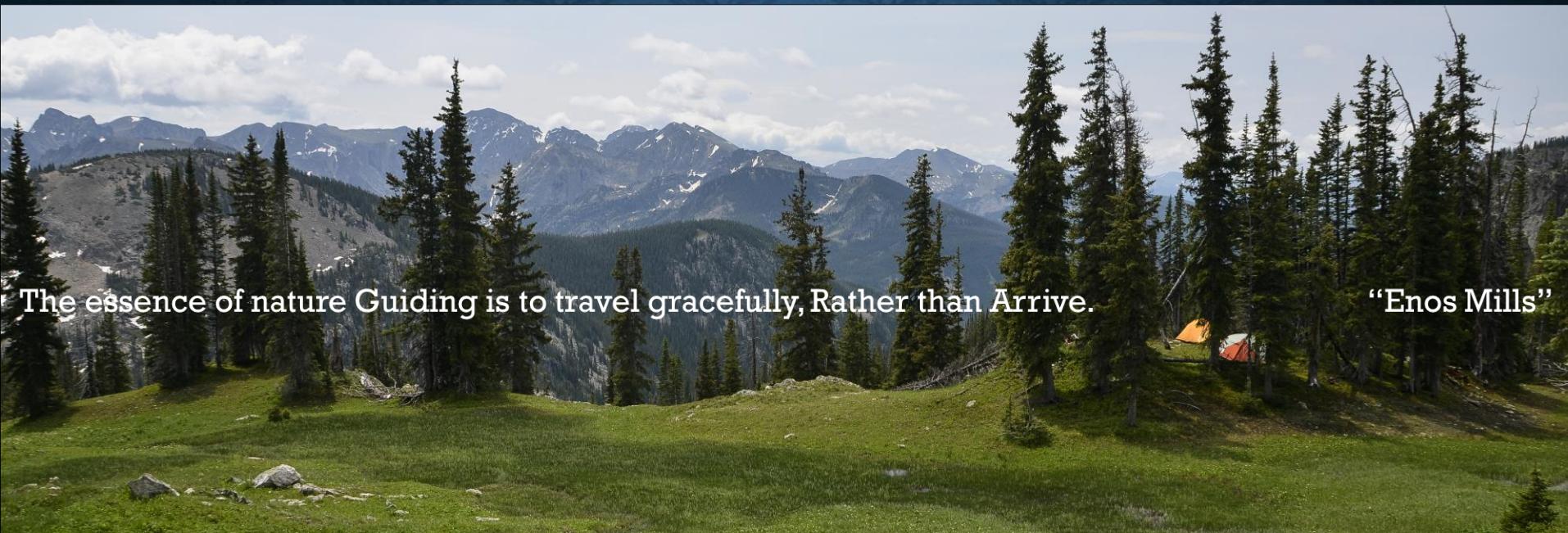
A scenic mountain landscape featuring rugged peaks with patches of snow and a small lake in the valley. In the foreground, a person wearing a green waterproof jacket sits on a rocky outcrop, holding a dog. The dog is black and white. The overall atmosphere is outdoorsy and adventurous.

# 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**

A scenic mountain landscape. In the foreground, a clear, rocky stream flows from right to left. The banks are covered with green grass and small shrubs. In the middle ground, a steep hillside covered in green vegetation slopes upwards. The background features a large, rugged mountain peak with patches of snow and rocky terrain under a clear blue sky.

