

Places I like to Ride:

**RIVERSIDE STATE PARK:**

Riverside State Park has many features for equestrians. It is close to Spokane and is about 12,000 acres with 7 trailheads for equestrians. The primary trailhead has a campground, trail course, arena and round pen. Trails range from easy two track to side hills going down into Deep Creek Canyon. Take lunch along the Spokane River or while enjoy the view from Pine Bluff. This is a state park and a Discover Pass is required unless you are camping.

**MT SPOKANE STATE PARK:**

Mt. Spokane State Park is great riding in the summer when it is hotter at lower elevations. Stop to pick huckleberries in the summer. There are several trailheads depending on the amount of elevation change you want. There is plenty of elevation change or ride the Kit Carson Loop or Nordic ski trails for easy rides. There is a great lunch spot and view from Day Mt. Spokane. This is a state park and a Discover Pass is required.

**ESQUIRE RANCH:**

BLM Esquire Ranch (Rock Creek Recreation Area) is about 13,000 acres of old sheep and cattle ranch. It is primarily open range land with few trees. There are many draws and gullies to explore along with Rock Creek and the falls. From the campground it is necessary to cross water except when crossing on the bridge at the homestead. There are cross fences so some detours may be necessary to find gates. This is best riding in the spring and fall but be aware of the hunting seasons. The campground has two corrals, some highlines, restroom and equestrian water. Weed free hay is required. There is no reservation system or fee.

**FISH TRAP LAKE:**

BLM Fish Trap Lake is excellent day riding. It is west of Spokane at exit 254 from the freeway. It has draws and gullies to explore but is not as extensive as Esquire Ranch. Equestrian water may be available by the house but not where the restrooms are. The restrooms are at the south end of the property while the waterfalls are at the north end. Weed free hay is required. There is no formal camping area. The best riding is in the spring and fall but be aware of the hunting seasons. There is no reservation system or fee.

January 2017

*Ken Carmichael*