

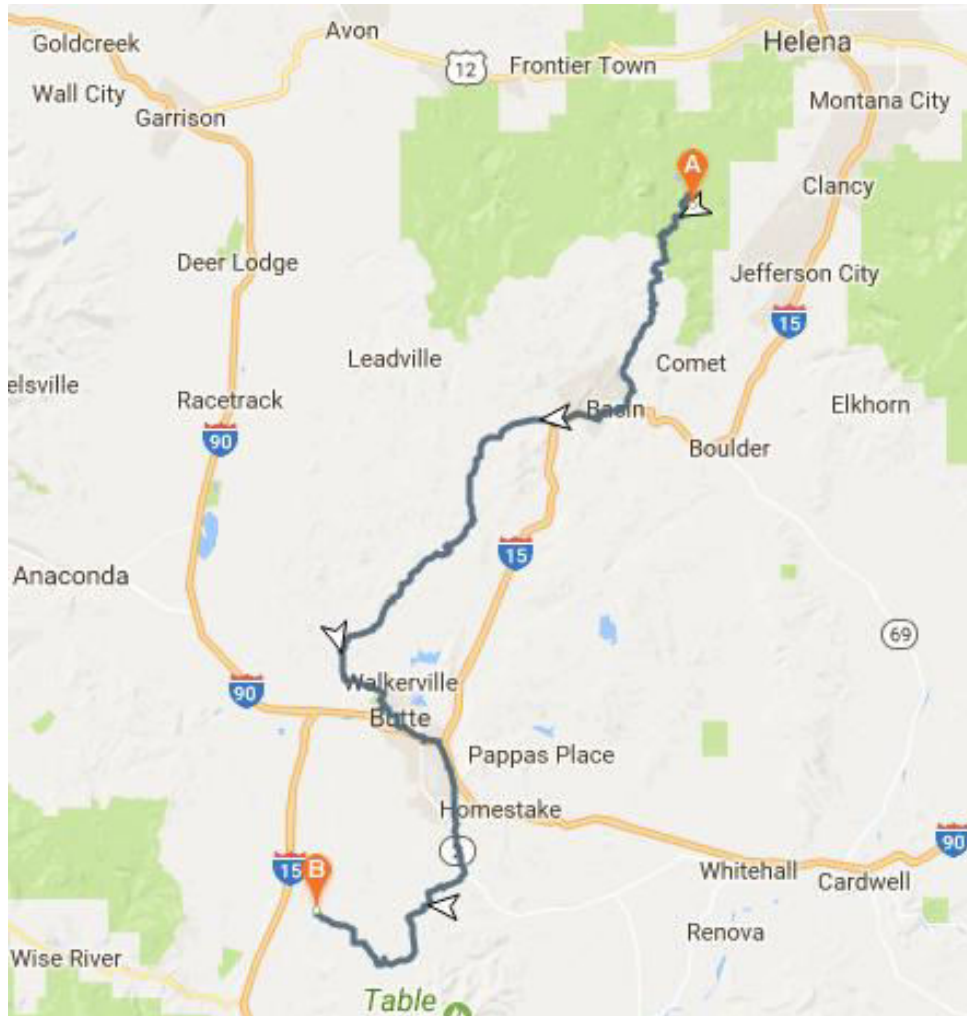
Day 9 17th June 2017
Park Lake Campsite to Crazy Creek

133.5k / 83.9 miles

2815m / 9235ft (2729m / 8953ft descent)
47.9%↑ 41.2%↓ 11%→ 18.9% max

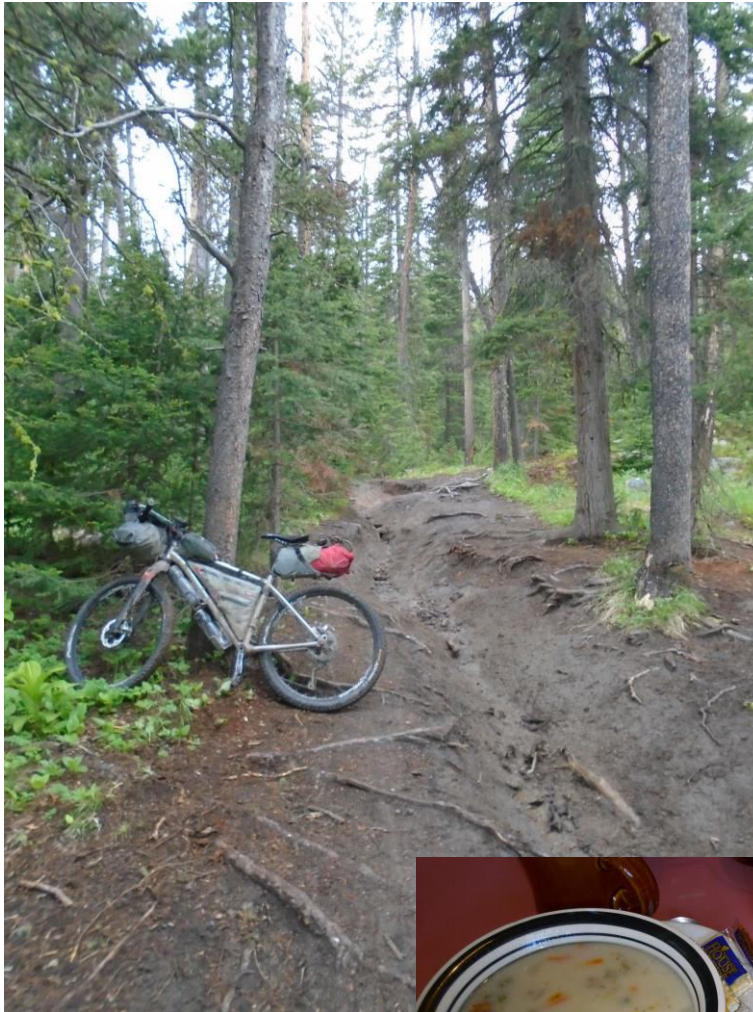
*Even if you are on the right track
you will get ridden over if you just sit there*

Will Rogers



Glen and I packed up together and we left simultaneously at about 06.40. It was surprisingly cold but dry. It was a little depressing being able to see the first few k of the route winding on up above the lake.

