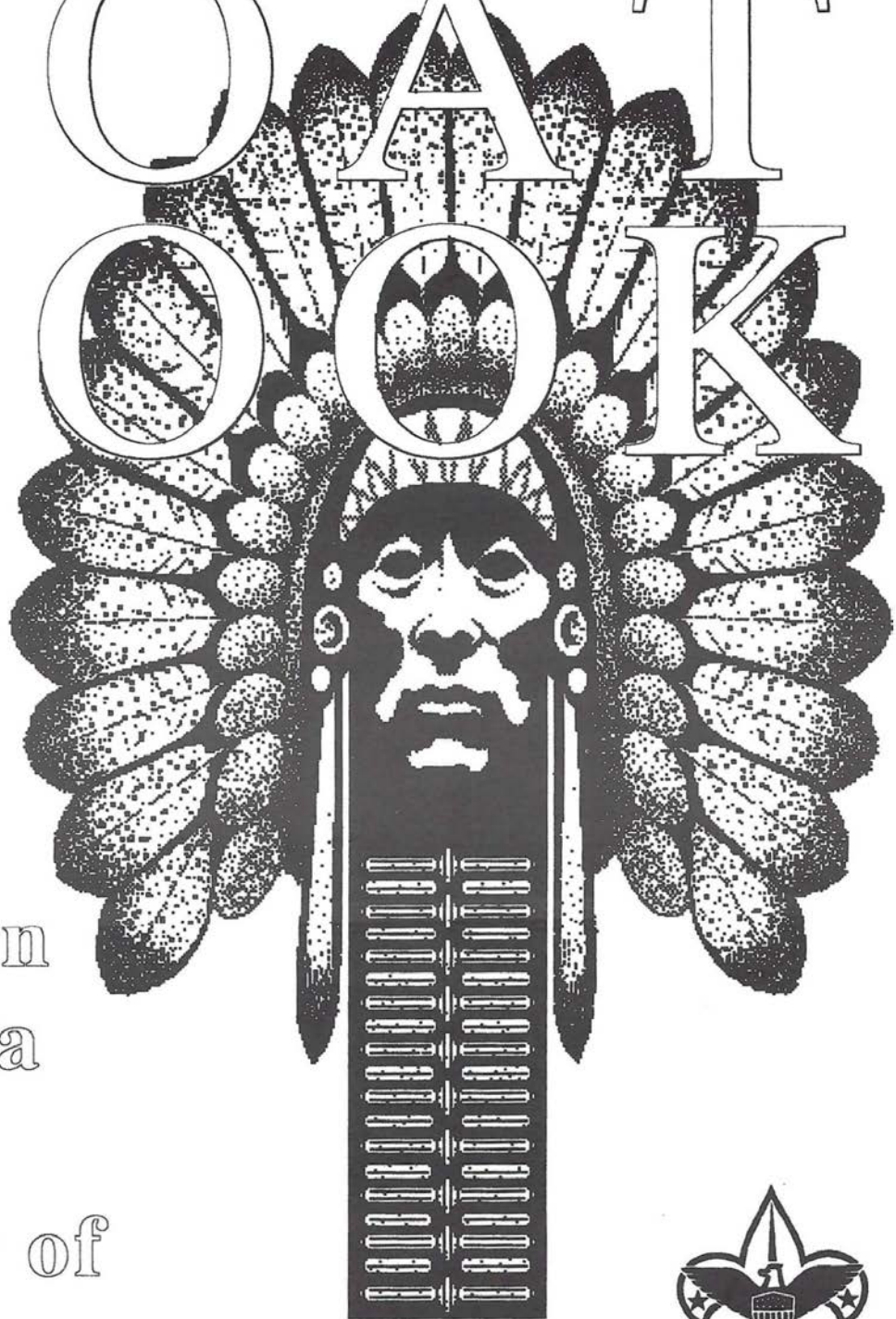


DENVER AREA COUNCIL

GOAT  
BOOK



1995  
Edition  
Tahosa  
Lodge  
Order of  
the Arrow





December 19, 1994

Fellow Campers,

The Order of the Arrow was founded on the principles of service and camping. In order to fulfill our purpose in the Denver Area Council, Tahosa Lodge promotes Scout camping using several different methods. One of these methods is through the G.O.A.T. Book, which provides Scouts, Scouters and campers in general a guide to campsites (and activities) in Colorado. Each of these sites has been thoroughly researched by the authors and is described in the following pages.

Tahosa Lodge also provides camping promotion presentations for troops, teams, posts and packs. These presentations can range in subject matter from the opportunities for Cub Scouts to high adventure trips available. If you are interested in such a presentation, contact the Council Service Center for more information.

Tahosa Lodge is proud to present the third edition of the G.O.A.T. Book. We hope that this book will help your unit enjoy your camping experiences.

Yours in Scouting,

Kevin Williams  
Lodge Chief  
Tahosa Lodge 383

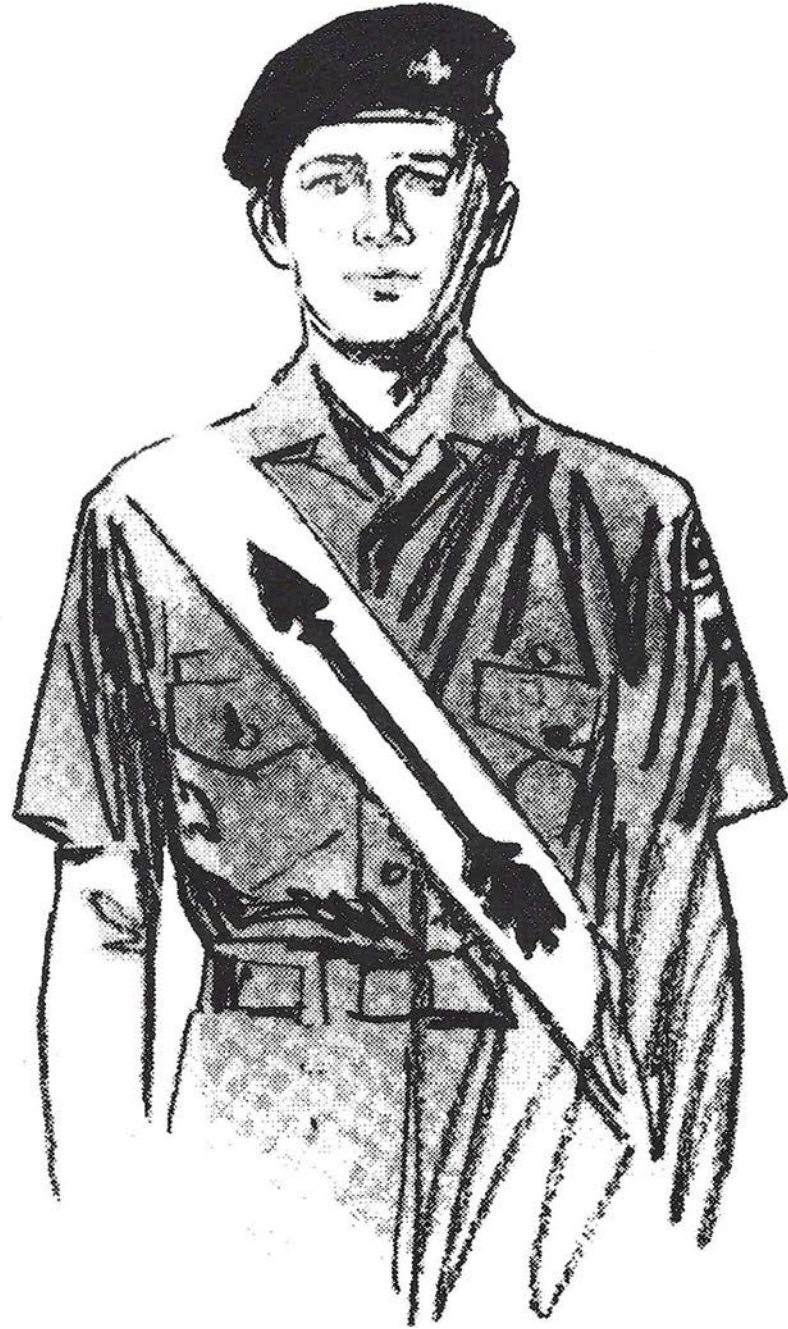
## **ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thanks must be given to those who put special efforts in contributing new information, providing unique resources and extra efforts in preparing the 1995 G.O.A.T. Book. Thanks to Arvey Baie for all his new contributions; to Dale and Marshall Elliott for the digital scanning efforts in capturing Scout graphics for this book; to Nancy Yackel for the hours and hours of editing text and maps; to KIMCO Duplicating for their printing efforts; and to Ralph Voelker and Kelly Bowlen for support and coordination. And finally, to the Order of the Arrow, Tahosa Lodge for providing the financial resources to print and distribute this book to Scout Units in the Denver Area Council.

Text and graphics were prepared on an Apple Macintosh using Aldus Pagemaker, Microsoft Works, Aldus SuperPaint and Micro Frontier Color It.

Happy camping, Scouts and Scouters.

Bob Yackel  
Editor of the G.O.A.T. Book



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## INTRODUCTION



The 1995 edition of the GOAT Book has been expanded extensively with new material, plus updated information included in the 1986/87 editions. The term GOAT is an acronym, that is easy to remember and means Guide to Outdoor Activities for Troops.

This guide has been prepared for Scouts and Scouters in order to share campsites, hiking trails, and other activities that have been successfully tried by other units. This volume is designed to be used by both new Scouters and the experienced Scouter; hopefully providing new experiences and locations to better enjoy the Colorado outdoors. The book has been designed on standard 8 1/2 X 11 paper, copies of particular pages can be made and taken on your adventure. The 1994 GOAT Book has been grouped into chapters covering a geographic region or area of the state such as the Guanella Pass Area. Chapters have one or more maps merged into the text.

The maps provided in this book are not drawn to scale and are only intended to provide enough detail to show how to get there and where to camp. It is suggested that you cross reference GOAT Book maps with U.S. Forest Service or Geological Survey maps for more accurate information such as; scale, elevation changes, land ownership, road and trail relationships and accessibility. In many cases information is provided on campsite facilities and known restrictions. The majority of the GOAT Book activities reference the National Forest Service Maps; these maps show a large land area with access roads to campgrounds and trailheads. In addition, land ownership is color coded, and hiking/backpacking trails are shown and designated with Forest Service trail numbers.

A number of Forest Service maps have been changed when new editions were printed between 1989 -1995. Road numbers have been changed from Forest Service to County Road numbers; at least that portion of the road before the National Forest boundary. Some road numbers have been removed with no replacement number on the new edition. Many of the Forest Service road numbers are still posted along with the county signs on these roads. The trick in using the GOAT Book is to remember that the new editions of the Forest Service maps were used for map and text references. Forest Service maps used in the preparation of the 1995 edition are:

- Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests, 1990
- Gunnison National Forest, 1984
- Pike National Forest, 1992
- Routt National Forest, 1975
- San Isabel National Forest, 1993
- White River National Forest, 1991

Most roads drawn on maps to the various car campsites and backpack trailheads are car driveable; note the 4-wheel drive (4WD) symbol on some of the maps identifying the point where 4 wheel drive vehicles are needed. Of course, use your own judgment as related to your car's ground clearance, rocks on the road, washouts and weather conditions. For each trip or activity an estimated drive time is given using Denver as the starting location. Your drive time will vary depending upon your starting point, road and weather conditions. The drive time is given only as an aid in planning your trip. Be sure to reference the map legend, maps and text use these acronyms and symbols extensively.

In the last section of this book are indexes providing cross reference listings by activity type, such as; Backpack Trips, Car Camp and Cross Country Skiing.



A new area code will be activated by US West In April 1995, changing some of the phone numbers provided in this text. The Metropolitan Denver calling area will remain the same, using area code 303. The rest of the current 303 area code, outside of the Metropolitan Denver area, will go to 970 at that time.

In most wilderness areas there are restrictions and limitations that must be closely observed (i.e., size of group, campsite distance from stream, lake or trail and in some cases campsite permits). Be sure to call and check with personnel at the appropriate Forest Service, National Parks, Bureau of Land Management and others in advance of leaving. Also, read the rules posted at the trailhead.

When getting water from a stream; ALWAYS assume that you need water purification treatment or a filter in order to eliminated the chance of acquiring giardia or other bacteria. Use good common sense, don't chance it!


























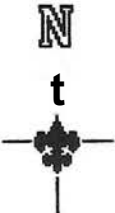

As mentioned earlier, information in the GOAT Book has been contributed by experienced Scouters so other troops can have better camping experiences. We would like to recognize Scouters who have contributed their time and efforts by listing their names.

**Thanks for Sharing -**

**Terry Allen, Jim Blair, Arvey Baie, Father Thomas Clement, Jeff Deaner, Rick Dobbs, Bob Downing, Bill and Pat Deuian, William Eck, Mike Foley, George Goldring, Bill Hysom, Eldon Jones, Dick Keyes, George Keyes, Ray Nelson, Tim Nelson, Malcolm Parks, Al Pekarek, Richard Price, Bill McCracken, Mick Robertson, Gary Roth, Bryce Salaby, Arnie Schultz, Larrie Thomase, John Troka Sr., Wendell Wallace, Ed Wilson, Steve Witcher, Eric Yackel, Michael Yackel, Robert Yackel, Steven Yackel**



# MAP LEGEND

	Interstate Highway		Pass
	U.S. Highway		Community
	State Highway		Community Site/Ghost Town
	County Road		Major Mt. Peak
CO67	Colorado State Highway 67		Parking Location for Trailhead
CR92	County Road 92		Mine Shaft
FSR123	Forest Service Road No.		Gravel Pit or Mine
FS87	Forest Service Trail No.		Large Building Ski Hut or Lodge
4WD->	Start 4 Wheel Drive		Ranger Station or Cabin
CG	Campground		Good Campsite (no facilities)
PG	Picnic Ground - No Overnight Camping		Established Campsite (with facilities)
CT	Colorado Trail		Established Picnic Site
	Paved Highway		Ski Area
	Graded or 4 WD Road		Bridge
	Barrier Across Road		Trail Mileage between designated points
	Established Trail		Airport
	Unimproved Trail		Compass Directions
	Underpass		



Guide to Outdoor Activities for Troops

# GOAT BOOK



Denver Area Council  
Boy Scouts of America

# 1 BAILEY / BUFFALO CREEK AREA

The Bailey / Buffalo Creek area can provide a troop a number of campsites and areas to conduct programs. Troops have contributed the following locations based on past campouts.

## 1-1 KELSEY CAMPGROUND - CAR CAMP

Summer Facilities: 17 campsites, tables, rest rooms and water  
Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west from Denver to Pine Junction. Turn south on CO126, pass through the communities of Pine and Buffalo Creek. About 7 miles south of Buffalo Creek, Kelsey Campground will be on the west side of CO126. This is a National Forest Campground.

## 1-2 TOP OF THE WORLD CAMPGROUND - CAR CAMP

Summer Facilities: 7 campsites, tables, rest rooms, no water  
Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west from Denver to Pine Junction. Turn south on CO126, pass through the communities of Pine and Buffalo Creek. About 2 miles south of Buffalo Creek turn east on FSR538 and continue for another 1.5 miles to the Top Of The World Campground. Good View!

Note: When there is snow on the ground this campground is difficult to get to.

## 1-3 BUFFALO CREEK AREA - CAR CAMP

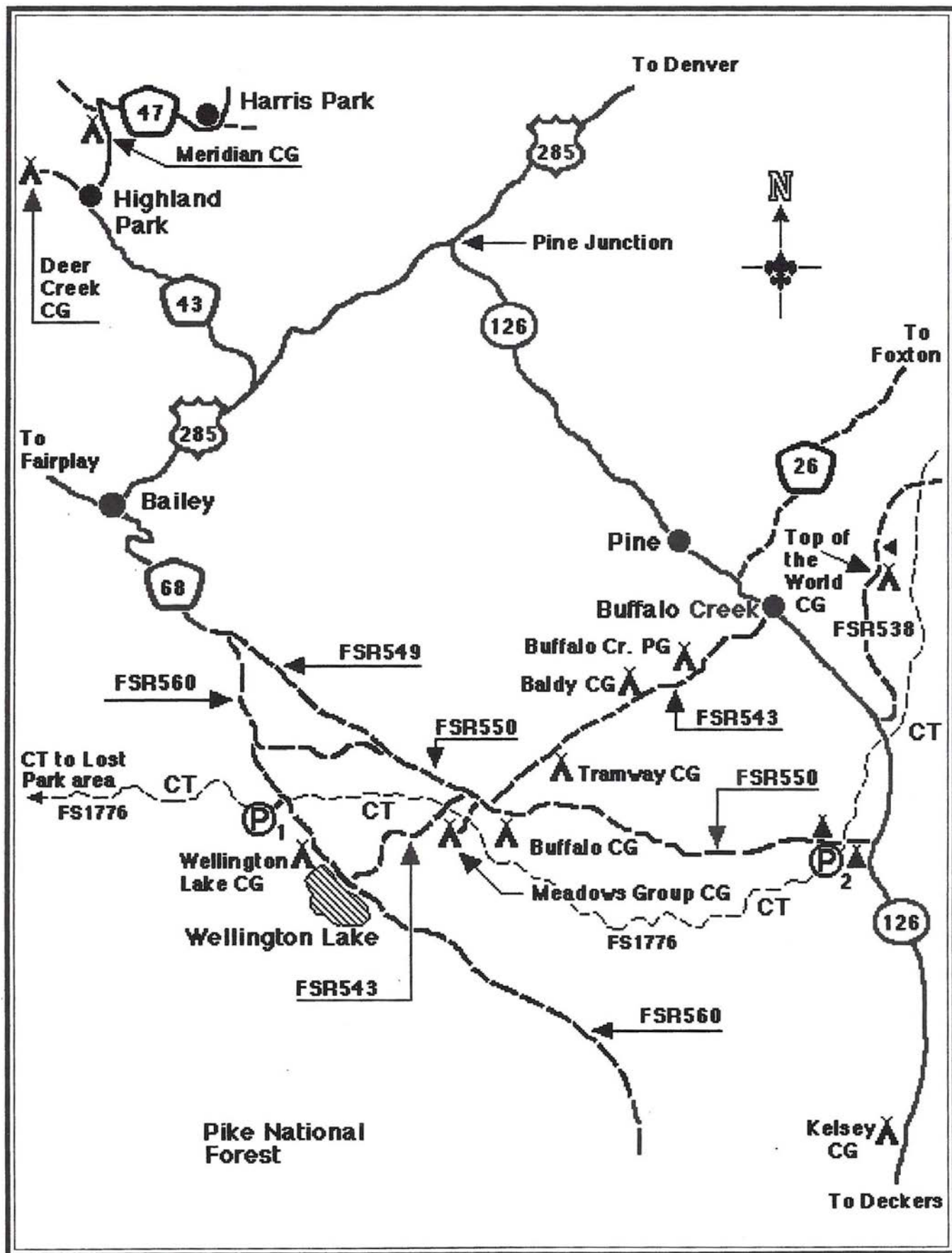
Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west from Denver to Pine Junction, turn south on CO126. Pass through the community of Pine (about 7 miles). Continue 3 more miles to the community of Buffalo Creek. Just as you enter the town, turn west on FSR543.

There are several campgrounds along this road:

- **Baldy CG** which is located on the north side of the road along Buffalo Creek. Summer Facilities: 8 campsites, tables, rest rooms and water.

# BAILEY / BUFFALO CREEK AREA



- **Tramway CG** usually open all year. During the winter months there is a good tubing hill located just southeast of the campsites. Summer Facilities: 6 campsites, tables, rest rooms but no water.
- **Buffalo CG** is located where FSR543 intersects with FSR550. This campground is open from the spring to fall, but closed during the winter months. Summer Facilities: 41 campsites, tables, rest rooms and water.
- **Meadows Group CG** (A group campsite) can be reserved in advance for family type campouts or courts of honor; it is located on it's own spur road just west of Buffalo CG. Summer Facilities: 300 campsites, tables, rest rooms and water. To make reservations for summer call (800) 280-CAMP (as of 12/94).

There are several picnic grounds that have graduated to campgrounds over the years. Check the 1992 edition of the Pike National Forest map; it is more accurate then the 1970 edition. Also, the Colorado Trail is illustrated on the newer 1992 edition. A good activity is to hike a segment of this trail during your campout.

#### 1-4 COLORADO TRAIL - CAR CAMP/HIKE

Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
 Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

Between the community of Buffalo Creek and Kelsey Campground FSR550 goes off to the west. There are several undeveloped campsites located along the first two miles from CO126. No facilities or water are available, but a Scout troop is usually the only group in the area.

The Colorado Trail crosses FSR550 about .3 mile from CO126, parking can be found next to the trail, see map notation (P)2. Here are several hiking distances for a troop to try; exit locations are provided where shuttle vehicles can be parked for the return to your campsite.

#### Colorado Trail Mileage

Start	Exit A	Exit B	Exit C
FSR550-----	To Buffalo CG-----	To Meadow Gp. CG-----	To (P)1 on FSR560
0.0 miles	6.0 miles	7.2 miles	11.5 miles

#### 1-5 WELLINGTON LAKE RESERVOIR - CAR CAMP/SUMMER CAMP

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
 Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west from Denver to Bailey, turn southeast on FSR560 and follow it for 10 miles. Stay on FSR560 and always to your right at each intersection. Wellington Lake will appear on the south side of the road.

Both weekend camping and a troop summer camp can be handled at Wellington Lake. This is owned by a private reservoir company that allows Scouts and other youth groups to camp on their property. Caretakers live on the property except during the months of November through January. Camping is permitted only when the snow allows access since the area is not plowed.

The youth area is separate from the rest of the lakeshore. Picnic tables and outdoor toilets are provided. Reservations are accepted for summer camps starting about February of the year needed.

Call or write for a reservation and cost information at (303) 838-5496.

Write to: Castle Mountain Recreation/Wellington Lake  
21843 Stoney Pass Road  
PO Box 423  
Bailey, Colorado 80421

There is a fee per person per 24 hour period, there is an additional daily fee for a boat or raft used on the lake.

#### **1-6 MERIDIAN CAMPGROUND - CAR CAMP**

Summer Facilities: 18 campsites, tables, rest rooms and water  
Drive Time: 1.25 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west from Denver to 2.5 miles east of Bailey. Just before the descent down Crow Hill turn north, right, onto CR43. Drive 7 miles to the community of Highland Park. Turn right onto CR47. In about one mile you have arrived at Meridian Campground.

#### **1-7 DEER CREEK CAMPGROUND - CAR CAMP/HIKES**

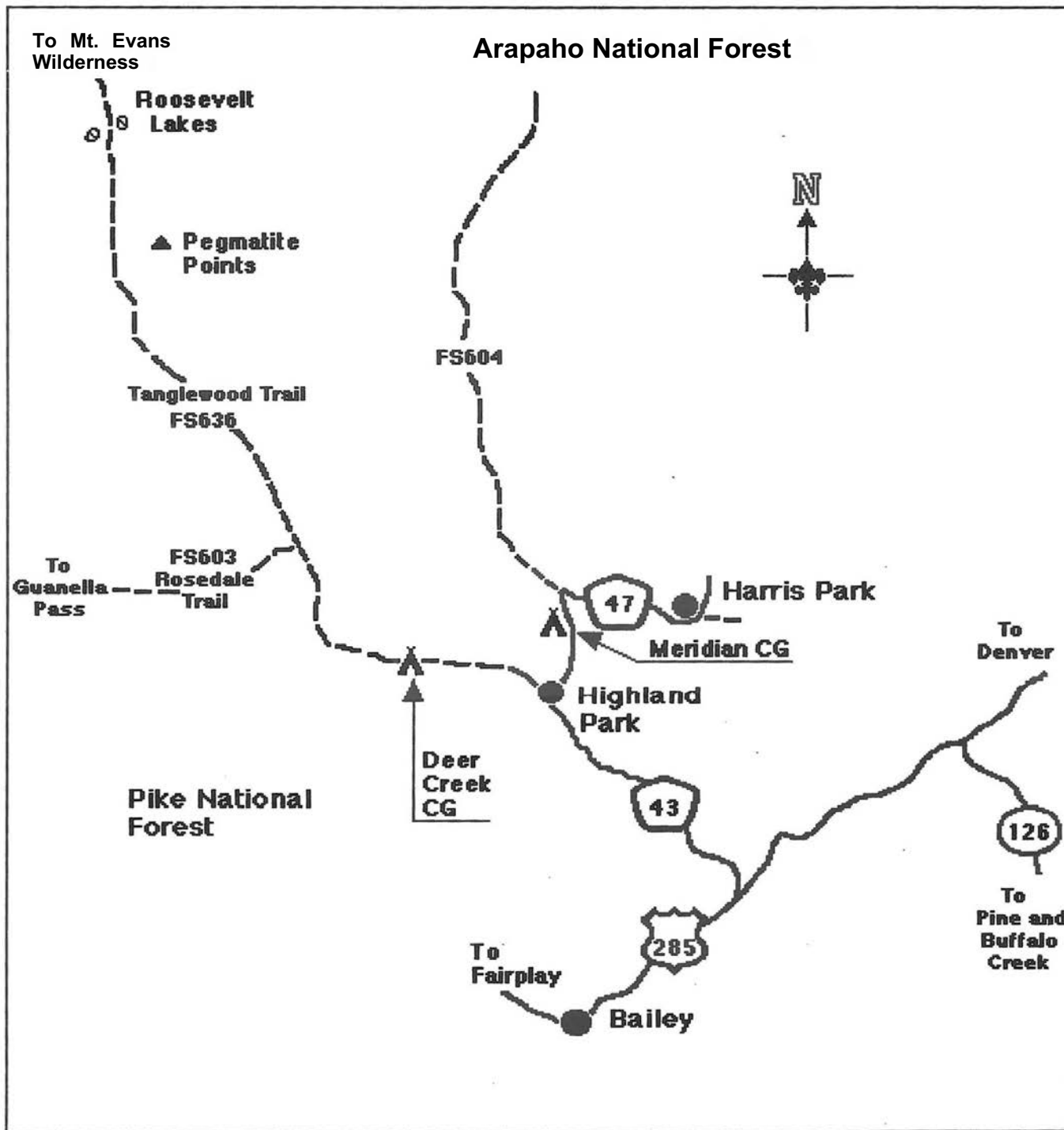
Summer Facilities: 13 campsites, tables, rest rooms and water  
Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west from Denver to 2.5 miles east of Bailey. Just before the descent down Crow Hill turn north, right, on CR43. Drive 7 miles to the community of Highland Park. Continue straight on CR43 for another 1.5 miles; Deer Creek CG will be on your left.

If your troop likes to hike this campsite can provide access to two well-known trails. The trailhead for both of these trails starts .5 mile east of Deer Creek Campground.

The **Rosedale Trail** branches to the left from the trailhead and goes all the way to the top of Guanella Pass. You may want to do a lower portion of this trail or do its entire length starting from the top of Guanella Pass. (One-way 12 miles and 3560' elevation change)

## ROSEDALE / TANGLEWOOD TRAILS



The **Tanglewood Trail** branches to the right. This trail takes you up and over the Pegmatite Points, through the eastern portion of the Mt. Evans Wilderness Area. At five miles you are on the north side of Pegmatite Points and at Roosevelt Lakes. You can continue on into the Mt. Evans drainage area and the Mt. Evans State Wildernes and Wildlife Area. Beartrack Lakes is another 1.5 miles and there are a number of trails that continue north and east. (See the "Mt. Evans Area" in this text, for more information on camping and hiking in that area.)



# 2 MT. EVANS / BEAR CREEK AREA

## BEAR CREEK BASIN

This area is located in a large valley between Evergreen and Mt. Evans and is known to the locals as the Bear Creek Basin. The basin has many trail alternatives which would be good for everything from day hikes to several days of backpacking. Trails are open from June to September. The rest of this area is closed for normal elk management activities by the State Division of Wildlife.

### 2-1 BEARTRACK LAKES - BACKPACK

Drive Time: 1.5 Hours

Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

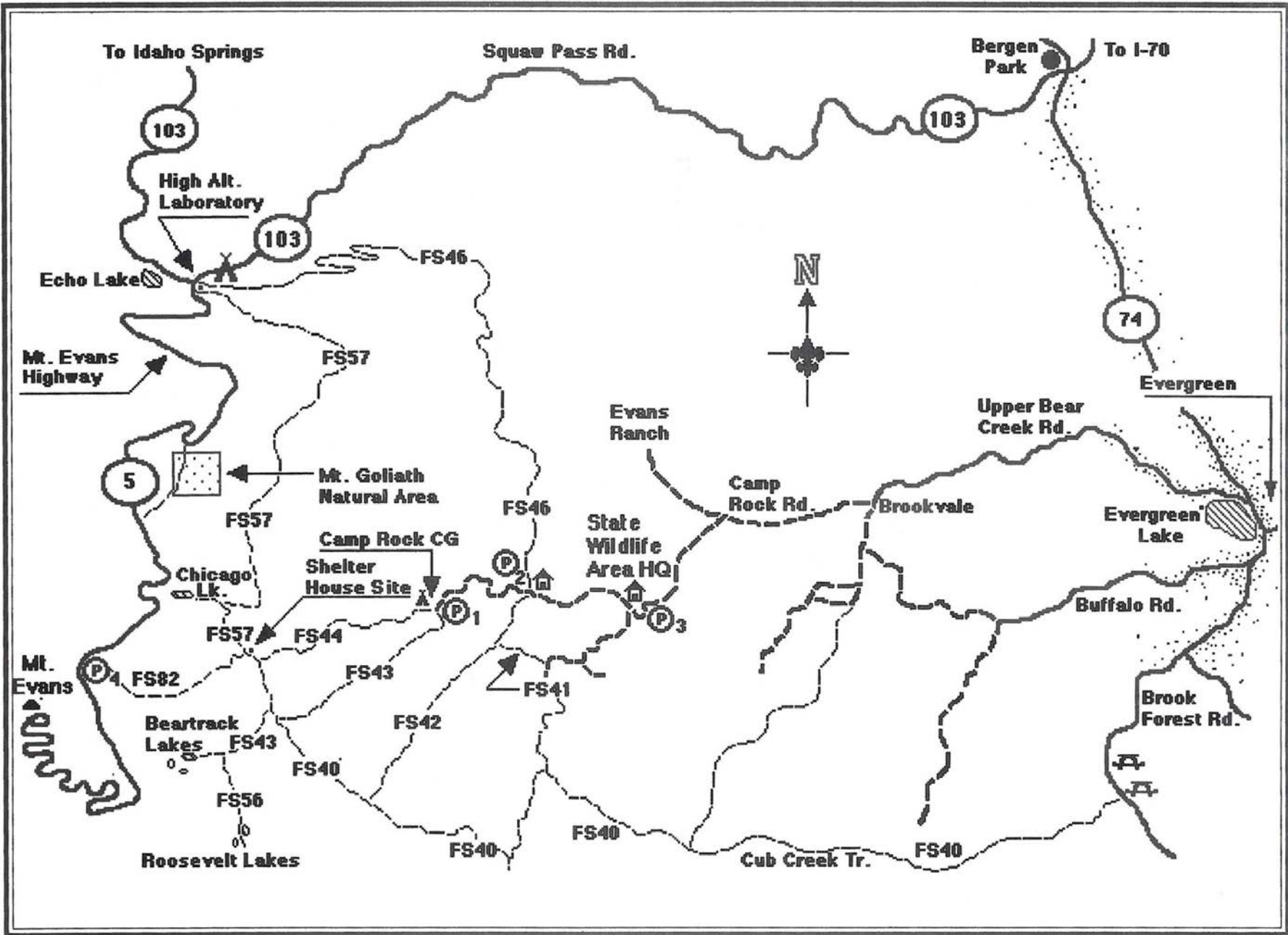
**How to get there:** Drive to Evergreen via your choice of routes. Just north of the Evergreen Dam, turn west to the Mountain Parks Golf Course. This is the Upper Bear Creek Road that will take you to the Mt. Evans Game Management Area and Wilderness Area. Drive 6 miles on paved road to Brookvale, at that point take the Camp Rock Road to the right. In two miles you'll pass the Evans Ranch Road on your right. Stay to your left, drive another 6 miles past the Bear Creek Guard Station and through the State Wildlife Area to the Camp Rock Campgrounds. This is where you leave your vehicles, identified on the map as parking area (P)1.

Here is a really neat area that is close to the Denver Area, but you are in the wilderness. Beartrack Lakes are located near timberline at 11,200 feet on the north side of Epaulet Mountain and Rosalie Peak. There are trees around the perimeter of the lakes. A good side trip activity is to hike up to Roosevelt Lakes, some steep switchbacks will be encountered on the trail to Roosevelt Lakes.

**The trail:** Beartrack Lakes are 5.9 miles (one-way) from Camp Rock Campground. From the parking area there will be two trails. The Beaver Meadows Trail (FS44) goes to the west on an old road and the second trail is the Beartrack Lakes Trail (FS43). The Beartrack Trail is .5 mile shorter and is the recommended route to the Lakes. Beartrack Lakes Trail (FS43) is to the east from the parking area and is also an old road for a short distance. This trail works its way gradually uphill. About one third of the distance up this trail you will cross a burned out area called the Shelter House Burn which occurred in 1962. This burn is a good example for Scouts to see the results from a forest fire. The burned area will be about 1.5 miles duration. Raspberries can be found along the edge of the burned area in the later months of summer. At 4.5 miles Beartrack Lakes Trail intersects with the Cub Creek Trail (FS40). Turn northwest for .2 mile, then turn west for 1.5 miles on the final leg to Beartrack Lakes.



MT. EVANS / BEAR CREEK AREA



Note: It should be mentioned that the Roosevelt Lakes Trail (FS56) intersects with the Beartrack Lakes Trail about .2 mile before arrival at Beartrack Lakes. The Roosevelt Lakes Trail goes south to these lakes and beyond; over the Pegmatite Points and down the Tanglewood Trail (FS636) to the Rosedale Trail (FS603) and Deer Creek Campground in the Bailey Area. (Reference the Deer Creek Campground described under "Bailey / Buffalo Creek Area" for additional information south of the Bear Creek Basin.)

On your return trip to your vehicle you can return on the same trail or you can take the Cub Creek Trail (FS40) north for 1.5 miles to the trail intersection with Beaver Meadows Trail (FS44). Turn right (northeast) and follow the Beaver Meadows Trail (FS44) back to Camp Rock CG.

## **2-2 LOOP TRAILS - HIKES/BACKPACK**

Drive Time: 1.5 Hours

Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

In the Bear Creek Basin east of Mt. Evans there are a number of loop trails that a troop can take either for a day hike or backpacking trips of one or more days. Major portions of these trails have been incorporated into the Mt. Evans Wilderness Area. Most of these loops start within the boundaries of the State's Wildlife Management Area and interconnect with other trails using the Cub Creek Trail (FS40).

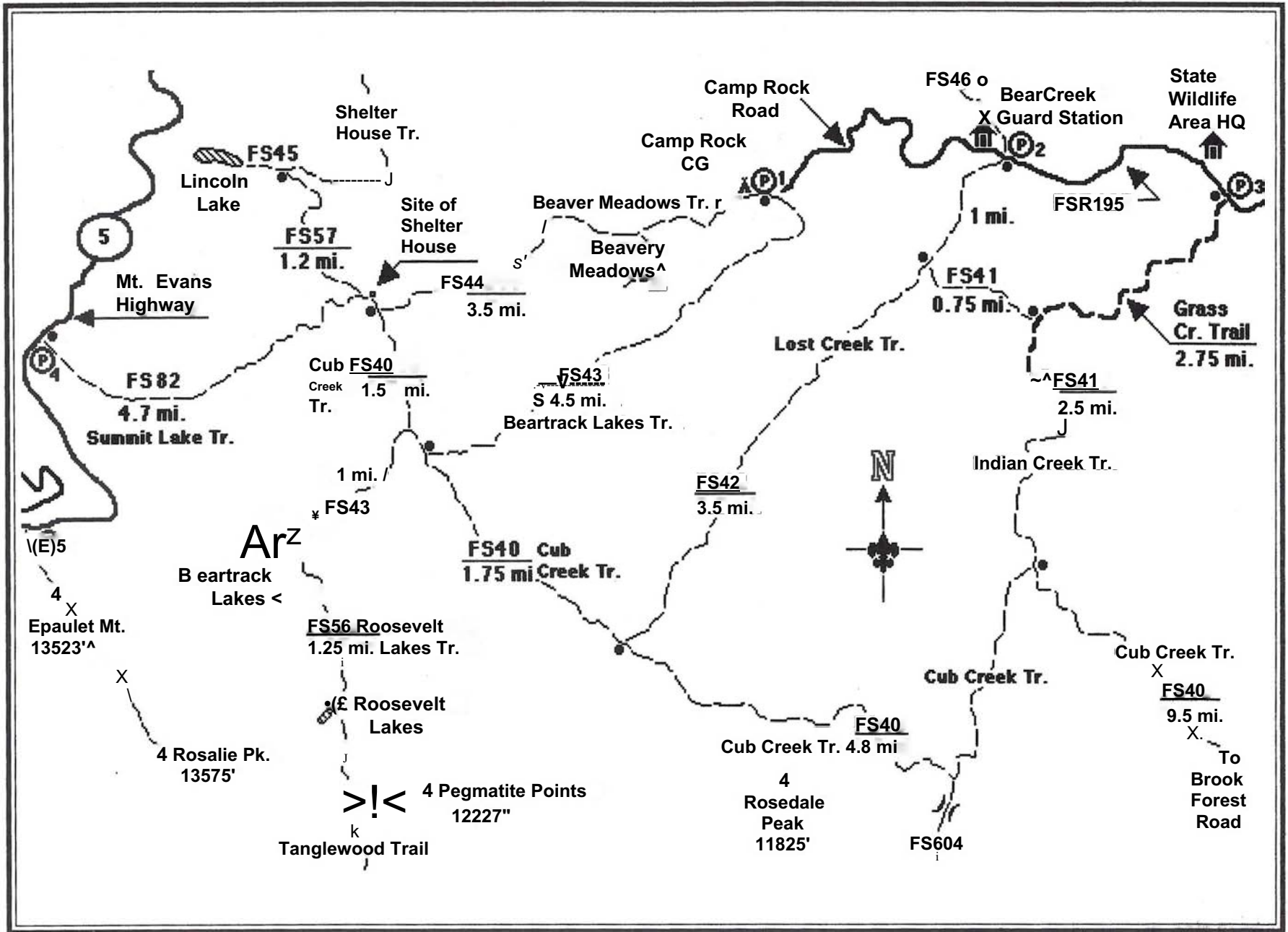
There are three starting locations for accessing these trails:

- Camp Rock Campground (P)1
- Bear Creek Guard Station (P)2
- Elk Management Headquarters (P)3.

1. **Camp Rock Campground (P)1** provides access to the Beaver Meadows Trail (FS44) and Beartrack Lakes (FS43). Starting at Camp Rock Campground take the trail from the trailhead parking lot crossing Bear Creek. Turn right (west) onto Beaver Meadows Trail (FS44). After about 1.5 miles you will find Beaver Meadows, to the south side of the trail. Hike around the meadows to find some interesting beaver ponds, campsites and a nice place to eat lunch. It is 2 additional miles to the intersection with Cub Creek Trail (FS40). The site of Shelter House (burned in 1962) is to the right. The loop to Beartrack Lakes Trail is to the left (south) and an additional 1.5 miles. Beartrack Lakes Trail (FS43) turns left (southwest) from Cub Creek Trail. As you return on Beartrack Lakes Trail you will come across the Shelter House Burn area in about 1.5 mile. (Total loop mileage 9.5 miles)

2. **Bear Creek Guard Station (P)2** provides access to the Lost Creek (FS42) and Indian Creek Trails (FS41). The Lost Creek Trail runs adjacent to Lost Creek for 4.5 miles. This trail is more lush and green than other trails in the area and passes by the largest spruce tree in the area. Follow this trail from the Bear Creek Guard

**MT. EVANS / BEAR CREEK LOOP TRAILS**



2-4

Station at 8,640' and hike to Cub Creek Trail (FS40) at 10,800'. At Cub Creek Trail turn left and hike the Cub Creek Trail for 4.8 miles until it intersects with the Indian Creek Trail (FS41). At this point take Indian Creek Trail north for another 2.5 miles where it intersects with Grass Creek Trail. Turn left and continue on Indian Creek Trail (northwest) for another 1 mile, until it intersects with Lost Creek Trail where you started your loop hike. Turn right (north) for your last mile and you will exit at your original trailhead and your vehicle. (Total loop mileage 13.8 miles)

**3. Wildlife Management Headquarters (P)3** provides access to Grass Creek Trail, Indian Creek Trail (FS41) and Cub Creek Trail (FS40). Grass Creek Trail (no trail number) is an old road now closed to vehicular traffic. This trail provides access to the Indian Creek Area. It is 2.75 miles to the Indian Creek Trail. You will pass several old homesteads as you hike up the road. At 2 miles the valley opens into a large grass meadow. Where the road splits at Grass Creek, take the road to the right passing the remains of another homestead. Continue past the end of the meadow and keep to the left at any other intersections; it is about .75 mile past the creek intersection until you reach the Indian Creek Trail. Grass Creek Trail ends here and Indian Creek Trail goes either left or right. At this point you have several options. You can return on Grass Creek Trail to your vehicle or you can do the loop described above (No. 2) in the Bear Creek Guard Station section. (Total loop mileage is 15.5 miles, if you do the Lost Creek, Cub Creek and Indian Creek Trails)

**2-3 CUB CREEK TRAIL - BACKPACK**

Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
 Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

Cub Creek Trail (FS40) is a 17.5 mile trail that goes from the remains of Shelter House Site in the middle of Bear Creek Basin to the trailhead at Brook Forest Road. It is the trail that connects the various loop trails described above. The elevation gain or loss depending on which way you hike is 2000 feet between Shelter House and Brook Forest Road. If this trail interest you, I suggested that you start from Summit Lake on the Mt. Evans Road (see (P)4 noted on map) and hike down the Summit Lake Trail (FS82) to the Shelter House Site where Cub Creek Trail starts. Summit Lake Trail will add an additional 4.7 miles and 1600 foot descent, but its downhill. (Total mileage 22.2 miles)

**TRAIL NUMBERS AND NAMES**

<u>FS Trail No.</u>	<u>Trail Name</u>	<u>FS Trail No.</u>	<u>Trail Name</u>
40	Cub Creek Trail	46	Captain Mountain Trail
41	Indian Creek Trail	56	Roosevelt Lakes Trail
42	Lost Creek Trail	57	Shelter House Trail
43	Beartrack Lakes Trail	82	Summit Lake Trail
44	Beaver Meadows Trail		



# 3 GUANELLA PASS AREA

Guanella Pass can provide Scouts a number of interesting activities including day hikes, backpacking trips, a fourteener trek and a campsite where your troop can do it's own summer camp.

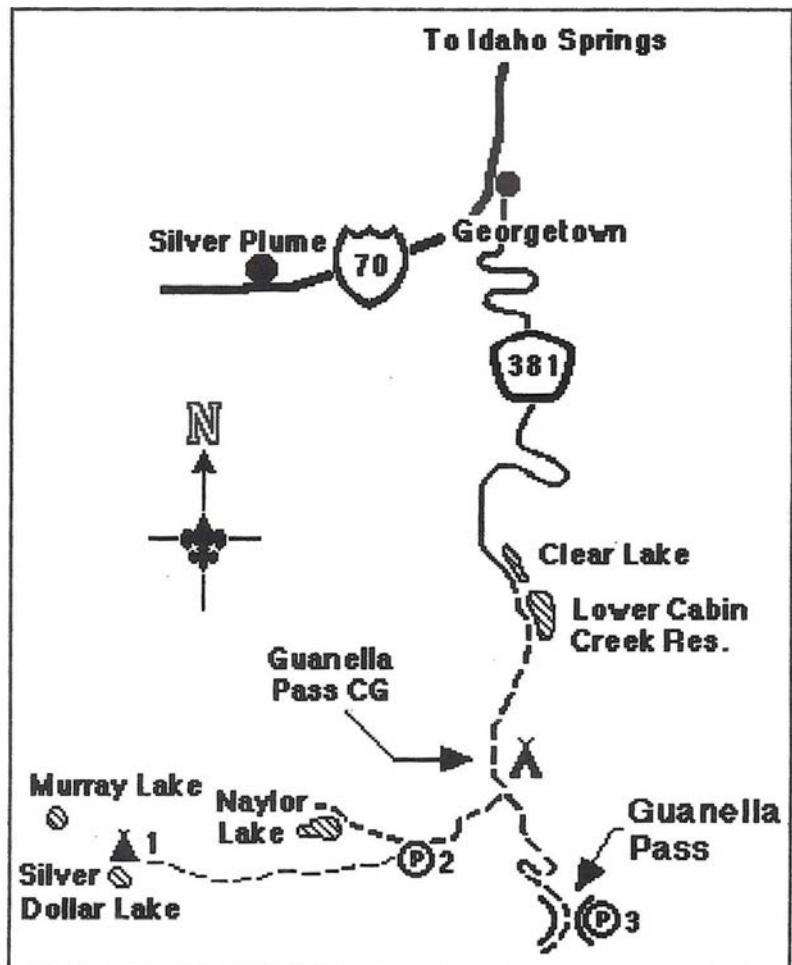
## 3-1 SILVER DOLLAR LAKE - HIKE/BACKPACK

Drive Time: 1.75 Hours

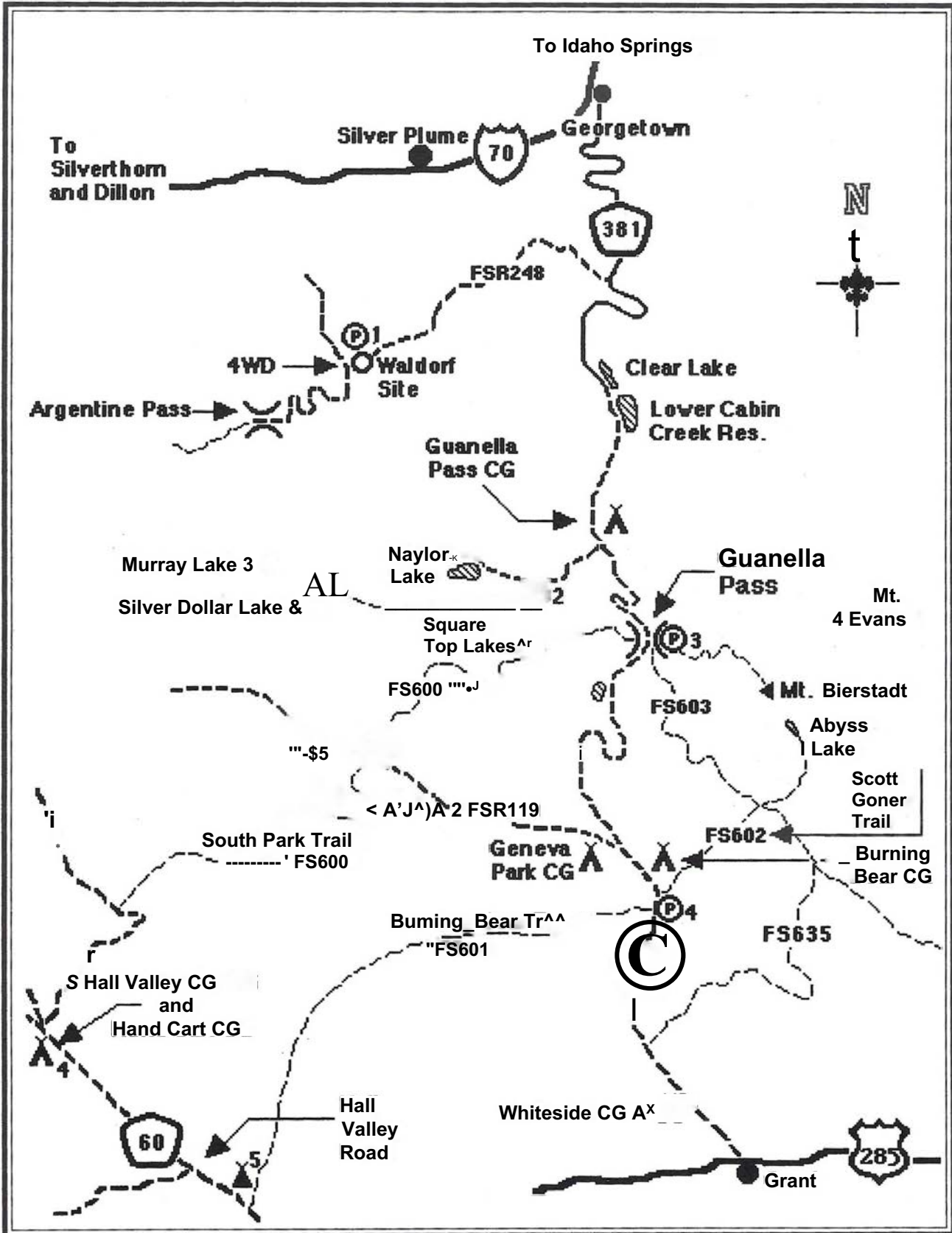
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition.

Silver Dollar Lake can be used for either a pleasant day hike or an overnight backpack. The hike to Silver Dollar Lake begins below timberline, but by the time you reach Silver Dollar Lake there are no trees. This lake is located up a glacial valley with two saddles located to the west and the north. The terrain at Silver Dollar Lake is flat with a reasonable amount of grass and tundra and is considered a good place to camp. Bring your camera, there are many panoramic views.

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west to the Georgetown exit. Drive through town and find the signs that direct you to the Guanella Pass Road (CR381). You can see a segment of this road if you look to the south of Georgetown. This county road is paved for 4 - 5 miles, just south of the Lower Cabin Creek Reservoir. The road that continues is gravel and is well graded up and over to the other side of Guanella Pass. The turn off to Naylor and Silver Dollar Lakes is on the right side (west) of CR381, about 3.5 miles south of the Lower Cabin Creek Reservoir. There is a sign at the turn-off road that says Naylor and Silver Dollar Lakes. If you have a low-set car there are places to park at the entrance to the secondary road. A truck or 4-wheel drive vehicle would have no trouble taking the secondary



# GUANELLA PASS AREA



road for about a mile west. There is a reasonable amount of parking on the south side of the road just before Naylor Lake, noted on the map as (P)2.

**The trail:** Naylor Lake is private property. The hiking trail to Silver Dollar Lake starts south of the parking area and heads west, up the south side of the valley. During June and early July there are large snowdrifts covering parts of the trail. You may sink-in up to your knees hiking this stretch. The trail climbs gradually with the view always getting better. Silver Dollar Lake is about 1.5 miles from the Naylor Lake parking area. If you hike to Silver Dollar Lake be sure to do the additional hike further west to Murray Lake and up to the saddle for a spectacular view.

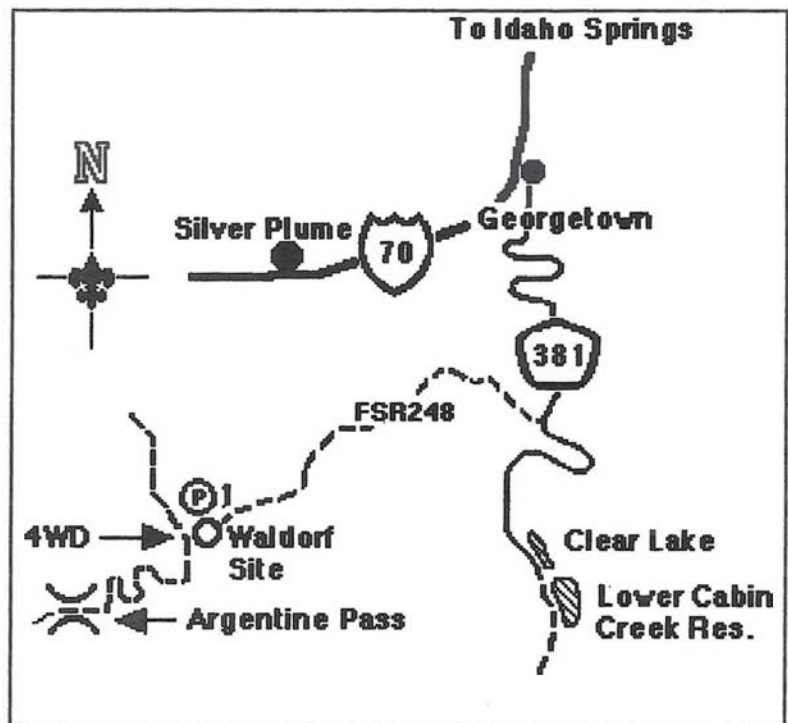
Notes: Tents must be self standing if backpacking in for an overnight stay. Water is available from snow run-off near Silver Dollar Lake most of the year. Be sure to treat your water.

### 3-2 ARGENTINE PASS - HIKE

Drive Time: 1.5 Hours

Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

**How to get there:** Argentine Pass makes a good day hike and is only a short drive from the Denver Metropolitan area. Enter from the Georgetown side up the Guanella Pass Road. About three miles from town there is a road that goes right (west). It is noted on the Forest Service maps as FSR248. This road used to be a railroad bed that brought Denver tourist up to Waldorf to see the ice caves. Follow FSR248 for about 4.5 miles. This narrow road has a gradual incline and eventually opens into a wide valley floor. At the Waldorf site the road forks to the left and right. Both roads are considered 4 WD from this point. Park your car at the Waldorf site, noted on the map as (P)1.



**The trail:** The Argentine Pass Road travels in a southwest direction from the parking location. The road to the right goes north and is where the tourist in the late 1800's traveled on the last leg to the ice caves. (Note: The ice caves are no longer in existence due to warmer temperatures.) The views from Argentine Pass and the connecting ridges



are spectacular, a good place to have lunch. You can see down the Peru Valley and miles beyond to where the Keystone Ski Area is located. To your right are two 14'ers called Grays and Torreys, they are described in the Central Colorado section of this book.

Note: It is not advisable to hike down the west side of Argentine Pass. There is lots of slide rock.

### 3-3 MT. BIERSTADT - FOURTEENER

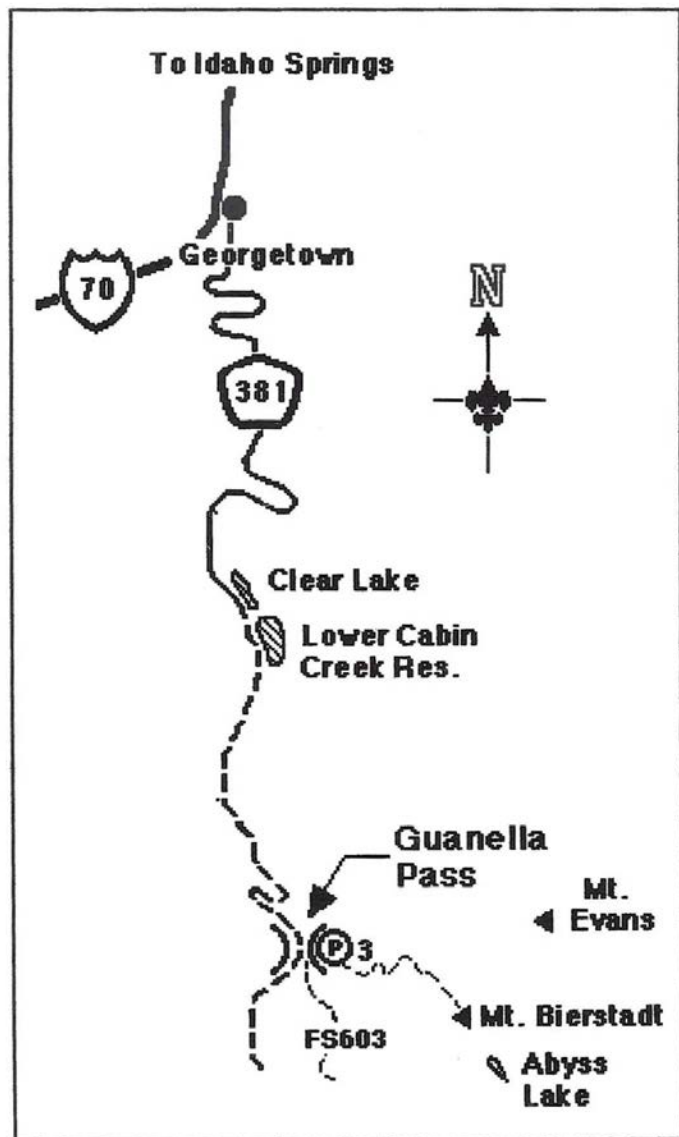
Drive Time: 1.75 Hours via I-70  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

Mt. Bierstadt is just west of Mt. Evans and access is recommended from the Guanella Pass side. Mt. Bierstadt has an elevation of 14,060 feet.

**How to get there:** Guanella Pass Road can be accessed from either Georgetown on I-70 or from Grant on US 285. Drive to the top of Guanella Pass and park your vehicle on the east side, noted on the map as (P)3. Mt. Bierstadt is located southeast from where you park and has a rounded summit along with a jagged sawtoothed ridge to its north. You will know when you have reached the summit in that you will find Colorado Mt. Club sign-in sheets located in a sealed PVC tube. Have each individual in your group sign it.

**The trail:** To access the mountain there are obstacles to avoid, marshland and the famous Guanella Pass willows. There are several trails through the willows. Try to stay to the north side as you make your way up, its drier and there is a better trail through this side of the willows. After you make your way through the willows the two miles to the summit is up grassy ridges and small boulder fields. This climb is easily accomplished without equipment.

Notes: No water is available on Mt. Bierstadt. Take your windbreaker, extra water and food for energy. Best access is in the months from July to September.



### 3-4 GUANELLA PASS / SCOTT GOMER TRAIL - BACKPACK

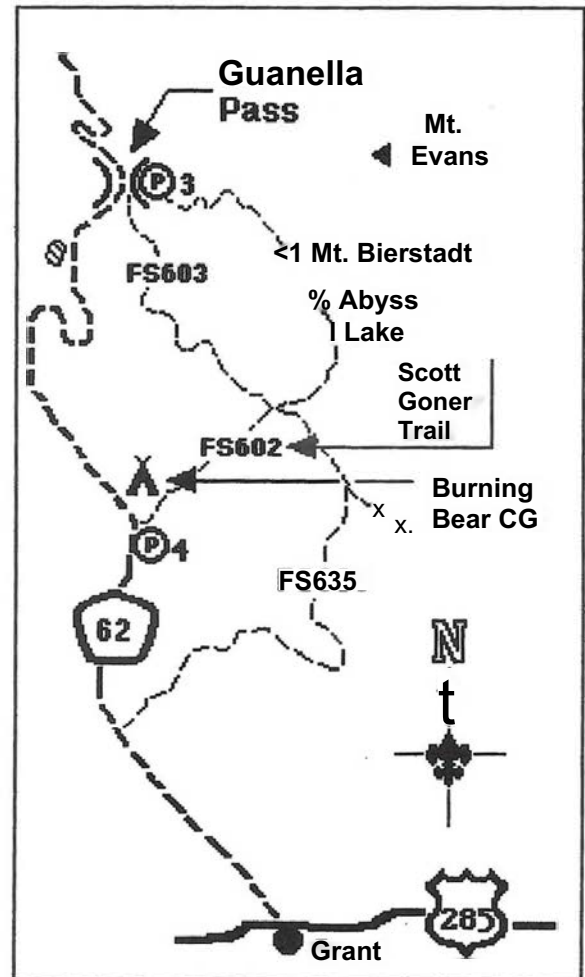
Drive Time: 1.75 Hours via US 285  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

The Scott Gomer Trailhead (also known as Abyss Trail) is located on the south side of the Guanella Pass Road. There are a couple of alternatives for this hike described in the following narrative. Try this one in July or August after the snow melts.

**How to get there:** Take US 285 out of the Denver Metropolitan area and drive to Grant. Turn north on the Guanella Pass Road (CR62) at Grant. Scott Gomer Trailhead is about five miles from Grant. You will pass Whiteside CG (west side) and the second campground is Burning Bear CG (east side). Scott Gomer Trailhead is on the south side of Burning Bear CG. Park at the trailhead, noted on the map as (P)4.

**The trail:** Scott Gomer Trail is designated as FS602 and goes east up a gradual grade. In about 4 miles you will intersect with the Rosedale trail designated as FS603. A nice side trip, if you stay for a day or two is to hike up to Abyss Lake. Abyss Lake is a high mountain lake located between Mt. Bierstadt and Mt. Evans. The lake and the trail leading to it are above timberline. The lake is surrounded with steep boulder walls except the south end where you enter. This is a 4 mile hike one-way east on FS602, starting from the intersection of FS602 and FS603. Return the same way from Abyss Lake.

A neat alternative is to drive to the top of Guanella Pass and start at this point. Park on the east side of the pass (P)3. This is a one-way hike or overnight backpack exiting at the Scott Gomer Trailhead (P)4. Follow FS603 southeast for 4.5 - 5 miles to the intersection of FS603 and FS602. This intersection provides backpackers a good water source and location to erect tents. To exit this area take the Scott Gomer Trail (FS602) west for 4 miles and you will exit on the Guanella Pass Road about 7 miles south of Guanella Pass. It would be wise to have parked a shuttle vehicle at the trailhead.

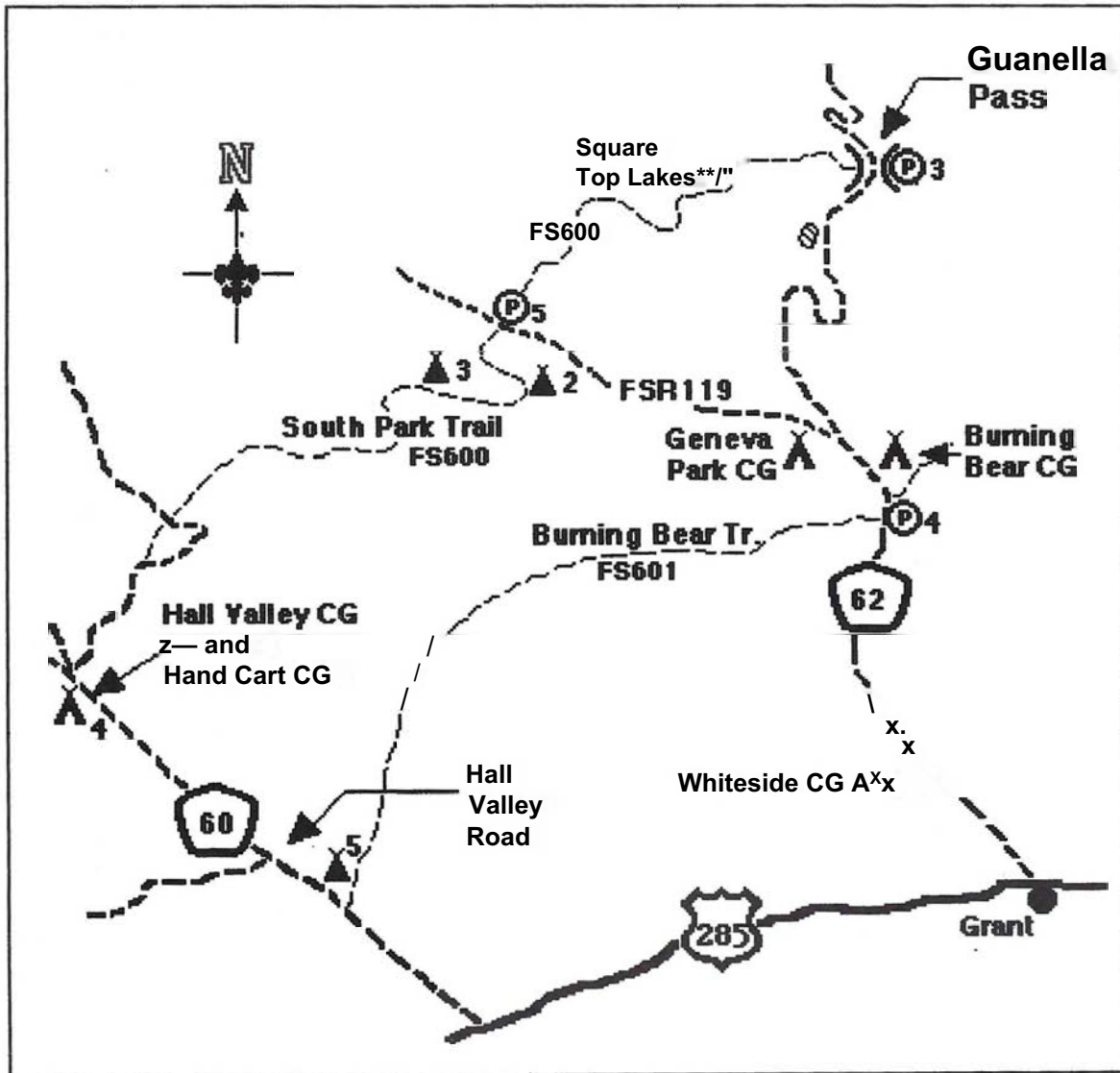


### 3-5 GUANELLA PASS / HALL VALLEY LOOP - BACKPACK

Drive Time: 1.75 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

The Guanella Pass / Hall Valley Loop is a three day backpack trip starting at the top of Guanella Pass, looping southwest, and exiting at the Scott Gomer Trailhead. This is good practice for a Philmont Trek. By starting on top of the pass it makes the trek a little easier. A shuttle car needs to be parked at the Scott Gomer Trailhead (P)4.

**How to get there:** Guanella Pass Road can be accessed from either Georgetown on I-70 or from Grant on US 285. Drive to the top of Guanella Pass and park your vehicle on the east side (P)3. You will cross to the west side of the pass looking for an old jeep road; this is the beginning of FS600 (South Park Trail). Follow the trail southwest crossing to the south side of Square Top Lakes. The road gradually turns into a trail and one or more



snowfields will be encountered, even in July. The trail becomes steeper and works its way downward. In about 3.5 miles you will reach the Geneva Creek Road FSR119. Cross the road, the continuation of the trail is on the other side. Continuing on FS600, it will quickly turn east and in about a mile you will pass a spur trail to campsite 2, noted on the map (excellent campsite). FS600 will loop around heading southwest and you will have a gradual hike up Kirby Gulch. In a mile, you will leave Kirby Gulch and continue to climb, crossing Buno Gulch Creek. You will eventually go over a hump (doesn't qualify for a pass.) Follow the 4WD road to the east and then downhill to the Hall Valley.

Follow the Hall Valley Road (CR60) to the left and travel southeast for 2.5 miles until you find the trailhead for FS601 (Burning Bear Trail). This trail (FS601) is basically uphill but flattens out for the last mile (4 miles in length). Get your drinking water in the first mile because the upper portion of this trail has no water available. The upper portion of this trail leads you across a large meadow to Burning Bear Campground and Scott Gomer Trailhead (P)4.

Campsite selection will depend on your groups endurance and how far you want to go in a day. Back country campsites are noted on the map with a solid tepee and a number.

**Campsite 2** After crossing FSR119 follow FS600 south, it will quickly turn east. Follow the trail for about a mile: there will be a side trail going off to the left of trail FS600, follow it to the campsite. If you get to Kirby Creek where the trail starts turning southwest you have missed the side trail to the campsite. As of 1994 there were green spray paint guide markings on rocks along the trail showing you the way. No facilities are available.

**Campsite 3** is about 1.5 miles south of Geneva Creek Road and no facilities are available. The best campsites lay on Kirby Gulch. This area is nice and grassy and the stream is small and extremely clear.

**Campsite 4** is located along the Hall Valley Road. There are two US Forest Service campgrounds located here within a mile of each other. The first is Hall Valley CG and the next is Hand Cart CG. There will be a fee if campsites are open. You must compete with the public for these campsites and pay a user fee.

**Campsite 5** is located about 300' up Trail FS601 (Burning Bear Trail) from the Hall Valley Road. There will be a stream on your left as you start up this trail and a grassy area between the trail and the stream where you can camp.

### 3-6 GENEVA CREEK - SUMMER CAMP CAMPSITE

Drive Time: 1.75 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

The Geneva Creek summer camp campsite is a camping facility where a troop or troops have had summer camps for at least the last 12 years (8/94). It is unknown which troops or

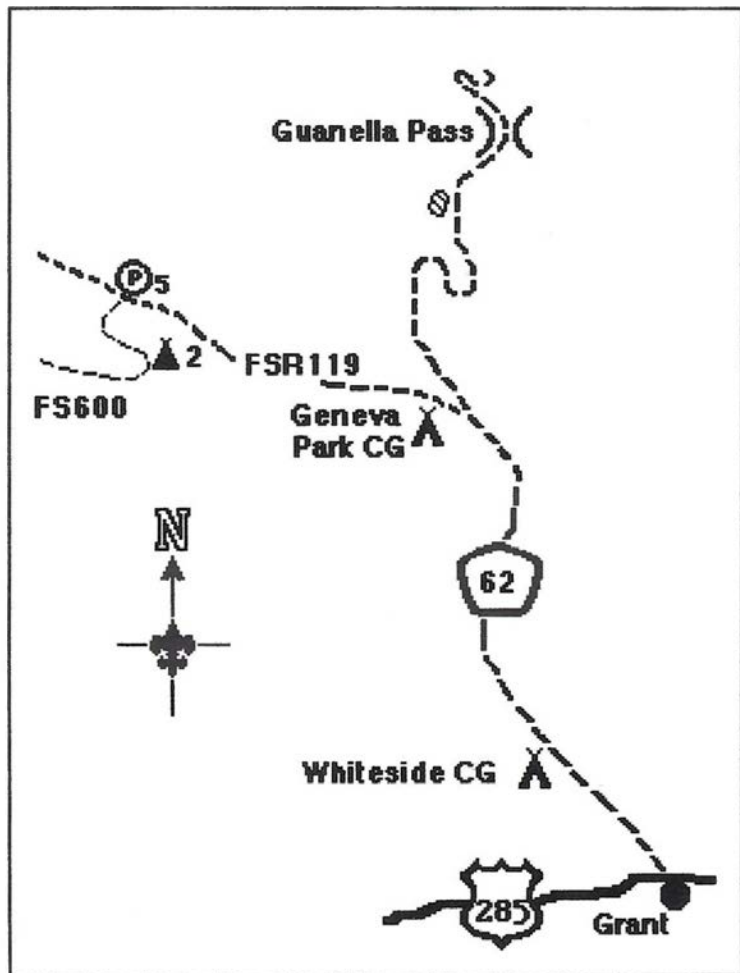
councils use and maintain these facilities, but it provides a wonderful, “back to basics”, summer camp area. There are central facilities for a council fire, with logs for sitting around the fire area. At the front is a raised platform, a flag pole, another pole with a buffalo skull and a totem pole. There is a BB gun range and a central bulletin board. It is kept and maintained very nicely. A number of patrol campsites are located in the area around the main summer camp campsite.

Note: If your troop visits this area make sure they treat it with respect.

To the east of this central area is Kirby Creek where another smaller campfire ring is located next to the creek. Many good backpacking campsites are located in this area. Kirby Creek has excellent drinking water, with treatment of course. It is unknown how to schedule use of this area, since the current troop or troops would have first priority. Contacting the local U.S. Forest Service may provide this information. This site also makes a nice short backpacking location in the spring or fall.

**How to get there:** Take US 285 out of the Denver Metropolitan area and drive to Grant. Turn north on the Guanella Pass Road (CR62) at Grant. Drive north to Geneva Creek Road (FSR119) which is about 7 miles from Grant. Turn left at the Geneva Park Campground and Duck Creek Picnic Area. Follow FSR119 for about 3 miles along Geneva Creek. Stop where FS600 trail crosses the road. Park here (P)5, the trail to the campsite is on the south side of the road.

**The trail:** Follow FS600 south, it will quickly turn east. Follow the trail for about a mile: there will be a side trail going off to the left of trail FS600, follow it to the group campsite (noted as No. 2). If you get to Kirby Creek where the trail starts turning southwest you have missed the summer camp campsite. As of 1994 there were green spray paint guide markings on rocks along the trail showing you the way.



# 4 KENOSHA PASS / SOUTH PARK AREA

## 4-1 SOUTH PARK - CAR CAMP

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

In the northeastern part of South Park there are excellent campsites where troops have had many successful outings.

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west through the communities of Conifer, Bailey, Shawnee, Grant and finally up to the top of Kenosha Pass. If you stop at the pass you'll be within a few hundred feet of the Colorado Trail. Continue west on US 285 down the hill for another 3.2 miles and turn south on Lost Park Road (CR56). Continue on this road for about 5 miles passing several roads that go to the right. You are looking for Rock Creek Road (CR39). Turn west off Lost Park Road onto CR39, after a couple of small switchbacks you find yourself quickly on top of a ridge.

Your goal is to find a good car camping location. The campsites on the map are noted as campsite 1, 2 or 3. These three campsites are highly recommended for Scout Troops. Sites 1 and 2 are on an open ridge and provide wonderful views of the Kenosha Mountains. To find these two sites drive about .5 mile on CR39 then at the top of the hill turn left (south) onto a lesser road; you will be driving in the middle of a large clearing that extends a good distance south along the ridge. Along this road there are at least a half dozen good car campsites on the east side of the road. Campsite 3 is down in a wooded valley about 3 miles west on CR39. The turnoff is more difficult to find and the road is a little rough.

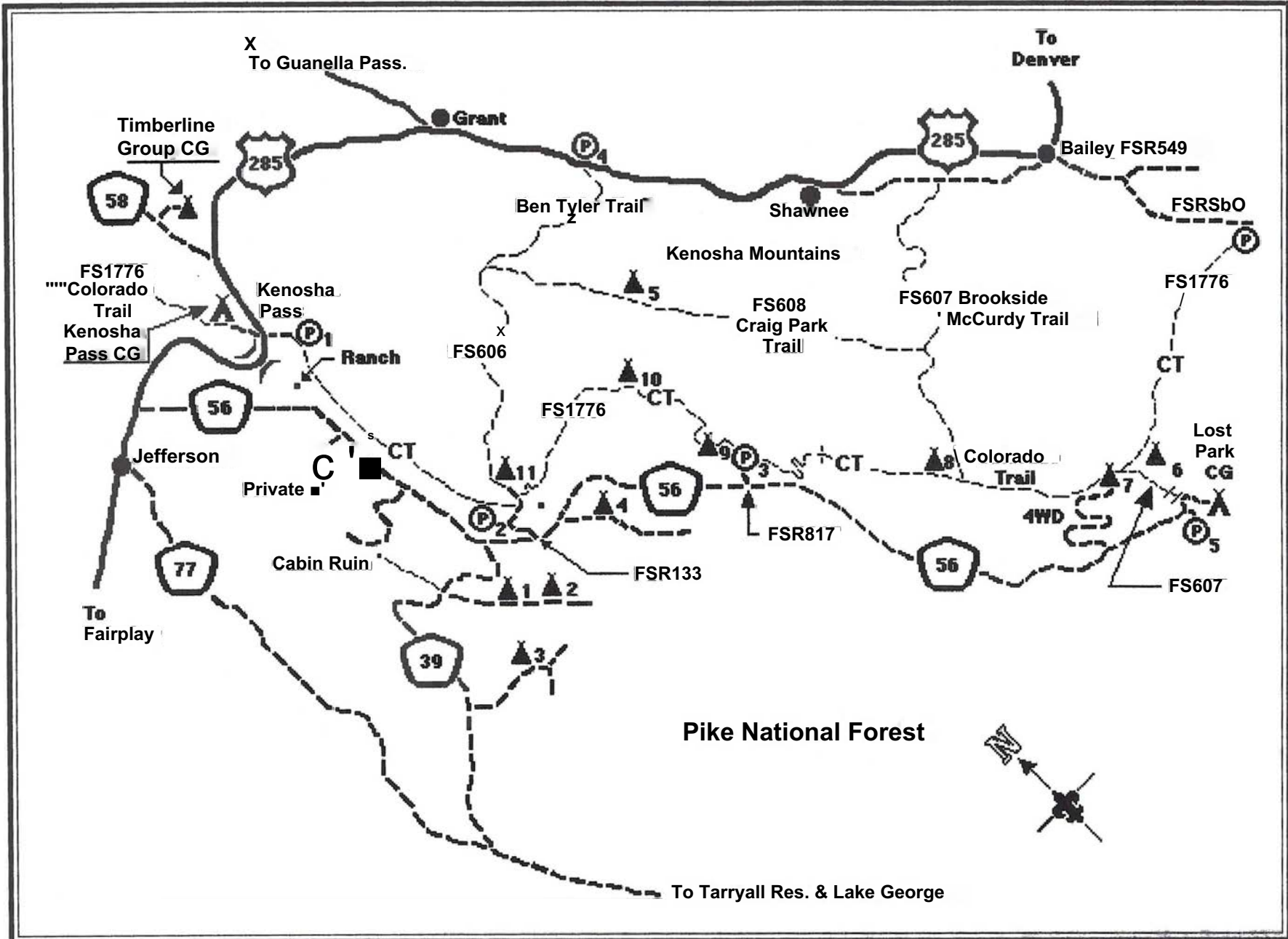
There are a number of other campsites still further south on CR56 and are noted as campsite 4. A number of campsites are in the area; look around and you will find a good one.

Notes: This area is good anytime there is no snow, the roads are not plowed during the winter months. There are no formal established campsites with tables or latrines. There is no water in the area, so bring what your troop needs for the camping duration. People seldom camp in these areas even in the summertime, so you can always find a car campsite. They don't know what they are missing. Most of the roads in this area are driveable with a car, just take your time.

## 4-2 BEN TYLER / ROCK CREEK TRAIL - BACKPACK

The Ben Tyler Trailhead is about 7 miles west of Bailey and can be accessed from either US 285 or from CR56 (Lost Park Road). The trail is considered moderate but requires considerable uphill effort in that you go over the top of the Kenosha Mountains.

**KENOSHA PASS/SOUTH PARK AREA**



4\*  
10

Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

A troop has two options; it can hike up one side and return to the original trailhead or go over the Kenosha Mountains and exit on the other side. The Ben Tyler Trail has the Forest Service designation of FS606. On the west side this trail is known as the Rock Creek Trail. If you plan an overnight backpacking trip there are campsites along the Craig Park Trail (FS608) where water is available; this is a detour if you are exiting on the Rock Creek Trail. The Craig Park Trail intersects the Ben Tyler Trail just before the top of Kenosha Mountain Pass. Turn south on the Craig Park Trail; it is another 1.2 miles down to the Craig Meadows for a good campsite and water. Total distance from Ben Tyler to Rock Creek Trailhead is 12 miles.

Note: It should be pointed out that Kenosha Mountain Pass is on the Ben Tyler Trail where it crosses over the Kenosha Mountains; Kenosha Pass is on US 285 just before it enters South Park from the east.

**How to get there: Access from US 285:** The trailhead on US 285 is about 7 miles west of Bailey; a sign designates the trail and parking is available along the south side of US 285, see map notation (P)4. The trail takes you high into the Kenosha Mountains. You will hike through a large meadow upward into mixed groves of evergreen and aspen trees. The trail is sheltered by trees and views are limited due to the thick forest. As you near the top the trail becomes much steeper. From the top and down the west side to Rock Creek the views are spectacular.

**Access from Lost Park Road:** To access from the South Park side take US 285 over Kenosha Pass and 3.2 miles further west. Turn left (south) at the Lost Park Road (CR56). Follow this dirt road 7.5 miles South to the Rock Creek Trailhead. The Rock Creek Road (FSR133) requires a vehicle with high clearance. Parking is available, see map notation (P)2.

#### **4-3 COLORADO TRAIL SOUTH OF KENOSHA PASS - BACKPACK**

Between Kenosha Pass and the Lost Park Campground is 23.6 miles of the Colorado Trail. This portion of the trail is one of the most level and newest portions of the Colorado Trail System. The Colorado Trail (CT) parallels the Lost Park Road and has four trailheads where a troop can enter or exit. A troop can use this segment of the CT for a four day backpacking trip. There are plenty of water sources and campsites along the trail. A shuttle vehicle needs to be located at your planned exit location.

Drive Time: 3 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** The description provided starts at Lost Park Campground and goes to Kenosha Pass. Take US 285 over Kenosha Pass and 3.2 miles further west. Turn left (south) at the Lost Park Road (CR56). Drive 19.1 miles south to Lost Park Campground and the end of CR56. A parking area for 12-15 cars is available for hikers and backpackers



as you enter the campground. Hike north past the rest room facilities, down the hill, across the loop gravel road to the bulletin board and fence gate.

Note 1: Any combination of trailheads can be used for the starting or stopping point. Of course staging the shuttle vehicles would be of help in supporting your exit home.

Note 2: Be sure to read the rules about group size and campsite locations as related to distances from lakes, streams and trails.

- **Lost Park to FSR817** - There are two gates to pass through that keep cattle out of the Lost Park Campground; be sure to put the gates the way you found them. Follow the Brookside McCurdy Trail (FS607) up a gradual incline. The valley widens gradually as you walk along the edge of the forest. At about 1.5 miles a circular "island" appears on your right that's about 400 feet in diameter and 50 feet higher than the surrounding area. There are nice sized trees on this elevated land mass plus a nice campsite noted on the map as campsite 6. A stream with good water is located on the east side of this "island". This site makes a nice destination for a short overnight backpack trip.

Continuing on the trail (FS607) you will pass the remains of an old sawmill. Look around, there are lots of parts and pieces; there are flat areas where buildings once stood, a wood slag pile and an old foundation. Just north of where FS607 and the Colorado Trail (FS1776) intersects there will be a nice camping area on the west side (noted on the map as campsite 7). Four wheel drive vehicles can drive to this campsite over the old lumbermill road. A few hundred feet from this campsite you will cross, on a huge beam of lumber used for a bridge, over Craig Creek. An information sign and wilderness sign-in sheets are located at the trail intersection of FS607/FS1776. The CT goes both to the left and the right and is known as the Hooper Road. If you go right you will head uphill over a small pass, then downhill to FSR560 and Wellington Lake (8 miles distance). If you go left you will head for Kenosha Pass. This is the route described in this narration. From the trail intersection the sign informs you that FSR817 is 8 miles. This is your trail to Kenosha Pass.

The CT continues in a wide open valley that's about 1000 feet across and 7 miles in length. Thickets of willows grow along Craig Creek which flows down the center of this high mountain valley. Elevation gain and loss is minimal; it is almost flat for its entire length. There are a number of small feeder streams coming down from the Kenosha Mountains that provide good quality drinking water (be sure to treat). Several good campsites are located along the forested area on the northeast side of this valley. Where the Craig / Brookside McCurdy Trail intersects with the CT, there is a good campsite with water (noted on the map as campsite 8). The actual campsite is about 400 feet north of the trail intersection, on the northeast side of the CT. Several other nice campsites can be found as you continue to the upper end of the valley.

The trail eventually enters the forest at the upper end of the valley. Stay on the trail that goes straight ahead into the trees. In a few hundred feet there will be fence with a gate, pass through. The CT will gradually turn southwest and go for some distance until a large number of switchbacks are encountered going downhill to the intersection with FSR817.

Water and campsites are available just a little downstream from where the CT crosses the stream, noted on the map as campsite 9.

Fill your water bottle here, it will be a couple of miles before it is available again. Continuing north on the CT the trail gradually goes uphill and continues through aspen and pine forest. To the west you will get wonderful views of South Park and surrounding mountains. There are no decent campsites and no water until you intersect with Black Canyon Creek (about 2 miles from FSR817). This is one of the few good campsites along this portion of the trail, noted on the map as campsite 10. Firewood, water and a number of campsites are located where the CT crosses Black Canyon Creek.

Segment Total - 9.6 miles  
Total from Start - 9.6 miles



• **FSR817 to Rock Creek Road (FSR133)** - The further north that you go on this portion of the CT the more beautiful the scenery becomes. Between Black Canyon Creek and Rock Creek there are many rock outcroppings, the view towards South Park is great; the trail is newly constructed and in perfect condition. There are lots of open meadows with flowers, little groves of aspens and many deer and elk in the area from the large number of antler cuts on the aspen trees. There are three locations where small streams cross this section of the CT providing good drinking water.

You gradually descend into a valley with Rock Creek flowing through it. You will descend to the creek and as you do notice an old ranch building to the south. The water here in the creek is drinkable and deep enough for Scouts to jump in and have some fun. Also, decent campsites (upstream) are available here at the Rock Creek intersection (noted on the map as campsite 11). Cross the creek over to a vehicular road used when this was known as Rock Creek Cow Camp. To the north you will see an old building and corral. This is the Rock Creek Trail (FS606) which takes you over Kenosha Mountain Pass to the Ben Tyler Trail. To the south FSR133, Rock Creek Road, exits onto CR56 (Lost Creek Road).

Segment Total - 7.7 miles  
Total from Start -17.3 miles

• **Rock Creek Road (FSR133) to Kenosha Pass** - The CT continues south for a short time (.1 mile) on FSR133 and then turns to the north, off into a spruce forest for a short distance and continues to meander through several trail and road segments (watch for the CT signs). The final section of the CT to Kenosha Pass (6.3 miles) has only one stream where water is available, Johnson Gulch; be sure to fill up your water bottle. As the trail continues it will have marker posts placed in the ground with the CT decal attached. You will precede uphill for a ways, then the trail levels out the rest of the way to Kenosha Pass. The trail alternates between meadow and forested areas. Also, the views are the best on this part of the trail because you are higher and the west side of the trail drops off rapidly. This is a good place to have lunch, don't forget to bring your lightweight binoculars. About a mile from the Kenosha Pass Trailhead you can hear the traffic on US 285 and know you are getting near. The forest is denser for the final mile. By the way, this is a mountain biking area, be on the lookout, cyclists come up on you quickly and don't make much noise.

Segment Total - 6.3 miles  
Total from Start - 23.6 miles

### How to get there (4 options)

**1. Kenosha Pass Campground Trailhead** — One mile east of Kenosha Pass on the north side of US 285 is Kenosha Pass Campground. You can park in the parking area at the entrance to the campgrounds or across US 285, turn south onto a dirt road across from the Kenosha Pass Summit sign. Follow this road across a meadow to the edge of an aspen grove where you will see a sign for the CT. Park here if you are going south, see map notation (P)1.

**For options 2, 3 and 4** - Take US 285 over Kenosha Pass and 3.2 miles further west. Turn left (south) at the Lost Park Road (CR56).

**2. Lost Park Trailhead** — Drive 19.1 miles to the Lost Park Campground which is the end of the road (P)5. An unmarked trail starts at the campground and goes north for 1.7 miles where it connects with the CT.

**3. FS817 Trailhead** — Drive 11 miles south on Lost Park Road (CR56) to FSR817. This is an obscure jeep road which turns left off CR56 and goes only .2 mile. Park at (P)3 and hike the rest of the way up this road until the CT crosses at a right angle to the road.

**4. Rock Creek Trailhead** — Drive 7.5 miles south on Lost Park Road (CR56) to the Ben Tyler / Rock Creek Trailhead. Turn left on FSR133, go 1.3 miles until the road crosses the CT, park at (P)2. This is a rough road and a high centered vehicle is recommended.



#### **4-4 TIMBERLINE GROUP CAMPGROUND - CAR CAMP**

The Timberline Group Campground, a couple of miles east of Kenosha Pass, has facilitated many district Camporees and Klondrees in recent years. These facilities are available for troop family campouts. Reservations are required by calling 1 (800) 280-CAMP (as of 12/94).

Summer Facilities: 200 campsites, rest rooms, no water or tables  
Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

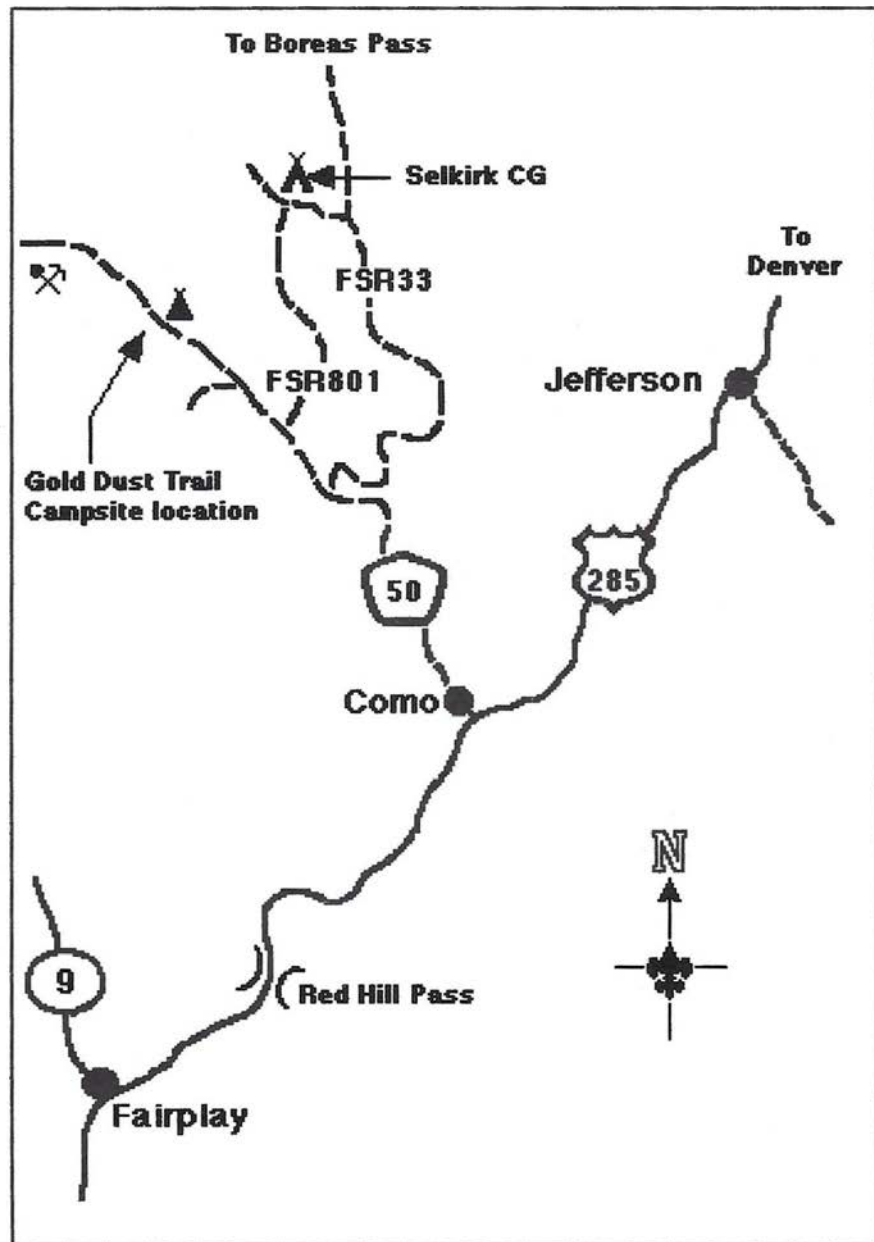
**How to get there:** Take US 285 (Hampden Ave.) going west through the communities of Conifer, Bailey, Shawnee, and Grant, about 2 miles before the top on the east side of Kenosha Pass is CR58. Go a mile on this road turning right and up the hill; the group camping area is on top of the hill where it is flat.

## 4-5 GOLD DUST TRAILHEAD - WINTER CAR CAMP

Gold Dust Trailhead is just north of Como which is about 50 miles southwest of Denver and located in South Park.

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition  
Como Quad, 7 1/2 Minute

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west from Denver over the top of Kenosha Pass and down into South Park. About halfway between Kenosha Pass and Fairplay is Como. It is an old railroad town and is located on the north side of US 285. (Como is on the Colorado State Highway Map.) Turnoff at Como onto a plowed county road (CR50); passing through what is left of Como. In about four miles Boreas Pass Road (FSR33) goes off to the right, stay left and continue up the valley. In another .5 mile you will pass the road to Selkirk CG (FSR801), continue to your left. Most of the land along the road from Como is private. One mile from the Selkirk CG road there is a small portion of National Forest land. The Gold Dust Trail crosses the road at this point.



To identify the Forest Service land a small sign entitled "Winter Trail" is on the east side of the road. Park your car at this point. Back from the road about 40 yards, there is another sign "Gold Dust Trail." Unpack your gear and go into the trees on the east side along the trail. Many times in winter there is no snow under these trees.

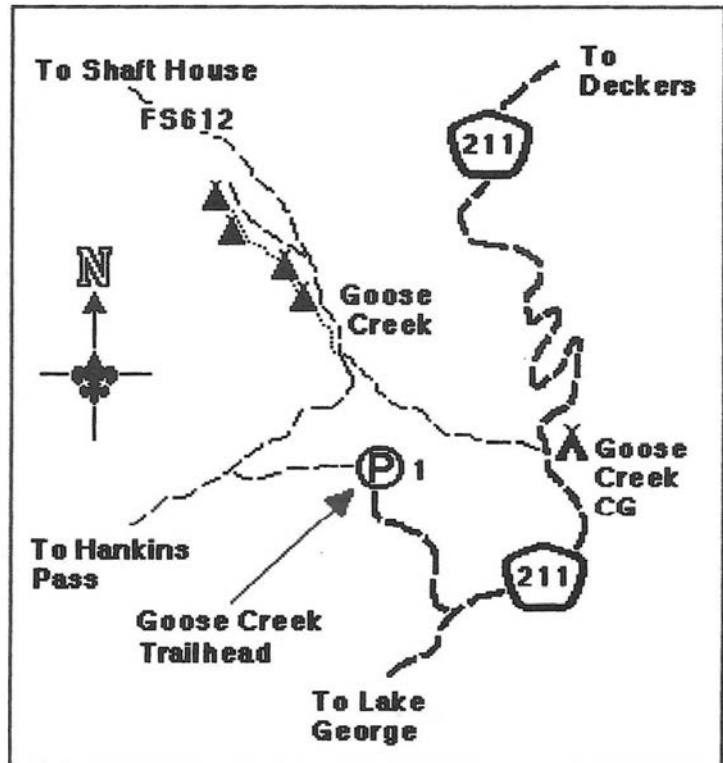
# 5 LOST CREEK AREA

## 5-1 GOOSE CREEK - BACKPACK

Goose Creek is in the southern section of the Lost Creek Wilderness Area, about 40 miles southwest of Denver. This area previously was one of the three National Scenic Areas and provides many spectacular rock formations, underground streams, caves and a couple of arches. The area is at a lower altitude than many others and opens up earlier in the spring than many areas in the mountains.

Drive Time: 2.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

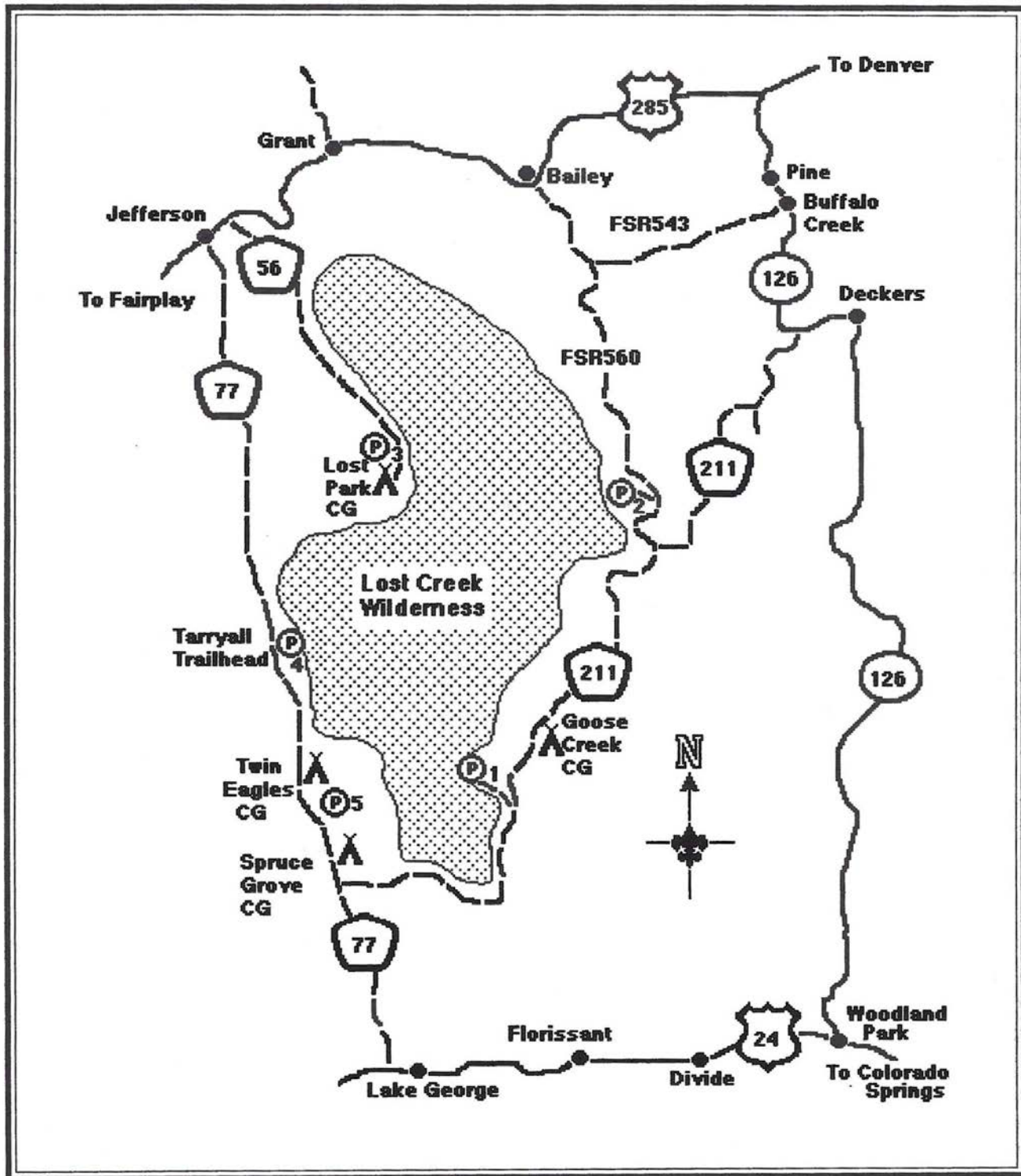
**How to get there:** Take US 285 west to Pine Junction, turn left on CO126, drive south for 22 miles through the towns of Pine and Buffalo Creek. As soon as you past Wigwam Campground be on the lookout (.25 mile) for the turn onto the road to Cheesman Lake (CR211). Continue up the narrow winding gravel road for approximately 3 miles. At the top, make a right turn (do not descend to Cheesman Lake) and follow CR211 another 9 miles to Goose Creek Campground, continue an additional 2 miles, turn right on the first major road. Continue until you dead end at the trailhead parking area, noted on the map as (P)1.



