

Nez Perce Trail (CDT) #92
(9.5 km out and back trail to highpoint near Whitetail Peak, 2476 m altitude)

Directions:

Exit I-15 north of Butte at the Elk Park Exit #138 and proceed east up Nez Perce Creek drainage 5 km to the signed trailhead (1974 m elevation).

Description:

Start out south down a small hill and cross Nez Perce Creek on a bridge. Make sure to take the left fork marked with a CDT sign and cross through a small meadow before starting up switchbacks. Reach a ridge (2309 m) at 5 km where an old trail joins from the left. This is a good place to turn around for a shorter run. The trail becomes sandier and smoother with more rolling hills, as it gradually climbs to 2477 m at 9.5 km.

The Nez Perce Trail is currently part of Continental Divide Trail, but the CDT will be rerouted further west to Our Lady of the Rockies around 2011.
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Alternative finish: The trail continues through Halfway Park and then to Delmoe Lake Road via jeep trails for a ~23 km run which is best done by exchanging car keys with northbound runners.

Length: Up to 20 km or more

Difficulty: Moderate, watch footing on descent near bottom.

Season: Flag Day to Columbus Day (typically patchy snow and some mud at higher elevations in mid June)