**CLEAR RUNNING  
CREEKS ARE  
EVERYWHERE**



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

# TROUT ARE PLENTIFUL IN ALL THE OBVIOUS PLACES



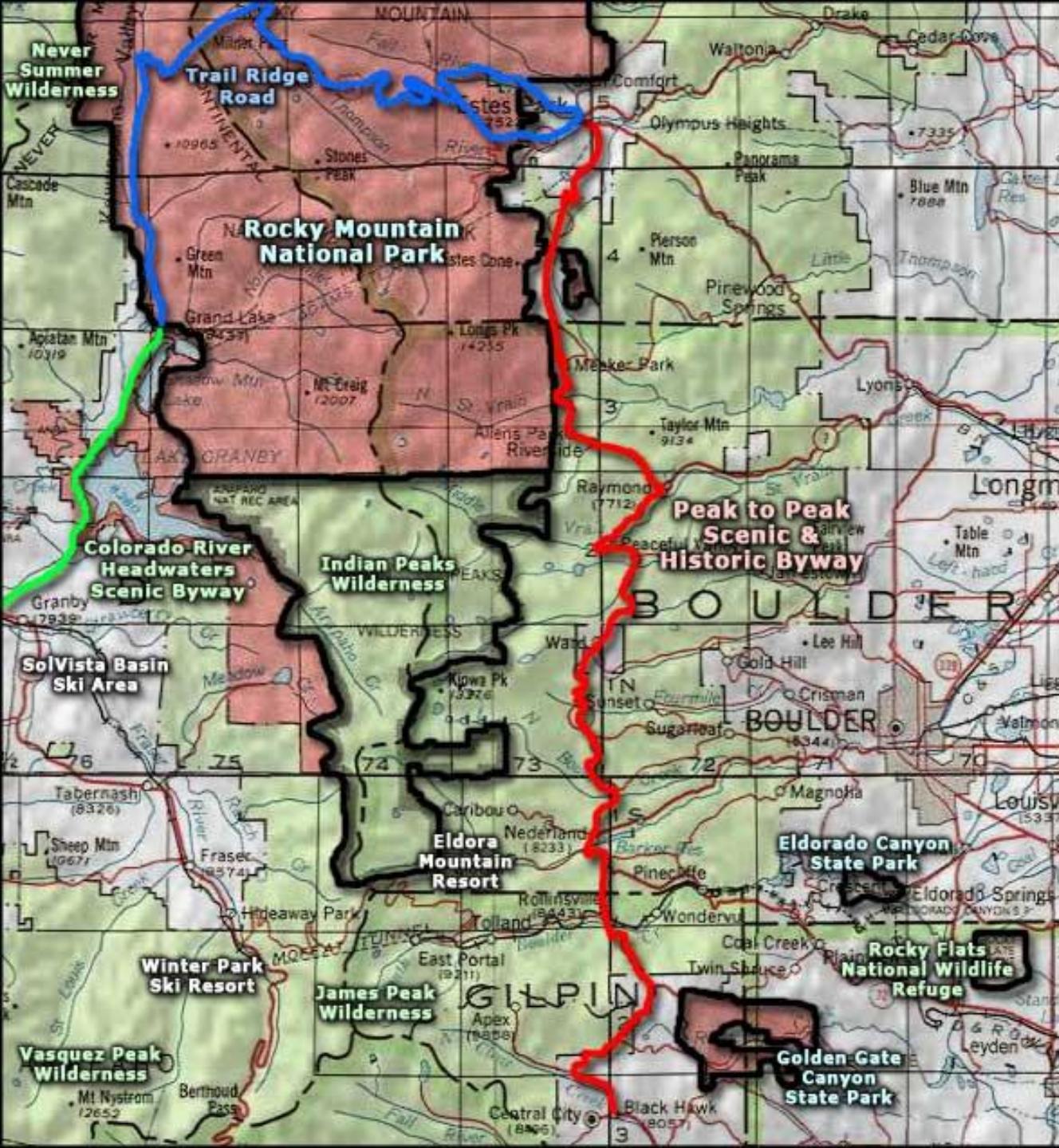


...and you  
find more  
you look  
really hard

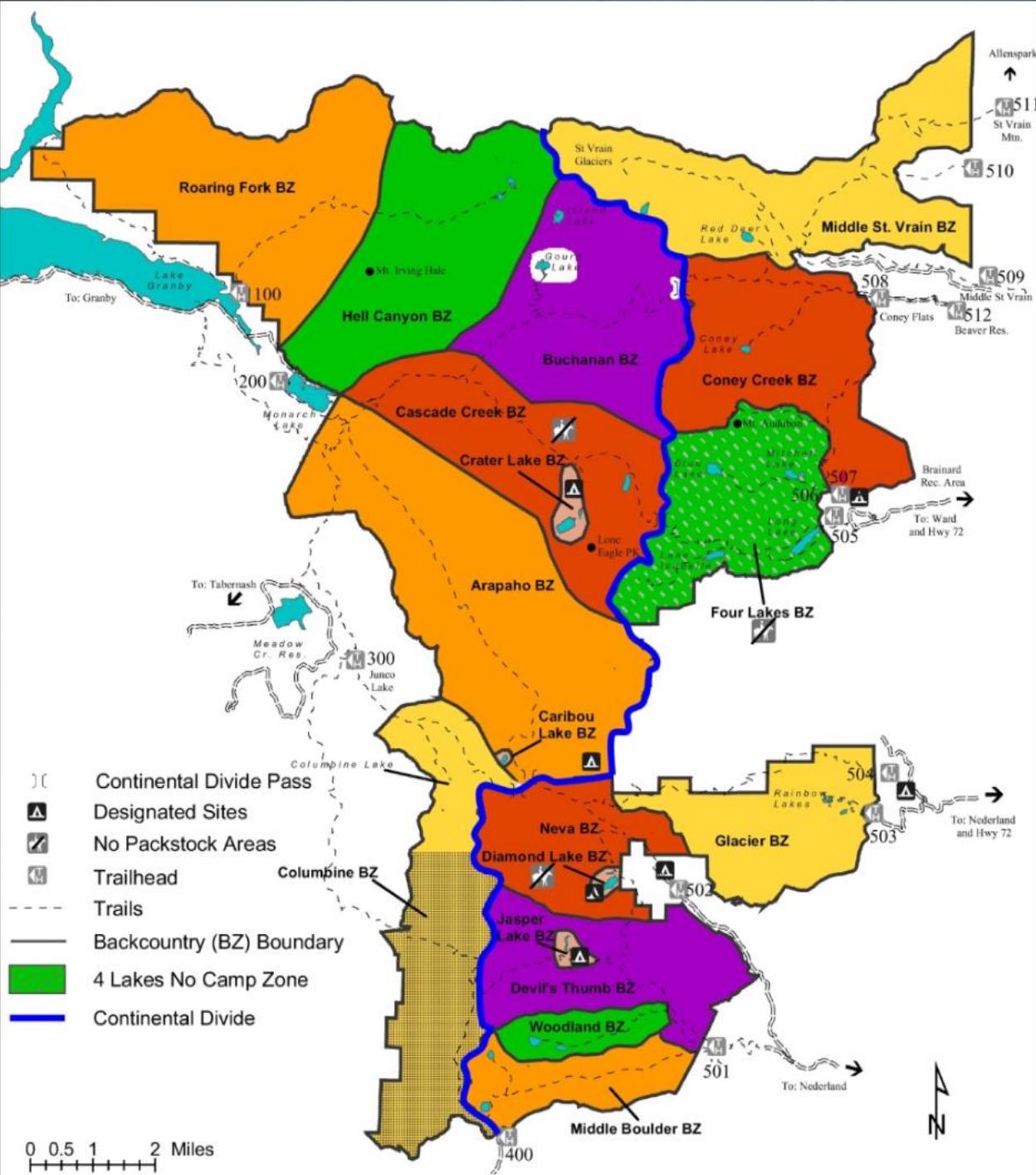


# ABOUT IPWA

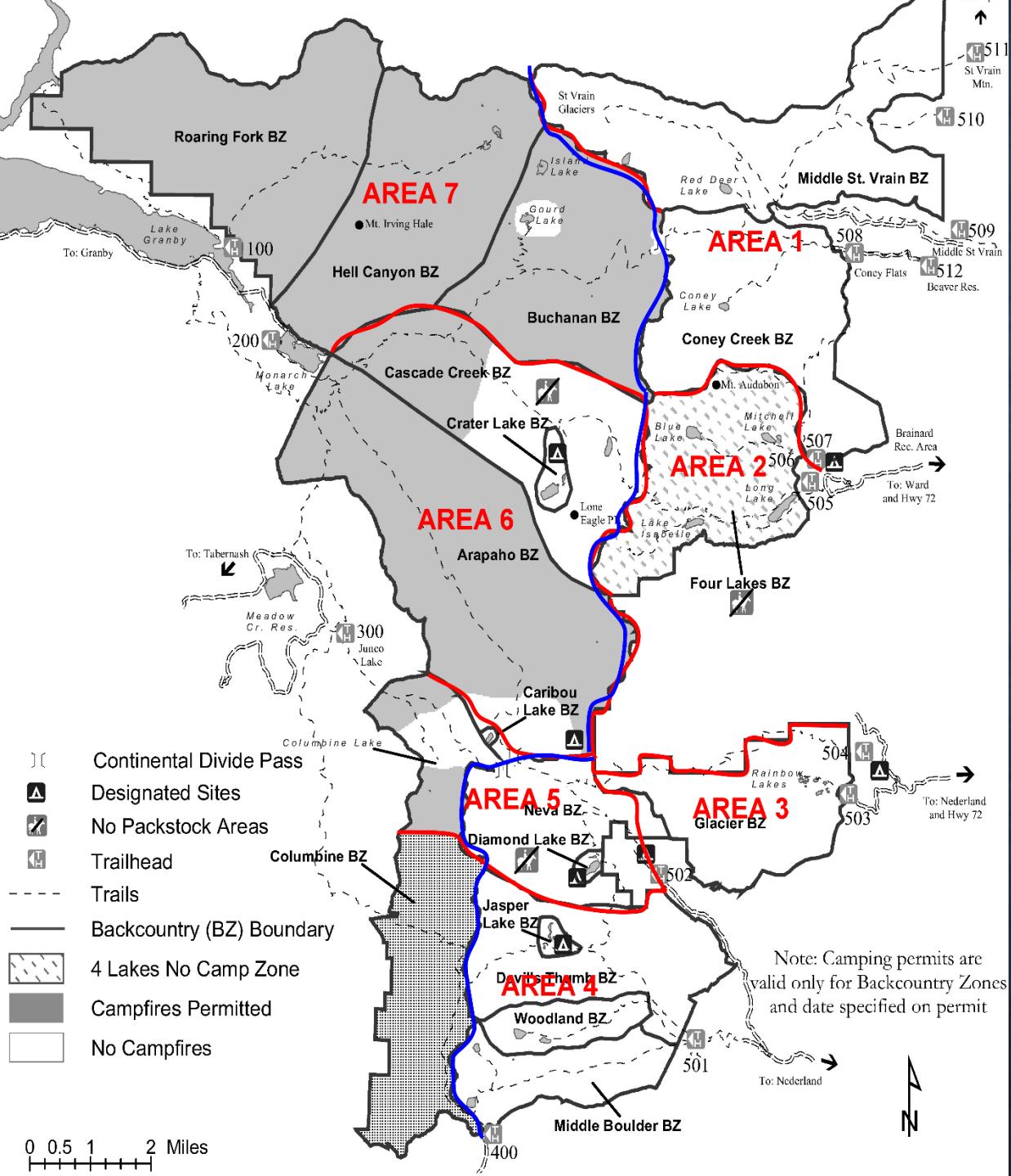
# IPWA & RMNP share a common border



# IPWA has 18 Back- Country Zones (BCZs)



# The book focuses on 7 areas, following the major drainages



A photograph of a person fishing from a large rock in a clear, greenish-blue mountain lake. The person is standing on the rock, holding a fishing rod. The background shows a steep, rocky mountain slope covered with green coniferous trees. The sky is clear and blue.