**The trail:** Take the trailhead on the west side of the parking area to the bottom off the hill; turn right at Hankins Pass Trail (FS630). Follow the trail east down the hill to Goose Creek, then along the river to the metal bridge. At the bridge you can follow the fishermen's trail on the west side of the creek approximately .75 mile to backpack campsites. The other alternative is to cross the bridge continuing upriver .75 mile until the trail splits. Campsites are located on the west bank of Goose Creek where the trail splits. Crossing the river can be achieved by crossing logs 300 feet back down the river. Another crossing can be found upriver .25 mile by scrambling across large boulders in the creek. There are about 6 locations on the west side of the creek where a troop can camp. Distance from trailhead to campsite is 2 miles. This is a good location for the first backpack trip of the season.

Note of warning: Take extra caution with Scouts when crossing this river in the springtime when water is high and fast.

## HIGHWAYS TO LOST CREEK AREA

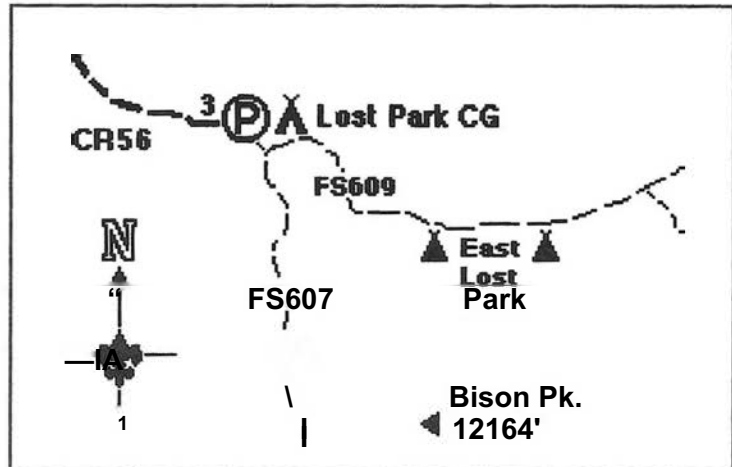


## 5-2 LOST PARK - BACKPACK

Lost Park is an interesting valley with good to excellent brook trout in the small stream (not very big, but a lot of them). This location can be handled either as a car camp utilizing Lost Park Campground or a backpacking adventure.

Drive Time: 2.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west, through Bailey and Grant to the top of Kenosha Pass. Descend to the bottom of the pass; the first county road on the south side of the highway is the Lost Park access road, CR56. This turn-off is about one mile before the community of Jefferson. Follow the access road for about 19.1 miles to the Lost Park Campground.



The **trail:** From the campground the most interesting trail goes southeast, on FS609. Follow this trail, in about a mile a large valley, East Lost Park, will appear on your left. There are several campsites on the south side of the valley. The trail continues the length of the valley, where the trail crosses the stream the trail splits. The trail that goes left is the main one and goes for miles following the loop trail around the Lost Creek Wilderness Area. The right trail which follows the stream also goes into the Lost Creek Wilderness Area. This branch of the trail is suppose to go through a rocky area, where the creek disappears; eventually connecting to other trails within the Wilderness Area. This trail is not on the maps.

## 5-3 WIGWAM PARK / REFRIGERATOR GULCH - BACKPACK

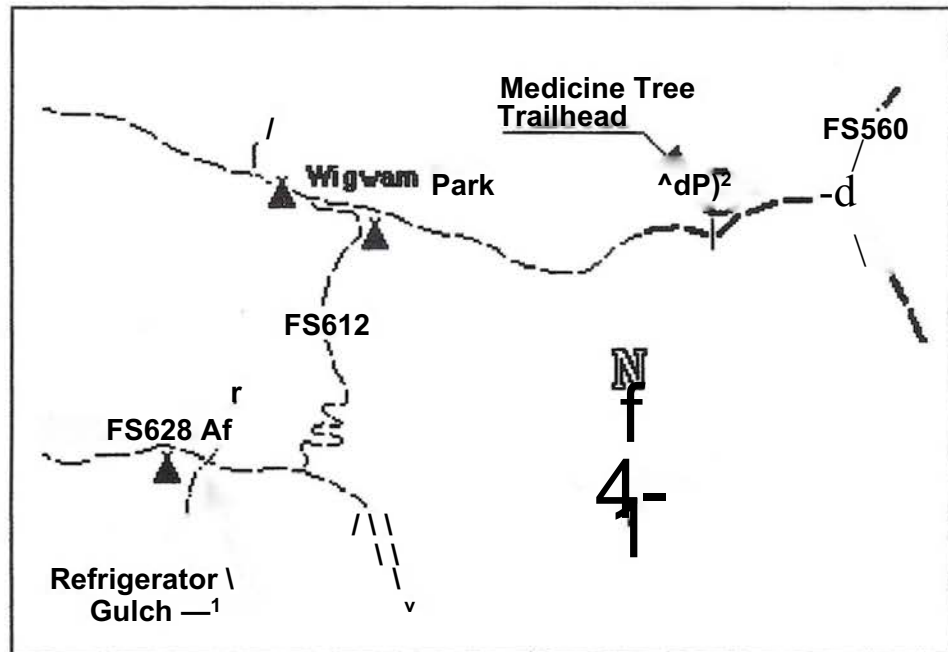
Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west to Pine Junction, turn left on C0126, drive south for 22 miles, through the towns of Pine and Buffalo Creek. As soon as you pass Wigwam Campground be on the lookout (.25 mile) for the turn onto the road to Cheesman Lake (CR211). Continue up the narrow winding gravel road for approximately 3 miles. At the top, make a right turn (do not descend to Cheesman Lake) and follow CR211 for 1 mile. At that point, CR211 goes left and FS560 goes right, follow FSR560. In about 1.5 miles the road splits again, continue on FSR560, which is to the right. You will go up a number of switchbacks and in 3 miles turn west off FSR560 onto an ungraded road that ends at the Medicine Tree Trailhead.



**The trail:** Start at Medicine Tree Trailhead hiking on a jeep road for a short distance, then onto FS609, paralleling Wigwam Creek. In 4 miles you will arrive at the east end of Wigwam Park. The trail parallels the north side of Wigwam Park. In a short distance another trail FS612 will head south over Wigwam Creek to the forested area on the south side of the park. You will find some decent campsites in the trees.

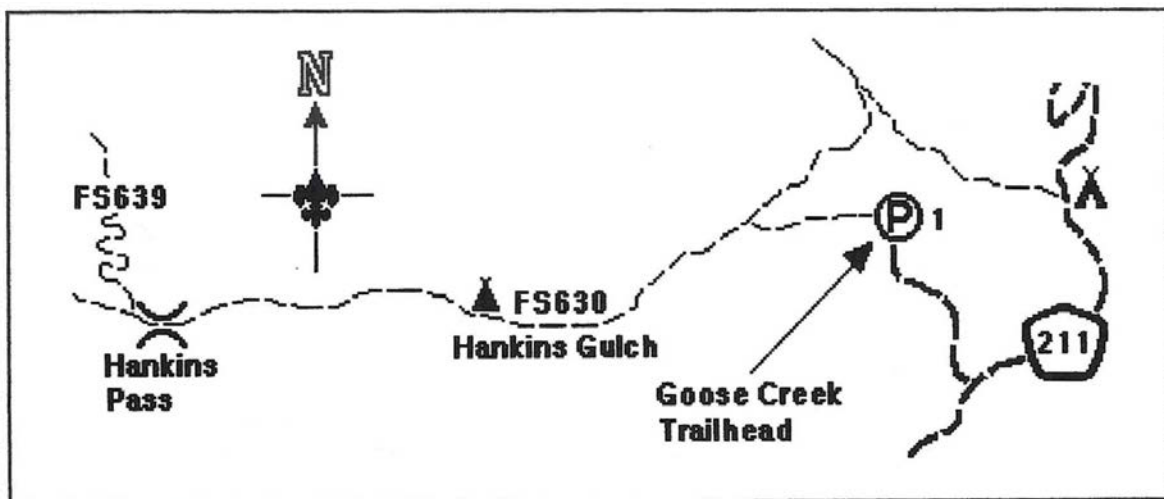
If you want to go to Refrigerator Gulch continue south on FS612.



**Wigwam Park to Refrigerator Gulch -**

From Wigwam Park hike south taking FS612 up and over the top then down to FS628 (3 miles). Refrigerator Gulch is west another 1 mile on FS628. There are some interesting caverns and box canyons in the Refrigerator Gulch area; also good camping. If you want more adventure continue west for another 2 miles to Lost Creek; again good campsites are available. There are a lot of underground passageways where the stream disappears and then reappears at another location. The best rock outcroppings are also located along this last 2 mile leg.

**5-4 HANKINS PASS - BACKPACK**



Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west to Pine Junction, turn left on CO126, drive south for 22 miles through the towns of Pine and Buffalo Creek. As soon as you past Wigwam Campground be on the lookout (.25 mile) for the turn onto the road to Cheesman Lake (CR211). Continue up the narrow winding gravel road for approximately 3 miles. At the top, make a right turn (do not descend to Cheesman Lake) and follow CR211 another 9 miles to Goose Creek Campground, continue an additional 2 miles, turn right on the first major road. Continue until you dead end at the trailhead parking area.

**The trail:** Take the trailhead on the west side of the parking area to the bottom of the decline; turn left at Hankins Pass Trail (FS630). Follow the trail which gradually works its way uphill. About halfway up (2 miles) to the pass there is a nice aspen meadow with active beaver ponds, a good campsite. There is also good drinking water in this area.

### **5-5 LOST CREEK WILDERNESS - BACKPACK (50 MILER)**

The Lost Creek Wilderness Area is located about 40 miles southwest of the Denver Metropolitan area. There are two major loops that circle within and around this Wilderness Area.

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition  
U.S.G.S. Maps-7 1/2 Mi. Quad.  
McCurdy Mt. Topaz Mt.  
Farnum Pk. CheesmanLk.  
Windy Pk. Green Mt.

There are five major trailheads that can be used to access these loops.

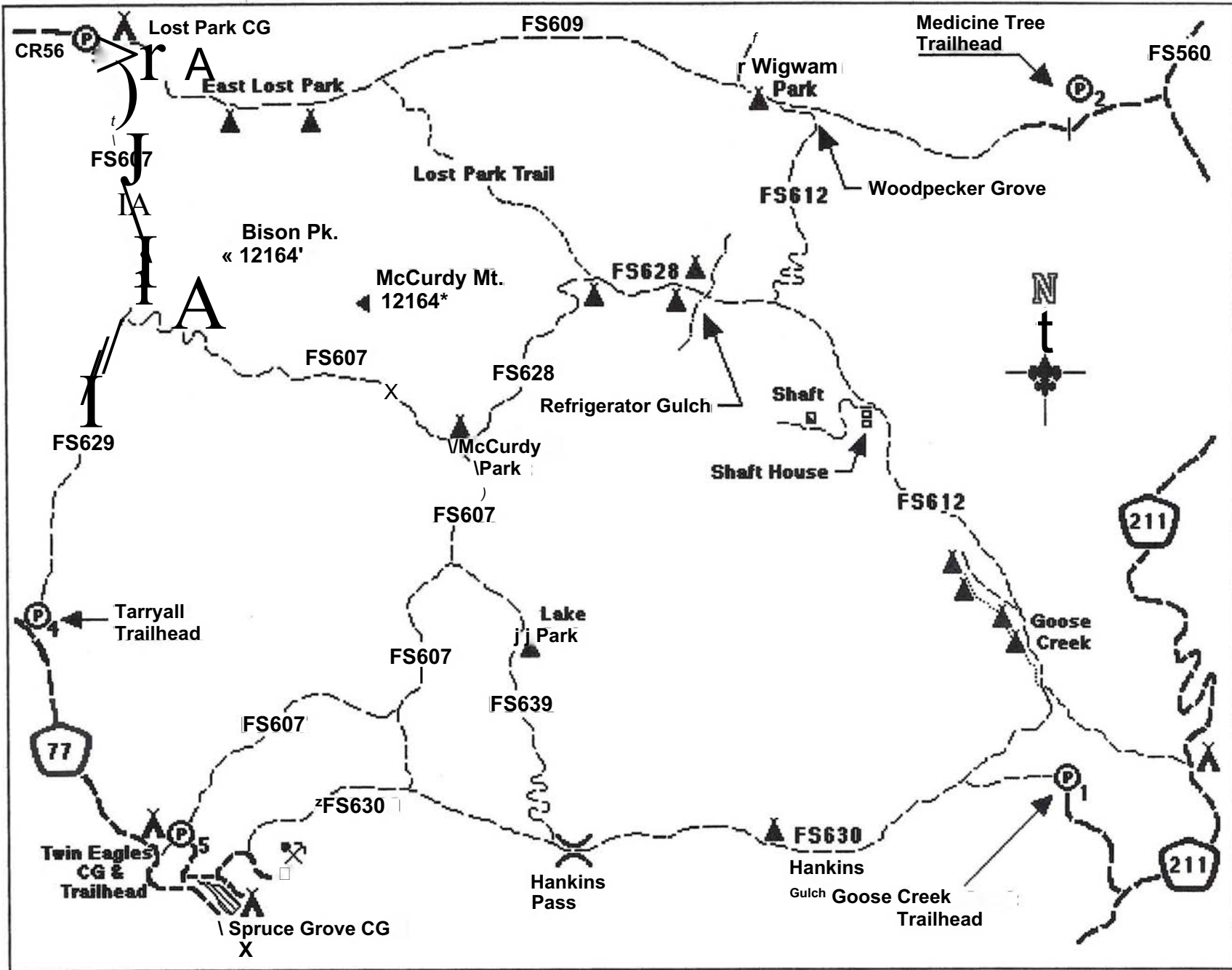
1. Goose Creek
2. Medicine Tree (Wigwam)
3. Lost Park
4. Tarryall
5. Twin Eagles

Two maps are provided; the first is, "Highways To Lost Creek Area" and the second is a detailed trails map, "Lost Creek Area". To limit duplication of trail discussion we will start at the Medicine Tree Trailhead, which is on the northeast side of the Lost Creek Area.

If you are planning to earn the 50 Miler Award be sure to review the requirements while you plan your trip. See section 26-9 in the Important Facts and Information Chapter.

There are numbers of places to camp within the Lost Creek Area. Some of the better locations are noted with the campsite symbol on the trail map, but many others exist.

LOST CREEK AREA



5-6

If you choose not to carry a week's food supply, there are two trailheads, Lost Park and Goose Creek, which are close to the trail where you could leave a car with additional supplies.

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west to Pine Junction, turn left on CO126, drive south for 22 miles, through the towns of Pine and Buffalo Creek. As soon as you pass Wigwam Campground be on the lookout (.25 mile) for the road to Cheesman Lake (CR211). The road to Cheesman Lake is a narrow and winding gravel road which last approximately 3 miles. At the top, make a right turn (do not descend to Cheesman Lake) and continue on CR211 for 1 mile. At that point, CR211 goes left and FS560 goes right, follow FSR560. In about 1.5 miles the road splits again, continue on FSR560, which is to the right. You will go up a number of switchbacks and in 3 miles turn west (left) off FSR560 onto an ungraded road that ends at the Medicine Tree Trailhead.

Note: Read the rules about group size and campsite locations as related to distances from lakes, streams and trails.



• **Medicine Tree Trailhead to Lost Park**

**Trailhead** - Start at Medicine Tree Trailhead hiking on a jeep road for a short distance; continue on FS609 which parallels Wigwam Creek. In 4 miles you arrive at the east end of Wigwam Park. The trail parallels the north side of Wigwam Park. Continue to follow FS609 west through the open valley; you

will enter a higher park, some of the better water can be found here from a spring that exits from under a large rock. Continue on FS609 over the saddle that separates Wigwam Park from East Lost Park. The trail descends into East Lost Park. There are a couple of locations on the south side of East Lost Park that are good campsites. The water in this area is not as good because of the number of cow pies. East Lost Park to Lost Creek Trailhead is 3.5 miles. Continue to Lost Park Campground, where FS609 connects with FS607.

Segment Total -12.75 miles  
Total from Start -12.75 miles

• **Lost Park to FS607 / FS629 Intersection** - From Lost Park Campground you follow trail FS607, turning south to parallel the western side of the Tarryall Mountains. FS607 goes uphill paralleling Indian Creek for about three miles. (Note: water on the west side of the Tarryall Mt. is difficult to come-by. Fill up your canteen every time you get a chance.) There are several small parks along Indian Creek that are good campsites with ample water. The next trail intersection is FS607 and FS629.

Segment Total - 5 miles  
Total from Start -17.75 miles

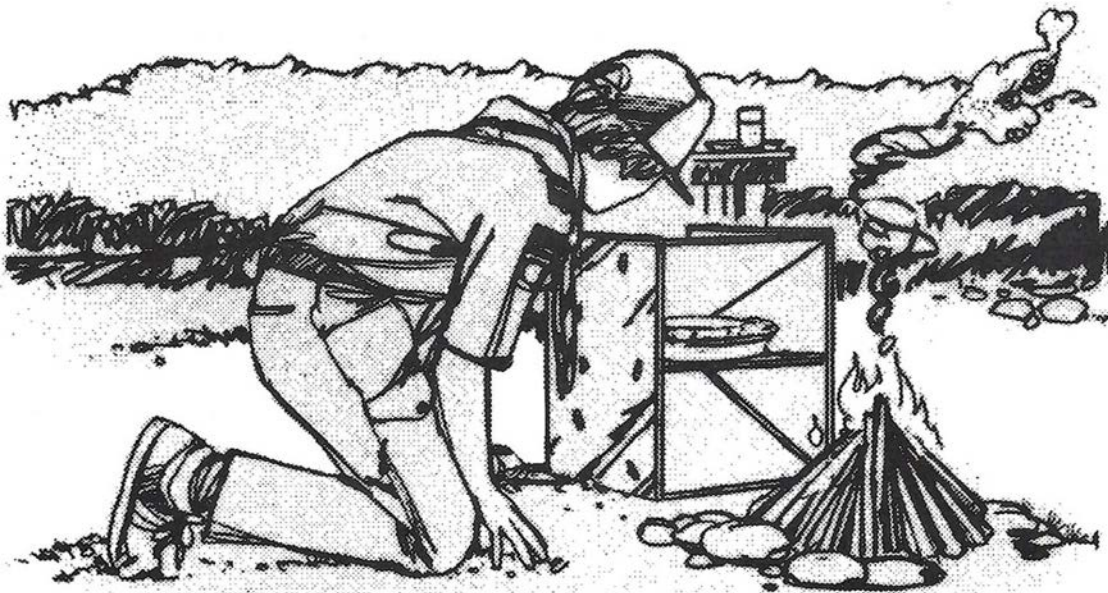
- **FS607 / FS629 to McCurdy Park** -The trail turns east on FS607, continuing uphill for 5 miles. There is a series of switchbacks on this part of the trail, you are crossing the Tarryall high country going by Mt. McCurdy, 12,164 feet. Early in the summer season there will be water from snowmelt, but in late summer good water is hard to find. At 5.5 miles from the last trail intersection you will arrive at McCurdy Park where FS607 and FS628 intersect. McCurdy Park is a high valley with the remains of a shelter and a stream. There are trees surrounding the park at the elevation of 10,800 feet.

Segment Total - 5.5 miles  
Total from Start - 23.25 miles

- **McCurdy Park to Lake Park** - Continue south from McCurdy Park on FS607. In a mile the FS639 intersection occurs. (Note: be sure you and your water bottle are full again). Take FS639 southeast heading to Lake Park. FS639 continues uphill, this will be the highest point (11,560 feet) of the trip, hike over the ridge and back down the other side until you reach Lake Park. Distance between McCurdy Park and Lake Park is 3.5 miles. Lake Park is a big meadow surrounded by majestic rock formations. Water is found in a stream on the north slope. Early hikers should know that snow remains until July.

Segment Total - 3.5 miles  
Total from Start - 26.75 miles

- **Lake Park to Goose Creek Trailhead** - Continue on FS639 south to Hankins Pass and FS630. At this point, if you need to exit, it is 4 miles west to Twin Eagles Trailhead. To continue the trek go east on FS630, heading toward Goose Creek. The trail is downhill for 4.5 miles. Water soon appears in Hankins Gulch. About halfway down there is a nice aspen meadow with active beaver ponds, a good campsite. About .5 mile before arriving at Goose Creek a trail crosses a small bridge on the south side. The Goose Creek Trailhead parking is located about .5 mile over the bridge and up the hill. Continue east for another .5



mile to Goose Creek. Turn north for another .2 mile and a metal bridge will cross Goose Creek.

Segment Total - 4.5 miles  
Total from Start - 31.25 miles

- **Goose Creek Trailhead to Shaft House** - When you cross the metal bridge you'll pick-up FS612 and head north for the next major leg of the 50 mile trek. Continue along FS612 on flat terrain; when you reach the first major incline another trail will branch to the left. Good campsites are located across Goose Creek from this point. Cross on logs to the south or rocks to the north to access campsites. If you are not camping in this area, continue on FS612 up the incline going north to Shaft House. About 3 miles from the start of the incline a trail will branch west to Shaft House. Stop and visit the old cabins and graves, then take the short trail behind the cabin to the shaft. West of the shaft site, continue between the rocks to view Lost Creek and the hidden valley, it is spectacular. Decent camping is found along Lost Creek where it exits from its underground caves. The campsites are west and a little south of the cabins, paralleling the creek.

Segment Total - 3.25 miles  
Total from Start - 34.5 miles

- **Shaft House to Lost Creek** - From Shaft House continue north on FS612 for 2 miles to the intersection with FS628. Refrigerator Gulch is west another 1 mile on FS628. There are some interesting caverns and box canyons in the Refrigerator Gulch area; also good camping. Continue west for another two miles to Lost Creek; again good campsites are available. There are a lot of underground passageways where the stream enters and then reappears at another location. The best rock outcroppings are also located along this last 2 mile leg of the trek.

Segment Total - 5 miles  
Total from Start - 39.5 miles

- **Lost Creek to Wigwam Park** - Return to the intersection of FS612 and FS628, go north on FS612 up and over the top to Wigwam Park, a total of 7 miles from Lost Creek. There is an established campsite in the forest on the north side of Wigwam Park just before you exit the forest known by some as Woodpecker Grove.

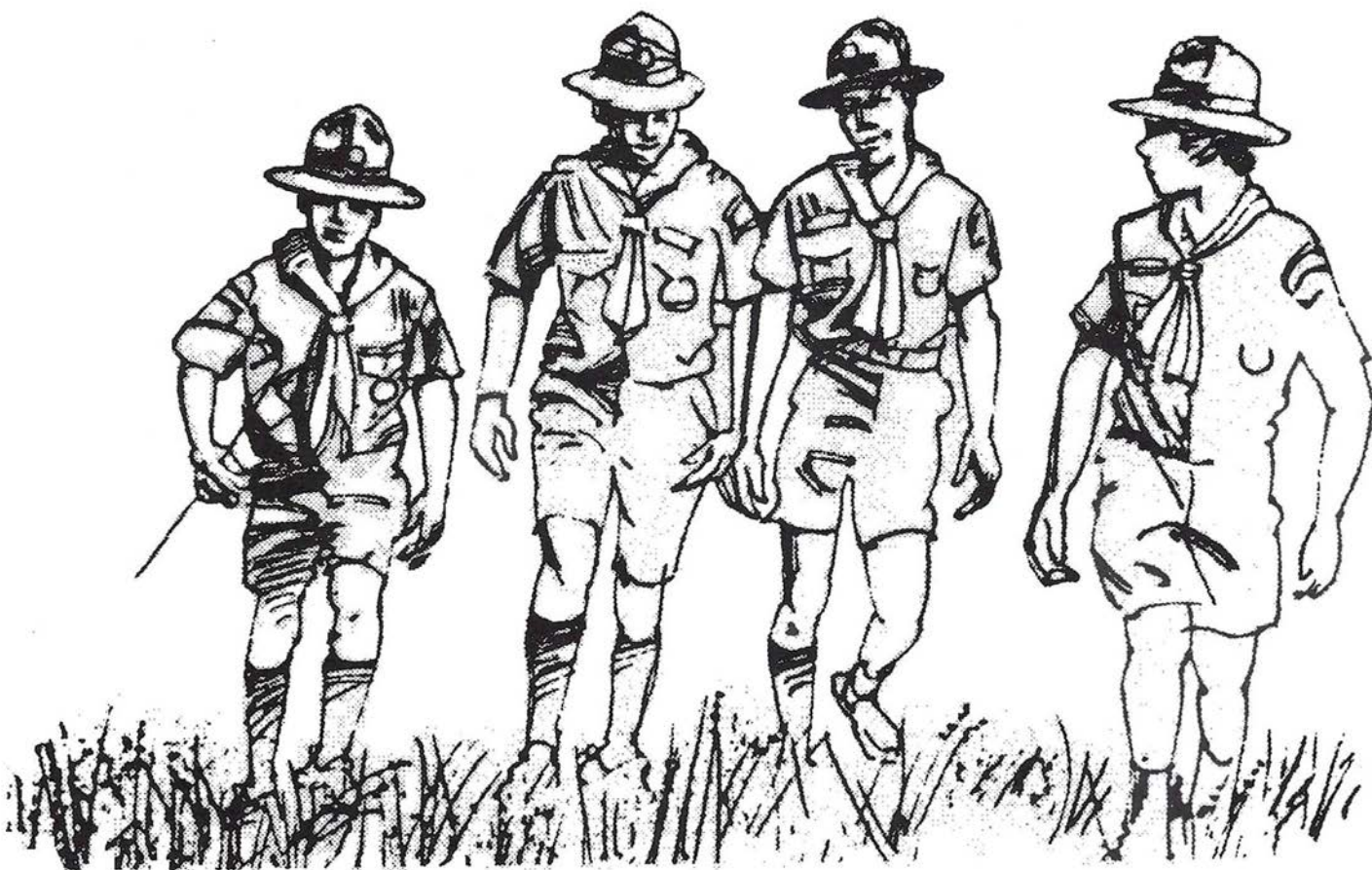
Segment Total - 7 miles  
Total from Start - 46.5 miles

- **Wigwam Park to Medicine Tree Trailhead** - The last leg is from Wigwam Park to Medicine Tree Trailhead and the vehicles.

Segment Total - 5.25 miles  
Total from Start - 51.75 miles plus any side trips.

## TRAIL NUMBERS AND NAMES

<u>FS Trail No.</u>	<u>Trail Name</u>
607	Brookside McCurdy
609	Wigwam
612	Goose Creek
628	McCurdy Park
629	Ute Creek
630	Hankins Pass
639	Lake Park



# 6 FAIRPLAY / HOOSIER PASS AREA

## 6-1 MT. SHERMAN - FOURTEENER

Mt. Sherman is considered the easiest of all the Fourteeners and is a good test to check the stamina of your troop before they try the more difficult peaks.

Drive Time: 2.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west, pass through Fairplay, in about 1.5 miles make a right turn onto CR18 leading to Four Mile (14 units), or Horseshoe (19 units) Campgrounds and the remains of the community of Leavick. Continue on this road to either campground; either of these camping facilities (tables, rest rooms and water) would be a good car camp base for a troop staying overnight. Continue west on CR18, you will pass the remains of Leavick. Total distance to Leavick from US 285 is about 11 miles. You can camp at Leavick, but there are no facilities. From Leavick an old mining road continues west and uphill; eventually there is a cable across the road; park at the cable noted on the map as parking area (P)1.

Start hiking here, proceed up the old road eventually passing the Dauntless Mine which is at 12,200' elevation. Above the Dauntless Mine the road splits, stay left and climb west to the low point of the saddle. When you arrive at the saddle, Mt. Sherman is to the north, northeast. By now the road is a trail and as you work your way up Mt. Sherman it becomes very rocky. There is a trail all the way to the top.

Notes: The climb is 3.5 miles and 2800 ft. elevation gain from Leavick. Water is usually not available. Be sure to start early in the morning, so you are not caught in an afternoon thunderstorm. Bring windbreaker or coat.

## 6-2 MT. LINCOLN, MT. BROSS, MT. DEMOCRAT & MT. CAMERON - FOURTEENERS

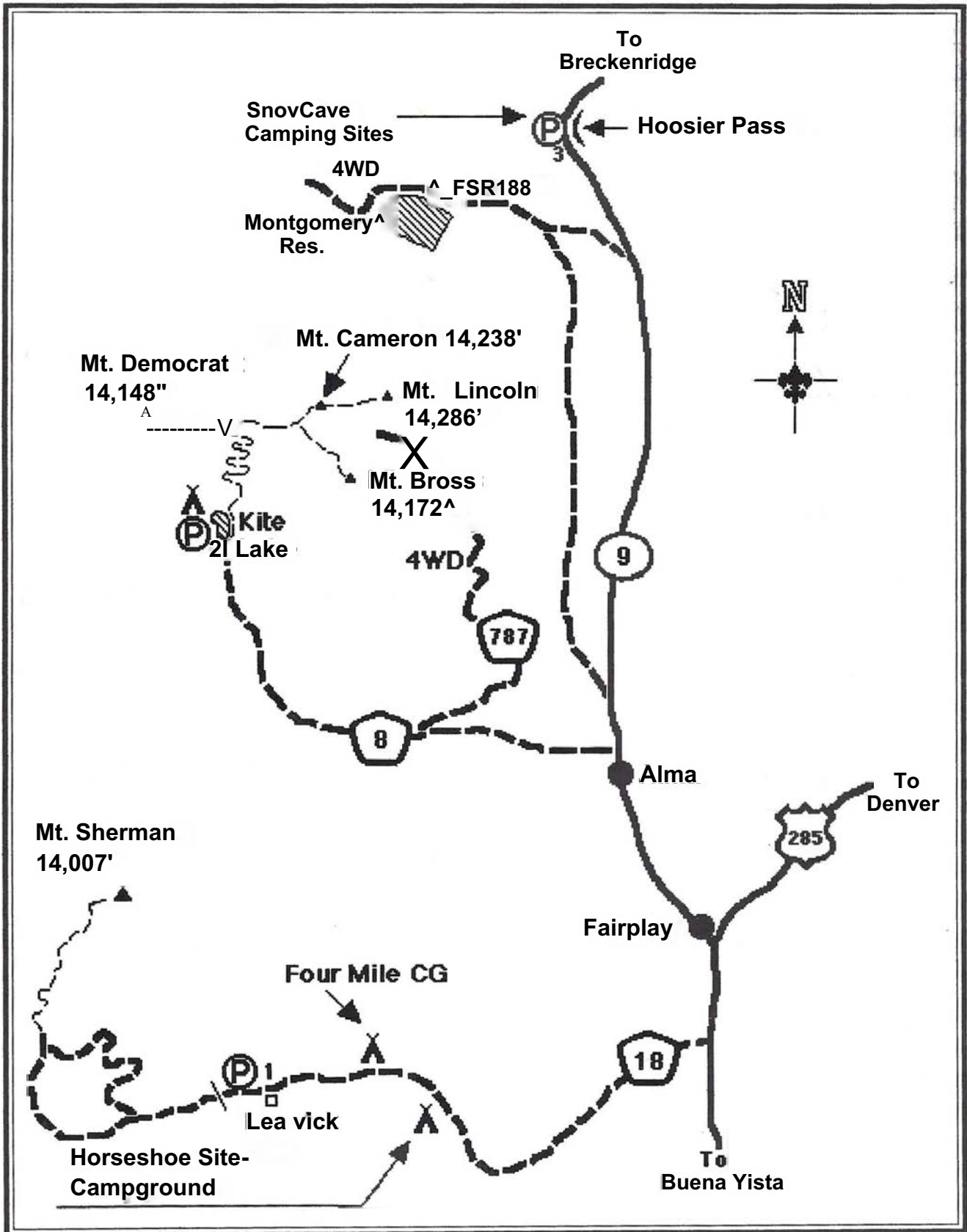
This adventure can provide four fourteeners, but it will take all day to climb 4 fourteeners with one enduring hike.

Note: Beware of altitude sickness with your party. Altitude sickness is when an individual burns up oxygen at a rate faster than the body can replace it. Symptoms include headache, dizziness, weakness, poor appetite, nausea, impaired judgment and in some cases shortness of breath. The only treatment is retreat to a lower altitude. This trek is not recommended for the individual doing his first fourteener.

Drive Time: 2.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition



# FAIRPLAY / HOOSIER PASS AREA



**How to get there:** Drive west on US 285, at Fairplay, turn north and take CO9 for seven miles to Alma. At Alma turn west on CR8 and follow the gravel road to Kite Lake CG, keep on the better gravel road, which will gradually go northwest. Kite Lake Campground is the trailhead, noted on the map as parking area (P)2.

**The trail:** Start on the southeast side of Kite Lake and work your way up the east side heading to the north; it becomes steep with a number of switchbacks. You will eventually reach the crest of a ridge. Mt. Democrat is to the west, climb this one first. Mt. Lincoln is to the northeast of Democrat; actually by backtracking on the ridge to the northeast you will climb Mt. Cameron, go down the saddle and up to Mt. Lincoln, .5 mile. Mr. Bross is due south of Mt. Lincoln. You can either cross the boulder field or hike back to Mt. Cameron and take the north to south ridge up to Mt. Bross.

Descend and follow the same trail back to Kite Lake. If you take other alternatives you can end up a long way from your starting point. It could be a very long walk!

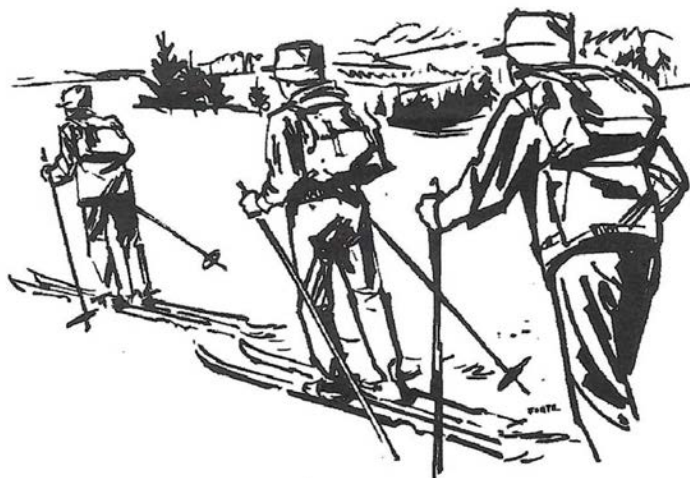
Notes: This is a long trip, 7-8 hours. Start early so that you can be off the peaks before afternoon thunderstorms. NO water on the trail.

### 6-3 HOOSIER PASS - WINTER SNOW CAVE CAMPOUT

Hoosier Pass is 60 miles east of the Denver Metropolitan area, or about 10 miles south of Breckenridge. A recommended winter car camping activity is building snow caves on the west side of the pass.

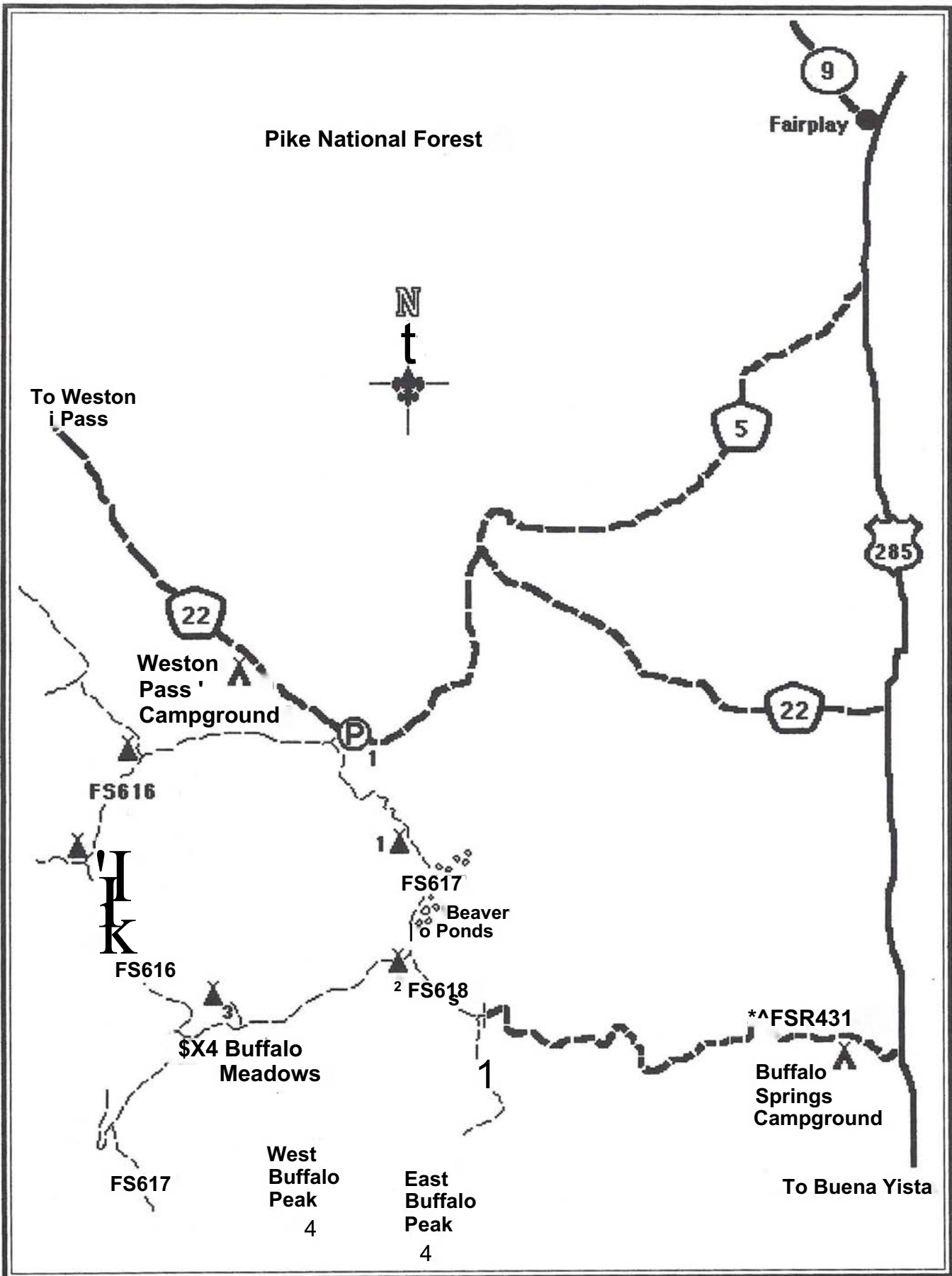
Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Hoosier Pass can be accessed from the Breckenridge side by taking I -70 west from Denver to the Frisco turn off. Follow CO9 around Frisco, south through Breckenridge and 10 miles beyond to the top of Hoosier Pass. Park on the west side of the road, noted on the map as (P)3, the Highway Department usually clears a large parking area for cross country skiers during the winter.



**The area:** You will need cross country skis or snowshoes to venture about on this trip. Go west on your skis; when it starts to get steep and the trees begin to clear angle northwest for a little ways until you find a reasonable drift to use to make a snow cave. This is actually a very short distance to the location for building snow caves (about .2 mile). There are several loops and additional distances west you can travel for a cross country ski adventure.

# BUFFALO MEADOWS



## 6-4 BUFFALO MEADOWS LOOP - BACKPACK

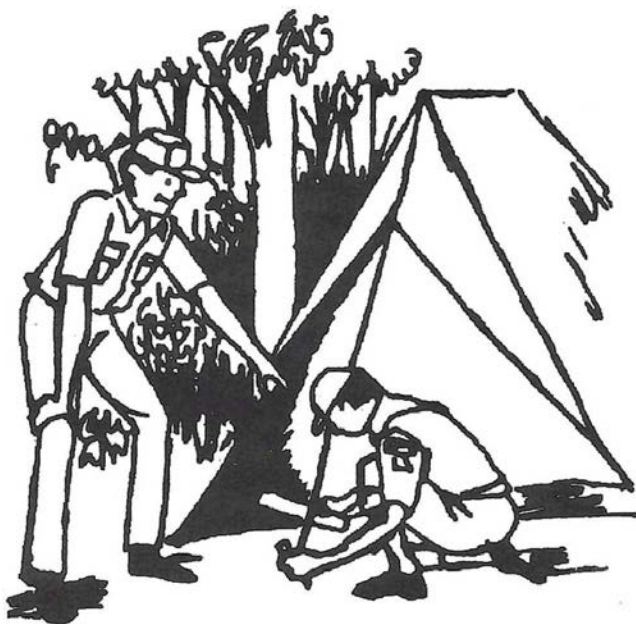
Buffalo Meadows is located at the south end of the Mosquito Range at the base of a rock monolith. It is an example of a high mountain park with open areas of grasses and willows surrounded by forested mountains. The open character of this area provides numbers of good camping sites, good water and the possibilities to observe elk, deer and bighorn sheep. Buffalo Meadows is a loop trail of 12 miles that follows two beautiful streams, Rich Creek and Rough and Tumbling Creek.

Drive time: 3 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike National Forest, 1992 edition  
Quads: Fairplay West, South Peak, Jones Hill

**How to get there:** To reach the trailhead for Buffalo Meadows drive five miles south of Fairplay on US 285. Turn west on the Weston Pass Road (CR5). This gravel road continues some ten miles to the trailhead. At seven miles stay to the right at the fork in the road (you are now on CR22). At ten miles you will cross into the Pike National Forest marked by a fence and a cattle guard. Immediately after passing the cattle guard there will be a parking area on the south side of the road and a sign indicating the South Fork of the South Platte River. This is the start of the trailhead, noted on the map as (P)1.

**Buffalo Meadow Loop:** The trail starts by taking the foot bridge across the South Fork and following the trail southwest for about 100 feet. Forest Service trails (FS617/616) intersect here and marks the beginning of the loop trail to Buffalo Meadows. If you want to do a day hike take the right trail (FS616) which parallels Rich Creek. This is the most scenic route.

**The trail:** If you are backpacking take the left loop (FS617), this trail is hard to see, the climb uphill is more gradual. You will hike over a ridge and in 1.5 miles you will reach Rough and Tumbling Creek. There are lots of beaver ponds and fishing is excellent along this creek. You will parallel Rough and Tumbling Creek for over a mile before intersecting with Lynch Creek and FS618; stay right and continue on FS617. Continue southwest and you will immediately cross Rough and Tumbling Creek. After crossing the creek you will enter a camp used by hunters during the fall. The trail starts uphill at this point and in .5 mile the trail crosses Rough and Tumbling Creek again. The trail continues



southwest up a steep grade with heavy timber. There are a number of water cascades in the creek along this section of the trail. It is another mile of steep climbing before you reach the east end of Buffalo Meadows. As you progress through Buffalo Meadows you will find many possibilities for campsites and exploring, try the area noted on the map as campsite 3, it is excellent. It is better to camp away from the main trail back towards the forest in one of the many small drainages. The forest surrounding the meadows is fairly open providing easy cross country hiking. A good destination for a hike from your campsite is West Buffalo Peak, which can be climbed along the ridge from the south side of Buffalo Meadows. It is another 1.5 miles through the meadow. Water is readily available in several streams.

If you wish to do the entire loop look for a trail (FS616) leaving through the saddle at the south end of the meadow. You will reach the saddle shortly, it is at 11,600' elevation. As you descend on the Rich Creek side you will pass through some bogs. You will descend one mile before crossing Rich Creek. The loop trail will become steeper and begins a long turn towards the east. There are good views of South Park before it drops into the forest in the lower valley floor. You will exit at the same trailhead you entered.



# 7 LEADVILLE AREA

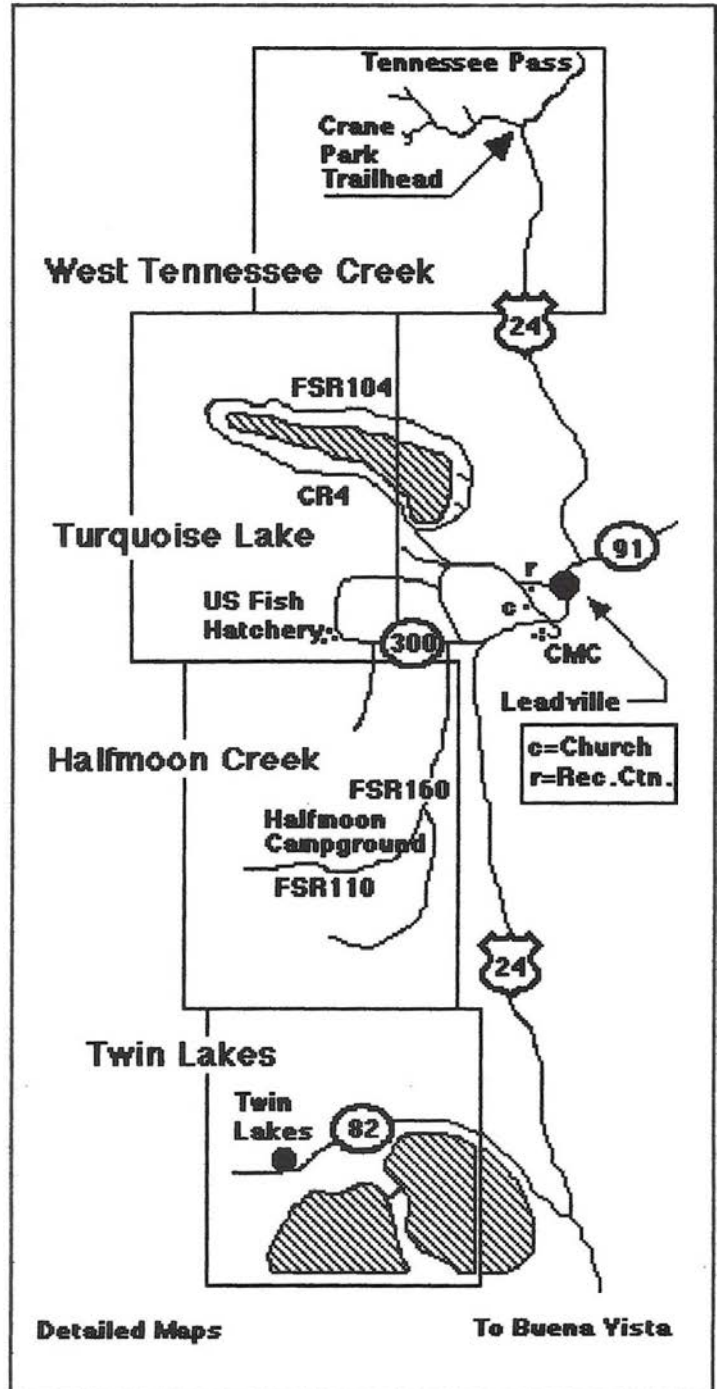
The Leadville area can provide Scout troops a number of activities ranging from car camping, backpacking, cross country ski trips plus easy access to a segment of the Colorado Trail. The following activities are on the west side of Leadville away from the main mining district and open mine shafts.

Note: There are a number of differences or changes between the 1993 and 1972 San Isabel National Forest maps: such as; different road and trail numbers, major Forest Service Road numbers missing and a lot of Forest Service Road numbers (FSR) are changed to County Roads (CR). Keep this in mind as you reference this text and the various reference maps.

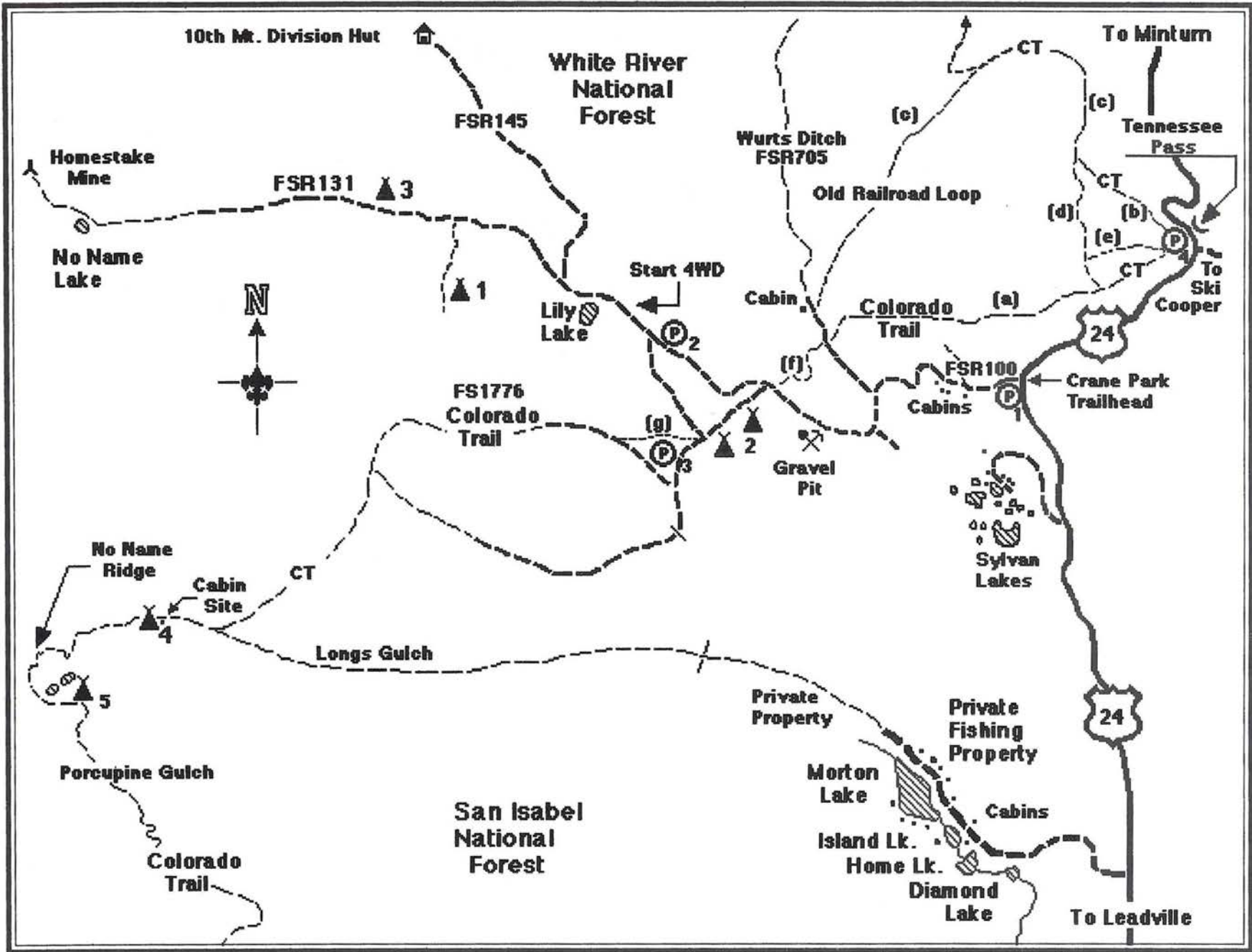
## WEST TENNESSEE CREEK

**How to get there:** West Tennessee Creek can be accessed by taking US 24 north out of Leadville for about 7 miles. FSR100 provides the best access to West Tennessee Creek. This road is about 1.5 miles south of the summit of Tennessee Pass, see "West Tennessee Creek" map notation, Crane Park Trailhead or (P)1. During winter FSR100 is not plowed and makes a good cross country ski trail. FSR 100 is plowed for about 200' to provide a large parking area for cross country skiers immediately west of US 24. You won't find FSR100 on the 1993 edition of the San Isabel National Forest Map, but the road has that number posted.

There is some interesting history in this area. There is a famous mine up on the Continental Divide called the Homestake Mine that a troop can visit.



WEST TENNESSEE CREEK



7-2

Also, the 10th Mountain Division did its training in this area during WWII. You can still find military artifacts such as M1 clips, 30-06 brass, machine gun bullet links, wooden mortar boxes and military material dumps (boys' treasures).

## **7-1 WEST TENNESSEE CREEK / HOMESTAKE MINE - BACKPACK**

Drive Time: 3 - 4 Hours

Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 24 north out of Leadville to the Crane Park Trailhead shown on the map. Take FSR100, then FSR131 west to Lily Lake as shown on the map, there are a number of back country roads that can confuse you, so go slowly. Drive for 2 miles on this road (FSR131), about 1/3 of a mile before Lily Lake, park your vehicles in the open areas between the trees along the road. You can tell this area because the road really starts to get rough and impassable for non 4WD vehicles, see "West Tennessee Creek", map notation (P)2.

At this point it's time to put your backpack on and continue up the road, Lily Lake will appear on your left (nice place to stop and adjust that pack and other equipment). The road forks almost immediately, take the left fork. The road continues up much steeper terrain, but you only need to go .5 mile and a beautiful valley appears with rolling meadows and West Tennessee Creek flowing through it. Troops like to camp to the southeast end of the meadow just into the trees, on "West Tennessee Creek", map noted as campsite 1. If you continue west on the road along the north side of the meadow there are other potential campsites, noted on the map as campsite 3.

An interesting activity is to hike west and see if you can make it to the Homestake Mine area; an additional 3 miles (one-way) from the east side of the valley. Follow the 4WD road west, pass the sign for the Holy Cross Wilderness Area in about 2 miles. Shortly after passing the wilderness sign you see a boulder field on your right and farther along, on your right in the trees, you can see the remains of log cabins which were the mining community for the mine. At the end of the 4WD is an unnamed high mountain lake. Above you is the Continental Divide and a beautiful glacial cirque, with many snowfields. The almost forgotten trail to the mine takes off to the right of the lake and leads up into the cirque containing West Tennessee Lake. Along the way you pass many small waterfalls and views of the Homestake Mine area. The area above the meadow is quite wet and boggy, waterproof boots are recommended.

## **7-2 WEST TENNESSEE CREEK - CAR CAMP**

Drive Time: 3 - 4 Hours

Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

If your troop prefers to car camp instead of backpack there are several good campsites noted on the "West Tennessee Map" as campsite 2. This is .25 mile south of the access road going to Lily Lake. You need to turn south as shown on the map. The campsites are to the east of the road, all the underbrush at the campsites is cleared, the area is flat and



can hold a large group (30 count). There are rock fire pits at each campsite, but no other facilities. Two creeks flow next to these campsites (North Fork of West Tennessee Creek and West Tennessee Creek). These streams provide a good drinkable source of water. Be sure to treat the water. This road is car driveable, but you must ford the first stream to get to the second campsite. For your information, the road to the campsite is part of the Colorado Trail and if you look carefully you will find the Colorado Trail symbol tacked to trees periodically.

### **7-3 LONGS GULCH - BACKPACK**

Drive Time: 3 - 4 Hours

Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

Longs Gulch is southwest of the car camping area described above. In fact, all you need to do is ford the second creek next to the car camping area and travel about 400 feet further south, park your vehicle, reference "West Tennessee Creek", map notation (P)3. The trail to Longs Gulch is a segment of the Colorado Trail, just west of where you parked.

Longs Gulch is about 3 miles one-way. The trail is really an old logging road, still quite wide with washed out areas around the rocks. The trail, FS1776, is a steady incline for the first 1.5 miles. After it flattens out for about .25 mile, it descends southwesterly for 1 mile into the valley floor of Longs Gulch. It is forested along the trail. After you intersect with the Longs Gulch Trail continue west and the trees will fade out into a grassy meadow. There will be a Holy Cross Wilderness sign and sign-in sheet. A short distance beyond the sign you will notice an old cabin to the left of the trail with only part of its walls still standing. Directly below this cabin, next to the stream is a grassy meadow with several good tent campsites, campsite 4 on the map. If you want to go further you can hike another mile following the trail to the top of a ridge (no name ridge). There are two lakes on the top; the area is flat with a number of open spaces for campsites with intermittent trees that will provide some protection from the wind, noted as campsite 5 on the map.

### **7-4 THE COLORADO TRAIL FROM TENNESSEE PASS SOUTH TO TWIN LAKES - BACKPACK**

The distance between Tennessee Pass and Twin Lakes via the Colorado Trail (CT) is 33 miles. This portion of the CT was built during the 1930s as a Civilian Conservation Corps project and until recently was known as the Main Range Trail. This trail segment is easy to moderate in effort. The CT parallels the east side of the Continental Divide creating many scenic views for the backpacker. There are at least seven side trails which will allow you and your troop to exit back to civilization if you have problems. By starting on Tennessee Pass you have an elevation advantage compared to other possible starting points.

Drive Time: 3 - 4 Hours

Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

Note: It should be pointed out that many of the campsite locations identified in this article can be used for an overnight backpack trip using one of the seven side trails for entrance.

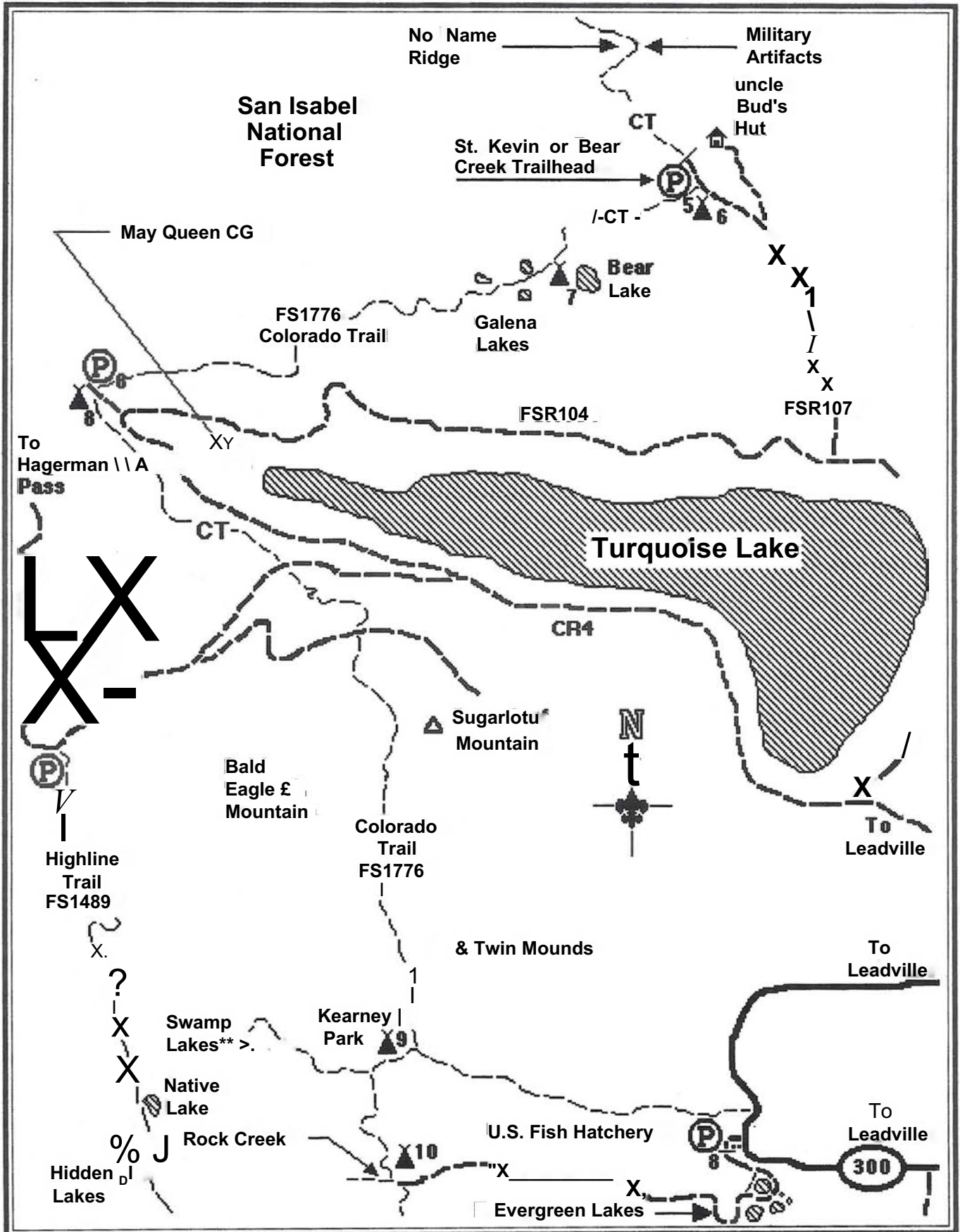
**How to get there:** Drive north from Leadville on US 24 to the top of Tennessee Pass. A large parking area is provided on the west side of the pass and rest room facilities are available at the parking lot, noted on the "West Tennessee Creek" map as (P)4.

- **Tennessee Pass to FSR131** - The CT, at the parking lot on Tennessee Pass, starts about 100 feet east of the rest room facilities behind the Forest Service bulletin board. Don't be confused by the Powder Horn Trail which starts here also. To distinguish the difference the CT has a gradual decline while the Powder Horn works its way up a ridge. Follow the CT, FS1776, through a forested area soon losing the highway noise from US 24. The trail goes gradually downhill for 2.7 miles until you cross Wurts Ditch Road. Continue across the road, downhill and under power lines for another .5 mile, cross FS100 and FSR131. The CT at this point follows an unnumbered Forest Service road south .5 mile, you will cross the North Fork of West Tennessee Creek and West Tennessee Creek. The first good campsite is noted on the "West Tennessee Creek" map as campsite 2. Two camping areas are located along the road between these two creeks.

Segment Total - 3.2 miles  
Total from Start - 3.2 miles

- **FSR131 to FSR107 (St. Kevin Trailhead, also know as Bear Creek Trailhead)** - Within 100 feet of crossing West Tennessee Creek the CT will turn right from the road and head southwest through the trees (easy to miss). The trail merges onto an old logging road. The trail is not steep, but is a steady incline for the first 1.5 miles, then levels off for .25 mile, there is a 1 mile descent onto the valley floor of Longs Gulch. Continue west on the CT; the forest will gradually open up into a grassy meadow. There will be a Holy Cross Wilderness sign and a sign-in sheet. The remains of an old cabin appear on your left; only its walls are standing. Below the cabin along the stream are several good spots to set up tents, noted on the "West Tennessee Creek" map as campsite 4. In another mile the CT will take you over an unnamed ridge. On top of the ridge are two lakes and campsites, noted on the "West Tennessee Creek " map as campsite 5. The views are really neat from the top of this ridge, but you are more exposed to the weather elements. From the top of this ridge you descend into a valley named Porcupine Gulch. There is good drinking water available from this stream; fill up your water bottle, it will be a couple of miles before the next stream at St. Kevin Trailhead. Hike up to the next ridge which is a fairly steep climb including some switchbacks. At the top of the ridge take a rest and look around. Look carefully, Scouts and leaders have found a number of old military artifacts in this area. Heading south off the ridge the CT is another old road and descends to the next valley floor. You will pass through a forest service gate at the bottom and come out at the St. Kevin Trailhead on FSR107. The CT follows this road for only a short distance and exits to the south from the road. You will immediately cross a stream; a good campsite is located on the south side of this stream and 100 yards downstream, noted on the "Turquoise Lake" map as campsite 6. If you look north along the ridge you will see one of the 10th Mountain Huts, it is called "Uncle Bud's Hut".

# TURQUOISE LAKE



Note: There currently are fourteen of these huts located in the region for cross country ski travelers and mountain bikers. Reservations as much as a year in advance, are usually required if you need a particular date. (Reference the end of the cross country section, 7-11, in this chapter, for more information and the phone number to make inquiries or reservations.)

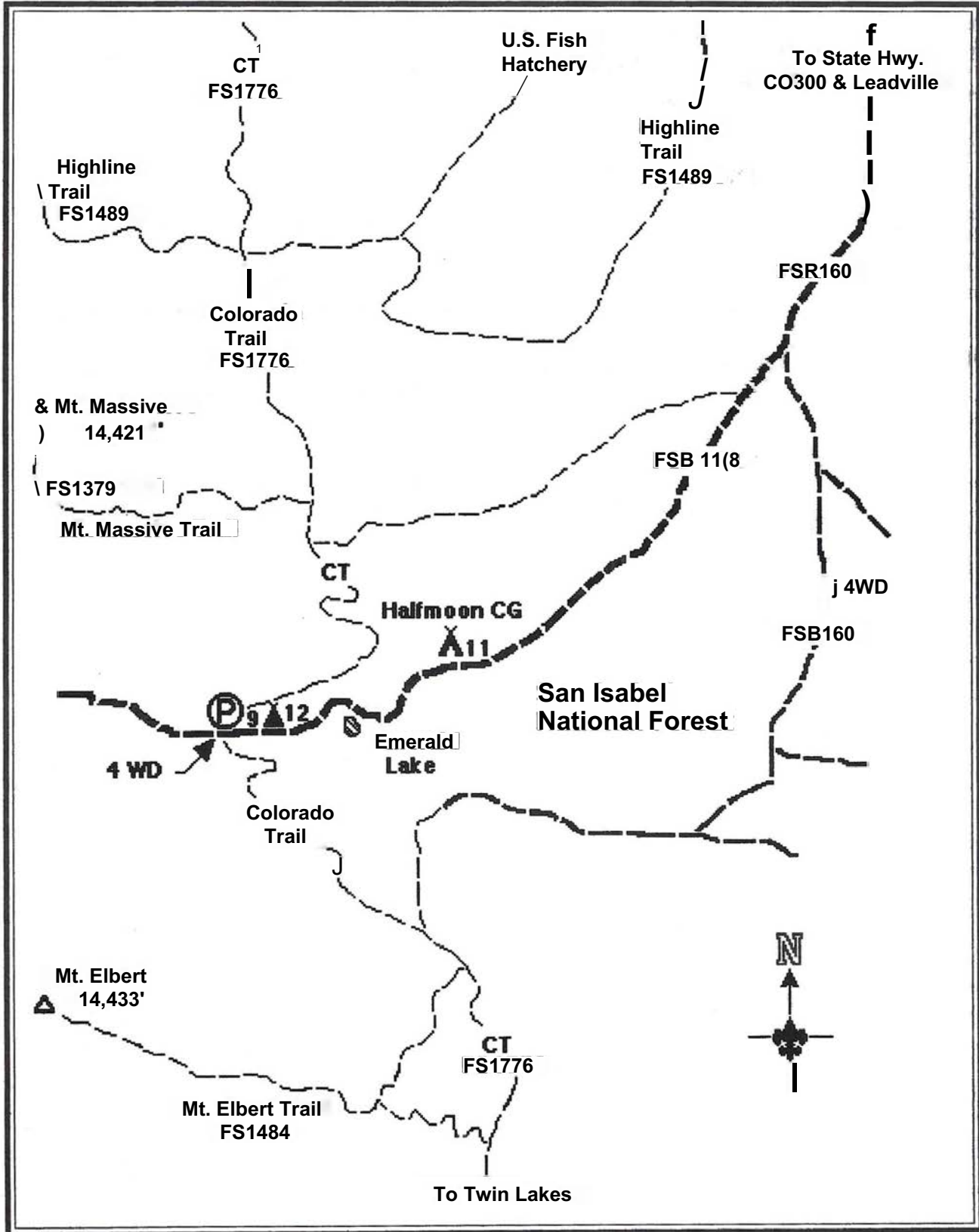
Segment Total - 6.2 miles  
Total from Start - 9.4 miles

- **FSR107 (St. Kevin Trailhead) to Turquoise Lake** - Follow the CT along the edge of the meadow. In 800' the trail becomes rocky as it enters the forest and descends into the Bear Creek drainage. As you get closer to Bear Lake the trail seems to vanish at times into the rocks and foliage. The CT passes Bear Lake several hundred feet to the west. Between the trail and the lake are campsites, noted on the "Turquoise Lake" map as campsite 7. As the CT leaves Bear Lake it continues through a dense forest passing three small lakes. The trail climbs a ridge with a large number of switchbacks until it reaches the top of the ridge. The descent to Turquoise Lake starts above timberline and enters a lodgepole pine forest. Eventually you pass over Mill Creek then down the final descent to a gravel road which is 1 mile west of the upper end of Turquoise Lake, (P)6. Hike across the road to the bulletin board. Precede southwest on the remains of an old road and you will see, on your left, where the CT crosses the swift-flowing stream using a footbridge. The trail then turns southeast into a cool spruce forest. A backpack campsite with water is noted on the map as campsite 8.

Segment Total - 3.4 miles  
Total from Start -12.8 miles

- **Turquoise Lake to Rock Creek** - The Colorado Trail parallels the lake for about 2 miles gradually veering away from the lake. The trail passes two streams, Glacier Creek and Bush Creek (good drinking water), then ascends to the old Hagerman Pass Road. The CT crosses the road, continues south and climbs steadily through lodgepole pines. Several open areas along the way provide great views to the north and of the Continental Divide. Eventually you reach the saddle just west of Sugarloaf Mountain where the trail crosses an old logging road and under some power lines. Just south of the power lines is a clear cut timbered area, but soon the trail enters a spruce and fir forest containing large older growth trees. There are recesses that are cool and damp and several streams crossing the trail on the way to Rock Creek. In about 2 miles you reach another ridge just west of Twin Mounds. At this point you start your descent south into the Rock Creek drainage. The trail turns into an old road and gradually levels off. You pass the trail that parallels the northern edge of the National Fish Hatchery; Kearney Park is on your right, the CT turns to your right and follows along the south side of the park. You can camp at Kearney Park, campsite 9, but there is water only in the early part of season. The trail turns south again and does its final descent to the north bank of Rock Creek. This is by far a better camping area, noted on the map as campsite 10. Several groups can camp here at the same time; there is always plenty of good water, level campsites and firewood are available. The trail along

# HALFMOON CREEK



the south side of the National Fish Hatchery starts here and parallels the north side of Rock Creek back to the Hatchery and civilization.

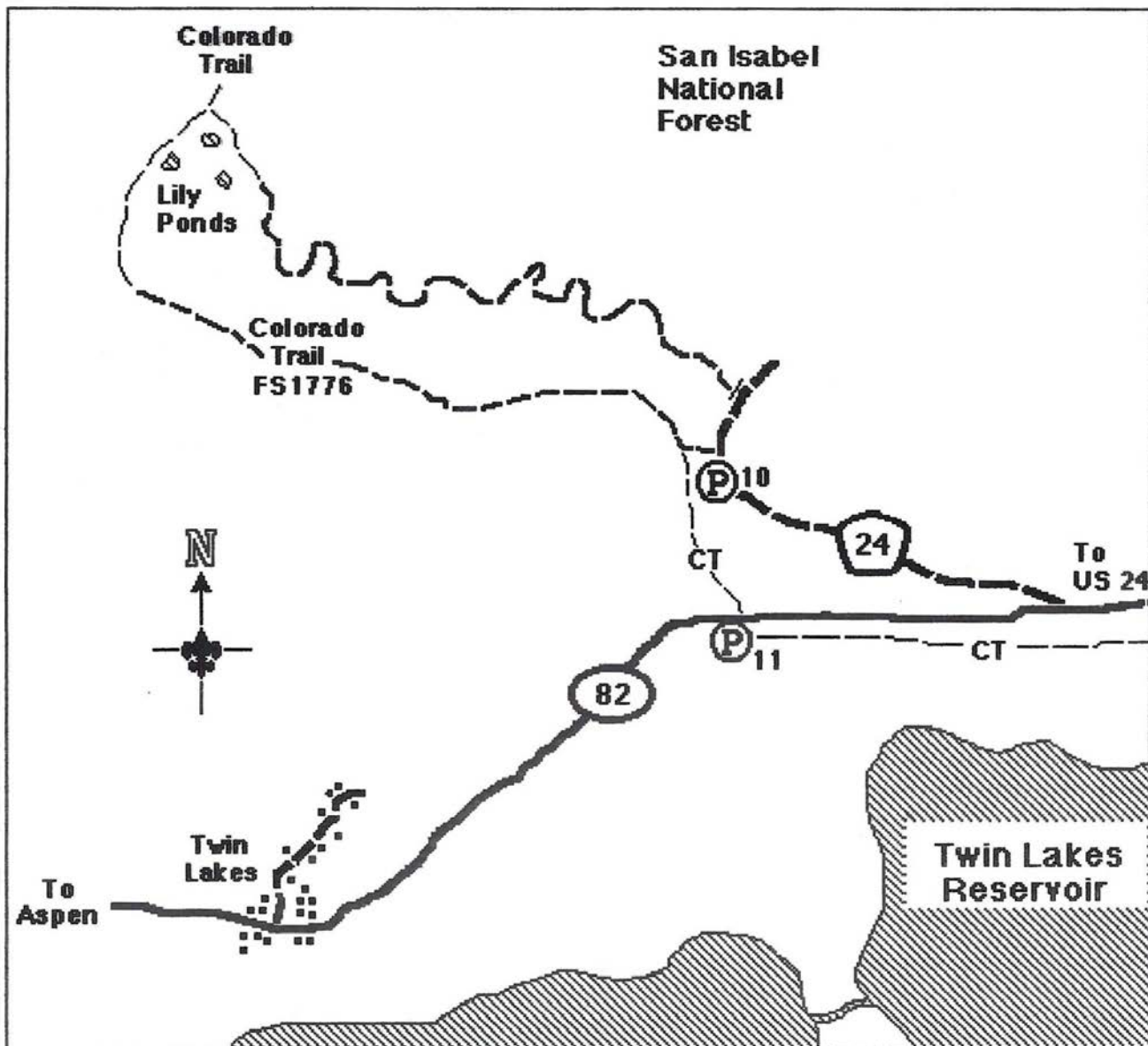
Segment Total - 6.6 miles  
Total from Start -19.4 miles

• **Rock Creek to Halfmoon Creek** - The CT crosses Rock Creek on a sturdy bridge and continues south. The CT will cross three streams that usually have water flowing (good drinking water). In about 1.8 miles the Highline Trail (FS1489) crosses the CT. You can exit from the CT by taking the eastward leg of this trail. Continuing south on the CT for another 1.9 miles you pass the Mt. Massive Trail (FS1379). It is 3.5 miles one-way and 3,180' elevation gain to make it to the top of Mt Massive from this trail intersection. Continue south for another 3.3 miles down a steep descent to the Halfmoon Creek Valley. Both parking and camping is available, reference "Halfmoon Creek" map, noted as (P)9 and campsites 11 and 12.

Segment Total - 7 miles  
Total from Start - 26.4 miles



# TWIN LAKES



• **Halfmoon Creek to Twin Lakes** - The CT crosses FSR110 and continues south. This part of the CT is well used because it is the most direct route to Mt. Elbert. In .7 mile you will cross the northeast ridge trail that leads to the summit of Mt. Elbert. Continue south, the trail joins an old road for about .5 mile. You will pass another trail to Mt. Elbert just before you cross Herrington Creek. You then pass through an elongated meadow and over a broad saddle. Descend through an aspen meadow, stay to the right where the trail splits above the Lily Ponds. Circle to the west of the Lily Ponds. The CT will turn east and onto a four wheel drive road. In about 1.5 miles you will exit the trail at CR24 or you can continue another .4 mile to CO82. You can park on either of these roads, reference "Twin Lakes" map as (P)10 and (P) 11.

Segment Total - 6.7 miles

Total from Start - 33.1 miles

## 7-5 LEADVILLE IN THE WINTER - WHERE TO STAY, WHERE TO SKI

Drive Time: 3-4 Hours  
Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

A reasonably priced approach for a troop to go downhill skiing is to ski early in the season or at the end of the season and be willing to ski one of the smaller ski areas. Troops often stay at the First Presbyterian Church Youth Center in Leadville. The building is heated with rest rooms and showers: there are two large rooms, sleeping is on the floor with pad and sleeping bag bedding you provide. A large kitchen with all kinds of equipment is available. Rates at the church as of 1995 are \$6.00 per person per night. The Lake County Recreational Complex is open to the public (in winter months it is usually open from 12 noon until 7:30 PM) with hot tub, swimming pool and gym; it is only three blocks north of the church youth center. Group rates are available at the Recreation Center if requested (10-12 people needed for group rates). Bring another \$5.00 per Scout for this fun activity. Ski Cooper is just north of Leadville at Tennessee Pass and has some attractive early season or end of the season rates. Phone numbers for contacts:

Ski Cooper	1 (719) 486-3684 (administrative)
	1 (719)486-2277 (tickets)
Presbyterian Church	1 (719) 486-0673 (church office)
Lake Co. Recreation	1 (719) 486-0917

Notes: Reservations should be made well in advance (6 months) for renting the youth center at the church. Also, check with the Recreation Center for seasonal changes in hours.

## CROSS COUNTRY SKIING AROUND LEADVILLE

The cross country trails described below are not dangerous, are not in avalanche areas and have cross country trail signs posted by the Forest Service for you to follow.

Drive Time: 3 - 4 Hours  
Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

## 7-6 COLORADO MT. COLLEGE - CROSS COUNTRY SKI

A good location for Scouts to practice on cross country skis is on the campus of Colorado Mountain College (CMC). There are groomed trails that are as wide as roads and all types of terrain variations. There are open areas where a group can practice going uphill, traversing, skiing downhill and of course how to get up after a fall. Colorado Mt. College is located just south of Leadville.

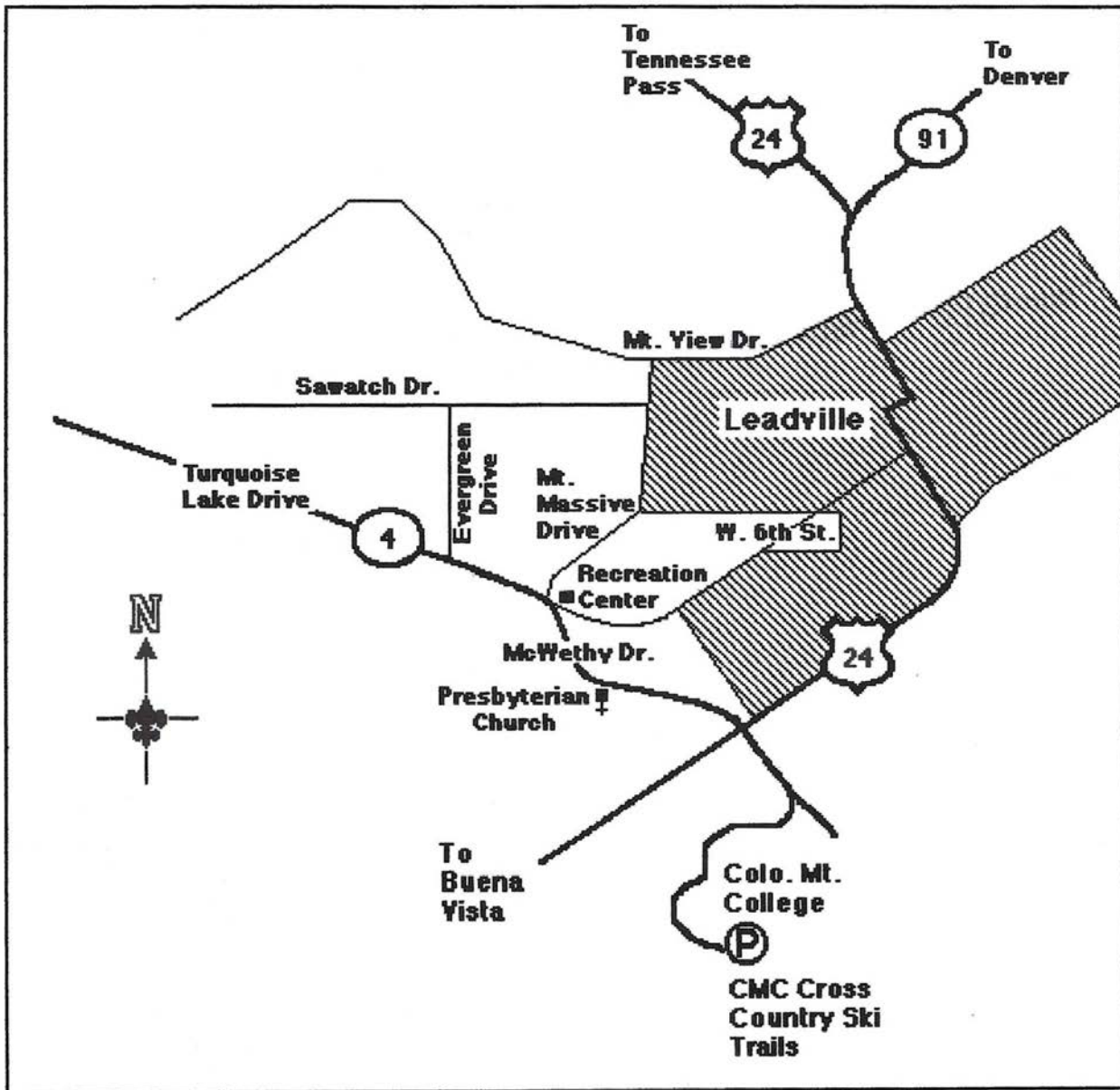
**How to get there:** Take US 24 south until you reach McWethy Drive. Turn left (there is a sign for CMC on the south side of US 24) just up the hill and around a turn make the first right hand turn into the campus. Drive through the parking areas pass several classroom and dormitory buildings staying to the north side of the buildings and heading toward the



southwest side of campus. There will be a barricade across the road and you will be able to see some distance down the snowy road. Several parking spaces are next to the barricade and the main trailhead.

Put your skis on and follow the road south around the barricade, in a short distance you will find a cross country ski map on display and rules posted on a bulletin board. From this point you can choose trails according to your group's skill levels. Most of the trails are south and east of the bulletin board. You can't get lost, the ski trails are a number of loops that interconnect and have cross country trail signs posted according to difficulty level.

## LEADVILLE, COLORADO



## 7-7 TENNESSEE PASS TRAIL - CROSS COUNTRY SKI

The Tennessee Pass area always has snow and a number of trails and roads drivable during the summer can be used for cross country skiing or snowshoeing during the winter. One favorite activity is to drive to the top of Tennessee Pass and ski down the Colorado Trail for 2.5 miles and back to US 24 on FSR100 to Crane Park Trailhead, reference the "West Tennessee Creek" map, trail notation (a). Leave a car or two in the parking area at Crane Park Trailhead.

**How to get there:** Drive the group to the top of Tennessee Pass to the large parking area on the west side of US 24, reference parking area (P)4 on the map. There are decent rest rooms located next to the parking area. If you want to make it a longer trip after you have descended to the Colorado Trail you can ski up to Lily Lake or beyond. Also you can ski pass the car camping area (campsite 2) mentioned earlier in this chapter or even up the Colorado Trail to Longs Gulch. Longs Gulch is considered intermediate to advanced due to steepness.

These areas are recommended for a Scouts second or third cross country ski adventure. At least a half day's practice is needed with some basic lessons on snowplowing and how to get up with your skis on before such trips are made. A suggestion is to practice on the groomed trails at the Leadville campus of Colorado Mountain College before you try the back country trails.

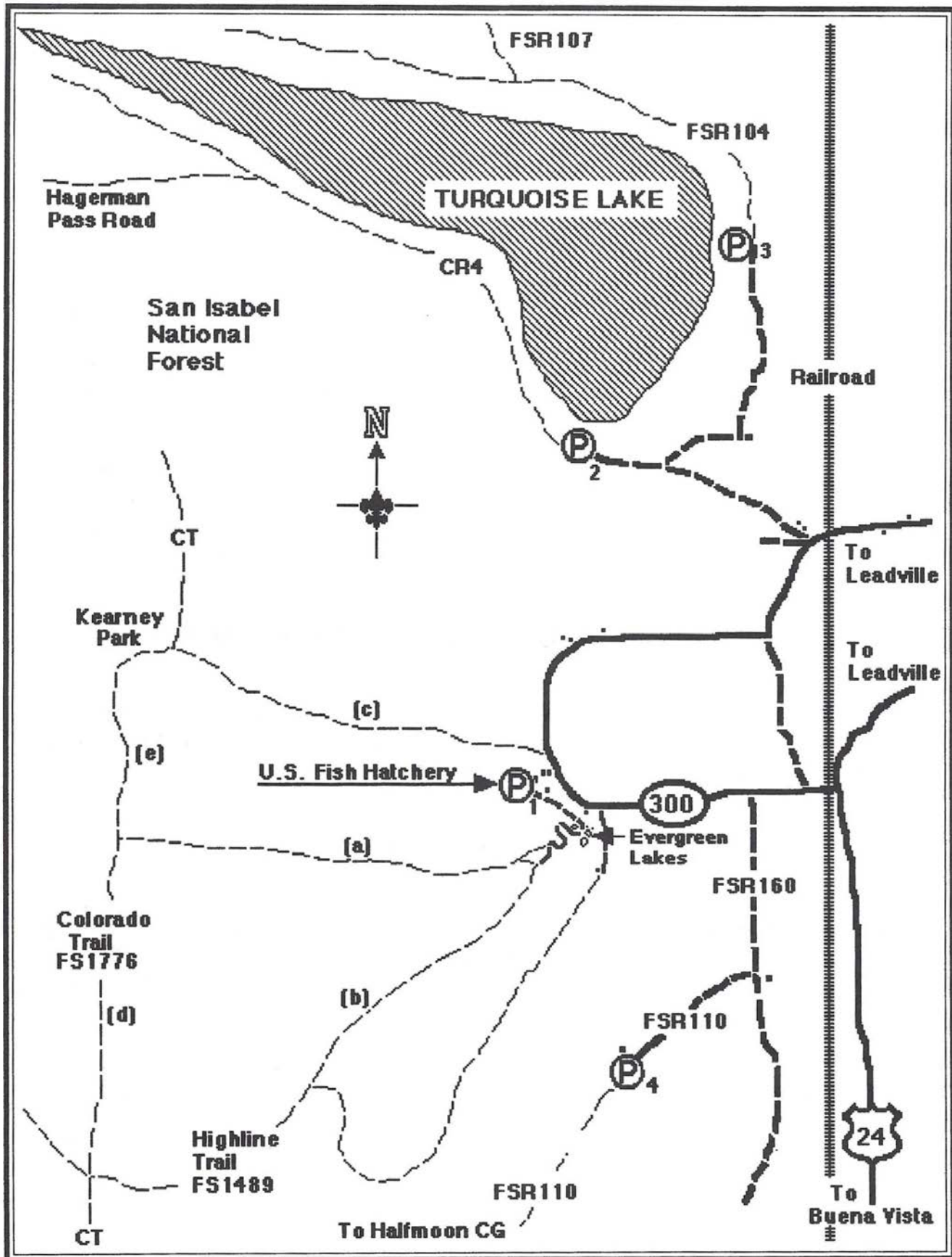
**Other cross country ski trips starting at the top of Tennessee pass:** Head northwest from the parking area (P)4 on the Powder Horn Loop trail, noted as trail (b) on the "West Tennessee Creek" map; in .5 mile it will intersect with the Old Railroad Run Loop, noted as trail (c) on the map. You can take the loop to the right which makes a longer (5-6 miles) trip or you can turn left, noted as trail (d) on the map and take the trail uphill for .5 mile, when you get to the top take the Tree Line Loop, noted as trail (e) along a ridge, it takes you back to your vehicles.

## 7-8 U.S. NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY - CROSS COUNTRY SKI

Scouts with just a little experience can try the National Fish Hatchery cross country ski trails around the Evergreen Lakes. The longer loop trails are intermediate, Scouts should have some experience to handle this terrain and the longer distances involved. There is a trail guide published by the US Department of the Interior entitled *A Guide to Cross Country Ski and Hiking Trails*, these are available at the Fish Hatchery Trailhead.

**How to get there:** Take US 24 south out of Leadville. At Malta, where US 24 turns south, CO300 will turn off to the west. Follow CO300 for 2.5 miles and turn off at the fish hatchery. Drive back into the hatchery area pass white bungalow housing and park southwest of the old brick building, noted on the "Cross Country Ski Trails" map as (P)1.

# CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRAILS



There are a number of loop trails you can take; two trails start at the fish hatchery; one to the south of the parking area and another just north of the fish hatchery. The main trail starts on a service road south of the fish hatchery complex. You can see this road when you are in the parking lot. Ski up this road to Evergreen Lakes. There are six small lakes just above the fish hatchery. There are interlocking nature trails during the summer around these lakes. During the cross country ski season the same short trails can be used for skiing. If an adventure is desired take the road around the lakes and off to the southwest.

A well used cross country trail is north of Rock Creek noted on the "Cross Country Ski Trails" map as trail (a), and heads west for several miles, eventually intersecting with the Colorado Trail. You can return on the same trail or make a loop using the CT, noted as trail (d) to connect you with the Highline Trail to the south (FS1489), noted as trail (b). The Highline Trail Loop is 7.8 miles.

The second loop trail is known as the Kearney Park Loop. Take the CT north from the junction of trail (a) and the CT to Kearney Park, noted as trail (e). The return trail will start on the southeast side of Kearney Park which returns you just north of the fish hatchery, noted as trail (c). The Kearney Park Loop is 6.8 miles.

Note: Both of the loop trails are for intermediate skiers.

### **7-9 HALFMOON CREEK - CROSS COUNTRY SKI**

Halfmoon Creek is a nice gentle incline (almost flat) up FSR110 that is busy during the summer months with campers, mountain climbers and bikers. During the winter it is much quieter, only a few skiers.

**How to get there:** Take US 24 south out of Leadville. At Malta, where US 24 turns south, CO300 will turn off to the west. Take CO300 for .75 mile and turn south onto FSR160 towards Halfmoon Campground. Take this road for 1 mile; the plowed road will turn southwest on FSR110. take it for another .8 mile to the turn around and parking area this is where the snowplowing effort ends. Park your car.

You can ski on the road that goes to Halfmoon Campground. You should be able to use the normal signs posted along the road to find your way. The first 4-5 miles is easy. If you go beyond the CT intersection the terrain becomes difficult. The last 1.5 miles are steep. There is an old cabin and an Outward Bound cabin about 7 miles up the Halfmoon Creek Road. Beyond the location where the CT crosses the road the walls of the canyon become much steeper and you are prone to avalanche danger. Total round trip distance is 14 miles, but don't be discouraged you can turn around anytime the group wants.

### **7-10 TURQUOISE LAKE - CROSS COUNTRY SKI**

There are two alternatives for cross country skiing the Turquoise Lake area. Take 6th Street west off US 24 as it passes through the main street of Leadville. Follow 6th Street through town pass the new recreation center, taking the Turquoise Lake Road, CR4, which heads west for about 4 miles. There will be an intersection where you have a choice of

three plowed roads, take the one to the right, there is a Turquoise Lake sign. There are two places to park depending on where you want to ski. You can cross Sugar Loaf Dam and park on the west side (P)2, then ski up CR4 that parallels the south side of the lake (lots of snowmobilers). For the other alternative turn right just before the dam and drive up the east side of the lake, park where the snowplowing quits, see notation (P)3. Follow FSR104 around the north side of the lake (very few skiers or snowmobilers). Another possible alternative on the north road is to take the St. Kevin Road (FSR107) at 3.2 miles and head north away from the lake. It will take you up into an old mining area, but the terrain is much steeper and is appropriate for advanced skiers.

### **7-11 10th MOUNTAIN TRAIL AND HUTS**

The 10th Mountain Trail Association has built fourteen huts in the back country around Leadville, Aspen and Vail to provide a warm comfortable night to cross country skiers. These buildings are called huts from the old European tradition, but they could be called inns because of their size and the dollars invested in the buildings and facilities. Memorial Funds have provided many of the dollars that built these cross country ski facilities. These inns are open during the winter months for cross country skiers. Many ski from inn to inn over two to three days.

This activity is not recommended for the average Scout in that you must have the physical, mental and skiing abilities as well as dollars, \$\$\$. Cost per person/night ranges from \$20.00 to \$30.00. Cost does not include food, but a kitchen is available at each inn to cook the food you bring. Huts can hold up to 16 guests, sleeping bags are required. Special cross country ski maps of the hut system are available through the contact phone number. Guide and shuttle services can also be recommended through this number.

Contact is made by phone: 1 (303) 925-5775

Hours: 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Monday-Friday

8:00 AM -12:00 Noon, Saturday (during the winter months)

### **7-12 HALFMOON CAMPGROUND - CAR CAMP**

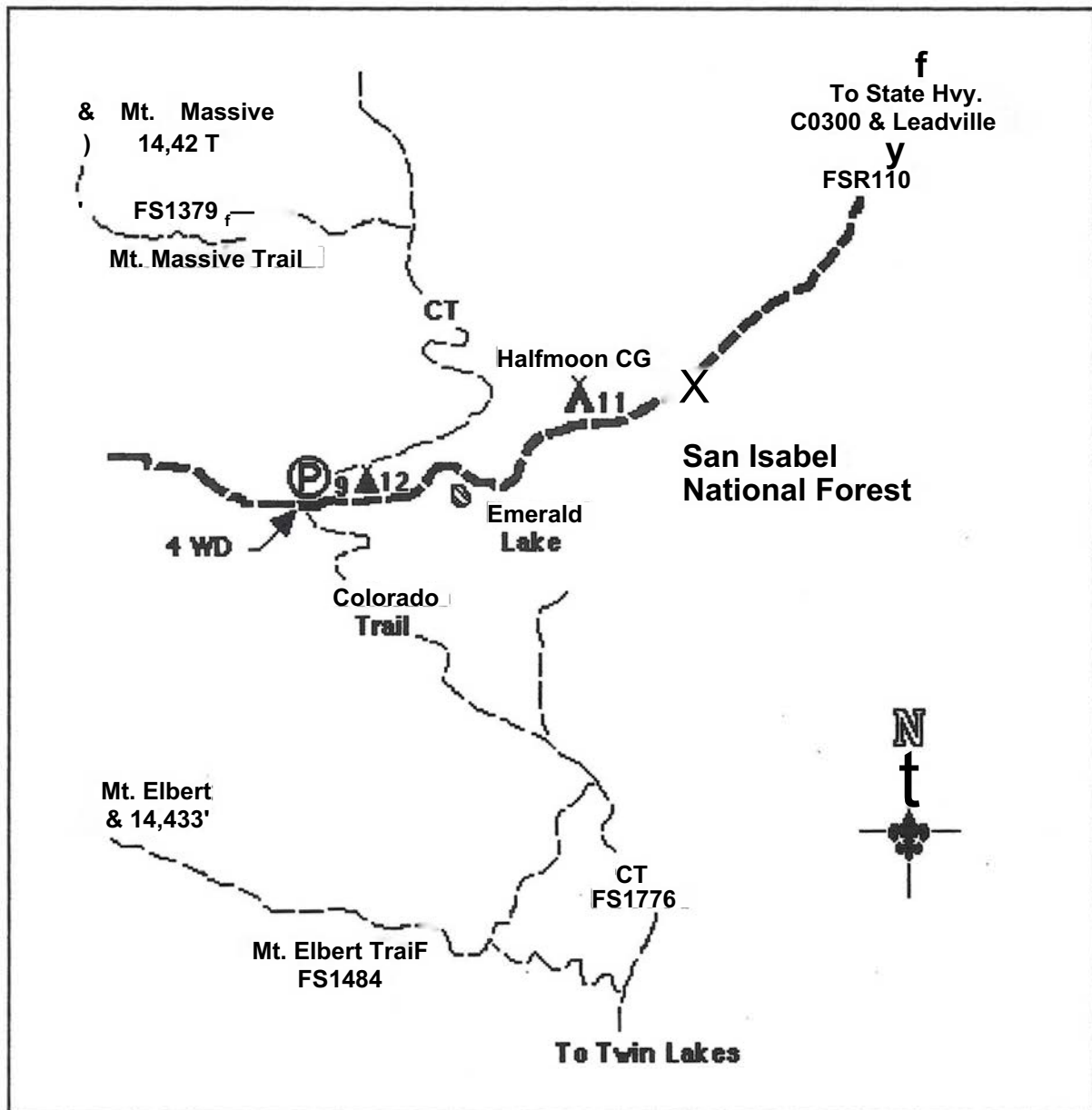
Drive Time: 3 - 4 Hours

Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

Located west of Leadville at the base of Mt. Elbert and Mt. Massive is Halfmoon Creek. Halfmoon Campground provides a good base camp for climbing these two fourteeners or car camping during summer. FSR110 provides access to the valley: this valley also provides good cross country skiing during the winter. Each of the fourteeners will take an entire day to climb and return to you base camp. Mt. Elbert, 14,433', is Colorado's highest peak; and Mt. Massive 14,421' is the second highest. Both peaks can be climbed without special equipment. There is parking for about 15-20 cars at the Colorado Trail Trailhead which is 1.5 miles west of the campground on the Halfmoon Creek Road (FSR110).

**How to get there:** Take US 24 south through the community of Leadville to Malta. Make a right turn (west) on CO300, go for .75 mile and turn south on FSR160 for 1 mile then west on FSR110 to Halfmoon Campground. Follow the Forest Service signs to the campground. This campground is available to the public (first come, first served) and a users fee must be paid for each campsite. Tables, latrines, water and some firewood is available.

## MT. ELBERT / MT. MASSIVE



## 7-13 MT. ELBERT - FOURTEENER

Drive Time: 3-4 Hours

Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

Up, up and away, to the highest point of land in the State of Colorado (14,433'). We are talking about Mt. Elbert located just southwest of Leadville. There are at least five trails up Mt. Elbert. The one discussed here starts in the Halfmoon Creek Valley and uses the Colorado Trail for access. The trail starts at the CT Trailhead 1.5 miles west of Halfmoon Campground. At this point the CT, FS1776, crosses the road. A campsite is available northeast of the road/trail intersection, noted as campsite 12. Hike south on the Colorado Trail for .7 mile then turn right and begin ascending the unmarked northeast ridge trail. In about another mile you will come to timberline and the trail will continue on the northeast ridge of Mt. Elbert until about 12,700 feet. From this point the trail levels out a little to the summit. Mt. Elbert is 5 miles one-way with 4,400' elevation gain, allow 9 hours for the round trip.

The Scouts who tackle this one will feel like they have accomplished something by the time they return; the "Fourteener" patch is available from the Denver Area Council. See section 26-11 in the Important Facts and Information Chapter.

Note: Always start early in the morning to protect your group from afternoon thunderstorms and the heat of the day. Take extra water, there is usually little or no water available on top of fourteeners.

## 7-14 MT. MASSIVE - FOURTEENER

Mt. Massive is 14,421' and total round trip distance is 13.6 miles, allow 11 hours. Mt. Massive has the same starting point as the Mt. Elbert Trail, so read the instructions above for finding the trailhead. The trail to Mt. Massive follows the Colorado Trail, FS1776, to the north of Halfmoon Creek Valley. The trail leaves the parking lot located on the north side of the road. Hike 3.3 miles north along the CT, you will pass a trail to your right. Continue on the Colorado Trail until the Mt. Massive trail intersection, FS1379, which is marked with a Forest Service sign. Turn west (left), it is an additional 3.5 miles to the summit. This is a long hard trip; be sure your hikers are up to the task.



