

## Ma Butte – Nez Perce Ridge

**Caution:** This is an unofficial trail - ride at your own risk. Inspect all man-made technical features before riding. UROC assumes no responsibility for maintaining this trail.

Type: Loop on logging roads, OHV trails and singletrack north of Coleman  
Tech. Difficulty: Advanced due to elevation gains and steep climbs and descents  
Distance: 5 km on singletrack; 13 km on logging roads and OHV trails  
Duration: 2 to 2.5 hours to complete loop starting at McGillivray Staging Area in Coleman  
Land Agency: Alberta Sustainable Resource Development (ASRD) and Municipality of Crowsnest Pass  
Start/Finish: McGillivray Staging Area north of Coleman

### Directions:

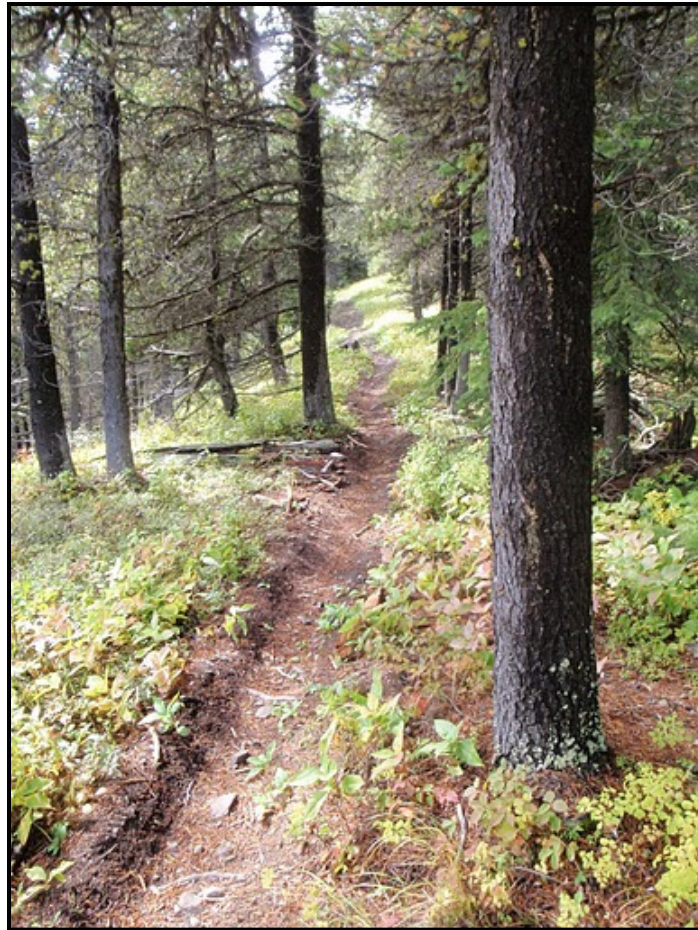
See map for numbered locations referenced in the directions. There are no direction or location signs on the trails. The climb up Nez Perce Rd. is described in Backcountry Biking in the Canadian Rockies as Trail #99 Nez Perce to McGillivray Ridge Repeater. The description below provides an alternate access point to avoid private land and a return route on singletrack and rugged doubletrack.

