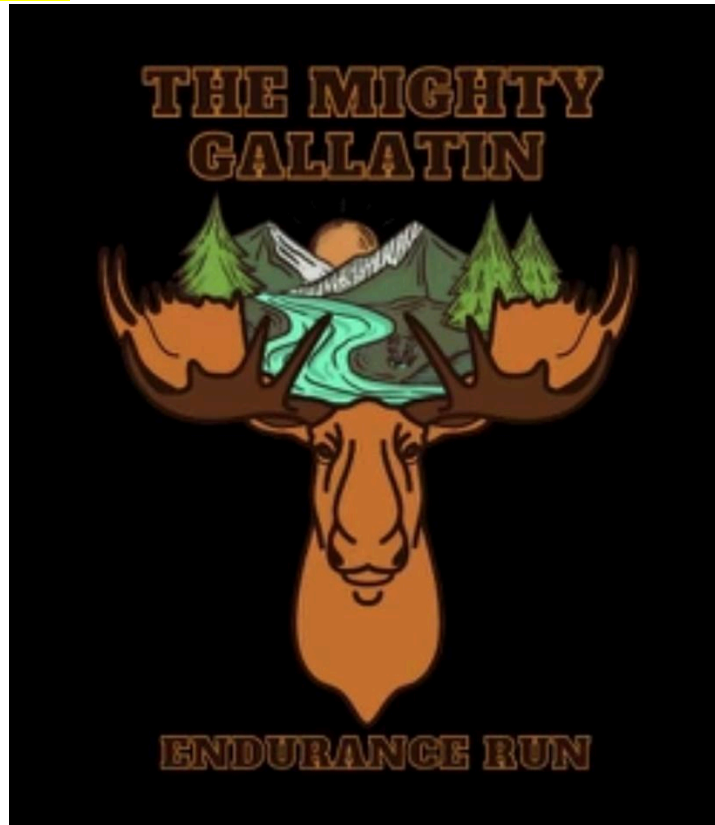


Last Updated: March 10.2025
*Added 2024 Finish Record



2026 Adventure Manual

**Saturday, July 11 at 3 a.m. MDT
through Friday, July 17 at 6 p.m. MDT**

Please join us on social media for adventure updates.

http://instagram.com/_themightygallatin

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Welcome to the Mighty Gallatin Endurance Run



The Mighty Gallatin is an adventure experience designed for a small group of tenured ultrarunners in and around the wilderness areas of Big Sky, Montana. These trails access serene wild spaces where wildlife is king. The group size is limited to preserve the health of these ecosystems. We've been working with the United States Forest Service to structure an outing that maintains these spaces while giving us a view of the world most will never experience first hand. The Mighty Gallatin is truly a unique adventure.

About The Terrain

The Mighty Gallatin runs through the Gallatin, Madison and Bridger Ranges, the last being known as the Bridger Mountains.



The **Gallatin Range** is part of the Rocky Mountains that stretches all the way from Western Montana in a southerly direction towards Wyoming. It includes more than 10 mountains – all over 10,000 feet. The highest peak in the range is Electric Peak in Northwestern Yellowstone at 10,969 feet. The range extends 75 miles north to south and averages 20 miles in width.

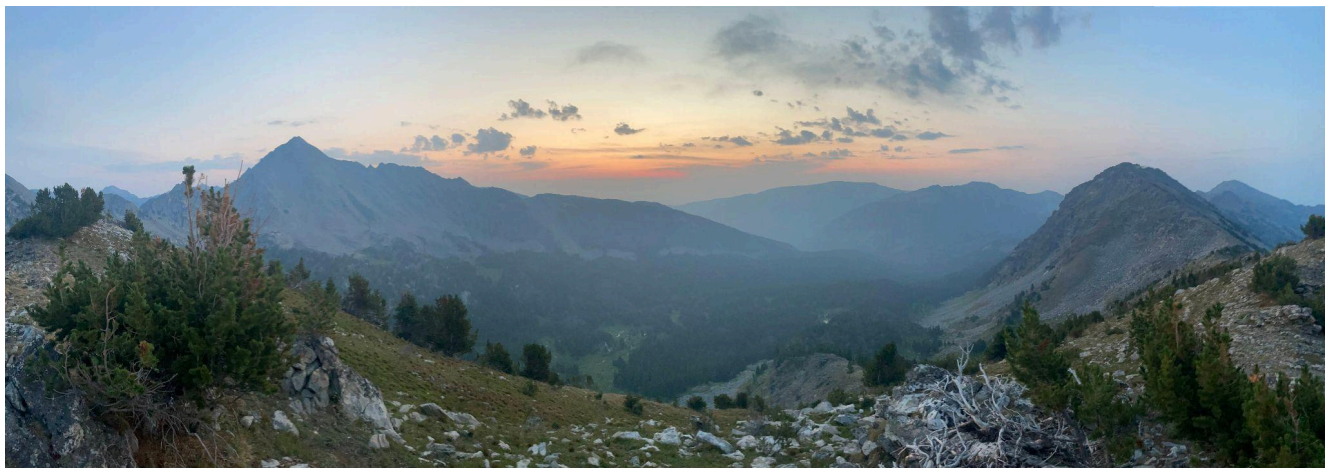
More than half the range lies in Gallatin National Forest, and its southern regions are encompassed by the north-western quarter of Yellowstone National Park.

The Gallatin Range has a striking effect on the landscape with its combination of sharply rising peaks and craggy ridges. Surrounded by expansive alpine plateaus and steep, dividing canyons, the range is clothed with forests and abundant with creeks and waterfalls.

The Gallatin Range consists of 500,000 acres of unbroken natural mountain environment flanked to the east by the Yellowstone River. The range plays a prominent role in regional history as Native Americans used the mountains for hunting long before the arrival of Lewis and Clark's Corps of Discovery just to the north.

The southern section of the Gallatin's lies inside Yellowstone National Park. There are three large areas devoid of roads within the course boundary, namely the Gallatin Divide Roadless Area, the Gallatin Fringe Roadless Area, and the Hyalite Roadless Area.

These three together make up the core of the 200,000 acres-plus of wilderness. More than 150,000 acres of that have been under the protection of the Hyalite-Porcupine-Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area since 1977.



The **Madison Range** is located in the Rocky Mountains of Montana and Idaho and was named in honor of the future President of the United States, then U.S. Secretary of State James Madison. The range extends 80 miles from West Yellowstone to Bozeman and is flanked by the Madison River on the west and the Gallatin River to the east. The highest point in the range is Hilgard Peak at 11,316 feet, a remote peak that wasn't climbed until 1948.

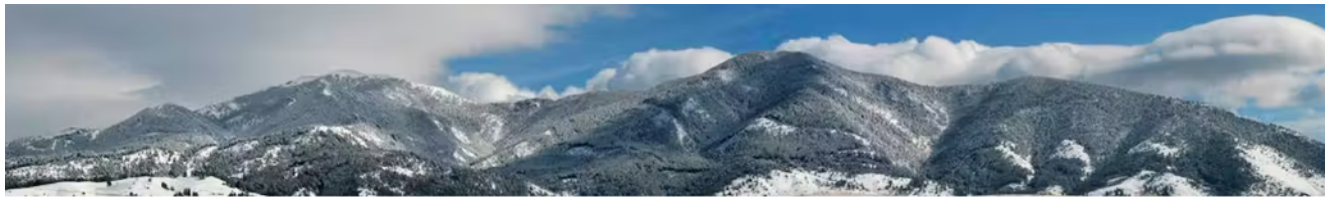
The Madison Range is the westernmost section of what is collectively referred to as the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. Most of the range lies within Beaverhead-Deerlodge and Gallatin National Forests. A small portion of the range has been further protected with the creation of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness. The region has grizzly and black bears and at least one pack of wolves. Most other larger mammal species native to the region continue to exist in the range.

The **Bridger Mountains** are located in southwest Montana near the town of Bozeman and was named after Jim Bridger who pioneered a trail through the mountains in Southern

Wyoming into the Bighorn Basin in the year 1864. At its South end, Bozeman Pass separates the Bridger Mountain Range from the Gallatin Mountain Range. Bozeman Pass carries some taboo with it as it was named after John Bozeman rather than Sacagawea who's namesake many feel should be bestowed upon the pass.

Sacagawea was a Native American woman who led the Lewis and Clark Expedition through the pass on their exploratory journey across the Northern lands of what is now the United States.

The Bridger Mountains are aligned generally North and South with a spine measuring approximately forty-five miles in length and lies within an area of land (including lowlands) sized approximately 1,174 square miles most of which is located in the Gallatin National Forest.



The Bridger range offers great skiing, fishing, hiking, biking and mountaineering. The tallest peak in the range is Sacagawea Peak (9665 feet) followed by Hardscrabble Peak (9575 feet, Saddle Peak (9162 feet), Ross Peak (9004 feet), Mount Baldy (8914 feet), and Bridger Peak (8635 feet).

An Adventure, Not a Race

This non-commercial event is considered an “Endurance Run” and an “Adventure.” As such it is not considered a competitive event but rather a life accomplishment through the experience of the run and the spirit of the adventure.

Each runner is required to have “mandatory gear” items on their person at all times. These items would include bear spray, at least 2,500 calories or more between aid stations, depending on distance, and gear for all weather. Runners are also required to provide and carry their own satellite beacon that allows two-way communication. All runners will be tracked for the duration of the route via Track Leaders, which is included in the cost of the adventure.

There will be no course markings. Runners will be required to have the [GPX on Gaia](#) and suggested to carry the [paper maps](#) referenced further down in this manual. It is strongly recommended to also navigate the course via a GPS-enabled watch.

As this is a graduate level course and a backcountry adventure – getting lost will tax limited resources to stage a rescue. Be smart and utilize the proper tools at your disposal to remain safe.

Invitation Only

The Mighty Gallatin is limited in its slots. As such, there are only 15 people or less permitted on the trail at any time, as allowed by the United States Forest Service in any congressionally designated Wilderness Area. This should be looked at in a similar way to 15 friends going for a run together. In the trail running world, we call it a “Fat Ass” if there is no for-profit entry fee. A Fat Ass could be any distance, but this one just happens to be 300 miles over seven days... 😊

NEW for 2026: Each Runner is required to bring one volunteer for the duration of the event. Some runners may need help finding a volunteer. The ideal number for a successful MG is 20 Volunteers and 15 Runners. Please join the conversation on our Facebook Group to confirm your interest as a Runner or volunteer. Veterans will have first opportunity to run or volunteer.

Join the Facebook Group: [The Mighty Gallatin 300 - "Its not a Race, its an ADVENTURE!"](#)

Rules & Expectations

The Mighty Gallatin is a graduate level event. Please consider all these factors carefully before accepting your invitation for this event.

- This run is not for the faint of heart
- It is a multi-day event
- It is very physically and mentally demanding
- Runners often experience hallucinations and extreme fatigue

Experience & Preparation

- Our adventurers contribute to their communities and act as stewards of the environment and for trail running in general. We’re looking for those that are inclusive and want to grow this sport.
- If you see trash dropped from another runner, pick it up.
- Runners should have ultra-distance experience, fastpacking experience, be properly physically and mentally trained, prepared for heat and cold as temperatures can vary from 10F to 90F, and prepared to carry a heavy pack.
- Runners are expected to know what to carry at all times, and to carry extra clothing, food, and water – even beyond what they think is necessary.
- Runners must carry enough water/have an ability to filter water for each day (plus some extra). In some instances, distance between aid stations can be as great as 34 miles.
- While there is ample water on the course, there are segments where you may run out if you're not proactive. If you see water, don't pass it up. Take the opportunity to replenish your supply.

Course & Navigation

- Much of the terrain is rugged and remote.
- Please note that there are very exposed sections, dangerous cliffs, potential for rock fall, snakes, spiders, bears, wildlife, and other hazards throughout the route.

- **The course will NOT be marked.** The .GPX will not always be exact, but *most of the time, there is only one trail. Runners are expected to know how to stay on trail by looking for signs of trail, including, but not limited to cut logs, trail markers and cairns.
- This run is inherently dangerous. As previously mentioned, runners are expected to be able to navigate via the course GPX which they should have on them at all times.
- All finishes are “unofficial” because this is not a race – it’s an adventure.
- Runners must carry ALL mandatory gear at all times, unless otherwise communicated by the run director.
- Runners must keep a phone charged with the course downloaded for each section and throughout the ENTIRE EVENT. Runners are also advised to carry a charger on their person and/or leave one in a drop bag to charge electronics and are encouraged to download the course to their watches to ensure they stay on course.
- Runners are to act as stewards of the environment and respect the land and animals. We want to leave these trails better than we found them. Pack out all trash. Don’t pee or poo within 100 feet of any water sources. Respect the environment and each other.
- Don’t leave behind another runner in need. Make a plan. Your lives are first and foremost. If you encounter a runner in distress or are experiencing an emergency, contact the run director immediately via your two-way satellite device for situational assessment.
- Runners may leave the last aid station each day no later than the posted cutoff or at the discretion of the Run Director.

Additional Support

We will provide a small support crew to be used by all runners to aid with medical issues, runner tracking, manning aid stations, and in-camp to help runners as needed. Each runner will be required to bring exactly one volunteer for the duration of the event. These volunteers will assist their runner and also share all volunteer duties.

Aid stations are marked on the Caltopo [course map](#).

Cutoff

Runners must leave the last aid station for each day no later than the posted cutoff or they will be driven by the support crew to the next aid station or the camp depending on the situation. If a runner fails to make a cutoff they will still be able to start the next morning with the group or, once they can head back up the trail from a further aid station or from camp to meet them to run it in with the group.

Getting Extra Miles or Elevation Gain

This adventure is 290.12 miles with +71,848 feet. Using the designated course or designated alternate routes, runners can accumulate more miles as long as they are within the guidelines set forth by Montana Fish and Wildlife, which is to not be making forward progress in the twilight hours, defined as from 30 minutes after sunset until 30 minutes before sunrise.

In Case of Emergency

A rescue may need to be executed at any given time. We will have at least one person watching the trackers of all participants to be ready to initiate the proper procedures to rescue any of the runners on course. You will be given an emergency contact form. Fill this out and return to Helgiolafson@gmail.com

Again, if you encounter a runner in distress or are experiencing an emergency, you should contact the run director immediately via your two-way satellite device for situational assessment.

Recording Policy

Runners may capture photos and videos along their journey anywhere on the course for personal use on social media to share their story. It is illegal to capture and use photos or video from congressionally designated Wilderness Areas for commercial purposes. And though posting on social media is permitted, please keep posts of these areas to a minimum to preserve the sanctity of the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area, Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area and the Mighty Gallatin.

BE “BEAR AWARE!” Immerse yourself in knowledge of how to act and react if you encounter a bear. Bears and humans have been sharing these wild spaces for thousands of years. Be certain that more humans have killed bears than bears have killed humans.

The chances of you encountering a bear are pretty good. Don't startle a bear (or any wildlife). Make noise on the trail and stick together in at least pairs. Your life depends on it, and so does the sustainability of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem. If you see an animal, stop and analyze the situation before taking action.

