



Great Basin Bicycles

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www.greatbasinbicycles.com

Dry Pond / Thomas Creek / Whites Creek / Galena Area (Intermediate)

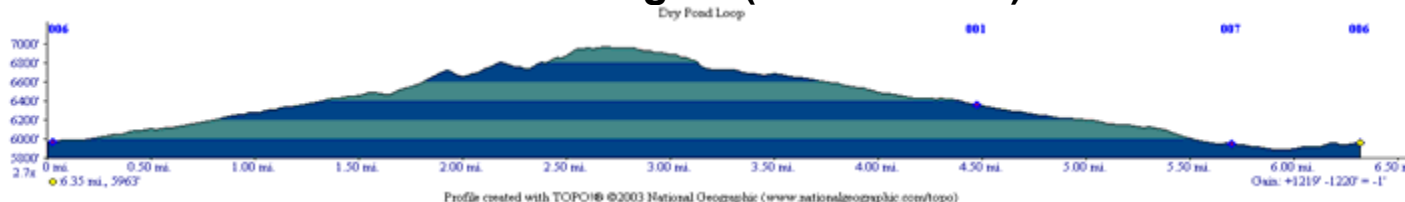
From Reno, take Hwy 395 South to Hwy 431 Mt Rose Hwy. Follow Hwy 431 West to Timberline Rd. (about 5.5 miles.) Take a right on Timberline Road and follow it north (about 1.5 miles.) The road will pass the turnoff for Whites Creek which is on your left. Continue North on Timberline Road, the road will turn to dirt, and cross over Thomas Creek. Continue North past the Thomas Creek Jeep road which is on your left. Just a little further is the parking for the Dry Pond / Thomas Creek ride on your left. Park in the designated parking / day use area. The single track starts in the South-West corner of the parking lot. The single track goes south for just a little ways, and crosses over the Thomas Creek jeep road into a little camping area. Go right or west through this area and the single track will start up again going due west following the creek. In just under .5 miles, you will cross over the creek to the south side, and the single track will continue following the creek for another mile. At this point you are at the intersection of the Dry Pond Loop to the left, and the continuation of the Thomas Creek Ride strait. For the Thomas Creek Ride, skip down the page.



Rich Staley
Focus on You Photography

Dry Pond Loop (Pink Trail)

6.4 miles 1300 ft. total elevation gain (Intermediate)

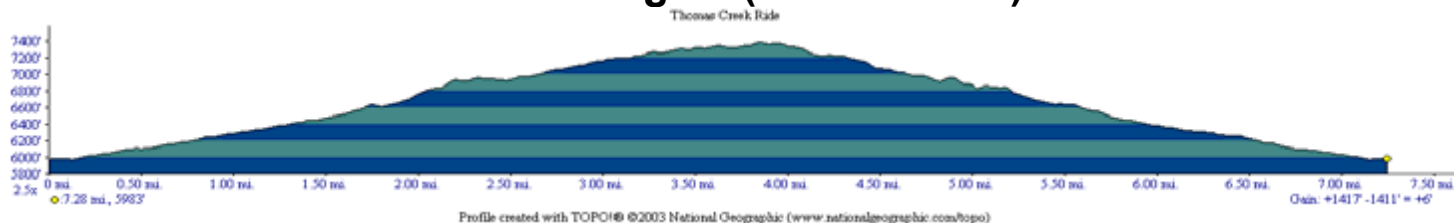


Take a left and the single track starts to climb in a South-Easterly direction. In 8 tenths of a mile (2.3 miles from the start) you will encounter 3 very steep switchback turns. In the early season, or after a rain, these are rideable, however, in the middle of summer they are very loose and difficult to clear. Continue for another 3 tenths of a mile (2.6 miles), and you are at the top of the climb, climbing 450 ft from the sign and looking at dry pond with Mount Rose reflected in the water. (Dry pond holds water in the spring, and dries out during the summer)

Continue across the meadow on the West side of Dry Pond, and you will start a 8 tenths of a mile (3.4 miles) 300 foot down hill to Whites Creek. After crossing the creek, you will take a left, East down the canyon. Continue 5 tenths of a mile (3.9 miles), and keep your eye out for another single track that follows the banks of Whites Creek on your left. If you miss it, it will come back to the road in just under 4 tenths of a mile (4.3 miles) and veer left again away from the road. This single track will follow Whites Creek for another ½ mile (4.8 miles). Here you have to watch for the single track to split. Take the right split up the side hill to another single track. Follow this single track 3 tenths of a mile (5.1 miles) where it will cross over the Whites Creek paved road and will pick up again on the other side. Follow the single track again, and it will drop you out just above Timberline Road on Whites Creek paved Road. Continue down the pavement and take a Left on Timberline Road and continue 75 tenths of a mile back to your car. The total ride is 6.4 miles and should take the intermediate rider 1 – 1.5 hours to complete.

