

Moffat County

COLORADO'S GREAT NORTHWEST



Welcome to Colorado's Great Northwest!



MOFFAT COUNTY welcomes you to our very special corner of Colorado. Moffat County is a little bit off the beaten path, and that's exactly why curious explorers and nature-loving stargazers vacation here. Nearly two million acres of pristine public lands and free-flowing rivers distinguish this unspoiled landscape where hundreds of species of wildlife roam free. You will discover a treasure trove of scenic destinations from the canyon country of Dinosaur National Monument to the rich history of Browns Park, to the alpine wonders of Black Mountain, with all sorts of adventures in between.

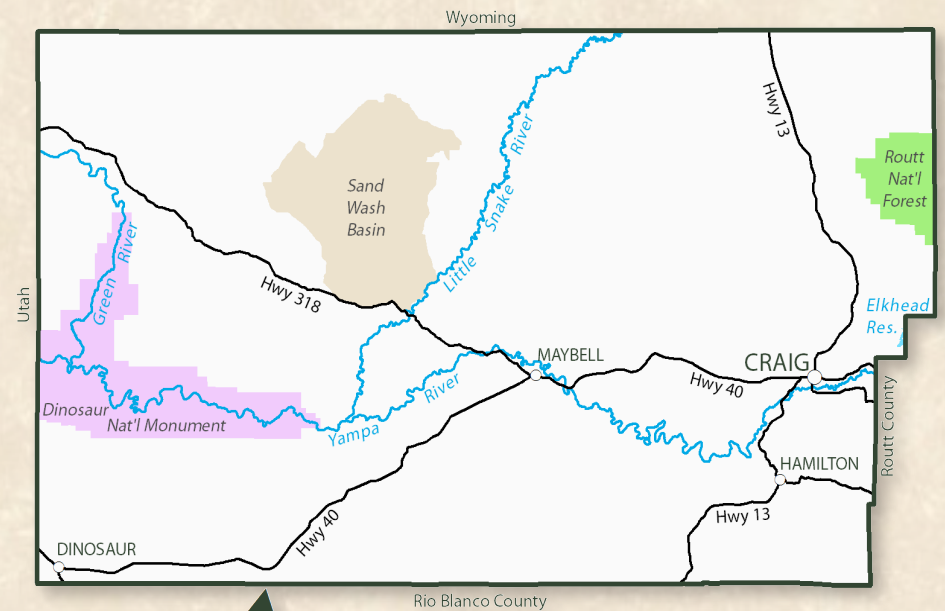
Blaze your own trail to Moffat County and stay awhile. The handclaps are firm and the smiles are genuine. Colorado's Great Northwest is just the place to hang your hat and renew your spirit with adventure.



MOFFAT COUNTY is in the northwest corner of the State of Colorado. We border Wyoming to the north and Utah to the west. Our east border is shared with Routt County and our southern border makes us neighbors to Rio Blanco County.

US Highway 40 was known as the Victory Highway and was an auto trail across the United States between New York City and San Francisco, California. The designation was created in 1921 to mark the transcontinental highway in honor of the American Forces who served in World War I. The Route is designated as Victory Way through the City of Craig and remains a historical link to the very beginning of cross-country automobile travel. US40 serves the length of Moffat County transporting visitors to attractions and incredible vistas along its path, including Dinosaur National Monument.

The Yampa Valley Airport (HDN) is the gateway to northwest Colorado. The airport is located just outside Hayden Colorado and is the major commercial air hub for the communities of Craig and Steamboat Springs. The Craig-Moffat County Airport is located approximately 4.5 miles southeast of the city of Craig, Colorado, at an elevation of 6,199 feet.



Discover Moffat County's Rich History



MOFFAT COUNTY was named after David Halliday Moffat, one of Colorado's most important financiers and industrialist in the late 19th and early 20th century in Colorado. Considered ahead of his time he spent his fortune building the "Moffat Road" rail line west of Denver into the heart of the Colorado Rocky Mountains. He served as president, treasurer and as a board member of railroads, banks and city government posts. Over the years he had claims to over one hundred Colorado mines and nine railroads. Moffat's private rail car, named for his daughter Marcia, built by Pullman in 1906, is permanently based in Craig, Colorado and is available for viewing.

