

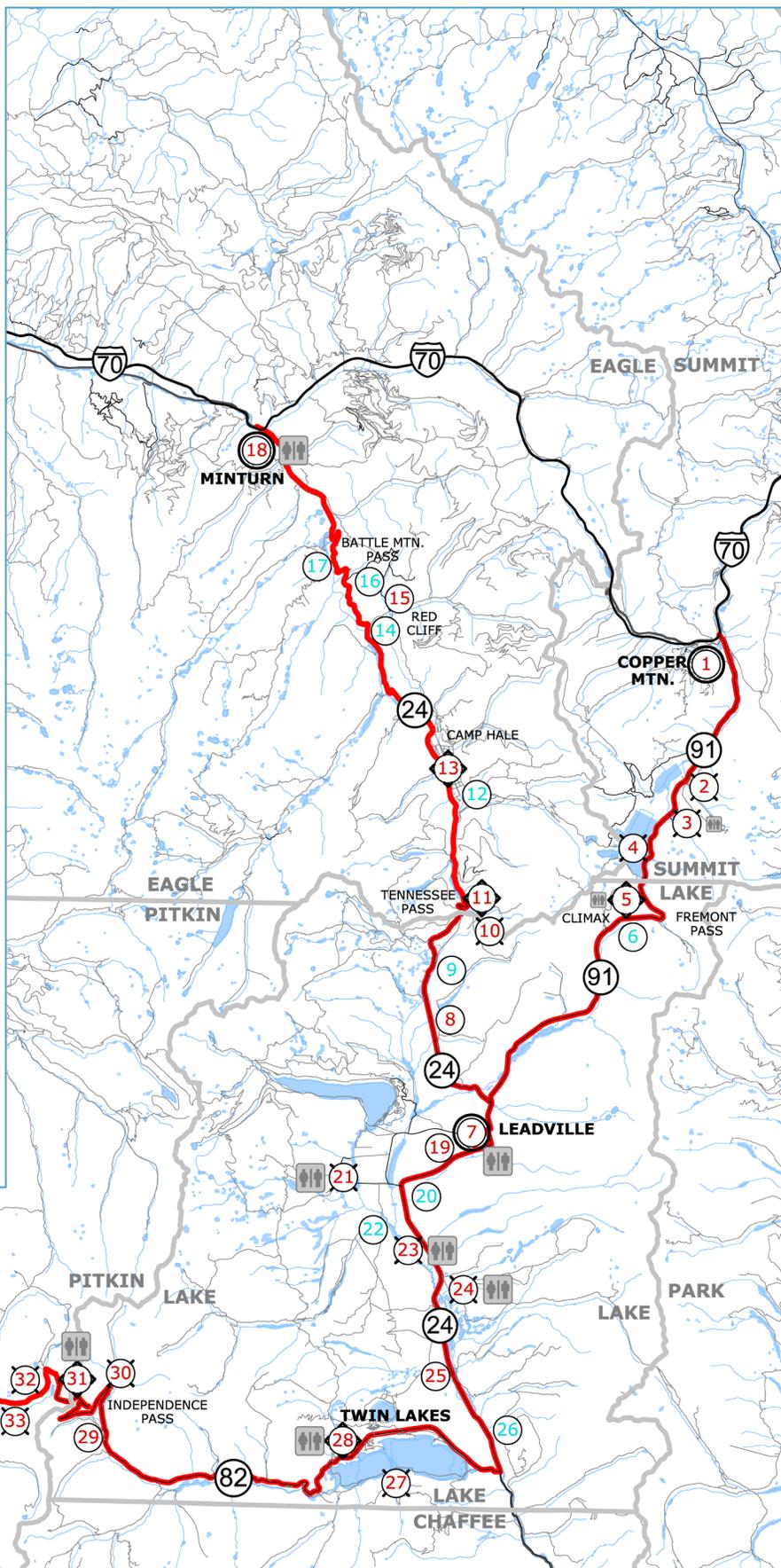
Interpretive Sites Map

Legend

-  TOP OF THE ROCKIES SCENIC BYWAY
-  WATER COURSE
-  RESTROOM
-  PORTA POTTY IN SUMMER
-  ONSITE INTERPRETATION
-  NO ONSITE INTERPRETATION POSSIBLE
-  GATEWAY
-  STATION
-  STOP
-  SITE

