

Pipestone to Toll Mountain Campground (21 km double-track trail & dirt road)

A beautiful point-to-point trail/dirt road where you will normally find solitude. Arrange transportation from finish. Normally passable from May 1st through November 1st, but snow and ice can linger in areas of northern exposure.

Directions:

Exit I-90 at Pipestone (at the eastern base of Homestake Pass) and proceed 7 km up Delmoe Lake Road to Pipestone Four Corners Off-Hwy Vehicle (OHV) TH.

Begin run from the TH, going south. A good map or a guide is essential for successfully negotiating the route. Underpass I-90 through the cow-tunnel where a powerline crosses overhead. Pass the Whiskey Gulch TH (no facilities) at 10.3 km and proceed on primitive dirt road. Merge onto Rader Creek Rd at 16.5 km. At 20.4 km, turn right (N then W) at the junction of Toll Mountain Road and proceed less than 1 km to the campground. The campground has out houses, a small creek, and a few shady campsites.

Alternative finish: One can also bypass the turn to the campground and follow Toll Mountain Road south to old Highway 2, which makes the route 22.5 km.

Description:

This route has an 80 meter net altitude gain when run from north to south, and the gross altitude gain is much greater because the route is up-down-up the whole way. The footing is mostly on softer sandy surfaces with some rocks. There are several trail and road branches that can be confusing.

Negatives:

Some steep up hills.

Automobile shuttle required.

Pipestone OHV TH area sometimes heavily used by motor sports enthusiasts.

The BLM laid chunky gravel in the first 3 km, where trail overused by OHVs.

Easy to get lost - side trails/roads exist that do not appear on some maps.

Mountain lion habitat – running companion recommended.