

**Ralph Swain**  
**Retired Regional Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River Program Manager**  
**U.S. Forest Service - Rocky Mountain Region**



**Ralph Swain** retired from the US Forest Service in December 2020 after a 38-year career in fire, trails, public affairs and wilderness. Before retiring, Ralph was the Regional Wilderness and Rivers Program Manager of the Rocky Mountain Region.

As Regional Wilderness Program Manager, he was responsible for the administration of 47 wilderness areas covering 5 million acres in the central Rocky Mountains of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and eastern Wyoming. Ralph also oversaw the administration of two Wild and Scenic Rivers; the Cache la Poudre (in Colorado) and the Clarks Fork River (in Wyoming).

During his Forest Service career, Ralph had several wilderness stewardship assignments from trail crew foreman to wilderness ranger to wilderness program manager. Ralph began his career as a firefighter on a Hot Shot firefighting crew on the Sierra National Forest.

Ralph also worked with congressional delegates and staff on wilderness proposals for new wilderness areas and worked with 17 active wilderness volunteer (Friends) groups to steward wildernesses in the Region.

In previous international assignments, Ralph developed and instructed protected area management seminars and workshops in Belize, South Africa, Mexico, Germany, Russia, Romania, and the country of Georgia. He continues to work closely with the WILD Foundation of Boulder, Colorado and remains connected with an extensive international network for protected area management throughout the world.

Ralph earned his bachelor's degree in Marketing and Economics from the University of Northern Colorado and a master's degree in Natural Resource Management, with a specialization in Wilderness Management from Colorado State University.