INTERPRETIVE SITES - KEY

- | | |
|---|---|
|  1 COPPER MOUNTAIN |  22 MOUNT ELBERT AND MOUNT MASSIVE |
|  2 MAYFLOWER GULCH |  23 CRYSTAL LAKES / ARKANSAS HEADWATERS |
|  3 CLINTON GULCH RESERVOIR |  24 HAYDEN MEADOWS RECREATION AREA |
|  4 HOLY CROSS / KOKOMO OVERLOOK |  25 HAYDEN RANCH |
|  5 CLIMAX MINE / FREMONT PASS SUMMIT |  26 OLD LEADVILLE STAGE ROAD |
|  6 MOUNT ARKANSAS |  27 INTERLAKEN NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT |
|  7 USFS LEADVILLE OFFICE |  28 TWIN LAKES NATIONAL HISTORIC DISTRICT |
|  8 ESCONDIDO FLATS |  29 BRUMLEY TOWN SITE |
|  9 WHEELER FLATS |  30 LAKE CREEK TRAILHEAD |
|  10 SKI COOPER |  31 INDEPENDENCE PASS SUMMIT |
|  11 10TH MOUNTAIN DIVISION MEMORIAL |  32 TOP CUT PULLOUT |
|  12 COKING OVENS |  33 INDEPENDENCE TOWN SITE |
|  13 CAMP HALE |  34 LOWER LOST MAN TRAILHEAD |
|  14 STEEL ARCH BRIDGE AND LOVERS LEEP |  35 DISCOVERY TRAIL AND BRAILLE TRAIL |
|  15 RED CLIFF MUSEUM |  36 LINCOLN CREEK ROAD |
|  16 BATTLE MOUNTAIN AND NOTCH MOUNTAIN |  37 THE GROTTOS |
|  17 GILMAN TOWN SITE |  38 WELLER LAKE |
|  18 USFS HOLY CROSS RANGER DISTRICT OFFICE |  39 INDEPENDENCE PASS WINTER GATE CLOSURE SITE |
|  19 SMELTING SITE |  40 NORTH STAR PRESERVE |
|  20 MALTA SCHOOL HOUSE |  41 USFS - ASPEN |
|  21 LEADVILLE NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY | |



Map was created with GIS information from Summit, Lake, Eagle and Pitkin Counties.



Climax Mine Interpretive Site

Introduction

This section contains information on:

- The current status of interpretive sites.
- The relative value of interpretive sites with respect to interpreting the TOR topics.
- The relative priority of implementing the recommendations outlined. (Note: Some highly valuable sites may be designated “Low Priority” because they are in good condition and there are few improvements to make.)
- Site-specific topics and recommendations.

In the detailed descriptions that follow, each site’s role in the Byway Interpretive Management Plan is reflected through the assignment of an interpretive quality value [(L)ow, (M)edium, (H)igh], an interpretive development priority [(L)ow, (M)edium, (H)igh], and a recommended designation (Gateway, Station, Stop, Site). Interpretive value assesses the importance, uniqueness and quality of a site’s interpretive resources. For example, the Hayden Ranch has high value as a site to interpret ranching while Camp Hale has high value as a site to interpret military history. Interpretive priority refers to the relative ranking of the site on the Byway’s to do list. High priority sites will generally be addressed ahead of low priority sites.



Byway sites by interpretive priority

HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFS Office: Minturn • USFS Office: Leadville • Stringtown Smelting Site • Twin Lakes National Historic District • Interlaken National Historic District • Independence Town Site • Independence Pass Summit • Independence Pass West Winter Gate Closure Site • USFS Office: Aspen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climax Mine/Freemont Pass Summit • 10th Mountain Division Memorial Camp Hale • Copper Mountain • Clinton Gulch Reservoir • Red Cliff and Steel Arch Bridge • Leadville National Fish Hatchery • Hayden Meadows Recreation Area • Discovery Trail and Braille Trail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mayflower Gulch • Mount of the Holy Cross/Kokomo Overlook • Ski Cooper • Escondido Flats • Coking Ovens South of Camp Hale • Battle Mountain and Notch Mountain • Gilman Town Site • Malta School House • Crystal Lakes • Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area • Mount Elbert and Mount Massive • Hayden Ranch • Old Leadville Stage Road • Brumley Town Site • Top Cut Pullout • Old Stage Road • Lake Creek Trailhead • Lincoln Creek Road • The Grottos • Lost Man Trailhead • Weller Lake Trailhead • North Star Preserve and Smith Open Space

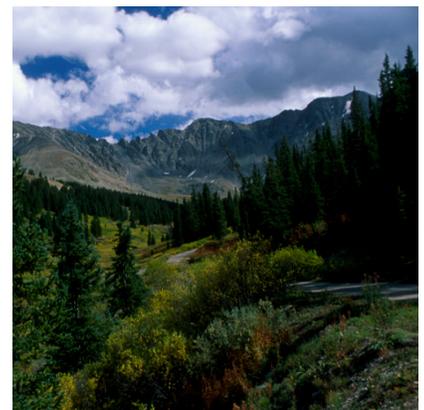
Copper Mountain to Leadville

Key Interpretive Sites:

1. Copper Mountain Area	Value: L • Priority: L • Future Gateway
<p>Status There currently is no Gateway at this northern portal to the Byway and the use of Copper Mountain Resort for such a purpose is no longer likely or advantageous to TOR.</p> <p>The standard <i>Byway Begins</i> and CO and <i>National Byway</i> signs are in place south of Copper Mountain Resort at the beginning of the Byway.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TORB should continue to be alert to opportunities to develop a Byway gateway somewhere in the vicinity of Wheeler Flats or the beginning of the Byway. • TORB should work with CDOT to determine if a larger sign indicating the beginning of the Byway can be erected. This would not be a pullout, simply a larger sign to consolidate and replace the existing signs. • Copper Mountain should be referenced in Recreation, Mining and Military History downloads and other materials and media. • Find partners to help gain momentum for a gateway site in this vicinity <p>Interpretive Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Byway orientation and overview • Byway safety • Recreation opportunities (four-season, hiking, bicycling, climbing, fishing, camping, skiing, hut trips, etc.) • Military history as it relates to the 10th Mountain Division and the history of the ski industry • Overview of the region’s mining history 	



Copper Mountain
 The beginning of the BYWAY at I-70’s intersection with SH 91.



Mayflower Gulch
 Mayflower Gulch leads to the site of Old Boston Mine and some of the most spectacular scenery in the Ten-mile range.

