

Welch Quarry Loop (13 km Dirt Double-Track)

A nice place to run through the woods on a hot summer day.

Directions:

Exit I-90 at Homestake Pass and proceed north on Delmoe Lake Road to a small parking area that is on the south side of the road shortly passed the “4 mile” sign. Start there. A knowledgeable guide is helpful to navigate the many turns. The easiest route to follow is the road that starts due south from the parking area before cutting downhill to the east through Coyote Flat. A practical guide for staying on the correct path here is to neither cross the power lines, nor the railroad track. A spur of the railroad actually curls right up to the quarry.

Description:

Rolling double track off-highway-vehicle (OHV) trails mostly over decayed granite and sand. The loop’s southern half is somewhat in the open and is therefore drier. The northern half of the loop is cool and shady. Snow and melt water linger near the old Welch Quarry, which was carved in the shadow of Pipestone Rock.

Alternative finish: The bottom portion of the loop connects with the lower Pipestone trail network.

Negatives:

Many turns ... no signs.

Mountain lion habitat – running companion recommended.