

United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

NEZ PERCE NATIONAL FOREST



# MILNER TRAIL #641 CENTENNIAL TRAIL #88



Clearwater and Salmon River Ranger Districts

## Milner Trail #641 (15.9) Miles

Just seven (7) miles south of Grangeville is Fish Creek Trailhead, a point along the historic Milner Trail/State Wagon Road that once served miners from Mount Idaho Way Station to the goldfields of Florence and Warren. It now serves as a multi-purpose trail system.

Gold was discovered in the Florence Basin in 1861. Answering to the need for access, Moses Milner built the trail to Florence in the spring of 1862. As soon as the Milner trail opened, hundreds-even thousands-of people and pack animals walked its tread. It took two or three days to go from Mount Idaho to Florence. After the discovery of gold in Warren in the summer of that same year, the trail was extended across the Salmon River to Warren. The Milner Trail from Mount Idaho to Florence was authorized by the territorial legislature in 1864 as a toll trail charging \$3 per wagon and horse or mule, \$1 per horse-man, and 50 cents per loaded pack animal.

The 1890 territorial legislature appropriated \$50,000 for a State Wagon Road that would connect northern and southern parts of Idaho territory.

The road, completed in 1891, followed the old Milner Trail except for the grade down the north fork of Slate Creek.

Travel along the trail corridor is still possible although the wagon prism has been updated in most places to carry recreation and logging traffic north from the Salmon River to Grangeville.

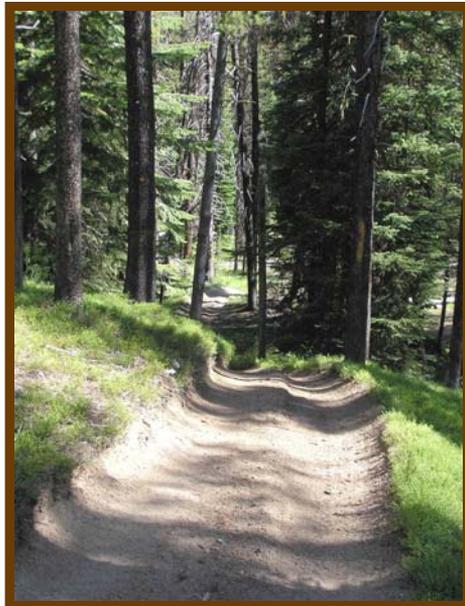
Most of the travel today along this route is restricted to off highway vehicles with short sections of shared access with local road traffic. This route is open year-round and is groomed by the Snodrifters Snowmobile Club in the winter as part of the State Snowmobile program. The system is graveled having a tread surface of 8-16 feet in width with good sight distance and drainage. The grades are gentle and the facility provides a good travel way for beginner users as well as more advanced users.

This trail section is open to all trail users and proper trail etiquette is required to provide for user safety and eliminate conflicts between user types. Be courteous and enjoy the trail.

The route is shared with elk, deer, moose, bear and domestic cows, as well as, many smaller animals. Grouse and turkeys may be seen along the route and if one should stop, look and listen they can enjoy many songbirds.

