

Alternate Single-Track Route Overview for Durango-to-Paradox Route

Day One-Durango Mountain Resort to Bolam Pass Hut: A variation from the start with Advance single-track. The day one Little Molas alternate route is a fantastic single-track trail above tree line with a high point of 12,600' at Rolling Pass. It is approximately 20 miles long, and is available after snowmelt usually after mid-July. The start at Little Molas Lake is approximately 15 miles (North) on Highway 50 from the Standard Route start at Durango Mountain Resort. You will absolutely need the "Latitude 40-Durango" map to ride this Alternate route.

Day Two-Bolam Pass Hut to Black Mesa Hut:

Alternate 1: Open after snowmelt, The East Fork of the Dolores Trail alternate route starts as a 4-WD road then narrows into a single-track. The trail starts approximately 3/4-mile east (of the hut) on the road that brought you to the Bolam Pass Hut. Return the way you came to the trail intersection noted on the Day One description for mile 17.1. Turn Left (East) onto FSR 578b and follow it to its end, feeding you onto the East Fork of the Dolores Trail. The East Fork Trail #638 on the "Latitude 40" map is the red dotted line, not the black dashed line. The "Latitude 40" map will not show the East Fork Trail #638 going all the way down to Highway #145 because the boundary of the map ends before the trail gets to Highway #145. However, your SJHS map will show this trail continuing down the Highway #145 where your SJHS map has a "Label" stating "County Road 61."

Alternate 2: At the bottom of the East Fork of the Dolores River Trail, there is a paved highway and an option for an additional single-track alternate route The Ground Hog Stock Driveway. This trail is the southern boundary of the Wilderness Trail. It is just outside the Lizard Head Wilderness Area. NO bikes are allowed in the Wilderness area. Cross highway and start at Cross Mountain Trail area. This takes you to The Groundhog Stock Driveway Trail, which eventually brings you back to the Standard Route. The "Cross Mountain Trail" is the trail shown on your SJHS map which heads approximately 5 degrees south of west from the letter "C" in the aforementioned "County Road 61" label on your SJHS map. The "Cross Mountain Trail" is shown as the black dashed line on your SJHS map that crosses Slate Creek and then rejoins the Standard Route at Coal Creek in Dunton Meadows. This day's ride, to be accomplished, must happen after the snowmelt.

Day Three- Black Mesa Hut to Dry Creek Basin Hut: Due to USFS closures, Alternate Route Options will be posted in the hut.

Day Four—Dry Creek Basin Hut to Wedding Bell Hut: When leaving the Dry Creek Basin Hut you must consider the weather. Get an early start and go fast so you can beat the heat or avoid the rain/mud/wind/dust. The Standard Route, which leads you through a seldom seen area, is a fun ride and highly recommended. If you choose to use the facilities at Miramonte Reservoir on this leg of the route, you must have the Colorado Division of Wildlife Habitat Stamp. Detailed descriptions of the Alternate Routes will be posted in the hut.

Bad Mud Conditions: The Gas Road Alternate

The Lookout Mines Trail Alternate and The Mexico Mines Trail Alternate

Day Five-Wedding Bell Hut to Paradox Valley Hut: The standard route goes out onto Davis Mesa an amazingly beautiful ride, and becomes increasingly more technical culminating on the single track "Catch-em-up Trail". This Single Track trail is not for the faint of heart. It soon drops over the edge of a cliff rapidly descending 1,011 feet in a miles distance. For all but the most skilled "trails riders", this will be a mandatory hike-a-bike on the upper cliff descent section. This trail drops you at the Dolores River near the Bedrock store. If you do not feel up to this challenging trail you may avoid it by taking the Paradox Valley Alternate Route. Ten miles of pavement with no shoulder and traffic traveling at very high speeds (90-100 mph) makes this route less desirable and potentially very dangerous. From mile 15.2 on the Standard Route, continue down DD19 Road to Highway 90. Turn Left (North) and follow the paved highway to rejoin the standard route at the Bedrock Store.