



Mountain Bike Rides on the South Platte Ranger District

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Hours M-F
8-4:30 pm

updated 8/2007

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Mountain Bike Rides

Pike National Forest

South Platte Ranger District

Hello fellow bicyclists! Welcome to the South Platte Ranger District. This list of rides gives you ideas on where to ride in the mountains southwest of Denver. There are several rides described in detail with one of these being the Buffalo Creek Mountain Bike Area. This mountain bike area is a system of trails that has been developed specifically for mountain biking south and west of the town of Buffalo Creek. The maps were meant to be used as a general guide and should be used in conjunction with a Pike National Forest map and/or the appropriate topographic maps. This will enable you to plan your trip properly while staying within your capabilities. Three basic ratings are used to give you a relative measure of difficulty. When designating a ride as easy, moderate or difficult, the amounts of physical exertion as well as the technical riding skills required were considered. Several maps give different ride options so separate ratings are given for the different routes. Use this information as a general guide and use sound judgment. Approach all rides with a self-sufficient attitude, giving special attention to the volatile weather one can expect in Colorado's high country.

To ensure mountain bikes continue to be welcomed on our National Forests, please observe a few basic rules of trail etiquette:

- **Ride on open trails only.** Obey trail use signs. Bicycles are NOT permitted in National Forest Wilderness areas.
- **Ride safely.** Stay in control at all times. Make your presence known around other trail users with a vocal warning. Approach animals cautiously.
- **Yield the trail.** Be courteous to other trail users. When stopped, remove yourself and your bike completely from the trail. Downhill riders should yield to uphill riders. When you encounter other trail users, make verbal contact by saying 'hello' or 'good morning' to get their attention. Once contact has been made, yield the right-of-way to other trail users. Remember, equestrians have the right-of-way in all circumstances with Hikers secondary. Mountain Bikers need to take special care when approaching other users, you should slow to a walking speed when passing and yield to all other trail users. Also, trail users traveling uphill have the right-of-way over downhill traffic. Courtesy is important and contagious!
- **Respect Private Property.** Do not trespass. Leave all gates as you find them or as posted.
- **Leave no trace.** Stay on designated roads and trails. Avoid short-cutting switchbacks and trampling vegetation. Pack out more than your share of litter whenever possible.
- **Assume personal responsibility.** Properly equip yourself. Wear a helmet and gloves (and something orange during hunting season). Equip your bike with proper tools, spare tube, patch kit and air pump. Take plenty of water and food.

Take only memories, Leave only waffle prints.
Have a wonderful ride!

How to tread lightly



Responsible Mountain Biking

Preparation

Obtain a map of the area you wish to explore and determine which areas are open for use.

- Contact the land manager for area restrictions and if crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the land owner.
- Check the weather forecast.
- Prepare for the unexpected by packing a small backpack full of emergency items.

Safety on the trail

- Wear a helmet, eye protection and other safety gear.
- Buddy up with two or three riders as riding solo can leave you vulnerable if you have an accident or breakdown.
- Drinking and riding don't mix.

Rules and common courtesy

- Be considerate of others on the road or trail.
- Ride only where permitted.
- Leave gates as you find them.
- Yield the right of way to those passing or traveling uphill.
- Pack out what you pack in.
- Remember, designated wilderness areas are reserved for the most primitive outdoor adventure.

Minimum impact camping

- Select lightweight equipment, possibly in earth-tone colors that will blend with the surroundings.
- Use existing campsites whenever possible.
- Avoid building fires.

Negotiating terrain

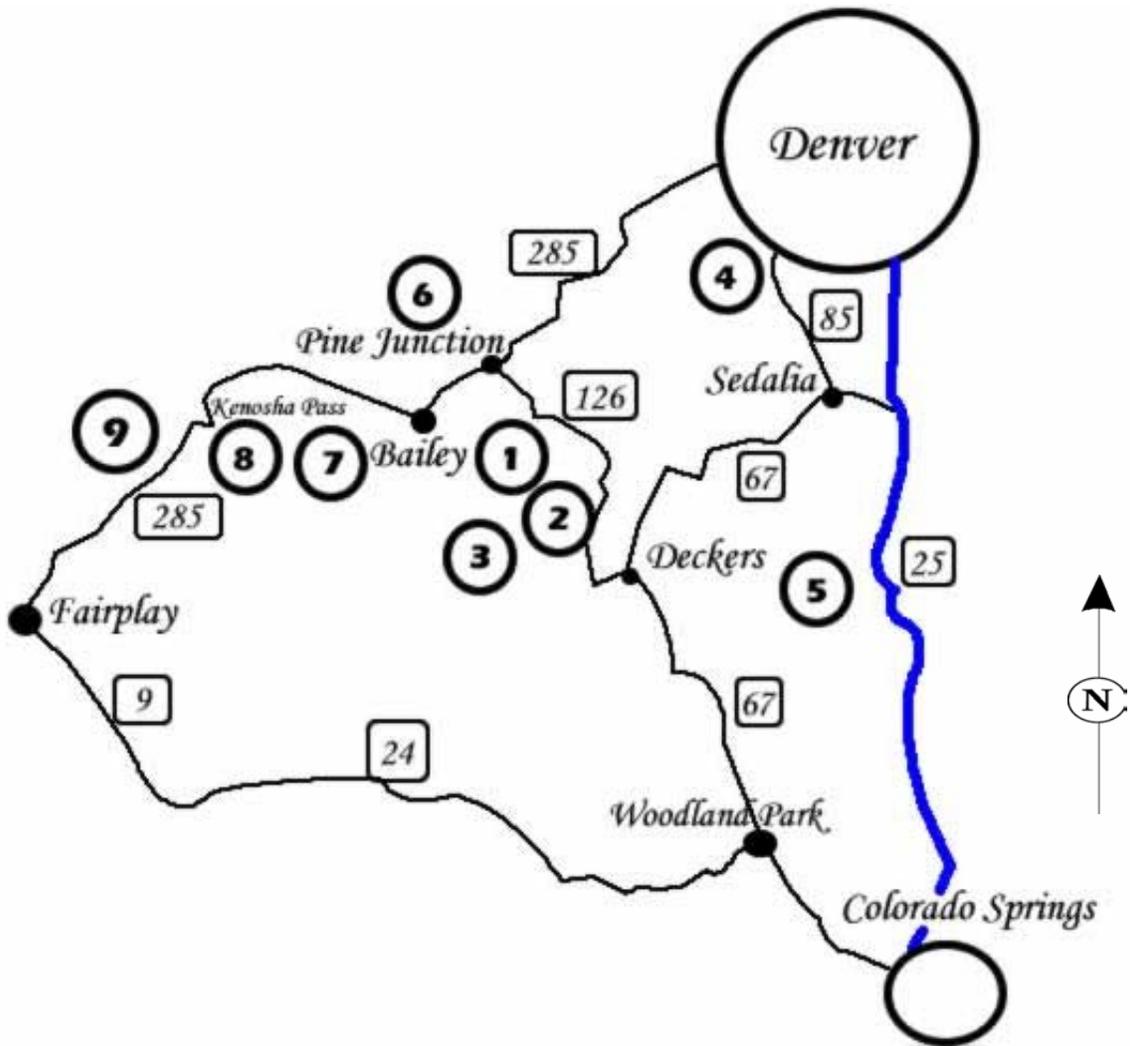
- When climbing, shift to a gear that provides comfortable forward momentum and maintains traction.
- When descending, apply enough brake to maintain control, but avoid locking your bike's wheels.
- Avoid trails that are obviously wet and muddy to avoid trail damage.
- Cross streams slowly, at a 90-degree angle to the stream. Walking may be preferable as stream bottoms are often slippery.

Courtesy of

treadlightly!
LEAVING A GOOD IMPRESSION



Bike Route Locations



1. Buffalo Creek Mtn Bike Area
2. Buffalo Creek – Colorado Trail
3. Stoney Pass
4. Waterton Canyon
5. Dakan Mountain
6. Crow Gulch
7. Shawnee
8. Kenosha Pass – Colorado Trail, Lost Park Side
9. Kenosha Pass – Colorado Trail, Jefferson Lake Side

Buffalo Creek Mountain Bike Area – Ride 1

Access: There are many options to access the Buffalo Creek Mountain Bike Area. Consult the ride map to clarify the locations of these access points which are marked with the trailhead symbol.

From Denver, head west on US Hwy 285 South traveling 32 miles to Pine Junction. Go left (south) on Jefferson County Road 126. Continue south on County Road 126, going through the towns of Pine and Buffalo Creek. At this point choose from several access options, listed as follows:

One access point to the Colorado Trail can be reached by going four miles past Buffalo Creek on County Rd 126 and turning west on Forest Road 550. There is a good parking area on the right, a short distance in from the highway. To reach the Colorado Trail, go around the short fence and follow the old road north.

