



*Happy Trails Vaughn!*





Welcome  
To Darla  
Sidles!

















# Some reminders and updates ...







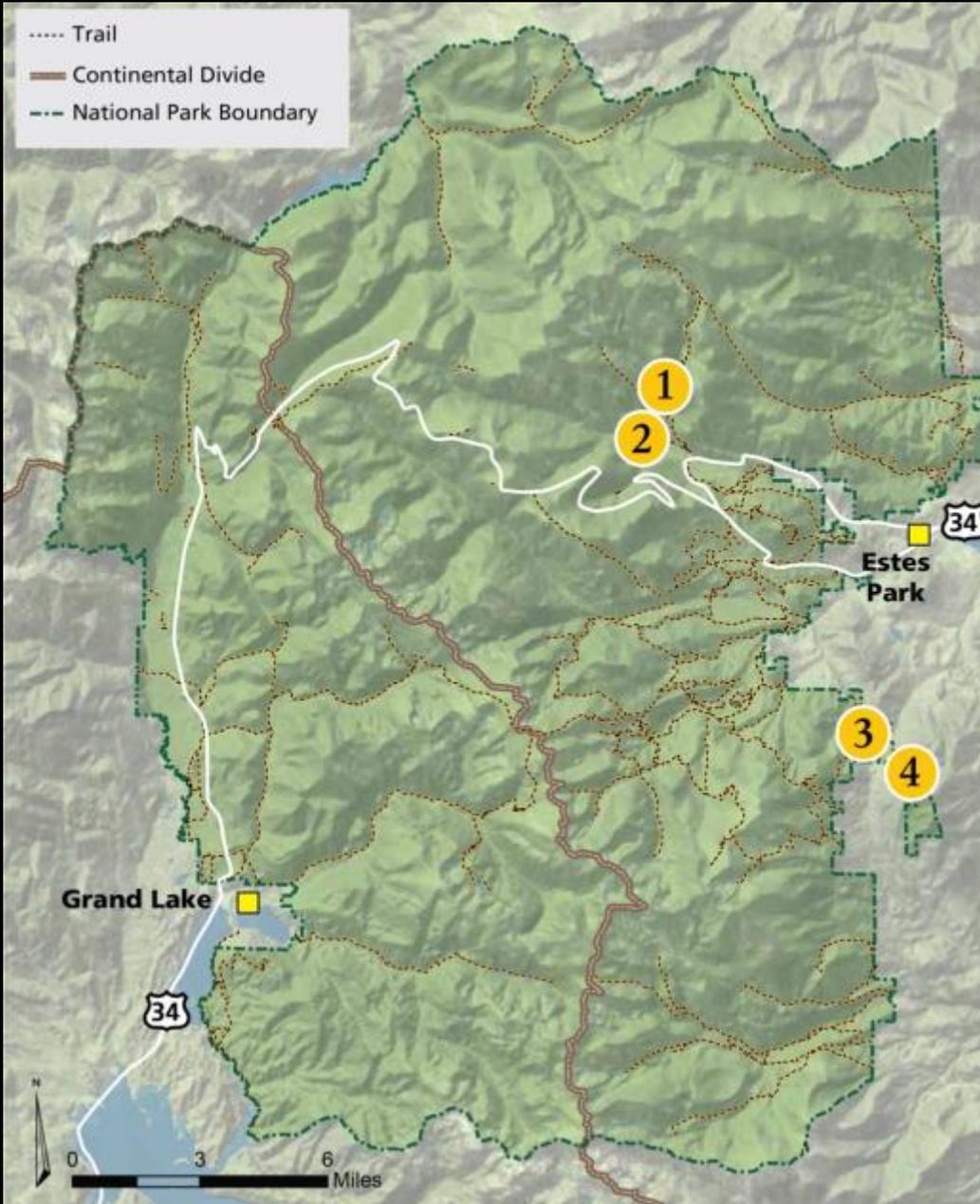
# Ribbon Cutting July 2, 2015



# Bridges and river crossings in the backcountry



## Repairs and Reroutes to Flood Damaged Trails EA



- Four heavily damaged trails are included in an Environmental Assessment:
  1. Lawn Lake/Ypsilon Lake
  2. Alluvial Fan
  3. Aspen Brook
  4. Twin Sisters
- Public meeting in April and comments accepted through April 25.
- Reviewing comments and moving forward with decision.
- To repair these trails will take several years.

