

# People Connect Transportation and Forest Management along I-70

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# Mission

... to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.



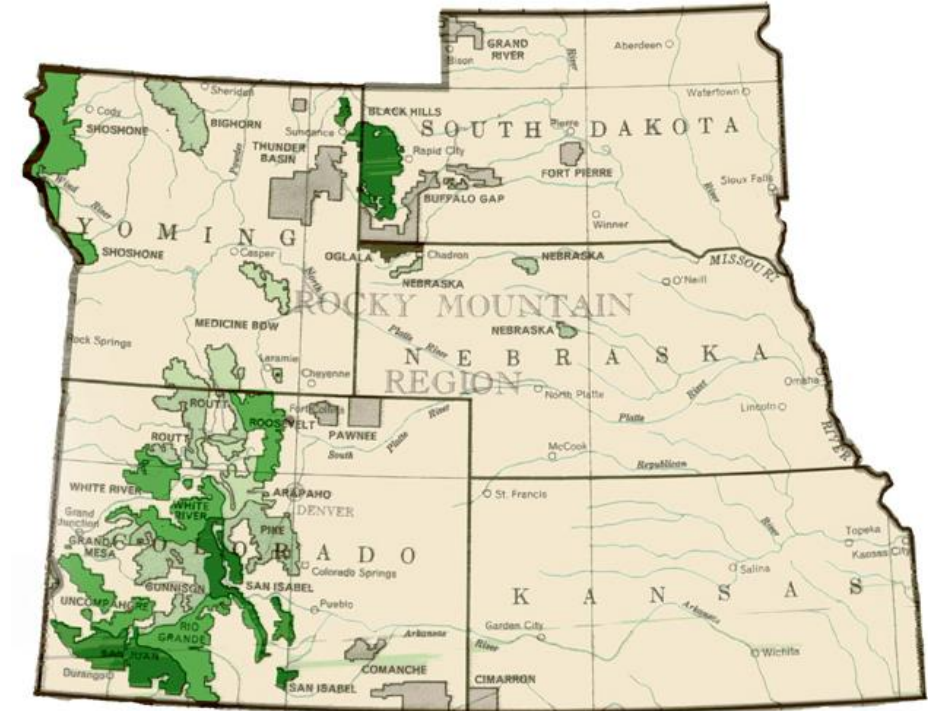


# Meet the Rocky Mountain Region



- **11** National Forests & Grasslands
- **40** million acres
- **34** million visitors (2022 est)
- **26,000** miles of trail

Forest	2020 Visitors
Bighorn	430,000
Black Hills	830,000
Grand Mesa Uncompaghre Gunnison	2,880,000
Medicine Bow	620,000
Nebraska	250,000
Rio Grande	510,000
Arapaho - Roosevelt	7,490,000
Routt	1,720,000
Pike -San Isabel	5,380,000
San Juan	1,580,000
Shoshone	220,000
White River	10,480,000
Total R2	32,390,000



# Meet the Rocky Mountain Region: Ski Industry



- **27** ski areas
  - **14 million** visits (*2022 est.*)
  - **\$4.8 billion** in economic output
  - **46,000** jobs
  - **\$27 million** in fee receipts
- ...14% increase from 2018/2019 to 2021/2022
- ...9% increase in mid-week visits





## Financial Contributions of Forests

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- Sustainable communities have: Energy, Water, Transportation, Healthcare, Education, Broadband, Housing, and **Access to outdoor recreation**
- Attract industry
- Foster retention and investment
- Sustainable growth
- Serve Resident & Visitors





# Changes in Visitation

- Seasonal use shifting to year-round
- Mountain resorts expanding
- Dispersed recreation and trails
- Developed recreation sites
- Relationship with tourism
- Population increasing
- Diversity increasing
- Health as motivation

