

FRONT RANGE

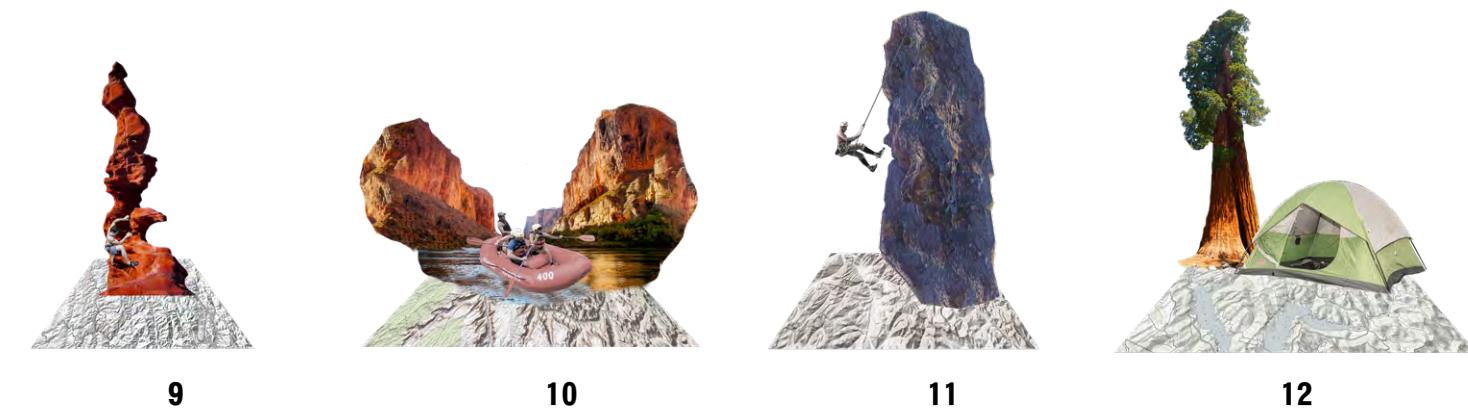
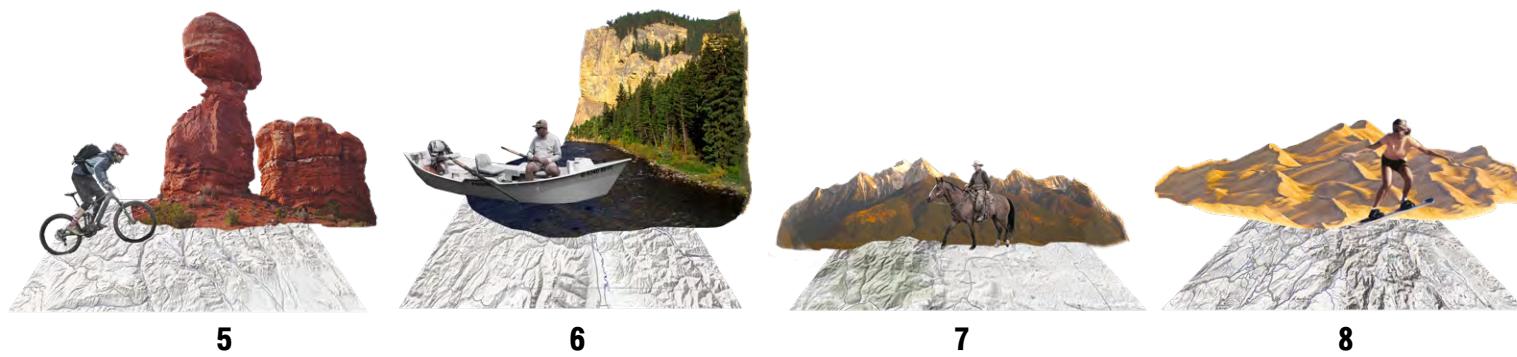
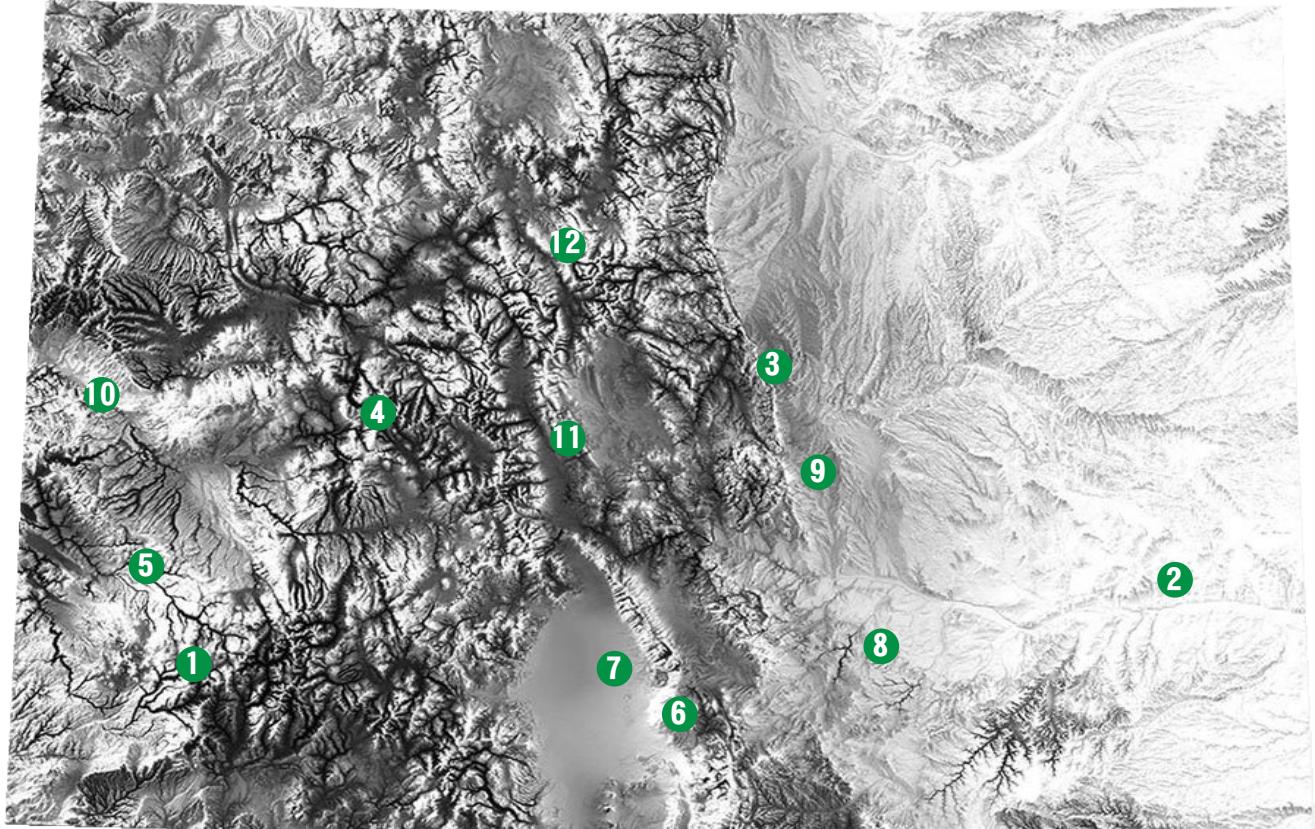
AN ATLAS OF COLORADO

