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Circ. 34

OUT-DOOR
LIFE IN THE
COLORADO
NATIONAL
FOREST

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The scene on the cover is a reproduction from a photograph of Arapaho Glacier from Rim Rock Cliffs.

Outdoor Life in the Colorado National Forest

THE million-acre playground of the Rockies, known as the Colorado National Forest, is rich in scenic beauty and general interest to anyone seeking recreation and relaxation. Its wonderful mountains, canyons, lakes, and rivers furnish a never-ending feast to the eye of the tourist, while the hunter finds use for his gun and the fisherman for his tackle. No restrictions are placed upon camping, hunting, fishing, or traveling in the Forest, except that the laws of Colorado must be obeyed and Government regulations concerning camp sanitation and the prevention of fires must be observed. Forest rangers and guards are stationed at many different places, and will gladly give their services to those seeking help or advice as to trails, roads, camping places, or points of scenic interest.

The Colorado Forest, originally called the Medicine Bow, was created by presidential proclamation May 17, 1905. From this and the adjoining Arapaho National Forest, 358 square miles were withdrawn in 1915 and designated as the Rocky Mountain National Park. The present gross area of the Forest, which extends along the eastern slopes of the Rockies from the Denver & Salt Lake Railroad to the Wyoming line, is 1,149,594 acres.

No region in the Rocky Mountains plays a more important rôle as a protection forest than the Colorado. Within its borders rise streams which furnish water to irrigate one of the richest bodies of agricultural land in the State. The municipal water supplies of Boulder, Fort Collins, Greeley, Longmont, Loveland, and the smaller towns and communities lying in the mountains or on the plains to the east, are also dependent upon the protection given by this Forest.

Automobile road along the Big Thompson River. The Canyon of the Big Thompson for a considerable portion of its length has rocky and precipitous slopes.

Camping and Fishing Grounds

Numberless attractive camping sites may be found along the different streams and about the shores of the mountain lakes of the Colorado Forest.

Since the advent of the automobile the number of campers has rapidly increased, and in order that camp and picnic grounds may prove inviting and attractive it is necessary to keep them clean. Tin cans and camp refuse should be buried, and discarded clothing, papers, and other inflammable material should be burned. A little care in this regard will add much to the pleasure of other visitors.

Automobile roads reach the North Platte and Laramie Rivers; the canyons of the Cache La Poudre River, Buckhorn, Big Thompson, St. Vrain, Lefthand, and Boulder Creeks; the shores of Chambers Lake at the head of the main Poudre, Beaver and Stapps Lakes on South St. Vrain Creek, and Gold Lake, just east of Ward.

The main streams of the Forest, their smaller branches, and the majority of the lakes are well stocked with trout—rainbow and brook trout in the North Platte, Poudre, and Big Thompson Rivers, and rainbow and native in the Laramie. The principal fishing lakes, which are stocked largely with black-spotted and brook trout, are McIntyre Lake at the head of McIntyre Creek, Hour Glass, Beaver, Stapps, Brainard, and Long Lakes, and Silver, Goose, Albion, and Rainbow Lakes on North Boulder Creek.

Big Game Areas

Under the protection afforded by the Colorado game laws, mule deer are becoming plentiful and well distributed throughout the Forest. In summer, they may be seen on the high ranges and in bands of from 10 to 75 head along the Poudre River and in the Stove Prairie region. Elk from the Yellowstone National Park, introduced by the Forest Service into Estes Park, Boulder, Nederland, and Rollinsville, have scattered from the Poudre River to the south boundary of the Forest, and are thriving in their new haunts. Small bands of mountain sheep may be encountered on the Medicine Bow

Tourists at Corona, just outside the Colorado National Forest.

and Mummy Mountains and on Mount Audubon and Arapaho Peaks. Black bear abound on the head of the Canadian River, on the upper branches of the Laramie River, and in the Stove Prairie and White Pine Mountain regions. Mountain lions, though very shy and not often seen, are sufficiently numerous to create havoc among the bands of deer, elk, and mountain sheep. Coyotes, bobcats, and foxes, and the smaller fur-bearing animals, such as marten and mink, are often trapped in the Forest. Beaver are on the increase along all the streams. Although the work of these industrious builders is a source of interest, it often causes a good deal of annoyance by interfering with irrigation ditches and headgates. Many people claim, however, that the good these animals do in building dams which regulate the run-off at the headwaters of streams far outweighs any damage to irrigation interests.