MOFFAT COUNTY IS WHERE THE OLD WEST STAYED YOUNG

The past can be found throughout the county in homesteads, faint trails, weathered corrals, all giving visitors the opportunity to actually touch the living past of the frontier days of the wild west. Moffat County has the earliest history of the region,

offering up tales of the early fur trappers that made their way west to find their fortunes, including William Henry Ashley, one of the founders of the Rocky Mountain Fur Company with Jim Bridger in 1822. Ashley is thought to be the first to descend



MARCIA CAR

into Lodore Canyon on the Green River in what is now Dinosaur National Monument. Later, a well known explorer in the region, John Wesley Powell and his party ran the Green River through Moffat County all the way to the Grand Canyon in 1869 and 1872.

NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE

Before the European influence came to Moffat County, the Native Americans left traces of their remarkable lives for us to view.

The current-day explorer can discover thousands of ancient rock writings in the deep canyons and open bluffs across the region. Petroglyphs and pictographs left by the early indigenous people are a wonder to behold, coming across these while exploring brings pure inspiration.

Museum of Northwest Colorado

Recently voted as the "Best Local Museum in Colorado", a trip to Moffat County is not complete without a visit to the Museum of Northwest Colorado in Downtown Craig. In addition to one of the largest collections of cowboy firearm and paraphernalia on public display anywhere in the U.S., The museum also tells the fascinating history of Northwest Colorado. This nationally-recognized collection is what authenticity is all about.



MUSEUM OF NORTHWEST COLORADO

Wyman Living History Museum

Just east of Craig, Colorado is the Wyman Museum. The Wyman family has gathered a unique collection from throughout the West and beyond, giving visitors an experience spanning one hundred years of American life, ingenuity and advancement. The collection includes everything from western heritage memorabilia, rare forms of transportation to a US World War II M47 tank.



WYMAN MUSEUM

Explore Moffat County's Vast Landscapes

The tapestry of Moffat County's landscape is certainly inspirational. The vast reaches will allow you to lose the crowds and find yourself. Moffat County's topography ranges from deep canyons to high alpine mountains. The highest point in the County is Black Mountain in Routt National Forest, at 10,865 feet. The lowest point in Moffat County is just less than 5,000 feet in elevation near the Colorado/Utah state line. Those who boldly diverge from the beaten path to discover these uncommonly beautiful places take home enduring memories. Here are just a few of the incredible places to consider experiencing:

CEDAR MOUNTAIN

looms 1,000 feet above the Yampa Valley just north of Craig, Colorado, consisting of 880 acres of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management. This area offers a wide variety of recreational opportunities

year-round including mountain biking, hiking, horseback riding and cross country skiing. Cedar Mountain's natural qualities provide opportunities to experience isolation and solitude just a few miles north of Craig.



CROSS MOUNTAIN CANYON Overlook provides a great excursion for a day trip or overnight camping just west of Maybell, Colorado.



Spectacular views await you, including distant landmarks including Bakers Peak and Black Mountain. Far below the canyon rim, the Yampa River cuts through Cross Mountain Canyon. Observe the world famous cataracts with names such as Mammoth Falls, The Snake Pit and Pour Over City enticing thrill seekers to challenge the rapids. Many outstanding hiking opportunities abound adjacent

to Cross Mountain. Enjoy hiking to the ridges to the west for rock hounding sites and spectacular vistas of Douglas Mountain and Lily Park, where the Little Snake River empties into the Yampa River.

DUFFY MOUNTAIN AND LITTLE YAMPA CANYON

Special Recreation Management Area comprises 27,310 acres of public land that is just south and west of Craig, Colorado. This area has incredible opportunities for off road travel, hunting and flat-water boating on the Yampa River.



BLACK MOUNTAIN is on the Moffat County side of the Routt National Forest. Gravel Forest Service roads connect us to neighboring Routt County and take you through Lost Park, Slater Park and California Park. The drive offers spectacular Rocky Mountain scenery from overlooks to vistas with unlimited picnic sites and the potential to view hundreds of species of wildlife. Camping areas serve as ideal base camps for day hikes, hunting and fishing trips. Be sure to include Freeman Reservoir when visiting this area. The inspiring panoramas and uncrowned atmosphere will leave you refreshed.



