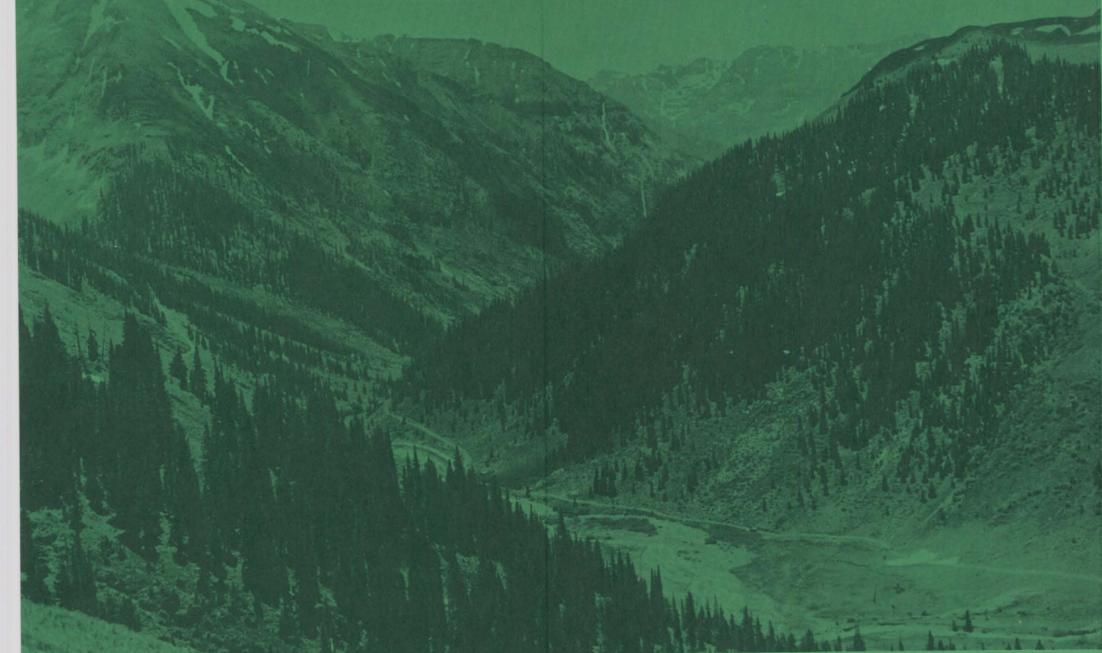


LAKE FORK RECREATION AREA



High in the mountain vastness of southwestern Colorado lies an area of rugged beauty and scenic grandeur perhaps unequalled in the United States. Towering mountain peaks pierce the sky beyond 14,000 feet, high alpine meadows snuggle silently among crags, and crystal streams tumble headlong into the deep valleys below.

It is a land where moving earth and mud flowed across a river hundreds of years ago to form Colorado's second largest natural lake — and where the earth still flows today. It is a land of passes 12,000 feet or higher, where four-wheel-drive vehicles are needed to wind one's way across the area's rugged backbone. It is a land of old mining towns, of shimmering mountain lakes, and a place called — for good reason — Cannibal Flats.

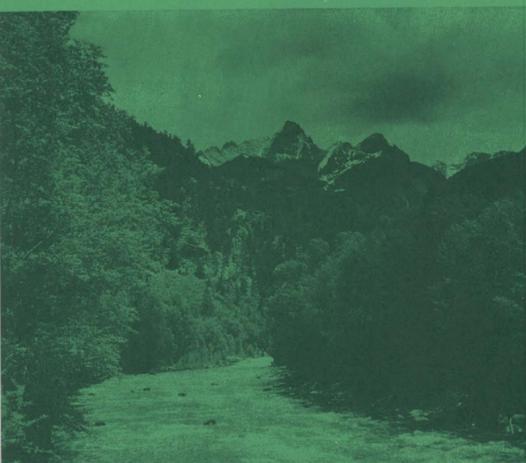
RECREATION

Awe-inspiring scenery, frontier history, old mining towns, hunting, fishing, mountain climbing, remote areas for exploration, all these are available in unstinted amounts in the Lake Fork Recreation area. Sportsmen and other outdoor enthusiasts are being attracted in increasing numbers, despite — or, perhaps, because of — the semi-isolated location.

