

Lolo Pass Ride

Starting point: **72321 E Smith Loop, Rhododendron, OR** (Pat and Richard's house, last house on right). Parking around house may be tight. Consider parking on Snowcap Way.

Distance 20 miles.

Starting elevation about 1,700 ft.

Miles in cue sheet are approximate:

@2 miles up Lolo Pass Road, **turn right** at the fork in the road to enter road 1828.

@2.7 miles - Muddy Fork Bridge. Continue straight on forest road 1828. Watch for serious potholes! (**Don't cross bridge unless in need of a potty stop at MacNeil campground, on left about a ¼ mile up road.**)

@ about 8 miles you will reach the highest point in the ride (about 3,700 ft). It is marked by a faded KOM (king of the mountain) line. There are faded signs on the road warning of the approach of the KOM (e.g., 0.5 KM, 200 m).

A little further down the road (maybe about 1/2 mile) you will come to a fork - **stay left**, continuing downhill. The road is passable but in bad shape, so use caution. Do not follow signs for Bald Mountain Ridge/ MacNeil point 'top spur' trailhead.

@ about 11 miles you will reach Lolo Pass Road (forest road 18). **Turn left to descend** the return leg of the ride. To your right is the crossing of the Pacific Crest Trail. You may want to stretch there and rest a bit before the long descent.

Caution: There is a short gravel section along the way down - it is a slight downhill in a shady treed section. Avoid using your front brake or you could skid.

On your descent you will pass the gravel parking lot for French's Dome climbing rock on your left. There is a port-o-potty there but I have never used it so don't know it's status. Fear not though - you will be back at 72321 E Smith loop before you know it!

@ almost 18 miles you will pass the entrance to road 1828 that you took on the ascent. **If considering the extended route make a sharp left turn.**

@approx. 19.5 miles **Right turn** onto Snowcap way, then take an almost immediate left at Smith loop.

If you arrive back before Pat or Richard - the house is not locked. Make yourself comfortable - enjoy some iced tea and chips.