DEDICATED TO THE LIFE WORK OF JOHN MUIR AND ANSEL ADAMS

What is Ecotourism?

Ec-o-tour-ism(noun)-tourism directed toward exotic, often threatened, natural environments, intended to support conservation efforts and observe wildlife.

Ecotourism is not just visiting a state park to snap pictures and claiming you are some woke adventurer. Ecotourism is about investing in the natural landscapes and being a steward of the land. Profiting from the forests and streams just for monetary gain is an exploitation of the natural gifts given to us. Respecting the land is not simply picking up litter or putting out your campfire. It is following the practices that support a strong ecotourism: paying for fishing and hunting licenses, giving back to conservation efforts, or supporting local outdoor businesses. Ecotourism should not be about selling the most season passes to fill a campground. It should sell season passes so that a generation born so detached from the world around them may witness the natural process all around them commercial tourism chokes the life out of our beautiful nation.





Corbett Creek
Ouray, CO



Elk Hunting Unit 74
Durango, CO



Fly Fishing the South Platte Tailwater
Deckers, CO



Hitting the Slopes
Aspen, CO



Mountain Biking Phil's World Trails
Cortez, CO



Floating the Rio Grande River
Del Norte, CO



Trail Riding Pool Table Mountain
Creede, CO



Sandsurfing Great Sand Dunes National Park
Hooper, CO



Bouldering Montezuma Tower
Colorado Springs, CO



White Water Rafting the Colorado River
Grand Junction, CO



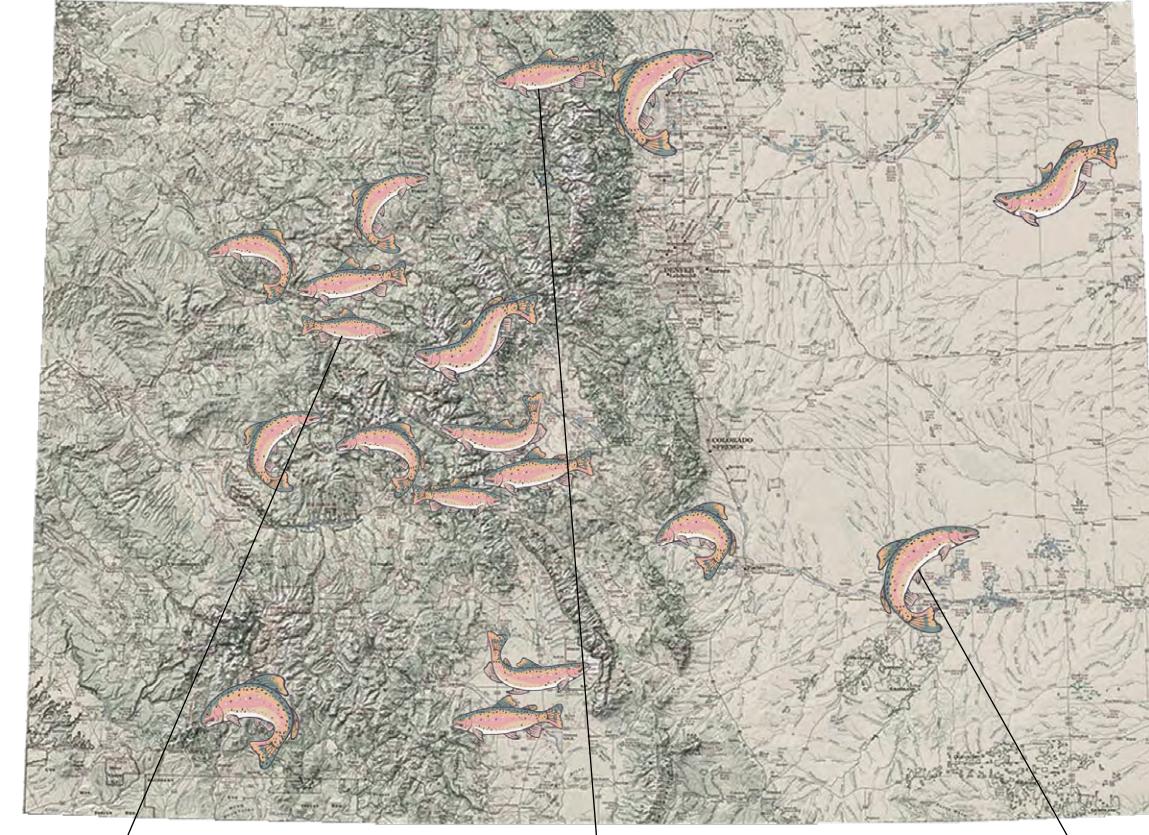
Rappelling El Dorado Canyon
Boulder, CO



Camping at Rocky Mountain National Park
Estes Park, CO

Colorado Fish Hatcheries

Founded in 1881, the state of Colorado's Parks and Wildlife has relied on hatchery programs to aid in sustaining healthy fish populations. The state operates with 19 hatchery sites. Hatcheries are vital to local economy. Stocked fishing waters bring in 1.9 billion dollars every year. These funds come from local guides, visiting tourist, and enthusiastic Colorado anglers.