# 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**











Tenkara USA



# 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)

A photograph of a backpacking campsite in a mountainous area. In the foreground, a tan and red tent is set up on a rocky, dirt ground. To the left of the tent, there are some personal items and a sleeping bag. To the right, there is a log with more gear on it. In the background, there is a clear blue lake surrounded by tall evergreen trees and rocky mountain peaks under a blue sky with some clouds.

# 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: damsels, scuds, caddis, midges, mayflies, leeches, ants, beetles, etc.



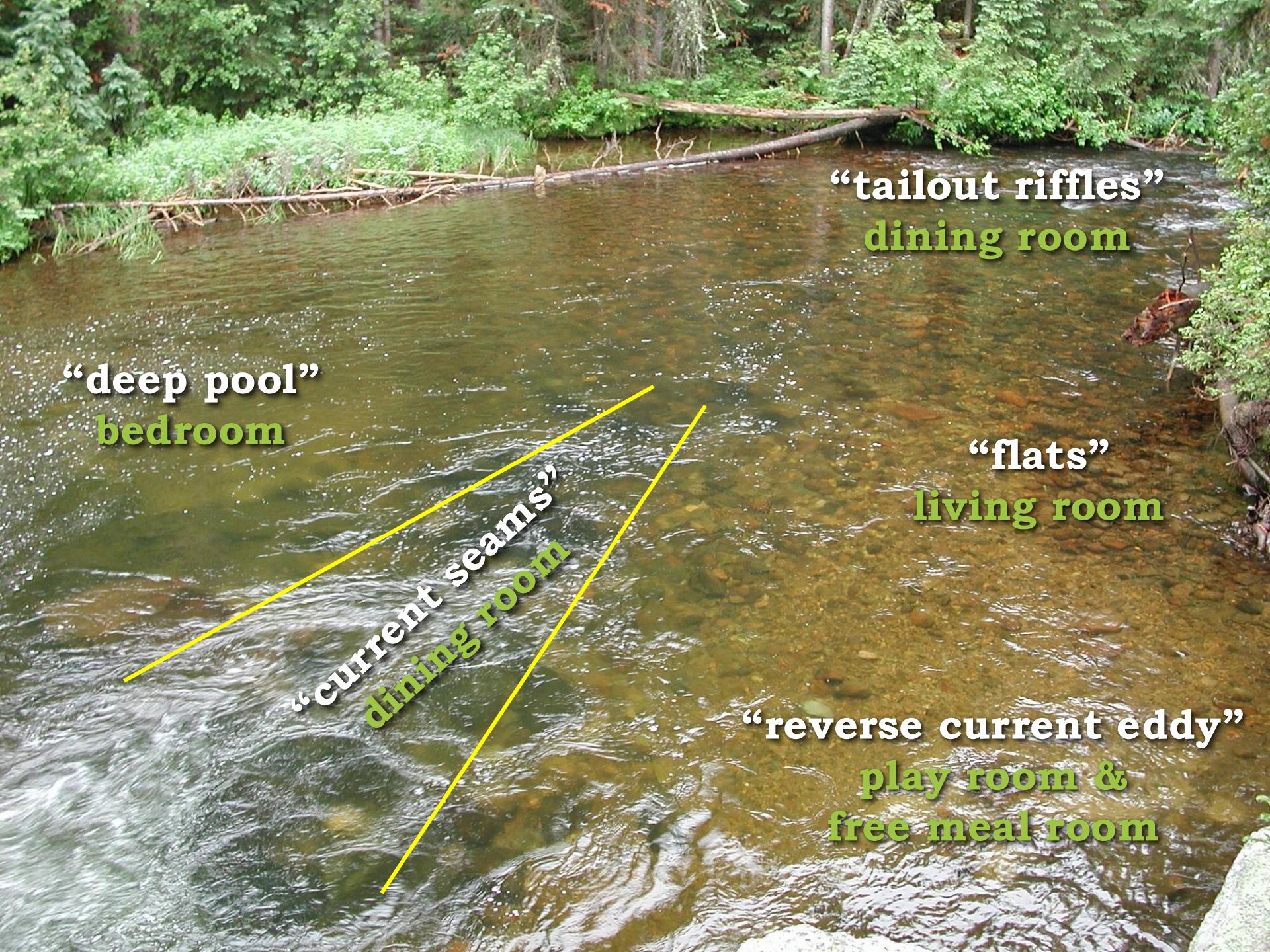
# Lake Fishing

- 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!)



“deep pool”  
**bedroom**

“tailout riffles”  
**dining room**

“current seams”  
**dining room**

“flats”  
**living room**

“reverse current eddy”  
**play room &  
free meal room**



# SELECTED DESTINATIONS

# 6 SELECTED DESTINATIONS

Easy

0

0

Mitchell Lake  
Blue Lake

“Short Hike”

Rainbow Lakes

“Family Time”

Moderate

0-1

0-1

Woodland Lake  
Trail  
(Woodland  
Lake,  
Skyscraper  
Lake)

“Separation Hike”

King Lake Trail  
(King Lake, S.  
Boulder Creek)

“Adventurous”

Hard

1

1-2

St. Vrain  
Glacier Trail  
(Gibraltar Lake,  
Middle St. V  
Creek)

“Off-Trail Junkie”