2. Mayflower Gulch	Value: L • Priority: L • Stop
<p>Status This parking area serves as a trailhead for recreationists and a rest stop/photo opportunity for travelers. The trailhead area contains numerous regulatory and informational signs.</p>	

Recommendations

- Organize and consolidate trailhead signs to better serve the public and enhance the aesthetic of the trailhead.
- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- Reference this site in Recreation, Natural Resources and General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Year-round recreation opportunities
- Back country ethics and protecting natural and historic resources
- High altitude and backcountry safety



Clinton Gulch
A safer pullout with three interpretive signs.



Kokomo Overlook
Once the site of the highest Masonic Lodge, Kokomo is now buried beneath mining spoils.

3. Clinton Gulch Reservoir

Value: M • Priority: L • Stop

Status

This large parking area is fairly heavily used, serving as a trailhead for recreationists and a rest stop/photo opportunity for travelers. There is a Port-a-John on the site in summer.

Recommendations

- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- Reference this site in Recreation, Mountain Scenery, Natural Resources and General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Year-round recreation opportunities
- Mining history of the gulch
- Water and the watershed, from the peaks to the Front Range
- Snow making
- High altitude and backcountry safety

4. Mount of the Holy Cross/ Kokomo Overlook

Value: H • Priority: L • Stop

Status

This is one of the safer pull-outs on the Byway and it is heavily used. Three interpretive signs, a mix of original and replacement signs, are at the site. The signs are in good to very good condition.

Recommendations

- Continue to monitor the interpretive signs for damage and replace them or update them as needed.
- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- This site should be referenced in Mining and General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- The mining history of the valley, particularly Climax

Interpretive Storylines

- Previous towns in the valley
- The restoration of the valley

5. Climax Mine/Fremont Pass Summit	Value: H • Priority: M • Station
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Status

This is one of the most highly-developed interpretive sites on the TOR, featuring:

- Port-a-Johns
- The only installed BYWAY SITE sign
- Four pieces of mining equipment
- Eight advertising signs from different eras/periods
- Eleven interpretive signs (1 interactive) mounted to a variety of surfaces. Signs interpret a range of topics.
- The only use of boulders as sign bases on the Byway

Recommendations

- For very little additional investment, a few things can improve this already high-quality site.
- Add small labels/plaques to the mining equipment, identifying them and their use.
- Delineate the footpath more clearly to benefit visitors and reduce impacts to the site.
- Install a Byway Station including a TOR Summit sign.
- This site should be included in Mining and Military History downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Mining history and operations
- Military history

Interpretive Storylines

- The railroad
- The historic observatory
- Water, the watershed, water reclamation and environmental practices



Climax Mine

The Climax mine was the largest molybdenum mine in the world, and for many years it supplied three-fourths of the world's supply.



Mount Arkansas

This site can be viewed from the Climax Mine stop.

6. Mount Arkansas

Value: --- • Priority: --- • ---

Status

No on site interpretation or pullout; no plan to create them.

Recommendations

- This site should be included in General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Sleeping Indian story and profile



USFS District Office, Leadville

7. USFS District Office: Leadville

Value: H • Priority: H • Gateway

Status

This office provides a full range of services and information to the public. The parking lot contains a multi-panel interpretive kiosk.

Recommendations

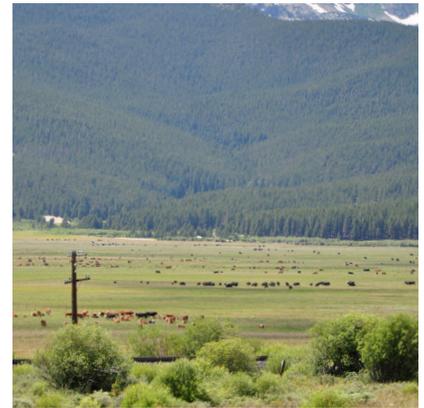
- This office should serve as a Gateway, where people can have access to downloads, other new technology media and printed materials.
- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.

Interpretive Topics

- Byway orientation and overview
- Byway safety and high altitude
- Year-round recreation opportunities

Leadville to Minturn

8. Escondido Flats	Value: M • Priority: L • Site
<p>Status This site remains undeveloped. A large road shoulder/pull-off is available for westbound traffic but is potentially unsafe for eastbound traffic, particularly during peak drive times.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This site should be included in Ranching, Mountain Scenery and General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media. <p>Interpretive Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ranching in the valley Railroads and their importance to the region <i>America the Beautiful</i> 	



Escondido Flats
North of Leadville, US 24 runs through this large, relatively flat expanse of grassland that is surrounded by mountains.

9. Wheeler Flats	Value: --- • Priority: --- • ---
<p>Status No on site interpretation or pullout; no plan to create them.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This site should be included in General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media. <p>Interpretive Topics N/A</p>	



Wheeler Flats

10. Ski Cooper	Value: L • Priority: L • Stop
<p>Status No interpretive amenities have been developed or are likely to be developed at this site.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider Ski Cooper, the 10th Memorial, and Camp Hale to be a single interpretive landscape linked by the 10th Mountain Division. To the extent practical, interpretive signs, bases and other features should be consistent in design at all three sites. 	



Ski Cooper
One of the oldest ski resorts in Colorado, began operation in 1941.

