

TRAIL - Bruno Gulch (aka Geneva Basin)

AREA - north of Grant, CO

MILEAGE - 40.5 miles of trail, loops & winding - with tons of back country off trail riding.

DIFFICULTY - Easy to Moderate to Difficult

**TRAIL PHOTOS can be seen at: [RockyMountainTrails.net/TrailBrunoGulch](http://RockyMountainTrails.net/TrailBrunoGulch)**

MANAGEMENT - Pike National Forest, S.Platte Ranger District (303)275-5610, Permits 275-5639.

TRAIL LOCATION - From Denver, take Hwy 285 west for approx. 2.5 hours (if your rig hauls slow, like mine! LOL!) You will pass the little towns of Conifer. Just before Bailey, there is a long steep grade called "Crow Hill" - there's even a sign posted for it. At the base of this hill is Bailey town. Continue on to the very small town of Grant, turn north/right onto CR 62, for approx. 6.5 miles (sign will say towards Guanella Pass) - this portion is a gravel road, usually a bit wash boardy. Towards the end of this stretch, you will come to paved road that winds up - the second and last of the two spots that have a steep grade. After approx. 6 miles on this road, you will see Burning Bear Campground on your right - go approx. another .5 mile. On your left/west side, you will see two large culverts and a dirt road going west - take this road over the culverts and into Bruno Gulch valley. (If you come to CR 119 and Duck Creek Campgrounds on the left side, then you \*just\* missed the turn off into Bruno Gulch!) You will take the dirt road west for approx. 1 mile into the valley. At the far side of the valley, you will see 4 open horse pipe pens (on right) and a creek running the entire length of the valley on the left. There are many stone fire rings that "mark" where you may park n' camp. Easily room for 30+ trailers to make camp here!

AMENITIES - The horse pens are a first-come, first-gets (no reservations) - can easily hold 2 horses each comfortably, if they get along. May also high line tie, or bring your own panels, to have your horses nearer to your own camp. Bring bucket to water horses - may water from the year round creek or byo. Bring rider's drinking water, and own tables/chairs (no picnic tables here.) This is a wonderful undeveloped site! "Mr.Tree" is your rest room, or bring along a camper's pot. Bring your own firewood as there is usually not enough "dead & down" wood to sustain a cooking fire.

TERRAIN - Very few dirt paths, mile to very rocky most areas - one of those trails where shoes or boots are a must! The lower trails on the valley floor are flat. As you climb up into the surrounding hills, the trails are moderate to steep (higher up.) Outstanding variety of trails here - both for level of difficulty (easy to extreme) and for the exception back country veiws!

CAMPING - You bet!

REGULATIONS - No fee at this time - however, there has been talk that this might someday become a fee-site. Open year round, winter riding with caution. No fee or permit to camp in valley, including larger groups. However, if more than 10 horses per group, contact the Permit ph # (listed above) for a group permit. Fires in the rings only. Certified weed free hay or cubes only.

Remove horse droppings from the public pens after use. Pack out all trash. Rangers occasionally patrol the valley.

SHARED TRAIL USERS - Hikers, fishermen, hunters during their season, on rare occasion mtn bikers, dogs off leash. Note - on holiday weekends, this valley becomes crowded! But on non-holiday weekends there can be around 5-10 other campers sharing the valley. On weekdays, it's like having the whole valley practically to yourself.

COMMENTS - This valley is often referred to by the old resort name "Geneva Basin" - however, the area is actually called "Bruno Gulch". Be sure your hauling rig is up to mountain driving - Crow Hill by Bailey town, and the switchback portion just before the valley are places you will want to have good brakes and a good transmission! This is a good place to practice packing, ponying, and water crossing. Fall asleep to the gurgling alpine creek and wake up to elk bugling in the mornings. Take the Shelf Lake Trail north which parallels the creek up to the lake - very picturesque wooded path that I highly recommend - starts off "easy" going to "moderate". A great camping site for large groups, too.