A good access point can be reached by going 1.6 miles west of County Road 126 on Forest Road 550. Turn right and park in the flat area in front of the fence posted with a bike area trailhead sign. This puts you right next to the Shinglemill bike trail. A short connecting trail to the south of Forest Road 550 takes you up to the Colorado Trail.

There is a good access point with parking halfway up the Gashouse Gulch Trail. Head north from Old Forest Road 543 on Forest Road 550, toward Bailey. Go across the cattle guard and take the first right, which is marked with one of the small bike trail signs. Drive up this road to the parking area in front of the fence posted with a bike area trailhead sign.

Another primary trailhead is at the beginning of Miller Gulch, outside of Bailey. Travel west from Denver on U.S. Highway 285 South approximately 40 miles to Bailey. Turn left on Park County Road 68; which becomes Forest Road 560 (This is the first left as you come into Bailey, at the bottom of Crow Hill, next to the Bell Oil gas station.) Go approximately 5 miles and turn left on Park County Road 70 (Forest Road 549). Travel another mile, veer left at the next intersection and you will be on Forest Road 553. Continue ahead a short distance and turn right onto Forest Road 554, the Miller Gulch Road. There are good places to park on the right side of Forest Road 554, just in from Forest Road 553. Start riding here, heading out Forest Road 554 a few miles to pick up some of the other Mountain Bike Area trails.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The Buffalo Creek Mountain Bike Area contains approximately 40 miles of bike trails, including the Colorado Trail (see Ride 2 from this ride guide). The Mountain Bike Area utilizes old logging roads and connecting trails to establish riding loops that can tie into the popular Colorado Trail in several places. There are many options available for your riding pleasure. Most of the old logging roads are closed to motor vehicles and provide nice two-track riding while the Colorado Trail and the connecting trails supply the excitement of single track riding. Two of the trails are considered one-way, downhill routes and are marked by a small directional arrow on the ride map. It only takes about an hour to drive to this trail system from Denver. Another big attraction of this area is the mild winters with a full eight to ten months considered as the riding season. Another ride in this immediate area is Stoney Pass (see Ride 4). While in this general area, you will encounter signs concerning the Buffalo Creek Recreation Area. Please respect the special restrictions that apply to this particular management unit. Camping is available at nearby Forest Service Campgrounds. Buffalo Campground is in close proximity to the Mountain Bike Area. The Miller Gulch area is home to a small herd of elk and a flock of wild turkeys. Elk are often seen in the Green Mountain area also. Although small, Buffalo Creek is a nice stream for fishing. Please note that Forest Road 554 and Old Forest Road 543 is not a through road for vehicles and have been incorporated into this mountain bike trail system.

RIDE DATA:

Trail Segment	Rating	Mileage
Morrison Creek	Moderate	1.7
Shinglemill	Moderate	2.1
Tramway Creek	Moderate	1.1
Green Mountain	Difficult	2.8
Gashouse Gulch	Difficult	3.2
Baldy	Difficult	2.3
Miller Gulch	Easy	3.5
Homestead	Moderate	2.6
Charlie's Cut-off	Easy	.7
Sandy Wash	Moderate	1.6
Maps:	Pike National Forest	
USGS Quads:	Green Mountain, Pine.	

ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Consult the ride map to visualize how these trails interconnect. All routes except the Colorado Trail are signed on the ground with bike symbols.

Those folks seeking an easy ride may want to explore the Miller Gulch area. Park at the trailhead on Forest Road 554 and ride down to the Gashouse Gulch Trail. This will be the first route to your right that is marked by a bike trail sign. You can ride out this trail for a ways before it starts to drop off. The first stretch of the Baldy trail is relatively easy also. Just stay on the flats of these trails and turn around where the trails begin to drop into the Buffalo Creek drainage to enjoy some easy pedaling.

Access the Colorado Trail from Forest Road 550.

The Green Mountain Trail provides a difficult loop to the south of the Colorado Trail, above Buffalo Campground. Although rideable in both directions, this trail is probably more enjoyable going east to west. Look for the bike trail sign next to the Colorado Trail that guides you up an old logging road about a mile west of Tramway Creek. This road provides a challenging climb with some brutal steeps up to a single track that takes off to the right. While climbing up the old road, look for a large rock outcropping on the right as you crest the first main ridge; a great view spot awaits those who take time to get off their bike. The recently constructed single track makes for a fun descent down to an old road above Meadows Group Campground. Follow the bike trail signs along this road back to the Colorado Trail, veering right at the gate to the campground. Head east on the Colorado Trail, toward Tramway Creek, to complete the loop. The bike trail sign you encounter on the left marks the short stretch of trail that provides a connection from the Colorado Trail down to Forest Road 550, next to Buffalo Campground.

The Tramway Creek Trail runs from the Colorado Trail, crosses Forest Road 550 and continues alongside the creek down to Old Forest Road 543. The stretch from the Colorado Trail down to Forest Road 550 is quite rough with lots of rocks and several stream crossings so watch your speed if you're descending this section.

The Morrison Creek Trail takes off from Old Forest Road 543, about halfway down. Follow the old road for a short, tough climb that is followed by a pleasant stretch of climbing along the creek. Leave the roadbed on a single-track to the left that climbs out of the creek bottom and up to the Shinglemill Trail.

The Shinglemill Trail begins at the Colorado Trail, crosses Forest Road 550 and drops down to Old Forest Road 543. The Shinglemill Trail is a one way, downhill run from the intersection with the Morrison Creek Trail down to Old Forest Road 543.

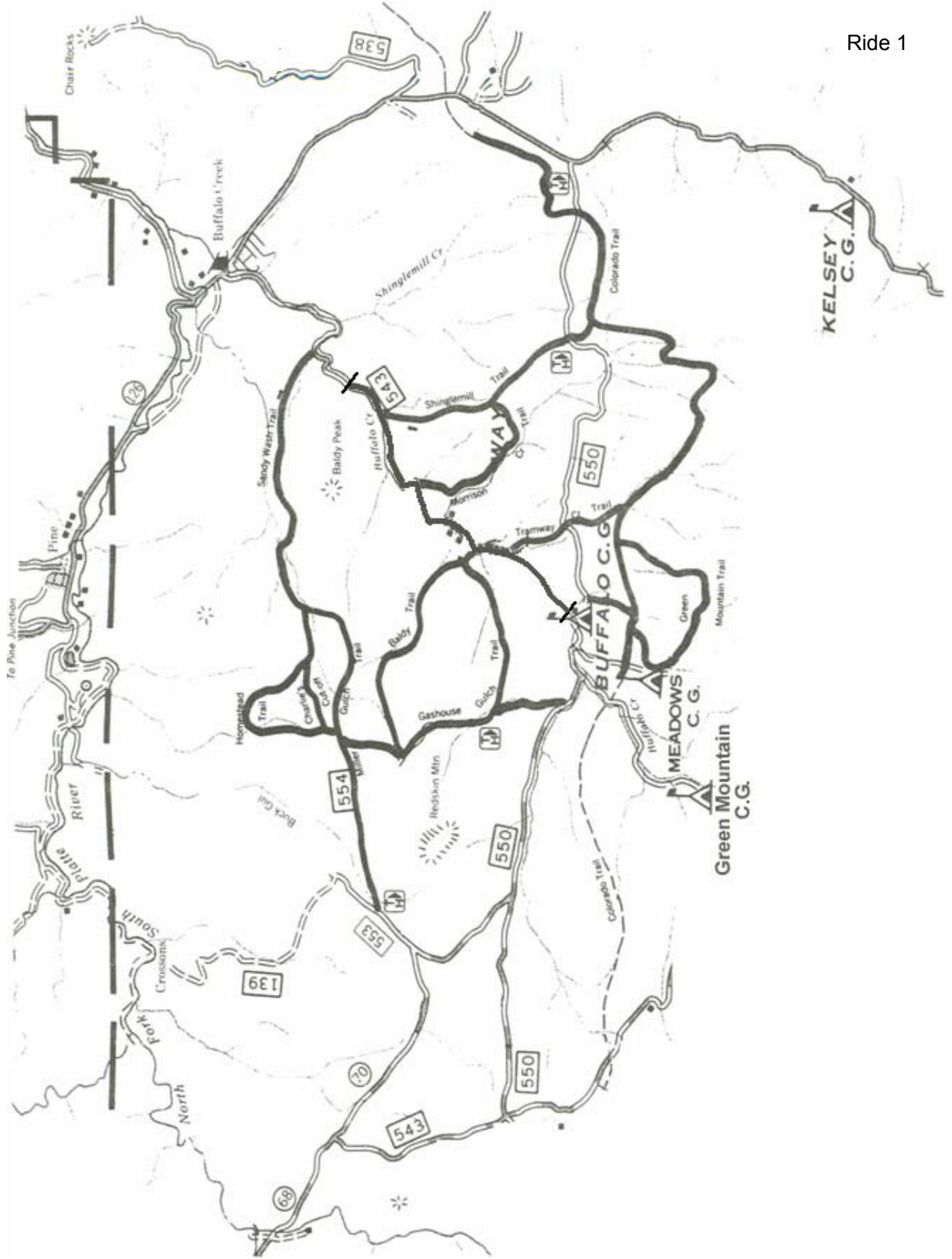
The Gashouse Gulch Trail takes off from Old Forest Road 543 and climbs up to the Miller Gulch

Road. Gashouse Gulch can also be accessed from Forest Road 550, 1/4 mile north of Old Forest Road 543. The Baldy Trail takes off from the Gashouse Gulch Trail a short distance above Old Forest Road 543 and offers an alternative route up to Miller Gulch. Both of these trails are tough climbs heading north from the Buffalo Creek drainage, with Baldy being the easier of the two.

