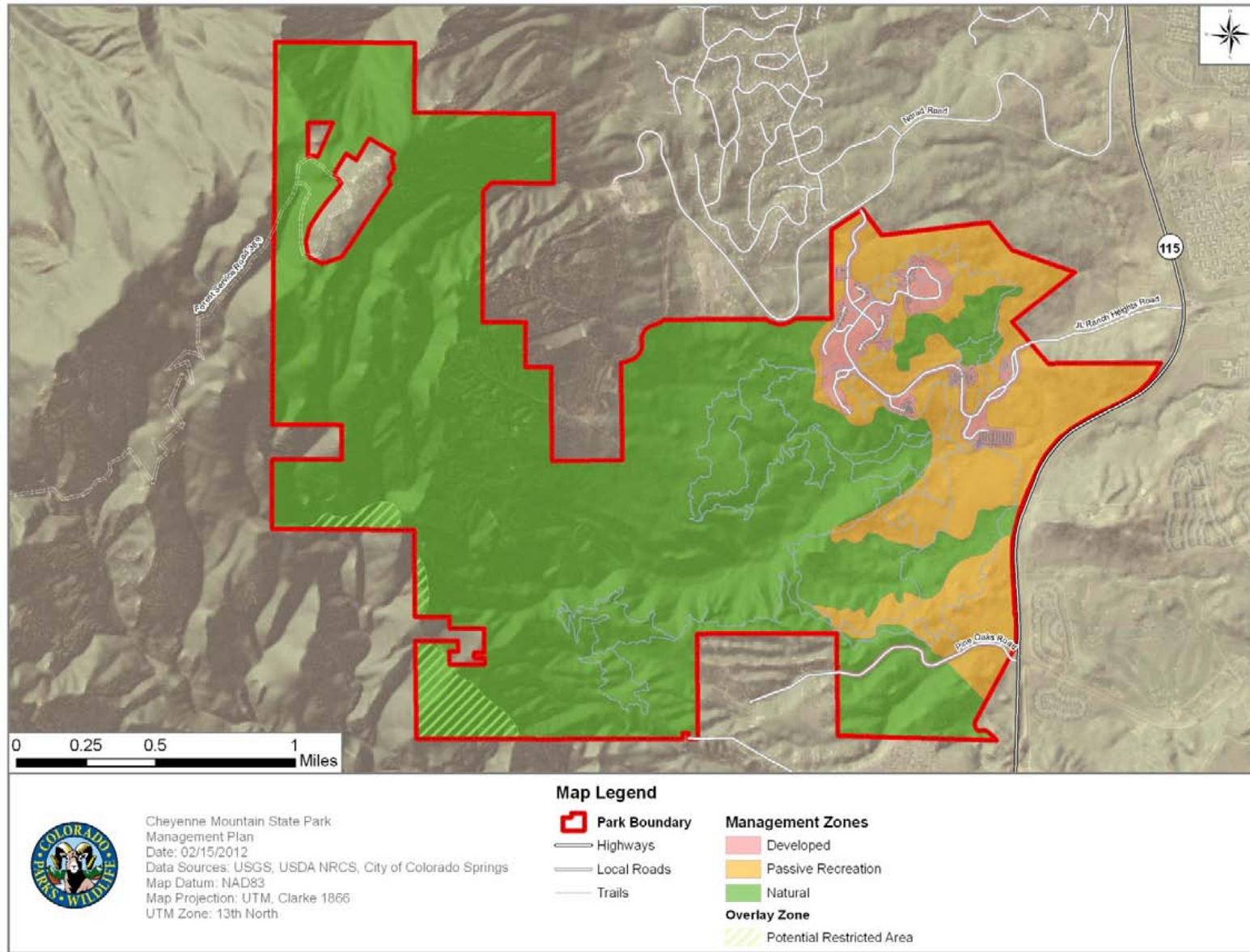
Table 16. Management Zone Classification Scheme and Characteristics

<i>Zone Classification</i>	<i>Visitor Experience</i>	<i>Recreation Opportunities</i>	<i>Potential Facilities</i>	<i>Management Focus</i>
Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High social interaction ▪ Low opportunity for solitude ▪ Low opportunity for challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High-density recreation ▪ Emphasis on providing opportunities that rely on motor vehicle access via roads such as picnicking, and at some parks could include RV and tent camping, and potentially motorized uses in designated areas. ▪ Some fishing, boating, equestrian use, mountain biking, hiking, and watchable wildlife may occur in this zone. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Typically parking areas, paved or high-use roads, utilities, group picnic areas, visitor services, restrooms, concessions, interpretive facilities and at overnight parks, developed camping areas. ▪ Less typically this could include marinas, motorized use areas, and dog off leash areas at some parks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Intense management needs ▪ Manage to provide sustainable recreation and aesthetic qualities ▪ Prevent weed spread, erosion, or other degradation ▪ Intense fire prevention ▪ Revegetate with natives where possible or with non-invasive landscaping
Passive Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moderate social interaction/low opportunity for solitude ▪ Moderate degree of interaction with the natural environment ▪ Moderate opportunity for challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medium-density recreation ▪ Emphasis on providing hiking, fishing, equestrian use, mountain biking and other dispersed recreation. ▪ Some picnicking or backcountry camping, canoeing and other non-motorized boating, watchable wildlife, interpretive opportunities are likely to occur in this zone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Typically trails and interpretive facilities and individual picnic areas. ▪ Less typically this could include dirt roads or light use roads, limited motorized uses (in larger parks only), hike-in campgrounds, or yurts ▪ Minimize utilities to the extent possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moderate to High management needs ▪ Manage to maintain the natural character and provide sustainable recreation ▪ Actively manage weeds in order to eradicate or suppress, and prevent erosion or other degradation ▪ High level of fire prevention ▪ Revegetate with native species
Natural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low social interaction/moderate opportunity for solitude ▪ High degree of interaction with the natural environment ▪ Moderate to high opportunity for challenge 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Medium- to low-density recreation. ▪ Emphasis on providing low impact, non-motorized and dispersed recreation. ▪ All recreation opportunities in the Passive Recreation Zone are likely to occur here with the exception that there be more of an emphasis on providing non-motorized dispersed recreation. ▪ Hunting also permissible at some parks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Primarily trails and some interpretive facilities ▪ Minimize utilities to the extent possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Moderate to low management needs ▪ Manage to maintain the natural character, the native flora, the wildlife habitat, and the ecological functions ▪ Actively manage weeds for eradication, prevent erosion or other degradation ▪ Moderate to high level of fire prevention ▪ Revegetate with native species
Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Typically unmodified natural environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None, or heavily restricted 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ None 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Least intense management needs ▪ Preservation of very sensitive resources or restriction of visitor use for legal or safety reasons.

