

ASPEN – SNOWMASS CREEK

INDEPENDENCE PASS – CASTLE CREEK

The areas listed on this page are located around the Aspen area. They provide a wide variety of locales to look for mushrooms.

Snowmass Creek: This campground can be reached in good weather by a rough dirt road due West out of West Village. The campground itself is on the right hand fork in the road at Snowmass Creek, and the road itself eventually leads to old Snowmass and Colorado 82. Start looking along a tributary creek that flows through the campground. *Leccinum* and *Amanitas* have been found in the area.

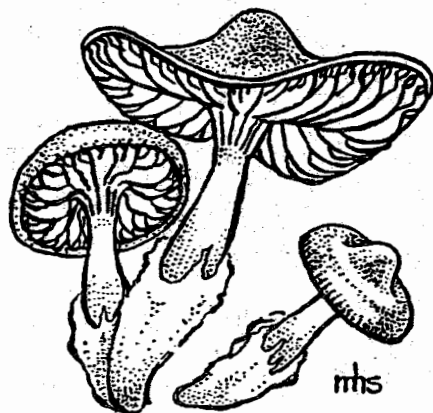
The left hand fork leads to a trail head along Snowmass Creek to the Maroon Bells. Park at the trail head and walk down to the creek to an area locally known as "The Islands" due to some sand bars in the creek. Large puffballs are sometimes found in the area, along with *Suillus*, *Leccinum* and *Amanitas*. Mushroom production is highly dependent on getting sufficient rain, because there are few seeps in the area.

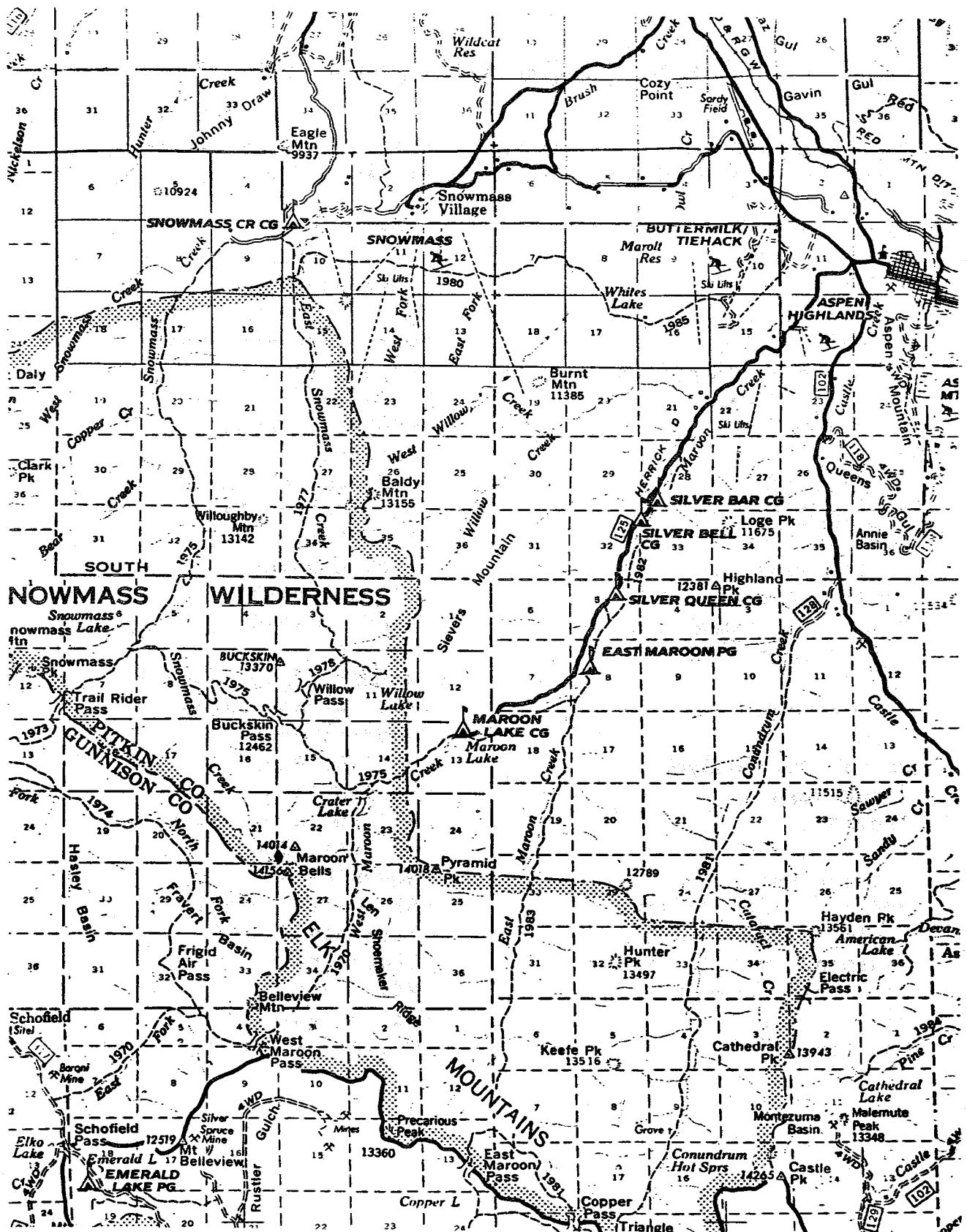
Castle Creek: This creek is reached from the Ashcroft road out of Aspen. Castle Creek, Cooper Creek and Cooper Fork flow through the area, making it promising. The drive is easy and beautiful. Check this area after a period of wet weather.

Weller Campground: Lincoln Gulch campground and Weller Campground are popular stops along Colorado 82 at the foot of Independence Pass. Parking is easy, and a number of trails lead to Weller Lake and along Lincoln Creek. The areas are not exceptional, but they are easy and fun to hunt.

Independence Pass: This is an ideal area to collect fungi. Start look at the lower elevations around Difficult campground. Continue up the pass and check for mushrooms at each campground area. The change in elevation from Aspen to the top of the pass usually provide good moisture and temperature conditions for fungi from July through early September. If it has been dry, wait until the rains come.

Contributed by: Mike Schomaker & Tom Flynn





SNOWMASS CREEK