

Eagle's View of the Front Range

Aerial Photographs with Mountain Descriptions from Pikes Peak to Longs Peak and Beyond



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This eBook contains 572 pages, 574 photographs and 9 maps.

Wojtek Rychlik

Title page photo: Lake Albion and Green Lakes between Kiowa and Navajo Peaks, west of Boulder and Ward .

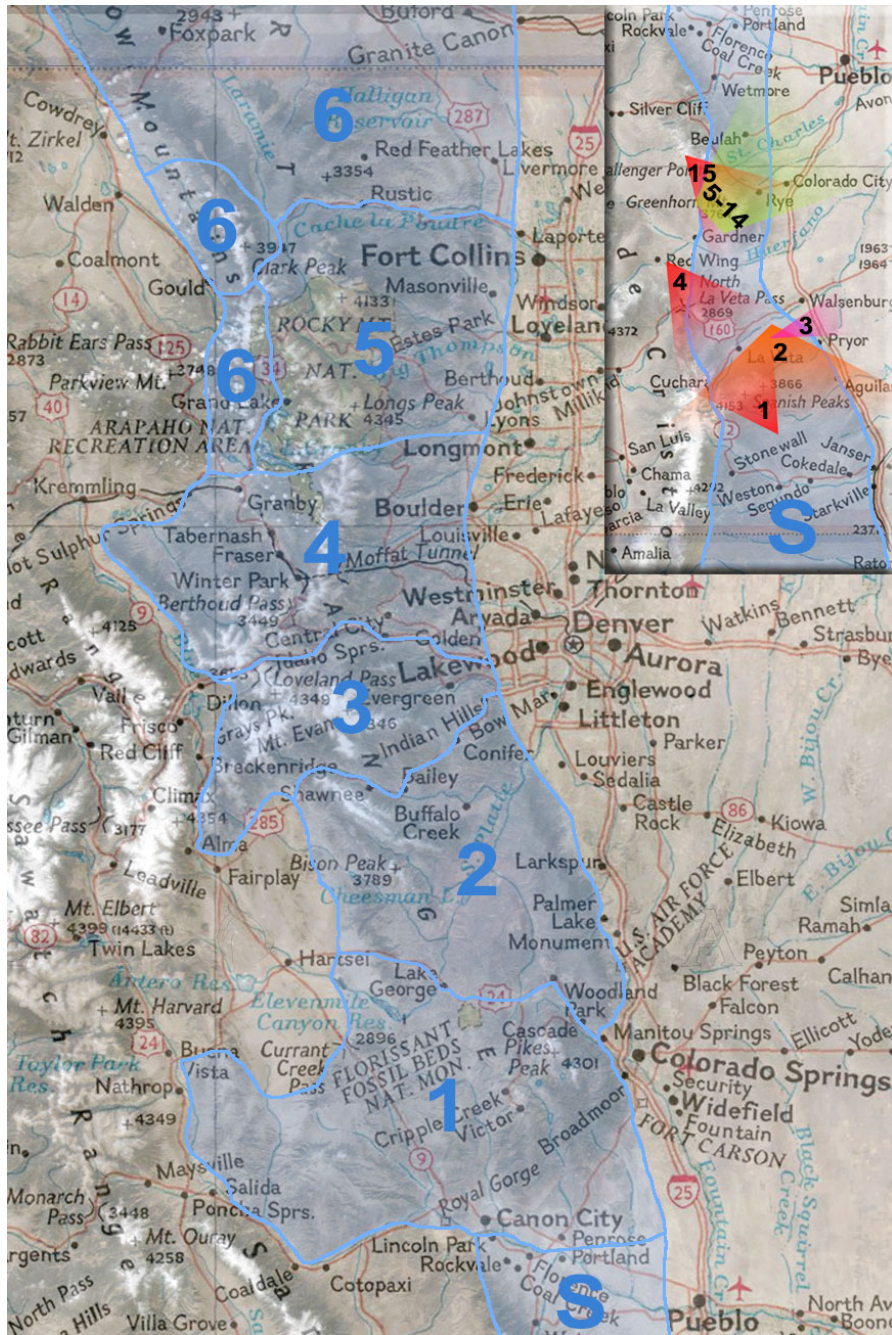
Acknowledgement

1. Aerial photography was made possible thanks to the courtesy of Jack Wojdyla, owner and pilot of Cessna 182S airplane.

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Introduction



Front Range is the Colorado's most eastern, loosely defined, group of mountains and hills extending from Wyoming to the north to Arkansas River Valley to the south. A more defined range, Sangre de Cristo Mountains with its Spanish Peaks, although extends even more to the east than any Front Range Mountains, is generally not considered as The Front Range. However, according to Noel and Fielder the Front Range continues south to Colorado-New Mexico border*. Another popular definition of the Front Range is the area where "Great Plains meets the Rockies". When assembling images to this book it made a lot of sense to include the southern Colorado foothills in it, as the mountains and hills extend without significant interruptions towards south into New Mexico.

The highest mountain of The Front Range is Grays Peak, 14,274 feet above sea level.

Front Range mountains in this book are divided into seven sections as presented on Fig. 1. The southern Section "S" is the area south of Pueblo to the New Mexico border that covers East Wet Mountains and mountains east of LaVeta Pass and east of Culebra Range.

Fig. 1. Map of the Front Range with Sections numbered. Insert: the South Front Range with marked areas shown on the first fifteen photographs.

*Colorado 1870-2000 Revisited: The History Behind the Images by Thomas J. Noel and John Fielder, 2001, Westcliffe Publications, Inc.

The following mountains belong to the Front Range:

South F.R.: Fishers Peak, Raton Mesa, Spanish Peaks, mountains east of La Veta Pass and East Wet Mountains (Section S)

Southwestern Front Range, east of Salida (Section 1)

Pikes Peak Massif (Section 1)

Puma Hills (Section 1 & 2)

Rampart Range (Section 2)

Tarryall Mountains (Section 2)

Kenosha Mountains (Section 2)

Platte River Mountains (Section 2)

Central Front Range Mountains (Section 3)

Williams Fork Mountains (Section 4)

Vasquez Mountains (Section 4)

Indian Peaks (Section 4)

Longs Peak Massif (Section 5)

Mummy Range (Section 5)

Never Summer Mountains (Section 6)

Medicine Bow Mountains (Section 6)

Laramie Mountains (Section 6).

The photos of the mountains in this atlas are organized from the south to north order.

The main reference material describing the mountains and lakes in this atlas came from the USGS Topographic Maps that were published in the late 1900s, followed by the information taken from Google Earth. Some mountain names were derived from peakery.com web site.

Explanation of the mountain names on the photographs.

The summits of named mountains are labeled by their names with the height in feet above the sea level marked below. The unnamed peaks with prominence above 300 feet are marked as “UN” with the height printed below it. Mountains with prominence below 300 feet are indicated by their height only. When a peak is labeled by its height followed by its name given in parenthesis, it is a lower parent peak with a prominence below 300 feet of a named mountain.

The prominence of a mountain is the minimal vertical drop from its summit before it ascends into a higher peak. The generally accepted criterion for inclusion on lists of ranked mountains is the prominence of at least 300 feet. The 300' rule is sometimes referred to as the Colorado rule (www.peaklist.org).

Section S: The South Front Range.

As indicated in the Introduction, mountains in this Section are not traditionally called the Front Range. Nevertheless, they mark the western end of the Great Plains.