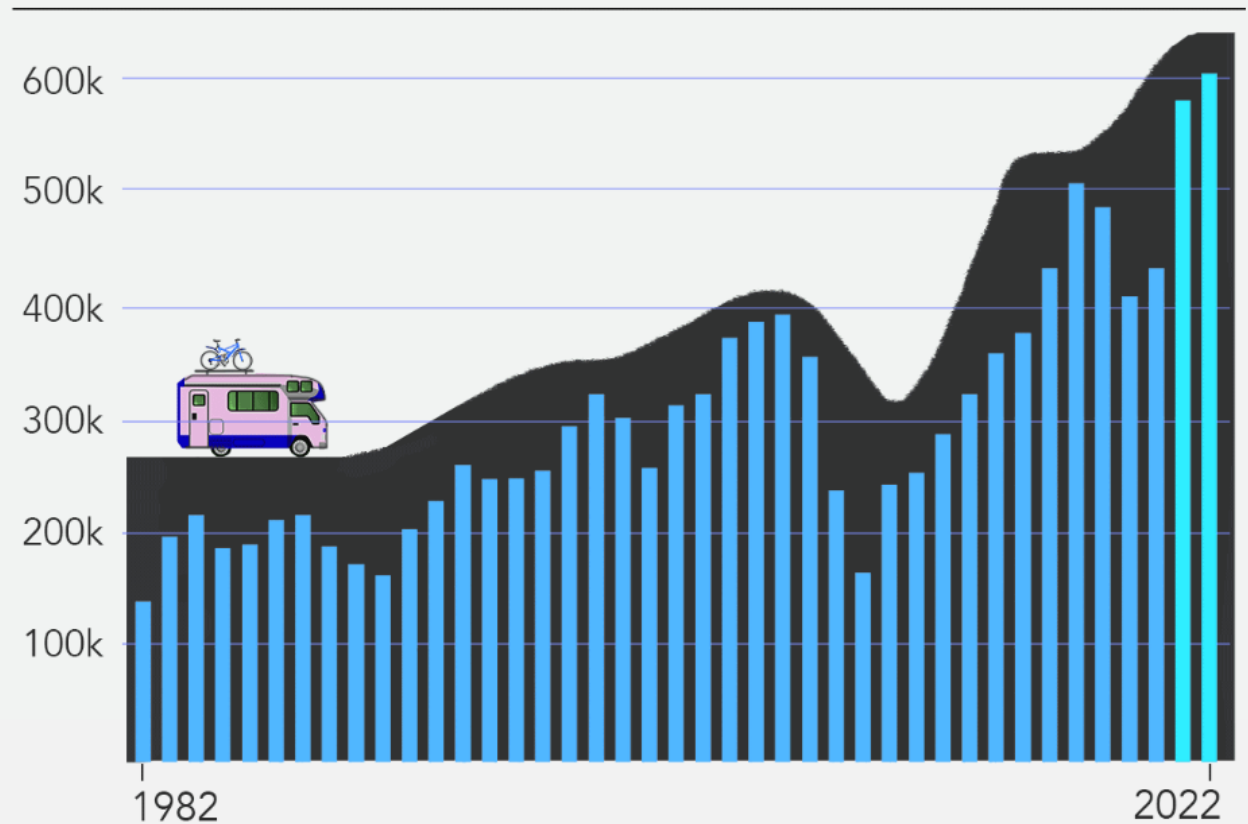


# Pandemic

- Record visitation (15-400% increases)
- Single occupancy vehicles (crowded roads and parking areas)
- Record sales of RVs, campers, trailers, and OHVs

## RV sales are on the road to a new record-high

Total recreational vehicle units shipped by year



DATA: RV Industry Association (riva.org) / 2021, 2022 = projected

the HUSTLE



# Housing

- Not available
- Not affordable
- Lengthy commutes
- Front Range and towns 40 miles north and south of I-70 are new bedroom communities for staff in mountain towns





# Forest Service Recreation Funding

- Base recreation funding declining
- Special funding increasing (GAOA, BIL, etc)
- Fleet, toilet pumping and cleaning
- SHRED Act has potential to add \$24M
- Increasingly rely on fees & partner investments
  
- SIGNIFICANCE: Increased reliance on partners







# Lands

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- Land & Water Conservation Fund
- Small Tracts Act
- Consolidate “green”, improve recreational access, establish wildlife corridors
- Administrative sites & housing







# Minerals

- Declining
- Greater emphasis on transmission than transport
- More work to authorize protection of energy corridors (fuels projects)
- New interest in energy farms



# Mountain Resorts

- Master Development Plans
- Capacity
- Next new thing
- 4 – season
- Potential to reward ride sharing
- Large developments on horizon
- International and out-of-state





# Forest Health

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- Beetles
- Fire Risk – Fuels – Damage
- Concentration of trees
- Target trees per acre