Experience Moffat County

MOFFAT COUNTY'S landscape invites visitors to experience adventures their way. Whether you enjoy an exhilarating mountain bike trail, a float on a wild river, a challenging OHV back road or seek the serenity of a seldom traveled hiking trail you will find an incredible array of recreational opportunities in Moffat County. Visitors also can experience fantastic in-town recreation at the Yampa Valley 18-hole golf course and the 'kid' in all of us is always thrilled with the City of Craig wave pool.



RAFTING IN DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT



ATV'S AT SAND WASH BASIN



HIKING AT FREEMAN RESERVOIR



BALLOON FESTIVAL IN CRAIG



KAYAKING ON THE YAMPA RIVER



Winter is a wonderful time in Moffat County, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, ice fishing, ice skating and hockey are all part of the Moffat County experience. Adventures and activities are available in Moffat County year-round.



CANYONEERING IN DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT



PHOTOGRAPHY: JANELE HUSBAND

Discover Dinosaur National Monument

The majority of Dinosaur National Monument is in Moffat County. This 210,000-acre National Monument is certainly a national treasure. Visitors can explore the Yampa and Green Rivers including their canyons, mountains, basins and archeological sites. There are 23 colorful rock layers of the Colorado Plateau exposed in a panoramic display throughout this National Park Service unit. The greatly varied rock and soil types combine with elevation and topography to create many habitats with amazing diversity of plant and animal life.

Paleontologist Earl Douglas discovered, and began excavating, the fossils at the Dinosaur National Monument quarry in 1909 for the Carnegie Museum. The origins of the National Monument started with the preservation of the original 80-acre excavation site in 1915. Today the dinosaur quarry is in a rock layer of the Morrison formation, the quarry building is built directly over this world-class exhibit and working-quarry for all to see.

The town of Dinosaur, Colorado in Moffat County is the jumping off point for exploring the vast reaches of Dinosaur National Monument. The National Park Service Canyon Visitor Center is just one mile east of town and is the canyon country gateway with interpretive displays, including an impressive, sculpted map of the entire Monument. Exhibits and an orientation program are available introduce visitors to the park. Interpretive materials, books, maps and National Park Service materials are also available in the Canyon Visitor Center.



STEAMBOAT ROCK



ECHO PARK



RAFTING THE GREEN RIVER



HIKING AT THE MONUMENT

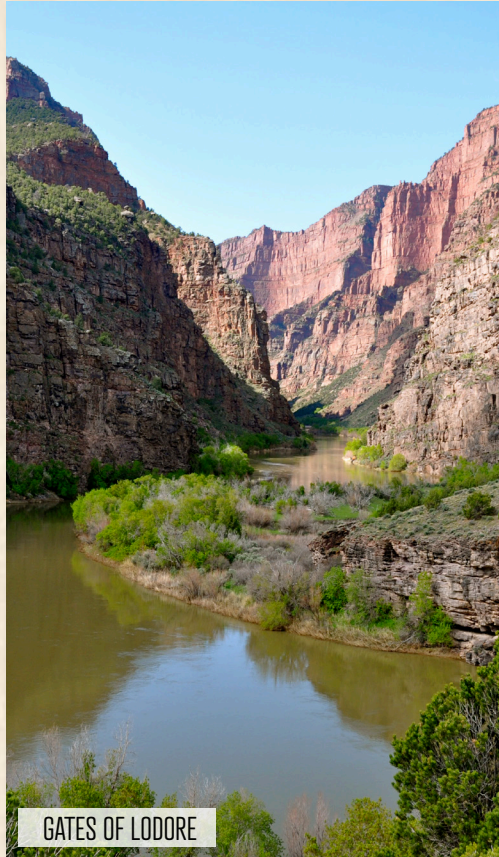
The Harper's Corner Road begins at the Canyon Visitor Center and heads north leading visitors through showcases of maze-like canyons from several overlooks. There are several short hikes available through this section that all feature stunning views of the Monument and Moffat County. The Harper's Corner Road is also the access road to Echo Park where the Yampa and Green Rivers confluence at Steamboat Rock. The Yampa Bench Road can be accessed off of the Echo Park Road or from the Elk Springs just off of Highway 40 in the heart of Moffat County. The Yampa Bench Road provides additional spectacular views into the Yampa Canyon and also has numerous opportunities to stop at amazing overlooks to view the Moffat County canyon country at its best. Information concerning camping at Echo Park and road conditions in this remote country can be found at the Canyon Visitor Center or by contacting the National Park Service directly.