- Install a BYWAY SITE sign, a site marker and a TOR Summit sign in an appropriate location.
- Ski Cooper should be mentioned in Military History and Recreation downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- The connections between Ski Cooper, Camp Hale and the 10th Mountain Division
- The beginning of the ski industry
- Recreation opportunities



10th Mountain Memorial



10th Mountain Memorial

Activated in 1943, the 10th Mountain Division was one of the last divisions to enter combat during World War II.

11. 10th Mountain Division Memorial

Value: H • Priority: H • Stop

Status

There are currently four interpretive signs on individual bases at this site. The signs are heavily damaged and some are barely readable. The height of the bases does not meet ADA guidelines. Subjectively, the bases intrude on the walkway and visually interfere with the solemn and respectful aesthetic of the Memorial.

Recommendations

- Interpretation at this site should be reevaluated as part of the Camp Hale master planning process, including integration with the Camp Hale Master Plan and National Park Service site planning to assure consistency, reduce redundancy and optimize amenities and visitor services.
- Interpretive amenities should be removed from this location and concentrated in a single location which serves as a formal entry to Camp Hale.
- Consider the Memorial, Camp Hale, and Ski Cooper to be a single interpretive landscape linked by the 10th Mountain Division. To the extent practical, interpretive signs, bases and other features should be consistent in design at all three sites.
- Remove the interpretive signs and bases from the walkway.
- This site should be included in Military History downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Military history, particularly the 10th Mountain Division history and achievements
- The connections between Ski Cooper, Camp Hale and the 10th Mountain Division

12. Coking Ovens	Value: L • Priority: L • Site
<p>Status There is no on-site interpretation at this site which cannot be seen from the Byway.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This site should be included in Mining History downloads and other materials and media. • This site should be considered for preservation before it is lost to the elements. <p>Interpretive Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mining in the region <p>Interpretive Storylines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The coking process and coking in the region activities • Link to the Stringtown smelting site 	

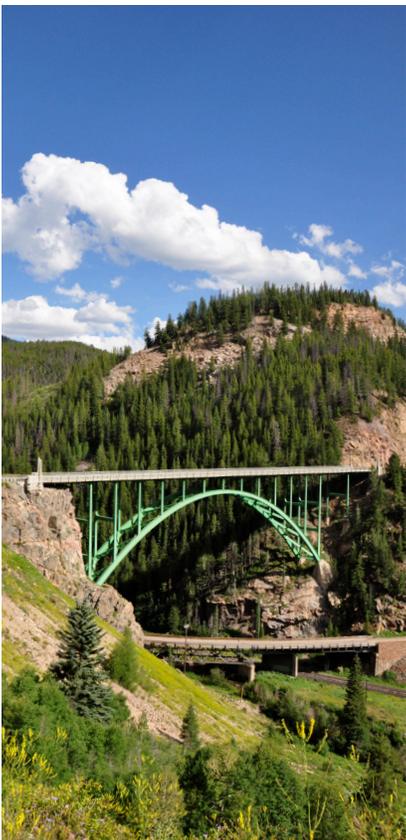


Coking Oven at Camp Hale

13. Camp Hale	Value: H • Priority: H • Station
<p>Status This site is served by a large parking lot containing three interpretive signs. These signs are heavily damaged and some are unreadable. The sign frames are not consistent with the bases at the nearby 10th Mountain Division Memorial or other Byway sites. Part of the parking lot is bordered by several large boulders.</p> <p>In early 2012, the National Park Service will start work on a National Historic Landmark nomination for Camp Hale, a process that may take a couple of years to complete. As part of this process, the existing Camp Hale Management and Interpretive plan will be reviewed and revised, and an overall strategy and plan for the site will be developed.</p> <p>Recommendations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the uncertainty regarding the designation and future management of Camp Hale, new interpretive amenities or features should be kept to a minimum. • Interpretation at Camp Hale should be reevaluated as part of the Camp Hale master planning process, including integration with the Camp Hale Master Plan and National Park Service site planning. Camp Hale planning should also be integrated with the 10th Mountain Division Memorial site to assure consistency, reduce redundancy and optimize amenities and visitor services. 	



Camp Hale
Once a U.S. Army training facility constructed in 1942 for what became the 10th Mountain Division, Camp Hale now rests peacefully in an alpine valley meadow.



Steel Arch Bridge

Built in 1940, the Steel Arch Bridge construction was difficult, with workers starting with a cantilevered design, sometimes in sub-zero temperatures hanging over a 200 foot drop.

- All amenities, such as a Byway Station, parking, information, rest rooms, etc. should be concentrated in a single location which serves as a formal entry to Camp Hale.
- When Camp Hale’s management, interpretive, and design plans/standards are completed, determine if TOR Design Guidelines can be integrated with the design plans/standards adopted for Camp Hale (e.g., NPS standards for National Historic Landmarks and/or WWII historic sites).
- Consider Camp Hale, the 10th Memorial, and Ski Cooper to be a single interpretive landscape linked by the 10th Mountain Division. To the extent practical, interpretive signs, bases and other features should be consistent in design at all three sites.
- Create a Byway Station in a location consistent with the current and impending management plans for the location. The station’s four-panel kiosk should focus on Byway orientation, safety, a Camp Hale overview, the 10th Mountain Division and the beginning of the ski industry.
- Replace the interpretive signs and bases currently mounted to the stone wall overlooking Camp Hale. The signs should interpret the functions, operations and achievements of Camp Hale and the 10th Mountain Division.
- If these signs and bases cannot be replaced they should be removed as they degrade and do a disservice to the site.
- Ideally, this site and the 10th Memorial site would be upgraded at the same time by installing consistent bases and signs at both locations.
- Although Camp Hale’s parking lot contains several large boulders, they are not recommended for interpretive sign bases (unlike at the Climax mine site and the Stringtown smelter site) because they require pedestrians to walk through the parking lot and they do not afford a good view of the site.
- This site should be included in Military History and Mining History downloads and other materials and media.
- In the future: Develop a Camp Hale phone app or audio download.

