

# HISTORY OF THE FISHERIES OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

SEPTEMBER 15, 2014

COURSE LEVEL: III      COURSE #:S3032  
FEE: \$70



Rocky  
Mountain  
Conservancy  

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FIELD INSTITUTE

INSTRUCTOR: CHRIS KENNEDY

PAGE 1 OF 2

LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute & Conference Center  
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado

TIME: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** This course will provide information on the history of the fisheries of Rocky Mountain National Park. Learn of the difference between the historic condition when the first white settlers entered the area and conditions in what is now RMNP. The discussion will include current cutthroat trout management and recent research on cutthroat trout taxonomy. The morning portion of the class will involve a lecture. In the afternoon, we will travel to sites important in the history of the fisheries of RMNP and have an electrofishing demonstration where we expect to capture both native cutthroat trout and non-native trout species so students can have an up-close experience with both.

**COURSE LEVEL: III**

Moderate hikes of less than five miles per day with elevation gain of less than 1,000 feet

**BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY:**

Chris has been a fish biologist with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service since 1997. He has conducted the fisheries field work within Rocky Mountain National Park for the past 17 years and has studied the history of fish within Rocky Mountain National Park and throughout Colorado for more than a decade. He has also been involved in range-wide cutthroat trout management his entire career. He is coauthor of the latest paper researching the taxonomy of cutthroat which will guide recovery efforts of this rare species.

**EXPECTATIONS:** Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

**CAR-POOLING:** Rocky Mountain Conservancy - Field Institute courses utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the Park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

**TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

8:30 AM	Welcome and introduction to RMC
	Meet participants. Seminar description, expected outcomes, and procedures for the day
8:50-9:50 AM	Lecture on the <i>History of the Fisheries of Rocky Mountain National Park</i>
9:50-10:00 AM	Break
10:00-11:00 AM	Continue lecture on the <i>History of the Fisheries of Rocky Mountain National Park</i> .
11:00-Noon	Travel to Endovalley Picnic Area and lunch break.

12:00-4:30 PM Visit Endovalley fish rearing pond and intake structure, greenback cutthroat trout restoration project on the Roaring River at the Alluvial Fan (electrofishing demonstration), site of Fall River Lodge and Estes Park Fish Hatchery.

**SCHEDULE NOTE:** Weather conditions will dictate the actual timing of course activities. If safety indicates going afield in the morning, the schedule will be modified accordingly. Light, misty rains are just a part of being a naturalist in the field; however, thunder and lightning will keep us indoors, where specimen material will be available. Lunching will flex with progression of the schedule and what works best for the circumstances.

**REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:**

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Map and compass
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Sunglasses and sunscreen
- Candles
- Matches or other fire starter
- Pocketknife
- First-aid kit
- Extra layers of clothing
- Sack lunch, snacks, water

*Note: Rocky Mountain Conservancy – Field Institute recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable, sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.*

**TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT:**

Most courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The fee is \$25.00 per seminar (.5 units) or \$25.00 per series of threaded courses (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded courses can be found in the Field Institute catalog or online at [www.RMConservancy.org](http://www.RMConservancy.org). Participants must enroll in all courses of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25.00 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a course or on the final day of a threaded series of courses.