The northern most point of Dinosaur National Monument is the "Gates of Lodore". Lodore Canyon, cut by the Green River, offers views that are among the best on the planet; the trip to the area is well worth the drive to this remote part of the Monument. Camping and a well-marked nature trail will take visitors into the mouth of this scenic wonder. At the east end of the Monument is Deerlodge Park boat launch and campground. This area is accessed off of Highway 40 just west of Maybell, Colorado. An extensive cottonwood canopy provides a peaceful place to hike, camp and enjoy the best of Moffat County.

Dinosaur National Monument has over 30 miles of trails, six designated campgrounds and open backcountry to offer hikers and climbers of all skill levels plenty of opportunity to truly explore and experience Moffat County's wonders. With 10,000 years of human history in the Monument, visitors can walk in the footsteps of the early indigenous people, Ute and early explorers and homesteaders. The Green and Yampa Rivers in Dinosaur National Monument are premier whitewater designations. Tours are available through National Park Service Whitewater Concessions or private individuals can float these rivers with permits that must be obtained in advance.

Discover Browns Park

BROWNS PARK is a remote valley lying across borders of Colorado and Utah. This high desert valley was formed by the Green river. Because of its mild winters, abundant game, grass and water, the area was a favorite wintering place for Native Americans, mountain men, fur trappers and cattlemen. The area is rich in history and incredible vistas and fascinating rock art. Browns Park attractions include Vermillion Falls, Irish canyon, Gates of Lodore (Dinosaur National Monument), Two Bar ranch, Lodore Hall & Cemetery, Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge, the Swinging Bridge, Crouse Canyon, Swallow Canyon and the John Jarvie Homestead, just across the Utah border.



GATES OF LODORE



RAFTING THE GREEN RIVER



VERMILLION FALLS

Discover Sand Wash Basin

SAND WASH BASIN is home to one of the few remaining herds of free roaming wild mustangs in the United States. It is also a destination for camping, 4-wheeling, OHV and dirt bike enthusiasts. Hundreds of wild horses roam the remote expanse of Sand Wash Basin Herd Management Area. No one should miss the breathtaking sight of greys, duns, grullas, sorrels and pintos running free. Sand Wash Basin covers about 155,000 acres of rugged desert beauty. The horses do have ample territory to roam; most visitors find it relatively easy to spot the herd. Road conditions in the area can vary; caution should be exercised when conditions are wet, high clearance vehicles and 4-wheel drive is recommended. Other considerations concerning visiting the Sand Wash Herd Management Area are available in a separate brochure; contact Visit Moffat County for your copy. Most importantly, when viewing the horses please do so with respect, a minimum of 100 feet is expected from visitors.



DIRT BIKING AT SAND WASH BASIN



SAND WASH BASIN HERD



WILD HORSES AT SAND WASH BASIN

PHOTOGRAPHY: JOHN WAGNER

Discover Moffat County's Wildlife

As millions of Americans and world travelers discover the enjoyment and educational value of watchable wildlife, Moffat County stands as one of the premier locations in the world for viewing animals in their natural habitat.



SNOW OWL



BALD EAGLE



SAND HILL CRANES



Moffat County is home to Browns Park Wildlife Refuge, Dinosaur National Monument, Bureau of Land Management Wilderness Study & Recreation Areas and the Routt National Forest. Visitors can respectfully enjoy the natural settings, archaeological sites, watchable wildlife in areas set aside for preservation for future generations.