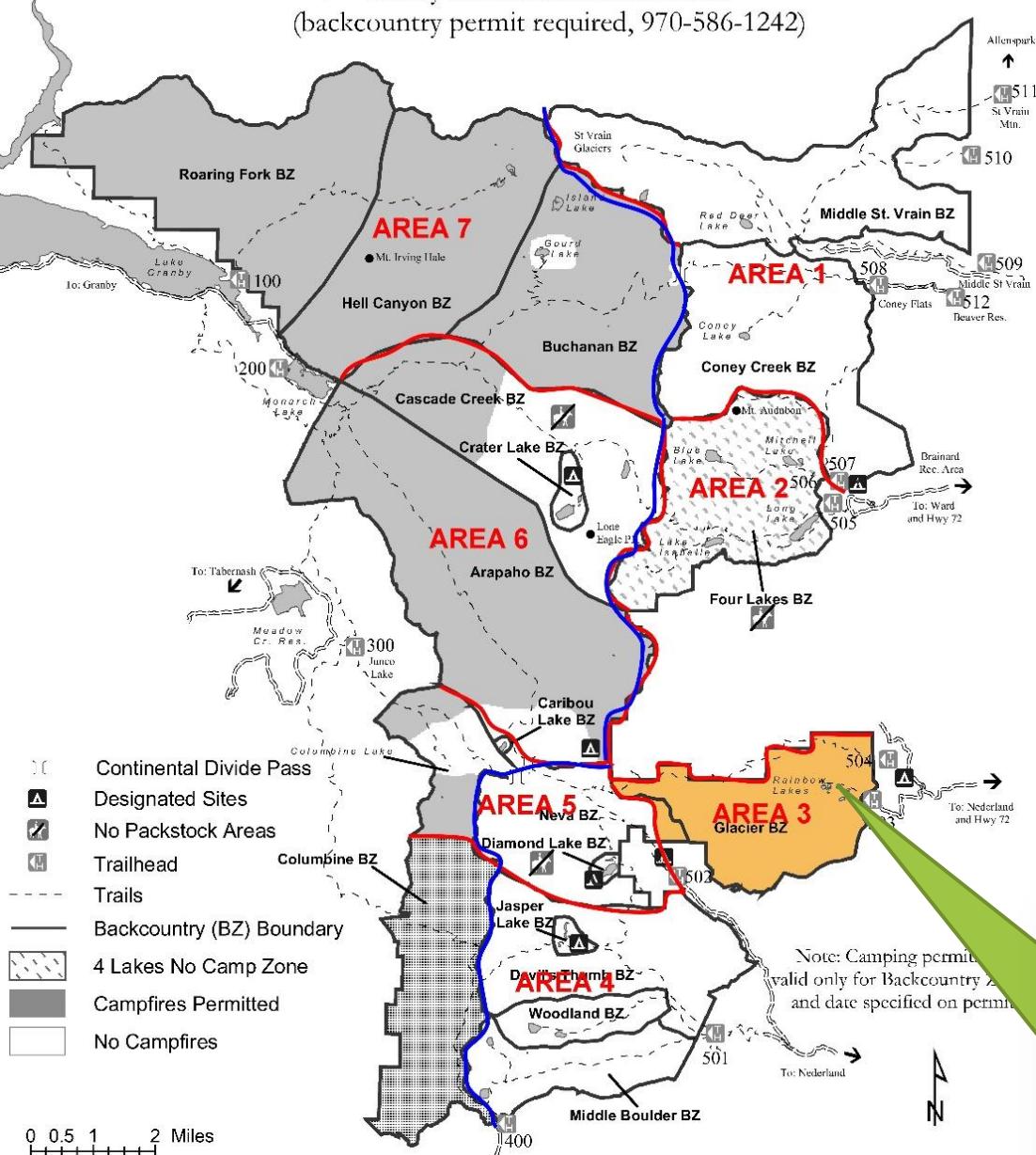
Pawnee Pass Trail  
(Mirror Lake,  
Crater Lake,  
Cascade Creek)

“Cross the C. Divide”