Click for a quick video tutorial: [How to Run Safely in Bear Country.](#)

Course Overview and Individual Segment Descriptions

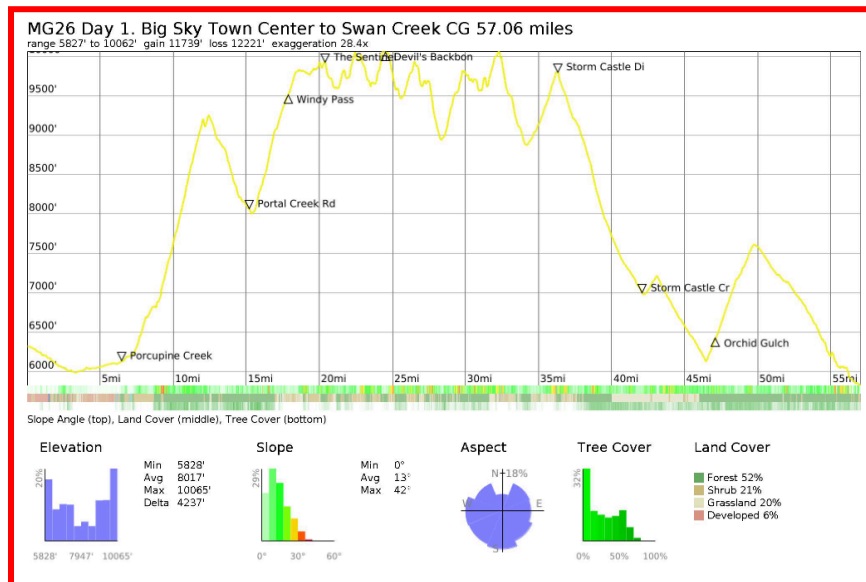
These descriptions are here to give runners a better idea of what to expect at the Mighty Gallatin. Keep in mind that there are no course markings. Navigation and staying on course are the runner's responsibility. It is the runner's responsibility to keep their phone and tracker charged at all times. Furthermore, as stated earlier, it is recommended to navigate the course on a GPS-enabled watch, while it is MANDATORY for runners to carry a two-way GPS beacon that is always tracking while they are on trail in order for the Trackleaders map to be accurate.

The Mighty Gallatin 2024 July 13-19, 2024 (Record of Days Finished and/or Distance Completed Before Cutoff)															
Runners	Age on July 13, 2024	Day 1 58.02 miles	Total Completed Miles	Day 2 31.55 miles	Total Completed Miles	Day 3 45.77 miles	Total Completed Miles	Day 4 46.59 miles	Total Completed Miles	Day 5 39.93 miles	Total Completed Miles	Day 6 38.71 miles	Total Completed Miles	Day 7 31.47 miles	Total Completed Miles
Connor McClelland	29	Finished	58.02	Finished	40.15	Finished	49.91	Finished	46.59	Finished	39.93	Finished	38.71	Finished	31.47
Tom Attard	45	Finished	58.02	Finished	31.55	Finished	45.77	DNF	20.05	Finished	39.93	DNF	30.79	Finished	31.47
Abraham Bejil	44	Finished	58.02	Finished	31.55	Finished	45.77	DNF	37.5	Finished	39.93	DNS		Finished	31.47
Minda Paul (F)	45	Finished	58.02	Finished	31.55	Finished	45.77	DNS		DNF	29.93	DNF	30.79	DNF	11.04
Scott Peterson	44	Finished	58.02	DNF	23.8	DNF	23.75	DNS		Finished	39.93	Finished	38.71	DNF	18.56
Katie Graff (F)	39	Finished	58.02	Finished	31.55	Finished	45.77	DNF	24.6	DNF	29.93	DNS		DNF	11.04
Pete Yore	37	Finished	58.02	DNF	23.8	Finished	45.77	DNS		DNF	29.93	DNF	30.79	DNF	11.04
Melissa Lewis (F)	54	Finished	58.02	Finished	31.55	Finished	45.77	DNF	20.55	DNF	29.93	DNS		DNF	11.04
Helgi Olafson	41	Finished	58.02	Volunteer	4.66	Volunteer	13.68	Volunteer	24.38	Volunteer	21.15	Volunteer	16.53	Finished	35.52
John Parks	60	Finished	58.02	DNF	23.8	Volunteer		Finished	46.59	Volunteer		Volunteer	15.68	DNF	11.04
Jerry Fogh	51	Finished	58.02	DNF	23.8	Volunteer		DNF	25.6	DNF	21.15	DNS		DNF	11.04
Brandon Hozack	41	DNF	48.84	DNS	0	Finished	45.77	DNS	6.5	DNF	5.05	DNS		DNS	
Josh Garza	57	DNF	21.75	DNF	12.2	DNF	12.8	DNF	17.13	DNF	15.05	DNF	7.59	DNF	11.04
Andrew Readinger	40	Finished	58.02	Volunteer	4.66	Volunteer	0	Volunteer	0	Volunteer	0	Volunteer	0	Volunteer	0
															Completed Miles (Grand Total)

The Mighty Gallatin 300

Day 1: Gallatin Crest. 57.1 miles (+11,739', -10,062')

[MG26 Day 1. Big Sky Town Center to Swan Creek CG 57.06 miles](#)



Welcome to the adventure. Hopefully you are rested and ready to put your body and mind to the test. Lay it all out there, but be smart with your decisions today, as they will set the precedent. Today is a day to learn and test your strategies. Be ready to adapt quickly, as what you thought might work might not be enough. Get it in your head that you need to move quickly for not only the next 56 miles, but also the next 290 miles and more than 300

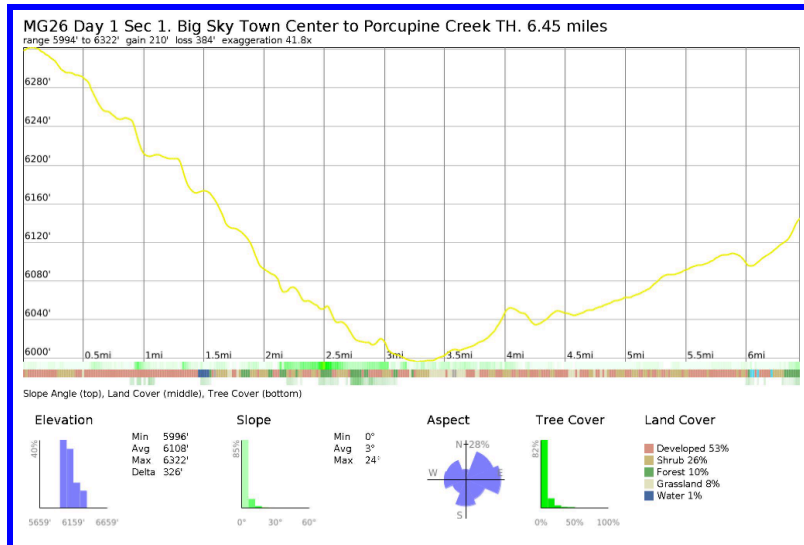
if you are ambitious. You can rest and recuperate in camp. If you are in an aid station more than fifteen minutes, you are there too long. Your overall pace for Day 1 to make cutoff is 19:27 min/mile. Don't hug the edge. Try to bank some wiggle room for navigation errors, weather and other possible occurrences while you are out there. If you are not trained for altitude, The Mighty Gallatin will remind you of this right out of the gate.

Today's course starts in the Madison Range, before crossing the Gallatin River and heading up to the Gallatin Crest, which separates the Gallatin and Yellowstone rivers. Then you will traverse on the Gallatin Crest toward Hyalite and eventually into the Storm Castle Creek Drainage toward Spire Rock Campground. The area east of the Gallatin Crest supports one

of the largest habitats of Grizzly bears in North America. Plan accordingly. Make smart, calculated decisions. Day 1 includes the southernmost portion of the course.

Day 1 - Section 1: Start to Porcupine Creek TH. 6.5 miles (+210', -304')

[MG26 Day 1 Sec 1. Big Sky Town Center to Porcupine Creek TH. 6.45 miles](#)

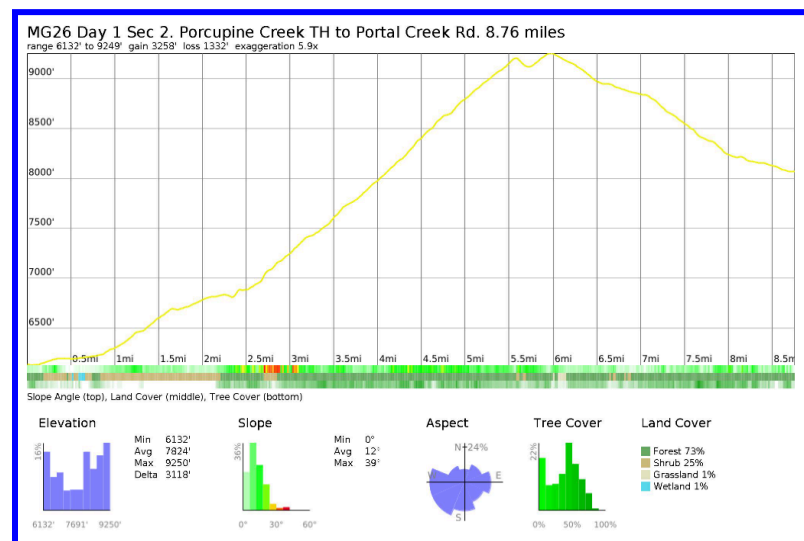


Run this section or miss later cutoffs. This entire section should be completed in the dark. Start at 3:00 a.m. at Big Sky Town Center and head south around the Amphitheatre, eventually leading you around the Community Hospital and out to the large sidewalk of Lone Mountain Road. It will turn into more of an activity path that takes you to Hwy 191, where you will take a right (do NOT cross the Hwy just yet) and head east on another gravel activity path another 3 miles to the turn just before Riverhouse

BBQ, CAREFULLY crossing the 191 and the Gallatin River for the first time. There is a pit toilet at Porcupine Creek Aid Station. If you can beat the **8:45 a.m. cutoff at the next aid station (Portal Creek Rd)**, you can keep going. If you don't move fast, you'll be pulled off of the course for the day at Portal Creek.

Day 1 - Section 2: Porcupine Creek TH to Portal Creek Rd. 8.76 miles. (+3,258', -1,332')

[MG26 Day 1 Sec 2. Porcupine Creek TH to Portal Creek Rd. 8.76 miles](#)



Get in and get out if you want to finish the day without a DNF. You can get seven DNFs at the Mighty Gallatin. Do your best to finish as many days as possible on the designated course.

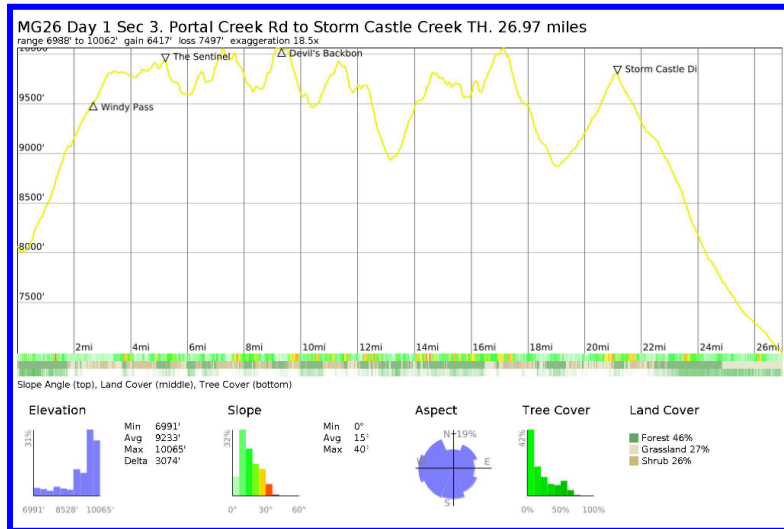
As soon as you leave the aid station, enter the Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area (HPBHWSA) and climb 3,000 feet over 5 miles along First Creek.

You'll be at 9,200 feet for about a mile, before heading down and

exiting HPBHWSA toward **Portal Creek Rd, where cutoff is at 8:45 a.m.** Pay close attention to the .gpx. There are a few places where wrong turns have been taken in the past.

Day 1 - Section 3: Portal Creek Rd to Storm Castle Creek TH. 26.97 miles. (+6,417', -7,497')

[MG26 Day 1 Sec 3. Portal Creek Rd to Storm Castle Creek TH. 26.97 miles](#)



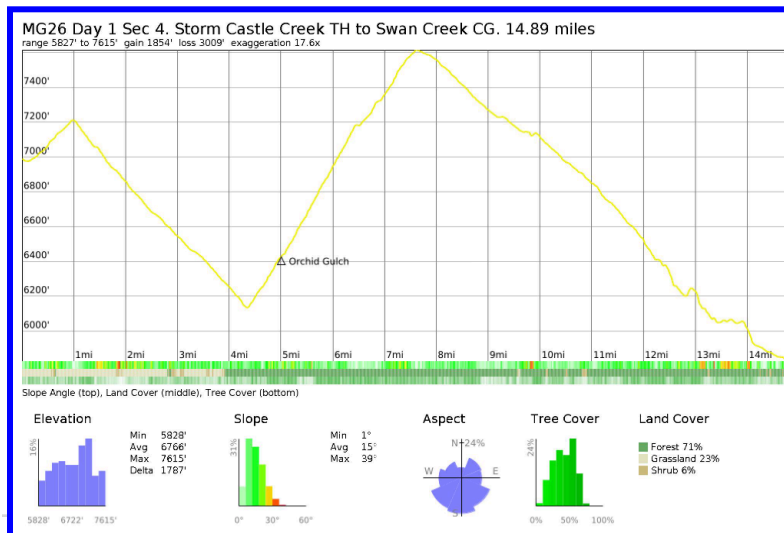
If you've made the cutoff, you need to keep the momentum going. You can rest back at camp. Leave Portal Creek Rd via the Windy Pass Trail. Once you enter an alpine meadow, you'll take a left at the first junction toward Windy Pass Cabin. Continue past the cabin on this trail toward the Gallatin Crest.

Once you're on the Gallatin Crest Trail 96, you'll stay on for just under 15 miles, traversing The Sentinel, Moose Peak, Devil's

Backbone, and the flanks of Hyalite Peak, where your trail turns into the Hyalite Creek Trail and you descend into the world renowned Hyalite Basin. Get ready to run all downhills in order to make cutoff. Once you descend into the basin, you will take a left on the Storm Castle Creek Trail and gain your last ridge of the day (Storm Castle Divide) before descending through a magical burn scar toward the **Storm Castle Creek TH aid station. The cutoff at this aid station is 5:30 p.m.** There will be some folks who don't make this cutoff. Those who DO make it will still be in the game for finishing all seven days.

