

Pipestone to Whitehall (12 or 19 K Dirt Road)

A good route to run when wintery weather conditions exist in Butte, and although it can be run as a loop, it works nicely if you arrange to have a ride back from Whitehall when it's cold because there is normally a stiff SW tailwind. Light if any traffic, and the road stays dry most of the year because the Whitehall Valley is arid.

Directions:

Exit I-90 at Pipestone (at the eastern base of Homestake Pass) and begin the run there north of I-90 on the Ringing Rocks Road which initially parallels the hwy eastward, before turning north, where you will cross a cattleguard, a railroad track, and another cattleguard. Turn immediately right off Ringing Rocks Road after the second cattleguard onto the double-track that heads east toward Whitehall. After crossing a small ravine under the power line, the road splits (the northward branch adds 6K with some climbing and scenic vistas) and then the eastward path splits again, but all three branches eventually lead east to Sheep Camp Road, which takes you back south to I-90. Do not go through Sheep Camp Rd's I-90 underpass. Instead, turn left (east) on Burt Lane and follow it along the north side of I-90 the last 7 K to Whitehall.

Description:

Part improved gravel and part double track Jeep trail. Net downhill. No shade or shelter. Barren but rolling. The final few hundred meters are paved.

Negatives:

Long stretch next to I-90.

Transportation needed from the finish.