**Gravelly Ride - 19-21 July - Mike Kreikemeier & Jay Cowan**

The idea behind setting up a ride in the Gravelly range was to pick a date that folks could gather at a campground, camp for a few days to do some dirt and gravel riding and experience a place in Montana less traveled. At the end of the day share stories with folks about what the roads and scenery were like. Make plans for the next day. Repeat.... As of now there are no plans for guided trips, just suggested routes.

Best to bring food to cover the duration. Water and Ice will be provided. Beverages will be available. The food situation could change but for now plan to feed yourself all three days. Be bear aware. There will be vehicles available for food storage.

Here is link to Cottonwood campground information:

(<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/bdnf/recarea/?recid=5706>)

Some folks are arriving on the 18th so they can have two full days riding. The easiest way to Cottonwood CG is from Alder.

See this link: (<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1SzYYpP9KIOnwPrYGsivQ-gTHP0q4r-Y&usp=sharing>)

The road conditions vary from gravel roads you could carefully ride a road bike on (if you are comfortable riding gravel) to rutted dirt roads that are better on a GS type bike. Some of the non-graveled roads turn to gumbo in the rain so the day’s weather should be a consideration when planning dirt roads. Especially true for the North Valley Road running East-West just north of the Red Rocks Lakes National Wildlife refuge.

All things considered... it is probably not good to be on a road bike in the Gravelly range.

The travel Restriction maps, and Forest Service maps are avail-able at the Beaverhead - Deer Lodge National Forest website: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/bdnf/maps-pubs>.

If you Google, the Cottonwood campground there seems to be ten official camper spots on the West side of the road and 5 or 6 spots on the East side of the road. There are also places up stream where I have seen folks just pull off the road and park the camper near the Ruby River. There are no facilities except toilets I do not remember any potable water stations. No reservations can be made. Consequently, we are going to have to share what spaces we find. In the past, during July, I have seen very little use of the campground. Hunting season is a different story. Hopefully, we will have a count of the number of campers that will be coming and make it all work.

Our expectation is to share more information as it unfolds and have important details finalized by the 1st of July.

Included are a couple pictures to get an idea of the road and scenery.

Mike, Jay, and Lance