

Ride Name: Hunters Lake, past Wolf Creek Summit

Ride Area: Wolf Creek

Nearest town: Pagosa Spring

Ride Directions:

From the trailhead at the parking area, the trail goes southwest through the trees and past a meadow on the left. At 0.2 miles you'll pass your return trail. The lake is about 1 mile in. As you enter the wilderness at 1.3 miles, you will see an unmarked trail junction. The left-hand trail is the Lake Creek Trail to Shaw Lake. Your route continues to the right. It is semi-open until 1.6 miles where you will enter into the trees. At 2.2 miles you will begin switchbacks up to the Highland Trail junction at 2.3 miles. Go right onto the Highland Trail to continue this loop. A trail junction at 4.1 miles is marked only with two posts. Look to the right, you'll see another post. Ride to it and the trail is marked from there. You will reach Hunters Lake trail at 4.3 miles.

Ride Distance:

4.5 mile loop. Hunter Lake is only ½ mile past the trailhead.

Difficulty:

Moderate for 4 miles, then steep drop off for ½ mile.

Summary of Ride:

Moose live near the parking area for this ride. The lake is only ½ mile from the trailhead and it is said that there is great Brookie fishing. The trail goes from easy to moderate, then as you get near the Highline Trail, advanced. The last half mile before Highline is steep grade and narrow. There may be down trees that could be difficult to cross. The Highline/ Continental Divide trail is advanced for horses, narrow and rocky but with top of the world views with elevation of almost 12,000 feet. If

you ride this trail, you can connect with a trail called Kitty Creek.

You can camp at the trailhead. As you drive in from Hwy 160, there are a few camping sites 1 to 2 miles before the Hunters Lake turnoff. The turnoff has a large sign. Past the Hunters Lake turnoff, the road continues to Decker Lakes trailhead where parking and camping are possible. Other trails in this area include Hope Creek Trail & Kitty Creek Trail (parking at Shaw Lake to ride Kitty Creek Trail).

Driving Directions:

From Durango, go east on Hwy 160 over Wolf Creek pass to Wolf Creek Ski area, 84 miles and through a snow shed over the road. A few more miles and you will go through a tunnel. Within ½ mile past the tunnel, go left on Road 410 to Big Meadows Reservoir. This is a fine road, for even big rigs. Drive approximately 10 miles back to get to Hunters Lake Loop Trailhead. It is a large trailhead, flat but gets much use because of moose in the adjacent meadow.