1

Number of recommended backcountry nights

↑ 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



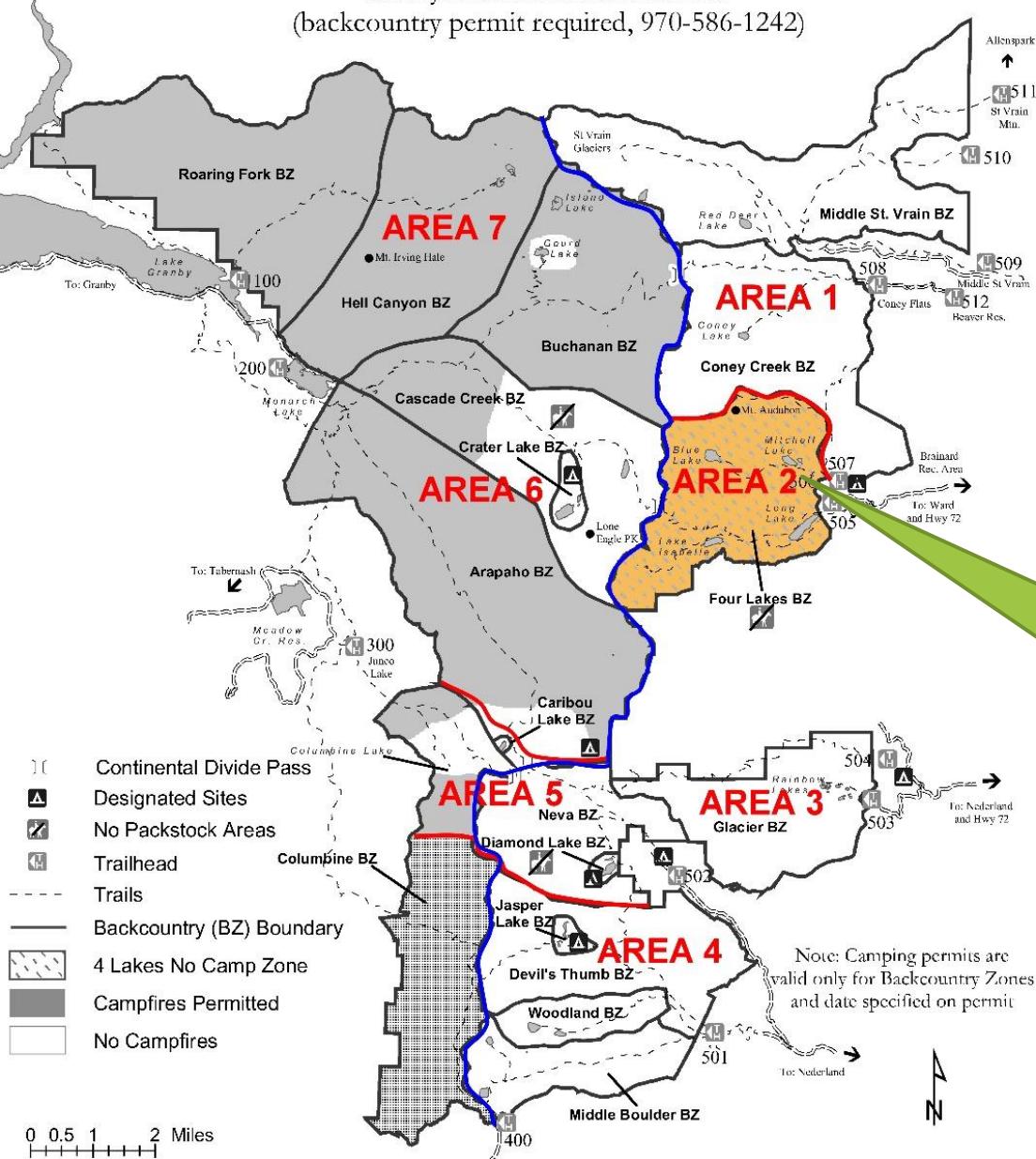
# RAINBOW LAKES



## 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!

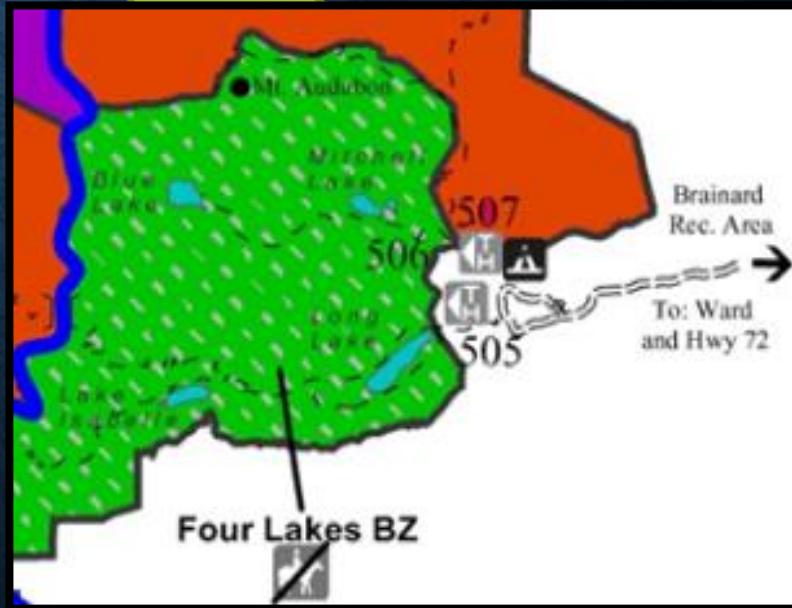
↑ Rocky Mountain National Park ↑  
(backcountry permit required, 970-586-1242)



## INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

Camping Permit Required June 1 through September 15

# Easy Moderate Mitchell Creek and Lake



# MITCHELL CREEK & LAKE



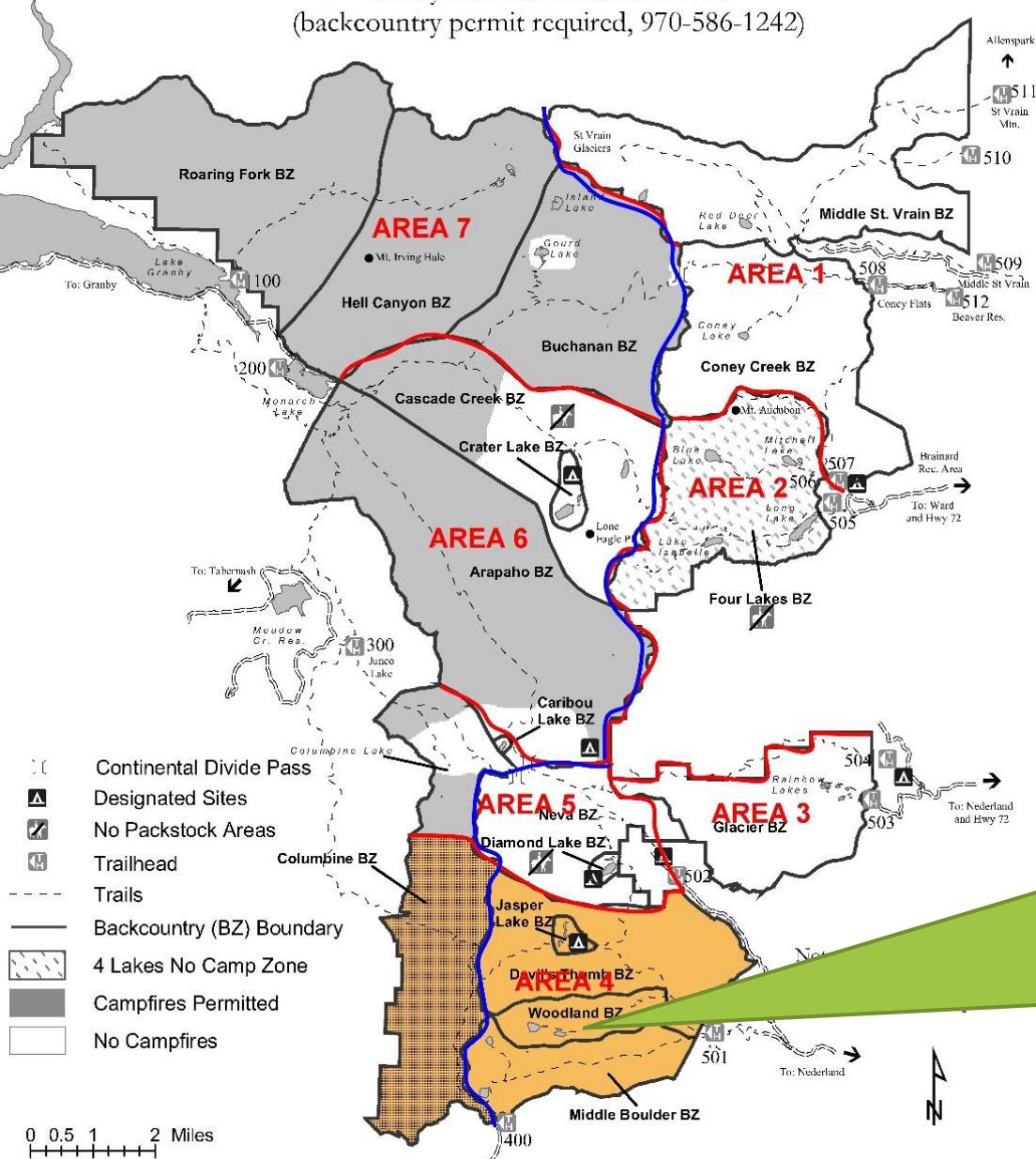
## What to Know

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



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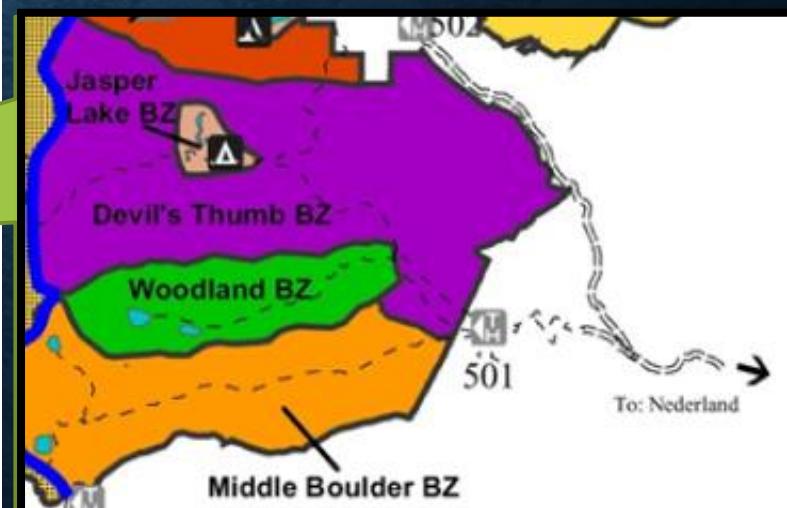
↑ Rocky Mountain National Park ↑  
(backcountry permit required, 970-586-1242)



## INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

Camping Permit Required June 1 through September 15

# Moderate Woodland Lake Trail



# 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



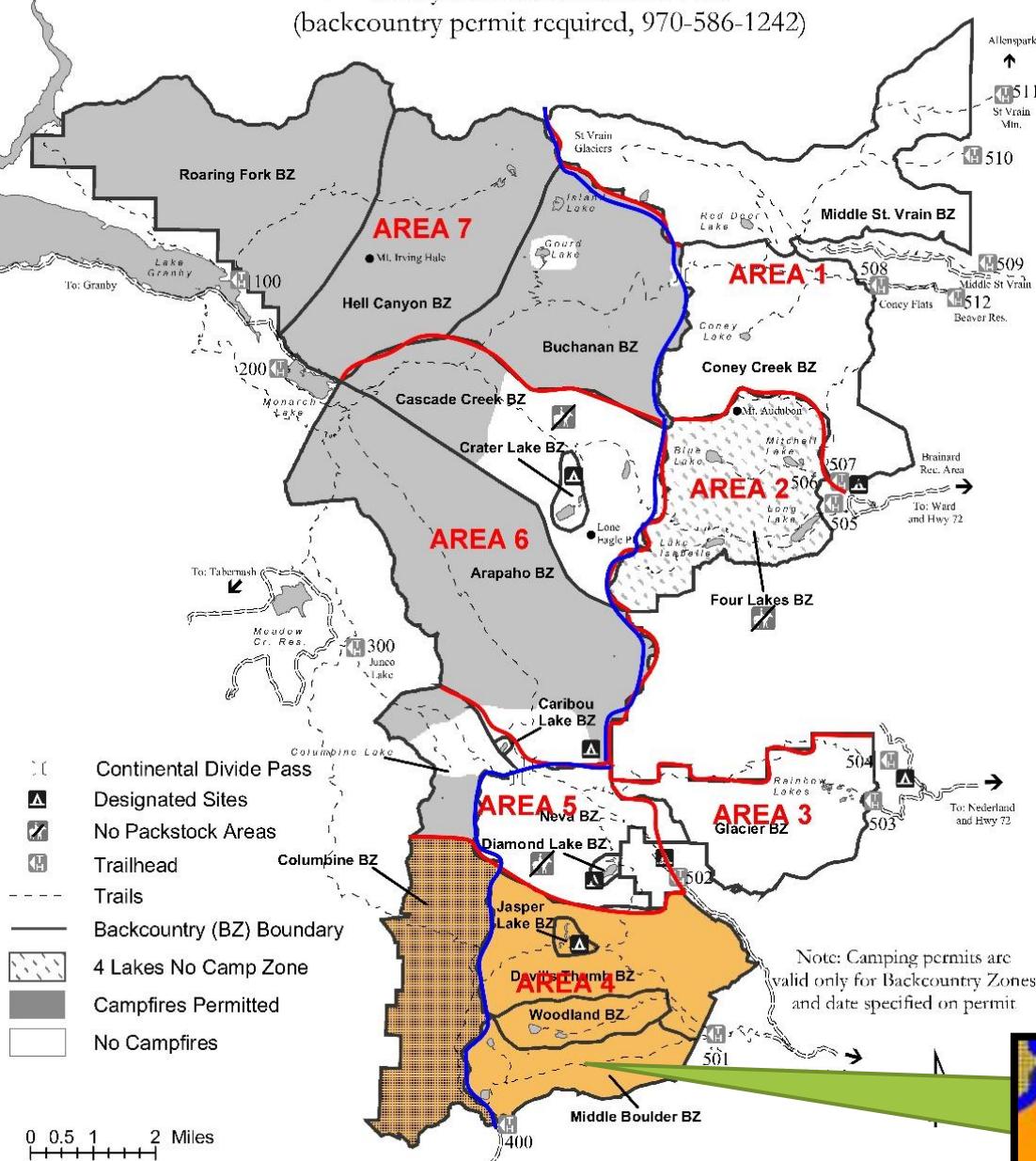
# SKYSCRAPER RESERVOIR



# SOUTH FORK JASPER CREEK



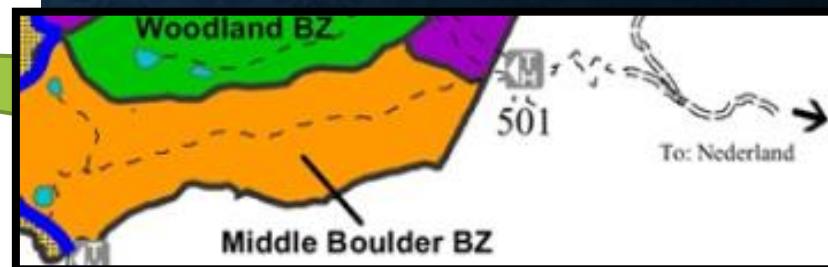
↑ Rocky Mountain National Park ↑  
(backcountry permit required, 970-586-1242)



## 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

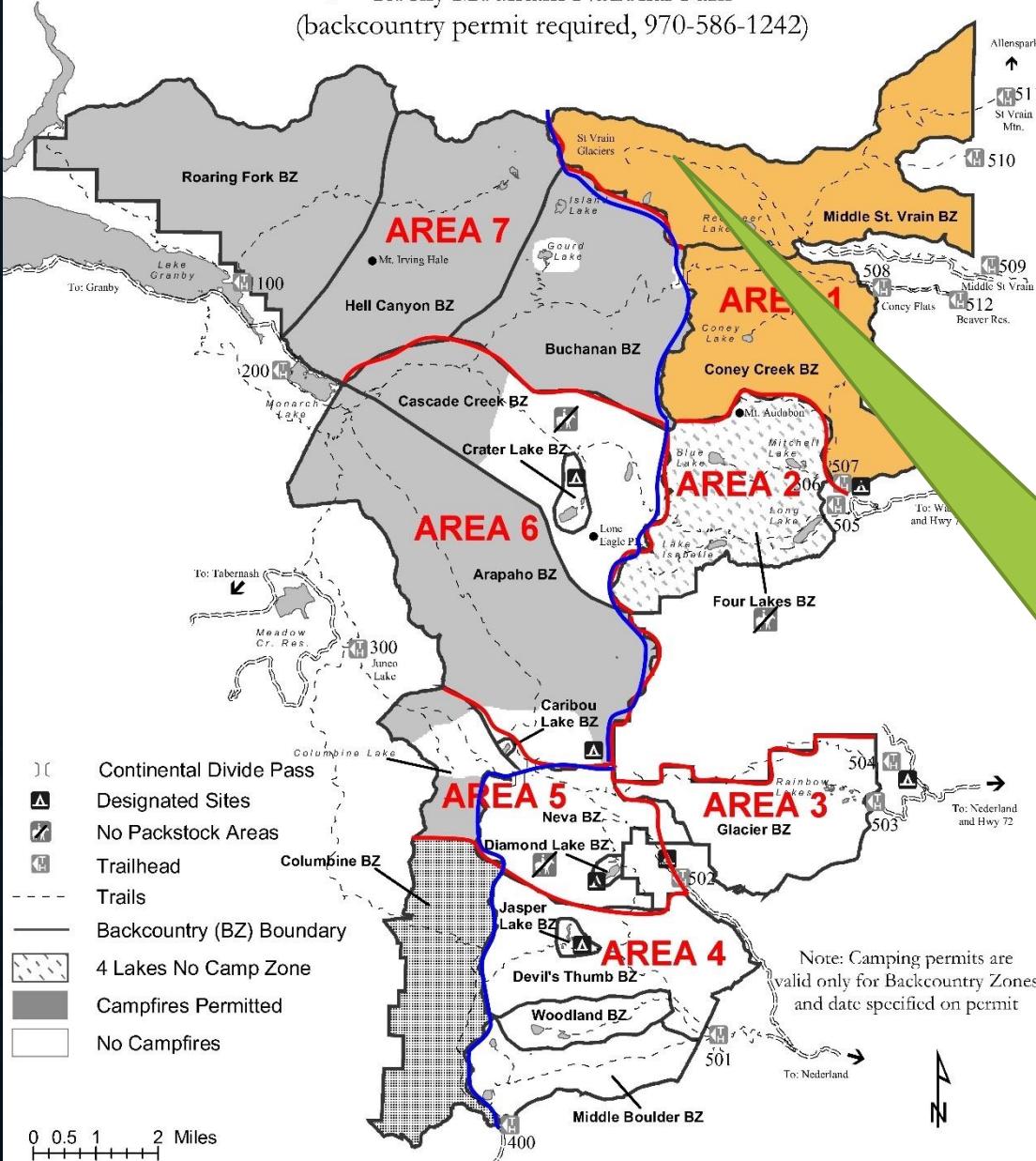
# S. FORK MIDDLE BOULDER CR.