FIND YOUR  
PARK

2016

National Park Service  
CENTENNIAL



# New Fees As Of Last October

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## **Day Use Pass**

\$20 per vehicle

\$20 per motorcycle

\$10 per person

## **7 Day Pass**

\$30 per vehicle

\$25 per motorcycle

\$15 per person

**Annual Pass** \$50

**Camping Fees** \$26

<https://www.nps.gov/romo/planyourvisit/fees.htm>



Since 1997, more than **\$65 million** has been spent at RMNP from **entrance fees.**

# Your Fees At Work!







**August 25 through August 28 – National Park Service Birthday**

**September 24 – National Public Lands Day**

**November 11 – Veterans Day**

RED ROUTE

1427

ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK VISITORS SHUTTLE

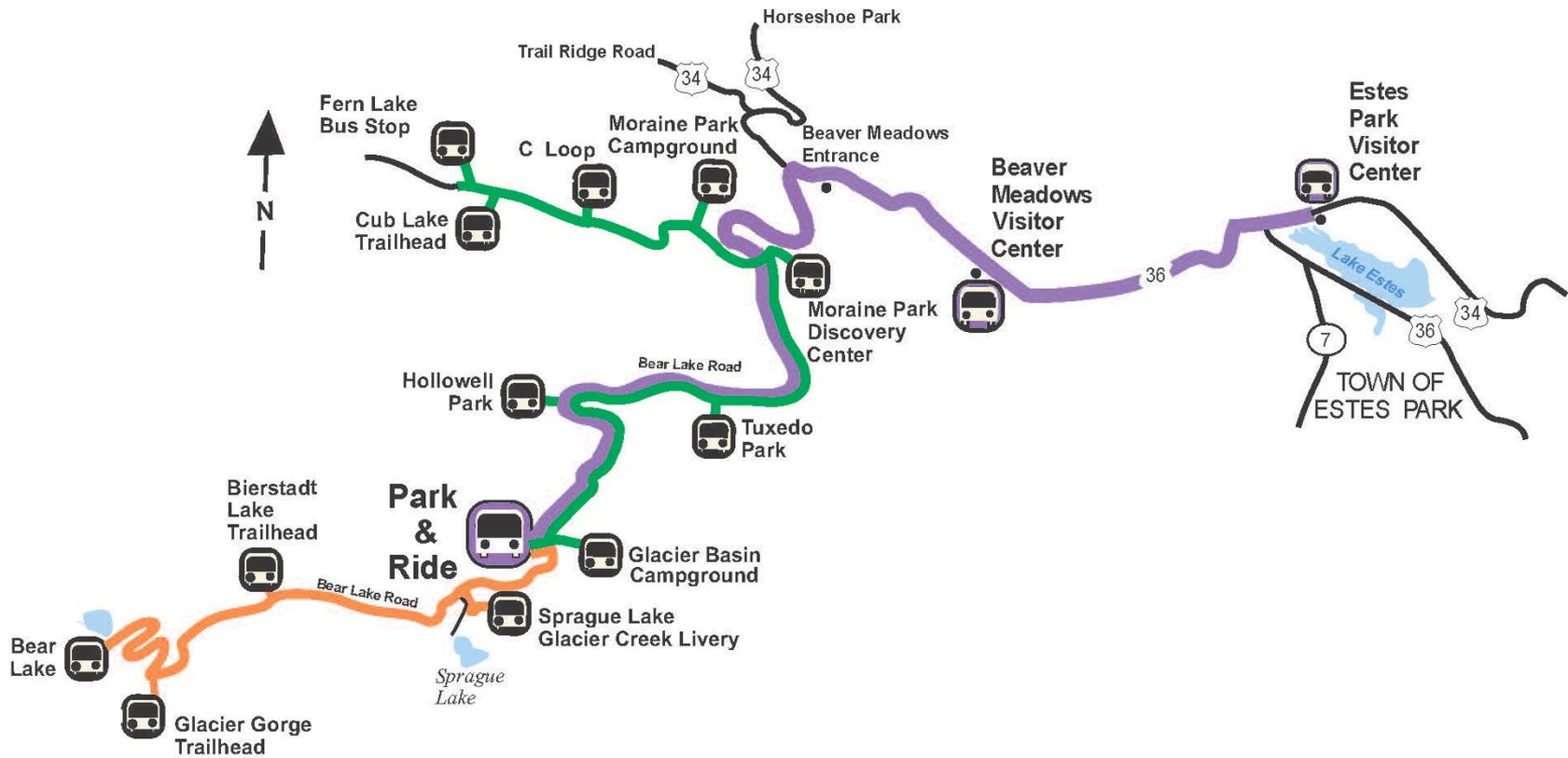
CLEAN AIR BUS



1427

HYBRID ELECTRIC

McDonald Transit  
DOT 1941735



- 
**Hiker Shuttle Express Route**  
 Stops at Park & Ride, Beaver Meadows Visitor Center, and the Estes Park Visitor Center only
- 
**Bear Lake Route**
- 
**Moraine Park Route**
- 
**Shuttle Bus Stop**



**Park shuttle buses began daily starting Saturday  
May 28 through Monday, October 10**

**Bear Lake Route** – Every 10 to 15 minutes

**Moraine Park Route** – Every 30 minutes

Both from 7 am to 7:30 p.m.