# 8 CENTRAL COLORADO

## 8-1 GRAYS AND TORREYS PEAKS - FOURTEENERS

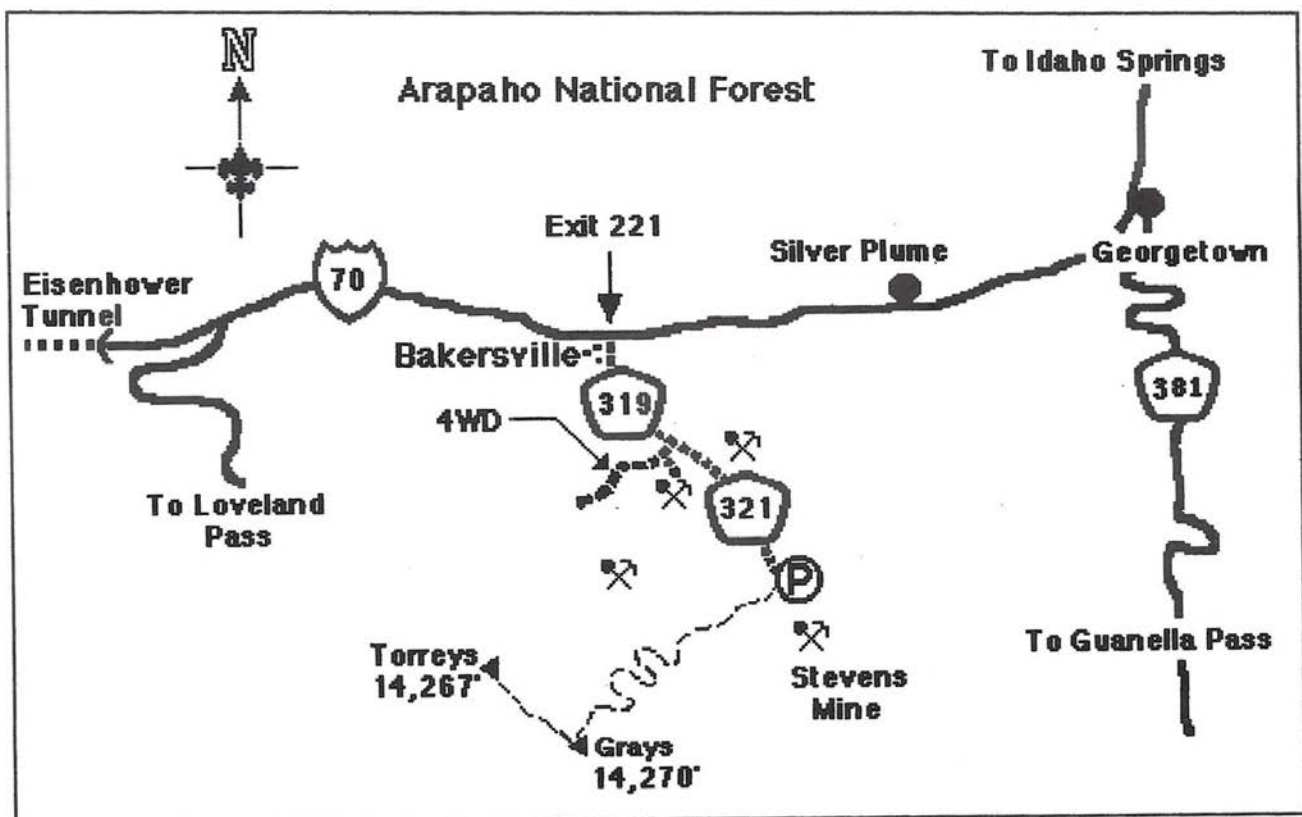
Grays and Torreys are two of the closest fourteeners located due west of the Denver Metropolitan area, just off I-70. This is an easy trip for a one day adventure, but start early to stay out of the afternoon thunderstorms.

Drive Time: 1.25 Hours

Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

**How to get there:** Drive west on Interstate 70 to Georgetown, continue for another six miles to exit 221, also known, as the Bakersville exit. Take the dirt road south through Bakersville and up Stevens Gulch (CR319). One mile from Bakersville the road forks, take the fork to the left (CR321). Continue for another 2 miles to the trailhead parking where the trail starts, you will be near the Steven's Mine.

The trail to Grays and Torreys Peaks crosses the creek and winds southwest 2 miles into a large cirque. From this point the trail climbs up 1.5 miles to the summit of Grays Peak. To do Torreys take the trail northwest from Grays, running along the ridge of the saddle between the two peaks. Be careful, it is narrow in places. Return via the same route.





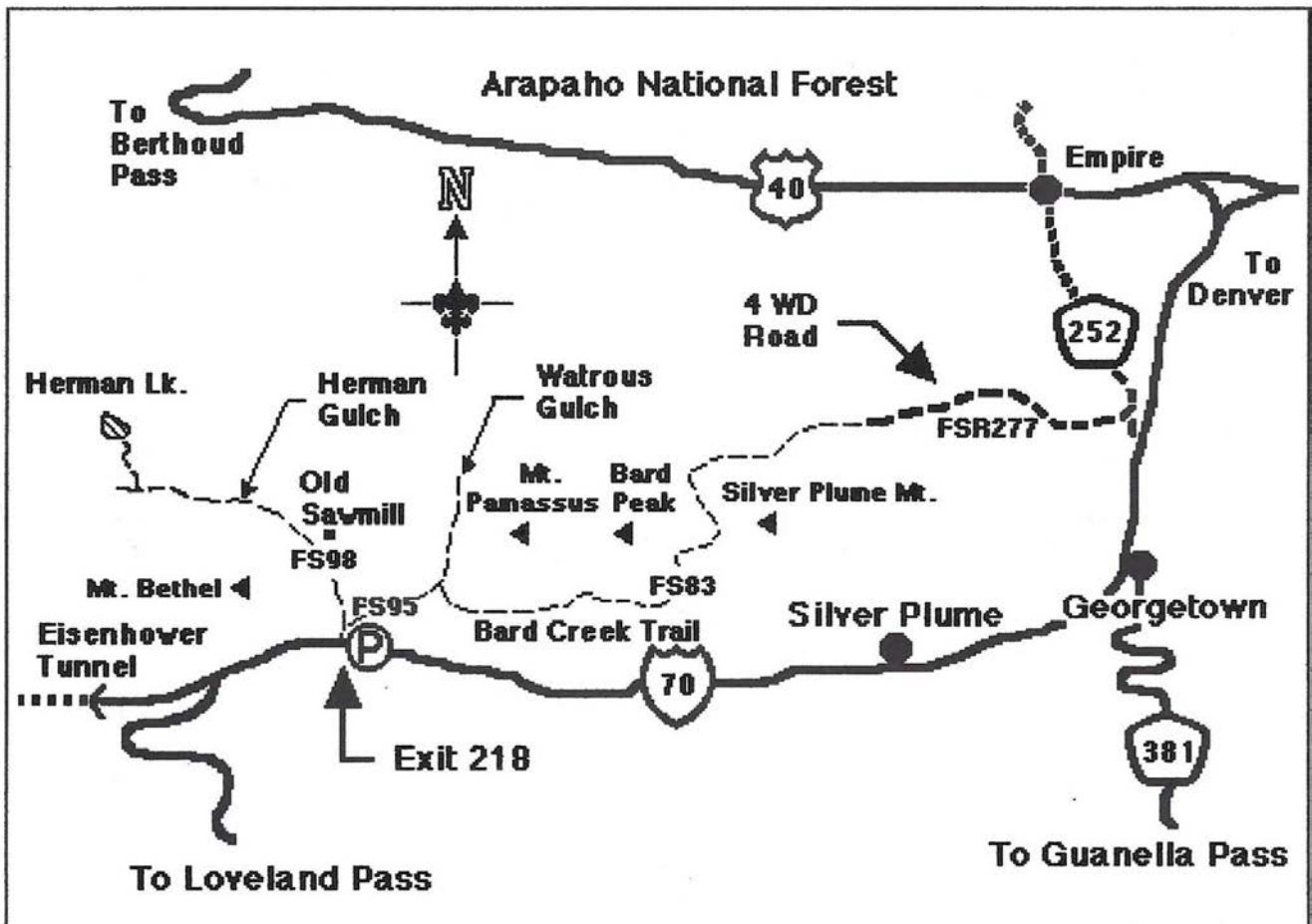
## 8-2 HERMAN GULCH - HIKES/BACKPACK

Several activities can take place from the Herman Gulch Trailhead. You can take a day hike to Herman Gulch. You can go towards Watrous Gulch Trail and climb one or more 13'ers or you can take the Bard Creek Trail for an overnight backpack and exit near the community of Empire.

Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

**How to get there:** Take Interstate 70 west past Georgetown and Silver Plume to Exit 218 on the north side of the Interstate. A large parking area can be seen from the Interstate as you exit. This is the trailhead for any of the three activities mentioned above. From the parking lot, hike up an old logging road to the north of the parking area. July or August is recommended due to heavy snow each winter.

**Herman Gulch and Lake:** Take the Herman Gulch Trail (FS98) which splits to the left. You will pass an old sawmill area with a lot of slashing on the lower part of the trail. The goal is to hike to Herman Lake which is 3 miles one-way with a 1000' elevation gain. Herman Lake is nestled next to the Continental Divide and is a good place to have lunch.



**Watrous Gulch:** Take the same road from the parking lot, where the trail splits take the trail to the right (FS95). This trail goes for 2.5 miles through aspen and lodgepole pine. You will pass Bard Creek Trailhead (FS83) as you work your way up Watrous Gulch. You will eventually arrive above timberline with some excellent views. Two of the tallest mountains are Mt. Parnassus at 13,574' and Bard Peak at 13,641' which you may want to climb.

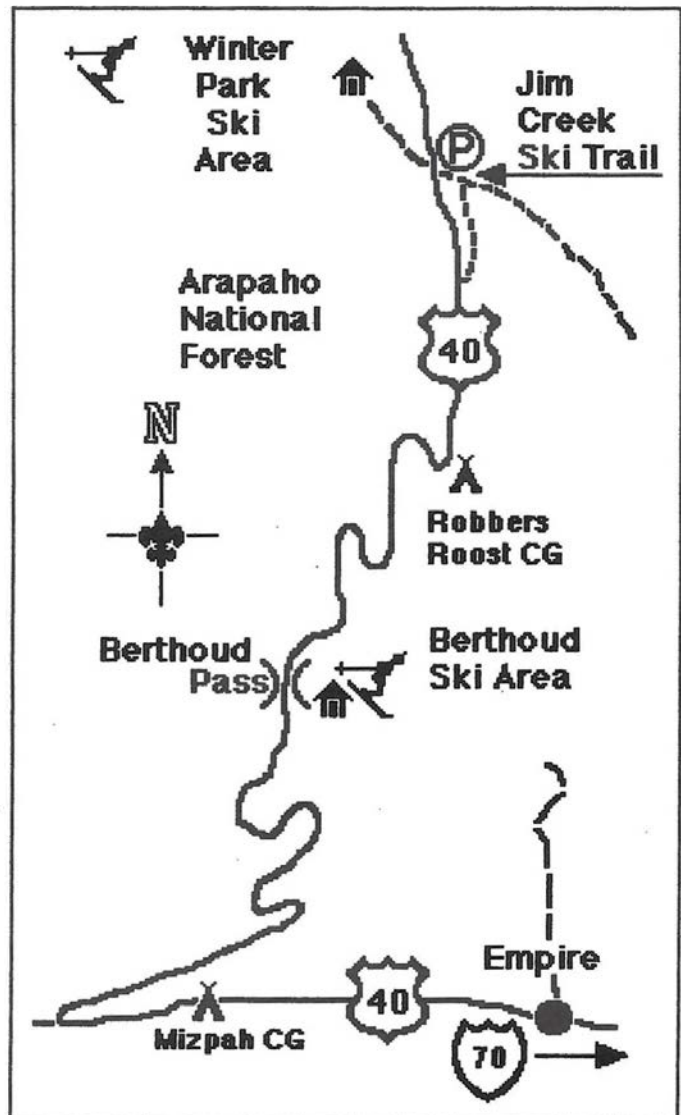
**Bard Creek Trail to Empire:** Take the Watrous Gulch Trail to its intersection with FS83, continue on FS83. This is a 15 mile trek from Herman Gulch Trailhead over to Empire. If you backpack the best camping areas are at Watrous Gulch or 6 miles over the top to the other side where high country streams can provide you a source of water. As you hike towards Empire FS83 turns into a 4 wheel drive road noted as FSR277 and eventually into a car drivable road (CR252) a mile or so from Empire. With a little planning a shuttle vehicle can be left at Empire for the next days transportation.

### 8-3 JIM CREEK - CROSS COUNTRY SKI

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
 Map Reference: Arapaho and  
 Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
 Fraser Quad.

**How to get there:** Jim Creek is located on the east side of US 40 across from the Winter Park Ski Area. Take I-70 west through Idaho Springs, when you reach the intersection where US 40 leaves I-70, continue on US 40. Travel through Empire (at the speed limit) then over Berthoud Pass. Use the main entrance (south side) to the Winter Park Ski Area. Park in the Winter Park parking lot close to where you entered. Walk back out the Winter Park Road to US 40. Carefully walk across US 40 to the open area directly across from the entrance to the ski area.

Put on your skis in the open area and ski down the depression to your right (south) for about 75 yards, towards trees. You should be able to see an unmarked trail which goes off to your left. The Jim Creek Trail climbs gently and passes under a water diversion pipe after about



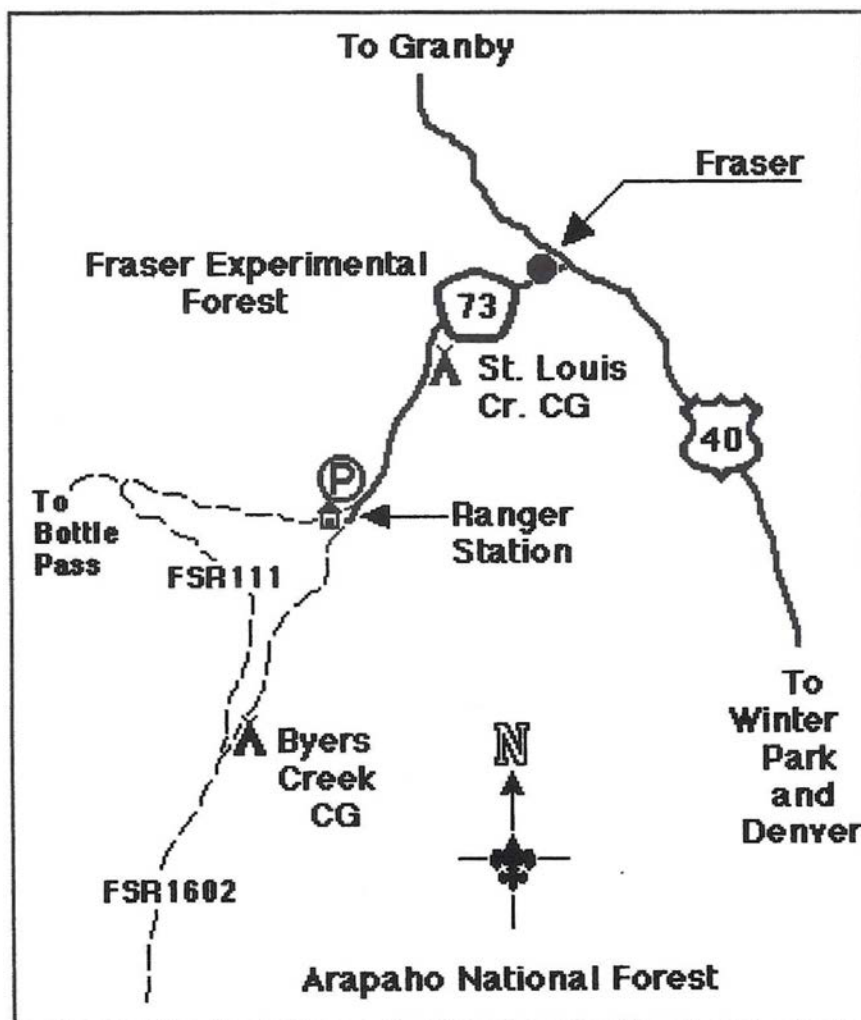
.25 mile. The trail follows along the south side of Jim Creek in a southeasterly direction. Although the trail is unmarked it is several feet wide and easy to follow. The area offers several fairly clear hills off the trail to practice downhill techniques on cross country skis. Ski in for about 2 hours, eat lunch, play around, and ski out in about 1 hour. It's a nice gentle downhill ski trek coming out. This trip doesn't require prior experience except for the trip leaders. You can also build a snow dome (quinzhee) and camp overnight. Tell people at Winter Park that you are camping overnight. You can also divide your Scouts into a group of downhill skiers and a group of cross country skiers for a day trip.

### 8-4 FRASER EXPERIMENTAL FOREST - CROSS COUNTRY SKI

The Fraser Experimental Forest area has a number of trails which can be cross country skied in winter. One especially good trip is the loop trail, letting you return by a different route. Total trip is about 7 miles of fairly flat terrain in a forested area. This is a good area for beginners.

Drive Time:	2 Hours
Map Reference:	Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition Fraser Quad.

**How to get there:** The Fraser Experimental Forest area is located northwest of the Winter Park Ski Area. Take I-70 west through Idaho Springs, when you reach the intersection where US 40 leaves the Interstate, take US 40. Travel through Empire, then over Berthoud Pass. Drive past the Winter Park Ski Area and on into Fraser. In town turn west onto Eisenhower Drive and continue across the railroad tracks. Proceed another long block west then turn left onto the Fraser Experimental Forest Road, CR73, marked by a sign. Bend right after two blocks and stay on the main road to a large parking area near the Fraser Experimental Station, a total of 4.7 miles from US 40.



Four trails take-off from the parking area. Take the one which goes south down the valley and follows St. Louis Creek, noted on the map as CR73. This is a flat area and there are places to practice downhill and turns. Continue on this road for about two miles. You will come across a water diversion facility that feeds the Moffat Tunnel. The Moffat Tunnel is actually two tunnels, one for the famous train and another for the not so famous water. Continue pass this area for another mile to the Byers Creek Campground. Just beyond the campground the loop begins. A road intersection will appear on the right, this is FSR111. Take it, this is the loop trail. Follow it for a mile or so in the reverse direction, it will eventually turn west into the forest, following a gradual incline. Soon after crossing West St. Louis Creek there will be a trail to your right. FS111 continues west to Bottle Pass, there is a sign. Follow the trail to your right; the last 2 miles after the hairpin turn is downhill and makes an easy, end of the day run. You will be at the Forest Experimental Station and your vehicles.

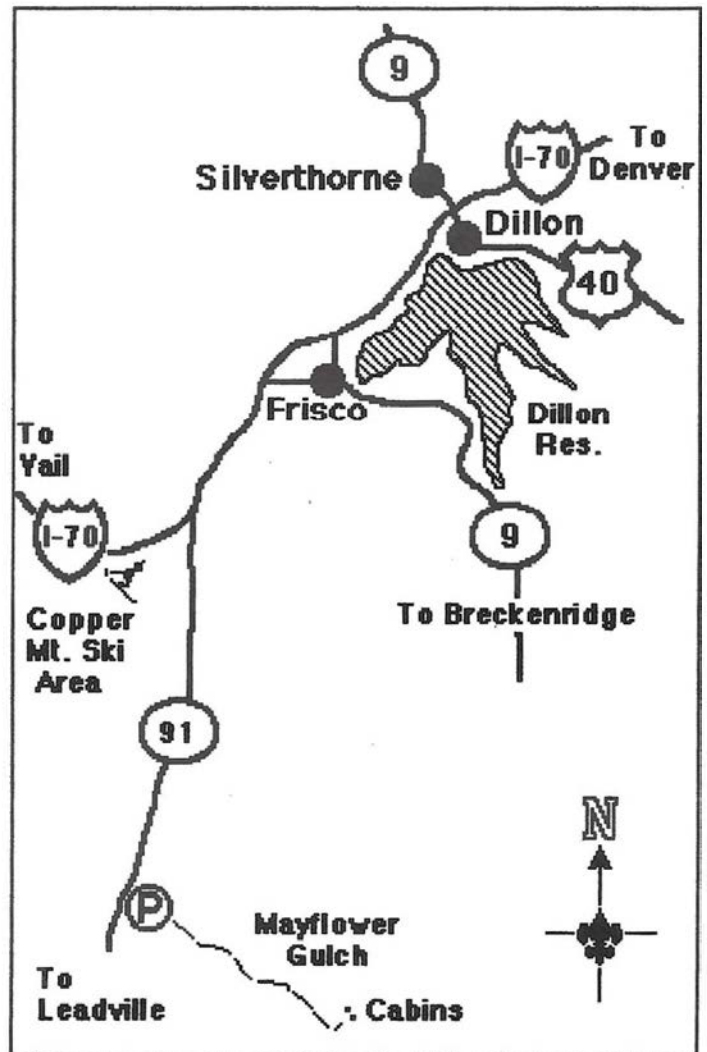
Note: This is a 7 mile trip, just perfect for beginners who have good endurance. Plan on about 5 hours for the full loop, this allows some time for lunch.

### 8-5 MAYFLOWER GULCH - CROSS COUNTRY SKI

This is a super cross country ski trip. The destination is two old cabins originally used by miners, but now maintained by mountain and cross country ski groups. The cabins are a good place to have lunch. The cabins are surrounded by rugged peaks that are part of the Tenmile Range. This trip should not be planned for Scouts who have never cross country skied before. The trail is rated as intermediate.

Drive Time: 2.5 Hours  
 Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition  
 Copper Mt. Quad.

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west, past Frisco to the Copper Mountain Ski Area. Just before you can see the Copper Mt. Complex take the turn-off on CO91 to Leadville. Continue on CO91; about halfway up to the Climax Mine (Fremont Pass), the first major valley to the east is Mayflower Gulch. The highway department snowplows a large parking area. Mayflower Gulch is noted on the 1991 White River National Forest Map.



The trail to the cabins is an old road. Usually the snow is packed down well enough by previous skiers that you will have no problems finding your way up the valley. The trail goes through trees for about 1.5 miles. The last half mile is open and it is often quite windy. The terrain is a gradual, continuous incline which means that when you return to your cars you can ski downhill almost without stopping. Don't worry, its not that steep, it's just fun!

Notes: This ski trail is 2 miles in length with an elevation gain of 1000 feet. The cabins are situated at 11,500'. Allow 1.5 hours up to the cabins and .5 hour returning to your vehicles.

### **8-6 WEBSTER PASS - CROSS COUNTRY SKI**

Webster Pass is accessible by 4 wheel drive vehicles during the summer, but in the winter it is only accessible by cross country skis or snowmobiles. It is 3 miles one-way and can take 2.5 to 3 hours one-way.

Drive Time: 2 Hours

Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition  
Montezuma Quad.

**How to get there:** Take your choice of highways to the Keystone Ski Area east of Dillon. Enter the eastern access road to the ski area. Within a few hundred feet turn left, away from the ski area, this is the road to Montezuma, FSR5. Montezuma was once a mining camp, but has declined over the years. There are still some homes occupied during the winter months and a number of summer homes in this old community. Montezuma is about a 5 mile drive from the Keystone intersection. Drive through Montezuma to where the snowplow efforts stop, about a mile. Park your vehicles here, noted on the map as (P)3.

There will be a cleared area (no trees) to the south and during the summer it's the continuation of the road. Ski south on this road until you notice the terrain ahead of you is starting uphill. Look for a narrow road intersection (ski trail during winter) to your left, on the east side. This is the Webster Pass Road. Follow it east for a short distance, then it turns south and continues in a southerly direction all the way to Webster Pass. There will be trees for a while but they will gradually fade-out and the surrounding area will become more barren. The trail has a slight incline until the final segment, which is a steep hill with a saddle to the southeast. A switchback jeep road works its way up the side of this hill, follow the switchbacks to the top. Look down the other side, your view is the Hall Valley and beyond, US 285.

Note: Webster Pass Road is noted as FSR285 on the White River National Forest map.

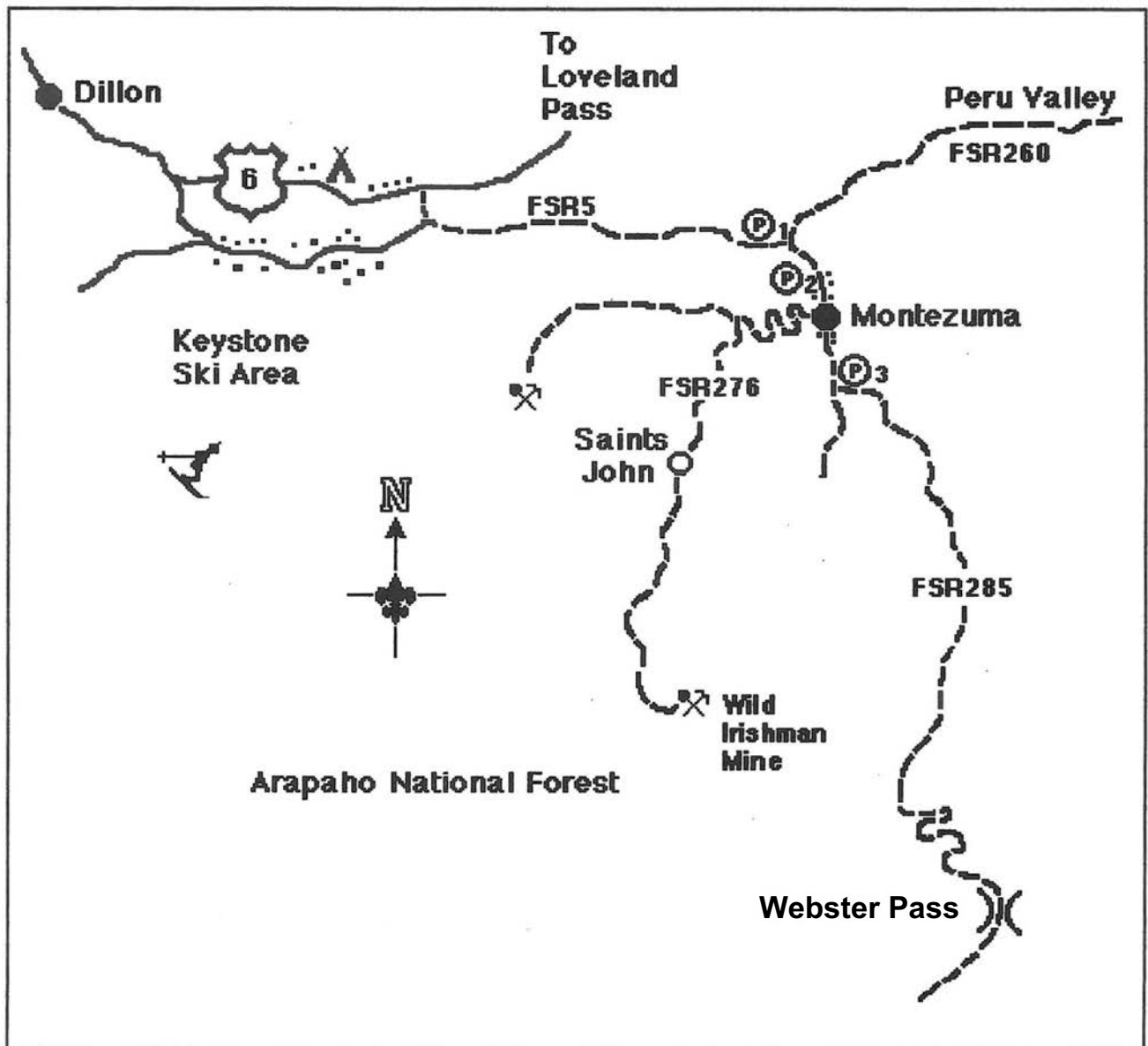
### **8-7 PERU VALLEY - CROSS COUNTRY SKI**

Peru Valley is a dirt/gravel road during the summer, but in the winter it is only accessible to cross country skiers. Maximum distance is 6 miles one-way which will take a good skier 4 hours. Of course, you can turn around and return whenever you wish.

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition  
Montezuma Quad.

**How to get there:** Take your choice of highways to the Keystone Ski Area east of Dillon. Enter the eastern access road to the ski area. Within a few hundred feet turn left (or east) away from the ski area, this is the road to Montezuma, FSR5. Drive towards Montezuma, in about four miles, and just before the road becomes steep with a number of turns, there is a pull-off on the north side of the road. This is where you park to ski the Peru Valley, noted on the map as (P)1. The trail starts on the north side of the road.

### WEBSTER PASS / PERU VALLEY / SAINTS JOHN



Go for about 50 yards pass the brown tin shack (left side), then pick up the obvious Peru Creek roadbed. The first four miles is flat as you ski up the Peru Valley floor. There are a number of old mining buildings that may be of interest.

Note: This valley is prone to avalanches during avalanche season. The trick is to stay to the opposite side of the valley furthest away from the avalanche chutes or not to do this particular trip when avalanche warnings are in effect. The avalanche chutes are barren of trees and easily identifiable.

### **8-8 SAINTS JOHN - CROSS COUNTRY SKI**

Saints John was a small mining community west of Montezuma on the side of a mountain. You ski on an old road all the way to the remains of this ghost town; this route is considered beginner to intermediate level. There was one old house several years ago that had someone living there during the winter.

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition  
Montezuma Quad.

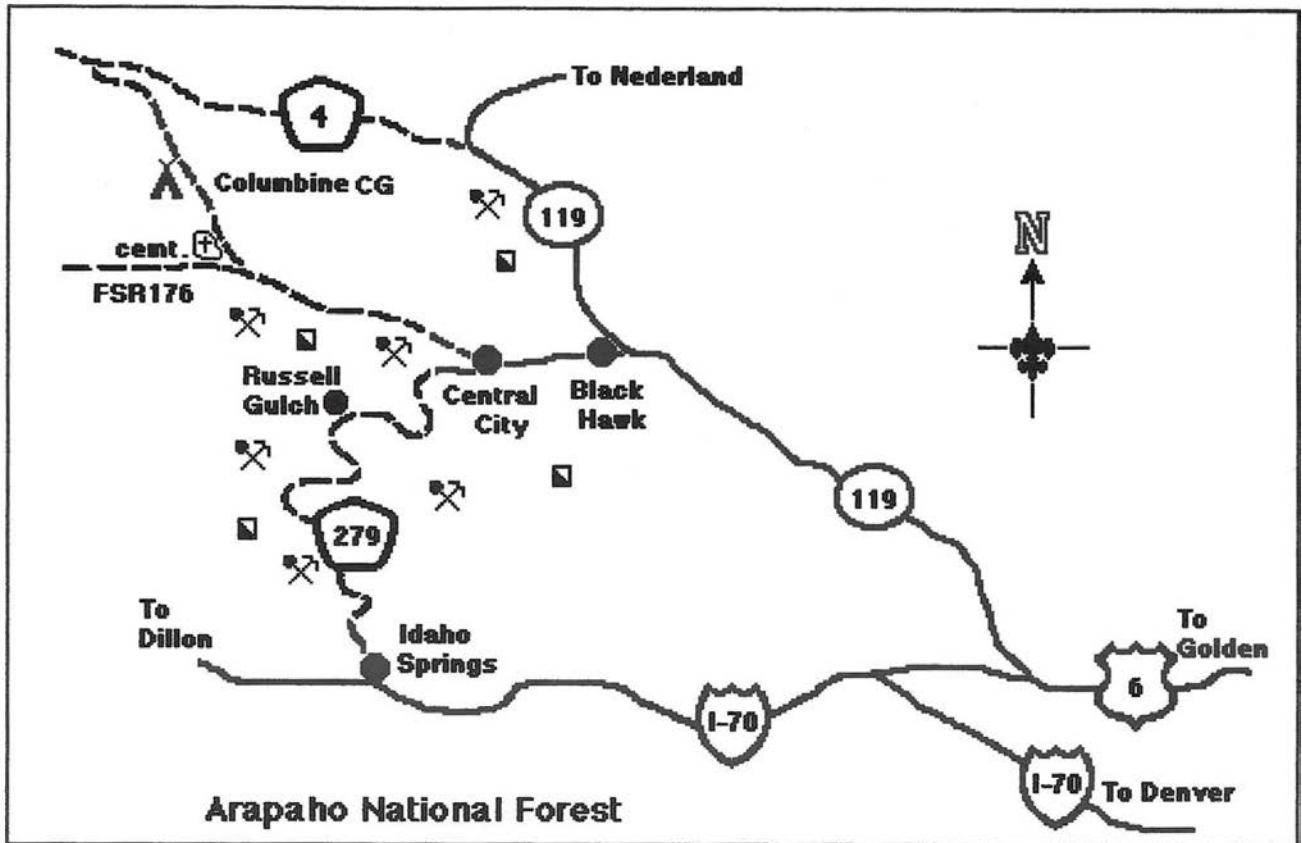
**How to get there:** Take your choice of highways to the Keystone Ski Area east of Dillon. Enter the eastern access road to the ski area. Within a few hundred feet turn left, away from the ski area, this is the road to Montezuma, FSR5. Montezuma was once a mining camp, but has declined over the years. Montezuma is about a 5 mile drive from the Keystone intersection. Drive into Montezuma about half way through town you can see a road working its way up the hill just to the southwest. Park your vehicles here on the main street of town, noted on the map as (P)2

Saints John is 1.5 miles from Montezuma. There are a few minor roads exiting from the Saints John Road, but it is pretty obvious which is the main road. You'll know when you are at Saints John; there are remains of homes, mining buildings and some old vehicles. You can ski 1.5 miles further south to the Wild Irishman Mine if you want more adventure.

### **8-9 COLUMBINE CAMPGROUND - CAR CAMP**

The Columbine Campground is located high above Central City. This is a Forest Service car campground. The road to this campground is usually open until November and opens again in March. In the wintertime the road is plowed to the top of the hill, but not always into the campground. In the summertime this campground is busy with it's normal clientele of tourist, gamblers and weekend campers. Summer facilities include 47 campsites, tables, rest rooms, fire pits and water.

Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition



**How to get there:** Take US 6 west out of Golden until you come to CO119 which goes to Black Hawk and Central City. Take CO119 north to Black Hawk. Turn on CO279 and follow it through Black Hawk to Central City. Stay on the main drag which goes through the north side of Central City, by the Opera House and on up the hill. You eventually come to the top of the hill and the Central City Cemetery. The campground is about another mile to the west, and slightly north. Look for signs by the cemetery directing you to the campground. Another alternative to avoid traffic at these two communities is to drive past Black Hawk, 1.6 miles further north on CO119. Turn west on CR4 (Apex Valley Road) and drive 2.4 miles; at this point turn south on the Upper Apex Road for 1.4 miles, you have arrived at Columbine Campground.

Note: Bring your own water in the winter.

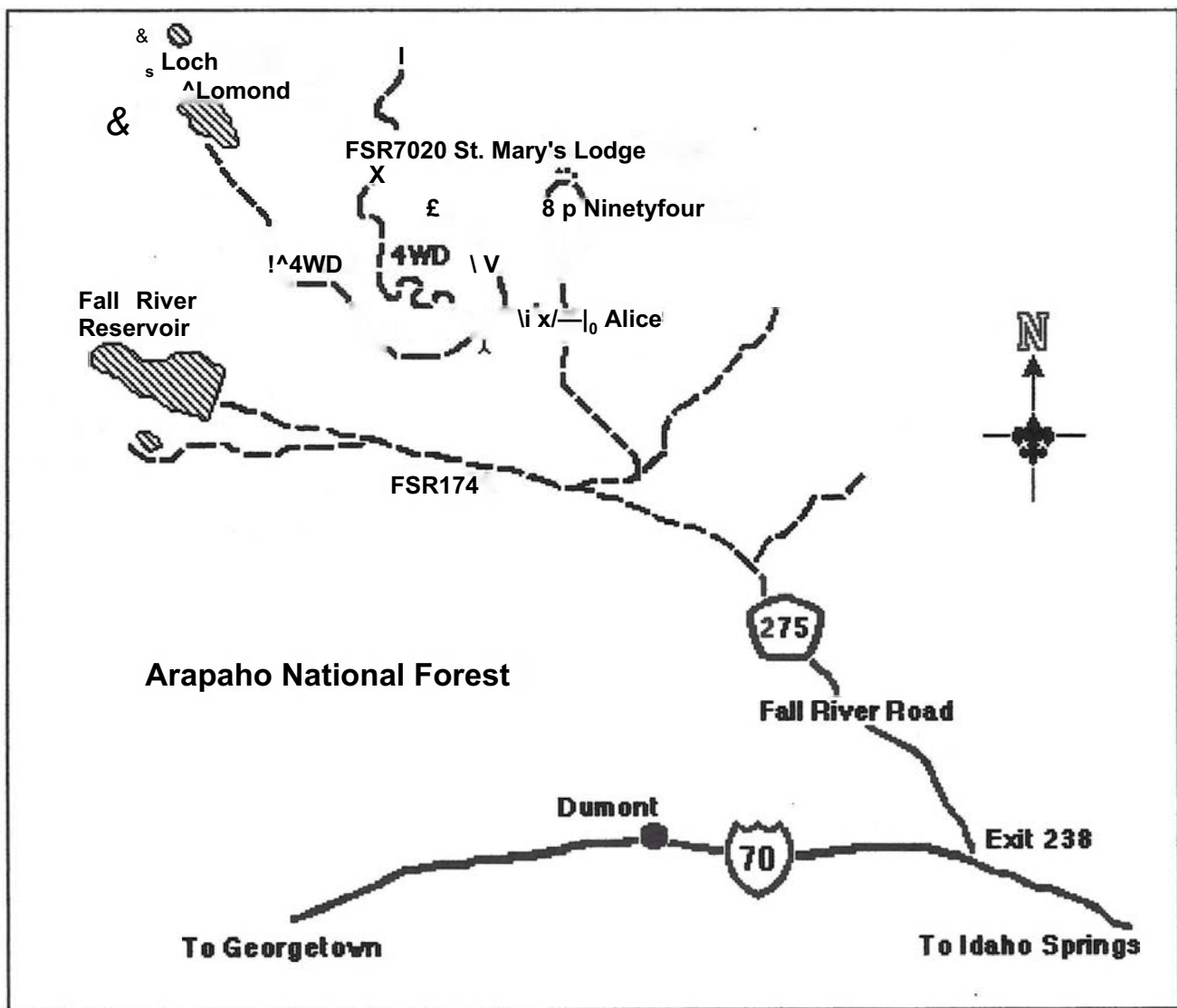
### 8-10 LOCH LOMOND - HIKE/MOUNTAIN BIKE

Loch Lomond Lake is an ideal location for mountain biking or a hiking adventure to four high mountain lakes nestled next to the Continental Divide. The lakes are located north of Interstate 70 between Idaho Springs and Dumont. The elevation at the lakes is 11,200', there are some wonderful views.

Drive Time:	1-1.5 Hours
Map Reference:	Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition Empire Quad.



**How to Get There:** Two miles west of Idaho Springs take exit 238, also known as Fall River Road (CR275). This road takes you to St. Mary's Lodge, the town sites of Alice and Ninetyfour, and of course Loch Lomond. Drive northwest, at 6.5 miles you will pass the Fall River Reservoir Road (FSR174) on your left. Continue on the main road for another 1.5 miles, you will come to the town site of Alice. On the west side of the road just before Alice there is a lesser road heading west, this is the road to Loch Lomond. This road quickly turns into a 4 wheel drive road; go as far as you can and park. Follow the road, staying to your left; there will be several roads heading off to the right and up the hill to the north. There are a number of old mines along the road and up on the hillside. Please observe and respect posted property. The correct road will circle around the large hill to the north and become steeper. The road to Loch Lomond is about 4.25 miles one-way. If you are on mountain bikes it's a great downhill ride returning to your car.



# 9 PIKES PEAK AREA

The area around Colorado Springs provides Scouts and Scouters a number of opportunities for camping, hiking and climbing a fourteener. There are the Florissant Fossil Beds, Mueller State Park, the Air Force Academy, Ft. Carson Army Base, trails to the top of Pikes Peak, several good car camping locations, a group campsite and finally Camp Alexander, operated by the Pikes Peak Council and available to Scouts from other Councils.

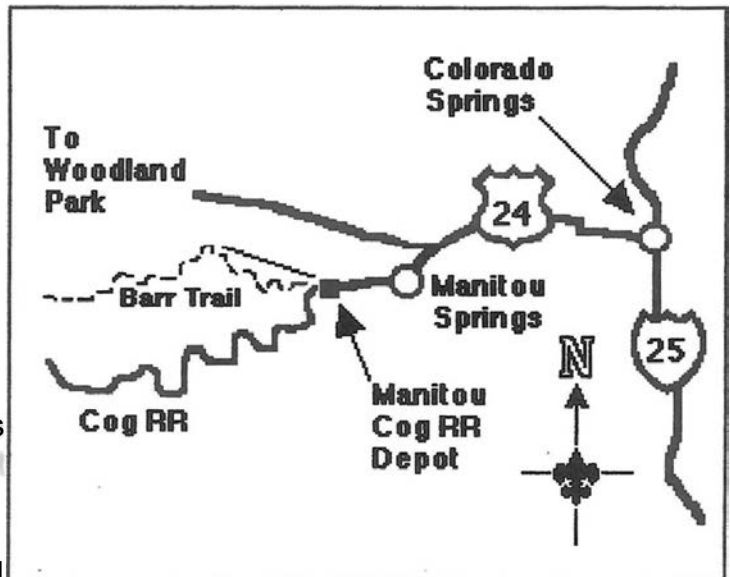
## 9-1 PIKES PEAK VIA BARR TRAIL - FOURTEENER

The ascent of Pikes Peak via Barr Trail is a 26 mile overnight adventure with a 7400' elevation gain.

Drive Time:	1.5 Hours
Map Reference:	Pike Mt. Forest, 1992 edition Pikes Peak, Canon City #137, Trails Illustrated Pikes Peak Atlas by Robert Ormes and Robert Houdek

**How to get there:** Take I-25 south to Colorado Springs, exit at US 24 west to Manitou Springs. Follow the signs to the Mt. Manitou Incline Railway Depot, 200 feet past the depot is the trailhead parking lot.

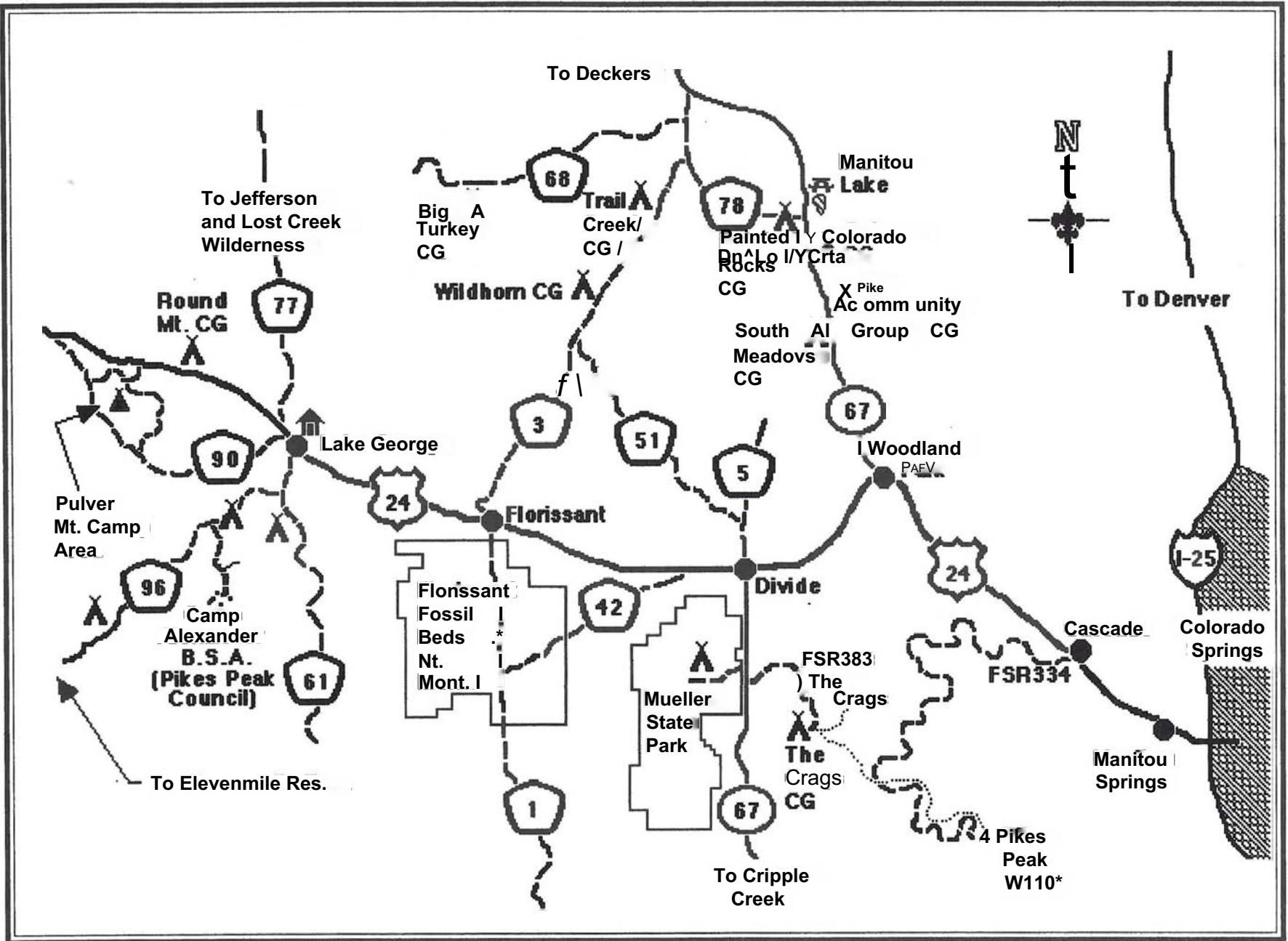
**The trail:** From the trailhead follow the Barr Trail for seven miles to Barr Camp, which is at 10,500' elevation. There is an old log cabin, built in 1918, near which you may camp, untreated water is available. Visit the cabin and have a hot drink; you furnish the ingredients, hot water is free. At Barr Camp, plan on leaving a donation for the camp and trail



maintenance. Hike to the top of Pikes Peak from Barr Camp using a day pack containing the essentials; leave your tents and backpacking gear at Barr Camp.

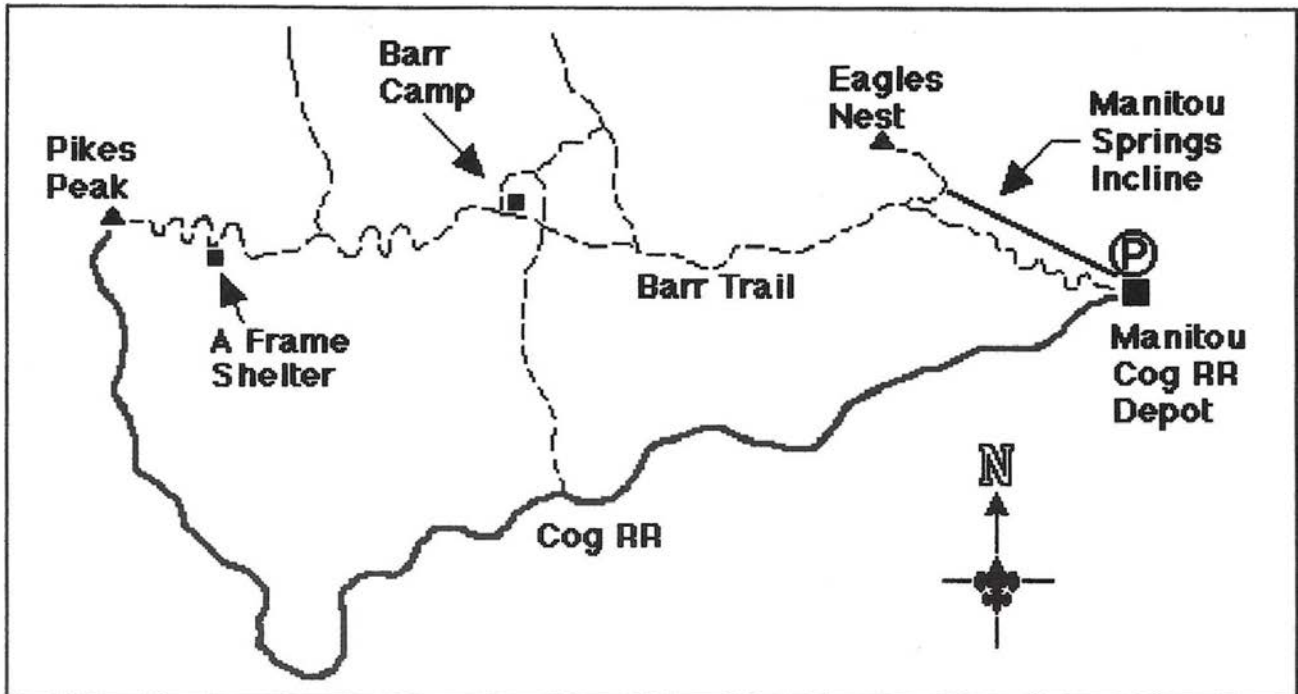
Climb to the top early (0600) the next morning. It's approximately six miles to the summit house. Just below timberline you will reach an A-frame shelter about 60 yards off the trail, untreated water is available. The trail is relatively well marked; however, watch your footing and remain on the trail. Make a brief stop at the Summit House for souvenirs, there is a

**PIKES PEAK AREA**



9-2

## BARR TRAIL



snack bar for those who wish to indulge. Since you have a 13 mile return trip, don't overstay but do take time to enjoy the view. Return to Barr Camp via the same trail. If you desire, you may cut out the last 3 miles by cutting across from the Barr Trail to the Mt. Manitou Incline Railway. Cost is \$3.00 per person plus \$.50 for backpacks.

Notes: Watch the weather, in one 24 hour period in late July, a troop hiked through rain, snow, sleet and hail. It was a great trip. BE PREPARED.

### 9-2 PIKES PEAK VIA THE CRAGS - FOURTEENER

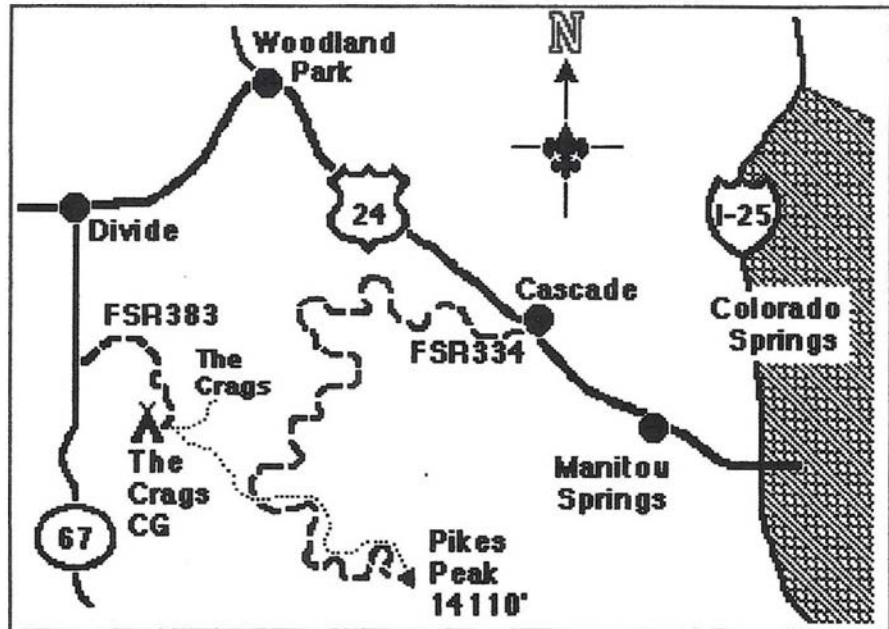
This is one of the shortest routes to hike to the top of Pikes Peak. This trek has been used by the older boy program at Camp Chris Dobbins in past years because it can be completed in one day. The distance is 14 miles round trip instead of 26 miles on the Barr Trail. If you are interested in camping there is The Crags CG located near the trailhead. The elevation gain from the trailhead is 4100'.

Drive Time:	2.5 Hours
Map Reference:	Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition Pikes Peak, Canon City #137, Trails Illustrated Pikes Peak Atlas by Robert Ormes and Robert Houdek

**How to get there:** Take I-25 south to Colorado Springs, exit on US 24 west and drive through Woodland Park to Divide. Turn south on CO67 pass the Mueller State Park entrance at 3.8 miles. At 4.1 miles on the east side of CO67 is the entrance to FSR383 (the road number is not noted on the 1992 edition of Pike Nt. Forest Map), this is the road to The Crags Trailhead. The road is not well marked except for two small signs; one to The

Crags CG, the other to the Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp. Take FSR383 for 1.6 miles, you will pass the entrance to the Rocky Mountain Camp; continue on the main road another 1.6 miles to the entrance to The Crags CG and another .3 miles to the trailhead on the east side of the campground.

**The trail:** Take The Crags Trail east for 600 feet, at that point you can see, on the left side of the trail, three water containers of different diameters. Continue another 100 feet; on the right side of the trail you see two converging creeks only a few feet from the trail. These creeks come from two drainages; you need to take the creek from the south drainage. Cross the first creek, coming from the north drainage, so that you are between the two



creeks. Look for an old rocky road which goes east along the north side of the southern creek. Finding this old road is the key to this route. Take the old road east for about a mile. At this point the road crosses the southern creek twice; look for a large block of rock to the north at the second crossing as a landmark. The drainage east opens into a wide basin. Continue to follow the old road east. The road will turn more northeast; take the most worn trail. A couple of switchbacks will occur as you climb steeply up the trail. You will pass the last trees as you enter the tundra area above timberline. The trail continues a few hundred more yards before it fades into the tundra. Climb the lush tundra slope above the trail and angle slightly south to reach a saddle at the top of the slope. At this point Pikes Peak will come into view, you can see the Pikes Peak Highway and the upper part of the trail. From the saddle hike northeast, then east on another old road for .75 mile until you exit to the Pikes Peak Highway through a saddle called the "Devils Playground". Cross to the east side of the Pikes Peak Highway and walk south above the road. Stay near the road on the west side and then skirt pass point 13363' on the east side. In a short distance leave the roadside and cross the rock debris (talus) on the mountain's northwest slope up to Pikes Peak summit.

Notes: Walking along the side of the Pikes Peak Highway is discouraged for safety reasons by the frequent road patrols. Stay some distance from the highway. This trail is only illustrated on the "Pikes Peak Atlas" 7th edition, by Robert Ormes and Robert Houdek (available as of 11 /94 from the Maps Unlimited Store).

**The Crags Trail:** It should be mentioned that The Crags Trail leads to an area called "The Crags", an interesting rock area with boulders, rock pinnacles and great views. Both

inexperienced and expert climbers come here to try the cracks and fissures. It is a 3.4 mile round trip up the northern drainage; there are a number of spur trails through and around these rock formations. Take the same trail east as the Pikes Peak trek using the same trailhead, but stay on the main trail to the left all the way up the northern drainage.

### 9-3 WOODLAND PARK AREA - WINTER CAR CAMP

This is one troop's favorite spot to winter camp because the main road is plowed by the State Highway snowplows, medical emergencies can be treated in Woodland Park and extra food or forgotten items can be obtained in Woodland Park. In addition, there are three campgrounds north of Woodland Park, one of which is always open during the winter. The biggest problem is that there is little firewood available, so bring your own if you want that evening campfire.

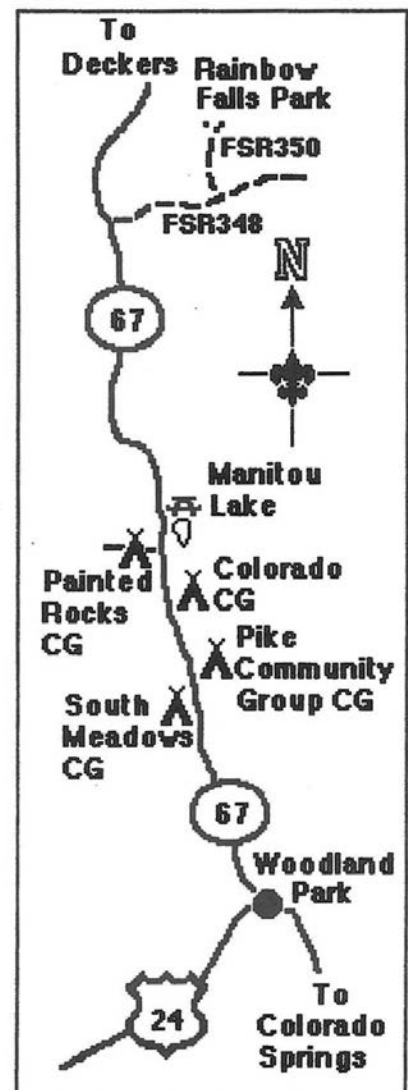
Drive Time: 2 Hours  
 Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition  
 Pikes Peak, Canon City #137, Trails Illustrated

**How to get there:** Drive to Colorado Springs on 1-25, take US 24 west to Woodland Park; at Woodland Park go north on CO67, for 5.5 miles. From this point there is a 2 mile stretch along CO67 where the U.S. Forest Service has provided three campgrounds; South Meadows, Colorado and Painted Rocks; one of these campgrounds is always open during the winter.

Being open means that the cable is not across the road and the rest rooms are open. There are rest rooms, tables, lots of room, and very few other campers in the winter. However there is no water, little or no firewood and the CG roads are not plowed. If South Meadows CG is open there is a medium size stream and a few hills for tubing on the west side of the CG. Along CO67 there is a paved bike trail from Manitou Lake, on the north, south to Woodland Park, about seven miles in length. The campgrounds are flat; a good location to do pioneering, first aid or orienteering activities.

### 9-4 RAINBOW FALLS PARK - CAR CAMP

An alternative to the standard Forest Service campgrounds is Rainbow Falls Park. This is a private fishing area which encourages Boy Scout Troops to come camp on the property. Of course, there is a fee which is \$2.00 per person (as of 11/94). Besides fishing, there is a one hundred year old trout farm (free tour), a spring that produces 450 gallons of 49 degree water each minute, Ute Indian Cave, Rainbow Falls, and horseback riding. There are additional fees for fishing (\$5.00) and horseback riding (\$10.00/hour).



Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Rainbow Falls Park is 27 miles northwest of Colorado Springs. The park is located between Woodland Park and Deckers just off CO67. Take CO67 north of Woodland Park for 10 miles; turn east onto FSR348, then in a short distance left onto FSR350, you reach the lake in two more miles. Rainbow Falls Park is illustrated on all editions of the Pike National Forest map. To make reservations call a couple of weeks in advance; 1 (719) 687-9074.

Notes: Facilities available are picnic tables, toilets and fire pits. Also; showers, fishing equipment, snack bar and ice is available.

### **9-5 WILDHORN CAMPGROUND - CAR CAMP**

This Forest Service campsite is a good campground open all year, but the snow during the winter never melts because it is in a bowl and is shaded by the trees. This campground is recommended for fall and spring camping and if you want snow, the winter months. Rest rooms, tables, and fire pits are available, no fees are required during the winter months. No water is available during the winter.

Drive Time: 3 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition  
Pikes Peak, Canon City #137, Trails Illustrated

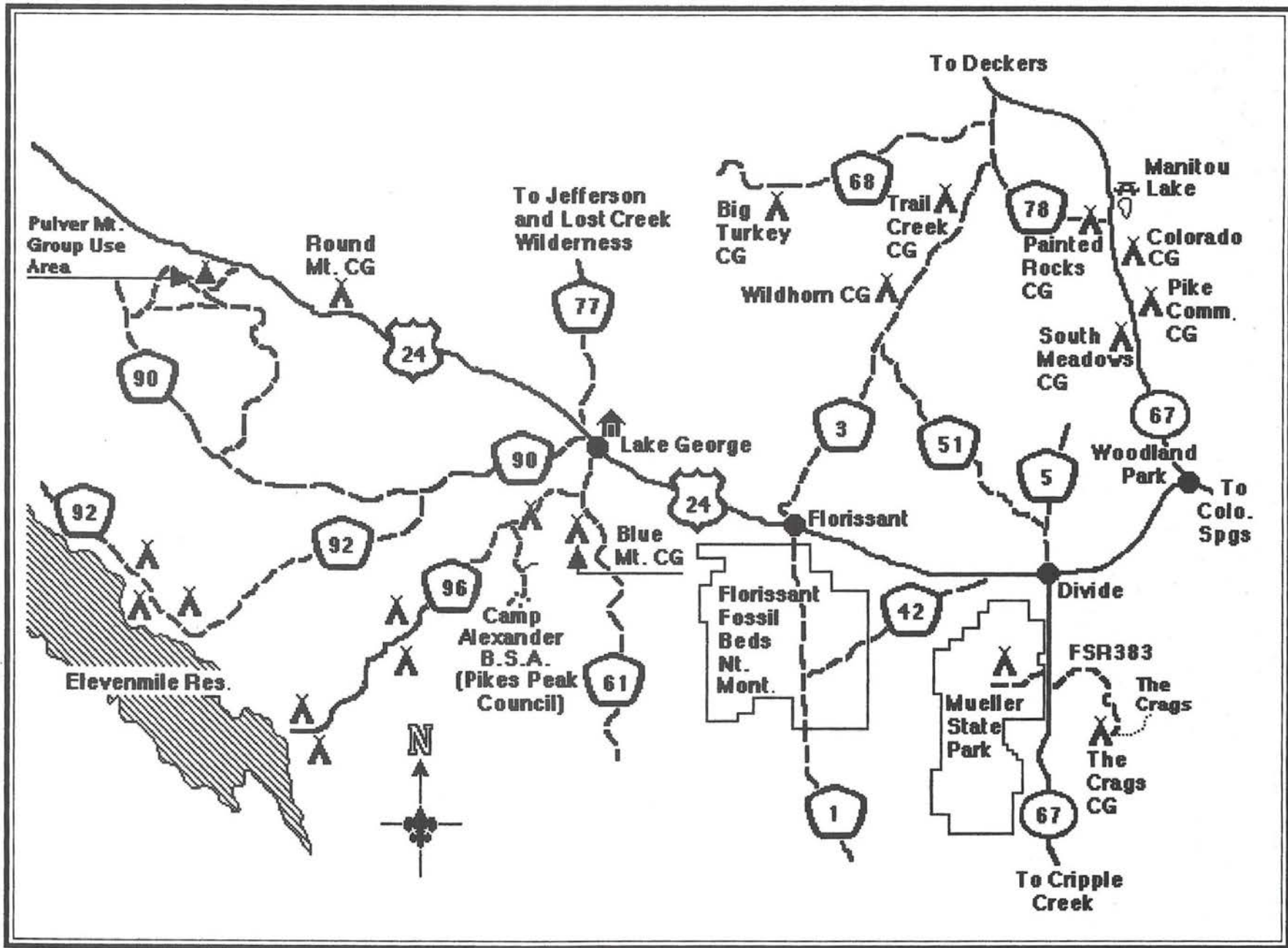
**How to get there:** Take I-25 south to Colorado Springs, exit to US 24 west and drive through Woodland Park to Divide. Turn north on CR51 for about 12 miles until it intersects with CR3. Turn right (north) for 2 miles and you will reach Wildhorn Campground. CR51 is a much better road from US 24 than CR3.

### **9-6 PULVER MOUNTAIN GROUP CAMPGROUND - CAR CAMP**

This campsite is not designated on any Forest Service map, but was provided by a Scoutmaster from the Pikes Peak Council. His reference to the site was that it was his troop's favorite site to camp in the region. It consist of large meadows from 40 to 80 acres surrounded by stands of trees. There are no facilities or water. The site is good during the spring, summer and fall, but the roads can become blocked with snow during the winter months. This group site is administered from the Fairplay Forest Service Office. In checking, they said that this campground is used by groups of large camper vehicles during the summer and suggested that Scouts should not request use of the area until the fall and winter months. Be sure to call the Fairplay Forest Service Office to make a reservation 1 (719)836-2031, as of 11/94.

Drive Time: 3 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition  
Pikes Peak, Canon City #137, Trails Illustrated

**ELEVENMILE CANYON AREA**



9-7



**How to get there:** Take 1-25 south to Colorado Springs, follow US 24 west through the communities of Woodland Park, Divide and Lake George. Continue on US 24 for another 4.5 miles to Round Mountain Campground which is on the north side of US 24. Take an odometer reading as you pass. In another 1.2 miles turn onto an unmarked Forest Service Road on the south side of the road. The road is illustrated on the Pike National Forest Maps as unimproved or primitive with no road identification number, the Trails Illustrated map identifies this campground. Head south and through the trees to find yourself a nice campsite, it is only about 200 yards to the first campsites.

### **9-7 ELEVENMILE CANYON STATE RESERVOIR - CAR CAMP**

This is a good location for Scouts to work on the fishing, motor boating or canoeing merit badges. Take a boat or two and work on the merit badge, they can be beached near the campsite. Scouts also like to fish here and even catch some from time to time. It is suggested that you backpack to the back country campsites. It is about 1.5 miles to the furthest back country campsite (designated by the park as sites 18, 19 and 20). There is a latrine in the area. These back country campsites are the least used campsites and offer good places to beach your boats. There is good fishing access from shore.

Drive Time: 2.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition  
Pikes Peak, Canon City #137, Trails Illustrated

**How to get there:** Take US 24 west from Colorado Springs through Woodland Park, Divide, Florissant and Lake George. About a mile west of Lake George a gravel road turns off southwest, CR90, follow this road for about 4 miles. CR92 will intersect with CR90, turn south on CR92. Follow CR92 for 6 miles from the intersection and you will arrive at the State Recreation Area.

Campsites and a boat ramp are available. There is a new State Wildlife area at Spinney Mountain Ranch State Reservoir and Wildlife Area northwest of Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir. State fees - Park vehicle pass and camping permit are charged separately; call for current fees. Reservations are recommended. Ph. 1 (719)748-3401 or write to Elevenmile State Recreation Area, Star Route Box 4229, Lake George, CO 80827-4229.

### **9-8 FLORISSANT FOSSIL BEDS NATIONAL MONUMENT**

Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument provides a variety of educational programs especially for Scouts. They will conduct special programs for your group when arranged in advance. Program topics include wildlife, wildflowers, food chains, birds of prey, pond and stream life, beavers, homesteaders, fossils and petrified wood.

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition  
Lake George Quad.  
Pikes Peak, Canon City #137, Trails Illustrated

Reservations for all programs are requested two weeks in advance: Phone for reservations at 1 (719) 748-3253. Have the following information ready:

Organization  
Leader's name  
Address  
Phone number  
Date of visit  
Time and duration of visit  
Special needs or interest  
Group size  
Group age

A picnic facility is available adjacent to the parking area for your use. No overnight camping is available at the monument. Suggested campsites in the area:

1. South Meadows Creek CG, 5.5 miles No. of Woodland Park on CO67.
2. Blue Mountain CG, 2 miles south of Lake George on CR96 then CR61.
3. Round Mountain CG, 5 miles west of Lake George on US 24.
4. Mueller State Park CG, 4 miles south of Divide on CO67.

There are a number of campsites on CR96 between Elevenmile Canyon Reservoir and Lake George. Three additional campsites are on CO67 near South Meadows Creek mentioned above.

**How to get there:** Take US 24 west from Colorado Springs through Woodland Park, Divide and Florissant. At Florissant turn south on CR1, you will enter the Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument in .5 mile.

### **9-9 MUELLER STATE PARK - CAR CAMP**

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition  
Pikes Peak, Canon City #137, Trails Illustrated  
Pikes Peak Atlas by Robert Ormes and  
Robert Houdek

Mueller State Park was originally the Mueller Ranch and was purchased by the State of Colorado in the late 1970s. The property went through a developmental period and opened in the spring of 1992. Mueller has 12,103 acres and the elevation is 9500'. The northern half is devoted to the park and general public use. The southern half is a wildlife area. There are 90 campsites, each with tables and fire grills; water and latrines are available. There are 85 miles of hiking and bicycle trails; trail maps are available at the park entrance. There are a number of ponds with stocked fish available (fishing licenses are necessary), but no large lakes for boating. There are park day use and camping fees. Check with the park for current cost. The wildlife area is open to the public to visit during the day, since there are no facilities there are no fees charged.

## Information and reservations:

Mueller State Park  
Box 49  
Divide, Colorado 80814  
1 (719) 687-2366

**How to get there:** Take I-25 south to Colorado Springs, exit on US 24 west and drive through Woodland Park to Divide. Turn south on CO67 for 3.8 miles to the entrance to Mueller State Park on the west side of the highway.

## 9-10 CAMP ALEXANDER, B.S.A. - CAR CAMP

Camp Alexander is operated by the Pikes Peak Council located in Colorado Springs. It is open all year for weekend camping and offers a summer camp program. It is located in scenic Elevenmile Canyon approximately 40 miles west of Colorado Springs.

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Pike Mt. Forest, 1992 edition  
Pikes Peak, Canon City #137, Trails Illustrated  
Pikes Peak Atlas by Robert Ormes and  
Robert Houdek

### Facilities Available:

Weekend Camping  
Tent Camping  
Cabin Camping - \$ for cabins (reservations well in advance recommended)  
Summer Camp - Contact the Council office for current fees and dates.

**How to get there:** Take I-25 south to Colorado Springs, turn west onto US 24 through Woodland Park and Divide to Lake George (approximately 40 miles). Turn south at Lake George following CR96. About 1.25 miles south of Lake George the road splits, take the road to the right, continue another 1.75 miles. You will parallel the South Platte River heading southwest for the last 1.75 miles and pass through a canyon. Camp Alexander is located on the east side (your left as you travel south) of CR96. The camp is illustrated on the 1992 Pike National Forest Map. To make reservations for weekend camping write to the Camp Ranger directly.

Camp Alexander  
Pikes Peak Council, B.S.A.  
Ranger Dutch Kleinhesselink  
P.O. Box 450  
Lake George, Colorado 80827  
1 (719) 748-3254

**To make reservations for  
summer camp contact:**  
Pikes Peak Council, B.S.A.  
525 East Uintah  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903  
1 (719) 634-1584

## 9-11 AIR FORCE ACADEMY - CAR CAMP

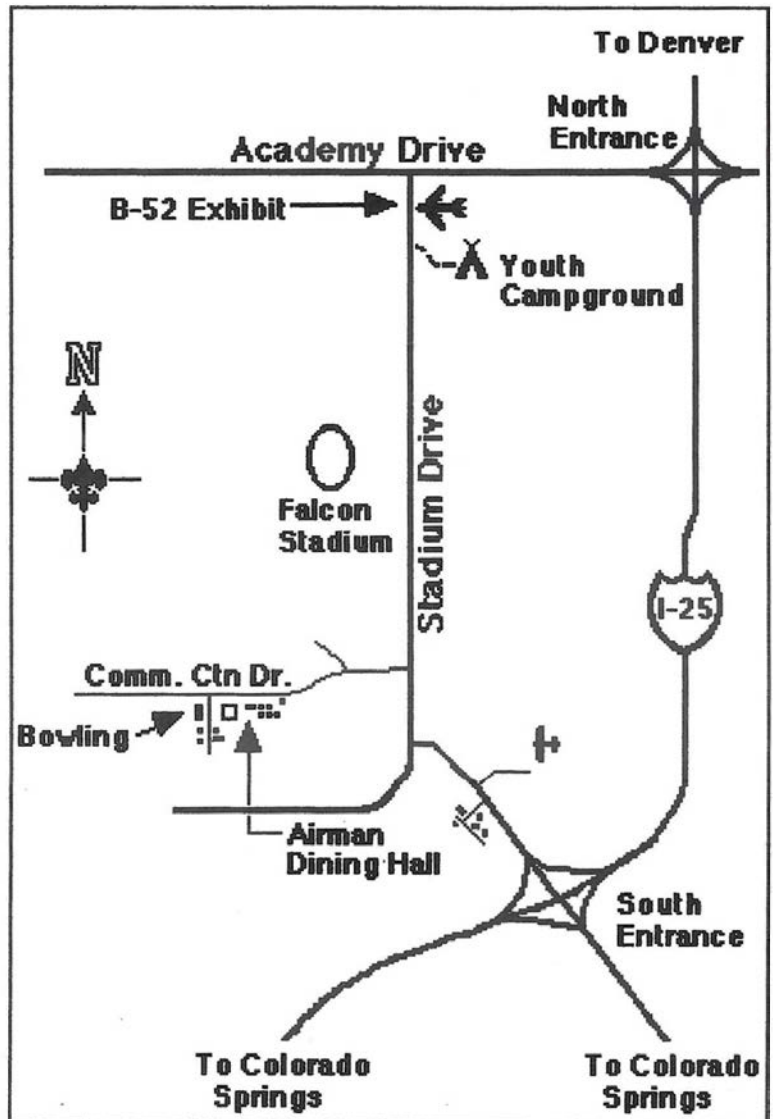
There are a number of activity alternatives available when you visit the Academy. The only overnight facility is a youth group campground for tent camping. Scouts should wear their uniforms at all times when visiting the Academy and using the facilities. The Falcon Trail is 14.5 miles in length. It is open year round, unless the snow is too deep. Troops must start early in order to complete the trail by dinner. A trail service project is also required to earn the Falcon Trail patch. During the fall, Scouts can attend home football games. During the evenings the bowling alley is available to Scouts and Scouters.

On Sundays, church services (Protestant and Catholic) are held in the chapels at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The Planetarium is open for shows, usually at 12 noon and 1:30 p.m on Sundays. Check for special schedules during vacation periods. In order to camp at the Academy troops must write at least 2 months in advance and request a reservation form. Extensive information about activities, meals and cost is provided in the reservation packet. Reservation forms must be returned 14 days in advance of your campout. Meals can be provided at the Airman Dining Hall for a reasonable price. Meals must be reserved in advance on the reservation form. To get things started, write early to:

Off-Base Scouting Coordinator  
HQ USAFA/PLDM  
USAF Academy  
Colorado Springs, CO 80840

**How to get there:** Instructions and a map will be provided by the

Academy when they send the response to your reservation request. Take I-25 south from Denver for 45 miles. The Air Force Academy is north of Colorado Springs on the west side of the Interstate. Exit at the south entrance to the Academy, pass the guard station and check in with the Security Police. The group camping area is north pass the Falcon Stadium on Stadium Boulevard just south of the B-52 bomber display at the intersection of North Gate Boulevard and Falcon Boulevard. The map supplied will provide you details for all the facilities, the Falcon Trail route and information on how to obtain the trail patch.

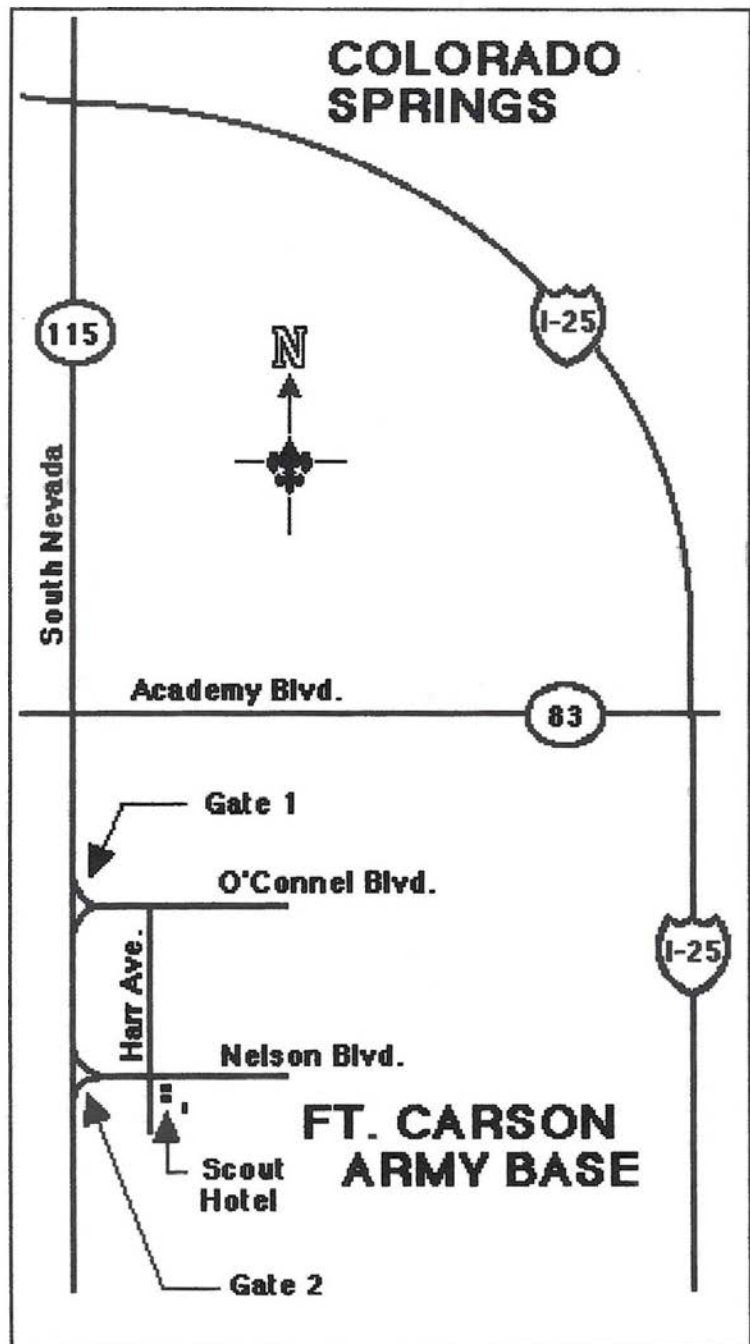


## 9-12 FT. CARSON ARMY BASE - CAR CAMP

Facilities are available at the base for lodging, food and recreation use. Lodging is available either at the Scout Hotel or Scout Campsite, depending on whether you want to sleep in a bunk with a mattress or to tent camp. Meals are available at the dining hall as long as they are scheduled in advanced. Facilities available include swimming pool, theater, bowling alley, and helicopter airfield. A military museum is available on weekdays only. Reservations must be requested at least 6 - 8 weeks in advance. Information is provided with the reservation forms. Forms must be returned two weeks before arrival at the base. (Be sure to reserve the recreation facilities and demonstrations on the reservation form, there is high demand.) For reservation forms write to:

Scout Liaison Office  
Recreation Division, Bldg. 6049  
Ft. Carson, Colorado 80913

**How to get there:** Instructions and a map will be provided by Ft. Carson when they response to your reservation request. Take I-25 south from Denver for 50 miles. Ft. Carson is south of Colorado Springs. Exit on South Academy Blvd. (CO83) drive 2 miles west to CO115, at Nevada, turn south (left) on CO115. Details are provided by the base on which gate to enter and how to contact your host at the base.



# 10 NEDERLAND AREA

**Indian Peaks Wilderness Information:** A number of the treks in this chapter are in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Reservations and camping fees (\$4 -1/95) are necessary, plus a number of regulations must be observed. Reservations are required between June 1 and September 15, maximum group size is 12, in certain areas (Jasper Reservoir, Diamond, Caribou and Crater Lakes) camping is in designated posted campsites only, all other campsites must be 100 feet away from streams, lakes and trails. NO fires are permitted east of the Continental Divide and in certain areas west of the divide. Call the Boulder office of the Roosevelt National Forest for information, 1 (303) 444-6003. To request an application for the camping permit write to:

Boulder Ranger District  
2995 Baseline Road, Room 110  
Boulder, Colorado 80303

## 10-1 HESSIE TO LOST LAKE - CROSS COUNTRY SKI

This is a 3 mile one-way cross country trek with a 900 foot elevation gain. The site of Hessie is 1 mile from the parking area, Lost Lake is 3 miles. Hessie was a small mining community during the 1890s and the cross country path follows an old mining road.

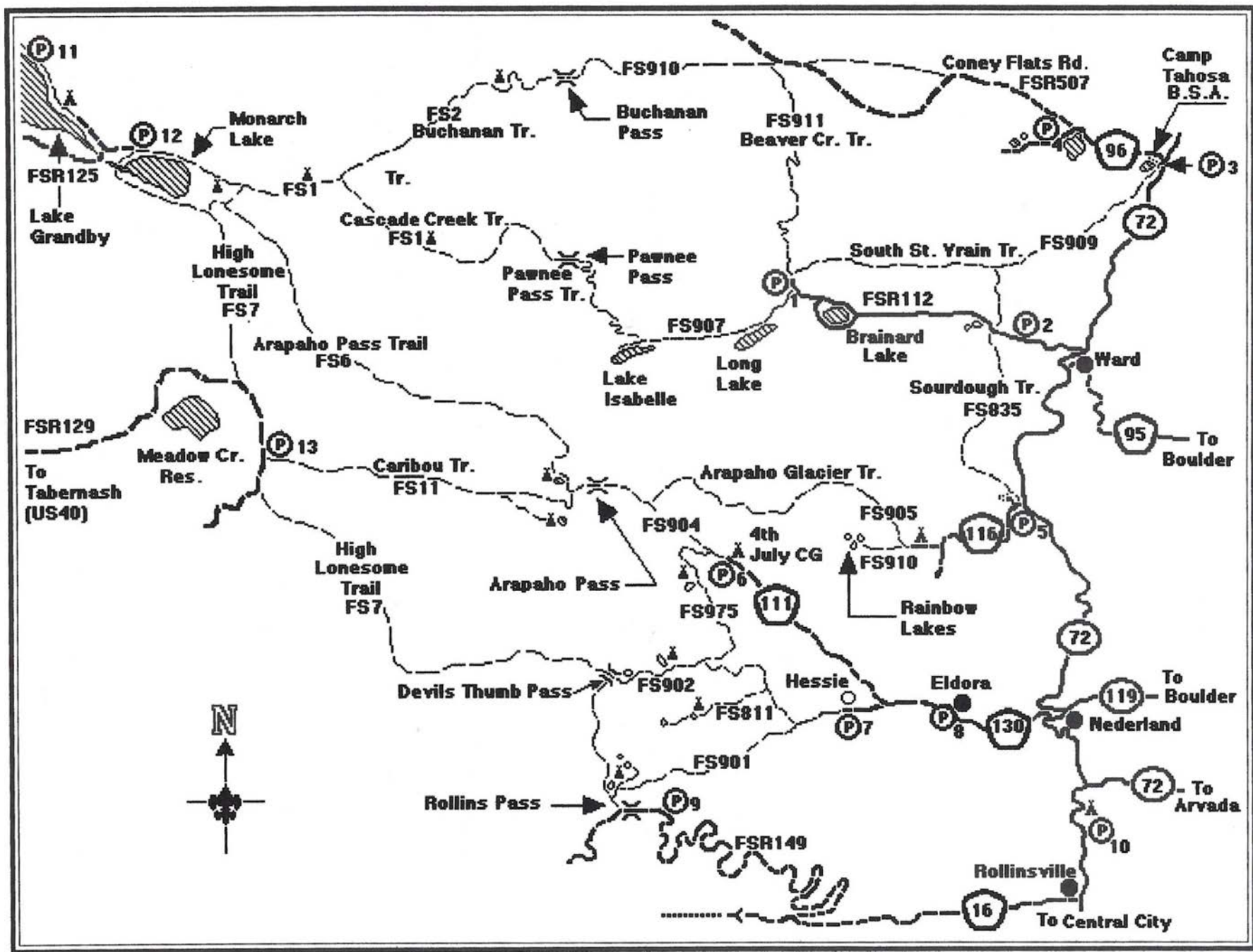
Drive Time: 1.5-2 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
Ward Quad.

How to **get** there: Travel to Boulder, take CO119 up Boulder Canyon to the community of Nederland. Follow CO119 south, just as you exit Nederland there will be a sign on your right for the Eldora Ski Area (CR130) and the small town of Eldora. Follow this county road past the Eldora Ski Area turnoff and go through the sleepy little community of Eldora. At the west end of Eldora the snowplowing will end. Park your vehicle here, (P)8. It is time to ski.

**The trail:** Follow CR111 west from Eldora for a mile. At this point the road splits, Hessie and Lost Lake is to your left; Arapaho Pass and Fourth of July CG is up the road to your right, stay to the left. In .25 mile you will pass through the remains of Hessie. There will be the remains of several old cabins on your right.

The road to Lost Lake heads southwest out of Hessie through aspen and Douglas fir. Cross over North Fork Creek on a bridge. Follow the road through a clearing; there will be another narrow footbridge. Follow the creek west and then south, weave through willows, then over a drifted hill. A sign will mark a 4 wheel drive road and point in the direction of the Lost Lake Mining Camp. Ski 150 yards along the south side of the meadow. A small

**NEDERLAND / INDIAN PEAKS AREA**



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jeep road will go south through the trees; take this road, which will curve east and take you to Lost Lake. Return on the same route.

### **10-2 KELLY DAHL CAMPGROUND - CAR CAMP**

Kelly Dahl Campground is located between Central City and Nederland on CO119. Kelly Dahl is a Forest Service campground, noted on the map as (P)10. During the fall and spring Kelly Dahl isn't used very much. During the winter months it is normally cabled. There are tables and rest rooms, bring your own water during the off season.

Drive Time: 1.5-2 Hours  
Map Reference; Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

Note: Check with the Roosevelt National Forest Office about the intent of the cable and winter use.

**How to get there:** The easiest way to get to Kelly Dahl is by taking your favorite highway to the city of Boulder. Drive up Boulder Canyon (CO119) west to Nederland. Take CO119 south for 3 miles; Kelly Dahl CG is on the east side of CO119 just after the intersection with CO72.

### **10-3 RAINBOW LAKES - CROSS COUNTRY SKI**

Drive Time: 1.5-2 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
Ward Quad.

**How to get there:** Rainbow Lakes is located northwest of Boulder. Go to Boulder, turn west up Boulder Canyon on CO119 to Nederland. Turn north in Nederland on CO72 and drive approximately 3 miles north. Turn west off CO72 at the sign indicating the University of Colorado Research Center, CR116. Park where the plowing ends. Ski on the road that is used to drive to Rainbow Lakes Campground during the summer months.

Notes: Distance is 4.75 miles one-way with an 800' elevation gain. This would be a good ski trip to combine with an overnight campout at Camp Tahosa.

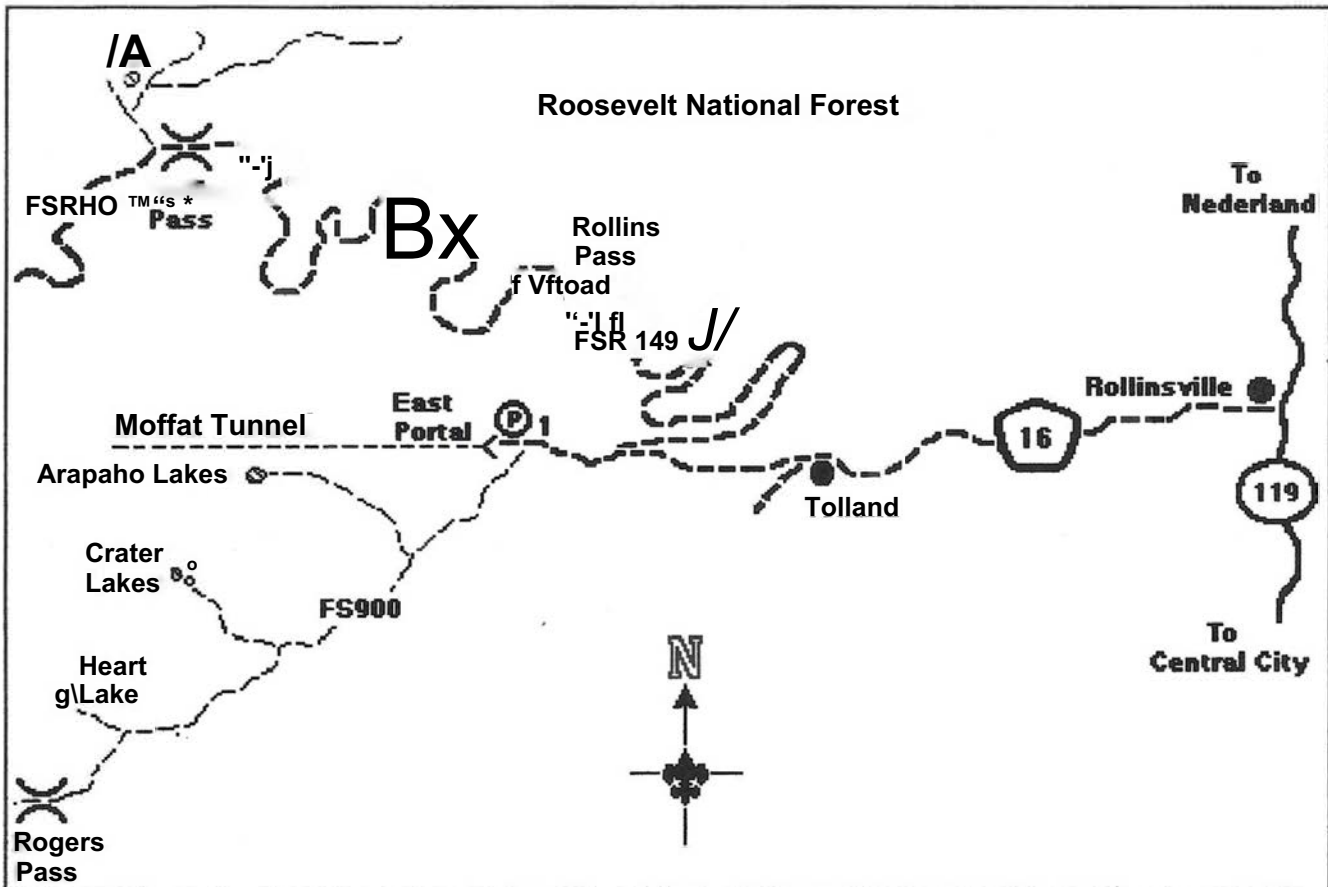
### **10-4 HEART LAKE - BACKPACK**

Heart Lake is located high on the Continental Divide southwest of the east portal of the Moffat Tunnel. It is located just above timberline at an elevation of 11,300'. This trek is 5 miles one-way with an elevation gain of 2090'.

Drive Time: 1.5 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
East Portal Quad.  
Empire Quad.



# HEART LAKE



**How to get there:** Take US 6 west from Golden until you reach CO119. Drive north on CO119 past Black Hawk. Turn west at Rollinsville on CR16 to Tolland and the Moffat Tunnel. It is 8 miles up the gravel road to the tunnel portal, park on the north side of the tracks.

**The trail:** Take the Rogers Pass Trail (FS900) southwest of the parking area. Walk towards the tunnel, cross the railroad tracks and the bridge, climb over the metal gate. Go to your right about 200 yards and through another gate. Hike along the roadbed past some cabins, at .5 mile make an easy crossing of Arapaho Creek. Continue past the junction with the trail to Arapaho Lakes at about 1.25 miles. Enter the woods and begin hiking up a steeper grade. Keep left on the main trail as you pass the trails and streams to Crater and Iceberg Lakes. At 3.5 miles you climb steeply, then the grade becomes more gentle. Continue on the Rogers Pass Trail through a grassy area and up the southern slope of a small valley. You will arrive at a creek coming from Heart Lake, do not cross the creek; instead, turn right and hike on a path that parallels the creek for a short distance, then curve right and walk to the southern shore of Heart Lake.



• **TRIPS TO DEVILS THUMB, WOODLAND LAKE, JASPER RESERVOIR, DIAMOND, BETTY AND BOB LAKES - HIKE / BACKPACK**

These lakes are in a rugged area and located at or above timberline. Some back country campsites are noted on the maps with a small solid teepee. Trails allow you to access the area using connecting and interlocking loops. Remember this is part of Indian Peaks Wilderness Area and reservations are needed in advance for a particular campsite at some of these lakes. Check the beginning of this chapter for more information.

**These lakes can be accessed from three trailheads:**

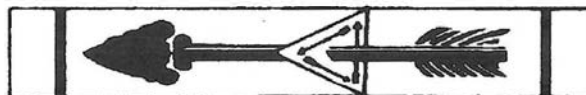
1. Hessie Town Site Trailhead, noted on the map as (P)7 provides shorter distances to a number of the lakes, but more uphill elevation effort is required.
2. Rollins Pass Road can be used to take advantage of elevation gains and losses, noted on the map as (P)9.
3. Fourth of July Campground, noted on the map as (P)6 takes advantage of elevation gains and losses.

**DESTINATIONS FROM THE HESSIE TRAILHEAD**

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Distance in Miles</u>
King Lake	5.0
Betty and Bob Lakes	5.8
Woodland & Skyscraper Lakes	4.4
Jasper Reservoir	4.2
Devils Thumb Lake	5.0
Devils Thumb Pass	5.7

**How to there:** Travel to Boulder, take CO119 up Boulder Canyon to the community of Nederland. Follow CO119 south, just as you exit Nederland there will be a sign on your right for the Eldora Ski Area (CR130) and the small town of Eldora. Follow this county road past the Eldora Ski Area turnoff and go through the community of Eldora. The North Fork of Boulder Creek must be crossed to get to Hessie.

Note: During the earlier months the snow run-off can present a problem to vehicles or hikers trying to cross the North Fork of Boulder Creek, beware!



## DESTINATIONS FROM FOURTH OF JULY CAMPGROUND/TRAILHEAD

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Distance in Miles</u>
Diamond Lake	2.5
Arapaho Pass/Glacier Junction	1.8
Arapaho Pass	2.8
Arapaho Glacier Overlook	3.4
Jasper Reservoir	5.5
Devils Thumb Lake	6.3
Hessie Trailhead	8.7

**How to get there:** Travel to Boulder, take CO119 up Boulder Canyon to the community of Nederland. Follow CO119 south, just as you start to exit Nederland there will be a sign on your right for the Eldora Ski Area (CR130) and the old town of Eldora. Follow CR130 past the Eldora Ski Area turnoff and go through the community of Eldora. Turn right on CR111, this is an unpaved rough road from this point (okay for high centered cars). It is about six miles to the Fourth of July CG. Park your vehicles at the campground.

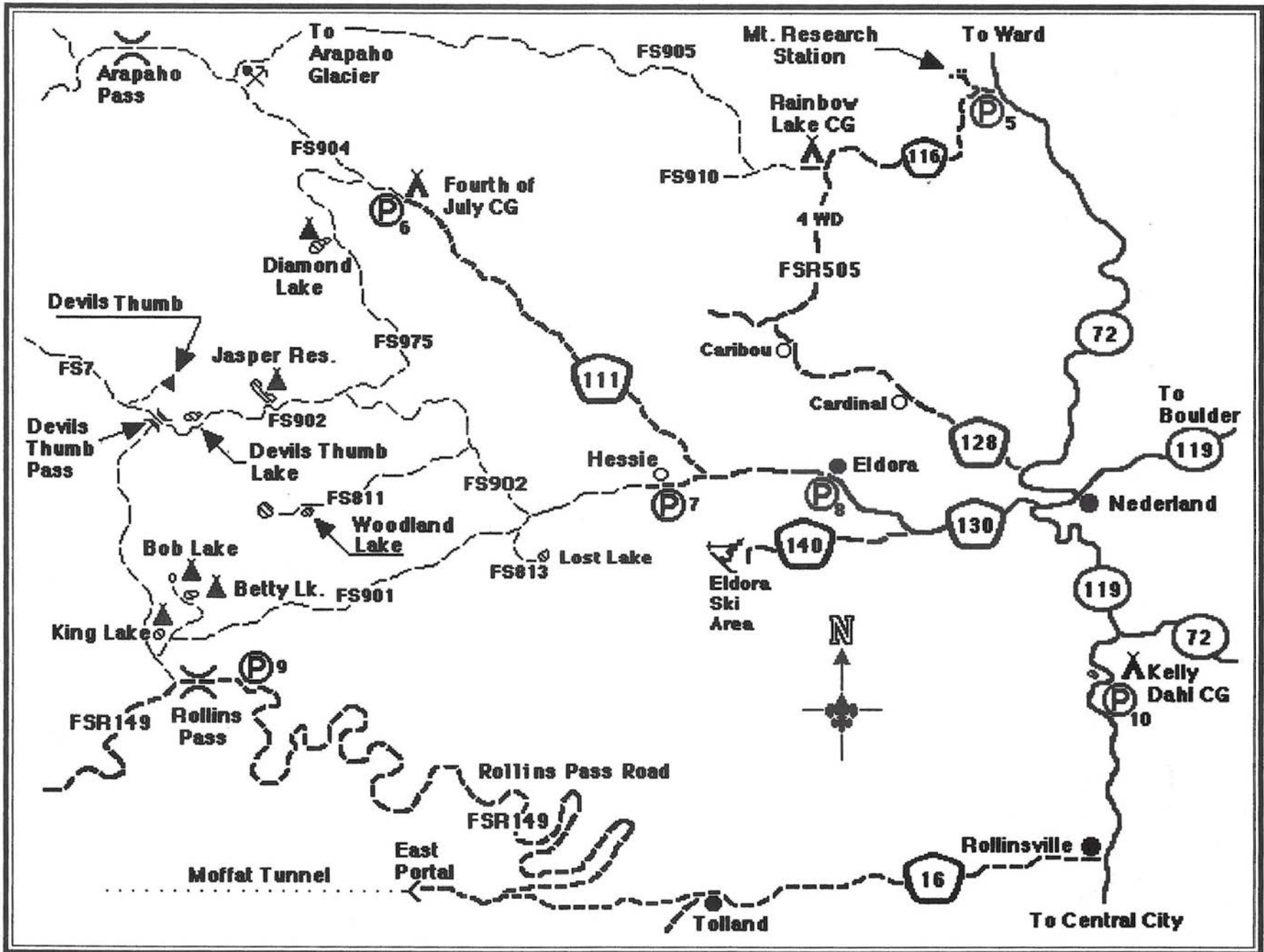
## DESTINATIONS FROM THE ROLLINS PASS TRAILHEAD

<u>Destination</u>	<u>Distance in Miles</u>
King Lake	0.8
Betty Lake	1.5
Bob Lake	1.8
Devils Thumb Pass	3.7
Devils Thumb Lake	4.4
Jasper Reservoir	5.2

**How to get there:** Take either US 6 (Clear Creek) west of Golden or CO72 (Coal Creek Canyon) west of Rocky Flats and drive to CO119 (Peak to Peak Highway). Take CO119 to the Rollinsville turnoff which is CR16. From Rollinsville continue past Tolland to the East Portal of the Moffat Tunnel. About a mile before the Moffat Tunnel the Rollins Pass Road, FSR149, goes north up the old railroad bed. Total distance from Rollinsville is 15 miles to the parking area (P)9. You will need a high clearance or 4 wheel drive vehicle to get to the top of Rollins Pass from the east side.

You can access Rollins Pass from the west without a high center vehicle, but the driving distance, of course, is longer. Take US 40 to Winter Park Ski Area. FSR149 starts on the east side of US 40 directly across from the entrance to the original Winter Park facility and parking area.