The State legislature in 1919 created an extensive game refuge within the Colorado, extending from the south and east boundaries of the Forest northward to the Poudre River and westward to the crest of the Continental Divide and Medicine Bow Range. This preserve will be one of the most attractive spots for wild life in Colorado, and the presence of game animals and birds will add in no small measure to the recreational interest of the Forest.

Mountain Climbing

The rugged ranges from the boundary of the Rocky Mountain National Park south to James Peak are yearly visited more and more by those who enjoy the outdoors and the thrills of "hiking" trips. Good Government foot trails lead up Mount Audubon (13,223 feet) and the Arapaho Peaks (13,506 feet), and many of the lesser eminences are easily scaled. Some of the mountains presenting real difficulties are Navajo, Paiute, and Arikaree, which require considerable skill and much hard work to climb. Nowhere in the State are mountains more difficult of ascent than the peaks on the heads of North and Middle Boulder and St. Vrain Creeks. The mountains on the heads of the Laramie and Poudre Rivers, although rarely visited by climbers because of their remoteness and inaccessibility, are of exceptional beauty.

On the summit of Twin Sisters Mountain, reached by a good Government bridle trail, is a fire-lookout station that commands a view rarely equaled in any mountain region. To the northwest, one can see the Mummy Mountains (Chapin, Chiquita, Fairchild, Ypsilon, Hagues, etc.), while to the west is a rough stretch of Continental Divide with such peaks as Stones, Hallet, Flattop, Taylor, McHenry, and, in the immediate foreground, Longs Peak with its companion peaks, Mount Meeker, Lady Washington, Storm, and Battle. To the southwest are the rough Arapahos, Mount Audubon, and James Peak, and far to the south Mount Evans and the world-famous Pikes Peak. But the most impressive vista is the undulating and ever-changing plains region to the east. The high rugged foothills near which nestles the city of Boulder mark distinctly the line between mountains and plains. From this line eastward as far as the eye can see the Great Plains extend in limitless distance, and, on a hazy day, one may well imagine that he is gazing on the broad expanse of the ocean.

Fire Protection

The Twin Sisters lookout is one of the most important in the State, and visitors can learn from the officer in charge the manner in which he detects and reports forest fires. Much information may also be gained about the organization which the Forest Service has perfected for the prevention, detection, and suppression of fires. In addition to this lookout, which covers a large portion of the forest, motor-cycle guards daily traverse the Big Thompson and Poudre Canyons on fire patrol.

No devastating fires have occurred on the Colorado Forest in recent years, but constant vigilance is required to safeguard its valuable resources. Public-spirited cooperation is one of the largest factors in coping with the situation, and your help is desired. The greater percentage of the fires which occur are caused by human agencies. It is requested not only that you be extremely careful with fire, but that you cooperate with the forest officers by reporting promptly any unextinguished fire you may see. If you can extin-

Fire-lookout station and dwelling on top of Twin Sisters Mountain. The view from this station is extraordinary. To the northwest are the Mummy Mountains; to the west the Continental Divide; in the immediate foreground Longs Peak and its companion peaks; to the southwest the rough Arapahos; far to the south Mount Evans and Pikes Peak; and to the east the seemingly limitless expanse of the Great Plains.

guish it unaided, your action will be very greatly appreciated. Telephones, located at various points throughout the Forest, may be used for reporting fires to the nearest Government officer.

Scenic Attractions

The North Platte River, with its tributary, the Canadian River, drains the west side of the Medicine Bow Range in the Colorado Forest, while the Laramie River, rising in Lost Lake, drains the east slope of the range. The Cache La Poudre River, with its main branches and smaller tributaries, drains the Mummy Range, Bald Mountains, and the east slope of the Medicine Bow Range south of Chambers Lake. The Big Thompson River and St. Vrain and Boulder Creeks pass through rocky canyons to the plains country, finally flowing into the South Platte River.

On the headwaters of all the mountain streams are rocky basins in which are lakes of rare beauty and charm. The waters are clear and sparkling, and of a greenish color or often of the deepest blue. The larger and more important ones are Chambers Lake, at the head of the Cache La Poudre River; Hour Glass Lake, on Beaver Creek; Beaver and Stapps Lakes, on Middle St. Vrain; Longs, Brainard, and Red Rock Lakes, on the South St. Vrain; Albion, Silver, Goose, and Glacier Lakes, on North Boulder Creek; Diamond, Jasper, and Nederland Lakes, on Middle Boulder Creek; and Forest, Arapaho, Crater, Echo, and James Peak Lakes, on South Boulder Creek.

