

Dry Lake Campground

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BUFFALO PASS QUAKER BOWL

Also known as "Aspen Bowl," this beginner zone boasts beautiful, naturally gladed aspen trees. Users can enjoy relaxed-angle glades extending from the Quaker Bowl overlook down to the Spring Creek drainage. All of the runs in this area take the fall line. Quaker Bowl is an attractive tour due to its proximity to Dry Lake Campground. Nonetheless, this is the lowest-elevation ski zone on Buff Pass. With a thin, early-season snowpack, the willows at the bottom of the run can be fierce. (Much of the text in this route description was sourced and revised from Beacon Guidebooks' *Backcountry Sled-Skiing: Buffalo Pass, Colorado*, with the permission of author Stephen Bass. We thank him for helping keep our information consistent and accurate.)



Exploring too far skier's right can result in skiing far below the common return track, and can take you far down into the Spring Creek drainage and consequent avalanche terrain. Keep the bottom snow road in sight and don't descend below it.



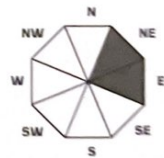
All Buffalo Pass tours begin at Dry Lake Campground—a busy winter trailhead, primarily used by snowmobilers and the local cat-skiing operation. You'll feel out of place without a snowmobile, but the Quaker Bowl terrain is within easy reach of the light tour skier. Driving from Steamboat Springs: Navigate to Fish Creek Falls Road, then head north on Amethyst Drive. Stay on Amethyst until it becomes Routt County Road 36, and look for signs indicating Buffalo Pass. Turn right onto State Road 36, and drive about ten minutes to Dry Lake Campground.



From Dry Lake, skin the main snow road for 1.5 miles to Lila's corner, which is a sharp turn through a gully. Just past Lila's corner, there is a steeper shortcut snow road to your left. Do not take the shortcut road. Instead, continue to the right on the main road, and Quaker Bowl Road is your next possible right turn. Skin Quaker Bowl road to the next right turn. From there you'll begin climbing along the top of Quaker Bowl with the runs below you. An alternative approach option is to skin the snow road for 0.5 miles, then turn right (southeasterly) and climb the north side of the hill.

EXIT

Climb northeast out of Spring Creek to the low saddle you crossed on your approach. Enjoy another lap or return to the trailhead.



1 WAGON LANE

29° 745'

Wagon Lane provides options to skier's far right. Do not ski farther right than the route shown in our photo. If you do, you'll end up in steeper terrain with more avalanche danger.

2 CREAKY SPRINGS

29° 486'

Creaky Springs is a fall-line ski without much to think about other than vegetation. During times of thin snowpack, beware of the horribly thick willows at the bottom of the run, to skier's right. Plan your line accordingly.

3 SHORTY

25° 355'

Shorty is an enjoyable beginner skier's tree run. The aspens are more open than those of other lines. Keep the road to your left as a navigational boundary.