Thomas Creek Ride (Dark Blue)

7.3 miles 1550 ft total elevation gain (Intermediate)



From the Dry pond intersection, continue West on the left, South side of Thomas Creek. The single track will continue for just over .4 tenths of a mile (1.9 miles from the start) where the single track cuts right and crosses over the creek. In the high waters of spring, this can be a tricky crossing, so be careful. Take a left on the jeep road and continue up hill. Just ahead on the right is more single track. I prefer to take the jeep road up, and take the single track down. (You get a little more climbing this way. (300ft in 4 tenths of a mile) The road will continue west, then drop down about 100 feet back to Thomas Creek. Right before Thomas Creek you will notice the single track entering on your left. Cross over the creek on the jeep road (3 miles) and follow the road just over 4 tenths of a mile (3.4 miles) and you will see a Forest Service sign on the left side. This is where another single track will drop you out later. Follow the jeep road west. There are two parallel roads to follow here. Take the upper road west. The lower road drops you off in a marsh. Follow the upper road. Very quickly you will come to a fork in the road, stay strait on the flat road. From the Forest Service sign, you will continue .6 tenths of a mile (4 miles) to the start of the upper single track. Take the single track to the left. The single track continues in a Southerly direction up hill for just over 4 tenths of a mile (4.4 miles) at your highest elevation of

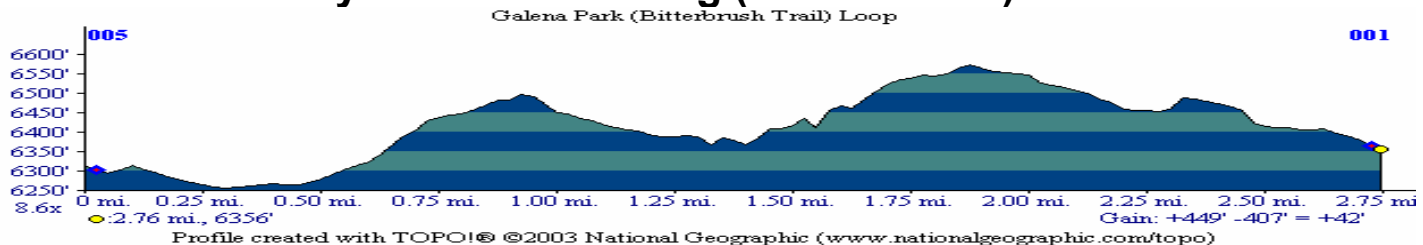
7400 ft. The single track will take a left turn and continue west down hill for 6 tenths of a mile (5 miles) where it will intersect with the jeep road back at the Forest Service sign. Follow the jeep road to the right, down hill. Cross over Thomas Creek, and immediately after crossing the creek take a right on the single track. This single track will continue about ½ mile down hill until it pops you out on the jeep road again. Just a little ways down hill is your right turn and the same crossing you made before. Be careful during spring runoff. Cross over the creek to the south side and pick up the single track down hill to the Dry Pond turn off. Here you can continue back to your car for 7 miles, about 1 – 1.5 hrs, or make the Dry Pond Loop for a total of 11 miles and 2180 feet of climbing. This should take the intermediate rider 2 – 2.5 hrs.

Zolezzi (Beat me up) Single Track (Purple Trail) **4 miles 1075 ft down hill (Advanced)**



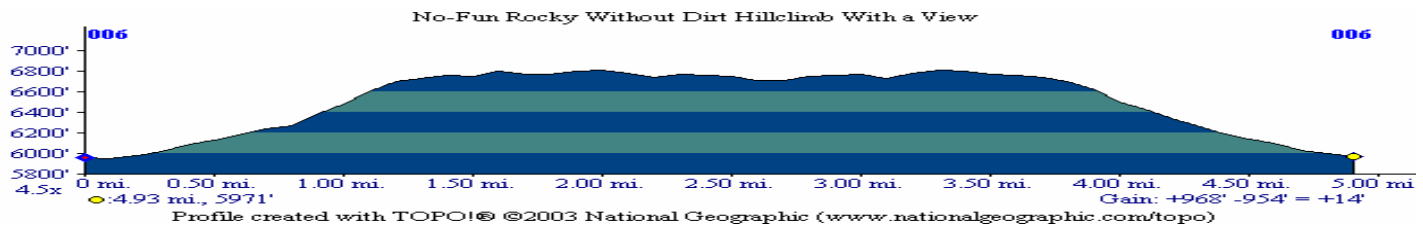
The Zolezzi single track starts just as you cross over Thomas Creek on Timberline Rd. You will see a dirt road to the right. This jeep road dead ends into the single track. This single track is 4 miles of rocks and a 1075 foot down hill. It will cross over Arrow Creek Pkwy at 2.4 miles and continue the rest of the way to the top of Zolezzi Ln. This single track is very rocky and unimproved, and is not recommended for the beginner or intermediate cyclist. It is however a great hike. For the Die Hard cyclist, try the Ride from Zolezzi Ln. back to Zolezzi Ln. including Thomas Creek and Dry pond as a loop. Have fun and take lots of water. This entire loop is 21 miles with 3400 ft of climbing, and should take around 3 hrs of ride time for the advanced rider.