There are beautiful cascades on the Big South Poudre, but the most attractive falls on the Forest are those on North Boulder Creek, about 100 yards from the point where it flows into Middle Boulder. The Bluebird Falls, 5 or 6 miles below Silver Lake, are also worth a visit. There are numerous other waterfalls on the headwaters of many of the streams, some of rare beauty; but these, for the most part, carry only a small volume of water.

North Boulder Falls.

Gem Lake.

The Big Thompson Canyon, at its entrance, has abrupt walls of solid granite and, although there are open places along its course through the Forest from the mouth to Estes Park, in general the slopes are rocky and precipitous and the canyon narrow. At the Forks the North Branch comes in through a beautiful but much less rugged gorge. A new highway, which will make this one of the finest canyon trips in Colorado, is being constructed up the Big Thompson.

The canyons of St. Vrain and Boulder Creeks are fully as attractive as those of the Big Thompson, but are not so widely known. Along the automobile roads which traverse these streams are cascades and rapids of exquisite charm, and evergreen forests, bluffs, and crags that lend diversity of interest to the scene.

The North and Middle Forks of St. Vrain Creek come out of the hills and unite at Lyons, Colo. From this town a road follows North St. Vrain through a beautiful canyon to a point where it angles to the northwest over the hills toward Estes Park. The Middle St. Vrain is a fine scenic canyon. In places it narrows to such an extent that there is barely passage way for the road; in others it broadens out with sloping walls, giving a view of the rugged foothills on either side. This canyon is passable by automobile to the Peaceful Valley region, where it connects with the main highway from Ward to Estes Park.

The Cache La Poudre Canyon in some regards surpasses all others in natural beauty. The view is more open, the cliffs are higher, and the volume of water in the stream greater. On the Upper Poudre is a cliff named the "Old Man's Face," and others of unusual form and character are found here and there. The automobile road tunnel, cut through solid rock at the Little Narrows, is of special interest.

The canyon of Middle Boulder Creek begins at the city of Boulder and extends back into the foothills 18 miles to the famous tungsten camp at Nederland. Along its course are a number of interesting features, including the stream itself with its rapids, falls, and cascades, and the "Perfect Tree" and Castle Rocks.

Arapaho Peak and Glacier.

Along the Continental Divide at the southern end of the Colorado Forest are many rough mountain peaks and deep gorges scoured out by ancient glaciers. One of these, the Arapaho **Glaciers.** Glacier, is the most interesting scenic feature of the Forest. This is a "live" glacier three-quarters of a mile long and of about the same width, located in the cirque on the east slope of the Arapaho Peaks. It moves from 14 to 27 feet each year, and contains crevasses ranging in width from a few inches to several feet and of unknown depth. The terminal moraine shows plainly the constant grinding process, and the rock "flour" is easily noticeable in the lake at its base.

There are few finer mountain views than that obtainable from the surface of this glacier. Eastward down the old glacier gorge are a number of lakes of great beauty. At the mouth of the gorge Silver Lake, the main source of Boulder's water supply, is a picturesque stretch of water which never fails to please the nature lover. Beyond lie the wavelike foothills, and to the east stretch the Great Plains dotted with reservoirs and lakes sparkling in the sun.

Arapaho Peak and Glacier may be reached by trail from Hill Station on the Denver, Boulder & Western Railroad in a five to six hours' hike, or arrangement may be made at Ward for saddle horses to meet the traveler at this point.

Summer Home Sites

It will be of interest to those who have longed for a summer home in the mountains to know that permits for cabin sites on National Forest lands may now be obtained from the Forest Service upon the payment of an annual rental charge varying from \$10 to \$25 per year. These permits, which are usually for areas of 1 acre or less, run for periods of from 10 to 30 years, and are renewable at their expiration. Sites for hotels, garages, and other recreational uses may also be secured under permit, for a nominal fee.

In order to meet the growing demand for summer homes, a number of the most attractive sites in the Colorado Forest have been surveyed and staked out for the benefit of prospective applicants.

Forest officers building a stone shelter near Arapaho Glacier. Storms at such high points are accompanied by strong winds, so that a wall in the form of a square or a "V", offers excellent shelter.

Of these may be mentioned the Brainard Lake site, on the shores of an Alpine body of water at an elevation of 10,300 feet; the Red Rock site, near a picturesque mountain lake of the same name; the Peaceful Valley site, on the main automobile road from Ward to Estes Park; and a number of areas along the Cache La Poudre River from Youngs Gulch to Chambers Lake. There are also many attractive sites in other parts of the Forest which have not as yet been surveyed and plotted. Further information on summer homes will be gladly furnished upon application to the Forest Supervisor, Fort Collins, Colo.