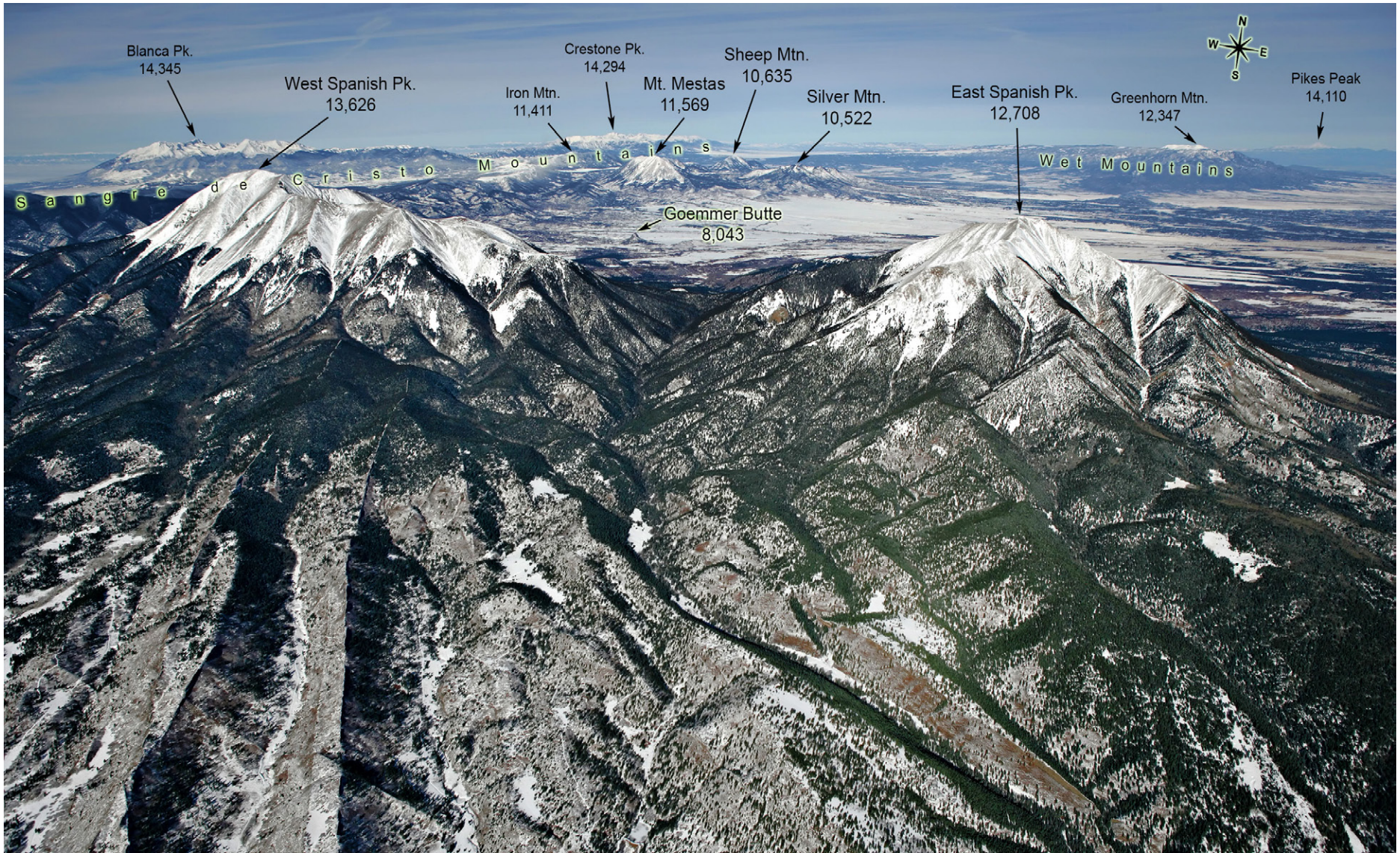


Photo 1. View of Spanish Peaks from south. Wet Mountains and Pikes Peak Massif are in the background.

