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Mt. Rose Highway – St. James Trail (Advanced)

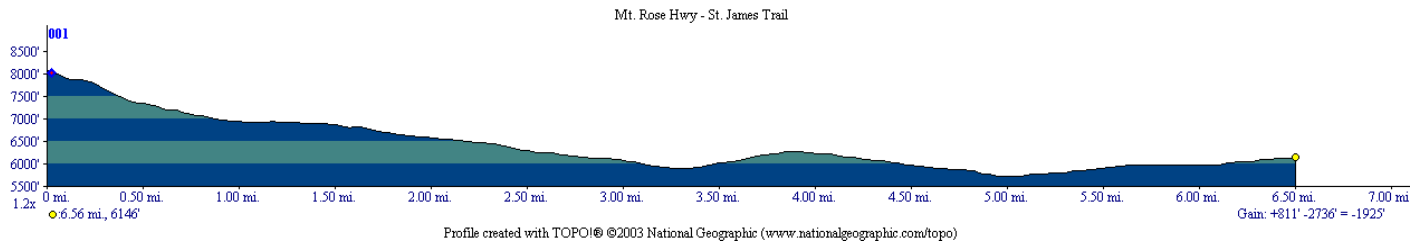
From Reno, take Hwy 395 south to Hwy 431, Mt. Rose Highway. Take a right on Mt. Rose Hwy and follow HWY 431 13 miles to the Slide Side Ski Resort access road. This is the road that will take you to the back side of Mt. Rose Ski Resort. Take a left on the Slide Access road, and follow it to the first paved pull out on your right side. This is ½ mile from Mt. Rose Hwy. You will also see some black spray paint on the guard rail on this turn out. Right on the other side of the guardrail is the start of the downhill singletrack. This trail starts out very steep and loose (see picture below.) Once you clear the first mile of steep downhill, the trail will follow a ridgeline and mellow out. This top section is by far the most difficult part of the trail. Please, if you don't feel comfortable riding this section, WALK.



Focus on You Photography
Mt. Rose Hwy – St. James Trail
Focus on You Photography

Mt. Rose Highway – St. James Trail (Advanced) (Blue Trail)

6.56 miles 2736 ft. total elevation loss & 811 total elevation gain



From the intersection of Mt. Rose Hwy (Hwy 431) and Hwy 395 south, follow Mt. Rose highway west for 6.8 miles, where you will see Joy Lake Road on your left. This will be the end of your ride. Continue up Mt Rose Hwy, and at mile 9.45 from Hwy 395, you will be taking your first hairpin turn. On the left of this hairpin turn you will see a dirt road. This dirt road goes back to private property, but just past the private property you is where the trail will cross this jeep road and continue down to Galena. Continue up Mt. Rose Hwy, and 13 miles from Hwy 395 you will take a right on the Slide Access Road. Take a right and follow this paved road for ½ mile where you will see a paved pull out on the left side. There is also some black spray paint on the guardrail at this pullout. Park here and you will see the singletrack trail drop off the east side of the guardrail. There are 2 starting points here. One is to the left, and one just to the right. The right trail drops you straight down while the left one is a little easier. The trail to the right, as of November 2007, looks like the more traveled trail. The trail to the right is a new trail, and only goes .15 miles then dead ends into a huge grove of manzanita brush. Then you either have to backtrack, or bushwhack back to the St. James Trail. Just believe me when I tell you that the bushwhacking is not fun. So, as of 2007, take the left trail and follow it down.