The Miller Gulch Trail follows a well worn road where you may encounter occasional vehicle traffic. Begin your ride at the trailhead near Forest Road 553 or utilize this trail as a connecting route from the Gashouse Gulch Trail down to the Homestead and Sandy Wash Trails.

The Homestead Trail provides a loop to the north of the Miller Gulch Road while Charlie's Cut-off gives the option of a shorter loop. The Homestead loop utilizes two old roads with a short stretch of single track that connects them. Another great vantage point can be enjoyed as you crest the ridge while on the single track. Look for the rocks above the trail and make the effort to climb to the top; the view of the North Fork of the South Platte River Valley is well worth it! Charlie's Cut-off is mostly single track as it winds through the woods and over rocks. This trail takes off from the Homestead Trail a few hundred yards north of the Miller Gulch road. Look for the single track on the right. These two trails converge and follow an old cow path along the creek that drops you back on to the Miller Gulch Road.

Continue on down Miller Gulch to reach the Sandy Wash descent which drops you back down to Old Forest Road 543. This aptly named trail is definitely a one-way downhill from Miller Gulch to Old Forest Road 543.



Buffalo Creek- Colorado Trail – Ride 2

ACCESS: Head west from Denver on U.S. Highway 285 South approximately 32 miles to Pine Junction. Go left (south) on Jefferson County Road 126. Continue south on County Road 126, going through the towns of Pine and Buffalo Creek. Travel four miles past Buffalo Creek on County Rd 126 and turning west on Forest Road 550. There is a good parking area on the right, a short distance in from the highway. To reach the Colorado Trail, go around the short fence and follow the old road north.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This part of the Colorado Trail represents single track riding at its best. The Buffalo Creek Mountain Bike Area is accessible from this section of the Colorado Trail (see Ride 1 from this guide). The trail actually crosses about a mile north of the intersection of County Road 126 and Forest Road 550, near the parking lot described in the Access section.

Trail Segment	Rating	Mileage
Hwy 126 to FR 543	Moderate	8.9
Loop via FR 550, FR 543 & Colo. Trail	Moderate	8.0
Total described route	Difficult	26.0
Maps: USGS Quads: Colorado Trail Series:	Pike National Forest Green Mountain, Windy Peak Maps 2 & 3 (comes in set of 1-16)	

ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Start riding from the small parking lot following the signs to the Colorado Trail. From this access spur, briefly follow another old road in the next section before heading left as the trail curves around an impressive rock outcrop. Cross Forest Road 550 and continue on as the trail contours nicely through a forest of ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir trees. Work your way through two small drainages (both branches of Shinglemill Creek) and you will soon pick up an old road as the trail starts to descend. At a sharp left turn look for a large pile of rocks on your right. A short scramble to the top of these rocks offers a view that should not be missed. If you're not ready for a break yet, make sure you check it out on the return trip. The trail reemerges to the left and assumes a more southerly bearing into the Morrison Creek drainage. (The trail that takes off to the right here leads to the Shinglemill trail, part of the Buffalo Creek Mountain Bike Area). The rugged north slope of Little Scraggy Peak has some impressive rock outcroppings that loom just above this section of the trail. The fire that burned this area in 1968 is still quite evident. Take a right where the trail seems to end an old jeep road. Out to the left is a small cave and popular camping spot). Cross the creek and immediately veer left back onto the trail for a short climb up to the top of the ridge. Descend to an unrideable creek crossing before you begin a long climb with a very sharp switchback to the right. In early summer, the blooming Columbine and Indian Paintbrush make this stretch particularly enjoyable. You will contour through several gullies as you climb up to a road crossing. Continue on to where the trail joins an old road and veers right for a fast descent along Tramway Creek. Pass through a clearing and pick up the trail again at a sharp left. (Continuing straight on the old road puts you on the Tramway Creek Trail of the Buffalo Creek Mountain Bike Area.) Traverse another half mile to a difficult bridge crossing (it has been ridden!) and on up to a road crossing in an old timber sale area. (Take a left turn on this old road and you will be on the Green Mountain Trail of the Buffalo Creek Mountain Bike Area.) A new section of trail takes you through the upper end of this logged area before dumping you onto a logging access road. Watch out for some dangerous stumps along this stretch of the trail and be ready for yet another difficult drainage crossing. Follow the old road for a few hundred yards and look to the right for the obscure trail intersection as you crest a small hill. A short downhill and then you cross the Meadows Group Campground road. A pump provides ice cold spring water off to your left. Cross the road and pass through a gate before a short section along Buffalo Creek takes you to Old Forest Road 543. This area may be a good turn-around spot for some riders as the return trip to County Road 126 entails a lot of climbing.

For those who want to put in more miles, a detour on dirt roads is highly recommended. The trail becomes very steep with a loose surface to the west of Old Forest Road 543. If you continue along the Colorado Trail in this direction, you will soon be pushing your bike. Instead, go right (east) on Old Forest Road 543 a short distance, turn left on Forest Road 550 and proceed up this road approximately 4 miles to where Forest Road 550 intersects Forest Road 560. Turn left here, toward Wellington Lake, and ride about a mile to where the Colorado Trail crosses Forest Road 560 for the second time. Consult the ride map to clarify these directions.

STONE PASS – Ride 3

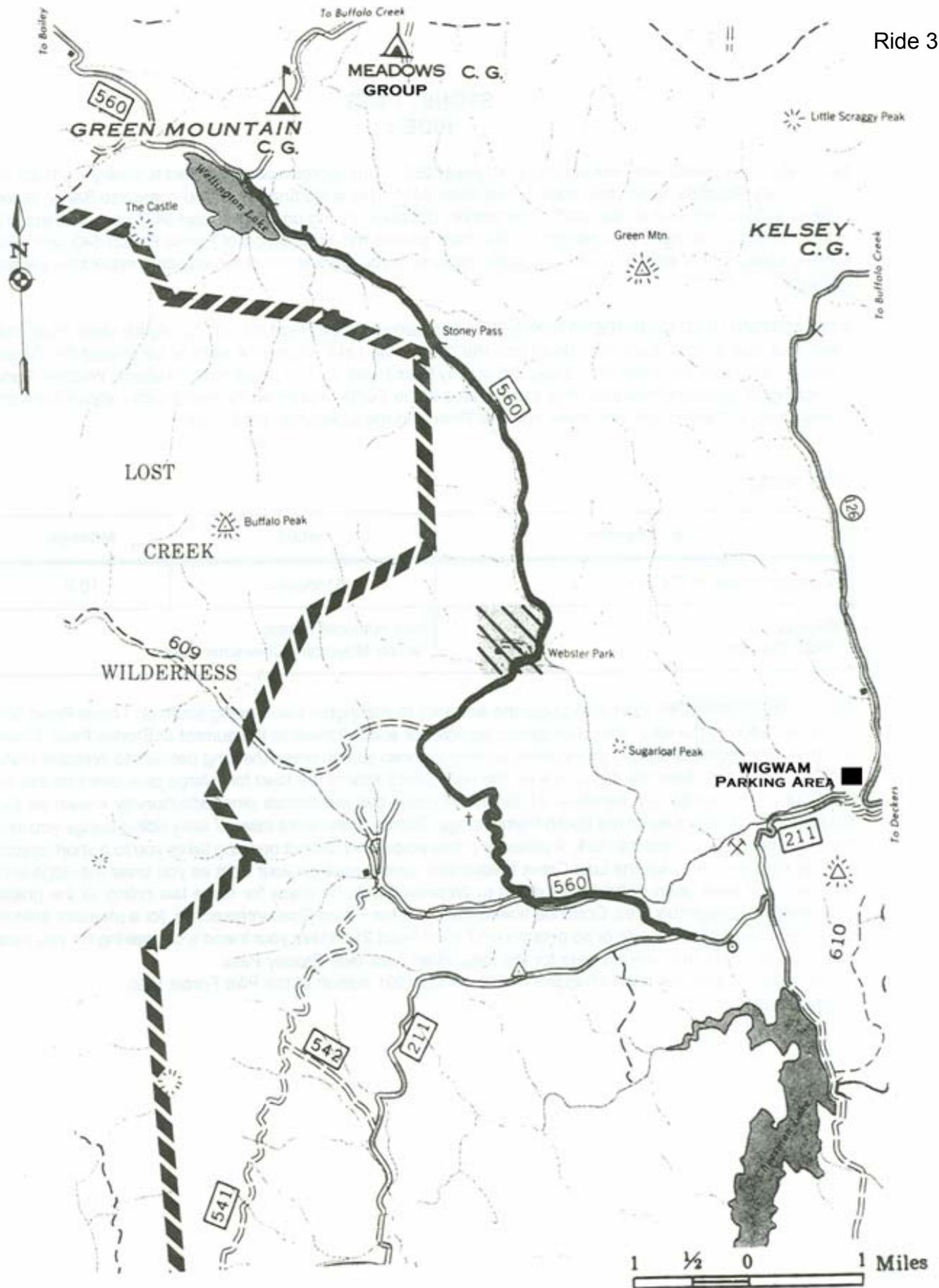
ACCESS: Travel west from Denver on U.S. Highway 285 South approximately 40 miles to Bailey. Turn left on Park County Road 68, also known as Wellington Lake road or Forest Road 560. This is the first left as you come into Bailey, at the bottom of Crow Hill, next to the Bell Oil gas station. Continue driving on Cty Rd 68 approximately 10 miles, following the signs to Wellington Lake. Park around the intersection of Forest Roads 543 and 560. Parking space in this area is limited, so please make sure you are well out of the way and respect the private property.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This ride follows Forest Road 560, a nice, lightly used route that takes you over Stoney Pass and down into the Cheesman Lake country. A herd of elk inhabit the Green Mountain area and are often seen along the Stoney Pass Road. As you pedal through scenic Webster Park, be looking for signs of the beavers that call this area home. There is also a private herd of bison in this area. Further south, on the switchbacks above Wigwam Creek, there are some glorious views of Pikes Peak and the Cheesman Lake area.