# S. FORK MIDDLE BOULDER CR.



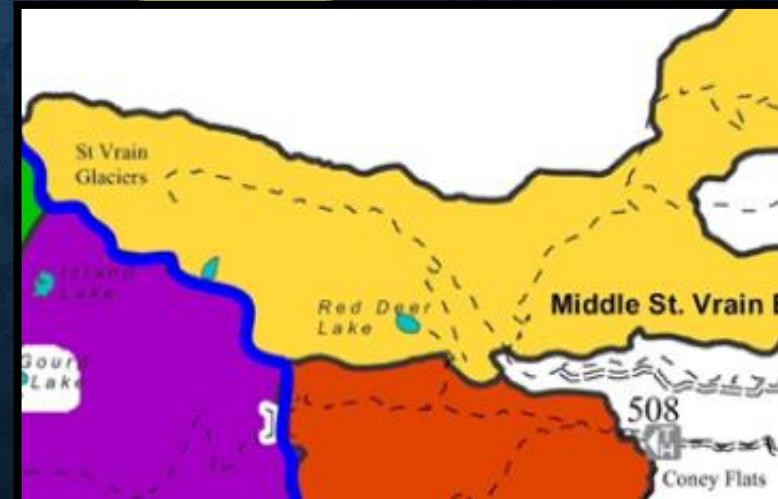
↑ Rocky Mountain National Park ↑  
(backcountry permit required, 970-586-1242)