Leadville Hatchery



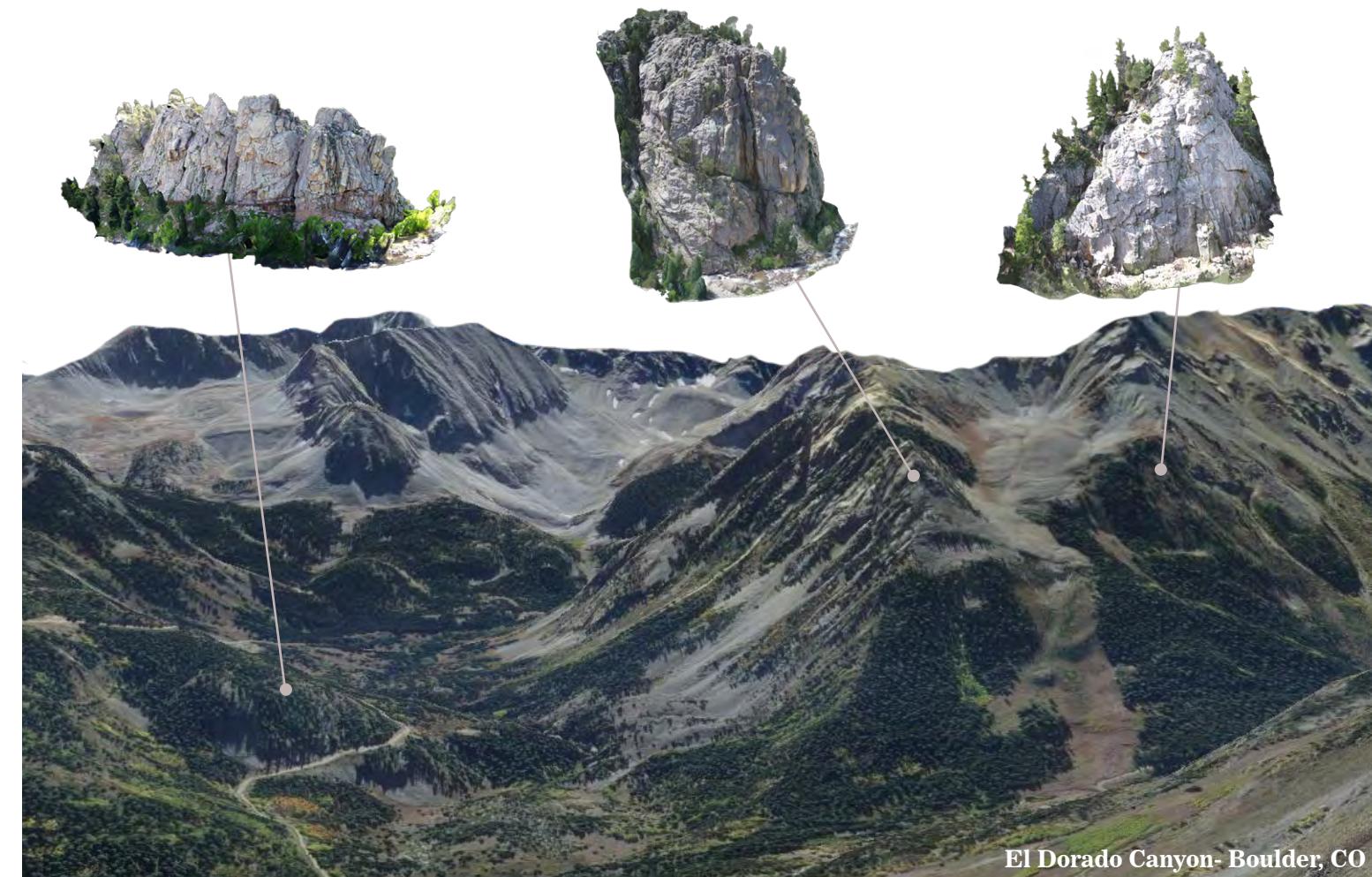
Boulder Hatchery



Las Animas Hatchery

Colorado's Crags

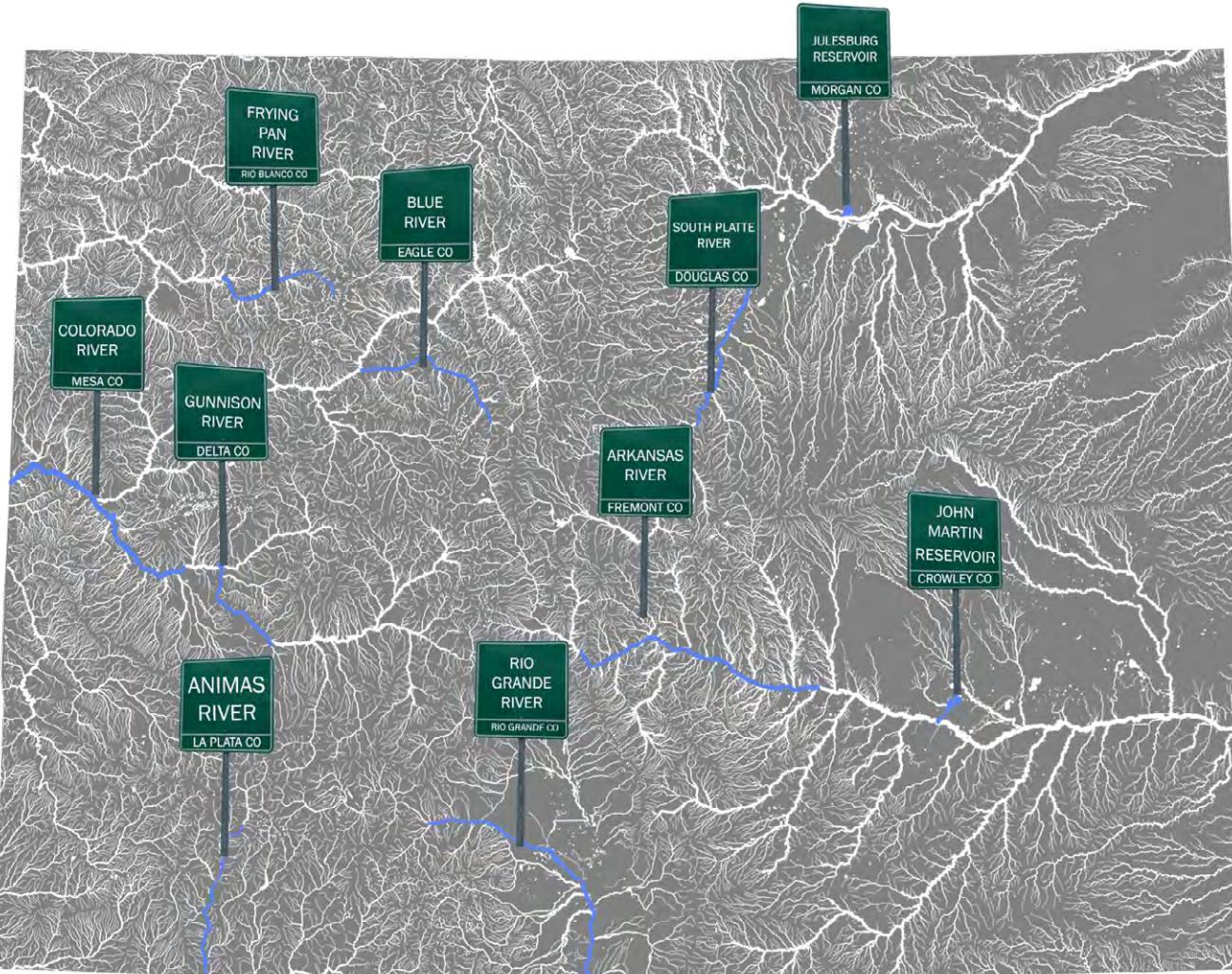
The Centennial state is home to more open exposed rock face than any other state in the continental US. This fact alone makes the state a Mecca for climbers from all walks of life. Not only does Colorado boast some of the most beautiful country to climb, most of the state's most popular routes