



# Recreation Resources

## Types of Impacts

Expanding transportation facilities in the Corridor could directly affect adjacent recreation resources. Smaller areas could be lost entirely, and access to larger areas could be altered.

- The Action Alternatives would directly affect between 50 and 86 recreation sites. The Minimal Action has the fewest and the Combination alternatives have the highest number of affected sites. These effects are directly related to the size of the transportation footprint.
  - Many of the affected recreation sites are associated with the Clear Creek Greenway Plan; joint planning in Tier 2 processes may avoid impacts to some of these sites.
  - The third tunnel bore through the Eisenhower-Johnson Memorial Tunnels (included in most alternatives) affects one ski run at the Loveland Ski Area
- Increased visitation to recreation resources accessed from the Corridor would benefit commercial recreation providers (rafting companies, ski resorts) and strain sustainability of forest land resources.
  - Alternatives with higher capacity (Transit and Combination alternatives) induce higher visitation to recreation resources.
- Construction would affect access to recreation sites, particularly in the summer construction season. Traffic delays during construction may suppress visitation to recreation areas.



## Mitigation Strategies

- Tier 2 processes will seek to avoid or minimize impacts to recreation resources by:
  - Replacing, realigning, or enhancing impacted parks and trails
  - Design efforts to minimize the area of impact
  - Realigning affected trails
  - Facilitating efficient access to recreation sites from transportation networks
- Mitigation will be developed considering principles applied to Glenwood Canyon recreation resources (such as bike path, hiking amenities, river access)
- Strategies outlined in Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan will be considered to manage increased visitation to forests and recreation areas, including exploring funding partnerships and cost sharing.
- The lead agencies will coordinate closely with the United States Forest Service to develop management techniques that can mitigate impacts of increased access to forest lands.