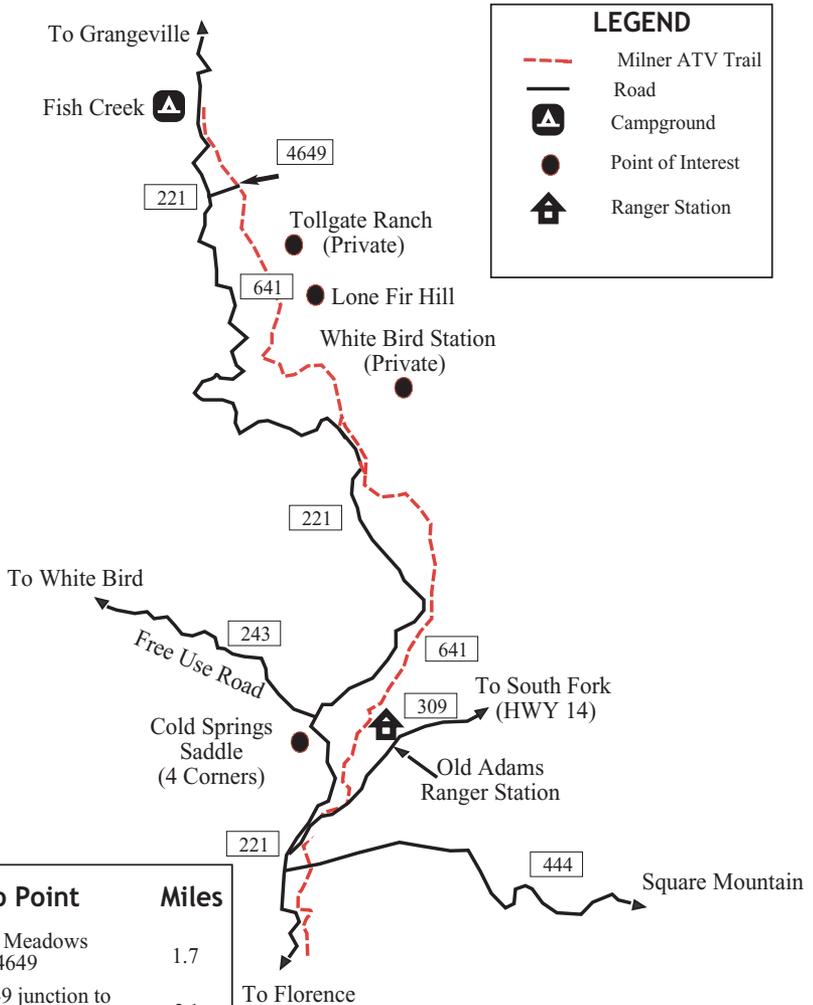
The trail is situated along the west divide of Mill Creek and provides many opportunities to see views of Sourdough Peak, Earthquake Basin, Silver Ridge, Sawyer Ridge, and the access route over Gospel Peaks into the Gospel-Hump Wilderness.

Much of the timber through this area has been harvested and the ride takes the traveler through many stages of timber regeneration. The varied height of the trees provides for scenic overlooks along the route.



*Centennial Trail Near  
Miller Creek*

# Milner Section



## Centennial Trail - #88 (25.0) Miles

Established in conjunction with Idaho's 1990 Centennial, Centennial Trail #88 is part of the much larger Idaho Centennial Trail system extending over 1200 miles from the Nevada border north to the Canadian border.

Centennial Trail #88 begins at the junction of Road #221 and #444 (at milepost 30 along the Grangeville Salmon Road #221). The trail passes through the Florence Basin winding along old wagon roads and miner trails constructed to transport supplies and miners from Grangeville to Warren and to service the Florence interior.

Along the route travelers will see signs where miners dug prospect pits, panned, sluiced, and dredged in search of gold. Not much is left of the towns of Florence or New Florence, but the visitor has only to walk off the trail and remnants of mining activity can be found. Trees have grown among the remains of log cabins, shafts, tailings, ditches and prospect pits.

Some of the trail remains as original with little or minor construction over time.

The Florence Cemetery is worth the stop. If you're a history buff, pick up a copy of "Florence Tells Her Secrets" brochure at the Nez Perce National Forest Supervisor's Office.

There are interpretive signs on the kiosk at the cemetery. The signs are designed to help you locate sites on the map. Use the brochure as your guide as you tour the sites.

The Florence cemetery is fully accessible to people with disabilities.

The parking lot has space for six vehicles with additional space for parking nearby and there is a one unit toilet and picnic table.

## Centennial Trail - #88 (25.0) Miles

For the most part, the Centennial Trail has been reconstructed for fire, mining, logging, and recreation travel. The trail has an unsurfaced width of 4-10 feet, with grade rolls, dips and belted drains to provide surface drainage, but a lot of the streams are forded. Little Boulder and Miller Creek crossings are fords and riders should use caution, particularly during high water flows in the spring and late fall.

