

Brown's Creek/Raspberry Gulch Campgrounds in San Isabel National Forest

Revised: September 27, 2004

Directions:

On US 285 between Salida and Buena Vista, CO locate CR 270. This intersection can be found about 13 miles north of Poncha Springs between mile marker 139 and 140 on US 285. The coordinates for the intersection are N 38° 41.640', W 106° 05.400'.

Turn West on CR 270 and zero your trip meter.

At 1.5 miles find and continue west on CR 272 a gravel road.

At 2.3 miles find a cattle guard and the entrance to San Isabel National Forest. Coordinates for the entrance are N 38° 41.636', W 106° 07.979'. Continue west.

At 3.52 miles find a "T" intersection with several signs summarized as follows: CR 272 and Brown's Creek Left (South), CR 274, Raspberry Gulch and Eddy Creek straight ahead or West. Coordinates for this "T" intersection are N 38° 41.570', W 106° 09.300'.

Camping Option 1:

From the above mentioned "T" intersection, continue West on CR 274 toward Raspberry Gulch about 200-300 yards to a grassy clearing on both sides of the road. Take the first right hand turnoff (north) unless it is already taken. Otherwise locate the KCKA group or select a campsite in this large grassy clearing on either side of the road. Stay as far east as practical so the westerly view toward the mountains won't be blocked by the trees on the west end of the clearing. Each morning, expect a spectacular view of the mountains looking SW, W & NW. Coordinates for the campground are approximately N 38° 41.586', W 106° 09.460' taken from the road.

The campsite elevation is 9000 ft. The Continental Divide is about 16 miles west of the campsite. Mount Antero peaks at 14k+ feet and can be seen West 250° MH at about 5 miles. Mount Princeton, another 14k + feet peak can be seen NW 310° MH at about 6 miles. Some snow might still be visible on the north side of the highest peaks toward the end of July.

Camping Option 2:

From the above mentioned "T" intersection, turn left (south) on CR 272 toward Brown's Creek. About 2 miles south you will find toilets and National Forest information. Coordinates near the toilets are N 38° 40.30', W 106° 09.68' take from NFS map. Just south of the toilet area you will find Little Brown's Creek (marked) followed by Brown's

Creek (unmarked). Continue on till you find a large open area for camping. Locate the KCKA group or select a campsite in this large open area. Stay as far east as practical so the westerly view toward the mountains won't be blocked by the trees on the west side of the open area. Each morning, expect a spectacular view of the mountains looking SW, W & NW.

General:

Camping is primitive and the toilets might or might not be open. Park rules are posted near the bathrooms. Stoves are preferred to open fires. Fires may be prohibited in dry conditions. Be sure to exercise caution by storing food and trash appropriately for bear country. We found enough soil to insert tent stakes. The area appears to be heavily populated with Elk.

The mornings are usually clear and beautiful. Expect scattered showers and thunderstorms in the afternoons and evenings. These seem to be generated and controlled by the high altitude westerly winds that force warm moist air up the windward side of the mountains where it condenses as it cools.

Water, Weather and Clothing:

The water is always cold. It can warm up to about 65 F toward the end of July. Float trips can begin in hot sunshine and you might see people rafting with bathing suits. Be prepared for sudden cold rain and/or thundershowers during trip, especially if the trip will last into the afternoon.

Possible meeting places prior to floating:

South end of Wal-Mart parking lot in Salida, CO. on US 50.
McDonalds on the east side of Salida, CO on US 50
The "T" intersection in San Isabel National Forest.