Interpretive Topics

- 10th Mountain Division history and achievements
- The history, functions and operations of Camp Hale
- The beginning of the ski industry
- Byway orientation and safety
- Military history
- Mining history
- Recreation (ties to the start of the ski industry)

14. Steel Arch Bridge
15. Red Cliff

Value: M • Priority: L • Site

Status

While there is a new retail building in town, Red Cliff still has few amenities and very little opportunity for on-site interpretation. Stopping/parking beneath the bridge is difficult and potentially dangerous and should be discouraged.

Recommendations

- Red Cliff and the bridge should be included in Mining History downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Mining in the area

Interpretive Storylines

- Red Cliff history
- The construction and history of the steel arch bridge



Red Cliff

16. Battle Mountain & Notch Mountain

Value: M • Priority: L • Site

Status

There is no on-site interpretation at these locations.

Recommendations

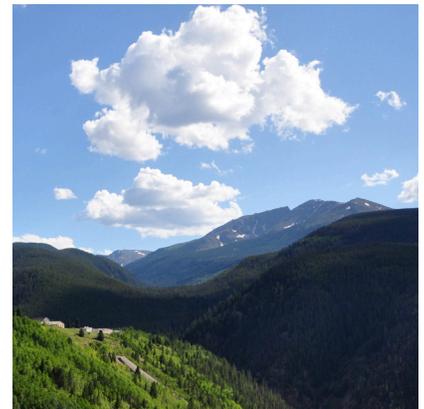
- These sites should be included in General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- General history of the area, particularly mining and ranching

Interpretive Storylines

- Native American history/legend(s) of the mountains
- Lover's Leap story



Notch Mountain

17. Gilman Town Site

Value: M • Priority: L • Site

Status

No interpretive amenities have been developed or are likely to be developed at this site.

Recommendations

- Gilman should be mentioned in Mining History downloads and other materials and media.



Gilman Town Site

Founded in 1886 during the Colorado Silver Boom, the town later became a center of lead and zinc mining in Colorado.



USFS District Office, Minturn

Interpretive Topics

- Mining in the area and the history of the Gilman Town Site

18. USFS District Office: Minturn

Value: H • Priority: H • Gateway

Status

This office provides a full range of service and information to the public. There are two interpretive signs across the highway from this building. Otherwise, the Byway gateway proposed for this location has not been developed.

Recommendations

- This office should serve as a Gateway site, where people can have access to downloads, other new technology media, and printed materials.
- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.

Interpretive Topics

- Byway orientation and overview
- Byway and high altitude safety
- Year-round recreation opportunities

Leadville to Aspen



Stringtown Smelting Site
By 1881 there were 14 smelters and reduction plants operating in the Leadville district.

19. Stringtown Smelting Site

Value: H • Priority: H • Station

Status

This location has great potential as an interpretive site but ownership and liability issues need to be addressed. The site has ample parking, a visible slag pile, boulders from Boom Days drilling competitions and ties to the Mineral Belt Trail.

Recommendations

- Install interpretive signs at the site utilizing boulders as bases (like at the Climax Mine site)
- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- This site should be included in Mining downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Leadville mining history

Interpretive Storylines

- Stringtown smelting
- Boom Days and the drilled boulders on site

20. Malta School House

Value: L • Priority: L • Site

Status

There is no on-site interpretation at this location due to hazardous road conditions and poor access.

Recommendations

- This site should be included in General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- School house history and relocation



Malta Schoolhouse

Malta was built as a smelter town in 1875. Originally called Galena, by 1876 it had a population of 150.

21. Leadville National Fish Hatchery

Value: M • Priority: L • Stop

Status

The original hatchery building now serves as a museum containing one exhibits room, wall panels and display cases. This office provides a full range of service and information to the public. Raceways in front of the hatchery are conducive to a self-guided interpretive trail and afford one of the Byway's best views of the Mosquito Range. This is the only public land in Lake County where dogs can be off-leash.

Interpretive amenities include:

- Five interpretive signs on the immediate grounds, some of which were scheduled to be replaced in January 2011.
- 36 interpretive signs along a 1-mile loop trail.
- Plant markers (summer)

Recommendations

- Include Friends of the Hatchery in TOR notices, mailings, etc.
- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- This site should be included in Natural Resources, General Sightseeing, General history and Recreation downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Fishing and fisheries on the Byway



Leadville National Fish Hatchery

Established in 1889, Leadville's hatchery is the second oldest federally operated fish hatchery in existence today.



Mt. Elbert
Colorado's Highest Peak, 14,440 ft.



Mt. Massive
Colorado's second highest peak, 14,428 ft.



Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area
Trout Unlimited considers the Arkansas one of the top 100 trout streams in America.

Interpretive Storylines

- The hatchery as a National Historic Place
- Other Historic Places on the Byway

22. Mounts Elbert & Mount Massive

Value: M • Priority: L • Site

Status

There should be no on-site interpretation on these peaks.