**Hiker Shuttle Daily Service** - June 25 to September 11

Beaver Meadows Entrance May 20, 2016 13:28:17



# Park Visitation – increase of ~ 28% since 2012

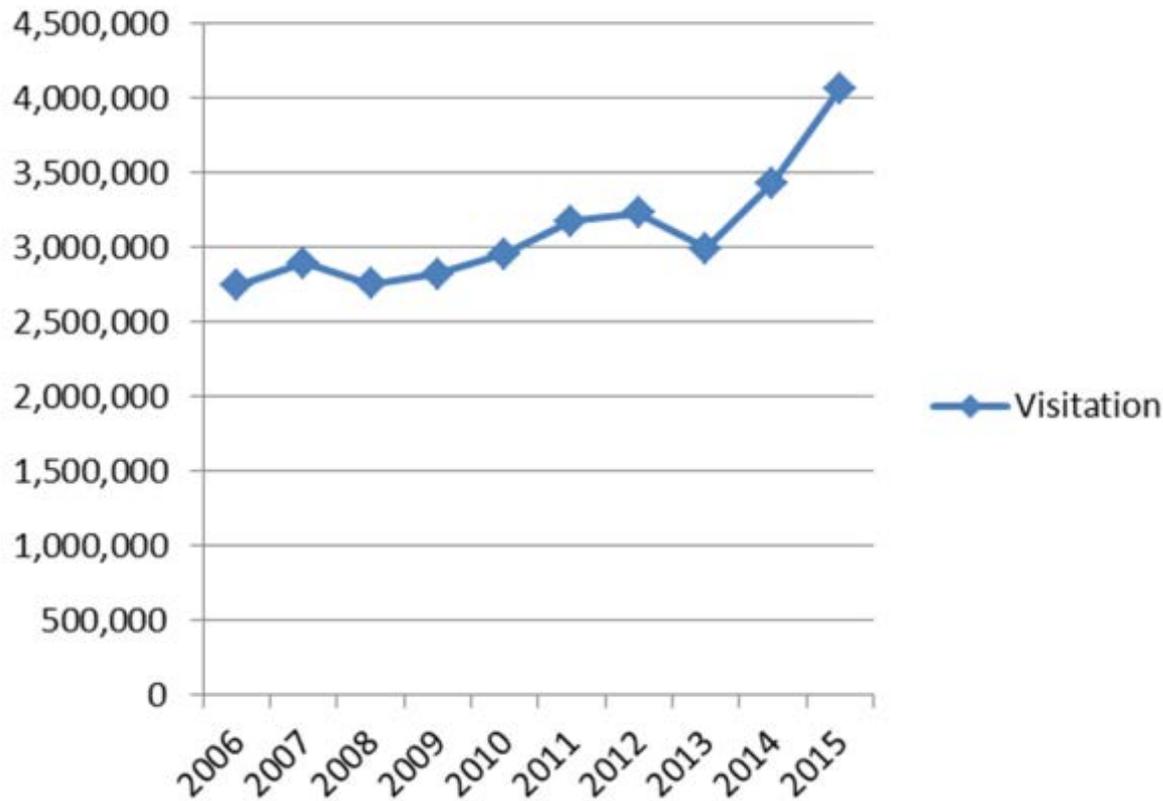


## 2014

Record Visitation - 3,434,754

## Until 2015 – 4,155,916

### Visitation



# 2015 Record Visitation Per Month



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK VISITOR STATISTICS 1979-present										Record HIGH	Record LOW		
Year	JAN	FEB*	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Total
2015	98,928	85,123	134,304	116,959	259,711	608,796	858,426	765,579	644,350	371,558	118,398	93,784	4,155,916
2014	77,633	76,881	99,077	97,100	220,532	538,725	693,685	616,826	537,694	305,651	90,915	80,032	3,434,751
2013	78,022	68,831	89,691	90,379	239,184	602,508	712,583	621,852	253,467	66,275	86,379	81,970	2,991,141
2012	68,537	62,036	104,374	117,053	228,950	500,206	651,722	589,131	527,172	219,946	93,714	66,776	3,229,617
2011	68,641	50,540	73,760	77,183	163,587	500,733	743,741	620,534	483,780	264,617	68,076	61,749	3,176,941
2010	64,618	44,576	70,117	69,097	180,710	441,738	668,418	574,638	461,942	245,770	67,862	66,335	2,955,821

\* February 1979, 85,931 visitors is the Record High



## Top Ten Visitation Days for Calendar Years 2014 & 2015

2014		2015	
	Vehicles		Vehicles
1. September 27	13,295	1. September 26	12,996
2. September 20	10,289	2. October 3	11,294
3. July 6	9,355	3. September 6	11,016
4. July 5	9,253	4. September 27	11,003
