

# Ponderosa Park Easy Loop

**Quality:** \*\*\*\*

**Distance:** 3.6 miles

**Difficulty:** Beginner

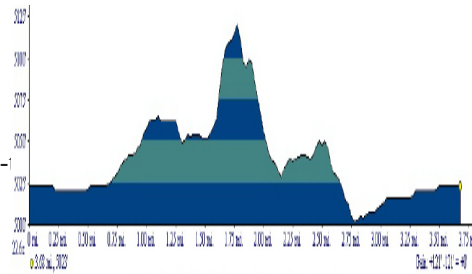
**Riding time:** 1 hour or less

**Vertical gain:** 120 feet

**Tread:** Paved road, singletrack, two-track

**Season:** May—October

**Watch out for:** Motor vehicles and other trail users

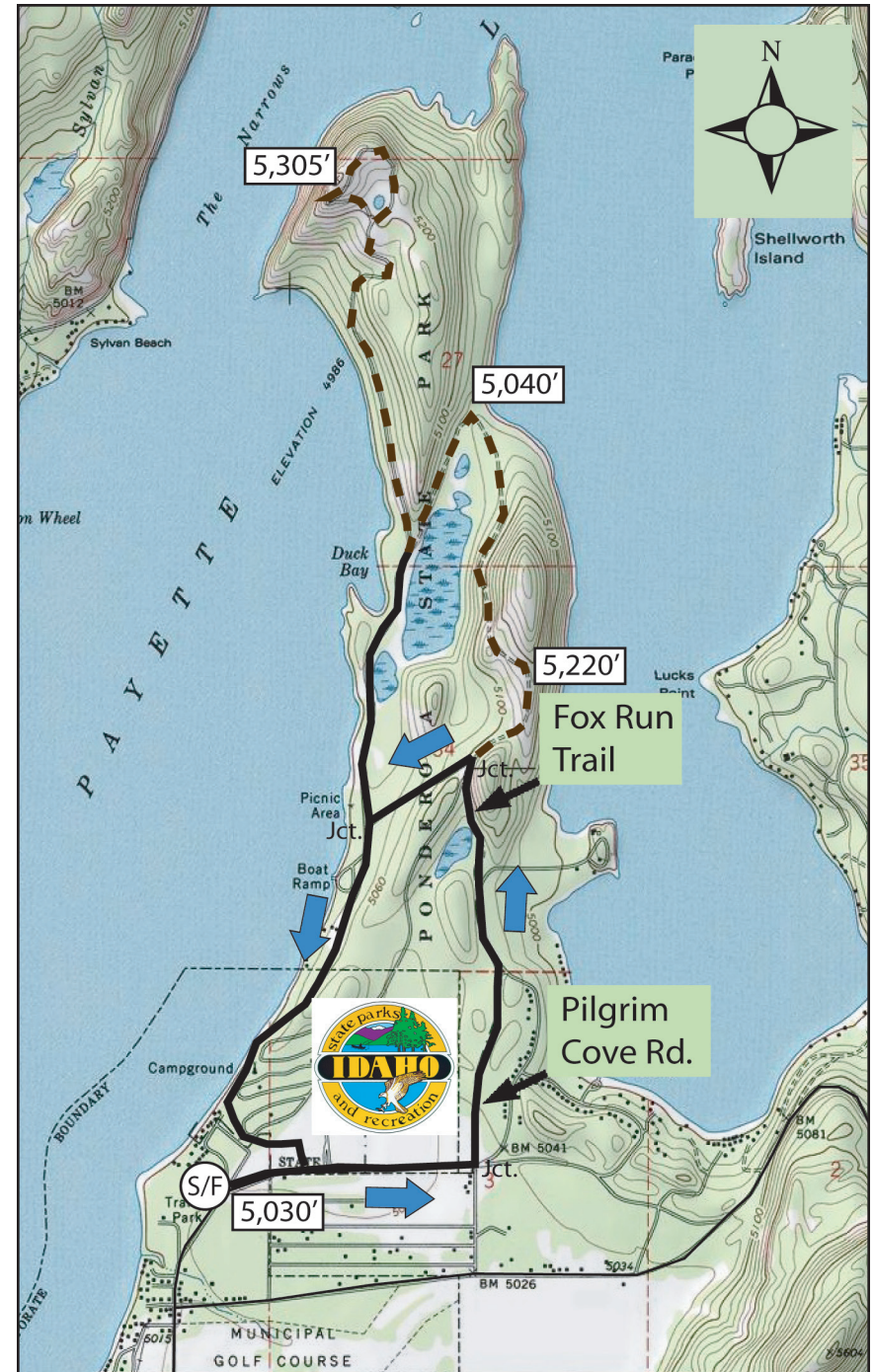


**Getting there:** From downtown McCall, take Railroad Avenue east from Main Street and follow signs to Ponderosa State Park. Park at the Visitor Center or ride from your house or hotel. There is no entrance fee to ride your bike into the park, but there is an entrance fee if you bring your vehicle.

**The Ride:** Trails in Ponderosa State Park provide some excellent riding just a few minutes from downtown McCall. Mountain bikers are welcome here. The route described here is for beginning-level riders, families and young kids. Be sure to bring bug juice, the mosquitoes can be bad.

**To begin,** follow the paved road toward the park. Instead of turning left into the park, go straight and ride the dirt singletrack over to Pilgrim Cove Road. Turn left at Pilgrim Cove (.7 miles), and follow the gravel road north. Watch for a gate and two-track trail on your left at a Y junction. Ride around the gate and ride the two-track to the next gate on the left. Ride or walk around the gate on the left and proceed into the park. Now you're on Fox Run Trail. Watch for deer. The two-track climbs to the next section of Fox Run and the paved park road (mile 1.7). Go left on the paved road. Turn left at mile 2.0 toward the boat launch site. Bear left again on the wide paved bike path and go straight. Ignore spurs into the campground and stay to the right as the bike path winds along the lake. At mile 3.2, you'll come by a tree ring display for ponderosa pine trees. Turn right and head back to the park entrance. The ride ends at 3.6 miles.

**Interpretive notes:** Ponderosa State Park is a very popular place for camping, hiking, swimming and boat-launching. Situated on a peninsula that juts out into Payette Lake, the shady park consists of 840 acres with 138 campsites, all with water and electric hookups. Besides the mountain bike trails, there is a mile-long interpretive trail near Lily Lake. Some 112 bird species have been identified in the park, including all kinds of waterfowl, ospreys and songbirds. -- SS



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