The Colorado Page

✦ Colorado's mountainous area is six times that of Switzerland's with more than 1,000 peaks over 10,000ft and 54 peaks higher than 14,000ft.

❄ Colorado has the highest average altitude in the United States. The highest point is Mt. Elbert, 14,433ft, near Leadville.

❋ The highest point in Grand County is Pettingal Peak, 13,535ft. It is accessed off I-70. The lowest point is on the Colorado River near Radium at 7,200ft.

❋ The mountains visible to the east in Grand County are called the Indian Peaks. From north to south they are: Paiute, Pawnee, Shoshone, Apache, Navajo, Kiowa, Arickaree, and Arapaho.

❁ A foothill is anything between 5,400ft and 7,900ft in altitude. The mountains begin after 7,900ft. Grand County is at 7,300ft and above.

❋ High altitude is anything above 5,280ft in elevation. Grand County is from 7,300ft to above 13,000ft. The air is thinner, the sun a mile (or two) closer, the atmospheric pressure lower and the seasons can change in a day – make that an hour.

❋ In the Colorado flag, the red C stands for Colorado and the reddish Colorado River; the gold circle symbolizes Colorado's history as a gold mining state; the horizontal blue and white stripes are for the blue skies and snow-capped mountains.

History Lesson

The population of Colorado was 34,277 in 1860. In the year 2000, it was 4,301,261.

How did the United States acquire the land where Colorado is today?

In 1803, through the Louisiana Purchase, the U.S. acquired a vast area which included most of eastern Colorado. Then in 1848, by the Treaty of Hidalgo, Mexico ceded to the United States most of Colorado not acquired by the Louisiana Purchase. In 1850, the federal government purchased Texas' claims in Colorado. Grand County became a county on February 2, 1874, but Colorado did not become the 38th state until August 1, 1876.

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