

Sep.20 Thursday ... Ride: Hall Ranch, west of Lyons.

Rated "Moderate" to "Difficult". 3-4 hour long ride. Note - horses should be in good physical condition. Weather report is favorable as of Wed.19 - the forecast for Lyons on Thur.20th is - Noon 75 degrees, partly cloudy, 20% chance of rain (be prepared, just in case!)

The trail is dirt with rocky areas - shoes recommended. The trail ranges from moderate slopes to some areas steep stretches with many switchbacks. The hardest part of the ride is going up the rocky mountain in the beginning. One bridge to cross but no other water crossing. There are remnants of the Nelson Homestead which can be seen at the top of the Nelson Loop segment. We will lunch at the homestead. Shared users typically are - hikers, mountain bikers, dogs on leash. This park is known for it's wide range of terrain - from meadows to forest to cliffs and canyons! Wildlife often seen here are - coyote, hawk, and deer. The park offers GREAT views of Indian Lookout Mountain while circling around it.

Directions - From Denver, take US-36 going west Boulder. US-36 will curve right going north, through the town of Boulder. Continue north on US-36 to Lyons - note: US-36 will "T" at the junction of Hwy 66 (Ute Rd), so go left / west onto Hwy 66 for 1.5 miles into the city of Lyons. Continue all the way west, going through Lyons town to the stop light, then turn left / south on 5th Ave. Will curve west / right becoming HWY-7 (South St Vrain Drive) and continue west for approx. 2 miles. Will see the parking lot sign on the highway - the parking lot is on the north / right side of Hwy-7. Park in the trailer parking area - room for approx. 5 trailers. There are a restroom, picnic tables at the trail head. Bring your own drinking water for horse and rider.