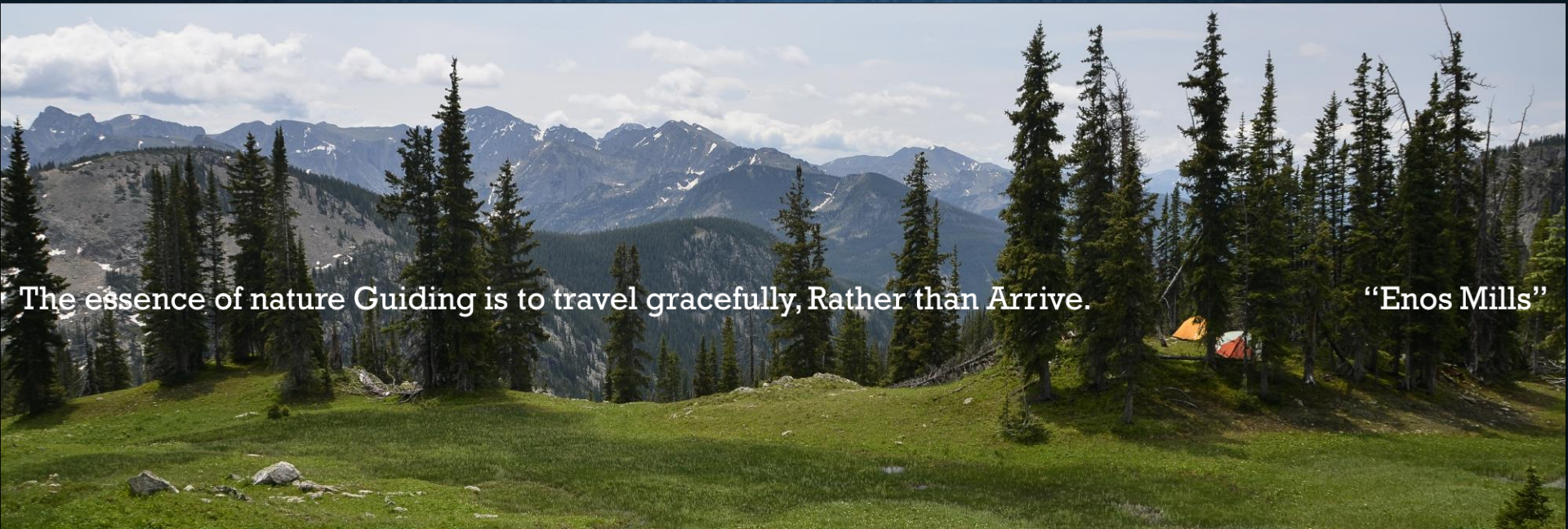




FLY FISHING COLORADO'S INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

With Mike Kruise & Steve Schweitzer

Beautiful vistas in IPWA are unmatched...



The essence of nature Guiding is to travel gracefully, Rather than Arrive.

“Enos Mills”

From Haimovi Plateau looking SE over Hell Canyon.

Beautiful vistas in IPWA are unmatched...



From atop Arapahoe Pass looking east to Nederland, CO



**CLEAR RUNNING
CREEKS ARE
EVERYWHERE**



**GOING OFF-TRAIL
REWARDS THOSE WHO DO**

**TROUT ARE PLENTIFUL IN
ALL THE OBVIOUS PLACES**



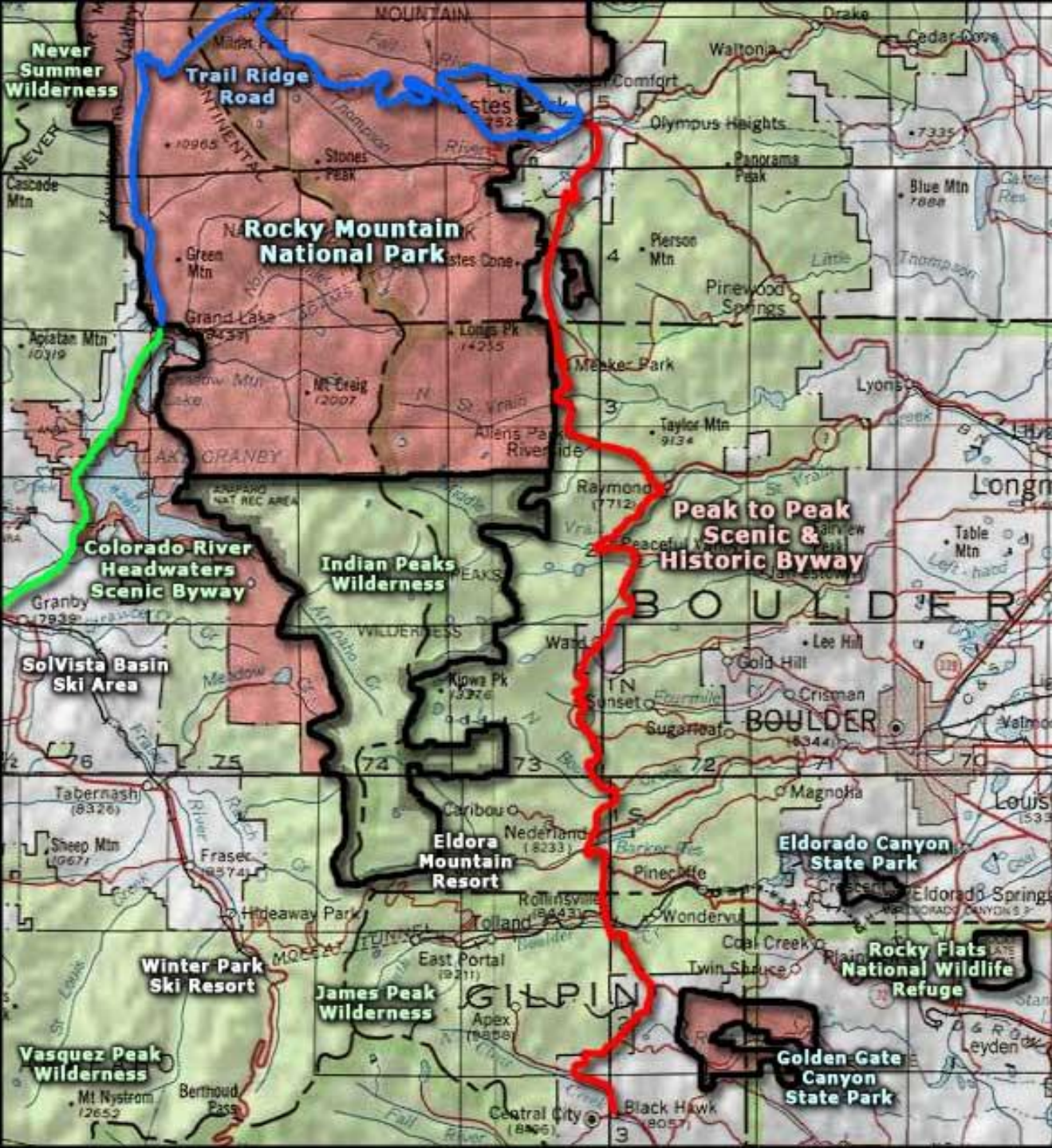
**...and you'
find more
you look
really hard**



