

Bielenberg Road **(dirt road up to 18 km out and 18 km back)**

An out-and-back dirt road with nice scenery. Normally passable from May 1st through November 1st, but snow and ice can linger in high areas. The first 10 km gains 654 m up to 2200 m. The additional 8k to Bowman Lakes climbs steeply at first to a maximum altitude of 2527 m then descends steeply before climbing again to the lakes.

Directions:

Exit I-90 at Racetrack (exit #195) and proceed west on Racetrack Road to the "T" and then north (right) on Yellowstone Trail Road (these are country roads that are not always identified with signs) and proceed 1.2 km before turning west (left) on Quinlan Rd. Proceed 5.5 km and then cross Dempsey Lake Road. At that point you are on Bielenberg Road, but you'll want to drive almost 3 km further to the parking area on the road's left shoulder. There are no facilities there.

Run the public access road up Bielenberg Canyon and back. From the parking area onward the road is for high clearance vehicles, so you won't encounter many automobiles except during big game hunting season which runs from the third weekend in October through Thanksgiving weekend. Wear bright orange clothing for your own safety during hunting season. You likely will encounter open-range cattle.

Alternative routes:

You will see secondary roads. Use your imagination.

Description:

There is a big climb at the start, and then the road rises more gradual until ~6 km, where you will find more climbing through timbered country. After 10 km the road becomes more challenging and rustic.

Negatives:

Areas of the first 6 km are treeless and can be very hot & dry with sun or cold with wind.

Some steep hills.

Hard to find.