Recommendations

- These peaks should be included in General Sightseeing, Mountain Scenery and Recreation downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Mountain-specific information
- Year-round recreational opportunities
- High altitude safety

23. Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area/Crystal Lakes

Value: L • Priority: L • Stop

Status

This is a relatively minor fishing site containing parking and a short trail to interpretive signs which are in poor condition. This site affords one of the Byway's best views of mounts Massive and Elbert as well as a restroom.

Recommendations

- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- When practical, the interpretive signs, particularly a Peak Finder, should be replaced/installed.
- This site should be included in Recreation, Mountain Scenery, Natural Resources and General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Mountain Scenery
- Natural Resources
- Year-round recreational opportunities on the Byway

Interpretive Storylines

- Mounts Massive and Elbert
- Fishing the Arkansas River
- The local watershed

24. Hayden Meadows Recreation Area

Value: H • Priority: M • Stop

Status

This area has been heavily developed and is perhaps the most important fishing and river access on the Byway. The site is a “Lake County Fun Place”.

Amenities include:

- Restrooms
- Ample parking
- Handicapped access
- Double-sided, roofed interpretive kiosk
- Sawatch interpretive trail
- Donation tube

Recommendations

- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- Organizing and consolidating trailhead signs would serve the public and enhance the aesthetic of the trailhead and entry road.
- Install a Peak Finder at this location
- This site should be included in Recreation, Natural Resources and General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Fishing the Arkansas and the Byway
- Year-round recreational opportunities on the Byway



Crystal Lake / Arkansas Headwater Recreation Area



Hayden Meadows
Held privately since the homesteading days, Hayden Meadows section of the Arkansas River have been opened up to public fishing in recent years.

25. Hayden Ranch

Value: H • Priority: L • Site

Status

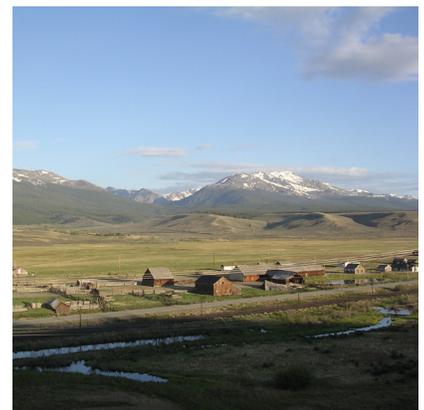
The ranch is still being stabilized, but it has high potential as an interpretive site and provides excellent opportunities for partnerships. The Master Plan being developed will have an interpretive component.

Recommendations

- Continue to restore and develop the site, including making it visitor-ready.
- Ultimately, this site should be considered for designation as a Station
- This site should be included in General Sightseeing and Ranching downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- The history and importance of ranching in the region



Hayden Ranch
60 acres were donated to Lake County, 1,411 acres sold to the BLM and 360 acres along the Arkansas River were sold to CO State Parks.

- Contemporary ranching

Interpretive Storylines

- Hayden Ranch history
- Open space and ranch preservation/restoration



Old Leadville Stage Road

26. Old Leadville Stage Road

Value: L • Priority: L • Site

Status

There is no on-site interpretation of the stage road.

Recommendations

- The stage road should be included in General Sightseeing and General History downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- General regional history

Interpretive Storylines

- The stage road and travel along the river
- The history of travel/transportation on what is now the byway



Interlaken National Historic District
Interlaken was once one of the most attractive tourist resorts in Colorado.

27. Interlaken National Historic District

Value: H • Priority: H • Stop

Status

Although associated with Twin Lakes Historic District, Interlaken functions as a separate site for many visitors. There is a bicycle and hiking trail to Interlaken and USFS is considering providing boat tours to the site.

Recommendations

- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- This site should be included in General Sightseeing and Recreation downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- General regional history
- Recreational opportunities

Interpretive Storylines

- Interlaken history and activities
- Trails, boating, fishing and other recreational opportunities
- The history and functions of the lakes

**28. Twin Lakes National
Historic District**

Value: H • Priority: H • Station

Status

This area receives relatively high visitation. Its importance as a Byway site increased with the extension of the Byway into Aspen, being the last and best site to provide westbound travelers with safety information before driving/biking the pass. The site contains:

- Mount Bump
- Restrooms
- Ample parking
- Visitor Center in the historic Red Rooster (former tavern and brothel)
- Interpretive signs
- Food, gas, amenities across the street
- Hike and bike trail to Interlaken
- Kayak rental

Recommendations

- Install a Byway Station containing a Byway Site sign and interpretive panels providing Byway orientation information, site interpretation, and site-specific information (e.g., road and high altitude safety information and winter road closure information at Independence Pass winter gate closure sites). Creating a Gateway at the Red Rooster is not recommended due to the visitor center's limited hours of operation.
- This site should be included in downloads and other materials and media and promoted as a location to get essential information ascending the pass.

Interpretive Topics

- Mining in the immediate area
- Byway and high altitude safety

Interpretive Storylines

- The history of the Red Rooster and other buildings
- Mount Bump



Twin Lakes National Historic District
Twin Lakes was once a transportation hub for the mining centers of Leadville and Aspen, Colorado.



Brumley Town Site

29. Brumley Town Site

Value: L • Priority: L • Site

Status

There is no on-site interpretation at this location.

Recommendations

- This site should be included in Mining downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Brumley’s mining history
- Road conditions and safety



Lake Creek Trailhead

30. Lake Creek Trailhead

Value: H • Priority: L • Stop

Status

This fairly heavily-used pullout provides excellent views of the watershed and willow flats. The historic mill site is also visible and a trail provides recreational access.

