

4x4 Routes of Western Montana

Over forty routes with turn-by-turn directions, mileage and GPS coordinates that will guide you along the most interesting primitive motorized routes of western Montana while providing histories of early settlement and insights into the geology of the areas traveled.

If you like to explore old mining areas, poke around old buildings, enjoy magnificent views, and visit high elevation mountain lakes, this is the book for you. Join us as we travel on a variety of roads from easy enjoyable outings to roads that will challenge both your driving skills and your vehicle's capabilities.

If you're only interested in hard core roads, then we are sorry but you will not find any class 5 routes in this book and only a few class 4s. Why? Because after seriously exploring Western Montana over the last 20+ years we have not been able to find any that are now legal roads and if we should come across any we will be sure to include them in a future addition. However, we have been able to compile 225 pages of travel information that can be found no where else in one publication.

All the Routes shown at the time of printing are legal roads that we have driven multiple times. We have tried to be as accurate as possible in our mileage figures, GPS readings and area history as you drive the Routes we has described. From the Missoula area all but one of the routes can be completed in a day's drive, some times in a very long day. And even that one has been done in one REALLY long day.

We hope you enjoy reading and using this book as much as we enjoyed exploring western Montana for the best Routes to share with you.

Willie and Jeanne Worthy

Back Roads Publication, Missoula Montana

backroadspublications@gmail.com 406-726-4126

Introductory Price is \$19.95 plus \$5.55 priority shipping

When available in bookstores, the regular price will be \$24.95

Facebook.com/pages/4x4-Routes-of-Western-Montana/348141278544425

Here is a sample of one of the Routes in the book

NEW MILEAGE

Mile 0.0 (█ 31 54/113 █ 04) JUNCTION 1 Continue on █ to the south, the road becomes a class 2.5 at this point

Mile 1.4 (█ 30 56/113 █ 14) This is the █ Mine and Mill and was most likely named for the color of the ore found in the area. The mine was first located and worked by Frank Carnes in 1884 and stayed in production until the early 1900s. It was worked again from 1918 to 1927. At that time period there were over 3000 feet of underground workings developed. During WW II there was renewed interest and a new mine, the █, was developed nearby. During the depression most operations ceased. By 1941, because the mines in the area produced lead as well as silver, they were soon back in operation and continued until 1947 when operations ceased.

In fact so much ore was being processed from these two mines and others in the area that the mill was updated with electric power and a large concentrator was built. The zinc concentrates were sent to the Anaconda zinc plant, and the lead concentrates were sent to a mill in East Helena. There are quite a few old remains of the mill site left that are in a very dangerous state of collapse as well as a nasty looking mill pond. This area is soon to be environmentally repaired due to the heavy metals being discharged into the water table. (in other words most likely a big pit is going to be dug, lined with a barrier, everything connected with the mine and pond pushed into it and covered with new dirt.)

Mile 4.1 (█ 27 32/113 █ 12) Very small un-named lake to right. Just past the lake the area starts to get muddy and depending on the time of the year you are here the mud holes can be quite deep and soft. There are several routes through the wet area so pick the one where you will do the less damage to the terrain.

Mile 5.4 (█ 28 33/113 █ 11) Steep nasty descent that is perhaps a class 4 route. This can be very difficult at times especially if wet or snowy. Not recommended unless you have at least one locking differential, 33 inch tall tires and a winch. We have been up it several times without any problems.