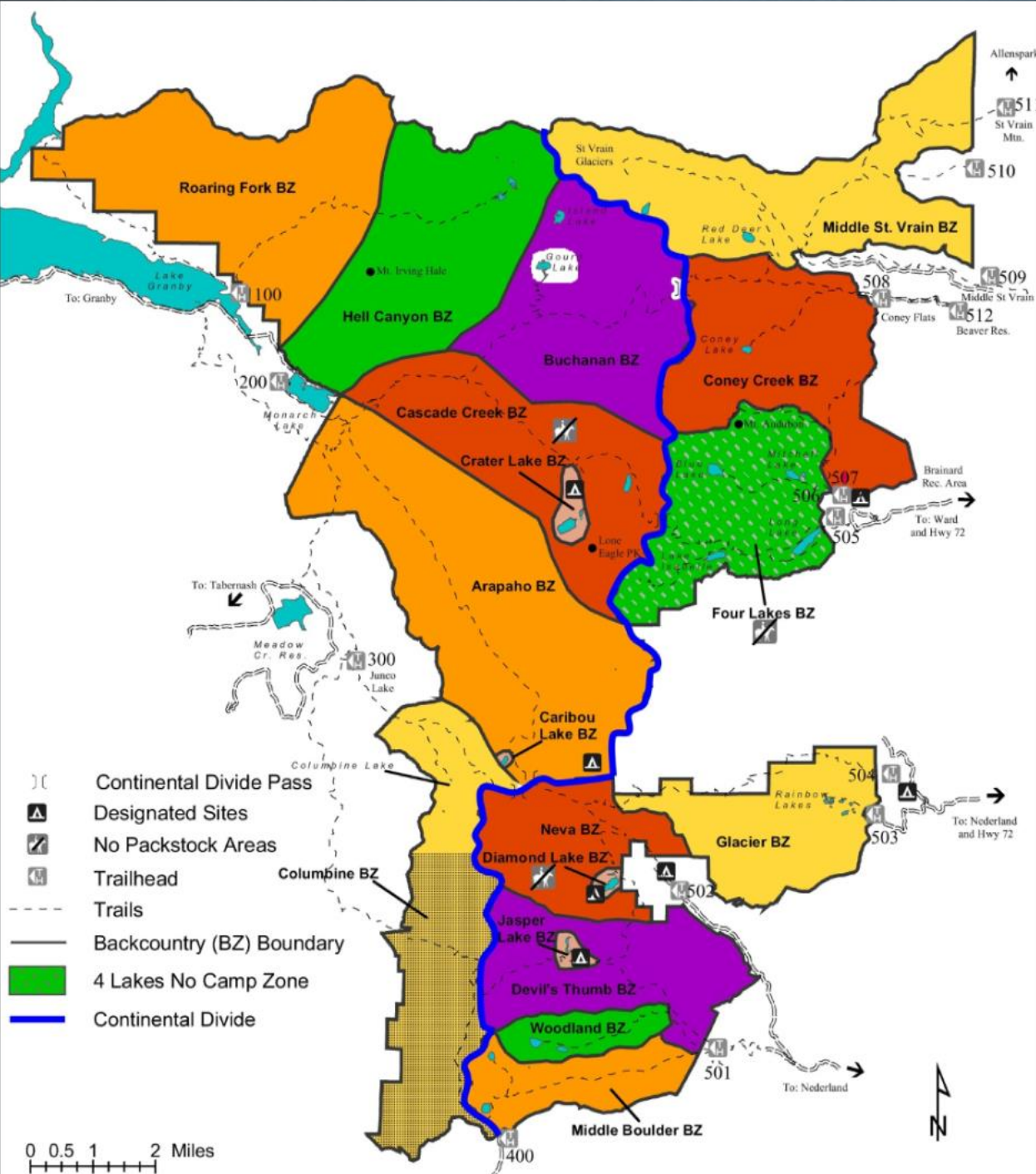


ABOUT IPWA

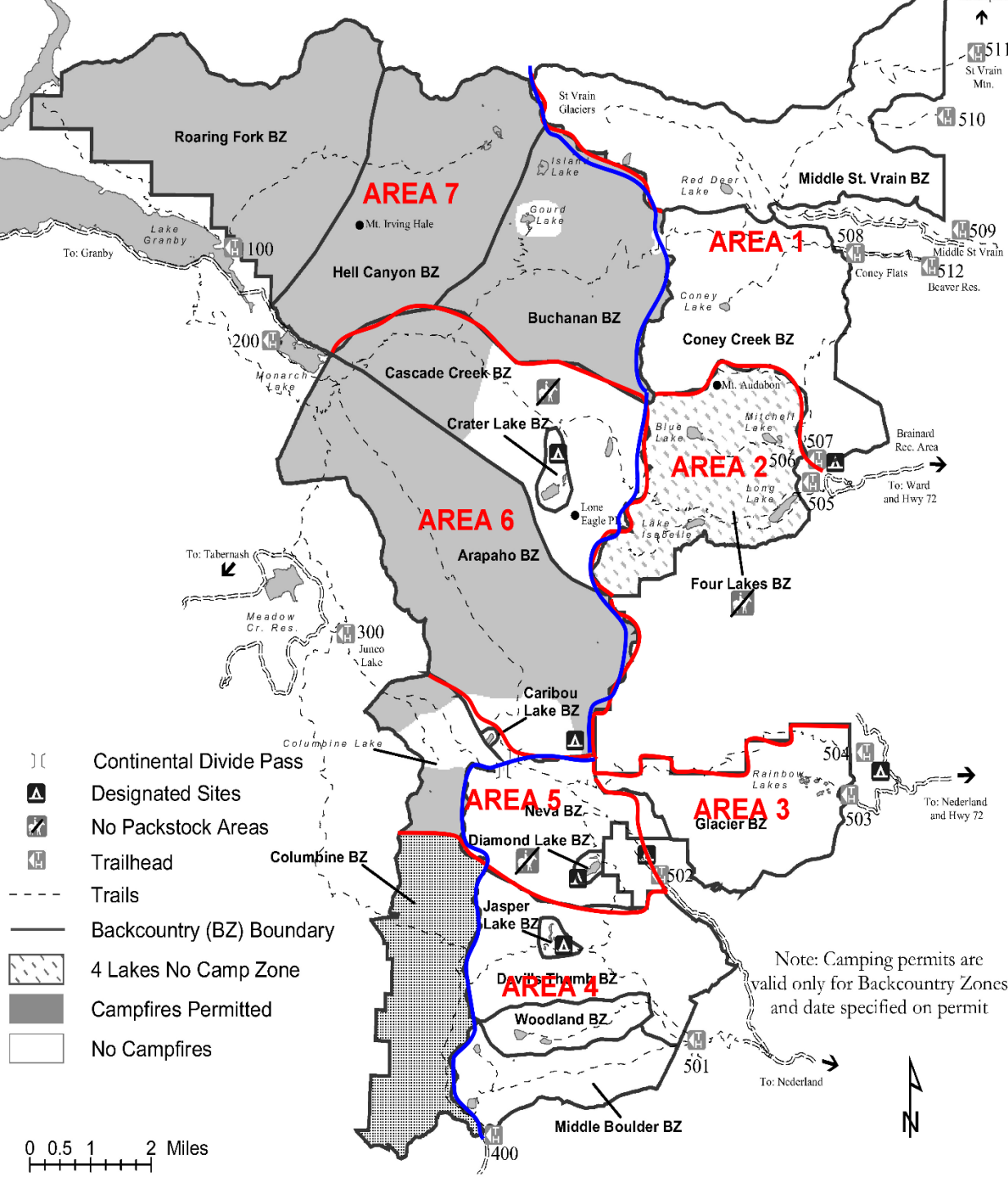
**IPWA &
RMNP
share a
common
border**



IPWA has 18 Back-Country Zones (BCZs)



