

TRAIL - Hidden Mesa Open Space

AREA - north of Franktown, CO

MILEAGE - 6.9 miles.

DIFFICULTY - Easy to Moderate in the lower Cherry Creek valley to Difficult as you climb the mesa and cross over some rocks on the south side of the mesa top.

TRAIL PHOTOS can be seen at: RockyMountainTrails.net/TrailSharptail (*scroll down below Sharptail, to reach the Hidden Mesa photos...)

MANAGEMENT - Douglas County Open Space and Natural Resources 303-660-7495

www.Douglas.co.us/openspace/Hidden_Mesa.html

TRAIL LOCATION - From Aurora, take I-225 to exit Parker Rd (Hwy 83), go south. Will pass thru Parker the town. One mile *before* Franktown, will see on the west side of the road a large sign for Hidden Mesa Open Space. HUGE overflow parking lot on your immediate left side - the best area for horse trailers - can hold approximately 30+ trailers! * Note - although there is a parking lot on the west end, Pleasant View entrance does not allow horse trailer parking.

AMENITIES - Park kiosk map. Covered picnic table, port-a-potty, trails are signed, benches on the trail. Round pen by the overflow parking lot. Water spigot located at the trail head. Riders should bring their own water. Shed style restroom.

TERRAIN - Shoes/boots recommended - as upper trails are rocky in spots. From the old homestead at the Parker Rd parking lot, follow the farm lane as it crosses over Cherry Creek grasslands. One bridge crossing over Cherry Creek. Will ride for approx. 1 1/2 miles before beginning a short gradual climb. Then winds up to the top of the mesa where it loops around viewpoints, rock outcroppings, shrub lands, wetland ponds, pines and junipers. At the top of the mesa there is two miles of flatland loop, and a water crossing. Great views here of Pikes Peak to the south, and the eastern plains.

CAMPING - No.

REGULATIONS - No fee. Open year round - caution for footing in the winter.

SHARED TRAIL USERS - Hikers, bikers, Dogs on leash. This trail is popular with the mountain bikers. No motorized vehicles.

COMMENTS - This trail was opened on June 10 '06. .3 miles of trail is shared with the Cherry Creek Trail. Hidden Mesa also joins Gateway Mesa. The area is populated with coyote, pronghorn, prairie dogs, elk, mule deer, raptors.