Stocked by the Colorado Game, Fish, and Parks department, more than 60 natural lakes and 100 miles of clear mountain streams await the angler. Fishing is excellent, particularly in some of the more inaccessible lakes, where local residents report that the size of the fish is worth the extra effort of hiking or taking a horse to reach them.

Elk, deer, mountain sheep, and black bear are available and a few mountain sheep are taken each year on special permits. During the hunting season the tiny town of Lake City swells to several times its permanent population as sportsmen from Colorado, Texas, California, and every state in the union swarm into the area for an average annual kill of approximately 2000 deer and 200 elk, plus bear.

Although permanent recreational facilities are unavailable, the Bureau of Land Management plans road construction, camp sites, trailer parking areas, and other accommodations if funds are appropriated by congress. The first of these will be trailer parking locations along the main roads. Later, back area camps will be provided along the trails into more remote areas.



It is the Lake Fork Recreation area, an 81,000 acre domain of Public Land astraddle a high range of the Rockies in Hinsdale and Ouray counties. It is also a land of grazing, of mining, of watershed protection, and other multiple uses in the Bureau of Land Management's resource management program for more than eight million acres of Public Land in Colorado, and nearly 465 million acres throughout the western states and Alaska.

Reached by Colorado State Highway 149 south to Lake City from U.S. Highway 50 west of Gunnison, or from U.S. 550 near Ouray, the Lake Fork Recreation area boasts of three peaks towering more than 14,000 feet above sea level, and more than 80 which reach beyond 13,000 feet. About three miles south of Lake City, Hinsdale county seat, is Lake San Cristobal, and near-

MINING

For those who find fascination in the past, many ghost towns and old mining camps dot the slopes and valleys. Abandoned mining tramways and stamp mills remind one of days of glory long gone but vital to the growth of a nation.

The central portion of the Lake Fork Recreation area, between Henson Creek and the Lake Fork of the Gunnison River, is an ancient volcanic caldera, the collapsed central part of an extinct volcano. Intense heat deposited gold, silver, lead, copper, and zinc in fissures of the igneous rock. In 1871 prospectors discovered silver and lead ore in what is known as the Ute and Ulay veins in the Galena mining district. Three years later the mining boom burst forth with the signing of the Brunot treaty, a pact with the Ute Indians opening the land to the white man for settlement, mining, and other development. With it in 1874 came discovery of the rich Golden Fleece vein. Towns and mining camps such as Lake City, Capitol City, Rose's Cabin, and Whitecross mushroomed into existence as prospectors and adventurers from all parts of the world were lured to the area. Production from the mines soared and millions of dollars in ore were wrested from the rocky slopes.

The mines and the countryside boomed until about 1903, then began a decline as the veins played out and increased mining costs made production less profitable. Today much ore remains but mining is no longer a major enterprise.



by is the Slumgullion earthflow and Cannibal Flats. On up in the higher country near the American Flats sheep grazing area is Engineer Pass, a narrow twisting road that crosses the mountains far above timber line and winds down Mineral Creek on the other side to meet U.S. Highway 550 south of the quaint little city of Ouray, seat of Ouray county and rich in the lore of the famous Ute Indian chief from which both city and county received their names.

It was in 1777 that white man first ventured into the area. Francisco Silvestre Escalante and Antanacio Dominquez led a party through the country. Not until 60 years later did Europeans return. In 1837 a trapper, Joseph Roubideau, found his way there in search of beaver. Shortly thereafter reports of gold discoveries in the Colorado Rockies began to sift out to the rest of the world, and in 1848 a discovery was reportedly made near the present site of Lake City by a member of Fremont's expedition. However, the spot was unmarked and it wasn't until the 1870s that gold fever began to run high and hundreds of prospectors trooped in to seek their fortunes. In the following decades scores of discoveries were made and mining became a booming industry.

