



Horse Riding at JDSF

The equestrian public enjoys access to thousands of acres of managed forest on the miles and miles of logging roads found at JDSF. For the last 20 years, several competitive endurance and trail riding clubs have utilized these roads to hold high mileage group ride events with challenging terrain. Having JDSF nearby is an unparalleled opportunity for locals who want to ride, hike or bike. In addition to these trails, JDSF has one main horse camp open to the public from late May to early October.

Please note that all routes detailed below can be followed using the [JDSF Recreation Overview Map](#). We also recommend using a GPS mapping device and/or cell phone if you are unfamiliar with navigation the forest. Road numbers are painted on road gates or marked by flexible trail markers.



Horse riding at Jackson, the East End

The small parking area just off Highway 20 at the Little Red Schoolhouse (LRS) provides access to the eastern end of the forest. Several large or medium-sized riding loops start from here. For a long loop, go across the highway at Road 200, then north on 200 to 240, up 240, then east on 1000, and then back down 250. View this loop [HERE](#).

For a smaller loop go across the highway and then immediately right up to a small turnaround. Take the Park Gulch trail (old road 204) north to 230. For an all-day ride head up on 230 to 1000 then west and back down either 250 or 240. For a short ride

head down 230 and back along Road 200. View this loop [HERE](#).

More loops from the LRS can be made by taking 200 to 230, up 230, the back down 231, or out 232A, 112A, and back 112 to the Sverko tie-in trail and then back west on 202. There are more extensive loops that can be made by extending out on some of the larger JDSF roads. Unfortunately, some require knowledge of short tie-in trails that are not shown on maps.

To avoid crossing the state highway a popular loop is utilizes Road 800 and Road 810 to start. A favorite is going west on 800 then up the boundary ridge Road 830 for several miles and back down 920 to 810. You can also continue along 830 for an amazing all-day 19-mile ridge ride by staying high on 920 all the way out to the eastern boundary of JDSF, then coming down old road 940 and back along 900 to 810. View this loop [HERE](#).

Horse Riding at Jackson, the Camp One Area

Trailer parking is available at the Camp One day-use parking area (accessed by the turnoff from Highway 20 at mm 5.65). This parking area is three miles down Road 350, near the South Fork Noyo River. From

here, a multitude of excellent half-day riding loops can be made. A favorite of many riders is to head north from camp on Road 360 to the Brandon Gulch Trail (old road 362). From this trail make a longer loop by going right at the first trail cut off up Brandon Gulch to join Road 363. Head left (northeast) on Road 360 and continue to Road 1000. Go west along Road 1000, stop at Volcano camp for a view, then backdown the Little Lake Sherwood Trail which drops you back into Brandon Gulch. For a shorter loop skip the right turn, and head straight up the Little Lake Sherwood Trail to Road 1000. Take a left (west) on the ridge to Road 380 or old Road 392. Come down to Road 381 and go east to head right back to Camp One. Take a west turn on Road 391 to head down near Road 300. Continue on 391 to the quarry trail (on foot) to drop down to Road 300 near Redtail Camp. Alternatively, take Road 390 west and find the small trail that jumps down to Road 300 just west of Retail.

Additional riding loops can be made by utilizing Roads 370/371 with the same 381 to Redtail trails mentioned above and coming down or going up Road 359. All of it ending up at Camp One day use area. A version of this loop can be found [HERE](#).

These are only a few suggestions. Most trails have only one or two watering spots for horses. Be wary of downed branches and take appropriate precautions. Try one of the shorter loops if your horse is not used to hills.

Future Improvements and Suggestions

Although most of JDSF forest roads are open for recreational endeavors (mountain bike riding, horse riding, and hiking) there is no easily obtainable information on where the location of the best horse riding loop roads are located. It can also be difficult for newcomers to know where to find room along a forest road to be able to park and turn around a horse trailer. The loops linked within this article can provide a great starting point for horse riding adventures.

Stay tuned for next month's edition of the JDSF newsletter where we will cover horse camping at JDSF.

