

## RE: [External Email]Colorado Mountain Club Group Hike to Mitchell Lake - Permit Inquiry

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From matthew.henry@usda.gov <matthew.henry@usda.gov>

To [REDACTED]

CC [REDACTED]

Date Friday, March 17th, 2023 at 2:29 PM

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Hi Wayne –

My apologies for the delay in my response. There has been some confusion over this, and where we're at now is that you don't need a Indian Peaks Wilderness permit for group use outside of the June 1-September 15<sup>th</sup> season. And based on what I'm seeing (no fees, no compensation for guides, etc) there doesn't appear to be a special use permit required for this. Normally I'd ask more questions about this, but I'd done some research on a similar question recently from CMC so I feel comfortable with this right now. (Lastly, The confusion came from whether these needed to be part of the state-wide permit, we've figured this out for the time being). And I appreciate that you're keeping it below the group size limit in Wilderness as to not take away from other's experiences. You're good to go from what I'm seeing.

Please contact [permits@cmc.org](mailto:permits@cmc.org) for more information about CMC activities



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**Forest Service**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests & Pawnee National Grassland

# Indian Peaks Wilderness

Indian Peaks Wilderness is a popular destination for hiking, fishing and more. The Wilderness is divided into [17 backcountry zones](#), each with a permit quota to limit the adverse impacts due to repeated use.

**Requirements** - Overnight Permits, Day Use Permits and Parking Reservations are required depending on season, group size, and location. Bear canisters are required year-round near all trailheads in Indian Peaks Wilderness and everywhere in Diamond Lake and Jasper Lake backcountry zones. Bear canisters are recommended everywhere. View our [Food & Refuse Storage Order](#) for more information.

### Overnight Permits

Visitors need an Overnight Permit for EACH Backcountry Zone they plan to camp in depending on season and group size. The maximum group size is 12 people including pack stock.

- June 1 – September 15:
  - Visitors in groups of 1-7 **NEED** an Overnight Permit for EACH Backcountry Zone they plan to camp in.
    - Purchase this permit [Full Season in Advance](#) or [3 Days in Advance](#)
  - Visitors in large groups of 8-12 **NEED** an Overnight Permit for EACH Backcountry Zone they plan to camp in.
    - Purchase this permit [Full Season in Advance](#) or [3 Days in Advance](#)
- September 16 – May 31:
  - Visitors in groups of 1-7 **DO NOT** need an Overnight Permit to camp.
  - Visitors in large groups of 8-12 **DO NOT** need an Overnight Permit to camp.

### Day Use Permits

- June 1 – September 15:
  - Visitors in groups of 1-7 **DO NOT** need a day use permit.
  - Visitors in large groups of 8-12 **NEED** a Large Group Day Use Permit for EACH Backcountry Zone they plan to visit.
    - [Purchase Large Group Day Use Permit](#)
- September 16 – May 31:

- Visitors in groups of 1-7 **DO NOT** need a day use permit.
- Visitors in large groups of 8-12 **DO NOT** need a day use permit.

## Parking Reservations

Visit [Parking for Indian Peaks Wilderness](#)

Several trailheads that access Indian Peaks Wilderness and allow parking require a reservation, like those within Arapaho National Recreation Area and Brainard Lake Recreation Area. Additionally, Boulder County provides shuttle access to Hessie Trailhead. [Parking Map](#).

### Brainard Lake Recreation Area

- Open year-round – no parking reservation required
  - [Brainard Gateway Trailhead](#) ■
    - Day and overnight parking allowed
- Open June-October – lower trailheads – parking reservation required
  - [Brainard Lake Picnic Site/Trailhead](#) ■
    - [Purchase Day Use Parking Reservation](#) ■
    - [Purchase Overnight Parking Reservation](#) ■
- Open July-October – upper trailheads – parking reservation required
  - [Long Lake](#) ■
    - [Purchase Day Use Parking Reservation](#) ■
    - [Purchase Overnight Parking Reservation](#) ■
  - [Mitchell Lake](#) ■/[Beaver Creek](#) ■
    - [Purchase Day Use Parking Reservation](#) ■
    - [Purchase Overnight Parking Reservation](#) ■
  - [Niwot Picnic Site/Trailhead](#) ■
    - [Purchase Day Use Parking Reservation](#) ■
    - [Purchase Overnight Parking Reservation](#) ■

### Arapaho National Recreation Area

- Open year-round – [ANRA Pass required](#) ■
  - [Roaring Fork](#) ■
  - [Junco Lake](#) ■
  - [Doe Creek](#) ■
- Open mid-May – mid-Nov – [ANRA Pass required](#) ■
  - [Monarch Lake](#) ■

### Hessie Trailhead