Day 1 - Section 4: Storm Castle Creek TH to Swan Creek CG. 14.89 miles. (+1,854', -3,009')

[MG26 Day 1 Sec 4. Storm Castle Creek TH to Swan Creek CG. 14.89 miles](#)



You are on a nicely graded and runnable gravel road for the next 4.5 miles until the turn onto Line Creek Rd (Rd 3108) at the old Blanchard Sawmill toward Orchid Gulch. Once the turn is made, you will go for another ¾ mile before coming to a junction where you will continue straight on 3108. DO NOT take a left onto Orchid Gulch ATV Rd. There will be an aid station and a left turn here on Day 4, but not today. Keep climbing up Line Creek Rd for 1.5

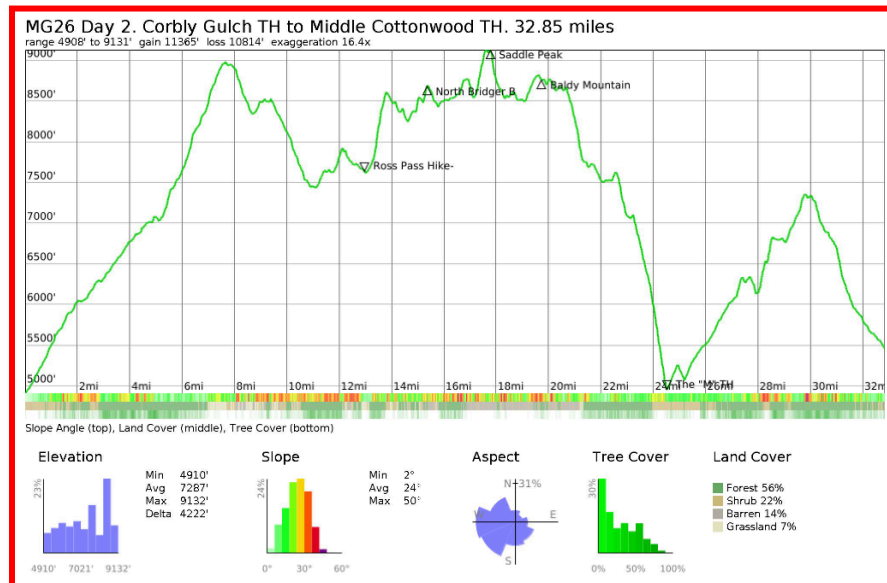
miles and 750 feet, where you will take a left onto Pine Tree Rd. Continue to climb another 500 feet over a mile before coming to an important right turn onto Lake of The Pines Trail, another ATV road. From here you are home free. It's a 7 mile descent with almost 2,000 feet of loss, with one important right hand turn onto Swan Creek Trail 2 miles from the finish. This is your victory lap for making the cutoff on Day 1. Congrats, you are still in the game. Make your plan for being efficient in getting ready for Day 2 while you are on this section. Rest, food, recovery and gear are very important so make them a priority and get to bed. Tomorrow morning will be a bit easier, but still REALLY hard. Start time is 7:30 a.m.. Wheels up in the vehicles at 6:15 a.m., Breakfast served at 5:45 a.m.

Day 2: Bridger Ridge. 32.85 miles (+11,379', -12,222')

[MG26 Day 2. Corbly Gulch TH to Middle Cottonwood TH. 32.85 miles](#)

(1 hour 5 minute drive to start)

(55 minute drive from finish)



The Iconic Bridger Range, which flanks the northeastern edges of Bozeman and Belgrade, is the northernmost viewpoint of the course. On a clear day, you can see all of the way up into the Spanish Peaks. The Crazy Mountains will be very prominent on the eastern horizon while on the Ridge Trail. After traversing the Ridge, runners will descend to the "M Trail," which can be seen flying into BZN.

Today's main aid station is at The M Trailhead. We will also have a small hike-in aid station at the Ross Pass Junction (mile 13), but your drop bags will only meet you at The M Trailhead (mile 24.5), where there is also a pit toilet.

From The M Trailhead, Runners will take the Bridger Foothills Trail to Middle Cottonwood Trail and out to the vehicles at Middle Cottonwood Trailhead.

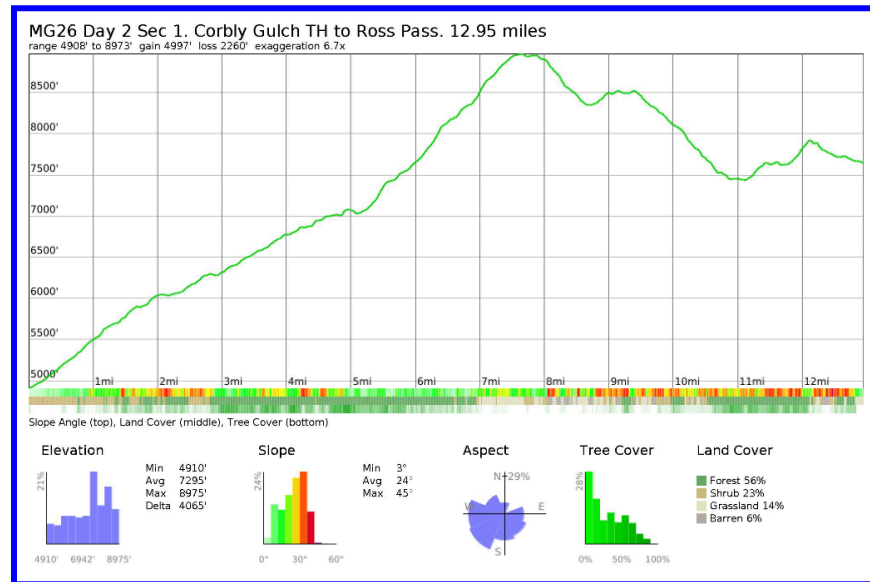
Be careful of other runners, as this is a busy trail and today is Sunday. If you need to pass, state your presence before passing. These trails are frequented by horseback riders, mountain bikers and even dirt bikers. Keep your ears and eyes aware and step off of the trail to let them pass by. Water sources are limited once you are up on the ridge, so keep that in mind.

Day 2 - Section 1: Corbly Gulch TH to Ross Pass. 12.95 miles. (+4,997', -2,260')

[MG26 Day 2 Sec 1. Corbly Gulch TH to Ross Pass. 12.95 miles](#)

Water access will only last for the first 5 miles of today. Fill up before climbing to high. You might find snowmelt, but don't count on it. Start up Corbly Gulch Road and then up Corbly Gulch Trailhead for 7.5 miles, gaining almost 4,200 feet before turning right on the Bridger

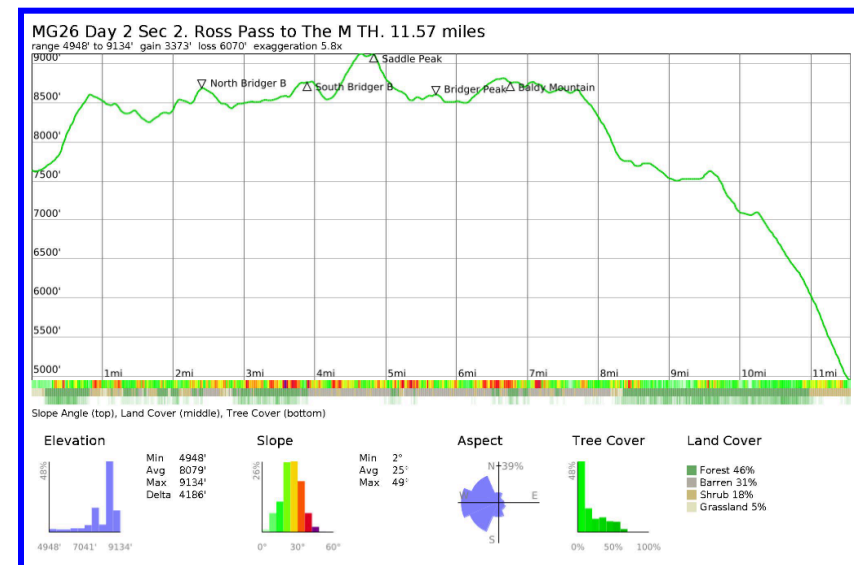
Ridge Trail at the Junction to Sacagawea and Fairy Lake. Don't summit Sacagawea! Watch your .gpx to make sure you take the right trail.



###

Day 2 - Section 2: Ross Pass to The M TH. 11.57 miles. (+3,373', -6,070')

[MG26 Day 2 Sec 2. Ross Pass to The M TH. 11.57 miles](#)



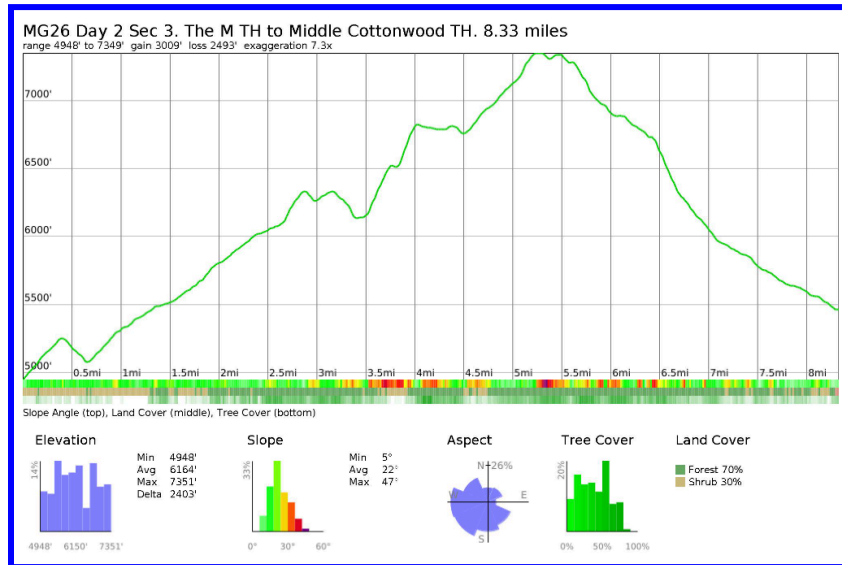
From the junction, continue south on the Ridge. You will have views as far as you can see in all directions, but watch the precarious footing. Along this segment, you will pass North and South Bridger Peaks while directly above Bridger Bowl ski resort. Then Saddle, Bridger and Baldy Peaks. 8 miles from the start of this segment, you'll drop down toward the M Trailhead, where a fully equipped aid station will be located. **Cutoff at The M TH is 5:30 p.m.**

###

Day 2 - Section 3: The M TH to Middle Cottonwood TH. 8.33 miles. (+3,009', -2,493')

MG26 Day 2 Sec 3. The M TH to Middle Cottonwood TH. 8.33 miles

Leave the M Trailhead on the Bridger Foothills Trail, which runs along the western side of the Bridgers. You'll be gaining about 3,000 feet over the course of 5.5 miles, passing the Sipes Canyon Trail along the way. After the 5.5 mile ascent, its 2 more miles of descent before turning left on Middle Cottonwood Trail.



Once you are on Middle Cottonwood, its one more mile with 500 feet of descent all of the way to the pick up location at Middle Cottonwood Trailhead.

One vehicle will leave with the faster runners and another one will wait for the slower folks.

Please try to be here by 7:30

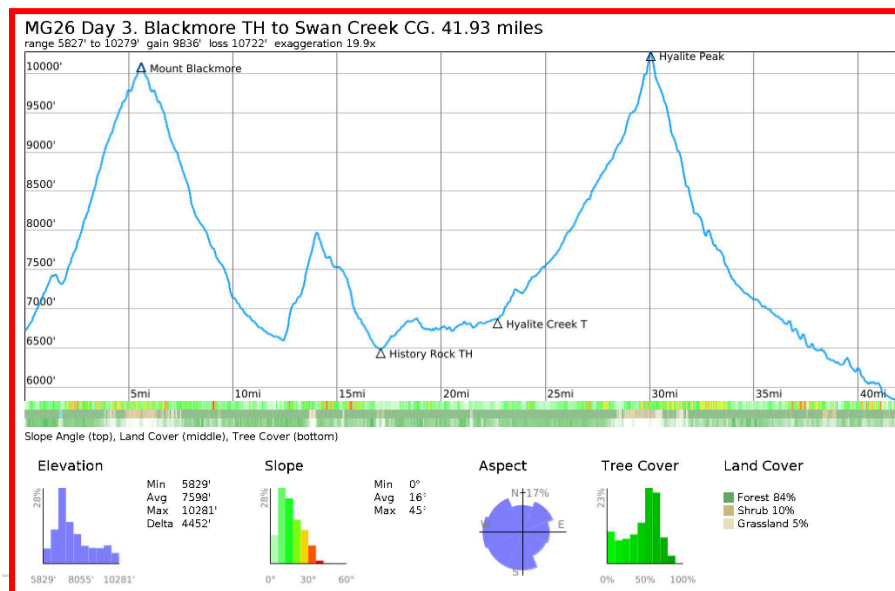
p.m. It's a 55 minute drive back to camp. It might behoove you to bring some snacks for the drive. When you get back to camp, you will want to get organized as quickly as possible, because it's a 50 minute shuttle to the start of Day 3 and you need to start up Blackmore at 5:30 a.m.

Breakfast will be "togo" at 4:15 a.m. and runners will have 10 minutes to take care of business at the Blackmore Trailhead, where there are two pit toilets.

Day 3: Blackmore Peak, History Rock and Hyalite. 41.93 miles (+9,836', -10,722')

MG26 Day 3. Blackmore TH to Swan Creek CG. 41.93 miles

(50 minute drive to start)



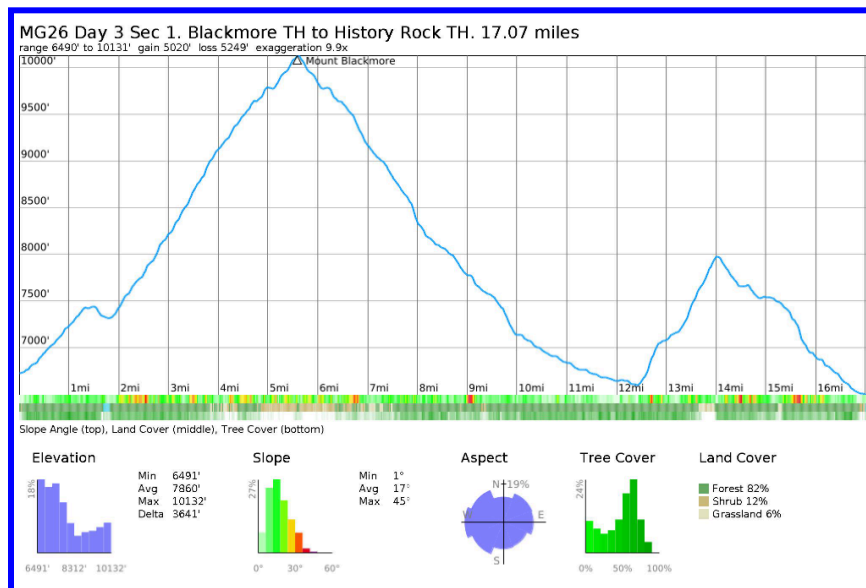
When redesigning the course, Mount Blackmore was a very important summit to include. Mighty Gallatin wouldn't be the same without this 360 degree view of the course. You'll work for it, but it's worth every step and every breath. The run back down from Blackmore summit will fill your sails with wind. You'll need it.

There are two aid stations today: one at History Rock Trailhead and another at Hyalite Creek Trailhead. There is ample water on today's course, just not up above 9,000 ft, unless there is snow. Make up time today on your descents. If you can run the long downhill, you can stay in the game. The Hyalite Peak ascent is uphill, but it can be tackled at a descent clip if you are ready. Keep yourself hydrated and keep eating. You may feel the wheels starting to fall off on Day 3 after 2 hard days. Be prepared for this in your mind and know what to do. Remember, it's ok to DNF any of the days at MG. You can go back out tomorrow. Personally, I would do everything in my ability to keep my "7-Day Finisher" Iron in the fire for as long as possible. **Day 3 cutoff is at Hyalite Creek TH at 2:30 p.m.**

###

Day 3 - Section 1: Blackmore TH to History Rock. 17.07 miles (+5,020', -5,249')

[MG26 Day 3 Sec 1. Blackmore TH to History Rock TH. 17.07 miles](#)



Use the pit toilet if you need to before you leave the parking lot. Start no later than 5:30 a.m. Follow the Mt. Blackmore Trail. There are two junctions that you will pass right in the beginning. The first one is a left hand turn that takes you around the southwestern shore of Hyalite Reservoir. The other is a junction with the old Forest Service Rd 3153, where you can go left or right. Stay on the Mt. Blackmore Trail. But mark this area with your eyes, as

you will be heading through here to go around Hyalite Reservoir at mile 19 later today.

