

Seeley Lake Historical Museum and Visitor Center

Recreation Opportunity Guide

ROAD TO THE BUFFALO TRAIL

This trail is on an abandoned railroad bed adjacent to the Blackfoot River. Listen to Riversong for 10 ½ miles to Gold Creek. The railroad bed is approximately on the same location as the ancient “Road to the Buffalo” Indian trail used by Capt Meriwether Lewis on his return trip to the United States on July 5th, 1806.

Stop and fish upstream from Belmont Creek where the “River Runs Through It” scene of Paul Maclean being swept downstream while he lands the big one occurred.

The trail tread is a good gravel surface, level as a railroad. Belmont Creek requires ford crossing, or ride the road around and across the bridge (adds about 1 ½ mile). The trail is also suitable for horseback riding and hiking.

The nearby road can be used as a return route. It’s not heavily traveled, but does have regular vehicle use and a few blind curves. Single file riding is recommended.

An extended trip is available by riding upstream from the old trestle site, along Gold Creek to the bridge, and following the main road back to Hiway 200 near the abandoned ACM logging headquarters at Twin Creek (9.5 miles from Bonner). Riding on logging roads provide unlimited options for exploring the area to escape in the landscape.

Distances:

- Corrick’s Bend to Red Rock Trailhead ----- 4.1 mi
- Red Rock Trailhead to Gold Creek Trestle Site ----- 6.3 mi.
- Trestle Site to Gold Creek Bridge (Dirt road has some soft spots)----- 1.6 mi
- Bridge to Main Gold Creek Road----- 3.1 mi
- Gold Creek Road to Hiway 200----- 2 mi
- Red Rock Trailhead to Hiway 200 via Johnrud Park Road----- 6.3 mi

Directions: From Seeley Lake, south 15 miles on Hiway 83, turn west (right) on Hiway 200. Then 5 mile to Nine Mile Prairie Road at the Blackfoot River Bridge. Then 6 miles to Corrick’s Riverbend Day Use Area.

From Bonner, east 11 1/2 miles to the Johnsrud Park Road, then 6.2 miles to Whitacker Bridge. The Red Rock Trailhead is about 100 yards up the hill and to the right. From here, ride downstream 6 miles to Gold Creek or upstream 4 miles to Corricks Riverbend at the lower end of Ninemile Prairie.

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