NEDERLAND AREA



10-7

## **10-5 KING, BETTY AND BOB LAKES - BACKPACK**

From Hessie Trailhead; take FS902, follow it for 1.25 miles until it goes to the right towards Devils Thumb Pass. The trail to King Lake continues to the left (FS901) for another 3.75 miles southwest. These lakes are all above timberline and provide little protection from the weather. There is a 2000' elevation gain to get to King Lake (11500') from the Hessie trailhead most of which is in the last 1.5 miles. Betty and Bob Lakes are located on a trail just north of King Lake and are .8 and 1.2 miles respectively from King Lake. There are campsites at King and Betty Lakes.

From Rollins Pass; King, Betty and Bob Lakes are short hikes. Hike north on the High Lonesome Trail (FS7); at .3 mile the trail to these lakes turns off FS7 and goes to the right (east) on FS901. Hike down .2 mile and you are at King Lake. To get to Betty and Bob Lakes continue along the trail. FS901 will soon turn off to the right and head downhill; the trail to Betty and Bob Lakes goes straight, the left fork. Continue on the flat terrain for .25 mile, then its uphill for a short distance to Betty Lake. Bob Lake is west of Betty Lake about .4 mile. The trail to Betty and Bob Lakes is faint in some locations. Be sure to have the East Portal Quad, map with you. There are campsites in the area, but no trees are available to provide protection from the weather (wind).

## **10-6 WOODLAND LAKE & SKYSCRAPER LAKE - BACKPACK**

Woodland Lake is located just below the Continental Divide with scenic views of the foothills west of Boulder. It is about a 3.5 mile trip with an elevation gain of 1950 feet and is usually accessible from July though September.

Drive time: 2 Hours

Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
East Portal Quad.  
Nederland Quad.

**The trail:** From the Hessie Trailhead hike west along the jeep trail, at the first major trail intersection keep to the right (FS902). The left branch goes to King Lake (FS901). Continue on FS902 for almost a mile, another trail will branch left to Woodland Lake, take the trail to the left, FS811. The trail to the right goes to Jasper Reservoir and Devils Thumb Lake. Woodland Lake is situated just above timberline. Skyscraper Lake, just above Woodland Lake, is a short side trip.

## **10-7 HESSIE TO FOURTH OF JULY TRAILHEAD - BACKPACK**

If you would like to make the previous trip a two or three day backpack trip you can park another car at the Fourth of July Campground and exit at that trailhead. From the Hessie Trailhead hike FS902 to the junction of FS811 (trail to Woodland Lake), continue on FS902 for an additional 2 miles, you will be at Jasper Reservoir. You can camp here or at Devils Thumb Lake. A nice side trip is up to Devils Thumb Pass and Devils Thumb Peak. The

next day you will reverse direction, go back to your last trail intersection and follow the trail (FS975) around to Diamond Lake (3.5 miles). You can either camp at Diamond Lake or hike out to the Fourth of July Campground, another 2.2 miles. If you reverse the direction, starting at the Fourth of July Campground you can take advantage of descending elevation.

Notes: Water is available along most parts of the trails. Wild strawberries and raspberries grow along the trails in season (August).

### **10-8 DEVILS THUMB LAKE AND PASS, JASPER RESERVOIR - BACKPACK**

From Hessie Trailhead; take FS902, follow it for 1.25 miles to where the trail to King Lake continues to the left (FS901). FS902 turns to the right at this intersection and continues to Devils Thumb Pass. Stay on FS902 for another .75 mile, you will pass the trail to Woodland and Skyscraper Lakes which turns off to the left (FS811). Continue right on FS902 for another 1.5 miles, FS902 intersects with FS975, going to the right to Diamond Lake and Fourth of July Campground and Trailhead. FS902 turns left to Jasper Reservoir and Devils Thumbs Lake. Jasper Reservoir will appear on your right in another .7 mile. There are some trees around the Reservoir and ten reservation only back country campsites. Continue on FS902 southwest for another .8 mile, Devils Thumb Lake will be on your right. From Devils Thumb Lake to Devils Thumb Pass is another .7 mile. Rollins Pass is 3.7 miles south of Devils Thumb Pass on the High Lonesome Trail (FS7).

From Rollins Pass; Devils Thumb Pass is 3.7 miles north on the High Lonesome Trail (FS7). This area has no water available so have a full water bottle with you. At Devils Thumb Pass, FS7 goes off to the left (northwest). The trail to Devils Thumb Lake and Jasper Reservoir goes to the right (east). The trail, FS902, goes downhill steeply and in only .7 mile you reach Devils Thumb Lake; or continue another .8 mile and you will arrive at Jasper Reservoir. There are a few trees around the Jasper back country campsites.

### **10-9 DIAMOND LAKE - HIKE/BACKPACK**

Diamond Lake is only a 2.5 miles backpack trip from the 4th of July Campground and Trailhead. The lake is located at timberline with a few trees which allow a little windbreak and privacy between the ten campsites located at the lake. Most of the campsites are located on the north and west sides of the lake, these are designated, reservations only campsites. There is a waterfall just west of the campsites.

**The trail:** Head west on the old road which serviced the Fourth of July Mine. At .3 mile the Arapahoe Pass/Glacier Trail goes off to the right (FS904). Follow the road that goes left, FS975. The route will continue west for about 1 mile. The trail to Diamond Lake will go off to you left (FS975) and the road will continue west. Take the trail for another mile and a sign will point to Diamond Lake off to the right of FS975.

## 10-10 ARAPAHO GLACIER - HIKE

Arapaho Glacier is the main source of water for the city of Boulder and one of the largest glaciers in the state. It makes a good day hike for your Scout troop.

**The trail:** From the Fourth of July Trailhead, the trail actually starts as a road since it was originally a service road for the Fourth of July Mine further up the trail. In .3 mile the trail to Diamond Lake will go off to your left. Stay to your right (FS904) and continue up the trail towards the 4th of July Mine. In about two more miles you will come across a rusty boiler and some other machinery, this is the old mine site. Just after the mine site, take the trail to the right (FS905), this will take you to Arapaho Glacier. It is another 1000' elevation gain and 1.5 miles to the top of the ridge known as Glacier Viewpoint. The elevation at this point is 12,750'. You can descend the trail to the glacier or return back to the mine.

## 10-11 ARAPAHO PASS - HIKE

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

Another alternative is to hike to Arapaho Pass, it is 1.1 miles from the Arapaho Glacier Trail intersection to Arapaho Pass. Continue on FS904 to the top of the pass. There are terrific views to the west. You can see the Winter Park Ski Area and the community of Tabernash through the miles of National Forest. To the north the rugged mountains of the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area are dominant. Lake Caribou can be viewed on the west side of the pass. This is a good place to have your lunch.

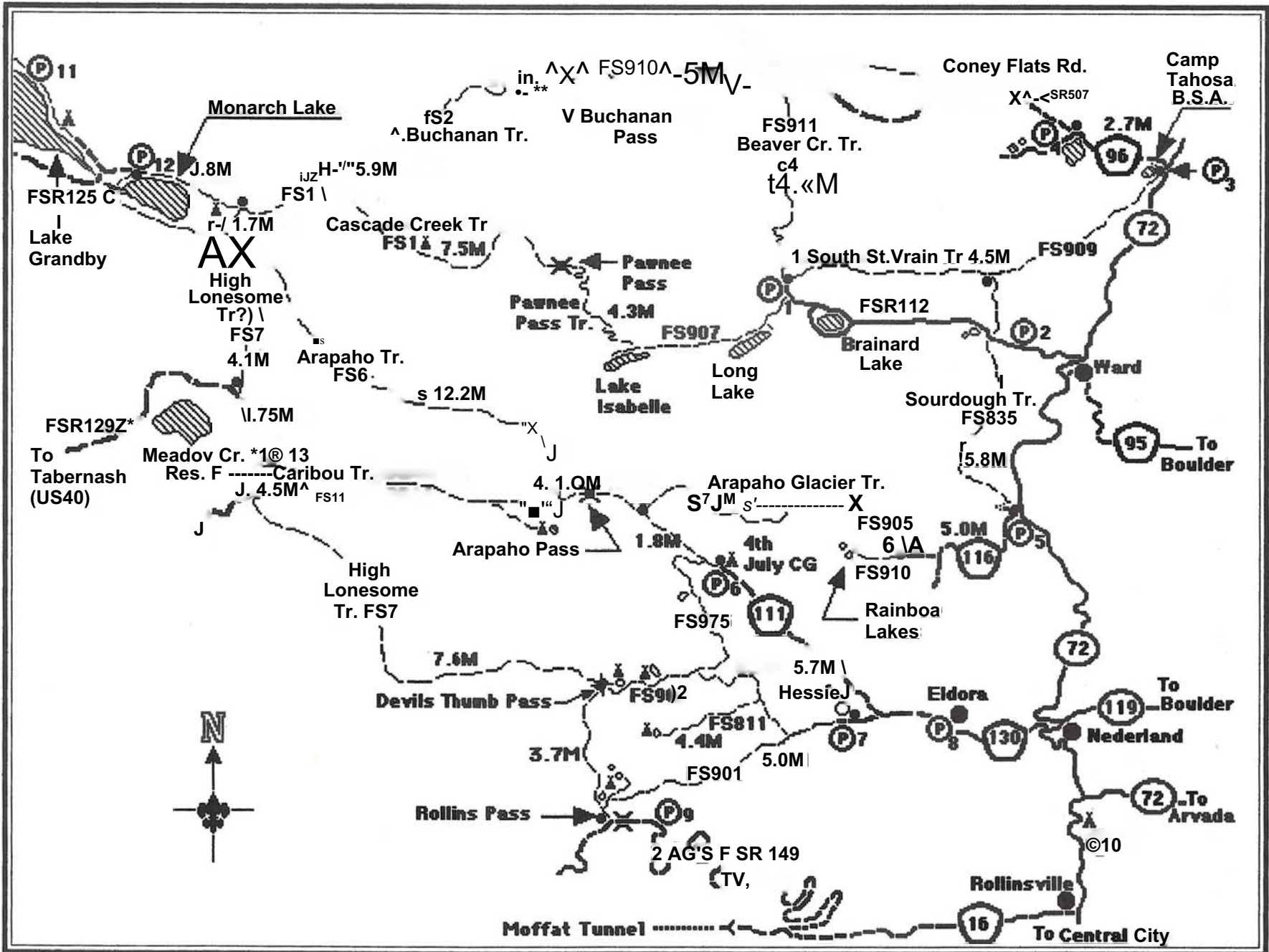
Notes: Some water is available in streams along the trail, but water becomes more scarce towards higher elevations. Always treat the available water taken from streams or lakes.

## LOOP TRAILS WITHIN THE INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA - EXTENDED BACKPACK

There are four passes within the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area that allow trails to interconnect. Many of the longer loops go above timberline for extensive distances. Beware of weather conditions and remember that the higher elevations lack water for extensive distances. The following loops are suggested because they can return you to your origination point. No description is provided, but by referencing the Forest Service, Trails Illustrated or Topographic Maps you can easily plot the course.



LOOP TRAILS INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA



10-11



**10-12 HESSIE TO ROLLINS PASS, RETURN VIA DEVILS THUMB PASS - BACKPACK**

<u>Trail Name</u>	<u>Trail No.</u>	<u>Trail Mileage</u>
Hessie Town Site	FS901	5.0
High Lonesome Tr.	FS7	3.7
Devils Thumb Tr.	FS902	<u>5.7</u>
		14.4 Miles

**10-13 ROLLINS PASS, RETURN VIA CARIBOU TRAIL - BACKPACK**

<u>Trail Name</u>	<u>Trail No.</u>	<u>Trail Mileage</u>
High Lonesome Tr.	FS7	3.7
High Lonesome Tr.	FS7	7.6
FSR129	FSR129	0.7
Caribou Tr.	FS11	4.5
Arapaho Pass Tr.	FS904	2.5
Diamond Lake Tr.	FS975	4.5
Devils Thumb Tr.	FS902	2.5
High Lonesome Tr.	FS7	<u>3.7</u>
		29.7 Miles

**10-14 ROLLINS PASS TO MONARCH LAKE, RETURN ARAPAHO TRAIL- BACKPACK**

<u>Trail Name</u>	<u>Trail No.</u>	<u>Trail Mileage</u>
High Lonesome Tr.	FS7	3.7
High Lonesome Tr.	FS7	7.6
FSR129	FSR129	1.7
High Lonesome Tr.	FS7	4.1
Monarch Lk. Conn. Tr.		0.2
Arapaho Pass Tr. W	FS6	12.2
Arapaho Pass Tr. E	FS904	2.5
Diamond Lake Tr.	FS975	4.5
Devils Thumb Tr.	FS902	2.5
High Lonesome Tr.	FS7	<u>3.7</u>
		42.7 Miles

As you can see, there are endless possibilities in this very scenic area that is easily accessible to troops from the Metropolitan area. Study the maps, know your group's abilities and plan your own trips. Loop combinations over 50 miles can be created to earn the 50 Miler Award.

# 11 INDIAN PEAKS AREA

## INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS

Indian Peaks is located south from Rocky Mountain National Park to Rollins Pass and west of Boulder along the Continental Divide.

**Indian Peaks Wilderness Information:** A number of the treks in this chapter are in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area. Reservations and camping fees (\$4 -1/95) are necessary, plus a number of regulations must be observed. Reservations are required between June 1 and September 15, maximum group size is 12, in certain areas camping is in designated posted campsites only, all other campsites must be 100 feet away from streams, lakes and trails. NO fires are permitted east of the Continental Divide and in certain areas west of the divide. Call the Boulder office of the Roosevelt National Forest for information, 1 (303) 444-6003. To request an application for the camping permit write to:

Boulder Ranger District  
2995 Baseline Road, Room 110  
Boulder Colorado 80303

### 11-1 CAMP TAHOSA TO BRAINARD LAKE - HIKE

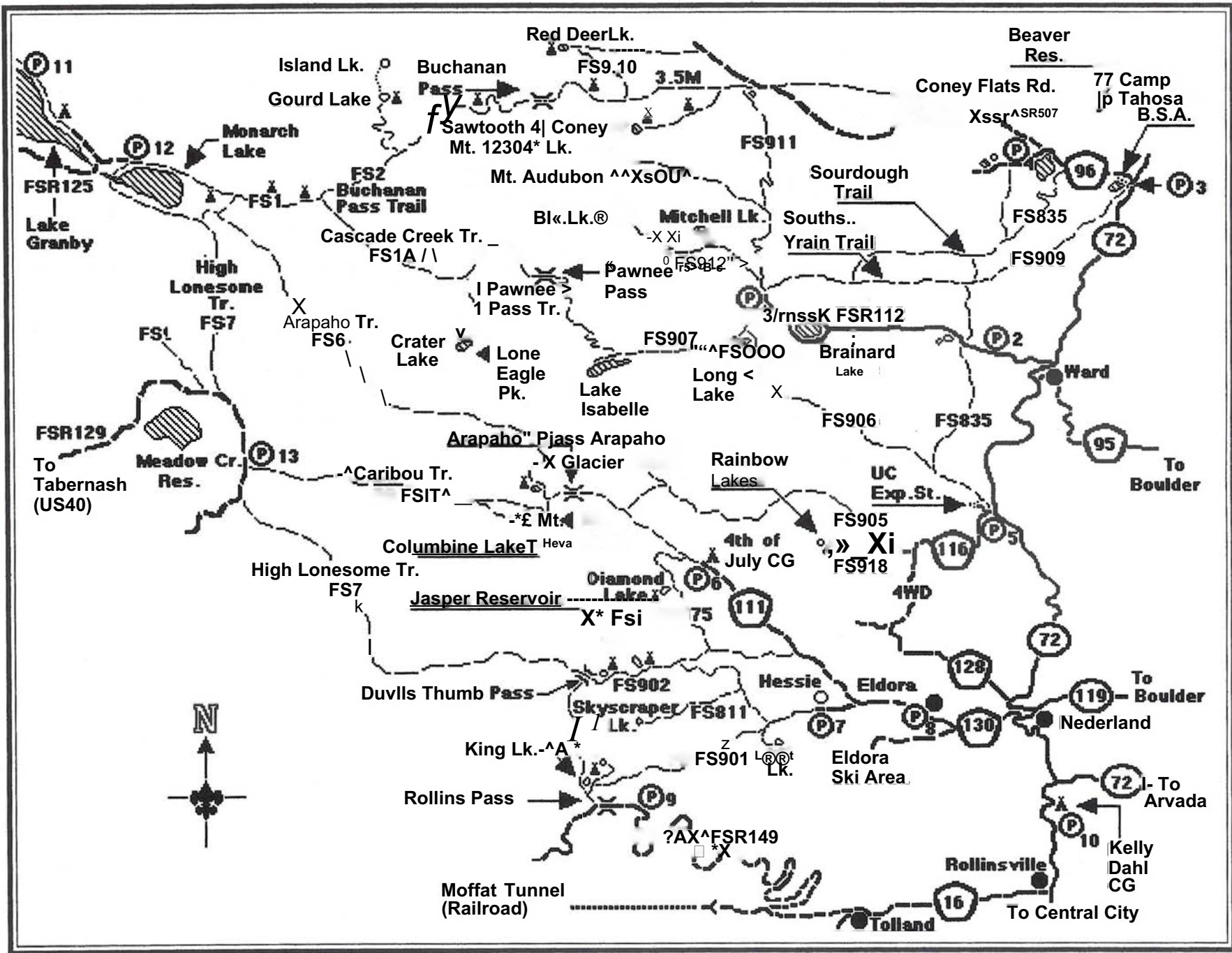
When visiting Camp Tahosa consider taking a hiking trip to Brainard Lake. There are two routes to Brainard Lake from Tahosa. Cars can be taken to the Long Lake parking area, noted on the map as (P)1, for a return trip back to Tahosa or you can hike back on another trail, making a loop.

Drive Time: 1.5-2 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

**How to get there:** To access Camp Tahosa from Denver drive northwest to Boulder. Take Canyon Blvd, or Arapahoe Ave. west, the streets eventually merge into CO119. Continue west into Nederland. In Nederland turn north on CO72. You will past the outskirts of Ward, 4.5 miles beyond Ward turn off CO72 west onto CR96 to Camp Tahosa. There is a sign for Tahosa on CO72, but it appears quickly so be on the lookout for the sign.

**The trail:** The shortest hiking route to Brainard Lake is the South St. Vrain Trail (FS909) which starts on CR96 just east of the entrance to Tahosa. The trail starts along the south side of CR96 just about a 100 feet from CO72. This trail goes up the South St. Vrain Creek drainage and parallels the creek at certain times. Several intersecting trails will be passed such as the Sourdough Trail (FS835). The South St. Vrain Trail is 4.5 miles and exits just north of the Long Lake Parking area (P)1, which is just northwest of Brainard Lake.

INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA



11-2

The loop trail that returns to Tahosa is the Beaver Creek Trail, FS911, and goes north from where the South St. Vrain Trail ends. Travel north on FS911 passing the trail to Mitchell and Blue Lakes (FS912) and passing the Mt. Audubon Trail (FS913) at 1.5 miles; continue north on Beaver Creek Trail (FS911) to Coney Flats (another 2.5 miles). At Coney Flats you will intersect with the Coney Flats Road which is FSR507. Follow FSR507 (also known as CR96J) east for 3.5 miles (stay to the left, several old roads will go off to the south), you will exit on CR96 just northwest of Beaver Reservoir. It is an additional 2.5 miles back along CR96 to the Camp Tahosa property. The loop trip is 12.7 miles if you start and return to Tahosa on foot. This mileage can be shortened by driving to Brainard Lake or placing vehicles at Beaver Reservoir.

### **11-2 BRAINARD LAKE - CROSS COUNTRY SKI**

Brainard Lake is located northwest of Boulder near the little community of Ward.

Drive Time: 1.5-2 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

**How to get there:** Go to Boulder, turn west up Boulder Canyon on CO119 to Nederland. Turn north in Nederland on CO72, follow to Ward. As you pass the main road into Ward, which will be on your right; immediately (.1 mile) on your left will be a road with a sign indicating the Brainard Lake Recreation Area. Turn onto this road and drive until the road is blocked either by a metal bar or a snowdrift, noted on the map as (P)2.

**The trail:** You can ski along the road to Brainard Lake, it is quite level with only a few ups and downs. From here you can ski a loop around the lake or if you need a longer trek take the road up to Long Lake Parking area, noted on the map as (P)1. The trail to Long Lake starts at the parking area and goes south, it's only a short distance. Several other trails are more strenuous such as the ones to Mitchell Lake or Lake Isabelle, and are not recommended for younger Scouts.

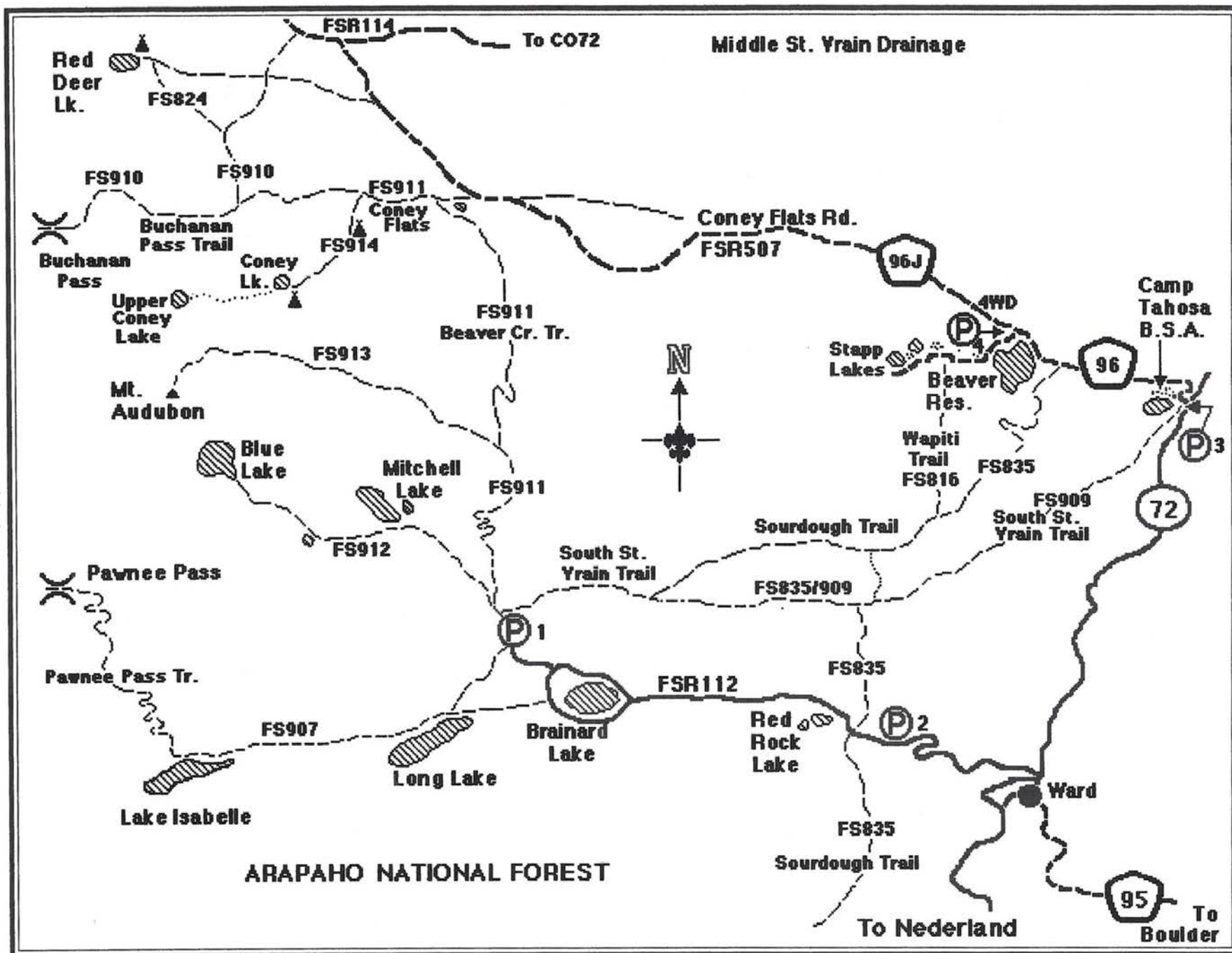
**Notes:** This is an extremely scenic area, take your camera, especially if it is clear. The area receives fairly heavy use in both winter and summer. The loop trip to and around Brainard Lake is approximately 6 miles round trip.

### **11-3 PAWNEE PASS - HIKE**

Pawnee Pass makes a good day hike for Scouts; combine this hike with an overnight campout at Camp Tahosa. Pawnee Pass is located northwest of Boulder near the little community of Ward.

Drive Time: 1.5-2 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
Ward Quad.  
Monarch Lake Quad.

**PAWNEE PASS / BRAINARD LAKE**



11-4

**How to get there:** Go to Boulder, turn west up Boulder Canyon on CO119 to Nederland. Turn north in Nederland on CO72, follow to Ward. As you pass the main road into Ward (north side of town), which will be on your right; immediately (.1 mile) on your left will be a road, (FSR112) with a sign indicating the Brainard Lake Recreation Area. Turn onto this road, follow it to Brainard Lake and on to the Long Lake parking area, noted on the map as (P)1.

**The trail:** Take the Long Lake Trail south (FS907), follow the signs to Long Lake and parallel the north side of the lake. Continue west for another 1.5 miles to Lake Isabelle. On the north side of Lake Isabelle the trail starts up to Pawnee Pass. The left trail continues west along Lake Isabelle and up to Isabelle Glacier.

Note: The trek to the top of Pawnee Pass is 4.5 miles one-way with an elevation gain of 1680 feet. This pass is only open during the months of July and August. There are lots of wildflowers along the way. This is an extremely scenic area, take your camera especially if it is clear. The area receives fairly heavy use during the summer. Another consideration is to make this a backpacking trip and hike across to the western slope and do one of the loop trails.

#### **11-4 MT. AUDUBON - HIKE**

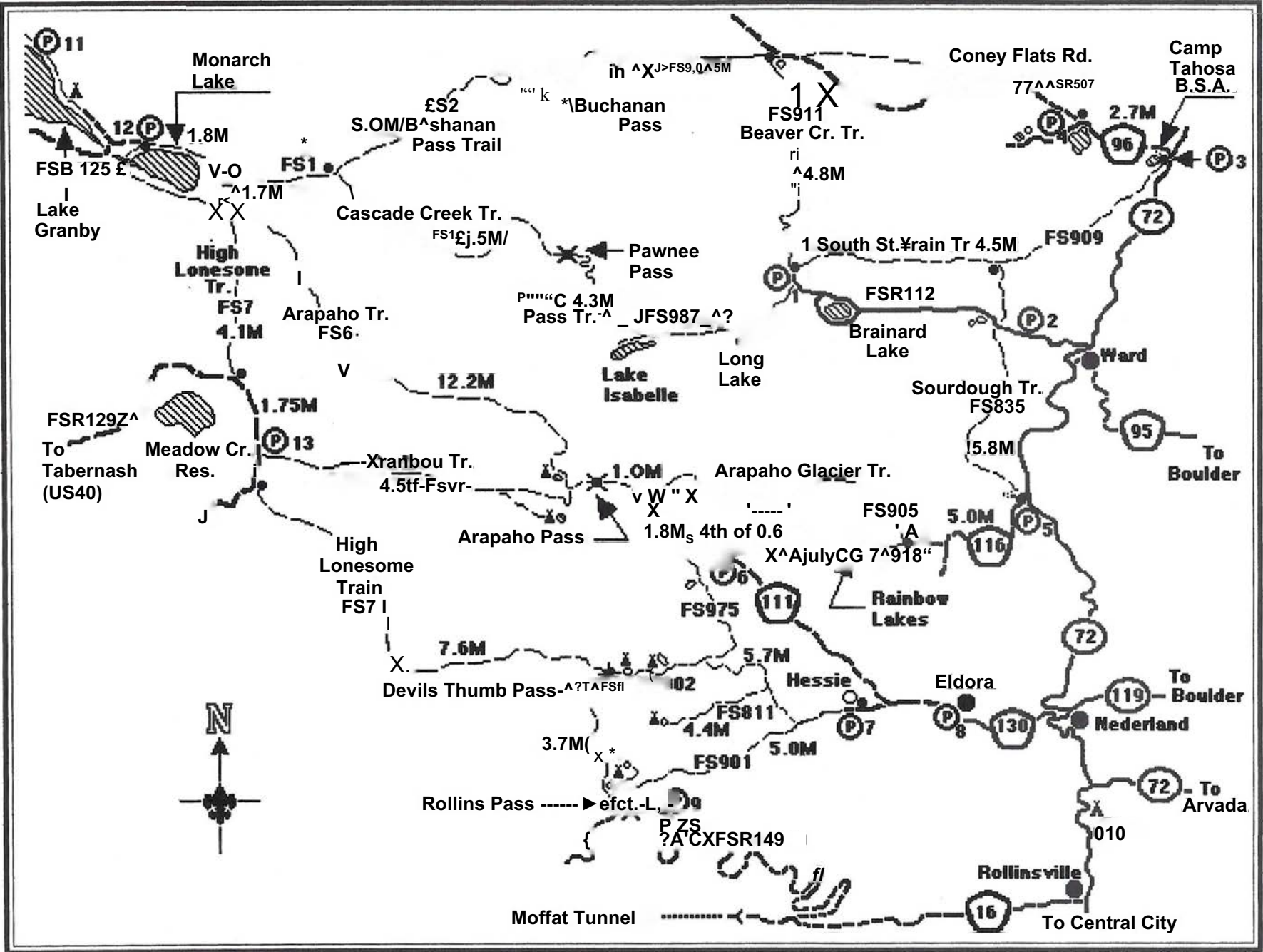
Mt. Audubon is northwest of Brainard Lake. It is a 3.5 mile hike one-way to a elevation of 13,223'. Mt. Audubon provides spectacular views. Clear days are the best to take advantage of the views from this mountain, avoid a thunderstorm by starting early.

Drive Time:	1.5-2 Hours
Map Reference:	Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

**How to get there:** Go to Boulder, turn west up Boulder Canyon on CO119 to Nederland. Turn north in Nederland on CO72, follow to Ward. As you pass the main road into Ward (north side of town), which will be on your right; immediately (.1 mile) on your left (west side of CO72) will be a road with a sign indicating the Brainard Lake Recreation Area. Turn onto this road (FSR112) and follow it around Brainard Lake to the Long Lake parking area, noted on the map as (P)1.

The trail: The trail to Mt. Audubon starts from the parking lot by going north on FS911; it is 1.5 miles to the Mt. Audubon Trail (FS913) intersection. You will pass the South St. Vrain Trail FS909 on the right. The trail to Mitchell and Blue Lakes FS912, is on the left at .2 mile. Continue on FS911 north before turning onto the Mt. Audubon Trail. The Mt. Audubon Trail has a moderate incline with great views as you exit from the trees. Just before reaching the crest of the summit (at 3 miles) there is a large colony of conies. These are the furry little rodents that bark at you as you pass. The cony is the animal on the Order of the Arrow Tahosa Lodge flap and pictured on the OA newsletter.

LOOP TRAILS INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA



## 11-5 MITCHELL, BLUE, LONG AND ISABELLE LAKES - HIKE

Here are four lakes that can provide interesting hikes with great views, but it should be mentioned that the Brainard Lake Area has been overused and overpopulated since the late 1950s. These four lakes are closed to camping between May 1 and November 30.

Drive Time: 1.5-2 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

**How to get there:** Go to Boulder, turn west up Boulder Canyon on CO119 to Nederland. Turn north in Nederland on CO72, follow to Ward. As you pass the main road into Ward, which will be on your right; immediately (.1 mile) on your left will be a road with a sign indicating the Brainard Lake Recreation Area. Turn onto this road and follow it around Brainard Lake to the Long Lake parking area, noted on the map as (P)1.

**The trail to Mitchell and Blue Lakes:** The trail to Mitchell and Blue Lakes starts from the Long Lake parking lot (P)1 by going north on Beaver Creek Trail (FS911). You will pass the South St. Vrain Trail FS909 on the right, the trail to Mitchell and Blue Lakes will split off from FS911 at .2 mile. Follow FS912, in another .8 mile you will reach Mitchell Lake. If you want to go to Blue Lake continue on FS912 another 1.5 miles and you have arrived. There is lots of grass and small snowmelt streams flowing along the trail, but there are no trees around these lakes.

**The trail to Long and Isabelle Lakes:** The Pawnee Pass Trail (FS907) takes you to Long and Isabelle Lakes. Start from the Long Lake parking lot (P)1. The east end of Long Lake is only .4 mile. Isabelle Lake is another 1.5 miles west of Long Lake on FS907.

## OVERNIGHT BACKPACK TRIPS

There are an endless number of places to set up your backpack camp in the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area although you need that camping permit in your hand. Some of the more desirable locations that backpackers seem to favor are listed below, but remember to stay a minimum of 100 feet away from lakes, streams and trails. Overnight campsites are noted with a solid small teepee on the provided maps.

Drive Time: 1.5 - 2 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

## 11-6 CONEY LAKE AND RED DEER LAKE - BACKPACK

Coney, Upper Coney and Red Deer Lakes are west of Camp Tahosa. Sometimes troops take their younger Scouts to Tahosa and their older Scouts on a special backpack trip west of Tahosa up on Coney Flats.

**How to get there:** From Denver drive northwest to Boulder, take Canyon Blvd, or Arapahoe Ave. west, the streets eventually merge into CO119. Continue west up Boulder



Canyon to Nederland. In Nederland turn north on CO72. You will past the outskirts of Ward, 4.5 miles beyond Ward turn off CO72 west onto CR96. There is a sign for Tahosa on CO72, but it appears quickly so be on the lookout for the sign. Pass the entrance to Tahosa and continue on CR96 for another 2.5 miles to the northwest side of Beaver Reservoir and park at (P)4, the 4WD road called Coney Flats Road starts here.

**The trail:** Hike west for 3.5 miles on FSR507 (also CR96J) until you intersect with Beaver Creek Trail (FS911) which comes from the Brainard Lake Area. At this point there is a small lake just south of the 4WD road and the road turns northwest, gradually dropping into the North St. Vrain drainage. The trail you want to follow continues west, it is called the Buchanan Pass Trail (FS911 then FS910). This is the way to Coney and Red Deer Lakes. As you continue west you will enter the Indian Peaks Wilderness boundary.

**Coney Lake** - About .75 mile past where you exited the road you will intersect with the Coney Lake Trail (FS914). Turn south on the Coney Lake Trail, you will soon enter a sub-alpine forested area and beaver meadows. Coney Creek flows through the area and provides a good water source. There are areas, in the trees, to camp before you arrive at Coney Lake. Coney Lake has few trees at 10600 feet, but a few campsites are available. A faint trail can take you to Upper Coney Lake which is at 10940 feet. Native cutthroat trout can be caught in Coney Creek and Coney Lake.

**Red Deer Lake** - If you want to go just a little further go to Red Deer Lake. About 1.5 miles past where you exited the road you will intersect with FS910. Turn north on FS910 for .75 mile and you will arrive at the intersection of the Red Deer Lake Trail (FS824). Red Deer Lake is an open area with grasses and rounded rocks. The area provides a number of campsites with sufficient space between you and the lake. The views to the north are spectacular. Be sure your Scouts have plenty of stakes for their tents.

### 11-7 TAHOSA TO PAWNEE PASS, RETURN BUCHANAN PASS - BACKPACK

The following loop is suggested, it originates and returns to Camp Tahosa. No description is provided, but it has been used in past high adventure programs at Camp Tahosa. Plan 3-5 days for this trek. Be sure to reference Forest Service, Trails Illustrated #102 or Topographical maps.

<u>Trail Name</u>	<u>Trail No.</u>	<u>Mileage</u>	<u>Trail</u>
So. St. Vrain Tr.	FS909	4.5	
Pawnee Pass Tr.	FS907	4.3	
Cascade Creek Tr.	FS1	7.3	
Buchanan Tr. West	FS2	5.0	
Buchanan Tr. East	FS910	3.5	
Coney Flats Rd.	FSR507	3.5	
County Road 96	CR96	<u>2.7</u>	
		30.8 miles	

# 12 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

## WILD BASIN AREA

Wild Basin is a large glacial valley located in the southeast section of Rocky Mountain National Park. Wild Basin provides a number of opportunities for exploration and fun with hikes, backpack camping trips and cross country ski trips. Of course, being within a major National Park there are a number of strict regulations troops must adhere to while visiting such an area. Hikers have few regulations, but back country camping requires permits in advance; in some cases, months in advance. For reservations write to: Rocky Mountain National Park, Back Country Office, Estes Park, Colorado 80517. Fall is one of the best times to visit since trails and some facilities are still open and the numbers of visitors have decreased substantially. Contact RMNP for trail conditions and permits at 1 (303) 586-1206.

Drive Time: 2+ Hours

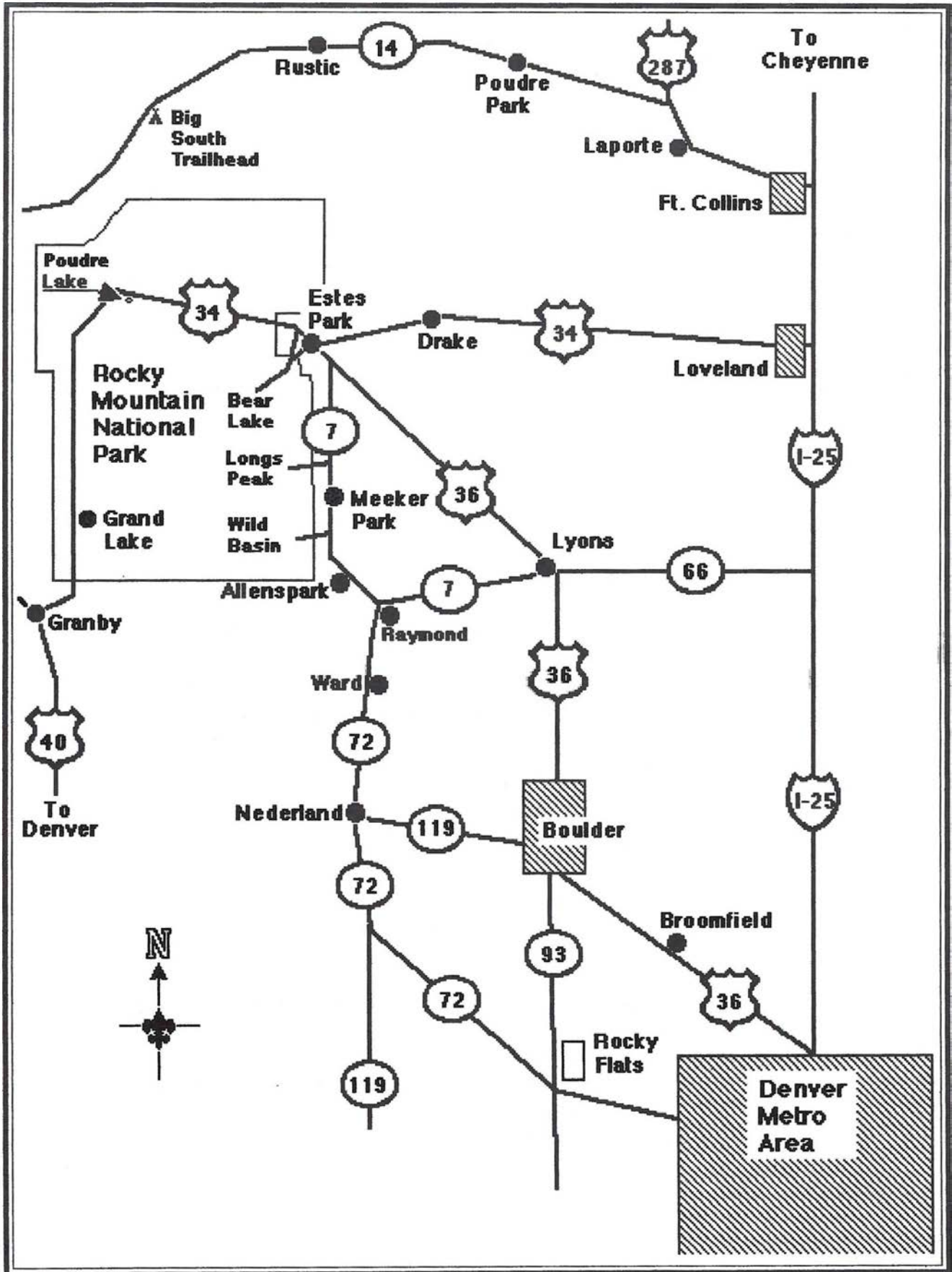
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
Rocky Mt. National Park Quad.  
Allenspark Quad.

**How to get there:** Wild Basin is accessed from CO7 which is known as the Peak to Peak Highway. This National Scenic Highway travels north to south along the east side of the Continental Divide between Estes Park and U.S. 6 on the south end. The entrance to Wild Basin is 13 miles south of Estes Park. A highway sign will identify Wild Basin turning west off CO7. You can also access Wild Basin from the south; either from Lyons on CO7 or from the Peak to Peak Highway, CO119. Drive through Allenspark, in about 1.5 miles the south access road to Wild Basin will appear on the west side of CO7.

### 12-1 SANDBEACH LAKE - HIKE/BACKPACK

Sandbeach Lake Trail can be a day hike, or better, an overnight backpack trip. The trailhead for Sandbeach Lake is only about a mile from CO7, located on the northeast side of Copeland Lake, see map notation (P)1. The Sandbeach Lake Trail is 4.2 miles one-way with two major streams crossing the trail and providing good sources for drinking water. There are five back country campsites located along this trail; all require a permit from the park service. The two favorites are Hole-in-the-Wall Campsite and Sandbeach Lake Campsite. The first 1.9 miles of the trail is up the side of Copeland Moraine, a ridge deposited by the glaciers. On top is the Hole-in-the-Wall Campsite. The trail drops down for a while then begins a more gradual uphill, passing the other campsites. Sandbeach Lake is in a flat, wide sandy beach shelf above the valley floor. The lake is located at 10238' with forested areas around the lake. This is a good place to have lunch, daydream, or observe the surrounding mountains and valley below.

# HIGHWAY MAP TO ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK



## 12-2 THUNDER LAKE - HIKE/BACKPACK

Thunder Lake is located next to the Continental Divide in the upper end of Wild Basin. The trailhead for Thunder Lake, and a number of other destinations, starts at the Wild Basin Ranger Station; total distance to Thunder Lake is 6.8 miles one-way.

**How to get there:** Exit at the Wild Basin Road and drive by Copeland Lake following an unpaved road to the Ranger Station, it is three miles to the trailhead parking, noted on the map as (P)2. Along this trail there are a number of branch trails leading to other mountain lakes and campsites.

You will cross Hunters Creek and then walk along North St. Vrain Creek, which is the main stream for this basin, it originates from Thunder Lake and the water shed above the lake. At .3 mile you will pass Copeland Falls; a small falls compared to Ouzel Falls further up the trail. At 1.4 miles there will be a spur trail on your right (noted on the map as an unimproved trail); this spur trail provides access to four back country campsites and a short cut to Thunder Lake. If you take the spur trail you will miss Calypso Cascades and Ouzel Falls, but you can always make the return trip on the main trail which passes next to each of these two water spectacles. Following the main trail up a fairly steep incline you arrive at Calypso Cascades, 2 miles from the trailhead. The trail that takes you to Finch and Pear Lakes starts at this point. Finch Lake is an additional 3.5 miles and Pear Lake 5.5 miles. There are three back country campsites on the Finch/Pear Lakes Trail.

Continuing on the main trail you'll pass Ouzel Falls at 2.7 miles. Be sure to take the short path off the main trail for the best view of the falls. This falls is one of the most impressive waterfalls in the park. On the main trail at 3.8 miles you will intersect with the Ouzel/Bluebird Lakes Trail. Ouzel Lake is 1.75 miles and Bluebird Lake is 3.75 additional miles from this intersection. There are two back country campsites located along the Ouzel/Bluebird Lakes Trail.

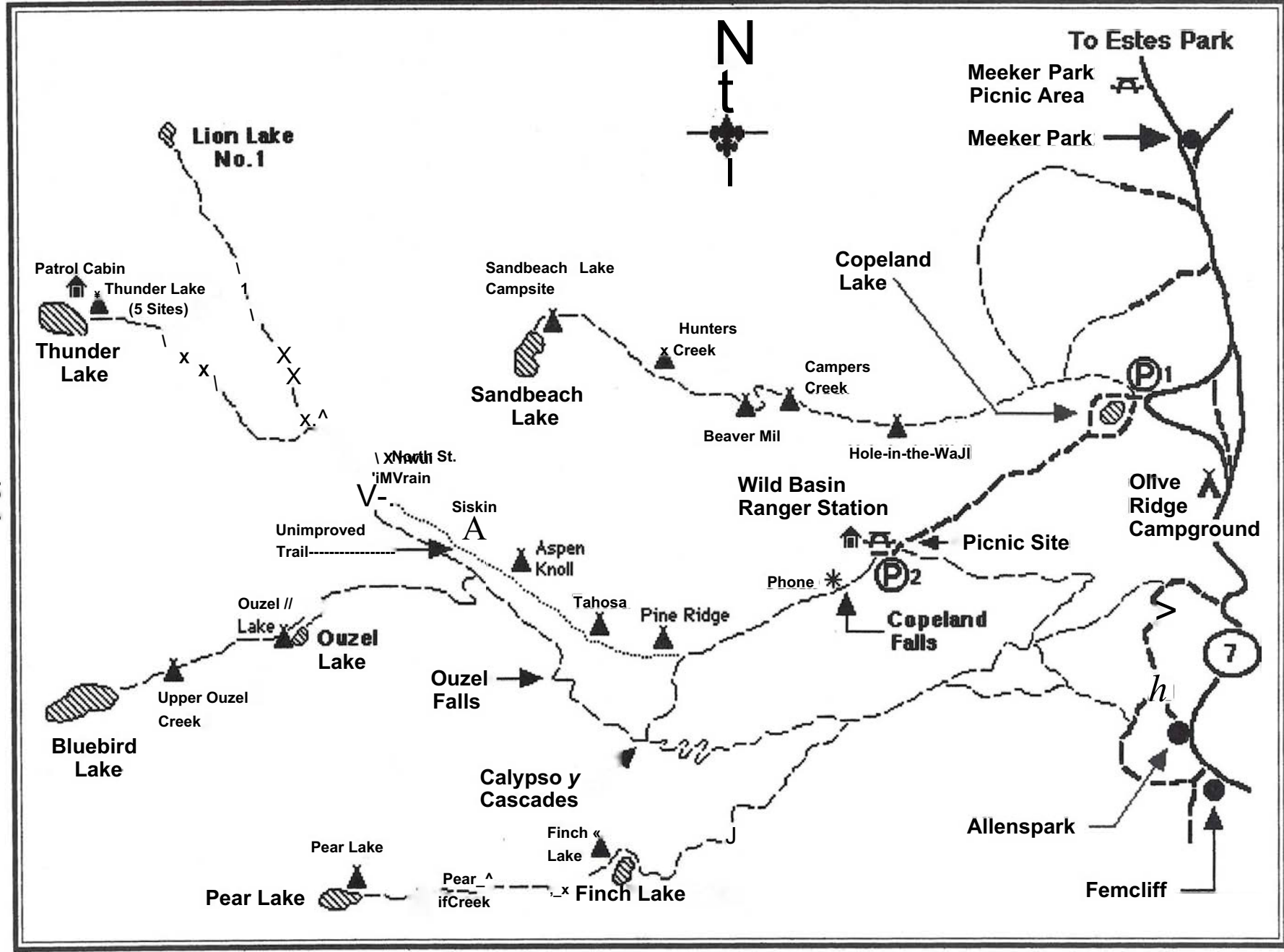
Staying on the main trail you will pass the trail intersection to the Lion Lakes at 5.3 miles. The remaining 1.5 miles takes you to the shore of Thunder Lake. This perfectly shaped glacial lake is deep blue in color with a rustic patrol cabin along its northeast shore. There are five back country campsites at Thunder Lake; four individual sites and a group campsite. There are lots of alternative day hikes to enjoy from your base camp at Thunder Lake.

## 12-3 WILD BASIN - CROSS COUNTRY SKI

Wild Basin is located in the southeast corner of Rocky Mountain National Park. It provides both beginning and intermediate cross country skiing. If you are an intermediate or advance skier you can go to Calypso Cascades or Ouzel Falls. These two sites can be quite spectacular when frozen during the winter.

**How to get there:** Drive to Boulder, then north on CO36 to Lyons. At Lyons take CO7 to Raymond, continue north on CO7 to the intersection with CO72. It is another 7 miles north

WILD BASIN AREA



12-4

on CO7 through Allenspark to the access road to Wild Basin Ranger Station. Proceed about .5 mile on a dirt road and park at Copeland Lake where the snowplows clear a skiers parking area; noted on the Wild Basin Area map as (P)1.

**The trail:** Begin skiing on the road around the south side of the lake. Ski west on the road, when you come to a fork in the road take the left fork. You will cross several bridges and eventually come to the Wild Basin Ranger Station. Continue west, at about 3.5 miles you will cross a foot bridge. Beyond this point the trail gets steeper and more advanced. In .5 mile you will come across Calypso Cascades. Another .7 mile beyond Calypso Cascades will bring you to Ouzel Falls.

#### **12-4 STORM PASS - HIKE**

Drive Time: 2+ Hours

Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
Rocky Mt. National Park, #200, Trails Illustrated  
Longs Peak Quad.  
Me Henrys Peak Quad.

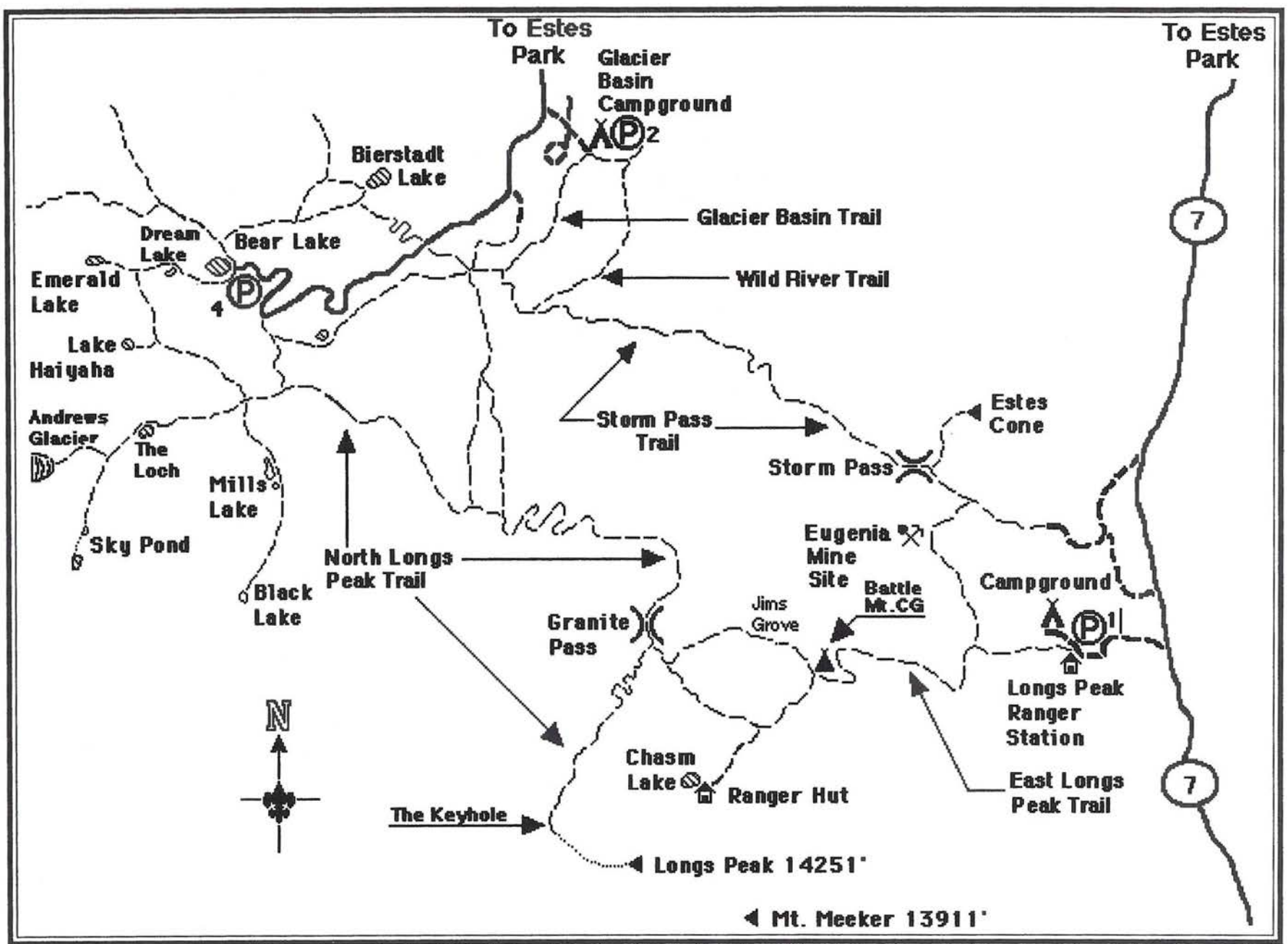
**How to get there:** Drive to Boulder, then north on CO36 to Lyons. At Lyons take CO7 to Raymond, continue north on CO7 to the intersection with CO72. It is another ten miles north on CO7 to the Longs Peak Ranger Station turn-off. Both the Storm Pass and Longs Peak Trails start at this trailhead, noted on the Longs Peak & Storm Pass map as (P)1. The community of Meeker Park is about 2 miles south of the turnoff to Longs Peak Ranger Station.

**Storm Pass:** Storm Pass was named by old-timers of the area because they considered it the gathering place for inclement weather in this region. The pass is an easy hike to a 10000' elevation before descending the west side. During the early fall troops have camped in Rocky Mountain National Park at the Glacier Basin Campground and hiked Storm Pass as the major event. Total hiking distance is 6.5 miles. Drive at least one car to Glacier Basin Campground, noted on the map as (P)2. Get your campground reservations plus leave a car for return transportation to pick up the other vehicles later in the day.

**The trail:** The hike over Storm Pass will start on the east side using the trailhead at Longs Peak Ranger Station as the starting point. After hiking about .5 mile on the Longs Peak Trail; you will come to a trail junction, turn right and head north. Follow the trail north for about 1 mile through fairly level terrain with moderate forest. The Eugenia Mine ruins will appear on your left, take the spur trail and visit what remains. Continuing north for .5 mile the trail intersects with the Storm Pass Trail. Turn west or left at this point. Hike west on Storm Pass Trail for another .5 mile, the trail will split again. The right trail goes north to Estes Cone, while the left trail continues over Storm Pass. You will begin a long descent (2.5 miles) after crossing the pass. The first trail intersection to the right is the Wind River Trail which is not the best trail to Glacier Basin Campground. Continue on the main trail another .5 mile and you will reach the Glacier Basin Trail. Turn right (or north) onto the Glacier Basin Trail, it is 1.5 miles to Glacier Basin Campground.

**LONGS PEAK / STORM PASS**

12-6



## 12-5 LONGS PEAK - FOURTEENER

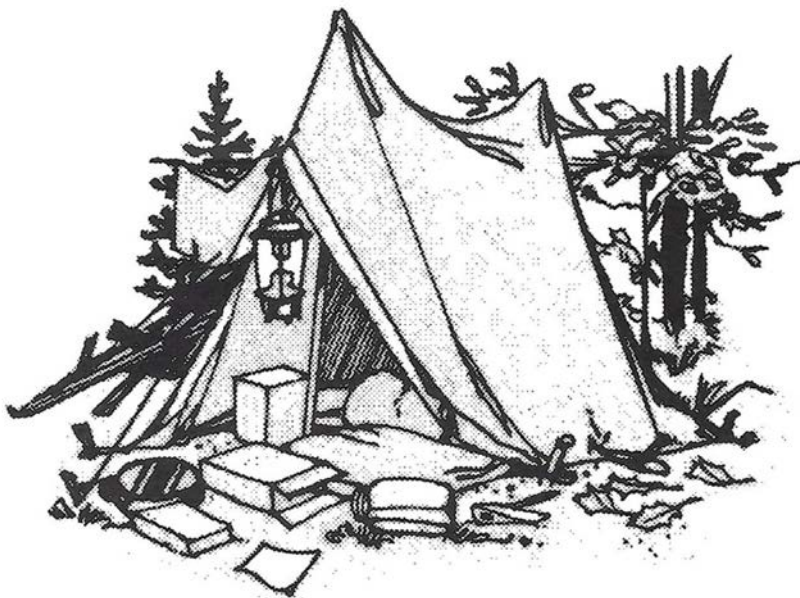
August and September are good months to climb Longs Peak in Rocky Mountain National Park. Be sure to start early. Troops from Long Peaks Council have contributed the following alternative for hiking Longs Peak. The campsite is a back country campsite called Battle Mountain Campground located within the park. Advanced reservations must be made with the park several months in advance (permit required). Battle Mt. Campground has a maximum capacity of 20 campers.

Drive Time: 2+ Hours  
Hike Time: 9-12 Hours from the Campground  
(Round Trip) 12-15 Hours from the Ranger Station  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
Longs Peak Quad.

**The trail:** The trailhead starts at the Longs Peak Ranger Station, be sure to check in, noted as (P)1 on the map. The trail to Battle Mt. Campground is 2.8 miles, it is located at 11,000' elevation. This is your base camp for Longs Peak. The route from Battle Mt. Campground continues west up numbers of switchbacks. Take the trail to the Granite Pass Trail intersection. Turn south and follow the East Longs Peak Trail towards Longs Peak. You will continue your ascent crossing boulder fields and then passing through the famous Keyhole. The top of Longs Peak is next. This is an all day adventure, plan on leaving very early in the morning. It is important to be off the peak before afternoon electrical storms and inclement weather sets in.

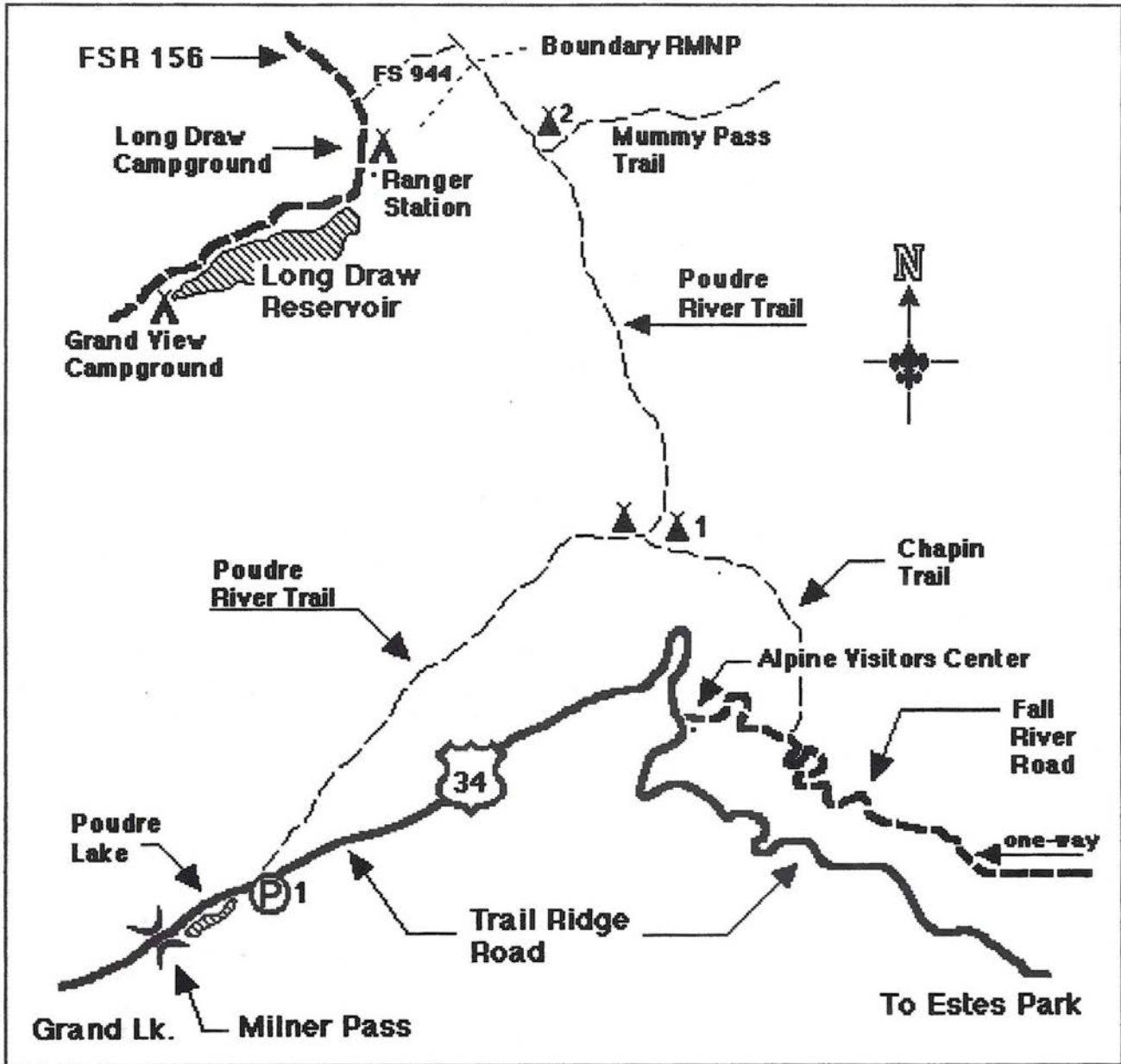
It is suggested that the troop leave Friday and hike to Battle Mt. Campground before night falls. This will help lessen the efforts the following day.

Note: For reservations write to: Rocky Mountain National Park, Back Country Office, Estes Park, Colorado 80517. It is suggested that you read one of the many books on this trek before your attempt, this one is not easy.





# POUDRE RIVER TRAIL



## 12-6 CACHE LA POUDRE TRAIL - BACKPACK

Wow, what a backpacking trip and it is all downhill! Where is that you ask? There is a trail that starts on Trail Ridge Road in Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) about .5 miles east of Milner Pass, where the Continental Divide crosses the highway. This trail takes you north for 23 miles through the park and the new Comanche Peak Wilderness Area. You start at Poudre Lake which is the headwaters for the Cache La Poudre River. You will hike along the river for the entire distance and finally exit at Big South Campground next to CO14 about 9 miles east of Cameron Pass. The river, before it exits the RMNP, has been designated by Congress as the "Peter H. Dominick Wild River".

Drive Time: 2.5 - 3 Hours

Backpack Time: 2 - 3 Days

Map References: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
Rocky Mountain National Park, #200, Trail Illustrated  
Poudre River Cameron Pass, #112 Trail Illustrated  
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Quad. Maps:

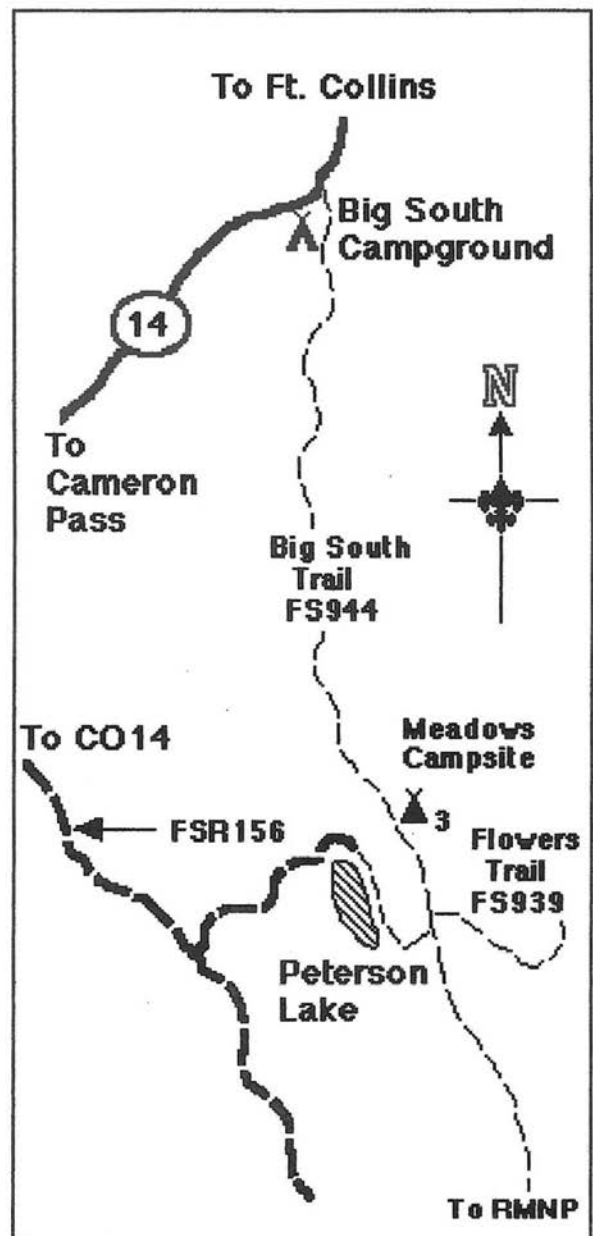
Fall River Road  
Trail Ridge  
Comanche Peak  
Chambers Lake  
Boston Peak

## BIG SOUTH TRAIL

By backpacking this trail from south to north, it is downhill all the way and good time can be made. Two or possibly three days should be allotted for the trip. Transportation must be arranged or a vehicle staged at the far end for getting home. The quickest route to take a vehicle to Big South Campground is via the communities of Grand Lake, Granby, Rand, Gould and over Cameron Pass to Big South Campground. It should be pointed out that backpack campsites within RMNP must be reserved in advance by date and campsite location. Campsites are free, reservations can be made starting March 1 of the year in which the trip is made.

**How to get there:** Drive to RMNP and take US 34 over Trail Ridge Road to a location .25 mile east of Poudre Lake. There is a small parking area on the south side of Trail Ridge Road for the Poudre River Trailhead, see map notation (P)1 on the Poudre River Trail map. If this small lot is full use the parking lot at Poudre Lake.

**The trail:** The trail starts on the north side of the road and takes a northeast direction, immediately it starts paralleling the Cache La Poudre River. The trail descends a long valley, at 6 miles it intersects with the Chapin Trail also coming from the south. The Chapin Trail starts about 3.8 miles south at Chapin Pass on the Fall River Road. Continue left pass this trail intersection for another .5 mile, you will now be on the valley floor. There are both group and



smaller campsites at this location that can be reserved through RMNP, see map notation campsite 1. Water is readily available from the river and a smaller tributary. Continue north on the trail, in another 3.5 miles you will cross Hague Creek and the Mummy Pass Trail will intersect from the east. Another RMNP campsite is located near this intersection, see map notation campsite 2.

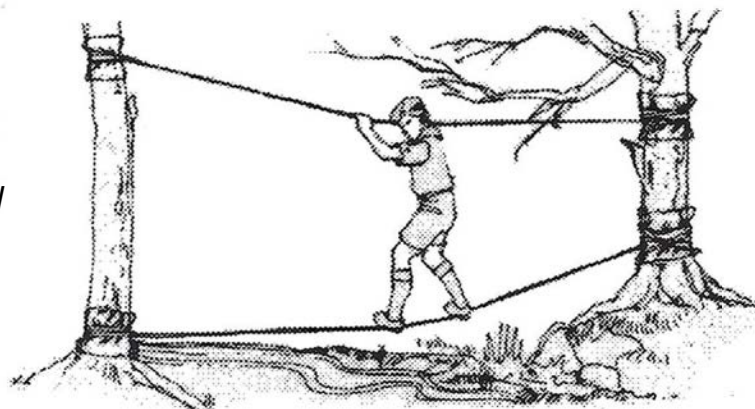
Continuing north approximately .5 mile you leave RMNP and enter the Comanche Peak Wilderness Area. In less than .25 mile FS944 intersects from the west. FS944 descends west for 1.5 miles to Long Draw Campground and Ranger Station. The Cache la Poudre River Trail we have been following is now designated as FS944 by the Forest Service. Hike 4.5 additional miles and two trails will appear. First, the Peterson Lake Trail from the west. Peterson Lake does not provide good campsites and is not recommended. As you continue north (FS944) be sure you are on the east side of the river at this point. The second trail, known as the Flowers Trail (FS939), enters from the east. As you continue north on FS944 the river valley will widen into a meadow and campsites are available, see map notation campsite 3 on the Big South Trail map. This meadow is one of the most beautiful spots along this backpack route. From here it is 8 miles to Big South Campground.

## 12-7 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The adventures describe above were provided by several troops, but it should be pointed out that many other activities, hikes and backpack trips are available in and around RMNP. There are a number of good guides, including the one listed below, which can help you plan your own unique activity.

A new guide and map have been published that are intended to be used together; the trails described in the guide are referenced on the map using the same numeric notations. The text is entitled the *Rocky Mountain National Park - Dayhiker's Guide*, written by Jerome Malitz: it is A Cordillera Press Guidebook, published by Johnson Books, Boulder, Colorado.

Photographs are provided for each of 33 hikes along with six detailed maps, all in color. The map is Rocky Mountain National Park (No. 200) published by Trails Illustrated Topo Maps of Evergreen, Colorado. The map was originally published in 1988 and was revised in 1993 to correlate with the book. An excellent job by both companies.



Notes: Remember, All back country camping in Rocky Mountain National Park is by permit only, PLAN AHEAD. The Park Service starts taking reservations on March 1 of each year, as of 12/94 there are no fees charged for permits. For reservations write to: Rocky Mountain National Park, Back Country Office, Estes Park, Colorado 80517.

# 13 RAWAH WILDERNESS AREA

The Rawah Wilderness Area is located about 60 miles northwest of Ft. Collins on the east side of the Continental Divide. This wilderness land (76,424 acres) was set aside in 1964. Elevation within this wilderness area ranges from 8400' to 12951'.

Drive Time: 3 - 3.5 Hours

Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

7.5 Minute Quad. Maps:

Boston Peak

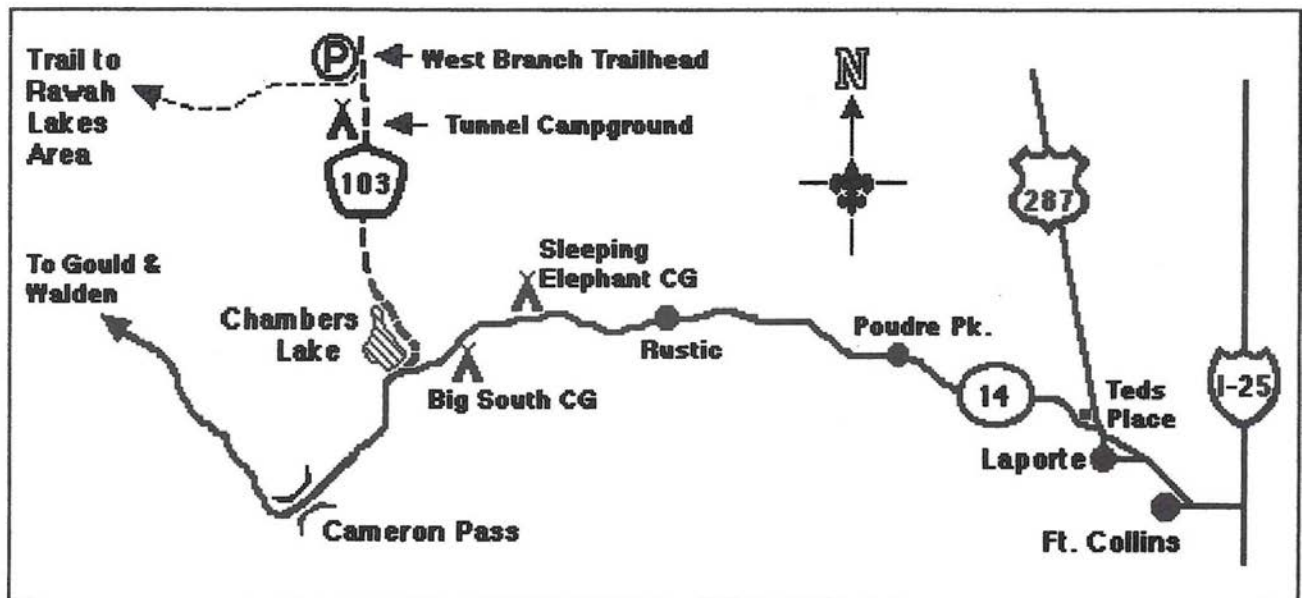
Rawah Lakes

Poudre River, Cameron Pass #112, Trails Illustrated

## 13-1 RAWAH LAKES - BACKPACK

The Rawah Lakes Area consist of 2 dozen high alpine lakes; most of these lakes are below timberline but several are above that zone. This area is abundant in wildlife. On a 1993 backpack trip a mother moose and her calf, a bull elk, multiple deer, a flock of ptarmigan in summer camouflage and a black footed ferret were spotted. Larger than average fish are found in some of these lakes, ranging in length from 12 -16 inches. Take your camera and fishing pole. It should also be mentioned that there are small zones of old growth trees along the various trails, some trees are 40-50 inches in diameter, large by Colorado standards.

**How to get there:** Take I-25 north to Ft. Collins, exit on COM. Follow COM and US 287 around the north side of Ft. Collins. You will pass Laporte, in a few more miles US 287 and COM will separate. Take COM west towards Cameron Pass. In about 45 miles



Chambers Lake will appear on the north side of the highway. CR103 turns north and travels along the east side of Chambers Lake. In about six miles you will pass Tunnel Campground on the west side of the road. Travel another mile, the West Branch Trailhead parking lot will appear on your left. Park in the trailhead parking lot, be sure to read the posted wilderness rules and complete the sign-in sheet.

**The trail:** Discussion in this write-up describes a loop trip to the Rawah Lakes Area. The outbound trail is the Camp Lake Trail; this trail provides less elevation gain. A number of different trail options are available for exploring the Rawah Lakes area. The return trip takes the Rawah Trail over Grassy Pass, down a lot of switchbacks, finally returning to the original trailhead.

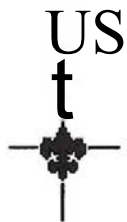
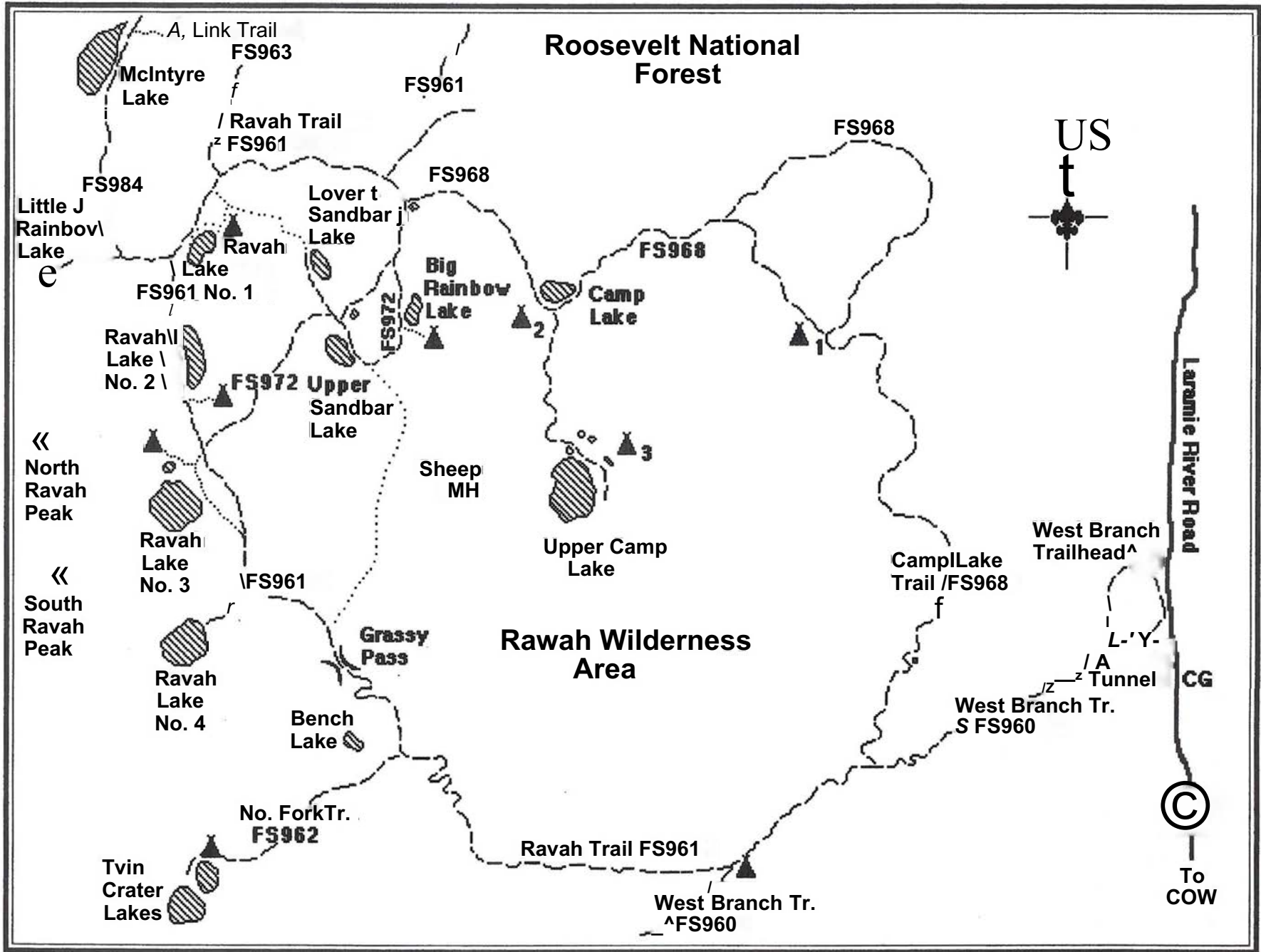
• **Rawah Lakes to Camp Lake** - The trail starts south from the parking lot on CR103 for a short distance until it reaches the North Fork of the Laramie River. The West Branch Trail (FS960) turns west and follows the north side of the river on a service road pass a water diversion canal. For the first mile the trail is flat and there is no elevation gain until it reaches the foothills. The second mile has some elevation gain with several switchbacks. At 2.4 miles the Camp Lake Trail (FS968) branches off to the right and heads north towards Camp Lake. Take FS968 north from the West Branch Trail and head uphill for about 1 mile until it levels out.



Several good streams can provide drinking water on the way up this incline. You will soon find yourself following a water diversion ditch for an additional 3 miles, no useable water is available on this portion of the trail. At 6 miles a shortcut trail goes off to the left, while the main trail continues along the water diversion ditch. Taking the shortcut is recommended. This one mile shortcut trail has back country campsites (designated as campsite 1) and drinking water is available. The shortcut goes up and over a ridge, then returns to the Camp Lake Trail (FS968). Camp Lake is another mile; the last .25 mile of the trail near Camp Lake has a lot of bogs and thick willows which you must make your way through.

There are a number of good campsites (designated as campsite 2) just south of Camp Lake in the forest, water is available on the south side of this lake. The trail to the south goes to Upper Camp Lake. This lake is one of the largest lakes in the area and is located in a large wide valley. Upper Camp Lake is .75 mile south of Camp Lake just at timberline with only a few small windblown trees near the lake. This lake and valley is more scenic than the lower lake. The 12-16" fish mentioned earlier can be found in Upper Camp Lake. Campsites at Upper Camp Lake are located on the east side of the lake (designated as campsite 3). The distance from West Branch Trailhead to Camp Lake is 8 miles.

**RAWAH LAKES AREA**



13-3



- **Spending several days at the lakes** - From this point you easily can hike to any of the lakes in the area. There are numbers of campsites and good water within a reasonable walking distance. The good back country campsites discovered on the 1993 trip are noted on the provided map. Some of the favorite lakes are: Upper Camp Lake, Big Rainbow Lake, Rawah Lake No. 2 and Rawah Lake No. 3.

- **Return from Rawah Lakes on the West Branch Trail** - Rawah Lake No. 3 is the last tree protected lake where you can camp before returning on the Rawah and West Branch Trails. Take the Rawah Trail (FS961) from Rawah Lake No. 3 over Grassy Pass. Stop for a while to enjoy the view. The Rawah Trail on the return trek is steep in certain areas and there are several sets of switchbacks. There are several places where one can camp on the way down and there are many places to obtain good drinking water. One interesting side trip, if you have an extra day, is to visit Twin Crater Lakes. The trail to Twin Crater Lakes (FS962) is 1.5 miles southeast of Grassy Pass off the Rawah Trail. Campsites are available on the north side of the northern most lake.

Continue along the Rawah Trail until it ends at the West Branch Trail intersection. Take the West Branch Trail east (left) for another 3 miles to the West Branch Trailhead. The return distance from Rawah Lake No. 3 to the West Branch Trailhead is 8 miles.

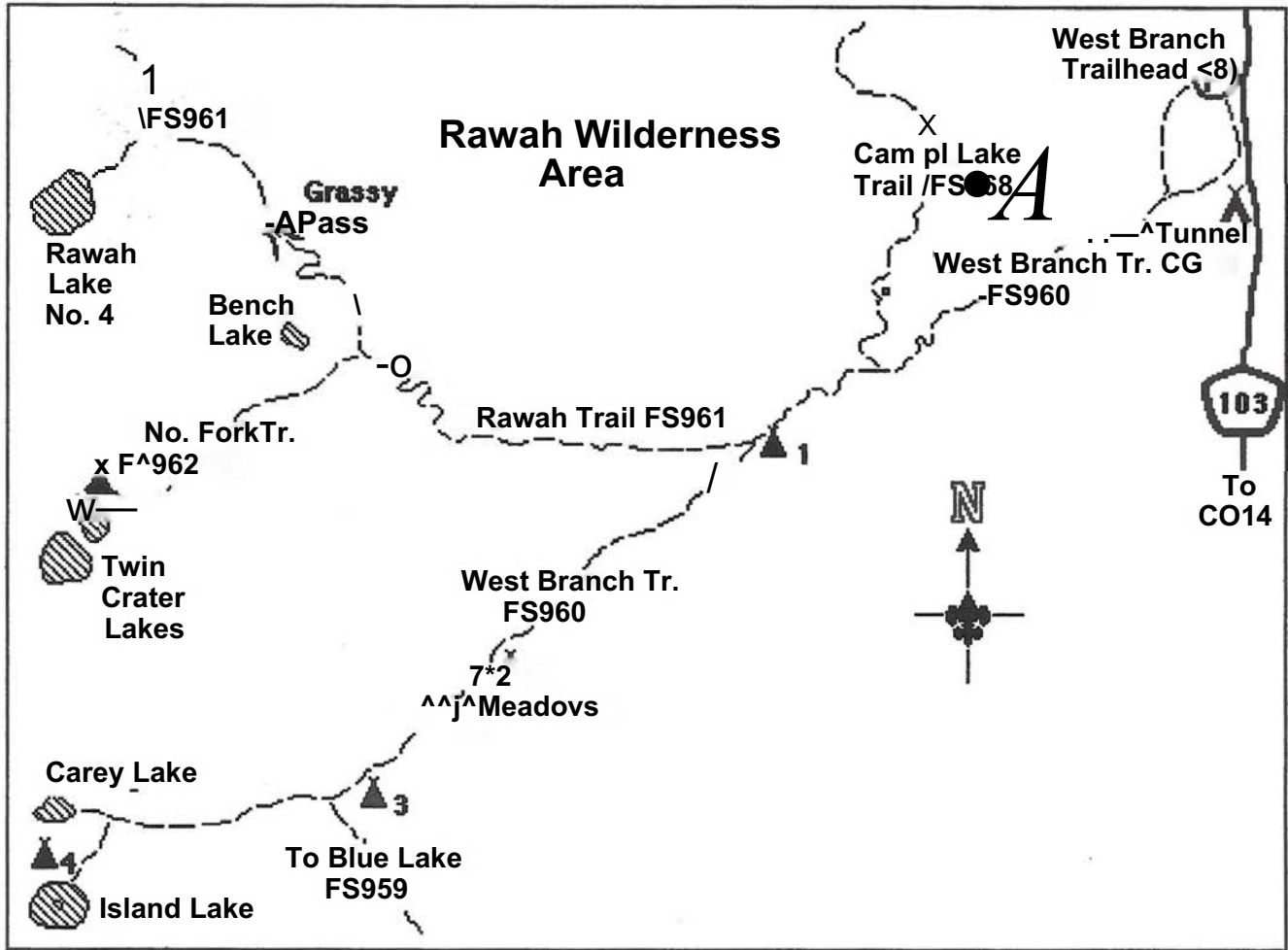
### **13-2 CAREY AND ISLAND LAKES - BACKPACK**

Carey and Island Lakes are located at the headwaters of the West Branch of the Laramie River. This trip provides a 6.5 mile backpack trip through lush forest of aspen, pine and spruce. There are several meadows, plenty of water, places to camp along the way, lots of wildflowers and tundra above timberline near the lakes.

**How to get there:** Take I-25 north to Ft. Collins, exit on CO14. Follow CO14 and US 287 around the north side of Ft. Collins. You will pass Laporte, in a few more miles US 287 and COM will separate. Take COM west towards Cameron Pass. In about 45 miles Chambers Lake will appear on the north side of the highway. CR103 turns north and travels along the east side of Chambers Lake. In about six miles you will pass Tunnel Campground on the west side of the road. Drive another mile, the West Branch Trailhead parking lot will appear on your left. Park in the parking lot, be sure to read the wilderness rules and complete the sign-in sheet.

**The trail:** Starting from the West Branch Trailhead hike south from the parking lot on CR103 for a short distance until it reaches the North Fork of the Laramie River. The West Branch Trail (FS960) turns west and follows the north side of the river on a service road pass a water diversion project. For the first mile the trail is flat and there is no elevation gain until it reaches the foothills. The second mile has some elevation gain with several switchbacks. At 2.4 miles the Camp Lake Trail (FS968) branches off to the right and heads north to Camp Lake. Continue on the West Branch Trail for another .6 mile where the Rawah Trail (FS961) branches off to the right heading for the Rawah Lakes. Campsites can be found near this trail intersection (designated as campsite 1). The West Branch Trail goes left, continue to follow it, the trail increases in steepness for about a mile until it levels

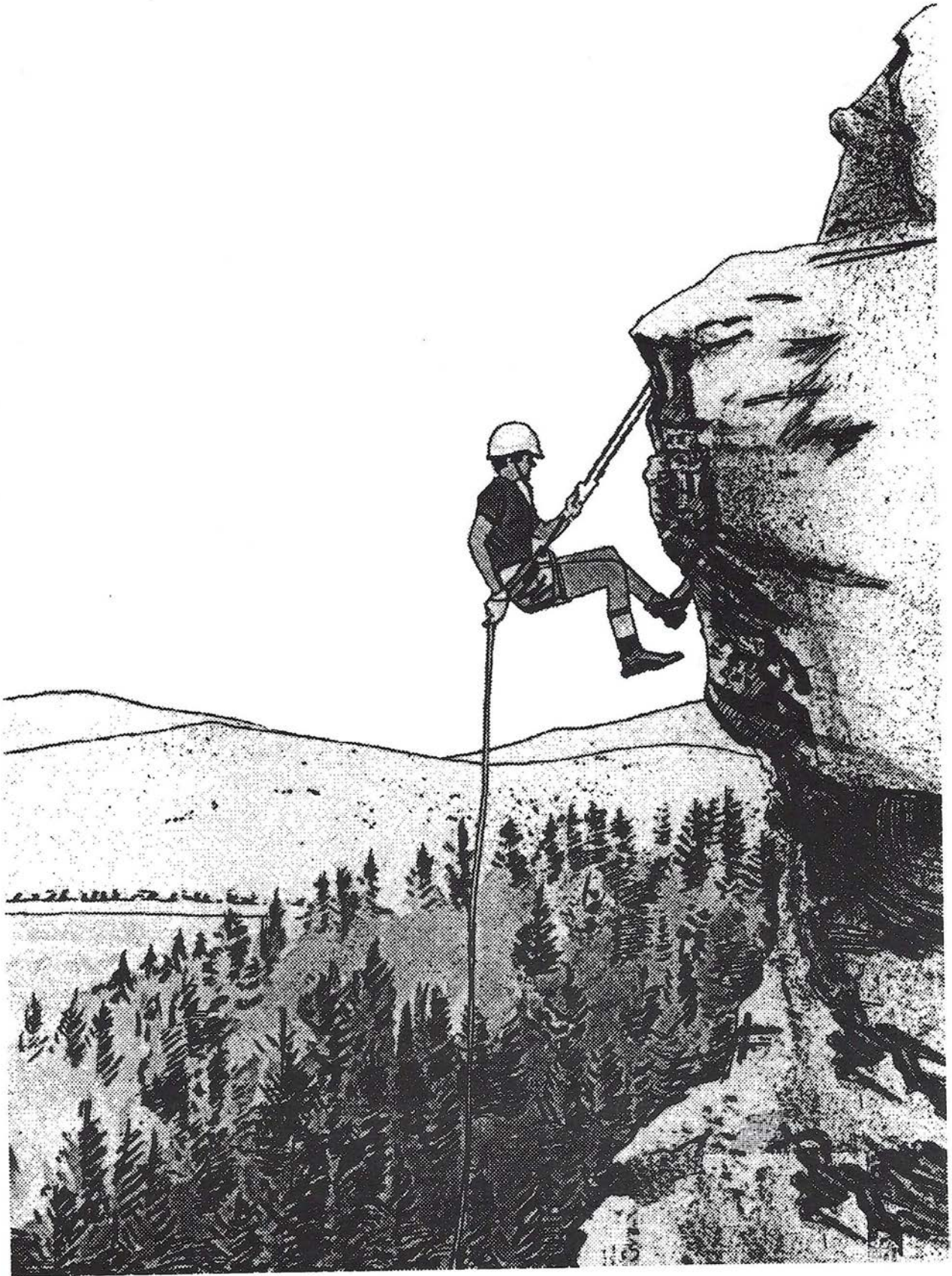
# CAREY AND ISLAND LAKES



off into a meadow at 4.2 miles. There are a number of campsites (designated as campsite 2) in this large meadow area with water from the West Branch of the Laramie River and a smaller tributary at 4.9 miles.

The trail to Blue Lake, FS959, turns south at 5 miles, back country campsites (designated as campsite 3) are available just before the intersection with the Blue Lake Trail. For the next mile the grade increases and as you near 6 miles the trees begin to thin out, grassy areas and wildflowers begin to appear. Trees are only scattered as you climb above timberline. The trail again splits shortly after the 6.1 mile mark. Carey Lake is to the right and Island Lake to the left. Island Lake is another .4 mile located in a cirque next to the Continental Divide and is very picturesque; as the name implies it has an island in its center. Some back country campsites (designated as campsite 4) are available just north of Island Lake. Return on the same trail you entered. Total distance is 6.5 miles one-way using the West Branch Trail.





# 14 MT. ZIRKEL AREA

Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area is 140,000 acres northeast of Steamboat Springs which was set aside in the 1964 Wilderness Act. This is an exceptional location for an extended backpack for Scouts. Lots of high altitude rolling meadows with intermittent clusters of trees; beautiful high lakes and wet grassy zones. There is always a scenic view with vast distances between you and the horizon. The terrain can be considered moderate to difficult with lots of up and down, but is not technical in nature. The backbone trail down the center of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area is called the Wyoming Trail and a major portion has also been designated the Continental Divide Trail. That tips you off, it follows the Continental Divide which runs from north to south. If you have enough time and energy you can backpack from the Wyoming boarder south to Rabbit Ears Pass.

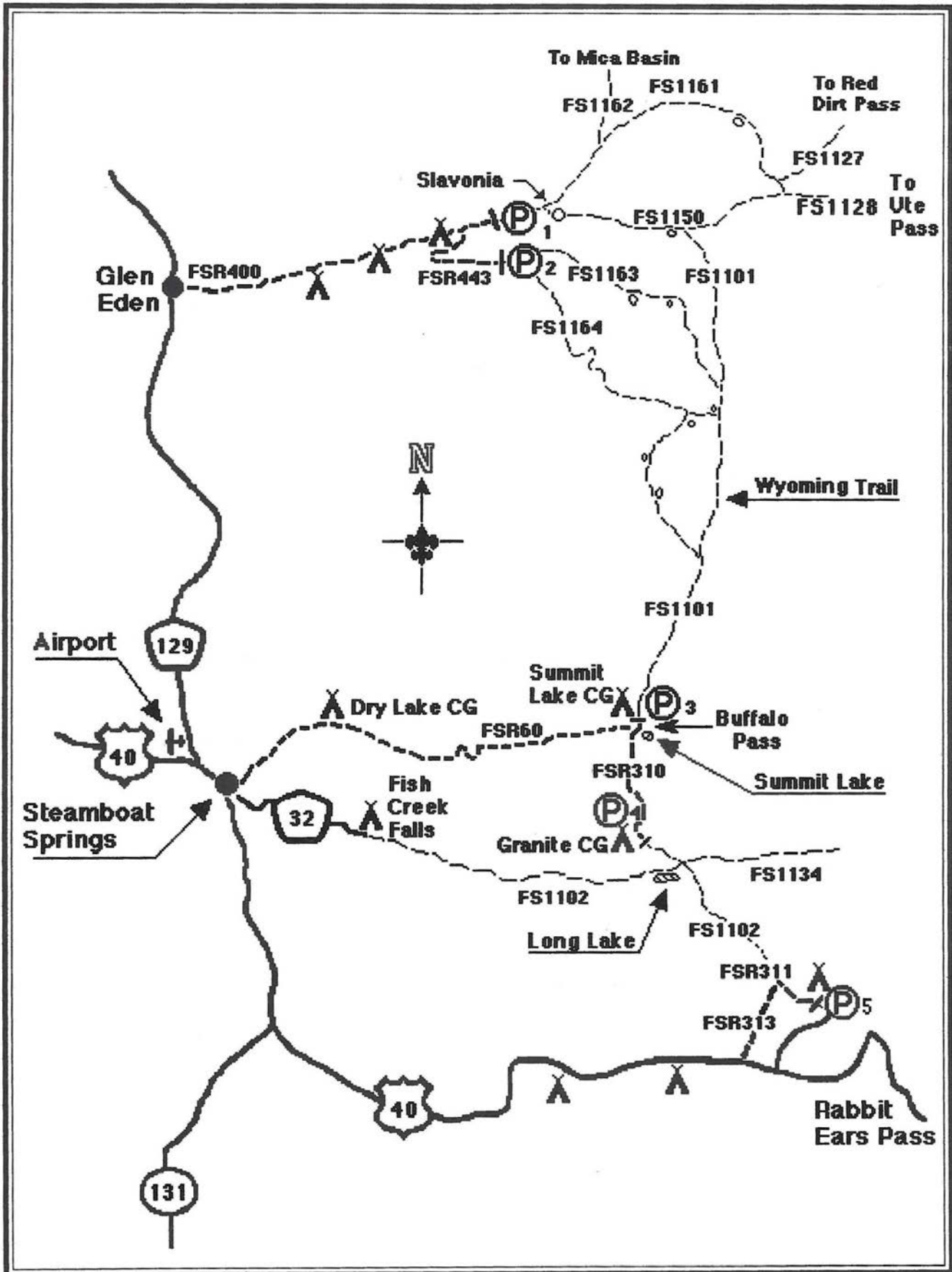
Drive Time: 4 - 5 Hours  
Map Reference: Routt National Forest, 1975 edition  
Trails Illustrated Topo Maps  
Hahn's Peak #116  
Steamboat Springs North #117  
Steamboat Springs South #118

There are a number of restrictions that could effect where you might plan to camp. Many of the popular lakes have camping restrictions (no camping within one quarter mile of these lakes) in order to allow overused areas to revegetate (lakes with this limitation include Gilpin, Gold Creek, Three Island and Beaver). Camping within 100 feet of the trail or a stream is another restriction. You will find that looking for widely separated contour lines on a map usually indicates a number of decent campsites will be available. A stream for water is also essential to look for in that selection process.

## 14-1 MT. ZIRKEL LOOP TRAILS - BACKPACK

A number of trail loops provide a variety of alternative trips both for duration and mileage. There are two major trailheads within a few miles of each other, both provide access to major trails. The most popular is Slavonia. This trailhead services the Mica Basin Trail (FS1162), Gilpin Lake Trail (FS1161) and Gold Creek Lake Trail (FS1150). The second trailhead is a few miles south at the end of FSR443. This trailhead services Three Island Lake Trail (FS1163) and North Lake Trail (FS1164). These two trailheads and five trails provide a lot of alternatives to enter and exit this portion of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area. Slavonia Trailhead is located in the northwest section of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area and is the most used access point to the Wilderness Area. Slavonia was a mining camp and is the most complete historical site within the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness area, it is located less than a mile from the trailhead parking area.

# MT. ZIRKEL WILDERNESS AREA



**How to get there:** The trailhead is a five hour drive from the Denver Metropolitan area. Take Interstate 70 west, exit from the Interstate at the Berthoud Pass exit, exit 232. Take US 40 over Berthoud Pass, through Winter Park, Granby and Kremmling; continue over Rabbit Ears Pass and then to Steamboat Springs. Drive through Steamboat Springs on US 40. As you near the north end of town CR129 will turn-off to your right (north). Take this road 17.4 miles to Glen Eden, turn right (east) on FSR400 and travel another 11.9 miles to the Slavonia Trailhead. FSR400 is an all weather road and 4 wheel drive is not required. To access the second trailhead at the end of FSR443, take FSR400 from Glen Eden for 9 miles, then turn right onto FSR443, and drive another 3.5 miles to the end of the road.

The recommended trip and discussion starts at the Slavonia Trailhead. The parking area at the Slavonia Trailhead is always full during the summer, especially on weekends. The trail starts just east of the parking area. Be sure to read the rules and any new restrictions posted on the bulletin board located at the trailhead. Take the trail for several hundred yards until the trail splits. The trail to the right goes to Gold Creek Lake (FS1150). The trail to the left is known as the Mica Basin/Gilpin Lake Trail (FS1161) and goes to Gilpin Lake; our first recommended destination.

- **Slavonia to Gilpin Lake**

Gilpin Lake is 4 miles from the Slavonia Trailhead. The trail is uphill starting with a gradual incline but increasing in steepness. At about 1.5 miles you will pass Mica Basin Trail (FS1162) which goes north to Mica Lake. In another .25 mile Mica Creek crosses FS1161. Since you cannot camp at Gilpin Lake there are several undeveloped places where a group can set up camp, it is recommended that you camp near the trail to Gilpin Lake. The first back country campsites (noted as campsite 1) are located on the south side of FS1161, about 2 miles from the trailhead. Even better campsites are located near FS1161 about .5 and .25 mile northwest of Gilpin Lake, noted on the Mt. Zirkel - Loop Trails map as campsites 2 and 3. Both are on the south side of the trail. Campsite 2 is just about 100 feet from the trail and campsite 3 about 300 - 400 feet off the trail, but close to the creek exiting from Gilpin Lake.