5. July 20	9,139	5. September 20	10,670
6. September 28	8,668	6. September 19	10,339
7. August 16	8,634	7. July 12	10,148
8. July 27	8,492	8. August 8	10,093
9. June 2	8,248	9. July 3	10,083
10. September 26	8,152	10. July 26	10,073



# "Shoulder" season continues to increase

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September up:

19.8 % from 2014

154 % from 2013

22.2 % from 2012

33.2 % from 2011

39.5 % from 2010

October up:

21.6 % from 2014

461 % from 2013

68.9 % from 2012

40.4 % from 2011

51.2 % from 2010

# Planning and Reality ...



- ✓ September weekends are busier than July.
- ✓ Visitation is 50 percent less during weekdays in September!

In July and early August:

- Hike Early or Hike Late (check forecast) *They listened!*

Parking Lots Fill

- Glacier Gorge - by 7:30 *By 6:00?!*
- Bear Lake – by 8:30 *Yup!*
- Park & Ride – by 10:30 *Every Day!*
- Wild Basin Corridor – by 10:30 *By 9:30!*
- Alpine Visitor Center 11- 3 *Started at 10:00?*

Busiest Times between 10 - 3

*Yup!*

**Variable messaging signs**



## **Shuttle System:**

570,000 riders used the shuttles

24% increase over use in 2014

79% increase since 1999

## **Hiker Shuttle:**

42,873 riders

37% increase over 2014

Sunday of Labor Day Weekend 9,112 riders

September saw the biggest growth with 49%  
jump in ridership

# Why?

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Rocky's Once In A Lifetime Centennial?

Increased population in Northern Colorado ?