Trail Segment	Rating	Mileage
Wellington Lake to FR 211	Moderate	10.0
Maps: USGS Quads:	Pike National Forest. Green Mountain, Cheesman Lake.	

ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Start riding near the entrance to Wellington Lake, going south on Forest Road 560 along the edge of the lake. The route climbs steadily for about 2 miles to the summit of Stoney Pass. There are nice aspen groves around this summit. Continue ahead as you begin the long descent to Webster Park. Within the first mile from the pass, look on the right (west) side of the road for a large pine tree that sits by itself out in the middle of a meadow. As far as we know, this ponderosa pine (affectionally known as Big Daddy) is the largest tree on the South Platte Ranger District. A few more miles of easy riding brings you into the large meadows of Webster Park. A pleasant cruise across this distinct opening takes you to a short stretch of easy climbing. Go past the Lost Creek Wilderness access road on your right as you crest the ridge and approach the wide open switchbacks down to Wigwam Creek. Be ready for some fast riding as the grade gets steeper through this area. Continue ahead, past another Forest Road intersection, for a pleasant stretch along the creek. Another mile or so gets you to Forest Road 211. Have your friend's car waiting for you near this intersection or turn around here for the long climb back over Stoney Pass.

SPECIAL PRECAUTION: Once past Webster Park, you will be entering part of the 2002 Hayman Burn area. Watch for falling trees and flash floods. As you travel through the burn area, notice green "fingers" on the mountain sides. These were small areas, which for whatever reason was spared by the fire. Although the standing trees are long dead, observe the vegetation that has once again started growing in the area. Many animals have returned to this habitat and it continues to spring new life each season. It will be over 150 years before this area looks as it did before the Hayman Fire.



WATERTON CANYON – Ride 4

ACCESS: Take C-470 to Wadsworth Boulevard (C-121). Go south (left) on Wadsworth for 4.5 miles, past Chatfield Reservoir. Turn left at the sign for Waterton Canyon Recreation Area/Roxborough Park, just before the entrance to the Martin Marietta plant. A quick right takes you into the parking lot for Waterton Canyon.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This ride consists of two distinct segments: Waterton Canyon and the Colorado Trail. The Waterton Canyon segment follows a gravel road along the South Platte River for about six miles up to the Strontia Springs Dam. This is a non-motorized road; however, you may encounter occasional service vehicles. This service road follows the old route of the Denver, South Park and Pacific railroad. Numerous water impoundment/diversion structures, several picnic areas, and public restrooms are located along this road. The rugged canyon is home to one of the few remaining low-altitude herds of Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep. To protect these skittish creatures, no dogs are allowed into the Waterton Canyon area. If you should encounter some sheep, be sure to give them plenty of room and take care not to spook them. The Colorado Trail segment of this ride climbs out of the South Platte Canyon, bypasses Strontia Springs Reservoir, and drops back down to the river nine miles and 3,300 feet of total relief later. While challenging, this segment rewards the rider with spectacular views of the Platte Canyon country, the Denver metro area and the distant high peaks of the Continental Divide.

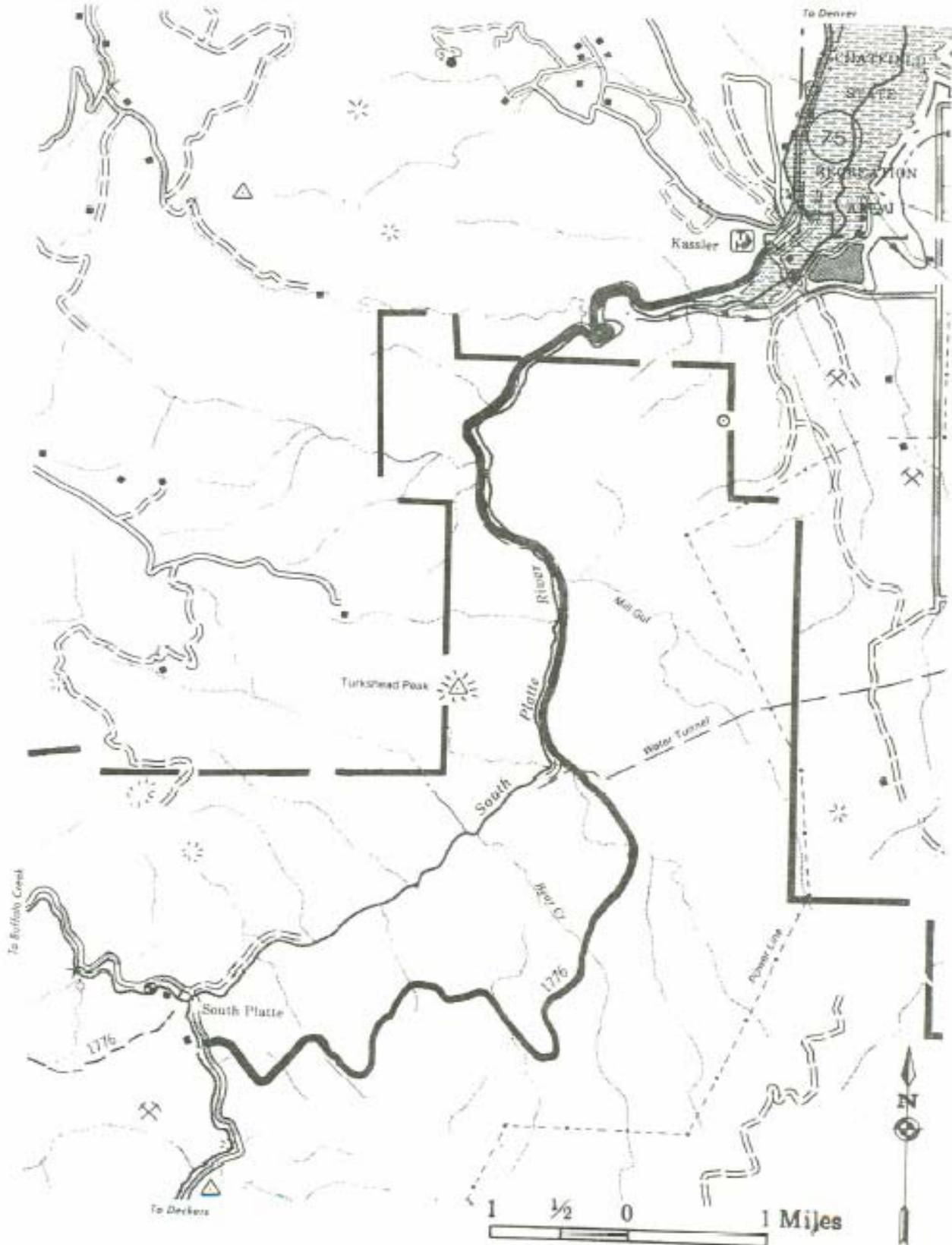
Trail Segment	Rating	Mileage
Kassler to Strontia Spgs Dam	Easy	6.2
Strontia Spgs to South Platte	Difficult	9.9
Maps: USGS Quads: Colorado Trail Series:	Pike National Forest. Kassler, Platte Canyon. Maps 1 & 2 (comes in set of 1-16).	