The book
focuses on
7 areas,
following
the major
drainages



IPWA by the Numbers

- 6 Passes over the Cont. Divide
- 7 Peaks above 13,000 ft
- 28 trails
- 33 of 50+ lakes contain fish
- 35% of terrain above tree line
- 88 creeks, streams & rivers
- 119 Square Miles
- 133 Trail Miles
- 76,711 Acres



IPWA vs RMNP

1. IPWA is one of the most visited wilderness area in the U.S. (765 wilderness areas in U.S.)
2. IPWA is a managed fishery, RMNP is self-sustaining
3. IPWA allows dogs on trails
4. IPWA is the poster-child for high-altitude fishing
5. IPWA is only 28% the size of RMNP





FISH IN IPWA













How do those fish get there?





ESSENTIAL GEAR



**Fishing should
be the simplest
part of your
trip**

- **1 rod**
- **1 fly box**
- **4-5x tippet**
- **Nippers**



Day Trip Must-Have's

- Polarized Glasses
- Hat
- Water filtration
- Lunch/snacks
- Rain Gear
- Warmth Layer

Leave Behind

- Waders
- Float Tubes
- Sink-tip lines



FLY GEAR

For Streams

- 3-4 pc, 2-4 Weight 8 - 8 ½ foot fly rod
- Tenkara 11' - 12' rod

For Lakes

- 3-4 pc, 4-5 Weight 8 ½ - 9 foot fly rod

Lines & Leaders

- WF-F lines are a perfect all around choice
- DT-F lines fine for streams but not for windy lakes
- Start with a 9-ft 5X leader and build from there. (a 12' leader to 6X is not uncommon for lakes)



Backpacking & Camping

Everyone's list of gear is personal

Don't Overpack, But Be Prepared

- Water Purification
- Rain Gear
- Map & Compass
- First Aid
- Shelter
- Food
- Knife



HIGH-ALTITUDE FISHING TACTICS



Lake Fishing

- Look for plant growth
- Look for a shallow littoral zone and deep drop-off
- Lakes are extremely diverse food factories: damselfish, scuds, caddis, midges, mayflies, leeches, ants, beetles, etc.



Lake Fishing

- Pattern cruising fish
- Avoid wading in
- Anabatic winds are your friend!
- Fish still cruise the surface even in high winds
- Don't forget the inlets and outlets



Stream Fishing

- 42 streams contain fish (of 88 total streams)
- Brook Trout dominate most streams
- Most trails are flanked by some sort of fishable stream
- Many streams require knowing where they are and hiking off-trail to find them (use your topos!)

A photograph of a river flowing through a forest. The river has several distinct features: a deep pool on the left, a riffle area at the top right, a flat area on the right, and a reverse current eddy at the bottom right. Two yellow lines cross the river, labeled as 'current seams'. The water is brownish-green, and the surrounding forest is lush with green trees and vegetation.