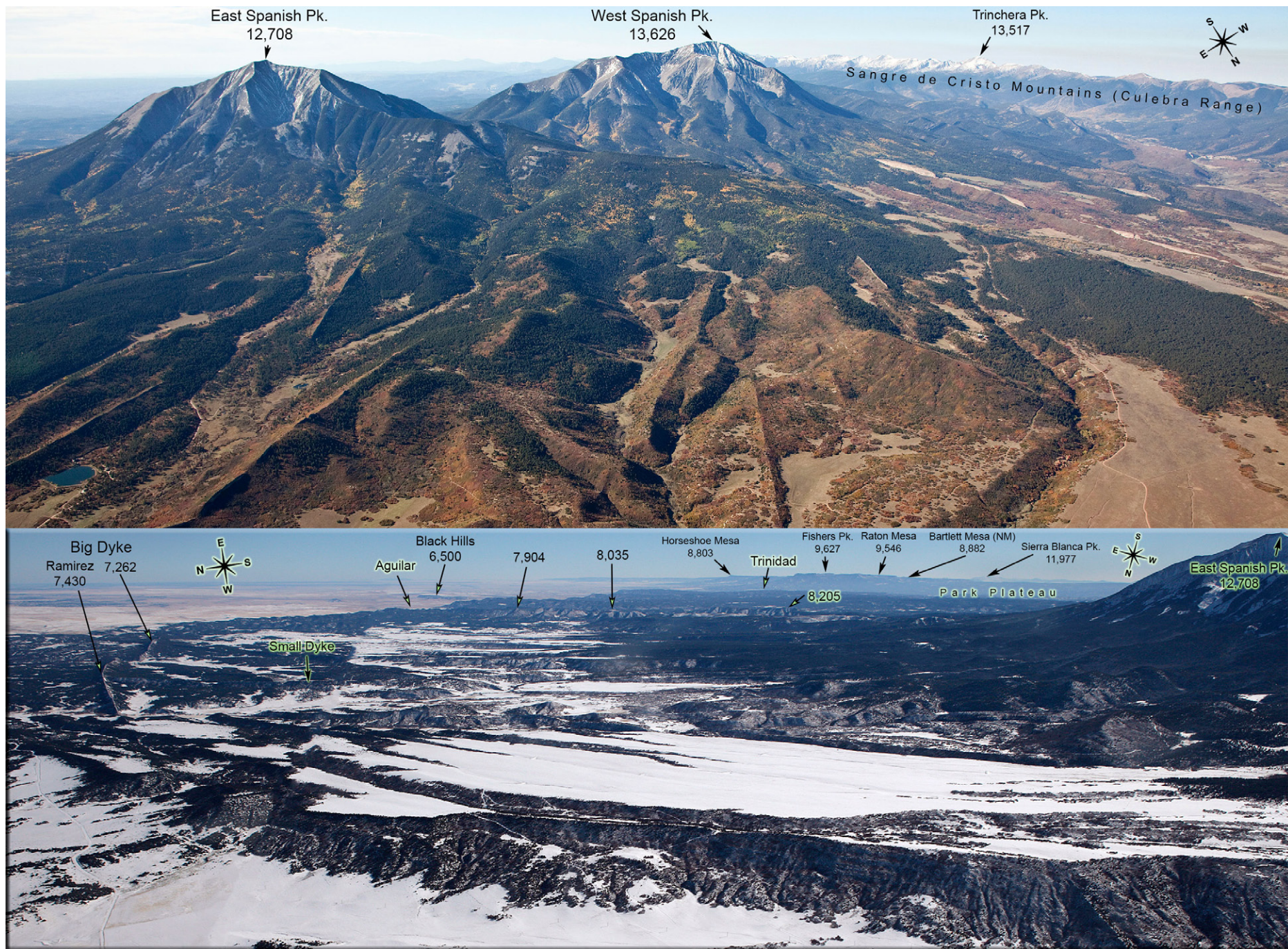


Photo 2. Spanish Peaks viewed from north. Hills extend south into New Mexico. Great Plains is better visible on the lower photo.

