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Rocky Mountain National Park



Download this presentation at www.laughinggrizzlyflyshop.com/RMNP.pdf



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It's busy in the summer...

Timed entry reservations required

General Park: 9:00 – 2:00

Bear Lake Corridor 5:00 – 6:00*



*Where all the good fishing access is



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The Land

- Elevation ranges from ~8500' to over 14000'
- Covers three life zones
 - Montane- Moraine Park to Hidden Valley
 - Subalpine- Hidden Valley to tree line
 - Alpine- Tundra above tree line
- Originally settled by Native Americans
 - Ute
 - Arapahoe
 - Wickiup sites/points/baskets/animal traps and jumps



Life Zone Flora and Fauna

- Montane
 - Ponderosa/Lodgepole
 - Elk/Deer/Coyote/Squirrels/Jays/Magpies/Bluebirds
- Subalpine
 - Lodgepole/Fir/Spruce
 - Elk/Deer/Sheep/Jays/Hawks/Eagles/Ospreys/Ravens
- Alpine
 - Krumholz/Ground Hugging Plants
 - Elk/Sheep/Hawks/Eagles/Ravens



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Big mountains

...but only one Fourteener!



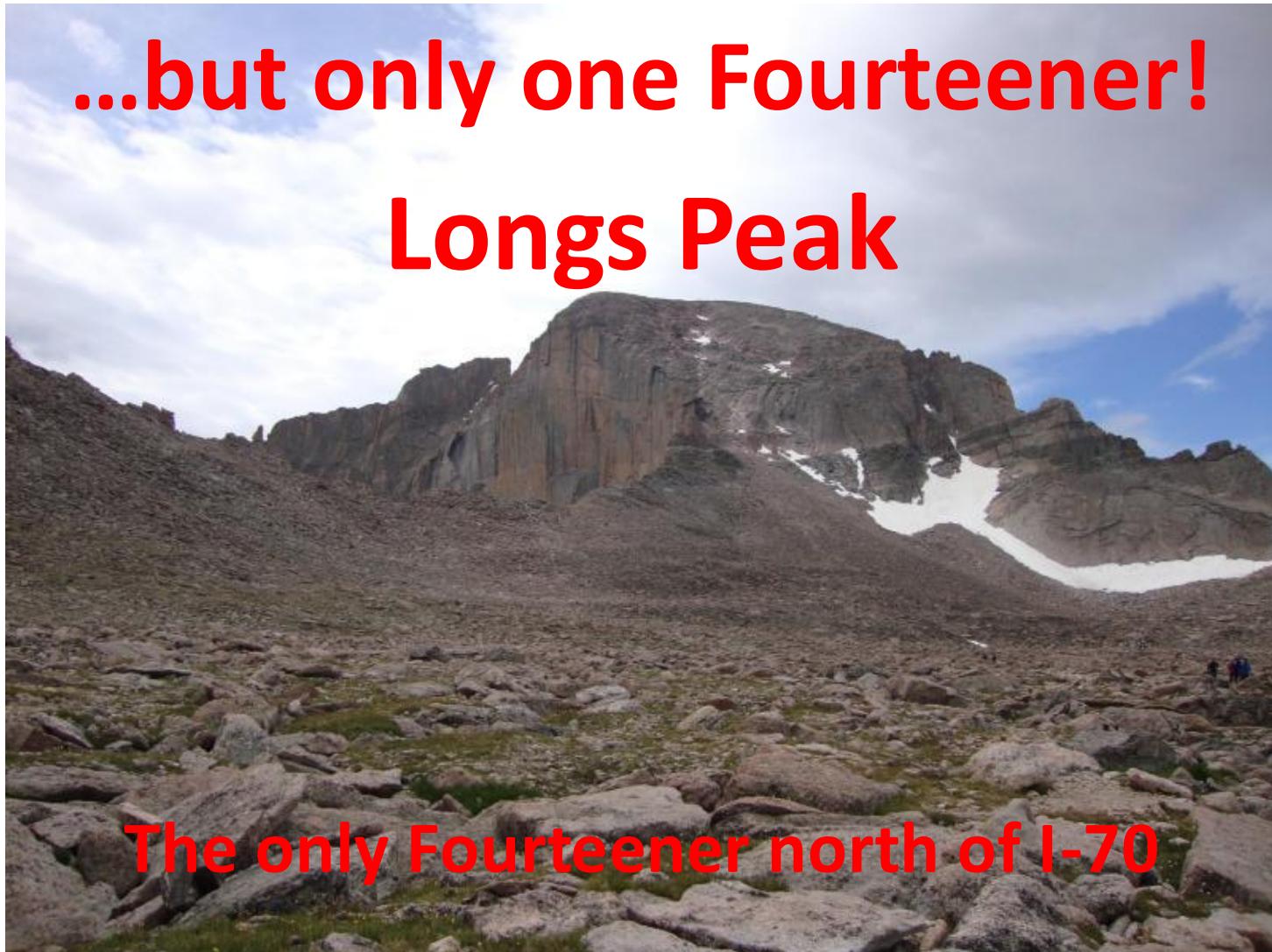


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Big mountains

...but only one Fourteener!