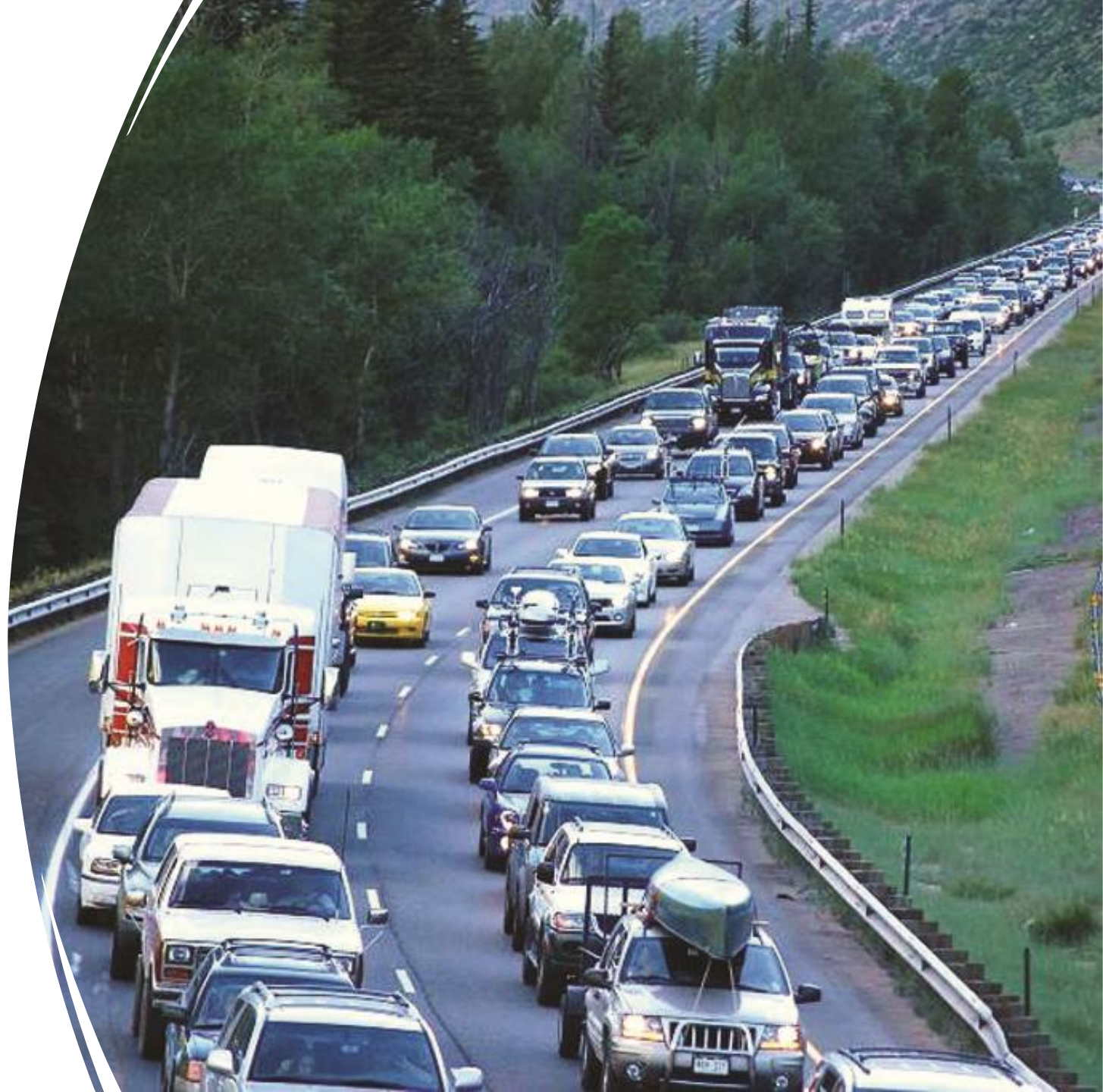




# I-70 Corridor

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- Expansion
- Parking
- Charging stations
- Limited north to south recreation and wildlife corridors
- New CPW license plate surcharge
- Hot spots: Glenwood Canyon, Vail Pass, Floyd Hill, Empire, Eisenhower Tunnel and Loveland Pass







# Known Unknowns

- Front Range growth
- Climate change
- Fire
- Insect infestation
- Housing
- Mountain Resort Services and Marketing Strategies
- Pandemic
- Community engagement and support
- Changes in recreation (e.g. eBikes)
- Rail networks, mass transit, and shared rides
- Growth in Clear Creek watershed communities



# Want More?

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- Retain Fees (SHRED Act)
- Trail and transportation connections from towns directly to public lands
- E-Charging stations
- Reservation systems
- Walkability
- Multi-generational Opportunities for young people and families
- Diversity of visitors
- Trail ambassadors





# Call to Partnerships

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- Shared Stewardship
- SHRED Act
- Housing
- Master Development Plans
- Mountain Resort Team Center of Excellence