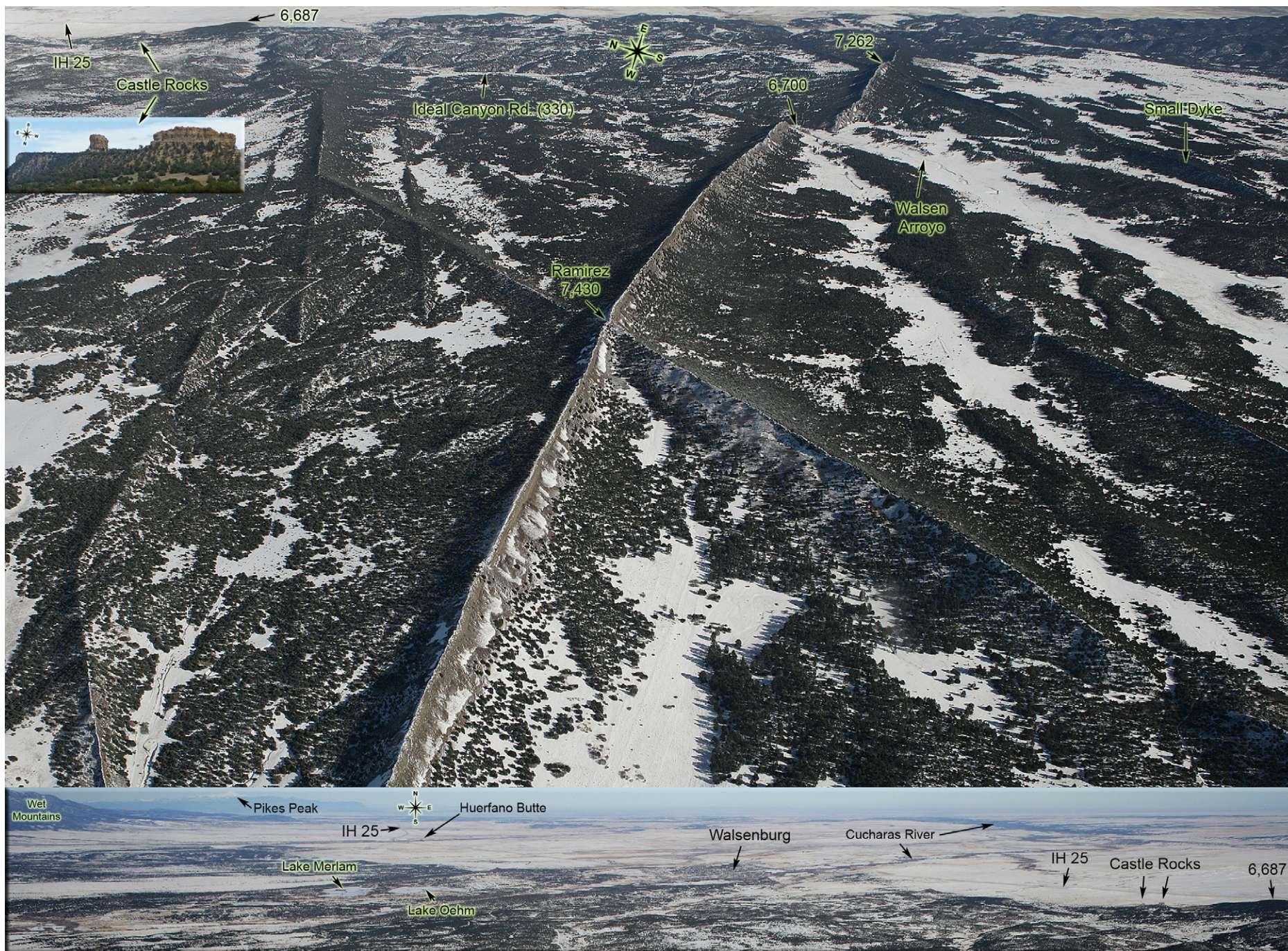


Photo 3. Big Dyke made of volcanic intrusion rocks is located 15 miles east of La Veta and 15 miles south of Walsenburg. Insert below: continuation of the top left portion of the main photo.