- To get to the staging area (10), turn north off Highway 3 at 61 St. in the west end of Coleman following the sign for McGillivray Staging area. (61 St. merges into 63 St.) After 2.5 km from the highway, cross a cattle guard and reach the staging area - a large flat clearing under a high voltage power line.
- Ride east and cross McGillivray Creek on an OHV bridge. Continue uphill under the power line. At (20) turn right on a new logging road which parallels the power line towards the Nez Perce Rd. at (30). The OHV trail continues to climb up Wedge Mountain and also connects to the Nez Perce Rd. at (40), but involves more climbing and descending than this new logging road.
- At (30) on the Nez Perce Rd., turn left (north). At (40) the Nez Perce Rd. crosses the pipeline. Continue north.
- At (50) keep left where the new logging road forks right.
- After crossing Nez Perce Creek, the road climbs steeply and intersects a small power line at (60). Option – continue 1.8 km (and 240 m elevation gain) farther up the road to the top of the ridge to enjoy the views of Ma Butte, Crowsnest, and Seven Sisters mountains, then return to (60) for a singletrack descent.
- At (60), turn east along the small power line until you reach the east edge of the ridge where it drops very steeply down to the Kananaskis Rd. (aka Hwy 40 or Range Road 43a). Turn south on the singletrack trail which generally follows the top of the ridge. Between (60) and (70) it is very faint at times and may require some hiking. Just before (70), it descends a steep, loose slope and joins a more distinct trail at (70). Continue south along the ridge.
- The singletrack becomes a doubletrack as it descends steeply to (80). Just before the doubletrack joins the pipeline, a definite singletrack branches off to the right (west) from (80) and parallels the pipeline nearly all the way back to the Nez Perce Rd. at (40). See Option below for more trails heading south from (80)
- The descent from the westward-heading singletrack down to the pipeline near (40) is very steep and loose. Cross the pipeline and continue south on the old mine road high on the east side of the Nez Perce valley.
- At (100), the trail turns sharply right and descends, joining another trail that comes up from Coleman. Cross Nez Perce Creek and turn right (north) on the Nez Perce Rd. At (30), turn left on to the new logging road to return to McGillivray Staging Area (10).
- Option: There is more singletrack heading south and east over Saskatoon Mountain to the Kananaskis Rd. It is steep, crosses cut blocks and is often chewed up by cattle. If you really want to try this one, continue

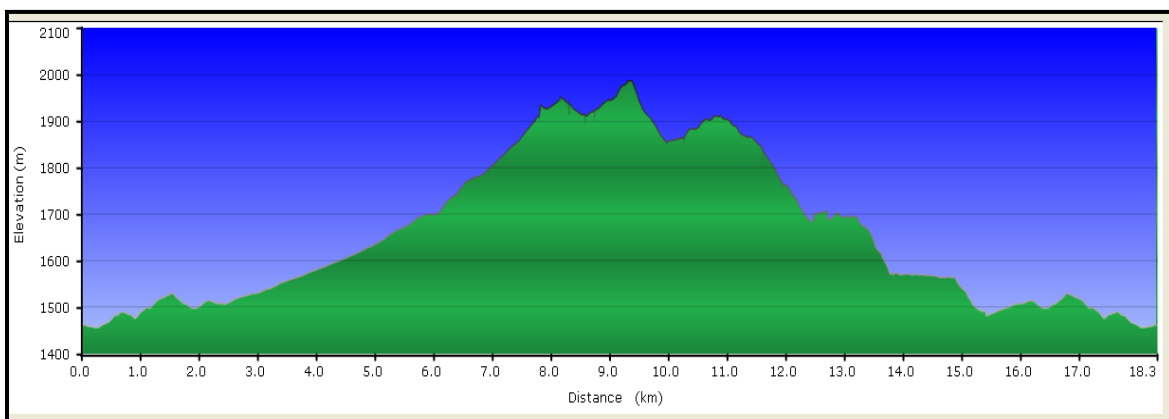
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straight down to the pipeline from (80). Turn right (west) on the pipeline and follow it 300m until an OHV trail heads left up Saskatoon Mountain. It starts as an OHV trail heading steeply up the north face of Saskatoon Mountain from the pipeline. After it flattens out part way up Saskatoon Mountain (120), a singletrack heads off down the east face of Saskatoon Mountain.

Download GPS file: Crowsnest Area .GPX files (Trail\_GPS.zip)



About half way down the ridge



Vertical profile for entire loop

# Ma Butte – Nez Perce Ridge

- Legend
- road
  - unpaved road (by GPS)
  - unpaved road (base map)
  - off-highway vehicle trail
  - biking/hiking trail