Map 13. Engineering Suitability



Map 14. Management Zoning



Area Descriptions that Influence Park Zoning

In addition to the various data layers that factored into Cheyenne Mountain State Park's management zoning, other factors were considered including historical activities, established land uses, and land acquisition history. Many of these factors translate into distinct areas within the park, each having their own unique identity. Spatially-designated area descriptions provide a formal frame of reference for a given area, which can subsequently be referred to when assigning management responsibilities. At Cheyenne Mountain State Park, five distinct management areas were identified in the plan (these are depicted on Map 2). A brief summary of the key features and characteristics of areas are highlighted below.

Top of the Mountain

The Top of the Mountain Area comprises much of the western portion of the park and features dramatic scenery and geologic diversity. Pikes Peak granite rock formations in this area are also some of the oldest rock in Colorado, dating back nearly two billion years. A trail to the TOM is expected to be a popular attraction. Once completed, visitors will enjoy views of the Front Range and wide open plains to the east. Portions of North and South Talon are also included in this area.

Vegetation in the higher elevations is comprised of a mosaic of mixed montane forest, Douglas-fir forest, and aspen stands. The aspen stands are thought to be declining in extent and fringe grassland meadows in drainage valleys in the northwestern portion of the park. Included within this area are numerous raptor breeding areas, winter habitat for elk, as well as low- and high-potential nesting habitat for the Federally-Threatened Mexican spotted owl.

Accessibility by park staff to the TOM area is somewhat limited. Accessing this portion of the park is difficult due to the steepness of the terrain and the distance from the top to the bottom (nearly eight miles one way). Vehicular access is available to State Park staff from the west via Old Stage Road and FS 369.

Pine Oaks

The Pine Oaks area is situated in the southeastern most portion of the park and is bisected by Pine Oaks Road, which provides access to the Pine Oaks community. Key recreational features in this area include the proposed Archery Range (See Section 5.0) and portions of the Sundance Trail. Black bear and wild turkey are known to frequent this area.

Limekiln Valley

The Limekiln Valley extends through much of the central portion of the park and encompasses the Limekiln Drainage, the largest drainage feature within the park. Ponderosa pine, mesic scrub shrubland, and Douglas-fir forest are some of the predominant vegetative classes. Key recreational features include portions of Talon Trail, Sundance Trail, and Zook Loop Trail. Wildlife known to frequent the Limekiln Valley include black bear, elk, mule deer, and wild turkey, and prairie dogs inhabit the easternmost portion of the area. Much of the Limekiln Valley has been deemed as high-potential habitat for Mexican Spotted Owl.

Old Ranch

The Old Ranch area is home to the original JL Ranch homestead and encompasses some of the more technical mountain biking trails, including Blackmer Loop and Cougars Shadow. Ponderosa pine and scrub oak are the predominant vegetative cover in the area and provide abundant habitat for wild turkey (including nesting areas) the occasional black bear and elk. Mule deer are common throughout this area. As of 2011, much of the area had been treated for fuels.

Core Park Facilities

All major park facilities and infrastructure are concentrated in the Core Park Facilities area including trailheads, park campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, maintenance shop, and the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Visitor Center. Many of the trails in the area are easy to moderate and are popular with overnight campground visitors. Gambel oak and mountain mahogany are the predominant vegetation species, and there are a number of resident mule deer in the area.

5.0 PARK ENHANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Park enhancement opportunities include significant park improvements or efforts that are needed to help each park fulfill its full potential (as defined by a park's vision and goals). Some enhancement opportunities include park improvements that are significant in terms of their spatial scale and effort needed to implement them, and some may warrant considerable financial resources. Enhancement opportunities are also substantial enough to warrant supporting documentation to help clarify rationale, potential contribution, and overall value to the park.

Park enhancement opportunities for Cheyenne Mountain State Park were developed based on suggestions from the public, professional knowledge and experience of staff, and discussions with key partners and stakeholders. Park enhancements are described in detail in this section and include:

- 1) Major rehabilitation or improvements to existing facilities and infrastructure;
- 2) New facilities and infrastructure;
- 3) Natural resource rehabilitation and restoration efforts; and
- 4) Management initiatives critical to the long-term operational success of the park.

While all potential park enhancements that have been identified for Cheyenne Mountain State Park are described in this section and highlighted in Map 2, those that may potentially impact park visitation, operations, and/or revenues are further evaluated in the *Cheyenne Mountain State Park Financial Assessment* in Appendix J. The financial assessment highlights estimated capital expenditures, operating costs, and associated enhancement revenues (if any). Section 6.0 contains additional suggested implementation actions that can help meet park goals.