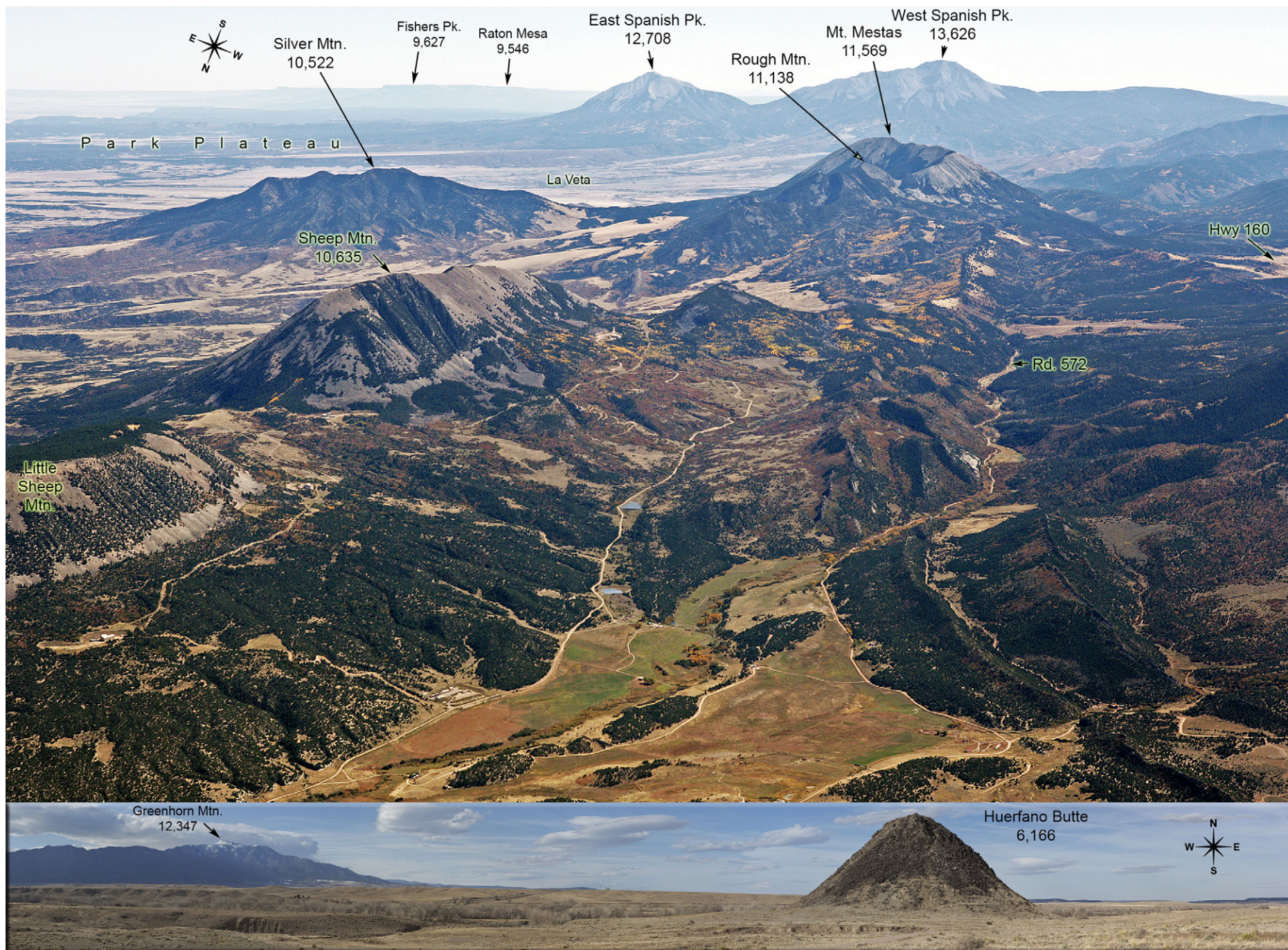


Photo 4. View of Mount Mestas and nearby mountains from north. West Spanish Peak is 18 miles south from Mt. Mestas, and another 27 miles to the Colorado - New Mexico border. Below: Huerfano Butte, 0.5 miles east of IH 25 is a volcanic plug, about 200 feet high.

