



Great Basin Bicycles

8048 S. Virginia St. Reno, NV. 89511 775-825-8258

www.greatbasinbicycles.com

Nevada City – Pioneer Trail

From Reno, take Highway 80 west, over Donner Summit to Highway 20. Take Highway 20 right towards Nevada city, and in about 10 miles you will see a Scenic Overlook pullout with bathrooms on the right side. If you get to the turnout for Washington Road on the right, you went a little too far. I did this ride as a shuttle. We were dropped off at the overlook, and rode the singletrack trail all the way into Nevada City. If you want to do it as a out and back, you can park at a small town called Five Mile, and ride up the pioneer trail, then back down to Five Mile. This trail is not all that technical, but it does have some rollers in it. I am calling it an advanced trail, mainly because of the distance, and occasional tree that jumps out and grabs you. An strong intermediate rider should do fine if they take it easy in a couple of sections. This ride is best done in spring or fall due to summer temps. I had to reconstruct my GPS track. Because of our speed, my GPS kept loosing communication, and made uploading to Geoladders.com difficult. So, I stole someone else's track. Erik Foltz created this route as an out and back starting and finishing at Five Mile, and he did not ride all the way up to the Scenic Overlook.

http://www.geoladders.com/show_route.php?route=24334 I am going to write up the ride as a one way from top to Nevada City. But his track will get you most of the way down the trail.

Here is the video link of the trail if you want to watch it

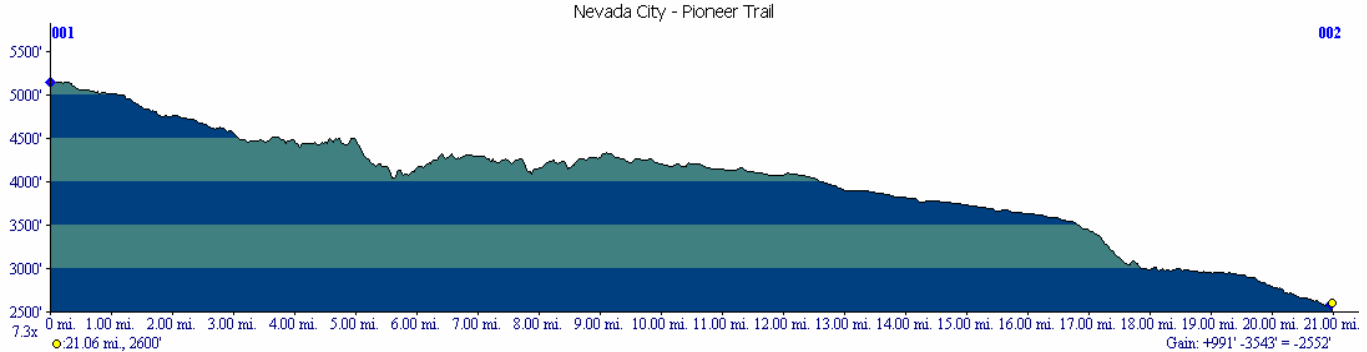
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LFkOr1GtNA> Please be wary of hikers and horses, and when ever possible, please ride with a trail bell. You can get a small bell at Great Basin Bicycles.



Focus on You Photography
Nevada City – Pioneer Trail

Nevada City – Pioneer Trail (Black Trail) (Strong Intermediate - Advanced)

21.06 miles 991 ft. total elevation gain – 3543 ft total elevation loss.



Once parked at the Scenic Overlook on Highway 20 cross directly over Highway 20 and head into the trees. You will almost immediately find one singletrack. **DO NOT TAKE THIS ONE.** This singletrack is mainly used by motorcycles. If you continue 25 yards into the woods, you will come across a second singletrack with a marked Forest Service Trail Marker designating this trail as “Hikers – Horses - & Mountain Bikes – ONLY”. Take this trail to the right. You can take it further uphill from here, but very soon it turns into a jeep road. So, head to the right, towards Nevada City. Most of this trail is very easy to follow. The trail will run along as a singletrack, then will cross over a jeep road, but the singletrack will pick up on the other side, or just left or right of where you come out. Once on this second singletrack, take the right and head along the singletrack. The trail will parallel Highway 20 fairly close for 2.25 miles. Here you have a decision to make. You will see a “Y” in the trail. If you stay right, you will continue downhill paralleling Highway 20 fairly easily towards Nevada City. If you veer left, you will start to pull away from Highway 20, and you

will follow the topography flat for a while. Both trails come out to the same spot below, so for this write up, I am going to send you the more technical way. So, for the easier way stay right and follow, for a more technical route, stay left, and in 2.77 miles (5.02 miles from the start) you will see a distinct “Y” in the trail. You will be on an old jeep road that has overgrown into a wide singletrack, and you will see the well used singletrack on your right. You want to take a right here. This downhill has some very tight switchbacks as it drops down towards Highway 20 again. In 1.07 miles (6.09 miles) you will drop out on another jeep road. Take a right and start to climb, and you will see your singletrack pick back up on your right. Follow this singletrack uphill, and it will feel like you are going the wrong direction because you will be heading back towards I-80 away from Nevada City. Continue on this singletrack, and it will continue to switchback up the hill, and in .52 miles (6.61 miles) you will come





to a big clearing, and on the right is where the earlier mentioned section of singletrack will intersect. So, continue on the jeep road strait uphill towards Highway 20, and in .13 miles (6.74 miles) you will see the singletrack pick back up on your left. Take the singletrack to the left, and follow this section of trail 2.39 miles (9.13 miles) where the singletrack will cross highway 20. Please watch for traffic, and jump across Highway 20 and pick up the singletrack on the other side of the highway. This is a long section of singletrack, not very technical at all, but it is very fast, and it does cross over many driveways. So, be careful each time you cross over one. Follow this section of singletrack for 6.18 miles (15.31 miles), and you will drop out at Five Mile. Now the options: If you parked here, you are done. If you want to continue to Nevada City, cross over highway 20, and head down the paved street, Scotts Flat Road. This paved road drops down very fast, and has a couple of tight switchbacks. In 2.38 miles (17.69 miles) you will come to a irrigation canal. You have to be very careful here. If you miss this canal, you will continue to

drop down to Nevada City. Not terrible, but you miss the last section of singletrack. So, watch for this canal! When you hit that 17.69 mile mark, take a right on the far side of the canal, and you are going to follow the canal towards Nevada City for 1.91 miles (19.6 miles). Here you will again cross over Highway 20, and the singletrack will again parallel Highway 20 the rest of the way into Nevada City

TOPO! map printed on 07/05/10 from "Nevada City - Hwy 20 - Pioneer Trail.tpo"

