

Horse Camping and Trail Riding, in the GrandJean area of the Sawtooth Mountains, Stanley, Idaho



This report is for GrandJean - located between Lowman and Stanley, Idaho. GrandJean has many miles of trails and beautiful country.

From the Boise area, the easiest way to get there is to take State Highway 55 to Banks, head east along the South Fork of the Payette River then follow State Highway 21 east from Lowman. (The drive from Idaho City is way too curvy, yes, even more than the road from

Garden Valley.) From "eastern" Idaho... take State Highway 21 west from Stanley. Approximately 21.3 miles from Lowman (or 30.1 miles from Stanley) take National Forest Road #524 for 5.2 miles, and then take Forest Road #824 to the campground. Head to the National Recreation Area Campground by staying left on the road (at the Sawtooth Lodge) rather than crossing the river. Campground Fee: day use \$5; camping \$10.

There are areas to tie your horses and a water trough. If you follow the trail from the watering area you will cross a bridge and begin the ride. You can go right or left when you cross the bridge and then there are several other trails that branch off from these trails.

<http://www.publiclands.org/explore/site.php?id=2565>

It is a nice campground. The horse area hugs the mountains to the east of the campground. Restrooms, picnic tables, nearby stream and part of the campground are for non-horse campers too. I suggest you get a map at one of the two ranger stations on the way and then plan which trail you want to take. Trails I took were dusty, but easy to see and had several stream crossings that were very shallow with one that was probably a foot deep around 4 miles down the trail. So a great training ground on the trails that head south. Nothing I encountered was dangerous. I have not been on the trail that heads north after crossing the bridge.

In addition if you go back up the road and take the fork previously on the right (now on your left) that crosses the river, there is the Wapiti Trail and a nice ride for several miles down the road. Don't go into the summer home area, but stay right and continue on the main road. There are big open areas where you could camp along this road, but no campgrounds or restrooms.



Due to elevation, this area would be best used in June through October. The road can be a single lane at times, so beware if you have a very large rig. This might not be for you, but it is worth checking out and gauging your comfort level. I drive an extended cab truck with a 3 horse slant load.

Happy Riding!