It's about 1.5 miles to Blackmore Lake. Keep going past the lake. In total from the trailhead to the top of the mountain, it's about 3,600 ft of climbing over 5.5 miles. This ascent is one of the best. There are many roots on the footing of the heavily wooded trail, but it also opens up nicely as you get to higher altitude. There are a few switchbacks closer to the top where you will be a quarter mile or more spread out between runners but still be right on top of each other. The final ascent after the South Cottonwood Trail junction starts at a beautiful natural amphitheater. If you are into echoes, this is a perfect place to let out a "whooooooop!" But don't get caught up. Keep going up the trail to tag the summit and get your picture so you can keep moving fast enough to make the **2:30 p.m. cutoff at Hyalite Creek TH.**

After tagging the summit, head back down the summit spur to the junction with the South Cottonwood Trail and make a right. Take advantage of the runnable downhill, but be careful

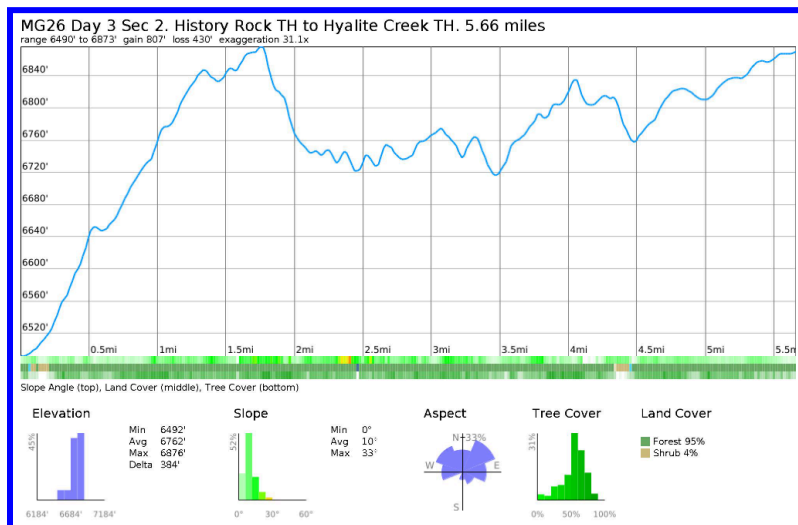
of the footing and be respectful to other trail users. State your presence if you need to pass.

After a 5.5 mile descent with about 3,000 feet of loss, you get down to the next junction, which is at the Fox Creek Cabin, take a right toward History Rock. Begin a punchy 1,500 ft climb over 1.3 miles. Then a short descent down to History Rock TH Aid Station (mm 17.1)

###

Day 3 - Section 2: History Rock TH to Hyalite Creek TH. 5.66 miles (+807', -430')

[MG26 Day 3 Sec 2. History Rock TH to Hyalite Creek TH. 5.66 miles](#)

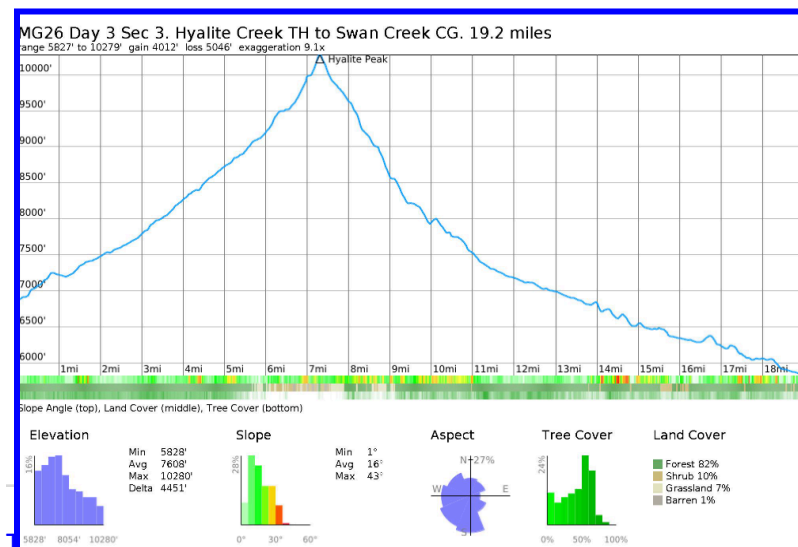


Get what you need and keep moving. Follow History Rock Trail in the opposite direction from the way you came. Take your first left less than .1 mile up. At the next intersection, don't go down left to the parking lot. Pay attention to your .gpx.. Stay right to continue around the base of Mt. Blackmore for almost a mile. Be SURE to take a left onto the Mt. Blackmore Trail 423 and then your next right just .2 miles ahead. Or, take a left here if you need a pit toilet, but it will cost you about 5 minutes.

Keep heading southeast around the Hyalite Reservoir for another 2.5 miles, where the route does a dog-leg-right over Hyalite Creek at Window Rock Cabin and continues 1.25 miles up Hyalite Canyon Rd to **Hyalite Creek TH Aid Station (mm 112.65), where cutoff is 2:30 p.m..**

Day 3 - Section 3: Hyalite Creek TH to Swan Creek CG. 19.2 miles (+4,012', -5,046')

[MG26 Day 3 Sec 3. Hyalite Creek TH to Swan Creek CG. 19.2 miles](#)



Runners that continue up the Hyalite Creek Trail 427 from here will both work for and enjoy the ascent to Hyalite Peak. This ascent is 3500 feet over 7.5 miles through the Hyalite Basin, known for holding onto its water so much so that it is one of the world's most visited ice climbing destinations.

Trail 427 intersects the junction with the Storm Castle Creek Trail,

which you should remember from Day 1. Don't take this trail. Look up at Hyalite Peak, 2 miles and 1500 feet away. That's where you are headed. Summit ONLY if wind speed is manageable and overall conditions are safe.

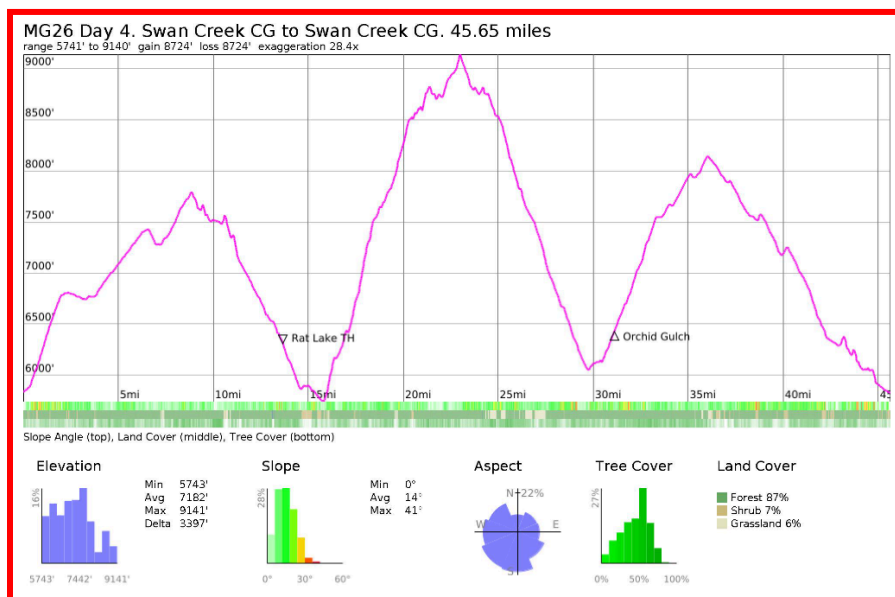
After reaching the summit, check out the view from the east on the highest point of the entire course at 10,300 feet. If you look to the east, you might be able to see the Absaroka Range. The Absaroka or "Crow" Indians have much history in these lands.

Continue south on the Gallatin Crest Trail for just a quarter mile to the junction with Swan Creek Trail 186. From this junction and for the next 12 miles and -4,500', stay prepared and alert with .gpx AND practical trail-finding awareness. The upper 8 miles of the Swan Creek Trail are not often traveled or maintained. MG Runners will come to a junction with the South Fork Swan Creek Trail. Take a left onto this ATV road for just a quarter mile down to the next intersection where you take a right to continue on the Swan Creek Trail another 3.5 miles to Swan Creek Campground (mm 131.85), the Finish for Day 3.

As always, you should have a plan of what your next steps are in camp to get ready for the next day so you can get to bed and do it all over again. Tomorrow is another long one, but no shuttle involved, just a big 46 mile loop that starts at 5:00 a.m. in Camp and finishes in Camp.

###

Day 4: Garnet Mtn, Spire Rock, Mica Creek, Telephone Ridge. 45.65 miles. (+/-8,724')
[MG26 Day 4. Swan Creek CG to Swan Creek CG. 45.65 miles](#)



You will most likely be tired. Today starts at 5:00 a.m. again, but this time from camp. Have everything ready from the night before. Today, Runners will pass by Rat Lake and Garnet Mountain on their way to the Storm Castle Creek drainage, which they will cross at mile 15 and at mile 30 for the day. Aid stations are evenly spaced today. As always, take advantage of the downhills if you can.

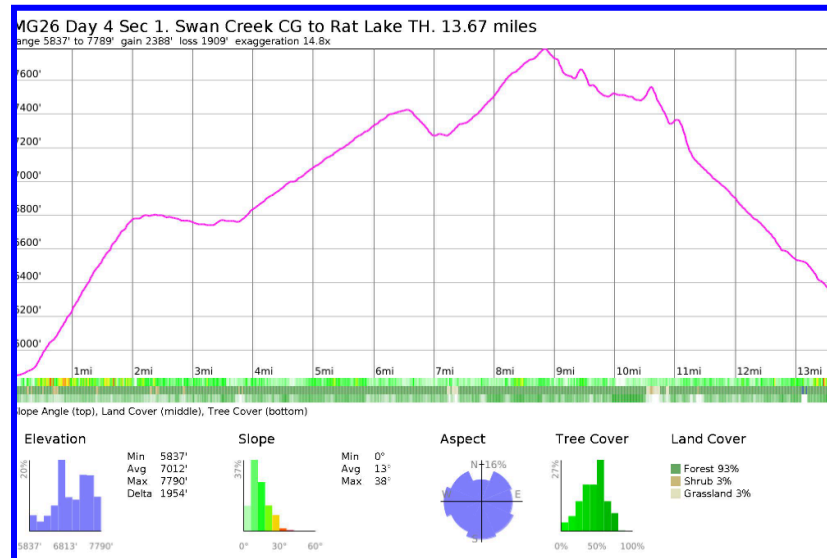
There are certain portions of today's course that cross over or share the course from Day 1, Day 3 and Day 5. Please pay attention to the specific route direction that you are navigating: Day 4, which is mostly ATV roads.

There isn't much water on course from mile 15 to 30 which is the northern portion of the big, clockwise loop up Mica Creek and down Telephone Ridge. Keep the intensity straight out of the gate today to make the **4:45 p.m. cutoff at Orchid Gulch Aid Station (mm 162.96)**

###

Day 4 - Section 1: Swan Creek CG to Rat Lake TH. 13.67 miles (+2,388', -1,909')

[MG26 Day 4 Sec 1. Swan Creek CG to Rat Lake TH. 13.67 miles](#)



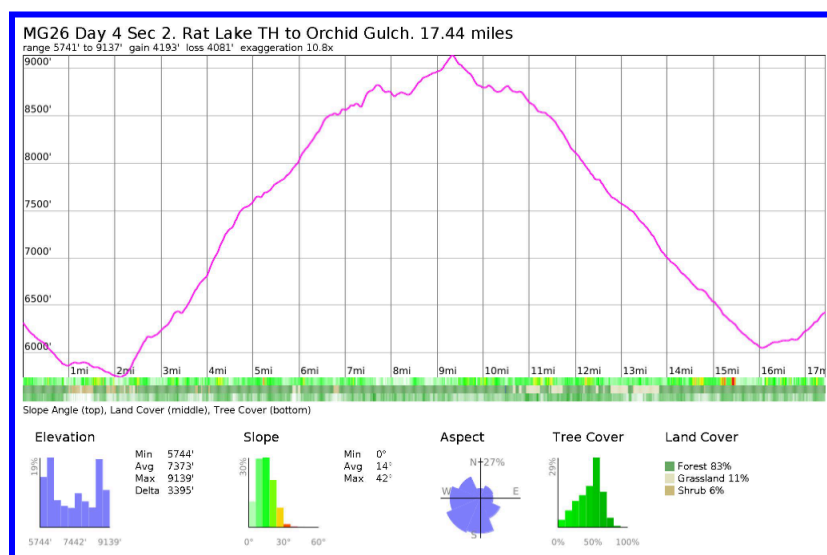
Head up Swan Creek Road toward Swan Creek TH. Instead of going up Swan Creek Tail, which is where you will finish the day from the other direction, take a left and head up Line Creek ATV Rd. After 7 miles and +1,700 feet, take a left onto Lake of the Pines Trail. Stay on Lake of the Pines Trail for 3.5 miles to the Rat Lake Trail. Take a right at this intersection and its 3 miles of runnable descent to the Rat Lake Aid Station (mm 145.5)

Rat Lake Aid Station is the halfway mark to a 7-Day Finish.

###

Day 4 - Section 2: Rat Lake TH to Orchid Gulch. 17.44 miles (+4,193', -4,081')

[MG26 Day 4 Sec 2. Rat Lake TH to Orchid Gulch. 17.44 miles](#)



Continue the descent on Rat Lake Road for another two miles to Storm Castle Road. Take a left onto Storm Castle Road and take a right onto FS 425 just a quarter mile later. Pay attention to .GPX.

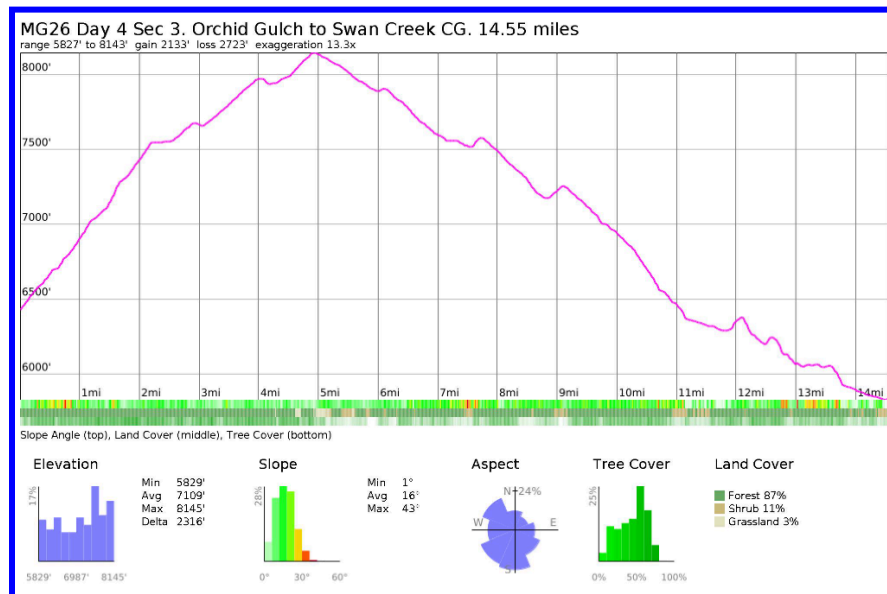
From here, climb the ATV road for about 2.5 miles with +1,800 ft until a junction with Mica Creek Rd, where the route goes left. Stay on Mica Creek Rd for another 1.5 miles and +800 ft until the junction with Mica Mine

Rd. Continue straight here onto FS 419 for another 2 miles to the high point for the day. If you think you are in danger of missing the cutoff, here is an opportunity to not let that happen. About a mile and a quarter from this high point take a right onto Telephone Ridge Rd FS 421. Once you're on Telephone Ridge, it's a 6 mile, -2,700 ft down to Storm Castle Road. Take a left onto this road and then an immediate right at the Blanchard Sawmill and climb a half mile to the **Orchid Gulch Aid Station, where cutoff is 4:45 p.m.**

###

Day 4 - Section 3: Orchid Gulch to Swan Creek CG. 14.55 miles (+2,133', -2,723')

MG26 Day 4 Sec 3. Orchid Gulch to Swan Creek CG. 14.55 miles



One more section for the day. Head up the Orchid Gulch Trail for 3.5 miles and about +1,500 ft to Pine Tree Rd, where the route takes a left onto this ATV road.