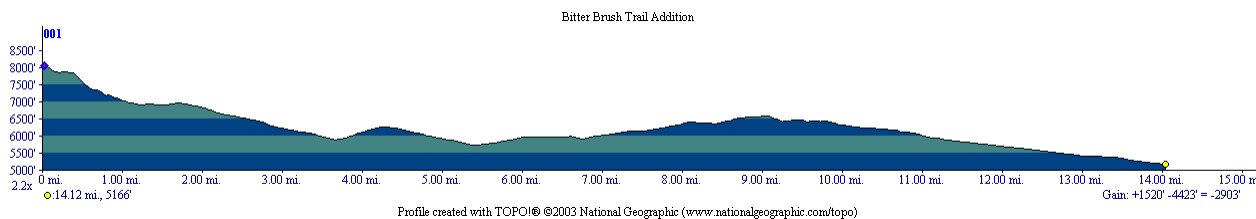


Now, here is the tricky part of the ride, the trail you are on drops down to what looks like a jeep road. Then it drops out on a flat and looks like it goes to the right. IT DOES NOT. So, be careful not to miss your left. So again, from the guardrail, start the downhill and in .05 miles stay to the left. The trail is faint, but there. If you go right, the trail dead ends at a fire pit on the flat overlooking the canyons to the east. Follow this trail to the left, and it turns into an old jeep road that is almost gone. Continue to the north along the flat, and in .18 miles (.23 miles from the start) the trail will drop off this flat section strait down the gully to the east. This section is loose and steep, so be careful. From here the trail is easy to follow. Not easy to ride, just easy to follow. The trail will cut slightly to the left and will follow the ridge down (see picture left.) As you follow the ridge down the semi technical singletrack, you will encounter a random large gazebo in .57 miles (.8 miles). This gazebo sits in the middle of nowhere with a couple of ladder bridges other riders have built. Here you need to cut right around the south side of the gazebo where you will see a jeep road heading left, straight down the hill side to a jeep road below. In .13 miles (.93 miles) you will drop out on this lower jeep road. If you go left, you will run right through private property, but the road drops out on that first switchback on Mt. Rose Highway. From this landing on this jeep road, turn right and

follow the jeep road for .53 miles (1.46 miles) where you will have to take a left off the jeep road and onto the lower section of the singletrack. Be careful not to miss the singletrack, because this jeep road will drop you out at the north end of Washoe Valley. So ride slow and keep your eyes out for the singletrack on the left. Follow the singletrack downhill to the east, and in .75 miles (2.21 miles) you will cross over another jeep road. The singletrack crosses directly over this road and picks up on the other side heading downhill to the east. This section is fast and smooth most of the way, then gets a little rocky and follows the drainage downhill for 1.11 miles (3.32 miles) where the trail will cut left and cross over Browns Creek. This is where the trail used to continue straight east down the drainage to St. James Village. The problem now is that from this point on, everything to your right, east, is private property. The old trail will drop you out on the wrong side of the guard shack and into private property. Because of this private property, the City of Reno Parks and Rec. built a new section of this trail that does not interfere with private property to the left. **So, please protect this trail and respect the private property owner's rights and start your climb uphill to the left.** Continue across browns creek, and the trail will turn left again and will start climbing uphill to the west. This climb is fairly steep, but completely rideable. Follow the climb for .7 miles (4.02 miles) where you will top out on the ridge and start the final descent down to Joy Lake Road. Once on Joy Lake Road, take a left and follow the pavement out to Mt. Rose Highway. To make this ride longer, see the link to the **Bitter Brush Trail**, yellow trail, below.

Bitter Brush Addition (Advanced from the top) (Yellow Trail) (MAP 2)

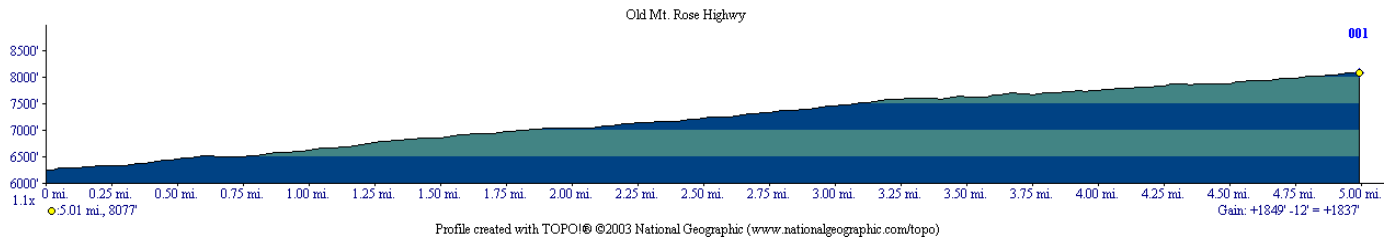
14.12 miles 1520 ft. total elevation gain



For this addition, see map 2 and follow the directions above. When you drop out on Joy Lake Road, take a left and follow the road up towards Mt. Rose Highway. You will cross one creek, and in 5.05 miles from where you dropped out on Joy Lake Road you will see Galena Creek. **DO NOT CROSS** the creek. Right before the road goes over the creek, take a right on the jeep road and drop down to the creek. Follow the creek down hill to the right, and in 1.06 miles (6.11 miles from the start) take a left and cross the creek. From here the trail turns left and heads up towards Mt. Rose Highway. In .62 miles (6.73 miles) you will cross directly over Mt. Rose Highway. Continue up the singletrack, and .18 miles (6.91 miles) you will drop out on a jeep road. Take a left, and follow the jeep road and it will almost immediately turn back into a singletrack. Follow the singletrack uphill to the west for .68 miles (7.59 miles) where you will intersect the Bitter Brush Trail. From here follow the directions in the Dry Pond write up for the remainder of the Bitter Brush Trail, to the Whites Creek Singletrack. Once at Whites Creek, many options open up to you. This is just one of them. For this ride, I would shuttle the ride. Park one car at the Blue Chevron on Thomas Creek Road and Mt. Rose Highway, and the other on the Slide Access Road. Or just have someone drop you out on top and ride down.