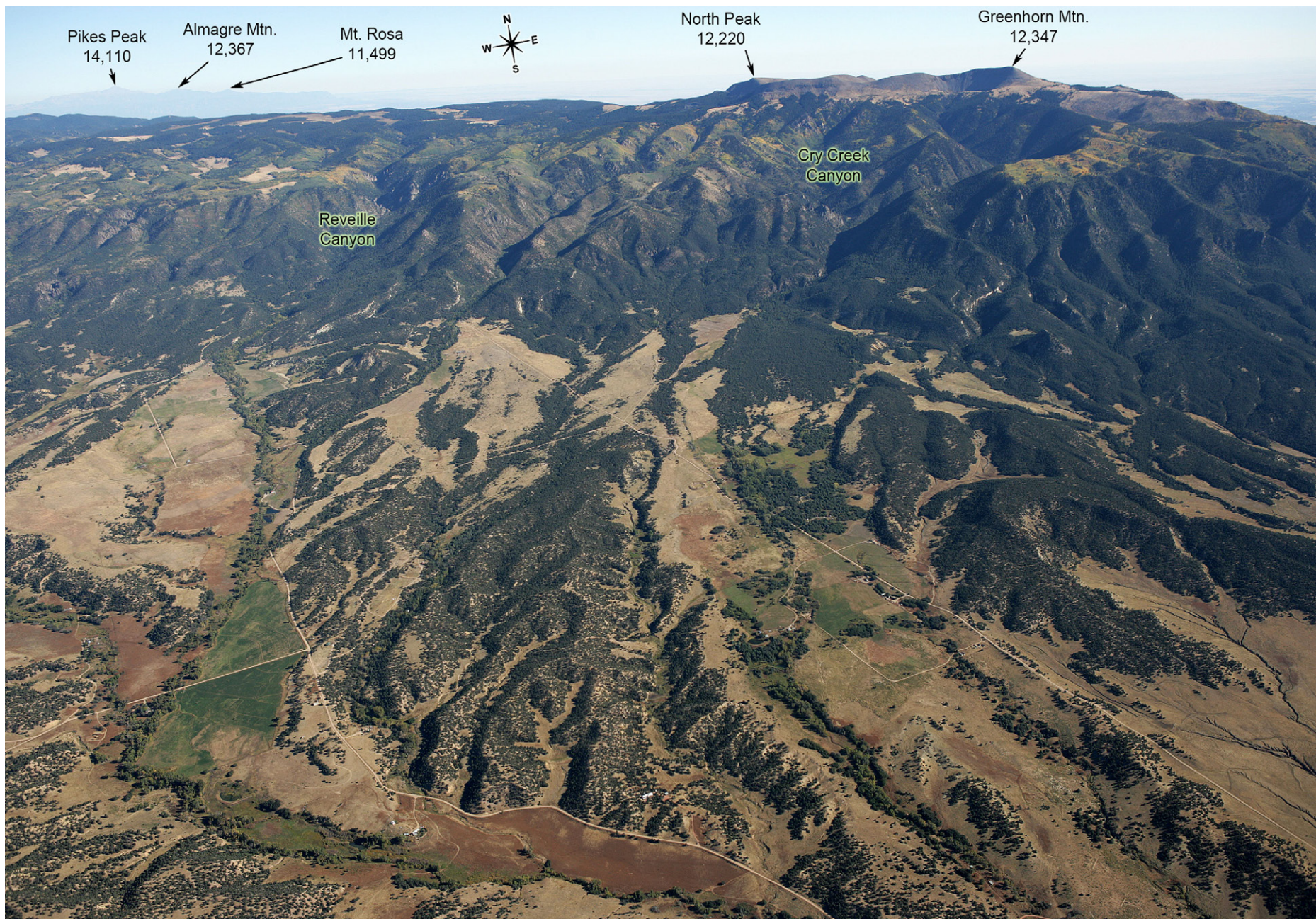


Photo 5. The highest section of Wet Mountains. Pikes Peak Massif, approximately 70 miles away, is barely visible in the top left.