are only 30 minutes from a major city. This ease of access helps to expand the sport to not only die hard "rock-jocks", but the weekend warriors alike.



El Dorado Canyon- Boulder, CO

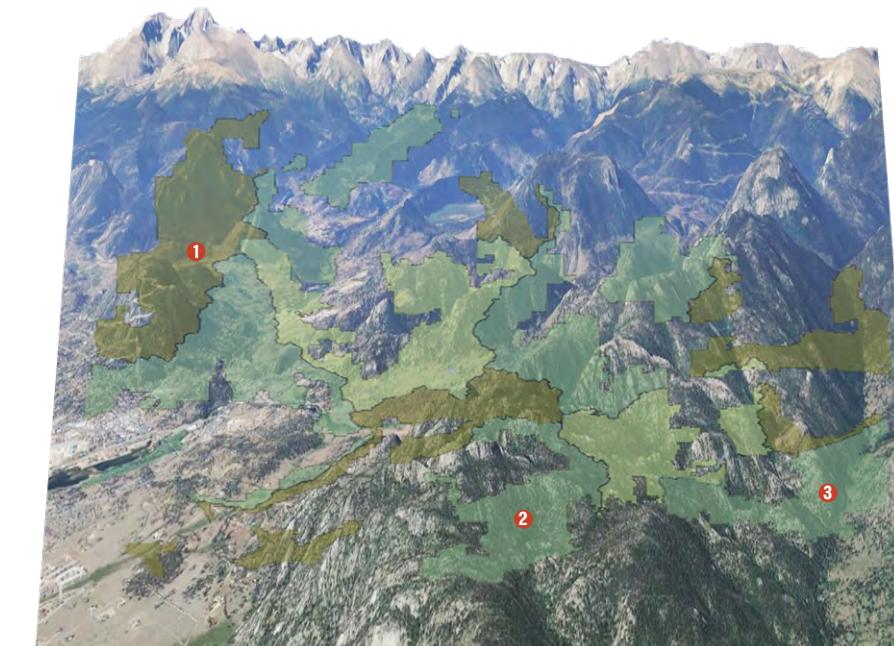
Rivers and Reservoirs

The Rocky Mountain Watershed covers the entire state of Colorado. From Alpine lakes, backwood streams, and massive man-made reservoirs the state offers endless opportunities to enjoy a day on the water.