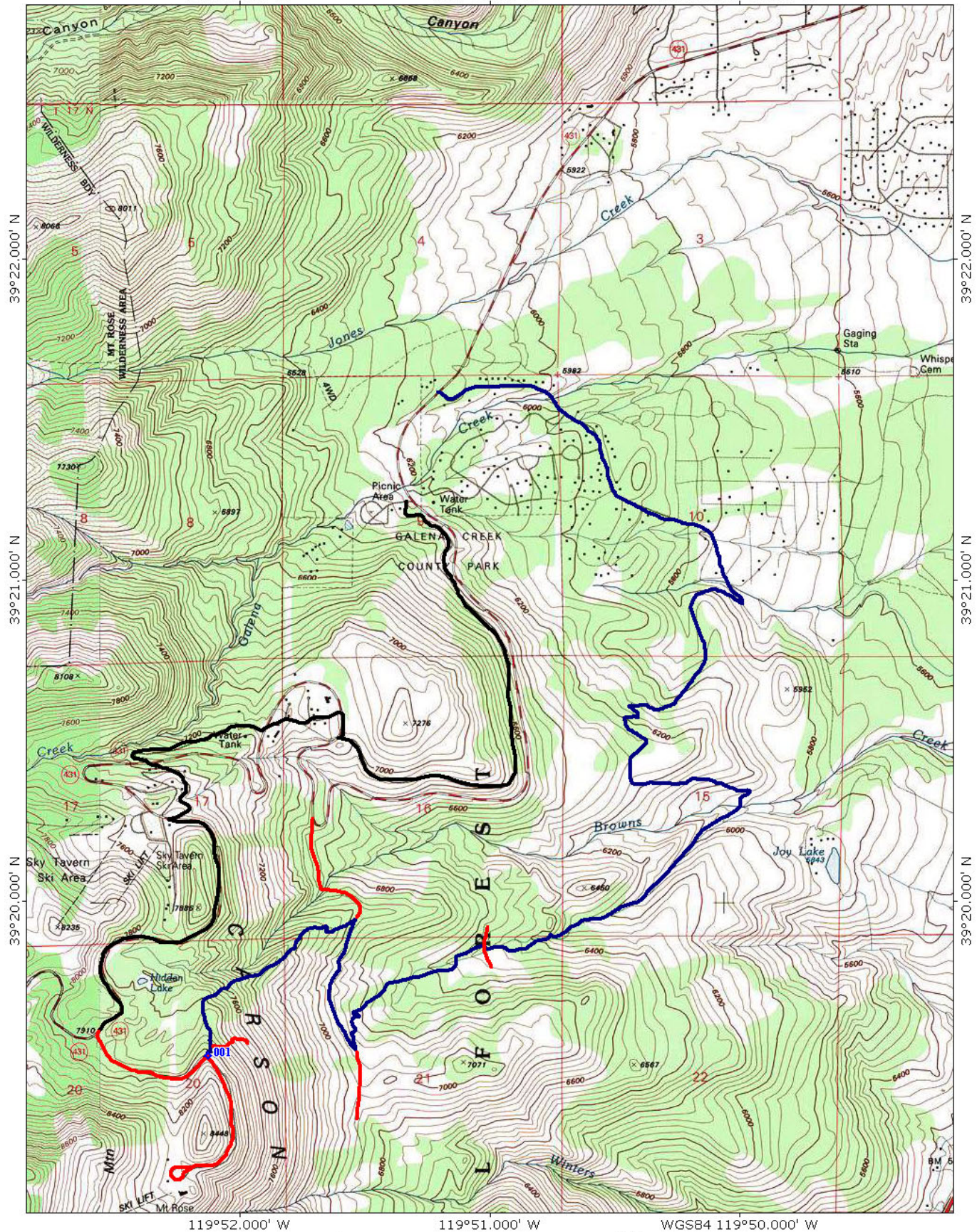
Old Mt. Rose Highway (Intermediate) (Black Trail)

5.00 miles 1847 ft. total elevation gain



This ride can also be done as a loop. I have not ridden this as a loop yet. I have ridden the climb many years ago, but not recently. So I can't give you mile markers, but from the last time I rode the jeep road, it was very strait forward. It starts at the maintenance station on the right side of Mt. Rose Highway just past Galena Estates. Just follow the road until it drops you out at Sky Tavern Ski Resort, then take a left on Mt. Rose Highway, and follow the highway up to the Slide Access road and take a left. Then follow it to the start of the downhill. As a loop, the entire ride is 11.56 miles and 2661 feet of climbing.

See maps on next pages



MAP 2

TOPO! map printed on 11/30/07 from "Mt Rose Highway - St James Trail.tpo"

