

Rocky Mountain National Park Wilderness Supporters Voices in support of wilderness designation for Rocky Mountain National Park

Rocky Mountain National Park is one of the nation's most visited parks and possesses some of the most pristine and striking alpine ecosystems and natural landscapes in the continental United States. ... It is essential that we act to preserve this park so that future generations can enjoy some of the things that now make Colorado such a special place to work, live and play.

- Congressman Mark Udall, "Udall, Salazar to Introduce Wilderness for Rocky Mountain National Park," Press Release, June 30, 2005

The Park Service has already recognized the wilderness value of these lands in Rocky Mountain National Park as part of its management plan. This bill will ensure the Park Service's vision for the future of Rocky Mountain National Park.

- Senator Ken Salazar, "Sen. Salazar Continues Efforts to Preserve Colorado's Natural Heritage," Press Release, August 3, 2005

It's about time to get this [wilderness legislation] settled. Being a gateway community to Rocky Mountain National Park, it's in our best interest for Rocky Mountain National Park to remain a pristine place for generations to come. Let's get this act passed.

- Estes Park Mayor John Baudek, March 10, 2006

The more educated that we become, the more we understand that the park is under a tremendous environmental attack. Researchers have more than 20 years of data that tell us that exhaust from the autos, heavy equipment, buses, and big rigs locally and on the Interstate 25 corridor threaten our high mountain lakes and the Greenback trout that live there. ... The more educated we become, the more we know that there is a real good chance that we will lose Rocky Mountain National Park as we know it today if we do not act. The more educated we become, the more we realize that the window of opportunity for any chance to save RMNP is here and now and rapidly shrinking.

For these reasons, and for the benefits to the community, the county and the state, there was not even one person who spoke against a wilderness area designation at the Estes Park town meeting.

- Keith Keenan of Colorado Trout Unlimited, Letter to the Editor, *The Fort Collins Coloradoan*, July 20, 2005

We stopped at each of the pull-outs [in Rocky Mountain National Park], and [my father's] reaction at the last stop of the day was the same as the first stop. The snow-

capped mountains seem close enough to touch, yet also seem to go on forever. He was never quite able to comprehend the grandness of it all. And that is a beautiful thing.

- Todd Ringler, "Protect RMNP for future generations," *The Fort Collins Coloradoan*, July 16, 2005