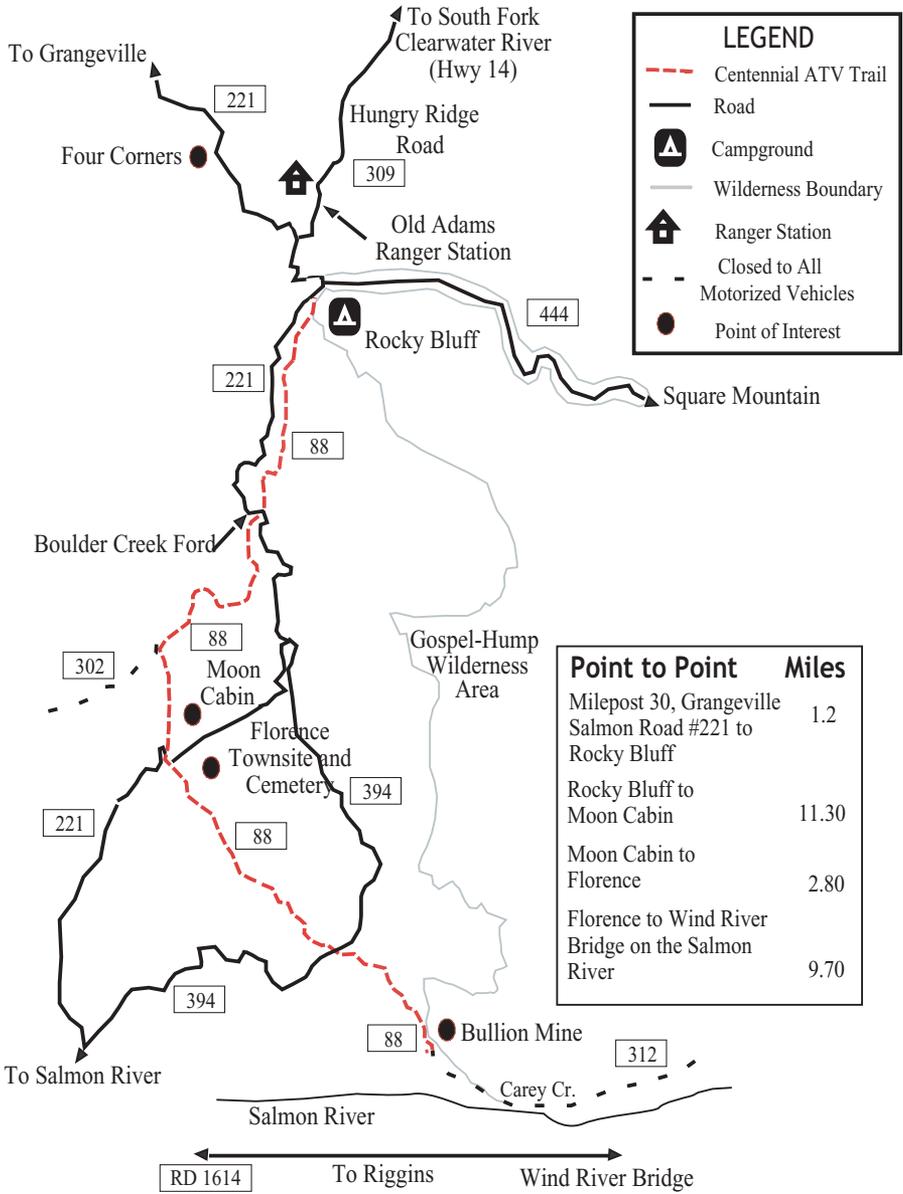
The route crosses the main road at New Florence and then travels along the wagon road location to the divide south of Sand Creek, where the trail has been designed to use the spur to the east known as the Bullion Mine section. This section of the route was historically known as the Old Wire Bridge Trail, so named, because of the wire bridge located at Carey Creek across the Salmon River. The pack trail provided a much needed travel way linking mines to supply points at Florence to the north and Warren to the South. The trail was later upgraded to get mining equipment to the Bullion Mine.