This section provides detailed information on recommended park enhancements, notes their relative priority level, and also discusses relevant design parameters and potential funding strategies. Criteria for determining priority levels are as follows (these are also applicable to other implementation priorities highlighted in Section 6.0):

High priority actions are considered extremely important to maintaining the quality of recreation experience and protecting natural resources in the park. These actions are central to preserving, maintaining, and enhancing park resources and the visitor experience.

Medium priority actions are considered important, but not urgent, and meet a combination of other resource goals and objectives. Many park enhancements that include new capital infrastructure are assigned medium or low priority status.

Low priority actions are considered important, but not critical. Low priority actions do not need to be completed in the immediate future. Many park enhancements that include new capital infrastructure are typically assigned medium or low priority status.

It is important to note that park enhancement opportunities and initiatives are not necessarily "commitments." Also, new development should be balanced with maintaining and preserving what we already have and major new facility investments should be balanced with resource

enhancements. Finally, implementation is contingent on the park securing adequate financial and human resources and must be considered or weighed within the context of other Division-wide needs.

Existing Facilities & Infrastructure

Given that most of the park's existing infrastructure is only a few years old, no substantial improvements or enhancements to existing facilities and infrastructure were proposed as of November 2012.

New Facilities & Infrastructure

EO1. Develop and Open the Top of the Mountain Trail (*High Priority*). A trail to the top of Cheyenne Mountain (TOM) will be a value-added amenity that would afford visitors a stunning view of the Front Range, provide access to some of the park's more unique natural resources, and provide a strenuous physical challenge. The 5.2-miles of additional trail will eventually extend from North Talon Trail to the TOM, and cross steep terrain (with average slope being 13% and some nearing 20% grade). Trail construction will rely heavily on a volunteer workforce and will need to occur after July 15 and into the fall (to comply with mitigation requirements on Federally-Threatened species that potentially exist in the area). Construction is likely to take years to complete.

Once completed, it is envisioned that the first 1.4-miles or so of the trail would be multi-use (accommodating hikers, mountain bicyclists, and equestrians). The multi-use portion of the trail would terminate in the vicinity of the "saddle" area, which is one of the few relatively level portions of the TOM trail (see inset). Remaining portions of the TOM trail extending to the TOM loop trail would permit hiking only due to significant issues and constraints associated with construction of a sustainable trail and visitor safety. Following additional site visits in fall 2012, the CHM planning team developed the following rationale for this decision.

- Trail slopes of 15 percent or more extend well beyond 200 feet in several areas;
- Presence of challenging cross slopes as high as 50 percent or more;
- An abundance of decomposed granite;
- Numerous areas with exposed granite and rockfall along the proposed trail alignment; and
- Anticipated 18- to 24-inch maximum trail width.

When considered in their entirety, the Cheyenne Mountain Planning Team believes that the above factors pose an unacceptably high risk level for mountain bicyclists and equestrians and threaten long-term trail sustainability.

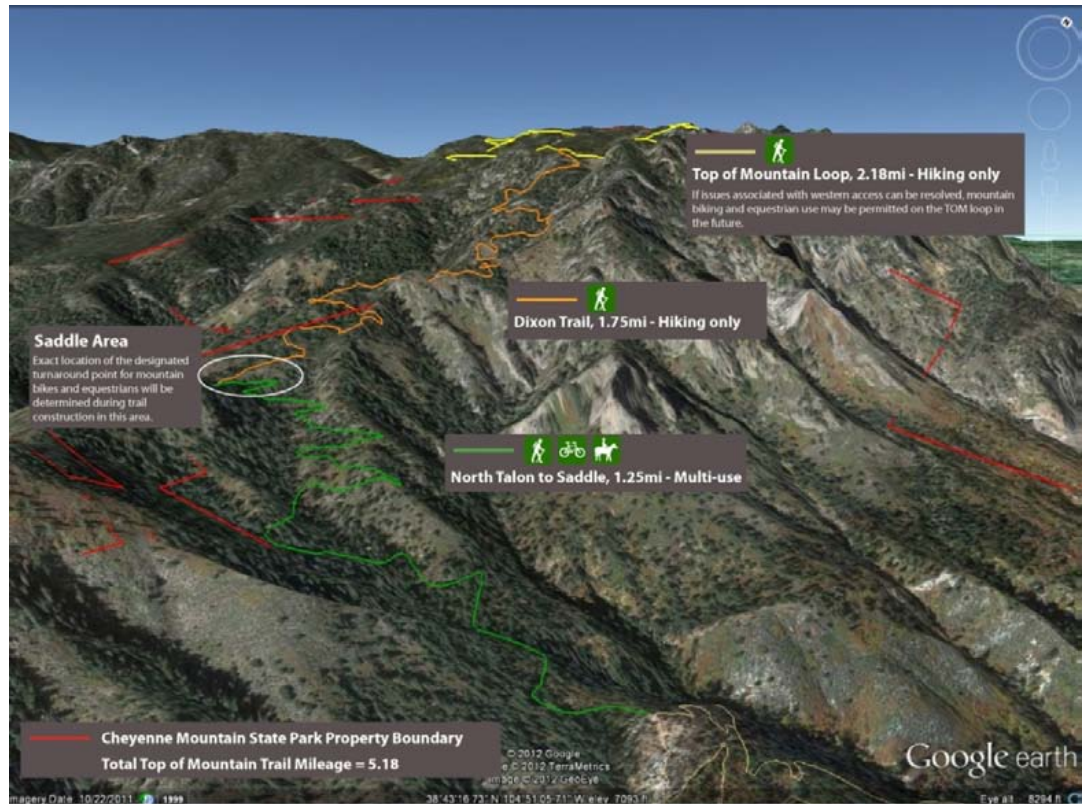
The uppermost TOM loop trail would remain hiking only until western access issues can be resolved between CPW and the USFS. If mountain bike and equestrian access from the west becomes viable, park staff should work with the City of Colorado Springs to seek the ability to administer park entry fees (which is currently not permissible given the existing Operating Agreement).