Galena Park (Bitterbrush Trail) (Red Trail) **2.76 miles one way 436 ft of climbing (Intermediate)**



The Galena Park Loop starts at Galena Park. Take the Mt Rose Hwy west past Timberline Rd. to Galena Park. Park in the “North Entrance” parking lot. You will see the single track trail start in the north-west corner of the parking lot. Follow the signs to the “Bitterbrush Trail”. The single track goes north, and comes to a “Y” at 8 tenths of a mile. Take a right to stay on the Bitterbrush Trail. If you go left you will climb very quickly to Mt Rose Wilderness where you will have to turn around and go back. The Bitterbrush trail continues for another 1.75 miles (where it intersects the Whites Creek section of the Dry Pond Loop (see above). At this point, you can do the Dry Pond Loop, or turn around and go back to Galena Park for a total of 5.4 miles. This should take the intermediate rider about 1 hour.

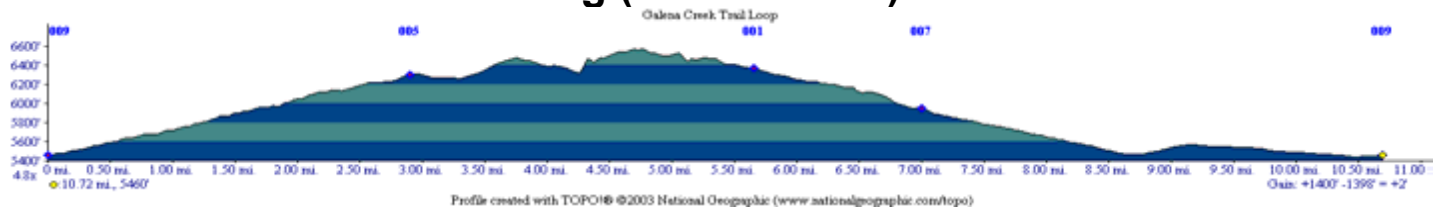
No-Fun Rocky Without Dirt Hill Climb With a View (Dark Green Trail) **5 miles round trip 698 ft of climbing (Advanced)**



This is for the advanced masochistic rider only. The road, if you can call it that, has no dirt for more than ½ the ride, just rocks. It is steep, off camber, and bumpy. It is a real test of balance and speed. To start the ride, go to the north-west corner of the parking lot on Timberline Rd., and look for what appears to be a dried out creek bed with nothing but rocks in it. This is your road. Follow the no dirt road for 1.3 miles and you will come to an intersection. If you go left at this intersection, you will come to a small pond that dries out during the summer months. This pond is about the same size as Dry Pond. Now turn around and retrace your steps back to the main road. This road continues left in its no dirt rocky fashion for just about a mile until it too comes to a dead end with a great view of Reno. Be careful going back. This ride should take the advanced rider less than a hour to complete.

Galena Creek Trail Loop (Light Blue-Red-Pink-Lt Green-Purple)

10.72 miles 1400 ft of climbing (Intermediate)



This loop is a compilation of other rides in this section. For more exact mile and way points, see each individual ride to put them all together. This is just a quick how-to. From Mt. Rose Highway, turn south on Callahan Ranch Road and you will see the parking area 1.6 miles down on your right side. Park in the dirt parking area, and you will see the start of the trail head in front of your car. This ride is very scenic traveling back and forth over the creek. All creek crossings are over well maintained bridges, and the trail is smooth and wide. Follow the trail up stream for 1.7 miles where it will stop at Joy Lake Road. Continue up Joy Lake Road to Mt. Rose Highway. Here you can take a right and go to Galena State Park and start the Bitterbrush Trail and make a loop by following the Red Trail to the Pink Trail where you will take a right down Whites Creek, then take the Light Green Trail Whites Creek Single Track to Mountain Ranch Road. Here take a right and cross Mt. Rose Highway, Then follow Callahan Ranch Road back to your car.