Trail 88 from Gospel-Hump Road #444 to Road #394 is open year-long to ATV travel. Travelers should be aware that most roads, which cross the trail are closed or restricted, making the crossings the only portion open to the motorized trail user.

At Bullion Mine the trail is restricted, eliminating ATV use between the Bullion Mine and the Wind River Bridge. The trail to the river is 2.2 miles in length and has 42 switchbacks at an average grade above 12%.

Travel restrictions beginning from the #394 road limit all motorized trail use on this section from September 15 to June 15. The traveler needs to be aware of the travel restrictions in this area and comply with these restrictions so the trail is available for years to come.

# Centennial Section



## Trail Courtesy

Providing recreational opportunities and managing the resource values for the public to enjoy depends on everyone's cooperation when recreating on OHVs. Remember the following tips:

- Remember others use the trails, too!
- Stay on existing roads and trails.
- Avoid steep slopes. While they provide a challenge for drivers, repeated travel on them can cause serious erosion and introduce sediment into streams.
- Avoid riparian areas and wetlands. They provide habitat for more than seventy percent of wildlife and aquatic species.
- Ensure that your vehicle's undercarriage and tires are not carrying weed seeds, and wash vehicles before and after traveling roads and trails. The spread of noxious weeds has become a serious threat to wildlife habitat and rangelands.
- Do not approach or chase wildlife. They are stressed by many forms of human use.
- All prehistoric and historic artifacts and features (either on the ground's surface or buried underground) are protected by various laws and regulations. If you find evidence of past use of the Forest by prehistoric or historic people, please do not disturb the artifacts, sites or features. Contact the nearest Forest Service office to report the location of your discovery.

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## Tread Lightly Pledge

Travel and recreate with minimum impact

Respect the environment and the rights of others

Educate yourself, plan and prepare before you go

Allow for future use of the outdoors, leave it better than you found it

Discover the rewards of responsible recreation

## Licensing & Registration

Your motorcycle, ATV or UTV as well as your passenger vehicle all require some type of Idaho registration - either a license or a sticker before they can be operated on National Forest roads. Vehicle and operator licensing requirements for OHV's in Idaho are available at the **Idaho OHV Public Information website**.

Aside from the fact that it's a legal requirement in the State of Idaho, there are a number of benefits to purchasing an OHV sticker for your machine. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation allocates money from sticker sales to fund things like motorized trail construction and maintenance. Many of the OHV trail systems on the Nez Perce NF have been developed in part with funds from the sticker program.

**Parents - You are responsible for the actions of your children under 18 years of age while they are operating OHV's on the National Forest!**

### Other OHV Trail Brochures Available

Other OHV brochures are available for the Boundary/Divide Trails and McComas Trails. Visitors can pick these brochures up at local forest service offices or download a brochure from our website at: **[www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce)**

### Trail Access Information

The most current information on travel management (Designated Routes and Areas for Motor Vehicle Use Planning) and the Nez Perce NF Trail Access spreadsheet is located at: **<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce/recreation/index-dramvu.shtml>**

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Salmon River Ranger District  
304 Slate Creek Road  
White Bird, ID 83554  
(208) 839-2211  
TTY (208) 839-2328  
FAX (208) 839-2730

Clearwater Ranger District  
104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, Idaho 83530  
(208) 983-1950  
FAX (208) 842-2150

Nez Perce National Forest Headquarters  
104 Airport Road  
Grangeville, ID 83530  
(208) 983-1950  
FAX (208) 983-4099

**WEBSITE:** [www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce](http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/nezperce)

### Leave No Trace!

*Respect road and trail restrictions. Travel and camp only where permitted. Make no new trails or campsites. Leave no trace of your visit, and take no momentos. Instead, take photographs, and recall your memories of time spent along the trail.*

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#R1-08-015