One of the most fascinating of the Lake Fork Recreation area's many scenic attractions is the Slumgullion earthflow. Seven hundred years ago a river of soil and rock, saturated with water, roared down Slumgullion Gulch to the Lake Fork of the Gunnison river from high up a mountain slope. The flow dammed the river and formed Lake San Cristobal, the shore of which is now dotted with cabins and cottages. The original flow became stabilized and halted but it is now being overridden by a younger slow moving flow, which is still active. The older flow is about four miles long while the younger flow, estimated to be about 350 years old, has crawled a length of about two and one-half miles at a rate of 15-20 feet per year. Extending from 700 to 1000 feet in width, it averages a movement of about five inches per day in some places as it creeps toward the valley, carrying with it live trees that lean with the flow. A road winding up the side of a canyon gives the visitor an excellent view of both flows as well as the lake below.

No description of the area would be complete without mention of Alfred Packer and Cannibal Flats. Lured by wild tales of gold, Packer and a group of prospectors set out from Provo, Utah, in the fall of 1873 for the Lake Fork area. Ill-equipped and with insufficient food, the party soon fell victim to vicious winter winds and blinding snow storms. Two months later Packer stumbled into the Los Pinos Indian agency about 50 miles northeast of the Lake Fork area. He told a tragic tale of how his companions had died of starvation, but certain aspects of his story brought doubts to the minds of his hearers and Packer was jailed on suspicion of murder. That summer the mutilated bodies of his five companions were found and evidence indicated that Packer had eaten enough of their flesh to live to reach civilization. Packer was placed in irons but escaped and it wasn't until nine years later that he was caught and tried for murder. Due to legal technicalities a guilty verdict was not upheld but in a second trial he was found guilty of manslaughter and served 17 years in the state penitentiary before being paroled.

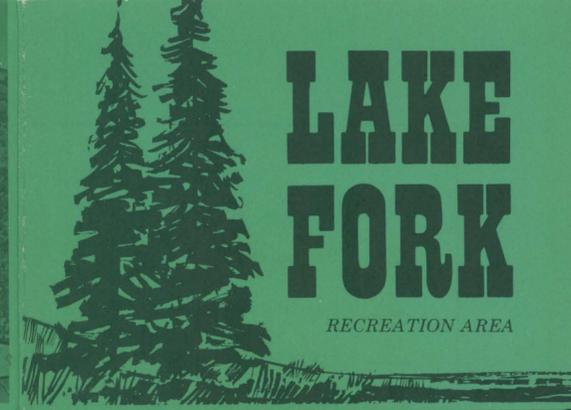
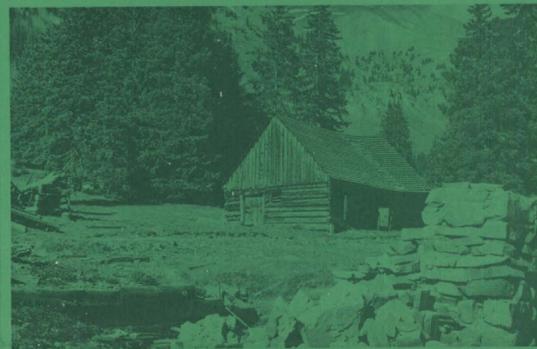
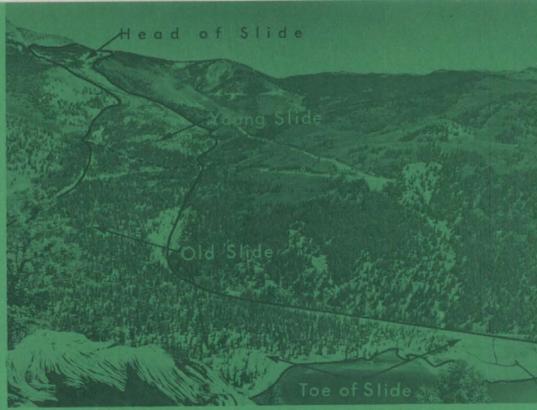
GRAZING & WATERSHED

Although recreation is a major attraction of the area, BLM's multiple use program for the Public Lands provides for other uses in addition to mining, among them grazing and watershed protection.

