

## **Fairmont Hotsprings to Beals Hill (15 km dirt road)**

A beautiful point-to-point dirt road that offers a nice net uphill run with shelter from the wind. Starts from Fairmont Hotsprings and ends at the Beals Hill Trail Head. Arrange return transportation from finish. Road opens to automobiles on May 15<sup>th</sup> and closes December 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Directions:**

Exit I-90 at Fairmont and proceed west on Fairmont Road to Fairmont Hotsprings Resort.

Start from Fairmont Hotsprings on German Gulch Road. At the 10 km junction, German Gulch Road splits. Veers right and continues up another 5 km to Beals Hill Trail Head, which has no facilities. Arrange return transportation via higher-clearance automobile.

**Alternative finishes:** As described, this run ends at a TH, so obviously you could continue on. The trail has been widened by 4-wheeler use, and has difficult footing in areas.

In case of poor weather at the higher altitude of Beals Hill, you can alternatively veer left at the 10 km junction (described above) and follow the other, rougher section of German Gulch Road for an additional 14 km east to the I-15 Exit #119. Much of this road, which is open through private land, is nice for mountain running but hard on vehicles. The final ~5 km of the road is paved through open land with some automobile traffic prior to reaching I-15 near the drive-in movie theater.

A third route option from the same 10 km junction is to turn down the German Gulch Trail which skirts GG Creek for 6 km down to the TH in the western mouth of Durant Canyon, but the upper end of the trail can be tricky to locate, and although the trail is very scenic, it requires more cautious running due to some areas with difficult footing. Using this trail allows a runner to loop back to Fairmont Hotsprings for a total distance of 20 km.

### **Description:**

Route has 500 meter altitude gain to the TH with good footing on dirt road (the first 2 km are paved).

### **Negatives:**

First 2 km treeless ... can be cold or hot & dry with wind. You may prefer to drive this section.

Higher clearance automobile recommended.

Some steep up hills.