Whites Creek Down Hill Single Track. (Lt Green Trail)

3.5 miles -950 feet drop from Timberline Road to Thomas Creek Road. (Intermediate.)



From Mt Rose Highway, turn right on Timberline road and follow it just past the Whites Creek road turn off on your left. Once you pass the paved turn for Whites Creek, you need to be watching closely on the right side of the road. If you pass over Whites Creek, you went too far. The trail starts on the south side of the creek. There is a steel 3 level wood fence for the house on your right, and as soon as this fence ends, there will be a 6 ft gap between this fence and a 3 level steel fence along the roadway. This is the start of your single track. Take a right off of Timberline road and follow this single track $\frac{1}{4}$ mile where you will cross over to the north side of the creek. This crossing is tricky, so walk it if you need to. Once on the north side of the creek, the creek will follow the north side for about a mile where you will cross over to the south side of the creek again. This crossing goes over a stick made bridge that looks questionable, but has held me up every time. Still, be careful. Once on the south side, continue down for another mile (2.25 miles from the start) where you will cross over a dirt road. **(If you are doing the Galena Creek Loop, take a right on this road, Mountain Ranch Road, and return to your car.)** Stay about 45 degrees to your left, and you will see the single track start up again. Continue down hill for $\frac{1}{4}$ mile (2.5 miles) where you will cross over Whites Creek to the north side again. This is another tricky crossing, so walk it if you need to. Continue down the north side of the creek, and here it heads north, away from the creek. You will parallel the back yard of a couple of houses, then drop along the north side of a dirt road for a short time, then the trail will head back toward the creek. This whole section is rocky so again, be careful. Once through this short section, be careful again. There are 2 very sharp left turns that come up very quickly, and one blind right turn that hides a large rock that you have to ride over. This rock is easy to ride over unless you are traveling at a high rate of speed. We now call this the "John" rock. John was traveling at a high rate of speed when he rounded this corner and hit the rock. "John" rock then sent John flying over his bars, down the hill side, and almost swimming into the creek below. After bush-whacking back up the side, we continued the ride. Once you pass "John" rock, you only have about 50 yards to go, and you will dump out onto Thomas Creek Road. The single track does continue on the other side of Thomas Creek Road for .7 miles, but it drops you out into Thomas Creek Park, and you have to take back roads to Mt. Rose Hwy to get out. It is difficult to navigate all the back roads, so finishing at the Blue Chevron on Mt. Rose Hwy and Thomas Creek Road is a better choice.

Galena Creek Trail (Light Blue)

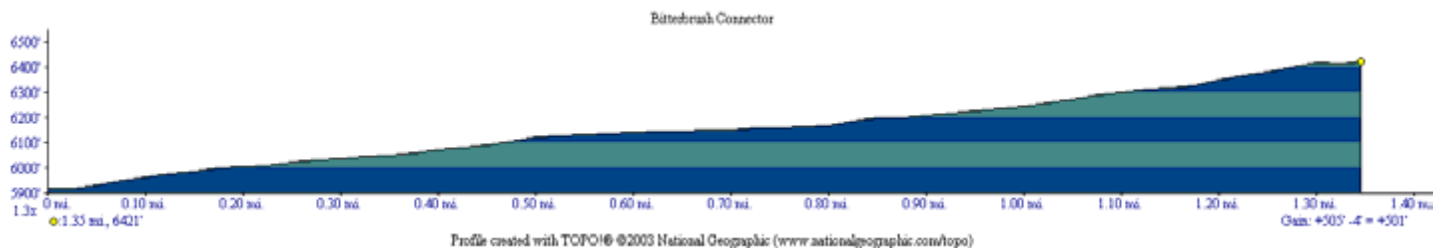
3.4 miles round trip 500 ft of climbing (Beginner)



From Mt. Rose Highway, turn south on Callahan Ranch Road and you will see the parking area 1.6 miles down on your right side. Park in the dirt parking area, and you will see the start of the trail head in front of your car. This ride is very scenic traveling back and forth over the creek. All creek crossings are over well maintained bridges, and the trail is smooth and wide. Follow the trail up stream for 1.7 miles where it will stop at Joy Lake Road. At this point, turn around and go back to your car,