Nearly 30,000 sheep find succulent grazing on the summer grass of American Flats and other similar mountain pastures far above timberline. The high altitude prevents cattle from using the range and even sheep are restricted to a few short weeks in mid-summer but while range grass is growing, it provides an important source of food for the latter. The approximately 300 head of cattle in the area remain at lower levels at all times, and the sheep winter far down in the valleys or even across the state line in Utah.

The area is composed of two major watersheds separated by a rugged divide. To the north drainage is into the Uncompahgre river and the Lake Fork of the Gunnison, which find their way via the Gunnison to the Colorado at Grand Junction. The southern portion of the area drains into the Animas River, a tributary of the San Juan which flows into the Colorado River many miles to the south.

High up in this primitive land, where snowfalls of 20 to 40 feet have been recorded and where avalanches are not uncommon, stream channels cut deep between precipitous cliffs and the creeks and rivers rush from majestic Alpine country toward the deserts of Arizona and Mexico, and to the Gulf of California 1000 miles away.



This is the Lake Fork Recreation area, a land of vast and magnificent vistas; a land of hunting and fishing; a land of historic lore; of craggy mountains and isolated valleys; a land of hiking, exploration, and camping — a land where man and nature meet.

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior — a Department of Conservation — is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and Territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States — now and in the future.

An agency of the Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management is charged with the administration of the 465 million acres of Public Land remaining in our nation. These Public Lands are your heritage to use and enjoy for recreation as well as the many other multiple uses. But good manners and good camping practices by visitors are as necessary to the lands' well-being as good multiple use management by BLM, ranchers, miners, and other users. Respect the rights of others and you will always be welcome.

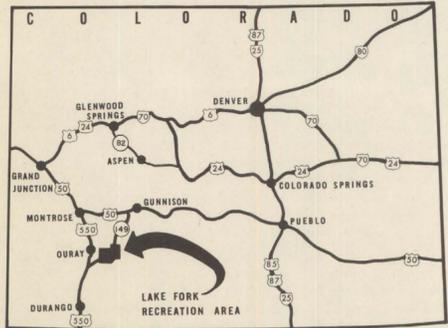
BLM OFFICES IN COLORADO

- State Office:
Federal Bldg., 1961 Stout Street, Denver
- District Offices:
- District Nos. 1 and 6 — Craig
 - District No. 2 — Glenwood Springs
 - District Nos. 3 and 4 — Montrose
 - District Nos. 5 and 8 — Canon City
 - District No. 7 — Grand Junction