Gilpin Lake is a high country lake with breathtaking views. Plan to stop for 15 - 30 minutes and enjoy. Scouts sometimes enjoy swimming in the lake; but, the question is, can your Scouts take the cold temperature? The trail continues on the east side of Gilpin Lake and works its way to the south side, where a series of switchbacks takes you up and over a nameless saddle and down to the next valley, FS1150 and Gold Creek Lake.

- **Gilpin Lake to Trail FS1150**

The trail down the south side of the saddle is steep with a number of switchbacks at different points on the trail. There is drinkable (after treatment) stream water along the way. Before reaching the valley floor the Red Dirt Pass Trail will appear on your left (FS1127). The Red Dirt Pass Trail is the recommended route to take if you plan to climb Mt. Zirkel, otherwise stay right and continue .5 mile to the valley floor, turn right on FS1150. Campsite 4 is located on the valley floor. The second trail to the left, FS1128, goes to Ute Pass and over the Continental Divide to North Park and Walden.

At this point there are a number of alternative loops that can be taken depending on how many overnights you have planned for your trip. If you plan to return the next day you can continue west on FS1150. You will pass the Wyoming Trail on your left. Continue a short distance, Gold Creek Lake will appear to you left. Follow the Gold Creek Trail down to Slavonia and the original trailhead. Total mileage for this loop via Gilpin Lake is 9 miles.

- **Wyoming Trail (FS1101) South**

If you have planned an extended backpack trip you can turn south and follow the Wyoming Trail (FS1101) south; there are three additional loops that can be taken depending on your trip duration. The Three Island Lake Loop, the North Lake Trail Loop and the Lost Ranger Peak/Wolverine Basin Trail Loop.

The Wyoming Trail heads south, steeply up through a spruce forest. There is little drinking water available at higher elevation segments of the Wyoming Trail, fill that water bottle as you head up the trail. As you near the top the open areas increase in size and eventually level out into a wide expanse, a high open meadow. This meadow has heavy grasses and in certain areas it is quite wet, in fact a bog. Because of this grass and water combination the trail disappears frequently. Cairns have been built and posts inserted into the ground to identify the proximity of the trail. The terrain rolls with slight ups and downs, lots of grasses and flowers with intermittent aspen groves and spruce forest some distance away. A map and compass would be of assistance for this portion of the trip. The views from the trail are outstanding.

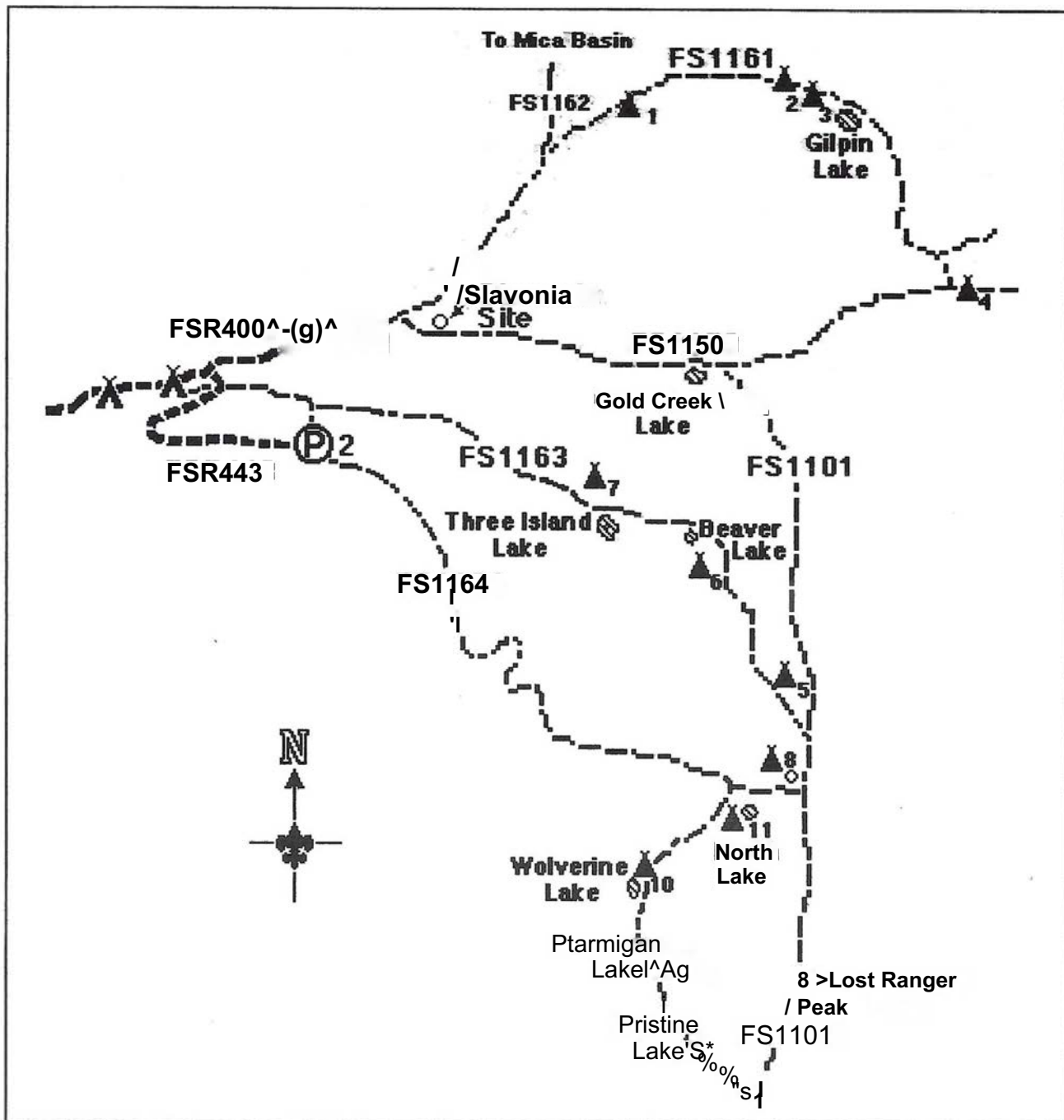
- **Beaver Lake/Three Island Lake Loop**

The valley containing Beaver and Three Island Lakes appears 3.5 miles south on the Wyoming Trail. It is wide and you can see quite some distance down this valley. There is nothing to compare with hiking south from the Gold Creek Trail. Campsites and water are available down this valley, noted as campsites 5, 6 and 7. The trail (FS1163) down this valley is not evident on top because of heavy grass, but appears in a short distance; basically in the center. A stream provides good drinking water. If your group wants to camp overnight or return to the trailheads this is the place. It is 4.5 miles from the Wyoming Trail to FSR443 Trailhead and another 2 miles to the Slavonia Trailhead.

- **North Lake Loop**

Continuing south on the Wyoming Trail for .75 mile you will intersect with the North Lake Trail (FS1164) on your right. There are two decent campsites in the immediate area. The first and nearest, is at a small lake about 300 feet down the North Lake Trail. It is on your right at a small lake which is unnamed on the Mt. Zirkel - Loop Trails map, noted as campsite 8. The next site is at North Lake which is another 1 mile west of the Wyoming Trail, noted as campsite 11. You can camp at North lake (there is no .25 mile minimum distance limit for a campsite). Several campsites are located on the west side of this lake. If you want to return to the trailhead it is 4.5 miles to FSR443 Trailhead and another 2 miles to the Slavonia Trailhead.

# MT. ZIRKEL - LOOP TRAILS



© Lost Ranger Peak; Pristine, Ptarmigan, Wolverine Lakes Loop

The next loop is more difficult due to elevation gains and steepness of the return trail via Pristine, Ptarmigan, Wolverine and North Lakes. Follow the Wyoming Trail south from the North Lake Trail intersection, near campsite 8; you will cross a large grassy meadow to the base of Lost Ranger Peak. This meadow has lots of water and grass which inhibits a trail; although you can see the trail on the side of the hill leading up to the peak, set your visual bearing for that trail and move out. It is about a mile to the top of Lost Ranger Peak. The view is wonderful from the top of this peak; a good place for lunch. The total distance of this loop to North Lake is 6 miles.

Hike across the top of Lost Ranger Peak and follow the Wyoming Trail another mile south. There will be a narrow entrance to your right that will take you down into the valley containing Pristine, Ptarmigan and Wolverine Lakes; it is easy to miss since there is no trail until you reach Pristine Lake. A topographical map is suggested to verify where to turn right (west) off the Wyoming Trail. There is a lot of boulder hopping for .5 mile, then the valley trail reappears on the west side of Pristine Lake. There are few trees at this lake, better campsites are at Ptarmigan and Wolverine Lakes, noted on the map as campsites 9 and 10. There is good water all the way down the valley; stream water for drinking is available above Pristine Lake from snowmelt.

A good trail continues down to Ptarmigan Lake. The trail splits and goes to both sides of this lake. Excellent campsites are located on the east side of Ptarmigan Lake. As you leave Ptarmigan Lake the trail goes into a marshy area, it is easy to lose the trail going to Wolverine Lake. Stay to the far left out of the marsh in order to stay on the trail to Wolverine Lake. Wolverine Lake provides good campsites on the north and east sides of the lake. There is good fishing for cutthroat trout up to seventeen inches long. There is a sandy beach on the east side of Wolverine Lake. The trail from Wolverine Lake to North Lake descends to Wolverine Creek, then it is uphill for 1.5 miles to North Lake. As mentioned earlier there are good campsites at North Lake. North Lake Trail back to the trailhead on FSR443 is 4.5 miles, it is another 2 miles to the Slavonia Trailhead.

Notes; These four loops can be used in any combination for entrance to this section of the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area. Water is readily available even during the month of August. Only in the higher areas, such as Lost Ranger Peak, is there a lack of water.

#### **14-2 SUMMIT LAKE - CAR CAMP**

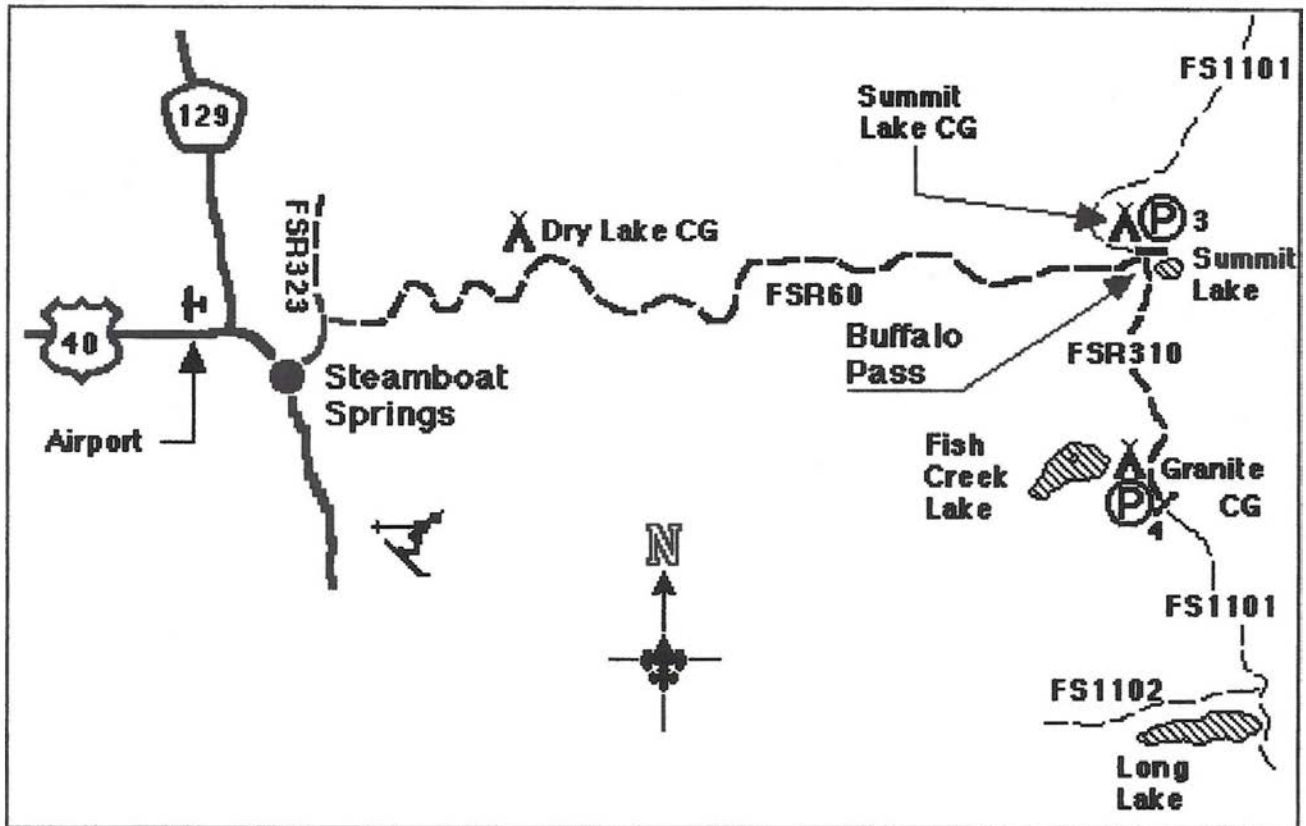
Summit Lake is 15 miles northeast of Steamboat Springs. This is a high country (10,300') campground right on top of the Park Range Mountains. Neat Place!

Drive Time: 5 Hours  
Map Reference: Routt Nt. Forest, 1975 edition

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west from Denver, pass Idaho Springs, exit at the Berthoud Pass Exit following US 40 northwest. Continue on US 40 through Granby, Kremmling, over Rabbit Ears Pass to Steamboat Springs. Or; I-70 through the Eisenhower Tunnel, CO9 to Kremmling and west on US 40 to Steamboat Springs. In Steamboat Springs you must take 7th Street northeast to Park Avenue, follow Park Ave. N.E. until it ends at North Park Avenue. Follow North Park Avenue north until it turns into FSR323. Go north 1.5 miles, turn right on FSR60 (gravel), and go east into the Park Range Mountains.

There are three campgrounds on this access road. The first is Dry Lake CG, the second is Summit Lake CG, the last is Granite CG. Total distance between Steamboat Springs and Buffalo Pass or Summit Lake is 15 miles. A neat hiking trail, Wyoming Trail (FS1101), goes north along the top of the Park Range Mountains into the Mount Zirkel Wilderness Area. This is a good starting point for a 50 Miler through the Wilderness Area.

## SUMMIT LAKE



Summit Lake Campground summer facilities; 17 campsites, drinking water, tables, cooking fireplaces, toilets and garbage cans. Fee area for camping. Hahns Peak District Forest Service Office, 57 10th Street, Box 1198, Steamboat Springs, 80477.

### 14-3 SEVEN LAKES - BACKPACK

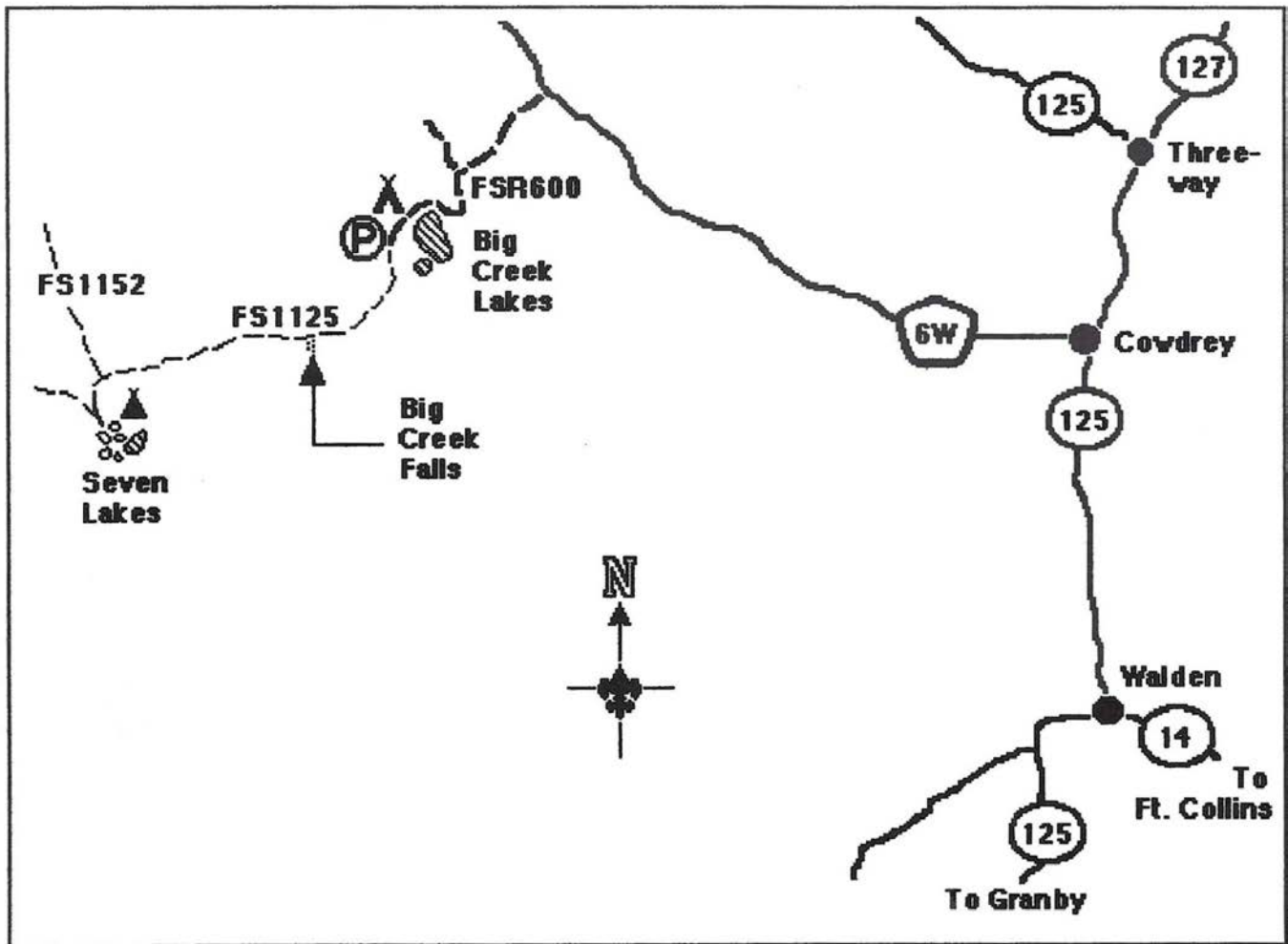
If you would like to backpack to an out of the way location try Seven Lakes, northwest of Walden. This is a scenic area within the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area and is very picturesque. The Seven Lakes are located six miles from the trailhead at 10,740' in a flat basin area.

Drive Time: 3 - 4 Hours  
Hike Time: 3.5 - 4 Hours One-Way  
Map Reference: Routt Nt. Forest, 1975 edition

**How to get there:** Drive to Ft. Collins, then north to the intersection of COM (known as Ted's Place). Follow COM west, up and over Cameron Pass, to Walden. Go north from Walden to Crowley, then take CR6W to Big Creek Lake which is about 25 miles from Crowley. Drive to the lake on FSR600 following signs, staying right at the fork to the lake, there is parking on the northwest side of the lake. Follow the trail starting at the parking area (FS1125).



# SEVEN LAKES



**The trail:** For the first three miles the trail is fairly flat. At 2.1 miles visit Big Creek Falls, a nice place to rest. There is a moderate incline over the last three miles. At 5.4 miles you will come to a meadow with wildflowers and a trail junction to Davis Park, (do not follow FS1152 unless you have planned a 50 Miler) turn left for the remaining distance to the lakes. There are a number of campsites at the lakes. The ridge south of the lakes is part of the Continental Divide.



# 15 GORE RANGE AREA

## 15-1 WHEELER LAKES - BACKPACK

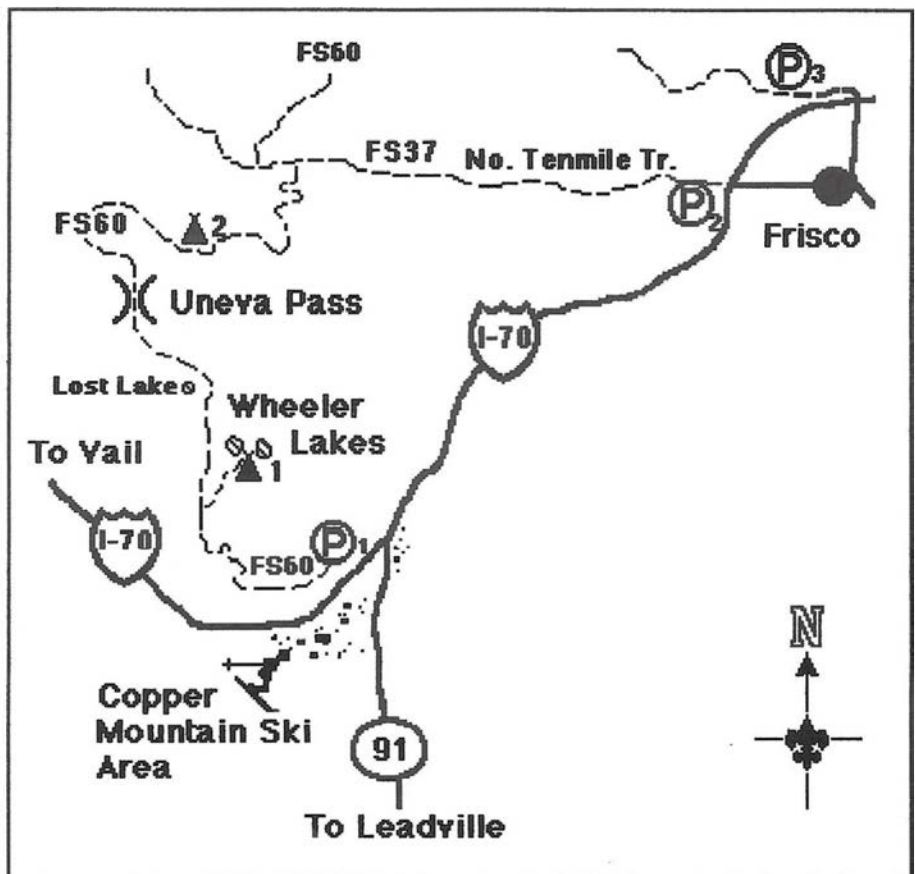
Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west towards Vail. Take the Copper Mt., CO91 exit, No. 195. The trailhead parking will be to the right of the exit road just before the I-70 overpass, noted on the map as (P)1. The trail is called "Wheeler Gore Range Trail" (FS60). Follow the arrows to the trailhead.

**The trail:** The trail is a steady incline through aspens and then into a pine forest. You will reach a large meadow, continue up a more gradual incline with intermittent trees. At about 2.2 miles the trail splits, take the right trail for a short distance (.2 mile), there are the Wheeler Lakes. The Gore Range Trail continues to the left.

Note: The only water is from the lakes; except, early in the season when there is runoff from small streams available.

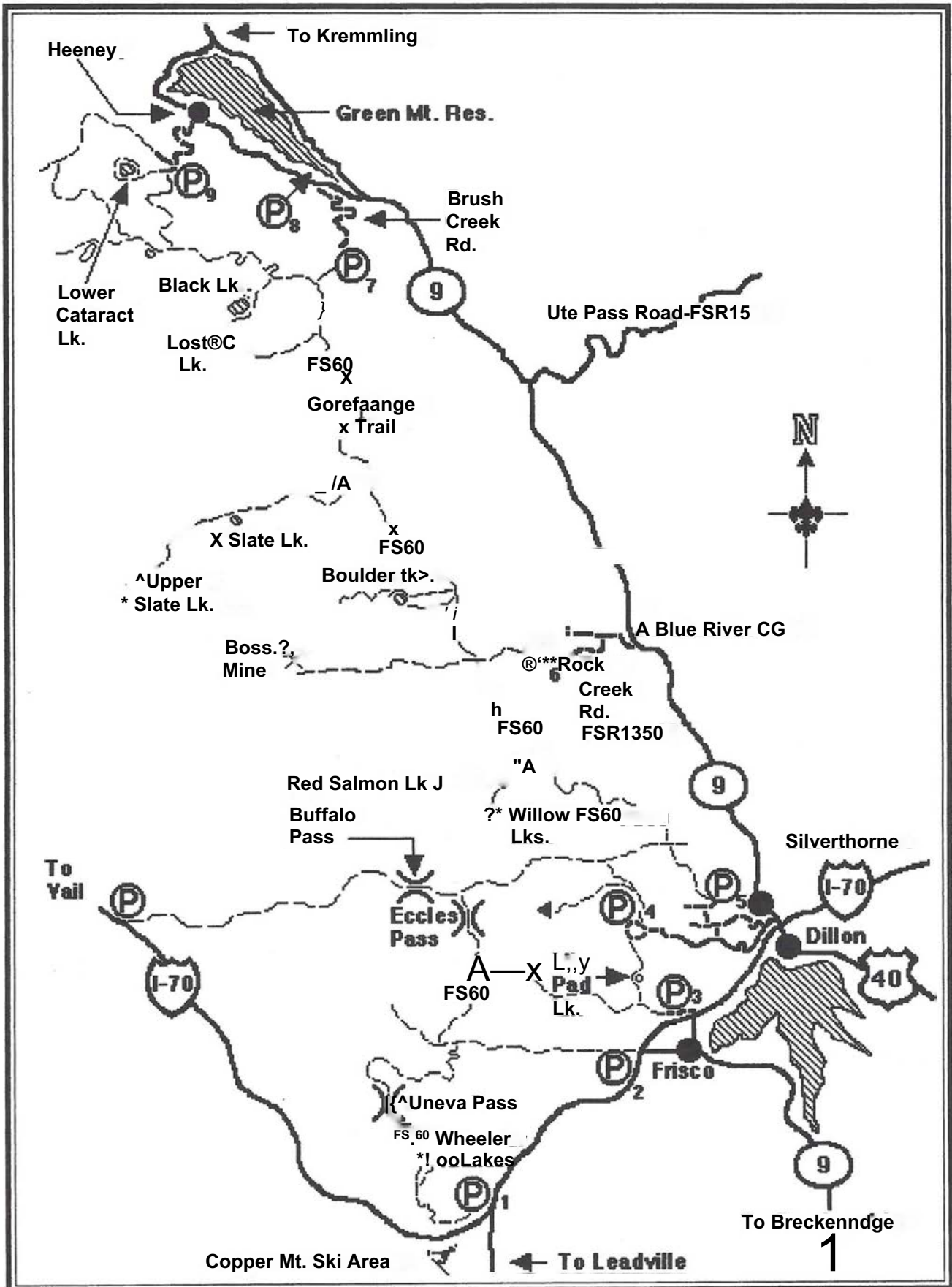
## 15-2 UNEVA PASS - BACKPACK



This trek can be an all day hike, a two day backpack or the beginning of a 54 mile backpack trip all the way to Lower Cataract Lake west of Green Mt. Reservoir. (See the segment entitled "Gore Range - Extended Backpack Trip", 15-5 in this chapter)

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition

# GORE RANGE AREA



It is suggested that two vehicles be used for this trip. The first to be parked on the west side of the community of Frisco, noted on the map as (P)2. The second car is taken to the trailhead north of Copper Mt. Ski Area, noted on the map as (P) 1.

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west towards Vail. Take the Copper Mt., CO91 exit, No. 195. The trailhead parking will be to the right of the exit road just before the I-70 overpass, noted on the map as (P)1. The trail is called "Wheeler Gore Range Trail" (FS60). Follow the arrows to the trailhead.

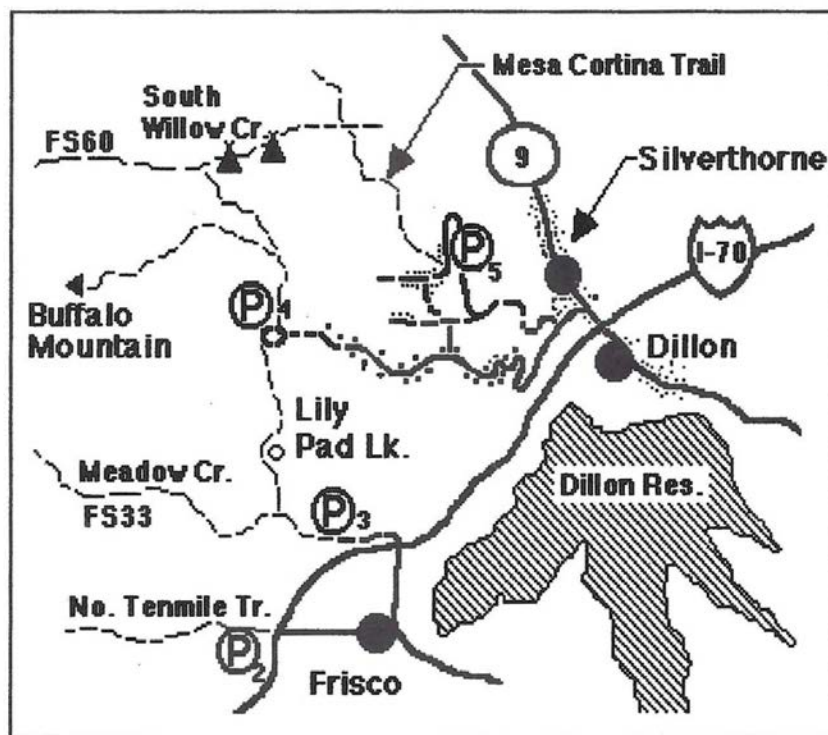
**The trail:** For the first part of this trip follow the Wheeler Lakes Trail described above. Instead of turning right to Wheeler Lakes, continue on the trail to the left. This is the Gore Range Trail (FS60). Continue on this trail past Lost Lake and up to the top of Uneva Pass.

Water sources can be found on either side of the pass. Officers Gulch on the south side just before Lost Lake is a good water source, about a mile on the north side of Uneva Pass there is a stream; both areas provide good campsites. Continue down the north side from Uneva Pass. You descend into North Tenmile Creek Valley. The last 1.5 miles are switchbacks. When you reach the valley floor you will intersect with the North Tenmile Trail (FS37), turn right (east). This will lead you downstream for 3.5 miles until you reach the west side of Frisco. The trail from Copper Mountain Ski Area to Frisco is 13.5 miles.

### 15-3 SOUTH WILLOW CREEK - BACKPACK

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west to Silverthorne and exit. Go approximately .25 mile north on CO9, turn west on the paved road to the Wildernest Development. Drive up the hill into Wildernest, turn right at the first paved street, turn left on the first gravel road, stay right up the steep hill. At the top of the hill, turn right, continue .25 mile and park, noted on the map as (P)5, on the east side of the road. The Mesa Cortina Trailhead is on the west side of the road, across from the parking area. The Mesa Cortina Trail Number is FS32.



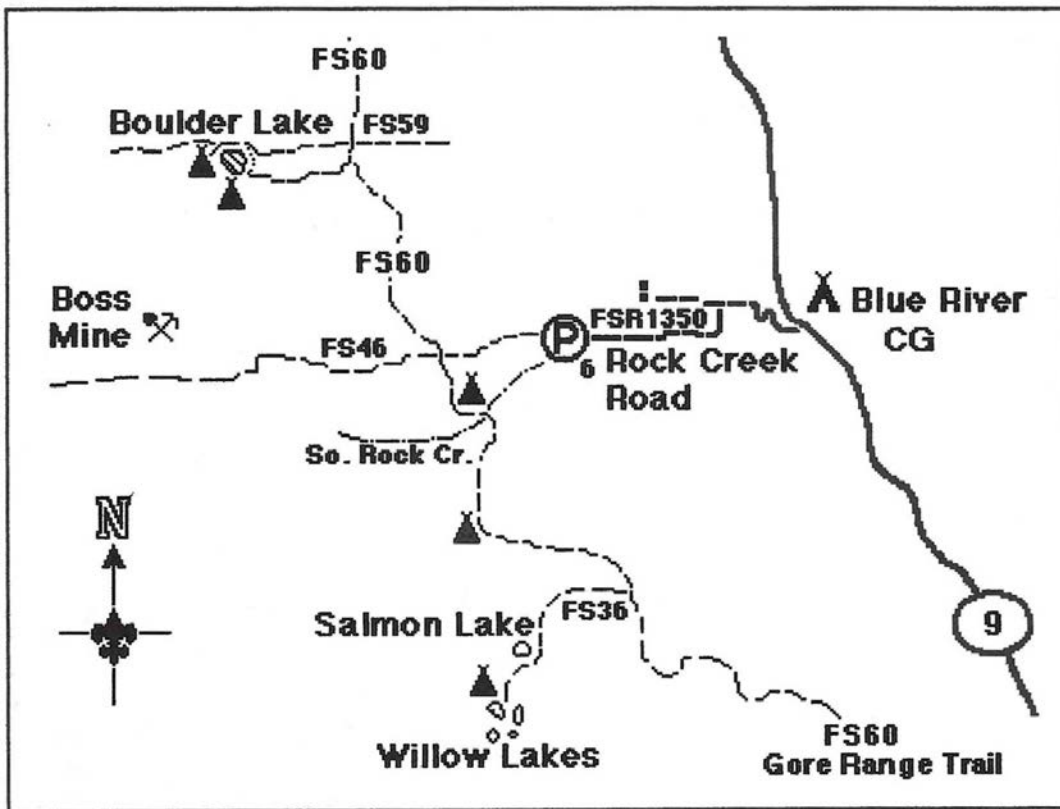
**The trail:** Go north on the trail, approximately 2.5 miles until you cross a double log bridge over South Willow Creek; turn left, go west on an old logging road that parallels South Willow Creek, continue about .5 mile until trees clear into a nice meadow. This is it! The west end of the meadow is a favorite place.

Notes: Water is available from South Willow Creek. There is a maximum limit of 10 campers per group, campsites must be a minimum of 100' from any trail, stream or lake.

### 15-4 BOULDER LAKE - BACKPACK

Drive Time: 2.5 Hours  
Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west to Silverthorne. Take CO9 north from Silverthorne for 7.3 miles. Watch for the Blue River Campground sign on the right side of the road. Just before you reach the sign turn left (west) onto the dirt road, Rock Creek Road, FSR1350. Proceed along this road veering left at the fork. Stay on the main road which leads to Rock Creek Trailhead parking, noted on the map as (P)6. Distance on the dirt road from CO9 is about 3 miles.



**The trail:** Take the Rock Creek Trail west of the parking area .3 mile to its junction with the Gore Range Trail - turn right (north) onto the Gore Range Trail for 1.8 miles until the trail splits in two directions. Turn left and follow the wide trail for another .3 mile to Boulder Lake. Some campsites are on the southeast side of the lake. More campsites are on the west side where Boulder Creek enters the lake. A neat waterfall can be found .10 mile west of the lake on Boulder Creek, a nice side trip.

Notes: The best water is out of Boulder Creek; also, water is available out of several smaller streams on the southeast and south sides of the lake. Firewood is available, but is some distance from the campsites.

## **15-5 GORE RANGE - EXTENDED BACKPACK TRIP**

The Gore Range looms high above the west side of Dillon, Silverthorne and Frisco; it extends northward beyond Green Mountain Reservoir. The Gore Range Trail is located on the east side of the Gore Range and traverses in and out of the Eagles Nest Wilderness Area. There are numbers of locations where one can enter or exit the main trail. These entrance/exit portal trails make this area extremely good backpacking for Scouts. It allows easy exit in case of emergency, re-supply of food at certain locations and it offers a variety of backpacking trips ranging from 5 miles to 50+ miles and anything in between. Four shorter backpack trips in the Gore Range are included separately in this chapter. They are Wheeler Lakes, Uneva Pass, South Willow Creek and Boulder Lake.

Drive Time:	2+ Hours
Map Reference:	White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition Summit County, County Map Series, Geological Survey

The Gore Range Trail (FS60) starts just north of the Copper Mountain Ski Area and goes north to Green Mountain Reservoir. Due to the length of the trail; 54.5 miles, 3 maps are used in this presentation in order to provide sufficient detail of various sections of the trail.

### **The Gore Range Trail detailed maps are entitled:**

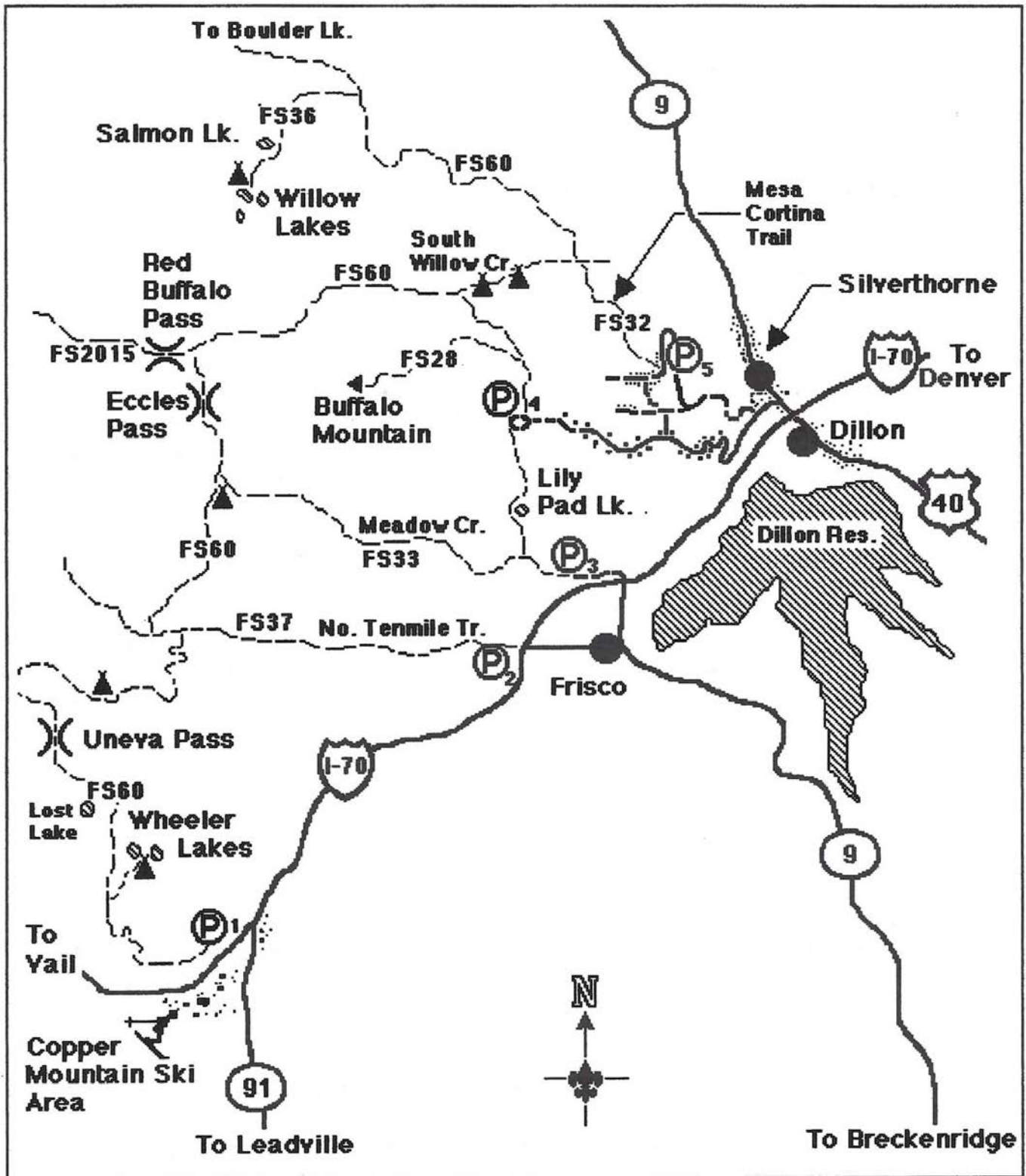
1. Copper Mountain to South Willow Creek
2. South Willow Creek to Lost Lake
3. Lost Lake to Lower Cataract Lake

There are three locations where cars can be parked for easy food pick up. Normally a troop can carry food for 3-4 days which means only one food pick up is required. These locations are mentioned in the text, they are:

1. Loop Road on the west side of the Wildernest Development, (P)4.
2. Mesa Cortina Trailhead, access to South Meadow Creek, (P)5.
3. Rock Creek Road and Trailhead to Boulder Lake, (P)6.

Acquisitions that you should make in advance of the trip are the two Summit County Maps from the Geological Survey and the *The Summit Hiker*, by Mary Ellen Gilliland. These two sources will give you more in-depth information before taking such an adventure. In this text the extended backpack will be from Copper Mountain north to Green Mountain Reservoir.

# COPPER MOUNTAIN TO SOUTH WILLOW CREEK



**How to get there:** Take 1-70 west towards Vail. Take the Copper Mt., CO91 exit No. 195. The trailhead parking will be to the right of the exit road just before the I-70 overpass, noted on the map as (P)1. The trail is called "Wheeler Gore Range Trail" (FS60). Follow the arrows to the trailhead.

- **Copper Mountain over Uneva Pass to Tenmile Creek Valley**

The trail (FS60) is a steady incline through aspens and then into a pine forest. You will reach a large meadow, continue up a more gradual incline with intermittent trees. At about 2.2 miles the trail splits, for a side trip take the right trail for a short distance (.2 mile) to the Wheeler Lakes. The Gore Range Trail continues north on the trail to the left. The only water immediately available is from the lakes; or, early in the season, runoff from small streams will be available.

Other water sources can be found further up the trail and on either side of the pass. Officers Gulch on the south side, just before Lost Lake is a good water source; about a mile on the north side of Uneva Pass (11,900') there is a stream. The north side of the pass provides the best campsites. Continue down the north side from Uneva Pass, descending into North Tenmile Creek Valley. The last 1.5 miles to the valley floor are switchbacks.

Segment Total -10.0 Miles

Total from Start -10.0 miles

- **Eccles Pass / South Willow Creek (Lily Pad Lake alternative)**

When you reach the valley floor you will find a four-way intersection with the North Tenmile Trail, FS37, this trail goes east to west, the easterly direction will take you downstream for 3.5 miles to the west side of Frisco. To continue on the trail (FS60) northward there is another set of switchbacks on the north side of the valley. This is the trail that continues to Meadow Creek (3 miles) and in only an additional .5 mile to the top of Eccles Pass (11,800'). There is good camping at Meadow Creek.

Actually, at Meadow Creek there is another alternative; instead of going over Eccles Pass you can hike downhill on the trail that parallels Meadow Creek (FS33) for 4 miles to the trailhead just on the north side of I-70 and Frisco. Instead of hiking out to the trailhead there will be a trail intersection at about 3.5 miles (north side) that goes to Lily Pad Lake (.5 mile). Take this trail to the lake. The trail will continue pass the lake and exit at the loop road (an additional 1.5 miles from the lake) which is on the fringe of the Wildernest Development. Go straight, around the north side of the loop and within several hundred feet there will be another trail known as the Buffalo Mountain Trail (FS28). Take this trail, you can go to Buffalo Mountain or hike over to South Willow Creek and the east meadows which make a wonderful camping location. Follow this trail to South Meadow Creek, you will exit along an old water canal, follow the canal for a short distance northwest until you reach an avalanche area. Follow the trail across the two avalanche chutes; the trail descends the chute furthest north. The trail continues north through a wet area for another .25 mile and finally exits on the main trail (FS60) that descends from Red Buffalo and Eccles Passes. Go right or east on this trail, in about .5 mile your will emerge into a large meadow. This is an excellent place to camp.



Now, if you want to take the high land instead of the low land trail go from the Meadow Creek intersection .5 mile to the top of Eccles Pass. This is the easiest approach for getting to South Willow Creek because after hiking the pass it is all downhill into the South Willow Creek Valley. After going over Eccles Pass there is about 1 mile of high country walking until you come across the Red Buffalo Pass Trail intersection. Go right or east on FS60. Follow the trail downward; towards the bottom, you should be on the lookout for South Willow Creek Falls. From the falls it's about a mile further east to the meadow mentioned earlier. Distance from the Meadow Creek intersection to the South Willow Creek Meadow is 4.5 miles.

Segment Total - 7.9 Miles  
Total from Start -17.9 Miles

#### • **South Willow Creek to Boulder Lake**

After a good nights sleep at the meadows, hike eastward 1 mile. At this point there are two intersecting trails; the Mesa Cortina Trail which will take you out to the Mesa Cortina Trailhead (2.6 miles), the other trail is the continuation of the Gore Range Trail. Of course, we are heading north. This is a rolling trail with lots of forest. Since this is a fairly long trek, the distance to Boulder Lake is 12.8 miles, let us mention several places to camp along the way. In about 2.5 miles you will cross North Willow Creek, continue left at the trail intersection and head uphill for about .25 mile. The creek parallels the trail for a little ways, on the west side of the trail you will find a camp used by horse groups with hitching rails, etc. There is good water in the creek. Another alternative is to hike to the top of the hill (another .75 mile), this is where the trail (FS36) to Salmon Lake and Willow Lakes starts. There is decent camping at the lakes, but the trail is steep, Salmon Lake is 1.75 miles and Willow Lakes are an additional 1 mile.

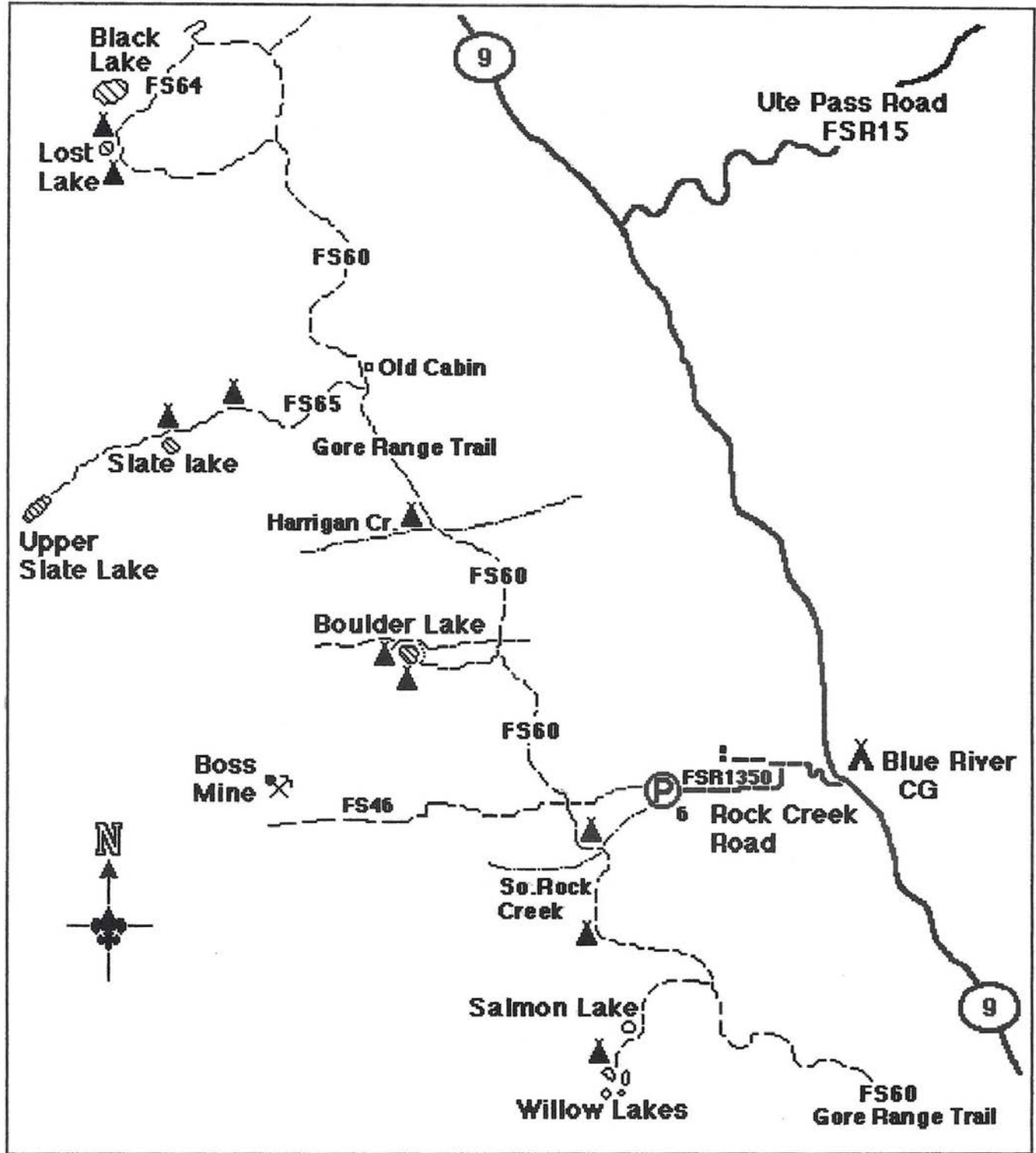
The last camping alternative before Boulder Lake is to continue north on the Gore Range Trail (FS60), it is almost all downhill to where the trail crosses South Rock Creek (nice double log bridge), about 2 miles. Cross the bridge, follow the north side (right) of the creek for several hundred feet and you will come across several campsites.

Continue north for another 1.5 miles, at this point the trail crosses Rock Creek Road. If you need to exit, hike east on the road to the trailhead (about .5 mile) and parking lot (P)6. To continue to Boulder Lake just cross the road and continue on the trail north for 1.8 miles until the trail splits in two directions. Turn left and follow the wide trail for another .3 mile to Boulder Lake. The right trail continues on the Gore Range Trail and crosses Boulder Creek in about .1 mile.

There are campsites on the southeast side of Boulder Lake. Other campsites are on the west side where Boulder Creek enters the lake. A neat waterfall can be found about .10 mile west of the lake on Boulder Creek, a nice side trip. The best water is out of Boulder Creek; also, water is available out of several smaller streams on the southeast and south sides of the lake. Firewood is available, but is some distance from the campsites.

Segment Total -13.8 Miles  
Total from Start - 31.7 Miles

# SOUTH WILLOW CREEK TO LOST LAKE



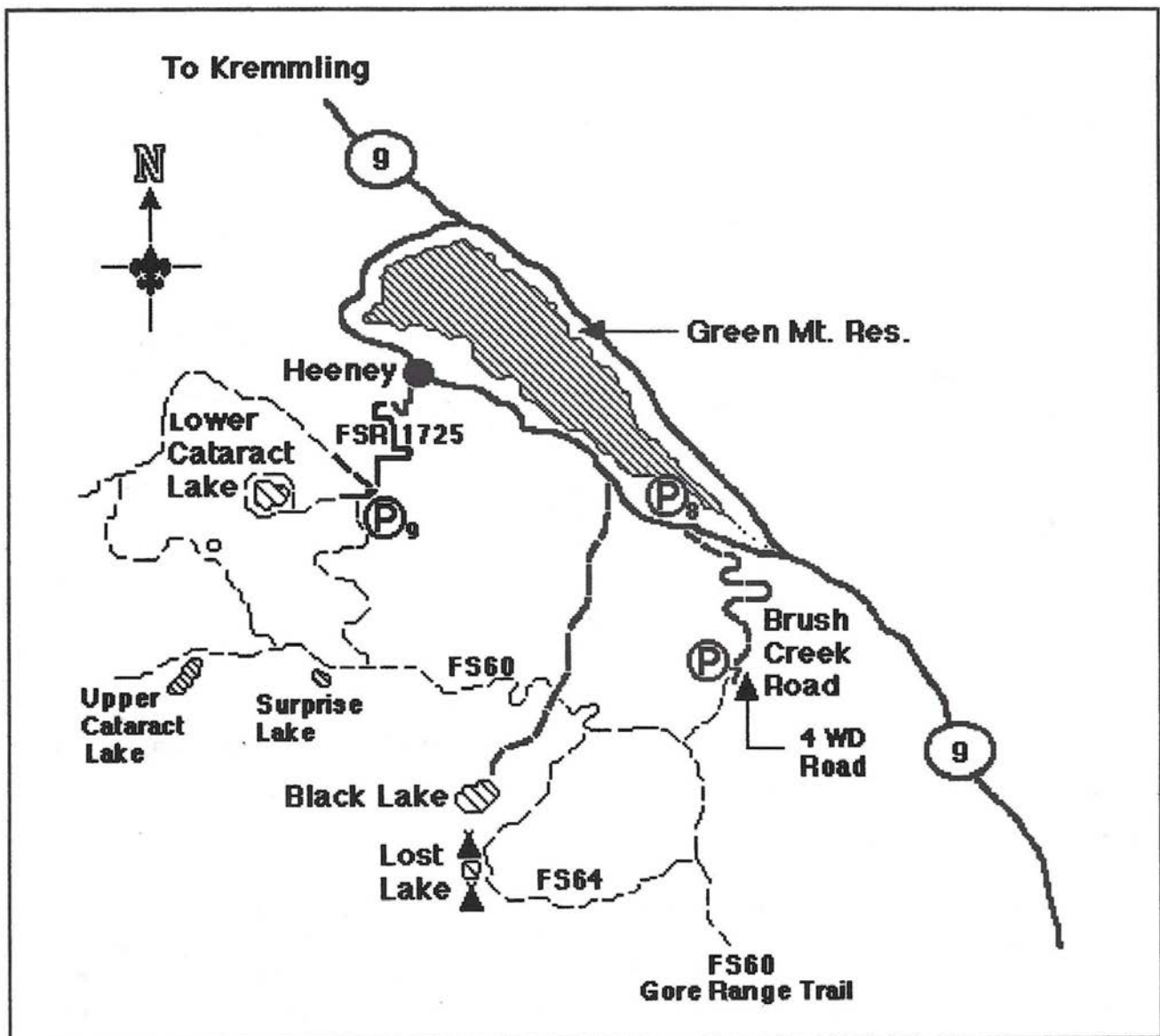
## • Boulder Lake to Slate Lake

You can take the second trail exiting from Boulder Lake. This trail follows the north side of Boulder Creek. This is a narrow trail, but satisfactory. As this trail levels out you will pass a double log bridge which crosses Boulder Creek. Continue east for another .2 mile, there will be a trail to the north (left), this is the continuation of the Gore Range Trail. Our next

destination is the Slate Lake area. It is about 3.3 miles from Boulder Creek to the trail intersection to Slate Lake (FS65). In about 1985 the Forest Service changed the access route to this scenic valley. It now starts on the south side of Slate Creek instead of the north side as shown on most of the published maps. The trail to Slate Lake heads west through intermittent forest and meadows and in about a mile crosses a bridge to the old trail on the north side of the creek. There are several places along the trail where you can camp. If you go to Slate Lake it is 3 miles, the last mile is quite steep. If you continue to Upper Slate Lake it is another 1.5 miles and still steeper. There are few, if any, worthwhile campsites at Upper Slate Lake.

Segment Total - 7.0 Miles  
 Total from Start - 38.7 Miles

## LOST LAKE TO LOWER CATARACT LAKE



- **Slate Lake to Black Creek**

In returning from Slate Lake you must use the same trail, at the intersection with the Gore Range Trail turn north again. It's fairly flat hiking for the next 3.5 miles north. At this point the Lost Lake Loop Trail appears on the west side of the trail. It is time for decisions. There are three alternatives at this point. You can continue to follow the Gore Range Trail north which is the shortest distance or you can exit at Brush Creek to a trailhead, noted on the map as (P)7, which is about three miles from CO9 on a 4 WD road. Use parking area (P)8 for normal vehicles. Brush Creek Trail is another .5 mile north on the Gore Range Trail from the intersection of the Lost Lake Loop Trail. The third alternative is to hike to Lost Lake. This is longer and steeper, but it's a super neat area and has three or four locations for overnight camping.

You can exit on a second trail on the northeast end of the lake completing the loop. This was once a road and is considerably wider and shaded with trees all the way down. This part of the loop is a little over 2 miles to where it intersects with the Gore Range Trail. At this intersection turn left and continue northeast. In about .5 mile you will be looking over the Black Creek Valley. Have a break and enjoy the view at this point. It's almost 1000' to the valley floor. This is a private valley, but you can camp on the north side of the gravel road that parallels the valley. There is lots of cow dung in this area so it is not desirable, but in a pinch it will do the job.

Segment Total - 9.0 Miles  
Total from Start - 47.7 Miles

- **Black Creek to Lower Cataract Lake**

To continue, the north side of the valley is as steep as the south side. It is 3.5 miles uphill to the trail intersection to Lower Cataract Lake. Turn right and head downhill for 2.5 miles to the trailhead parking area which is located about .25 mile east of Lower Cataract Lake, noted on the map as (P)9. Quite a trip!

If you want to make your trip longer you can continue to Surprise, Tipperary and Eaglemears Lakes. This would add about another 8-10 miles to your trek and you will exit on the northeast side of Lower Cataract Lake.

Segment Total - 6.0 Miles  
Total from Start - 53.7 Miles



# 16 CAVE ADVENTURES

**Caution about spelunking** - The Denver Area Council recommends that adult Scout leaders use caution in exploring caves with their Scouts. It is recommended that you obtain a map of the cave and bring a copy along on your adventure. Also, read a detailed description of the cave which you plan to explore. **Know what to expect about each cave.** Other items needed are a jacket, 2 light sources (flashlights) per person, first aid kit, a 75-100 foot rope and a quart of water per person if you are in a cave for several hours. Information can be obtained from the Colorado Grotto or School of Mines Grotto, two local spelunking groups. The best overall source is a book entitled *Caves of Colorado*, by Lloyd E. Parris, Printed by Pruett Publishing Company of Boulder Colorado; publication dates are 1973, 1981. This text provides good cave maps, photographs and written information about 250 caves in Colorado. Be sure to give the Scouts a talk about the dangers, and not touching or taking home any of the various formations in a cave. **Do not let your Scouts explore a cave without direct supervision by adult Scouters.** Members of the Colorado Grotto will often offer to take a Scouting group through a cave. The three caves described below are totally undeveloped; **enter at your own risk.**

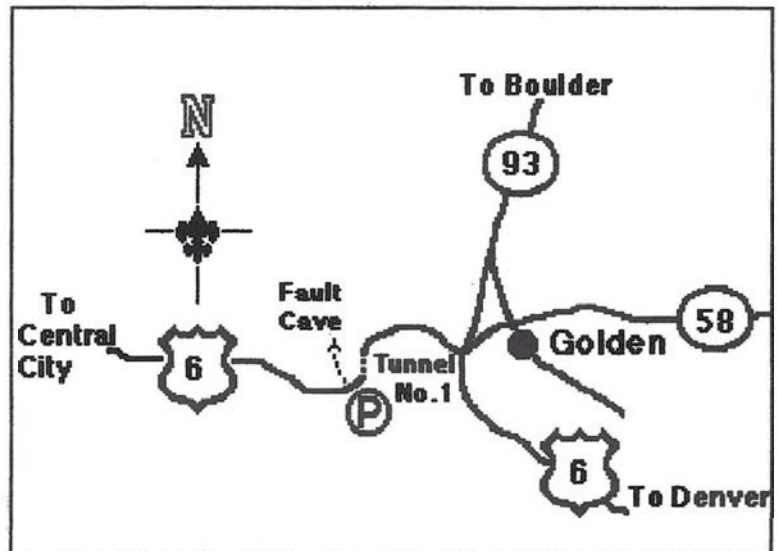
Note: Dangers in a cave include; cold temperatures, drop-offs, water dangers including depth and fast moving current.

## 16-1 FAULT CAVES

Drive Time: 45 Minutes

Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition  
State Highway Map

Fault caves are located just west of Golden off US 6, there are several interlocking caves with six entrances. The walls of the caves are made from granite, these are the largest known granite caves in the state. The shifting of the mountain over the ages have created faults that provide the tunneling through the mountain. The caves have a number of tunnel structures and an upper level. There are several pits and a 24' drop-off, so be careful with your Scouts.



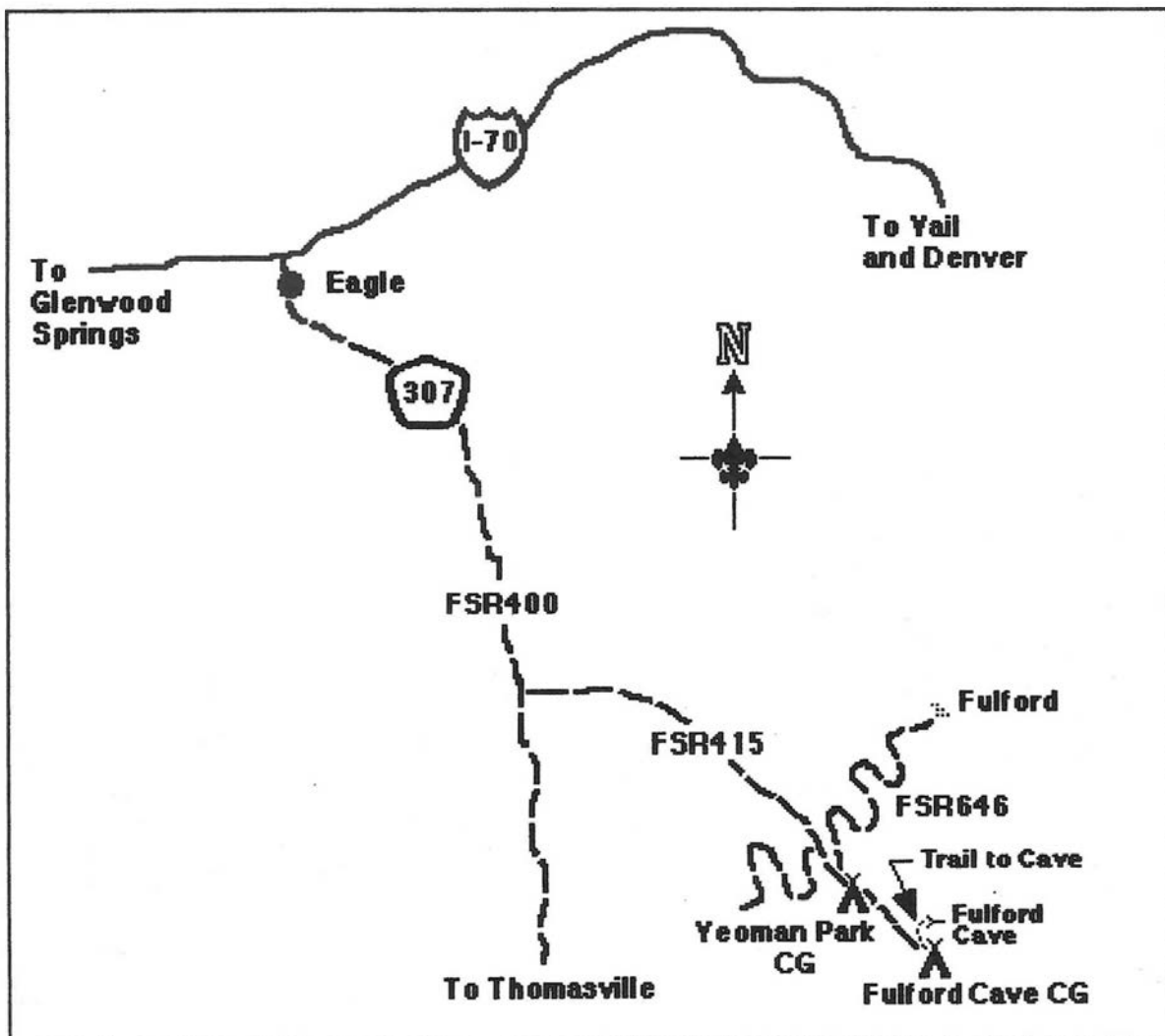
**How to get there:** Take US 6 west. After you pass through the first tunnel watch your odometer and drive .4 mile from tunnel No.1 west portal. There will be two small parking areas on the left side of US 6, park here. Look across the road to the northwest side, there is a steep rocky gully. This is the path that leads up to the caves; the trail is sometimes very distinctive and at other times almost completely obliterated. The caves are 325 yards (975<sup>1</sup>) northwest of US 6. The trail is quite steep all the way to the caves. The main cave entrance is not actually in the gully, but on a small ridge to the right of the trail. Access to these caves is primarily in the summer and fall when ice and snow is off the hills.

## 16-2 FULFORD CAVE

Drive Time: 3 Hours

Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition

Fulford Cave is located in Eagle County and is on the White River National Forest Map. This cave is considered a cold wet cave and some form of coat is definitely needed. There are three levels, three entrances and several thousand feet of interlocking passageways. Also, there is a stream running through a major portion of this cave. Fulford Cave is named



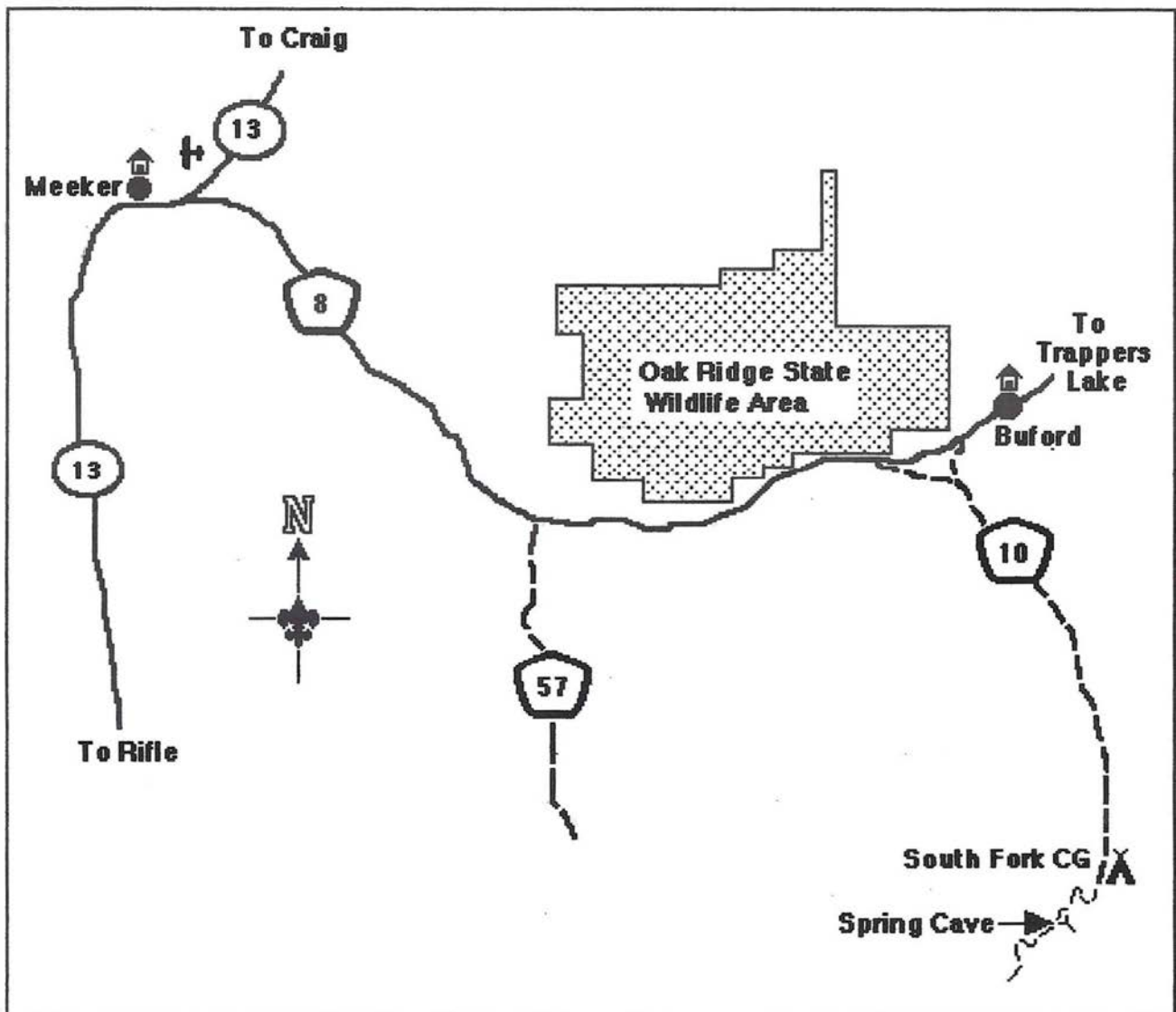
after the small community of Fulford, Colorado which is now a ghost town located about 12 miles to the northeast of the cave. The Fulford Cave CG (a good place to stay) is located some 1000' below the cave's entrances. There is a trail from the Fulford Cave CG to the cave entrance, it is uphill.

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west past Dillon Reservoir and the Vail Ski Area all the way to Eagle. Exit at Eagle, drive across the river and south through Eagle. Find CR307 on the southwest end of town and follow this highway 10 miles southeast then south. The highway designation will turn to FSR400 after crossing the National Forest boundary, 2 miles south of the Forest Service boundary turn left (east) onto FSR415, it is 7 miles to the Fulford Cave CG (fee area in summer). Fulford Cave is northeast of the campground.

### 16-3 SPRING CAVE

Drive Time: 5 Hours

Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition





Spring Cave is the third largest cave in Colorado and is located to the west of the Flat Tops Wilderness area, south and a little east of Buford. This cave is marked on the last two editions of the White River National Forest map (dated 1973, 1991); it is about 9 miles south of Buford near South Fork CG. This cave goes back about 500 feet for normal walking, then it spits; the west fork has water from 2 to 6 feet deep flowing at a rapid rate (it is recommended that Scouts and Scouters stay away from this passageway). The south passage is hard to find and a tight squeeze; it leads to the Butterscotch Room and Bridge Room plus a lake. This area is 20 feet by 200 feet in length.

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west to Rifle. Turn north on CO13, drive to Meeker. About 1.5 miles east of Meeker turn right from CO13 onto CR8, heading east. Take CR8 through the Oak Ridge State Wildlife Area. On the east side of this wildlife area, less than a mile from Buford turn south on CR10 and take it 9 miles to South Fork CG (fee area in summer). This is a good place to camp for your Spring Cave adventure. A good trail leads west from the campground for .75 mile to the cave entrance.



# 17 COLORADO STATE PARKS



Over the last 30 years Colorado has expanded it's State Parks to the count of forty as of 1994. These parks are located throughout Colorado and provide a wide variety of terrain, fauna and climates. There are seven of these parks located in the metropolitan area or no more than a two hour drive for most Denver area troops.

These State Parks have a variety of facilities; including camping, hiking trails, lakes, fishing, swimming, visitors centers, picnic tables, water and rest rooms. Many other facilities are available that are oriented to family camping and special interest activities not related to Scouting. Some Colorado State Parks provide group campsites that are more appropriated for Boy Scout Troops. In State Parks there are some restrictions about how many tents and individuals can use a typical car campsite.

Park office staff can be very helpful if you call them about park facilities that can be used during a troop visit or campout. There are several fees that can be expected when visiting a State Park. A Colorado State Park Pass is needed for each vehicle. Either an annual pass or a daily pass is available at each park. In addition, if you camp you will need to purchase a camping permit at the campground. Both daily passes are good from the day you purchase it until noon the next day. Prices can vary by campsite and from year to year for Park permits, so prices are not provide here. Call the park for current fee information.

There is a general information brochure called the *State Park Guide* about all State Parks, their facilities, addresses and phone numbers; call and have one mailed to you.

**Main Office in Denver:** Colorado State Parks  
1313 Sherman Street, Room 618  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
1 (303) 866-3437

Reservations for camping within the Colorado State Parks can be made up to 60 days in advance, for busy weekends reservations are essential. If calling for reservations from the Metro Denver area call 470-1144, or if calling from outside that area use the toll free number, **1-800-678-CAMP**.

Book available on Colorado State Parks:

*Exploring Colorado State Parks*  
By Martin G. Kleinsorge  
Published 1992  
University Press of Colorado  
P.O. Box 849  
Niwot, Colorado, 80544

This section is not intended to provide information for all 40 State Parks, but does provide more information on the seven parks in the metropolitan area and certain unique parks that have something special for Scout troops.

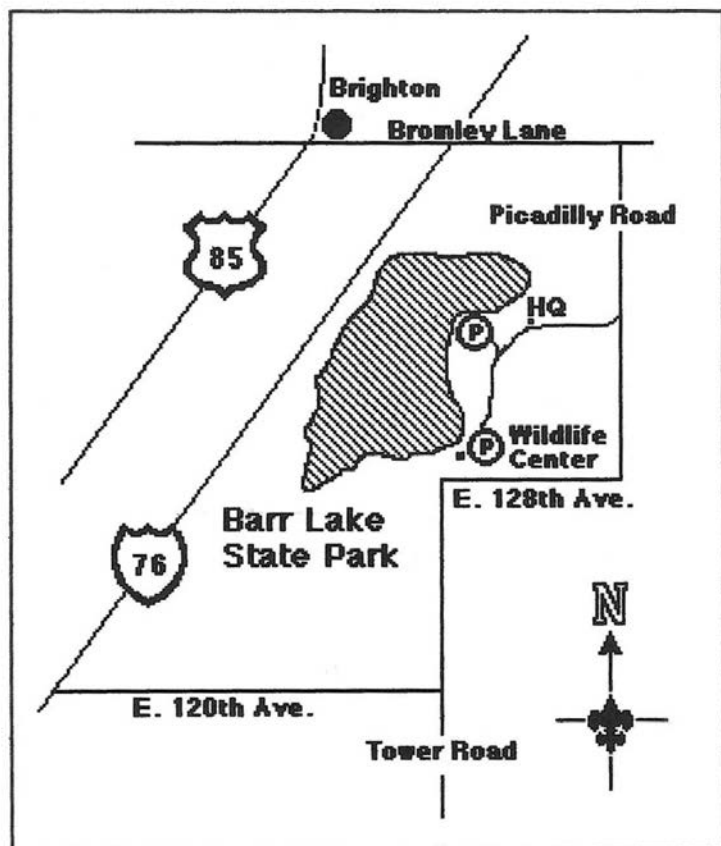
### 17-1 BARR LAKE STATE PARK

Drive Time: 1 Hour  
Map Reference: State Highway Map

#### Barr Lake Information and

**Facilities:** (665 acres) Barr Lake is one of the best places to watch birds; consider this site for the observation part of the Bird Study merit badge. Large numbers of animals also live at the park and can be observed. There is a Barr Lake Wildlife Center which provides programs for youth about animals and birds. Call in advance to schedule a program (303) 659-6005. After you visit the wildlife center take one or more of the trails through the park. Guided tours are available from the rangers at the park or a trail guide is provided if you want to do it yourself. Picnic sites are provided, there are no campsites.

**How to get there:** Barr Lake is 25 miles from Denver and is located 6 miles southeast of Brighton. From the north side of Denver take Interstate 76



north, pass US 85 which exits to Brighton and continue for another 10.5 miles on I-76 to Bromley Lane. Take Bromley Lane east 2 miles to Picadilly Road, turn south on Picadilly Road, continue south to the park entrance.

**Where to phone or write:**

Barr Lake State Park  
13401 Picadilly Road  
Brighton, Colorado 80601  
1 (303) 659-6005  
Colorado Bird Observatory 1 (303) 659-4348

**17-2 ELDORADO CANYON STATE PARK**

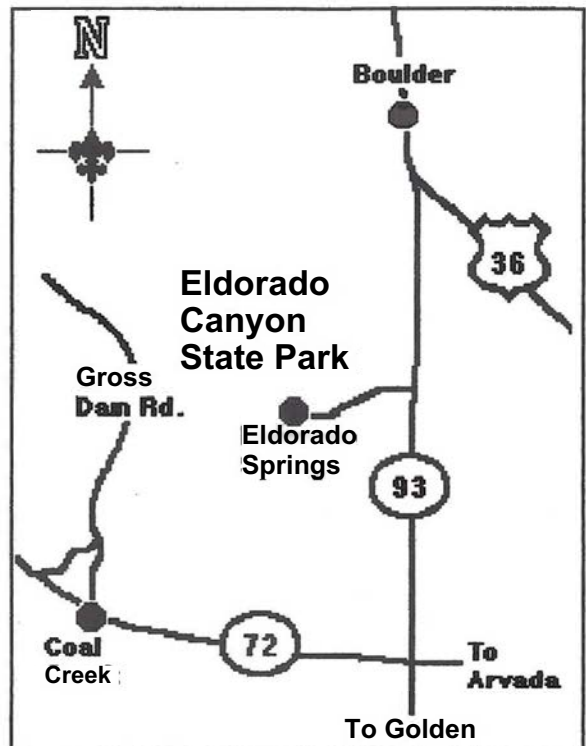
Drive Time: 1 Hour  
Map Reference: State Highway Map

**Eldorado Canyon Information and Facilities:** (845 acres) Eldorado Canyon State Park is divided into two distinct land areas. The more familiar is known as the Inner Canyon and is located on the east side of the Flatirons rock formation just south of Boulder. There is a park office, picnic sites and several trails that can be hiked. This area is known for technical rock climbing. The western part of the park is located further west in the foothills. It is the larger of the two acreages and is known as Crescent Meadows. This part of the park is totally different than the canyon. It is an open area, with rolling hills covered with flowers during the spring. No facilities are located in the Crescent Meadows section and no camping is permitted. Normal park fees apply and entering the park by foot requires that you purchase a walk-in pass.

**How to get there:** Eldorado Canyon is 20 miles from Denver and only 4 miles south of the Boulder city limits. Take CO93, a mile or so before the Boulder city limits turn west on CO170 for three miles through Eldorado Springs to the park entrance. Crescent Meadows can be reached from the junction of CO93 and CO72 (Coal Creek Canyon Road). Drive west on CO72 for 7.5 miles to Coal Creek. Turn right on Crescent Park Drive and follow the road up the hill to an intersection with the Gross Dam Road. Turn right and continue for 1.7 miles across the railroad tracks to the park entrance.

**Where to phone and write:**

Eldorado Canyon State Park  
Box B  
Eldorado Springs, Colorado 80025  
1 (303) 494-3943



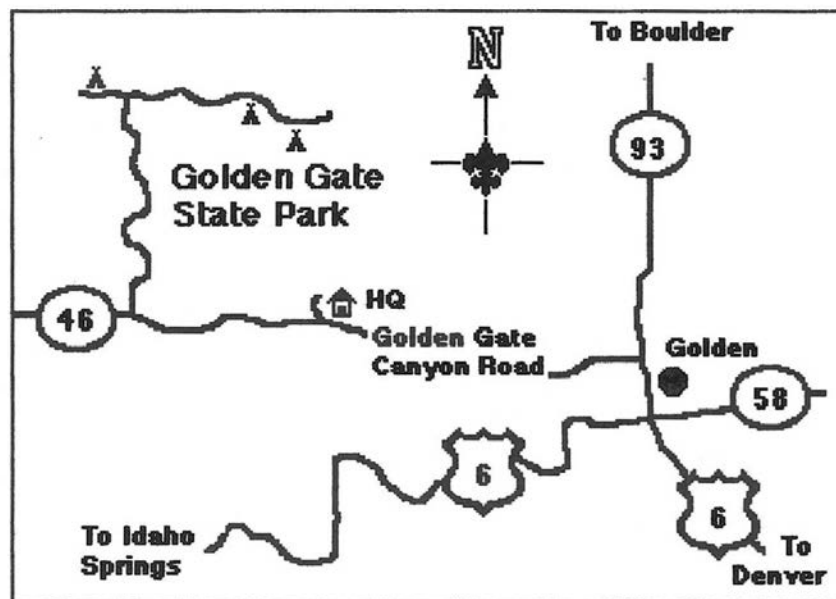
### 17-3 GOLDEN GATE STATE PARK

Drive Time: 1 Hour  
Map Reference: State Highway Map

**Golden Gate Information and Facilities:** (9100 acres) Golden Gate State Park is 16 miles northwest of Golden. This park has a number of alternatives for Scout troops.

There are numbers of trails for day hikes; including trails that will lead you to 23 backpack campsites in the park. Back country camping permits are provided on a first come, first served basis. Permits can be obtained at the visitors center. No facilities or water are provided in the back country.

There are two group camping areas (Rifleman/Phillips). The group camping areas are located on the north side of the park somewhat removed from the normal weekend car camping area. There are a couple of trails that leave from the Rifleman/Phillips campsites heading in two directions; also, the remains of several old ranches that were purchased to acquire the land which makes up much of the park are in this area.



The group camp area is only open when snow conditions allow. Advance reservations are needed to use these facilities, call several weeks in advance for reservations and then just before you leave in case of snow.

There is a visitors center at the park office with excellent displays. Reservations, permits and information is available at the park office. Maps of the park trails and roads are also available.

**How to get there:** Take 6th Avenue or your favorite highway to the intersection of US 6 and CO93 just west of Golden. Go north from this intersection on CO93 for 1.4 miles. Turn west on Golden Gate Canyon Road and follow it for 15 miles to the park entrance.

**Where to phone and write:**

Golden Gate State Park  
3873 Highway 46  
Golden, Colorado 80403  
1 (303) 592-1502

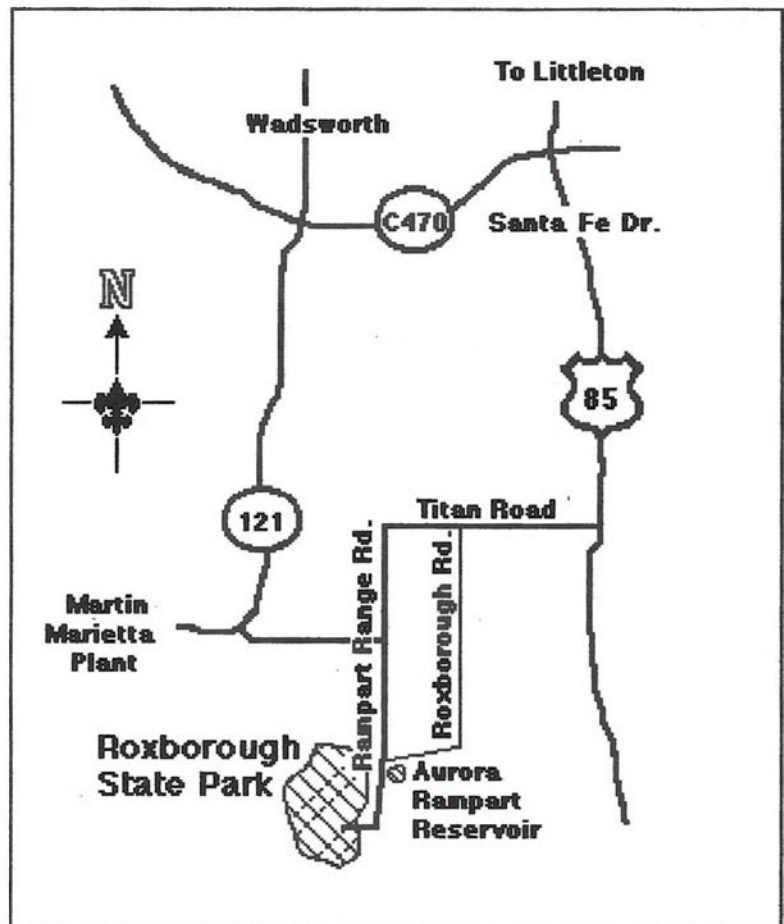
## 17-4 ROXBOROUGH STATE PARK

Drive Time: 1 Hour  
Map Reference: State Highway Map

**Roxborough Information and Facilities:** (1620 acres) Roxborough State Park is located 25 miles southwest of Denver. Roxborough first opened to the public in 1985. This park is different from other State Parks in that it is for the naturalist and follows minimum impact rules. The park is limited to the visitors center and hiking trails. Rock climbing and camping are not permitted and picnic areas are not provided, a day use park. Lunch can be eaten on benches at the visitors center. Guided tours are available by the rangers, but reservations sometimes are required 6 months in advance.

**How to get there:** Take US 85 (Santa Fe Drive) south to Titan Road. Turn west on Titan Road and travel west for 3 miles. Titan Road turns south into Rampart Range Road; continue south on Rampart Range Road for 3.7 additional miles. At the location where you are about to enter the private golf course turn left on Roxborough Park Road and then south again. You will immediately past the fire station to the west (right); travel south past the toll booth as you enter the park. It is 3 miles from the fire station to the visitors center in the park.

**Where to phone or write:**  
Roxborough State Park  
4751 North Roxborough Drive  
Littleton, Colorado 80125  
1 (303) 973-3959

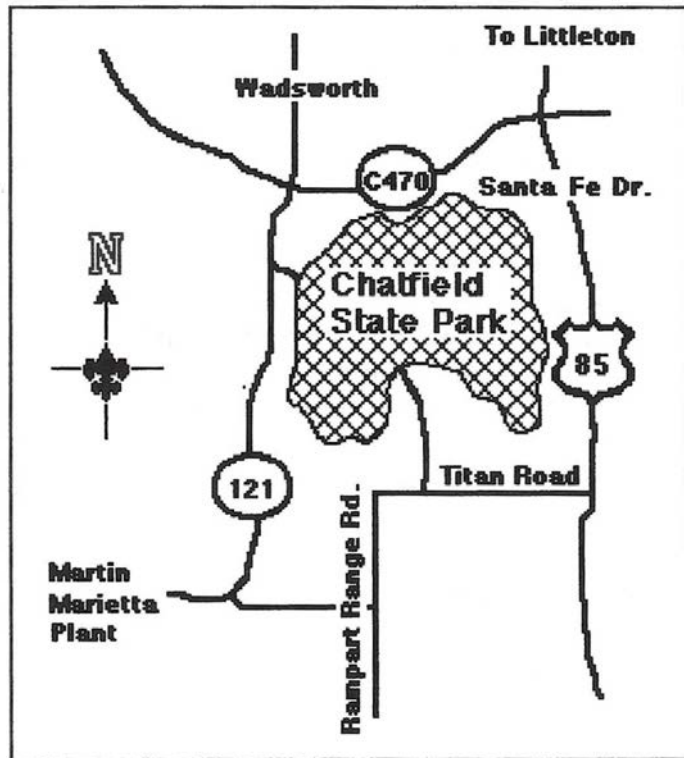


## 17-5 CHATFIELD STATE PARK

Drive Time: 1 Hour  
Map Reference: State Highway Map

### Chatfield Information and Facilities:

(3768 acres) Chatfield is one of the most popular State Parks with 153 campsites and a large group campsite. The group campsite can be reserved by calling the park office. Programs can be provided by the rangers between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Rangers also lead visitors on nature walks, but you must request them in advance. Prime activities at this park are fishing, swimming and boating. A visitors center is located on the west side of the park which provides interesting exhibits. The park has lots of open areas; a perfect terrain for orienteering events. There are 24 miles of trails, plus horseback riding is available during the summer starting from two livery stables. Chatfield is a good location for nature study and bird observation.



**How to get there:** Follow C470, exit at Wadsworth Boulevard, take CO121 south to the park entrance on the west side of the park. To enter from the east side take Santa Fe Drive (US 85) to Titan Road, turn west and drive to Roxborough Park Road; turn north to the Plum Creek entrance.

### Where to phone or write:

Chatfield State Park  
11500 North Roxborough Park Road  
Littleton, Colorado 80125  
Park Office: 1 (303) 791-7275  
Chatfield Marina: 1 (303) 791-7547  
B and B Livery Stables: 1 (303) 933-3636  
Stockton's Plum Creek Stables: 1 (303) 791-1966



## 17-6 CHERRY CREEK STATE PARK

Drive Time: 1 Hour

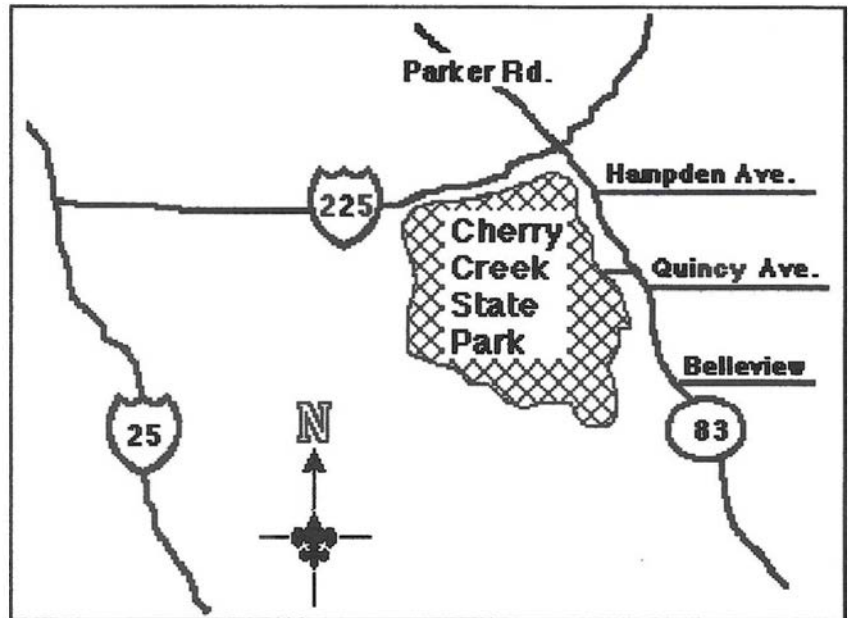
Map Reference: State Highway Map

**Cherry Creek Information and Facilities:** (3835 acres) Cherry Creek State Park's primary activities are boating, swimming and fishing. In addition, there is a public shooting range operated in the park. This is a good place to take your older Scouts to try their hand at big bore shooting. There is a model airplane field where you can fly your plane. Horse stables are located on the east side of the park. There are 102 campsites in the park.

**How to get there:** To enter from the east go 1 mile south on Parker Road from I-225, turn west into the park entrance. To enter from the west take east Union Avenue along the north side of Cherry Creek High School. Pass the entrance to the Cherry Creek Dam Road, just beyond is the west entrance to the park.

**Where to phone or write:**

Cherry Creek State Park  
4201 South Parker Road  
Aurora, Colorado 80014  
Park Office: 1 (303) 699-3860  
Stables: 1 (303) 690-8235  
Cherry Creek Marina: 1 (303) 779-6144  
Cherry Creek Shooting Center: 1 (303) 693-1765



## 17-7 CASTLEWOOD CANYON STATE PARK

Drive Time: 1 Hour

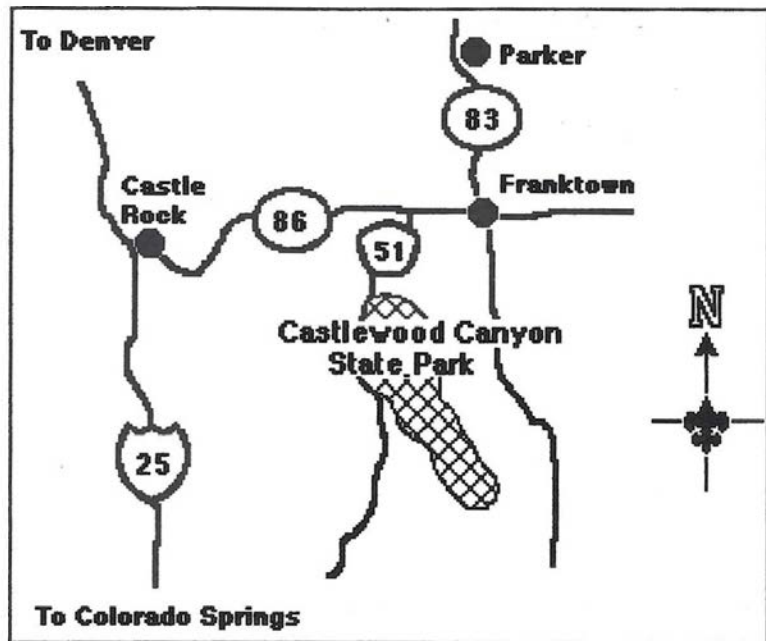
Map Reference: State Highway Map

**Castlewood Canyon Information and Facilities:** (6300 acres) Located 30 miles southeast of Denver. Castlewood Canyon Park is a day use park, best known for rock climbing and the canyon that once contained Castlewood Dam. Many hiking trails cross the park. You can take one of the trails up the canyon to see the remains of the dam that gave way in 1933 and flooded Denver. A variety of animals can be observed while hiking the trails. No camping is permitted in the park, but picnic facilities are provided.



**How to get there:** From Denver, take CO83 (Parker Road) south to Franktown, turn west on CO86 for .25 mile, then turn south on CR51 and drive 3 miles south to the park entrance. The other option is to take I-25 south to Castle Rock, follow CO86 east for 6.75 miles to CR51, turn south and drive 3 miles to the park entrance.

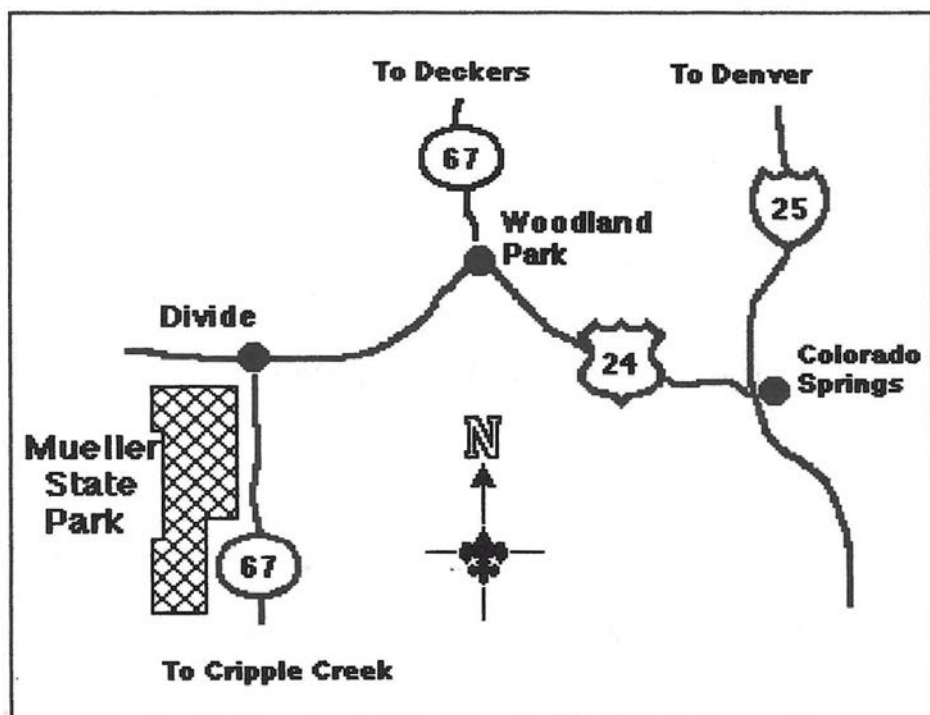
**Where to phone or write:**  
 Castlewood Canyon State Park  
 Box 504  
 Franktown, Colorado 80116-0504  
 1 (303) 688-5242



**17-8 MUELLER STATE PARK**

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
 Map Reference: State Highway Map

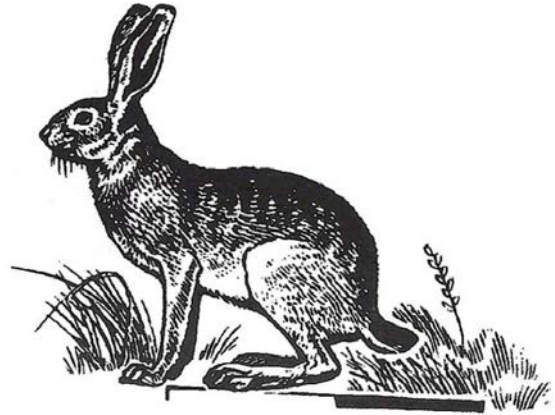
**Mueller Information and Facilities:** Mueller State Park was originally the Mueller Ranch and was purchased by the State in the late 1970s. The property went through a developmental period and opened in the spring of 1992. Mueller has 12,103 acres and the elevation is 9500'. The northern half is devoted to the park and general use. The southern half is a wildlife area. The 90 campsites have tables, fire grills, water and latrines. There are 85 miles of hiking and bicycle trails; maps are available at the park entrance. A number of ponds; with stocked fish are available, but no large lake for boating. The park has both day use and camping fees. Check with the park for current cost. The wildlife area is open to the public to visit during the day, since there are no facilities there are no fees charged.



**How to get there:** Take I-25 south to Colorado Springs, exit at US 24 west and drive through Woodland Park to Divide. Turn south on CO67 for 3.8 miles to the entrance to Mueller State Park on the west side of the highway. It is on the 1992 edition of the Pike National Forest Map.

**Where to phone or write:**

Mueller State Park  
Box 49  
Divide, Colorado 80814  
1 (719)687-2366



**17-9 LORY STATE PARK**

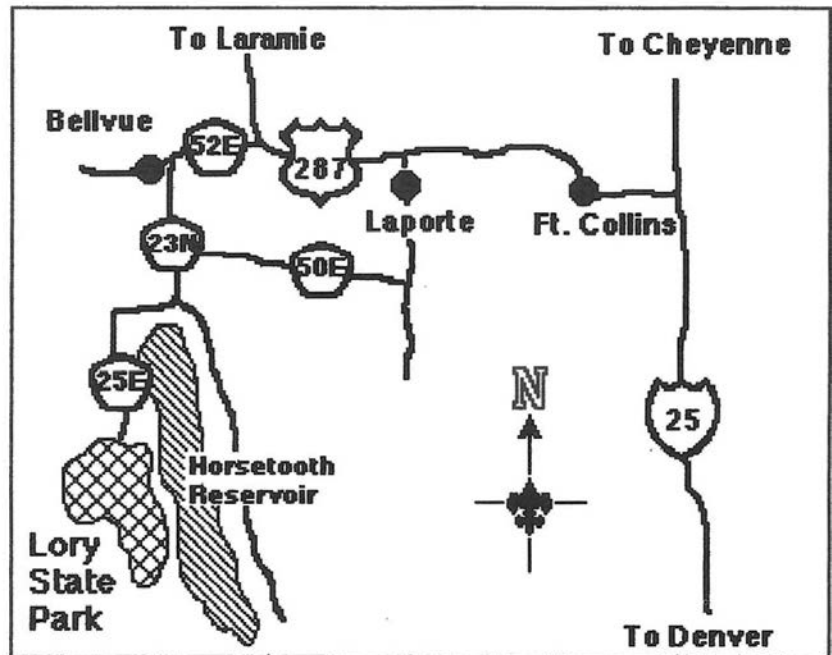
Drive Time: 2 Hours  
Map Reference: State Highway Map

**Lory Information and Facilities:** (2,479 acres) Lory State Park is located west of Ft. Collins on the western shores of Horsetooth Reservoir. The park showcases geology, birds, animals, wildflowers and trees. There are eight named trails for a total of 25 miles. There currently are no vehicle camping facilities, but there are six primitive backpack campsites on the Timber Trail. Permits for these campsites are available at the gate. Portions of the trail system are also open to mountain bikers and horseback riders.