There was lots of wildlife (however no bears) in the Beaverhead Deer Lodge National Forest. The trail was very rough and steep significant hike a bike stuff required.



*Rough trail through
Beaverhead Nat Forest
en route to Basin*

Once over the summit the ride down to Basin was both fast and cold+++.
Trackleaders suggests I did the 12+ miles in some 36 mins = 20 mph (32kph)

I had a sumptuous breakfast and innumerable cups of coffee in the warm Silver Saddle Café.

Having thawed out it took some resolve to get out and back on the old steed.

*Silver Saddle Breakfast
(soup to warm up!!)*



The route from Basin to Butte started on the splendidly named 'non maintained cattle access trail'. This led onto the equally evocatively named Kit Carson Road and so to Continental Divide crossing number 5, 26k from Basin.

The big thing today was going to be arriving in Butte, a large

mining community, home of R O'Neill, a Special Forces Seal, who allegedly shot Ben Laden.



Kit Carson Road



5th Continental Crossing



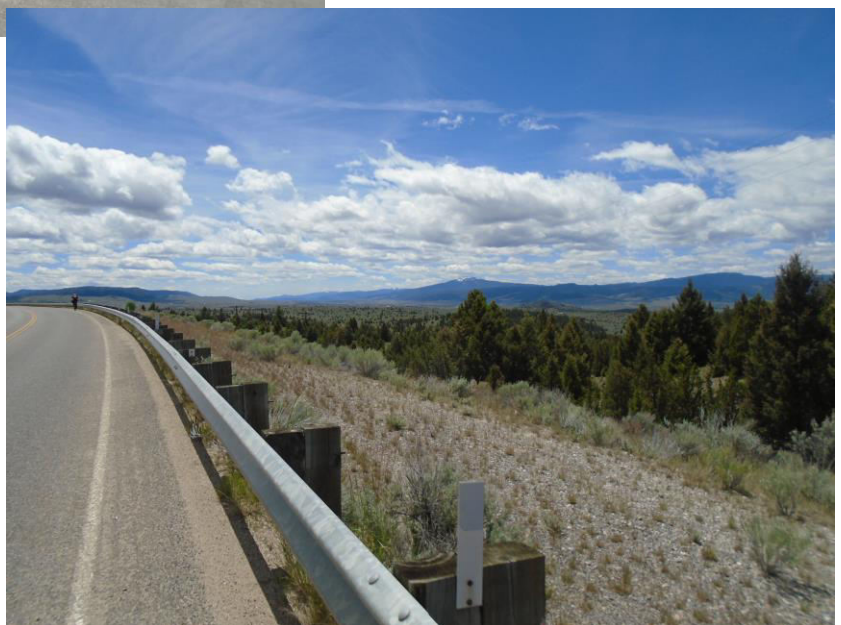
*View after the
5th continental crossing*

Running down from the Divide, once off the trail and onto tarmac, Glen and I had our first sight of Fleecer Ridge. only 25.5k away, as the crow flies but still some 80.5k by bike on the TD route

First view of Mt Fleecer

Further south Glen blew past me at great speed. But he overshot the requisite left turn, down the Orofino Gulch Road.

I called out but he did not hear. He eventually realised his error, returned and caught me up, having added a couple of k to his trip.





View of Butte from the side of Big Butte Mountain

Arriving in the outskirts of the 2017, the route differed from previous TD iterations. It now incorporates a very entertaining tricky, indeed somewhat dangerous, single switchback track down the shoulder of the overlooking 49 million year old, Big Butte Mountain.

Panoramic view of Butte

It was on the last part of this downhill that Glen came a cropper. I didn't see it at the time, as I was concentrating on my own descent, but it transpired that he had come off and head butted a substantial wooden fence. He was a bit shaken up when I reached him. I examined him and ascertained that



he had not knocked himself out, or sustained a fractured skull, and we stopped off at the next fast food joint we came upon – particularly awful I recall.

I last saw Glen when he stopped to buy batteries; I carried on.

6th TD crossing

The route out of Butte was along a long straight 13k road past a large Harley Davison garage, before turning west toward the next Continental Divide and Fleecer Ridge.





Ascending toward Divide Creek

I stopped overlooking Divide Creek, with Mr Fleecer in the distance, just before the Western boundary of the huge Beaverhead Nat Forest.

View of Mt Fleecer

Later, after I was ensconced in my tent, I heard a cyclist move past my camp. I was deliberately camped off the route and consequently they did not see me.

Reviewing the plots on Trackleaders for this time this cyclist proved to be Glen. I never saw him again as he withdrew from the race soon after.

Slept well looking forward to climbing Mt Fleecer tomorrow.