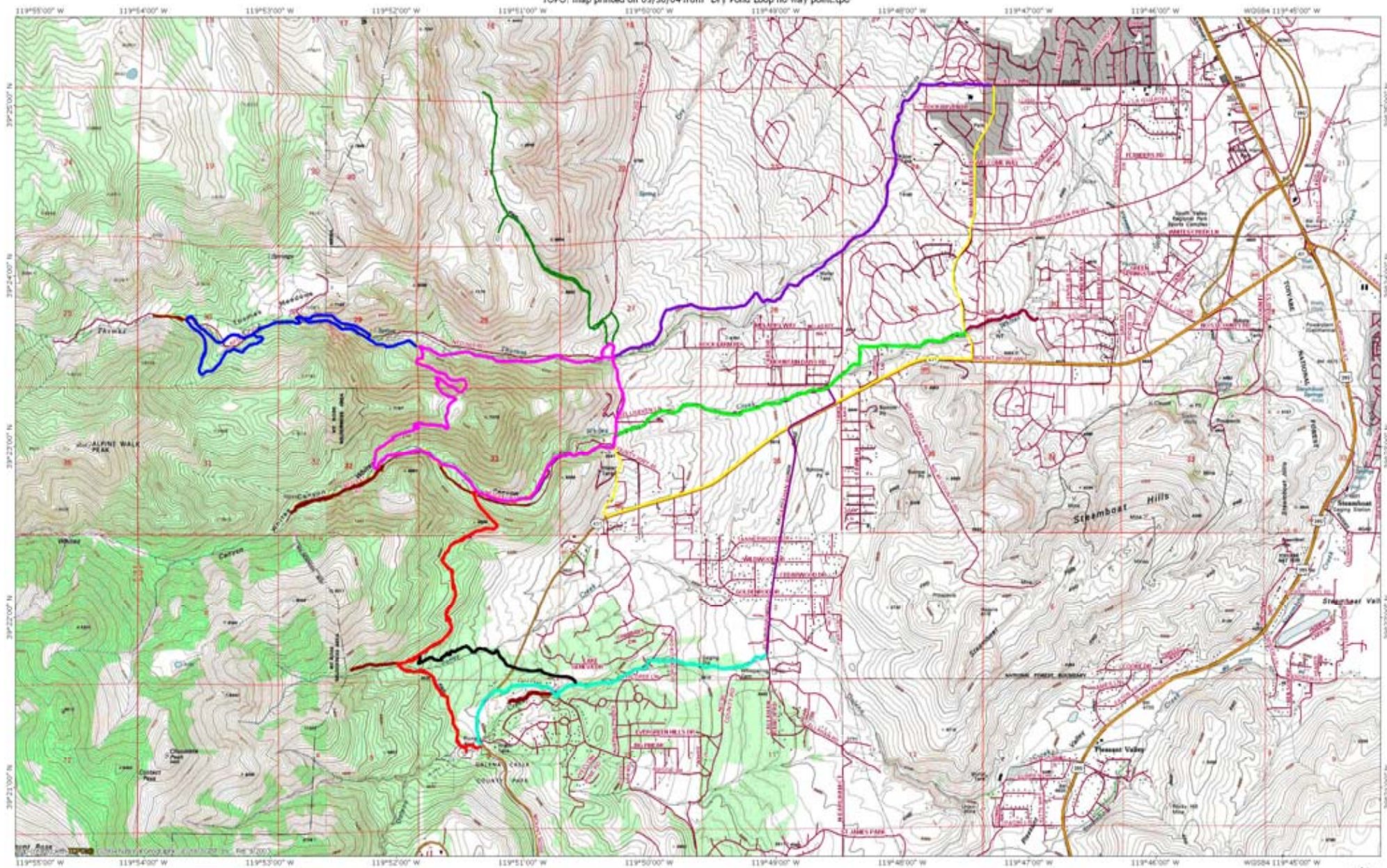
Bitterbrush Connector (Black Trail)

1.35 miles 505 ft. of climbing (Intermediate)



This connector will enable you to ride up to the Bitter Brush Trail without riding up the pavement, Joy Lake Road mentioned above. So from the **Galena Creek Trail**, take a right on the **Black Trail** and follow it across the bridge over Galena Creek. The trail will turn left and head out to Mt. Rose Highway. From the intersection of Galena Creek Trail, and this connector, you will cross Mt. Rose Highway at .5 miles. Cross over Mt. Rose Highway, and in .2 miles (.7 miles from the start) the singletrack will drop out on a jeep road. Turn left on the jeep road and follow it uphill to the west. Almost immediately it will turn back into a singletrack and cross the creek. The trail continues uphill to the west and in .65 miles (1.35 miles) you will intersect with the Bitterbrush Trail

TOPO! map printed on 05/30/04 from "Dry Pond Loop no way point.tpo"



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

0.0 0.5 1.0 miles
0.0 0.5 1.0 1.5 km

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