

PICKLE GULCH – RAINBOW LAKES

BRAINARD LAKE – PEACEFUL VALLEY

The Peak To Peak Highway (Colorado 119) from Central City to Allenspark has been designated a National Scenic Highway. It is a popular mushroom hunting area because it is close to Denver, not for exceptional mushroom finds. There are a number of areas to look along the highway. Four are listed below, but don't limit yourself by looking in just those areas.

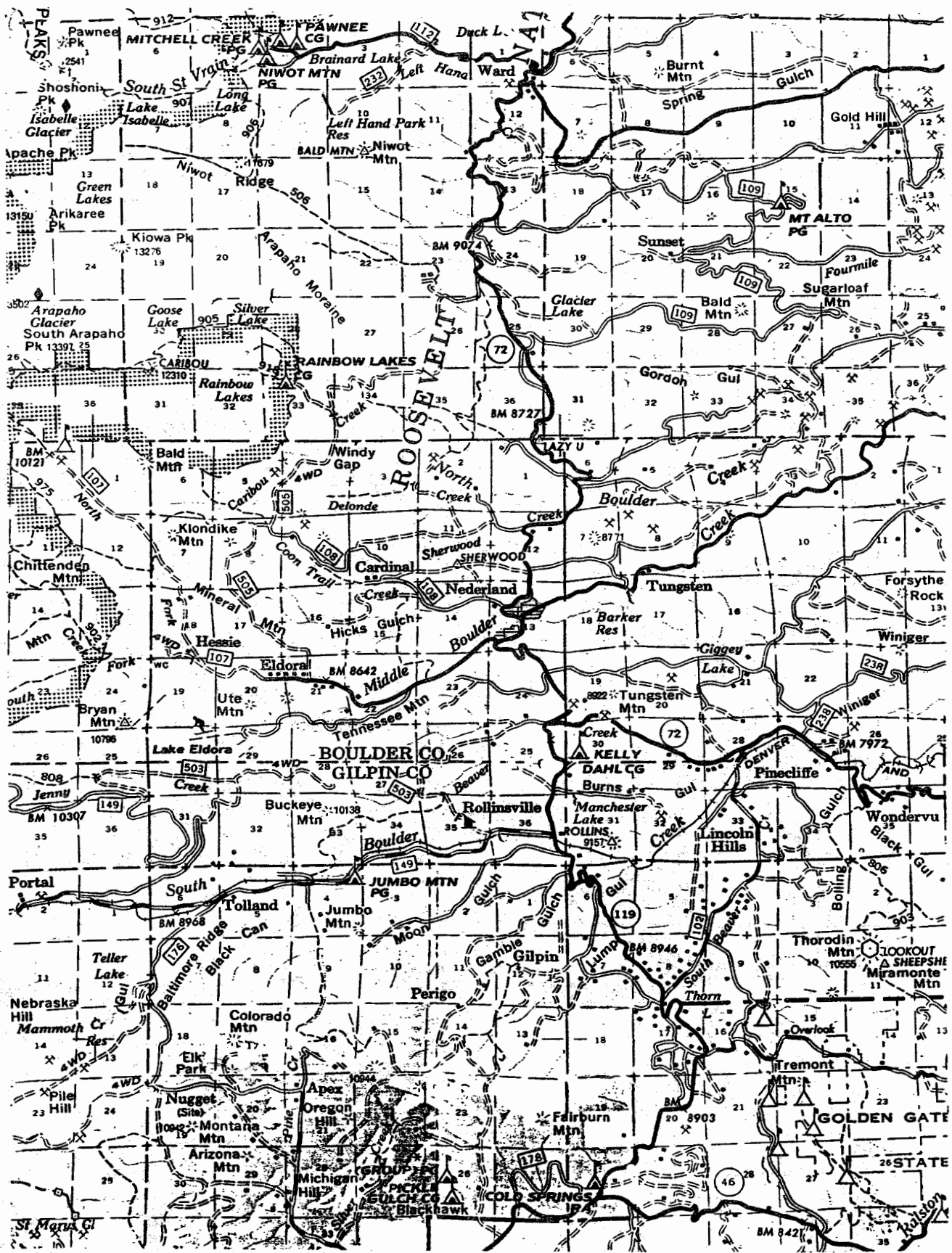
Pickle Gulch: This is a state campground and picnic area for groups only. It is located at about 9100' a few miles North of Central City. This area is included in this book because it is well known to many CMS members. Please consider looking for mushrooms in other nearby areas rather than Pickle Gulch. Over picking in this small area is causing ecological damage to the mushrooms. Let's leave some for our children to find.

Brainard Lake: This area is reached by an easy paved road out of Ward. It is a beautiful area and members have reported plentiful fruitings of *Boletus edulis* and *Leccinum* in past years. Parking can be difficult because the area is very popular with hikers.

Peaceful Valley: This area is reached by a well maintained gravel road of 119 between Ward and Raymond. This is also a popular trail head for hikers using the trail to Buchanan Pass and parking can be difficult. The best time to go is mid-week. Walk up the Middle St. Vrain from Peaceful Valley and look for mushrooms along the way.

Rainbow Lakes: This campground is between Nederland & Ward off 119. Turn West at the University of Colorado research station Road. Follow the good gravel road about five miles to the parking area. The elevation at Rainbow Lakes is about 10,000' There is a pack trail that starts near the campground and goes on the North side of six small lakes. Start looking in that area.

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