

## **Blacktail to CDT to Beaver Ponds to Blacktail (21 km starting on road then single track trail)**

A beautiful but difficult loop that is best run the first time with a guide. Expect several unmarked paths and turns. As of August 2010, the Blacktail Trail was being modified by the USFS, so the advertised distance of the trail will likely grow.

Begin in the Blacktail and climb adjacent to I-90 up to Homestake Pass where you connect to the Continental Divide Trail. Loop south over the CDT and then down the Beaver Ponds Trail and finally reconnect to the Blacktail Trail. Normally passable from June through October, but snow and ice can linger in high areas.

### **Directions:**

Take Continental Drive south to Meadow View Drive. Left on Meadow View and follow ~1 km and turn right on the road that climbs and curves SE. The trail head is just around bend. No facilities there.

Begin run going back down the road you drove in on. Take the first right turn to the east and proceed through the housing area to the steep double track trail that zags, adjacent to I-90, up near Homestake Pass. At ~5.5 km, merge with the CDT and go south for another ~10 km, then take the right (west) turn at the junction to the Beaver Ponds Trail. The Blacktail Trail soon (~700 m) links to the left and takes you back to the trail head.

Alternative: The Blacktail Trail is easier (but still tricky) to follow when run south from the TH in out-and-back fashion.

### **Description:**

The first 12.5 km has an altitude gain of 500 meters, then you come back down. The footing is normally good except some sections of the Blacktail.

### **Negatives:**

Difficult navigation.

Climbs and descents.