

Summer Recreation Guide 2023

Brundage to Bear Basin trail completed

6.3 mile trail is ready to ride

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THE STAR-NEWS

A new 6.4-mile single-track mountain bike and hiking trail connecting Brundage Mountain Resort and the trails at Bear Basin is now open and ready to ride.

The project was led by the Central Idaho Mountain Bike Association, in partnership with Brundage Mountain Resort and the Payette National Forest.

A formal ribbon cutting for the trail is planned for July 7 but enthusiasts are welcome to preview the trail prior to the grand opening now that construction has finished.

"This trail features a playful mix of smooth flowy lines through shady forest, natural and manufactured rock sec-

tions, along with sweeping views of Meadows Valley, Long Valley, Payette Lake and Salmon River Mountain peaks as it descends 1,700 vertical feet," said CIMBA project coordinator Dave Bingaman.

Feedback from folks that have ridden the trail is incredibly positive with many users saying this is one of the best trails in the area.

"This trail will be an amazing intermediate level link between two of our major trail systems and will also provide opportunities to connect bigger loops that include the Payette Lake and Payette Rim trails for some calf-burning climbs and some epic downhill," Bingaman said.

Mountain bikers and hikers can travel both directions on the trail, so downhill mountain bikers need to be aware of uphill riders, he said.

Motorized vehicles are not

allowed.

The trail connects to Brundage Mountain's 30-plus miles of trails via the Lakeview Vista trail near its intersection with the Growler trail. On the south end, the trail connects to the Ditch Witch trail at Bear Basin, which has over 15 miles of mountain bike trails.

Mountain bike trails at Brundage open tomorrow for the summer season. A Brundage lift pass is not required to ride the new trail.

"Riders who start at Brundage would be able to ride up Growler, over to Lakeview Vista, then down the trail," said April Whitney, a spokesperson for the resort. "Our trail crews are working hard to clear snow and debris from the trails, we recommend checking the summer trail report before visiting on opening weekend to see if your chosen trails are open."

Trail reports can be found at www.brundage.com/summertrails.

The July 7 ribbon cutting starts at 12:30 p.m. at the top of the trail, followed by a group ride from 1 to 5 p.m.

CIMBA members can ride the chairlift for free from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A raffle will be held at the base of Brundage at 5:30 before a free live concert featuring The Pickpockets starts at 6 p.m.

The trail was built by Progressive Trail Design from Bentonville, Arkansas and Dirt Candy Designs from Grand Marais, Minnesota with help from CIMBA volunteers and the Brundage Mountain Trail Crew.

The trail has been in the works for more than a decade, with original designs created by the Payette National Forest in 2009 for a project that was later put on hold for a lack of



Courtesy photo/Dave Bingaman

Sidney Bateman descends a rocky corner on the new Brundage to Bear Basin Trail.

funding.

Plans were resurrected in 2019 by CIMBA and Brundage, in partnership with the One Track Mind Foundation, a nonprofit based in Minneapolis, Minnesota that has

partnered with CIMBA on several projects.

The trail is on the Payette National Forest, which granted approval for the project in 2021.

See BEAR BASIN, Page B4

Bear Basin

(Continued from Page B2)

The project is funded by CIMBA, Brundage, the One Track Mind Foundation, the JA and Kathryn Albertson Foundation, the Idaho Community Foundation, the Richard J. Sabala Foundation, the Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation, the IMBA Dig-In Program and the City of McCall.

CIMBA and the One Track Mind Foundation also worked together to construct the Payette Lake Trail. The west side of the trail opened in 2019, which includes about five miles of new single-track non-motorized trail.

The two trail groups are working to plan and construct the east side of the trail, which is awaiting final approval from the Idaho Department of Lands.

Once finished, the Payette Lake Trail will connect about 33 miles of trail and logging roads in a loop around Payette Lake.