To accommodate equestrian use at the park, designated equestrian parking would be made available in the southeastern-most portion of main trailhead parking lot (along with other minor site improvements). From here, equestrians would take the Sundance Trail (outermost loop) to the Talon and North/South Talon Trail to access the TOM trail.

These existing connector trails will need to be improved/reinforced where necessary prior to opening to equestrian use to stabilize and reinforce the trail surface.

Connector trails, and the TOM trail, should be closed during wet conditions to minimize erosion issues, particularly with additional equestrian use. Many of the soils in the area are associated with the Pierre Shale Formation, which is highly prone to slumping and sliding.

Figure 17. 3D Rendering of the Top of the Mountain Conceptual Trail Alignment.

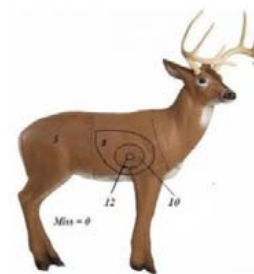


Another management consideration associated with this enhancement is that additional signage will be needed informing visitors of shared trails, as well as proper trail etiquette. An additional future management tool might also include implementation of a permit or registration system to use the trail.

Following opening of the TOM trail to public use, it is suggested that park staff evaluate trail use patterns and the possible need for remote restroom facilities at the TOM area, as well as limited overnight backcountry camping (e.g. perhaps three to six remote campsites - no campfires permitted). Monitoring trail use patterns over time and making appropriate management adjustments will be key to ensuring that trails remain sustainable.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 12/13 – FY 16/17*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Lottery/Minor Repairs Major Improvements (MRMI)*

EO2. Establish an Archery Range (*High Priority*). A 3-D archery range would be situated in the southeast portion of the park just off of Pine Oaks Road, or possibly in another more centrally-located portion of the park. Initially, it is envisioned that this facility would accommodate approximately 20 to 30 “real-life” 3-D targets situated along a 1.5-mile soft-surface walking trail at varying distances, and also a small static range for target shooting. This facility would be relatively “simple” in terms of design and management, and would align with statewide efforts to introduce more youth and families to outdoors and to generate more interest in hunting. Further, the project reflects the synergies of the newly-merged agencies (State Parks and Division of Wildlife) and offers a new, high-quality outdoor opportunity that is in relatively high demand in the local region.



Sample 3-D target

Use of both the static target range and the 3-D target range would be available to park visitors that pay the park entry fee, and possibly an additional range fee as well (see Appendix J).

Long-term operational costs would be minimized by keeping the range concept simple, and applying revenues from the site to long-term operations and maintenance. Park staff will monitor usage patterns over time to make adjustments to the range and alter management, if necessary.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 12/13 – FY 14/15*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Capital Construction/Lottery/Minor Repairs Major Improvements (MRMI)*

EO3. Provide Four or Five Overnight Camper-Style Cabins (*Medium Priority*).

Diversification of overnight facilities available at Cheyenne Mountain State Park would offer another option for park users to enjoy the park, and provide additional revenue during the off season. The original master plan for Cheyenne Mountain State Park included 12 or more cabins, however, the updated concept calls for four to five, and their size and scale would be substantially reduced from those that were originally planned.

Overnight camper cabins are proposed in the Meadows Loop Campground (the same location as some of the previous cabins were planned during initial master planning for the park). These cabins would be “wet” cabins (outfitted with a sink and toilet). These cabins have proved popular at other parks, and the fact that existing electricity, water, and wastewater utilities have already been run to the cabin sites during initial park construction make this option viable. These cabins would be placed within the Meadows Campground loop.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 17/18*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Capital Construction*

EO4. Additional Full-Service Campsites at Prior Event Facility site (*Medium Priority*). As part of initial park construction efforts in 2006, electrical, water, and wastewater infrastructure was also provided to a site originally planned to accommodate a large event facility building. This 7-acre area could accommodate an additional 15 or so full-service campsites, which, based on recent overnight park visitation trends, would likely be popular. Additional camper-style cabins may be a suitable alternative, however, a definitive determination of this should only be made following implementation of cabins

in the Meadows Campground (to evaluate use patterns and overall financial performance).

Prior to implementation of this enhancement, a portion of the prior event facility site could be used for overflow parking and eventually, another trailhead parking area.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 18/19*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Capital Construction*

Rehabilitation & Restoration Efforts

EO5. Fuels Mitigation (*High Priority*). As of 2012, about 97 acres of largely scrub oak forest had been treated/thinned to reduce fuels within the park. Park staff, in partnership with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Resource Stewardship Program, should continue to treat remaining areas of Cheyenne Mountain State Park that require fuels mitigation, insect and disease mitigation, and general forest health improvement, particularly areas surrounding infrastructure, the TOM area and near Blackmer Loop trail and the Talon trails.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: FY 13/14 – ongoing as needed*
- *Potential Funding Sources: FEMA/Native Vegetation/Lottery (MRMI); other grants.*

Management Initiatives

EO6. Seek Ways to Market Cheyenne Mountain State Park More Effectively (*High Priority*). Despite being located just southwest of Colorado Springs, much of the local population remains unaware of the unique attributes and recreational opportunities available at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. In an effort to enhance the park's visibility and expand awareness, the CPW Marketing staff worked with the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Planning Team to develop marketing strategies to help market Cheyenne Mountain State Park more effectively. These recommendations are listed in their entirety in Section 6.0; some of these are listed below.