ROUTE DESCRIPTION: From the parking lot, push your bike through the opening in the fence and ride along the road, heading upstream. This well maintained service road and its gentle grade make for an easy, pleasant six mile ride up to the dam. Turn around at the dam for a leisurely day's ride and return to the parking area via the same winding route alongside the river. If you want to continue on a more demanding ride, proceed up the road from the dam to reach the official beginning of the Colorado Trail. This wonderful trail extends another 470 miles to Durango. Just past the dam, the trail leaves the road at a switchback to the right and passes through some impressive boulders. From this point, the trail switchbacks one mile up to a saddle and then descends 0.7 miles to Bear Creek. It then winds over a slight ridge to West Bear Creek. Unless you possess a set of serious quads, plan on doing some walking up the next section of steep switchbacks, but hang in there because you will be rewarded with some fine riding as the grade of the trail mellows in about a mile. At about this point, don't be alarmed, that's not really Darth Vader, it's simply a motorcyclist wearing the latest in protective gear. You will share the trail with your motorized brethren for the next half mile of sometimes challenging technical riding. The ride diverges from the motorized trail just after crossing West Bear Creek. From the creek you will ascend about 0.6 miles to a ridge where motorcycle trail #692 crosses the Colorado Trail. At this point, you have the climb whipped and will be treated to a section of gently rolling trail which traverses the south rim of the Platte Canyon. Numerous interesting rock outcrops along the trail provide excellent lunch stops and opportunities to scope the fine views of the surrounding country mentioned earlier. About three miles after crossing trail #692, you will have reached the high point of the ride. The trail then begins a gentle descent across a wide valley before plunging down a series of steep switchbacks to the river, losing 1,300 feet of elevation in two and one half miles. If you're planning to return to the Kassler trailhead, you may want to avoid the climb back out from

the river, which will most likely involve some walking/pushing, and turn around at the high point. If you do turnaround, the ride back to the trailhead is 95 percent downhill. This descent is fun and exciting but don't get carried away. Remain alert for others coming up the trail.

WATERTON CANYON

Ride 4



DAKAN MOUNTAIN – Ride 5

ACCESS: Go south from Denver on U.S. Highway 85 (Santa Fe Boulevard) to Sedalia. Go right (west) on Colorado 67. Continue 10 miles and go left (south) on the Rampart Range Road, Forest Road 300. Proceed south on the Rampart Range Road approximately 16 miles to the intersection of Forest Road 348 on the right. There are good places to park across from this road, on the left side of the Rampart Range Road.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This route follows Forest Road 563, a little used road that runs along the top of a ridge for the most part. This makes for nice riding with some wonderful vistas as you work your way out to a great lunch spot in the form of Bergen Rock. An optional loop down into Jackson Creek and back up to the Rampart Range Road gives the hearty rider a choice for more mileage. Be careful when riding on the heavily used Rampart Range Road and be aware of the presence of motorcycles throughout this area.

Trail Segment	Rating	Mileage
FR 300 to Bergen Rock	Moderate	6.0
Jackson Creek Loop	Difficult	12.0
Maps: USGS Quads:	Pike National Forest Dakan Mountain, Devil's Head.	

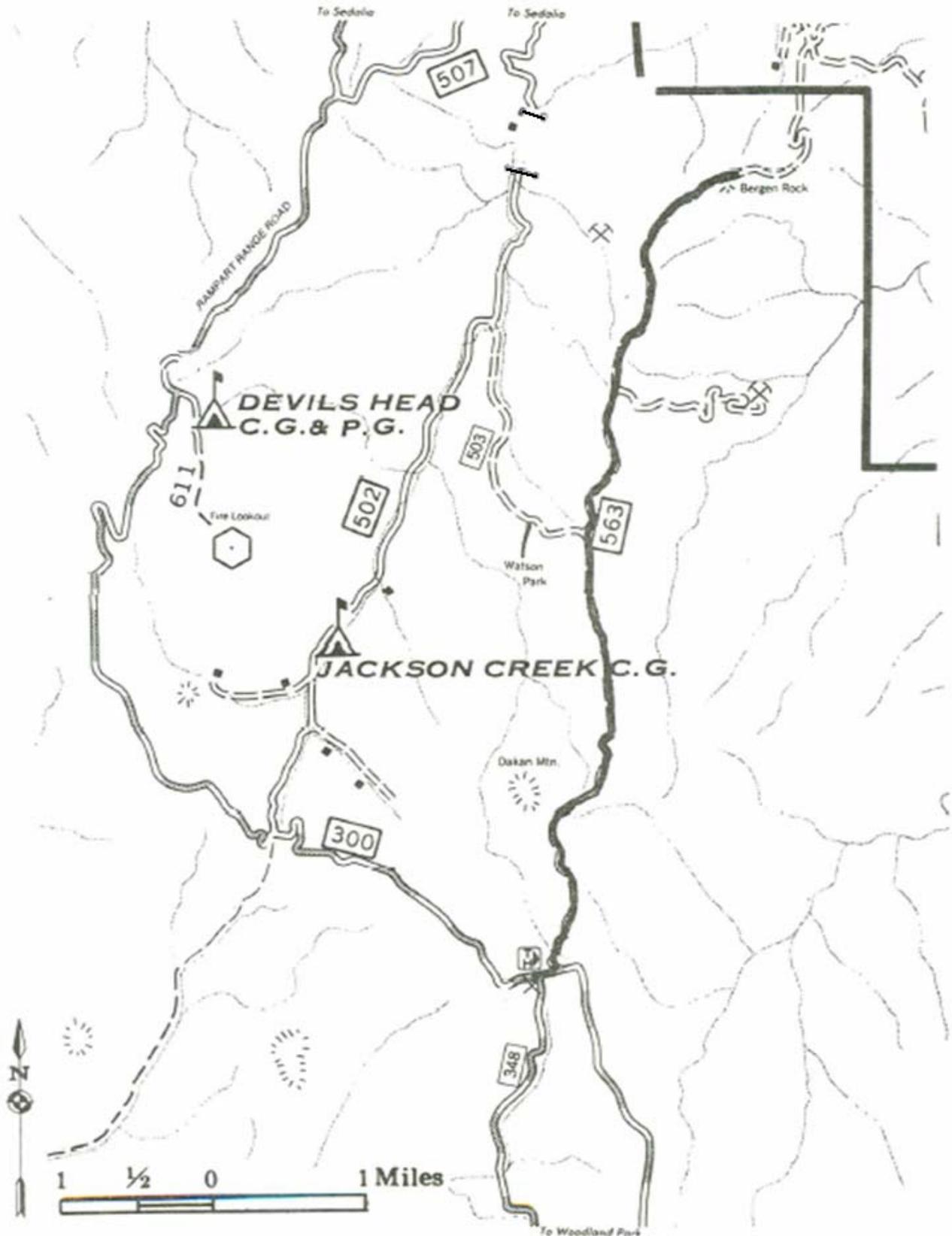
ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Start riding from the parking spot on the Rampart Range Road and continue ahead (south) a few hundred yards to Forest Road 563, the Dakan Mountain Road. Go left here and head out toward Bergen Rock. You wind through a few old clearcuts with small ups and downs as you work your way around the east side of Dakan Mountain. Within the first two miles you will encounter a huge egg shaped rock that is truly something to marvel at. As you proceed ahead, you drop down through a sharp switchback before the road levels out and assumes the ridge line. Some rock outcroppings on the left offer excellent views of the rugged Devil's Head Mountain. The fire lookout tower perched on top of this impressive mountain is last remaining tower still in use in Colorado. Continue on to the intersection with Forest Road 503 on the left. For the trip out to Bergen Rock, veer right and drop down to a rocky section of the road. Work your way across this outcropping and up a short hill. Proceeding ahead, you will pass a gated road on the left. About a 1/2 mile past this junction, look for the short loop spur on your right, across from a flat, open area. Bergen Rock looms above the plains just off the end of this short spur (If you start to drop down noticeably and/or encounter the Forest boundary, you missed the turn). Get off your bike and work your way around to the other side of the rock for a prime lunch spot. Ride back on the Dakan Mountain Road (Forest Road 563) for the return trip to your car.