Recommendations

- This site could support an interpretive sign, however, safety must be given careful consideration, particularly of westbound vehicles that must cross on-coming traffic.
- Parking and ingress/egress should be redesigned.
- If an interpretive sign is installed, a BYWAY SITE sign and marker should be installed in an appropriate location.
- If an interpretive sign is installed, the site should be included in Natural Resources, Mountain Scenery and General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Mining
- Natural Resources

Interpretive Storylines

- Mountain ecosystems visible from the site
- The watershed and willow wetlands
- The Champion Mine and mill site
- The tram line

31. Independence Pass Summit

Value: H • Priority: H • Station

Status

This is a heavily-visited site with high interpretive value. USFS and the IPF have a strong commitment to improve the site, and the TOR CMP update includes an extensive site plan that will be implemented in the near future. The site currently contains:

- Restrooms
- Parking
- Interpretive signs
- Scenic overlooks
- Viewing deck
- Weather station/communications building (to be removed)
- Removing the communications building will open up the viewshed and panorama and create new photo opportunities.

Removing the communications building will open up the viewshed and panorama and create new photo opportunities.

Recommendations

- Implement the recommendations contained in the CMP and master plan.
- Install a Byway Station including a TOR Summit sign and marker.
- The Continental Divide should be interpreted.
- Consolidating interpretation at the Summit Station will help protect both the viewshed and the tundra. (With the exception of Peak Finders at the overlooks.)
- Locate interpretive amenities away from the restrooms.
- This site should be included in Mountain Scenery, General Sightseeing, Natural Resources and Recreation downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Natural resources
- General history

Interpretive Storylines

- Mountain ecosystems
- Protecting the tundra
- The watershed
- Construction and maintenance of the road
- Byway and high altitude safety
- The snow fence project



Independence Pass Summit



Independence Pass Summit



Early Independence Summit Sign
A major non-motorized thoroughfare.
Photo courtesy of Aspen Historical Society.



Top Cut Pullout

32. Top Cut Pullout

Value: L • Priority: L • Stop

Status

This is a new developed site. With the involvement of the Independence Pass Foundation, site improvements and three new interpretive signs are scheduled for 2012.

Recommendations

- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- This site should be included in General Sightseeing and General History downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- General regional history

Interpretive Storylines

- Independence Pass road history and maintenance
- The Independence Pass Foundation



Independence Town Site

33. Independence Town Site

Value: H • Priority: H • Stop

Status

This is the key historic site on Independence Pass. It currently has:

- Interpretive signs
- Self-guided interpretive trail with brochure
- Other informational and commemorative signs
- Interns housed on-site (in conjunction with Aspen Historical Society)

Independence Town Site (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1973) is part of a larger Independence Historical Site. The eastern half of the Historical Site consists primarily of the Independence Town Site while the western half contains mining and industrial features, such as the Farwell Mill. The Town Site and Farwell Mine Site Preservation Master Plan contains extensive information on the Town Site and Historical Site, including recommendations for interpretation. These recommendations (sometimes paraphrased) are included below and indicated by *.

The Independence Pass Foundation has proposed developing a trail through the planted lodgepole pine forest.

Recommendations

- Protect the authenticity of the site by preserving its rustic character (even if power and phone service become available).
- * Improve and formalize parking, entry points, loop trails, spur trails and outhouses.
- * Regulatory and stewardship information should be posted at entries, sensitive resource areas and key structures.
- Remove notices and postings from outside walls of the buildings. If necessary, a board for posting temporary notices should be located at the consolidated trailhead.
- Replace the site map sign at the overlook (showing platting and the town) with a larger version. The current maps are too small to be of value.
- * Maps of the Site and the trail system should be posted at entry points and other strategic locations.
- Organize and consolidate trailhead signs to better serve the public and enhance the character of the site.
- * Increase the number of picnic tables at the Site.
- * Revise the trail network to better protect and interpret the Independence Historical Site.
- Wayfinding signs should be placed at trail junctions and other strategic points.
- Remove notices and postings from outside walls of the buildings. If necessary, a board for posting temporary notices should be located at the consolidated trailhead.
- Replace the numbered posts with small signs/plagues interpreting the structure and the town. This would allow the existing brochure to eventually be replaced by downloads and other new technology media.
- * Identify individual buildings/ruins/foundations through small signs.
- * Provide pamphlets interpreting the Independence Historical Site for visitors.
- Continue to provide brochures at this site until (and if) they can be phased out.
- * Develop a podcast audio tour of the Independence Historical Site
- * Write and publish a book on the Independence Historical Site
- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- This site should be included in Mining, General Sightseeing, and Mountain Scenery downloads and other materials and media.
- Incorporate rest rooms.



Lost Man Campground

Interpretive Topics

- Mining in the area

Interpretive Storylines

- Town Site history including the exodus to Aspen
- High altitude conditions and hardships

34. Lost Man Trailhead

Value: L • Priority: L • Stop

Status

This relatively small parking area has a poor sight line to the east. This is a popular camping area on the west side of Independence Pass and includes a rest room.

Recommendations

- This site should be included in Recreation and Natural Resources downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Recreational opportunities in the area
- High-altitude safety
- The watershed



Discovery Trail

35. Discovery Trail and Braille Trail

Value: M • Priority: M • Stop

Status

Both of these trails are multi-station interpretive loop trails interpreting a variety of topics. The Braille Trail stations having interpretive text in Braille. The site entry sign was replaced in 2010. A new orientation sign for the site is scheduled for installation in 2012.