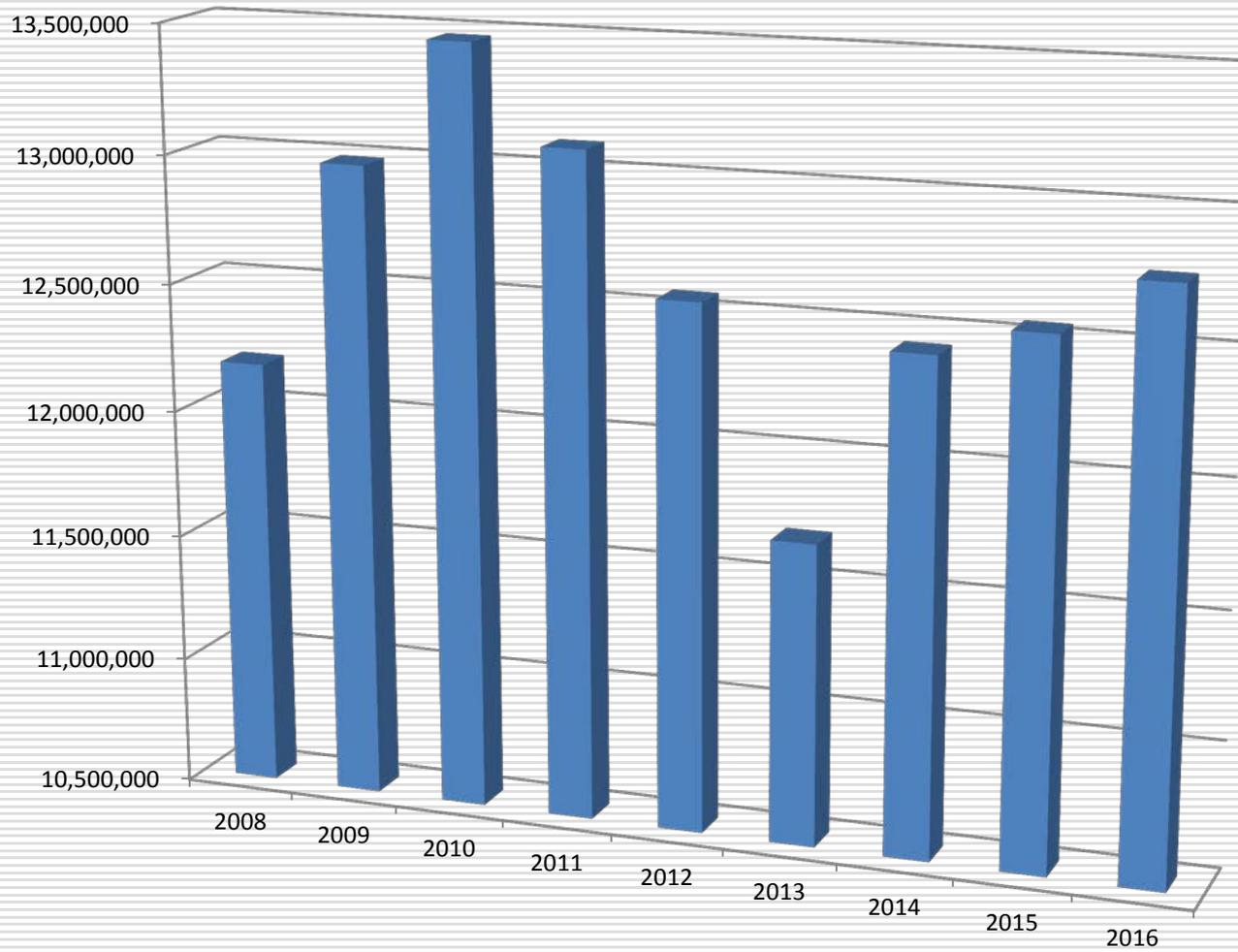
Rebounding Economy?

Increased marketing efforts by Colorado Tourism, Visit Estes Park, Grand County Tourism?

Gas Prices?