“tailout riffles”
dining room

“deep pool”
bedroom

“current seams”
dining room

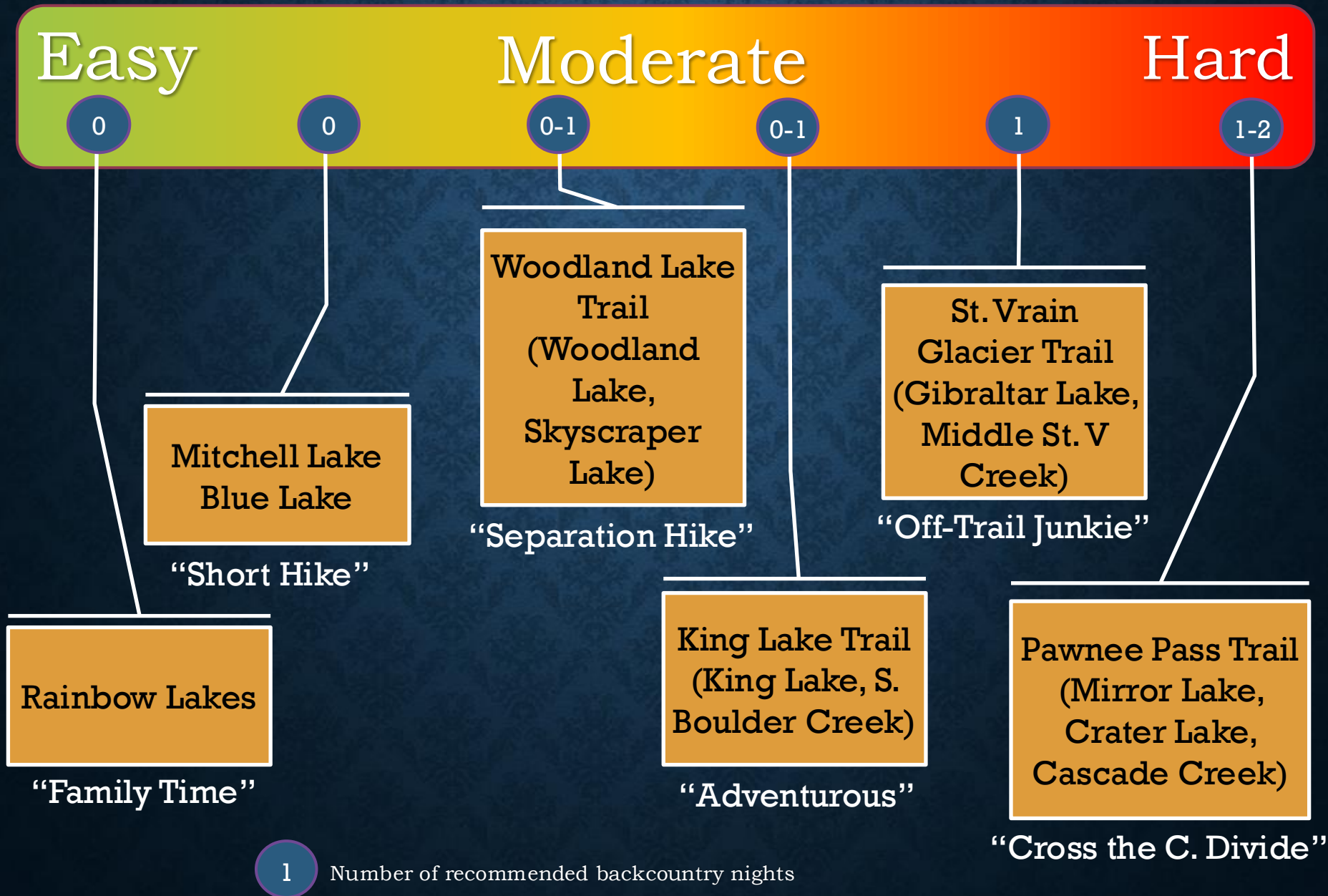
“flats”
living room

“reverse current eddy”
play room &
free meal room

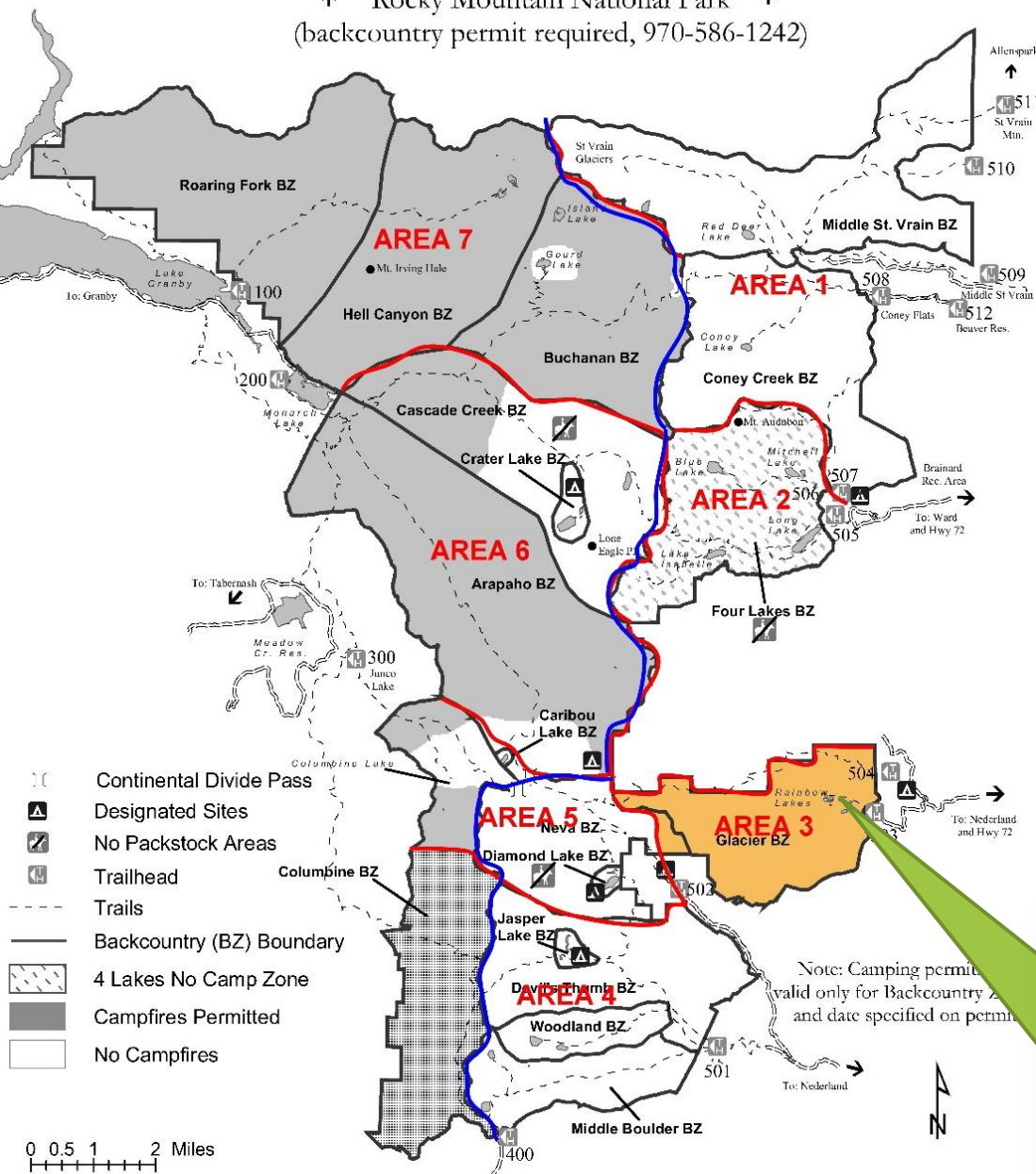


SELECTED DESTINATIONS

6 SELECTED DESTINATIONS



↑ Rocky Mountain National Park ↑
(backcountry permit required, 970-586-1242)



INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

Camping Permit Required June 1 through September 15

EASY

Rainbow Lakes



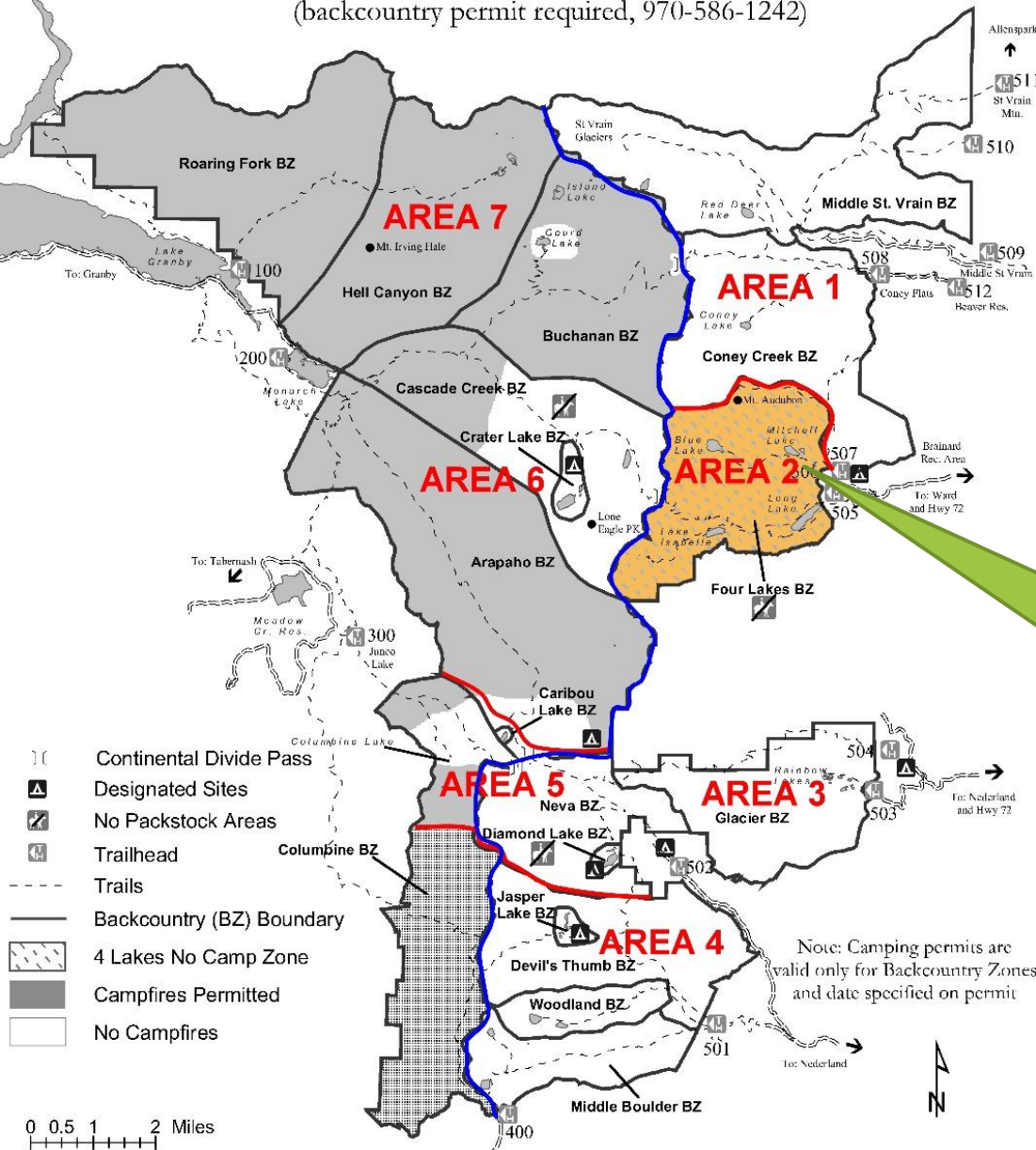
RAINBOW LAKES



What to Know

- 0.86 trail miles
- 370 ft altitude gain:
9,980 ft – 10,250 ft
- High trail usage
- 9 lakes, 1 stream
- Fish: Cutthroat,
Brookies
- No Rainbows!

↑ Rocky Mountain National Park ↑
(backcountry permit required, 970-586-1242)



INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

Camping Permit Required June 1 through September 15

Easy Moderate Mitchell Creek and Lake



MITCHELL CREEK & LAKE

What to Know

- 2.4 trail miles
- 880 ft altitude gain, ending at 11,352ft
- High trail usage
- Fish: Cutthroat, Brookies

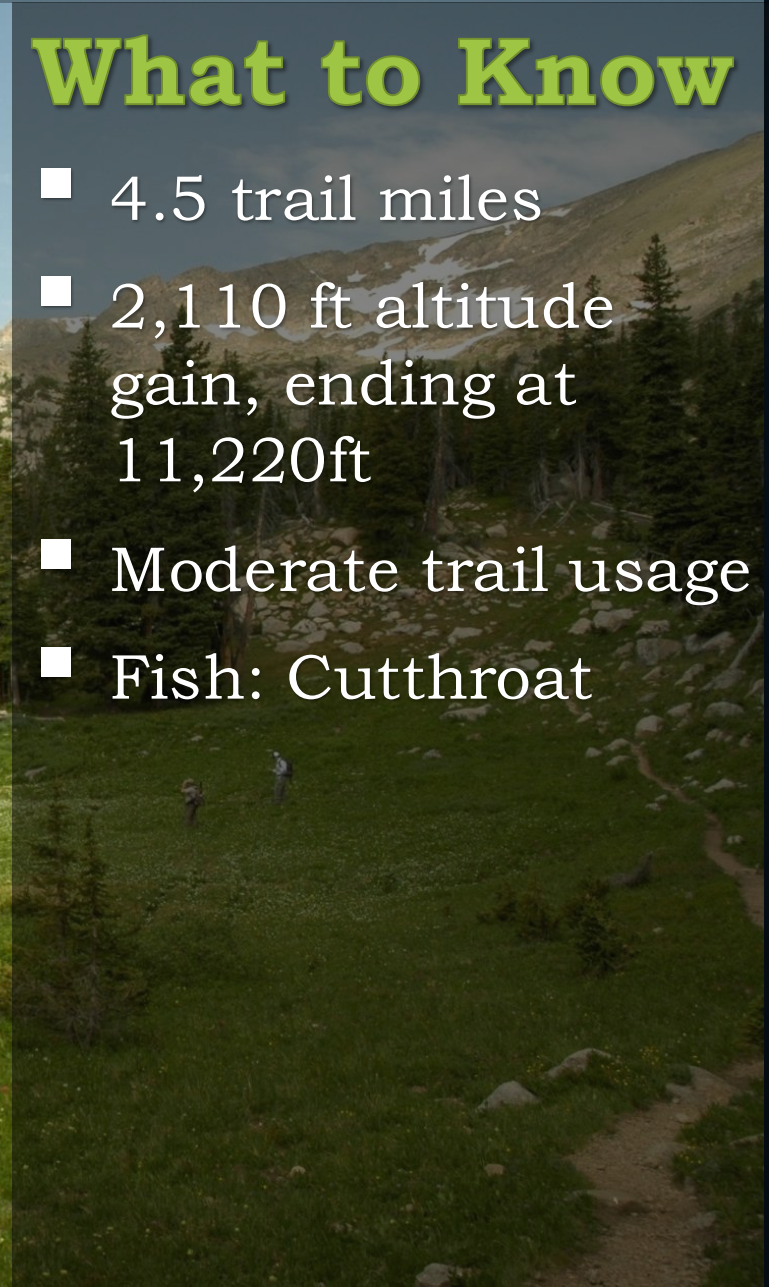




WOODLAND LAKE TRAIL

What to Know

- 4.5 trail miles
- 2,110 ft altitude gain, ending at 11,220ft
- Moderate trail usage
- Fish: Cutthroat