From here, its a final 1.5 miles of climbing before an almost 10 mile descent with -2,300. Pine Tree Rd turns into the South Fork Swan Creek Trail. Exactly 6 miles from the high point, the route comes to the

junction with the Swan Creek Trail. Take a right here and take the Swan Creek Trail for another 2.8 miles to Camp (mm 177.51).

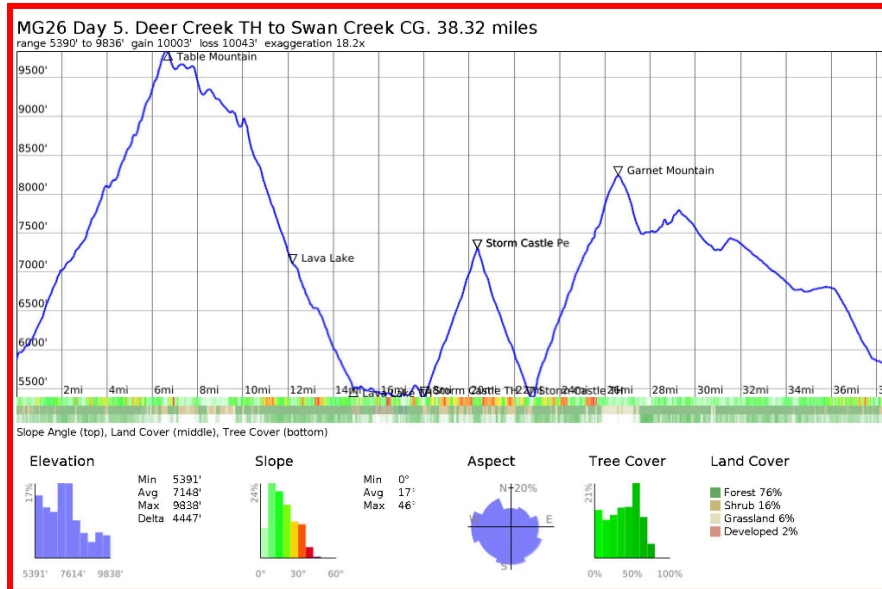
On your way in, prepare to prepare for tomorrow the first part of the day in the Lee Metcalf and the second part of the day going on some of the same trails, but in the opposite direction as you did this morning. Day 5 will start at 7:00 a.m. at Deer Creek Trailhead.

###

Day 5: Lee Metcalf. Tbl Mtn. Lava Lake. Storm Castle. 38.32 miles (+10,003', -10,043')

MG26 Day 5. Deer Creek TH to Swan Creek CG. 38.32 miles

(15 minute drive to start)



This will be the first time the route goes in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area. Today starts at 7:00 a.m. at Deer Creek Trailhead. Runners will complete what locals call the “Table Mountain Traverse.” There are 360 degree views of much of the course, including the entire Gallatin Crest on a clear day

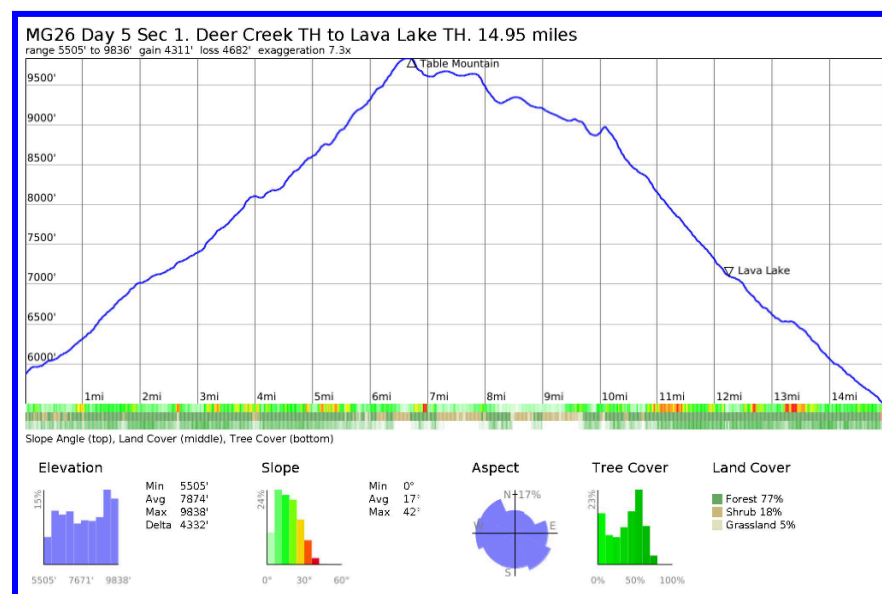
Descending into the majestic Lava Lake basin and following its entire drainage to the Gallatin, one

of America’s most popular rivers for fishing, rafting and wildlife viewing is a day worth enduring. After Lava Lake, the connector trail to Storm Castle and Garnet is the Gallatin Riverside Trail. Please stay tuned to your .GPX during this section.. It's a day for the views if you can get through it. **Cutoff for Day 5 is at Storm Castle TH at 4:00 p.m.**

###

Day 5 - Section 1: Deer Creek TH to Lava Lake TH. 14.95 miles (+4,311', -4,682')

MG26 Day 5 Sec 1. Deer Creek TH to Lava Lake TH. 14.95 miles



Start climbing right out of the trailhead and enter the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area in just a half mile. Stay on the Deer Creek Trail 481 for 5 miles and +2,700 ft, where the route takes a right onto the Table Mtn Trail 445. Keep climbing. Stay on this trail all for the next 7 miles all of the way down to Lava Lake. Just after the high point for the day, which is Table Mountain summit, the route

will intersect with the top of the Asbestos Mine Trail. Don't take this trail. Stay on Trail 445 and enjoy the 6 mile, switchbacky, but runnable descent toward Lava Lake. This is a great spot for a picture. Take the 100 meter side trip to the shore before continuing the descent.

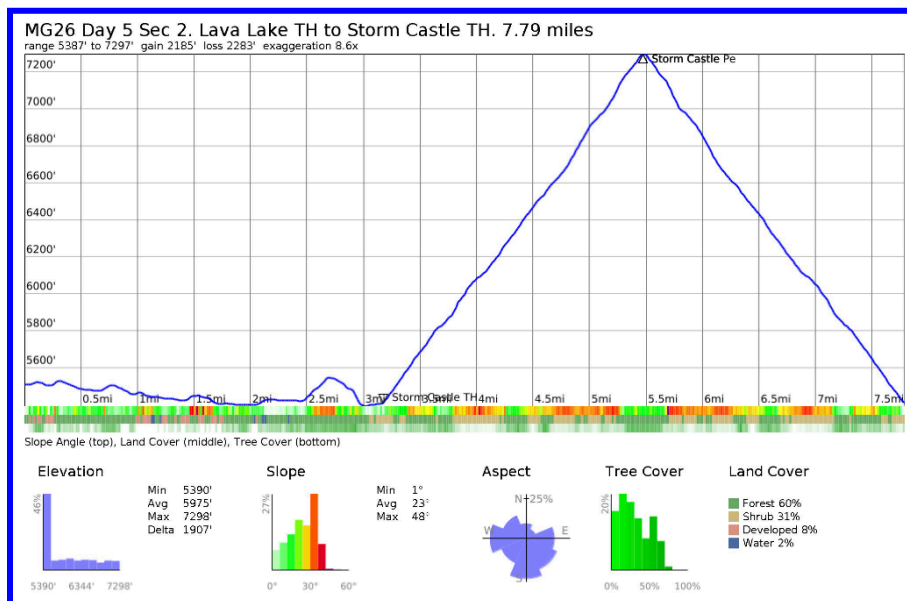
The descent from Lava Lake is about 2,000 ft over 2.5 miles of some really rocky footing. Be VERY careful. High steps FTW and eyes on your footing if you plan on running down this. Be respectful of all other trail users. This is a popular section of trail. Should be some dogs!

There is a pit toilet at this aid station as well as Gallatin River access. Get what you need and keep moving. 4:00 p.m. cutoff at Storm Castle TH.

###

Day 5 - Section 2: Lava Lake TH to Storm Castle TH. 7.79 miles (+2,185', -2,283')

[MG26 Day 5 Sec 2. Lava Lake TH to Storm Castle TH. 7.79 miles](#)



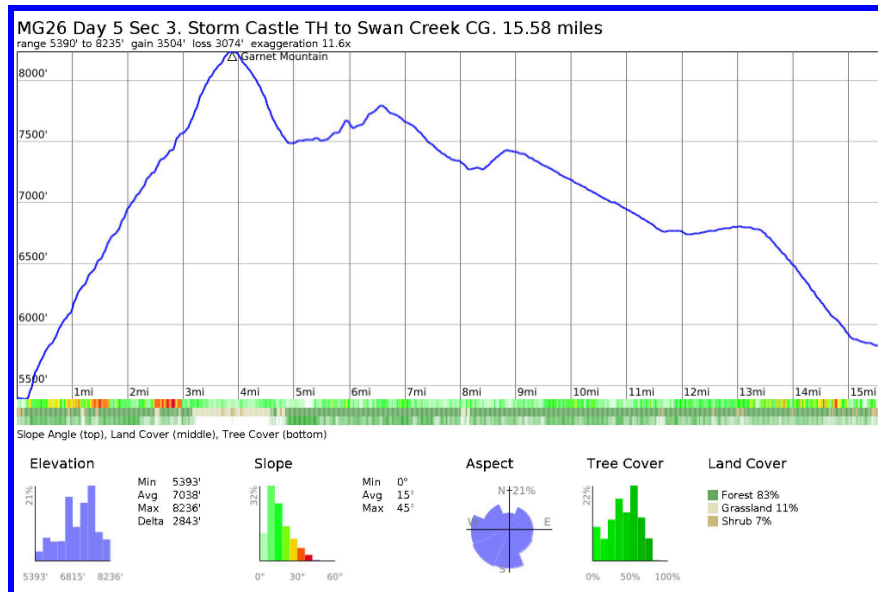
From the Aid Station, head up the dirt road toward Hwy 191. Do NOT Cross! Stay to the right to cross the bridge. Once across, do a right hook and go under the highway on the Gallatin Riverside Trail. This 3 mile trail is hard to follow, but it will get you where you need to go. Stay on your .gpx.. About 2 miles down river, after passing a very popular white water rafting section of the “Mighty Gallatin River,” the trail will

head through a grassy area away from the river and into the forest to a junction with the Garnet Mountain Trail, where Runners will take a left down to the Storm Castle Trailhead. Hit the aid station twice if you can, once before the 5 mile, +/-2,000 ft out-and-back summit at Storm Castle and again before the 4:00 p.m. cutoff at Storm Castle TH.

###

Day 5 - Section 3: Storm Castle TH to Swan Creek CG. 15.58 miles (+3,504', - 3,074')

[MG26 Day 5 Sec 3. Storm Castle TH to Swan Creek CG. 15.58 miles](#)



Runners who make the 4 p.m. cutoff will head back up the Gallatin Riverside Trail and then up the Garnet Mountain Trail. Take a left onto the Rat Lake Trail to complete the Garnet Mountain summit, which goes up to a super cool Forest Service Cabin. The total ascent is 3.7 miles with +2,900 feet.

After the summit, head back down the Rat Lake Trail for almost a mile, where the route takes a right onto

Pioneer Lakes Trail. This junction should look familiar. Runners came through here yesterday morning in the opposite direction. After 3.5 miles of rollers on this trail, the route intersects Line Creek ATV Road. Take a right here and continue to run in the opposite direction as yesterday morning's footsteps. You're home free for Day 5. Only 7 miles and -1,700 ft on this runnable downhill to Swan Creek Rd, where you'll take a right and run straight into camp. Let out a loud whoop to let 'em know your coming.

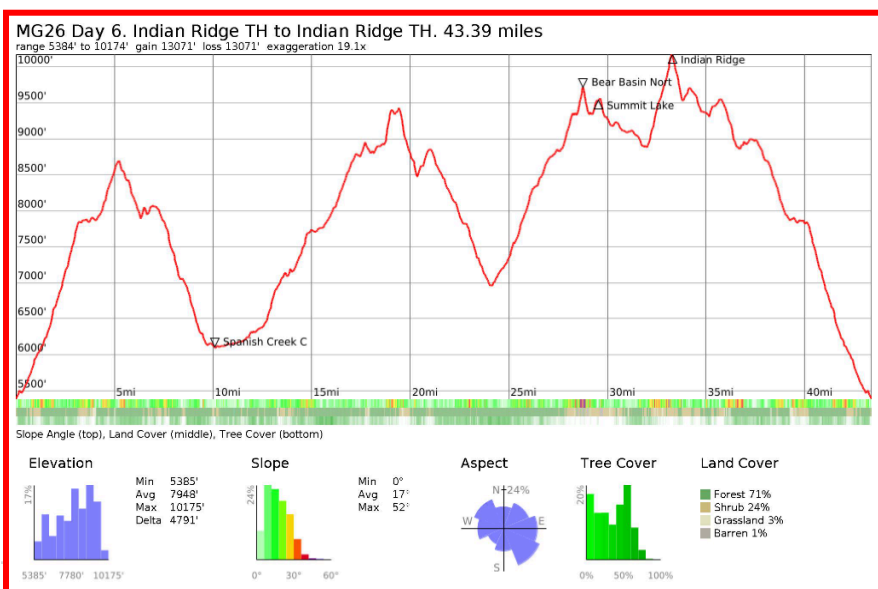
###

Day 6: Spanish Peaks and Indian Ridge. 43.39 miles (+/-13,071')

(15 minute drive to start)

(15 minute drive from finish)

[MG26 Day 6. Indian Ridge TH to Indian Ridge TH. 43.39 miles](#)



Welcome to Day 6. You woke up with many miles on your legs if you've made all of the cutoffs so far, you may have never run this far, or maybe you have. Either way, don't allow your confidence to get in the way of your chances to make it back to Big Sky in one piece. Day 6 could be considered the toughest day of climbing and most of it is in the Lee Metcalf

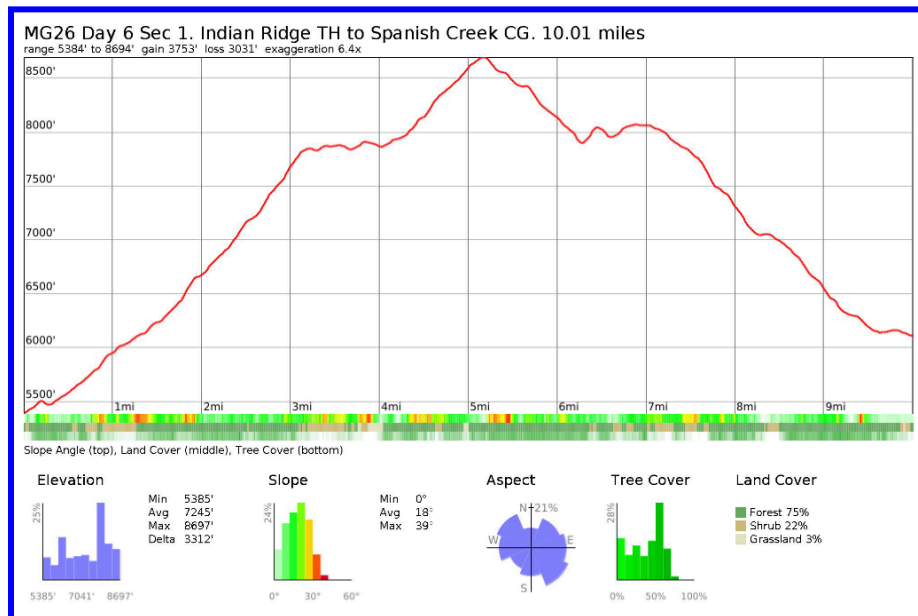
Wilderness Area, so the views are worth every stair-climbing step.

