

Brundage Mountain Trails

Quality: ****

Distance: You make the call

Difficulty: Intermediate, expert

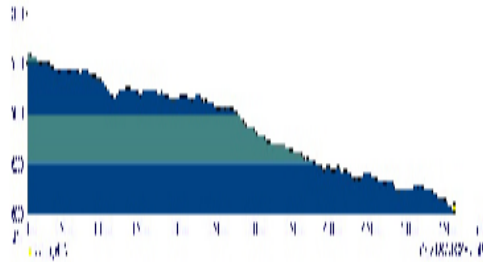
Riding time: Up to you

Vertical loss: 1,838 feet

Tread: Singletrack, jeep trail

Season: June—October

Watch out for: Other trail users

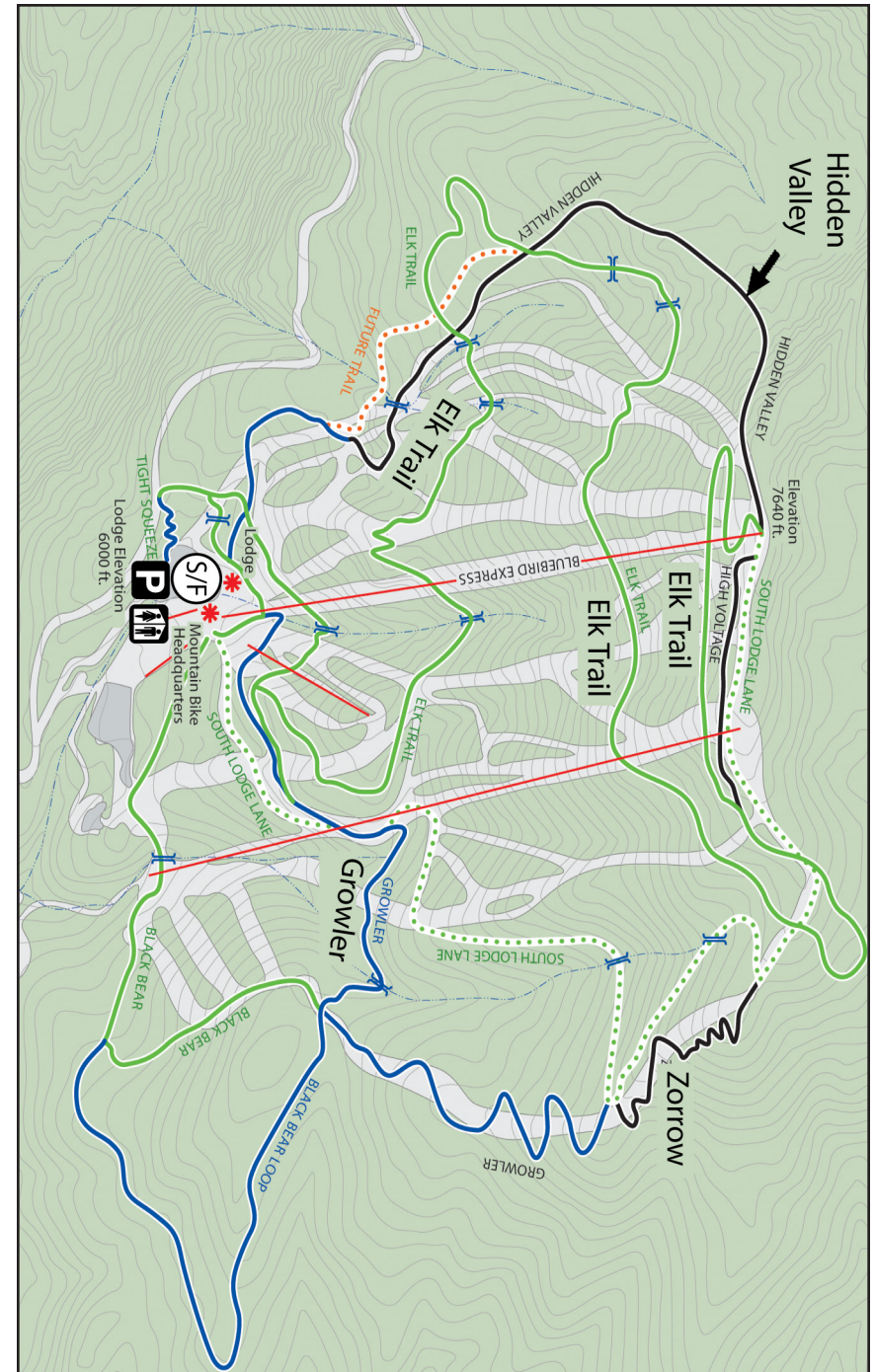


Getting there: Take Idaho 55 from McCall about 4 miles to Goose Lake Road, turn right and follow the road about 4 miles to Brundage Mountain Ski Area on the right. Alternate route: Take Idaho 55 to USFS Road #451, commonly known as Bear Basin Road, about 1 mile west of McCall. Follow #451 about 8 miles to Brundage Mountain Lookout, which lies at the apex of the ski area.

The Ride: Brundage Mountain Ski Area provides some of the finest singletrack riding in the area with an added bonus—it's served by chairlifts during most of the summer. The lifts access more than 15 miles of singletrack, most designed specifically for mountain biking. The trails stretch across about 1,300 acres and drop 1,600 vertical feet from the top of the Bluebird Express lift to the lodge area. My personal favorites include Zorro, a very narrow single-track near the Triple Chairlift, and Elk Trail, a wide singletrack trail that winds across the face of the ski area like a serpent. Several trips down Elk Trail will give you a good workout. The Hidden Valley Trail is more technical with larger rocks and big rock drops. It's best-suited for downhill mountain bike racing with body armor.

A Bonus: Brundage runs its lifts for mountain bikers every weekend and holiday between the Fourth of July weekend and Labor Day. Riders can buy one-ride lift tickets or day passes. Bicycles and helmets are also available for rent at Brundage when the lifts are operating. For current information on the lifts, check the Brundage Mountain web site www.brundage.com or call (800) 888-7544 or 208-634-4151.

If you can talk someone into shuttling you to Brundage, you can either ride to the top of the ski area or ride the lift to the top, and then zoom down Bear Basin Road on an 8-mile gravity ride back to McCall. An excellent alternative would be to cruise down Bear Basin Road and then peel off on the Payette Lake Rim Trail or Sheep Trail for final descent into McCall. -- SS



Map courtesy Brundage Mountain