- Annually meet with the Fort Carson Morale, Welfare, and Recreation manager to discuss potential partnership efforts.
 - Leverage internal marketing tools (e.g., parks website calendar postings, news releases, social media, e-news mailings).
 - Tap the new Public Information Officers to assist as needed.
 - Take advantage of publicizing events on the Terry Wickstrom radio show.
 - Meet with Colorado Springs Membership Director to identify opportunities to use *Visit Colorado Springs* for advertising.
 - Continue to work with the Better Business Bureau and local Chambers of Commerce to identify relationships that can be developed and enhanced.
 - Provide local hotels/attractions with park brochures and business cards.
 - Continue to conduct school outreach and programs that benefit the community.
- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing*
 - *Potential Funding Sources: Park Operating/Marketing*

EO7. Strengthening Relations with Key Partners and Neighbors (*High Priority*). Cheyenne Mountain State Park is fortunate to have two strong local neighborhoods (Pine Oaks and Broadmoor Bluffs) Federal partners (Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station, Fort Carson, and the U.S. Forest Service), and mountain biking and hiking groups that are valuable park supporters. Park staff hope to strengthen these partnerships in a more formal and meaningful way, and establish new or expanded partnership efforts with some of the following:

- University of Colorado, Colorado Springs
- Audubon
- Colorado State Extension Office in Colorado Springs
- Trails and Open Space Coalition
- City of Colorado Springs
- Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce
- Equestrian User Groups
- Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful
- Rocky Mountain Field Institute
- Catamount Institute

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing*
- *Potential Funding Sources: NA*

EO8. Develop a Community Connections Plan (*Med Priority*). Maintaining Cheyenne Mountain State Park's strong legacy of volunteerism will require concerted efforts on behalf of park staff to evaluate the current volunteer program, adopt a long term communication plan between volunteers and park staff, expand volunteer leadership opportunities, strengthen existing community partnerships, and seek new collaborative opportunities.

Cheyenne Mountain State Park staff should work with CPW Education/Volunteer Program staff to develop a formal Community Connections Plan that would help guide park staff in their efforts to attract and sustain an effective and engaged volunteer base. This plan could identify targeted methods for attracting and sustaining volunteers, and identify areas where volunteers could be most effective. In addition, this plan would include interpretive and educational components to help expand and improve Cheyenne Mountain State Park's already successful interpretive and educational outreach efforts.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Park Operating/Information and Education*

EO9. Continue Efforts to Expand the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park (*High Priority*). The Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park has been in place at the park since 2002 (prior to the park formally opening). Cheyenne Mountain State Park staff should continue to build on this important relationship and leverage support of the Friends' group to help implement key park enhancements and suggested actions included in the management plan (particularly construction of the TOM Trail).

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing*
- *Potential Funding Sources: NA*

EO10. Establish Western Trail Connection to Pike National Forest (*Medium Priority*). There are two existing historical trails that are in close proximity to the westernmost boundary of the park (the Swisher Trail and McNeil Trail). Currently, these trails are not formally recognized by the U.S. Forest Service and thus, are not promoted for public use. Establishing formal trail connections into Pike National Forest is desirable in the future, as this would provide more contiguous access from Cheyenne Mountain State Park with the 63-mile Ring-the-Peak trail, and potentially even Mueller State Park, which is about 20 miles to the northwest. Park staff should work with the U.S. Forest Service during future travel management planning efforts in the area to facilitate this access. Any trail leading from the park and connecting to the U.S. Forest Service would require additional planning, including environmental and public scoping.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: NA*
- *Potential Funding Sources: NA*

EO11. Evaluate and Improve Park Retail Operations (*Medium Priority*). Many park visitors appreciate the opportunity to purchase retail goods, particularly visitors that stay overnight and travel from outside the local region. Cheyenne Mountain State Park is fortunate to have designated retail space in its visitor center and camper services building. The visitor center primarily offers souvenirs, clothing, and books. The camper services building primarily offers firewood, food, beverages, and other sundries. Retail sales at the park are expected to gradually increase in response to projected growth in visitation associated with the other park enhancement opportunities.

As part of the management plan, CPW evaluated retail revenue trends and retail revenue per visitor. Between FY 2009 and FY 2011, the total cost of goods sold was about 56 percent, with average revenue of about \$40,000. This revenue more than offsets the modest amount of program and park staff time that goes into managing and overseeing the park's retail operation. In the future, Cheyenne Mountain State Park staff should continue to work with Retail Program staff to identify the most profitable goods and reduce inventory of goods that do not add to profitability.

- *Estimated Implementation Timeframe: Ongoing*
- *Potential Funding Sources: Park Operating/Retail*

6.0 IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES SUMMARY

This section highlights priority management actions that have been established by the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Planning Team to help address important needs and issues at Cheyenne Mountain State Park, help effectively plan future park development, and protect and maintain Cheyenne Mountain State Park's unique resources. Implementation priorities are based on park goals, influences on park management, and other management considerations identified in Section 1.0. This section also incorporates park enhancement opportunities discussed in Section 5.0. All stated management actions have been reviewed and are supported by Parks and Wildlife leadership.

Table 17, provided on the following page, is intended to serve as a quick reference for the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Manager and staff responsible for implementing this plan. Included in Table 19 is a breakdown of each management action, the "category" or type of management action, applicable management zone, applicable Enhancement Opportunity numbers (as reflected in Section 5.0) and corresponding priority level. Prioritization criteria are identical to those described in Section 5.0 and range from "low" priority to "high" priority.