Breakfast will be served at 4:15 a.m. in camp. Wheels up from camp at 4:55 a.m. Runners are shuttled to Indian Ridge TH for a 5:15 a.m. start, from where they will make their way up the Indian Ridge Trail and Little Hellroaring Creek Trail to the aid station at Spanish Creek Campground, which has a pit toilet. From Spanish Creek Trailhead, the route takes runners up Falls Creek to Lake Solitude and then to the majestic Spanish Lakes, which are flanked by the Spanish Peaks Unit of Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area. After Spanish Lakes, runners also get to have a sneak peak of Bear Basin and Summit Lake, as well as the upper North Fork of the Hellroaring Creek Basin before returning to The Indian Ridge TH for the final time via the iconic Indian Ridge. Wildflowers and weather are always epic on Day 6. **The cutoff for Day 6 is 9:30 a.m. at Spanish Creek Campground.**

###

Day 6 - Section 1: Indian Ridge TH to Spanish Creek CG. 10.01 miles (+3,753', -3,031')

[MG26 Day 6 Sec 1. Indian Ridge TH to Spanish Creek CG. 10.01 miles](#)



Start up from Indian Ridge Trailhead at 5:15 a.m.. It's mellow for the first mile, but then climbing and switchbacks to the top of the climb.

Take a right at the top of this climb, which is also the first junction about 5 miles and +3,300 ft into the day at Little Hellroaring Creek Trail 400. Stay on Trail 400 for the 5 mile descent to Spanish Creek CG, where cutoff is at 9:30

a.m. This gives runners 4 hours and fifteen minutes to make the cutoff. ***IMPORTANT: There is no aid for 34 miles after Spanish Creek CG.

###

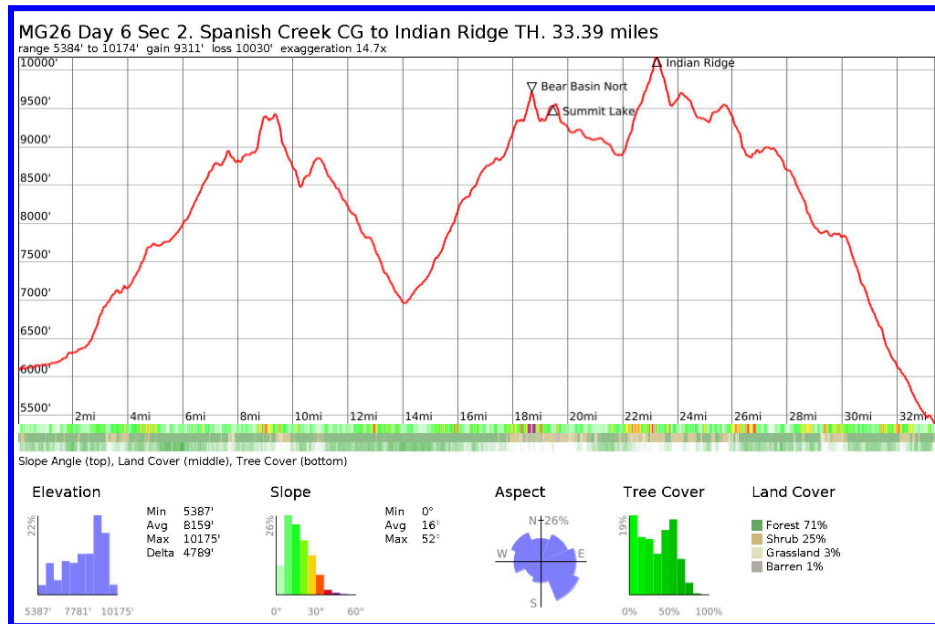
Day 6 - Section 2: Spanish Creek CG to Indian Ridge TH. 33.39 miles (+9,311', -10,030')

[MG26 Day 6 Sec 2. Spanish Creek CG to Indian Ridge TH. 33.39 miles](#)

Make sure you are ready for what is arguably the toughest section of the entire journey. 33.4 miles without aid is a long way. Your pack should be the heaviest it has been throughout the entire adventure. There are plenty of water sources, except on the last 3 miles of the ascent to the north pass of Bear Basin and again up on Indian Ridge. At this point you are probably

moving slower than a sack of potatoes. The only reprieve from the climbing is the downhill, though loose granite isn't the best to "run" on so move accordingly.

From Spanish Creek CG, take the South Fork Spanish Creek Trail 407. After 2.4 miles and 350 feet of gain, you will come to the junction with Falls Creek Trail 410. After about 4 miles and +2,500 ft of climbing, the route passes a junction with High Lakes Trail. Stay straight. Trail 410 turns into Lake Solitude Trail 412. Take this for another 1.2 miles to the junction with the Hammond Creek Trail. Stay on Trail 412 for another 2 miles of precarious footing to eventually come to one of the coolest places on earth: The Spanish Lakes.



Take Spanish Lakes Trail 411 to the turnaround at the lake edge and come down Trail 411 just over 3 miles with about 2,000 ft of descent to turn right onto Spanish Creek Trail 407.

Once you turn back onto Trail 407, it's up again. About 2,800 ft over 4.5 miles to the northern entrance into Bear Basin, passing the Indian Ridge Trail 444 in the final half mile. This

crest is a tease and a dangling carrot to show you where you will have to go tomorrow, when you enter Bear Basin from the Gallatin Peak Trail, which comes over from the eastern drainage of the Hellroaring Creek. Take the chance to envision yourself here tomorrow, probably having found new running legs somehow, because once you make it into Bear Basin, you are basically home free.

Turn around and be careful descending back down the scree-laden switchback trail. This time, take a right to stay on Indian Ridge Trail 444. From the junction, it's 1.6 miles with +300 ft and -500 ft to the junction with the North Fork Hellroaring Creek Trail 11. On the first part of this section you will pass the mysterious Summit Lake, which seems to drain into Spanish Creek like an infinity pool. Then, you go up for a tiny bit to see what looks like something from Mars. You'll head down and through the Thompson Lake Basin, which is the northern drainage of Gallatin Peak. When you reach the junction with North Fork Hellroaring Creek Trail, STAY on the Indian Ridge Trail 444. From here, you drop 300 feet over 1.2 miles and then ascend a punchy 1,300 ft over 1.3 miles for the highest point of the day at 10,177 ft. From this high point, it's downhill to Hwy 191.

It's 10.5 miles with 4,850 feet of descent and 700 feet of ascent to the Highway. A rolling downhill. There is a lake where you can filter water if needed. It's at mile 36.4 for the day

and it's called Arrow Lake. After Arrow Lake, you'll pass by the junction from earlier today with Little Hellroaring Creek Trail 400. Stay to the right on Indian Ridge and continue all of the way to Indian Ridge Trailhead (mm 259.23), the finish and extraction point for Day 6.

When you get back to camp, remember that you have to get up a bit earlier in the morning to break down your tent and organize your gear bag and camp kit. You should only have these two items ready to go in the vehicle and meet you at the finish line. Volunteers may or may not be able to help, but this is your responsibility.

###

Day 7: Hellroaring Creek. Bear Basin and Beehive Basin. 30.89 miles (+7,113', -6,211')
(12 minute drive to start)

[MG26 Day 7. Hellroaring Creek TH to Big Sky Town Center. 30.89 miles](#)

Breakfast at 4:45 a.m. so you have extra time to break down your camp. Wheels up at 5:45 to Hellroaring Creek Trailhead, from where you will start down the trail at 6:00 a.m.. If you've made it this far, you may as well finish this thing! Dig deep today. Leave everything out there on the course. The goal is to be in Big Sky Town Center by 6 p.m. so everyone can enjoy a celebration feast together at Riverhouse BBQ.

The course heads into the Lee Metcalf Wilderness Area for the last time via the Hellroaring Creek Trail, which turns into the Gallatin Peak Trail to climb up to the east pass into Bear

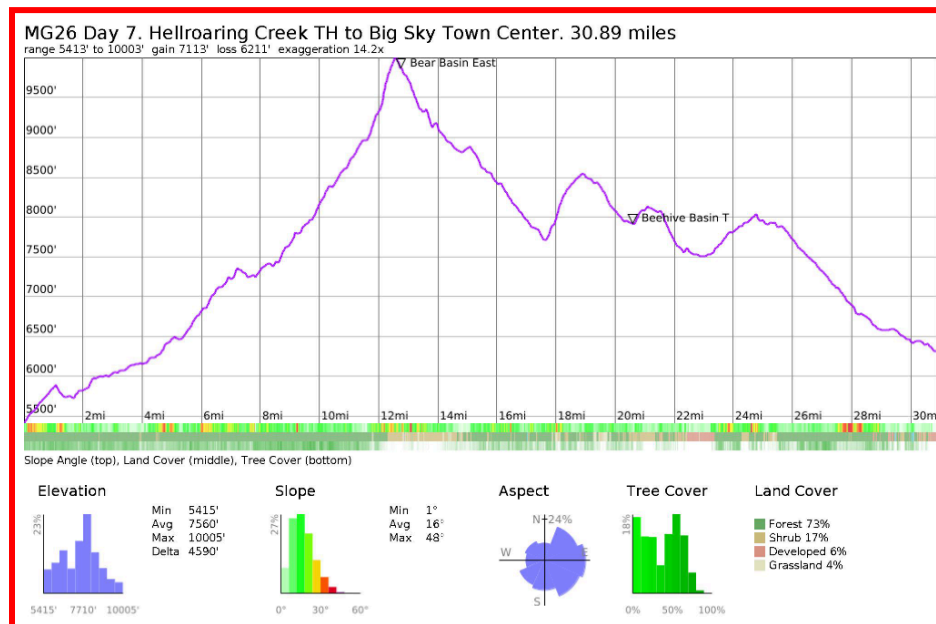
Basin. You will then descend into Bear Basin via the North Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River, before you climb up and over into Beehive Basin, seeing your first glimpse of Bougie Big Sky in seven days.

At Beehive Basin TH, timing may just make it so everyone can leave the final aid station together toward Big Sky Resort, before one final climb and a final descent into Big Sky via

the world famous Mountain to Meadow Trail. Watch out for Bikers. It's Friday afternoon.

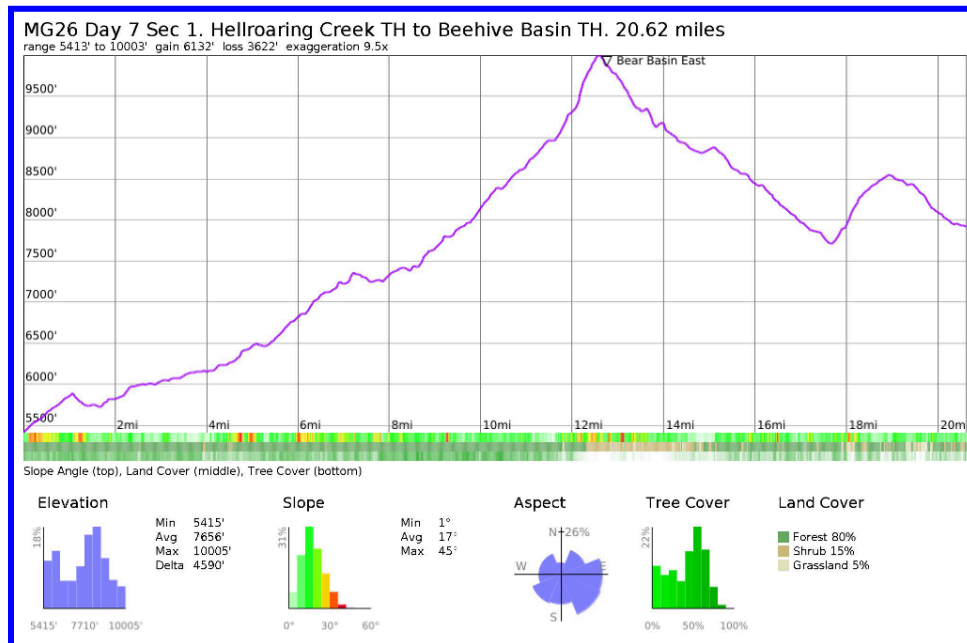
Only 31 miles today. Consider it a gift. You can do it! WE can do it!

###



Day 7 - Section 1: Hellroaring Creek TH to Beehive Basin TH. 20.62 miles (+6,132', -3,622')

[MG26 Day 7 Sec 1. Hellroaring Creek TH to Beehive Basin TH. 20.62 miles](#)



Get ready to climb!
Take Hellroaring Creek Trail 81 for 5 miles and +1,400 ft to reach the North Fork Hellroaring Creek Trail 110. **DO NOT** take this trail. Keep going for another 3.2 miles until the junction with the South Fork Hellroaring Creek Trail. Continue straight toward Gallatin Peak on the Gallatin Peak Trail. Climb for another 4.3

steep miles to get to the high point for the day at the east pass into Bear Basin. You'll pass by many cool waterfalls along Hellroaring Creek on the way to this pass. Animals have been spotted on this section in the past. The final ascent up to the east pass is on trail but has a pretty sketchy footing so be careful.

Start running down the switchbacks of Bear Basin. From the pass, its 5.3 miles with 2,300 ft of descent on runnable single track to the Beehive Cutoff Trail 402. Take this straight up again for 1.2 miles of switchbacks with 700 ft of gain. The trail comes to a road, which you will take. Pay attention to your .GPX. Stay on the road for a half mile to the Beehive Ridge Trail 403. You are only on this for a third of a mile before joining the Beehive Basin Trail.

