

## D7 mystery route

The distance from Challis to Salmon, your destination for the day, is over 200 miles (depending on which route you take). You are about halfway from Challis to Salmon when you enter the mystery section. This sounds like a relatively short afternoon, but it is not. The directions below start at Ellis and go to Salmon. Be sure turn off live tracking on your PLB turned off until you reach Salmon where you should turn it back on. Failure to have your PLB in the correct state may result in disqualification. You will be required to occasionally report your position to me.

- 1) From Hat Creek Road head SW on US 93 a short distance to Ellis near 44°41'31" N, 114°02'54" W. Farm to Market Road is a main road down the eastern flank of the Pahsimeroi Valley. Follow this SE a several miles to Morse Creek Road, 40094, near 44°36'46" N, 113°54'17" W.
- 2) Proceed E then NE up Morse Creek until the dirt road turns into a single track trail, 4072.
- 3) Things get a bit tricky not far up the trail, where 4072 turns into 4073 at an obvious junction in a meadow. A foot trail heads East at this point while the motorized trail, 4073, heads NE. There is a CP right here (please do not upload this photo to social media and please do let me know that you are there). The route-finding issue is that just beyond this junction (perhaps a quarter of a mile) there is another junction, not marked, near 44°39'13" N, 113°45'08" W. An obvious trail (with tire tracks) goes steeply uphill for a few miles until it ends in massive downfall (in a precarious spot on a narrow ridge). The trail you want is on the North (far) side of Morse Creek. Once you cross the creek you'll see the proper trail. It's just easy to miss unless you identify the proper creek crossing.
- 4) Continue pleasantly up to a pass West of Mogg Mountain, then descend Trail 6118 to Hayden Creek near 44°42'11" N, 113°44'14" W. You are way out where the buses don't run here. In 2021, a few days after I last rode this trail, authorities found the body of a hunter who'd been missing for several years - right beside the trail. The delay in finding him was not for lack of effort.
- 5) Turn left (W) and ascend Trail 6180 up Hayden Creek a few miles to a spectacular pass NW of Long Mountain. This is your second CP for the afternoon mystery section. Please do not upload the photo to social media. Please do let me know that you have reached this point.
- 6) Head down the trail a bit further to road 60162, Kadletz Creek. Follow this a few miles NE and downhill to 60009, Bear Valley Creek Road.
- 7) Here you have a choice to make. A CS and several bonus sections are available in this area. The CS heads west (left) on 60009 until it turns into a single track trail in a well-marked parking area a few miles uphill. Out of the parking area look for Trail 6179 which you will take up Bear Valley Creek to Bear Valley Lake. It's a bumpy trail that you are not likely to enjoy, uphill anyway, on a loaded Tour bike in the middle of a long day. It's not technical, just a long way up big rock steps and basketball sized rocks. The CS is shorter than the regular route, though probably not much quicker.
- 8) The regular route heads East down Bear Valley Creek Road to Hayden Creek Road, 60008. You'll follow 60008 North for several miles to Basin Creek Road on the left (W). It's a major intersection – the second on the left.
- 9) Head West on Basin Creek road a few miles to Trail 6178, which is down in a basin off the left side of Basin Creek Road near 44°50'31" N, 113°47'22" W.
- 10) Follow Trail 6178 out to Bear Valley Lake. There two spots where the trail is difficult to find. The first is about a mile from the initial stream crossing where the trail leaves a clearing to the left (S) instead of continuing straight ahead (which looks more promising). The second is about a mile later at a barren pass where the trail takes a hard right and continues steeply uphill into trees. There's a CP right where the trail comes up to the barren ridge. Please don't upload this photo to social media. Please do let me know when you reach this point.



- 11) There is a CP at Bear Valley Lake, shown above. Please don't upload this photo to social media. Please do let me know when you reach this point.
- 12) If you take the normal route instead of the CS, you may either ride down 6179 (for a bonus point) and redo part of the Hayden Creek Loop, or ride back out 6178 to Basin Creek Road. The latter is much faster. You still have a way to go to get to Salmon.
- 13) A bonus section is available once you return to Basin Creek Road. You may elect to ride West a few miles to Basin Lake. It's scenic, but perhaps the burliest Jeep Road on the Tour. Eschew unless you really need the point.
- 14) The route out of Hayden Basin requires a backtrack along Basin Creek Road to  $44^{\circ}50'51''$  N,  $113^{\circ}44'53''$  W, where you'll encounter a dirt road heading steeply uphill on the North side of Basin Creek Road. There is a ranch style gate on the road nearby.
- 15) Follow this road several miles steeply up to a ridge. Another out and back bonus is available here near  $44^{\circ}54'14''$  N,  $113^{\circ}47'39''$  W, 65007, North Basin Trail. This one is fun, but will take a good hour out and back.
- 16) The rest of the route into Salmon consists of easy and fast dirt roads: Mormon Canyon, Baldy Basin, Haynes Creek, Old Baker Highway, 3-Mile Road. When you cross the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel there is a CP that you *may* upload to social media. Please notify me when you get there. No off route penalties for anything after Haynes Creek to Salmon.