Recommendations

- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- If practical, provide interpretation through audio media to serve the visually impaired, downloads and other materials and media.
- This trailhead should not be over-developed in order to keep the area quiet and suitable for sensory experiences. Picnicking and other activities should be confined to The Grottos.
- These sites should be included in all Recreation, Natural Resources, and General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- A range of environmental and sensory topics (currently being interpreted)

36. Lincoln Creek Road

Value: M • Priority: L • Stop

Status

This heavily used trailhead provides access to climbing areas and contains the new White River District kiosk (roofed, 2-panel).

Recommendations

- This site should be included in Recreation and Natural Resources downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Year-round recreation opportunities
- Natural resources

Interpretive Storylines

- Climbing and climbing ethics
- The watershed



Lincoln Creek Road

37. The Grottos

Value: M • Priority: L • Stop

Status

This popular area contains:

- Restrooms
- Picnic tables
- A waterfall
- Pools
- A river-side trail
- An ice cave

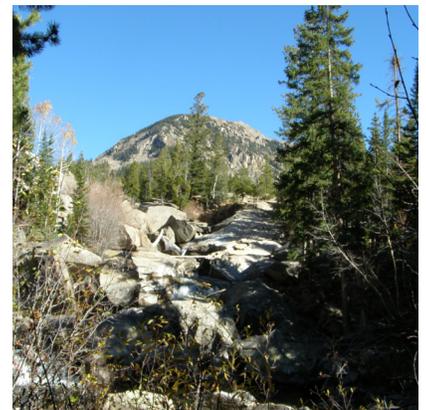
This is a heavily used area and USFS does not want to promote additional use.

Recommendations

- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- This site should be included in General Sightseeing downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Natural resources
- General history



The Grottos



Weller Lake

Interpretive Storylines

- Mountain riparian ecosystems
- The geology of the area
- River safety
- The historic telephone lines in the area

38. Weller Lake

Value: H • Priority: L • Stop

Status

This is one of the more developed trailheads on the Pass, providing access to a variety of recreational opportunities. A new bridge across the Roaring Fork River is planned for 2012. USFS wishes to promote use at this site.

Recommendations

- This site should be included in all Recreation, Natural Resources and Mountain Scenery downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Recreation opportunities
- Natural resources (the watershed)
- General history (the historic telephone lines in the area)



Closure Gate - Independence Pass West

39. Independence Pass West Side Winter Gate Closure Site

Value: M • Priority: H • Station

Status

This is an excellent location to orient eastbound travelers to the Byway and the Pass, since most will not have visited the USFS office in Aspen. This site is also the last and best site to provide travelers with safety information before a before driving/biking the pass. This location also provides access to the East of Aspen trail and is a heavily used winter trailhead.

Recommendations

- Install a Byway Station with a BYWAY SITE sign and marker and a 2-4 panel kiosk.
- This site should be included in all downloads and other materials and media as a location to obtain Byway and safety information before ascending the pass.

Interpretive Topics

- Byway orientation
- Byway road conditions and safety
- High altitude safety
- Recreational opportunities

40. North Star Preserve & Smith Open Space

Value: H • Priority: L • Stop

Status

This site is adjacent to the heavily-used East of Aspen Trail. Users include hikers, anglers and rafters/floaters. The site contains parking, an observation deck with a spotting scope, interpretive signs, and benches. Of additional benefit, this site is a relatively high-quality site that visitors can experience either after or before (depending on direction of travel) a long, “dry” stretch of highway.

Recommendations

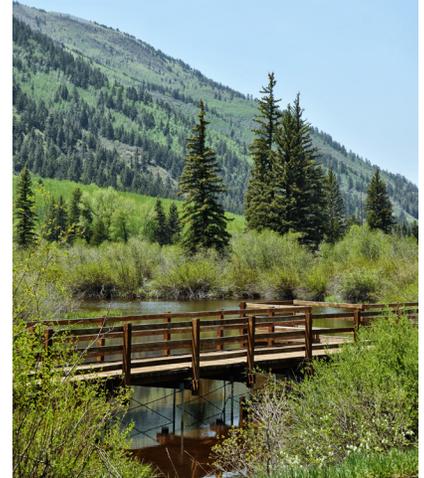
- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.
- This site should be included in all Natural Resources, Mountain Scenery, General Sightseeing and Recreation downloads and other materials and media.

Interpretive Topics

- Natural resources
- Ranching
- Recreational opportunities

Interpretive Topics

- Mountain ecosystems and wildlife
- Local wetlands and the watershed
- Fishing opportunities on the byway



North Star Preserve

41. USFS Office: Aspen

Value: H • Priority: H • Gateway

Status

The current office building will be removed and the site and office building will be redesigned. The facility will provide a full range of services and information to the public.

Recommendations

- This office should serve as a Gateway site, where people can have access to downloads, other new technology media, and printed materials.
- Install a BYWAY SITE sign and marker in a suitable location.

- Coordinate/integrate the recommendations found in this plan and the CMP update with the Interpretive Plan completed in 2012 and available at the USFS Center for Design and Interpretation website.

Interpretive Topics

- Byway orientation and overview
- Byway safety
- Year-round recreation opportunities
- Natural resources

Interpretive Storylines

- Mountain ecosystems
- Explore, Connect and Act