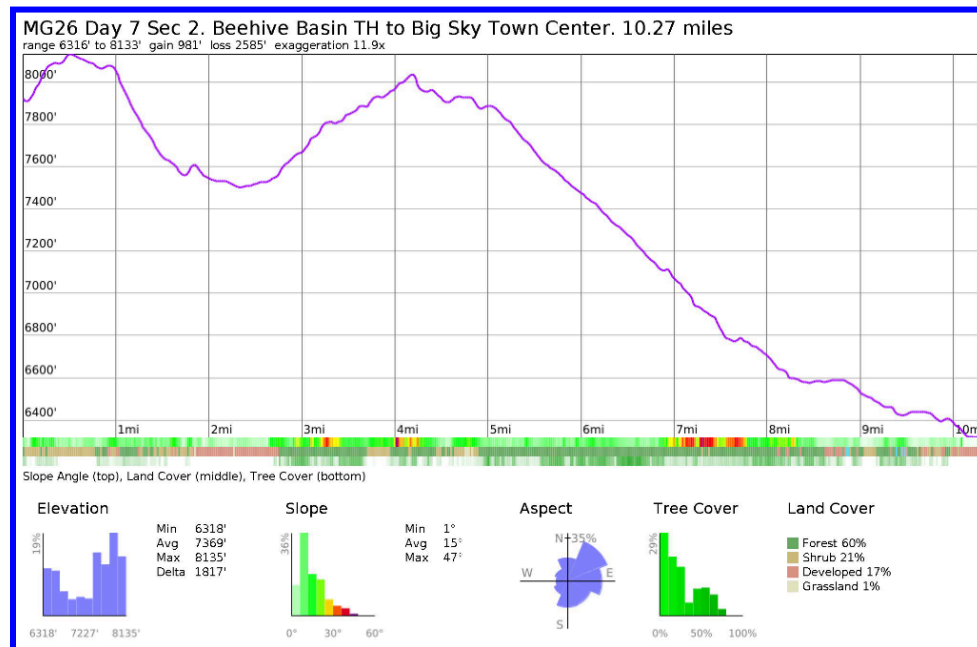
If you have extra time and need the extra miles, you can do a 2.2-mile, 1,100 ft out-and-back to the end of the trail from here passing through the three main terraces of Beehive Basin and past Beehive Lake. Check out Lone Peak on your way down. It's the best view. Once you get back down to the junction, or if you don't have the time to do the out-and back, head the other way on the Beehive Basin Trail 40 for another 1.2 miles with 550 feet of descent to the last aid station of the adventure, **Beehive Basin TH, where cutoff is 2:30 p.m.** It's tradition to start this last section together and finish the Mighty Gallatin as a team. Runners and Volunteers welcome!

###

Day 7 - Section 2: Beehive Basin TH to Big Sky Town Center. 10.27 miles (+981', -2,585')

[MG26 Day 7 Sec 2. Beehive Basin TH to Big Sky Town Center. 10.27 miles](#)

Your mandatory gear, except for your GPS tracker and your bear spray, change from “Mandatory” to “Suggested” at this point, so take it off from here to the finish if you wish. Just keep in mind there is a possibility you may still be out after dark. It is very important to pay attention to the .GPX between here and the Resort on this section as there are a few opportunities to take a wrong turn.



From the Beehive Basin TH Aid Station, take the paved Beehive Basin Rd west and then southwest. It's a quick 230 ft .5 mile climb up the road before heading down again. Exactly 1 mile from the aid station, you will take a left under the ski lift and follow a winter ski trail “Cascade,” dropping 500 feet over a half mile. The route goes under Lone Mountain Road, in a large

calvert that skiers use in the winter. After the tunnel, turn on to White Otter for a few yards and then into the parking lot for the Big Sky Resort.

Once you get to the Resort, you'll be on mountain bike trails for the next 6 miles. Be courteous. Follow the .GPX closely around the Resort. Join up with the Mountain to Meadow Trail. It's 1.5 miles climbing 500 ft. This is your last climb!! Then, you'll start through just under a mile of rollers, before descending 1,400 ft over 4 miles, spitting you out on Autumn Trail. Stay on this paved road for less than a half mile, before taking a right on Andesite Road. You'll be on Andesite for 1.3 miles of downhill, with the Middle Fork of the West Fork of the Gallatin River to your left.

Just before the road gets to Lone Mountain Road, take a right onto an unmarked trail heading towards Big Sky. You're almost there! Stay on this trail along Lone Mountain Road until it ends at Big Pine Rd about a third of a mile later. Cross over Big Pine, follow the cheer squad and start celebrating because you can see the exact place you started 7 days ago. Congratulations. You endured the Mighty Gallatin!!

###

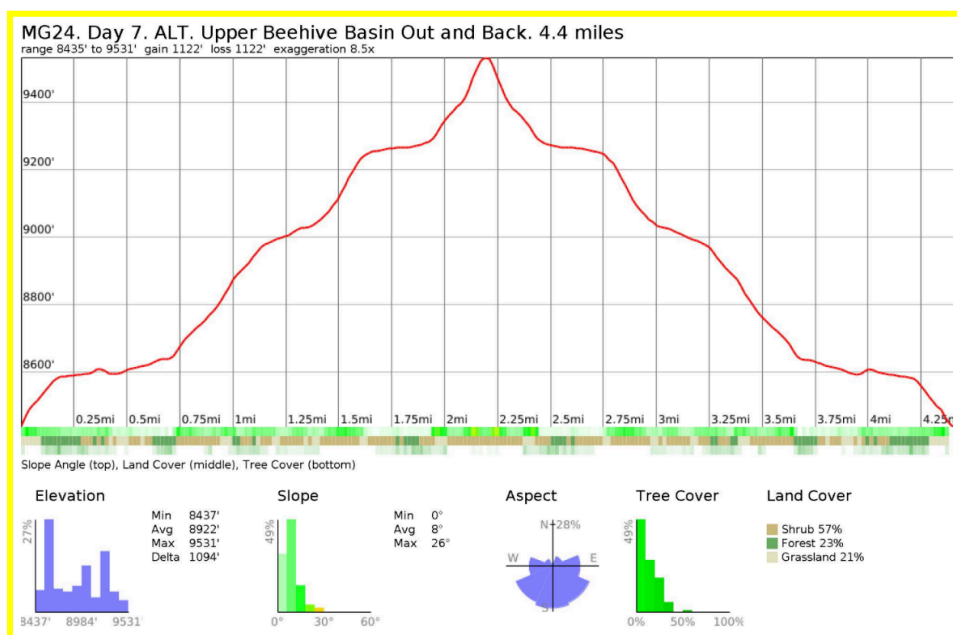
Grand Total of standard course is 290.12 miles with +71,848 ft / -71,790 ft

To accumulate extra miles to reach or exceed 300, runners may, within daylight hours (from 30 minutes before sunrise until 30 minutes after sunset), use only the designated course to meet their goal.

Be the first to finish Day 2 and give yourself the opportunity to run until the last person comes in. This bought Connor McClelland 8 extra miles on Day 2.

Day 7 toward the end of Section 1 up into Beehive Basin. 4.4 miles (+/- 1,122')

[MG24. Day 7. ALT. Upper Beehive Basin Out and Back. 4.4 miles.pdf](#)



###

Caltopo Links and Spreadsheet

(Download .GPX files directly from Caltopo Links Below)

[Mighty Gallatin 2026 Spreadsheet](#)

[Caltopo Map LINK \(By Day\)](#)

[Caltopo Map LINK \(By Segment\)](#)

[Profile PDFs LINK](#)

[Table of Contents](#)

The Calendar

TBD	Course preview with Helgi Olafson
Wed – 08th	Runners and volunteers may check in to Swan Creek Campground early, any time after 2:00 p.m. MDT . We have Sites 007-013 reserved from the 8th through the 19th. If anyone checks in early, you are on your own for food and drink until the Pre-Adventure Gathering on the 11th at 5:00 p.m. and then not again until the Start of Mighty Gallatin, Saturday morning at 3:00 a.m. MDT.
Thu – 09th	<p>5:00 p.m. MDT - Pre-Adventure Gathering, Location TBD . Bring your appetite and get ready to meet the rest of the MG Class of '26.</p> <p>YOUR CHOICE OF SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take advantage of getting situated in camp a night early. This is at no extra cost and it gives you a glimpse of what starting a day from Camp will look like during the Adventure without having to wake up and start running at 5 a.m.. You will also be much closer to the Storm Castle acclimation hike in the morning at 9:00 a.m. (5 miles +/-2,000') I suggest this option. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ There will be availability for pickups at BZN as needed. • Check into a hotel on your own dime. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Vehicles will come in to pick runners up in Bozeman on Friday morning between 7:30 and 8:00 a.m. MDT to drive them to the group hike. Please have gear ready.
Fri – 10th	<p>MIGHTY GALLATIN CHECK IN DAY</p> <p>-Storm Castle group hike for acclimation: 9:00 a.m. MDT Volunteers welcome. 4.5 miles out-and-back with +1,800'</p> <p>-Pre-Adventure Meeting (Mandatory): 3:00 p.m. MDT @ Swan Creek Campground. Sites 007 - 013.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory Run Meeting • Adventurer Check-in – Pick up any swag. • GPS Check- be prepared to show the course track on a navigation device and know how to use it. We recommend the Gaia app on your phone. • Bear Spray Tutorial • Mugshots – Every adventurer will get a mugshot for the run for live tracking, and a photo for the 'before' and 'after' shots.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mandatory Gear Check – Come with your pack fully assembled.
Sat – 11th	ADVENTURE BEGINS! BIG SKY TOWN CENTER, START/FINISH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2:30 a.m. MDT Check In; turn trackers on • 3 a.m. MDT Mighty Gallatin BEGINS!!
Fri – 17th	Adventure Cutoff at 6 p.m.
Sat – 18th	Last Chance Gear pickup by 10 a.m. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Runners should already have taken care of this at the finish. • Cars to be removed from Swan Creek Campground by 12 p.m..

The Aid Stations and Camp

The aid stations are minimal – packaged calories and prepared sandwiches designed to get you in and out fast. Runners can fill waters, eat and get medical attention at the aid stations.

Each aid station will also have gels, chips, and other snacks, as well as water, electrolytes and Super High Carb from Skratch. Runners will be required to bring a reusable cup to drink out of at the aid stations. It's recommended that runners also bring a reusable plate, bowl, cup and utensils for any meals they prepare for themselves at night at camp. The aid stations and camp will be equipped with first aid and foot-care supplies. Aid stations will also have waterproof drop bags that are packed and provided by the runners at the beginning of each day. These drop bags and other supplies will be transported to each aid station.

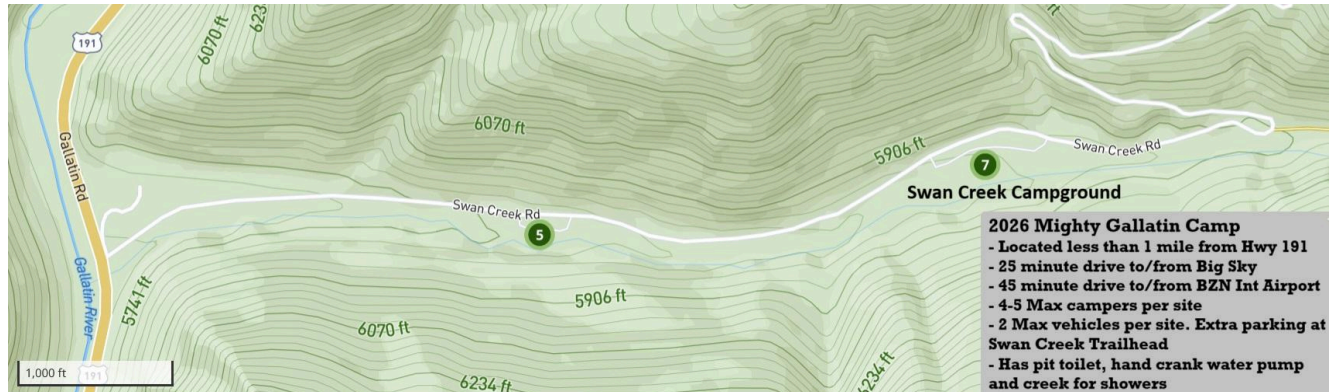
If you use nutrition other than what's provided at camp or the aid stations, it's on you to ensure you have an adequate supply to carry you through the entire adventure. Runners must start with at least the minimum number of calories as stated in the mandatory gear list. The Run Director will have the final decision as to whether the calories carried are sufficient for an individual runner. We will **ONLY** supply hot water for preparing food at camp in the evenings. Dinner preparations are the responsibility of the runner and their support person.

Camp:

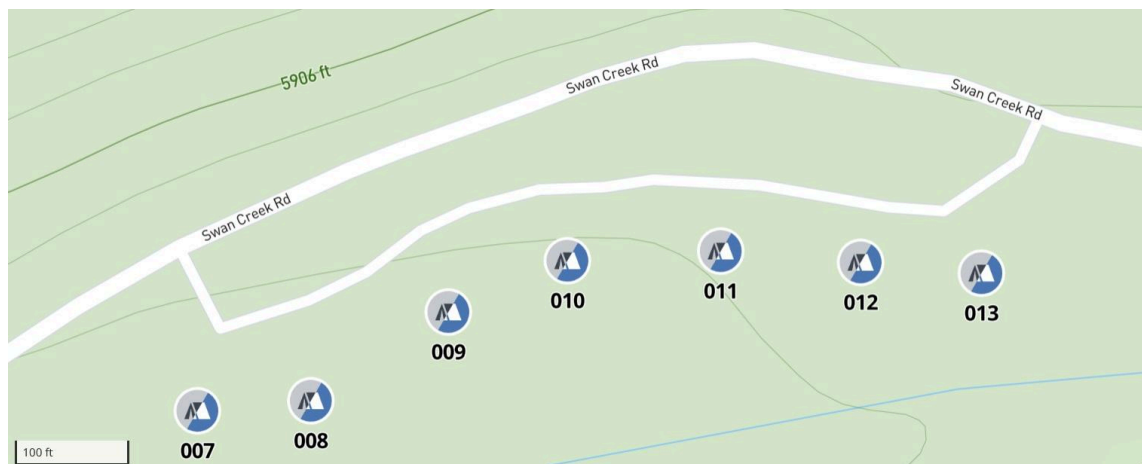
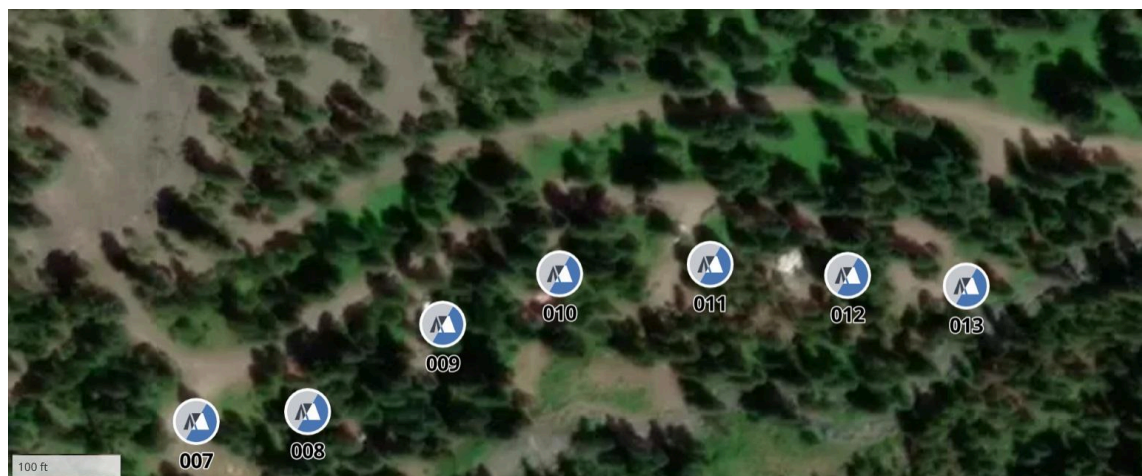
Swan Creek Campground (pictured below) will serve as a home for the runners at night and a place for the volunteers to aid the runners as they make their way through the Mighty Gallatin. Runners will eat, sleep, and take care of larger maintenance tasks for their bodies to keep themselves moving forward for 7 days.

