

BLM Wyoming

Mountain Biking Opportunities

Wyoming State Office

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Many hundreds of miles of existing roads are available for mountain biking in the Rawlins area. These roads offer a variety of biking opportunities ranging from the type of road surface to the topography and scenery. You can choose from well-maintained graveled roads to undeveloped two-tracks. For a backdrop, you can select high-altitude deserts or small mountain ranges containing aspen and conifers. Be sure to take along your camera to record the wildlife, wide open spaces and the bluest sky anywhere.

Legal access to public lands can, however, be limited. The public may cross private lands to access public lands only when a public road (BLM, county, state, or other agency controlled roads) or right-of-way (easement) for public access exists across the private lands or permission is obtained from the private landowner to cross the private land. All public lands intersected by a public road or accessed with permission to cross private lands may be used by the general public free of charge. Some public lands within the District are interspersed with private lands and are not readily available to the recreating public however.

To assist in your identification of public lands, 1:100,000 scale BLM Surface Management topographic maps are available. These maps may be purchased for \$4.00 each at, or ordered by phone from, any BLM office in Wyoming. There are 21 maps that provide coverage of the District, so when you decide on a location(s) that interests you we will be happy to help select the necessary maps for your needs.

The BLM has adopted the **International Mountain Bicycling Association's (IMBA) Rules of the Trail** as the standard for mountain bike ethics. These rules follow common sense practices and are listed below.

1. Ride on open trails only.

Respect trail and road closures (ask if not sure), avoid possible trespass on private land, obtain permits and authorization as may be required. Federal and State wilderness areas are closed to cycling.

2. Leave no trace.

Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Even on open trails, you should not ride under conditions where you will leave evidence of your passing, such as on certain soils shortly after a rain. Observe the different types of soils and trail construction; practice low-impact cycling. This also means staying on the trail and not creating any new ones. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.

3. Control your bicycle.

Inattention for even a second can cause problems. Obey all speed laws.

4. Always yield trail.

Make known your approach well in advance. A friendly greeting (or a bell) is considerate



and works well; don't startle others. Show your respect when passing others by slowing to a walk or even stopping. Anticipate that other trail users may be around corners or in blind spots.

5. Never spook animals.

All animals are startled by an unannounced approach, a sudden movement, or a loud noise. This can be dangerous for you, others, and for the animals. Give animals extra room and time to adjust. In passing, use special care and follow the directions of horseback riders (ask if uncertain). Running cattle and disturbing wild animals is a serious offense. Leave gates as you found them, or as marked.

6. Plan ahead.

Know your equipment, your ability, and the area in which you are riding - and prepare accordingly. Be self-sufficient at all times. Wear a helmet, keep your machine in good condition, and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions. A well-executed trip is a satisfaction to you and not a burden or offense to others.

By following these Rules of the Trail you can truly experience the joy and diversity of bicycling opportunities on public lands.

Some of the areas "well kept secrets" are provided below in a format that includes a name, description, access, distance, elevation, maps needed and office contact for more information. In addition to these, many more routes are available to explore and enjoy.

Hydrology Road (BLM Road 3422)

Description:

This route follows two-track and improved graveled roads. It starts along the Continental Divide and crosses over the Divide twice. Vegetation includes sage, aspen, cottonwood. Spectacular vistas of the Sierra Madre and Snowy Range Mountains. Wildlife viewing opportunities for antelope, elk, deer, raptors.

Access:

From Rawlins head south on State Highway 71 becoming Carbon County Road (CR) 401 about 11 miles south of Rawlins. Continue on CR 401 for about 17 miles. Start at BLM Road 3422 (Hydrology Road) and head easterly 17 miles to intersect with CR 500. Head westerly on CR 500 15 miles to CR 401. Turn north on CR 401 and ride 3 miles to the start of the ride. Route can be ridden in either direction. Route crosses private land so ask permission before riding off of public roads.

Distance/Elevation:

A loop ride of approximately 35 miles with some opportunities for side trips.

Time: 2-5 hours

Elevation: 8130' to 7250' to 8130'

Maps:

BLM 1:100,000
Baggs

USGS Topographic
Middlewood Hill
Jack Creek Reservoir

Information:

Rawlins Area Office

Deep Gulch

Description:

This route uses a combination of improved dirt/gravel roads and two-track roads. Riders can start either on the lower end or upper end and make a loop ride or arrange a shuttle back to the vehicle. If you're planning a loop ride either way you'll have some climbing to endure. Vegetation includes sage, serviceberry, aspen, and limber pine. Wildlife viewing opportunities for antelope, elk, deer, raptors.

Access:

There are two ways to access this ride. From State Highway 789 (The Baggs Highway) at Dad (20 miles north of Baggs or 28 miles south of Creston Junction) head east on Carbon County Road 608 about six miles, turn on to BLM Road 3305. Proceed for $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile and get on BLM Road 3308 proceeding easterly about four miles. Cow Creek will be on your right. Park here and either ride up Deep Gulch on the two-track or ride on BLM Road 3308. Access is also available from state, county and BLM roads out of Rawlins, but you'd better buy the BLM maps if you want to find your way to this ride. It's not difficult but too long a description to write.