Protected National Forests

Colorado's national forest are the vital to the ecotourism market within the state. They contain and promote all the state's national parks. The most profitable outdoors businesses are located within these forest including major ski lodges, stocked fisheries, and state managed campsites. The designated forest of Colorado generate 3 billion dollars every year in revenue. Proper forest resource management and conservation efforts will play key roles in persevering this beautiful state.



1. Gunnison National Forest



2. Rio Grande National Forest



3. San Juan National Forest

Boulder Open Space Parks

Boulder, Co boast an unique city outdoors experience with the Open Space and Mountain Parks. These parks are designed to be a buffer between city development and the natural landscape surrounding the city. Set amongst the Boulder Valley the 100,000 acres of parks provide amenities such as fishing, biking, hiking, jogging paths, and much more. Boulder is currently looking to expand amenities to locations dues to new land being granted by the state.

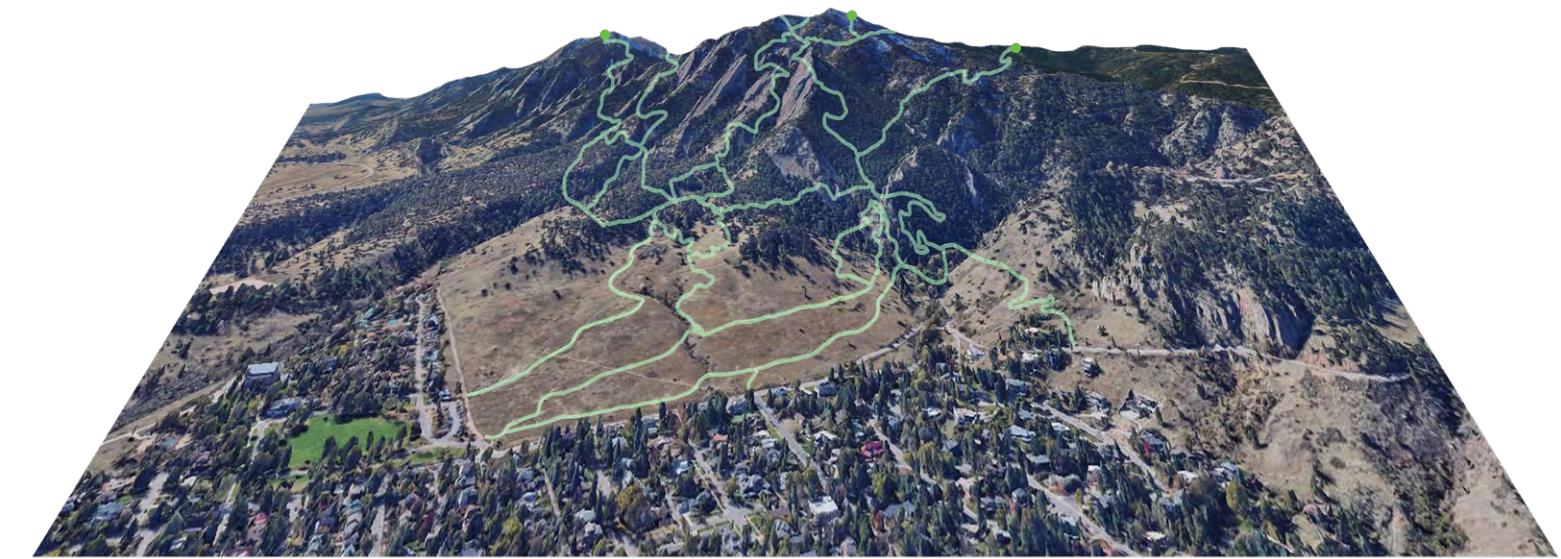


Current Open Space Parks



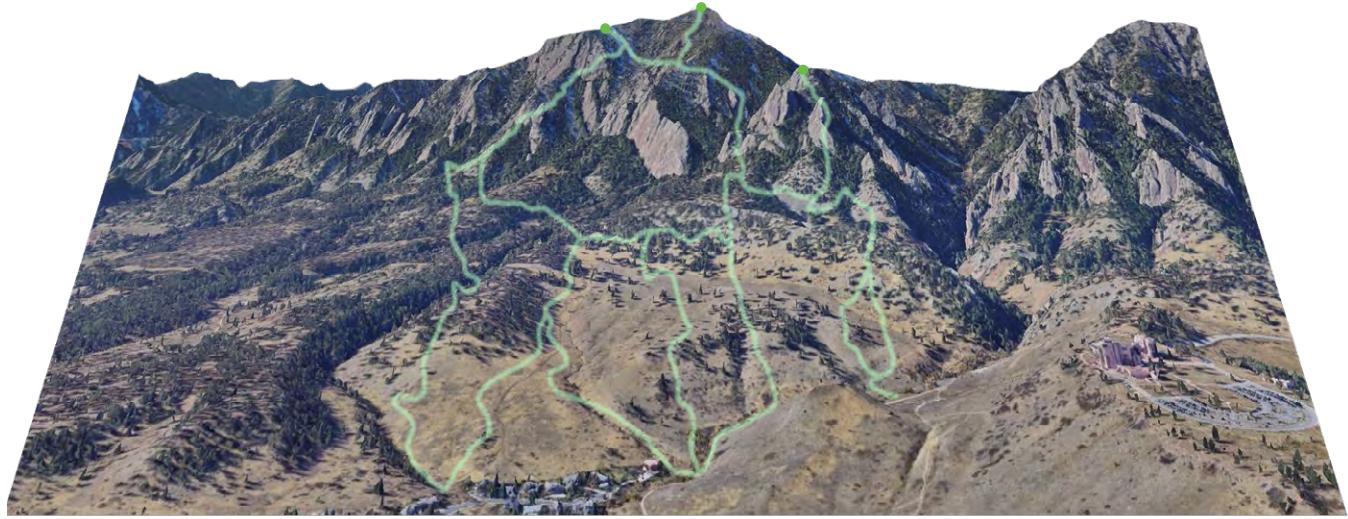
Proposed New Open Space Parks

Chautauqua Open Park



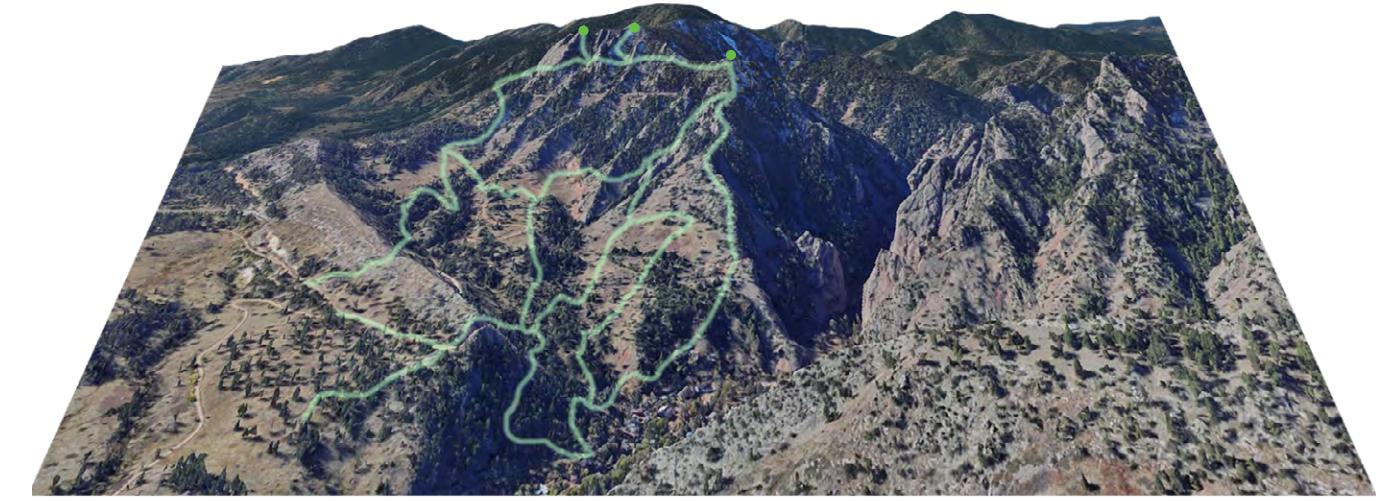
Views from Chautauqua Peak

South Boulder Peak Trails



Views from South Boulder Peak

El Dorado Peak Trails



Views from El Dorado Peak

Outfitters of Boulder

Boulder rests right in the middle of all the action that the Rockies have to offer. There is no adventure itch that cannot be scratched within a hours drive. This has helped to create an interesting opportunity for Outdoors retailers of Downtown Boulder. The diverse outdoors recreation market allows big name brands such as Patagonia and REI to have outlet shops while still being able to support local merchants. Outdoors retail in Colorado generates 28 billion dollars in profit annually and is responsible for 200,000 jobs.



Rocky Mountain Anglers



Neptune Mountaineering



InMotion Running Shop

Colorado Values on Conservation

85%



Coloradans believe the presence of well managed public land in the state helps to attract high quality employers and good jobs

68%



Coloradans identify themselves as Conservationist

74%



Coloradans are likely to not favor a candidate for public office "who voted to reduce funding for federal agencies which oversee public lands"

