

Ride Name: Echo Basin, out from Lucy Halls Park (Loop)

Ride Distance: 5 miles, can be longer

Nearest Town: Mancos

Season: Summer, Fall

Useful maps:

Southwest Colorado Trails Recreation Topo Map

Durango CO Trails Recreation Topo Map

Water on trail: Yes

Difficulty: Easy, usually a few muddy spots

Summary of Ride: This trail is perfect in many ways. It is not long, (although it could be by continuing toward Sharkstooth one way or toward Transfer Campground the other way). The entire trail has beautiful views. It has a lunch spot on a sheer cliff overlooking the Mancos River valley with the La Plata Mountains beyond. It is not a difficult trail. And the autumn colors are always unbelievable as the photos show. The gravel road to Lucy Halls Park, where there is plenty of trailer parking is about 10 miles from Highway 160, and is somewhat washboard-y, but OK if you go slowly.

Driving Directions: From Durango, head west on 160, turning at the Doubletree. Drive toward Mancos about 25 miles to CR 44 to the right, a large sign on the left says "Echo Basin Ranch". This is about two or three miles before Mancos. The paved road turns to the left in two miles, but do not turn. Rather go straight onto a gravel road, FS road 566, past Rimrock Outfitters on the left. Continue on this gravel road for 9.2 miles. There will be a few roads leading off of this, but do not take them. You will pass a cattle gathering spot on the left. At about 8 miles you will leave a more open road and enter a beautiful aspen grove which covers the last mile before Lucy Halls Park. Continue up, looking for a turn-out to the left where there is a large circle of boulders. This is not marked. Lucy Halls Park is marked on the above mentioned map, but there is no designated Forest Service trail out of this area. The trail is just known to be there. There are two boulder circles here, one just past the other. It is a popular hunter's camping area in the fall.



Ride Directions: The trail from here leaves from the second boulder circle. Ride toward the La Platas through this second parking area and you will see the trail as you head slightly downhill. You will enter some trees very soon. Follow the trail down to the creek, Deer Lick Creek, a few miles to some beaver ponds. Then continue on to a creek crossing and through some brush to the West Mancos River. Cross this, it is not very wide, and there will be a very well traveled trail, an intersection.

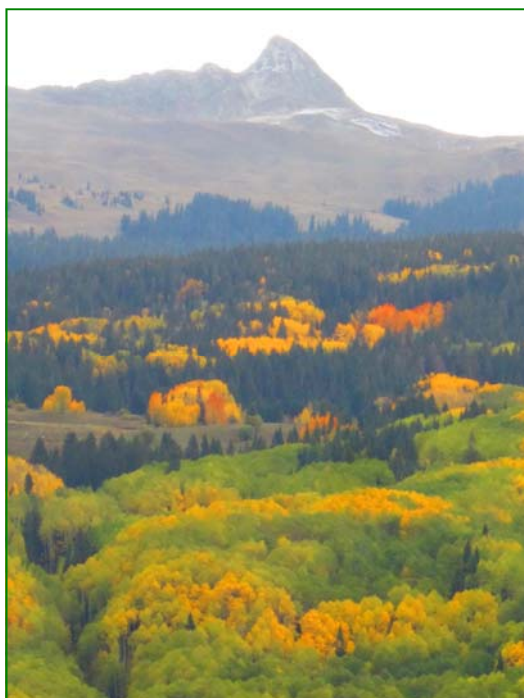
If you turn right and head up the hill along a fence, you will be heading toward the La Platas. You will see Sharkstooth, Centennial & Hesperus Peaks among others. There is an old mining town called Golconda that you will pass through along this trail soon after crossing through a fence line.

If you turn left at the intersection, you will be heading toward Transfer Campground. Or turn back and head back up the same trail to a little past the beaver ponds where the trail heads up the hill to the right. This is the continuation of the loop. A somewhat steep climb takes you up about 1 ½ miles to an overlook to the right, looking east, northeast to the La Platas and overlooking the valley that you just rode in. This is a nice resting spot. Continuing on, you will come to a meadow. Leaving from this meadow, there is a clearly marked trail that goes down to the cow corrals that you passed coming up the road. But to get back to Lucy Halls Park where your trailer is, you must ride to the left out of the meadow. There is a wide area that looks like an old road that is the trail. Stay to the left on this trail, as there are a few trails from it to the right. At about 2 miles there is a green metal gate to pass through. It drags on the ground and is a bit heavy but workable. There are usually cows nearby. Follow the "road" up the hill and on top you will see your vehicle down the other side.

Last mile before turnoff



Pass through this gate



Sharkstooth



**Views, views,
and more
views**



Centennial Peak