## INDIAN PEAKS WILDERNESS AREA

Camping Permit Required June 1 through September 15

# Hard St. Vrain Glacier Trail



# 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

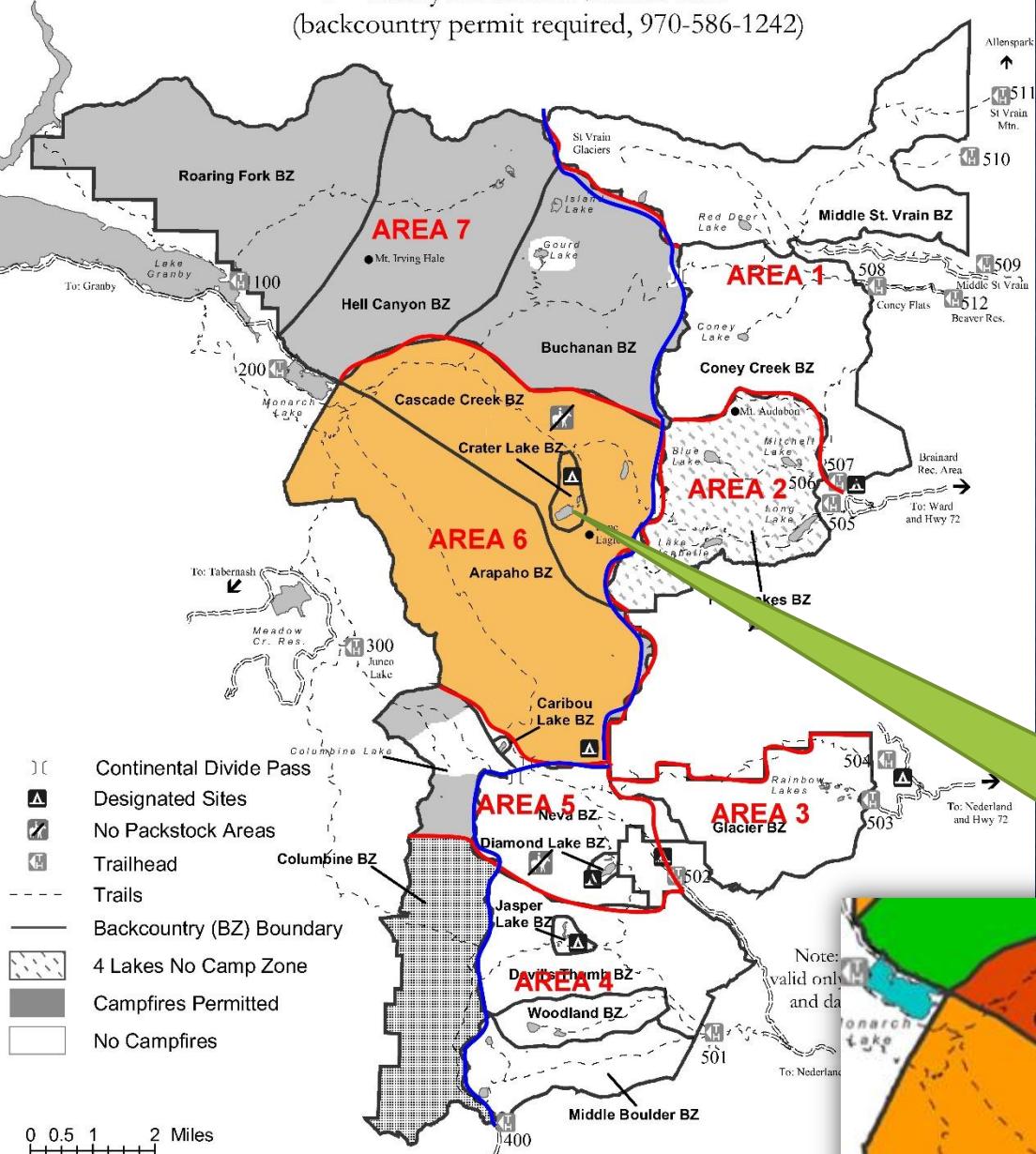


## What to Know

- 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 30

# Harder Pawnee Pass Trail



# LONG LAKE



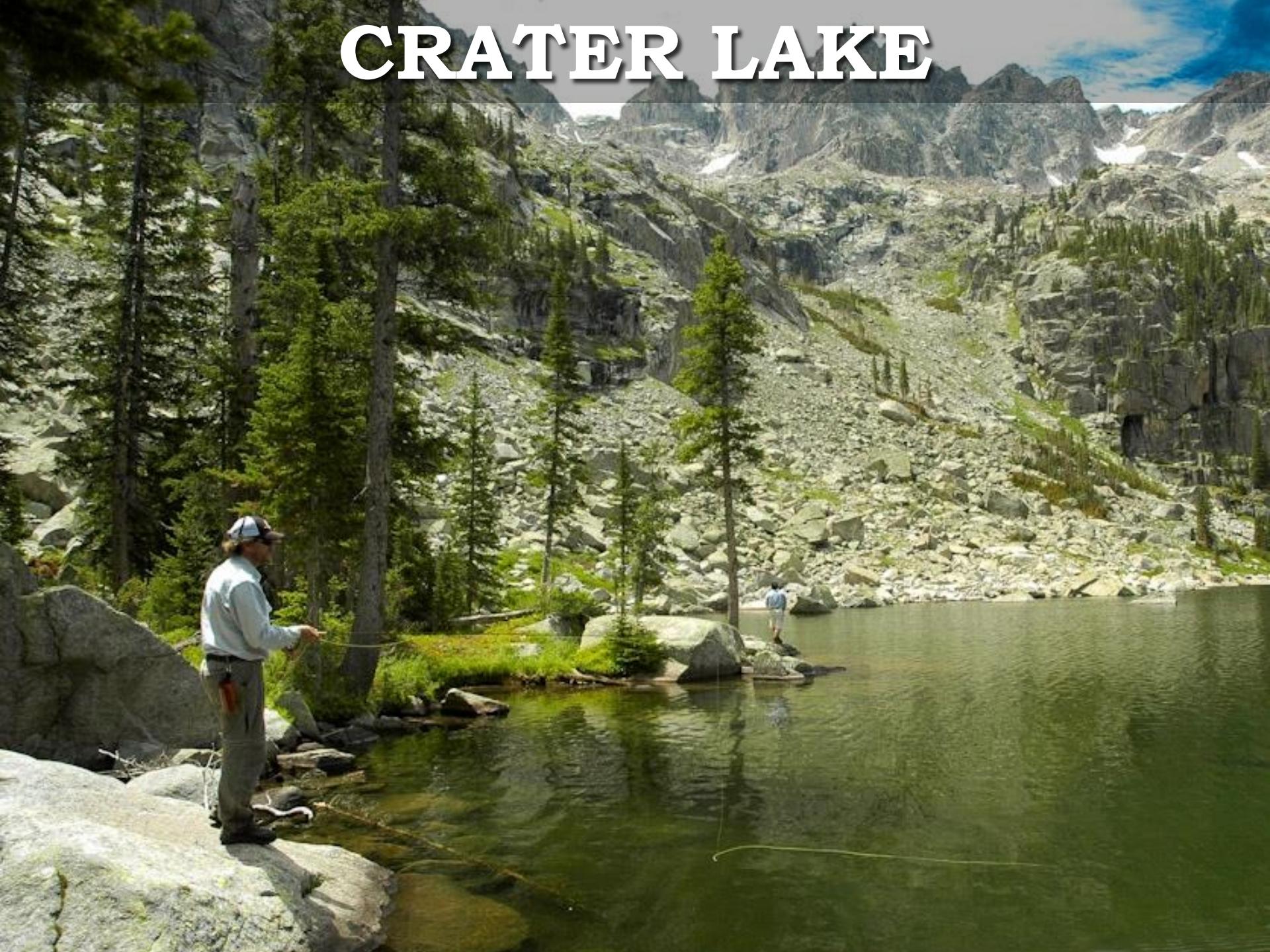
## What to Know

- ~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?

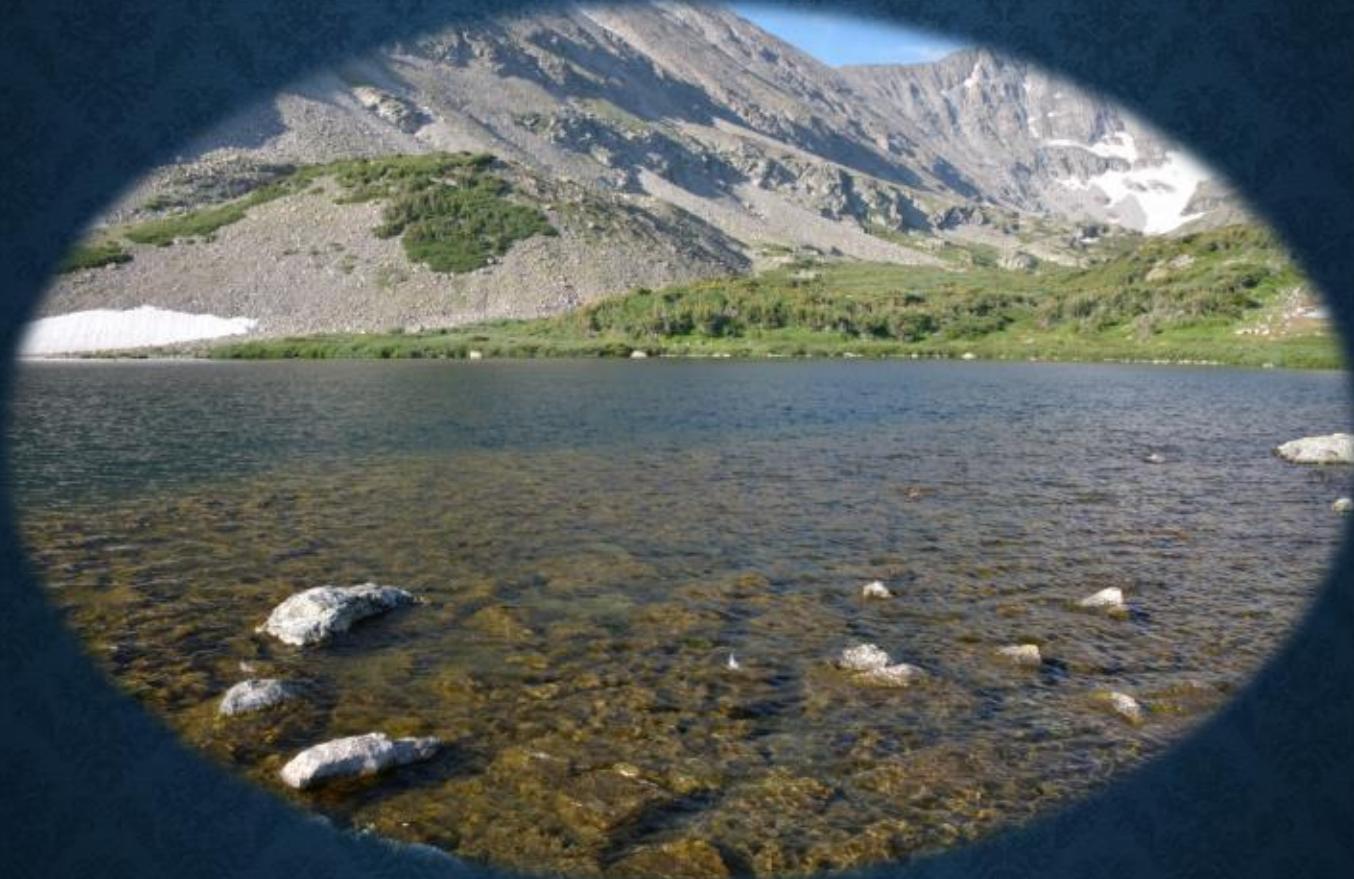


# RESPECT THE WILDLIFE



# IPWA IS STUNNING.

A scenic sunset over a mountain range. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, yellow, and blue clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm glow over the mountains. In the foreground, silhouetted pine trees frame the view. The overall atmosphere is serene and majestic.



# WRAP-UP

# **BONUS FOR ATTENDING!**

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