Implementation Considerations

Implementation priorities are a reflection of Cheyenne Mountain State Park's greatest needs as of spring 2012, and the respective "level of priority" for each management action may change over time depending on a variety of factors. Also, implementation priorities highlighted in this section should be viewed in the context of Cheyenne Mountain State Park only, and any actions that are dependent on additional funding or staffing must first be considered or weighed within the context of other State-wide needs with the help of CPW leadership. Effective implementation of the priorities listed in Table 17 is contingent on the park maintaining adequate financial and human resources necessary to initiate and follow through with recommendations outlined in this section.

Using the Implementation Plan

The implementation priorities will be used by park staff to guide future management efforts at Cheyenne Mountain State Park. This section of the management plan is to be reviewed annually by the park manager and other park staff to evaluate and monitor implementation progress. Specifically, park staff will refer to the plan to:

- Guide future park budget allocations and annual funding requests.
- Guide overall park management planning, including management of existing resources and possible upgrades to or the creation of new park facilities, improvements to recreation infrastructure, etc.
- Guide development of annual work plans. By tasking specific park staff with implementation of various management plan actions in annual work plans, and tracking implementation over time through regular performance reviews, the plan provides a useful accountability tool for park managers.

Table 17. Priority Management Actions at Cheyenne Mountain State Park

PRIORITIES	Category	Management Zones or Applicable Area	Priority (high, med, low)	Enhancement Opportunity Number (if any)	Date Completed or Timeframe (if recurring)
LAND OWNERSHIP					
Work with adjacent landowners to preserve wildlife habitat, trail use, and natural setting.	Land Ownership	NA	High		
Work with partners (e.g. City of Colorado Springs TOPS program, COL, GOCO) to conserve key parcels adjacent to the park to protect viewsheds and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities and sensitive wildlife habitat.	Land Ownership	NA	High		
Park staff must annually monitor CPW easement (Denman) to ensure that landowner is complying with easement terms. Ensure that COL conducts annual monitoring of their conservation easements.	Conservation Easement	NA	High		
Meet annually with the City of Colorado Springs discuss matters of mutual interest and/or concern regarding existing operation agreements, or other potential issues or opportunities.	Land Ownership	NA	High		
NATURAL RESOURCES					
Preserve migration corridors, particularly Limekiln Valley, for elk, deer, and wild turkey.	Wildlife	Natural; Passive Rec	High		
Maintain park wildlife diversity and high quality habitat by continuing to prohibit dogs on trails.	Wildlife	All	High		
Manage Black-tailed prairie dog colonies by protecting their communities, while stemming potential disease concerns.	Wildlife	Natural; Passive Rec	High		
Protect bears and visitors from conflicts at the park by continuing to install wildlife-proof trash facilities and providing campground food storage options at the park where necessary.	Wildlife	All	High		
Maintain an electronic list of wildlife sightings to understand changes and occurrences over time.	Wildlife	All	Med		
Prior to future forestry work in the Top of the Mountain area, check whether Mexican spotted owl surveys have been conducted and if not, survey per guidance from the USFWS. Look for flammulated owls and goshawks as well. If any are found, a 200 meter buffer must be established.	Wildlife	Natural; Top of Mountain	High		
Conduct wildlife abundance surveys each year.	Wildlife	All	Med		

6.0 Implementation Priorities

PRIORITIES	Category	Management Zones or Applicable Area	Priority (high, med, low)	Enhancement Opportunity Number (if any)	Date Completed or Timeframe (if recurring)
If necessary, consider seasonal closure of specific trails as a measure of reducing disturbances to certain wildlife species including raptor nesting areas, turkey breeding areas, elk breeding or winter range areas, bat roosting or nesting areas, and bear breeding/den areas.	Wildlife	All	High		
Consider developing a long-term monitoring program to track trends of rare plant species, weed species, and wildlife species utilizing the assistance of volunteer organizations, local schools, colleges (i.e. Pikes Peak Community College) and natural resource organizations.	Wildlife/ Vegetation	All	Med		
Continue to treat remaining areas of Cheyenne Mountain State Park that require fuels mitigation, insect and disease mitigation, and general forest health improvement, particularly areas surrounding infrastructure, the Top of the Mountain area and near Blackmer Loop trail and the Talon trails	Vegetation	All	High	EO5	
Protect and preserve the grassland areas, oak scrub, and forests since these plant communities are in such good condition, are rare along Colorado’s Front Range, and are integral to the ecology of the Cheyenne Mountain area.	Vegetation	All	High		
During the development of the Top of the Mountain trail and any other future development activities, ensure disturbed areas are immediately revegetated with appropriate native species seed mixes and/or plantings.	Vegetation	All	High		
Protect wetland seeps by not routing trails too close to seeps or, if this is not possible, by providing structures, plantings and/or signage to prevent visitors from impacting these areas. Annually check to make sure these are not being impacted by visitors.	Vegetation	Natural; Top of Mountain	High		
Maintain the health of the forest through proactive management using guidelines set forth in the forest management plan. Monitor for pine beetle, mistletoe and aspen health annually.	Vegetation	Natural; Passive Rec	High		
Proactively address noxious weeds by eradicating the few occurrences that are found at the Top of the Mountain prior to any future development. Please refer to Stewardship Plan for weed management protocols.	Vegetation	Natural; Top of Mountain	High		
Monitor the weeds annually and map weed infestations at least every 5-10 years. Due to large volunteer corps at the Park, it may be possible to do weed monitoring as often as every year.	Vegetation	All	High		
Minimize soil loss from erosion by protecting vegetation, preventing social trail development, and avoiding the cost and necessity of reclaiming lost soil.	Soils/ Vegetation	All	High		