**How to get there:** Take I-25 north from metro Denver. Exit on COM, as you near Ft. Collins take US287 north, continue 1 mile beyond Laporte then turn left onto CR52E for 1 mile, just before Bellvue turn left onto CR23N for another 1.4 miles. Turn right on CR25E and go 1.6 miles to the park entrance.

**Where to phone or write:**

Lory State Park  
708 Lodgepole Drive  
Bellvue, Colorado 80512  
1 (303)493-1623





# 18 JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners has continued to expand the Open Space Park System in Jefferson County. These public lands can provide Boy Scout Troops with hiking, bicycling, camping, cross country skiing, a visit to a homestead or the Jefferson County Open Space Nature Center. A good number of these facilities and parks have pamphlets available; these can be picked-up or mailed to you, allow a week or so for delivery. There are 22 open space properties accessible to the public as of 1994, 12 are recommended for Scouting activities. The remainder are city parks, undeveloped lands, golf courses and a historical mansion.

Jefferson County Open Space  
 700 Jefferson County Parkway, Suite 100  
 Golden, Colorado 80401  
 1 (303) 271-5925

Park Name	Good for Scouts	Pamphlets & Map	Hiking	Camping
1. White Ranch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
2. Lookout Mt. Nature Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
3. Apex	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
4. Elk Meadow	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
5. Matthews/Winters	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
6. Lair O' The Bear	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
7. Mt. Falcon	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
8. Meyer Ranch	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
9. Reynolds	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10. Pine Valley Ranch	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
11. Alderfer/Three Sisters	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
12. Hiwan Homestead Museum	Yes	Yes	No	No

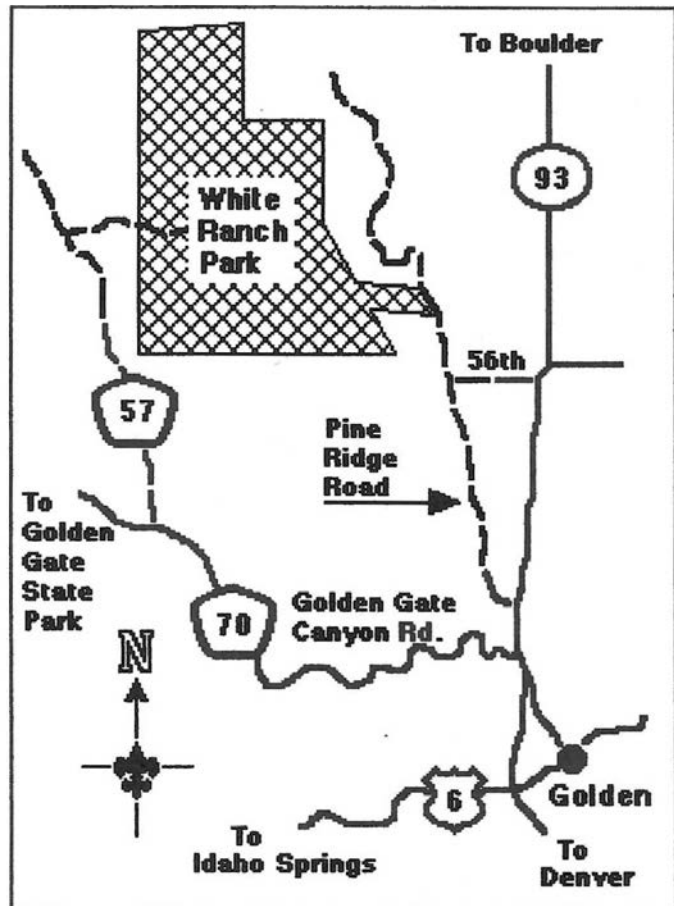
It should be mentioned that if you plan to camp in one of the two parks that allows camping, reservations should be made in advance. In both camping areas you must hike to the campsite with equipment on your back.

Map Reference: Jefferson County Open Space  
 Location Map (Rev. 5/94)  
 Drive Time: .5 -1 Hour

## 18-1 WHITE RANCH PARK

White Ranch is the largest acreage within the Jefferson County Open Space lands (3,040 acres). There are 18 miles of multi-use trails (hike / bicycle) within this park. There are two camping areas (hike-in); the Sawmill Hiker Camp and the Sourdough Springs Equestrian Camp. Sawmill is a 1 mile hike and has 10 campsites, rest rooms, drinking water and a picnic table at each campsite. Sourdough is a 1.6 mile hike and has 10 campsites, rest rooms, drinking water and a picnic table at each campsite. Both campgrounds require permits obtained in advance from the Jefferson County Open Space Office. This is a good location to check out Scouts' new backpack equipment. Another alternative is to hike to the highest point in the park which is Belcher Hill (8000').

**How to get there:** There are two road entrances into this park. Drive north from Golden or south from Boulder on CO93. To enter from the west side of the park take CR70 (Golden Gate Canyon Road) for 4.1 miles to CR57 (Crawford Gulch Road). Drive north for another 4.1 miles, then turn east to enter the park and go 1.5 miles, park in the first parking lot in the park. There is also an east entrance. Take CO93, just north of Golden turn west on 56th Avenue and drive to the park's parking lot.



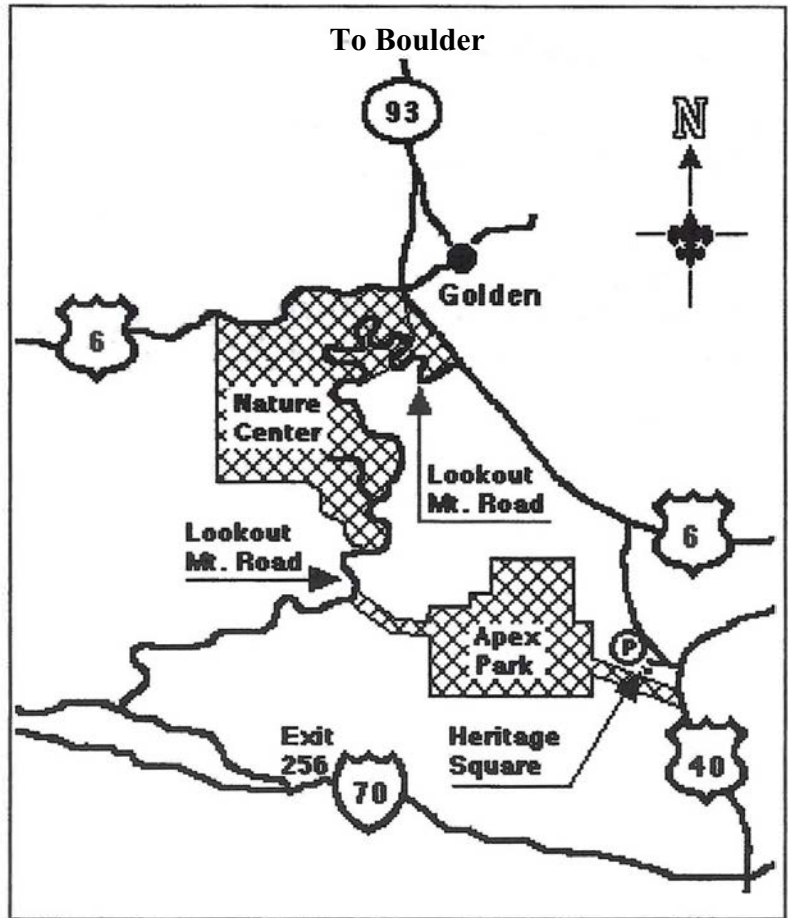
## 18-2 LOOKOUT MT. NATURE CENTER

Located on Lookout Mountain is the Jefferson County Nature Center. The Nature Center is open from 10am - 4 pm Tuesday - Sunday. Program activities are FREE. Pre-registration is required no less than 48 hours prior to each scheduled programs event (Phone 526-0594). The Nature Center has a great variety of nature related programs. A quarterly schedule can be obtained by calling the Jefferson County Open Space office identified above. Many of the Nature Center's programs take place out in the field, bring appropriate clothing and footwear. Binoculars and field guides on the related subject are recommended. Program activities are approximately 2 hours in length. Some special tours can be made by calling the Nature Center for information on naturalist-guided programs for groups of 5 or more. These are good Cub Scout activities. Trails at the nature center are open all year until dusk.

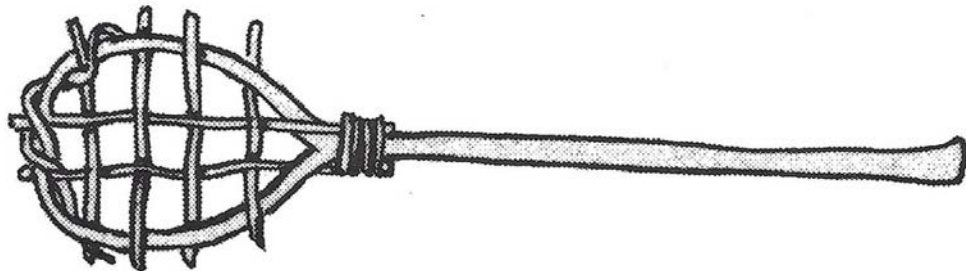
**How to get there:** Take US 6 to the west side of Golden. At the stoplight just west of the Colorado School of Mines take Lookout Mountain Road which goes west and eventually up a number of switchbacks on the side of the mountain. When you get to the top a sign along the highway will mark the road into the Nature Center.

### 18-3 APEX PARK

Apex consist of hiking trails towards the south end of Lookout Mountain. There are several ways to approach this park. There are several loop trails which allow you to return to the originating location. You can start at the Heritage Square Shopping Center and hike to the top of Lookout Mountain or reverse this trip. The Apex Trail starts at Heritage Square and follows Apex Gulch into the foothills. Two loop trails eventually branch from the Apex Gulch Trail; they are the Sledge Trail and the Sluice Box Trail. They go north and connect using the Pick, Bonanza or Grubstake Loop Trails depending on how long a hike you are looking for. Also, you can continue further west on the Apex Trail and come out on the Lookout Mountain Road.



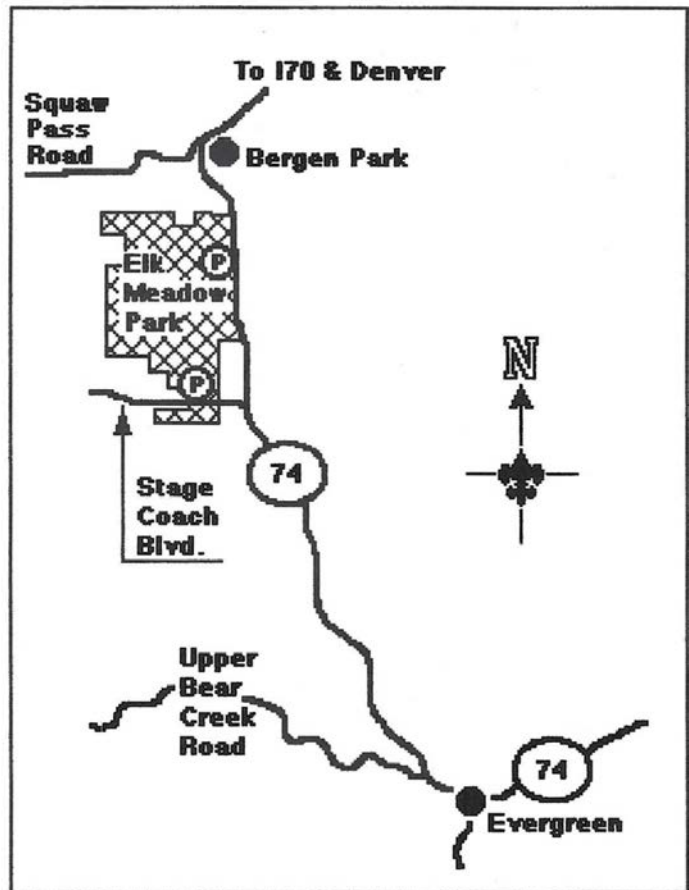
**How to get there:** Take 6th Avenue west exiting on I-70 west. In about three miles, past the geological cut through the hogback, exit onto US 40. Go north and down the hill for about a mile, turn west and follow the signs to Heritage Square Shopping Center. You may park in the lower parking lot at the Heritage Square Shopping Center for easy access to the Apex Trail.



## 18-4 ELK MEADOW PARK

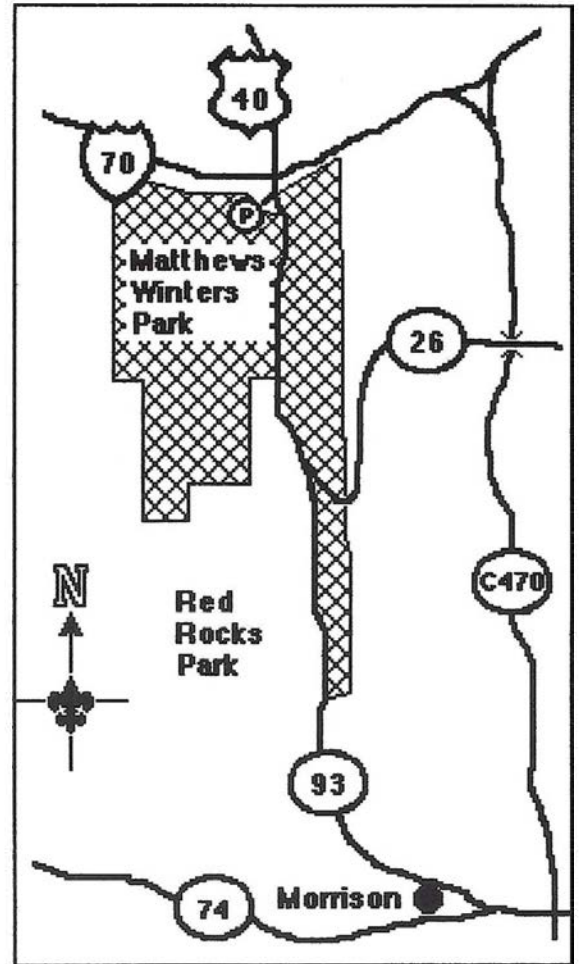
Elk Meadow Park is just north and west of Evergreen. This park is good for long distance hikes up to 10 miles, mountain biking, as well as bird and mammal observation. Elevation increases on the trail can be as much as 2000'. There is an extremely good view of Mt. Evans from the top of Bergen Peak (9708'). There are no shelters, but there is a managers residence in the park. In the center of the park there is a special wildlife preserve available for wildlife observations. No camping is allowed.

**How to get there:** Choose a route to Evergreen, then take CO74 north of town. There are two trailheads for this park. The first is on the west side of CO74; about .75 mile south of the community of Bergen Park. The second is two miles north of Evergreen on Stage Coach Boulevard, which goes west from CO74. Take Stage Coach Blvd, west 1.25 miles for the second trailhead.



## 18-5 MATTHEWS/WINTERS PARK

This park is located on the hogback ridge just south of I-70, along both sides and east of Morrison Road (CO26). The parking area is located southwest of I-70 and the Morrison Road exit. This park has 1,095 acres. The 5 mile loop trail is unique in that it also passes through the famous Red Rocks Park and through the town site of Mt. Vermon. There is an interpretive trail around the town site (1 mile) pointing out interesting remains and a small cemetery. From the parking area one can start at either end of the loop. If you go south you are going towards Red Rocks Park; if you go north you will cut across Morrison Road and enter a section of the park known as Hogback Park. The trail loop goes north to south, 2 miles through Hogback Park then west across Morrison Road again and back uphill through Red Rocks Park and eventually back to the parking lot (another 3 miles). The area provides geology examples for the merit badge and dinosaur tracks. Take twice the water you think you will need; this area is not forested and it gets quite warm during the summer. Watch out for rattlesnakes. Best time of the year is spring and fall. Rest rooms and a picnic area are provided.



How to get there: Follow Morrison Road about .25 mile south of I-70; parking is located on the west side of Morrison Road. This is the only parking area.

## 18-6 LAIR O' THE BEAR PARK

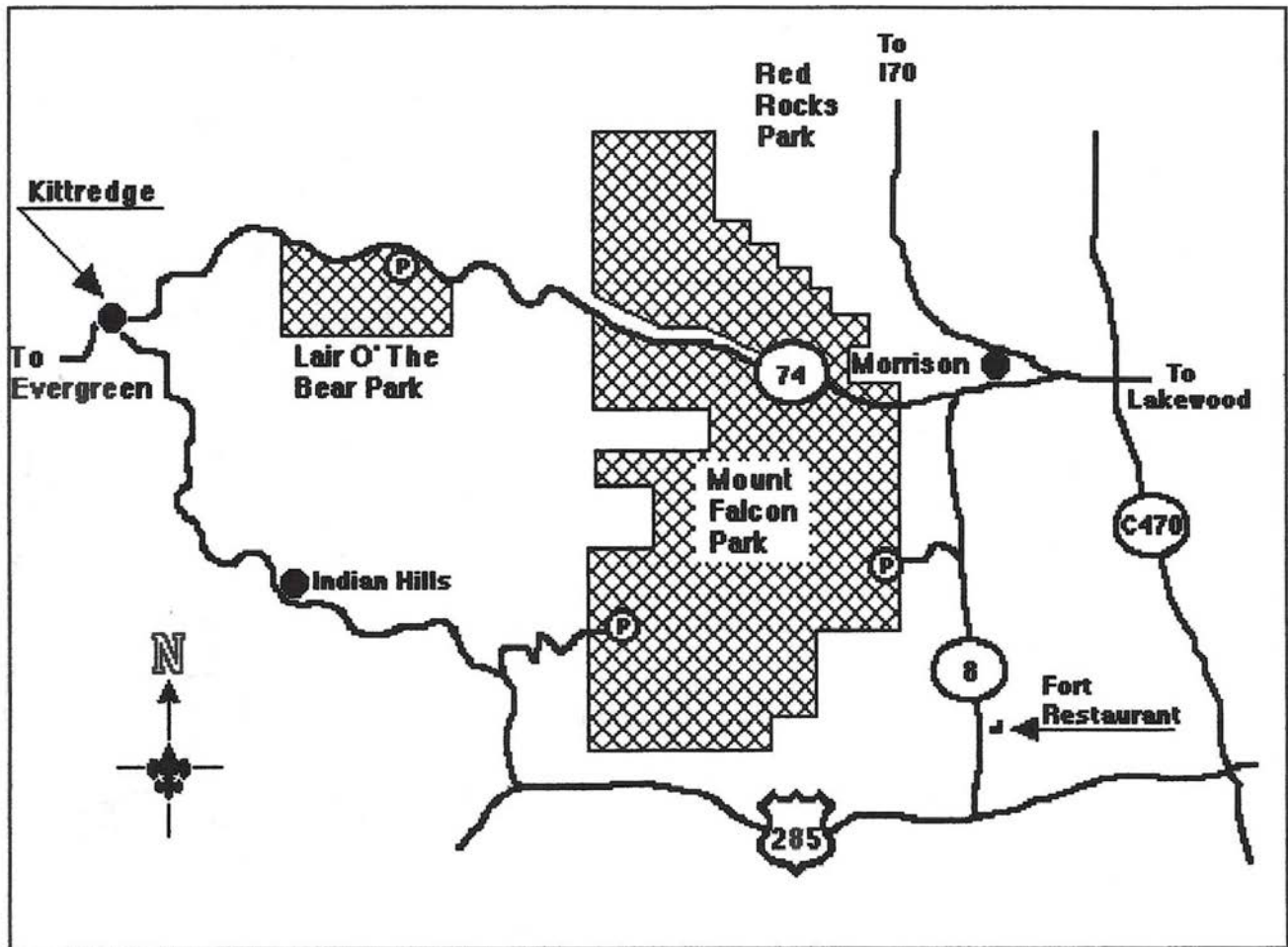


Lair O' The Bear Park is small by comparison to the other Jefferson County Parks. It offers trails for short loop hikes, a picnic area and wildlife observations. Trails are located both in the valley, and along the bluffs above the valley and cross Bear Creek several times. Loops of the trail system vary from .4 mile to a little over a mile. No camping is permitted. Rest rooms, picnic tables and grills are available.

Note: A special feature at this park is a handicapped accessible fishing pier.



**How to get there:** Go to Morrison next to the foothills. Take CO74 west out of Morrison up Bear Creek Canyon. You will pass through Idledale. The park is located next to CO74 on the south side of the highway. There is only one entrance and parking area.



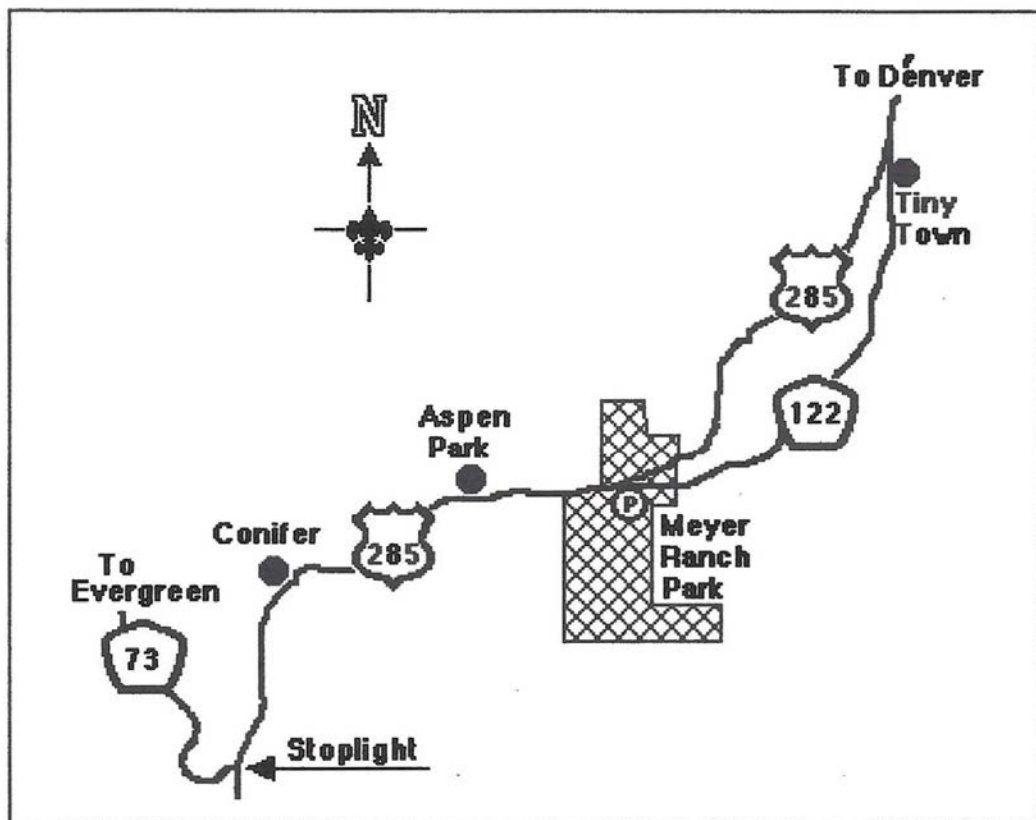
### 18-7 MT. FALCON PARK

Mt. Falcon Park is 4,000 acres of foothills land between the communities of Morrison and Indian Hills. The park land has some interesting history with two unique ruins. During the early 1900s John Walker owned the land and built an elaborate stone house. In addition, he planned and began to build a summer home for the President of the United States. Unfortunately, Walker's home burnt in 1918 and the summer White House was never completed. Both the ruins of his home and the foundation of the planned summer White House can be visited. There are a number of loop hiking trails which provide variable distance hikes with little to no back tracking. There are two shelters and a lookout tower along the trails with a wonderful view of the front range. Mountain biking is also permitted and extremely good at Mt. Falcon. No camping is permitted.

**How to get there:** There are two trailheads each with a parking lot and rest rooms. For access to the east trailhead, take Hampden Avenue (US 285) west, exit on CO8 heading north past the Fort Restaurant towards Morrison. In about a mile there will be a sign pointing west to Mt. Falcon's eastern trailhead. It should be pointed out that this is the most difficult way to enter the park (2 miles of uphill). For access to the western trailhead, take Hampden Avenue west and exit on the Indian Hills Road, travel several miles north, just before you get to the community of Indian Hills you will see a sign for Mt. Falcon Park. It is several more miles uphill on a gravel road to the west trailhead. Trails go downhill from this parking lot.

### 18-8 MEYER RANCH PARK

Meyer Ranch is 397 acres. It is a perfect location for a hike or picnic. A trail extends from the parking area through a grassy meadow and aspen groves. There are several loop trails in the forested area and a scenic overlook at the top of the trail for hearty hikers. No rest rooms are available at this park.

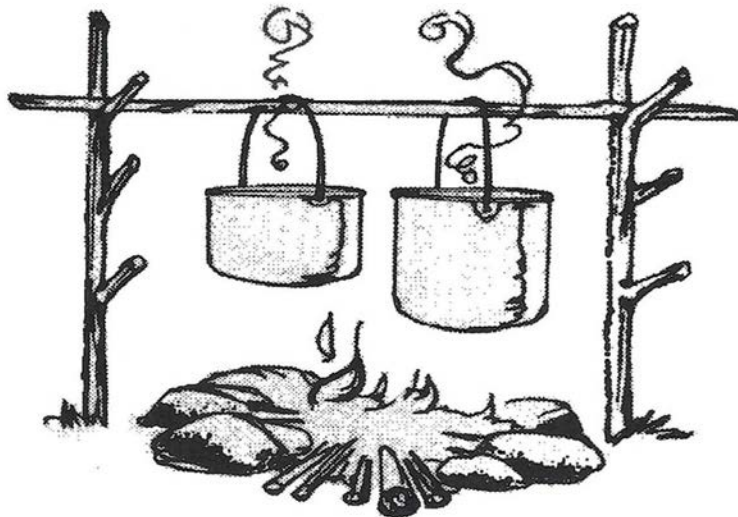
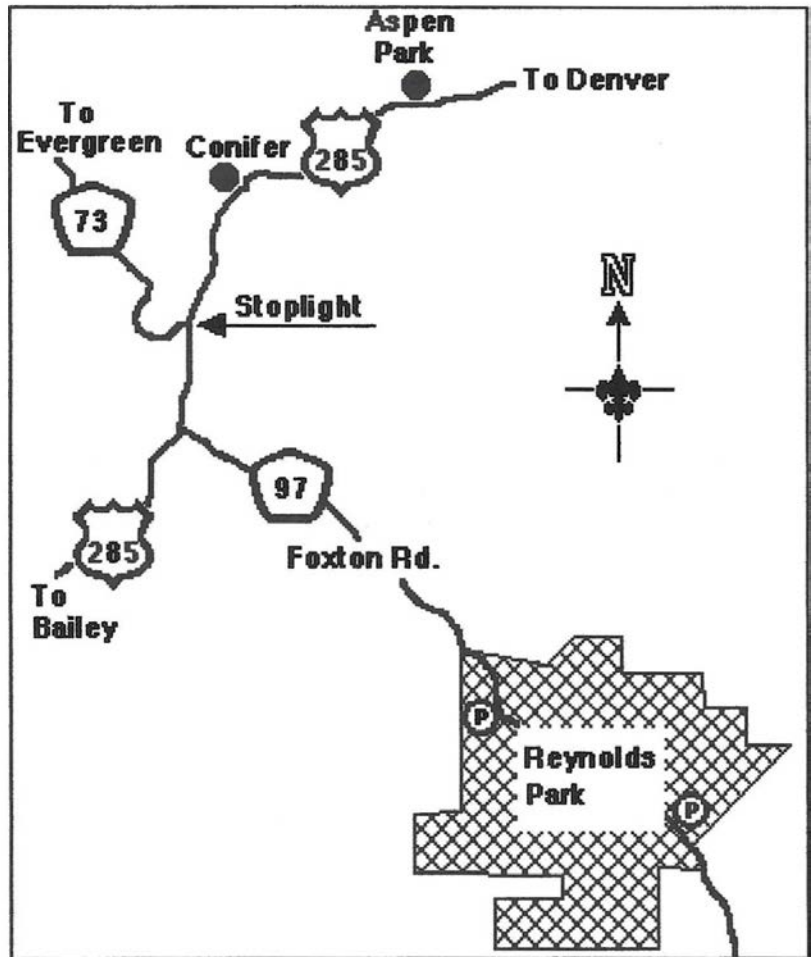


**How to get there:** Meyer Ranch Park is located on west US 285 where it intersects with South Turkey Creek Road (3.5 miles past US 285 and the Tiny Town Road). Turn left from US 285 onto South Turkey Creek Road (CR122); turn immediately into the parking lot just off South Turkey Creek Road.

## 18-9 REYNOLDS PARK

Reynolds is located on the Foxton Road (CR97). Reynolds Park is 1,260 acres. It is located on both sides of the Foxton Road and is in mountainous terrain. There are loop trails providing different trail alternatives. There are two parking areas; the first is located at the Elk Horn Interpretive Trail area. Picnic tables and rest rooms are also available at this parking area. The second parking area is another mile south and on the left side of the road. This is where you should park if you are going to use the Idylease Camp area. The camping area is .5 mile from the parking lot. There are 5 campsites available with rest rooms, reservations must be made in advance for campsites.

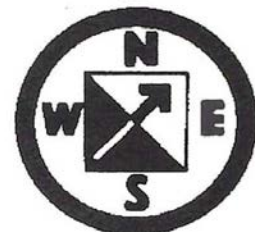
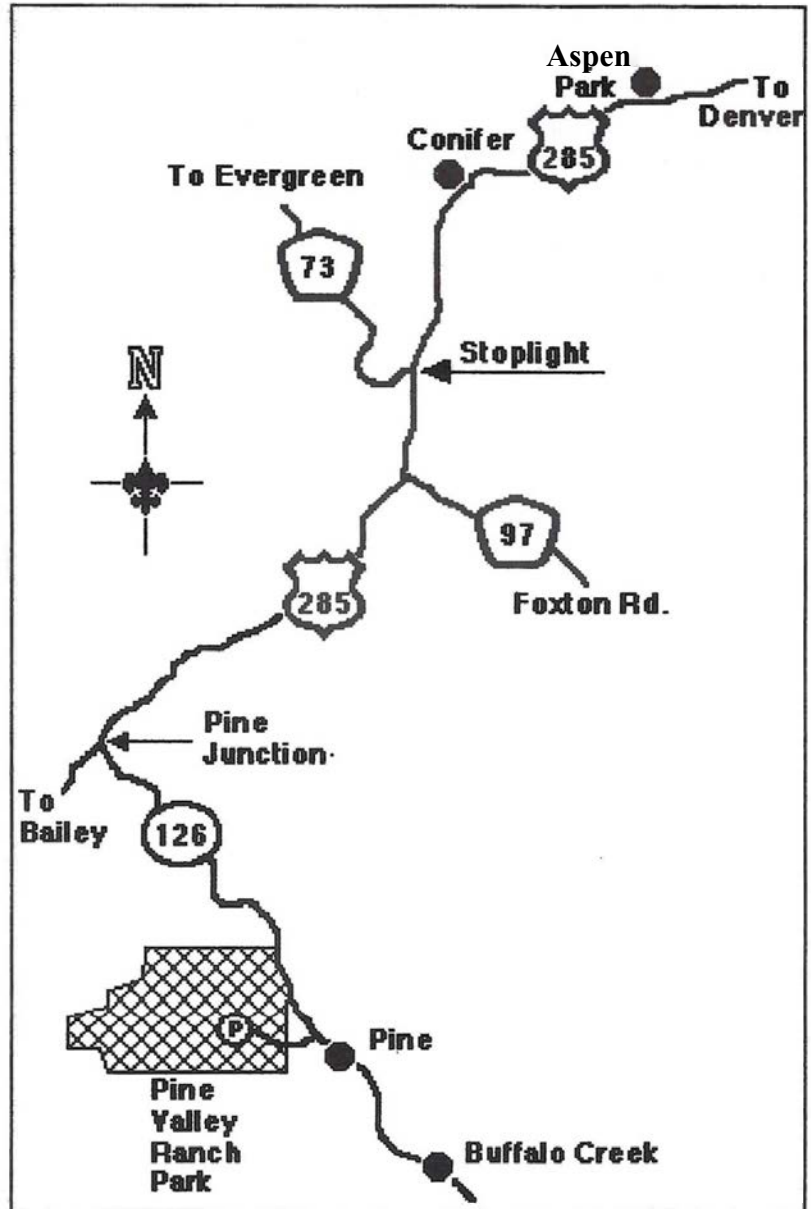
**How to get to there:** Take US 285 west passing through Conifer; continue another mile on US 285, Foxton Road (CR97) will be on the left side of the highway. Take this paved road south for 4.5 miles to the first parking area, on the right side of Foxton Road. There will be a sign for Reynolds Park.



## 18-10 PINE VALLEY RANCH PARK

This park was opened during the summer of 1994. It has 820 acres and 4 miles of trails. There is no camping at this time, but the hiking, views and animal observation is great.

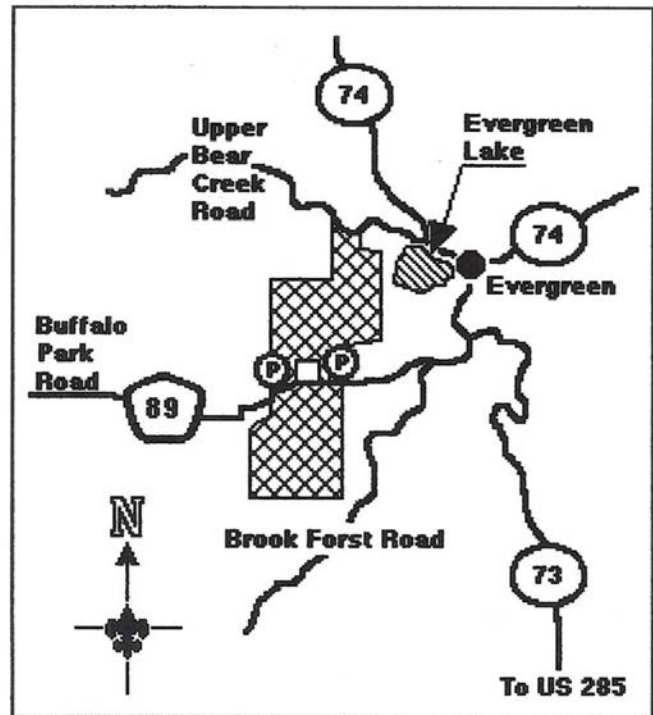
**How to get there:** Take US 285 west passing through Conifer; continue on US 285 to Pine Junction, turn left on CO126. Take this paved highway southeast to the sign for Pine Valley Ranch Park just before the community of Pine. Make a right turn at the sign, follow the access road to Pine Valley Ranch Park. This access road has no road designation on the Pike National Forest map, 1992 edition.



## 18-11 ALDERFER/THREE SISTERS PARK

Alderfer/Three Sisters Park is located west of Evergreen. This park has 1000 acres and a large number of loop trails. There are two parts to this park, separated by Buffalo Park Road. The dominant features of this Park are rock outcroppings known as "The Three Sisters" and "The Brother". The views from these rock outcroppings are excellent. Picnic and rest room facilities are available on the west side of the park. Trail length can vary from .5 to 4 miles depending on how many trail loops are combined.

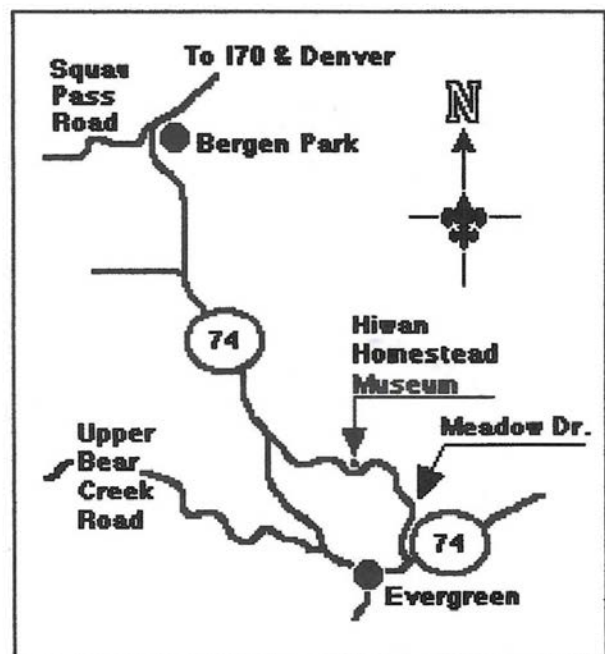
**How to get there:** Drive to Evergreen, to the stoplight in the center of town. Take the road south towards Conifer. In about .5 mile take the first main road (paved) which goes west, Buffalo Park Road, CR89. In about a mile you will pass Evergreen High School located on the south side of the road. Continue west and watch along the north side of the road for the first parking area for the park, there is a sign (no facilities). The second parking area is 1.5 miles further west on this road also to the north side of the road. Evergreen's Recreation District Center is also located here. Picnic and rest room facilities are available.



## 18-12 HIWAN HOMESTEAD MUSEUM

This is a 17 room log lodge built in 1890, it is on the National Register of Historical Places. Special tours of the lodge can be made for ten or more by calling 674-6262. This is a questionable activity for Scouts depending on their interest level and how well they can be kept under control. Hours — Summer hours: 11a.m. to 5 p.m., Winter hours: noon to 5 p.m.

**How to get to there:** The lodge is located a 4208 So. Timbervale Drive, just off Meadow Drive. As you arrive in Evergreen on CO74 from Morrison, Meadow Drive is to your right (north), and up the hill.



# 19 DENVER AND THE FRONT RANGE

## 19-1 CAMP NEWTON

Try something different by going to Camp Newton. Camp Newton is operated by the YMCA of Metropolitan Denver and is available year round. A variety of facilities are available. A two story Main Lodge is heated in the winter, it has a kitchen, hot water showers and rest rooms. Room is available for sleeping up to 30 people. The Tee Pee Lodge is available in the spring and fall months. Tent site camping is also available. Write or call for current rates. Camp Newton was formerly known as Beaver Ranch Camp for Children.

Drive Time: 1 Hour  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest,  
1992 edition

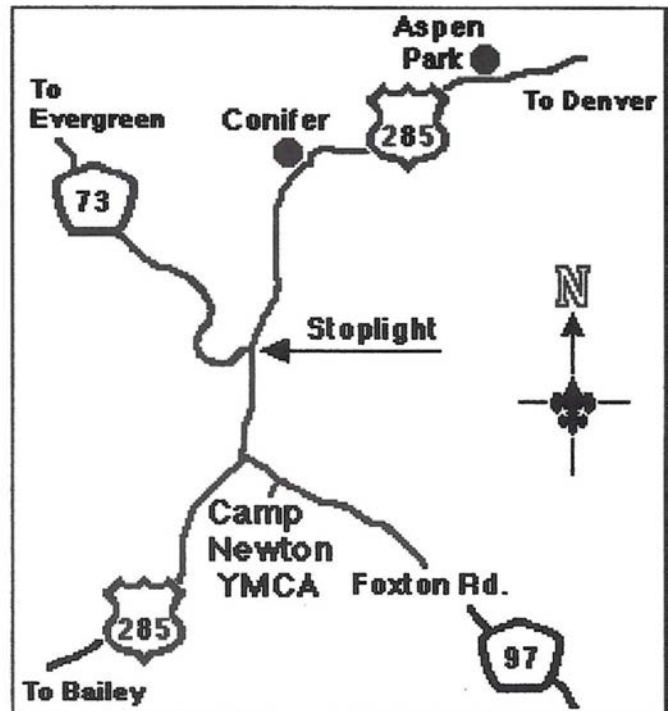
**How to get there:** Take U.S. 285 west to Conifer, continue .6 mile to the Foxtan Road (CR97), turn left (south), drive .3 mile to the Camp Newton entrance. Turn right and take the dirt road .3 mile to the parking area.

For information and reservations write to James Q. Newton, Camping Services Branch YMCA, 11369 Foxtan Road, Conifer, Colorado 80433 or call 1 (303) 383-5134.

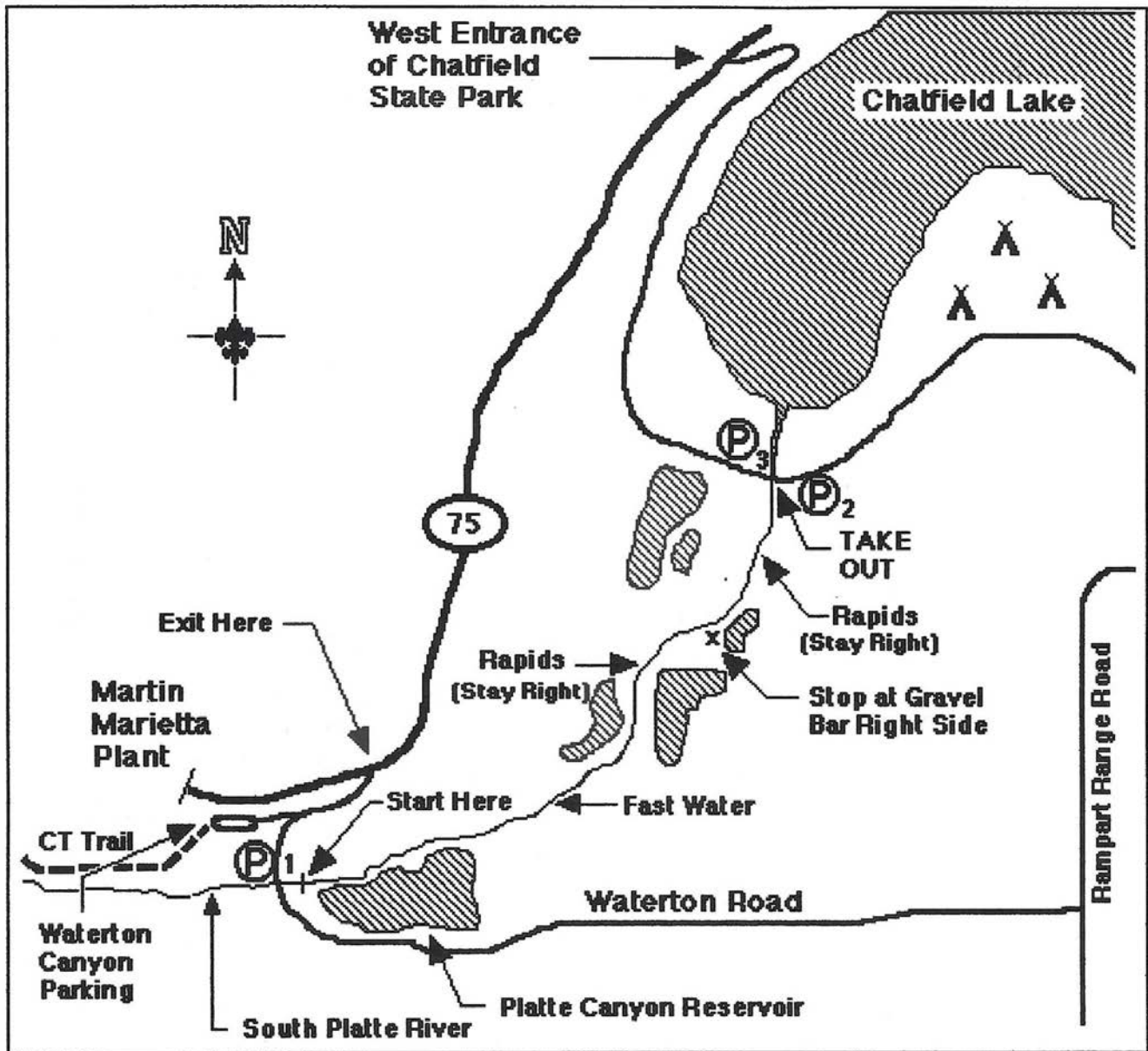
## 19-2 SOUTH PLATTE / CHATFIELD - CANOE TESTING

If you are ever in the need to train Scouts in the uses of canoes or rafts in a stream, so that they can experience rapids and rocks before you make a longer trip; here is the place. There is a four mile length of the South Platte River, from the Kassler Water Treatment Plant into the inlet of Chatfield Lake, that is available. It is a short drive and you can repeat the trip as many times as you wish.

Drive Time: 1 Hour  
Map Reference: Colorado State Highway  
Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition



## SOUTH PLATTE / CHATFIELD - CANOE TESTING



**How to get there:** Gain access to C470 and head to the southwestern part of the Metropolitan area. Exit C470 at the Wadsworth exit and proceed south on CO75. Drive south pass the west entrance to Chatfield State Park down to Kassler Road/Waterton Road which exits to the south from the 4 lane highway. You will pass a State Highway maintenance building, then pass the road that takes you to the parking area for Waterton Canyon. The bridge over the Platte River is next, it is time to look for a parking space. There are two options; park in the gravel storage area next to the river if the gate is open. The other option is to park along side the road to the north of the bridge. You will need to carry your canoe or raft about 300 feet downstream from the bridge, 150 feet below the dam.

The water can vary depending on the time of year or the amount of water being released by the Denver Water Department. If the water is moving make sure that your Scouts are on their knees, there will be fast water, rapids and rocks. Reference the map for notes about

rapids and rocks. There will be several small lakes along the side of the river, be sure to stop and look around.

Some adults will need to drive back to the west entrance of Chatfield State Park to pick up the group. From the west entrance of Chatfield Park drive south 2.5 miles through the park making the loop south of the lake. Where the road crosses the South Platte River there are parking spaces on both the south and north side of the road. This is the easiest spot to exit the river.



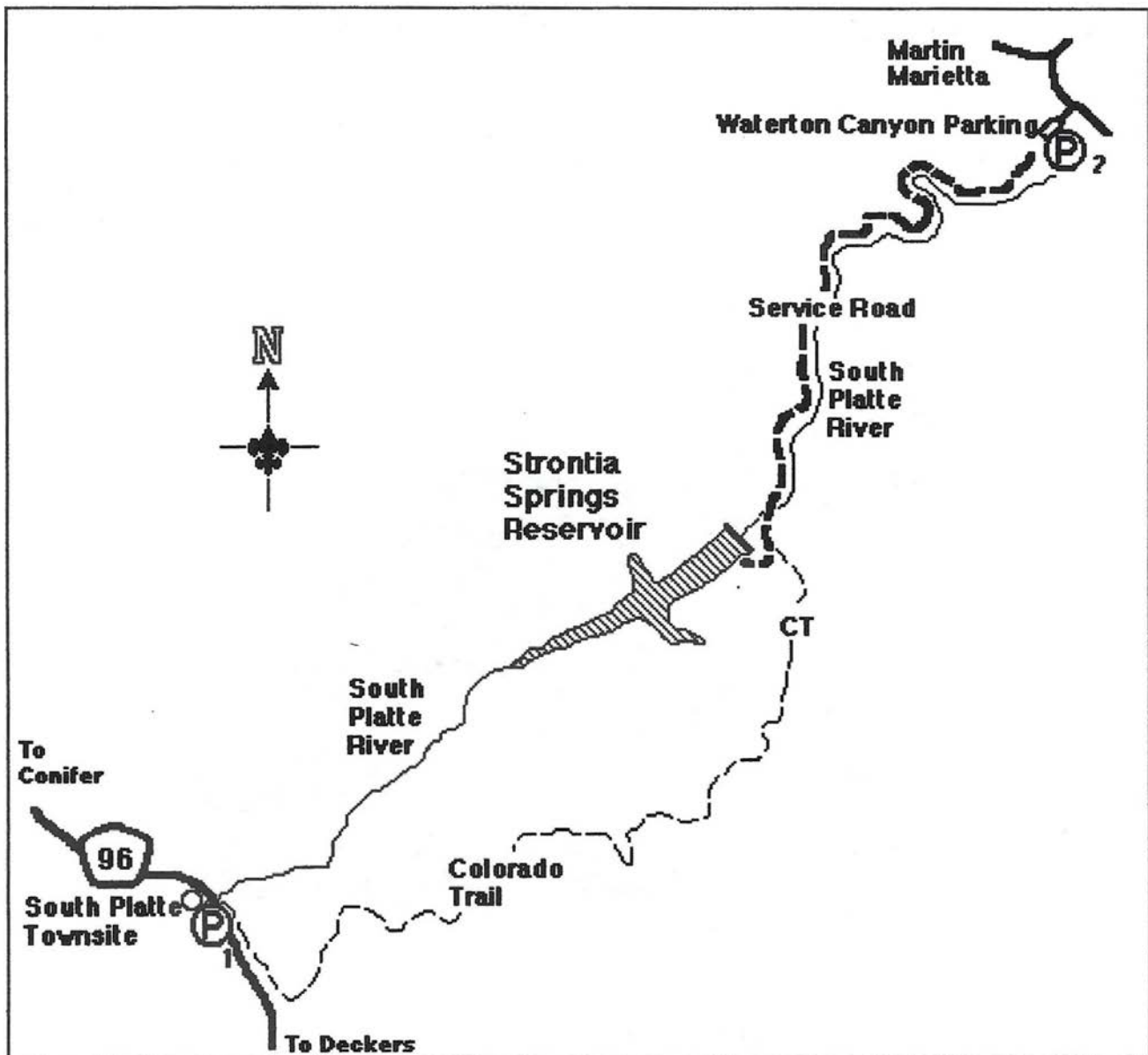
### **19-3 WATERTON CANYON - HIKE/BIKE**

Waterton Canyon is not far from the Martin Marietta plant southwest of Denver. The road up Waterton Canyon makes either a good day hike or bike ride. The road is dirt and gravel and climbs at a moderate grade to Strontia Springs Dam (about 6 miles). A regular 10 speed bike will work fine, a mountain bike is not necessary. Take your binoculars to view big horn mountain sheep. Take your fishing rod, but there is a 16 inch minimum size limit in most of the South Platte. There are some rattlesnakes in the canyon.

Drive Time: 1 Hour  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Find your way to South Wadsworth Blvd, and C470. Take CO75 south past Chatfield Lake. Just before you enter the Martin Marietta Plant there is a sign to the Kassler Water Treatment Plant and Roxborough Park. Turn left or south, almost immediately turn right into a parking area. At the far end of the parking area on the left





hand side is a gate, this is the place to start your hike or bike ride. You hike on a service road for Strontia Springs Dam which is 6.2 miles (one-way) or turn around at any point you like.

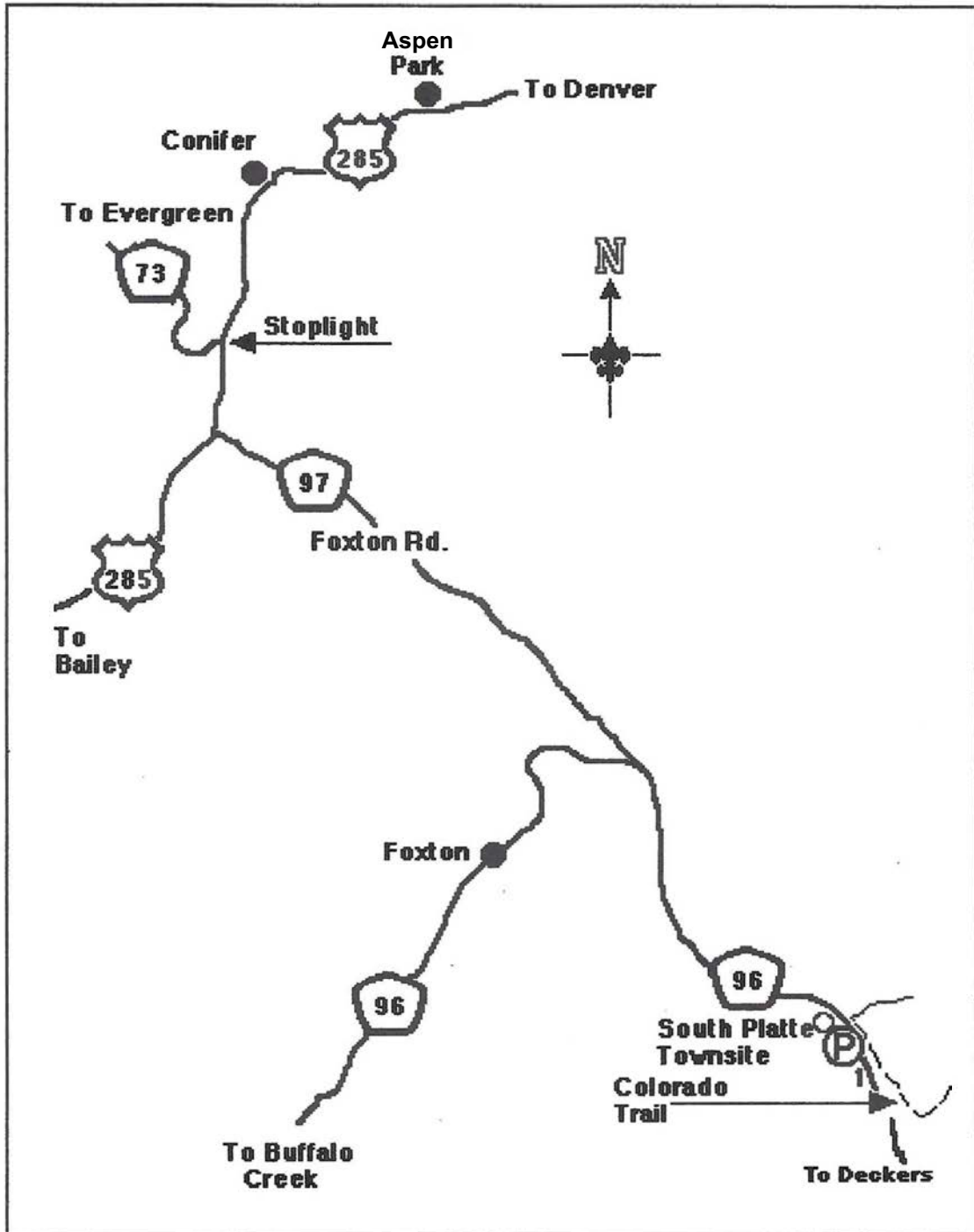
Note: Waterton Canyon is the starting point for the Colorado Trail which continues for 469 miles to Durango.

#### **19-4 WATERTON CANYON DOWNHILL - MT. BIKE/HIKE**

Another alternative for Waterton Canyon is to hike it downhill. This is a 16.1 mile downhill hiking trip with nice views of the Metropolitan area and eastern plains. Many people mountain bike this trail, but it would only be recommended for a few older Scouts with mountain biking experience.

Drive Time: 1 Hour  
Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 west through the foothills to Conifer. About .6 mile past the stoplight intersection at Conifer a county road will exit to the south called "Foxton Road" (CR97). Take this road for 7.5 miles, there will be an intersection, take the turn to the left, CR96, to the town site of South Platte, another 5 miles. This is where you park to hike down Waterton Canyon. A full day is needed for such a hike, carry extra water.



The trail starts on the south side of the Platte River. For the first 10 miles the trail travels high above the river, as much as a mile away. At 10.5 miles you will intersect with the service road to Strontia Springs Dam. Continue down the service road winding next to the Platte until you exit the canyon at the Kassler Water Treatment Plant.

Note: Of course you will need to arrange for transportation home. Here are directions to the parking lot near the Kassler Water Treatment Plant. From C470, exit at South Wadsworth Boulevard. Take CO75 south pass Chatfield State Park. Just before you enter the Martin Marietta Plant there is a sign to Kassler Water Treatment Plant and Roxborough Park. Turn left or south, almost immediately turn right into the Waterton Canyon parking area.

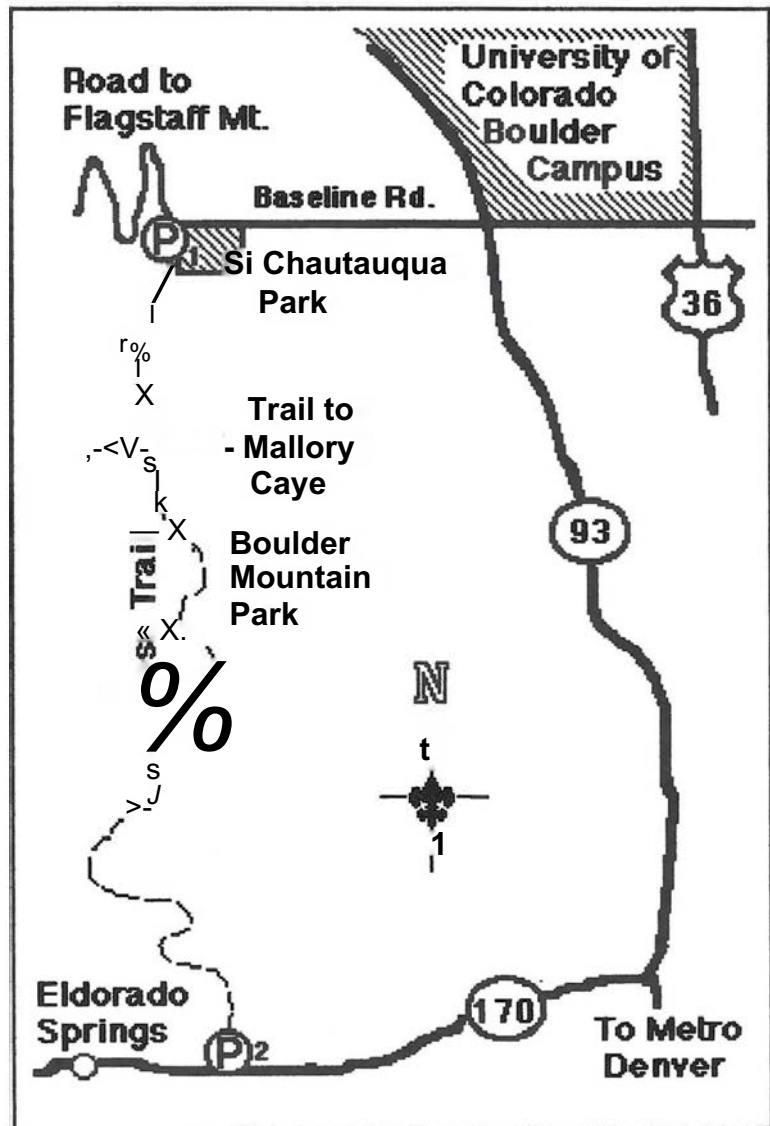
**19-5 MESA TRAIL - HIKE**

Mesa Trail is on the southwest corner of the city of Boulder, in Boulder Mountain Park. This trail starts just west of Chautauqua Park and parallels the Flatirons for 6 miles, until it reaches CO170, the road to Eldorado Springs. This is another two vehicle trip, leaving one in the parking area on the north side of CO170 and taking the other to Chautauqua Park Trailhead. Several trails interlock in this park; stay on Mesa Trail, north to south.

Drive Time: 1 Hour  
 Map Reference: Boulder Mountain Park, published by: Colorado Mountain Club

**How to get there:** Drive from Denver on US 36, exit on Baseline Road and travel west on Baseline. In about 1.5 miles you will pass Chautauqua Park on the south side of the street. At the west boundary of Chautauqua turn left (south); follow this road until it dead ends. There is a parking area, but it is often full.

A nice side trip is to Mallory Cave, about 1 mile south of the Chautauqua Trailhead, then



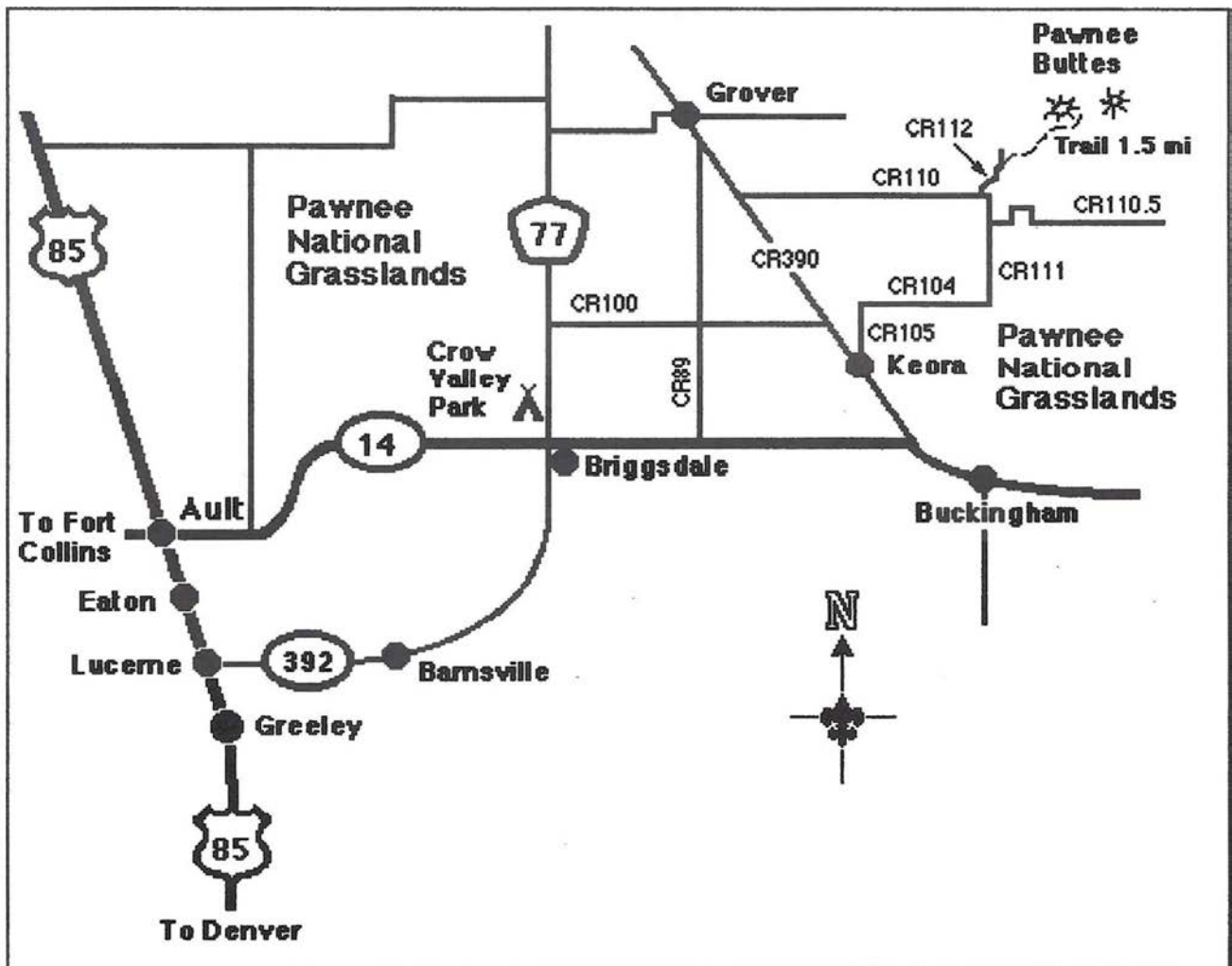
another .4 mile west. It is well marked. There are some exceptional views of Boulder, take a look backward once in a while.

Notes: No water is available along the trail. Facilities are only at the start and finish of the trip.

### 19-6 PAWNEE NATIONAL GRASSLAND - Car Camp

Pawnee National Grassland provides some unique opportunities for camping and discoveries. A little planning and some phone calls can make a stay in the Pawnee National Grassland more interesting and informative. First, call or write for your own information packet and Pawnee National Grassland map.

Drive Time: 2 - 3 Hours  
Map Reference: Colorado State Highway Map  
Pawnee National Grassland, 1969 edition  
Colorado Atlas and Gazetteer  
©1991 DeLorme Mapping



The bird watching and wildlife viewing provides observation opportunities if this is your interest. Notice on the map that the Pawnee Buttes are about 30 miles (one-way) from the Crow Valley Park, but the trip makes a good morning or afternoon activity. There are hiking opportunities especially near the Pawnee Buttes Area, so be sure to drive over and take a look.

There are two museums available. There is a museum at the old schoolhouse in Briggsdale, the hours are flexible, reservations can be made by calling 1 (303) 656-3812. The other museum is at Grover in the old railroad station displaying artifacts of the area, call 1 (303) 895-2349.

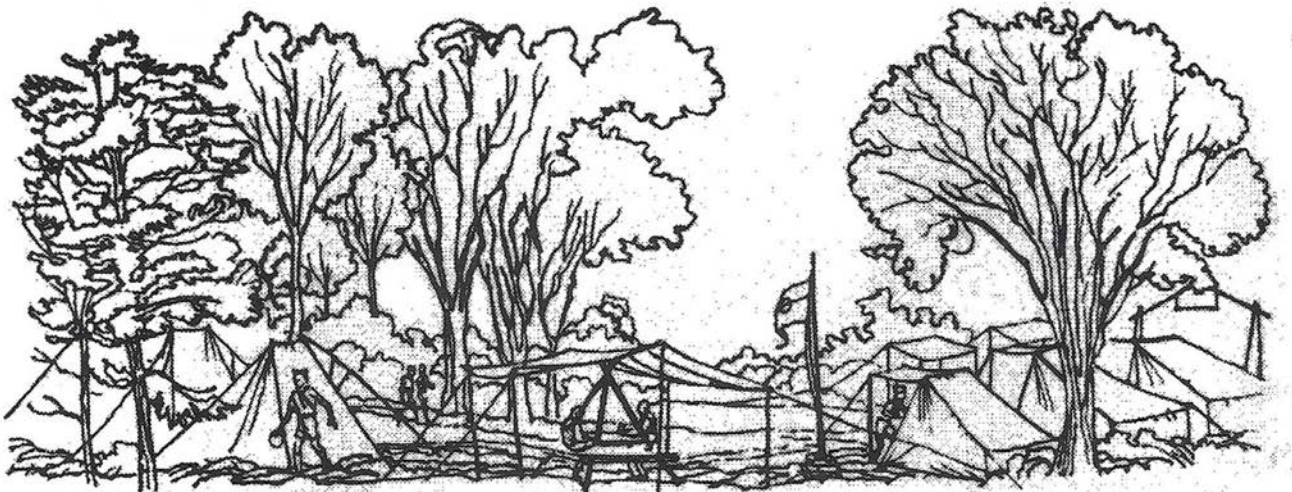
A nice campground is provided at Crow Valley Park which is just north of Briggsdale. There are large cottonwood trees at the campsite and interpretive talks during the summer about the grasslands. There is a group camping area at Crow Valley. Fees are paid thru a self service system at \$1.50 per person per night. There are two fire rings, water and toilets, but no tables. There is a baseball field adjoining the camping area available to use: you need to bring the ball and bat.

Note: Be sure to phone for your information packet, maps and to make reservations for facilities.

#### **Information and Reservations:**

Pawnee National Grassland  
660 "O" Street, Suite A  
Greeley, CO 8063  
Ph. (303)353-5004

**How to get there:** Take Interstate 25 north to Ft. Collins, take COM east to Ault. Continue on COM east to Briggsdale. Turn north just before Briggsdale onto CR77 to the Crow Valley Park. Get your campsite and then start your adventures.

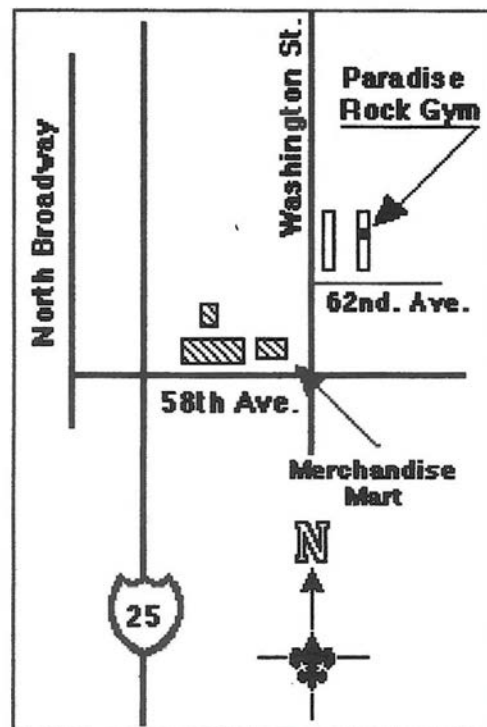


## 19-7 PARADISE ROCK GYM - DAY ACTIVITY

A neat alternative to a winter campout, or summer troop meeting is taking the troop to the Paradise Rock Gym. To do this with a group, reservations are required at the gym. When you call for reservations they will work with you determining your group's needs and quote you a group rate.

The gym is the largest in Colorado, it is located in a warehouse and capable of handling 80-100 climbers at a time. You can climb with your own equipment or the gym will rent you equipment. Rental equipment consist of rock climbing shoes, body harness, rope and all types of hardware needed for safety procedures. Beginners are welcome; free basic rock climbing, safety instruction and instruction on how to tie special knots is provided. The rock climbing procedures use a safety rope and a partner to make sure the climber does not fall.

Notes: Time allocated for this rock climbing effort should be somewhere between 3-5 hours. After that, body parts are so tired even the Scouts don't recoup for one last climb. It is also suggested that you schedule with the gym 4-6 weeks in advance. Release forms will need to be picked up and handed out in advance for parents, and Scout, to sign before the day of the climb.



### Hours:

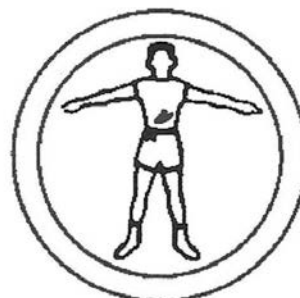
Mon-Wed-Fri:	3:00 pm - 11:00 pm
Tue-Thur:	11:00 am - 11:00 pm
Sat-Sun:	9:00 am - 6:00 pm

### Individual Cost:

Weekdays until 5 pm and after 9 pm	\$8.00
Weeknights between 5 - 9 pm	\$12.00
Sat. and Sun.	\$10.00
Equipment rental	\$5.00

### Contact:

Paradise Rock Gym  
6260 North Washington, Unit No. 5  
Denver, Colorado  
(303) 286-8168



**How to get there:** Take exit 215 from I-25 (58th Ave.) just north of Denver. Go east past the Denver Merchandise Mart to Washington Street, turn north on Washington and drive north to 62nd Street. Turn east 1/2 block; pass the first line of warehouse buildings, then turn north and find unit 5 in the second row of buildings.

### 19-8 THRILLSEEKERS ROCK GYM - DAY ACTIVITY

A smaller rock gym is located in south Denver. Training is provided for Scouts and Scouters so they can climb properly and safely. They will allow a group to come an hour earlier than the general public. Ropes and harnesses are provided free on your first visit. On return visits rental is \$3.00. Climbing shoes are not necessary but are available for a \$5.00 rental fee. They suggest that on a Scout's first visit he climbs in his tennis shoes, to save expense until he sees if he likes the sport.

#### Hours:

10:00 am - 10:00 pm - Seven days a week

#### Individual Cost:

Adults \$8.50  
Students \$6.50 - This may increase in the near future.

Call for information, reservations, and group rates for groups over ten.

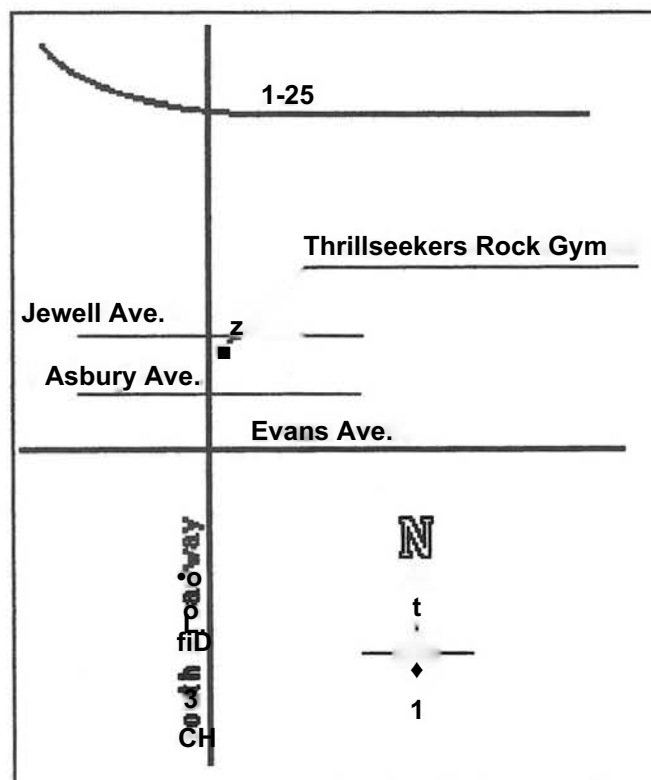
#### Waiver:

EVERYONE under 18 MUST have a parental signed waiver on file with the gym before doing any climbing. Parents may stop at the gym to sign the waiver. If signed off site each waiver MUST be notarized.

#### Contact:

Thrillseekers Inc.  
1912 South Broadway  
Denver, Colorado 80210  
1 (303) 733-8810

**How to get there:** Make your way to South Broadway; south of I-25, a couple blocks north of Evans. The rock gym is located on the east side of Broadway near Jewell in a former movie theater.

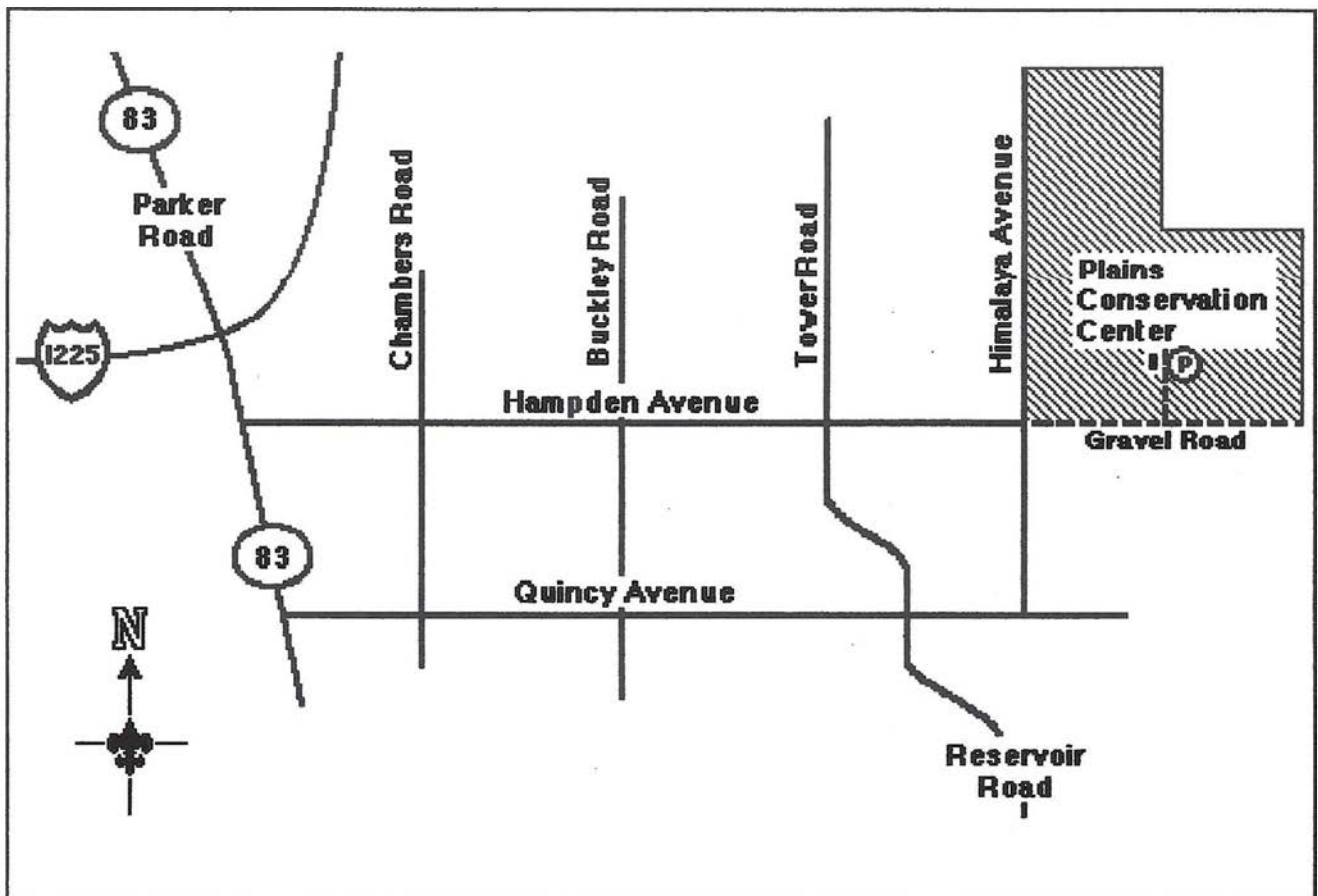


## 19-9 PLAINS CONSERVATION CENTER - DAY ACTIVITY/CAR CAMP

The Plains Conservation Center has developed an event calendar for the Scouting programs they offer for the entire year. This calendar can be obtained by calling the Center.

Some of the programs which are provided are: PCC overnight campouts with wagon rides and interpretive program, snake programs, and Native American campfire stories. Their monthly Scout Day has activities which fulfill merit badge requirements on Native Americans, knots and making good choices or you can plan your own Scout Day with the staff. An evening Moon Walk campfire includes a wagon ride, campfire and marshmallow roast and a theme of the month program. TIPI campfires include watching the sunset, Indian Camp campfire and the telling of Indian stories. Special event programs include: Volkmark - 10K walk, Haunted Prairie in October, Christmas in the Soddies in December, Eagle Scout recognition night, Coyote Moon Walk, etc., lots of neat programs set up to compliment the Scouting program. Call for printed schedules, fees, and reservation form:

Plains Conservation Center  
21901 East Hampden Avenue  
Aurora, CO 80013  
Ph: 1 (303) 693-3621





**How to get there:** Go to Parker Road and 1-225, exit to Parker Road going southeast. The first main intersection with Parker Road is Hampden, turn east. Travel east on Hampden Avenue for 4 miles; after crossing Himalaya Avenue go .75 mile, turn north into the Plains Conservation Center. The parking area will be on your right in about .25 mile. The Resource Center/Office is on the west side of the road.

## **BICYCLE RIDES IN THE METROPOLITAN AREA**

The following four bicycle trips are in the Metropolitan area. These rides are designed to meet the requirements for the 25 mile rides needed for the Bicycling merit badge. Several of the trips can be combined to make the 50 mile bicycle trip. The map references listed below provide hike and bike trail guides which can be used for these trips. These maps are available at all good bike shops.

Map Reference: Bicycling Denver, 1994 edition  
Denver Bicycle Touring Club,  
P.O. Box 8973, Denver, CO 80201  
Ph. (303) 798-3713

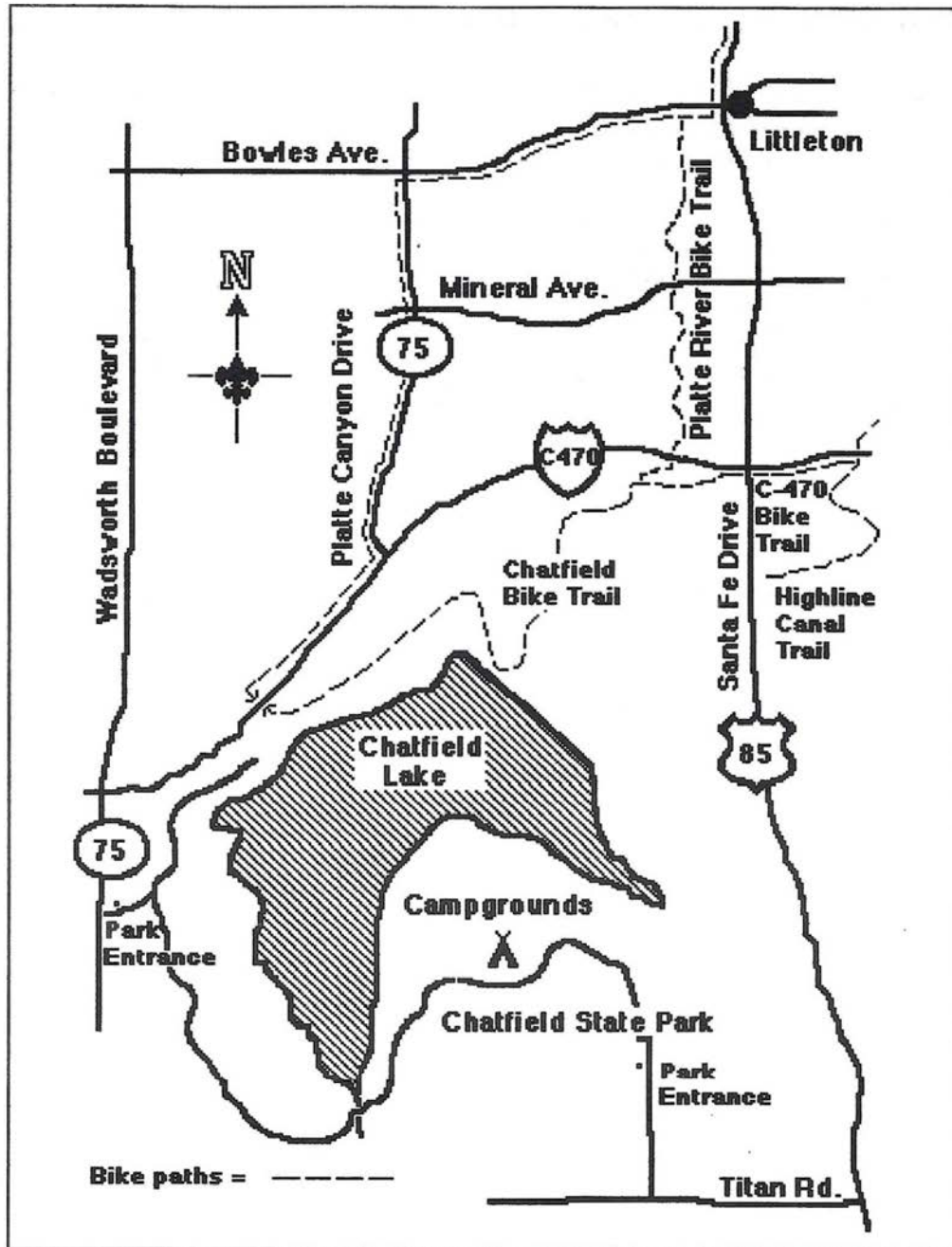
Urban Trails of Colorado - Denver Metro Area, map published by  
The Colorado Lottery, 1993 edition (free)

Urban Trails of Colorado - North Front Range, map published by  
The Colorado Lottery, 1993 edition (free)

## **19-10 CHATFIELD STATE PARK - BIKE / CAMPOUT**

The Platte River Bike Trail can provide easy access to Chatfield State Park for either an all day bike trip or an overnight campout. Several tributary bike trails provide access to this primary trail. The Platte River Greenway Bike Trail starts on the north side of Denver where North Washington crosses the South Platte River and turns into 38th Street. There is a small park on the south side of the Platte River; 38th Street at Arkins Court, known as Globeville Landing; off street parking is available in the park. This bike trail travels south pass Confluence Park, downtown Denver and continues into Englewood. At Riverfront, located at Sante Fe and Bowles, you have two options. First, you can continue south on the Greenway Bike Trail, under C470 and go either into Chatfield State Park (west) or onto the C470 Bike Trail to the east. A second option is to travel west on Bowles Avenue (follow the bike path to keep out of traffic) for .5 mile to Platte Canyon Road. Turn south on the bike path that parallels Platte Canyon Road. This trail goes all the way to Chatfield State Park.

Notes: Bring tire patching equipment, there seems to be a lot of thorns along the bike path. Thorn-proof tubes would be of help. Contact Chatfield State Park for information, current fees and reservations if you are planning to camp overnight. Reservations must be made well in advance during the warmer months.



Facilities at Chatfield:

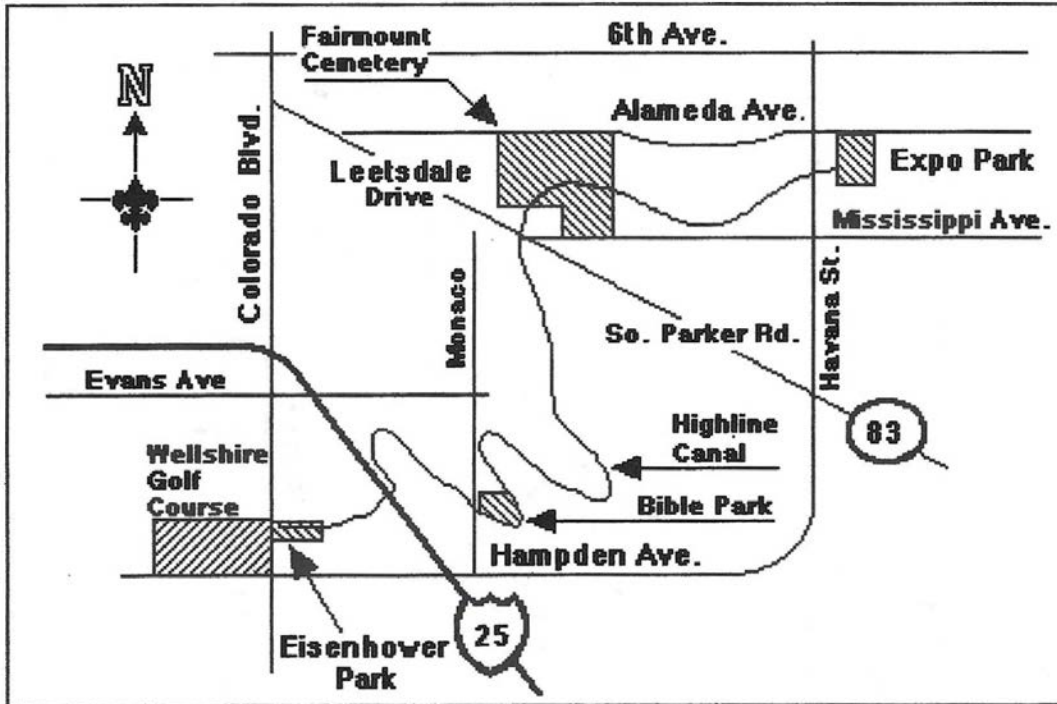
- Group campsite up to 150 persons per group
- 153 individual campsites
- One table and fire pit per individual campsite
- Water, toilets, showers and laundry available

Chatfield State Park  
 11500 North Roxborough Park Road  
 Littleton, Colorado 80125  
 1 (303) 791-7275



## 19-11 SOUTH DENVER TO AURORA - BIKE

**The trip:** This ride starts from the Eisenhower Park Recreation Center parking lot at Dartmouth and Colorado Blvd, and follows the Highline Canal hike/bike trail to Exposition Park in Aurora and returns to make 25 miles, or you can reverse the sequence.

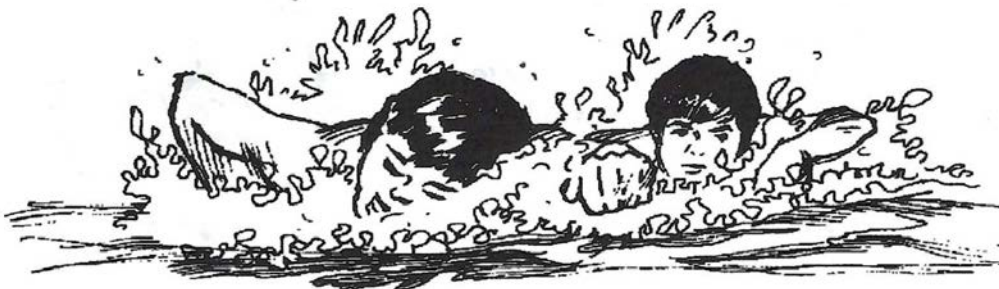


Distance: Approximately 25 miles round trip

Bicycling time: 4 hours at a pace that's kind to a not so young leader

Topography: Flat

Points of interest: Eisenhower Park, Bible Park, Prairie Dog Village behind Los Verdes Country Club, Fairmount Cemetery, Exposition Park and last but not least the Dairy Queen near the trail crossing at Quebec St.



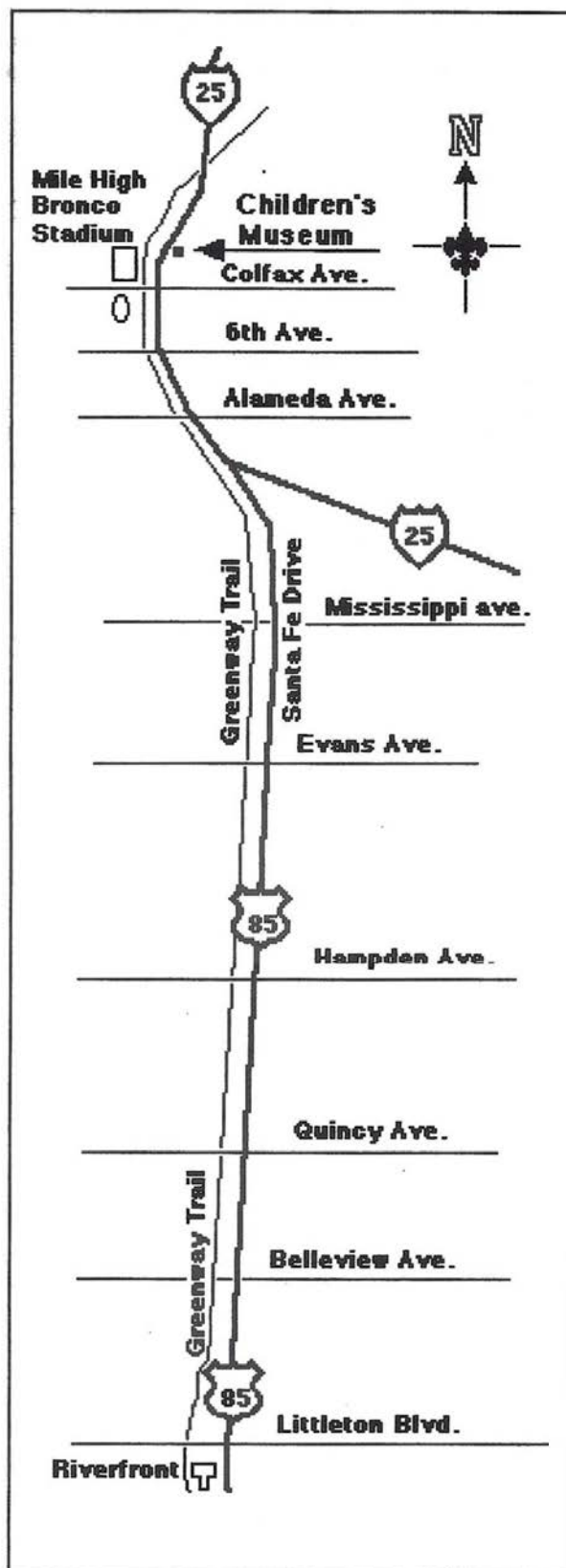
## 19-12 LITTLETON TO DENVER - BIKE

**The trip:** This ride will take you from the starting point at Riverfront Market in Littleton to the Children's Museum in Denver. The Bike/Hike trail follows along the Platte River Greenway Trail.

Distance: Approximately 25 miles round trip

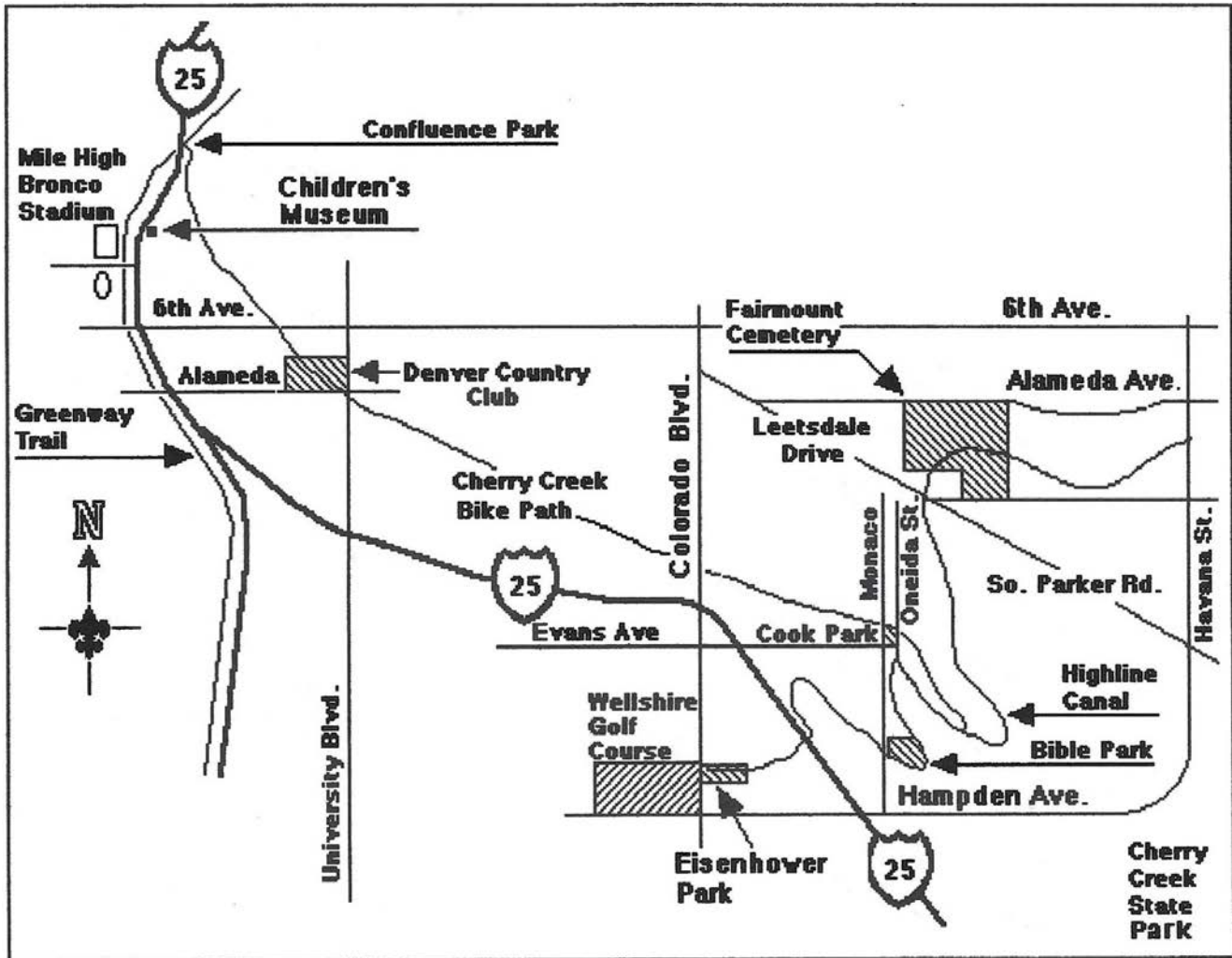
Bicycling Time: 4 Hours at a very nice sightseeing pace

Topography: Flat



## 19-13 SOUTH DENVER TO DOWNTOWN - BIKE

**The trip:** This ride starts at the Eisenhower Park Recreation Center parking lot at Dartmouth and Colorado Blvd, and follows the Highline Canal Trail. At .75 mile beyond the north boundary of Bible Park exit the canal trail on Oneida Street. The trail goes down a steep hill on Oneida St. Follow along Oneida to Cook Park where you will join the Cherry Creek hike\bike path. Cycle the Cherry Creek bike path northwest to Confluence Park.



Distance: Approximately 25 miles round trip

Bicycling Time: 4 Hours at a sightseeing pace

Topography: Flat

Points of interest: Bible Park, Cook Park, Garland Park, Denver Country Club, Speer Blvd., Downtown Denver, Confluence Park and the Childrens Museum.

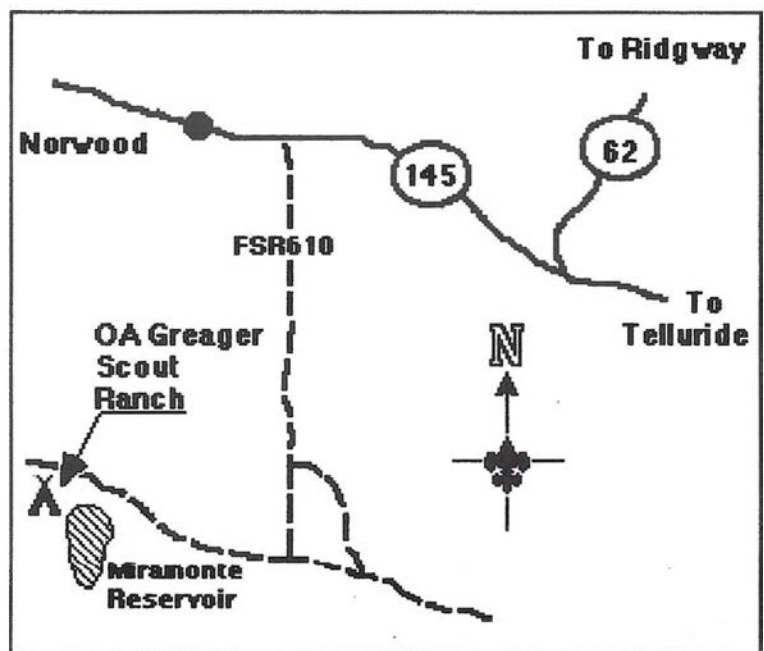
# 20 BSA COUNCIL CAMPS

## 20-1 OA GREAGER SCOUT RANCH

Operated by the Western Colorado Council, O.A. Greager Scout Ranch is located 17 miles south of Norwood on the north side of Miramonte Reservoir. Summer camp is available at OA Greager, but weekend camping is not.

Drive Time: Full Day  
Map Reference: State Highway Map  
Uncompahgre Nt. Forest, 1972 edition

**How to get there:** Drive to Montrose via your favorite route. From Montrose, take US 550 south, at Ridgway turn right on CO62. At Placerville turn right onto CO145 to Norwood. About 1.5 miles before Norwood a gravel road turns south to Miramonte Reservoir, FSR610. Continue south for 11 miles, at the point where several roads go off to the east, the road to O.A. Greager, FSR610, turns to the right. Continue west for 7 miles. The camp is located on the north side of the reservoir.



