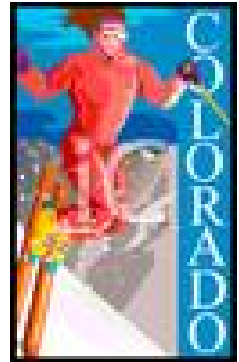


# Summit County – Colorado’s Playground

Summit County is located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, approximately 65 miles west of Denver in the central Rocky Mountain Region of Colorado. Summit County’s easterly boundary is located at the Eisenhower Tunnel on I-70 and the westerly boundary is the top of Vail Pass. Hoosier Pass is the location of the most southerly boundary and Green Mountain Reservoir is the most northerly. I-70 serves as the major access to the County from the east and west and State Highway 9 from the north and south. Summit County’s close proximity to the Denver Metropolitan Area is one of the reasons it is such a popular recreation area, both winter and summer.

Summit County encompasses some 599 square miles, containing approximately 386,053 acres. Most of the county is federally owned, with some 306,417 acres, representing 79% of the land being either the White River National Forest or the Eagles Nest Wilderness area. The remaining 21%, approximately 79,635 acres are private land. Most of the private lands can be found along the major river/creek basins (Blue River, Ten Mile Creek, and Snake River) and adjacent to major road corridors.



The County has four primary population centers in the towns of Breckenridge, Frisco, Silverthorne and Dillon. Breckenridge is the oldest town and serves as the County seat. According to the 2000 census, the permanent County population was estimated at 23,538 people, an increase of 82.8% over 1990 figures. Summit County had the distinction of being the sixth fastest growing county in the state between 1990 and 2000. The State Demography Section of the Division of Local Government estimates Summit County’s 2008 population at 29,074, an increase of 23.5% over the 2000 census figure. 2007 population estimates ranked Summit County as 19th out of the 64 Colorado counties. The incorporated Towns of Blue River and Montezuma plus the unincorporated areas of Keystone, Copper Mountain, and Heeney comprise the other population centers.

The Summit County Chamber of Commerce website describes the local climate as follows. “The average annual snowfall varies greatly within Summit County: Arapahoe Basin receives more than 30 feet per year; Copper Mountain receives nearly 20 feet; while the town of Silverthorne gets just more than 10 feet. At 40° north and 9,000 feet above sea level, the valleys of Colorado’s central Rocky Mountains have very low humidity. Even the lowest temperatures do not seem terribly cold, nor do the hottest days seem uncomfortably warm. Further, 300 days of sunshine a year tend to make every day a little bit brighter.”



Summit County is the home of four major ski resorts, Breckenridge, Keystone, Copper Mountain and Arapahoe Basin. All areas, with the exception of Arapahoe Basin, are major destination resorts providing full amenities from hotels and condominiums to retail stores and restaurants. There are all types of winter sports for enthusiasts of all ability levels

including alpine and Nordic skiing, snowboarding, snowshoeing, ice skating, and snowmobiling. The County is also home to five golf courses, two recreation centers, many miles of hiking and biking trails, opportunities for Gold Medal fly fishing on the Blue River and boating on Lake Dillon and Green Mountain Reservoirs. There are festivals during every season of the year, and a wide variety of retail, restaurant, and other service-oriented businesses.

## Fun Town Facts!

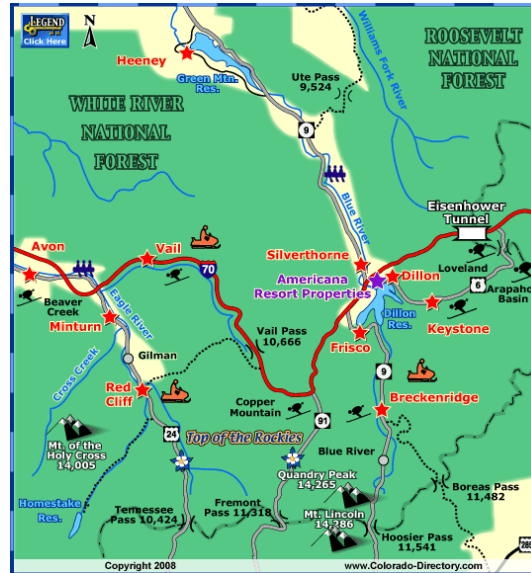
### Permanent 2000 Residents

Breckenridge .....	2,408
Dillon .....	802
Frisco .....	2,443
Silverthorne .....	3,196

# History of Summit County

“In 1861, Summit County was one of Colorado Territory’s original 17 counties, then stretching from the Divide to the Utah border, and from Fremont and Hoosier Passes to the Wyoming Line. Six counties were later created from this early Summit County expanse: Grand, Routt, Eagle, Garfield, Moffat, and Rio Blanco. Today, Summit County is bounded by the neighboring counties of Clear Creek, Grand, Park, Lake, and Eagle.

Summit County first received worldwide attention in 1859 when prospectors discovered gold and silver in the surrounding hills. High country trappers, from 1810-1840, attempted to keep the glittering gold and silver-seamed mountains a secret, but the news filtered out of the remote area to the rest of the United States. By the summer of 1859, hordes of gold-hungry adventurers scaled the snow-covered Continental Divide to the mineral-rich valley of the Blue River, catapulting this gentle valley from tranquil isolation into the gold rush days. Mine camps lined the Blue River and its tributaries and a parade of colorful characters and scoundrels, like Pug Ryan and Methodist preacher John Lewis Dyer, marched their way on to the pages of history.



Bustling new towns exploded into existence just as quickly as they lapsed into ghost towns, like Parkville, the first county seat. Others, like Breckenridge, Frisco, and Dillon, flourished during the days of mining prosperity and clung to life years after the mines played out. Not until 1946 did snow become business in Summit County, when Arapahoe Basin Ski area opened its slopes. With the opening of Breckenridge Ski area in 1961, Keystone in 1970, and Copper Mountain in 1972, “The Summit” became one of the greatest destination ski areas in the nation and was coined ‘Colorado’s Playground’.”



Summit County’s four ski resorts offer a variety of terrain to skiers and riders of all abilities. Each of the resorts has its claim to fame with Keystone offering night skiing, Copper as a true skier’s mountain, Breckenridge’s Peak 8 served by the highest lift in North America, and Arapahoe Basin’s legendary above timberline extremes. The following table details some basic mountain statistics for each of the resorts and while the 2007/2008 skier visits declined 2.43% from the previous season, over 4 million people visited Summit County resorts during this ski season.

This information is provided by the Summit County government. For a detailed presentation of the projected economic activity for Summit County, see “Analysis of Summit County Economic Activity for 2009” at the Assessor’s website (<http://www.co.summit.co.us>).



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