There will also be a "Camp Bag" that is packed by each runner and will include items for sleeping, as well as a few camp essentials. Suggested items for the [Camp Bag](#) and other [Mandatory gear](#) is listed below. For a greater chance of success, it's highly recommended that you keep your personal "camp" organized so when you return each night you can clean up, eat and sleep quickly.

All drop bags will be collected by volunteers at the start of Days 2-7 before runners leave camp. Drop bags for Day 1 will be collected at the mandatory meeting on Friday at 4 p.m. MST.



Satellite view of Camp:



Gear & Mandatory Items

All Runners will maintain their own gear throughout the event. Our crew will transport runner's Drop Bags and Laundry Bags. When it comes time to do laundry, the volunteers will ask you for your laundry bag.

Don't bring extra stuff that you don't see yourself using,

MANDATORY: [Running Kit](#)

This is what you run in and carry with you while you are on the course. Your pack, clothing, shoes, poles, calories, water, etc. You will adventure in this all day.

MANDATORY: [Gear Bag](#)

Gear Bag should include at least one spare of everything for your kit that you will be wearing or that will be in your pack while on trail. Try to keep it to items that you know you will cycle through. When there is an opportunity for a drop bag, you will prepare that drop bag with items from your gear bag. Keep your food separate. Keep all lotions, pastes and meds with the Food Bag, which can be stored in a vehicle or in one of the bear-proof cabinets.

MANDATORY: Food Bag.

This contains your dehydrated dinners and any other personal food items you may bring with you. Store your food in your food bag safely and away from bears when we are not at camp. We don't want bears in camp. This includes anything a bear could smell and would be interested in eating. Please also keep lotions, pastes and meds in a separate container, which will be stored alongside your Food Bag. If there is no space in the large bear-proof cabinet, we will designate a vehicle.

MANDATORY: [Camp Kit](#)

This stays at camp in your tent. This needs to stay organized, but not as organized as the gear bag. Make sure there are zero items that might attract bears. Not even bug spray, sunscreen, lip balm, or toothpaste. If you aren't next to it, it goes into a locker or vehicle.

MANDATORY: Mesh Laundry Bag

This is for your dirty items. Volunteers will do your laundry three times throughout the week. To do so, they will simply throw a few of the bags in each load to keep items separate. You will receive your clean and dry items in the bag they came in. Don't expect them to be folded.

Your **Running Kit** is built for your own safety and that of your fellow adventurers. Running in the remote backcountry doesn't leave you with many options in the case of poor weather, injury, or other potential problems. Temperature changes are abrupt as the sun sets and as altitude increases. Weather fronts can develop quickly. These are the Montana Rockies.

If something were to go wrong during the adventure, this gear will help you be more prepared to help yourself and your fellow runners. Please carry warm clothing at all times!

Mandatory Clothing – Wear or store in ziplock bags to keep dry. Keep spares of each item in your drop bag and gear bag.

- Waterproof rain jacket with a hood
- Gloves
- Beanie style hat
- Pants (has to cover your legs)
- Insulating layer long sleeve shirt
- Puffy jacket with hood
- Neck gaiter/buff
- Changes of socks (many)
- Space blanket OR [Emergency bivy](#)
- Hat with protective sun sides or equivalent to protect from exposure.

Mandatory Equipment

- Headlamp or waist light
- Extra headlamp or waist light
- One set of extra batteries (or more)
- Bear spray
- Whistle
- GPS beacon (two-way)
- USB battery pack and chords to charge electronics.
- Fire starter
- Cell phone that remains charged and has the course downloaded on Gaia. This course will not be marked. Navigation is your responsibility.

Mandatory Food and Water

- Calories (enough for 30 miles or 12 hours)
- Emergency Calories (1000 calories)
- Water Purification method: tablets, filter, filter bottle or Steripen. This landscape has ample water sources on every section, but there is much wildlife and stock, so filtering is necessary
- Hand bottle if you are only carrying a bladder. Bottles are easier to fill (or in case your bladder breaks)
- Reusable cup (silicone)

Your **Gear Bag** should include at least one spare of everything for your kit that you will be wearing or that will be in your pack while on trail. Try to keep it to items that you know you will cycle through. Below are some suggested items.

- Multiple pairs of socks
- Three or Four running kits
- Extra trekking pole(s)
- A few pairs of shoes
- Extra sunglasses
- Extra packs 20L and 12L
 - These could be used for drop bags
- Extra soft flasks and extra bladder
- Extra gloves
- Extra hats
- Extra buffs

- Extra shirts
- Sweat-wicking, long sleeve, short sleeve, sleeveless
- Arm and leg compression sleeves
- Pole belt or quiver
- Leukotape
- First-aid kit
- Anti-Chafe Lube
- Sunscreen
- Lip balm
- Extra Batteries
- Extra Battery Packs
- Extra Headlamp
- Charging chords
- Extra Calories and favorite trail food, electrolytes, salt, etc.
- Ziplock (2 or 3 sizes) or other waterproof and reusable bags in order to keep your items dry in your pack and in your drop bags.
- TWO drop bags (waterproof dry bags are best) but using ziplocks in a non-waterproof bag or a plastic tote is ok, too.
 - Another suitable option for a drop bag could also be a spare hydration pack.
 - No larger than 20L Each
- Wash cloth. Something you can rinse in creeks and wash yourself with.

Keep your Gear Bag efficient and organized. Think about this and then think about it again. Know where everything is at all times. Make it so you could tell a volunteer via InReach how to get a specific item from your Gear Bag, just in case this happens during the adventure while you are on trail.

Drop Bags

- You make your drops out of the items in your gear bag and drop them off to volunteers before you leave on trail each morning.
- The reason to pack drops each day is to minimize the amount of gear that the crew will need to transport
- At the nightly meeting in Camp, weather, route and other conditions will be discussed to give runners insight on how to pack their drops for the next day.
- Since routes are subject to change based on these discussions, the gear might change as well, which makes it even more important to pack drops daily.
- Volunteers will receive your drop bag as one bag (or tote) before you leave on trail each morning.

Most of the run will take place during the day, but it's possible that runners could be out well into the night, due to extreme weather or injury, which could happen at any time. Weather in the mountains can move in very quickly. Keep in mind temperatures in this region during this time of year average a low of 44 degrees F and a high of 84 degrees F. The nights and early mornings are the coldest. If there is no cloud cover or wind, it will be hot during the day. Please wear sunscreen and reapply throughout the day. Many sections are exposed. The average daylight is 15 hours and 20 minutes and the chance of rain in Big Sky in July is around 21%, which means that trails should mostly be dry.

Your **Camp Kit** should include:

- Tent (2 to 4 person ONLY). No 1-person tents, unless you are comfortable prepping your gear in the common area, which will compromise space. Must have rain fly. Please ask for approval if your tent is 5 person or more.
 - If you plan on sleeping in a vehicle, you don't need a tent.
 - Any vehicles over our limit will cost something like \$5 per day. Be prepared to pay a few bucks for the privilege to park.
- Sleeping Bag (zero degree recommended)
- Sleeping Pad
- Camp Pillow if you have space
- Flashlight or hanging light for inside your tent. You could also use a headlamp.
- Cutlery to eat
- Plate/bowl or both
- Cup/mug for camp (in addition to silicone cup while on trail)
- Biodegradable Wipes. (Everyone needs to manage their own poo. There are Pit Toilets at the campgrounds. Please use them when available)
- Camp shoes/slippers (comfortable to walk in and let your feet breath)
- Clothes to sleep in. Bring two or three sets max. Laundry will be done three times by volunteers along the way.
- Shower supplies/toiletries (Please consider the environment. There will be some opportunity for showers, but mostly you will clean yourself in a creek or lake. Dr. Bronners is way better for the environment than most.)
- Any "MUST HAVE" personal items like your binky that you will crave after a long day of getting your ass handed to you. ;-) ...or a Jet Boil. Those are nice to have.
- Sleeping Mask or other eye cover
- Ear plugs
- Items to keep separate so they can be put in the bear safe area when you aren't in your tent:
 - Prescription Medication (This could also be left with volunteers if preferred)
 - Non-prescription medication (Aleve, melatonin, multivitamin, ginger, tums, etc.)
 - Personal Care Kit. Toiletries

Suggested (NOT MANDATORY) Map

- Nat Geo Trails Illustrated # 723 (Bozeman, Big Sky, Bridger Range)
<https://amzn.to/49GFqM0>

Leave No Trace

The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace provide an easily understood framework of minimum impact practices for anyone visiting the outdoors. Although Leave No Trace has its roots in backcountry settings, the Principles have been adapted so that they can be applied anywhere from remote wilderness areas, to local parks and even in your own backyard. They also apply to almost every recreational activity. Each Principle covers a specific topic and provides detailed information for minimizing impacts.

The Seven Principles are well established and widely known, but they are not static. Leave No Trace continually examines, evaluates and reshapes the Principles. The organization's Education Department conducts research, including publishing scholarly articles in independent journals to ensure that the Principles are up to date with the latest insights from biologists, land managers and other leaders in outdoor education. For more info on the Seven Principles go to [Leave No Trace](#).

Sunrise/Sunset & Weather

July Sunrise/Sunset

Sat, 11 th	Sun, 12 th	Mon, 13 th	Tues, 14 th	Thu, 15 th	Fri, 16 th	Sat, 17 th
5:49 a.m. / 9:13 p.m.	5:50 a.m. / 9:12 a.m.	5:51 a.m. / 9:12 p.m.	5:52 a.m. / 9:11 p.m.	5:52 a.m. / 9:10 p.m.	5:53 a.m. / 9:10 p.m.	5:54 a.m. / 9:09 p.m.

Weather:

This is a mountain course and weather can change quickly. For the inaugural running and year two, we experienced everything from heat, hail, sleet, snow, wind, rain and lightning during this event. The mandatory gear is in place to keep you prepared for these weather events. Don't try to be a tough guy.

<https://www.accuweather.com/en/us/big-sky/59716/july-weather/339257?year=2025>

- [Montana Travel Guide | Vacations, Travel and Tourism in MT - Discovering Montana](#)
- [The Gallatin Range, Montana - Discovering Montana](#)
- [Bozeman, Montana - Discovering Montana](#)

NOAA Weather Forecasts (Current 7 Day)

- [Bozeman Montana](#)
- [Big Sky Montana](#)

The Cost of Entry (2026)

*****Instructions on how to pay via Venmo will be given once runners have a phone conversation with Helgi Olafson and the invitation is official. Please make sure you are fully up for this adventure. If you want to alternate between running AND volunteering, you can split your slot with another person, get in touch to talk about options. You can also get out on course with the runners a few times if you sign up to Volunteer.**

THIS IS ZERO PROFIT EVENT. Participants are responsible for all costs associated with their adventure. The price per person covers the accommodations during the race at Swan

Creek Campground. This also includes the transportation and aid station vehicles, food at the aid stations, as well as breakfast and lunch sandwiches, fruit, endurance nutrition products and other packaged nutrition, medical assistance and live tracking from Trackleaders and the Starlink.

The cost per participant is \$1,100

THERE ARE NO REFUNDS. The only way to get a refund is if you (or we) find someone suitable to take your slot. This will hold you accountable for your decision. If you pay your entry and need to withdraw, please email helgiolafson@gmail.com as far in advance as possible so we can work together to find a replacement and get you reimbursed.

The cost to put on this adventure is approximately \$16,000. This is a broad breakdown of that number:

Accommodations

Swan Creek Campground

- Sites #007 - #013
- Check-in July 08 at 2:00 p.m.. Check-out July 18 at 12:00 p.m. (noon).
- 10' by 20' Tent with sidewalls and bug screen will be for common use.

Transportation

- 2 Suburban rentals for transportation
- Fuel for Suburbans and roving aid station.

Nutrition

- The cost of food for volunteers AND runners is included in cost of entry
 - Volunteers will be responsible for their own dinners.
- Thursday evening dinner
- Breakfast – to include, but not be limited to egg wrap/croissant sandwiches w/bacon and avocado (if desired)
 - ~3 sandwiches per morning to eat or pack. Vegan options if necessary.
 - Coffee and creamer
- Lunch – to include but not be limited to turkey and cheese w/mustard or mayo, italian sandwiches, fried chicken, jojos, pulled pork sandwiches, wraps, etc.
 - 2 sandwiches per day. Vegan options if necessary.
- Aid station snacks, ample nutrition and hydration products to fuel between aid stations.

Miscellaneous

- Starlink for all runners to use.
- Trackleaders
- Mighty Gallatin shirt and buckle. All starters and finishers get a buckle.
- Adventure Support

Additional Costs each participant is responsible for:

- Flight or transportation to Bozeman (obviously).
- Bear Spray
- Personal nutrition items if needed
- Post-race (Or pre-race) stay at the:
 - o **Whitewater Inn in Big Sky**
 - o Total Cost: \$234 per night (double occupancy) early bird rate. Rates get higher as the event gets closer and hotel will fill up, so get your room early.
 - o [Whitewater Inn | Big Sky Montana | Big Sky Resort, Montana](#)
 - You don't have to stay here and can stay at the campground instead, but its a 40 minute drive away and most people will be at the hotel.
 - You can also choose to stay at another accomodation
- Post-race celebration dinner at [Riverhouse](#) BBQ

Local Resources

Belgrade

Breakfast:

- [Dukes Café](#)

Dinner:

- [The Local American Saloon](#)
- [The Mint Café and Bar](#)

In between Belgrade & Bozeman:

- [19th Hole](#) (big menu, food allergy friendly)
- [Fiesta Mexicana](#) (Only place open past 9pm)

Bozeman:

Breakfast:

- [Wild Crumb](#) (amazing pastries)
- [Western Cafe](#) (best diner)
- [Cateye Cafe](#) (groovy cafe, banana bread French toast)
- [Nova Cafe](#)

Lunch:

- [Finks Deli](#) (next to Wild Crumb - great bread, hot/cold options)
- [Co-op](#) (has a really nice hot food/ salad bar)
- [Five on Black](#) (rice, veggie, meat bowls)

Dinner:

- [Montana Ale Works](#) (train depot, diverse menu)
- [Sidewinders American Grill](#) (big menu, fast service)
- [MAP Brewing Company](#) (great beer, good food)
- [Mountains Walking Brewery](#) (good beer, great pizza)

Best pizza:

- [Sidewall Pizza Company](#) (wood fired, great atmosphere)

Gateway Area

Breakfast & Lunch:

- [The Coffee Pot Bakery](#)
- [Mamma Macs Bakery and Sandwich Shop](#)

Dinner:

- [Stacey's Old Faithful Bar and Steakhouse](#)

Big Sky

Dinner:

- [Riverhouse](#) (best MT bbq, which we have none)
- [Blue Moon Bakery](#) (bfast/lunch)
- [Alberto's Mexican Cuisine](#) (Right across from Town Center)

Bars:

- [Milkie's Pizza and Pub](#)