SKYSCRAPER RESERVOIR



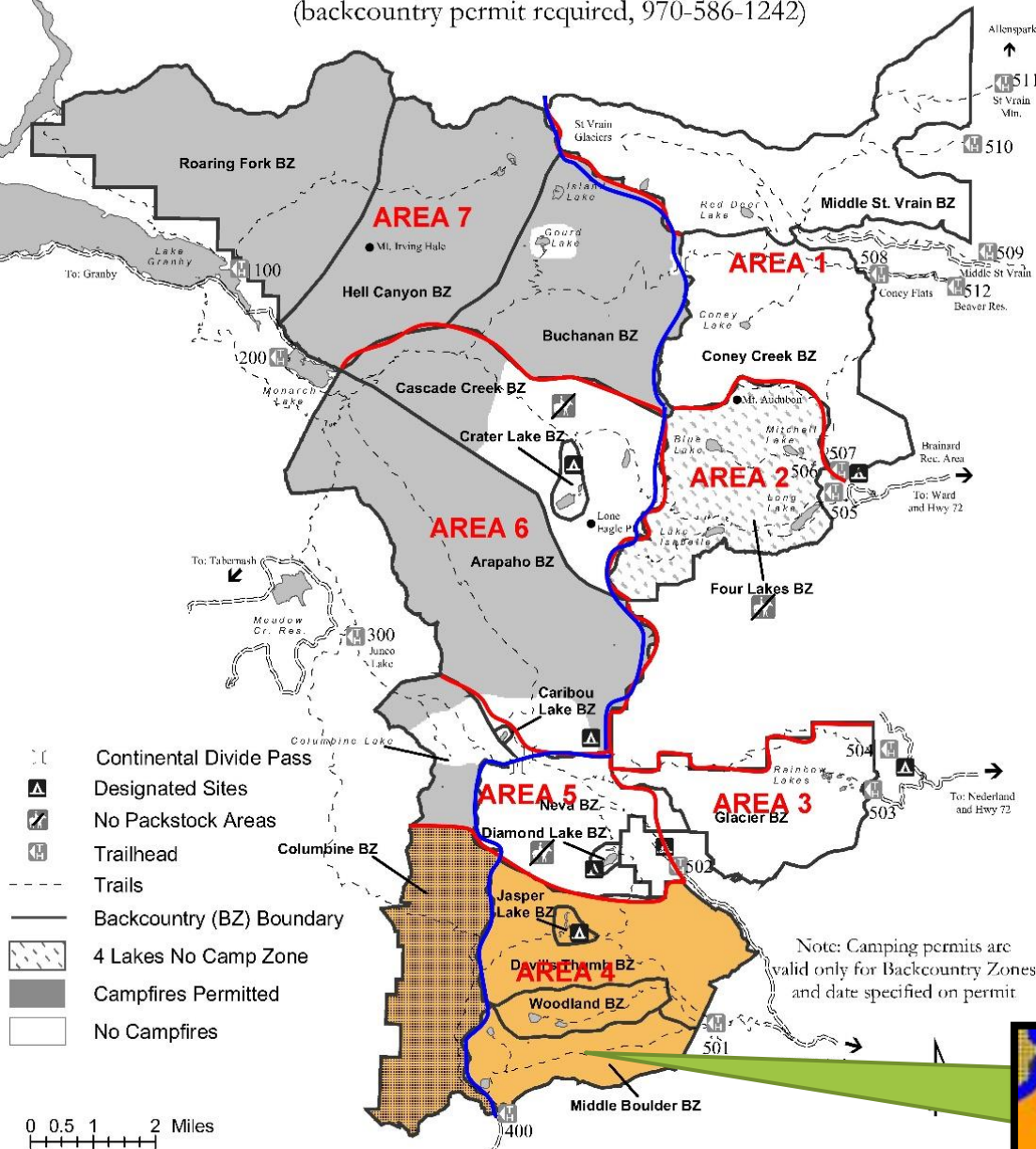
SKYSCRAPER RESERVOIR



SOUTH FORK JASPER CREEK



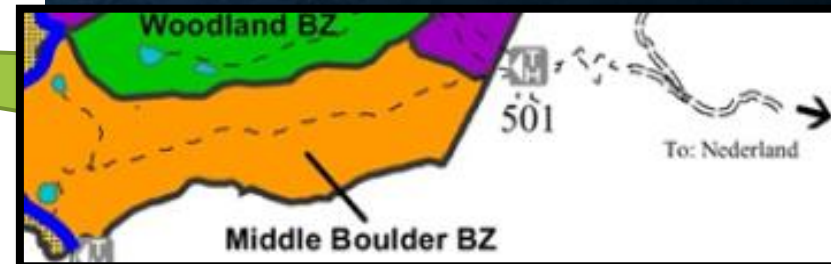
↑ Rocky Mountain National Park ↑
(backcountry permit required, 970-586-1242)



INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

Camping Permit Required June 1 through September 15

Moderate to Hard King Lake Trail



KING LAKE TRAIL

What to Know

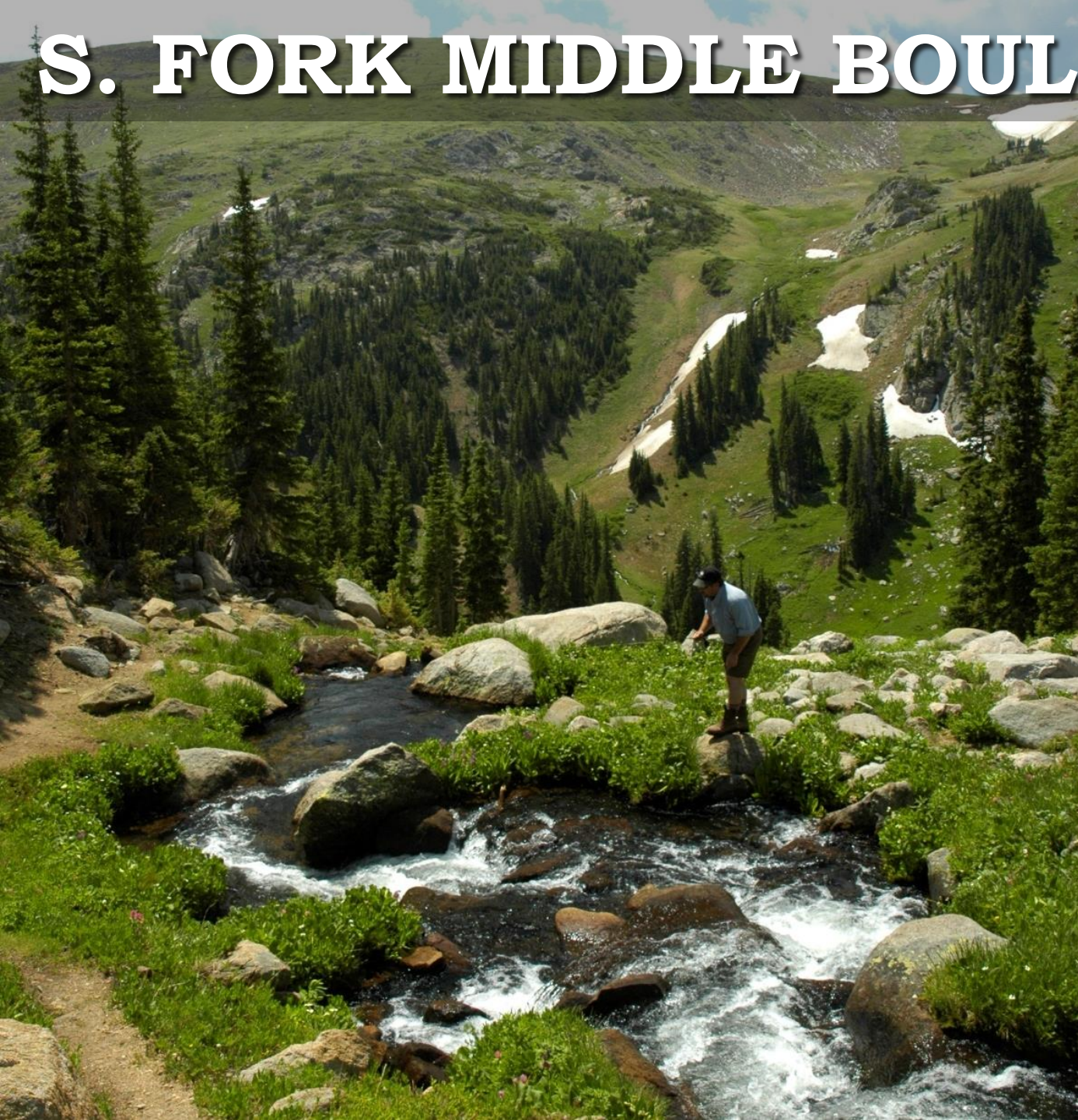
- 5.4 trail miles
- 2,515 ft altitude gain, ending at 11,638ft
- Moderate trail usage
- Fish: Brookies, Cutthroat