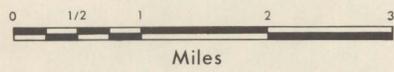
LAKE FORK RECREATION AREA

LEGEND

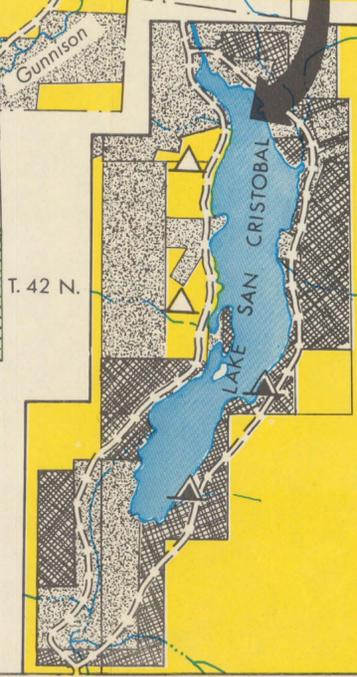
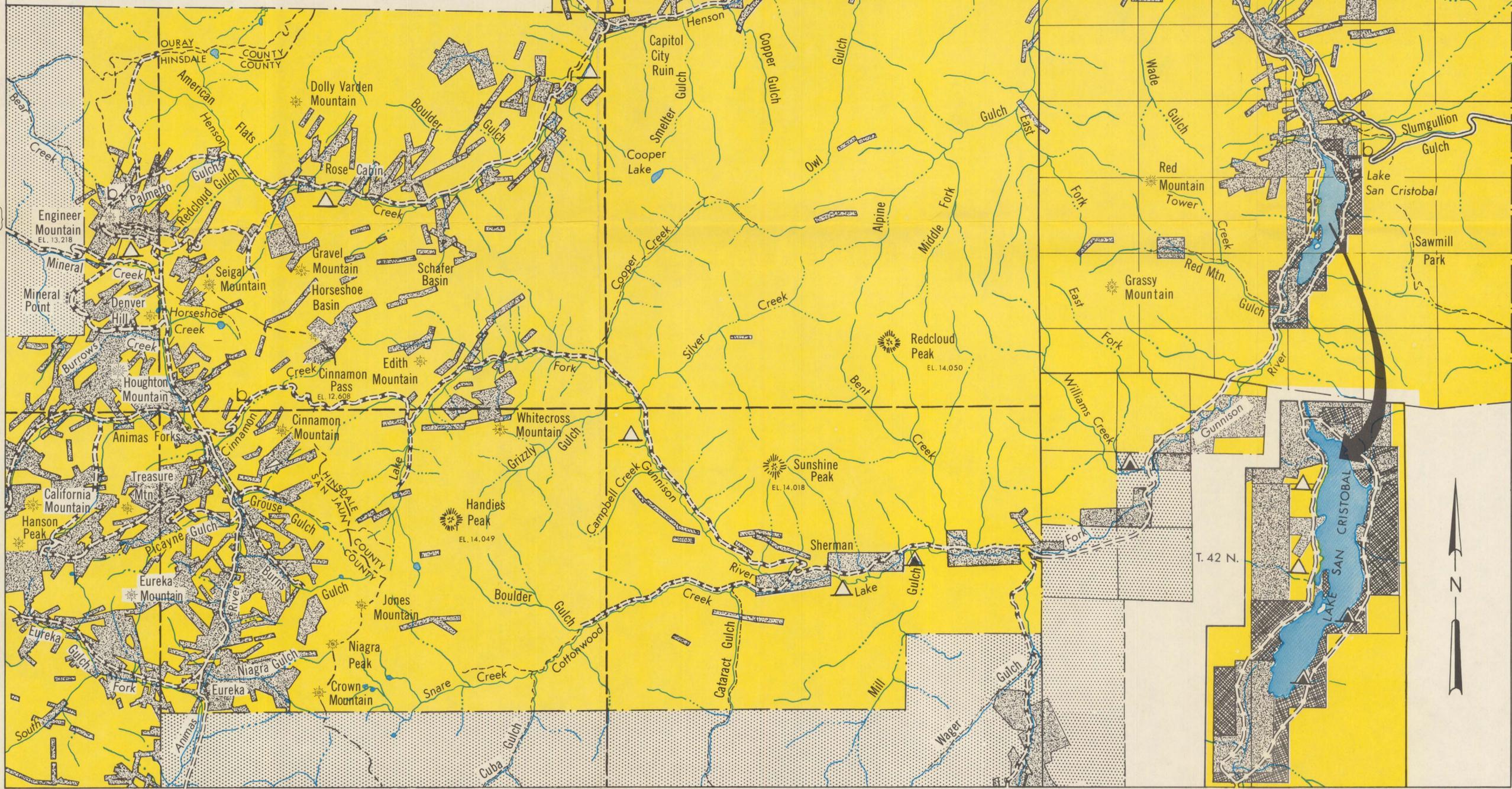
-  Proposed Overlooks
-  Existing Recreation Sites
-  Proposed Recreation Sites
-  Public Lands BLM
-  Private Lands
-  Trail
-  National Forest
-  Other Public Lands
-  Paved Road
-  Gravel Road
-  Jeep Road
-  Protracted Township And Range Lines
-  Outlining Unsurveyed Lands



SCALE



The position of Mineral Claims are relative and do not necessarily represent their true location in the unsurveyed township.



R. 7 W.

To Silverton

R. 6 W.

R. 5 W.

R. 4 W.

T. 44 N.

T. 43 N.

T. 42 N.