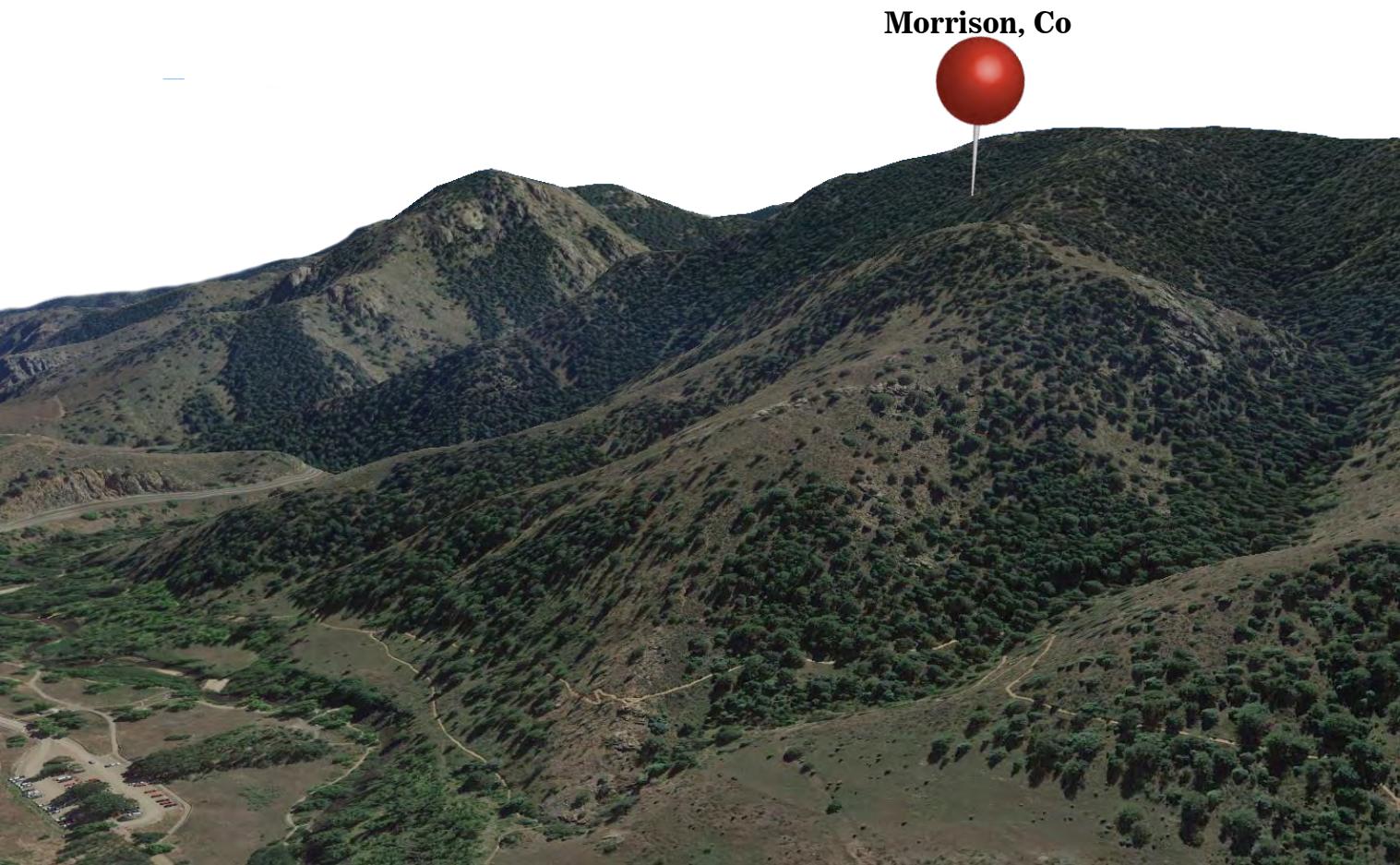
72%



Coloradans are more likely to favor a candidate for public office "who supports enhancing protections for public lands like national forest"

Lair O' the Bear State Park

Bear Creek is home to one of Colorado's last true native inhabitants- The Greenback Cutthroat trout. Greenbacks were the original species of trout found wild in the foothills of the Rockies. Once a thriving specimen, overfishing and poor park management have led to a decline in numbers. Only 20 wild populations of Greenbacks remain on Earth. The trout specifically of Bear Creek are at high risk for extinction. Only a half hour drive from Denver, the park receives heavy angler traffic. The thrill of landing a rare trout brings hordes of eager fishermen. Local conservation groups have lobbied for restrictions on fishing, but the parks brings steady revenue to Denver's "Ecotourism" market. For a state known for its natural beauty and wildlife, the exploitation of a endangered species is not what Colorado Ecotourism should stand for.



Effects of Stocking Bear Creek

