

Chapter 1 : Rocky Mountains - Wikipedia

Hiking info, trail maps, and trip reports from Hot Rock Mountain (1, ft) in Arizona.

Etymology[edit] The name of the mountains is a translation of an Amerindian name that is closely related to Algonquian ; the Cree name as-sin-wati is given as, "When seen from across the prairies, they looked like a rocky mass". The first mention of their present name by a European was in the journal of Jacques Legardeur de Saint-Pierre in , where they were called "Montagnes de Roche". The Rocky Mountains are notable for containing the highest peaks in central North America. The Great Basin and Columbia River Plateau separate these subranges from distinct ranges further to the west. In Canada, the western edge of the Rockies is formed by the huge Rocky Mountain Trench , which runs the length of British Columbia from its beginnings in the middle Flathead River valley in western Montana to the south bank of the Liard River. Other mountain ranges continue beyond the Liard River, including the Selwyn Mountains in Yukon , the Brooks Range in Alaska , but those are not part of the Rockies, though they are part of the American Cordillera. The Continental Divide of the Americas is located in the Rocky Mountains and designates the line at which waters flow either to the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans. Farther north in Alberta, the Athabasca and other rivers feed the basin of the Mackenzie River , which has its outlet on the Beaufort Sea of the Arctic Ocean. Human population is not very dense in the Rocky Mountains, with an average of four people per square kilometer and few cities with over 50, people. However, the human population grew rapidly in the Rocky Mountain states between and The populations of several mountain towns and communities have doubled in the last forty years. Geology of the Rocky Mountains The rocks in the Rocky Mountains were formed before the mountains were raised by tectonic forces. The oldest rock is Precambrian metamorphic rock that forms the core of the North American continent. There is also Precambrian sedimentary argillite , dating back to 1. During the Paleozoic , western North America lay underneath a shallow sea, which deposited many kilometers of limestone and dolomite. This mountain-building produced the Ancestral Rocky Mountains. They consisted largely of Precambrian metamorphic rock forced upward through layers of the limestone laid down in the shallow sea. Terranes began colliding with the western edge of North America in the Mississippian approximately million years ago , causing the Antler orogeny. In Canada, the terranes and subduction are the foot pushing the rug, the ancestral rocks are the rug, and the Canadian Shield in the middle of the continent is the hardwood floor. Scientists hypothesize that the shallow angle of the subducting plate increased the friction and other interactions with the thick continental mass above it. Tremendous thrusts piled sheets of crust on top of each other, building the broad, high Rocky Mountain range. Just after the Laramide orogeny, the Rockies were like Tibet: In the last sixty million years, erosion stripped away the high rocks, revealing the ancestral rocks beneath, and forming the current landscape of the Rockies. Periods of glaciation occurred from the Pleistocene Epoch 1. These ice ages left their mark on the Rockies, forming extensive glacial landforms, such as U-shaped valleys and cirques. Recent glacial episodes included the Bull Lake Glaciation , which began about , years ago, and the Pinedale Glaciation , which perhaps remained at full glaciation until 15,â€”20, years ago. For example, volcanic rock from the Paleogene and Neogene periods 66 million â€” 2. Millennia of severe erosion in the Wyoming Basin transformed intermountain basins into a relatively flat terrain. The Tetons and other north-central ranges contain folded and faulted rocks of Paleozoic and Mesozoic age draped above cores of Proterozoic and Archean igneous and metamorphic rocks ranging in age from 1. Ecology of the Rocky Mountains There are a wide range of environmental factors in the Rocky Mountains. Tundra in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado Instead, ecologists divide the Rocky Mountain into a number of biotic zones. Each zone is defined by whether it can support trees and the presence of one or more indicator species. Two zones that do not support trees are the Plains and the Alpine tundra. Near treeline, zones can consist of white pines such as whitebark pine or bristlecone pine ; or a mixture of white pine, fir, and spruce that appear as shrub-like krummholz. Finally, rivers and canyons can create a unique forest zone in more arid parts of the mountain range. The Rocky Mountains are an important habitat for a great deal of well-known wildlife, such as elk , moose , mule and white-tailed deer , pronghorn , mountain goats , bighorn sheep , badgers , black bears ,

