



Sheep Mountain 50-Mile Endurance Run Course Description

The Course starts and finishes at the Town of Fairplay Beach. It is a lollipop-type loop consisting of 30% Roads, 48% Forest Service/ATV roads, and 22% Singletrack Trail. The course both climbs and descends approximately 9,420 feet. The normal temperature in July is 70 Degrees with night time lows in the lower 40s (but anything can happen).

The Sheep Mountain 50-Mile Course is a classic HPRS Offering with no shortage of ups and downs, and ample sections for runners to make time up on. This course description has been created to give you an idea of what to expect on certain sections of the course. It is by no means meant to be a 100% accurate step-by-step depiction of what you can expect out there, but more a guideline broken down into sections. HPRS does not guarantee the accuracy of this description, nor do we condone its use as a means for navigation.

Miles 0 - 4.73: Runners will leave the town beach by climbing the dirt road up to Platte Drive. They will then turn right onto a paved road before turning off to the left onto Busch Run Rd. For the rest of this section, runners will travel through various Fairplay Subdivisions on their way towards the National Forest. These roads are all dirt roads, which vary in consistency. Some are smooth while others are rutted like washboards.

Miles 4.73 - 7.2: Runners will turn right onto Thompson Park Road. This road starts as a dirt road and then quickly turns into a Forest Service Road. The FS Road section starts out as a rutted muddy section before slightly rising up out of the valley. As the trail begins to rise, it turns into a trail covered in small rocks and pine needles. It is a rugged trail with rocks primarily the size of golf balls and tennis balls. Runners will eventually drop down into Horseshoe Park for the first aid station of the race.

Miles 7.2 - 8.12: Runners will leave the aid station and turn right onto County Road 18. This is a heavily traveled dirt road filled with potholes and washboard rutting. After passing horseshoe campground on the right, runners will turn left onto Limber Grove Trail.

Miles 8.12 - 9.46: After crossing Fourmile Creek, runners will begin their ascent of Sheep Mountain. This first section of trail, Limber Grove Trail, is a technical single track trail loaded with rocks and roots.

Miles 9.46 – 13.6: The first segment of this section is the ascent of Sheep Mountain. It includes steep switchbacks full of loose stones. Runners will take these trails to the top of Sheep Mountain, the highest point on the course. From the top of the mountain, runners will descend to Browns Pass via narrow, seldom used, herd paths. These paths travel through coniferous forests with many stumps, roots, and sticks littering the trail. It terminates at the aid station at Browns Pass.

Miles 13.6 – 16.88: Runners will begin heading down into Sheep Creek Park via FS/ATV Roads. These trails are heavily rutted and uneven/Off-camber until you reach the valley below. Once you reach the valley, runners will head through Sheep Creek Park on more FS Roads. There are a couple of creek crossings through here, which are unavoidable. Runners should expect to get their feet wet in incredibly cold water. After the last creek crossing, the road climbs again before dropping down in Twelve Mile Creek. You'll come to a water only aid station at the end of this section.

Miles 16.88 – 22.43: From the water only station, the trail turns into Single-track trail. Please pay attention to all course markings over the first 3 miles of this section, as without them, the route is hard to follow. This begins the most remote sections of the course. These trails are seldom used, slightly over grown, and from time to time rugged with rocks and other debris. This is the most likely place for you to spot any large wildlife such as moose or bear. The trail eventually climbs out of the creek area and up into Aspen Glades. The trail will get a bit rockier in these sections but very much runnable. All stream crossings can be done on small wooden bridges. This section terminates at the Watrous Aid Station.

Miles 22.43 – 26.88: This next section is all dirt county roads from the Watrous Aid Station to the Round Hill Aid Station. These roads are in great shape and heavily used for the area. You'll run downhill past horse farms into the Twelve Mile Creek Valley before climbing the roads back towards Round Hill.

Miles 26.88 – 32.75: Runners will leave Round Hill Aid station heading uphill on FS Roads/ATV Trails. The first segment is heavily rutted and off camber with sections of very loose gravel and stone. It then levels out onto an ATV Trail that isn't necessarily technical but rugged nonetheless. They follow this road/trail all the way over to Browns Pass, conditions do not change much along the way. Enjoy the views and flowers.

Miles 32.75 – 33.27: Upon leaving the Browns Pass Aid Station for the 2nd and last time, runners will head downhill on Browns Pass Road. This road is a forest service road that is heavily rutted, off camber, with short stretches of exposed loose rock ledges. The further down the road you get, the more it levels out, and the less rugged it becomes. The road eventually turns into a dirt forest service road with nothing more than soft dirt and potholes present.

Miles 33.27 – 43.87: The next segment starts out as an ATV trail. It has potholes, ruts, and is often very muddy depending on recent weather. It follows along Fourmile Creek before once again climbing Sheep Mountain. Once runners begin their climb, they travel on newer trails that are littered with loose rocks. They will reconnect with the original ascent trail of Sheep Mountain from Mile 10, which they will use to descend the mountain. The final section being the Limber Grove Trail, which is technical singletrack.

Miles 43.87 – 44.93: Runners will run on heavily traveled County Road 18 down to the Horseshoe Aid Station. This road is rutted with potholes and washboard ruts.

Miles 44.93 – 47.74: Runners will turn left onto Thompson Park Road and access the Horseshoe Aid Station. This road starts as a Forest Service Road and turns back into a dirt road near its end. The FS Road section starts out covered in small rocks and pine needles before slightly rising up out of the valley. It is a rugged trail with rocks primarily the size of golf balls and tennis balls. Runners will eventually drop down back into the residential area, maneuvering sections of rutted mud. At the end of this section, runners turn left back onto dirt roads.

Miles 47.74 – 52.43: Runners will travel through various Fairplay Subdivisions on their way back towards town. These roads are all dirt roads, which vary in consistency. Some are smooth while others are rutted like washboards. The final stretch is a paved segment leading towards the main road to the beach. The final 100 yards is all dirt leading down to the beach parking lot.

Last Updated: 3/17/2015