There have been conservation efforts to save the Greenbacks. Colorado Wildlife and Parks attempted to stock the creek with hatchery raised rainbows to give other fishing opportunity for Lair O' the Bear Park. Unfortunately some rainbows and Greenbacks cross breed resulting in hybrid strain trout that only further taint the creek. Hybrid fish are more prone to disease and reproduce at lower rates. Colorado's response to the dying Greenback population was not to stop fishing in this park, but only to increase it by stocking more fisherman. This is not sound conservation, the native species being sold out to bring more fisherman in. Ecotourism should be about protecting and participating with nature in a respectful manner. Advertising a park for its rare and endangered animals does not justify the dollars it profits.

Process of Hybrid Interbreeding



Solo natural fish



Native fish among invasive stocked population



Native identity lost to cross breeding within populations

Park Exposure



Intimate connection to nature



Exposure as means of positive profit



Over exposure has led to decline in quality

Process of Ecotourism Extortion



Embracing the environment



Education and exposure as means for



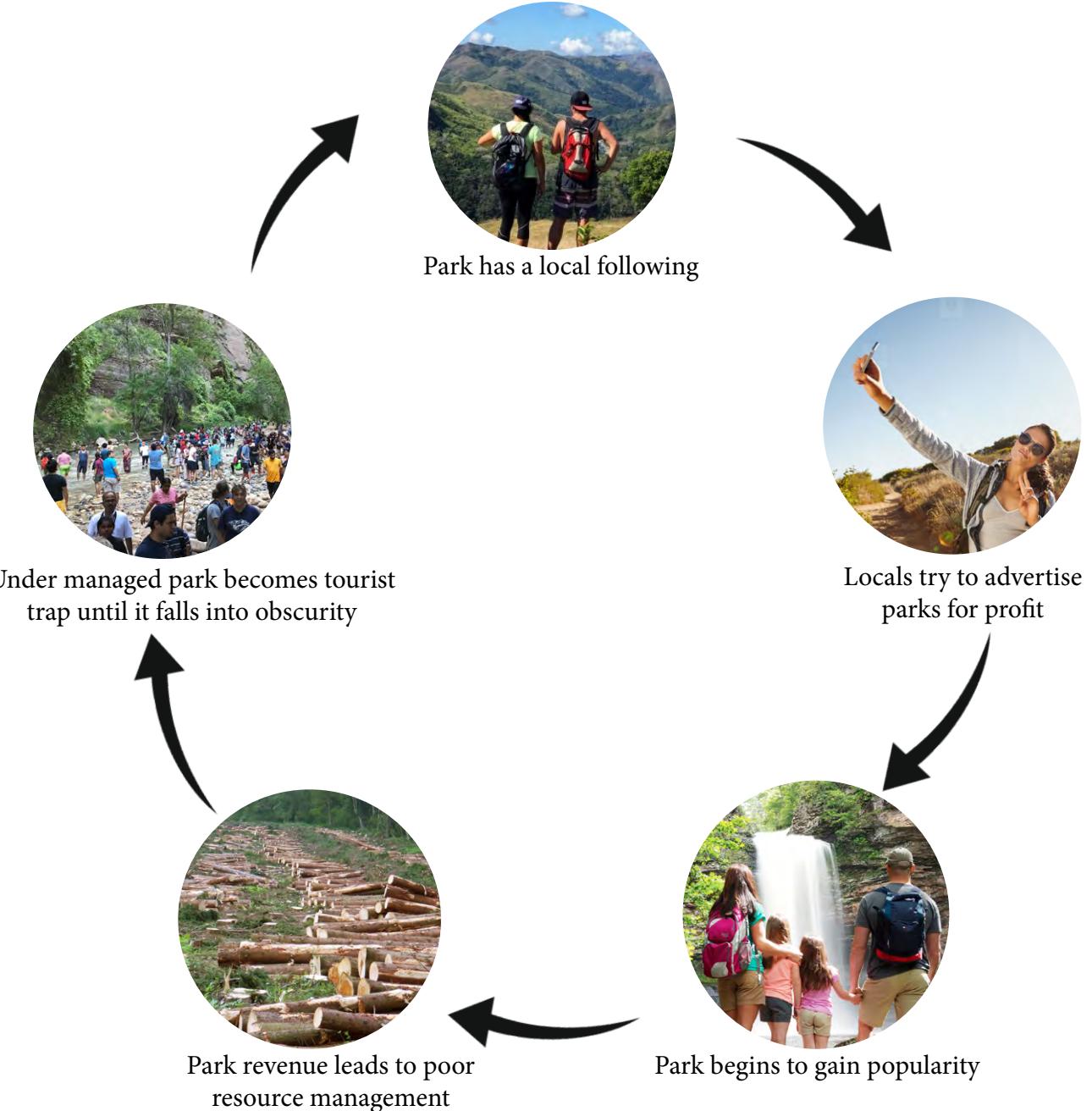
Over exposure has led to selfish ecotourism

