

U.S. Department of the Interior • Office of the Secretary (OS/SIO/NISC) • 1849 C Street, N.W. • Washington, DC 20240
Phone: (202) 513-7243 • Fax: (202) 371-1751 • www.invasivespecies.gov

Guidance for ISAC Field Trip Wednesday, June 15, 2011

DATE / TIME

The field trip will be on the middle day of the ISAC meetings, June 15, 2011 starting from the Magnolia Hotel in Denver, CO. ***The bus will pull away from the hotel promptly at 7:30 a.m.*** Denver is on Mountain Standard Time which is 2 hours earlier than Washington, DC. In an effort to be respectful of our local hosts, we will maintain a tight schedule. **PLEASE BOARD THE BUS PROMPTLY AFTER EACH STOP.** We hope to return with roughly the same number of people that we left with. We will drive a total of about 180 miles and the duration of the field trip will be about 14 hours.

HELPFUL COLORADO INFORMATION (by Chris Dionigi)

Colorado - the *Subaru State* was established in 1876 and is also known as the Centennial State for some reason. In Colorado, the first day of winter is in April. The seasons are tourist and tourist. Fun things to do while in Colorado include catching Cutthroats¹ and having a Flat Tire². Try to avoid hitting the Elk with your golf balls. Speed limits are strictly enforced by radar and by a lack of guard rails. Dogs that do not have a bandanna in Boulder are considered “neglected.” Other states have lanes for car pools only; we have lanes for runaway trucks only. “Boulder” is city, county, a large rock, and an independent republic - at least until the mother ship returns. Kansas is considered “back East,” and it is also where the Denver International Airport is located. Ranges of mountains 7,000 feet tall are called foothills; and Fourteeners³ are not necessarily people at a Justin Bieber⁴ concert.

PARTICIPATION

The field trip is for ISAC members, presenters, and NISC staff only. Transportation will be by chartered bus. Because of limited space at pull-out areas and for safety reasons, individuals will not be allowed to follow the bus in separate vehicles.

There will be opportunities for trail hiking, wildlife viewing, photography, and other outdoor activities. **Please be prepared to some of your time hiking (maximum distance one half mile), which may be on trails with mild inclines and that are partially uneven. Let us know if you have any specific health, mobility, or safety considerations.**

¹ A type of trout.

² A type of beer.

³ A mountain over 14,000 feet tall.

⁴ A Canadian Pop star considered more influential in the social networking sphere than Barack Obama or the Dalai Lama.

CONDITIONS

Elevation: Denver was called the “Mile High” city long before the legalization of medical marijuana. The State Capital building is 5, 280 feet above sea level. During the field trip, you will be spending time at elevations of 7,000 to 8,500 feet. For comparison, at cruising altitude a Boeing 767’s cabin is pressurized to a pressure similar to that found at 6,900 feet above sea level. Most people will not notice this change, but you may find yourself slightly more out of breath after exertion. Check with your doctor if you have concerns about being at these elevations.

Sun: Sunlight is less filtered by the atmosphere than at sea level. As a result the sky is beautiful and sizzling with ultraviolet rays. It is much easier to get sunburn. **Use sun protection, such as sun block, long sleeves, long pants, and hats.** Dark sun glasses protect your eyes against sun and wind.

Temperatures: In June, the highs in Denver can be in the upper 70’s, yet there could be snow in the mountains. As you increase in elevation temperatures tend to drop. The only thing for sure is that temperature will vary. **Bring layered clothing** so that you can add thermal protection if necessary. A fleece jacket and a rain shell should provide enough warmth, wind, and rain protection. If you want to be fleeced go to any casino in Black Hawk.

Humidity: There isn’t any, which is unlike the wood ticks and mosquitoes. **Bring insect repellent.**

PERSONAL GEAR

Sneakers or Trail Shoes will be needed (no high heels or tasseled loafers!) You will have the opportunity to walk on rocky trails that vary slightly in grade. There are plants with sharp spines and at some frequency interesting wildlife = snakes. You may wish to bring collapsible walking poles to help stabilize you on trails.

Camera & Binoculars: There will be opportunities for photos and bird watching.

Elk: Look tame - are wild.

FOOD & WATER

NISC Staff will provide boxed lunches which include a beverage. It is important that you stay hydrated. You will need to bring your own additional bottled water and any snacks you wish to have.

BATHROOMS

Most stops will have restrooms, but there are some long (i.e., 1.5-hr) transit periods between stops. There will be a bathroom on the bus, but please take advantage of bathroom opportunities. Unscheduled bathroom stops may not be possible.