# Budget for Rocky Mountain National Park



# We heard (in no particular order) ...

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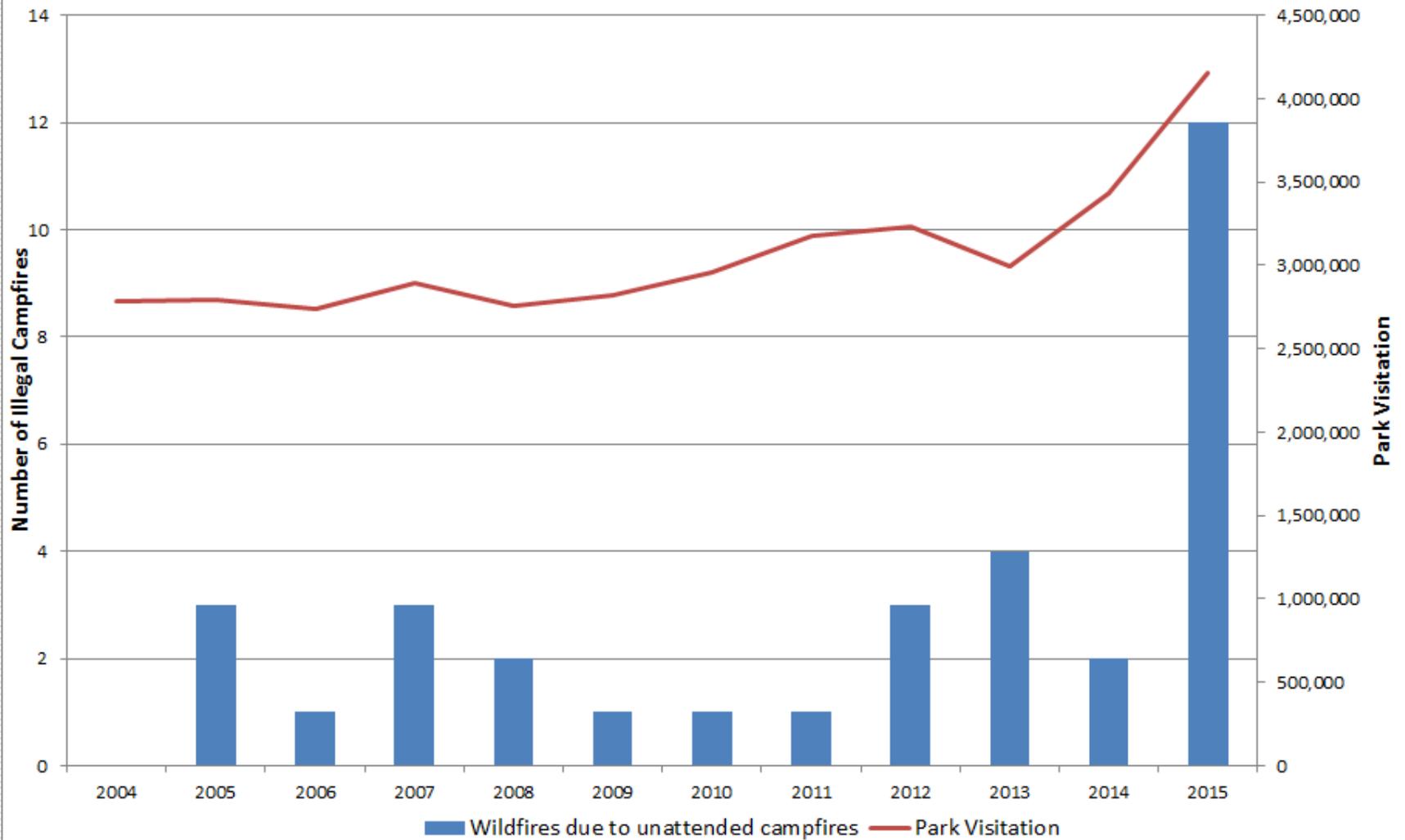


- Human waste is increasing in both the front country and backcountry
- Crime is up
- Road and parking lot rage is up
- Visitor frustration is up
- Dogs are increasing on trails





## Wildfires due to Illegal Campfires: 2004-2015





- Visitor and Staff Safety
- Resource Protection
- Visitor Experience
- Operational Capacity

