

Shenandoah National Park

Trail Ride Guide



Trip Name: Thornton River and Piney Branch via Hull School (10-15 Mile Circuit)

Trip Description: Pass former home (and school) sites and splash through mountain streams.

Trail Stability: Not a suitable route for wet/winter conditions.

PATC Map: PATC # 9 (North District)

Encounters: Route uses county roads outside of the park (No busy highways are included). This route mainly receives horse use, though you may encounter hikers or backpackers.

Footing: Long stretches are rough, rocky, narrow, and/or in wilderness. Potential for troublesome stream crossings.

Skyline Drive Parking: Beahms Gap Overlook. Goose-neck trailer OK. Parking is generally available.

Boundary Parking: N/A

Option 1 - Total Distance 11.3 Miles

From Beahms Gap Overlook, mile 28.5, ride north along Skyline Drive 0.3 mile.

Turn right onto Hull School Trail, riding for 2.2 miles.

Turn right onto Thornton River Trail and ride 1.3 miles, then leave the park.

Continue straight on the road (state route 612) for another 0.7 mile.

Turn left onto 653 and ride 0.5 mile.

Turn left onto 600 and ride 0.1 mile to the cement post marking Piney Branch Trail.

Turn left onto Piney Branch Trail and ride 2.1 miles back to Hull School Trail.

Turn left onto Hull School Trail, riding 3.7 miles.

Turn left along Skyline Drive, riding 0.3 mile to return to Beahms Gap Overlook.

Notes

If you have a small trailer, you can park at Hull School trailhead just north of Beahms Gap Overlook. Larger trailers will find it much easier to park at the Overlook, riding a short distance along Skyline Drive to get to the Hull School Trail.