GRASSHOPPER SPARROW

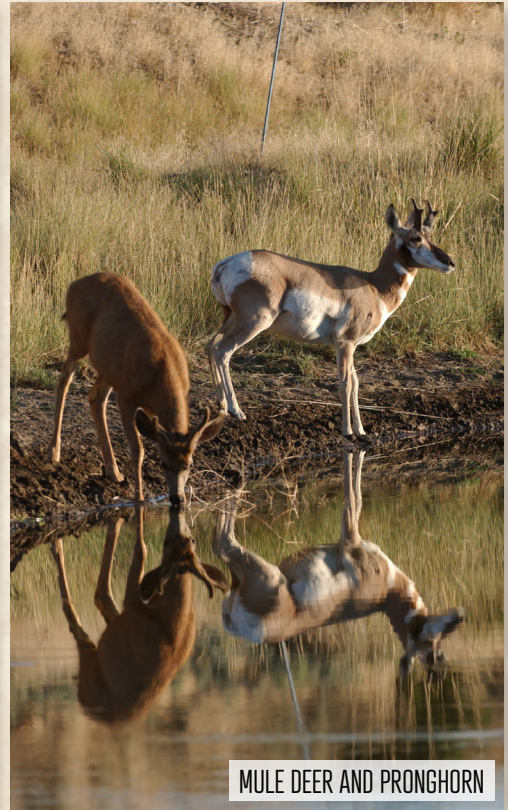


PRAIRIE DOG

Moffat County is famous for its wildlife and big game hunting. Whether you hunt with a camera, bow or rifle Moffat County boasts huge herds of elk, pronghorn, and mule deer. Desert bighorn and even moose can be found here. With more than 1.7 million acres of public lands, including ten Wilderness Study Areas, Moffat County is home to vast topography full of wildlife.



WAPITI ELK



MULE DEER AND PRONGHORN

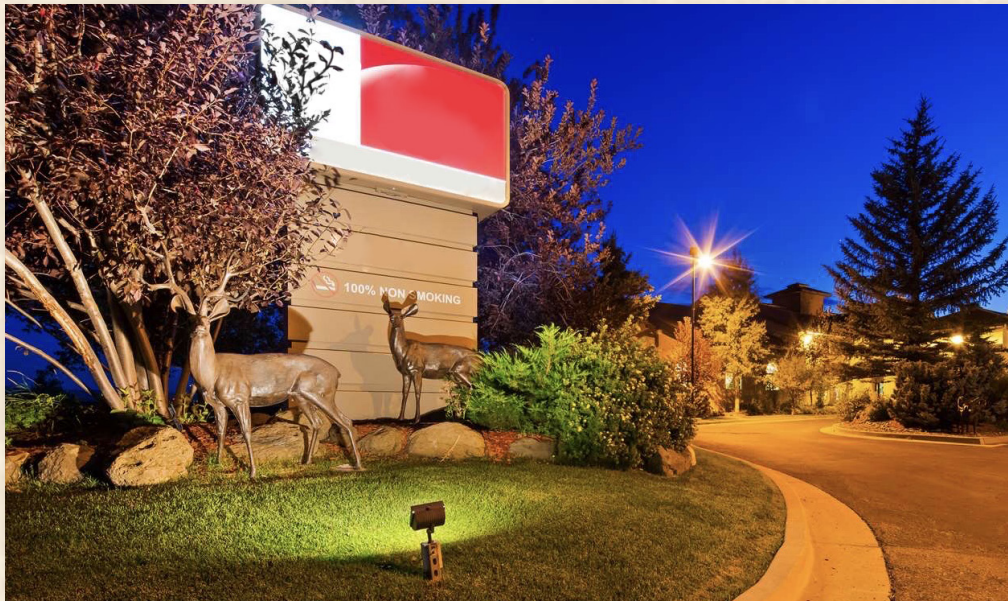


MULE DEER

PHOTOGRAPHY: JOHN WAGNER

Visit Moffat County

Moffat County Lodging organizations welcome you to come, enjoy and experience our region. Available lodging ranges from a number of familiar franchise flagship operations to independently owned and operated hotels, motels bed & breakfasts and cabins in Craig, Maybell and Dinosaur, Colorado. They all offer friendly, hometown hospitality for your very special visit to Moffat County.



A COMPLETE LIST OF LODGING OPPORTUNITIES IS AVAILABLE AT:

VISITMOFFATCOUNTY.COM

Business meetings can happen anywhere, but sometimes a business meeting should happen in a unique venue, provoking very special outcomes. Whether you are traveling for business or pleasure the great Moffat County experience can bring you to incredible spaces. Find inspiration around a campfire right here in Moffat County or in various traditional meeting spaces in Craig, Colorado.



CAMPING is allowed on all public lands unless posted otherwise, that makes more than a million acres available for your adventure. Developed campsites can be found in Dinosaur National Monument, Bureau of Land Managements' sites including Irish Canyon, Browns Park National Wildlife Refuge, Routt National Forest, Maybell Park and Colorado Park & Wildlife Areas including Elkhead Reservoir and on the Yampa River in several locations. Private camping can be found in Craig, Colorado.