Longs Peak



The Fish

Brook Trout

- Distribution
 - Darn near every creek
 - Many lakes
- Wild but not native
 - Native to eastern and northern North America





The Fish

Rainbow Trout

- Distribution
 - Primarily Glacier Creek
 - Big T near The Pool
- Wild but not native
 - Native to western North America and eastern Russia





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The Fish

Brown Trout

- Distribution
 - Most creeks
 - Sprague Lake in RMNP!
- Wild but not native
 - Native to western Europe and British Isles





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The Fish

Cutthroat Trout

- Distribution
 - Many streams⁺
 - Many high altitude lakes⁺
 - Greenback cutthroats on east side
 - Colorado River cutthroats on west side
 - Yellowstone cutthroats in Lake Haiyaha
- Greenback and Colorado River cutthroats are the only trout native to RMNP
- But... Colorado River and Greenback cutthroats are probably generic hybrid cutthroats

+ See A Fly Fishing Guide to RMNP by Steve Schweitzer





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The Fish



Others

- Suckers
 - Native To Colorado
 - Don't kill them



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Gear Basics

■ Rod

- 2 to 4 weight for streams
- 4 or 5 weight for lakes



■ Reel



- Single action/click and pawl fine for streams
- Drag useful but not necessary; handy for lakes



Gear Basics

- **Tools and Supplies**
- **Leaders**
 - 6 - 7-1/2 ft for streams: 4X - 5X, mono for dries/fluorocarbon for nymphing if desired
 - 9 - 12 ft for lakes: 3X-5X, mono for dries/fluorocarbon for nymphing and streamers
- **Tippet**
 - 4X-6X mono and fluorocarbon



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Flies: Early Spring

Point flies

- Copper John- red, copper or chartreuse, 14-18
- Double nymph rigs generally most effective
- Pheasant Tail, 14-18
- Gold Ribbed Hare's Ear, 14-18
- Prince Nymph, 14-18
- Tarheel Caddis Larva 14-16
- Perdigons 14-18



Dropper/Trailing flies

- San Juan Worm- pink or purple, 14-16
- Midge larvae and pupae, 20-26
- Soft hackles



Dry Flies

- BWOs or Adams dries and emergers, 16-24
- Griffith's Gnat/other midge dries, 20-28
- Foam hoppers, 10-14 for dry/dropper rigs





Flies: Early Spring

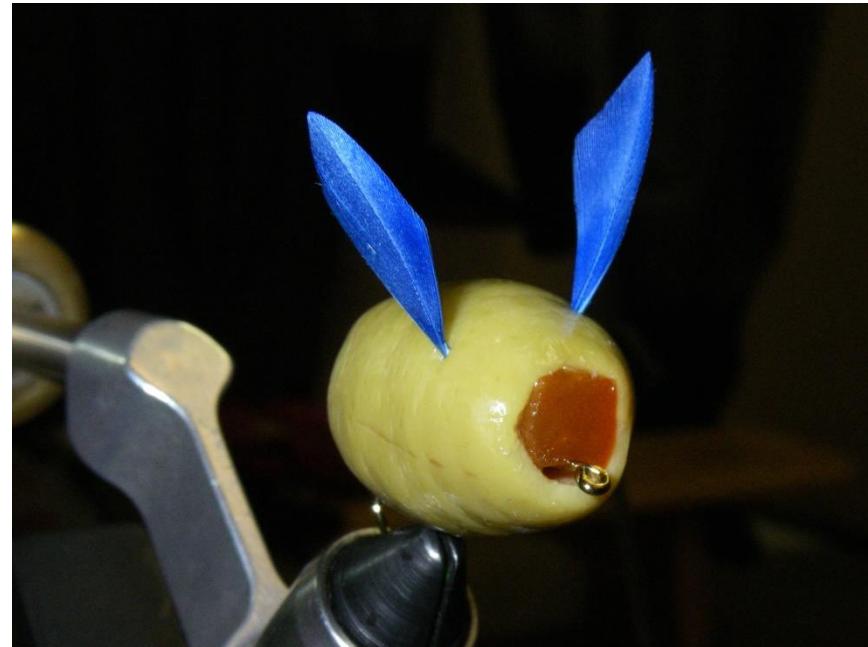
My Favorite Springtime Fly...



Flies: Early Spring

My Favorite Springtime Fly...