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PRIORITIES	Category	Management Zones or Applicable Area	Priority (high, med, low)	Enhancement Opportunity Number (if any)	Date Completed or Timeframe (if recurring)
CULTURAL / HISTORICAL RESOURCES					
Interpret significant cultural and geological features at the park.	Cultural	All	High		
Partner with the Colorado Historical Society and other entities to research historical features in the park and offer interpretive opportunities.	Cultural	All	Med		
SCENIC RESOURCES					
Employ "context sensitive design" practices along with any new park development.	Scenic	All	High		
RECREATION RESOURCES					
Monitor trail conditions and trail widths to appropriate standards over time and manage accordingly. If trails and permitted uses prove to be unsustainable over time through regular monitoring, close relevant portions of the trail or alter use patterns as necessary.	Trails	All	High		
Close unauthorized social trails immediately.	Trails	All	High		
Develop and open the Top of the Mountain Trail to hiking. Allow mountain biking and equestrian use to the "saddle" area. First stabilize and improve existing connector trails as necessary.	Trails	Natural; Top of Mountain	High	EO1	
Close the Top of the Mountain Trail and connecting trails as needed after rain/precipitation events to minimize trail erosion.	Trails	All	High	EO1	
Enter into an agreement with mountain bike and equestrian groups to secure their assistance with trail maintenance on the Top of the Mountain trail and associated connector trails.	Trails	All	High	EO1	
Consider reevaluating the CPW and City of Colorado Springs Operating Agreement restrictions that prevent the ability to charge a fee for visitors accessing the park from the west.	Trails	Natural; Top of Mountain	Med	EO10	
Work with the U.S. Forest Service to establish a western trail connection to Pike National Forest (accommodating hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian use, if possible).	Recreation	Natural; Top of Mountain	High		
Prevent unauthorized trail access from adjacent neighborhoods to the north, northeast, south, and southeast.	Trails	All	High		
Patrol trails as needed to encourage visitor compliance with park regulations and to minimize visitor impacts on park resources	Trails	All	High		

6.0 Implementation Priorities

PRIORITIES	Category	Management Zones or Applicable Area	Priority (high, med, low)	Enhancement Opportunity Number (if any)	Date Completed or Timeframe (if recurring)
Post a "trail condition map/kiosk" at main parking lot trailhead that can be updated by trail users and park staff.	Trails	Developed	High		
Explore low impact hunting opportunities within the park where such use is compatible with management goals.	Hunting	Natural	Med		
Update photo-monitoring appendix as needed to keep track of the condition of park resources.	All Recreation	All	Med		

INTERPRETATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION					
Continue to offer a diverse array of interpretive programs throughout the year for park visitors.	Interp	All	High		
Develop interpretive overlook at the top of Cheyenne Mountain once the TOM trail is completed.	Interp	Natural; Top of Mountain	High	EO1	
Provide an interpretive panel along the TOM trail in vicinity of the plane crash site to inform visitors of the T-33 military training jet plane crash that occurred on October 12, 1957.	Interp	Natural; Top of Mountain	Med	EO1	
Provide an interpretive panel in vicinity of Dixon Cabin that provides historical information on the Dixon Ranch, the nearby Swisher Cabin, and Bert Swisher's involvement in the antennae farm in the 1950s.	Interp	Natural; Top of Mountain	Med		
Provide interpretive panel highlighting historical significance of the Dixon Trail.	Interp	Natural; Top of Mountain	Med		
Provide interpretive panel along the TOM trail that highlights the various ecological transition zones that the trail spans (along with associated wildlife and vegetation)	Interp/Env. Ed.	Natural; Top of Mountain	Med		
Continue to coordinate and lead school/scout/outreach programs	Env. Ed	All	Med		

PUBLIC OUTREACH/MARKETING					
Seek ways to market Cheyenne Mountain State Park more effectively (priorities listed below)	Marketing	NA	High	EO6	
Set up and maintain an ongoing list/database of key park contacts (e.g., local, state, and federal govt; business partners; tourism related businesses and organizations; customers; volunteers/friends groups; local media outlets and representatives; outdoor recreation businesses and organizations; conservation businesses and organizations; and local residents and HOAs).	Marketing/ Public Outreach	NA	High		
Develop targeted marketing materials for kids and parents.	Public Outreach	NA	Med		

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PRIORITIES	Category	Management Zones or Applicable Area	Priority (high, med, low)	Enhancement Opportunity Number (if any)	Date Completed or Timeframe (if recurring)
Leverage internal resources such as parks website calendar postings, news releases, social media, Enews mailings, Terry Wickstrom (TW) radio show, Friends groups to increase awareness and attendance at park programs and events.	Marketing	NA	Med		
Take advantage of TW radio show slots in off-season	Marketing	NA	Med		
Take advantage of services and advertising provided through the Experience Colorado Springs website (official travel website of Colorado Springs). Make sure that "group camping", weddings, and other search categories that apply to the park are included on their site (camping, hiking, biking, etc.).	Marketing	NA	Med		
Request from any partners who are holding events at the park to include the park name, logo, web link on all communications.	Marketing	NA	Low		
Meet with Visit Colorado Springs Convention and Visitor Bureau membership director to see if there are other opportunities with Visit Colorado Springs that Cheyenne Mountain State Park can utilize.	Marketing	NA	High		
Meet with Garden of Gods Director to see if there are partnerships that can be developed.	Marketing	NA	Low		
Continue work with BBB and local Chambers of Commerce for relationship building and opportunities to partner.	Marketing	NA	High		
Take advantage of all free listings on sites such as outtherecolorado.com, Colorado Parent, peakradar.com, etc. Also explore marketing opportunities through yourmilitary.com.	Marketing	NA	High		
Reestablish and maintain the Cheyenne Mountain State Park Facebook page with links to other state parks, outdoor recreation organizations, tourism sites, etc. Develop a content plan for 2-3 months out. Find out which bloggers in area focus on outdoor rec, family activities, etc.	Marketing	NA	High		
Send or deliver handful of park brochures to local area hotels/attractions with business card. Encourage these businesses to contact the park when they need to replenish information.	Marketing	NA	Med		
As staff/time resources allow, participate in Chamber/BBB meetings, travel/camping/RV shows, Ft Carson/Air Force Academy.	Marketing	NA	Med		
Consider attending information days or clubs where you can provide park brochures.	Marketing	NA	Med		
PARTNERSHIPS					
Strengthen relations with key partners and neighbors.	Partnerships	NA	High	EO7	