Western Colorado Council,  
B.S.A.  
839 Grand Avenue  
Grand Junction, Colorado 81501  
1 (303) 243-0346

## 20-2 BEN DELATOUR SCOUT RANCH

Drive Time: 3 Hours  
Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

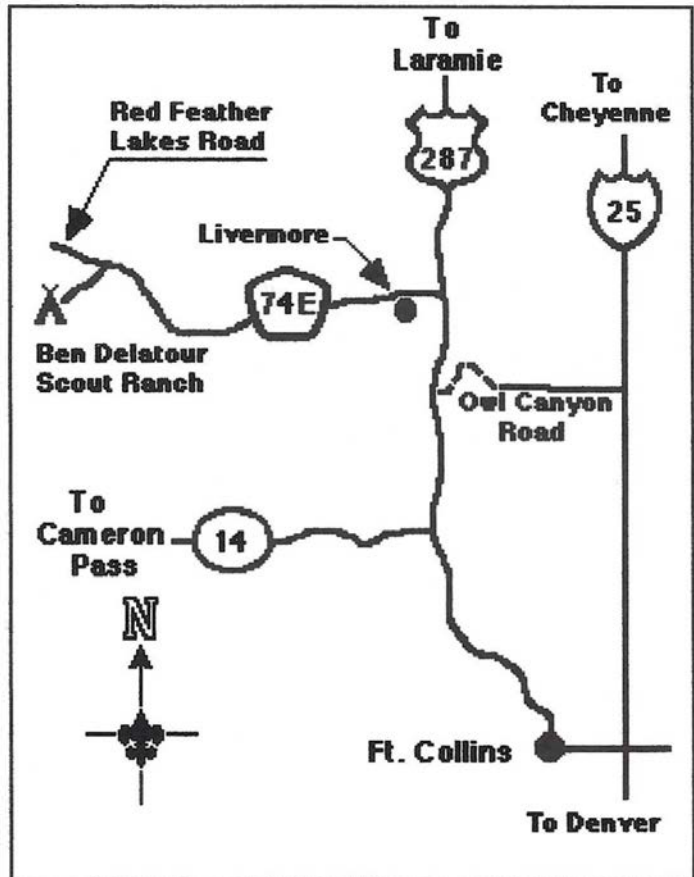
The Ben Delatour Scout Ranch is run by Longs Peak Council and is located northwest of Ft. Collins. The camp is open all year for weekend camping and offers a summer camp program. It is located 36.5 miles from Ft. Collins.

Weekend Tent Camping - yes  
 Cabin Camping - No  
 Summer Camp - Yes  
 Write for current fees, dates and programs.

**How to get there:** Take 1-25 north to Ft. Collins. Exit on CO14, as you near Ft. Collins take US 287 north. Follow US 287 for approximately 20 miles until you reach an intersection called "The Forks." Turn west on CR74E and drive to the little town of Livermore. Take a mileage reading at Livermore, Ben Delatour is 16.5 miles west of Livermore. This county highway jigs and jags, but basically goes west. In 16.5 miles look for a Ben Delatour sign on the south side of the highway. If you miss the sign you'll end up at Red Feather Lakes.

Ben Delatour has 35,000 acres with unique rock climbing, and two hiking trails . The "Orange Trail" is ten miles long and the "Gregg Boundary Trail" or "Blue Trail" is 15 miles in length. Contact Longs Peak Council for information, a map and trail guides. To make reservations for weekend camping or summer camp contact the Council office in Greeley.

Longs Peak Council, B.S.A.  
 P.O. Box 1166  
 Greeley, Colorado 80631  
 1 (303) 330-6305



**20-3 CAMP ALEXANDER**

Camp Alexander is operated by the Pikes Peak Council located in Colorado Springs.

Drive Time: 2 Hours  
 Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

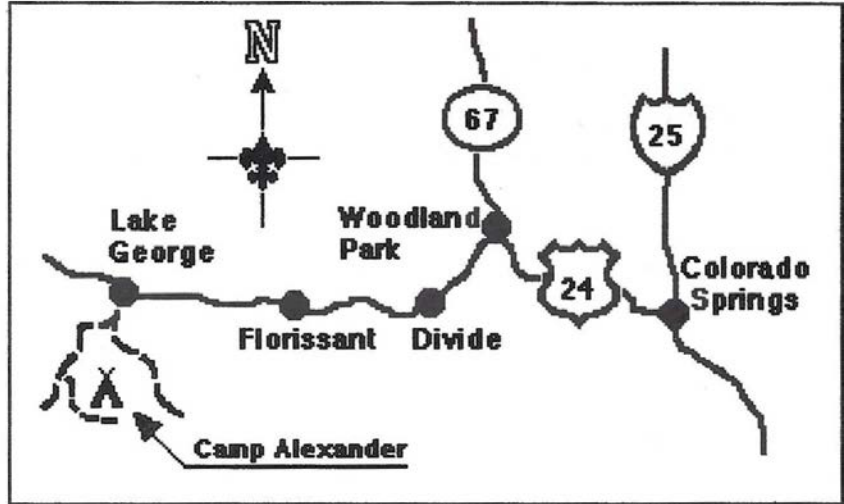
Camp Alexander is open all year for both weekend camping and summer camp. It is located in scenic Eleven Mile Canyon approximately 40 miles west of Colorado Springs.

Weekend Tent Camping - No charge  
 Weekend Cabin Camping - Yes, charge per cabin  
 Summer Camp - Yes  
 Contact the Council office for current fees and dates.

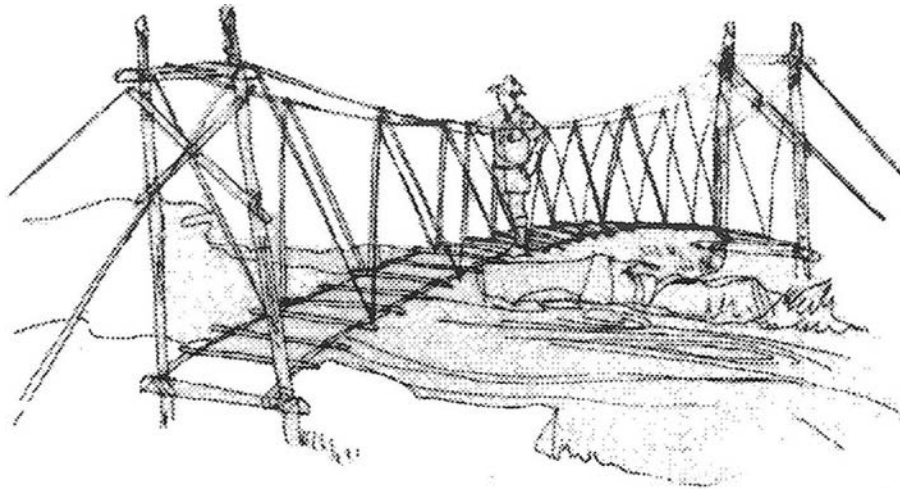
**How to get there:** Take I-25 south to Colorado Springs. Take US 24 west through Woodland Park and Divide to Lake George (approximately 40 miles). Turn south at Lake George following CO96. About 1.25 miles south of Lake George take the right turn, continue another 1.75 miles.

You will enter a canyon and parallel the South Platte River for the last 1.75 miles. Camp Alexander is located on the east side (your left as you travel south) of CR96. It is documented on the Pike National Forest Map.

To make reservations for weekend camping or arrangements for summer camp contact:



Pikes Peak Council, B.S.A.  
525 East Uintah  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903  
1 (719)634-1584



## 20-4 CAMP TAHOSA

Camp Tahosa is located about 60 miles northwest of the Denver Metropolitan area. It is high in the mountains, at 9600 feet elevation, with 320 acres. Tahosa is available for weekend camping. During the summer the Tahosa Challenge program is offered. During the winter, OKPIK, the winter survival training course is available. Summer camp is not available.



Drive Time: 1.5 Hours

Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

Fees as of December 1994:

Weekend Tent Camping - \$1.00 per person per 24 hour period

Weekend Cabin Camping - \$25.00 per night

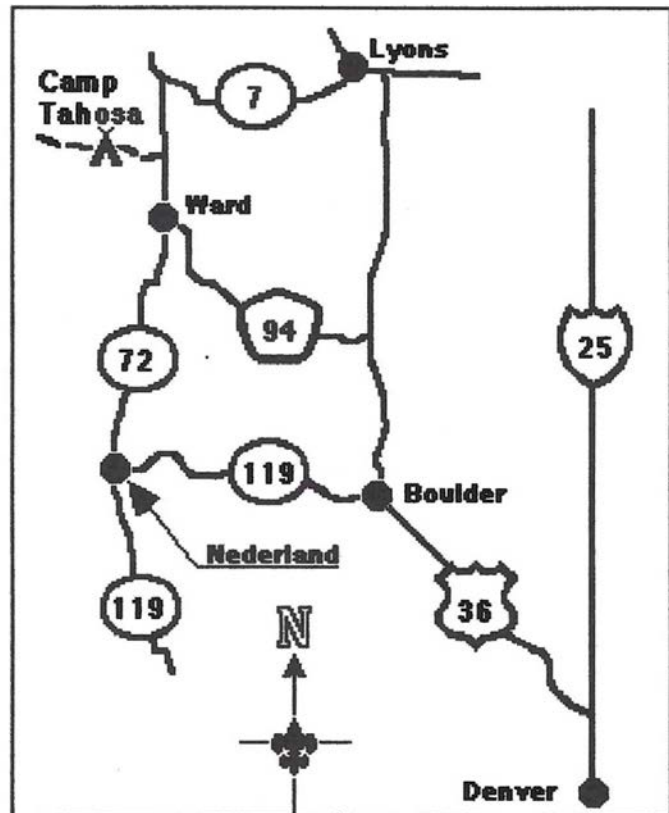
Tahosa Challenge - \$ Check with Denver Area Council

OKPIK - \$45.00 per weekend

**How to get there:** To access Camp Tahosa from Denver drive northwest to Boulder. Take Canyon Blvd, or Arapahoe Ave. west, the streets eventually merge into CO119. Continue west into Nederland, turn north on CO72. You will pass the outskirts of Ward, 4.5 miles beyond Ward turn west off CO72 onto CR96 to Camp Tahosa. There is a sign for Tahosa on CO72, but it appears quickly so be on the lookout for the sign.

Be sure to reserve your campsite or cabin in advance at the Denver Area Council Service Center.

Denver Area Council, B.S.A.  
2901 W. 19th Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80204  
1 (303) 455-5522



## 20-5 PEACEFUL VALLEY SCOUT RANCH

Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch is one of two Denver Area Council camps. It is about 50 miles southeast of the Metropolitan Denver area. The elevation is around 7200 feet. Peaceful Valley has both weekend camping and summer camp programs available. Camp Cris Dobbins, Camp Deitler and Family Adventure Camp provide programs with different emphasis during the summer. Obtain current program information from the Denver Area Council Service Center.

Drive Time: 1+Hour

Map Reference: Colorado Highway Map

Fees for weekend use, as of December 1994:

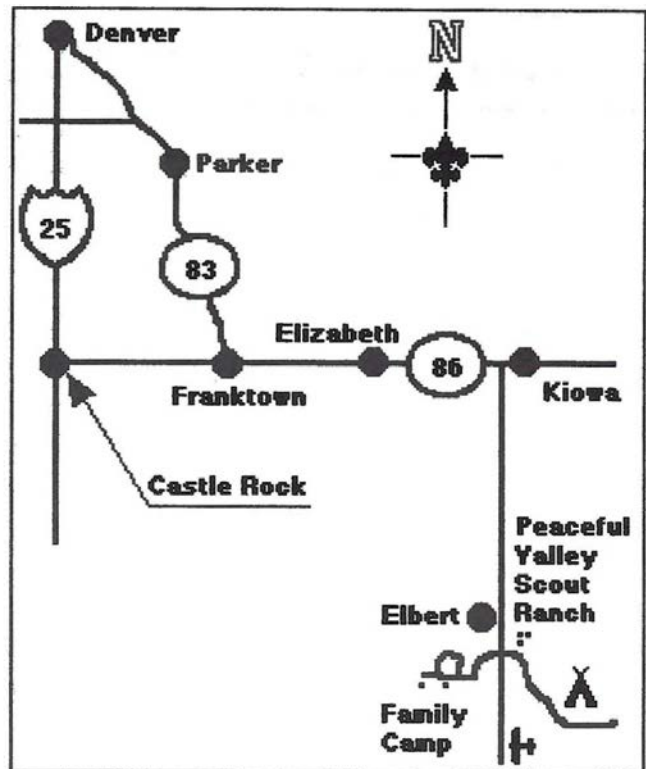
Tent Camping -\$1.00 per person per 24 hour period

Chris Dobbins - Lodges (3) up to 20 campers each, \$40.00 no heat, \$75.00 heated per 24 hours. (Not available from Memorial Day to Labor Day)

**How to get there:** To reach Peaceful Valley from Denver drive CO83 (Parker Road) south through Parker to the community of Franktown. In Franktown turn east onto CO86. Take this highway east through Elizabeth and on to Kiowa. Just before (within sight) Kiowa, turn south on a paved county road. Drive south 12 miles to Elbert, continue about one mile south of Elbert and you have arrived at PV.

Be sure to reserve your campsite or cabin in advance with the Council office.

Denver Area Council, B.S.A.  
2901 W. 19th Ave.  
Denver, Colorado 80204  
1 (303) 455-5522



#### ON THE RANCH ACTIVITIES:

- **The Crevices**

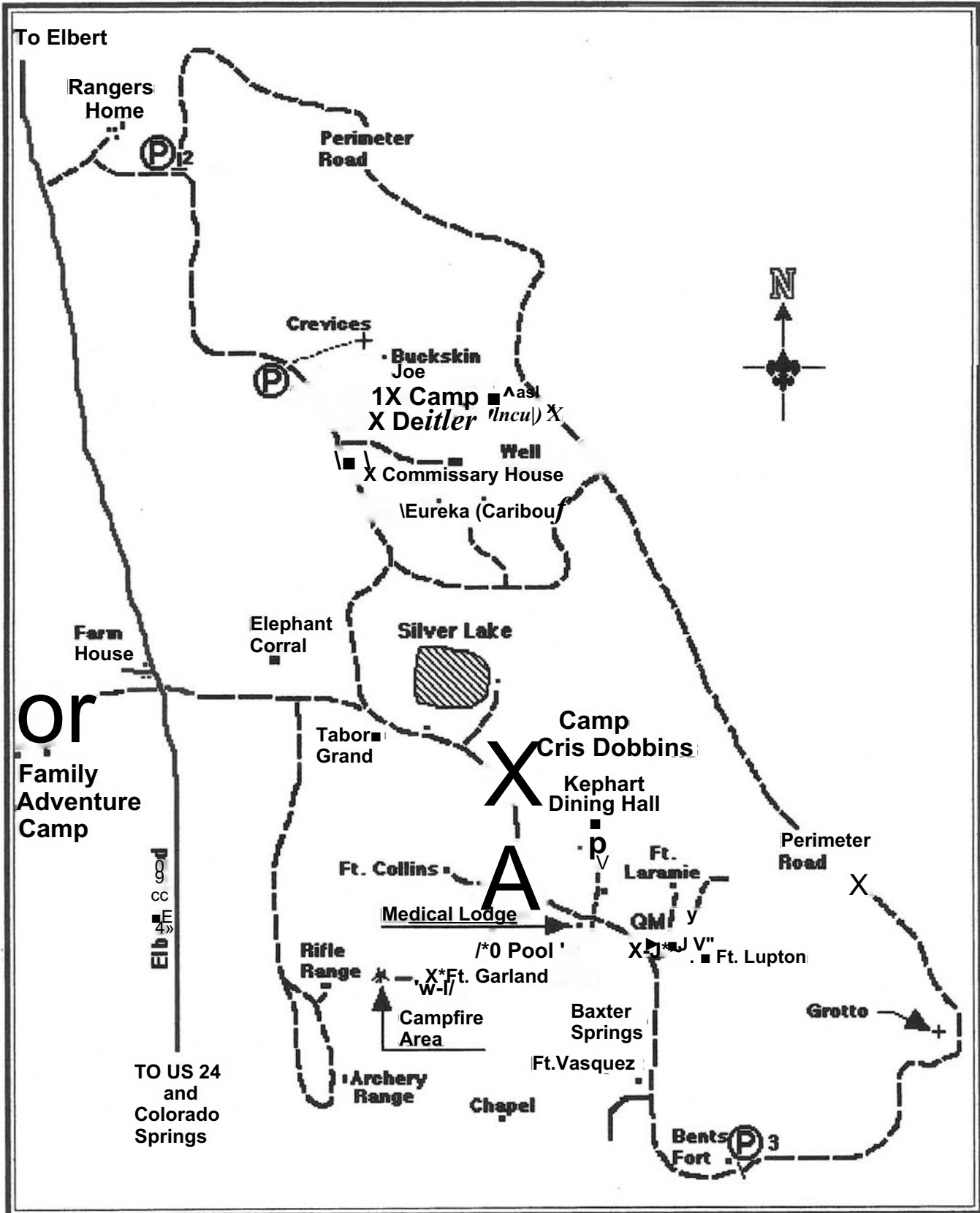
The Crevices have always been a favorite activity for troops while visiting PV. The Crevices consist of a series of rock separations triggered by erosion and freezing of water over many thousands of years. You can walk, you can crawl, you can climb up and crawl out of holes onto the mesa. Scouts usually spend 1-2 hours here before they lose interest.

**How to get there:** The Crevices are located in the rock formation that supports the large mesa north of Silver Lake. To find the Crevices drive northwest of the main entrance to Camp Deitler for .2 mile. There will be another valley angling northeast. Park your vehicles here, noted on the map as (P)1 and hike up the valley. When you get to the rock outcropping stay to the right and start uphill; you will come across the bottom portion of the Crevices. Another way to find the Crevices is to hike to the west side of the Buckskin Joe campsite at Camp Deitler, due west of this campsite are the Crevices.

- **Hiking the Perimeter Road around PV:**

The Perimeter Road is the road that follows the ranch's property boundary. It starts just southeast of the rangers home (P)2 and exits at Bent's Fort cabin (P)3. This hike is 3.5 miles in distance and provides many interesting views of camp. This is a good morning or afternoon activity and you get to see portions of camp that you may have never seen. It is suggested that each Scout bring his day pack and at least a quart of water. You can start at either end, depending on the vehicle situation. See the map for more details.

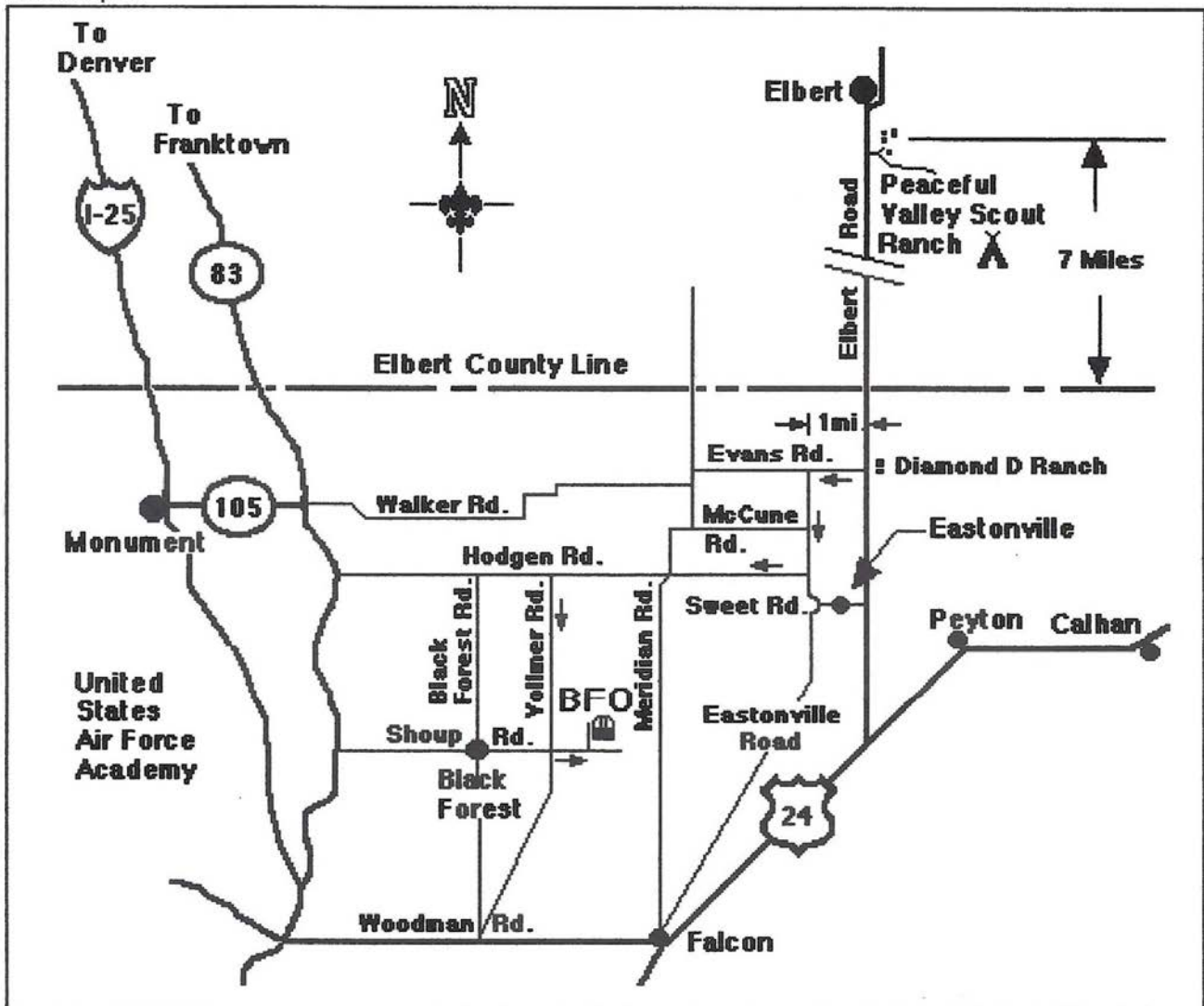
# PEACEFUL VALLEY SCOUT RANCH



## VICINITY ACTIVITY:

### © Black Forest Observatory

Southwest of Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch near the community of Black Forest is the Black Forest Observatory. This Observatory is run by a nonprofit organization to help educate the youth of the area. An evening program can be arranged by calling for a reservation. The program consist of a short orientation discussion, a 20 minute narrated slide show of celestial objects and the rest of the evening is spent viewing the sky through a 24" telescope.



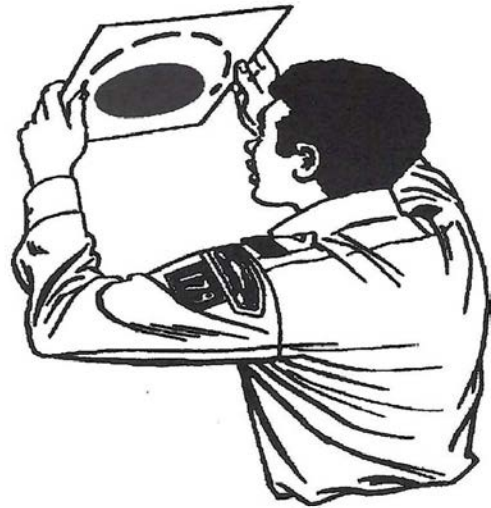
### Where to get information or make reservations:

Black Forest Observatory  
12815 Porcupine Lane  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80908  
1 (719) 495-3828

Private Group Rates (as of 10/93)  
1-14 People \$50.00  
15-24 People \$75.00  
25-40 People \$100.00

Public Viewing Night \$ 5.00 per person

**How to get there:** From PV drive south on Elbert Road (the county road which provides access to Peaceful Valley Scout Ranch) for 7 miles passing over the Elbert / El Paso County Line. Several gravel roads can be taken west and then south to the observatory. The observatory is noted on the map as BFO. Recommendation on how to get there; About 7 miles south of the Scout Ranch turn west on Evans Road. Turn south in 1 mile on the Eastonville Road. At the Hodgen Road turn west and travel west for about 5 miles. The first main road south that will take you to the observatory is Vollmer Road. Take Vollmer Road south for five miles until it intersects with Shoup Road. At this intersection the observatory is to your left or east about a mile and the community of Black Forest is to the west about 2 miles. Turn east on Shoup Road and drive 1 mile to Porcupine Lane. Porcupine Lane goes north from Shoup Road, the address of the observatory is 12815 Porcupine Lane.



**20-6 SAN ISABEL SCOUT RANCH**

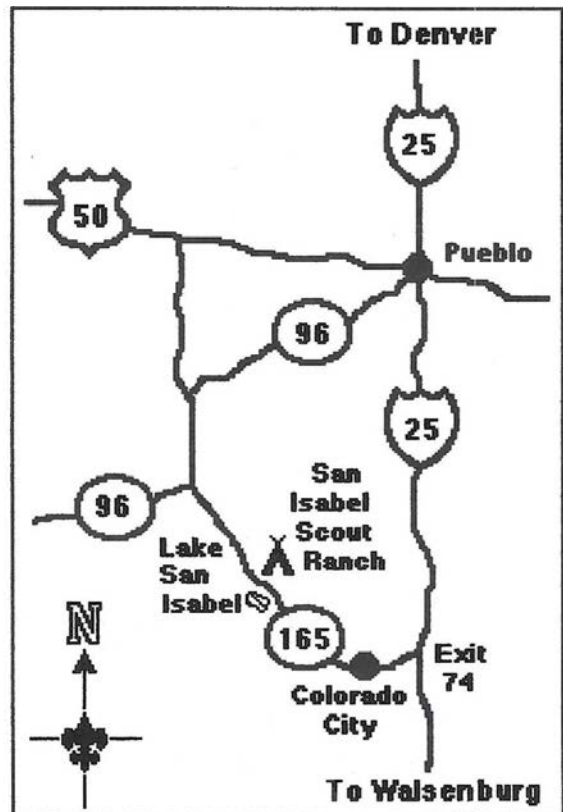
The San Isabel Scout Ranch is run by the Rocky Mountain Council and is located southwest of Pueblo. Elevation is 8,500 feet. Summer camp is available during the months of June and July. A phone call can provide you the current weekend information. The Council runs an interesting high adventure program, see section 21-6 in the High Adventure chapter for details.

Drive Time: 3 Hours  
 Map Reference; San Isabel Nt.  
 Forest, 1993 edition

**How to get there:** Take I-25 south through both Colorado Springs and Pueblo. Continue another 25 miles south on I-25 to Colorado City, Exit 74. Exit to the west and follow CO165 northwest for approximately 15 miles. San Isabel Scout Ranch will be on the east side of CO165.

To make arrangements; or, for more information, contact the Rocky Mountain Council in Pueblo.

Rocky Mountain Council, B.S.A.  
 411 South Pueblo Boulevard  
 Pueblo, Colorado 81005-0292  
 Phone: 1 (719) 561-1220



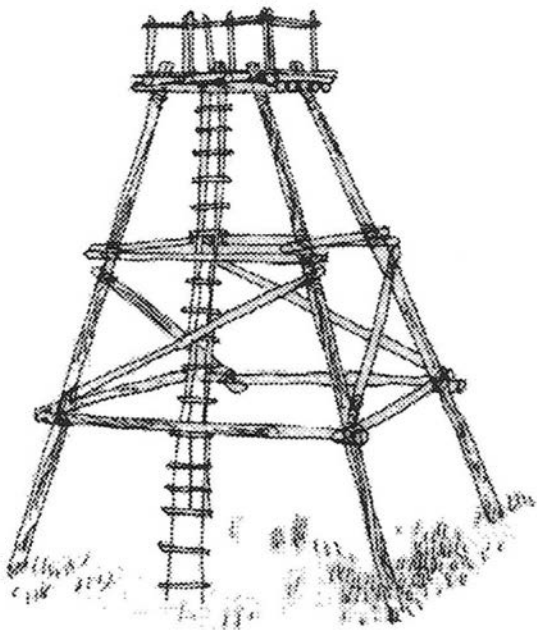
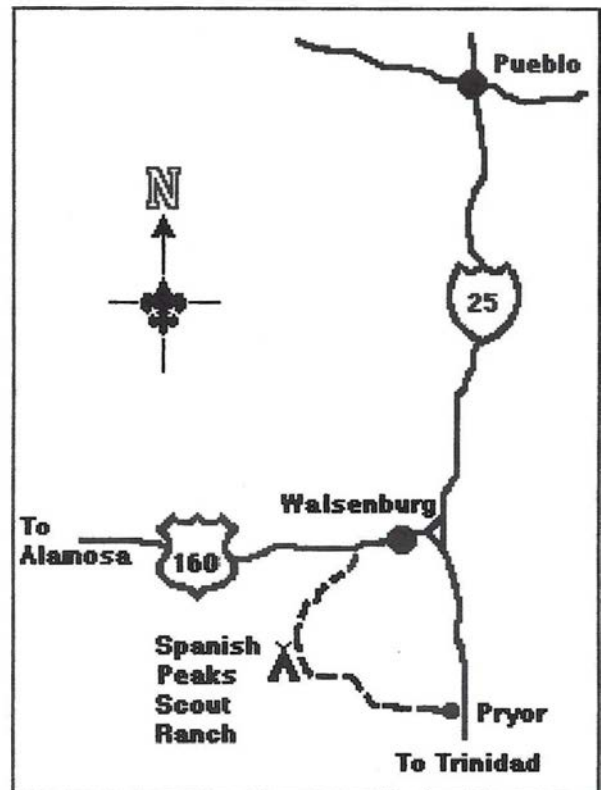
## 20-7 SPANISH PEAKS SCOUT RANCH

The Spanish Peaks Scout Ranch is located southwest of Walsenburg and is operated by the Santa Fe Trail Council.

Drive Time: 4 Hours  
Map Reference: Colorado Highway Map

A true wilderness camp with 300 acres adjacent to the San Isabel National Forest. With the backdrop of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain Range there is abundant wildlife, pine, fir and aspen forest. A seven day summer camp program is offered. A winter camping program is offered, call the Council office for details.

**How to get there:** Take I-25 south from the Denver area through Pueblo to Walsenburg. Turn off at exit 52 onto US 160. Drive west through Walsenburg. A short distance (about a mile) west of town a gravel road turns south and crosses a bridge, there is a small camp sign. Travel 15 miles southwest until you reach the camp. Eventually this gravel road will exit at Pryor and I-25.



For more information, fees or summer camp dates contact:

Santa Fe Trail Council, B.S.A.  
304 N. Main Street  
Garden City, Kansas 67846  
1 (316) 275-5162



## 20-8 MEDICINE MOUNTAIN SCOUT CAMP

If you would like something different for summer camp try the Medicine Mountain Scout Camp located in the heart of the Black Hills in western South Dakota. The camp consist of 160 acres surrounded by National Forest land, making it an ideal setting for hiking and camping. An eight acre lake provides excellent swimming, canoeing, rowing, sailing and fishing. There is an excellent aquatics program. There is patrol cooking; no dining hall. Troops need to bring their own tents and cooking gear. A family campground is across the road. Be sure to see attractions while in the area; such as, Wind Cave National Park, Jewell Cave National Monument, Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse Monument and Custer State Park.

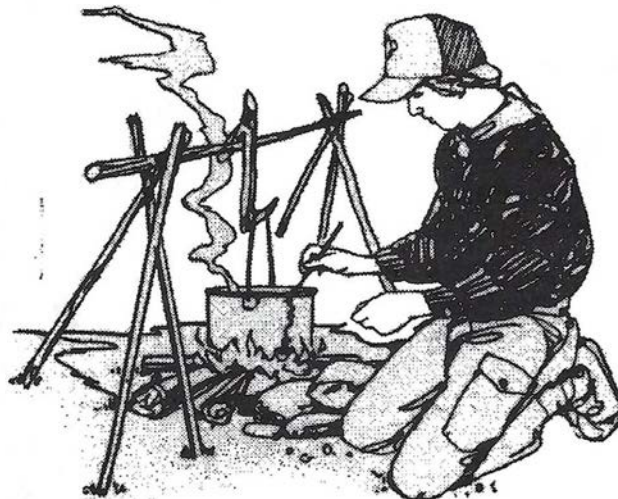
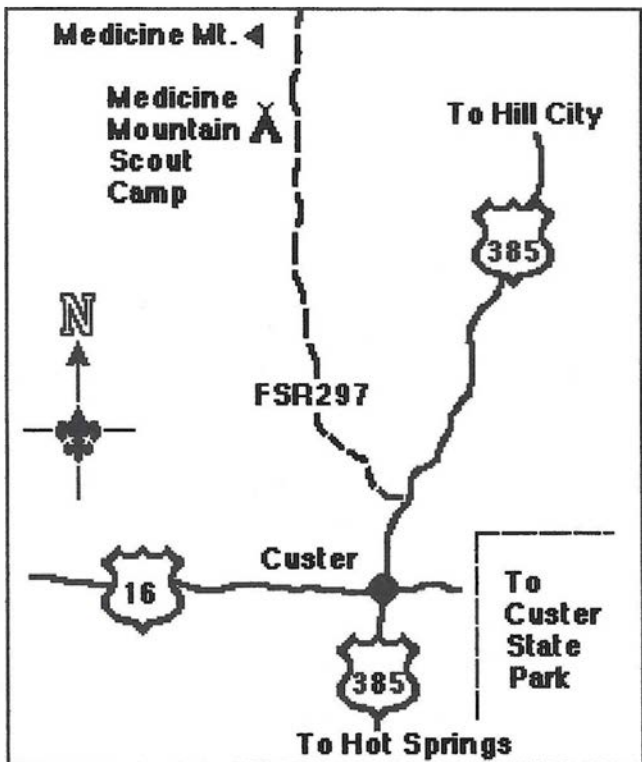
Drive Time; 10 Hours

Map Reference: Black Hills Nt.  
Forest

For more information contact:

Black Hills Area Council, B.S.A.  
144 North Street, P.O. Box 2931  
Rapid City, South Dakota 57709  
1 (605) 342-2824

**How you get there:** Go north on I-25 to Cheyenne, Wyoming. From Cheyenne you have several routes to choose from to get to Custer, SD. From Custer go north on US 385 for four miles, then west for nine miles on well marked Forest Service Roads. There is good overnight camping on the way at Chadron State Park, 9 miles south of Chadron, Nebraska.



# 21 HIGH ADVENTURE

Three National B.S.A. High Adventure Bases are listed in the following pages and two local programs based at Camp Tahosa. In addition, there is a High Adventure Base provided by the Rocky Mountain Council in Pueblo and a do it yourself section in the last portion of this chapter. Contact the High Adventure Base or local council for more information and current cost.



It should be noted that units are advised to sign up at least 9 months in advance of your adventure. Availability of open dates dwindles quickly after the first of the year.

Be sure to complete a National Tour Permit Application, available from the Council office, at least a month before leaving on your high adventure. See section 26-14 in the Important Facts and Information Chapter.

## NATIONAL PROGRAMS

### **21-1 Northern Tier High Adventure Base**

Northern Tier provides a wide variety of programs including canoe trips, ranging in difficulty from beginning to advanced, during the summer months. Included are programs in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Canada. OKPIK, a winter challenge program, is offered December thru March.



Northern Tier National High Adventure Programs  
Box 509  
Ely, Minnesota 55731  
1 (218)365-4811

### **21-2 Philmont Scout Ranch**

Provides high country backpacking adventures ranging from six days to as long as 26 days. There are over 300 miles of trails and a wide variety of program activities.



Philmont Scout Ranch  
Cimarron, New Mexico 87714.  
1 (505) 376-2281



### 21-3 Florida Sea Base

This High Adventure Sea Base provides sailing and scuba diving experiences, seven days and six nights per adventure. Let a 50' sailboat become your home for a week, fish or snorkel the islands of the Florida Keys, or earn your scuba certification.

Florida National High Adventure Sea Base  
P.O. Box 1206  
Islamorada, Florida 33036  
1 (305)664-4173



### LOCAL PROGRAMS

Several high adventure summer programs are provided by local Colorado Councils; while Tahosa provides the OKPIK winter program that is nationally known.



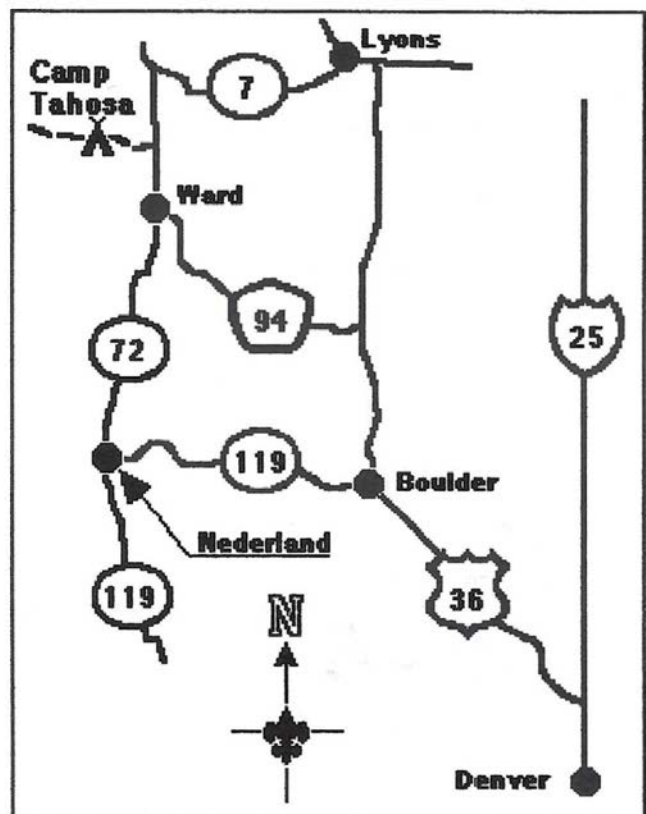
### 21-4 OKPIK Winter Adventure

Learn the skills to enjoy the Rocky Mountain winter. Program includes: cross country skiing, snowshoeing, winter shelters (build your own quinzhee), winter camping techniques, winter equipment and clothing (including how to make you own), tracking, and ice fishing.

### 21-5 Tahosa Challenge

A program for Scouts 13 years old or older, at least of First Class Rank. The course stresses personal fitness, group efforts and individual effort by using physical and mental abilities. Leadership, problem solving, communication, teamwork and decision making skills will be developed as well as building self-esteem, confidence, group and self trust.

**How to get there:** To access Camp Tahosa from Denver drive northwest to Boulder. Take Canyon Boulevard or Arapahoe Avenue west, the streets eventually merge into CO119. Continue west into Nederland, turn north on CO72. You will pass the outskirts of Ward, 4.5



miles beyond Ward turn west off CO72 onto CR96 to Camp Tahosa. There is a sign for Tahosa on CO72, but it appears quickly so be on the lookout for the sign.

Be sure to make reservations well in advance at the Denver Area Council Service Center.

Denver Area Council, B.S.A.  
2901 W. 19th Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80204  
1 (303) 455-5522

## 21-6 PACKARD HIGH ADVENTURE BASE

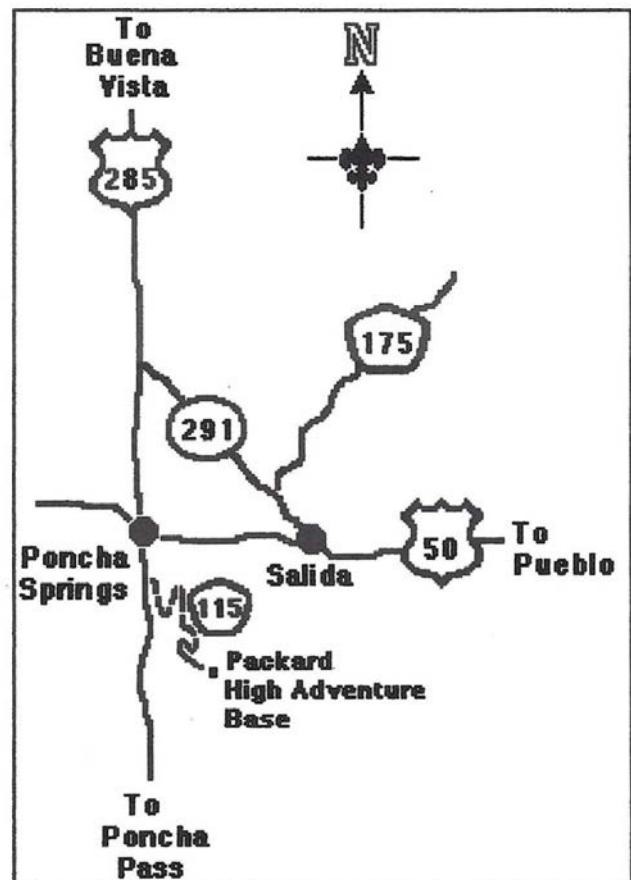
The Rocky Mountain Council based in Pueblo has a unique high adventure program that combines two days of white water rafting down the Arkansas River and three days in the mountains; with the options of backpacking treks, a Fourteener Challenge, mountain biking or Continental Divide day hikes. These adventures are based out of the Packard High Adventure Base located in the northern Sangre De Cristo Mountains. This is a one week summer program that must be registered for early in the season, so the council can plan for staff, food and equipment.



Drive Time: 3 - 3.5 Hours  
Map Reference: San Isabel Nt.  
Forest, 1993 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 50 to Poncha Springs. Turn south on US 285 about .5 mile (cross the South Arkansas River bridge): the Hot Springs Road posted as CR115 turns off to the east. This road is paved for a short distance before the pavement ends. Continue on CR115 until you reach base camp; the road to base camp is steep.

Rocky Mountain Council, B.S.A.  
441 South Pueblo Blvd.  
Pueblo, Colorado  
1 (719) 561-1220



# SALMON RIVER ADVENTURE / HIGHWAY MAP



## DO YOU OWN HIGH ADVENTURE

### 21-7 SALMON RIVER HIGH ADVENTURE - IDAHO

Drive Time: 3 Days  
Map Reference: State Highway Maps

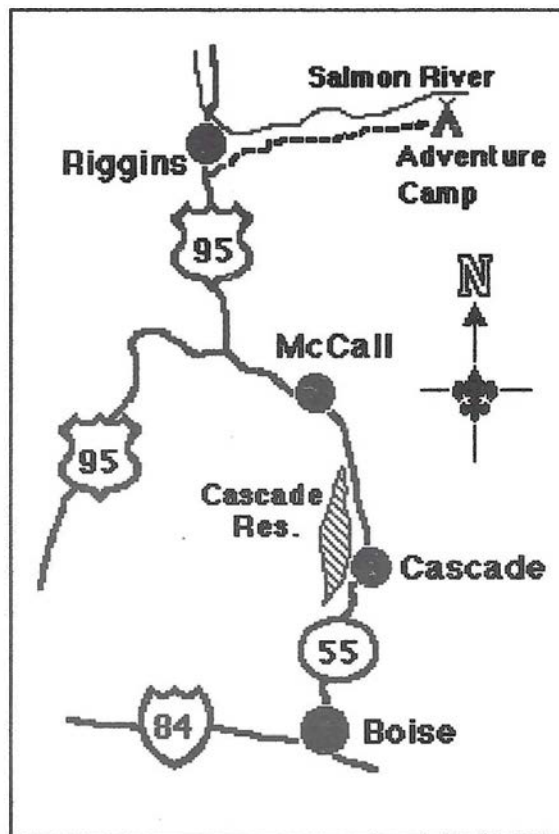
The base for this adventure is located 150 miles north of Boise, Idaho, on the main fork of the Salmon River. The camp is a minimally developed area 14 miles upstream (east) of Riggins, Idaho (total distance from Denver is 1350 miles one-way). The camp is operated by the B.S.A. Ore-Ida Council, headquartered in Boise; they offer 3 and 5 day white water

adventures; including canoes, kayaks and rafts. Daily activities include white water runs from 8 to 12 miles each day, then return to base camp each night. Also offered are mountain biking, and the canoeing merit badge. Food must be provided and prepared by the troop. The camp only supplies water, showers and toilet facilities. Some alternate arrangements may be negotiated.

It is recommended that troops stay overnight in National Guard Armories in Rock Springs, Cody, or Evanston, Wyoming or Twin Falls, Idaho. Armories have kitchens, showers and separate sleeping rooms for adults. Cost for this trip is about \$250.00 per person, including gasoline, food and equipment. Merit badges can be easily worked on in the automobiles on this trip. Plan 3 days driving, there is some great sightseeing along the way. it is recommended that reservations be made in early fall of the previous year.

Contact Ore-Ida Council, 1 (208) 342-6839 for up to date information about the program and cost.

How To Get There: There are several travel options. The fastest is north on I-25 to Cheyenne, west on I-80 to Ogden, Utah, north on I-84 to Burley, Idaho, continue west on I-84 to Boise, go north on Idaho Highway 55 to Riggins. Alternatives include; north on I-25 to Casper, west on US 20 and Wyoming Highway 120 to Cody (visit the Bill Cody Museum). Continue west on US 16 into Yellowstone National Park, south on US 119 and US 26 to the Tetons, Jackson Lake, and then to I-15 west to Idaho Falls, Idaho. Drive west on I-86 and I-84 to Boise, north on Idaho 55 to Riggins.



## 21-8 CANADIAN CANOE TRIP - SASKATCHEWAN

Want to do your own canoe trip to Saskatchewan, Canada and save about half of what you would pay at Northern Tier High Adventure Base in northern Minnesota and Canada. If you like to fish this is the place to go.

Drive Time: 3 Days one-way (24 hours drive time)  
 Map Reference: State and Provincial Highway Maps  
 Outfitter provided maps for canoe trip

Arrangements can be made with Horizons Unlimited Outfitter at Missinipe Lakes, Saskatchewan, Canada. Where is Missinipe Lakes you ask? Well, it is 559 miles north of the US Border in Saskatchewan lake country. The total drive distance one-way is 1,488

miles from Denver to Missinipe Lakes. Canoe trips of 50 miles in five days qualify you for the 50 Miler Award.

This trip was done by T114 in 1992 for a cost of \$282.00 per Scout. The budget broke out, per scout, as follows:

1. Gasoline at .20 / mile	\$133.00
2. Canoe Rental (\$10.00 / day)	50.00
3. Food while traveling & canoeing	45.00
4. Camping fees	2.00
5. Motel (2 nights, shared rooms)	18.00
6. Restaurants (6 meals)	20.00
7. Trip T-shirt	14.00

Spending money in pocket for souvenirs, ice cream, etc. was \$15.00; a fishing license for Scouts over 16 years of age and adults cost \$30.00.

The trip consisted of eleven days. Five days on the lakes, three days driving up and three days driving back. There were 17 scouts and 9 dads to share expenses. It is recommended that planning and reservations take place early in the fall of the year prior to the trip. A \$100.00 deposit will be required for the Outfitter. The Outfitter has about 40 canoes and can be contacted at the following address and phone number:

Horizons Unlimited  
Churchill River Canoe Outfitter  
P.O. Box 1110  
La Ronge, Saskatchewan  
Canada SOJ 1L0  
1 (306) 638-4420  
Manager: Ric Driediger



The Outfitter can provide multiple canoe trip variations both in route and duration of stay. Be sure to obtain this information early and share with your group in planning this wilderness canoe trip. Your group will need to provide cooking utensils, personal gear and shelter. Personal equipment and clothing should be taken in an army duffel bag. The carrying straps can be looped through the "Thwarts" support of the Canoe, so the duffel bag will remain with the canoe if it turns over.

In addition, travel information can be obtained for Saskatchewan from Tourist Information Services:

From the USA 1 (800) 667-7538

Write: Tourism Saskatchewan  
1919 Saskatchewan Drive  
Regina, Saskatchewan  
Canada S4P 3V7

# CANADIAN CANOE TRIP



Provincial highway maps and canoe trip booklets are available as well as camping locations and motel information. The canoe trip booklets are published by the Saskatchewan Parks, Recreation and Culture Department.

**How to get there:** The suggested route is Denver to Custer State Park, in South Dakota, 477 miles, camp at group campsite, (named Camp Mt. Rushmore). Group campgrounds should be arranged for ahead of time, fee. Mt. Rushmore, South Dakota to Regina, Saskatchewan, stay in the Imperial 400 Motel, 4255 Albert Street South, 1 (306) 584-8800. Regina, Saskatchewan to Melfort, Saskatchewan, then Missinipe Lakes, 441 miles, camp at lake.

**Return trip to Colorado:** Missinipe Lakes to Regina, Saskatchewan, stay in motel. Regina, Saskatchewan south through Glendive and Miles City, Montana. Camp overnight in Wyoming, home to Colorado.



# 22

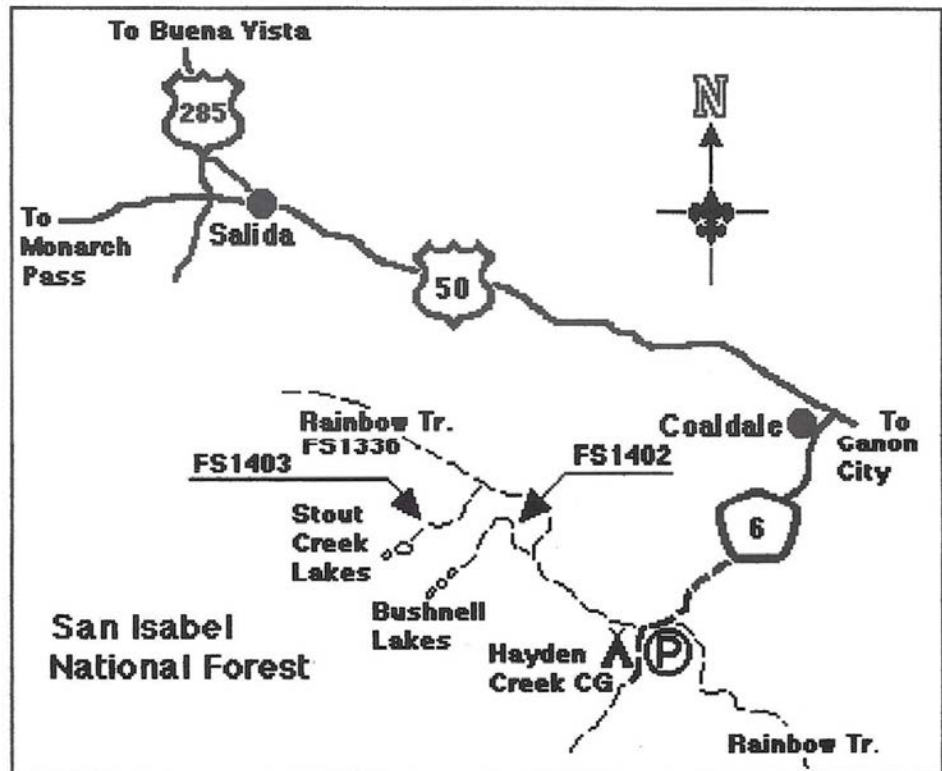
## AROUND AND ABOUT COLORADO

This chapter includes a variety of activities in areas not covered by the other chapters of the GOAT Book. All of these locations are more than a two hour drive time from the Denver Metropolitan area.

### 22-1 BUSHNELL LAKES / STOUT CREEK LAKES - BACKPACK

Bushnell Lakes consist of three small lakes in a basin which is relatively narrow and located at 12,200'. This is beautiful country, a nice hike and fairly secluded. Bears have been seen in the area. Be sure to use a bear bag for food storage, see 26-3 in the Living with Wildlife section of the Important Facts and Information Chapter. There is some fishing and lots of good hiking with a number of old mines. It is well worth the trip. Stout Creek Lakes is one ridge over and is also a very nice hike.

Stout Creek Lakes are 9 miles one-way and receive few visitors because of the total distance. Stout Creek Lakes consist of three lakes; the two most impressive lakes are located in an upper basin above a falls and above timberline. There are many beautiful campsites available. Lakes and trails are noted on the San Isabel National Forest map.



Drive Time: 3 Hours  
Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition  
U.S.G.S Quads:  
Coaldale 7 1/2'  
Bushnell Peak 7 1/2'  
Howard 15'



**How to get there:** Take 1-25 south to Colorado Springs. From Colorado Springs take CO115 to Canon City. Go through Canon City on US 50, 35 miles west turn south on CR6 to Coaldale. From Coaldale travel southwest or left to Hayden Creek Campground. Park at Hayden Creek CG.

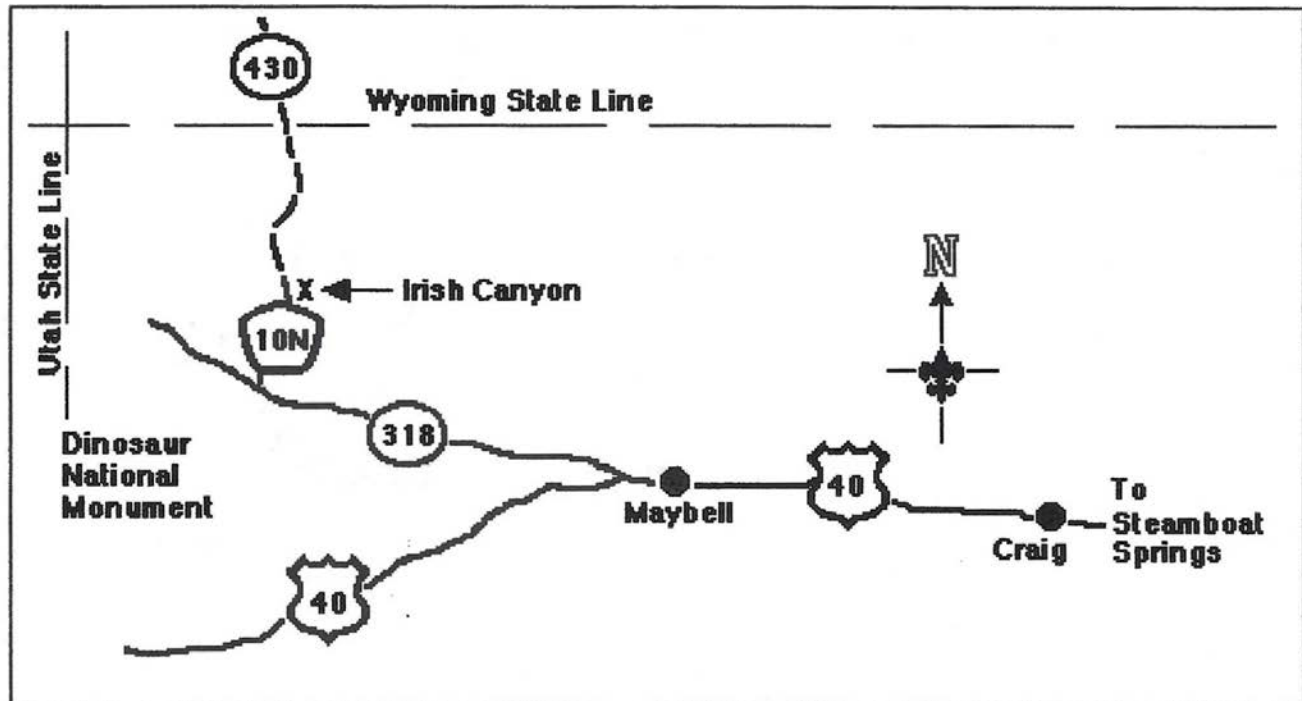
**The trail to Bushnell Lakes:** Hike northwest on the Rainbow Trail (FS1336) for 2 miles to the trail junction for Bushnell Lakes, take FS1402 for another 2.7 miles. The last part of this trail, before arriving at the lakes, is quite steep. Total distance to Bushnell Lakes is 4.7 miles one-way.

**The trail to Stout Creek Lakes:** Hike northwest on the Rainbow Trail (FS1336) for 4.5 miles to the trail junction for Stout Creek Lakes, take FS1403 for another 4.5 miles. This is a difficult backpack, only for older Scouts and Scouters in good physical condition.

## 22-2 IRISH CANYON - SUMMER CAR CAMP

In the extreme northwest corner of Colorado is an interesting summer car camp adventure. This trip should not be attempted during the winter months.

Drive Time: 6-7 Hours  
Map Reference: Irish Canyon Quad.  
Colorado Atlas & Gazetteer,  
1991 DeLorme Mapping©



**How to get there:** Drive to Silverthorne on I-70, turn north on CO9 to Kremmling, follow US 40 west to Maybell. Maybell is the last chance to buy gas. From Maybell take CO318

northwest about 40 miles to an all weather gravel road, CR10N, leading to Rock Springs, Wyoming and Wyoming 430. Turn north on the gravel road into Irish Canyon, about 7 miles from CO318. The first campsite is at the north end of Irish Canyon in trees west of the road. The second campsite is just north of Irish Canyon, take the first jeep trail east from the gravel road after exiting the north end of Irish Canyon, just beyond Irish Lakes (dry). Hike through the Vermillion Creek Canyon from the second campsite to Ink Springs Ranch and view Indian petroglyphs deep in the canyon along the west wall (SW36-10N-101W).

Notes: NO improvements, NO water, lots of firewood. MUST have and use Irish Canyon 7 1/2' topographic map (US Geological Survey).

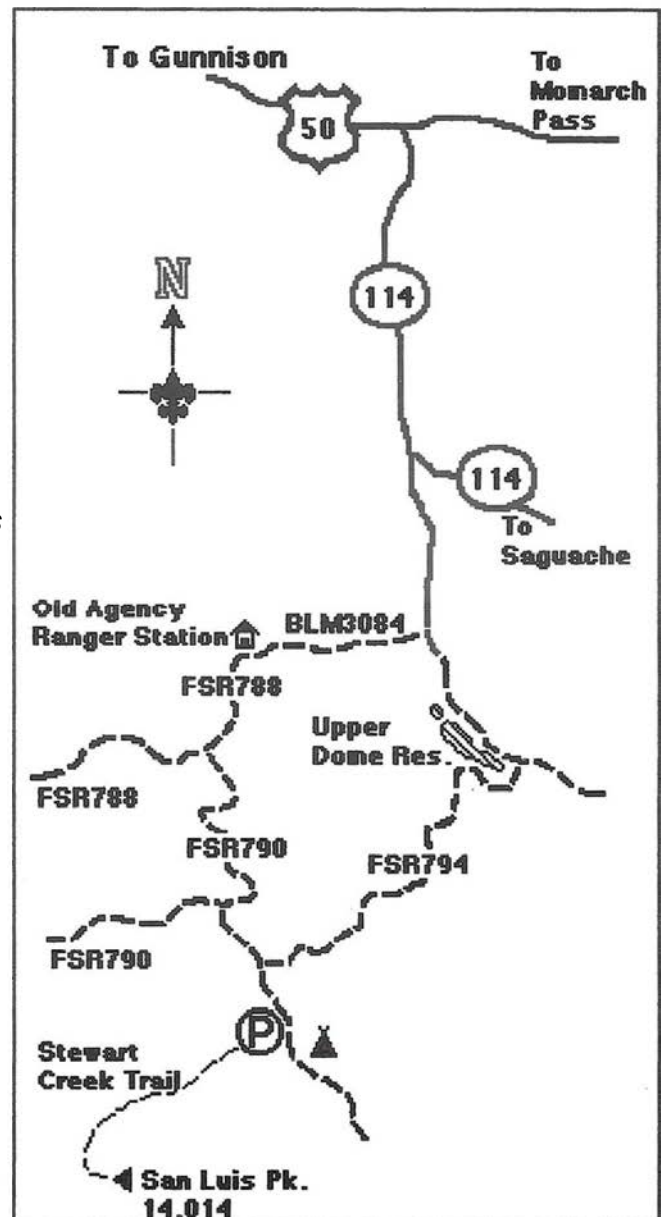
### 22-3 MOUNTAIN EATER CHALLENGE - FOURTEENER X6

The Mountain Eater is an eight (8) day adventure designed to climb six 14,000 peaks in southwestern Colorado. Since the elevation is so high it is recommended that this trip be planned for the month of August. All but one of the peaks is acceptable for younger Scouts and that is Wetterhorn Peak. Several other books would be of help to Scouters planning this trip, they are:

1. ) *The Colorado Fourteens* - A condensed Guide (Colorado Mountain Club)
2. ) *A Climbing Guide to Colorado's Fourteens* - By Walter Borneman and Lyndon Lampert, Pruett Publishing Company.

Map Reference: Gunnison Nt.Forest, 1984 edition  
 U.S.G.S Quads:  
 Creede 15'  
 Redcloud Pk. 7 1/2'  
 Handies Pk. 7 1/2'  
 Uncompahgre Pk. 7 1/2'  
 Wetterhorn Pk. 7 1/2'

**RIGHT: SAN LUIS PEAK**



## Day 1

**How to get there:** Drive from your place of departure towards Gunnison. Follow US 50 west over Monarch Pass. Go through the small community of Parlin which is 11 miles east of Gunnison. Four miles west of Parlin, CO114 (The Cochetopa Canyon Road) turns south, follow it approximately 24 miles to the Los Pinos Pass Road going west. This leads to the Old Agency Buildings (Ranger Station). About three miles west, beyond the buildings, the road forks. Take the left fork, or Blue Creek fork, FSR790, for approximately 9 miles to its junction with the Perfecto Creek Road, FSR794.2B, which comes from the South Drive on the Perfecto Creek Road pass Chavez and Nutras Creek to its dead end at Steward Creek. This is the trailhead.

There are several campsites within .25 mile of the trailhead to San Luis Peak. The water in the area is poor due to cattle dung all over the place; bring your own or lots of purification tablets.

## Day 2

**The trail:** Climb San Luis Peak - This is a 10 mile round trip trek; plan 10 hours. Climb west up Stewart Creek Valley, keeping to the right side of the creek at all times. After climbing past several gulches coming in from the left, climb to the saddle on the southeast slope of the peak. From this point the San Luis Peak summit can be seen .5 mile away to the southwest. The climb is moderate to the top.

## Day 3

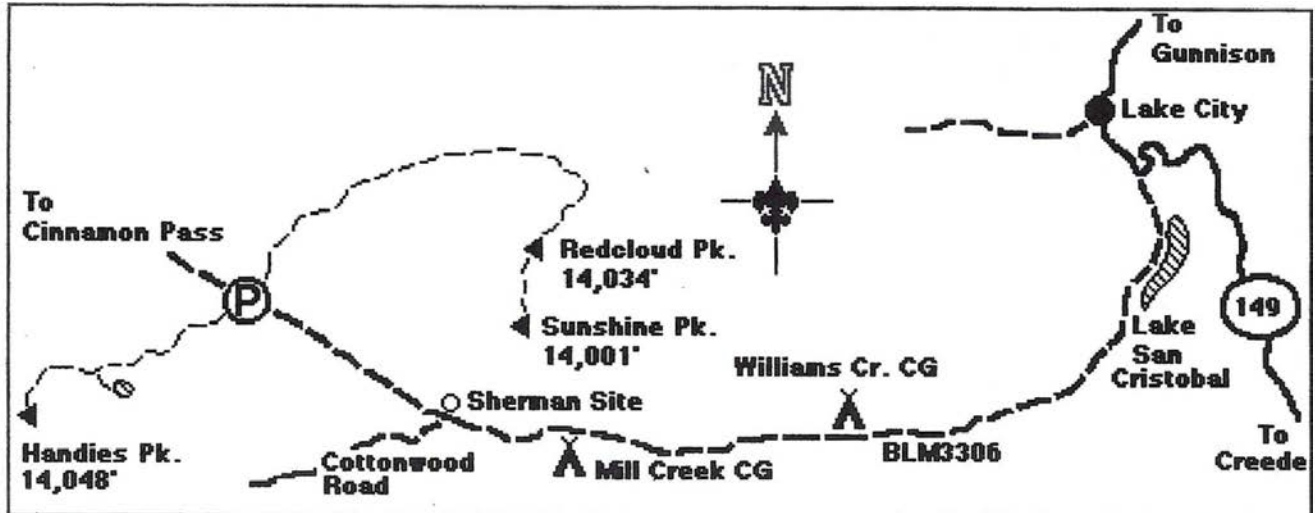
**How to get there:** The next stop is Lake City; it is a drive day, choose your own route. You can go via a Forest Service road noted as FSR790 or go back north to US 50. It should be noted at this point that the Forest Service map road numbers in this area do not always match those posted on the roads.

About 2 miles south of Lake City there is a fork which branches right off CO149. This is a gravel road (BLM3306) going south, in a couple of miles you will pass Lake San Cristobal and if you drive far enough up and over Cinnamon Pass to Silverton. Follow this road for 11 miles to the old town site of Sherman. At this point the road gets narrower and rougher. Travel for another 4 miles to where Silver Creek and Grizzly Gulch intersect with the road. This is our destination for trailheads to the next three fourteeners. There is camping near the two creeks or you can reverse direction and go back about 5.5 miles and camp at the Mill Valley Campground.

## Day 4

**The trail:** Climb Redcloud (14,034') and Sunshine Peaks (14,00T) - Combined round trip distance for both peaks is 11 miles, 10 to 12 hours will be needed. Take the trail on the north side of the road that follows along Silver Creek. Follow the creek for about two miles to a fork in the trail. Stay left and continue hiking along Silver Creek. The other trail at the fork also goes to Redcloud Peak, but is steep and could present some difficulty to younger

## REDCLOUD / SUNSHINE / HANDIES PEAKS



Scouts. The trail to the left gradually circles around Redcloud Peak. You will cross over a pass (13,000'), continue approximate .75 mile further, then climb the ridge from the east side of Redcloud Peak.

Sunshine Peak is due south of Redcloud. Follow the trail from the top of Redcloud along the ridge south for 1.5 miles. There is a 500' elevation gain because of a saddle between the two peaks. It is best to exit the way you entered. One can exit the north face of Sunshine and down the valley below to the other trail at the fork mentioned earlier but this is more dangerous. There is a lot of scree fields and drop-offs, this is not the place for young Scouts.

### Pay 5

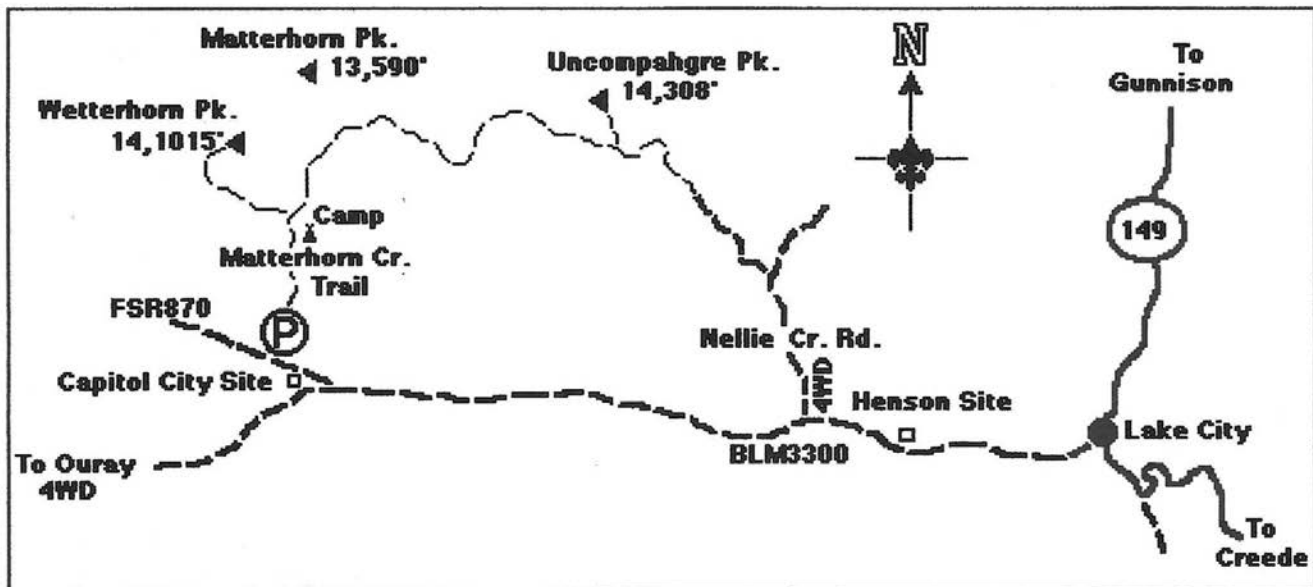
**The trail:** Handies Peak (14,048') - This is a 10 mile round trip, allow 7 to 9 hours. The trailhead starts about 1/8 mile further east on the road to Cinnamon Pass. The trail soon parallels Grizzly Gulch for about two miles. The main trail turns left and goes to a lake. Stay right, the trail fades out and you'll need to plot your own way. Head up towards the saddle then left up the ridge to the top of the peak.

This is one of the most scenic valleys and basins of the trip. The area is full of wildflowers during the month of August.

### Day 6

**How to get there:** This is a travel day. Backtrack your vehicle to Lake City. At the south end of town there is another gravel road (BLM3300) that goes west to the Capitol City town site and Engineer Pass. Travel west paralleling Henson Creek. There will be a fork in the road in about 10 miles. The left fork goes to Engineer Pass; the right fork (FSR870) goes another 2 miles to the trailhead. The trailhead starts at Matterhorn Creek; park there. It is suggested that the group backpack in and set up a base camp for these fourteeners. Take the trail that parallels Matterhorn Creek for approximately 1.5 miles. Camp at the last stand of trees just below timberline. Look at the Quad, map, there is a spring just a little further along the trail from the campsite.

# UNCOMPAGRE / WETTERHORN



## Day 7

**The trail:** Uncompahgre Peak (14,309') - This is a 9 -12 mile round trip, depending on your route; allow 8-12 hours. Leave your base camp hiking north on the Matterhorn Trail, pass the springs, it is approximately 1.5 miles to the pass at 12,458'. Travel east on the road across the basin. The road passes south of the peak, then becomes a trail which doubles back west then north to the summit. It is shorter and easier to leave the road SSW of the peak, in a relatively flat area near several ponds, and head across the basin to work your way up the grassy slopes of the south ridge, to the right of the high point marked on the map with the 13,108' notation, join the trail above 13,000', then hike to the summit, 2.5 miles from the pass. On the descent, follow the trail back to about the 13,000' level, picking a route down the steep slopes, then down into the basin and southwest back to the road.

## Day 8

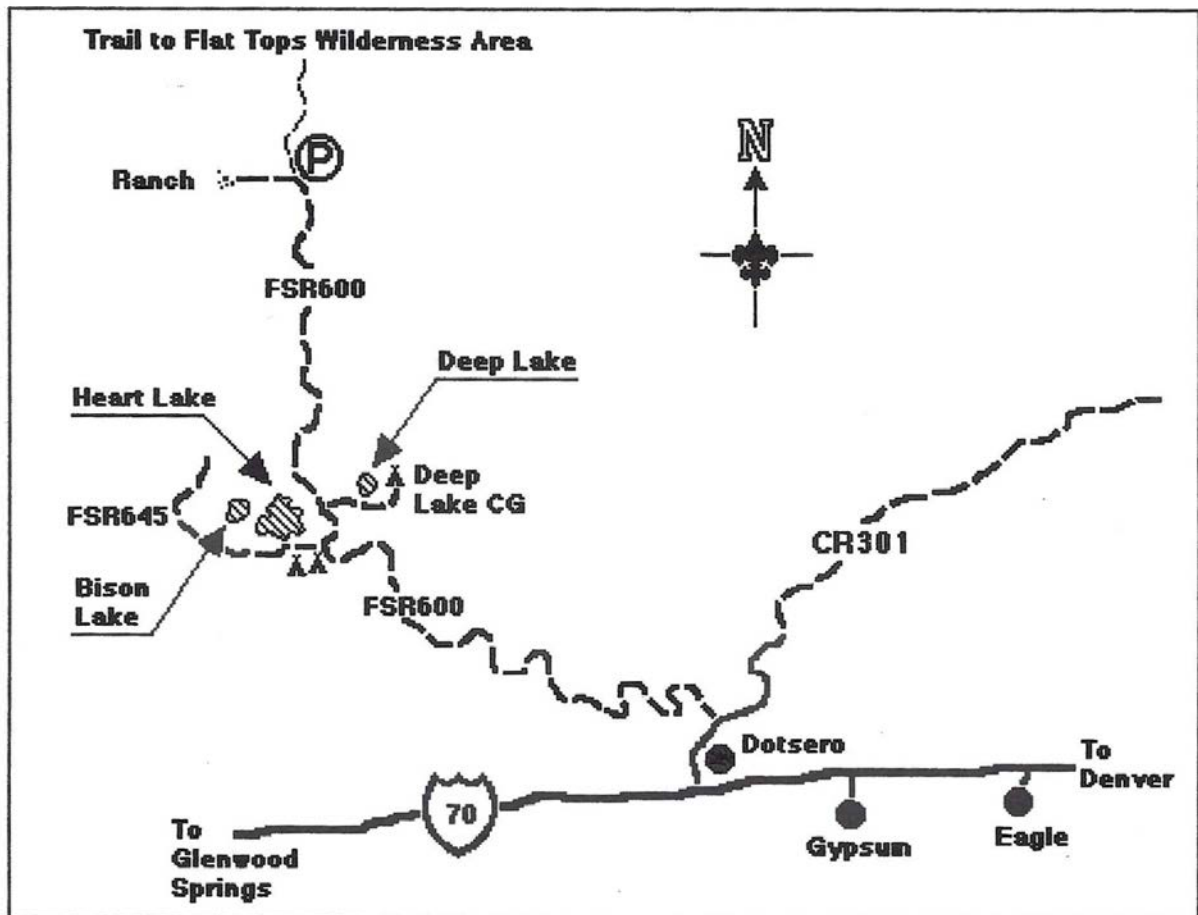
Wetterhorn Peak (14,017') - The distance is 8 miles round trip, plan for 7 to 8 hours. Starting at the base camp, hike up to the springs. Leave the trail, cross to the west side of the creek, and follow to the north for .5 mile. Then head west up the ridge for 1.5 miles, pass the high point marked on the Quad map with the 13,117' notation, proceed along the left side of the ridge. Work up to the west side of the peak and to the summit on a system of ledges. The last 150' you will use all fours scrambling up the ledges. This is the mountain that can be dangerous to Scouts due to the ledges and the 600' shoots straight down. Know your Scouts abilities and control before trying this one.

## 22-4 DEEP LAKE - CAR CAMP

Deep Lake is located about 100 miles west of Denver. The area around Deep Lake is a high plateau with open meadows and intermittent pine trees; it is just south of the Flat Tops Wilderness Area. The only established campground, Deep Lake Campground, is on the east side of Deep Lake. This is a good area for long distance orienteering activities and 5-10 mile hikes. There are lots of jeep roads and hiking trails that interlock. Facilities at the Deep Lake Campground include tables, toilets and fire pits.

Drive Time: 3.5 Hours

Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition



**How to get there:** Take I-70 west from Denver and drive past Dillon, Vail and Eagle. Continue from Eagle for another 14 miles on I-70 until you arrive at the Dotsero exit. Exit I-70 north (exit No. 133) on CR301, also known as the Colorado River Road. In about 2 miles turn left off the county road onto FSR600. This is a gravel road that winds uphill for 22 miles until you reach Deep and Heart Lakes. There is a wide variety of wildflowers along this road in July. Good car roads do not go far beyond Heart Lake, the road deteriorates and 4 wheel drive vehicles are recommended.

## 22-5 MISSOURI LAKES / HOLY CROSS CITY - BACKPACK

Missouri Lakes is located in the Holy Cross Wilderness area southwest of Vail. There are three clear pristine lakes located at timberline. Some brookies and cutthroat trout can be found in the lakes. This is a nice overnight backpack trip.

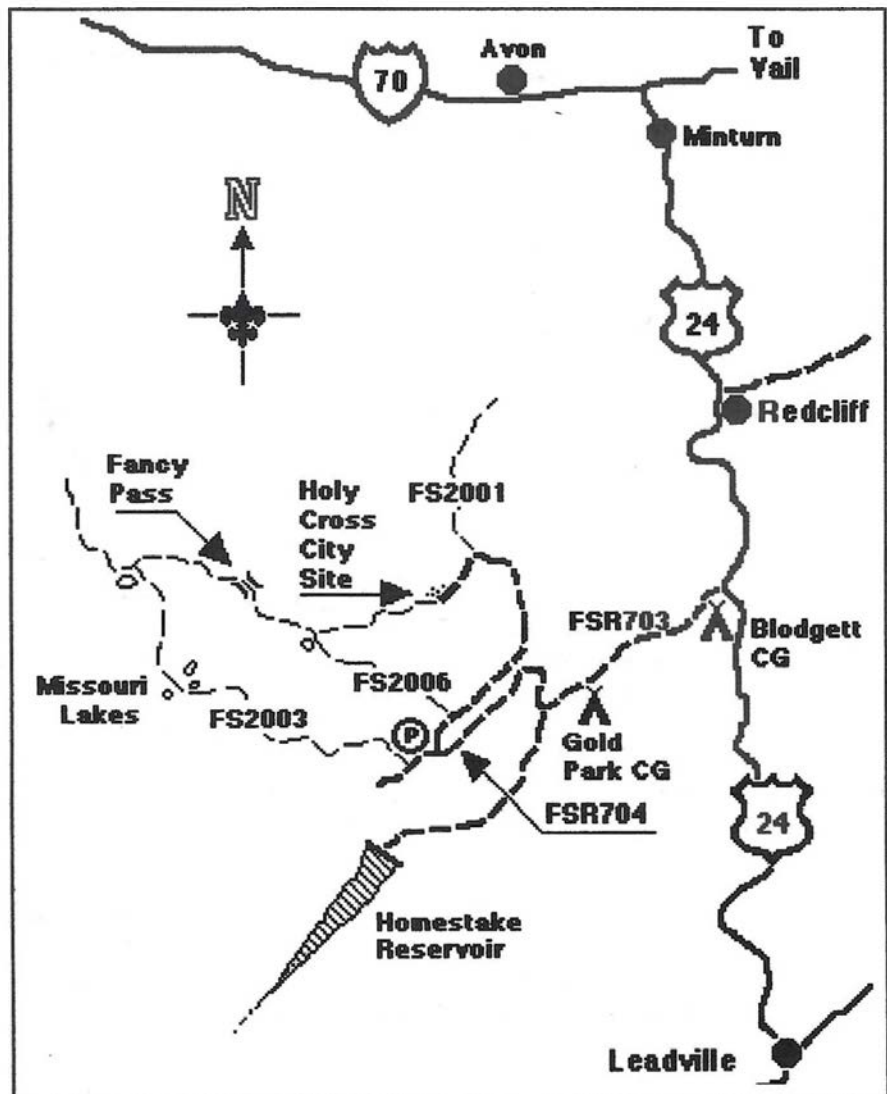
Drive Time: 2.5 - 3 Hours

Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition  
Mt. of the Holy Cross Quad.  
Mt. Jackson Quad.

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west past Vail, to US 24, turn south towards Leadville. Pass by the historic towns of Gilman and Redcliff. About 2.5 miles south of Redcliff follow FSR703 southwest paralleling Homestake Creek. You will pass Blodgett Campground and travel for 7 miles southwest. About 1 mile beyond a second campground (Gold Park CG), take the right fork FSR704 for another three miles. On the north side of this road there will be a trail sign for Missouri Lakes.

Missouri Lakes is a 4 mile trek one-way with a 1400' elevation gain. Follow the trail (FS2003) which parallels Missouri Creek. There are numerous waterfalls. The trail is steep for the first three miles, but then levels out. There are a number of campsites at the lakes. The area around the lakes can be marshy early in the season.

A two day extension can be made on this trip by continuing up the trail to the pass northwest of Missouri Lakes. There are lakes on the other side or you can take the loop trip to Holy Cross City site. The loop trip turns right after you cross over a saddle, passing by a small lake. It works its way up and over Fancy Pass and



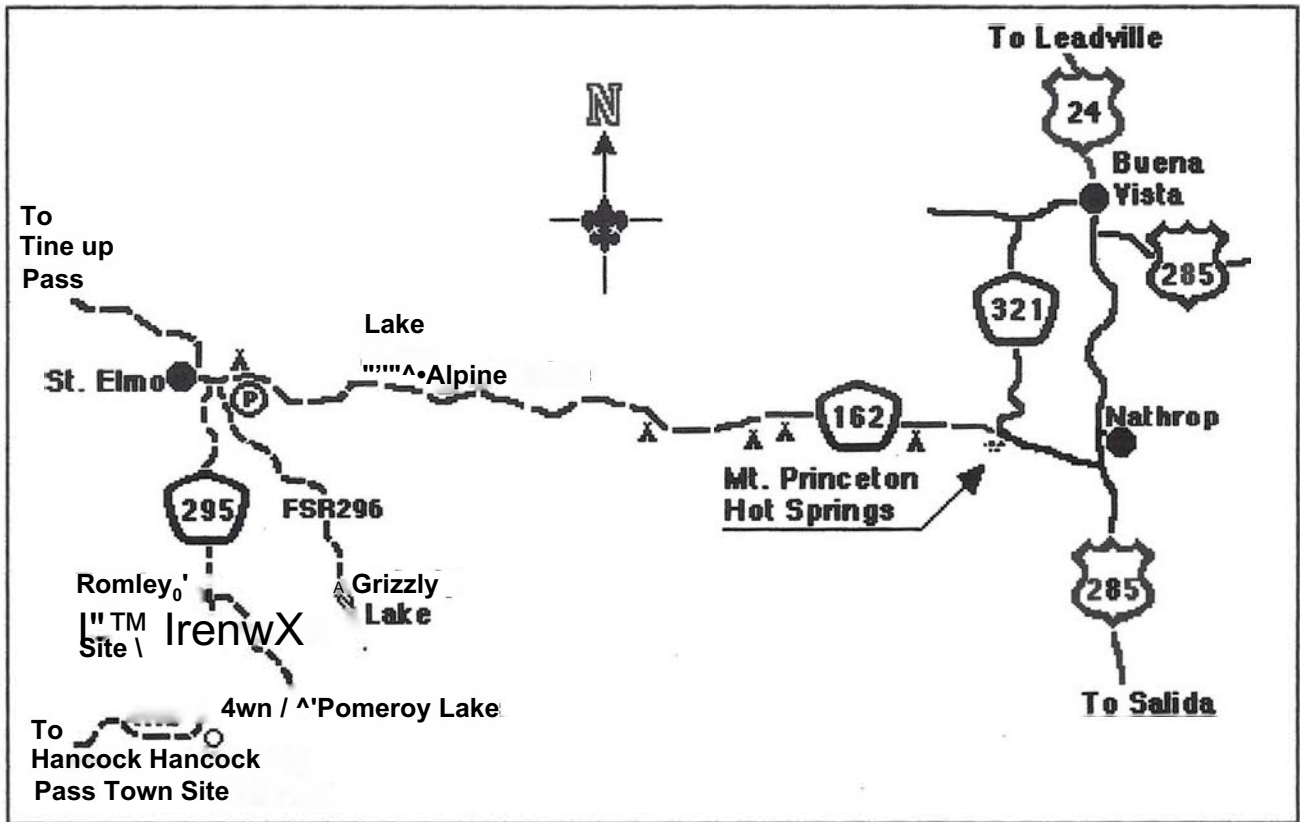
down to Fancy Lake. At the lake you can take the trail that parallels the mountain, heading northeast to Holy Cross City, or you can hike down the Fancy Creek Trail (FS2006) to a jeep road that will lead you back to your cars. If you do the Holy Cross City extension, continue northeast descending into the mining area and town site. Camp in the Holy Cross City area, there is a jeep road back to the trailhead (about 4 miles from Holy Cross City).

Notes: Wood is scarce at the lakes. This trek is suggested for July and August, ice can be in the lakes as late as July. Read *50 West Central Colorado Hiking Trails* by Lowe for more details.

**22-6 GRIZZLY LAKE NEAR ST. ELMO - BACKPACK**

Drive Time: 3 Hours  
 Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

**How to get there:** Take US 285 from Denver to Buena Vista. Go south on US 285 to Nathrop. At .5 mile south of Nathrop turn west to St. Elmo on CR162. Park at Grizzly Gulch which is less then a mile east of St. Elmo.

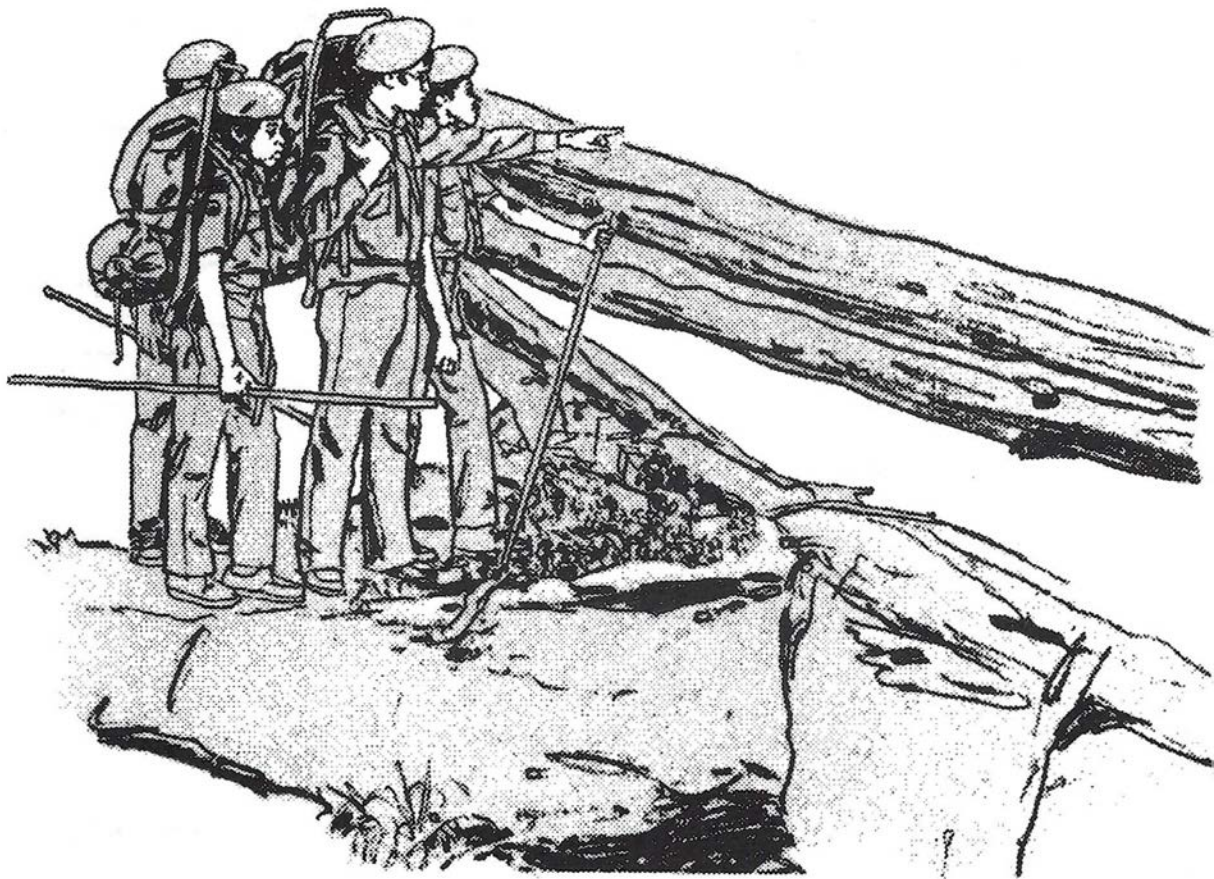


**The trail:** The trail to Grizzly Lake is on the south side of CR162 and follows an old mining road (FSR296) which parallels Grizzly Creek for approximately 3 miles.



Notes: There is lots of good hiking with unusual cliffs and terrain, some fishing; a very nice area. At Mt. Princeton Hot Springs, swimming is available in the hot springs pool, fee. At Nathrop, you can cross the Arkansas River to Ruby Mountain where some of the finest natural garnets in the United States can be found. It is fun to find garnets and combine it with a weekend backpack trip to Grizzly Lake.

Pomeroy Lake and Hancock town site south of St. Elmo on CR295 and FSR297, is an alternative backpack trip, but it is more difficult.



# 23 WATER ADVENTURES

## 23-1 SOUTH PLATTE - CANOE TRIP

This trip starts on the north side of the Metropolitan Denver area and can be done in one long day or two short days. "This is an easy one!"

Drive Time: .5-1 Hour  
Map Reference: Colorado Highway Map

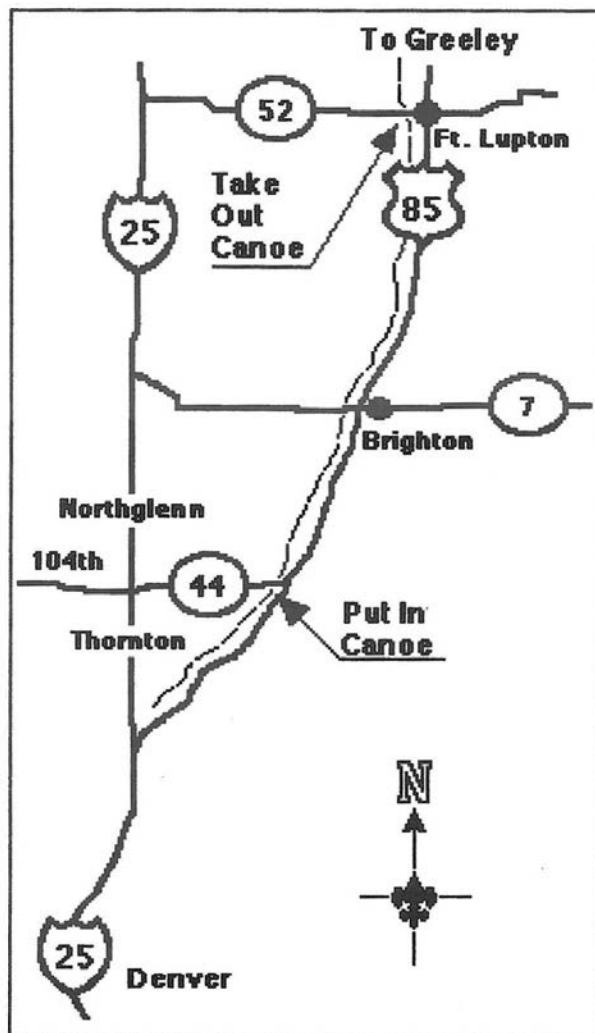


**How to get there:** From I-25 and 104th Avenue, take 104th Avenue east, it turns into CO44. About 6 miles from the I-25 exit CO44 crosses the South Platte River. Put canoes in the river at the 104th Avenue bridge, east bank, south side of 104th (CO44). Paddle north or downstream towards Brighton.

**The trip:** There are several dams on the river which you should portage. At the first dam, portage is on the east bank. Take out is semi-tough. One husky guy should be on the bank to help the crews out and to pull canoes out of the water. Reenter below the dam and continue until the second dam, portage is again on the east bank. Easy out and in for this portage. If overnight camping is planned it is advisable to arrange this in advance of the trip. A good site is just north of Brighton; about 2-3 miles north on US 85, turn west on the road next to the radio tower. The farmer that owns the west bank north of the bridge lives on the west side of the river and north of the road about 300 yards. The third dam is a low one. If you decide to run it, stick to the left spillway. Canoe eating rocks are found elsewhere.

Take canoes out at Ft. Lupton, east bank. Parking is available to leave cars for the pick up. The road that crosses the river at this point is CO52.

Note: If you continued downriver from this point a large dam would block your passage in about .75 mile.



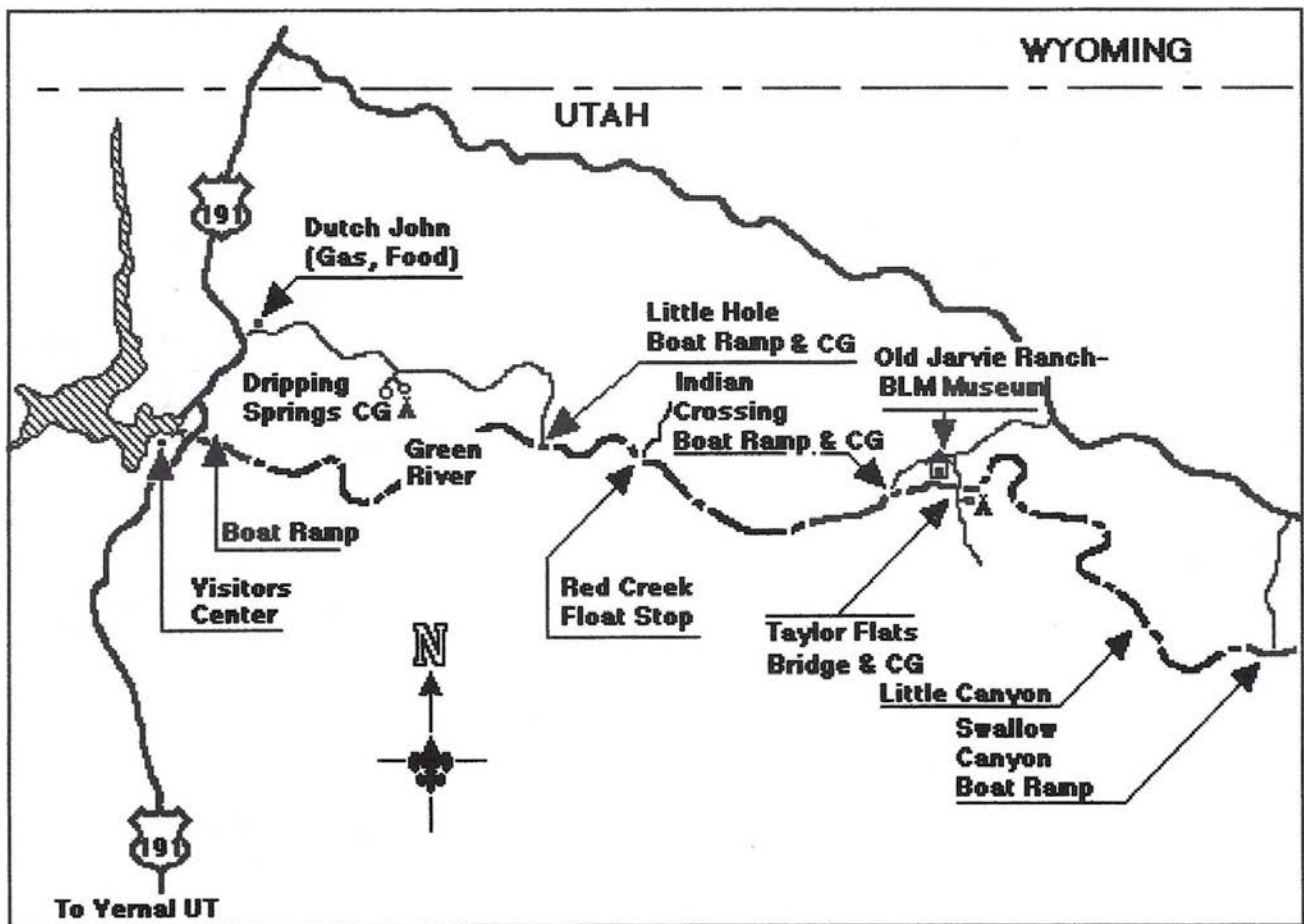
## 23-2 GREEN RIVER - EXTENDED CANOE TRIP

This trip starts at the Flaming Gorge National Recreation Area in the northeast corner of Utah and goes down the Green River across the Colorado border and eventually ends on the north side of Dinosaur National Monument. Either canoes or rafts can be used on this trip. A couple of adults will be needed to ferry vehicles and the canoe trailer from site to site.

Drive Time: 1 Day

Map Reference: Northeastern Central Utah, Map No. 3  
Ashley Nt. Forest

**How to get there:** Take I-70 west, just west of Idaho Springs take US 40 over Berthoud



Pass then follow it across northwestern Colorado and over the Utah state line. Continue to Vernal, Utah; turn north on Utah 191 to the Flaming Gorge Recreation Area. Our destination is Dutch John which is on the extreme east side of the Flaming Gorge Reservoir and at the outlet of the Green River.

**The trip:** You can put your canoe or raft in on the north side of the Green River just below the spillway. The first 8 miles of the river is navigable, but difficult. You should exit at Little Hole Boat Ramp. Avoid the Red Canyon. Drive east and reenter the river at Taylor Flats.

Cross the Colorado border and in about 18 miles you will come to the Gates of Lodore. Be sure to stop at Browns Park where there are some interesting pioneering exhibits. Pull you canoes out on the north side of the river. Take the dirt road north to CO318, then east to US40 at Maybell.

Notes: There is a series of 8 maps available -from the Utah Travel Council, get map No. 3 of the series, it identifies this trip much better than a highway map. The maps can be obtained from:

Utah Travel Council  
 Council Hall  
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84114  
 Ph. (801)533-5681.

