

Lost Creek State Park
(9.5 km out and 9.5 km back on dirt road and trail)

A challenging trail run with meadows crossings and with spectacular views of high canyon walls. Normally open for running from 1 May through 1 November with some snow lingering in the high country.

Directions:

Take I-90 exit #208 and proceed west toward Anaconda on Highway 1. Turn right on Hwy 48 and proceed a few hundred meters before turning left on Hwy 273 (Galen Road). Proceed 3 km before turning left onto Lost Creek Road. Stay on that main paved road all the way (9 km) to the State Park. Park inside the entrance and run from there.

Description:

The first 2+ km are on the Park's main gravel road. You will see a large gate with a sign that reads "no entrance" across the road from camp site number 11. Despite the sign, that is the head of the Park's trail. The trail is a rustic road, which climbs steeply at first and then mostly more moderately thereafter. There are a couple branches in the trail where you should stay on the route closest to the creek. There is also a meadow crossing where the trail may not be visible.

Alternative loop finish:

A Forest Service trail cuts right off the main path near the turnaround point, and that trail does connect to the roads of Anaconda's West Valley, but the trail is not well established, and it offers difficult footing.

Negatives:

Autos frequent the park's main road during high-use camping occasions.