



# Trinidad K-T Boundary

## Colorado State Natural Area

### What to Expect

The Trinidad K-T Boundary Natural Area is located with Trinidad Lake State Park and contains significant evidence of an asteroid impact that scientists believe led to the mass extinction of non-avian dinosaurs and other life forms at the end of the Cretaceous period, 66 million years ago. The site includes a scientifically important exposure of the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary (formerly known as the Cretaceous-Tertiary, K-T). By analyzing the layers of rocks, scientists have learned much about prehistoric life before, during, and after the asteroid impact.



*K-T (K-Pg) exposure at Trinidad Lake State Park. Photo by Chris Stark.*



*Close-up of the K-T (K-Pg) boundary layer. Photo by Chris Stark.*

### Know Before You Go

A State Parks Pass is required to enter and can be purchased at the entrance gate. Stop by the visitor's center to learn more about all the site has to offer. Visitors can view the K-T boundary exposure via the Long's Canyon trail, a gentle  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile one way trail that also accesses a viewing blind above a pond for wildlife watching. Bike and foot travel are permitted on this trail. The park offers numerous other recreation opportunities. For more information on park activities, trails, condition, and more, check out the [Trinidad Lake State Park webpage](#).

### About the Natural Area

**Location:** Las Animas County, 13 miles southeast of Trinidad

**Landowner:** Colorado Parks and Wildlife

**Natural Area Size:** 180 acres

**Address:** 3350 Turkey Canon Ranch Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80926. [Google maps link to Long's Canyon Trail within Trinidad Lake State Park.](#)



*Prairie lizard basking on rocks*

**For more information about the Colorado Natural Areas Program (CNAP) visit [CNAP's website](#).**