

*Seeley Lake Historical Museum and Visitor Center***Recreation Opportunity Guide****HIKING -- RICHMOND RIDGE ADVENTURE TRAIL**

Part of the adventure for this trail is finding it. From the village of Seeley Lake take the Morrell Creek Road 1.1 miles east to the West Morrell Road #4353. Go straight past the Pyramid Pass Road.

One way to find the trail is to drive to the gate at the end of the road and climb up the hill. (Suggestion: don't follow the old logging road or you'll wind up in a miserable, intolerable alder thicket. Follow the spur ridge just above the old logging area.)

Another place to find the trail is to turn on the climbing road about three miles beyond the Pyramid Pass Road and go to the saddle where the trail crosses the road. Even there you need to look closely.

The other way to access the trail is from Highway 83 to the Clearwater-Morrell Road #4353 at MP x. Follow it about seven miles to its junction with Forest Road #720 northwest of Richmond Peak.

Whichever way you go up, when you get to Hill 7160, about ½ mile north of Richmond Peak, you'll find a skimpy trail heading down to Richmond Saddle. This makes a nice way to loop back to your rig along the abandoned road, which is now a segment of the Great American ATB trail extending from Canada to Mexico.

The trail hasn't been maintained for several years but several decades of use make the tread obvious to those following it today. Lots of blowdown to step over. Not recommended for horses unless accompanied by a saw, which would be appreciated by all.

People are liable to encounter large carnivores, large herbivores, large raptors, or nothing. Quite a bit of bear sign on the trail. Piles of wooly remains -- not really wooly, that's just what digested hide and hair and feather look like. Some of the cat scat could be cougar.

Scattered good views of the Swan Range immediately to the east, and the Mission Mountains in the west background. Check out the firefinder at the old lookout site. Established in 1929 with a 20' pole platform and tent cabin, it was replaced with 20' pole L-4 tower, built in 1935, which was destroyed in 1965

Several opportunities to see the effects of logging after 30-40 years. Quite a bit of Pachistima in the area; also Subalpine vegetation; e.g. grouse whortleberry. Several small stands of monarch old growth Douglas-fir. See what the blister rust is doing to the Whitebark Pine.

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