# We hear a lot of great ideas!

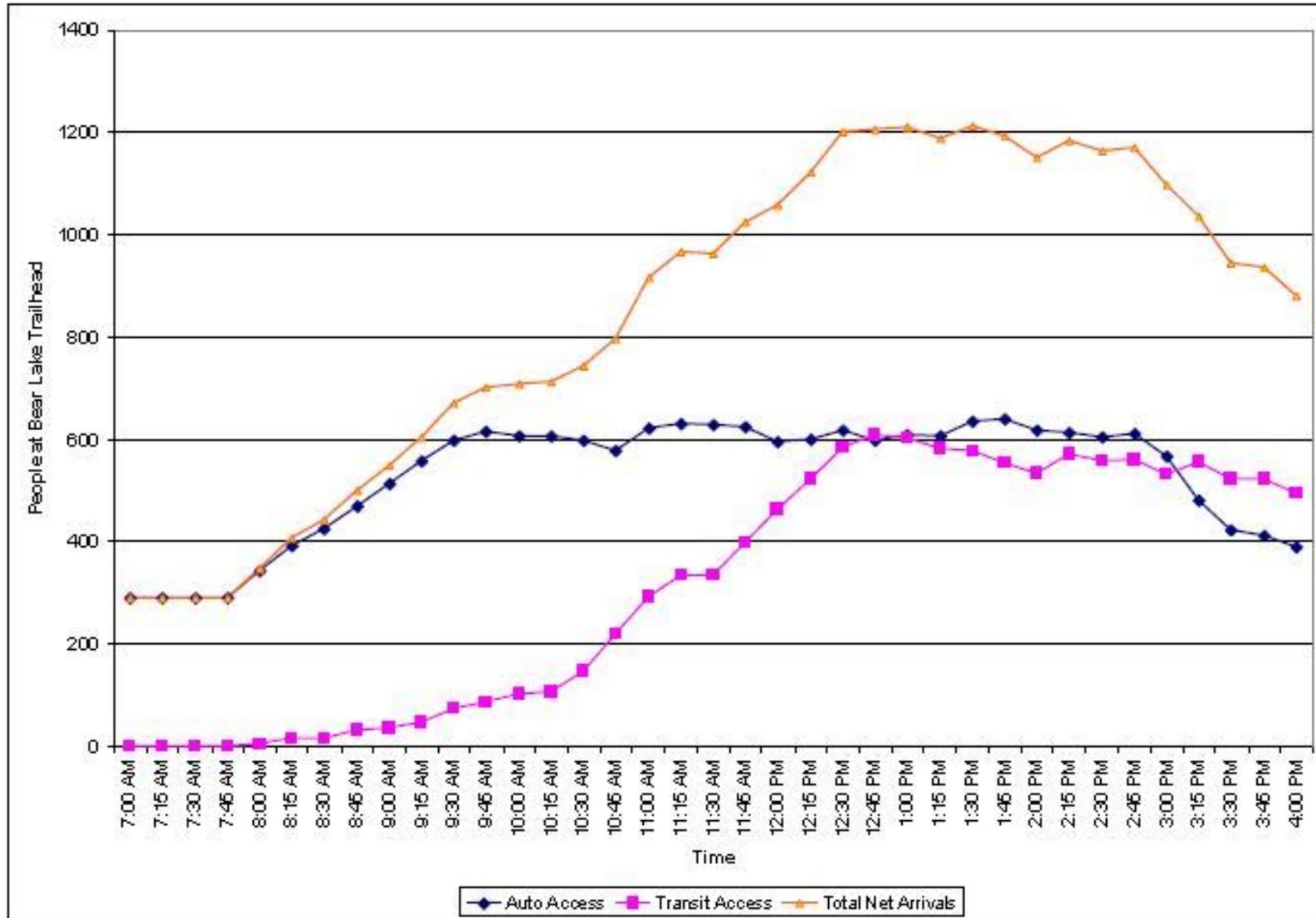
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One of the ideas we hear the most, for both the short term & long term, is the need to *consider more shuttles...*

