

Loop: CDT from the top of Wolf Creek Pass to East Railroad Pass

Description: This is the one ride from the PCY that briefly dips back into civilization. This ride will take you from the PCY to Alberta Reservoir, across the bottom of the Wolf Creek Ski Area (WCSA), briefly up Highway 160 to the top of Wolf Creek Pass/OR cross 160 to the old highway, and across the top of WCSA on the CDT, and eventually back to the PCY. This is a diverse, picturesque, interesting, and challenging ride. You will get a lot of nice views of WCSA and Alberta Reservoir. The ride includes a short hike-a-bike, some improved dirt road, a little pavement, 8 miles of singletrack on the CDT, and some abandoned forest road. I love this ride. It makes you feel like you are on top of the world. And that is fun.

Total Distance: 14.8 miles.

Ride time: 2 hour and 10 minutes.

Difficulty: Intermediate/Expert on the CDT

Directions: From the PCY, do not head towards the PCY gate. Instead head directly from the PCY on the PCY road in a northern direction. Continue up this road.

At 0.8 miles you reach the top of the climb and have views of WCSA. Continue staying to the right on this road, downhill.

At 1.2 miles you will come to an intersection where you will see orange flagging hanging in the trees (this flagging is the path that backcountry skiers use to access the PCY from the WCSA parking lot). Follow the orange flagging. If you lose the flagging do not worry. Continue in the same direction. Soon, you will be able to see Alberta Reservoir below you. Find the easiest way to the reservoir. It may take you several minutes to hike-a-bike down to the reservoir, but it is downhill and not too difficult. When you reach the reservoir head to the northeast corner where there is a small dam.

At 1.6 miles you reach the Alberta Reservoir dam. Hike across the dam and ride on the road that heads west along the Reservoir towards WCSA.

At 2.6 miles you reach the bottom of the Alberta ski lift at WCSA. Continue on the forest road that travels to the west underneath the Waterfall Area at WCSA. In about 10 minutes you will reach the parking lots. Continue through the parking lots towards Highway 160.

At 3.8 miles you reach Highway 160. Turn left and climb towards the summit of WC Pass on Highway 160. OR cross 160, bike through the parking lot of WCSA garages and look for where the old highway (gravel) leads away from the parking lot. The old road switchbacks it's way up to the Lobo Overlook Road (FS Road, gravel). Go left/west on Lobo Road to a 0.1 mile section of 160 to WC Pass.

At 4.9 miles you reach the top of WC Pass. Look to the south of Highway 160. You will see where the CDT crosses 160. Take the trail that travels towards the left/south. You will begin climbing for about 1.6 miles. This is a sweet, tough singletrack climb with

switchbacks, and nice views of the big peaks. (Adjust your mileage if you took the old highway from the Ski Area to the Pass which is slightly longer than the 160 option)

At 6.5 miles you reach the top of the Bonanza ski lift. Continue heading east on the CDT along the top of WCSA.

At 7.0 miles you reach the intersection with Treasure Mountain Trail. Continue on the CDT. The CDT will take you around the south side of Alberta Peak.

At 8.6 miles you reach the top of the Knife Ridge Area at WCSA. You will see large pipe-like structures. These are avalanche exploders. Keep following the CDT.

At 12.8 miles you reach the East Railroad Pass intersection. Here you will take the left branch and leave the CDT. You immediately come to a diamond shaped, flat intersection of trails. This is East Railroad Pass, and you can see the PCY below. Ride to the left on the road that descends along the contour of the hillside.

At 13.6 miles there is a right switchback, but continue straight down the descent.

At 14.1 miles there is a V branch. Take the right around the hillside, and continue descending the switchbacks to the PCY.

At 14.8 miles you are at the PCY!