

# 38th Annual Colorado Trail Competitive Trail Ride

## One & Two Day Open/CP/Novice/LeD

### September 12 & 13, 2026 \* Buffalo Creek, CO

Enjoy fall in the foothills of the Rockies at the 38th Annual Colorado Trail Competitive Trail Ride. This ride is held in the Buffalo Creek Recreation Area (USFS). This is always a gorgeous ride with good footing, well defined trails and views, views, views. You'll see snow-capped Pikes Peak to the south, Mt Evans and Mt Rosalie to the Northwest, and Long Scraggy and Cathedral Peaks in the foreground. Terrain is varied over hills covered in conifers, open meadows, and aspen groves, speckled with creek crossings and punctuated with fall colors. Large boulder piles in impossible formations provide unusual images to ponder as you ride. Portions of the trail are on the historic 488-mile-long Colorado Trail that crosses the state from Denver to Durango.

**Directions to Camp:** From Denver: Go SW on US Hwy 285 to Pine Junction. Turn left onto Hwy 126 (Pine Valley Road). Go 14 miles through Pine Grove and Buffalo Creek. After the top of the long hill, camp is on the right and will have ribbons and signs to alert you to the turn. From the South: Take Hwy 24 to Woodland Park and turn North on Hwy 67 to Deckers. Turn onto Hwy 126 and go about 15 miles. Just past Forest Service FSR 550, look for signs and ribbons on the left at the turn into camp. You will need to get out and open and close the gate. Camp is a short, easy haul.

**Camp Info: Certified Weed-Free hay is required by the USFS.** Contact Kay Gunckel 970-215-3917 for purchasing hay. Horse waster will be provided by the North Fork Volunteer Fire Dept. Please bring your people water. Days can be warm and nights cool, so bring a blanket for your horse. **Excess Hay and Manure must be hauled away by riders.** Horseshoes or hoof boots are highly recommended. USFS leash laws in effect: All dogs must be secured to trailers when not on leash.

Emergency Phone Numbers: Jeffco Sheriff's Office (303) 277-0211

Ride Manager: Dee Overholt 303-838-7507

Cell phone may or may not work in camp & on trail.

**Schedule (tentative):** Check in with Ride Secretary/Vet: "A" & "B1" Friday starting at 2:00pm. Vet Check for "B2" riders will be before Saturday briefing. "LeD" check in with Ride Secretary at 7:30 then 8:00 for ride briefing both Saturday and Sunday. Following Briefing you will check your horse in with the judge before riding out. Times to be announced. Saturday and Sunday check-in with judge once you are back in camp. Check rider packets for more details.

**Meals:** Friday evening social hour (before briefing). Please bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice. Saturday Lunch-bring a lunch to be transported by management to the lunch spot on the trail. Potluck Dinner Saturday night. Please bring a dish to share. Management will supply the meat portion. Balance of meals on your own. Volunteer and Judges will be fed all weekend.

**Awards:** Ride will award 1st thru 6th for all divisions/classes along with Novice, CP, and Open Sweepstakes. LeD will award 1st thru 6th plus prizes for all.

**Rules:** Ride will be conducted under current NATRC rules. Distance Only (DO) offered for those who wish to compete in mileage only. Panels are allowed but they must be attached to your trailer with one horse per pen. High Ties are also allowed. **Health Certificates and Coggins are required for out-of-state horses.**

**WE ARE LIMITED TO 40 OVERNIGHT TRAILERS BY THE FOREST SERVICE,** so please trailer share. Ride registration will close and wait list started once we reach our 40 trailer limit.

Riders must pay in full by September 2nd to secure your camping spot. Anyone who has not paid in full by then may be bumped off the waitlist. Ten overnight spots will be available for the first 10 LeD riders. Once those 10 spots are full, other riders who wish to camp may sign up for a waitlist for camping spot and will be granted one if space is available. Once the trailer limit has been reached, ride registration will be closed and a waiting list started.

**Judges:** Vet- Amy Mason, DVM (R3) Horsemanship-Priscilla Lindsey (R6) LeD-Debbie Starr (R5)

Entry Fees: Entry fee includes all NATRC nation, regional, drug, USFS, and camping fees. There are member discounts and other region 3 discounts for rider members. Go to [natrc3.org](http://natrc3.org) and click on resources tab.

"A"-O/CP/N Adult members \$135.00 Non-Members \$170.00. Junior riders \$30 less

"B"-O/CP/N Adult members \$125.00 Non-Members \$170.00. Junior riders \$30 less

"LeD" Adult members \$95/day Non-Members \$130/day. Junior riders \$30 less

**Deposit of \$50 or full payment upon entry.** If full payment is not paid by Sept 2nd you will be put on the waiting list. Refunds until Sept 9th, less \$20 administration fee. Registration closes on Sept 2nd, 2026. No show, no refund!

Checks Payable to Kay Gunckel and mail to: 4605 Norwood Ave., Loveland, CO 80538  
On For Line-please write Colorado Trail

Ride Manager: Dee Overholt 303-838-7507

Ride Secretary-Kate Steffes 970-691-2346  
[ridingthedream@fcconnexion.net](mailto:ridingthedream@fcconnexion.net)