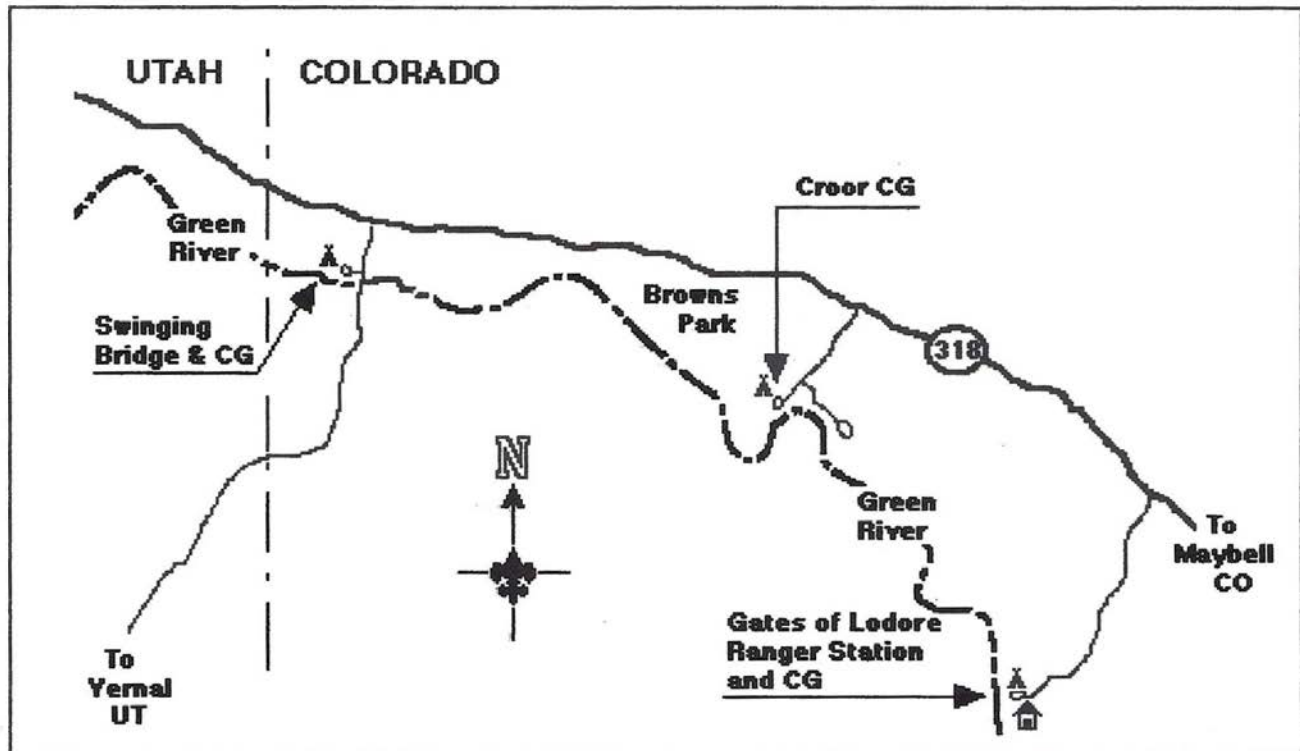
There are a number of campsites and boat launch sites along this water route:

Launch Sites

1. Spillway at Lake
2. Dripping Springs
3. Little Hole
4. Red Creek
5. Indian Crossing
6. Taylor Flats
7. Swallow Canyon
8. Gates of Lodore

Campgrounds

- Dripping Springs
- Little Hole
- Indian Springs
- Swinging Bridge
- Croor
- Gates of Lodore

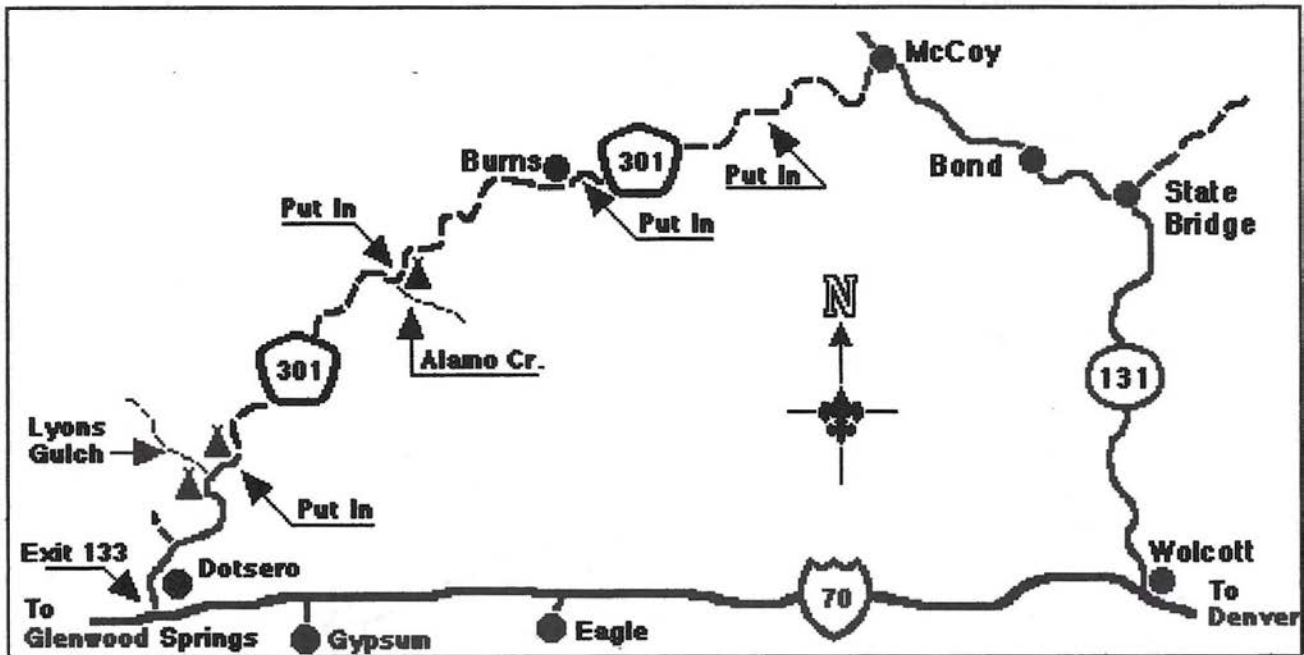


### 23-3 NORTHERN COLORADO RIVER - CANOE TRIP

The Colorado River, between the small communities of Dotsero and State Bridge, can provide good canoeing for a Scout troop. This area of the Colorado River lies basically north of I-70 west of Vail and Beaver Creek ski areas. A one to four day canoe float trip can be planned for this particular segment of the river.

Drive Time: 4 Hours with canoe trailer  
Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition

**How to get there:** 1 or 2 Day Trip - Drive I-70 west to the Dotsero exit, No. 133, which is about 12 miles west of Eagle. Drive north from Dotsero on CR301 about 5 miles to Lyons Gulch. There is an undeveloped camping area about .5 mile south of the gulch on BLM land. Set up camp here. Leave a vehicle or two so you can pick-up your other vehicles later. Drive the remaining vehicles and canoes north, where Alamo Creek intersects with the road (8-9 miles), there is a BLM access road to the river (look for a small sign). Drive to the river, this is where you put in your canoes and float back to your campsite. An option, if you are going home the next day, is to let the group float down to Dotsero (5 miles) and pick them up there as you start your drive home.



2 or 3 Day Trip - Your trip would start at Burns, and float south. There are several campsites on BLM land to use for this extra night of camping.

3 or 4 Day Trip - Start at State Bridge, exit I-70 at Wolcott and drive north on CO131 for 12 miles. This is your starting point.

Notes: There are a number of gravel/dirt roads along the river for access to the river, look for that small BLM sign. The Colorado River at run-off time can be very dangerous. August and September would be better months for Scouts to cope with the river.

# 24 COLORADO GHOST TOWNS

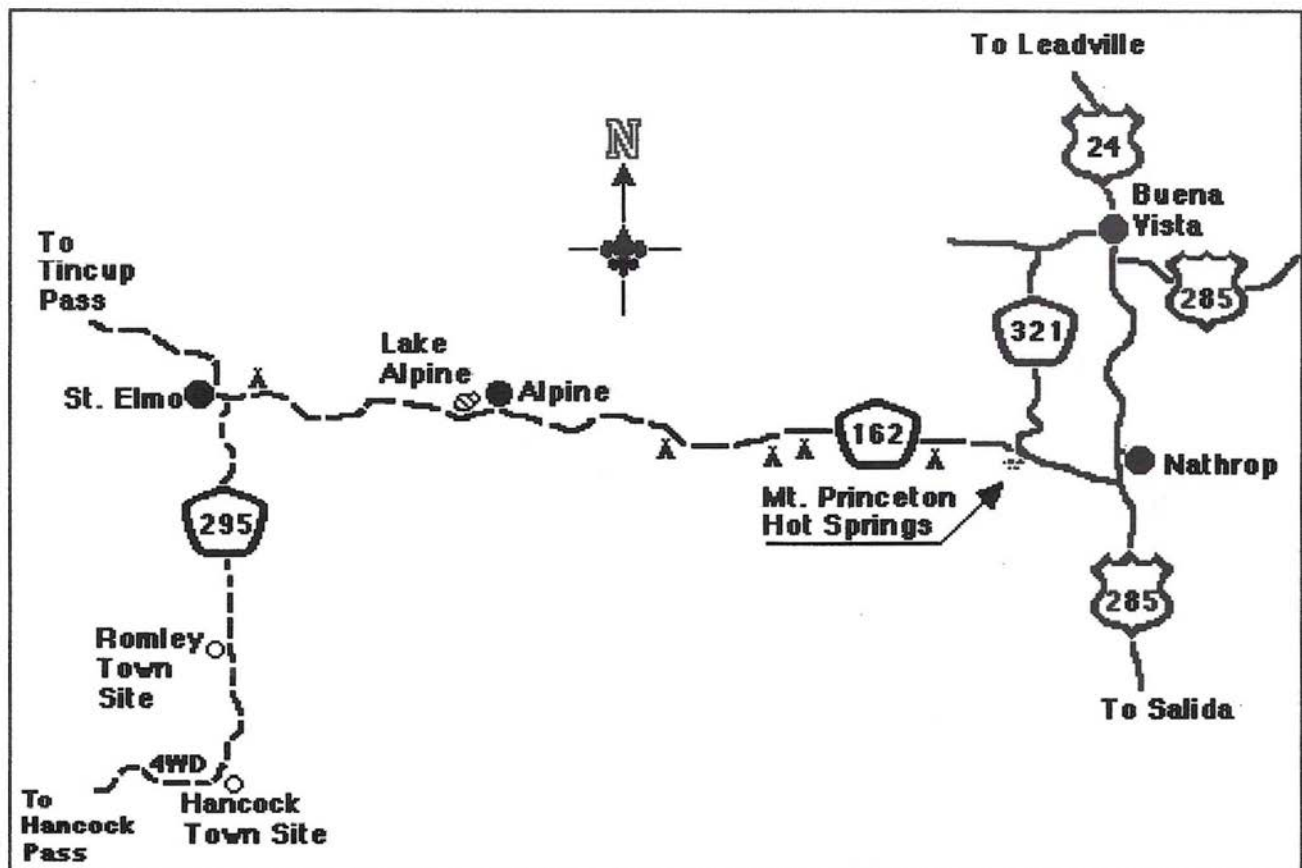


Colorado was a mining state during the last half of the 19th century, communities were established to support the miners. Many of these communities were in the mountains, but most are gone due to the population moving on, the resulting neglect, the weight of winter snows and vandals. There are still a few locations where a Boy Scout Troop can visit and observe a little of Colorado's history. Such visits can make for an interesting activity on a troop campout. Remember to make sure that artifacts are not taken home. Take only pictures, leave only footprints. The following ghost towns are some of the best remaining in Colorado.

**24-1 St. Elmo** - St. Elmo is by far the ghost town that is in the best condition. There are a few residents, a general store and summer cabins. But most of the buildings have been vacant for a number of years. St. Elmo was incorporated in 1880 and served as a place for rest and relaxation for the miners of the region and also as a railhead for the Denver South Park & Rio Grande Railroad. The main road to St. Elmo was originally the railroad bed. The last train to St. Elmo was in 1926.

Drive Time: 3 Hours

Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

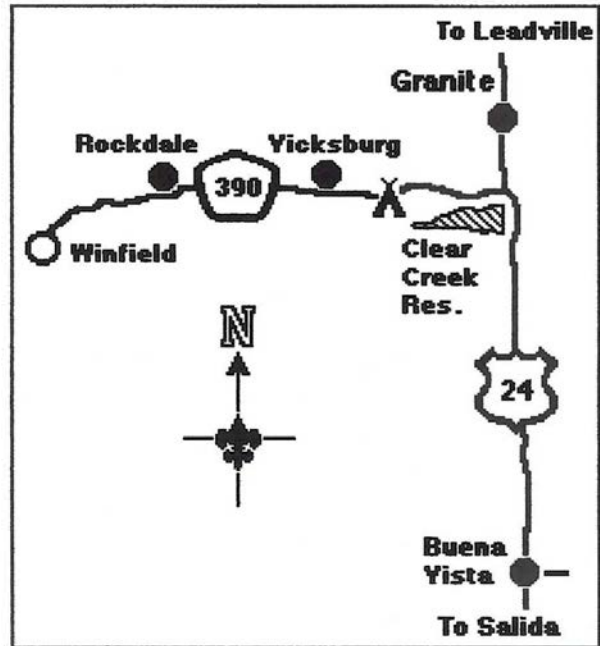


**How to get there:** Take US 285 from Denver to Buena Vista, then south to Nathrop. Turn west on CR162, it is 4 miles to Mt. Princeton Hot Springs, continue to St. Elmo, about 16 miles west of Nathrop. There are several Forest Service campgrounds along CR162 between Mt. Princeton Hot Springs and St. Elmo.

**24-2 Winfield** - Winfield, a few years ago, consisted of a false-front building and about a dozen cabins along one street. The main street is only rock ruts.

Drive Time: 3 Hours  
 Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

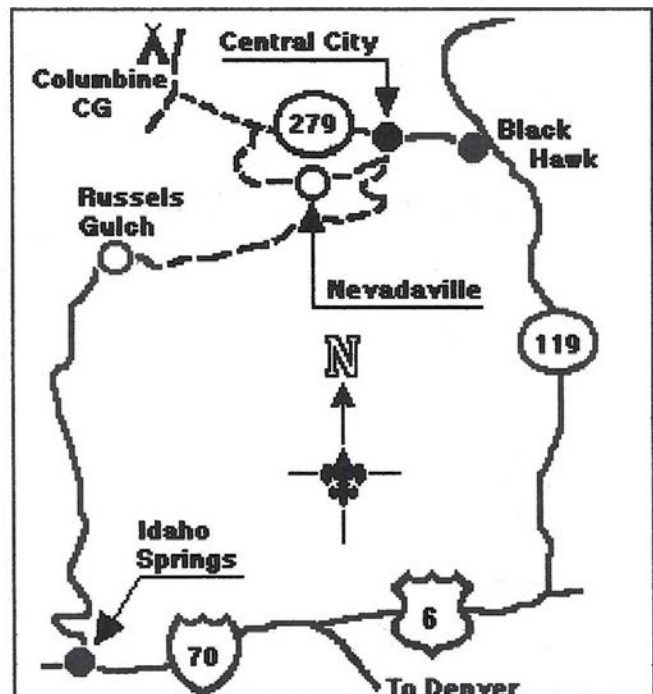
**How to get there:** Drive to Leadville, then south on US 24 to a road 2 miles south of Granite. This is CR390 to Clear Creek Reservoir, Vicksburg and Winfield. Vicksburg is about seven miles, Winfield is another three miles. A Forest Service campground is located on the west side of Clear Creek Reservoir.



**24-3 Nevadaville** - Nevadaville is only a mile southwest of Central City. It was founded in 1859 and had 6000 residents at one time, the town survived until 1914, then gradually deteriorated to its condition today. This area is booming again due to the gambling expansion at Central City and Black Hawk. Nevadaville did have a number of permanent buildings including 2 story structures made from brick and stone whose skeletons are still standing.

Drive Time: 1 Hour  
 Map Reference: Arapaho and Roosevelt Nt. Forest, 1990 edition

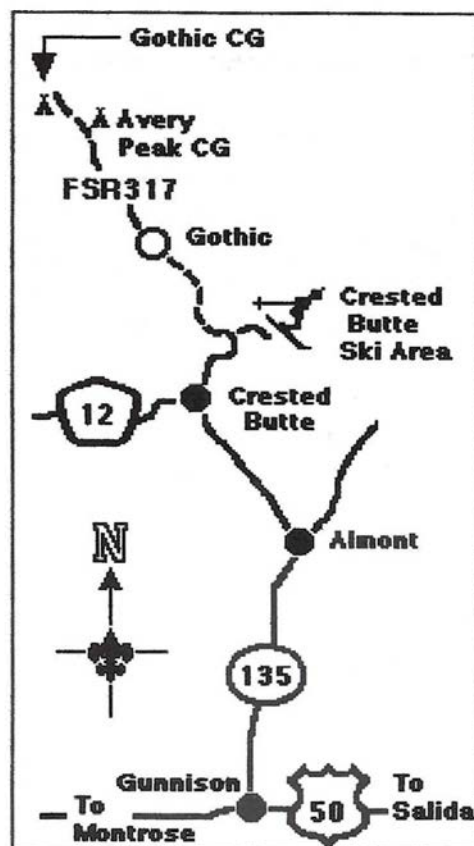
**How to get there:** Drive to Central City. Take Eureka Street west, turn south one block on Main Street to Nevada Street (west side), which will take you uphill to Nevadaville. For a nearby campground see; 8-9 Columbine Campground in the Central Colorado Chapter.



**24-4 Gothic** - Gothic is a little far from the Denver Area, but if you are in the Gunnison area take a look, it is in a beautiful location. Gold was found in 1879 and the Gothic population grew to 8000, but by 1884 most of the gold and silver was gone and Gothic began to shut down. Today the Rocky Mountain Biological Lab is located at Gothic and a few folks still live here, especially during the summer, so its not totally a ghost town. This area is popular with mountain bikers during the summer.

Drive Time: 5 Hours  
 Map Reference: Gunnison Nt. Forest, 1984 edition

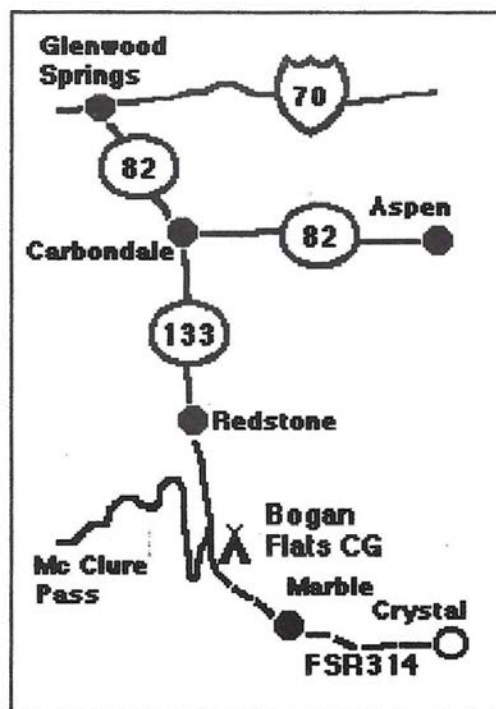
**How to get there:** Drive to Gunnison over Monarch Pass on US 50. In Gunnison take CO135 north to Crested Butte. Drive north through Crested Butte, continue on CO135 to Gothic. You can drive further north, all the way to Schofield Pass, on FSR317, but don't try to go over the pass without 4 wheel drive. Two campgrounds, Gothic and Avery Peaks, are north of Gothic on FSR317.



**24-5 Crystal** - On the north side of Schofield Pass is Crystal, it is much easier to drive to from the north. Crystal was a major mining area during the 1880s and 90s, mining continued until 1913. Crystal has never died, there are a number of houses and a small general store that is open during the summer months. On FSR314 between Marble and Crystal the Crystal Mill is perched above the Crystal River on a rock outcropping, it makes a great photograph.

Drive Time: 5 Hours  
 Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition

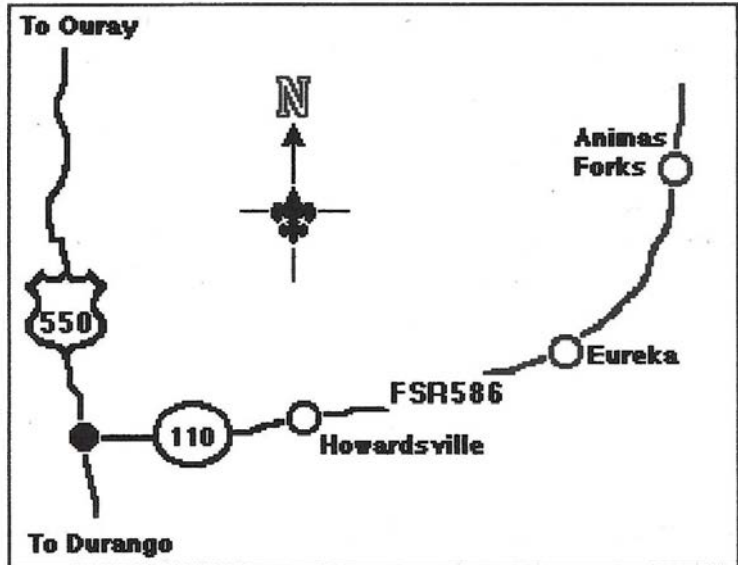
**How to get there:** Take I-70 west to Glenwood Springs. Exit at Glenwood and take CO82 to Carbondale, then south on CO133 for 22 miles. Marble is 7 miles south of CO133 on FSR314. Crystal is another 6 miles west on FSR314. Cars can drive to Crystal if high centered and you watch what you are doing. Bogan Flats Campground is along the Crystal River just after you turn onto FSR314 from CO133.





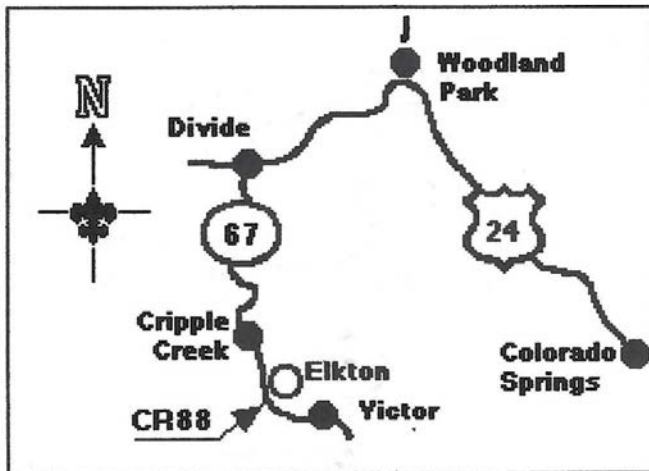
**24-6 Animas Forks** - Animas Forks was an eastern neighbor of Silverton at an elevation of 11,584'. This mining community was founded in 1887 after a gold strike two years earlier. There are still a few buildings standing at the town site. The entire area is rich with mining history.

Drive Time: 1 Day  
 Map Reference: Gunnison Nt. Forest, 1984 edition



**How to get there:** Drive east through Silverton on CO110. This highway turns into FSR586. You will pass the town sites of Howardsville, Middleton, Eureka and Animas Forks. Animas Forks is about 13 miles northeast of Silverton. The nearest Forest Service campgrounds are Amphitheater Campground, just east of Ouray (this one is often full in the summer) and South Mineral Campground, which is about 7 miles west of Silverton on FSR585.

**24-7 Elkton** - Elkton was the second greatest gold producing area in the world during the late 1800s and early 1900s; it turned out \$50 million in gold. The population of Elkton was at 3000 in 1905. There were a number of communities in this district including Cripple Creek and Victor. Between the two communities was Elkton, it did not prosper into the 20th century.



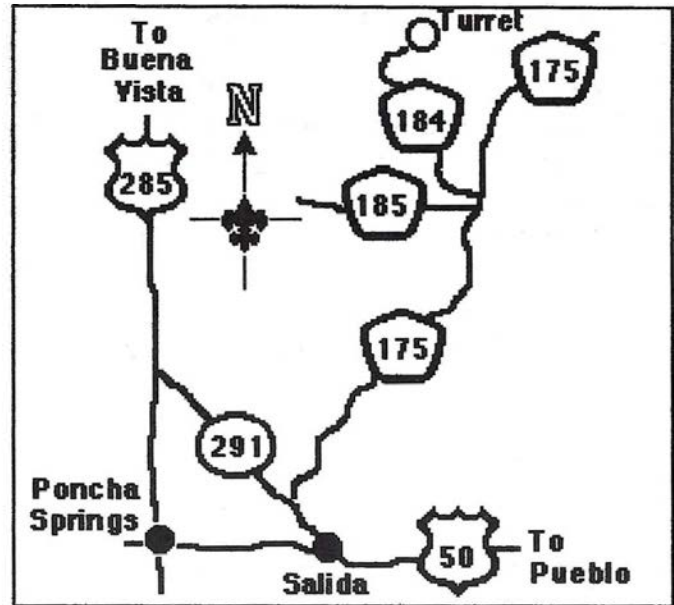
Drive Time: 3 Hours  
 Map Reference: Pike Nt. Forest, 1992 edition

**How to get there:** Take US24 west from Colorado Springs pass Woodland Park to Divide. Turn south on CO67 to Cripple Creek. Drive through Cripple Creek, halfway between Cripple Creek and Victor are the remains of Elkton. See the Pikes Peak Area Chapter for campgrounds in the area.



**24-8 Turret** - Turret is located northeast of Salida. Turret was a gold mining camp established in 1897 that lasted until the 1940s when the post office closed.

Drive Time: 3.5 Hours  
 Map Reference: San Isabel Nt. Forest, 1993 edition

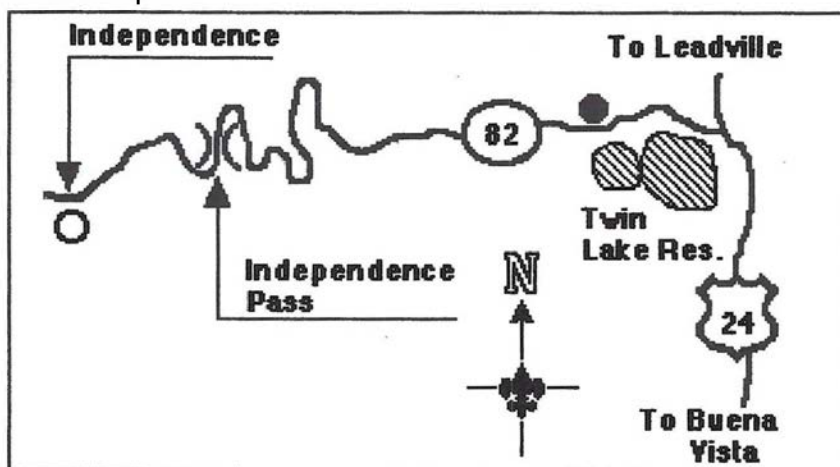


**How to get there:** Take US 285 from Denver, seven miles north of Poncha Springs, turn left on CO291. A short distance northwest of Salida, turn right on CR175 and follow it northeast into the mountains for 8 miles. Turn left on CR184 to what remains of Turret. Keep to the left at all main intersections. Turret is 12 miles from the CO291 intersection. Forest Service campgrounds can be found west of Poncha Springs, along US 50, towards Monarch Pass. Also, along CR162 west of Nathrop, see St. Elmo, 24-1.

**24-9 Independence** - Independence is located high up on the west side of Independence Pass. Independence was a mining camp founded in the late 1870s. Its population was as high as 2000 in the 1880s, but the last hermit left in 1912. Some of the Independence buildings were restored in 1976 for the Bicentennial.

Drive Time: 3.5 Hours  
 Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition

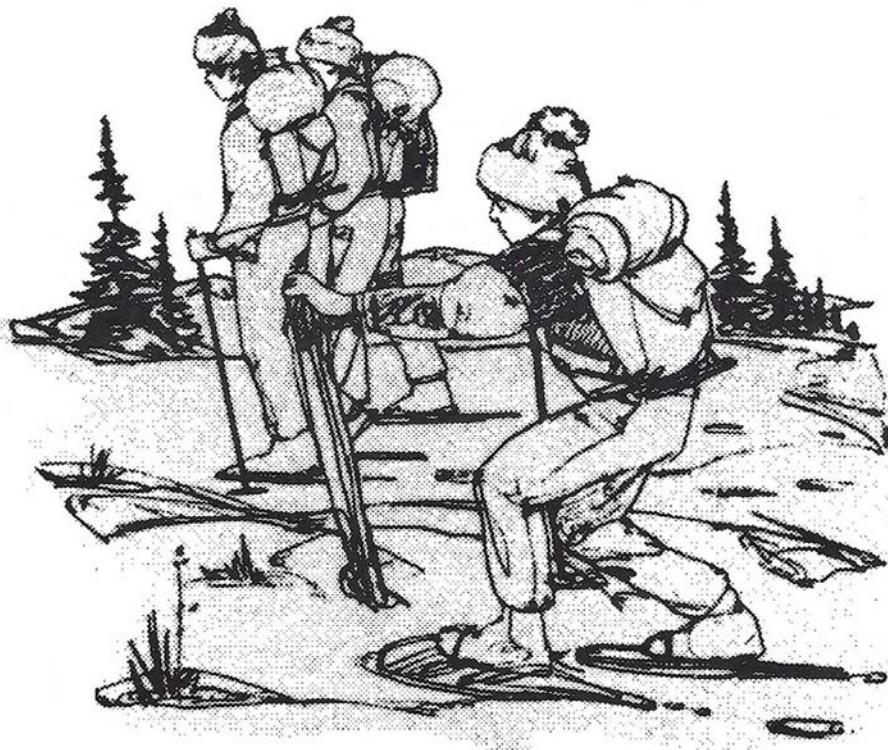
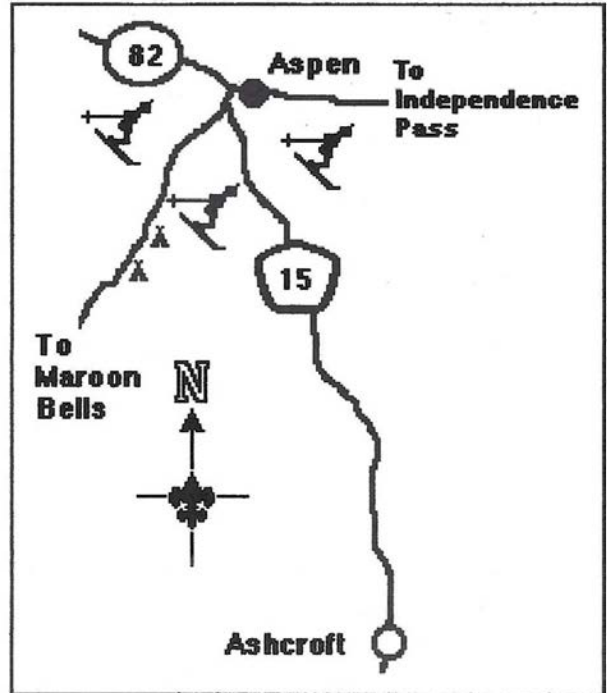
**How to get there:** Drive to Buena Vista on US 285. then north on US 24 to Twin Lakes Reservoir, take CO82 west pass the community of Twin Lakes. Continue west up and over Independence Pass. The ghost town of Independence is located 2 miles west of the pass and only 200-300 feet south of the highway. There are several campgrounds further west along CO82 towards Aspen.



**24-10 Ashcroft** - Ashcroft was another mining community founded in the 1880s that prospered until 1890. By 1904 there were only 100 people living there and by 1906 the town was bought by a New York Syndicate. Several buildings in Ashcroft were restored in 1976 for the Bicentennial.

Drive Time: 4.5 Hours  
Map Reference: White River Nt. Forest, 1991 edition

**How to get there:** Drive to Aspen, drive west out of town on CO82, in a short distance turn south on CR13 to the Maroon Bells. In .10 mile take a left on CR15 (which will turn into FSR102), follow it about 14 miles southeast to Ashcroft. Roads are car driveable. There are a number of campgrounds along the Maroon Bells Road, FSR125. This is a high use area, especially in the summer and fall.



# 25 WILDLIFE PROPERTY / INFORMATION

A large amount of acreage in Colorado has been set aside for wildlife observation, photography, camping and hunting. There are several organizations that administer this acreage, they can provide your troop booklets which can be obtained at little or no charge. These booklets list each of the properties, how to get there, restrictions and recreation activities permitted.

## 25-1 COLORADO WILDLIFE PROPERTIES

Probably the most overlooked wildlife properties are those owned by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. A booklet entitled *Colorado Wildlife Properties Directory*, provides a listing of each property, how to get there, recreation opportunities, facilities and restrictions. A fold out map of Colorado is on the last page showing where each of the 252 properties are located.

### How to get *Colorado Wildlife Properties Directory*:

Colorado Division of Wildlife  
Department of Natural Resources  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, Colorado 80216  
1 (303) 297-1192



The types of recreation opportunities vary greatly between the wildlife properties. Recreation opportunities listed in the DOW booklet are:

Hiking	Photography	Hunting
Camping	Boating	Picnicking
Wildlife Observation	Fishing	

Notes: Camping is permitted on some of the properties, but usually facilities (water, toilets, tables) are lacking, see the booklet for details. In some cases wildlife properties are restricted to the public during certain times of the year. These restrictions are due to animal migration and mating, usually between the months of September and February.

## 25-2 OTHER WILDLIFE PROPERTIES

A number of other public agencies provide access to their properties for wildlife observation. Many of these are well known while others are more obscure. Organizations which allow wildlife viewing on their properties are:

Bureau of Land Management  
Colorado State Office  
2850 Youngfield Street  
Lakewood, Colorado 80213  
1 (303) 239-3600

U.S. Forest Service  
730 Simms  
Lakewood, Colorado 80225  
1 (303) 275-5350

Bureau of Reclamation  
Denver Office  
Denver Federal Center  
Lakewood, Colorado 80225  
1 (303) 236-9336

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
P.O. Box 23486  
Denver Federal Center  
Lakewood, Colorado 80225  
1 (303) 236-7904

Denver Water Department  
1600 West 12th Ave  
Denver, Colorado 80254  
1 (303) 628-6000

Colorado State Parks  
1313 Sherman Street, Rm. 618  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
1 (303) 866-3437

### 25-3 BOOK ON WILDLIFE VIEWING

A small book was published in 1992 called *Colorado Wildlife Viewing Guide* that puts it all together. It lists 110 properties where wildlife can be viewed. Information in this book provides the type of wildlife, how to get there including a map, viewing areas, facilities available and restrictions. The book is in color with wonderful photographs of animals and birds from the viewing areas. This book is only \$6.95. If you are interested in obtaining this book the following information will be helpful:

Title: *Colorado Wildlife Viewing Guide, 1992*  
Lib. Congress No. 91-058878  
ISBN: 1-56044-119-4  
Publisher: Falcon Press  
P.O. Box 1718  
Helena Montana 59624-9948  
Size: 9X6 inches, 128 pages



### 25-4 WILDLIFE ORGANIZATIONS WITH INFORMATION/ PROGRAMS

**Nature Conservancy** - The primary goal of the Nature Conservancy when acquiring land is to protect habitat critical to the survival of an identified rare or endangered species. The Conservancy holds a number of Preserves in Colorado, several are open to the public. Guided field trips are offered by members; they also have a speakers bureau, fee. For a list of Preserves call or write:

Nature Conservancy  
1244 Pine  
Boulder, Colorado 80302  
1 (303) 444-2950



**HawkQuest** - This Colorado organization is dedicated to educating the public about birds of prey and the environment. They provide an opportunity for people to learn and observe the interaction of wild living things in their natural surroundings. Nature is viewed through the eyes of a bird of prey. HawkQuest offers an one-hour program for audiences up to 300, these programs use a free-flying Harris' hawk, plus two or three other raptors. Their "Classroom in the Wild" field experiences are two-hour programs featuring free-flying Harris' hawks doing what they do naturally..hunting wild game as well as a Golden eagle in free flight. Participants learn about other inhabitants of the prairies, the vast prairie ecosystem, and about our own role in the web of life. Call for current fees. Arrange your units presentation or field trip by contacting:



HawkQuest  
15469 E. Oberlin Place  
Aurora, Colorado 80013  
1 (303) 690-6959

**Raptor Education Foundation** - You've probably seen this organization at the Scout Show, they do a lot of educational programs with and about birds of prey. For groups up to 200 they will do a one hour program called "Raptors in the Environment - Where Do We Fit?" At least two staff members bring 5 species of wild birds of prey (live), the program includes a flying sequence, and a discussion of the role of predator and people in the food chain. A packet of information is provided, which includes suggested follow-up activities, and a bibliography. They finish with a question and answer session. For groups of 50 or less, there is a program called "Face to Face" with one staff member and one bird. Call for cost and reservations.

Raptor Education Foundation  
21901 E. Hampden Avenue  
Aurora, Colorado 80013  
1 (303) 680-8500

**Plains Conservation Center** - Wildlife of the prairie ecosystem are featured in a number of the programs offered at the Plains Conservation Center. They work closely with the Scouting program to bring your Scouts interesting activities and opportunities for advancement. For more information on the Center and a map see the Denver and the Front Range Chapter, section 19-9.

Plains Conservation Center  
21901 E. Hampden Avenue  
Aurora, Colorado 80013  
1 (303) 693-3621



# 26 IMPORTANT FACTS AND INFORMATION

## 26-1 SURVIVAL

• **Basic Rules for Survival** - The following information is intended to provide Scouters basic survival information for the Colorado geographic area, maybe enough to wet your appetite to read a survival book or take a survival course. By no means is it intended to provide in-depth information. Be sure to share survival materials with your Scouts during the appropriate programs. Information provided here was extracted from the Colorado Division of Wildlife booklet, *The Art of Survival*.



Survival is “Staying Alive” and there are a few **basic rules for survival**:

1. **ALWAYS** tell someone where you are going and when you plan to return. If you change your plan, tell someone of that change.
2. Never go into the wilderness by yourself. Unavoidable accidents do happen.
3. Wear proper clothing and take proper equipment. The weather can and will change.
4. If you do get lost or stranded, **STAY PUT**. The authorities will find you if you have followed rule No. 1.
5. Learn how to use a compass, take a map of the area and orient yourself before leaving camp.
6. Always carry a survival kit and know how to use it. A survival kit, in the hands of someone who does not know how to use it, can kill.

To keep yourself alive in the wilderness you must have given some thought to the possibilities before the situation occurs. Survival is 80 percent positive mental attitude (wanting to survive and your ability to control your fear and panic), 10 percent equipment and 10 percent knowledge of how to use this equipment. Survival and the type of knowledge and equipment varies by the season and the

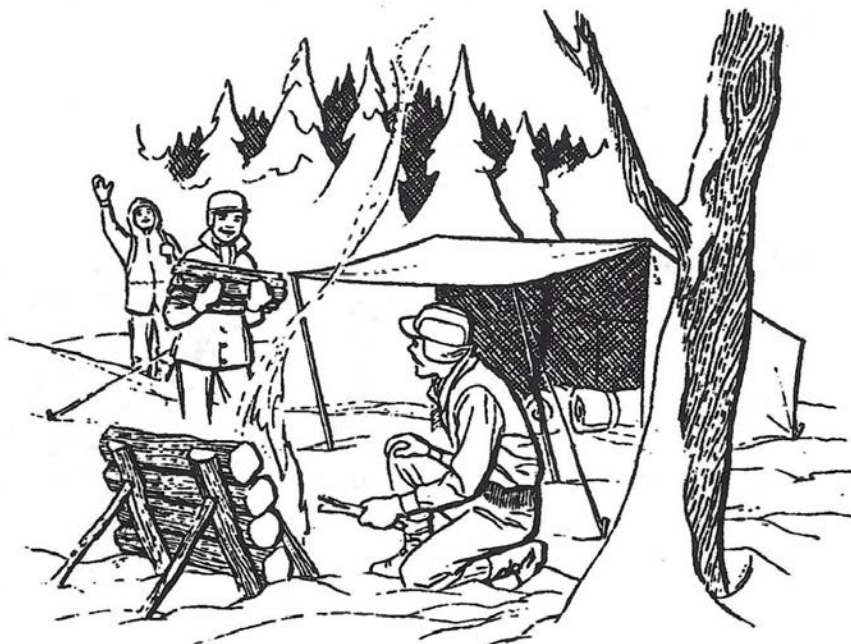




geographical situation (winter vs summer, mountains vs desert, etc.). There are three necessities no matter who you are, where you are or what time of year; these are Shelter, Fire and Signal; call them **The Big Three**. »

**1. Shelter** - Shelter is always your number one priority. You have to protect yourself from rain, sun, snow or wind. If you have nothing else going for you - no fire or food or anything else - but, you have adequate shelter, you will probably survive until you are found by rescuers. Choose a shelter site carefully; one that is protected from the wind, but one that's near a large clearing suitable for ground to air signalling.

Winter survival shelters are a necessity in the Colorado back country. A few of the more common ones are described in this paragraph. The one which requires the least work is the **overhanging rock shelf or cave**; it depends on your luck in finding one. The rock shelf or cave combined with a reflector fire, with you between the rock wall and fire, provides reasonable comfort. In timber country where the snow is deep, removing the snow from **under a spruce tree**, will provide a quickly available shelter. The tree will provide the roof of your shelter and cut branches may be placed at snow level around the edge. A **snow cave** may be dug in the winter wherever snowdrifts of sufficient depth can be found. Snow caves should be large enough to be comfortable (one man needs an area 3' wide by 7' long). Beware that snow caves are difficult to dig without getting wet and therefore are less desirable than other forms of winter shelter. Snow caves must have a ventilation hole in the roof and the roof has to be arched so water can run down the sides. A **snow trench** can be constructed in shallow snow that is 2-3 foot deep. Dig out a trench that is 3 foot deep by 3 foot wide by 10



foot long. If the snow has hardened cut it out as blocks and place these block around the edge of the trench; in this way the trench does not need to be dug as deep. Place pine boughs in the bottom of the trench for about 8-10 inches of thickness. Next, place limbs or poles across the width of the trench then cover the limbs with pine boughs, tarp, brush or poncho. Leave a 2-3 foot entrance hole at one end so you can enter the trench. Next, place a minimum of 12 inches of snow over the top of the boughs to insulate the interior of the trench from the outside temperature and windchill. Once inside, If you can block the entrance with a pack or some snow it will improve the inside temperature.

In the summer a **lean-to** can be made in timbered terrain. Support is required from a ridge pole about three feet from the ground. Two upright poles or crotches in trees will provide the upright support. Limbs or branches are leaned (butt end up towards the top if they have foliage) against the pole. Cross members that are interwoven makes the lean-to more secure and helps make the shelter water resistant. Overlap spruce or fir branches like shingles, starting at the bottom and placing the butt end toward the top. A fire between the lean-to and a reflector made from logs, stones or a reflector blanket will reflect heat from the fire and warm the shelter. In all of these shelters pine boughs need to be cut and placed on the ground to insulate you from ground contact and heat loss. Use 8-10 inches of boughs for insulation (bough stems should be no larger in diameter than a lead pencil); if a space blanket is available put it on the ground first (reflective side up) then put the boughs on top of the blanket. With a **small plastic sheet or a tarp** you can construct some very simple shelters (single pole A-frame or lean-to set between two trees); these shelters can protect you from the wind or rain. Another summer shelter can be a combination of a **large rock and reflector fire** with you between the rock and the fire; the rock will reflect heat back to you.

**2. Fire** - Fire, besides providing heat or a stove to cook on, also provides you light when it is dark, companionship when you are alone, a signal for help and protection from wild animals that are not there (psychological protection). Fire is your second priority to successful survival.

Fire is important in the winter months or on cool nights in the mountains during the summer when you don't have a sleeping bag or other good insulating materials. In the wintertime fire should not be built directly on top of the snow or ice. A fire base of green logs or stones should be built. Most fuel cannot be started directly from lighting a match. You will need some easily inflammable tinder such as small twigs, wood shavings, bark, dead pine needles, dry leaves, grass or tissue paper; or a fire starter that you were smart enough to bring with you. Don't waste fire starter resources (matches etc.) by trying to start a poorly built fire base. Place the tinder in a low pyramid, then arrange your kindling around the outside. For kindling and fuel, use dry standing dead wood or dried animal dung. Sometimes the inside of tree trunks or large branches may be dry even if the outside is wet. Have all materials (tinder, kindling and fuel) on hand before attempting to light your



fire. Build a small fire and conserve fuel and energy. When collecting wood for a night, gather at least 10 times the amount you think you will use. It burns quickly and the nights are long. Store kindling and fuel in as dry a place as possible.

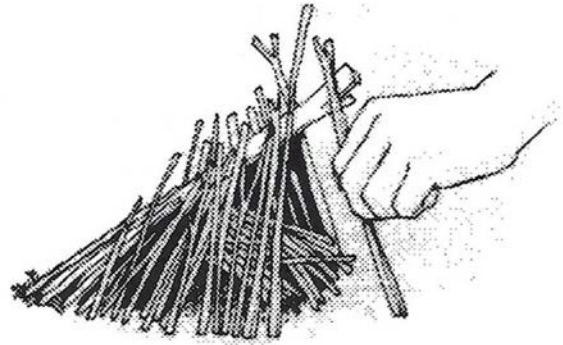
### **Fire Starter Materials:**

If you want to bring fire starting materials for an emergency here are a few ideas.

1. Sawdust saturated with paint thinner, stored in a small water proof container is excellent man made fire starting material. You can replace your natural tinder and start your kindling directly from fire starter materials like this one.

2. A paper egg carton filled with saw dust and then filled with paraffin. When cool break-off one or two egg modules, place in a Ziploc bag and store in an emergency kit that goes with you.

3. A simple candle can also provide the material for a fire starter. Put a stub in your emergency kit.



### **Fire Starter Alternatives:**

There are a number of fire starter options you may want to consider carrying with you on hiking and camping adventures, some forethought needs to be given in preparing your pack and pants pockets.

1. Wooden kitchen matches that will strike anywhere that have been dipped in paraffin and stored in a waterproof container.

2. A butane lighter with variable flame control and see through housing, so you can see how much butane fuel remains, works better then matches when operational, but matches always work.

3. Use of steel wool (0000) pads (two in a Ziploc sandwich bag) and a 9 volt transistor battery (stored in a 35 mm film container) can start a fire. By touching the electrical connection ( $\pm$ ) to steel wool it will ignite. By quickly blowing on the sparks it will catch on fire; immediately place it with the tender in your prepared fire base and presto a fire. Practice this at home so you know how it reacts and how quickly you need to move the steel wool into your fire lay.

4. Calcium Carbide makes a neat fire starter in wet or rainy weather. Store the carbide in a 35 mm film canister (airtight). A few pieces of carbide combined with a small amount of water, produces acetylene gas. You can use a Magnesium Fire-



Starting Tool® with your knife to make sparks to start the acetylene gas; or you can just use a match. Be sure to have your fire laid and ready to go before you add water to the carbide. Again, try this technique at home or a troop meeting before using it in a survival situation. This technique is not recommended for Scouts since, in large quantities, carbide can be explosive, but it is sure fun to demonstrate the technique to the troop.

Having a survival program and building a survival kit makes a wonderful month long program and campout. Remember, no tents allowed or other fancy equipment that usually goes on a troop campout. Be sure your troop is PREPARED.

**3. Signal** - Signal is the third priority to survival. The main rule to keep in mind regarding signalling is that a good signal is anything that makes you bigger than you are and attracts attention to your situation. A signal is not a spur-of-the-moment thing. You must prepare for it so that it is ready when you need it. You must prepare for two types of signalling, ground-to-air and ground-to-ground.

For ground-to-air there are international symbols that can be placed in a clearing that have been developed by a committee on international civil aviation. These symbols can be interpreted by pilots flying over but they must be noticeable from the air. These symbols must attract attention, they need to be from 30 to 50 feet in length and 3-4 feet wide. These symbols are:

V = Require Assistance  
X = Require Medical Assistance  
-+ = Preceding in this Direction

**Signal Fire** - Fire is a powerful signalling tool and one that takes advance preparation. Three fire bases should be prepared in a triangle 30 to 50 feet apart. This creates a V which means, require assistance. The fire at the base of the V should be your campfire which should be burning at all times. The fire base on the points of the V should be prepared but not kept burning. When a search aircraft enters your area, touch off the other two fire bases. This will give you a triangle of fire which will distinguish your plea for help from other fires that may be in the area. Be sure to keep these fires under control.

**Signal Mirror** - The best type of ground-to-air signal during the sunlight hours is the glass G.I. type signal mirror. This type of mirror will generate 5 to 7 million candlepower of light in bright sunshine and can be seen for 20-25 miles. Metal mirrors are not recommended, they do not perform. This is another activity that needs practice ahead of time at home, troop meetings or outings.

**Sound** - Ground-to-ground signaling takes various forms. A vinyl police or coaches whistle makes the finest ground signal. It can be heard for quite a distance; with some exceptions, such as heavy timber or brush. Remember three blast of a whistle repeated over and over again is a distress signal. Metal whistles are not recommended since they can freeze to your lips during winter months, Ouch!

- **Survival Classes** - Survival instruction takes 8-16 hours of course time plus one or more weekends trying out newly gained knowledge. In the past the Order of the Arrow has arranged presentations by Papa Bear Whitmore who is a survival specialist living in Colorado. He has provided training courses for youth groups (Scouts), companies and government agencies; providing classes to personnel who have high potential need for survival skills as related to their types of employment. Contact Papa Bear Whitmore for information regarding classes, videos, audio tapes, text and survival kit material.

Wilderness Institute of Survival Education  
3380 Parfet,  
Wheat Ridge, Colorado 80033  
1 (303) 231-0069

- **Survival Information and Books** - A number of good books and pamphlets are available which provides much of this information. Titles are:

1. *The Art of Survival*, prepared by Papa Bear Whitmore, distributed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.
2. *The W.I.S.E. Man's Guide to Wilderness Survival*, by Papa Bear Whitmore and Jim Bunstock.
3. *You Can Stay Alive!*, by Larry Wells and Roger Giles.
4. *Outdoor Survival Skills*, by Larry Olson.
5. *Surviving The Unexpected Wilderness Emergency*, by Eugene Fear.

6. *The Search*, by Tom Brown.
7. *The Search of Warmth*, by Hal Weiss.
8. *Medicine for Mountaineering* - The Seattle Mountaineers



#### • Contents of a Basic Survival Kit:

If you are smart enough and willing to carry a little extra weight you should bring enough basic material for a survival kit. Such a kit will make a survival stay much easier when you have these basic tools and know how to use them. The trick is to always take your survival kit with you; never leave it in camp or in your backpack, when for example, you go exploring or take a day hike. Assuming you have the proper clothing on or with you here are your Basic Survival Kit items.

#### Your Basics

1. Knife - Fairly large with lock blade
2. Rain gear - Poncho preferred
3. Water container, filled - Including purification tablets or bleach solutions
4. First Aid Kit - Small and basic
5. Quick energy food (hard candy)

#### Your Shelter

6. Nylon parachute cord (50') or heavy duty dental floss (100-200 yards)
7. Plastic sheet (3 mil thickness, 6' x 6' minimum)
8. Emergency blanket to reflect heat (1-3 in number)

Note: Never wrap you body in an emergency blanket, the water condensation collects under the blanket in your clothing and can start hypothermia.

#### Your Fire

9. Fire starters (matches, lighter, carbide, steel wool and battery, your choice)
10. Fire starter material (sawdust & paraffin, candle)

#### Your Signal

11. G.I. type signal mirror (know how to use, practice ahead of time)
12. Whistle (made from plastic)
13. Florescent orange surveyors tape (to build a ground to air signal)

Note: The reflective side of an emergency blanket (item 7) makes an excellent signal panel, ground-to-air.

## 26-2 WATER NEEDS AND PURIFICATION

The human body is approximately 80% liquid. Intake and output of liquids are necessary to the processes of life and normal functions of the vital organs. When water loss exceeds intake dehydration takes place. Dehydration of 6% - 8% of body water will result in decreased body efficiency, if not corrected it will end in complete collapse. Humans lose water three ways: perspiration, breathing and urination. Excess body heat must be dissipated by evaporation of perspiration on the skin. Sweating uses salt; salt deficiency causes disruption of body chemistry (muscle cramps, headaches, nausea). Adequate salt intake will also help retain moisture in the system.

During camping trips or a survival situation you need three to four quarts of water a day to keep yourself properly hydrated, during a summer backpack trip you need more. Today, natural water sources from streams, lakes and springs must be considered suspect and must be treated. Giardia is probably the worst problem in Colorado water sources and steps **MUST** be taken to treat water from all natural water sources. Various bacteria, including giardia, is spread from wild animal feces which is leached into the natural water drainage.

**Smaller streams usually present the best source of water.** Water from smaller streams is usually cleaner and has a smaller water drainage area feeding its flow. Larger streams, rivers, lakes have a much higher probability for greater numbers and types of bacteria.

**Treating water** - The most common method of treating water is boiling. The recommended rule is that you must boil your water for 5 minutes, then add 1 additional minute for each 1000 feet of elevation at your location. **Use of water purification tablets** is a very common form of purifying water. Be sure to leave the tablets in the water for a minimum of 30 minutes to allow the chemicals to work. Cloudy or very cold water requires additional time. The recommended brand of purification tables is Potable Aqua®.



If you don't like the taste or the expense associated with Potable Aqua these is another way. **Household bleach** (Clorox regular) works extremely well; it makes the water taste like city treated water and the cost is only a couple of pennies for an extended backpack trip. Use a droplet dispenser and place 3 - 4 drops per quart of water; let sit for a minimum of 30 minutes similar to the purification tablets.

Clorox bulk storage needs to be in a dark cool place since it has a limited life expectancy. Once a year buy a new pint bottle for .50 cents; it will be more than enough for a year for your entire troop.

Note: A word for the wise! Bacteria gets between the screw cap and the water container. The water in the water container becomes treated after 30 minutes, but the water between cap and container will still get you. It is recommended that after 15 or 20 minutes, you loosen the screw cap on your water container a bit and shake the container. This will allow purified water to run into the cap, through the threads and mix with the untreated water that remained around the cap. Tighten the cap down and wait another 15 or 20 minutes before drinking.

Information sources about water were obtained from: *Fatigue and Exhaustion* pamphlet, published by the National Parks, *The Art of Survival*, published by the Colorado Division of Wildlife, *The W.I.S.E. Man's Guide to Wilderness Survival*, by Papa Bear Whitmore and Jim Bunstock and *Make the Best of Basics-Family Preparedness Handbook L.D.S.*, by James Stevens.

### **26-3 LIVING WITH WILDLIFE**

The following information was provided from pamphlets published by the Colorado Division of Wildlife. These pamphlets can be obtained from the Division Office at 6060 Broadway, Denver, Colorado 80216; titled, *Living with Wildlife in Bear Country*, *Living with Wildlife in Lion Country* and *Moose of the Upper Pio Grande*.

#### **• Basic information related to black bears:**

The Colorado Division of Wildlife estimates that there are from 8,000 to 12,000 black bears in Colorado. No grizzly or brown bears are known to live in Colorado today. Black bears are not always black, but vary from blond to brown to blue black; adults weigh from 125 to 450 pounds depending on the sex and time of the year. Black bears have excellent eyesight and a keen sense of smell. Black bears are generally shy and avoid human contact. However, there are some precautions you should take to avoid encounters with black bears if you camp and hike in Colorado mountain country. Do not feed a bear for any reason; if the bear gets food from you, it's likely to behave more aggressively towards the next humans it meets. Do not surprise bears. When hiking, to reduce your chance of surprising a bear, make noise in brushy areas near a stream and when rounding bends on a trail.

Note: In Canada and Montana hikers hang "bear bells" on their packs so bears are not surprised and can move out in advance of humans.



• **Camping guidelines related to bears:**

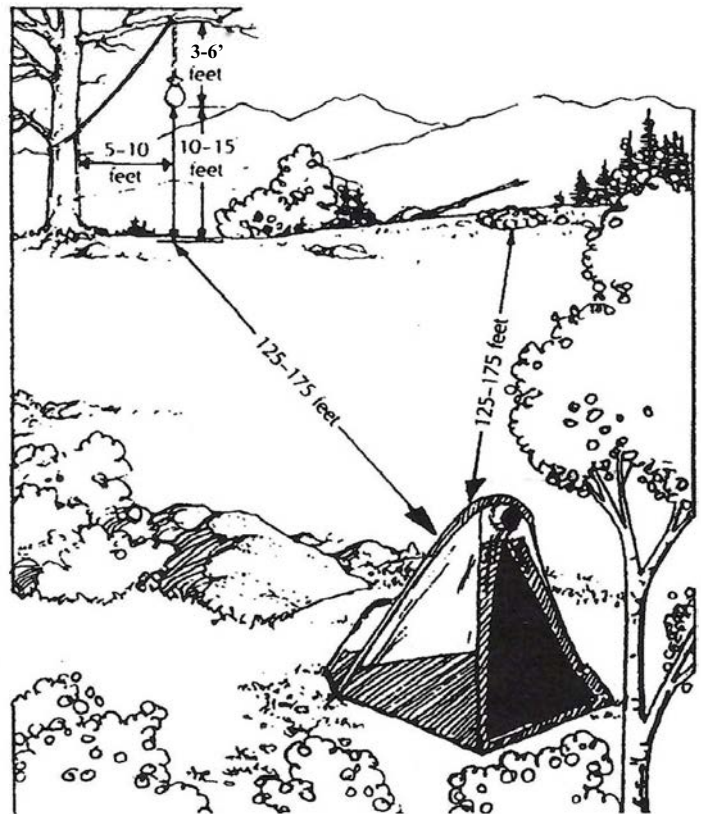
1. Keep your camp clean. Store your food and garbage properly. Keep your sleeping bag and clothing stored inside the tent, keep tents free of all food smells.

2. Store all your food in a cooler in your car trunk or in a bear bag suspended from a tree — at least 10 feet off the ground and 4 feet from the tree trunk. Don't under-estimate the ingenuity of a bear.

3. Dispose of garbage in bear proof garbage cans where available or secure it with your food and then pack it out. Don't bury your garbage, bears will dig it up. Certain items can be burned or burned out, then the remains packed out.

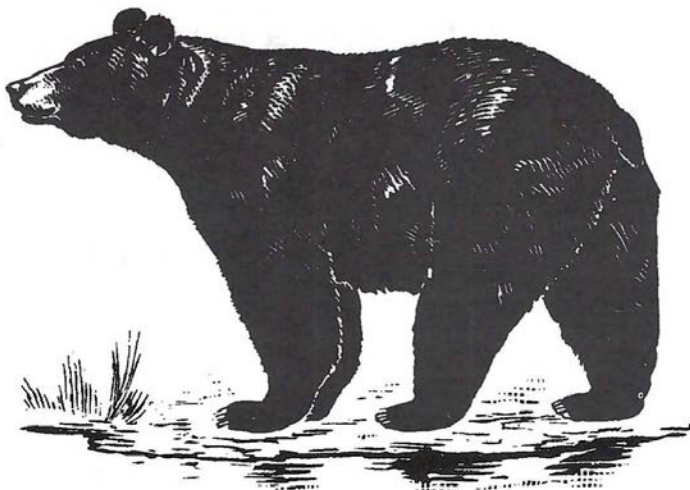
4. Sleep well away from food storage and meal preparation areas.

5. Store any toiletries safely. Store them with your food. Like other scents, the smell of toiletries will attract bears.



Note: At Philmont Scout Ranch such items as toothpaste and brush, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, and aftershave are placed in bear bags at night.

• **What to do when you meet a black bear:**



1. Stay calm - If you see a bear and it hasn't seen you, calmly leave the area. As you move away, talk aloud to let the bear discover your presence.

2. Stop - If you find yourself facing a bear, back away slowly while facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact as bears may perceive this as a threat. Give the bear plenty of room to escape. Wild bears rarely attack people unless they feel threatened or provoked. If on a trail, step off the trail on the downhill side, slowly leave the area. Don't run or make sudden movements. Running is likely to prompt the bear to give chase and you can't outrun a bear.

3. Speak softly - This may reassure the bear that no harm is meant to it. Try not to show fear.
4. Coming between a female and her cubs can be very dangerous. If a cub is nearby, try to move away from it. Be alert — other cubs may be in the area.
5. If a bear stands upright and moves closer, it may be trying to detect smells in the air. This isn't a sign of aggression. Once it identifies you, it may leave the area or try to intimidate you by charging to within a few feet before withdrawing.
6. If attracted by a black bear fight back. Black bears have been driven away when people have fought back with rocks, sticks, binoculars and even their bare hands.

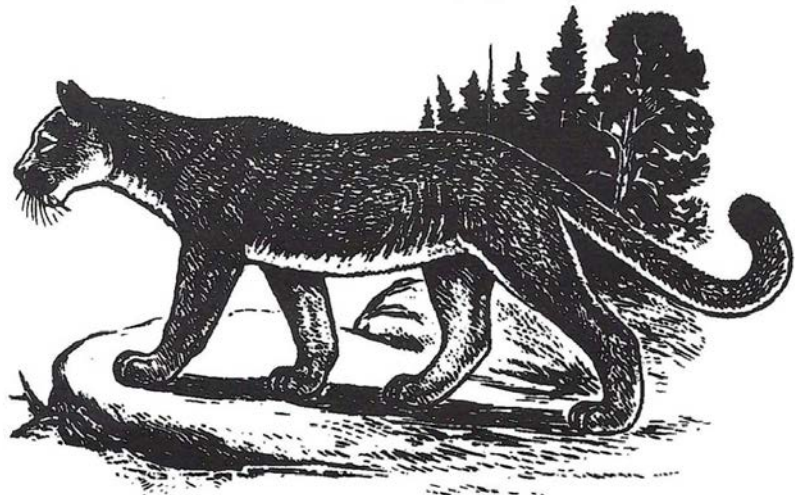
- **Basic information related to mountain lions**

The Colorado Division of Wildlife estimates that there are from 1,500 to 3,000 mountain lions in Colorado. A lion's natural life span is about 12 years; adults weigh from 90 to 150 pounds depending on the sex and are up to eight feet in length including the tail. Mountain lions are calm, quiet, elusive and avoid human contact. People rarely get more than a brief glimpse of a mountain lion in the wild. Lions are most commonly found in areas with plentiful deer and adequate cover.

- **What to do when you meet a mountain lion:**

When you walk or hike in mountain country, go in groups and make plenty of noise to reduce your chance of surprising a lion. A sturdy walking stick is a good idea; it can be used to ward off a lion. Do not approach a lion, especially one that is feeding or with cubs. Most lions will try to avoid a confrontation. Give them a way to escape.

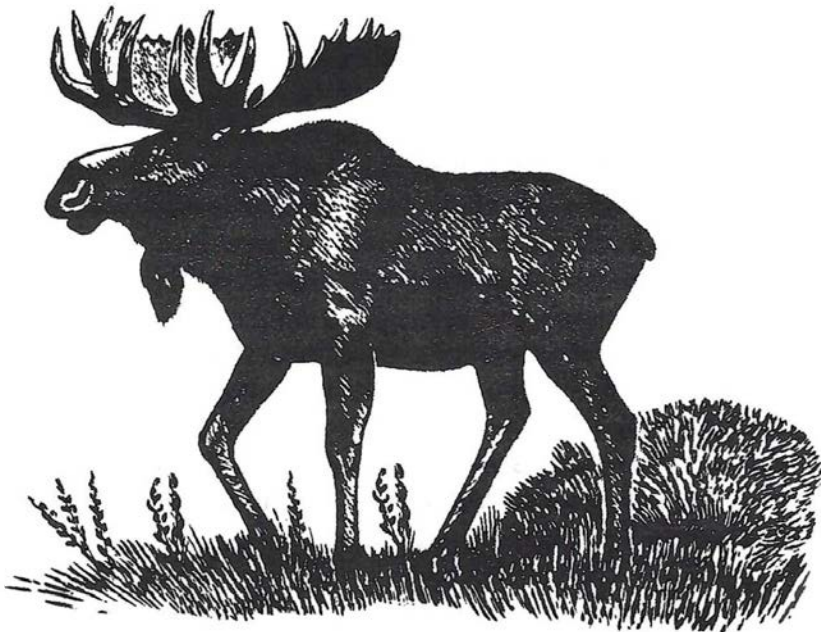
1. Stay Calm - When you come upon a lion. Talk calmly yet firmly to it. Move slowly.
2. Stop - Back away slowly only if you can do so safely. Running may stimulate a lion's instinct to chase and attack. Face the lion and stand upright.
3. Do all you can to appear larger. Raise your arms. Open your jacket if you're wearing one.
4. Fight Back if a lion attacks you. Lions have been driven away by prey that fights back. People have fought back with rocks, sticks, caps or jackets, garden tools and



their bare hands successfully. Wave your arms slowly and speak firmly. What you want to do is convince the lion you are not prey and that you may be in fact be a danger to the lion. Do not crouch down or turn your back.

• **Basic information related to moose**

Moose have been released in the North Park (Walden) and the Upper Rio Grande (Creede and Lake City) areas. Only about 100 moose have been released in these areas, but natural breeding is increasing the population as the years continue. Moose range from 800 to 1000 pounds and stand 6 feet tall at the shoulder. Most are nearly black in color, with lighter colored legs that look too long for the body. The moose's long head and overhanging snout makes a face that is to remember.



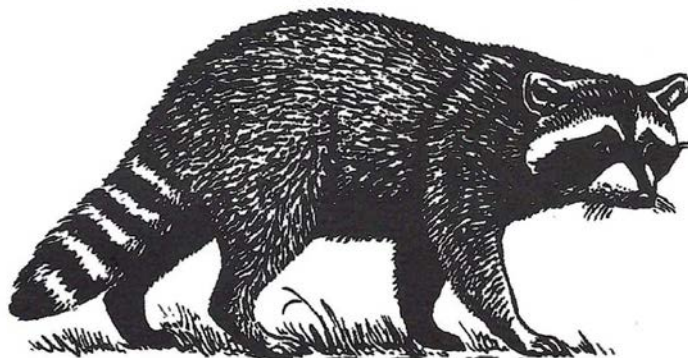
• **Tips for watching moose and other wildlife:**

1. Do not approach a female with young.
2. Watch animals from a safe distance.
3. Use binoculars, spotting scopes and telephoto camera lenses for getting up close.
4. Move slowly and not directly at wildlife.
5. Respect others who may be viewing the same wildlife.
6. Never chase or try to harass wildlife.
7. Avoid animals that behave strangely or abnormally.
8. Leave pets (dogs) at home.

## 26-4 COLORADO MT. CLUB WISDOM

### • Hiking, climbing and backpacking code - adapted for Scouts and Scouters:

1. A hiking and backpacking party should have a minimum of four participants unless adequate support is available from those who have knowledge that the hike or backpack is in progress. In case of injury, one person stays with the injured while the other two go for help. Always safeguard one another!
2. Hike and backpack only if your Scouts and adults are physically and mentally prepared for the planned adventure.
3. Carry at all times; the proper clothing, equipment and food.
4. Leave the trip itinerary with a responsible person, include a return date and time deadline with instructions for what to do if you are late.
5. Never hike, climb or backpack beyond your Scouts physical ability.
6. Adult Scouters must always use conservative judgment and must not be swayed by desire or enthusiasm. Never be embarrassed by choosing an alternate route or turning back because of a dangerous situation.
7. Scouters must make sure Scouts follow adult leaders' directions and keep the party together.
8. Follow the precepts of sound hiking and climbing as set forth in guidebooks.
9. Act in a manner that will reflect favorably upon Scouting and the sports of hiking, climbing and backpacking.



• **Ten essentials to bring on every outdoor adventure:**

These essential items are recommended by the Colorado Mt. Club for their members on hiking and backpacking expeditions. Scout units would be wise to have the same items available for any emergencies.

ROUTE FINDING:

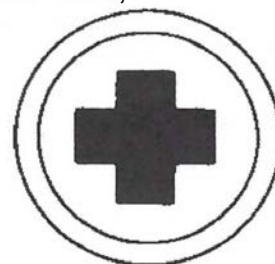
1. Map of trip area
2. Compass - learn proper use
3. Flashlight - carry extra batteries & bulb

PROTECTION:

4. Sunglasses and protection from high altitude ultra-violet radiation

EMERGENCIES:

5. Extra clothing, woolen clothing - socks, mittens, stocking cap, shirt, sweater.
6. Matches & Fire - wooden matches in waterproof Starter case, 1" candle stub to start fire.
7. Extra food - hard candy, dried fruit, nuts, etc.
8. Pocket Knife - multiple uses
9. First Aid Kit
10. Survival Kit



**26-5 FATIGUE AND EXHAUSTION**

Strange as it may seem, outdoorsmen can perish in a very short period of time (6 hours) from hiking in the wind and cold. A person away from civilization is wholly dependent upon a limited supply of usable energy and the insulation qualities of the body shelter he wears or carries. Often by understanding the real problems his body will encounter he can see practical solutions.

As long as a person remains quiet in still air, in a room temperature like environment, he requires little special body shelter or energy to maintain a nearly constant temperature of 98.6° F.

When a hiker uses muscle energy, it produces body heat as a by-product. When too much heat is generated in the body, thermostat nerves trigger a message to the heat control system to open the sweat glands and cool the body down through water evaporation. Likewise, if the body gets too cold, the cold sensors call for the muscles to move (shiver) and produce body heat.

The use of muscle power for travel burns available energy, producing heat and some detrimental by-products. This energy is derived from food and water, and through a complex process is converted to glycogen, part of which is stored as reserve in the liver.

Some energy is converted to sugar, which is stored in the muscles for quick use.

Outdoorsmen travel primarily on the sugars stored in the muscles. As the muscles burn this energy, they produce by-products of lactic acid and carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide is dissipated from the body by the lungs, the lactic acid and other detrimental products are dissipated throughout the entire body. The body can flush these detrimental by-products out of the muscle tissues only so fast.

When strenuous muscle activity produces these by-products faster than the body can dissipate them, the body can become oversaturated, causing muscle failure and exhaustion. Exhaustion will remain until the body is given time to automatically flush out the lactic buildup and disperse the carbon dioxide.

When you rest you get rid of about 30% of the lactic acid buildup in the first 5 to 7 minutes of the rest stop. But, in the next 15 minutes you get rid of only about 5% more. The best method of preventing a build up of by-products is to travel slower.

The amount of available energy will be determined by what and when you eat. Foods eaten at night furnish tomorrow mornings energy. Those eaten in the morning give afternoon energy; and lunch at noon helps put up camp at night. Sugary foods offer the best ready energy on the trail, but is a short term energy "burst".

To sustain life for 24 hours it takes 1700 calories with the body (adult male) at rest at a comfortable temperature. Hiking can expend 4000 to 6000 calories a day, depending upon the weather and terrain, calories, however used, must be replaced or your reserve supply will become depleted, not leaving enough to maintain the optimum temperature, 98.6° F. When body temperature falls to 96-92° F shivering becomes intense and the brain numbs; at 91-86° F, violent shivering; at 86-78° F, unconsciousness.

When muscle energy loss is compounded by loss of body heat through wetness and wind chill, body heat is often lost faster than it can be produced. The result will be; first fatigue, then exhaustion; when a person is so exhausted that he can no longer move his muscles, his body cools - possibly beyond the recovery point. This often happens so quickly that a person in the shivering stage can perish before a shelter of natural materials or a fire can be assembled.

The first visible symptoms of exhaustion are poor reflex actions (reoccurring stumbling, poor control of arms and legs), need for frequent and prolonged rest stops, and a dazed, careless attitude with decreasing attention span.

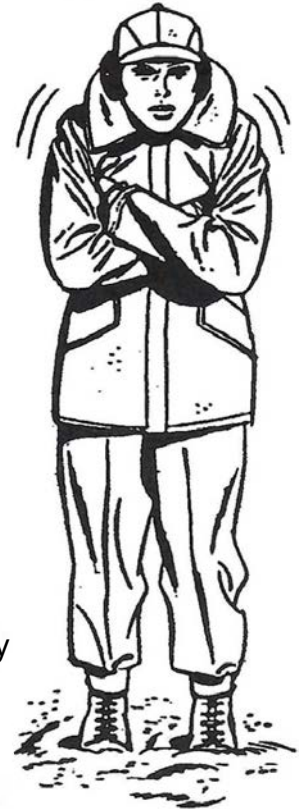
Visible symptoms of exposure (hypothermia) are uncontrollable shivering, drowsiness, confusion, weakness, inability to maintain muscle movement. The exhausted person does not have the mental capacity to recognize these symptoms. Be alert for them.

Information sources about fatigue and exhaustion were obtained from: *Fatigue and Exhaustion* pamphlet, published by the National Parks.

## 26-6 HYPOTHERMIA

Exposure is the killer of the unprepared in the Colorado mountains. Exposure is a term used by the news media every winter and even during warmer months when someone dies from the cold in the Colorado back country. Exposure has no definite medical meaning but is probably a substitute for the word hypothermia. Have you ever been so cold that you could not stop shivering; if so you have experienced one of the first signs of hypothermia. Shivering is caused by the lowering of the inter core temperature of the body. As the condition progresses, there is an increased lack of coordination followed by loss of judgment and a fairly rapid descent into unconsciousness and death. An unprepared person may become a victim at temperatures as high as 45° (degrees) Fahrenheit. In cases affecting hikers and campers a combination of four factors are usually present:

1. Cold (45° or below)
2. Wetness (caused by rain, snow, immersion or condensed perspiration)
3. Wind (chill factor)
4. A likely victim (meaning a person who is exhausted and unprepared to protect himself or herself)



Good clothing, adequate knowledge, emergency shelter and emergency rations would prevent most fatalities from hypothermia. This is why hypothermia is called the "Killer of the Unprepared".

Immediate steps should be taken if you or one of your party shows signs of uncontrollable shivering. Warming of the body and intake of warm liquids and quick energy foods are recommended to restore body functions to normal.

Know your enemy. Never underestimate the power of the cold, dampness and wind. Do not over estimate your own strength or that of your party. One individual or mishap can pin you to a location exposed to the elements.

Information sources about Hypothermia were obtained from: *The Art of Survival*, published by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

## 26-7 FOREST SERVICE REGULATIONS

Rules related to using designated campgrounds or picnic sites.

1. Car campgrounds not chained during the winter can be used by troops. Cars may be parked in the campground.
2. Car campgrounds chained during the winter months can be used by troops, but cars must be parked outside of the campground. Be sure to clean your campsite.

3. Picnic areas cannot be used for camping by troops either during the summer or winter. Rangers have the authority and may ask your troop to move if you set up camp in a picnic area.

4. All garbage must be picked up by troops and taken home for final disposal.

Many areas have unique regulations, be sure to check ahead - know the rules that apply to the area you plan to visit.

Remember: Leave nothing but footprints, take nothing but photographs and memories.

## 26-8 MINIMUM-IMPACT CAMPING

Scouts and Scouters should follow the meaning of the **Outdoor Code** as defined in the Scout Handbook. Whenever you are outdoors, use the Outdoor Code as your guide. It has four important points:

1. **Be clean in my outdoor manners.** I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods and roadways.
2. **Be careful with fire.** I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fires only where they are appropriate. When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold-out. I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.
3. **Be considerate in the outdoors.** I will treat public and private property with respect. I will use low-impact methods of hiking and camping.
4. **Be conservation-minded.** I will learn how to practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife and energy. I will urge others to do the same.

### Ways to fulfill the Outdoor Code when in the back country:

#### 1. Campsite Considerations

Ⓜ Use existing campsites whenever possible. If selecting a new campsite, choose a site on sandy terrain or the forest floor rather than the lush but delicate plant life of meadows, streambanks, tundra or other areas that can be easily trampled, or scarred by a campfire.

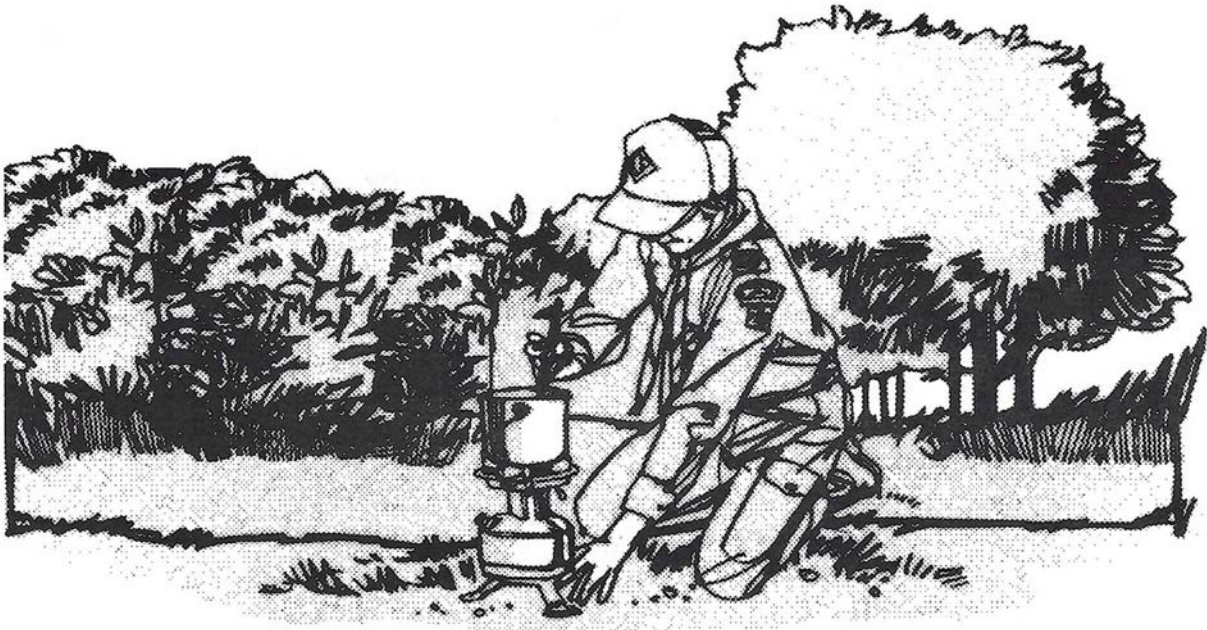
○ Locate your camp 100-200 feet away from water, trails and other beauty spots to prevent water and visual pollution.

○ Take a little time to select a campsite that will increase your privacy and especially that of other campers. Noise pollution will annoy many adult backpackers trying to get away from it all. When possible, position your tents so they blend with or are hidden by the environment.



- Arrange tents throughout the campsite away from the cooking area.
- Avoid trenching around your tents, cutting live branches or pulling up plants to make a park-like campsite. Return any twigs, pine cones back to your sleeping area before leaving your campsite.
- Leave the area as you found it, or in better condition.

## 2. Campfire and Stove Considerations



- Use stoves for cooking as much as possible, they leave no trace.
- Use a campfire infrequently and only when there is abundant dead wood.
- Leave your axes and saws at home.
- Keep fires small and use only down and dead wood. Remember fire must be attended at all times
- Fires should be built away from tents, trees, branches and underground root systems.
- Campfires should never be built on top of the forest floor. If there is a ground cover of needles and decomposed matter be sure to dig through it to the soil.
- Be sure any fire pit or ground clearing is large enough to prevent the possibility of the fire spreading.
- Do not build fires on windy days when sparks would be dangerous, especially when the countryside is dry.

- When preparing to leave a campsite, use water and bare soil to douse the flames thoroughly. Feel the coals with your bare hands to be sure the fire is out, scatter or bury the ashes.
- Better yet, enjoy the experience of a fireless evening.

### 3. Human Waste Considerations

- Use established latrines whenever possible.
- The disposal of human waste is most important. For the benefit of those who follow, you must leave no evidence that you were there, and you must not contaminate the waters.
- Disposing of human waste in the back country is by the “cat method”, used by most experience backpackers. Carry a lightweight digging tool, such as a garden trowel. Select a spot at least 100 feet from the nearest water. Dig a hole 6-8 inches across. Try to remove sod in one piece then replace when done. Burn your used toilet paper before covering the hole since it does not decompose quickly.

### 4. Disposal of Camping Wastes

- Tin cans, bottles, aluminum foil and other “unburnables” should not be taken to the back country because they must be packed out.
- Avoid the problem of leftover food by carefully planning meals. When you have leftovers carry them in plastic bags or burn them completely.
- **Use biodegradable soap** when washing pots and dishes in the back country. Waste water (dishwater or excess cooking water) should be poured in the corner of the fire pit to prevent attracting flies. Be sure to remove food particles (macaroni, noodles etc.).
- Be sure to wash dishes and dispose of waste water away from where tents are located.

### 5. Washing Yourself and Your Clothes

Soaps pollute water sources, every effort must be made to prevent or limit this pollution. If you want to wash your body, here is the sequence. Jump into the water and get wet. Move away from the water for some distance, lather your body **with biodegradable soap**. Rinse the soap off with water carried in jugs or pots. This will allow the **biodegradable** soap to break down and filter through the soil before reaching any body of water.

- Clothing can be washed adequately by thoroughly rinsing it in water only. Soap is not necessary when in the back country.

## 26-9 50 MILER AWARD

The primary objective of this program is to stimulate Boy Scout, Varsity Scout, and Explorer interest in the ideals of the movement and to promote activities that will result in personal fitness, self-reliance, knowledge of wood lore, and a practical understanding of conservation.



### **Award Requirements:**

The 50 Miler Award is presented to each qualifying individual for satisfactory participation in an approved trip. In order to qualify for the award the group of which the individual is a member must fulfill all of the following requirements.

1. Make complete and satisfactory plans for the trip, including the possibilities for advancement.
2. Cover the trail or canoe or boat route of not less than 50 consecutive miles (a maximum of no more than 10 miles per day); take a minimum of 5 consecutive days to complete the trip without the aid of motors. (In some areas pack animals may be used.)
3. During the time on the trail or waterway, complete a minimum of 10 hours for each person in the group, working on projects, to improve the trail, springs, campsite, portage, or other area. If, after checking with recognized authorities, it is not possible to complete 10 hours each of group work on the trail, a similar project may be done in the unit's home area. (There should be no unauthorized cutting of brush or timber.)
4. Unit or tour leader must file the 50 Miler Award application with the local Council office. Applications are available thru the Denver Area Council Service Center and awards may be purchased at the Denver Scout Shop.

## 26-10 POLAR BEAR PATCH

This patch is available to any Scout, Explorer, or Scouter who:

1. Camps with the patrol or troop, away from home under canvas, at least one night when the temperature drops to at least -1 degree Fahrenheit.
2. Temperature is to be verified by local authorities, registered members of the Order of the Arrow, or a signed letter from the adult leader. "Wind Chill" factor will not be considered.

3. If not verified by local authorities, two large thermometers should be used. The reading on the thermometers should be numbered in a minimum of 2 degree increments (a crude thermometer is not permitted).

4. Cook at least 2 meals over a wood or charcoal fire (**no** gas, or LP gas stoves or lanterns are to be used for heating, cooking, or illumination).

5. The time, place and names of individuals who qualify for the patch are to be submitted to the Council Service Center at the time patches are purchased.

6. A bronze star may be awarded for each additional time one qualifies for the Polar Bear Patch.



Applications are available from the Denver Area Council Service Center and the patch may be purchased at the Denver Scout Shop.

## **26-11 FOURTEENER AWARD**

Of the sixty-eight mountains in the contiguous United States, over 14,000 feet high, Colorado claims a whopping fifty-four of them or 80%. The purpose of the Fourteener Award is to encourage Scouts and Scouting Units to safely enjoy the beauty of the Colorado mountains.

### **Application Requirements:**

1. Each Scout, Explorer, or Scouter may be awarded a Denver Area Council Fourteener patch upon the successful completion of a climb of one fourteener. For each additional three fourteeners successfully climbed a bronze star may be awarded. This is to be pinned to the patch.
2. Successful completion of a climb is defined as having made a round trip journey to the summit(s) and back again in which there was at least 2,500 feet of cumulative elevation gain on foot. While at the summit, the CMC register (maintained by the Colorado Mountain Club) should be signed.
3. It is the responsibility of the trip leader to certify that each Scout or Explorer has made the required fourteener climb and to make application to the Denver Area Council.

Additional information and applications are available at the Denver Area Council Service Center. Patches may be purchased at the Denver Scout Shop.

## 26-12 CAUTIONS IN CLIMBING FOURTEENERS

The higher mountains could present you and your Scouts several problems; you should be aware and prepared for them.

1. Always bring warm clothing when hiking fourteeners. Even in the middle of summer there are storms with snow and sleet.
2. Bring sunglasses, they are necessary when on snowy terrain.
3. Sturdy boots are needed for the rocky mountain slopes.
4. Start early in the morning, electrical storms frequent the higher mountains in the afternoons.
5. After dark travel is not advised. Turn back short of your goal if this happens.



6. Take your lunch and extra energy foods.
7. There is little running water on top of the peaks late in the summer season. Always take extra water.
8. Scouts do have fun on snowy slopes, but consider what's at the bottom (rocks), check the angle of the slope and resulting rate of descent. Rescue in the higher altitudes can be difficult and expensive.
9. Check Scouts for fatigue and high altitude sickness. Scouts with lower fatigue limits may become weary and have difficulty descending.

## 26-13 ALTITUDE SICKNESS

Altitude sickness is common when climbing fourteeners, Scouters should be aware of the symptoms and what to do. Altitude sickness is the failure of the body to adjust to the reduced oxygen intake.

Mild symptoms include headaches, shortness of breath and a general feeling of illness. More severe symptoms are severe headache, nausea, vomiting, insomnia, irritability and muddled thinking. **The victim must descend to a lower elevation in order to reduce his problems.**

Altitude sickness can usually be avoided by beginning a trip in good condition and by spending a night at the trailhead before starting. Most acclimatization occurs in the first two or three days.

People who acclimatize poorly, when they reach elevations in excess of 10,000 feet, are susceptible to high altitude pulmonary edema (fluid accumulation in the lungs). The first symptoms include a dry, persistent, irritating cough, anxiety and an ache beneath the breast bone or shortness of breath. If the person is not evacuated promptly to a lower elevation or given oxygen severe problems can occur including death.

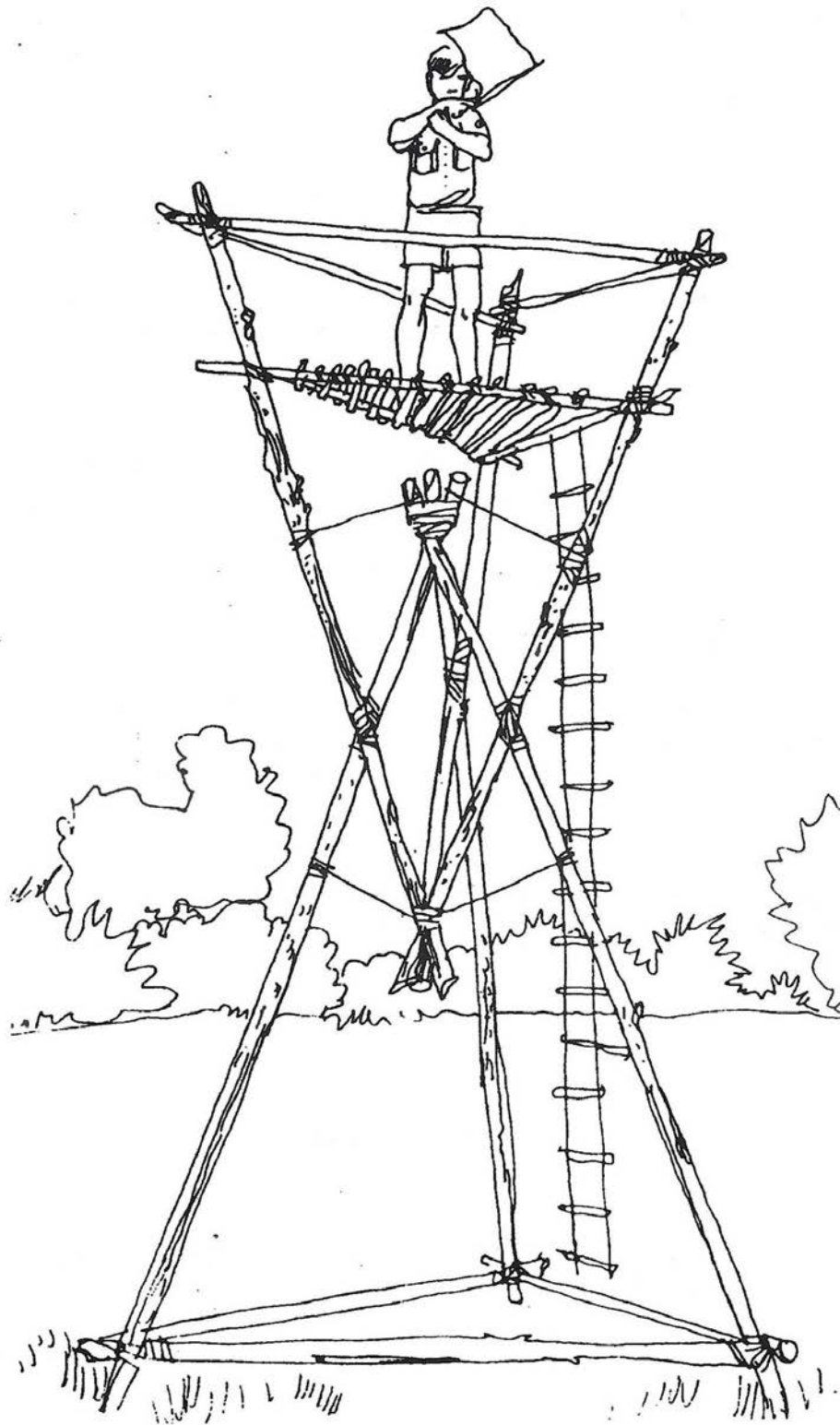
## 26-14 B.S.A. TOUR PERMITS

Boy Scouts of America requires that troops file tour permits each time a troop sponsored event occurs. There are two types of permits; the Local Tour Permit which is for trips under 500 miles, while a National Tour Permit is needed for trips over 500 miles, and across national boundaries. Tour permits are required for all troop activities including campouts.

<b>NATIONAL TOUR PERMIT</b> BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA	Region Stamp
	
THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT	

There are certain restrictions and liability insurance and age requirements for drivers providing troop transportation. Also, there are restrictions on the number of miles driven in a day and the number of hours of drive time; in addition, seat belts must be provided for each Scout riding in a vehicle. Both tour permits can be obtained at the Denver Area Council Service Center.

Local tour permits must be turned in 2 weeks in advance of the scheduled activity. National tour permits must be filed 4 weeks in advance of the scheduled activity. Protect yourself by using these permits.



# 27 WHERE TO GET INFORMATION

## 27-1 U.S. FOREST SERVICE

U.S. Forest Service  
Rocky Mountain Regional Office  
730 Simms  
Lakewood, Colorado 80225  
1 (303) 275-3360 - Announcements  
1 (303) 275-5350 - Visitors Information  
1 (303) 275-5364 - Avalanche Recording

Arapaho National Forest  
240 West Prospect Road  
Ft. Collins, Colorado 80526  
1 (303) 498-1100

Grand Mesa National Forest  
2250 Highway 50  
Delta, Colorado 81416  
1 (303) 874-7691

Gunnison National Forest  
2250 Highway 50  
Delta, Colorado 81416  
1 (303) 874-7691

Pike National Forest  
1920 Valley Drive  
Pueblo, Colorado 81008  
1 (719) 545-8737

Rio Grande National Forest  
1803 West Highway 160  
Monta Vista, Colorado 81144  
1 (719) 852-5941

Roosevelt National Forest  
240 West Prospect Road  
Ft. Collins, Colorado 80526  
1 (303)498-1100

Routt National Forest  
29587 West US 40 #20  
Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487  
1 (303) 879-1722

San Isabel National Forest  
1920 Valley Drive  
Pueblo, Colorado 81008  
1 (719) 545-8737

San Juan National Forest  
701 Cameno Del Rio #301  
Durango, Colorado 81301  
1 (303) 247-4874

Uncompahgre National Forest  
2250 Highway 50  
Delta, Colorado 81416  
1 (303) 874-7691

White River National Forest  
9th and Grand  
P.O. Box 948  
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81602  
1 (303) 945-2521



## **27-2 BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

Bureau of Land Management  
2850 Youngfield  
Lakewood, Colorado 80215  
1 (303) 239-3600

Grand Junction BLM District Office  
764 Horizon Drive  
Grand Junction , Colorado 81506  
1 (303) 243-6552

Canon City District BLM Office  
P.O. Box 2200  
Canon City, Colorado 81215  
1 (719) 275-0631

Montrose BLM District Office  
2465 South Townsend  
Montrose, Colorado 81401  
1 (303) 249-7791

Craig District BLM Office  
455 Emerson Street  
Craig, Colorado 81625  
1 (303) 824-8261

## **27-3 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY**

Western Distribution Branch  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25286  
Federal Center, Building 41  
Lakewood, Colorado 80225  
1 (303) 236-7477

## **27-4 NATIONAL PARKS**

National Park Service  
12795 West Alameda Parkway  
Lakewood, Colorado 80225  
1 (303) 969-2000

Dinosaur National Monument  
P.O. Box 210  
Dinosaur, Colorado 81610  
1 (303) 374-2216

Bent's Fort Nt. Historic Site  
35101 Highway 194 East  
La Junta, Colorado 80150  
1 (719) 384-2800

Great Sand Dunes National Monument  
11500 Highway 150  
Mosca, Colorado 81146  
1 (719) 589-2271

Black Canyon of the Gunnison NM  
P.O. Box 1648  
Montrose, Colorado 81401  
1 (303) 249-7036

Mesa Verde National Park  
Mesa Verde Nt. Park, Colorado 81330  
1 (303) 529-4456

Colorado National Monument  
Fruita, Colorado 81521  
1 (303) 858-3617

Rocky Mountain National Park  
Estes Park, Colorado 80417  
1 (303) 586-1206 - General Information  
1 (303) 586-1399 - Superintendent  
1 (303) 586-1258 - Nature Association

## **27-5 STATE AGENCIES**

State Parks: Colorado Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation  
1313 Sherman Street  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
1 (303) 866-3437

Wildlife Lands: Colorado Division of Wildlife  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, Colorado 80216  
1 (303) 291-7540-Maps  
1 (303) 291-7532-Camping

Colorado State Patrol: Major Highways within 2 Hours of Denver 1 (303) 639-1111  
Major Highways throughout Colorado 1 (303) 639-1234

## **27-6 LOCAL AGENCIES**

Jefferson County Open Space: Jefferson County Open Space Department  
18301 West 10th Avenue  
Suite 100  
Golden, Colorado 80401  
1 (303) 278-5925

Denver Mountain Parks: Denver Mountain Parks  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
945 S. Huron  
Denver, Colorado 80223  
1 (303) 698-4900

Denver Mountain Parks - Morrison Office  
1 (303) 697-4545

Boulder Mountain Parks: Boulder Mountain Parks  
P.O. Box 791  
Boulder, Colorado 80306  
1 (303) 442-3408

Boulder Open Space: Boulder Open Space Department  
P.O. Box 791  
Boulder, Colorado 80306  
1 (303) 494-0436

Colorado Springs Parks: Colorado Springs Parks and Recreation Department  
1401 Recreation Way  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80905  
1 (719) 578-6640

Ft. Collins Parks: Ft. Collins Parks and Recreation Department  
145 East Mountain  
Ft. Collins, Colorado 80521  
1 (303) 484-4220

Pueblo Parks: Pueblo Department of Parks and Recreation  
800 Goodnight Avenue  
Pueblo, Colorado 81005  
1 (719) 556-1745

## **27-7 RETAIL RESOURCES**

Eastern Mountain Sports: EMS

2550 Arapahoe Avenue  
Boulder, Colorado 80303  
1 (303) 442-7566

EMS  
1616 Welton  
Denver, Colorado 80202  
1 (303) 446-8338

EMS  
Villa Italia Mall  
Lakewood, Colorado 80426  
1 (303) 936-8612

EMS  
8971 Harlan  
Westminster, Colorado 80030  
1 (303) 650-9843

Mountain Miser: Mt. Miser LTD  
209 West Hampden Avenue  
Englewood, Colorado 80110  
1 (303) 761-7070

North Face: North Face  
2490 Colorado Boulevard  
Denver, Colorado 80222  
1 (303) 758-6366

Recreational Equipment Inc: REI

4100 E. Mexico Avenue  
Denver, Colorado 80222  
1 (303) 756-3100

REI

8991 Harlan  
Westminster, Colorado 80030  
1 (303) 429-1800

REI

5375 S. Wadsworth Boulevard  
Littleton, Colorado 80123  
1 (303) 932-0600

## **27-8 MAP RESOURCES**

Colorado Atlas & Gazetteer  
DeLorme Mapping  
P.O. Box 298  
Freeport, Maine 04032  
1 (207) 865-4171

Trails Illustrated  
P.O. Box 3610  
3959 South Highway 74  
Evergreen, Colorado 80439  
1 (303) 670-3457

Latitude 40°, Inc.  
P.O. Box 4086  
Boulder, Colorado 80306  
1 (303) 258-7909

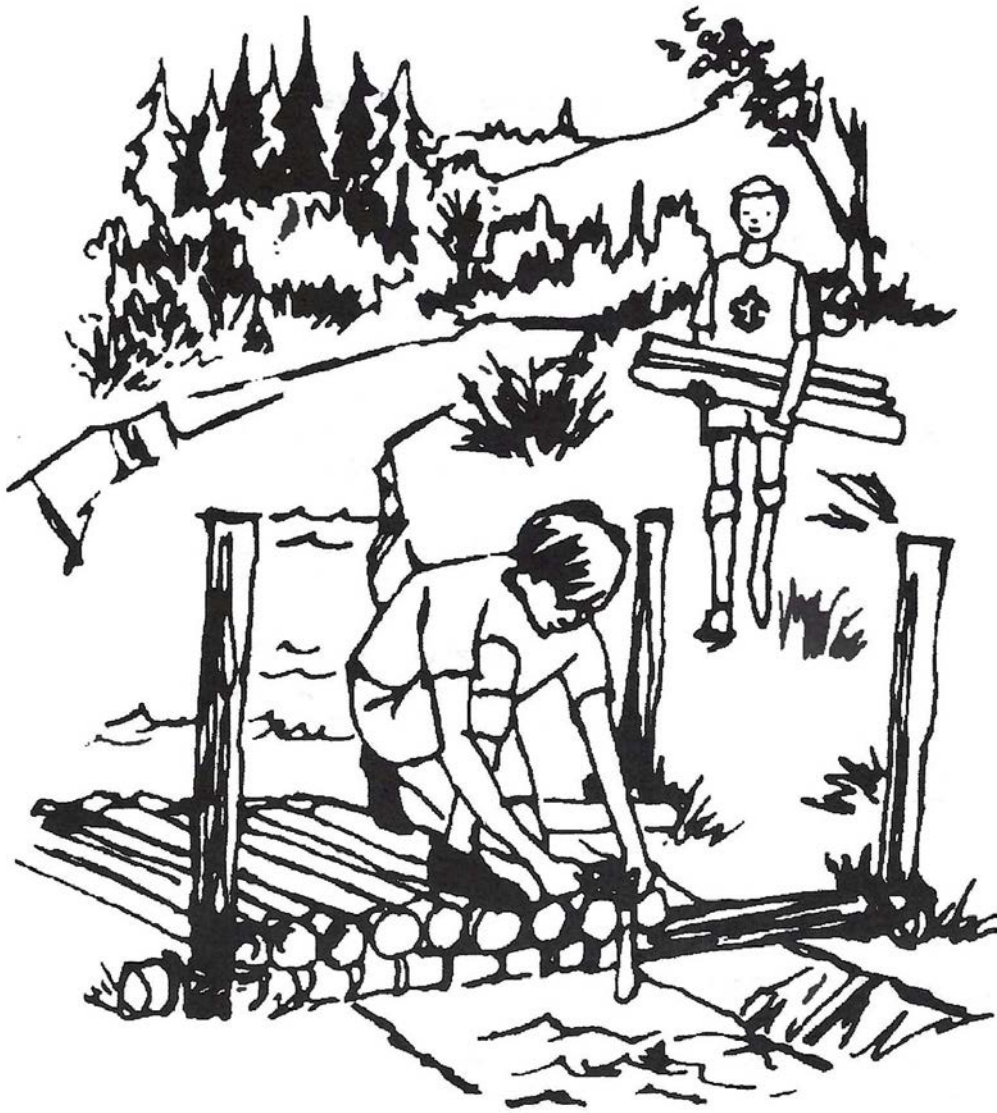
Western Distribution Branch  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Box 25286  
Federal Center, Building 41  
Lakewood, Colorado 80225  
1 (303) 236-7477

Maps Unlimited  
899 Broadway  
Denver, Colorado 80203  
1 (303) 623-4299

## **27-9 COLORADO MOUNTAIN CLUB**

State Office and Denver Group  
710 10th Street  
Golden, Colorado 80401  
1 (303) 279-5643

Boulder Group  
900 Baseline Road  
Boulder, Colorado 80302  
1 (303) 449-1135



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