■ The Blue Wing Olive





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Flies: Runoff

All of the above, plus

- Caddis larvae and pupae
 - Tabou Caddis Emerger
 - Barr's Graphic Caddis
 - Lafontaine's Deep Sparkle Pupa
 - Cased and uncased caddis larvae
- Caddis Adults
 - Elk Hair Caddis
 - E/C Caddis, etc
- Perdigons
- Double nymph rigs most effective under high water conditions

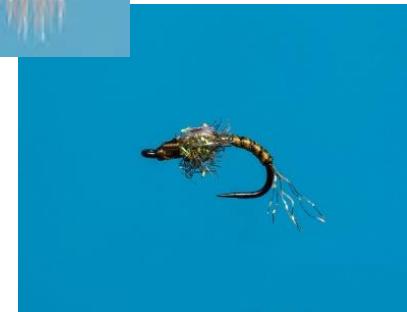




Flies: Summer/Fall

Mayflies

- Adams or Parachute Adams, 14-18
- Red Quill, 14-16
- PMD, 16-18
- Grey Drake, 12-14
- Green Drake, 10-12
- Emergers
 - Barr Emerger, 18-20
 - Dick's Yoosta-B Mini-Merger, 18-22
 - RS-II
 - Soft Hackles
- Nymphs, 14-18
 - Hare's Ear/Pheasant Tail/Copper John/Prince/SJW/Perdigons





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Flies: Summer/Fall

Caddis

- Adults
 - Elk Hair Caddis, 14-16
 - E/C Caddis, 14-16
 - X-Caddis, 14-16
 - Lime Trude, 14-16
- Pupae/Emergers
 - Tabou Caddis Emerger
 - Fontaine's Sparkle Pupa
 - Barr's Graphic Caddis
 - Tarheel Caddis Larva
 - Soft Hackles





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Flies: Summer/Fall

Terrestrials and Attractors

- Terrestrials, 10-18
 - Hoppers, ants and beetles
- Attractors, 12-18
 - Humpy
 - Royal Wulff
 - Stimulator
 - Royal Coachman Trude
- Lakes demand tiny (20-28) midge dries, larvae and emergers
 - Griffith's Gnat
 - Parachute Adams
 - Midge Larvae/Pupae

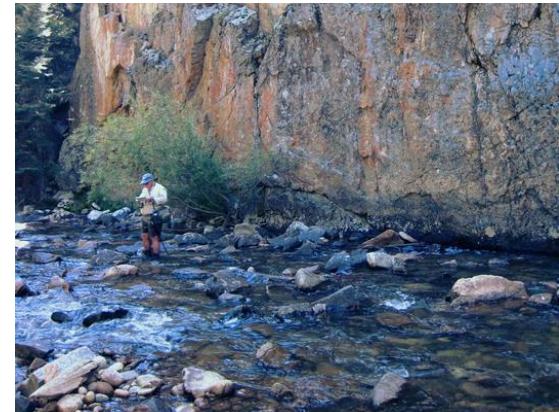




Recommended Places

Big Thompson River

- Moraine Park
- “Cub Creek”
- Between Cub Lake and Fern Lake Trailheads
- Cub Lake TH to Fern Lake TH
- Along Fern Lake Trail to The Pool*
- Lower Forest Canyon*#
- Upper Forest Canyon*



*Cutthroats

#Burned



Recommended Places

zzy

Glacier Creek

- Big T confluence to Tuxedo Picnic area
- Tuxedo Picnic area and upstream
- Glacier Basin Campground area
- Sprague Lake area
- Above Bierstadt Lake parking lot
- Above Alberta Falls to Mills Lake/The Loch





Recommended Places

Fall River

- Horseshoe Park
- Above Lawn Lake TH to Endovalley Picnic Area and above

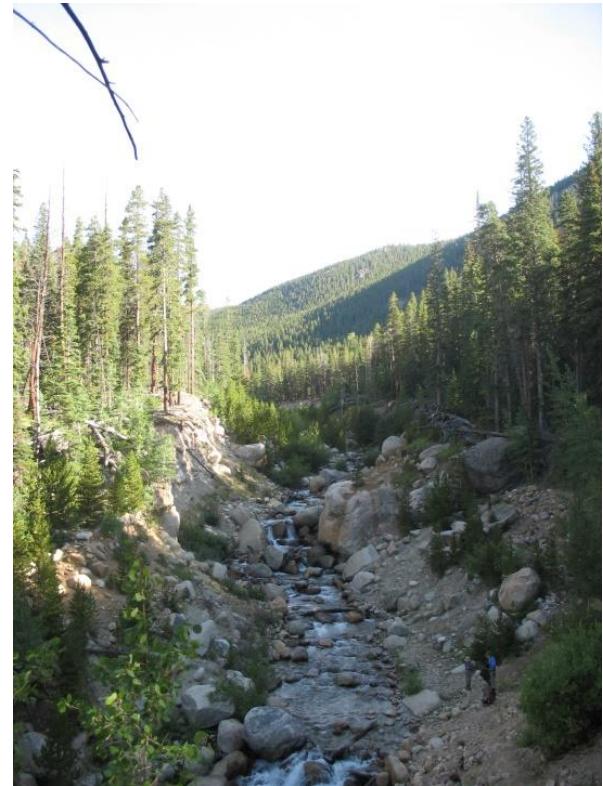
Roaring River[#]