ADDITIONAL CAMPING INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT:

VISITMOFFATCOUNTY.COM

Moffat County's Community Resources



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT-LITTLE SNAKE FIELD OFFICE

BLM.GOV/OFFICE/LITTLE-SNAKE-FIELD-OFFICE



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE — DINOSAUR NATIONAL MONUMENT

NPS.GOV/DINO



ROUTT NATIONAL FOREST

FS.USDA.GOV/MBR



BROWNS PARK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

FWS.GOV/REFUGE/BROWNS-PARK



COLORADO STATE PARKS & WILDLIFE

CPW.STATE.CO.US/PLACESTOGO/PARKS/ELKHEADRESERVOIR

CPW.STATE.CO.US/PLACESTOGO/PARKS/YAMPARIVER



LOCAL MARKETING DISTRICT / ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

COLORADSGREATNORTHEAST.COM

MOFFATLMDSECRETARY@GMAIL.COM



CRAIG CHAMBER & MOFFAT COUNTY VISITOR CENTER

CRAIGCHAMBER.COM

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MOFFAT COUNTY, COLORADO

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Our Towns



CITY OF CRAIG *Colorado*

CITYOFCRAIG.ORG



COMMUNITY OF MAYBELL *Colorado*

MAYBELLCOLORADO.COM



TOWN OF DINOSAUR *Colorado*

TOWNOFDINOSAUR.COLORADO.GOV

- STAY ON THE TRAIL • RESPECT PRIVATE PROPERTY
- RECREATE RESPONSIBLY • LEAVE NO TRACE
- CARE FOR COLORADO LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES[®]

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

- Our state and federal agencies manage nearly 2 million acres of public lands in Moffat County. Learn about and respect the spaces we all share. The agencies and communities that manage these lands are listed here on the adjacent page.
- Call with questions about all of the wonderful outdoor opportunities here in Moffat County, 970.824.2335.
- Bring reusable water bottles or hot drink tumblers to limit waste and stay hydrated in our dry climate.
- Check conditions where you plan to visit. In Moffat County, even late spring can bring snowstorms, so be aware of the latest news for weather and snow, as well as for road and trail closures.
- Be Careful on the water. Our river systems are among the most natural in the nation. Conditions can vary greatly depending on the season. River sections offer conditions that range from moderate to the most challenging whitewater in Colorado. Know what you are getting into. On river trips always wear a life jacket and bring the proper safety equipment for your trip.

BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

- Always check local fire restrictions.
- Moffat County's low humidity has perks, but can create dry, dangerous conditions. Keep campfires small and manageable to avoid sparking wildfires.
- When putting out a fire, water it until you can handle the embers. Never let a fire burn unattended.

STICK TO TRAILS

- Even though shortcuts can be tempting, please don't take them. A few extra strides on the path will protect plants and the homes of the true locals.
- Melting snow and rain leave trails and vegetation more open to damage. Be sure to stick to trails and walk in the middle of the trail — even if it's wet, muddy, slushy or icy — to avoid erosion and damage to trailside plants.
- Make sure to wear sturdy footwear — like insulated, waterproof hiking boots — so you can always stick to the trail, particularly in spring and early summer when trails are more likely to be wet and muddy from melting snow.

LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

- Leave plants, rocks and historical items as you find them so others experience the joy of discovery.
- Treat all living things with respect. Carving or hacking plants and trees may kill or disfigure them.

TRASH THE TRASH

- Pack it in, pack it out. Or pick it up to leave a place better than you found it. Take litter, even crumbs, peels and cores to your nearest waste/recycling bin.

KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

- Moffat County is home to tens of thousands of species of wildlife. To keep them — and you — safe, don't approach them.
- Do not feed wildlife no matter how hungry you think they might look.
- All wildlife have to work a lot harder to survive in winter. Observe all wildlife from a distance, and do not follow or pursue them. Fleeing forces them to burn energy they need to survive the colder months.
- Spring can be a particularly sensitive time for wildlife since many species are nesting, having their young or coming out of hibernation. Be sure to travel quietly and give all wildlife extra space during this time.

SHARE OUR TRAILS & PARKS

- Listen to nature. Keep your voice and music soft so all can enjoy the peace of Colorado.
- Keep noise to a minimum when near others on the trail and let nature's sounds prevail

©LEAVE NO TRACE: WWW.LNT.ORG

VISIT Moffat County

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MOFFAT COUNTY TOURISM ASSOCIATION • 970.824.2355
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Visit Colorado.

