

Eagle's Nest Loop

Quality: ****

Distance: 13.1 miles

Difficulty: Advanced/expert

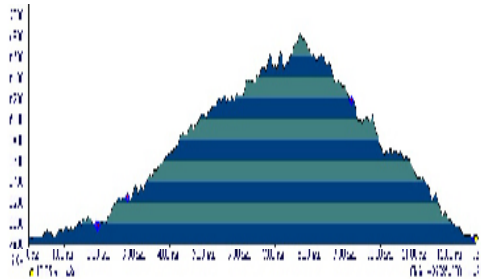
Riding time: 2 - 3.5 hours

Vertical gain: 2,800 feet

Tread: Singletrack, 4WD road

Season: June—October

Watch out for: Other trail users



Getting there: Take Idaho Idaho 55 to Cascade. North of town, go east on the paved road to Warm Lake. Turn left and head 4 miles to a pullout on the right side of the road. You'll see a singletrack trail (Trail #111) on the left side of the road. Park. The ride starts here.

The Ride: Eagle's Nest Trail is a great loop ride close to Cascade. It starts with a steep uphill slog on a gravel logging road for about five miles, and then it's mostly downhill on a sweet singletrack that has great flows through a dense old-growth forest.

To begin, ride uphill on the paved road toward Warm Lake for 2.5 miles. Go left on Forest Road #400. Get into an easy spinning gear and climb the gravel road for just over 5 miles. Ignore minor junctions on the left and right. At mile 7.7, you'll see the signed singletrack junction on your left. Climb a steep pitch for .3 miles, and you're done climbing. Now you can look forward to 5 miles of fun downhill back to the trailhead. It's mostly smooth buttery singletrack all the way down, with a few rocks and roots along the way. At mile 12, the trail dumps out on a dirt road. Go straight for .1 mile, then bear right on the singletrack. The trail winds through the forest to the paved road at the start.

Alternative longer ride: Instead of peeling off on the singletrack at mile 7.7, keep climbing on the dirt road to the top of Eagle's Nest Mountain. Pick up the singletrack at the summit and ride downhill. Very few people do the ride this way, but it is an option if you have the time and energy.

Interpretive remarks: Eagle's Nest Trail is on Idaho State Endowment Land, meaning that logging projects can occur and screw up the trail. In the past when this has occurred, we have worked with the Idaho Department of Lands to restore the trail. -- SS