- Alluvial Fan to Fall River*
- Along Lawn Lake Trail*

[#] Blown out by 9/13 floods; fish are coming back

*Cutthroats

Note: No reservation required <9:00 or >2:00

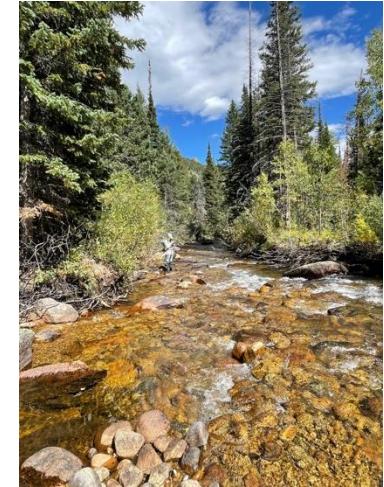




Recommended Places

North St Vrain Creek in Wild Basin

- Copeland Lake to bridge
- Bridge to Ranger Station
- Ranger Station to Calypso Cascades and above
- Small streams feeding and draining high altitude lakes





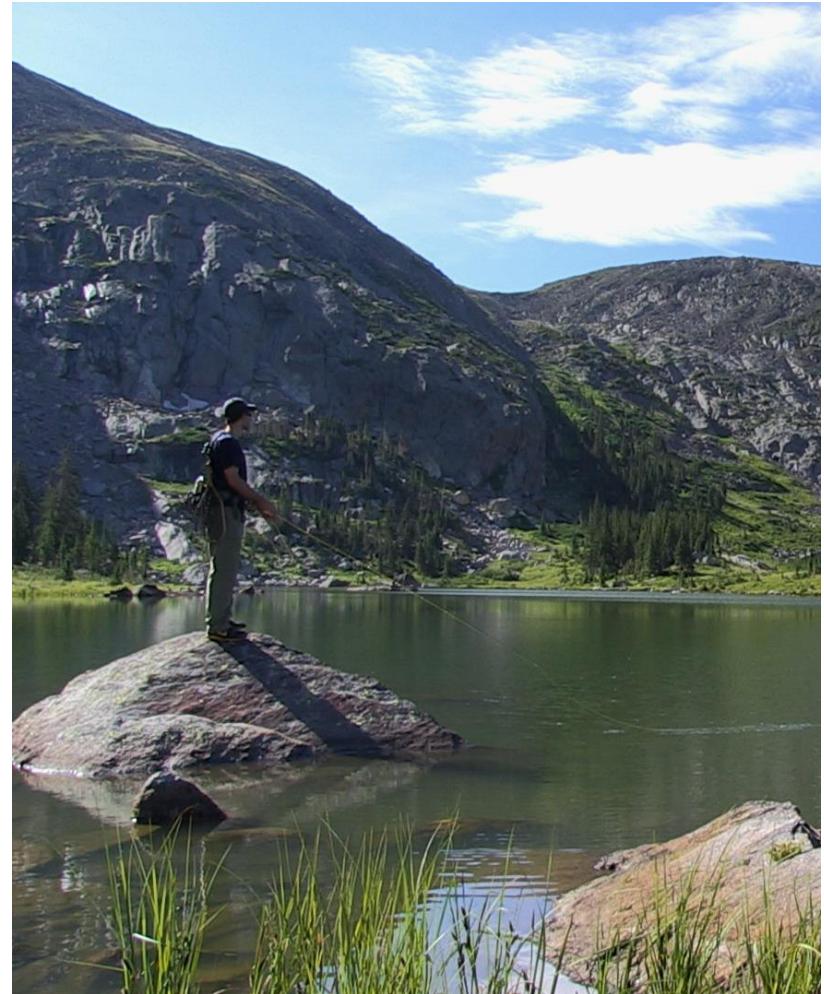
Recommended Places

West Side

- Colorado River
- North Inlet Creek
- Tonahutu Creek*
 - Big Meadow#
- La Poudre Pass Creek*
- Cache La Poudre River*
- Many others

*Cutthroats

#Severely burned





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Recommended Places





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Take
a kid
fishing!

Finally...

