



CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL COALITION EQUESTRIAN RESOURCES

State Specific Recommendations

NEW MEXICO

- See Section Notes PDF for specific section recommendations.
- In New Mexico in general you will encounter barbed wire, fence crossings, and cattle guards. The vast majority of this is not horse friendly unless you have a support crew. There is limited water in southern New Mexico as well, though it is possible to ride from Ghost Ranch north. You should be able to find comments in Guthook.

COLORADO

- Most of the section of the CDT that overlaps with the [Colorado Trail](#) (over 300 miles) is great for horsepacking given the well made trail and relatively high use.

WYOMING

- For someone not used to the terrain, it may seem extremely rocky.
- Expect significant elevation gain and loss.
- The Wind River Range is not as affected by beetle kill as areas in Colorado, but it still has deadfall, especially in the early season (late June/early July).
- In a normal snow year, you will likely not be able to get a horse through snow drifts in areas where snow stays until mid-late June.
- You are likely to encounter lots of bridge and puncheon roads (plank roads) along the trail.
- The ideal time for horsepacking is mid summer - July and August - when you may not need to carry supplemental feed.
- In July the mosquitoes and flies can get extremely bad. Horse packers will need to bring fly spray.
- The CDT in Wyoming goes through the Red Desert south of the Wind River Range. Be prepared for an entirely different climate and environment from the mountains. The desert has wild horses that may charge you and pose a challenge on horseback.
- Note that it is extremely hot in the summer, so the best time to ride this section is in the spring (April/May).
- For the Red Desert you should also consider carrying all your feed or doing pre-drops or caches ahead of time.
- Horses must have a brand inspection and health inspection before riding in Wyoming.
- Yellowstone National Park requires negative Coggins tests and you must carry this test on your person and may be asked for it by park rangers.
- Horses are not allowed overnight at trailheads in Yellowstone National Park. You must have permits to ride in the park.
- While riding in bear territories, the suggested group size is 6 or more people in Yellowstone National Park and 4 or more in the Northern Wind River Range.
- Currently the only pass that is passible by horse in the Wind River Range is Washakie Pass. Check for local information as there have been landslides in the past that block this route as well.
- From the south, it is not recommended to cross east over the Wind River Range at Jackass Pass because there is a significant amount of slick rock that can prevent horses from crossing.

IDAHO

MONTANA