Distance/Elevation:

A loop ride of approximately 30 miles with some opportunities for side trips.

Time: 2-5 hours

Elevation: lower end 6,640', near Cow Butte 7,768, upper end 7,735'

Maps:

BLM 1:100,000
Baggs

USGS Topographic
Garden Gulch
Ketchum Buttes
Pole Gulch

Green Mountain

Description:

Green Mountain provides great opportunities to ride among the aspen, pines and spruce. Spectacular views from Wildhorse Point Overlook. A variety of road surfaces from well-maintained graveled to two-track roads. Wildlife viewing opportunities for antelope, deer, elk, and wild horses. This area often has on-going logging activity so be aware of equipment and logging trucks.

Access:

From Highway 287, six miles east of Jeffrey City or 17 miles west of Muddy Gap, take the Green Mountain Road (BLM Road 2411). You can start riding here or base out of the Cottonwood Campground (water available). BLM Road 2411B provides access to Wildhorse Point Overlook.

Distance/Elevation:

A variety of rides from a 31-mile loop from the highway to various shorter distances based out of Cottonwood Campground, including an eight mile one-way trip to Wildhorse Point Overlook.

Time: 1 hour to all-day trips

Elevation: 6322' at the highway to 9040' at Wildhorse Point Overlook

Maps:

BLM 1:100,000

USGS Topographic

Bairoil

Split Rock NW
Sagebrush Park

Information:

Rawlins Field Office
Lander Field Office

Shirley Mountains

Description:

This area consists of roads that start in the sagebrush flats and climb among the pines, firs, and aspen. Choose from a variety of road surfaces from maintained graveled to undeveloped two-tracks. Wildlife viewing of deer, antelope, and elk is common. Some private land is on the mountain so ask permission before riding off of public roads. There is often active logging operations on the mountain so be alert for equipment and logging trucks.

Access:

From State Highway 487, 22 miles north of Medicine Bow, take the State Highway 77 turnoff. Proceed 9 miles to Carbon County Road 102. Head west two miles to BLM Road 3115 or continue another eight miles to the western junction of BLM Road 3115 at Pryor Flat Campground. BLM Road 3115 is a loop road through the Shirley Mountains.

Distance/Elevation:

A variety of rides can be found from a 35 mile loop ride based out of Pryor Flat Campground (no water available) to shorter rides if you drive up the mountain to start riding.

Time: 1 hour to all-day trips

Elevation: 7103' at Pryor Flat Campground to 9,151'

Maps:

BLM 1:100,000
Shirley Mountain

USGS Topographic
Pine Hill
The Q Ranch

Information:

Rawlins Field Office

Atlantic City/South Pass

Description:

This area is rich in 19th century mining history. Travel graveled roads to Atlantic City, South Pass City State Historic Site, the ghost town of Miner's Delight, or just ride along roads through stands of pine and aspen. Wildlife viewing opportunities for antelope, deer, elk, moose, raptors.

Access:

From Lander go south about 30 miles on State Highway 28, to the Atlantic City turnoff. Take the gravel road about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mile and follow the signs to Atlantic City/South Pass City or Miner's Delight. Several routes are available on county or BLM roads. Please be aware of vehicle traffic when riding in this area as well as private property. Atlantic City and Big Atlantic Gulch BLM campgrounds (water available) are good locations to use for a base camp.

Distance/Elevation:

A variety of rides from the 11-mile Ft. Stambaugh Loop Road (including Miner's Delight) to all-day rides taking in Atlantic City and the South Pass City State Historic Site. Many other rides can be found in the area.

Time: 1 hour to all-day trips

Elevation: 8,100' at campgrounds, 8,275 at Miner's Delight, 7781 at Ft. Stambaugh, 7,584 at Atlantic City, 7,805 at South Pass City

Maps:

BLM 1:100,000
Lander
South Pass

USGS Topographic
Miner's Delight
Atlantic City
South Pass City
Louis Lake

Information:

Rawlins Field Office
Lander Field Office

Oregon Trail

Opportunities to ride along the Oregon Trail exist. When done in a low impact manner it is an excellent way to view the trail and trail corridor as it was seen by the pioneer immigrants. Due to intermingled private property along the trail, please contact the Lander Field Office for information on routes that are available to ride.

These areas described above are just a few of the many available throughout the Rawlins area. Riding and use of public lands in an manner that follows the IMBA Rules of the Trail will help ensure the future use of public lands for mountain biking.

Information available from:

Bureau of Land Management -

Rawlins Field Office

1300 N. Third Street
Rawlins, Wyoming 82301-4376
(307) 324-7171

Lander Field Office

1335 Main
P.O. Box 589
Lander, Wyoming 82520-0589
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City of Rawlins, Parks and Recreation Department

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(307) 324-7529