S. FORK MIDDLE BOULDER CR.



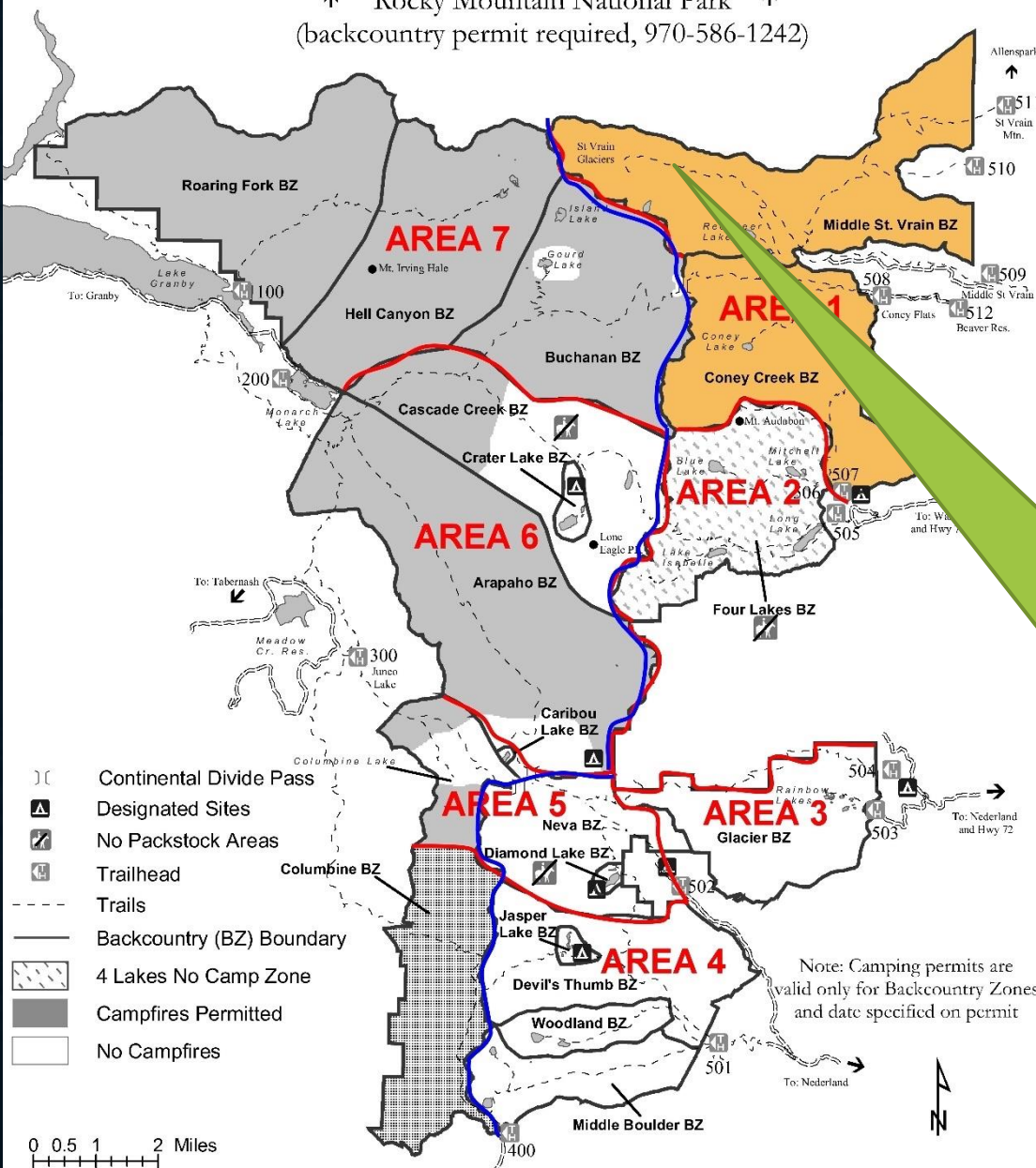
S. FORK MIDDLE BOULDER CR.



↑ Rocky Mountain National Park ↑
(backcountry permit required, 970-586-1242)

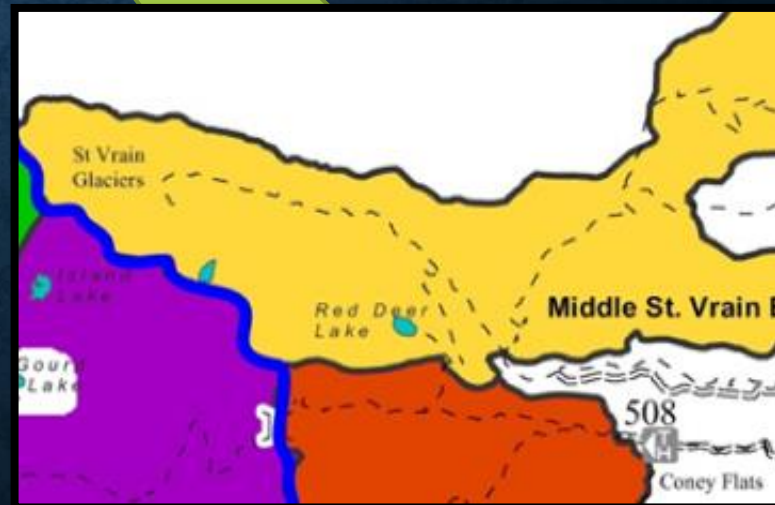
Hard

St. Vrain Glacier Trail



INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

Camping Permit Required June 1 through September 15



MIDDLE ST. VRAIN CREEK



What to Know

- OHV road from Camp Dick is the preferred way in
- Hike the remaining 3.75 miles to Gibraltar
- Trail is easy-to-moderate except for last mile
- Fish:
Greenbacks,
Brookies