The Fort Collins municipal camp grounds in Youngs Gulch up Poudre Canyon is one of the new and beautiful attractions of the Forest planned and improved by the Forest Service recreation engineer in cooperation with the city authorities. Automobile parking sites, playgrounds, shelter cabins, and comfort stations will be installed here for the pleasure and convenience of visitors. The natural forest surroundings will be left undisturbed, but they will be utilized to the fullest extent to add to the attractiveness of the grounds.

Hotels, Resorts, and Outfitting Points

There are excellent hotel accommodations in the plains cities of Boulder, Fort Collins, Greeley, Longmont, and Loveland for visitors contemplating a trip into the Colorado Forest. The principal summer resorts within and near the Forest are on the Laramie River; at Cherokee Park, on the North Fork of the Cache La Poudre; on the Upper Poudre River, at Log Cabin; at Livermore, in Thompson Canyon; in Peaceful Valley, on Middle St. Vrain Creek; at Allenspark, on the North St. Vrain; in Boulder Canyon, at a lake northwest of Ward; at Eldorado Springs, at the mouth of South Boulder Canyon; and at Pine Cliff, on Coal Creek. Accommodations may be secured at any of these places at reasonable rates by the day, week, month, or season. Estes Park, lying to the west of the Forest on the Upper Big Thompson, is the main entrance to the Rocky Mountain National Park and has a number of excellent hotels with unlimited accommodations. Eldora and Ward, at the terminus of the different branches of the Denver, Boulder & Western Railroad, and Nederland, on Middle Boulder

Creek, are old mining camps that have become popular summer resorts. Crescent, Rollinsville, Tolland, and Lake Eldora are tourist points located along the Denver & Salt Lake Railroad in the southern part of the Forest. A hotel, open during the summer season, is also located at Corona (elevation, 11,600 feet), where the same railroad crosses the Continental Divide, the highest point reached by any standard-gauge line in the United States.

Lines of Travel

The southern part of the Colorado Forest is reached directly by rail from Denver, via Boulder, by the Denver, Boulder & Western Railroad ("The Switzerland Trail"), which runs to Ward and Eldora, and by the Denver & Salt Lake Railroad ("Moffat Road"), which follows up South Boulder Creek, crossing the Continental Divide at Corona, and continuing westward to Craig. The northern part of the Forest is accessible from Laramie, Wyo., by the Colorado, Wyoming & Eastern Railroad, which runs to Walden and Coalmont in North Park. The Colorado may also be entered from Boulder, Longmont, Loveland, and Fort Collins on the Colorado & Southern Railway, and from Boulder and Fort Collins on the Union Pacific.

An automobile road passes through the forest from the Wyoming line into North Park. This is a part of the regular road from Laramie and Tie Siding, Wyo., to North Park. It divides at Boswell's ranch on the Laramie River, and enters the Forest by that stream. Other main lines of travel on the Forest are the Sand Creek Pass road from Fort Collins and Tie Siding; from Fort Collins via Pingree Hill and Cameron Pass into North Park; the Cache La Poudre River road from Fort Collins; the Rist Canyon road to Stove Prairie, and from Fort Collins or Loveland up the Buckhorn Valley via Masonville. From Loveland to Estes Park, the main route of travel is up the Big Thompson Canyon, or from Fort Collins via Masonville and the Loveland waterworks to the Big Thompson.

Automobile roads also run from Longmont, via Lyons, up North St. Vrain Creek through the foothills, and to Estes Park, via Little Thompson Creek, and up Middle St. Vrain Creek to Allenspark.

COLORADO
NATIONAL FOREST
COLORADO

— NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY
--- ADJACENT NATIONAL FOREST BOUNDARY

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

NATIONAL

PARK

BOULDER

BOULDER

BOULDER

BOULDER

BOULDER

BOULDER

BOULDER

BOULDER

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BOULDER

Other roads travel Lefthand Creek and Boulder Canyon from Boulder to Ward, Nederland, Eldora, and Rollinsville. A new automobile road goes from Denver via Coal Creek to Nederland. An excellent automobile road also extends from Ward via Allenspark to Estes Park.

There are many roads and trails within the Forest leading from these main thoroughfares to points of interest, and with the perfection of present plans the existing roads will become much safer and more easily traveled and new territory will be opened up. In fact, as new roads are built the possibilities of the Colorado Forest for recreation purposes become almost limitless. For detailed information on trips address the Forest Supervisor, Fort Collins, Colo.