The Watson Park Road (Forest Road 503) makes a long loop ride possible via Jackson Creek to the Rampart Range Road. Head north on Forest Road 503 from Forest Road 563; a right turn if you are coming back from Bergen Rock, a left turn if you are heading toward Bergen Rock. Ride ahead on this road as you begin the descent to Jackson Creek. Less than a half mile down, a road to the left offers a short side trip down into the scenic meadows of Watson Park. At the far west end of these meadows are some very large pine trees, including, as far as we know, the second largest tree on the South Platte Ranger District. Proceed on Forest Road 503 as it turns toward the north and steadily steepens. Turn left when you get to Jackson Creek, Forest Road 502. Pedal through a peaceful meadow and past Jackson Creek Campground, which is about two miles up from the intersection of Forest Road 563. The next two miles get tougher as the route climbs up to the Rampart Range Road (Forest Road 300). Go left (south) here and ride the final two miles to the parking area.

Another option for riding in this area is Forest Road 348, across from the first parking area described in the access section. This is a good riding road with lots of ups and downs as it winds through several drainages on its way down to Highway 67, just north of Woodland Park.

DAKAN MTN

Ride 5



CROW GULCH – Ride 6

ACCESS: Head west from Denver on U.S. Highway 285 South toward Bailey. Go through Pine Junction which is approximately 32 miles from Denver. About 5 miles past Pine Junction turn right on Park County Road 43 and head north up Deer Creek. (If you start to go down Crow Hill, you missed the Deer Creek turn). Continue on County Road 43 for 6.8 miles to Saddlestring Road (just before the "Y" intersection that goes to Deer Creek and Meridian campgrounds). Turn left here and travel a short distance to Forest Road 101, which is the third road on the right. Turn right here and continue on through a gate that marks the Forest Boundary. Just in from this point, there's an old road on the right that provides a few good places to park. More parking is available if you continue ahead on Forest Road 101.

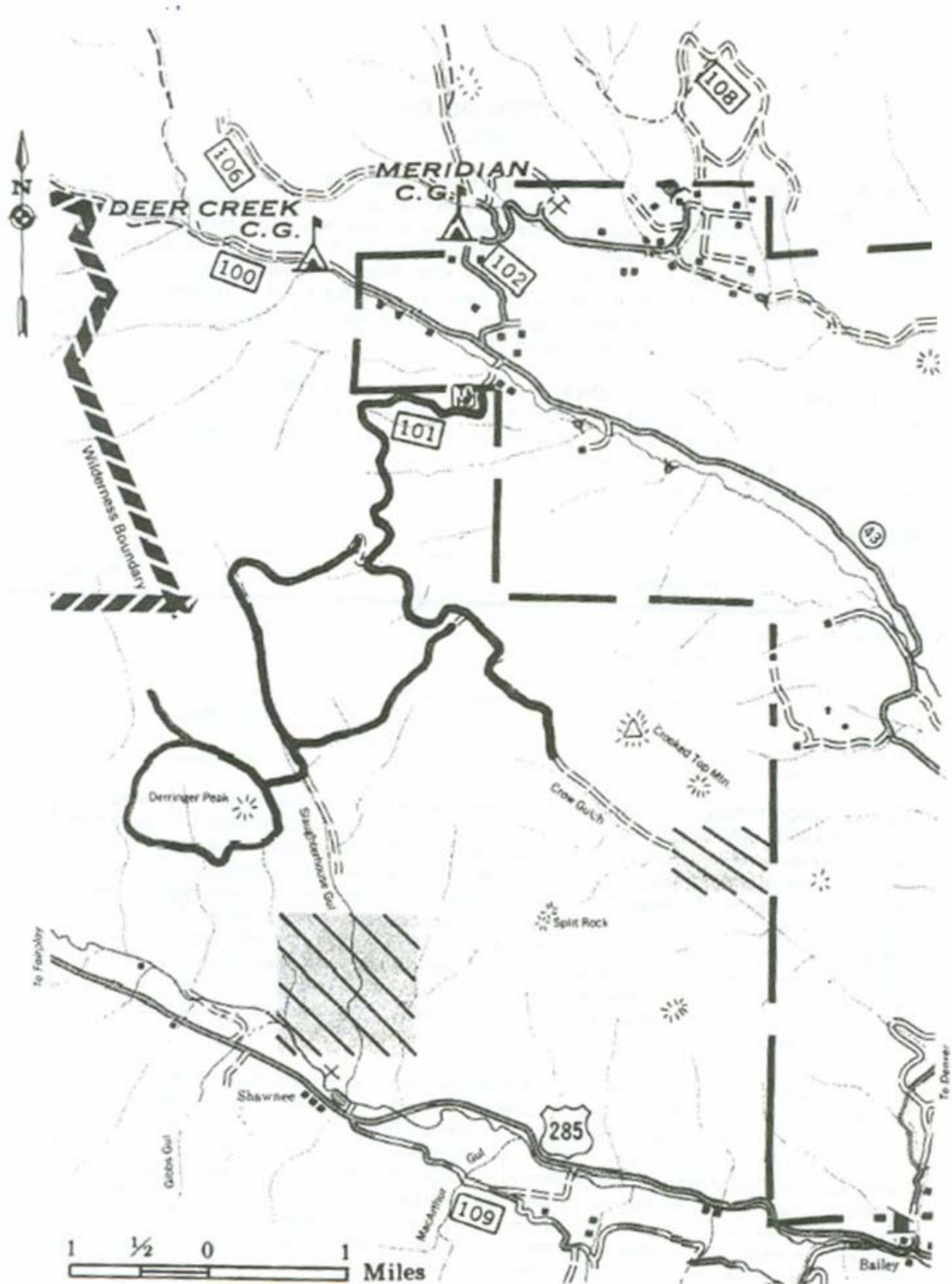
ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This little-used road offers a pleasant ride through some pretty aspen stands and their associated wildflowers. A June or July ride offers the best flower shows while a ride in September or October rewards riders with the changing colors of the aspen. Several herds of elk inhabit this area.

RIDE DATA:

Trail Segment	Rating	Mileage
Trailhead to Crow Gulch Divide	Moderate	5.5
Crow Gulch Divide via Slaughterhouse Gulch	Difficult	8.5
Derringer Peak Loop	Difficult	4.0
Maps:	Pike National Forest Map	
USGS Quads:	Shawnee	

ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Start riding from the parking area near the Forest boundary, heading out Forest Road 101 toward Crow Gulch. You encounter some steady climbing for the first mile or two and then the route becomes a series of ups and downs as you wind your way through several old clearcuts. A fork in the road offers the choice of continuing toward Crow Gulch or going over into Slaughterhouse Gulch. Veer left to continue the pleasant ride toward Crow Gulch. Proceed a few more miles until you encounter an old split rail fence on Crow Gulch Divide that marks a good turn-around point. This last section has a few climbs worth noting. The scenic old fence and the view up Deer Creek toward the lofty peaks of the Mount Evans Wilderness Area make this a favorite lunch spot. For the best view spot, take the first left past the fence and work your way uphill a few hundred feet to the edge of the old clearcut. You can continue on the main road for a few more miles as you drop into Crow Gulch. However, the road dead ends at some private property and you will have to come back out this same route on the return trip to your car.

For those seeking a more punishing ride, the Slaughterhouse Gulch road offers some steep, rugged terrain. A 4-wheel drive road connects the two gulches so a loop ride is possible. However, this is brutal riding and should you venture into Slaughterhouse Gulch be prepared to squeeze hard on your brakes going down and to walk your bike uphill on the way out. Turn right at the previously mentioned fork and climb up some steep switchbacks to Slaughterhouse Divide. Drop over the other side for a steep and very rough descent. Continue down the gulch road to the first road to your left (identified by a white arrow). This road will take you back over to the Crow Gulch road but will more than likely require some walking. Another option for some more difficult riding is to continue down Slaughterhouse Gulch to the first road to the right. This will take you over to a loop around Derringer Peak. These roads make for a tough ride but you are rewarded with a journey into a seldom used part of the forest.



SHAWNEE – Ride 7

ACCESS: Travel west from Denver on U.S. Highway 285 South approximately 40 miles to Bailey. As you come into Bailey, at the bottom of Crow Hill, take the first right onto Main Street. Parking is available along the street in front of the Forest Service Work Center.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: This ride follows a nice back road from Bailey to Shawnee, away from the busy Highway 285 which is definitely not recommended for riding. The Forest Service's AG Ranch property above Shawnee has many old roads which give the rider plenty to explore. The large, scenic meadows in this area make it a good place to see deer and other wildlife.