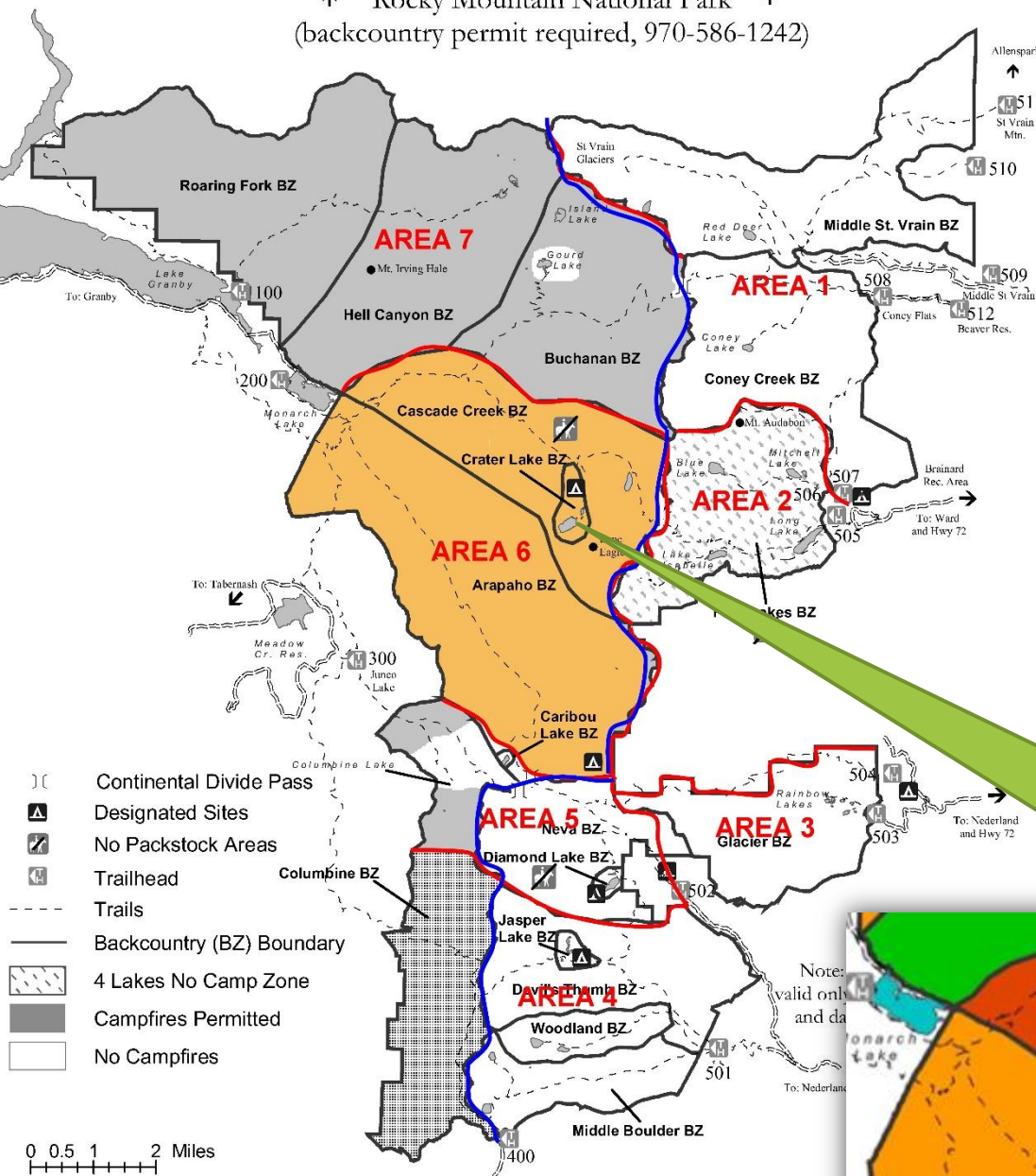
GIBRALTAR LAKE

What to Know

- Only lake in IPWA with Greenback cutthroat
- Last mile to lake after unnamed ponds goes through krummholz, willow and scree



↑ Rocky Mountain National Park ↑
(backcountry permit required, 970-586-1242)



INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

Camping Permit Required June 1 through September 15

Harder Pawnee Pass Trail



LONG LAKE

What to Know

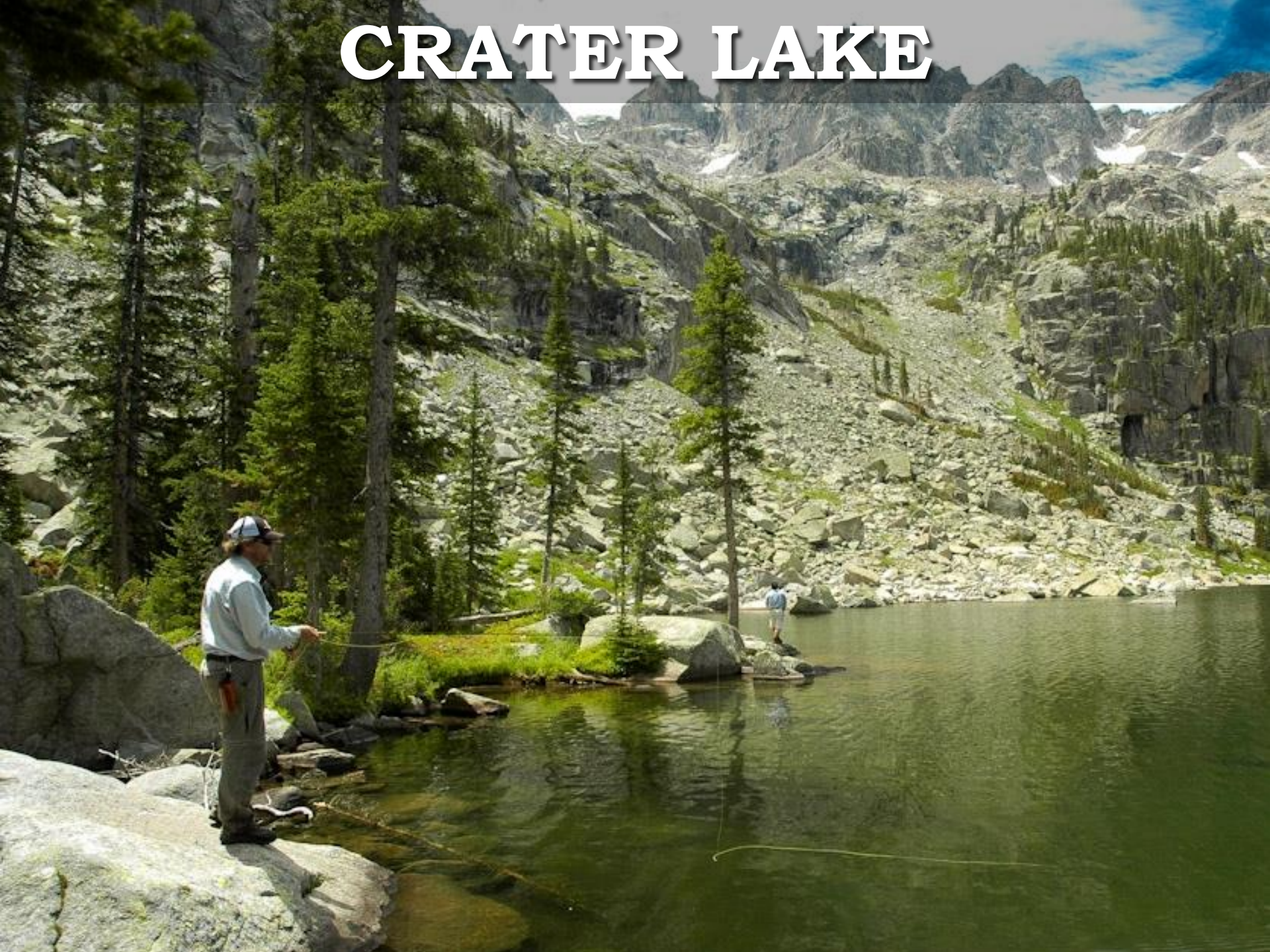
- ~18 trail miles, 1 way from Brainard to Monarch.
- 3,700+ ft altitude gain, ending at 12,550ft
- Moderate trail usage
- Fish: Brookies, Cutthroat



TOP OF PAWNEE PASS



CRATER LAKE



CASCADE CREEK





HOW MANY RISING FISH DO YOU SEE?

RESPECT THE WILDLIFE



IPWA IS STUNNING.





WRAP-UP

BONUS FOR ATTENDING!

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