# A Background to Shuttles

- *they can double, the number of people at a trailhead*





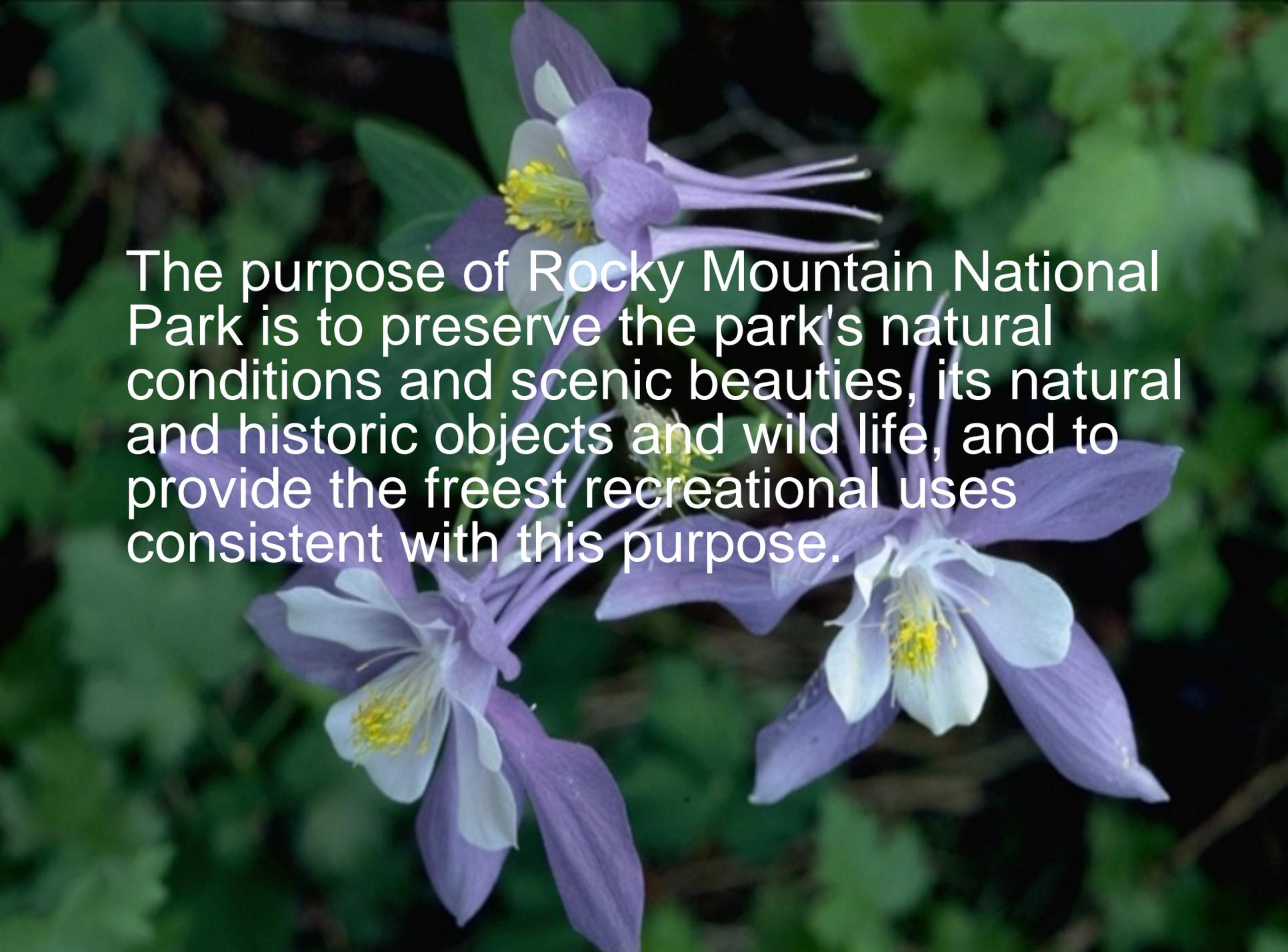
If you add shuttles to your day/location you can expect to double your visitors & potentially double your issues.





# A conclusion might be....

- We can have more shuttles. No problem.
- However, we would need to consider what we want to give up, their consequences to operations, visitor experience, etc.. and the impact to the resource we will accept.
- The financial formula for \$ available for shuttles is currently finite.

The image features several purple columbine flowers with yellow centers, set against a background of green foliage. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing the characteristic five-petaled structure and long, thin stamens. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image, providing the purpose of Rocky Mountain National Park.

The purpose of Rocky Mountain National Park is to preserve the park's natural conditions and scenic beauties, its natural and historic objects and wild life, and to provide the freest recreational uses consistent with this purpose.



QUESTIONS?