

**For Immediate Release:**

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Summer 2010 Press Kit**Hiking in the 'Boat**

Enjoy the stunning views and valleys in Steamboat's backyard



All you need is a good pair of shoes to enjoy the activity for everyone – hiking. Whatever your interest or ability level may be, the versatile Steamboat Springs landscape of rolling valleys, challenging hills and steep mountain terrain offers everything from a leisurely day hike with small children, to an extreme backpacking adventure.

Local Trails (Easy, Intermediate, Advanced)

Looking for a stroll rather than a climb? - Easy Hikes

If you are looking for a low impact hike with great scenery check out the Yampa River Core Trail that winds its way along the Yampa River in town. Springs Creek Trail and lower Fish Creek Falls Trail will get you a workout, with great views without pushing your limits. Trails maybe busy during summer months as these trails are all close to town.

Moderate challenge, Extreme fun! - Medium Hikes

Steamboat Springs has dozens of hikes that will satisfy your craving for adventure while not taking you quite off the beaten path. Check out hikes like the upper Fish Creek Falls trail, Mad Creek and Seedhouse Road for trails that will push you, but not leave you gasping for air.

Baby, there aint no mountain high enough - Difficult Hikes

If no peak frightens you, challenge yourself to take on some of our valley's toughest terrain. Put on your "to-do" list hikes like the Steamboat Ski Area, Hahn's Peak and Devil's Causeway in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area. Be prepared for some steep climbs and unbelievable sights.

The hiking trails in and around town might take your breath away, literally and figuratively (be prepared for the altitude) but Steamboat Springs' proximity to Colorado's most popular and scenic national forests and wilderness areas gives you an idea of just how special our slice of Northwest Colorado is.

Flat Tops Wilderness Area, 235,035 acres

Also a part of the White River National Forest as well as the Routt National Forest, the Flat Tops Wilderness Area compares to no other mountain range in the state of Colorado. The headwaters for the Yampa River begin here, capturing the snowmelt of the many storms that feed almost 110 trout-laden lakes and ponds dotting the flat-topped cliffs. The Flat Tops Wilderness is Colorado's second largest wilderness area.

Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area, 159,935 acres

The Mount Zirkel Wilderness is literally in Steamboat Springs' backyard. The area contains three mountain ranges including the Park Range, Sawtooth and Sierra Madre Range. There are more than 70 lakes along the headwaters for the Elk River's three forks. There are 173 miles of trails including 27 miles of the Continental Divide Trail. The Mount Zirkel Wilderness was one of the first five original wilderness areas designated by the 1964 Wilderness Act.

Sarvis Creek Wilderness Area, 47,190 acres

Sarvis Creek is named so for its stock of Sarvis berries, a favorite cuisine of native black bears. What makes Sarvis Creek stand out among other Colorado wilderness areas is its complete lack of alpine tundra. It is due to the solitude of its lodgepole pine, Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir forests that it received its designation. Only 13 miles south of down town, Sarvis, Silver and Morrison Creeks meander their way to the Yampa River and eventually through Steamboat Springs.

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Useful Hiking Tips

- Sunscreen and water are going to be a MUST at the higher mountain altitude
- Layers, layers, layers! Changing Colorado weather can bring some surprises, so remember to pack long-sleeves along with your short-sleeves
- Remember some snacks, a rain jacket, appropriate footwear and don't forget water!

For great trails and insider information check out Hiking the 'Boat I and II and be sure to pick up a copy of the Steamboat Springs Chamber Resort Association Visitors' Guide for great tips and other trails.

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