6.0 Implementation Priorities

PRIORITIES	Category	Management Zones or Applicable Area	Priority (high, med, low)	Enhancement Opportunity Number (if any)	Date Completed or Timeframe (if recurring)
Develop a Community Connections Plan.	Partnerships	NA	Med	EO8	
Continue efforts to expand the Friends of Cheyenne Mountain State Park.	Partnerships	NA	High	EO9	
Annually meet with the Fort Carson Morale, Welfare, and Recreation manager to discuss potential partnership efforts	Partnerships	NA	High	EO7	
Annually meet with Pine Oaks and Broadmoor Bluffs communities to assist in implementing shared goals and communicating needs.	Partnerships	NA	High	EO7	

FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE					
Provide dishwashing services with garbage disposal at camper services building.	Existing Facilities	Developed	High		
Wastewater from the Meadows Campground flows into the Meadows grinder pumps. As of 2012, the amount of waste is insufficient for the grinder pumps to turn on, the wastewater lines commonly back up (they were originally built to accommodate a higher capacity of wastewater) park staff should annually pump the wastewater lines to avoid periodic “backups”. Wasterline status may be improved after development of cabins; monitor wastewater line as needed following construction.	Existing Facilities	Developed	High		
Establish an archery range in the southeastern quadrant of the park, or possibly in another more central area the park, if needed. Work with the Colorado Bowhunters Association and other archery interests to help maintain the range.	New Facilities/ Recreation	Passive Rec	High	EO2	
Provide five overnight “camper” cabins in Meadows Campground loop.	New Facilities/ Recreation	Developed	Med	EO3	
Provide additional full-service hook-up campground facilities in the vicinity of the prior events facility site.	New Facilities/ Recreation	Developed	Med	EO4	

VISITATION					
Make sure that park visitation tracking equipment is operating appropriately and use the most reliable techniques available.	Visitation	NA	High		
Track and monitor trail visitor use and visitor composition, particularly for the TOM trail and associated connector trails.	Visitation	NA	High	EO1	

PARK ADMINISTRATION AND SPECIAL FUNCTIONS					
Coordinate closely with the Area Wildlife Manager and District Wildlife Manager on wildlife-related matters.	General Staffing	NA	High		

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PRIORITIES	Category	Management Zones or Applicable Area	Priority (high, med, low)	Enhancement Opportunity Number (if any)	Date Completed or Timeframe (if recurring)
Institute a pack it in, pack it out policy for trash removal at the Top of the Mountain.	Visitor Management	Natural; Top of Mountain	High		
Distribute regular newsletters and emails to keep volunteers informed.	Volunteers	NA	High		
Reduce energy consumption and promote efficiency in the operation of park facilities, vehicles, and equipment.	Energy Efficiency	Developed	High		
Maintain radios and first aid kits for emergency readiness.	Public Safety	All	High		
Evaluate, improve, and monitor park retail operations.	Retail	NA	Med	EO11	
Establish and adhere to relevant policies pertaining to Special Activity Agreements. Strive to disperse special activities throughout the year and keep participant numbers to a manageable size.	Special Use Agreements	NA	High		

PARK BUDGET AND FINANCES					
Train staff to handle and report revenue accurately to ensure that CUR revenue reports and PARKs data entries are accurate.	Revenue Enhancement	NA	High		
Consider other, less traditional funding sources when implementing park enhancements and needed improvements (i.e. private donors, historical society, etc.)	Revenue Enhancement	Varies	High		

7.0 CONCLUSION

Visitors to Cheyenne Mountain State Park will tell you that it is a special place. As one of the newest additions to the State Park system, the park is known for its high-quality facilities and trails, education programs, and recreation opportunities. The park also features an incredibly unique natural setting, including a wide array of flora and fauna that inhabit the many different ecotones found within the park's 3,500 elevation range. The park has a colorful past as well, including historical use of the area by Native Americans during their seasonal migration routes between winter and summer hunting lands, cattle ranching between the 1880s and mid 1900s, and the site of a 1957 T-33 jet crash.

Situated on the southern boundary of Colorado Springs, Cheyenne Mountain State Park is easily accessible to one of Colorado's largest metropolitan areas. While the park has yet to accommodate the 300,000 annual visitors that were projected (as part of the park's initial master plan), it's not a question of "if" visitation will reach this point—the question is "when". Enhanced marketing, the likely popularity of the TOM trail and archery range, and projected population growth in the area will only elevate the prominence and importance of this unique regional asset over time. As more people learn about the park and become drawn to its unique amenities, park staff will likely have additional challenges and issues that may not currently be present. This plan is a collaborative attempt to address some of the issues and challenges that are known, and to position the park to proactively anticipate and address those that are not. By laying a solid foundation for the future with this management plan, park staff have a framework for basing future decisions, and adaptively managing this special place.



Once open, the TOM trail will offer stunning views and a rewarding outdoor experience.