grizzly bears , coyotes , lynxes , and wolverines. The status of most species in the Rocky Mountains is unknown, due to incomplete information. European-American settlement of the mountains has adversely impacted native species. Examples of some species that have declined include western toads , greenback cutthroat trout , white sturgeon , white-tailed ptarmigan , trumpeter swan , and bighorn sheep. In the United States portion of the mountain range, apex predators such as grizzly bears and gray wolves had been extirpated from their original ranges, but have partially recovered due to conservation measures and reintroduction. Other recovering species include the bald eagle and the peregrine falcon. Like the modern tribes that followed them, Paleo-Indians probably migrated to the plains in fall and winter for bison and to the mountains in spring and summer for fish, deer, elk, roots, and berries. In Colorado, along with the crest of the Continental Divide, rock walls that Native Americans built for driving game date back 5,000 years. A growing body of scientific evidence indicates that indigenous people had significant effects on mammal populations by hunting and on vegetation patterns through deliberate burning. Native American populations were extirpated from most of their historical ranges by disease, warfare, habitat loss eradication of the bison , and continued assaults on their culture. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was the first scientific reconnaissance of the Rocky Mountains. The expedition was said to have paved the way to and through the Rocky Mountains for European-Americans from the East, although Lewis and Clark met at least 11 European-American mountain men during their travels. Among the most notable are the expeditions of David Thompson explorer , who followed the Columbia River to the Pacific Ocean. Resolution of the territorial and treaty issues, the Oregon dispute , was deferred until a later time. In 1819, Spain ceded their rights north of the 42nd Parallel to the United States, though these rights did not include possession and also included obligations to Britain and Russia concerning their claims in the same region. Settlement[edit] After 1800, American fur traders and explorers ushered in the first widespread Caucasian presence in the Rockies south of the 49th parallel. Negotiations between the United Kingdom and the United States over the next few decades failed to settle upon a compromise boundary and the Oregon Dispute became important in geopolitical diplomacy between the British Empire and the new American Republic. Despite such efforts, in 1846, Britain ceded all claim to Columbia District lands south of the 49th parallel to the United States; as resolution to the Oregon boundary dispute by the Oregon Treaty. The Idaho gold rush alone produced more gold than the California and Alaska gold rushes combined and was important in the financing of the Union Army during the American Civil War. Though political complications pushed its completion to 1885, the Canadian Pacific Railway eventually followed the Kicking Horse and Rogers Passes to the Pacific Ocean. President Harrison established several forest reserves in the Rocky Mountains in 1891. Economic development began to center on mining , forestry , agriculture , and recreation , as well as on the service industries that support them. Tents and camps became ranches and farms, forts and train stations became towns, and some towns became cities. Minerals found in the Rocky Mountains include significant deposits of copper , gold, lead , molybdenum , silver , tungsten , and zinc. The Wyoming Basin and several smaller areas contain significant reserves of coal , natural gas , oil shale , and petroleum. For example, the Climax mine, located near Leadville , Colorado, was the largest producer of molybdenum in the world. Molybdenum is used in heat-resistant steel in such things as cars and planes. The Climax mine employed over 3,000 workers. In one major example, eighty years of zinc mining profoundly polluted the river and bank near Eagle River in north-central Colorado. High concentrations of the metal carried by spring runoff harmed algae , moss , and trout populations. An economic analysis of mining effects at this site revealed declining property values, degraded water quality, and the loss of recreational opportunities. The Rocky Mountains contain several sedimentary basins that are rich in coalbed methane. Coalbed methane is natural gas that arises from coal, either through bacterial action or through exposure to high temperature. Coalbed methane supplies 7 percent of the natural gas used in the United States. These two basins are estimated to contain 38 trillion cubic feet of gas. Coalbed methane can be recovered by dewatering the coal bed, and separating the gas from the water; or injecting water to fracture the coal to release the gas so-called hydraulic fracturing. Agriculture includes dryland and irrigated farming and livestock grazing. Livestock are frequently moved between high-elevation summer pastures and low-elevation winter pastures, a practice known as transhumance.