Life Cycle of Stocked Trout



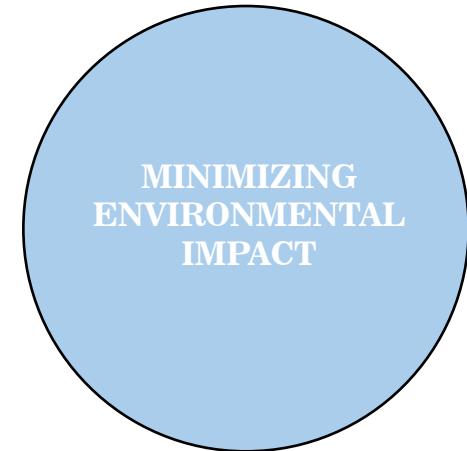
Life Cycle of Wild Trout

The Cycle of Ecotourism



What is the Future of Ecotourism?

The International Ecotourism Society (TIES) defines ecotourism as responsible travel to natural areas that conserves the environment and improves the well-being of local people. Following this mantra, there is a lot to be desired from the state of Colorado to encourage a more sustainable ecotourist market. There needs to be more support to local economies if Colorado wants to uphold its stake on its natural resources. Local business encourages community growth, rather than corporate. Tourism also needs to go green. Colorado already boasts many tourist attractions adhering to the Certification Program, but there is much more work to do.



Minimizing Environmental Impact

Sustainability will play a major role in the future of ecotourism. Having an economy based around supporting and preserving natural systems and habitats should reflect the human interaction. Hotels that reuse and recycle water, ride share programs to and from national parks to lower carbon emissions, etc. These are all small things that help to create a more green market on ecotourism.



Hotel Terra Jackson Hole

Located a mile from the entrance to Tetons National Park in Wyoming, this backwoods retreat is dedicated to sustainability. They strict water usage and all plumbing is designed to recycle water. Artificial light is used at a minimum to keep energy levels down, opting more for natural lighting.



Montage Deer Valley

The first LEED certified ski resort in Utah, this hotel also uses strict water codes to cut down on waste. Montage also utilizes local recycled materials to stay green.



Ride Share Programs

Services such as Uber, Lyft, and many others help to cut carbon emissions down in already busy tourist towns. By using these programs you can also support local drivers in the area while also being beneficial to the environment.

Building Awareness

Conservation of the Colorado's natural resources will be crucial in building and maintaining a ecotourist market dedicated to preservation of its parks. If a resident or visiting tourist truly cares about the parks and forest they visit it should be their duty to be informed of environmental issues. Across Colorado and nationwide there are endless conservation organization committed to saving and spreading awareness.



SIERRA
CLUB
COLORADO



Sierra Club

Founded by John Muir in 1891, this is one of the nation's oldest environmental lobbying organizations. Their current primary objectives are to promote sustainable energy, spread awareness for global warming, and opposing the use of coal.

Trout Unlimited

With Fishing being a major tourist attraction to Colorado, Trout Unlimited the major conservation group behind the market. TU helps to spread awareness on sustainable fishing practices and lobbying for more rights for public water ways being held captive by imminent domain laws.

Colorado Open Lands

Open lands is a non profit organization that helps to keep the private land of Colorado clean forever. They help to manage estates that natural resources like timber and water remain clean for generations to come.

Positive Experience

The best way for a ecotourism market to become a positive experience to all parties is the scenario in which the environment is the primary concern but profit is still met. For the environment parks and national forest should be able to operate at large capacities, but not to the extent where it harms the natural surroundings. Local business also need to build stronger ties to tourist area which they surround. Air Bnb would be a great tool to use to build smaller towns around a lodging market. Tourist should be booking a night's stay at local lodges rather than Best Western. Communities needs to be built around Colorado's protected lands, not corporations.



Locals can rent out real estate on or close to protected lands to provide a rustic and secluded vacation for tourist of Colorado

“ECOTOURISM”



CANCEL THE CROWD

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