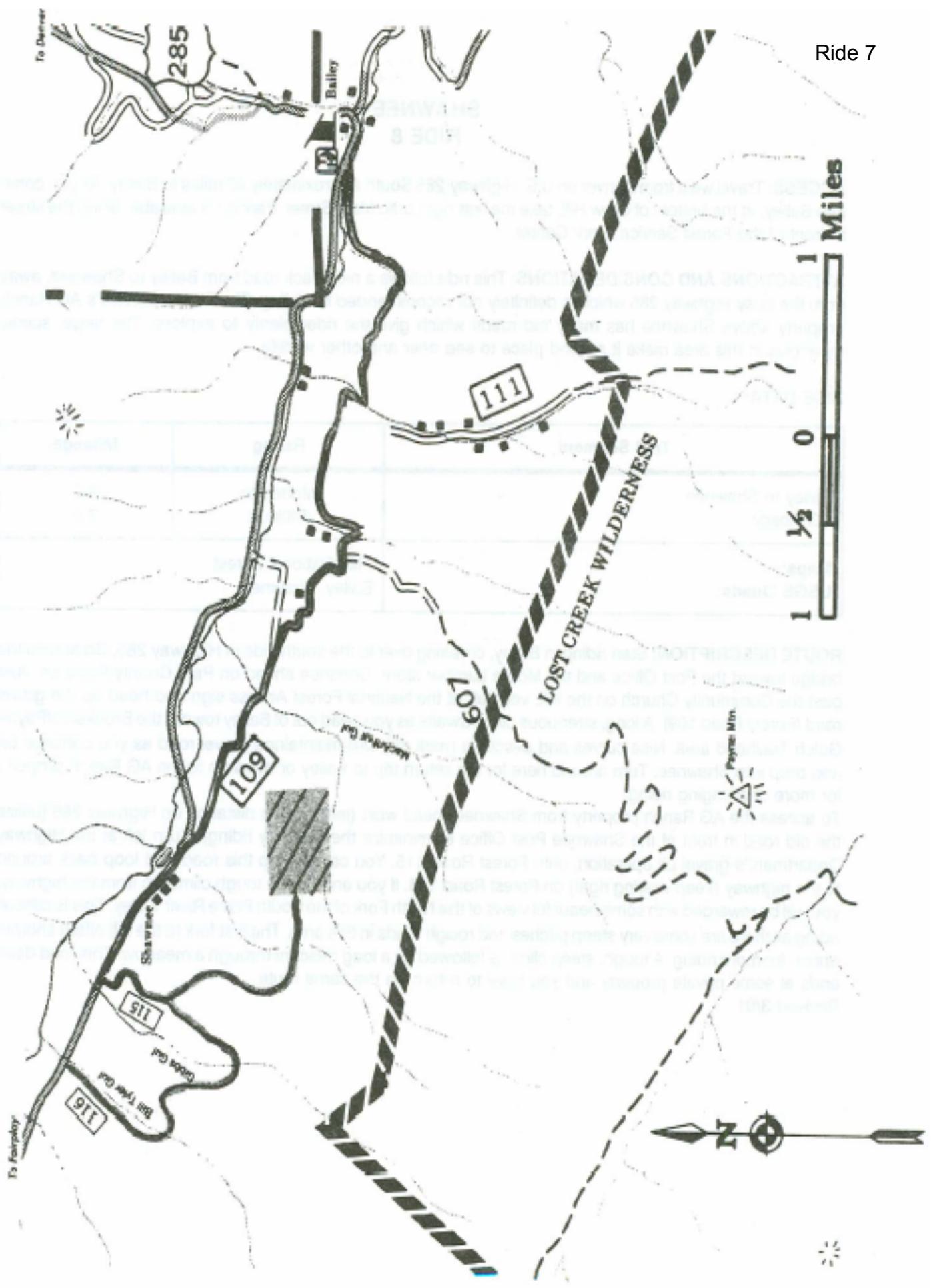
RIDE DATA:

Trail Segment	Rating	Mileage
Bailey to Shawnee	Moderate	5.5
AG Roads	Difficult	7.5
Maps: USGS Quads:	Pike National Forest. Bailey, Shawnee.	

ROUTE DESCRIPTION: Start riding in Bailey, crossing over to the south side of Highway 285. Go across the bridge toward the Post Office and the Moore lumber store. Continue ahead on Park County Road 64. Just past the Community Church on the left, veer left at the National Forest Access sign and head up the gravel road (Forest Road 109). A long, strenuous climb awaits as you head out of Bailey toward the Brookside/Payne Gulch Trailhead area. Nice curves and descents mark this well-maintained gravel road as you continue on and drop into Shawnee. Turn around here for the return trip to Bailey or head up to the AG Ranch property for more challenging riding.

To access the AG Ranch property from Shawnee, head west (left) a short distance on Highway 285 (utilize the old road in front of the Shawnee Post Office to minimize the highway riding). Turn left at the Highway Department's gravel pit operation, onto Forest Road 115. You can ride up this road and loop back around to the highway (keep veering right) on Forest Road 116. If you endure the tough climb up from the highway, you will be rewarded with some beautiful views of the North Fork of the South Platte River Valley. This is difficult riding as there are some very steep pitches and rough roads in this area. The first fork to the left offers another option for more riding. A tough, steep climb is followed by a long descent through a meadow. This road dead ends at some private property and you have to return via the same route.

SHAWNEE



KENOSHA PASS - COLORADO TRAIL - LOST PARK SIDE – Ride 8

ACCESS: Head west from Denver on U.S. Highway 285 South approximately 60 miles to the summit of Kenosha Pass. Ample parking is available a little bit off the highway on the left (east) side of the Pass. across the highway from Kenosha Pass campground.

ATTRACTIONS AND CONSIDERATIONS: The Colorado Trail offers some great single track riding in the Kenosha Pass area. You can ride the trail in either direction from here and be rewarded with some wonderful views of expansive South Park and the noble mountains of the Continental Divide. The large amount of aspen in this area make it a prime destination during the fall season. You will also ride through stands of bristlecone pine. This typically gnarled and twisted tree represents the oldest living things on the planet. Some of the bristlecone around South Park are over five hundred years old while certain trees in the California Sierras have been determined to be over four thousand years old!

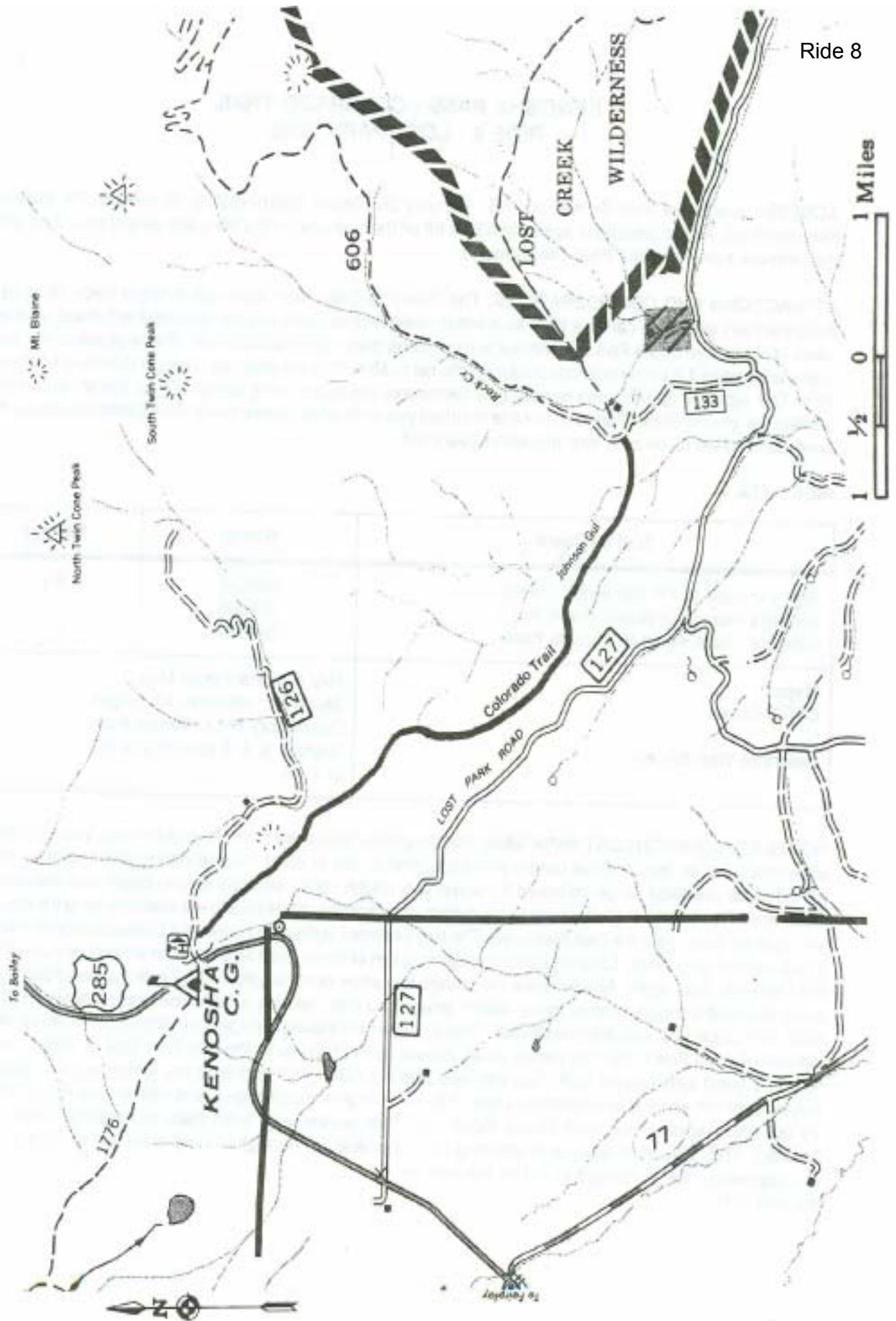
RIDE DATA:

Trail Segment	Rating	Mileage
Kenosha Pass to FR 133 (Rock Creek)	Difficult	6.3
Kenosha Pass to Jefferson Creek Road	Difficult	5.7
Jefferson Creek Road to Georgia Pass	Difficult	6.1
Maps: USGS Quads: Colorado Trail Series:	Pike National Forest Map Shawnee, Jefferson. Mt. Logan. Observatory Rock. Boreas Pass Maps 4, 5. & 6 (comes in a set of 1-16)	

ROUTE DESCRIPTION LOST PARK SIDE: Heading to the southeast from the parking area, you ride through a beautiful mature aspen grove before you encounter a mile or so of steep climbing. The trail then follows an old stock driveway so be prepared for some very rough, rocky sections as you begin your descent into South Park. You will soon pick up a recently constructed section of trail for a great stretch of single track riding as you drop down near the Lost Park road. The trail becomes difficult to follow as it crosses an open meadow and some old jeep roads. Look for posts and cairns (piles of rocks used as a trail marker) and be sure to follow the Colorado Trail signs. As you leave the meadow, a short climb is followed by a sharp switchback and a steep downhill through another lovely aspen grove. You then assume a ridge line that parallels an old two track and drops you into Johnson Gulch. Cross over an unrideable bridge and climb a short steep hill to a dirt road (Forest Road 133) that serves as an access up Rock Creek to the Ben Tyler Trail (# 606). This road makes a good turn-around spot. You can ride about a half a mile farther to the wilderness boundary but bicycles are not allowed in wilderness areas. You have to go through a gate and walk across Rock Creek so it's not really worth going past Forest Road 133. Turn around and head back to Kenosha Pass on the Colorado Trail. This involves a lot of climbing but it's broken up enough to keep it enjoyable. This is where you appreciate the climbing you did on the way in!

Kenosha Pass

Ride 8



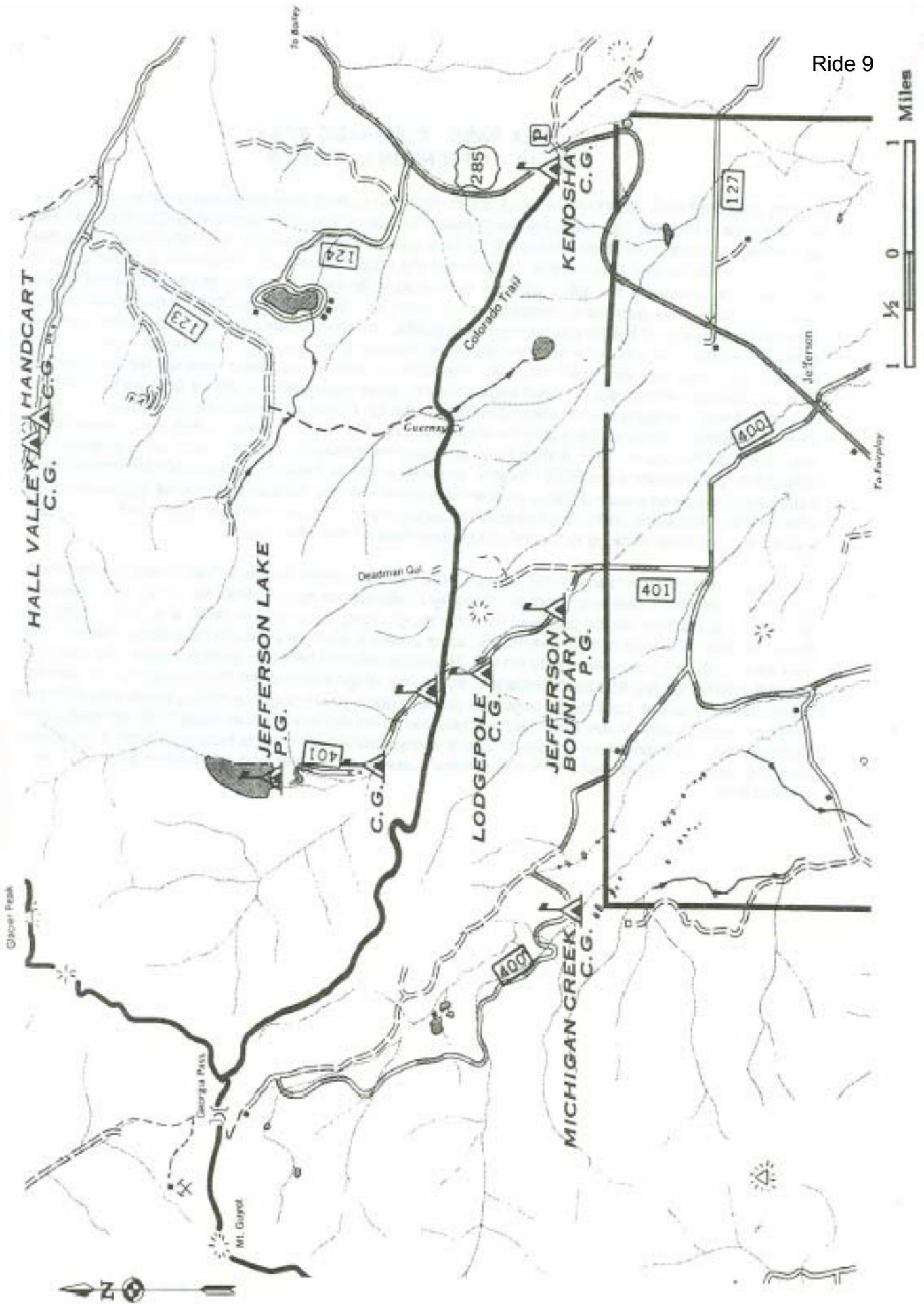
KENOSHA PASS – COLORADO TRAIL – JEFFERSON LAKE SIDE

ROUTE DESCRIPTION JEFFERSON LAKE SIDE: From the parking area on Kenosha Pass, cross over to the north side of Highway 285 and follow the Colorado Trail signs through Kenosha Pass Campground. Pick up the trail just beyond the fence and take off for more great single track riding. The trail climbs for less than a mile through a beautiful aspen stand. As you crest the ridge, the view into South Park is stupendous as you begin a long descent through a relatively open stretch. Be ready for a very sharp switchback as you reenter the trees. You continue to descend as you head into Guernsey Gulch. The narrow bridge across Guernsey Creek is a good test for your technical riding skills. You cross an old road here with several unofficial campsites scattered about. Some parts of the trail are indistinct in this area so be looking for posts and rock cairns as you cross the many open meadows. The trail then takes you across a relatively flat area followed by a very pleasant stretch along a small irrigation ditch. Cross on dirt before a difficult (and wet) crossing of Deadman Creek. There is a narrow walking bridge off to the left. Follow an old road for a short distance, cross a culvert and take a sharp left back onto the single track trail. This section takes you through an area burned over by a forest fire around 1976. A short climb and you pass through a gate (be sure to close it) before you descend to the Jefferson Lake Road. Water is available at Forest Service campgrounds (Jefferson Creek, Aspen and Lodgepole) a short distance in either direction on this road. Be sure to check out the beaver ponds a few hundred feet to the north. This makes for an appropriate turn around spot for most riders. Remember, you still have to climb back up to the top of Kenosha Pass on the return trip.

For those strong riders who want more mileage, continue west on the Colorado Trail toward Georgia Pass. Cross over Jefferson Creek and negotiate some tight switchbacks as you climb out of the creek bottom. If you choose to continue on, be prepared for some tough riding as the trail is rough and rocky for the first couple of miles. At the top of a big switchback, about 2 miles in from the Jefferson Lake Road, there's a nice view spot on top of some rocks next to the trail. The riding definitely becomes more enjoyable but continues to climb steadily as you approach timberline. Some very rough sections will be encountered as you ride across the open tundra. Look for the large rock cairns to guide you through the thick grasses where the trail becomes relatively faint. A very steep pitch will take you up the last few hundred yards to an old road above Georgia Pass. Take some time to poke around and enjoy the views from this historic summit. Turn around here and enjoy some fast descents to the Jefferson Lake Road and the long ride back to Kenosha Pass.

For more detailed information on Jefferson Lake or the surrounding campgrounds, contact the South Park Ranger District at 719-836-2031.

Jefferson



Ride 9