Chapter 2 : Visit a natural Colorado Hot Springs near RMNP | Rocky Mountain National Park

Posts about Hot Rock Mountain Tedy Burton added a photo and a video " feeling confident with Ronni Benton-Thompson and Linda Parker Burton at Hot Rock Mountain. Sp S on S so S red S.

Etymology[edit] Louis R. Harlan claimed that "Ouachita" is composed of the Choctaw words ouac for buffalo and chito for large, together meaning "country of large buffaloes". At one time, herds of buffalo inhabited the lowland areas of the Ouachitas. Wright wrote that "Ouachita" is composed of the Choctaw words owa for hunt and chito for big, together meaning "big hunt far from home". Together with the Ozark Plateaus , the Ouachitas form the U. Interior Highlands , one of few mountainous regions between the Appalachians and Rockies. The maple-leaf oak *Quercus acerifolia* is found at only four sites worldwide, all of which are in the Ouachitas. Today, there are large populations of white-tailed deer , coyote , and other common temperate forest animals. Though elusive, hundreds of black bear roam the Ouachitas. Several species of salamander are endemic to the Ouachitas and have traits that vary from one locale to another. Subranges[edit] The Athens Piedmont consists of a series of low relief ridges, none exceeding 1, feet. It is located south of the Ouachitas and extends from Arkadelphia, Arkansas to the Arkansas-Oklahoma border. The Caddo, Cossatot, and Missouri mountains are a high, compact group of mountains composed of the weather-resistant Arkansas Novaculite. They are located primarily in Montgomery and Polk counties, Arkansas. The highest natural point is Raspberry Mountain at 2, feet. The headwaters of multiple rivers are found in this area, including the Caddo , Cossatot , and Little Missouri rivers. The highest natural point is Whiskey Peak at 1, feet. The Crystal Mountains are generally taller than the nearby Zig Zag Mountains, achieving elevations over 1, feet. The Fourche Mountains are a long, continuous chain of mountains composed of the weather-resistant Jackfork Sandstone. The highest natural point is Rich Mountain at 2, feet, which intersects the Arkansas-Oklahoma border near Mena, Arkansas. The highest natural point is Mount Magazine at 2, feet, which is also the highest natural point of the Ouachitas and U. The Frontal Ouachita Mountains are structurally quite different from the rest of the Ouachitas and are sometimes considered a separate range. The highest natural point is Trap Mountain at 1, feet. They are so named because of their unique chevron shape when viewed from above, the result of plunging anticlines and synclines. The Zig Zag Mountains are not exceptionally tall, but do reach heights over 1, feet. Vertical strata in the eastern Ouachitas Cluster of Arkansas quartz crystals from the Ouachita Mountains The Ouachitas are formed by a thick succession of highly deformed Paleozoic strata constituting the Ouachita Fold and Thrust Belt, which outcrops for approximately miles in western Arkansas and southeastern Oklahoma. They are unique because metamorphism and volcanism , features that are common in orogenic belts, are notably absent with the exception of some low-grade metamorphism. Due to the high degree of folding and faulting, the Ouachitas are clustered into distinct subranges, with ridges separated by relatively broad valleys. The Ouachitas are also known for novaculite , a variety of chert that has undergone low-grade metamorphism ; particular grades found only in Arkansas are used for making whetstones. History[edit] Cambrian through Mississippian strata of the Ouachitas were deposited in a narrow, two-sided basin called the Ouachita Trough, which formed as part of a Cambrian failed rift system. The Atoka Formation , which was deposited much later during the Pennsylvanian , has the largest areal extent of any of the Paleozoic formations in Arkansas.

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